

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 47 Issue 5

TYLER • TEXAS

May 2021



Cover Photo: Margaret Kilanski

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

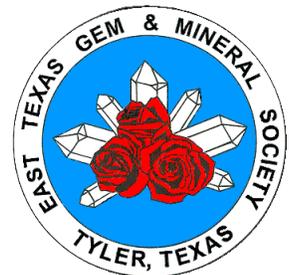
UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22 - 23, 2021
Tyler Gem & Mineral Show
East Texas Fair Grounds,
Building E
Tyler, Texas



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PUBLICATION STAFF

Sarah Hawthorne - Editor / Graphic Designer
Julia Toombs - Proofreader
Margaret Kilanski - Webmaster

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Terry Roberts
Colleen Hayes
Julia Toombs

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY

Margaret Kilanski
Terry Roberts
Colleen Hayes

Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



The ETGMS Board of Directors is excited to bring you some good news!!

Keith Harmon, long-time member of ETGMS and a dealer at our annual show, is sponsoring a one-time event.

Tyler Gem and Mineral Show

May 22, 2021 - 10am to 6pm

May 23, 2021 - 10am to 5pm

Admission: \$5 - Adults

\$1 - Children & Students

at East Texas Fair Grounds, Building E, in Tyler.

It will showcase the dealers that have been a part of our annual show for many years and the Rock Food Table. There will be no fluorescent room, silent auction, or Wheel & Dice games.

There WILL BE space for some display cases.

Contact Keith at keithharmon19@yahoo.com if you would like to display your treasures.

Keith will need volunteer help with admittance and monitoring the Rock Food Table.

Please consider how you can help and contact him at keithharmon19@yahoo.com.

Margaret Kilanski, Webmaster

ROCKHOUND OF THE MONTH

Becky Whisenant April 2021

We are proud to announce Becky Whisenant as Rockhound of the Month for April. Of late, Becky has written two tributes for the newsletter. Her biography appeared in the April newsletter and as you can see she has been a member for many, many years. In that time, she has been a contributor to our newsletter with articles and poems. She has also given programs at schools promoting geology and our club.

For years, she has led the way at the dealer's dinner during the annual show.

Thank you for your many contributions.

You are much appreciated, and we hope to see you soon.

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2021

The monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 6:45 pm. There were 26 members and one visitor, but no new members. David asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Zack Weenink made the motion, Jerry Sudderth seconded, and the motion carried. Ed Grounds gave the Treasury report and said we made \$187.09 at Geekend in Kilgore this past weekend.

Announcements: None.

Upcoming Events:

Margaret Kilanski reminded everyone of the Tyler Gem and Mineral Show May 22 & 23. You may set up a display case on May 21. Contact Julia Toombs if you want to reserve one.

Sub-Group Announcements:

Terry Roberts • Lapidary • May 8 at 2pm.

He will have slabs cut from nodules suitable for cabbing that can occur at a workday to be scheduled at a later date. He has sheets on the back table for cabbing, wire wrapping, and silver-smithing.

Charles Creekmur • Mineral • May 11 at 6:30pm.

The presentation will be on mercury mining in Texas.

David Russ • Fossil • May 18 at 6:30pm.

The program will be shark teeth from the Cretaceous/Jurassic period.

Field Trips • None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Randy Harmon announced his display at the Lindale Library for the summer. Contact him if you would like to display as well.
2. David announced we will have 2 days in June when we will have kindergarten- aged students. Will anyone volunteer to help?

David called for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Jerry made the motion, Ed seconded, and the motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7 at 6:45pm. An auction followed. A large, donated collection from Bryan, Tx were the items offered. (The auction brought in \$439.)

Respectfully submitted by,
Julia Toombs, Secretary

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

Since we had some warm weather after that record setting cold spell in Tyler (February 12-20), I decided to do some more cabbing in the workshop. Figures 1a and 1b show the same plume agate cab with reflected light and transmitted light, respectively. Unfortunately, the slab that produced this cab had a fracture running through it at an oblique angle from the surface near the top of the cab

to the bottom just past the midway point of the cab. I filled the fracture, after a thorough cleaning, with Starbond superglue to keep it from breaking while grinding and polishing it. However, some small chips broke off the top surface at the fracture line while I was grinding it into shape. I completed the cab anyway because it had some nice plumes in it. The agate that produced this cab was probably collected by me in West Texas, but could have come from one of the South Texas roads where a friend of mine does a lot of collecting.

Figures 2a and 2b show the same yellow moss filament cab with reflected and transmitted light, respectively. The transmitted light image in Figure 2b definitely shows the colors and pattern in this cab to the best advantage, which makes this cab both unique and beautiful. Figure 3 shows a complex sagenite "eye" in an otherwise plain agate cab. This cab will make a good display specimen in my "Rocks and Minerals of West Texas" display case at our annual gem and mineral show in January.



KILGORE GEEKEND RECAP

(COVER PHOTO)

By Julia Toombs

ETGMS were contacted in January by an organizer of Kilgore's Geekend, a family-friendly pop-culture event in downtown Kilgore. They were inviting area 501(c)3 organizations to spread awareness, fundraise, attract new members, etc. ETGMS fell in line with their focus of community, art, and science. There was no fee for setting up a 10' x 10' booth and we have the canopy, tables, and materials. Having a kid-friendly activity was recommended so we set up the Wheel of Fortune.

Those who worked the booth were Margaret Kilanski, Rick Walker, Ed Grounds, and

the author. Though it was a dreary day and rain sprinkled on our tables occasionally (we moved most of them under the canopy), we had many people stop, visit, and purchase. We handed out notices for the Show May 22 & 23, our annual show in January 2022, invited them to the Monday meeting, and gave them a business card.

Rick noticed that some people were only glancing at our booth. He began to approach the kids, offering a free rock and the chance to hold his dinosaur bone specimen. Ed brought other specimens and polished slabs from the clubhouse. Many

selected a slab as a gift for a monetary donation. This, then, attracted the kids to the Wheel and the adults to the wire-wrapped and silver-smithed cabochons and Trees of Life.

We and our surrounding booth owners were watching the weather. The activities were due to end at 6:00, but many began breaking down about 3:30 as a strong storm approached. It began raining hard about 4:00. I was in my car, but not my friends. We made the decision that since the weather on Sunday was forecast to be about the same, that we would pass on returning.

Before we got under way at 10:00, I found a shiny new penny that I called Lucky. The Wheel took in \$46, we had \$20.21 in donations, and \$125 in merchandise sales. I expected a larger turnout, but I'm sure the weather had a lot to do with it.



ADVENTURES FROM NEW MEXICO

By Colleen Hayes



One of my favorite places to collect minerals is just outside of Cuba, New Mexico. Cuba is bisected by Highway 550, located on the western side of the state in Sandoval County, on the Continental Divide, at an elevation of 6,905 feet above sea level. This always makes hiking a challenge coming from nearly sea level here in East Texas.

Cuba boasts a really good Mexican food restaurant, a cool prairie dog pasture, and a view of the tops of several extinct volcano cones.

Heading east on 126 will take you past a ranch entrance with

an all-petrified wood arch on the right. A few hundred feet further on the left, you will begin to see the old workings of the Nacimiento Mine. It was an old copper mine which is now probably off-limits due to reclamation. In recent history, several members of the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club held claims on the mine. Pete Keiser and I were members of the club and were able to get permission to collect, and I believe the club itself held field trips on occasion to the mine.

It began life as an open pit mine which proved to be unprofitable. Sometime later it was decided that they would try a leaching process using sulfuric acid. As you can imagine, this made a mess and posed a serious environmental hazard. At the time of our visits, they were in talks regarding reclamation and how to handle the waste. Monitoring systems were in place and evidence of testing was in progress. According to research, this copper

mine is one of the few in the world where copper was deposited by ground water in a carbon-rich sedimentary bed. As noted, petrified wood provided the carbon. There now exists chalcocite, malachite, azurite, and other copper carbonate minerals.

I have personally collected the petrified wood replaced by chalcocite, azurite and malachite “balls”, and one pyrite nodule. I have also collected some septarian nodules that exist in the red beds above the leaching area. Much of the sandstone is stained green or blue with the copper minerals, however the sandstone is more fragile and often just crumbles. Photos show the remaining lake and hill side and some collected specimens.

If you continue east on 126, you will wind around up into the Jemez Mountains. You can visit the Valle Caldera National Preserve and continue towards Los Alamos and Bandelier National Monument. Road tripping and rock hounding go hand in hand in New Mexico. There are so many locations and sights to see.



DUES, DUES, DUES

It's that time of year again!! To keep your membership current, your dues need to be paid as soon as possible. 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 with contact information. 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

Gemology Group

Meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 - 8:30 pm

PRESIDENT

David Russ

903-714-3330

dbruss50@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Roberts

TREASURER

Ed Grounds

egrds1@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Julia Toombs

rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Fred Mahaffey

frederickmahaffey@gmail.com

ANNUAL SHOW CHAIR

David Russ

903-714-3330

dbruss50@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Margaret Kilanski

mlkilanski@yahoo.com

PROOFREADER

Julia Toombs

rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com

EDITOR • GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sarah Hawthorne

hawthorne04@gmail.com

SCHOOL GROUP CHAIRMAN

David Russ

903-714-3330

dbruss50@gmail.com

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

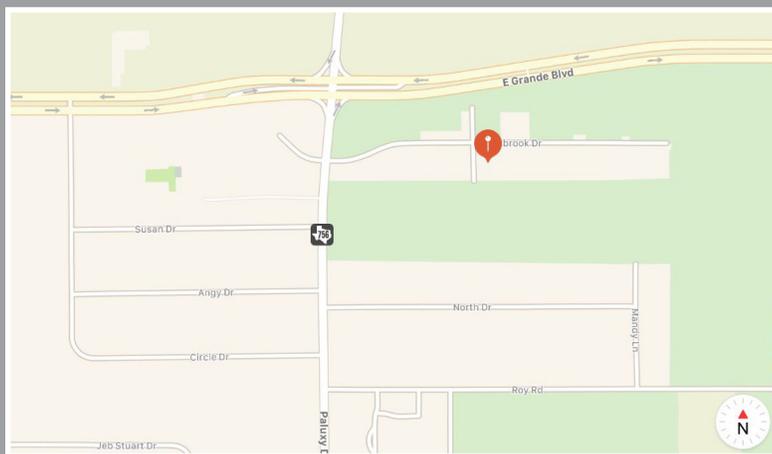
Single: \$10.00 • Family: \$20.00

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

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532

ETGMS CLUBHOUSE

2015 Deerbrook Dr.
Tyler, Texas



Rock-N-Rose • Newsletter
231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961