

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 46 Issue 12

TYLER • TEXAS

December 2020



Cover Photo: Julia Toombs

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

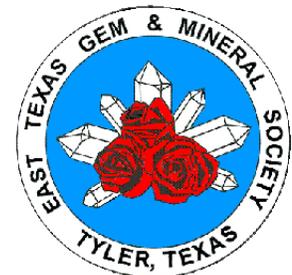
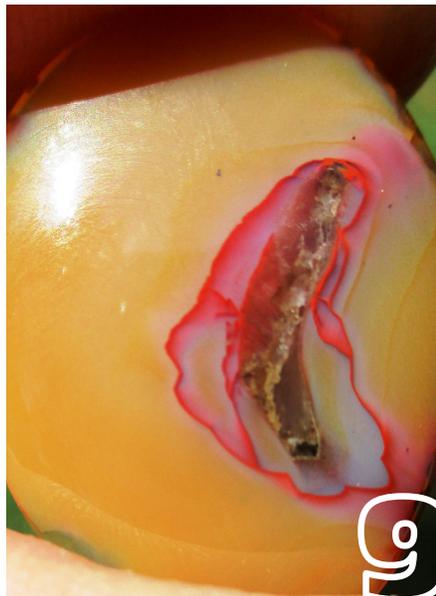
UPCOMING EVENTS

January 22 - 24, 2021
 East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
 Texas Rose Garden Center
 Tyler, Texas
CANCELLED



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Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street
 Nacogdoches, TX 75961



What's Going on with ETGMS.org

By Margaret Kilanski • Webmaster

Hi everybody.

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

New areas on ETGMS.Org include:

- Recent Club Members
Accomplishments and Shares
- Rock Hound of the Month

Be sure to check out Charles Cheekmur collection and power-point presentation on the Mineralogy page.

In October and November we received 6 new individual membership applications. Hopefully we'll see them at a club meeting in the future.

I thought you might like to see some of the stats from the website. Between October 10

and December 10, 2020 we had 864 visitors to our website. 753 visitors were from US locations. The average time spent on our website by a visitor was 5 minutes 11 seconds. Many of these visitors checked out the Rock Food Table, Member's Gallery and Mineralogy Group pages. Our website host has a very nice administrative tool that gives viability to many different website usage stats.

Recently, I had to deal with a 'bad guy' user who kept triggering one of the contact sheets from our website. How did I know that it was a 'bad guy'? Their contact information was from New Zealand and they did not respond to 3 direct emails from me for follow up. In November I got the opportunity to learn a new programming skill in creating a back office program that would stop access to our website from a specific user – i.e. 'bad guy'. Yes, this lady is learning new tricks :):)

Certified Master Appraiser

Richard Armstrong has received word that he is now a Certified Master Appraiser with the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. The CMA is the highest level the NAJA has. Out of 625 members, there are only 20 CMAs and Richard is the only one in Texas.

"It takes a lot of work and study to achieve this level."

Richard D. Armstrong, Certified Master Appraiser NAJA
BS, MBA, MAcc, AGA ASG, GIA GG, GIA GP, GIA AJP
Lonestar Gemological Laboratory, LLC
AGA Certified Gem Lab #51
CEO Gemologist/Appraiser

Congratulations Richard!!

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2020

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its monthly meeting on December 7, 2020. Vice-President Terry Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. There were 21 members present including two junior members. There were no new members or visitors. Terry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Karen Nance made the motion, Lynn Metcalf seconded, and the motion carried.

Announcements

- Marcia Graham was asked to give the Treasurer's report. She said the checking account was down due to the vendors being refunded for the show cancellation.
- There were no sub-group reports because they will be part of the meetings in the future until further notice.
- There are no field trips planned.
- Terry asked for newsletter articles, poems, jokes, etc.
- Margaret Kilanski gave a report on the website. There is an addition to the Members' Gallery. She is posting Members' own writings. There were almost 300 new clicks to the site in November.
- Randy Harmon said the Tyler Library will be displaying our collections for the month of January as always. The set-up day will be January 4, 2021 starting at 10am.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Rockhound of the Month
December – Sarah Hawthorne
January 2021 – Lynn Metcalf
- Terry said we needed to vote on the Officers for 2021. The regular officers stay the same –
President • David Russ
Vice-President • Terry Roberts
Secretary • Julia Toombs
Treasurer • Marcia Graham

Fred Mahaffey will remain on the Board as past president. The at-large Board members will be Rick Walker and Jerry Sudderth. The pro vote was unanimous. Terry asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Jerry made the motion, Ed Grounds seconded, and the motion carried. The Christmas gift exchange began immediately afterwards. Terry gave the new gift exchange rules. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2021 at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary

ETGMS Meeting Photos

December 7, 2020

Christmas Party



ROCKHOUND OF THE MONTH

Jim & Allison Kitchen November 2020

Sarah Hawthorne December 2020

November – Jim & Allison Kitchen

were named Rockhounds of the Month for volunteering their time at many of our workdays during the summer when we were preparing the building for meetings with restrictions.

December – Sarah Hawthorne

was named Rockhound of the Month for stepping up in our time of need to put out the Newsletter, our only point of contact with our members for many months. She did not hesitate to add it to her list of other jobs.

Thanks folks. You rock!!!

MORE 2020 AFMS CONTEST RESULTS

In the Original Adult Article contest category,
three of our members received Honorable Mentions:

COLLEEN HAYES

February – “The Day I Met Sue”

LYNN METCALF

May – “Take Its Measure”

TERRY ROBERTS

June – “Spending Time in the Workshop”

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

I completed four new cabs recently and thought it would be a good idea to show what a typical Tecolote agate looks like for those who are not familiar with these agates. These agates are found in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico about 15 miles south of the Santa Elena Canyon area



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

of Big Bend National Park in Texas. It is interesting to note that the name Tecolote is Spanish for “owl”. I don’t know why this word is used to designate the location for these agates, but I suspect there must have been some burrowing owls living in this very dry area. I’ve seen burrowing owls in South Texas, so I’m sure they can be found in this area. A word of caution for those who would like to plan a collecting trip to look for these agates, as well as several other beautiful

agate found in this area: While it is possible to cross the border at Presidio and drive down to this area, it is not advisable because it is too dangerous at this time due to the drug cartel activity along the border.

The first two photos (Figures 1 and 2) show what I call the “Roadrunner cab”, both front side and back side, respectively. This agate can also be called a mimeolith due to the resemblance of an internal (or in some cases external) pattern to

Shop Time

another object, such as a bird in this case. The cab also demonstrates a Parallax phenomenon, which is not readily apparent in the photos. I was hoping that I wouldn't lose too much of the original image during the grinding process and it looks like most of it was preserved so that the Roadrunner profile survived the grinding process.

The next photo (Figure 3) shows a more typical



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5

and very nice Tecolote cab, front side only. The next two photos (Figures 4 and 5) show the same small cab, front and back sides, respectively. I had a difficult decision to make about which side would be the front/top side before I started working on the cabs, but made the final decision based on what I thought would be the side that would retain most of the red band pattern during the grinding process. The last photo shows the smallest cab (Figure 6) which shows a typical Tecolote pattern with the red bands and caramel-colored background.

Unfortunately, it also shows that I missed seeing the scratches on the surface until I magnified the image in the photos. So, it's back to the capping machine for this one. Darn it.



FIGURE 6



2021 ANNUAL SHOW

The BOD

For those of you who don't follow social media, have email, or don't belong to our club but read the newsletter, it is with heavy hearts that the Board of Directors (BOD) has made this difficult decision: With COVID running amok, it would be best to cancel the 2021 Annual Show. We have talked with the Tyler Rose Garden Center at length about all aspects of the show. The Garden strictly enforces its regulations. With social distancing requirements in play, it is simply not possible to do the activities that bring joy to our patrons and make money for the club.

To make space for the display cases, we would have to forgo setting up the Rock Food Table. The Fluorescent Room would be impossible because of its size. The Silent Auction would need twice the space, and nothing could be handled for closer inspection. Even knowing that our numbers would be cut in half, with only the Wheel for the kids, more space would be needed for those waiting in line six feet apart. The dealers' booths would need to be a minimum of six feet or as much as ten feet apart to allow adequate six feet of space for visitors. Hands could not be stamped for re-entry. Keith Harmon's geode-cracking show was the biggest no-no. There is no way to prevent gathering of a crowd. School Day canceled itself out because of low reservation numbers.

Door-prize tickets could probably be handed out with gloves, but that means incurring the expense of gloves, as well as hand-sanitizing stations and golf pencils to sign waivers at the beginning, not to mention the expense of printing the waivers. If we were to go ahead with it, and the City canceled on us at the last minute, we would be refunded the reservation of the building, but the money spent on advertising would be gone forever. We did not have our usual number of dealers sign up either.

I have mentioned these points so that you will know that the BOD really did think about all aspects involved. I apologize for the long, drawn-out explanation, but I thought that it was important for you to know that we care about the health and well-being of all.

Respectively submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary

DUES, DUES, DUES



It's that time of year again!! To keep your membership current, your dues need to be paid by the January meeting. We encourage everyone to pay early so you don't accidentally forget and get dropped from the mailing list. Please make sure you complete the form in its entirety. Adult members are 18+. Please check if the member is an Adult or Junior. The yearly member fee is \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Also, be sure to list your interests, so we can better serve our member's needs.

If you plan to mail in your dues, the club's address is on the last page of this newsletter.

EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

Date Paid _____ Dues Paid _____ Cash _____ Check _____

Name(s) _____ Adult _____ Jr. _____
 _____ Adult _____ Jr. _____
 _____ Adult _____ Jr. _____
 _____ Adult _____ Jr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Newsletter via email Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in Club _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

GROUP MEETS

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

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NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Please send original articles to rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com.

Please send in a Microsoft Word format that can be edited.

The 10th of the month is the deadline.

Board minutes are not printed in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact a member of the Board.

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The 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

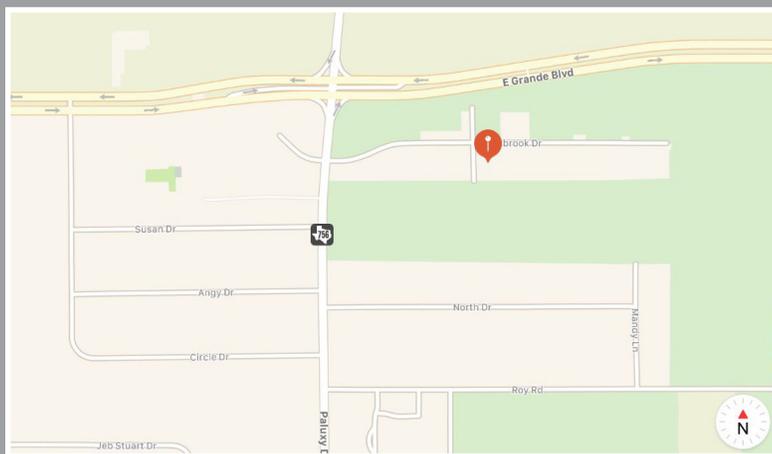
Single: \$10.00 • Family: \$20.00

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

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



CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

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Tyler, TX 75713-2532

ETGMS CLUBHOUSE

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Tyler, Texas



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