

ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 46

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2020

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 1-2
LUBBOCK G&MS
LUBBOCK MEM. CIV. CTR
LUBBOCK, TX

AUGUST 8-9
BATON ROUGE G&MS
LAMAR-DIXON EXPO
GONZALES, TX

AUGUST 29-30
FORT WORTH G\$MS
WILL ROGERS MEM. CTR.
FORT WORTH, TX

Check for cancellations
prior to attending

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Header text background is courtesy of a photo from Robert Redmond.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our public outreach is active again. I had the pleasure of spending three hours with kids from our next-door East Texas Kids Camp. We did three hours on fossils with emphasis on Texas Dinosaurs. We have two more sessions scheduled. Today's group was three ranging from 5 to 8 years old. They were amazing kids with an obvious future as paleontologists based on their vocabularies and interest. I explained that the meat eaters were carnivores and a 5-year-old told us that the plant eaters were herbivores. They were very attentive through the first two hours which was essentially classroom lecture and were thrilled to see actual fossils. They had been busy earlier this week making and painting "fossil dinosaurs". Thanks to Jarrod Butler for the loan of some very nice mosasaur bones and teeth collected from the North Sulphur River. I'm looking forward to getting back together.

David Russ

Club Activities WILL NOT Resume

Due to the increasing number of COVID cases, the Board has voted again and decided to cancel the July 6 meeting, all sub-group meetings, and the critter workshop. Field trip chairman David Russ still plans to have the excursion to the Brazos River at Whiskey Bridge on July 18. Meet at the Clubhouse at 6am. Bring rubber boots, collection buckets, and your own food and water. This is the trip for you if you crave fellowship with like-minded searchers. Maybe you do not collect fossils but, under the circumstances, who cares?!!

A Rock Swap has been planned for August 15 from 9am-3pm. The issue of all meetings will have to be visited on a month to month basis, as long as the virus is showing its ugly mug. We apologize for the mixed messages but hope that the members will understand. I promise that we will see each other again when the time is right.

Thanks, Julia Toombs

Critter Workshop

There will be a critter workshop as soon as the threat of COVID-19 is minimized. We will need empty egg cartons to store the critters in, so please save your old egg cartons. If you have any questions, please call Geva Roberts, at 903-504-6069.

Thanks, Geva Roberts

During Social Distancing

By Colleen Hayes

One of the most enjoyable pastimes for any rock hound is to go on field trips. Over the last few decades, our club has been able to get together for mini road trips, or maybe just a few friends going to hit various spots all over the country. That then came to a screeching halt! In order to get my rockhounding fix, I went rockhounding in my own back yard.

Picture this, thirty plus years of collecting rocks and stacking them in piles in the East Texas sandy loam soil, years of gophers, lawn mower clipping, weeds and ivy. Needless to say, rocks have a way of disappearing. I've had the best time digging all those rocks up. I've spent time identifying the specimens and placing them in different categories. I have the, that sure is ugly pile, the why? did I carry that home pile, the goodness you need to go inside pile. I also have the landscape pile and you would look so good around the fish pond pile.

I've had a lot of fun with memories of travel and cleaning and re-identifying my rocks. I'm becoming quite the rock landscape artist! I can't wait to get back on the road again!



What's going on with ETGMS.Org

By Margaret Kilanski

Hi Everybody. Hope you are all doing well. It's always great to get comments, requests and new membership applications on our website!

In May we received two new family membership applications, hopefully we'll see them at a club meeting in the future. We also received a request to donate a mineral collection to the club – I'm working with the owner to determine the variety and quantity of the collection. I'll update you next month with more information.

I'm working on creating links for specific subjects from the front page of the website to Rock-N-Rose articles – I hope to have a few links active by the end of June. I've also started placing the announcement for our 2021 Annual Show on various website and online calendars.

+++++

You might remember this request that came into ETGMS.Org in April -

Hello! I am the camp director at Texas East Kids. We offer multiple camps throughout the summer. We offer a Dinosaur camp in which the kids learn about different dinosaurs and fossils. We would love to plan something in which we can walk our kids over or have y'all join us, and show the kids some of the fossils and other interesting items you may have. We would greatly appreciate it! Thanks! Marisol Knight- Camp Director at TEK.

Updated Comments from ETGMS Webmaster: Rick Walker donated several fossils (with identification labels) for the kids to find in their fossil hunting sand box and David Russ is coordinating with Marisol to do an in-person presentation. Thanks Rick & David!!

Last Chance Mine Update

The Last Chance Mine won't be open for tours this summer due to the Corona virus. He's heading up there as I'm writing this to spend the summer making improvements to the property. Pete Keiser

WAIT! STOP, LOOK & SUIT-UP BEFORE CUTTING

By Lynnette Metcalf, G.G., GIA

It is a beautiful specimen, ripe for cutting and polishing. The color, the shimmer...yup, that raw tiger eye is perfect and once polished the stones from it will make remarkable jewelry. Firing up the trim saw, warming up the grinder, irrigating the belts and...

WAIT! Is your N-100 respirator snugly in place? Is your eye protection firmly strapped on? Have you considered wearing a lab coat and protective gloves? Is your shop ventilated? Is there a micro dust particle collector in place and turned on?

Ah, come on, you say! You just want to play with your rocks, er...stones, uh...tiger eye specimen. What's the big deal, anyway? Along with other materials used in jewelry making, tiger eye contains asbestos—a substance widely known to cause mesothelioma—a debilitating and often deadly lung condition. We have all seen the attorneys advertising their legal services for afflicted folks. The subject is well addressed in many venues and is not the subject of this article.

Witness: *'A case of mesothelioma was documented in a 44-year old woman who worked with asbestos-contaminated talc for 20 years in a costume jewelry facility.'* See Reference below for cited articles and studies.

A comprehensive article at www.asbestos.com, documents many meso cases in the jewelry-making industry, as well as new research regarding previously unidentified asbestos formation chemistry reported by geoscientists at Pennsylvania State University in 2003. The researchers discovered that: ... *'tiger's eye forms when veins of quartz fill*



Cat's Eye Moonstone, 19 Ct, India, internal asbestos particulate clearly visible

in breaks that form crocidolite asbestos. Rather than replacing crocidolite, (as originally thought) the quartz forms a vein alongside it. As the iron in the crocidolite oxidizes, it develops the brown and gold colors that tiger's eye is known for.'

As seasoned lapidarists know, dust from processing crocidolite asbestos containing materials is highly hazardous and should be handled as carefully as dealing with other toxic materials.

Here is a list of other gemstones known to contain asbestos: Tiger's Eye, Arizona tiger's eye, California tiger's eye, Cat's eye, Hawk's eye, Silkstone, Pietersite, Binghamite, Yuksporite, Denisovite, Tokkoite, Grossular garnet, Hessonite, Brucite, Natrolite, Mesolite, Scolecite.

The above is not a complete list of asbestos-containing materials, but are the most common used in the jewelry-making industry. Some names are colloquial, misnomers, or are renamed for marketing purposes. Example: Hawk's Eye is also known as Falcon's Eye.

How to avoid exposure to asbestos?

- The most obvious measure is to avoid working with stones known to contain the substance.
- Use a respirator with high-efficiency air filters or N-100, P-100 or R-100 masks.
- Don't tight-fitting protective eyewear.
- Consider wearing a lab coat and protective gloves. If not, remove and wash shop clothes individually and regularly.
- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and clean water after handling any lapidary materials.
- Clean tools used in the fabrication of asbestos bearing lapidary materials.
- Work in a properly ventilated workshop.
- In fact, professional industry *'...jewelers working with asbestos-containing gemstones are REQUIRED BY LAW to double-bag asbestos in 6-millimeter bags, place it in a sealed plastic container, label it properly and PAY to dispose of it in a government-designated landfill. Those who do not follow these regulations face steep fines.'*

Proper disposal of asbestos detritus is something for us lapidary hobbyists to seriously consider before dumping our shop sweep-ups in the backyard garden or a standard garbage container. Not that anyone would know it was done (maybe), but do you really want *that* anywhere around your house or in the local landfill?

The good news? According to the article, asbestos exposure risk for those wearing asbestos-containing jewelry is **low** since the jewelry is a finished item and not subject to giving off dust particles.

One major CAVEAT: Ensure this category of jewelry is kept out of the reach of young children who might place these objects in their mouths to suck or chew.

These gemstones are beautiful and with proper handling, are safe to wear and last many lifetimes. After all, that is what we gem, mineral and fossil enthusiasts love most about them. They are here before us, we play with them for a while, bringing out their best features--and they remain here to be enjoyed for many millennia to come.



Above - Grossularite Garnet Specimen, 69 grams, Fujian Province China. Note the rich red-orange appearance.

Below - Grossularite Garnet, 2.15 Ct, Pakistan, fern-like inclusions inside the stone.



Hessonite Garnet, 35.90 grams. It is distinctive by its yellow-orange color. Though also a grossularite garnet, this variety is also called 'essonite' or 'cinnamon stone'.

Ref: www.asbestos.com,
 Asbestos in Jewelry: Are You
 Wearing Asbestos Gemstones?
 by Michelle Whitmer, (Blog)
 Outreach & Awareness, April
 20, 2020 (13 Cited Article
 Sources included)

Photographs: by Lynnette
 Metcalf, G.G., GIA



Above - Pietersite, 75 Ct, Henan Province, China, blue asbestos. Back is showing blue asbestos. Below - Tiger Eye Variety, multiple sources, raw and polished. Fibrous content visible in raw specimens on the left.



What do you do on a stormy day and you have to stay home anyway? You make jewelry!
 Cabs made by Terry Roberts and wrapped by Marcia Graham.

Shop Time

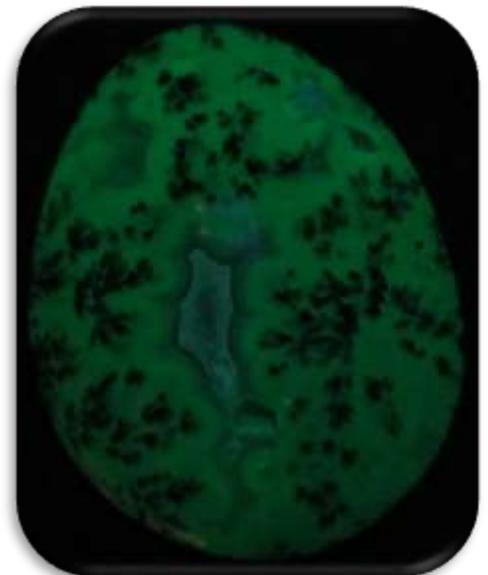
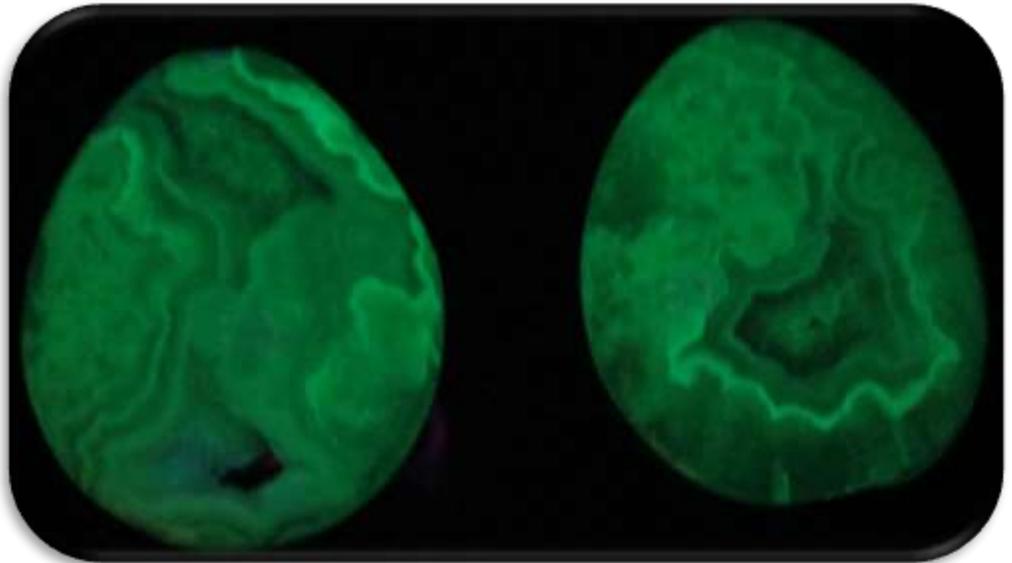
The first photo on the right shows a cab with white flocculent material and some better-defined black material that I think can be properly called plumes since they appear to be 3-dimensional. I included the second far right photo, which is the same material as the first, but also has what appears to be at least two calcite crystals or their pseudomorphs composed of another soft material. The crystals undercut badly while I was trying to grind and polish the cab. I believe this cab has potential as a mimeolith and the viewer will have a lot of fun describing the scene depicted in this cab.



I've always wanted to make a cab out of fluorescent material, but never knew that I had already done it. On a whim, I decided to use a shortwave UV light on those cabs I completed from a large rock in the bucket of material that I purchased from Teri Smith (Alpine rock hound leader) a while back. Boy was I surprised at how vividly it fluoresced a greenish-yellow (or is it yellowish-green). Either way, the photo on the right center, of both cabs that show fluorescence, as well as a bottom right photo of a black plume agate cab from the Hart Ranch north of Van Horn.

I was surprised that my camera was able to take a fairly decent picture of the UV light, although the focus isn't very good nor is the color as vivid as it appears to the naked eye. I will try to test more of my cabs/slabs for fluorescence in the future.

Terry Roberts



Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm, except December and January. Terry Roberts leads this group. Contact Terry to have your name added to the email. terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. Contact Charles to have your name added to the email. - calcite65@gmail.com

Fossil Group – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. David Russ heads up the group. Contact David to have your name added to the email. dbruss50@gmail.com

Gemology Group Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. Contact Richard to have your name added to the email. keltfire@msn.com

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Check us out on the web: WWW.ETGMS.ORG

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote; the study of Geology, fossils and the Lapidary Arts. The public is always invited to attend regular monthly club meetings.

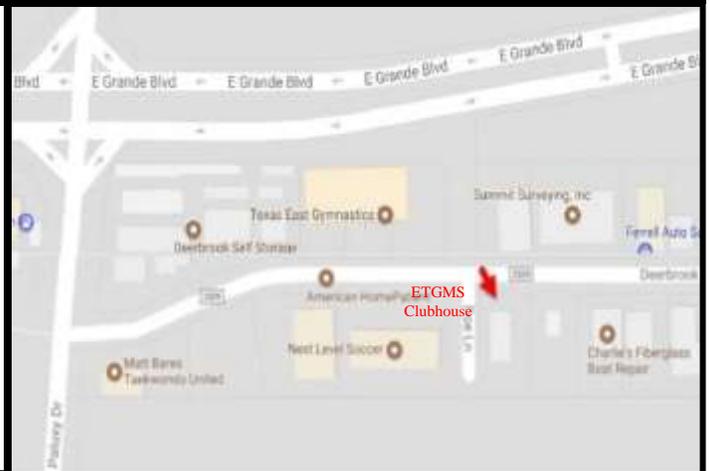
ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN: First Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE: ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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