

ROCK N ROSE

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Cover Photo: Julia Toombs

CONTENTS

ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15 - 16

Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
Exchange Center at Expo Square

June 17 - 18

Arlington Gem & Mineral Society
Will Rogers Memorial Center
Grapevine, Texas

Oct 21 - 22

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
Azalea Arts & Crafts Festival
Bergfeld Park, Tyler, Texas



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** Message from the Club President
- 3** Announcements
- 4** ETGMS Meeting Minutes
- 5** Shop Time
- 6** Gem Tree Class
- 7** May Field Trip
- 8** ETGMS Rock Swap and Sale
- 10** AFMS Newsletter
- 11** Club Information



PUBLICATION STAFF

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Terry Roberts
Julia Toombs
Colleen Hayes
Fred Mahaffey

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY

Terry Roberts
Jimmy Simpson
Colleen Hayes
Julia Toombs

Rock-N-Rose
Newsletter

231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUP MEETS

LAPIDARY / JEWELRY GROUP

Contact Ed Grounds 903-316-9157 or [egrds1\(at\) gmail.com](mailto:egrds1@gmail.com).

Lapidary Workshop

Open June 10 & 24 from 10 AM - 3 PM

MINERAL GROUP

Suspended until more interest is shown.

Charles Creekmur heads up the group.

Contact Charles to have your name added to the email.

[calcite65 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:calcite65@gmail.com)

Watch for emails for other classes.

CRITTER WORKSHOPS

We need to begin preparing for October
in Bergfeld Park and the 2024 Show.

We are planning workshops for:

July 8, August 5, and September 16.

Times for all dates will be 10 AM - 4 PM.

Sign up sheets are at the back.

There will also be reminders via e-blasts.

Please RSVP with the best way of contact
to [etgmsnewsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:etgmsnewsletter@gmail.com)

if you aren't at the meetings but want to come.

I need to know if there will be attendance for the dates.

A Message to the Club



Jerry Sudderth
PRESIDENT

I want to say thanks
to all that came out to
our Rock Swap last
weekend. It went so
well, we will do it again
next year, if not sooner.
If you missed our
meeting, Monday
night, we gave our
scholarship to Melanie
Ertons of SFA. There
will be more good
things to come, so
see you at the next
meeting.

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

JUNE 5, 2023

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on June 5, 2023. President Jerry Sudderth called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM. He asked for new members to introduce themselves. We had seven new members and four guests. The guests were the program: the student, the professor, and the professor's granddaughters – all new members? Jerry asked for a motion to approve the May minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. John Ellwanger made the motion, Rick Walker seconded, and the motion carried. Ed Grounds gave the Treasury report as Jimmy Simpson was out of town.

Announcements:

- Lapidary Group – Group will meet from 10-3 on Saturday, June 10.
- The workshop will be open June 10 & 24 from 10 AM–3 PM. The safety class will be offered if a minimum of 2 people sign up. It takes about an hour. Sign-up sheets are on the back table for both days.
- Sign-up sheet for a gem tree class on either 10 OR 24
- Sign-up sheet for a wire wrapping class for 10 & 24
- Critter workshops – Saturdays, July 8, August 5, & September 16; all are 10AM – 4 PM. We must get ready for the event in Bergfeld Park in October and the 2024 Show.
- John Ellwanger said he has been asked by some members if he would consider teaching silver smithing on a Saturday. He knew it would be a Board decision but told them he would do it.
- Field trips – Fred Mahaffey not there, but Jerry said he is still working to get us to black petrified wood in Marshall, Texas and shark teeth & pyrite in Midlothian, Texas.
- Newsletter contributions – Julia Toombs; Website – Rick Walker
- Program – Scholarship presentation to Stephen F. Austin student
- May Rockhound of the Month – Ed Grounds – lump of coal (instead of paper)

Old business:

- John Ellwanger commended the Board and other workers on a job well done concerning the first rock swap in several years. John said other clubs do theirs in November because people will buy Christmas presents.

New business: None

With no further business to discuss, there was a short break for refreshments & final prep for the program. Door prizes tickets were then drawn.

The program began with the presentation of 2 scholarship checks to Melanie Ertons: ETGMS - \$500 and from the Rollin Rock Club - \$162. She spoke on her studies, uses for Bauxite tailings, and Associate Professor Mindy Faulkner spoke on the Geology (Earth Sciences) department, in general, at SFA which has become a part of the University of Texas system.

Submitted by, Julia Toombs, Secretary

Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

I recently acquired some agate and jasper slabs to make cabs and wire wrap into pendants. Some of this material is new to me and I was looking forward to see how they turned out.

The first photo shows a rare green and yellow flower garden agate that a friend found on a south Texas gravel road. Since I had never seen one before, he gave me a slab of this unusual agate to work on. Due to its thickness, I had to be careful while grinding and sanding it to remove any tiny flat spots on the surface or leave an uneven girdle.



Photo 1



Photo 2

The cab turned out to be more beautiful than I had anticipated, and it will find a place in my permanent collection.

The second photo shows a cab that I found to be unusual. It is a Rhodochrosite (manganese carbonate) that I cut from a slab I bought from one of our former club members. The slab had the typical parallel bands of pink and white minerals normally associated with good quality Rhodochrosite, but for some reason, the normal banding did not occur in the lower section of the slab. I decided to cab this mostly monochromatic section anyway to see what it would look like when polished. Although it resembles Rhodonite (manganese silicate), it has a darker pink color than normally found in that material. I liked the banded version of Rhodochrosite more than this monochromatic version.

The third photo shows a pendant that I wire-wrapped for a friend. The cab is from a jasper slab that came from a private claim in the Owyhee Desert in the southeastern

corner of Oregon. It is located on the Morrison Ranch, from which the jasper derives its name, Morrisonite. The pattern on the slabs is diverse and it is not unusual to find the slabs cut from the same rock that look different from each other. I had to be careful while cabling it due to its large size, which creates problems associated with making the cab symmetrical in three dimensions. Another problem I encountered is that pieces of the native rock occasionally intrude into the jasper along the edge and will crumble while grinding, thus interfering with the symmetry. At the end of the cabling process, I found that it takes a very nice polish when care is used and creates a very attractive pendant.



Photo 3



Gem Tree Class

BY COLLEEN HAYES

ETGMS has had a great success offering the gem trees for sale at the various fund- raising events that we have participated in, in the last couple of years. Vicky Polve introduced me to making gem trees and since then I've made quite a few for the club.



We decided to hold a Gem Tree class to share the knowledge and hopefully inspire people to contribute items for our events.

The class was held on May 6th at the ETGMS clubhouse. We had four members take the class: Marcia Graham, Sonya Meinert, Samantha Rhoades, and Shelley Sudderth. Each participant was able to complete one gem tree and we all experimented on a second technique of using beads to fabricate leaves and trees. There are many different methods of putting the trees together. We just highlighted two of those ways.



Also included was some information about resources and supplies needed:

The best place to obtain the gem chips that we used in this class is Global Mineral, www.globalmineral.com located in Chandler, Texas.

Wire was sourced from two suppliers online at www.Riogrande.com and www.WireJewelry.com. We used 24-ga wire in this class.



Simple jewelry tools can be obtained from any hobby store, and we used 527 craft glue.

If you are interested in learning how to make a gem tree, another class can be scheduled for later this summer. Check at the meeting for a sign-up sheet.

May Field Trip

By Fred Mahaffey

We had a small group but everyone who came was pleasantly surprised at all the new exhibits in the museum from the last field trip several years ago. The back area that looked more like storage a couple of years ago has an Ice Age exhibit and a workshop station for the summer programs. I highly recommend going if you have not been. With a climate-controlled environment (AC) it is perfect for a hot Texas day.

As a bonus – After the museum we went to a local park, had lunch, and then several checked out the creek in the park, and in honor of “National Petrified Wood Week” were able to find several nice specimens.

Below are some of the exhibits in the museum and a picture from the creek. Jimmy Simpson took these.



ETGMS SUMMER ROCK SWAP & SALE

By Colleen Hayes

The Saturday rock swap/sale was a huge success. We had 15 vendors that were able to come and set up. The day started sunny and got progressively warmer. Almost all the vendors had canopies which helped shade from the sun. We were set up and ready to go by 10:00. Jerry Sudderth had picked up donuts and we had a good supply of water and sodas on hand to stay hydrated.

Our vendors were: Ed Grounds, Colleen Hayes, Becky Whisenant, Rick Walker, Emily Phillips, Karen Nance, Karl Siggelow, Zach Weenink, Alan Walker, Marcia Graham, Chris Proctor, Fred Mahaffey, John Ellwanger, Eddie Harmon, and Ron Clark.

We had a huge selection of items for sale and there were also several vendors with jewelry. At the last minute, Fred threw into his car some native baby lemon trees, and a few sold. Members brought and swapped, and we had a fair turnout from the public who made purchases as well. Jerry and Rick Walker manned the clubhouse and gave tours to anyone interested. Colleen took three new memberships, and several said they would be at the June 5 meeting and would sign up then.

Around 2, the clouds started building and the lightning was really close. Just as everyone started to tear down their booths, the heavy downpour started. And that was that.

We all had a great time, got to see some fantastic specimens, and visited with friends. The booths are pictured below.







AFMS NEWSLETTER

BY JULIA TOOMBS

There has been a challenge to members of AFMS to write short articles about a rock, mineral, fossil, or geologically related term that begins with the letter of the current month.

In the newsletter for May 2023, there is an article by Julia Allande with the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society (TRMS). It is re-printed below.

M Is for Moolooite

Sometimes we encounter a name or a specimen that is so totally Out-Of-The-Ordinary that we cannot help but investigate further and then share what we have learned with others!

Moolooite – Who has ever heard of it? Not many, I guarantee! No, it is not a misspelling of Mookaite,

which is a jasper found in western Australia. Moolooite is a copper oxalate $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4) \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ from Mooloo Downs Station, Australia (of course!). The stuff is dull, waxy, translucent, turquoise green or blue to green, of the orthorhombic system. Surprisingly, it leaves a blue-green streak. It is found as “micro-concretionary” crusts and powders in cracks and solution cavities.

The NEATEST thing about it, I think, is that it may be a bio-

mineral formed by the action of certain lichens growing on cupriferous (copper-iron) rocks. These lichens act upon the bird guano and the weathering rocks beneath them, creating the resulting Moolooite.

Don't bother to try and obtain any specimens, however; it is so scarce that the type material is held by the Government Chemical Laboratories in Perth, Australia.



OFFICERS

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

VICE PRESIDENT
Terry Roberts

TREASURER
Jimmy Simpson
[ejsimpson \(at\) outlook.com](mailto:ejsimpson@outlook.com)

SECRETARY
Julia Toombs
[rocknrosenewsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com)

FIELD TRIP CHAIR
Fred Mahaffey
[frederickmahaffey \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:frederickmahaffey@gmail.com)

ANNUAL SHOW CHAIR
Jerry Sudderth
[sudderthjerry13 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:sudderthjerry13@gmail.com)

WEBMASTER
Margaret Kilanski
www.etgms.org

EDITOR
Julia Toombs
[rocknrosenewsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rocknrosenewsletter@gmail.com)

EDITOR • GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Sarah Hawthorne
[hawthorne04 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:hawthorne04@gmail.com)

sudderthjerry13 (at) gmail.com

Terry Roberts

ejsimpson (at) outlook.com

rocknrosenewsletter (at) gmail.com

frederickmahaffey (at) gmail.com

sudderthjerry13 (at) gmail.com

www.etgms.org

rocknrosenewsletter (at) gmail.com

hawthorne04 (at) gmail.com

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.

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Please send original articles to [rocknrosenewsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto: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.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

Original: Adult Articles • Adult Articles Advanced • Junior Articles for under 12
Junior Articles for 12 & up • Adult Poetry • Junior Poetry
Features (Written & Drawn, all ages) • Special Publications

For more information on Contest Entries: www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm

ANNUAL DUES

Single: \$15.00 • Family: \$25.00

MONTHLY MEETING

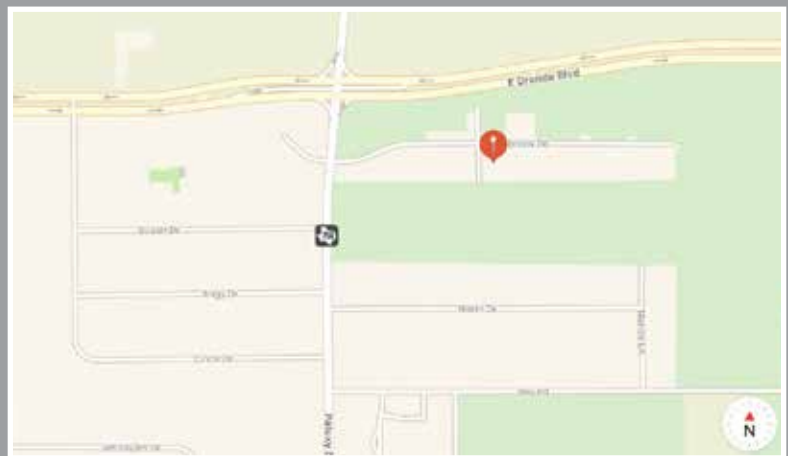
WHEN: First Monday of the month
unless it's a holiday, then the second
Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

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



Rock-N-Rose • Newsletter
231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961