

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 48 Issue 9

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Cover Photo: Julia Toombs

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 24 - 25, 2022
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Sept. 24 - 25, 2022
San Antonio, TX
Southwest G&MS
Wonderland of the Americas

Oct. 8 - 9, 2022
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic & Convention Center
Temple, TX

Oct. 14 - 16, 2022
SCFMS & AFMS
Show & Convention
John A. Alario Event Center
Westwego, LA

Oct. 21 - 23, 2022
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Center
Austin, TX



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Rock-N-Rose
Newsletter

231 Scott Street
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUP MEETS

Lapidary / Jewelry Group

The Monthly Lapidary Meeting is Saturday, October 8th.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for our booth at the Arts and Crafts Fair at Bergfeld Park, October 15 & 16. Hours will be announced at a later date. Our booths are often manned by Board members, but this year two will be away on other Club-related business. Another may be on vacation out-of-state.

We will be selling cabochons, signing up new members, showing fossils, and possibly have the Wheel of Fortune out.

Please contact Rick Walker at rjwalkeretgms@gmail.com if you can help us out.

2023 DUES INCREASE

Dues for 2023 have been increased to \$15/year for an individual and \$25/year for a family.

You can begin paying them in October.

Please remember that you can send a check to the PO Box shown on the back of the newsletter.

A Message to the Club



Jerry Sudderth

PRESIDENT

Fall is almost here and that means it's time to start planning for our annual show in January. There is a table at the back of the meeting room with sign-up sheets for all of the areas where we need help. Do not be shy about signing up. We need all of you to help as much as you can. We also have the fall booth at Bergfeld Park, October 15 & 16; anyone that can help there please contact Rick Walker and get on the list. We are also looking forward to our big fall auction at the October 3 meeting. You can add some really nice pieces to your collections. See you all there!!

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ETGMS Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on September 12, 2022, due to Labor Day falling on the first Monday, the 5th. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM. President Jerry Sudderth asked for the new member to introduce herself. He asked for a motion to approve the August minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Colleen Hayes made the motion, Rick Walker seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Ed Grounds gave the financial report.

Announcements:

- Dues increase reminder – Individual - \$15 & Family - \$25.
- Mineral sub-group –
Charles Creekmur - no meeting on September 13; next is October 11 at 6:30 PM
- Lapidarys sub-group – Terry Roberts - Next meeting is October 8 at 2:00 PM.
Class in cab making, etc. One member requested the safety class. Contact Ed Grounds.
He said he would like a minimum of two people, but prefer 4 or 5.
- Rick Walker – Bergfeld Park – October 15 & 16 – need volunteers.
- Annual Show – needs lots of volunteers and sign-up sheets for your desired slots are on a back table.
- Newsletter contents – Julia Toombs
- Website – Margaret Kilanski
- Program – Minerals of New Mexico by Charles Creekmur

Old Business: There was none.

New Business:

- Annual Fall Club Auction – There are items on a rack that will be in the auction on October 3. Look them over. Bring whatever you would like to donate.
- August Rockhound of the Month – David Metzner.
- Rick – cabinet for show and tell; lights coming for new cases.

With no other business to discuss, Jerry asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry made the motion, Colleen seconded, and the motion carried. There was time for refreshments, visiting, and the purchase of door prize tickets before the program got under way. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2022 at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Julia Toombs, Secretary

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

I recently bought some rough agates from a new ranch located south of Alpine that a local geologist and rock collecting guide sold me. It is not open to rock hounds for rock collecting yet. Only the cab at the top of the first photo, a Carnelian Agate, is from that ranch. The other three cabs are from different locations in northern Mexico in the State of Chihuahua.

The cab at the top is a Carnelian freeform agate made from one of the slabs that I cut from the nodule I found in the box of agates from Muddy Creek that Aaron Thomas sent me. You cannot see any internal structure due to the dense color, the thickness of the cab, and the numerous reflections on the shiny surface. However, the second photo shows this cab in transmitted light which does a better job of revealing the internal structures. It's too bad that the internal bands and flocculent material cannot be seen in reflected light.

The three freeform cabs at the bottom of the first photo are all Mexican agates that I had stashed away several years ago and came across recently. As the labels show, the two cabs on the left are Moctezuma Agates and the small one on the right is a Coyamito Agate with a druzy quartz-filled cavity in the middle.



Critter Workshop

Not much has been happening at the clubhouse lately, and it has been too hot for field trips. I decided to schedule a critter and project workshop to get a jump on the numbers needed for our events—Bergfeld Park in October and our annual show in January 2023.

I was joined by 12 other members on Saturday, August 20. We got under way at 10:00 AM, and I started putting things away at 2:45 PM. The members I want to thank are Darby S., Jimmy and Easton Simpson, Euva Scott, Richard and Barbara Braun, Candy Carroll and Beau Jones, Shelley Sudderth, Sherry Breedlove, new member David Macher, and his two guests, John and Cooper Macher.

The next workshops will be in November, maybe December, and definitely January. I have heard some say that they are not creative. It doesn't take much brain power to create a critter! Come anyway! You will surprise yourself!

Please join us when you can to have fun and enjoy each other's company. Pictures of the creations follow.

By Julia Toombs



GEM FACETS

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT GEMS AND JEWELRY

Richard D. Armstrong, NAJA Certified Master Appraiser, GIA GG, GP, AJP, and AGA ASG

This month we have two questions from Margaret Kilanski. Both questions are about pearls.

“Can you enlighten me as to why there would be backing on Mabe Pearls? The picture #121409 is a Mabe without backing. The picture # 121320 is a Mabe with a backing.”



Mabe with backing



Mabe w/out backing

Mabe pearls are also called blister pearls. They can occur naturally but now most are cultured. Culturing started about 1893. The name Mabe is Japanese and probably comes from an old Ryukyuan dialect “Mabe gai”. The most common mollusk used for culturing Mabe pearls is the *Pteria penguin* although many other mollusks are also used. The *Pteria penguin* mollusk produces larger pearls than many of the others. The shell can grow up to 25 cm and has either a black or gold rim which gives it the common name of the black winged or golden wing oyster.

The culturing process involves inserting a round nucleus in the shell of the mollusk. After about 2 to 3 years the mollusk is harvested and the pearl is cut from the shell. The nucleus is removed, the cavity filled with a resin and capped with mother of pearl cut from the shell.

I can find no explanation as to why the one pearl is not capped. There should be a cap on the bottom of the pearl. Perhaps the resin failed and it came off at some point. This of course affects the value as the nacre of the pearl is thin, usually about 1.0 to 1.5 mm. This makes the pearl vulnerable to damage.

“I was told these two are Abalone Mabe pearls - I understand the Mabe name but I don't understand the Abalone name - is it coloring or ??”



Abalone is a gastropod (a snail of the genus *Haliotis*) prized for its meat and the colorful iridescent shell that is used in jewelry especially in California and Polynesia. There are 56 species and 18 sub-species found in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. In New Zealand the mother of pearl from the abalone is called “Paua” (pronounced “powna”). The preferred species in California is the red abalone (*Haliotis*

rufescens) also known as the Iris snail. Abalone is a primary food source for sea otters.

There are a few farms in California raising the abalone. Some are cultivating the Mabe pearls.

Overfishing of the abalone, primarily for meat, has reduced the population. About 1989 California introduced regulations restricting commercial fishing for abalone.

Both of your pearls lack the intense iridescent coloring of the *rufescens* species of abalone. Perhaps they are a different species, or the photo didn't capture the iridescence.



Abalone Shells

Now I have an announcement. As of the end of the year I will be closing Lonestar Gemological Laboratory. However, I will continue in gemology and the lab will be my personal lab operated as a “professional hobby lab”. I will still be doing some gem identification and grading but no appraisals. My business email will be closed January 1, 2023. Until then submit your questions to kelfire@msn.com or info@lonestargemlab.com Please send your questions by the end of the month. If I receive no questions there will be no column.

HELP WANTED



ETGM ANNUAL SHOW JANUARY 27 – 29, 2023

By Julia Toombs

Can you believe the year is just four months from being over? Your Board has already begun planning for the show next year. If you are a member who does not come to the meetings on a regular basis but wants to help at this big endeavor, you can still get your name on a Volunteer sheet. Below is a list of the areas in which you can help. Most shifts are two hours. You can sign up for as many as you like and in as many areas as you want.

Our set-up day at the Tyler Rose Garden Center is Thursday, January 26.

- **Show Set-up**
- **Display Case Set-up**
- **Student Day** - Fri.
- **Dealer Dinner** – 6 PM Fri.
- **Rock Food Table** – Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- **Front Desk** – Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- **Door Ticket Checker** – Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- **Fluorescent Room** – Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- **Games** – Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- **Silent Auction** – Sat., and Sun.

Show Set-up – This will include loading trucks and trailers at the clubhouse. Most items will be on pallets for easy loading, but there are always single items that are better off in vehicles. Once at the Center, you will help get everything into place including assembling the Display Cases.

Display Case set-up – This is for the members who want to fill a case with their treasures. There are 16 small cases and one big case. They must be filled by 9 PM Thursday, January 26.

Student Day – We need help guiding students among the vendors. There is also a stop at the Games. You have the aid of a mapped path.

Dealer Dinner – We need help setting up the area and then getting the food put out. The meat will be provided, but we need side dishes brought in. What would you like to bring that will feed 15 people--salad, vegetable, bread, dessert, or iced tea? Food and serving utensils should be there by 5 PM. Leftovers often feed the workers and vendors over the weekend.

Rock Food Table – This involves standing/sitting with the tables and answering questions (to the best of your ability) from the attendees. (Many items on plates are glued down. We request that you keep arms from reaching across to pick things up.)

Front Desk – You will take entrance fees, hand out raffle tickets, hand out forms to be filled in for the mailing list, etc. A ticket Friday gets them in Saturday and Sunday, too.

Door Ticket Checker – This entails checking and stamping each hand that enters, so they can get back in should they leave the building.

Fluorescent Room – You will be the attendant who explains fluorescence and turns the lights on and off.

Games – You will take money and refill the prize boards with critters, etc.

Silent Auction - You will put out items on the tables with their bidding sheets. When each 30-minute round is up, the items are wrapped and bagged for transport. You hand cash or credit card to the person behind the drawer.

Show Breakdown – There is not a sheet for this. If you are working an area up to 5pm on Sunday, we request that you stay and help get everything put away so the pallets can be reloaded. Rick Walker is set-up and break-down extraordinaire. If you are not working that day but want to help, please contact Rick.

If you want to help with our biggest fund raiser of the year but cannot get to a Volunteer sheet, please contact Rick Walker at rjwalkeretgms@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOU!!!

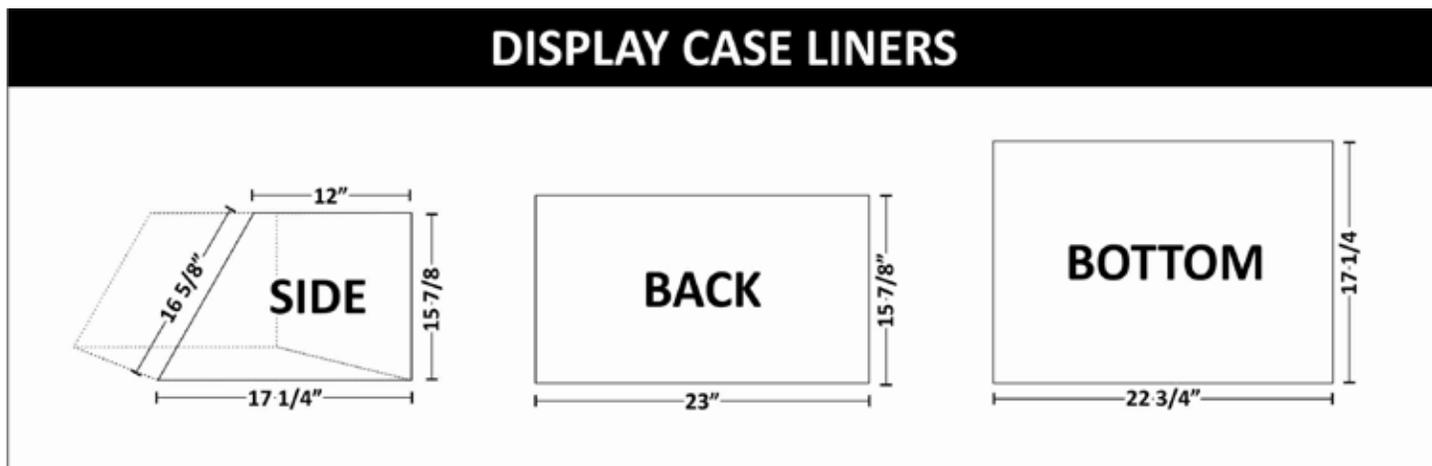
DISPLAY CASES AT JANUARY SHOW

By Julia Toombs

Below are the measurements for the display cases we use at our annual show. This is a great way to introduce others to geology and the cases have always represented all aspects of the hobby. It's fun too.

My first display was in 2017. Terry Roberts had given me the bottom dimension. I got paper, drew it out, placed what was to be shown, and took a picture of it.

Below are guidelines for first-timers. They have developed over the years.



• GUIDELINES •

1. Does it need to be on a riser. – If everything is about the same height, one in front may block the one behind, so a riser is a good idea. You can also stack risers for more vertical space-filling. Imagine if a child is looking straight in. A tall adult wouldn't have a problem.
2. Which is better - on a display stand or not.
– If you want a particular portion of an item to show, use a stand the prop it up. Mine are usually displayed as they are at home.
3. Are you going to identify what they are.
– You need to leave room for these.
4. One year, I identified each item in front and typed up a further explanation & taped it to the back wall.
5. Another year I placed letters in front of the items, typed up what each letter was, and pinned it to the back of the case.
6. There will be a 60-watt light bulb on the inside of your case.

In 2017, I set up a case next to Terry to watch what he did. I had a theme, all were identified, my case had a name, An Amateur's Love, and I had a picture to follow. It was nicely organized at home but once in the case, it looked dull to my eyes. How could I make it look better? I remember buying a stand from a dealer to prop something up. By the end, I knew what could be improved upon the next time – amateur vs. seasoned displayer. Kinney Polve gave me some pointers too.

You have plenty of time to reserve a display case. Please contact Rick Walker at rjwalkeretgms@gmail.com if you can't get to a sign-up sheet.





50th Annual Gem and Mineral Show!

OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2022

What to Expect?

- Dealers from Texas to Georgia will be exhibiting hand faceted gems, Louisiana opals, mineral specimens, fossils, beads and finished hand crafted jewelry, lapidary rough and slabs
- Crack your own geode, hourly FREE raffled door prizes, silent auction and TWO GRAND PRIZES will be raffled Sunday.
- Society members will be demonstrating the art of silversmithing and casting, wire wrapping and cabochon cutting.
- Competitive exhibits displaying unique rock collections and dinosaur bones; A fluorescent minerals tent; Cabochon cutting; Jewelry Making.

Activities for the kids include:

- Surprise grab bags
- "Polish your own cabochons"
- "MAKE A FOSSIL", where kids create their very own Dino-bone.
- Gem Tree Creations, a tree of gems
- Plinko Wall

Of QUARTZ there's family fun for everyone!

The New Orleans Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana, INC. is a recognized 501(c)3 organization, a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.

Mission Statement:

The Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana, at New Orleans, is dedicated to the advancement and sharing of knowledge in the fields of Geology, Mineralogy, Lapidary, and Paleontology.

Brenda Reilly • Advertising Chair
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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: \$15.00

Family: \$25.00

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
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ETGMS CLUBHOUSE

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