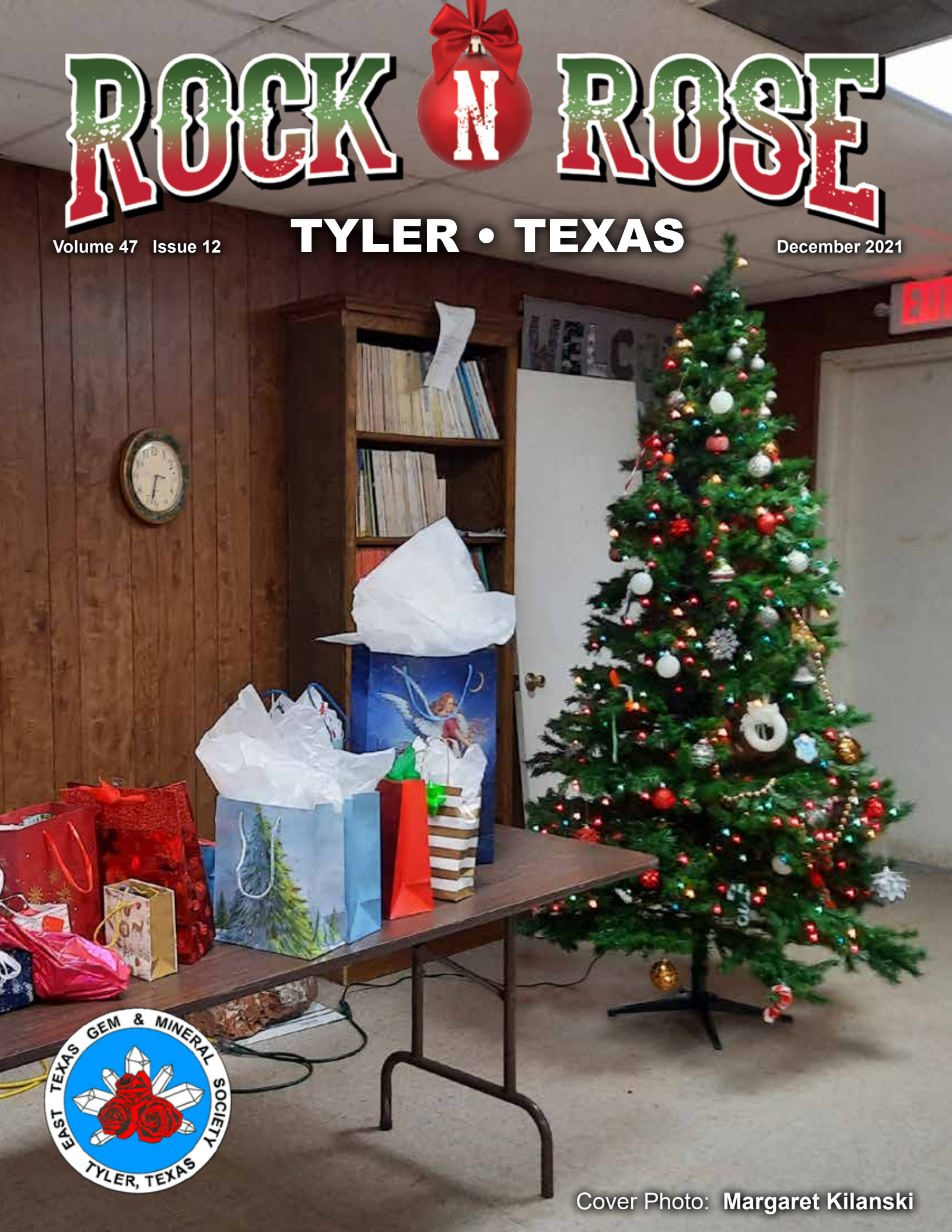


ROCK N ROSE

Volume 47 Issue 12

TYLER • TEXAS

December 2021



Cover Photo: Margaret Kilanski

CONTENTS

ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** Club Representation
- 3** Message from Incoming President
- 4** ETGMS Meeting Minutes
- 5** ETGMS Christmas Party
- 6** Shop Time
- 8** Tiffany Stone - A Purple Treasure
- 10** Tyler Public Library
- 11** November Critter Workshop
- 12** December Critter Workshop
- 13** ETGMS Field Trip - Nacogdoches, TX
- 15** ETGMS Show
- 15** Dues Registration Form
- 16** Group Meets
- 17** Club Information



PUBLICATION STAFF

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Terry Roberts
Julia Toombs
Rick Walker

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY

Terry Roberts
Margaret Kilanski
Gayle Halberstadt
Jimmy and Easton Simpson

Rock-N-Rose
Newsletter

231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



CLUB REPRESENTATION

Julia Toombs

ETGM Merchandise

Large Emblem.....	\$12.00
Small Emblem.....	\$3.00
Club Pin.....	\$3.00
Vests: S,M,L,XL.....	\$15.00
Vests: 2X, 3X.....	\$17.00
T-shirts Adults.....	\$20.00
T-shirts Youth.....	\$15.00



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.

A Message to the Club by Incoming President

Jerry Sudderth

I want to welcome all new members that have joined us this year and say thanks to all the active members for sticking with us through these trying times. Happy holidays and don't forget our show in January. We still need volunteers and this is a great way to help your club while meeting new people and having a lot of fun. I hope to see you all at our meetings and that you'll join us on our field trips next year.

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2021

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on December 6, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:45PM by Terry Roberts. Terry asked for new members and visitors to introduce themselves. We had a gentleman rejoining after being gone for a couple of years. He had been a member for many, many years. He signed up for the show too. Terry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Penny Hawkins made the motion and Jerry Sudderth seconded, and the motion carried. Terry asked Treasurer Ed Grounds to give the financial report.

Announcements:

- Lapidary group – no formal meeting until February; critter workshops take its day slot on December 11 and January 8.
- Mineral group – no formal meeting until February.
- Fossil group – no formal meeting until February.
- Field trips – Rick Walker gave a report on the trip to Lake Nacogdoches this past Saturday. It was dubbed the “Butchfield” Trip because of all the jackpots he hit. There is a lead on a selenite site that will be inspected by Rick and Jerry.
- Need newsletter, website, and Facebook information and photos.

Old business: There was none.

New business:

- Displays at Tyler Public Library for the month of January, up and downstairs.
- I presented the Welcome Packet to the members. A member offered to post it at the Mineola & Lindale Libraries. She asked if we had any rocks to sell for kids. She has a grandson that sleeps with his rocks. She recommended a Junior program.
- Margaret Kilanski – Advertising – She will be sending out a PDF of the show flyer for people to put it on their Facebook sites. Enthusiasm counts.
- Sonya Meinert has volunteered to research search engine optimization. She asked for a budget. Jerry said we are a non-profit.

With no other business to discuss, Terry asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Becky Whisenant made the motion, Jerry seconded, and the motion carried. After a 10-15 minute break for refreshments, the gift exchange got under way. As per new rules due to COVID in 2020, only one steal is allowed. Junior members can't be stolen from unless permission is given. Easton gave it. We had about 30 members participating and all had a fun time.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,
Julia Toombs, Secretary

ETGMS Christmas Party



Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

Over the past 15 years, I have been fortunate to work on many different types of rocks to create cabs and then wire-wrap them. My favorite materials to cut and polish are agates because of their great variety of colors and patterns, as well as their ability to take a beautiful polish. Recently, I was able to collect some Tiffany Stone in Utah and looked forward to cutting and polishing them. The rocks varied in size from a walnut to my fist.

I knew that Tiffany Stone would present several problems, the first of which is to seal any cracks in the rocks. For this task, I used Starbond™ superglue because it has a very thin consistency which allows it to penetrate very small cracks. *A word of caution:* you must wear goggles to

prevent the fumes from the superglue from getting into your eyes *and avoid* looking directly down on the rock while applying glue.

I selected only the four largest rocks with the best colors to work with. First, I washed the rocks to remove any debris that may have penetrated the cracks. Next, I heated the rocks in an old toaster oven to 250°F for about three hours to drive off all the moisture. Next, I set the rocks on 1" tall cross-sections of paper towel tubes laid over wax paper to allow the glue to penetrate the cracks without gluing the rocks to the work bench. After 24 hours drying time, I turned the rocks over to apply glue to the other side in order to get maximum penetration of the cracks.

The real test of my preparations came when I slabbed the rocks. Two of the largest rocks provided mostly whole slabs, but the slabs from the other rocks broke into several pieces. I concluded that the glue did not penetrate as deeply or I may have missed some small cracks during the gluing process.



Figure 1

I was able to cut the larger slabs into preforms without any problems. I knew the purple areas were fluorite and may have some opal in them. What I was not prepared for was the presence of small patches of chalcedony that were embedded in the fluorite. This created problems with undercutting since fluorite has a hardness of 4 on the Mohs scale and chalcedony has a hardness of 7 on this scale.

To reduce undercutting, I used only the 220 grit hard diamond wheel for shaping and then went to a 280 grit soft diamond wheel to remove the scratches left

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

by the 220 grit wheel. This was especially critical for removing scratches in the areas with chalcedony. There were few problems encountered while going through the remainder of the soft diamond wheels to the final 14,000 grit wheel which gave the chalcedony areas a very nice polish.

To get a good shine on the softer fluorite, I used ZAM on a flannel buff pad mounted on my Genie™ cab machine. This worked better than I expected as shown in the pictures below. I decided to wire wrap one of the cabs for my friend to show my appreciation for guiding me to the Tiffany Stone collecting site.

Figure 1 shows a multicolored Tiffany Stone. In addition to the purple fluorite, it has a small area of red color that started out much larger in size and with a deeper color, but almost disappeared by the time I



Figure 2

completed the cab. It also has areas of an unknown white mineral interspersed in the purple fluorite background.

Figure 2 shows the cab that I wire wrapped. It has some areas of an unknown brown/orange mineral below the surface of the cab. This cab also displays a green fluorescence where the

chalcedony occurs (see Figure 3).

I have not cut any of the smaller Tiffany Stones because they have only a light purple color and a thick white rind of some unknown mineral. Because Tiffany Stone is not reported to occur anywhere outside of Utah in the U.S. or the rest of the world, to my knowledge, I will polish one side of these rocks where the purple color is most prevalent and donate them to the club for door prizes at our meetings. They should make good display pieces.

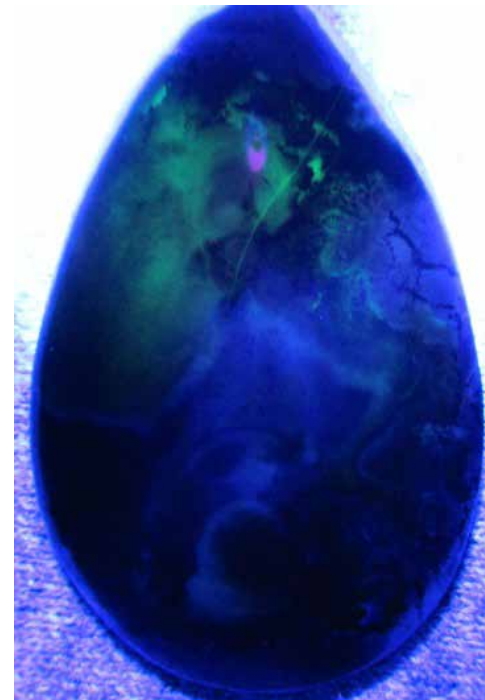


Figure 3

TIFFANY STONE — A PURPLE TREASURE

By Terry Roberts



Figure 1

I recently had a chance to hunt for Tiffany Stone with a friend of mine who knows a site where it can be found. He said it is located in the desert near the Thomas Range in Juab County west of I-15 in Utah (Figure 1). He forgot to mention that you had to leave the road, if you can call it that, and bounce over a rough terrain to get to the actual digging site. You definitely need to bring plenty of water and sunscreen with you if you plan to spend much time at this site.

After a quick glance around the site, I realized that you would have better luck in finding Tiffany Stones by picking a spot and start digging rather than surface collecting like I do for agate in west Texas. Fortunately, the soil is mostly unconsolidated and a good pick allows you to reach the “pay zone” about a foot or so below the surface. However, you may have to dig



Figure 2

a trench to locate a pod of the stones.

Most of the rocks we found were small, about the size of a walnut, and covered by a white crust. These stones usually have a pale

violet color under the white skin, if it has any color at all (Figure 2). What makes this effort worthwhile is that occasionally you will find a fist-sized rock which may have a lovely deep purple interior that will make a beautiful cab (Figure 3) or it may have white, red, or black streaks running through it (Figure 4). After digging for about three hours, I managed to accumulate a respectable pile of Tiffany Stones (Figure 5) before we had to leave.

Tiffany Stone is a

Figure 3





trade name for a rock that is composed of fluorite, sometimes including opal, as well as calcite and clear chalcedony. It is the latter mineral that makes it hard to get a nice smooth cab because it is so much harder (7 on the Mohs scale) compared to fluorite (4 on that scale). Much of the Tiffany Stone I collected had white intrusions mixed with the purple fluorite. Hobart King, PhD (Geology.com) stated that bertrandite, a beryllium silicate, occurs as microscopic grains within the fluorite.

According to King, Tiffany Stone is mined at only one location worldwide, that being the Brush Wellman Beryllium Mine at Spor Mountain in the Thomas Range. However, since Tiffany Stone contains only 1-2% beryllium and it is not abundant even at this site, it may not be the primary

product of the mine.

I believe it is worth mentioning that the site where we were digging for our specimens of this stone may be an isolated and very small local source that was found by accident by my friend. He told me that the Brush Wellman Beryllium Mine is located at least 25 miles from this site.

Other names for Tiffany Stone, according to King, include “opalized fluorite” and “ice cream stone.” King also mentions that the origin of the term “Tiffany Stone” is unknown. It is not named for Tiffany and Company since the company has never been associated with the mine or the stone. Others have said the stone is named for the daughter of a Brush Wellman employee who brought some of the rocks home for her. King says that while this is possible, the names of the father and his daughter

are not found in any written record.

Mindat.org states that while the fluorite in Tiffany Stone is not fluorescent, impurities in the stone, such as chalcedony, can fluoresce a bright green (Figure 6). Mindat.org presents no information on health risks for Tiffany Stone. However, a quick search on the internet found that beryllium may pose a health risk for workers who inhale the dust over long periods of time. Among other risks, there is a chance that workers may develop lung cancer. So, one must use care when grinding Tiffany Stone for cabs or other Lapidary uses to avoid inhaling any dust, such as spraying copious amounts of water on the stone and/or wearing dust masks to avoid inhaling the dust if one plans on doing a lot of work with this material.

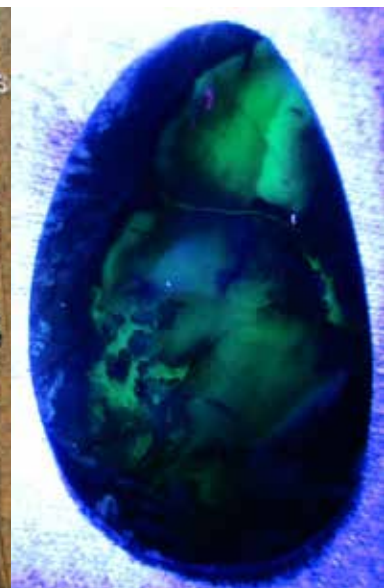
Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Julia Toombs

For many years, some East Texas Gem & Mineral Society members have displayed their rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils at the Tyler Library for the month of January. Set-up day is Monday, January 3. For early birds it opens at 10 AM. Break-down days are January 24-31. The 31st is preferable, but you may need to take it out earlier.

The upper case has four arms with three shelves each. Terry Roberts and I each filled an arm last year and Randy Harmon filled two. It took me two days because I didn't take enough. I had no idea what it looked like. I will save you wondering by including the picture.

This year we have the lower case as well. It is flat, about six feet across, and in two sections that are two to three feet. This would be a good place to display heavy objects like ammonites. I plan on displaying at the Library and the Annual Show. How many of us have enough to display both places? We have two weeks to decide what goes where.

Please join Randy & me in displaying your finds. It doesn't matter whether they were bought or dug up with you own two hands. Patrons walked pass as we were filling them last year and said they looked forward to the displays every year.



November Critter Workshop

By Julia Toombs

On Saturday, November 13, 12 “crafty” members gathered at the Clubhouse to create items to sell in the Annual Show’s Silent Auction and as prizes at the kids’ games. Although arrivals were spaced throughout the day, all gave at least two hours of their time. We worked from 10 am to 4:45 pm.

All brought their active imaginations. See the pictures below and you will say, “Oh that looks like a lot of fun!! I can do that!!” If you would like to join in on the fun, the next workshops will be Saturdays, December 11 and January 8.

One person arrived just before 2:00 expecting the Lapidary Group to be meeting. The second Saturday is usually the day that they meet but, for years, this group has devoted their time to creating for the show.

You don’t have to be a member of the Lapidary group to attend. This is for everyone!!!

That being said please consider joining us on January 8 from 10 AM to 4 PM for the final workshop. Extra critters can be used at other fund raisers throughout 2022.



Teacher & Students



Fossil Coral & Purple Turtle



Critters With Christmas Tree



Fossil Coral & Turtle



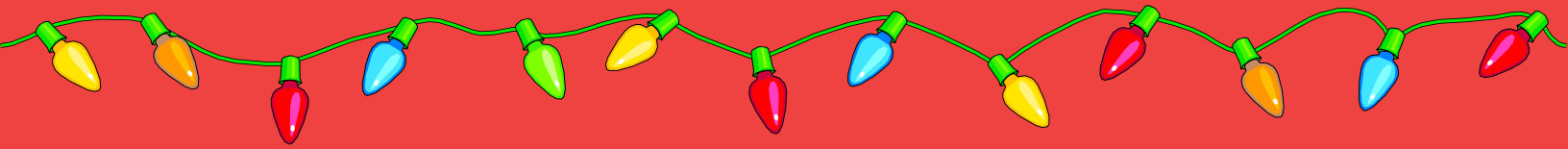
Gem Tree



One Attendee's Creations

December Critter Workshop

By Julia Toombs



Our second workshop wasn't as well attended, but that can probably be blamed on the holidays as those shopping days are ticking away. Joining me and Colleen Hayes were new member Candy and two grandchildren. Our treasurer, Ed Grounds, stopped by and happily took her money. Candy knew the grandkids would love a new activity. Below is a picture of their work.

I have done a count of critters and we have about 350 in the egg cartons and three boxes. Some of our new artists have made larger critters and it is undecided as to whether they will be prizes on the Wheel of Fortune and Plinko or be offered on the Silent Auction table.

I really don't know how many we need for the show, but we are adding a day, Friday, to the games and the Silent Auction. I would rather have too many than not enough. The last time I worked the games there was a constant line of kids with parents.

That being said please consider joining us on January 8 from 10 AM to 4 PM for the final workshop. Extra critters can be used at other fund raisers throughout 2022.





ETGMS FIELD TRIP to Nacogdoches, Texas

by: Rick Walker

On Dec 4th, 19 members traveled south to Lake Nacogdoches in search of marine fossils and selenite. One group left from the clubhouse and others met us at the lake. We met at the boat ramp parking lot and, using a map provided by Julie Bloxson from Stephen F. Austin State University, we were able to locate a selenite honey hole. Several members found nice pieces and one member found a selenite plate that, once cleaned up, should be awesome. We spent about 45 minutes at that location and moved down the ramp to the dam area. Within 15 minutes, the treasures started showing up. Members found lots of horn corals, small gastropods, one large gastropod, and even a few shark teeth. We searched for a few hours and, at the last minute, one member found a pocket of horn corals. There must have been more than 20 lying in an area the size of a plate. It was really cool to watch them come out one after another. All in all, everyone had a great time with great friends.

We have had three wonderful field trips in the last few months, with great turn outs, and some really cool finds. We are already planning for 2022 and hoping it will be just as successful.





Photo: Jimmy & Easton Simpson



ETGMS FIELD TRIP

photos: Gayle Halberstadt



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
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Hourly Door Prizes

Grand Prize Drawing

Wheel of Fortune

Game for the Children

Lapidary Demonstrations

Flint Knapping

Gemstones

Gold and Silver
Jewelry

Minerals

Fossils

Cut and Uncut Stones

Geodes

Wire Wrapping Demos

Lapidary Material

Raffle Prizes

The Rock Food Table • www.rockfoodtable.com

WWW.ETGMS.ORG

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

PRESIDENT

David Russ

903-714-3330

dbruss50@gmail.com**VICE PRESIDENT**

Terry Roberts

TREASURER

Ed Grounds

egrds1@gmail.com**SECRETARY**

Julia Toombs

rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com**FIELD TRIP CHAIR**

Rick Walker

rickjwalker5639@gmail.com**ANNUAL SHOW CHAIR**

Jerry Sudderth

sudderthjerry13@gmail.com**WEBMASTER**

Margaret Kilanski

www.etgms.org**PROOFREADER**

Julia Toombs

rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com**EDITOR • GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Sarah Hawthorne

hawthorne04@gmail.com**NEWSLETTER CONTENT**

Please send original articles to

rocknrosenewsletter@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

Check us out on the web

WWW.ETGMS.ORG**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

**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