

# ROCK N ROSE

Volume 48 Issue 4 TYLER • TEXAS April 2022



Cover Photo: Rick Walker

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## ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 16 - 17, 2022**  
Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral  
Alpine, Texas

**April 22 - 24, 2022**  
Texas Mineral & Fossil Show  
Conroe, Texas

**April 30 - May 1, 2022**  
Waco Gem & Mineral Show  
Waco, Texas

**May 28 - 29, 2022**  
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club,  
Ft. Worth, Texas



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#### Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street  
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SCHOLARSHIP

By Julia Toombs

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society gives a \$500 scholarship to an undergraduate college student. This year's recipient is Kandace Muniz at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She began at SFA in 2019 and is currently a senior. Geology is her major, but her main interest is Paleontology/Dinosaurs. She intends to go to graduate school to earn a Master's Degree and plans on volunteering in a fossil lab or Museum and eventually working in a lab. She is also a member of the Lumberjack Marching Band.

Kandace was introduced by Dr. Mike Read of SFA's Department of Geology. Dr. Read began at SFA in 2019. He is a Micro-Paleontologist. He works with unicellular organisms which are tooth-like fossils from an extinct group of eel-like fishes.

# A Message to the Club



*Jerry Sudderth*  
PRESIDENT

To all our members that missed our spring auction, you missed some good deals. We made \$514.15 and helped some members add to their collections. We also had a great time at the Bergfeld Park Arts & Crafts sale and thanks to everyone that helped there. We will be having a Rock Swap, rock and fossil sale, at Rose Rudman Park, off Shiloh, in Tyler next month. Watch for emails with details. I hope to see you all at the next monthly meeting.

MARCH 2022

ROCKHOUND  
*of the Month*

*Julia Toombs*

# ETGMS Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2022

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on April 4, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM. President Jerry Sudderth asked for new members to introduce themselves. There were three and we had two visitors. Jerry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Easton Simpson made the motion, Colleen Hayes seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Ed Grounds gave his report.

## New Business:

- Jerry began immediately with new business as it concerned the two visitors – Geology Professor & Micro-Paleontologist Dr. Mike Read with Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas and senior Kandace Muniz, Geology/Paleontology major, and recipient of the \$500 scholarship we give yearly. Both gave a short biography and spoke on their main interests in Paleontology. (It is a four-hour drive round trip.)
- May 21 or 28 – Rock Swap in the Park at Rose Rudman off of Shiloh where the new play area is. We'll have the Wheel of Fortune; sell fossils; anyone can come, set up a table, and sell.
- March Rockhound of the Month – Julia Toombs

## Group Updates:

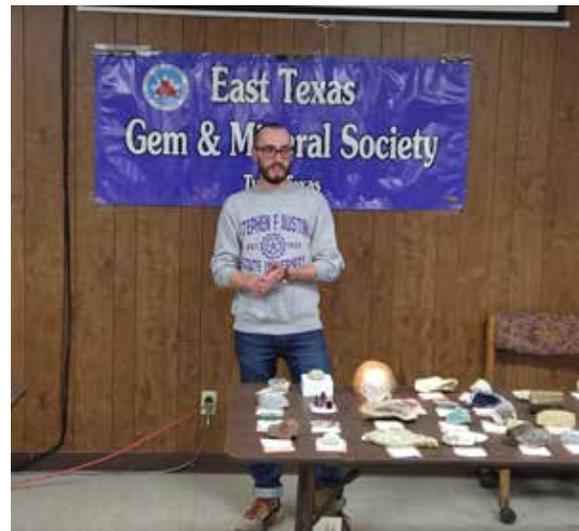
- Mineral Group – Charles Creekmur - no meeting April or May
- Lapidary Group – Saturday, the 9th at 2 PM - Ed Grounds will lead with an open discussion on the basics of lapidary work. What do I do with this rock?
- Field trip – Rick Walker – Ladonia/North Sulfur River for fossils and possibly a trip to find petrified wood. Both trips are about two hours each way. Rick is leaning toward NSR and warned that it can be a strenuous trip. Watch for email blasts and Facebook posts.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**Program:** The First Annual Spring Auction got underway after a ten minute break to look over the items and have some refreshments.

With no other business to discuss, Jerry made a motion to adjourn the business meeting, Jimmy Simpson seconded, and the motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2022 at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by,  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



**Dr. Mike Read**  
Professor in the Geology dept at SFA

# Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

I finally got a chance to muck out my trim saw and thought I might as well cut a few of the smaller nodules that I collected at Sagenite Hill on the Kokernot 06 Ranch in October of last year. Of course, there were more duds than winners in the batch, but I was very happy with the four winners I sawed.

I had originally polished the broken face of a nodule, Figure 1, and showed it to a friend. He recommended that I cut it to see what the interior looked like. I am glad he did as you can see in Figure 2. I only made the one cut since any further cuts would have reduced the material in the slab. These are complicated slabs with lots of different sagenite structures in them, not to mention the colors.



1



2



3



4

The slabs from the second nodule are shown in Figures 3 - 6. Figure 3 shows the top of the nodule with sagenite fibers running across it, which is why I decided to cut it. Figures 4 - 6 show the interior sagenite structures. These are the most spikey structures that I have ever come across in any nodule.

Figure 7 shows the two end pieces and middle slab that I was able to cut from another small nodule. It has some faint bands in it, but the most eye-catching feature is the



bright red inclusions. I may have to hold my breath while trying to cab any of them to avoid losing part or all of the red material during the grinding process. However, I may leave them alone and just polish each face.

Figures 8 - 11 show eight slabs I cut from a longer nodule. I was pleased to see that it contained a long pom-pom running almost the length of the nodule. I also liked the pink colors in some of the slabs. I think I am going to have some fun making a couple of cabs from this nodule. I know the pictures may look the same but they have minute differences



seen well under magnification. I need to check all of the slabs to see if they fluoresce. That would be a nice bonus if some do.

# Who Knew?

By Julia Toombs

If you remember our January issue, I used an interesting article that I read in another newsletter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, Texas. The following history article is from AFMS Historian, Jennifer Haley. (February 2022, AFMS Newsletter)

“A Pilot’s Life and Mission During WWII—Dependent Upon the Gem Cutter”

I am finding really wonderful stories in old copies of *The Mineralogist* for future articles for you. The magazine was publishing long before the AFMS was founded. What is so special about the old publications are the stories about federation news and news of mineralogy at the time. Once I find an interesting history topic, I then go looking for more information on the subject, if there is any to find. As Rockhounds and

Mineralogists, we have quite a remarkable history that we can feel very proud to be a part of.

During WWII, there were hundreds of experienced mineral collectors who, although too old to qualify for military service, played a highly important role for the security of our country. They cut quartz crystals for frequency control in communication instruments and radar.

Sapphires were cut to make precision instruments used in airplanes, bombers, and battleships. A pilot’s lives and the success of their missions depended upon the lapidary skills of the gem cutter. Quartz and sapphires were essential to the war effort.

In a bomber, there were about one hundred sapphires in the plane’s

instruments. In a battleship, there were about four thousand sapphire bearings.

In 1940, America was completely dependent on Europe for sapphires. When the war came, an American company, Linde Air Products, created the synthetic sapphire. The creation of synthetic sapphires was vital to the war effort. The stones were only used for the war effort and not for jewelry. Quartz crystal was used for frequency control in radio transmission, radar and other transmission devices. The quality of the quartz crystal mines in Arkansas was considered finer than Brazil’s, and the mines in Arkansas came under federal control during the war.

Gemstones, minerals, and the gem cutter have always played important roles throughout history, all around the world. No wonder mankind holds cutters and their stones in admiration.

# Lapidary Casting

## LAPIDARY GROUP

MARCH 12, 2022

By Terry Roberts

At our regular meeting on March 7, John Ellwanger gave a presentation on the different methods of making casts. The methods varied from the simplest, a sand cast, to the more complicated vacuum and centrifugal casting.

The Lapidary group met on Saturday, March 12, 2022. John showed us how to make a steam cast of a small pine cone.



# Azalea Arts & Crafts Fair

MARCH 26 & 27 | BERGFELD PARK *By Julia Toombs*



A little history: the first Azalea Trails Arts & Crafts Fair that the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society participated in was in 1965. It was held over two weekends. I believe we participated every year until 1988 when the rules changed and the club voted not to go. I am missing minutes when there was no Secretary and we did not have a newsletter until 1975. We began participating in the Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair in October in 1988. I am unsure of when we stopped.

We had beautiful weather for the weekend of March 26 & 27. It was quite pleasant in the mornings, but warmed up by mid-afternoon. Several booths around us suffered from the afternoon wind. Those who joined me in working our booth were Jerry Sudderth, Ed Grounds, Rick Walker, and Richard and Barbara Braun.

Richard and Barbara brought their painted rocks. We began with 20 gem trees made by Colleen Hayes and left with two. There were four stands and two display cases of wire-wrapped cabs. Rick brought several fossils—ammonites, an oyster, and part of a Colombian Mammoth leg bone. The Wheel of Fortune was out for “kids of all ages”, but I guess the parents were too shy. The board held critters—228 to start, small fossils, rocks painted by Geva Roberts, piles of small rocks, and a slab occasionally. There was also an area where you could select a slab for a one-dollar donation. Several donated bigger bills and spent time going through them for just the right slabs. Ed brought the money and his ability to sign up new members—three at this event.

So many parents said “My child is always picking up rocks”. Many adults told stories of the treasures their parents had found over time. Several mothers used the Wheel board as a learning experience when it came time to find the number they spun. I always laughed at the excitement when they landed on just what they wanted. Many only wanted rocks, not a critter. Some wanted to trade what they won and were always allowed to. Some wanted to take before they had spun. There is always fun to be had at the Wheel.

All in all, it was a fun weekend. The total earned, after taking off the booth and credit card fees, was \$1,445.72. We plan to be back at the Park for the Rose Festival event in October. Join us by either creating something to sell or working the booth.



# Critter Workshop

My thanks to the five members who joined me at our March 19 critter workshop. They were Sherry Breedlove, Colleen Hayes, Jimmy and Easton Simpson, and Darby Spears. Special thanks go to Sherry for the pot of soup she brought. Sixty-five objects were made, but some will be held back for the Silent Auction at next year's show. We should have about 200 critters on hand for the booth at Bergfeld Park, March 26 and 27. The pictures of our creativity follow.

By Julia Toombs



# CLUB REPRESENTATION

Julia Toombs



## ETGMS Merchandise

Vests: S,M,L,XL.....	\$15.00	Large Emblem.....	\$12.00
Vests: 2X, 3X.....	\$17.00	Small Emblem.....	\$3.00
T-shirts Adults.....	\$20.00	Club Pin.....	\$3.00
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 events such as the booths at Bergfeld 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**



# MEMBERSHIP 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](mailto: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](mailto:calcite65@gmail.com)

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Jerry Sudderth  
[sudderthjerry13@gmail.com](mailto:sudderthjerry13@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Roberts

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## NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Please send original articles to  
[rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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

Check us out on the web

[WWW.ETGMS.ORG](http://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



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