

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 47 Issue 8

TYLER • TEXAS

August 2021



Cover Photo: Colleen Hayes

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 14 - 15, 2021
Baton Rouge G&MS
Gonzales, LA
Lamar Dixon Expo Center

Aug 21 - 22, 2021
Arklatex G&M
Bossier City, LA
Bossier Civic Center

Sep 25 - 26, 2021
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock, Texas
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

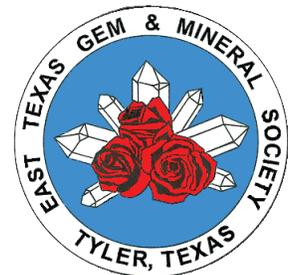
Oct 16 - 17, 2021
Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair
Tyler, Texas
Bergfeld Park
1510 N. College

January 21 - 23, 2022
East Texas Gem & Mineral Show
Tyler, Texas
Rose Garden Center



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Margaret Kilanski

Rock-N-Rose
Newsletter

231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



HELP WANTED



The Board of Directors requests someone proficient in **audio/visual** matters who can attend meetings when the equipment is in use.

Thank you!

Take our SURVEY



CLUB REPRESENTATION

Julia Toombs

ETGM Merchandice

Large Emblem.....	\$12.00
Small Emblem.....	\$3.00
Club Pin.....	\$3.00
Vests: S,M,L,XL.....	\$15.00
Vests: 2X, 3X.....	\$17.00



- What are some program ideas you would like to see in the future?
- What are some field trip locations you would be interested in attending? A day trip or an overnight extended trip? Carpool or individual travel?
- Would you participate in a Rock Swap in a park this fall? Rose Rudman?
- Set-up? Visit and swap?

Members, a vest with a patch and/or a pin is a good thing to have on when you are representing the Club at any show or Club-sponsored event such as Kilgore Geekend or Lindsey Park. We have all of these available for a nominal price. I put a large patch on the back and a small one on the front so I am identifiable from both sides. I also bought the pin.

Please consider making these purchases and contact Ed Grounds, Treasurer.

Answers can be sent to Rick Walker at rickjwalker5639@gmail.com

or

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

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2021

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on August 2, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm, and led by Vice-President Terry Roberts. President David Russ was out of town. Terry asked for the visitors to introduce themselves. There were no new members. Terry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Rick Walker made the motion, Lynn Metcalf seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Ed Grounds gave the financial report.

Announcements:

- Vests, patches and pins are available for purchase.
- Certificates and plaques were presented to Lynn Metcalf and Melissa Weenink.
- Lapidary sub-group – Terry Roberts - Saturday, 14th, at 2pm. Subject – Last Chance Silver mine.
- Mineral sub-group – Charles Creekmur - Tuesday, 10th, mines & minerals of New Mexico.
- Gem sub-group – Richard Armstrong has taken the summer off.
- Fossil sub-group – No one to speak for David Russ, meet on Tuesday, the 17th at 6:30pm.
- September – Mt. Ida, Arkansas, Twin Creek Mine; 100 applicants and \$150 entry fee.
- Website – send pictures or anything else to Margaret Kilanski.
- Upcoming shows:
 - Arklatex G&MS at Bossier City, LA - Aug. 21 & 22
 - Baton Rouge, LA - Aug 14 & 15
 - Clear Lake in Pasadena, TX - Aug 7 & 8.

Old business: There was none.

New business:

- Advertising Coordinator & School Day Chairperson needed for the annual show.
- Treasurer for 2022
- Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair at Bergfeld Park, Oct 16 & 17. \$75 booth fee is free due to a drawing in 2019.

With no more business to discuss, Terry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and move on to refreshments, the drawing for door prizes, and the show-and-tell program. Colleen made the motion to adjourn, Zach Weenink seconded, and the motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2021.

Submitted by: Julia Toombs, Secretary



THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

The 26th Annual Gemstone and Jewelry Show

TYLER ROSE GARDEN CENTER

420 SOUTH ROSE PARK DRIVE
TYLER, TEXAS



Gemstones • Jewelry • Minerals • Fossils • Supplies

JANUARY 21 - 23, 2022

SHOW HOURS:

Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm • Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm

ADMISSION:

Adults: **\$5.00**

Children and Students: **\$1.00**

Colorful Fluorescent Mineral Display

Silent Auction on Saturday & Sunday

Hourly Door Prizes

Grand Prize Drawing

Wheel of Fortune

Game for the Children

Equipment and Supplies

Lapidary Demonstrations

Flint Knapping

Gemstone Identification

The Rock Food Table • www.rockfoodtable.com

Gemstones

Gold and Silver
Jewelry

Minerals

Fossils

Cut and Uncut Stones

Geodes

Wire Wrapping Demos

Lapidary Material

Raffle Prizes

WWW.ETGMS.ORG

Field Trip Stories

BY Julia Toombs

I am revisiting a story written by a new member at the time. Richard and Barbara Braun were going on their first field trip (September, 2020) with ETGMS and were thrilled!! Barbara wrote about the adventure from beginning to end.

I would hope that this story will encourage our other new members to write up something about their own field trips. We want to share your excitement. If you have a comical misadventure, include that too.

A Novice's Guide on a Field Trip

By Barbara Braun

Richard and I joined ETGMS in February, 2020. We were excited to go on field trips and learn how to find fossils and stones of all shapes and kinds. Saturday was our first field trip and we had to make an early exit to get to the meeting spot on time. It wouldn't be good if we were late! We got up shortly after six that morning, so early. It was a good thing we had already loaded the car with buckets, shovels, pick hammers, gloves, and anything else we would need at the dig site since our minds were not quite up to speed that early in the morning. Once we toasted our breakfast to be eaten down the road, let the dog out, and loaded ourselves into the car, we were on our way! The morning was foggy so we had to be careful on the drive.

We made it to the Tiger Mart on time and saw the group we were going to hunt Septarian nodules with standing out in the parking lot. The game was

on! After making sure everyone who wanted to be part of our expedition was there, we took off in a caravan to the hunt field. As we made our way to the "mountain", we could see the deep ruts in the trails heading to the parking area. Getting out of the car, we were immediately hit with a horrible smell. Something was rotten and it wasn't in Denmark! It was right next to our car! We hastily grabbed our buckets filled with our tools and made our way up the hill, and boy was it steep!

Having no idea what kind of rock would be the mother of a Septarian nodule, we began to follow and watch others who knew what they were doing. We caught on quickly; it wasn't as difficult as we thought it would be. The trash on the ground was pretty bad. We walked over to an area that looked promising and the dirt wasn't bedrock. Richard spotted a rock and began to eat away at

the thing to see how far it was covered over with dirt. Once he discovered the total rock edge, he began to dig it out. He borrowed a sledgehammer, whacked it, and broke it into pieces, revealing the different colors within. Now we were cooking!

I meandered up the rough ground to a spot and saw a bit of rock poking out of the dirt. My mind could imagine wondrous things inside of this plain old



ordinary grayish-brown rock. It was rounded on top, smooth on one half, and the other half was lumpy. I began to dig the perimeter of the large stone to see how much of it was buried in the ground. It was huge and somewhat deep. If a cow had stumbled into the hole it left, it may have twisted a hoof! So Richard and I worked to get it on top of the ground. Eureka! We got it! Again we borrowed a sledgehammer and Shelly, who was in our group, took a good whack at it. It didn't crack; only leaving both of her arms tingling from the impact. As she walked away rubbing her arms, Richard took a swing at it. He clobbered it! As the rock opened up to reveal beautiful crystal formations, color, and who knows what else was in it, I was just thrilled!! It looked like our early morning rising was worth it. Richard took another swing to break it into smaller, more manageable pieces, and we said that was good.

The hardest part of the trip was taking the stones down the fairly steep hill to the car, still in the stench of the dead animal. We had to move the car! Once moved, we began to move our treasure into the rear of the Durango. Taking a bit of a breather, I once again trudged up the hill with my empty bucket to capture another load. I wasn't

looking forward to that. We saved the bigger ones for last. I can say I had to take a break about half way up the hill to catch a breath and stop my legs from shaking. Not being in the best fitness since starting the COVID thing, I thought it best to pace myself. On top and at the rock pile, we loaded our buckets again. Saying goodbye to Shelly who was up on the hill in near proximity, we made our final trip down the hill. We were heading home!!

We got a better look at our stones once we took them out to the patio and hosed them down. I may have Richard make me a nice display stand to show off the pretty one I call the "egg". We are novices no longer and look forward to our next field trip with the gang!



Members, even if you go on a private trip, we would love to hear about it. Some members post on Facebook, but not all of us have access to it. How about writing something up for us all?

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts



Fig. 2 Mahogany & Gold Sheen Obsidian

I recently completed some new cabs and learned a few new things while doing it. Figure 1 shows a nice waterline Queensland Agate. It has some bright colors that make the waterline feature stand out. Figure 2 shows an unusual combination of mahogany and gold-sheen obsidian in the same cab. It is a small cab, but I wanted to see what the solid disk at the bottom looked like when polished. I was surprised to see the gold sheen in some of the bands in the disk when it is held out in the sunlight at the proper angles. I remember buying 10-15 lbs of obsidian which produced this cab from a rock shop in Wyoming that was going out of business about 15 years ago. I don't remember where the owner said he got the obsidian, but it was probably from Utah or Oregon.

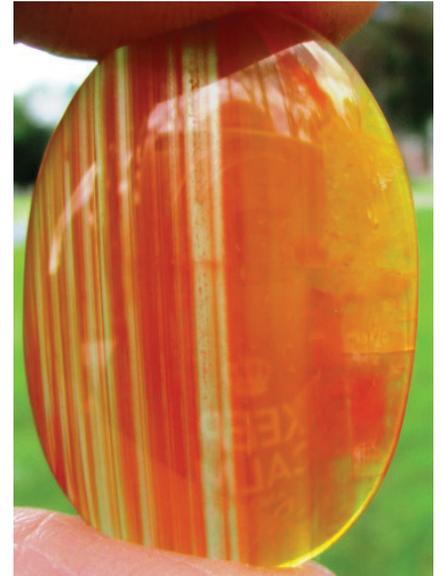


Fig. 1 Queensland Agate

The next three pictures show a larger mahogany obsidian cab that came from the same rock pile as the first cab. Figure 3a shows mahogany bands in the upper half and some thin black bands with some unusually clear areas in the bottom half of the cab. You will notice in Figure 3b that it also produces mirror-like reflections.

What really surprised me was that it will actually magnify images in the clear areas as shown in Figure 3c. I found this phenomenon by accident and now I'm wondering how common it is in agates as well. Of course, one should not be too surprised to see this phenomenon given the fact that the clear area is a volcanic glass and curved just like a magnifying glass.



Fig. 3a Mahogany Obsidian



Fig. 3b Same cab showing mirror-like reflection



Fig. 3c Same cab showing magnification of letters on page

Figure 4 shows a colorful banded agate that I cut from a much larger slab I've had for several years. The slab should produce three more cabs that ought to make some nice pendants.

The last three pictures show an agate that was given to the club and later sold during our silent auction at our last club meeting to a friend of mine. He asked me to cut off one side and polish it for him. Figure 5a shows the natural appearance of the agate before cutting. I have no clue as to what type of agate this is or where it came from. Figure 5b shows the polished face of the agate which is mostly a uniform black color. On a whim, I decided to see if it fluoresced under a long-wave UV light. I was surprised to see that it does fluoresce a dull tan or brown color and, more importantly, that the agate is composed of many small bands which can only be seen under UV light.

The take-away lesson I learned from these cabs is that you can never be sure what you will find when cutting and cabbing rock slabs. You need to look at the internal features of each cab to see if it possesses hidden qualities under different light sources or if they mimic images such as animals or inanimate structures.



Fig. 4 Banded cab cut from larger slab



Fig. 5a Unknown Agate



Fig. 5b Polished face of a slab

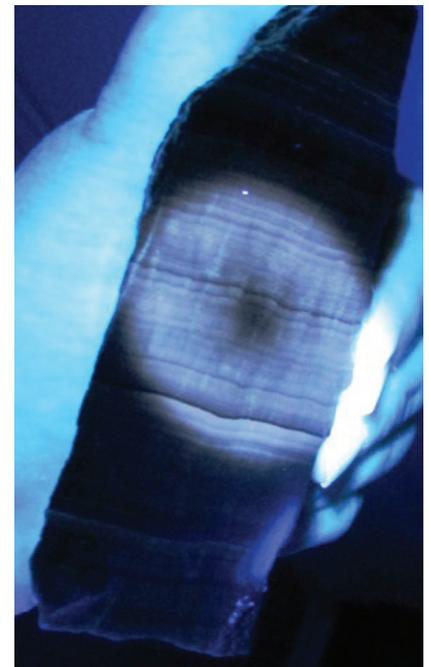


Fig. 5c Face of slab showing fluorescence under Long Wave UV light

Too Hot for a Field Trip?

By Colleen Hayes



Summer in Texas is not the best time to plan an outdoor field trip. The next best thing is to explore the indoor possibilities. On a recent adventure, I stopped in Lufkin, Texas to visit the Naranjo Museum of Natural History. For anyone who is interested in dinosaurs, fossils, and the like, this is a great way to spend a few hours exploring the exhibits.

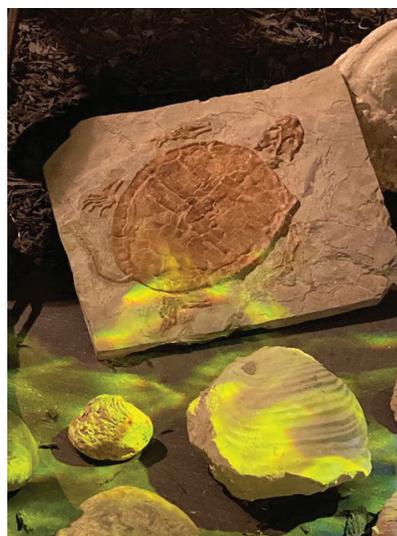
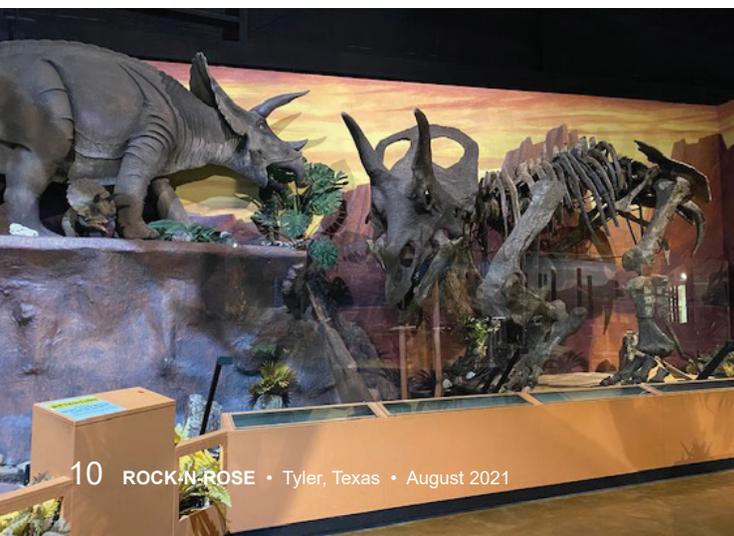
Dr. Naranjo, grew up in East Texas. He has a huge passion for Paleontology. He has been able to assist on many fossil dig expeditions, including the Hell Creek Formation in Montana. He was able to amass a large collection of fossils and artifacts which are on display at the museum.

Upon entering the museum, visitors are able to explore the exhibits at their own pace. The exhibits are set up in chronological order starting with the Precambrian period and continuing throughout the ages.

There are also other exhibits of interest. There is a moon rock on display from Apollo 14, and a model of the space shuttle. There is a gem vault that is open and displays precious gems and jewelry, and there are many displays of artifacts spanning the centuries of human life.

The museum is a work in progress, still changing and adding content. Club member Randy Harmon has donated part of his collection and we hope to see his items on display soon.

It is well worth the trip.



ADVENTURES FROM NEW MEXICO

Part 4
By Colleen Hayes



Traveling north from Santa Fe, through Espanola, then crossing the Rio Grande River, you start entering what is affectionately known as Georgia O'Keefe country. She was an American artist, best known for her drawings of New Mexico's rugged terrain. Ghost

Ranch, her residence, now a Presbyterian-owned retreat, is known as a famous paleontological site preserving Triassic dinosaurs. Fossils were discovered here as early as 1885. A complete small skeleton of a Coelophysis was found at Ghost Ranch and is designated

as the State Dinosaur. Ghost Ranch is used as an educational facility. The Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology is open for the public to see some of the fossils found on the ranch. Reservations are required. The Museum focuses mainly on the Triassic Period between 200 - 220 million years ago. Ghost Ranch is the site of one of the best known paleontological digs in the Northern Hemisphere.

Ghost Ranch has a whole list of retreats and adventures on their website. They offer a Paleontology tour, an Archaeology tour, trail rides, and classes, including silversmithing for those who wish to incorporate a southwest-style into their work. Also noted were classes on pottery, photography, writing and wellness...





too many to note. The website—Ghostranch.org—has a listing of classes, fees, and lodging costs, and you must make reservations to visit. Ghost Ranch has also been used for movie/film locations including “City Slickers” and the most recent version of “Magnificent 7”. This is a beautiful area, and I try to stop each time I go through to marvel and photograph the ever-changing vistas.

Heading north is the small village of Chama, New Mexico, home to the Cumbres and Toltec narrow-gauge railroad. The train runs daily as a scenic tour, however, each year one trip is designated as a geology tour. The tour hosts geologists presenting the rich geologic strata of the Rio Grande Rift, San Juan volcanic field, etc., with stops for photographs and

collecting small samples.

Continuing north is Colorado, and I am heading to my end destination, Creede, Colorado. Overnight is in Pagosa Springs, taking advantage of the hot springs and scenic views along the San Juan River. These springs are, supposedly, the deepest known

geothermal hot springs. Located on the western slope of the Continental Divide, the waters have been recorded from 110 to 144 degrees, originating from approximately 6,000 feet below, from volcanic activity. There are several bath houses in town that offer soaking in the sulfur-rich waters.

Continuing on, the next stop is a road cut on the way up to Wolf Creek Pass/ski area on Hwy 160. Just past the Treasure Falls scenic site is a road cut containing small geodes of agate and possibly amethyst in the volcanic basalt.

The rock is very hard, and you will need hammers and a pick. There are many scenic sites along this drive, side roads with old mining structures, overlooks, and waterfalls.

The highway to Creede, Colorado, is bordered by the Rio Grande River. The Rio Grande headwaters originate in the



mountains high above Creede, a very famous mining town known for its extensive silver deposits. Approximately 26 million years ago a small volcano erupted, and a caldera was formed. The surrounding rhyolite fractured, and the hydrothermal solutions surged upwards. As a result silver, zinc, and veins of amethystine, and

chalcedony were left behind.

A high-grade silver vein was discovered at Willow Creek, in 1889, a tributary of the Rio Grande, and people came in droves. The town boomed to thousands in search of riches. As with most mining towns, there were notable saloons, outlaws, brothels, and banks. The active mining finally halted in 1985 with

the closure of the Bulldog mine.

There are estimated to be at least 200 miles of tunnels and five levels in the Commodore mine alone. Associated collectable minerals from this region include amethyst, sphalerite, quartz, chalcedony, and galena.

Creede is a great place to visit. The small town has interesting shops and lodging. A must-see is the underground Mining Museum. The museum is actually situated underground, displays mining equipment, and tells the history of the area. Above Creede is Bachelor Loop that travels past remnants of the Commodore and other mines. You can see the buildings, cribbing, and other mining items. At the top of the loop is a short side road that will take you to the Last Chance Mine. It is the only restored mine and is open to the public. The Last Chance was the last silver mine to open in the area. Presently, they are open in the summer for underground tours, have rocks for sale, and have many mining items on display. One of the associated minerals is Amethyst which is prevalent in the Creede mines. Specimens can be collected and purchased at the mine for a per-pound fee.

Creede, Colorado has a vast and exciting history. It is worth taking the time to explore the area.



RETHINKING THE GEMOLOGY GROUP

by Richard Armstrong

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society had a tough year and currently everyone is working to get back to some degree of normal. The Gemology Group was floundering and barely hanging on for some time even before the pandemic. Our first (and only) meeting after meetings resumed just before summer was sparsely attended. Therefore I have taken the summer off to rethink and decide what we should do to bring some life back into the group.

Since we are the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society, gem is in our name and without gems being one priority we would just be the East Texas Mineral Society. The sub-groups were initiated several years ago as some of us thought we should have meetings focusing on various areas of interest in more depth than possible at the monthly general meeting. The Lapidary and Jewelry Making Groups were the first as many had an interest in learning to cut stones and make jewelry. Soon after the Mineral Group was formed. Initially it had a rocky

start and almost didn't make it. The Fossil Group followed. I was approached with the idea of having a gem identification class. Then there seemed to be some interest for a Gemology Group from two members who are gemologists and another local jeweler/gemologist who at the time was not a member but became one when we started the Gemology Group.

Initially we had a lot of interest. We held a couple of gem identification classes. The first was well attended. Following classes had fewer students. The last class had only four students. Did interest die out? I'm not sure.

Over the past few months, I have asked myself if perhaps the name and the emphasis on "gemology" was putting people off. Did the club members think it was too technical or academic? Was there too much emphasis on the science and not on gem appreciation? Again, I don't know. We did a survey before the pandemic, but very few responses were received. If that idea of gemology is putting people off, then we need to rethink the group and change direction.

First, we are renaming the group. Our emphasis should be on gems, not primarily on gemology. I think many members love gems. Who doesn't? We like jewelry and are wowed when we visit museums and see all the breath-taking gems on display. Who wouldn't want to own a beautiful ruby or emerald? So,

I was thinking maybe "Gem-Lovers Group" or just "Gem Group". Jewelry Television used to (not sure if they still do) have a weeklong "Gem-Lovers Conference" every summer which is where I got that name. Many people would take their vacation and spend money to attend the conference in Knoxville, TN, and they bought a lot of gems and jewelry from JTV while they were there. Therefore, I know a lot of people love and admire gems, but who loves and admires gems more than members of ETGMS?

The third Thursday evening of September, 6:30pm, we will have the first meeting of the Gem Group. At this meeting we will talk about what we (all of you) want from the group. Bring your favorite gems and we will talk about them and admire them for their beauty and appreciate them. No talk, or at least only a minimum, about optical properties, or other aspects of gemology. I think for the next few months this will be an exploration as to how we can appreciate the gems we have and want. Hope to see all of you there. If you have an interest in gems in any way, come and help us make the Gem Group, or Gem-Lover's Group (whichever name we decide on) a success.

If you have any questions or comments, you can call me 903-360-5680 or email keltfire@msn.com.

DUES, DUES, DUES

If you plan to mail in your dues:

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

EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY • MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

Date Paid ____/____/____ Dues Paid _____ Cash _____ Check _____

YEARLY DUES – Individual - \$10 • Family - \$20

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Newsletter via email Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in Club? _____

Home Phone _____ Work / CellPhone _____

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

Richard Armstrong heads up the group. Contact Richard to have your name added to the email.

keltfire@msn.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

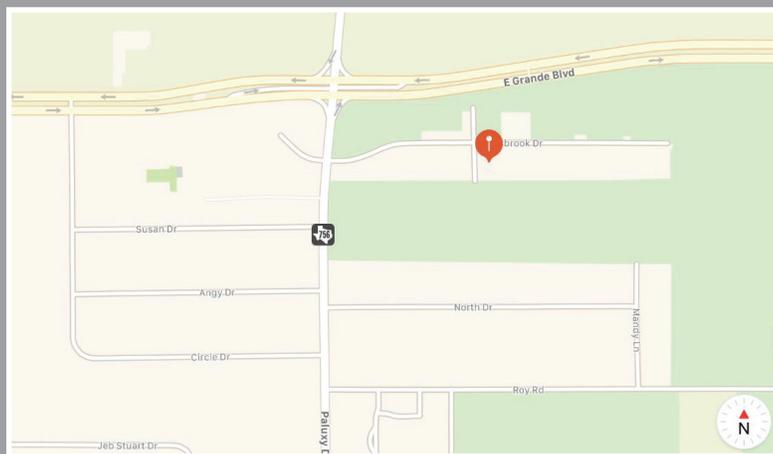
Single: \$10.00 • Family: \$20.00

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

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

ETGMS CLUBHOUSE

2015 Deerbrook Dr.
Tyler, Texas



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