

# ROCK N ROSE

Volume 48 Issue 7

TYLER • TEXAS

July 2022



Cover Photo: Julia Toombs

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## ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 15 - 17, 2022**  
Texas Mineral & Fossil  
Dallas/Frisco, Plano, TX

**July 16 - 17, 2022**  
Tulsa R&MS  
Exchange Center at the Expo Square  
Tulsa, OK

**July 23, 2022**  
M.A.S. Artifact Show  
Waxahachie, TX

**August 13, 2022**  
Indian Nations Artifacts & Fossils  
Tulsa, OK

**August 13 - 14, 2022**  
Baton Rouge G&MS  
Lamar-Dixon Expo Center  
Gonzales, LA



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#### PUBLICATION STAFF

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

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Terry Roberts  
Julia Toombs

#### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY

Terry Roberts  
Colleen Hayes  
Julia Toombs

#### Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street  
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GROUP MEETS

### Lapidary / Jewelry Group

Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm, except December & 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)

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## CRITTER WORKSHOP

I have been told that some have requested a class on how to make critters. I would like to schedule a critter class/workshop on August 20, 2022 beginning at 10 AM.

We will need them for our annual show and possibly the Rose Festival Craft Fair at Bergfeld Park on October 15 & 16, 2022.

We will also have workshops in November and January.

I hope to see you at all three.

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# A Message to the Club



*Jerry Sudderth*

**PRESIDENT**

Hey guys, in case you missed our meeting to see all the changes in the club, we now have a saw room. In the main room we have museum displays. One is for temporary displays. If you have a nice piece you want to show the club, bring it to a meeting with a label and we will put it in the case for two or three meetings. Then you can take it home to make room for others. Thanks and see you at the next meeting.

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# ETGMS Meeting Minutes

## July 11, 2022

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its monthly meeting on July 11, 2022 due the first Monday being July 4. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM. President Jerry Sudderth asked for new members to introduce themselves—one new and one returning. Jerry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Terry Roberts made the motion, Zach Weenink seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Ed Grounds gave the financial report.

### **Announcements:**

- Mineral group – July 12 at 6:30 PM  
Charles Creekmur will show us how to identify our rock and minerals finds.
- Lapidary group – met July 9 at 2 PM.
- Field trips – They are hold until the weather cools a little.
- Newsletter - Julia at rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com
- Website – Margaret Kilanski
- Program – DVD – Day the Dinosaurs Died.

### **New business:**

- First cabinet (from the front) will be lapidary displays.
- Second cabinet will be temporary displays – 2-3 months at a time.
- Third & fourth will be permanent displays.
- Rockhound of the Month – Ed Grounds
- Critter Workshop – August 20 beginning at 10AM.

With no further business to discuss, Jerry asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry made the motion, Zach seconded, and the motion carried. After door prizes, refreshments, and visiting the DVD was begun. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1 at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Julia Toombs, Secretary

# Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

A few months ago I had to give up making cabs after undergoing shoulder surgery and then starting physical therapy. This routine was getting boring and I thought I would make a few cabs to see whether I am really healing as fast as I hope. After making all the cabs pictured below and polishing some other pieces that I had set aside before my surgery (about 2 hours of work total), I was only sore in my back. My shoulder felt good and I was able to sleep that night without any unusual discomfort. So I am hoping to get back to what I love most, but will approach this slowly until I complete physical therapy

The first cab is a beautiful Mahogany Obsidian that gave me a hard time in the polish stage. No matter what I did, including going back to the 280-grit stage and moving forward to the final polish, the cab still had a slight haze on the surface. I finally realized that I had



switched from using Cerium Oxide on a felt pad to Tin Oxide on a felt pad after I dropped the Cerium Oxide pad on the floor a couple of months earlier. I put it aside for later cleaning and found that the Tin Oxide did just as good as the Cerium Oxide on agate cabs. So, I switched back to a new Cerium Oxide on felt pad and found this was all that was needed to get a good polish on the obsidian. You will note the excellent reflection of the camera in my hand as proof of that.

The second photo shows an Ocean Wave Jasper cab that I made from a small slab I had purchased from a dealer

at a show a few years ago. I had trouble getting a good focus on the cab because it had a relatively high dome due to the thickness of the slab.



# Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

The third photo shows a slab of pocket rot wood that I found on my workbench that must have come from the same rock as the pocket rot cab I made earlier. I will place this polished slab and the next polished slab showing shrink wood in our club's new display case in our clubhouse. This will give newcomers an idea of what a really good quality petrified wood that has been replaced with agate can look like once they learn how to recognize it in this form.



The last photo shows my favorite cab in this group. It is what my agate-collecting friends call Texas-Montana agate since it closely resembles the popular Montana agate that comes out of the Yellowstone River in eastern Montana. This one came from an agate collected on a gravel road near Laredo in south Texas.



## LAPIDARY MEETING – JULY 9

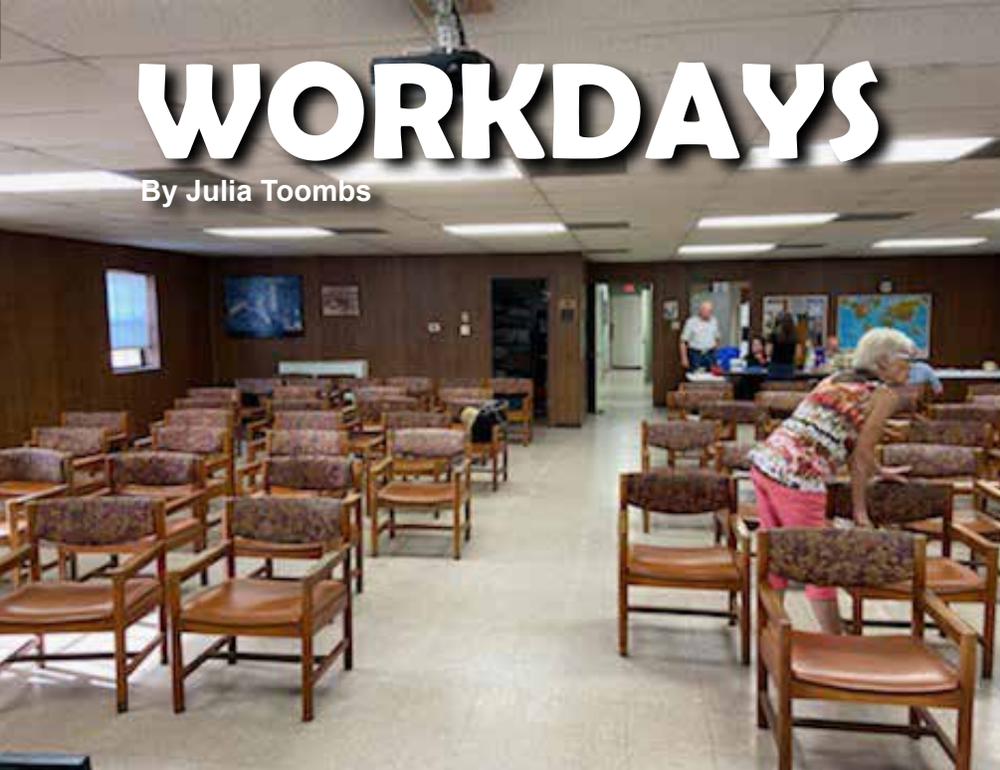
This month's Lapidary meeting was the place to be!! Three activities occurred.

1. Karen Nance taught four members how to string beads.
2. Terry Roberts taught cabbing to three members.
3. Ed Grounds and Jimmy Simpson were trying out the saws in our new workshop.



# WORKDAYS

By Julia Toombs

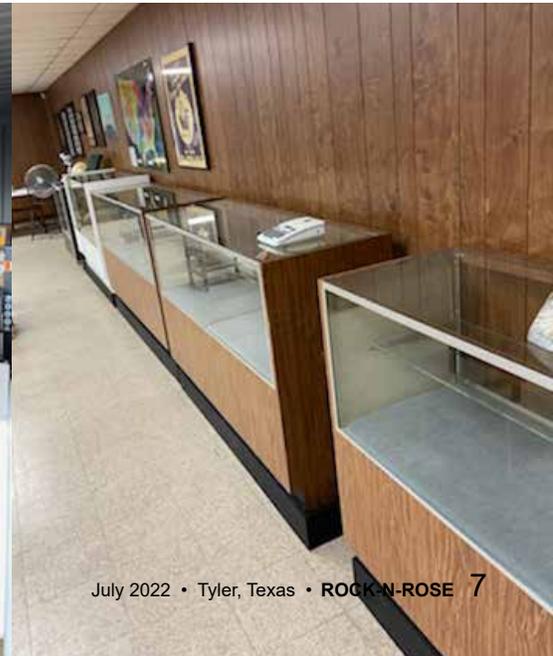


The Board of Directors would like to thank the 11 other members who joined me to help on our two workdays. Three board members have devoted many days to cleaning and organizing – Ed Grounds, Jerry Sudderth, and Rick Walker.

On June 11, nine members helped to empty the Display room. The display cases were put on rollers and moved to the kitchen-side of the meeting room. They will stay on the rollers for ease in filling. The desk will stay in the front room to be used as a work station.

On June 18, we had nine members again. The saws and lapidary equipment were moved out of the ocean container and into the front room after having been thoroughly cleaned by Ed Grounds on previous days. The two biggest saws need more cleaning days, but should be ready by the meeting on July 11. The ocean container was reorganized and will contain items used only annually or not on a regular basis. Shelves will be moved in so we can make use of all space, but still have an aisle.

The other members who helped out were Kris Dennis, Butch Halberstadt, Colleen Hayes, Jeff Lewis, Jim McDonald, Terry Roberts, and Easton and Jimmy Simpson. A few pictures follow.



# LIBRARY PRESENTATION

By Julia Toombs



On June 29th Randy Harmon & I met at the Lindale Library to give a presentation to many kids and parents.

My short presentation was on microfossils and I showed them some of my finds from soil collected by Ed Grounds and Rick Walker from Whiskey Bridge on a Brazos River field trip. I used a projector screen owned by the library that worked pretty well for presenting the wee items I had. I ordered some two inch square Floating Frames that Terry put me onto and put together a few door prizes for kids and parents sharing some of my finds. Instead of the micros, I put in macros,

larger than one millimeter, as they are easier to see. One frame contained two larger fossils collected by David Russ somewhere in Texas. Because I knew the kids would want to see them immediately, I sealed the boxes shut using 527 glue. Hopefully they won't be pried open any time soon.

Randy's presentation was a shark tooth search in soil collected off of Hwy. 69 on the way to Jacksonville. He won't say exactly where. He put down a tarp and four large pieces of cardboard to put the dirt on. That way the kids could search without getting in each other's way. He also put together door prizes containing rocks. They had a great time!!

Below are pictures taken at the Library. The floating frames are shown in another article.



# MY SEARCH FOR MICROFOSSILS

By Julia Toombs



A while back there was a field trip to Whiskey Bridge on the Brazos River. Ed Grounds brought back a bucket of soil for anyone who wanted to search for fossils. It was transferred to a box and sat on the floor of the clubhouse for a few months. Ed saved it from being thrown out, and I was handed a chunk. My search for microfossils began in May.

The clod was so hard that I had a really difficult time scraping it to get any result. I put it in (too much) water and went to bed. In the morning I had mud. I found some macro shells immediately. I then spent three hours straining the mud and going thru it by hand looking for tiny fossils. Because the soil is black, it is easy to see the whitish fossils. I was surprised I was able to find the dark ones, too. And I was hooked!! The next time I was in Tyler, I went back and got four more chunks. I began to search for a better method of extraction and I found it. Again, the next week, I got the rest of the box!! I REALLY WAS HOOKED!!!

In my tool box, I found a pair of tongs that were very pointed and worked great for scraping. The harder chunks were misted with water to hasten the scraping process. For the last three weeks, at this writing, I have a small area in my garage devoted to my search. I use a lawn chair, a small wooden table, a lamp for added light, a tin box, a garden glove, two band-aids for cushioning, and tongs for pickup when I find something. The pointed



tongs were too sharp for my fingers, so I have switched to a small screwdriver that is easier to hold and works really well. The garage door remains closed, and I use a box fan to blow in A/C air. I start before the real heat of the day, too. As long as the garage door remains closed, it is tolerable.

Two or so years ago I purchased a digital microscope. This is what I use to decide if my finds are worth keeping—if it is just a fragment, etc. With the naked eye, it is easy to mistake a very small shell for a snail shell. I bought boxes to house my collection and found two online sites to aid in identification. Two and a half months later, I am still hooked!! A friend said, “You must have hundreds by now.” I think I must, but the thrill I am having is in how tiny they are—well smaller than the one millimeter definition of a micro. I am sending a few friends pictures of some of the tiniest and more interesting finds as I go.

“Where there is a will there is a way.” This is a very true saying. My thanks go to Ed for bringing that soil. At the time of the library presentation, the only dirt from Ed’s box that remained was one clod to show the kids. I am now going through dirt from Rick Walker. He has only laid claim to any shark teeth I find—none so far. I have the dirt separated in two buckets—pretty small and easy to deal with, and medium- to-big enough that they will need to be dropped and broken.

Make a trip to the Whiskey Bridge area and get yourself and family a bucket of dirt. Don’t forget me!! I’ll take more!!

Included in the pictures below are some of the “floating frame” fossils that I shared with the parents and kids at the Lindale Library.



Jaw Bone with Teeth



Otolith Fish Ear Bone



# AFMS NEWS



## AN AMERICAN FIRST: ROCKHOUDING & FOSSIL COLLECTING IN A NATIONAL MONUMENT

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

Rockhounding and fossil collecting, as you know, are not allowed in the United States national monuments. However, when the BLM initial planning process began for the Mohave Trails National Monument in California, Rockhounds got involved. Rockhounds were very aware this was their one and only chance to possibly keep their collecting sites accessible within the new monument.

Rockhounds showed up, got involved, and stayed involved during the initial planning process. Rockhounds learned how to submit public comments in the articulate way BLM management needed them presented, so the comments could be included in the initial planning. Rockhounds submitted more public comments than any other organization or category of individuals involved in the planning process.

This was and is amazing feedback for all rockhounds. Many thought their aspirations were too high a hill to even try to climb. Many thought the environmental groups already had the BLM planning “in the bag,” given the amount of lobbying money and attorneys they have at their use. Others leaned on their hope, hoping they could still collect in what had been one of their favorite collecting areas for more than 100 years. Rockhounds realizing last chances can be huge opportunities for success, worked together with American Lands Access, their societies, federation, the

AFMS, and the BLM. Rockhounds realized entitlement wouldn't get them anywhere, but doing good work and working together would.

What's up next? Although rockhounding and fossil collecting is currently allowed in the Mohave Trails National Monument, the next phase of planning the monument is coming up next year. Rockhounds will be showing up, getting involved, and staying involved again.

History is alive, always adding to its growth rings, as the future becomes our present and then our past. It will be up to Rockhounds to decide what our future will be. What Rockhounds have accomplished so far in the planning of the Mohave Trails National Monument, is monumental. If Rockhounds succeed in their efforts, and establish the approval of rockhounding in the final phase of the monument, it will be a major breakthrough for Recreational Rockhounding's future.

For more information about the monument:

Watch the Rockhounding in the Mohave Trails National Monument video.

Mohave Trails National Monument  
Bureau of Land Management ([blm.gov](http://blm.gov))

Additional information on the  
Marble Mountains trilobite fossils





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