

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 49 Issue 9

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Cover Photo: Colleen Hayes

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23 - 24

Southwest Gem and Mineral Society
Wonderland of the Americas
San Antonio, Texas

September 23 - 24

Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
Lubbock, Texas

October 14 - 15

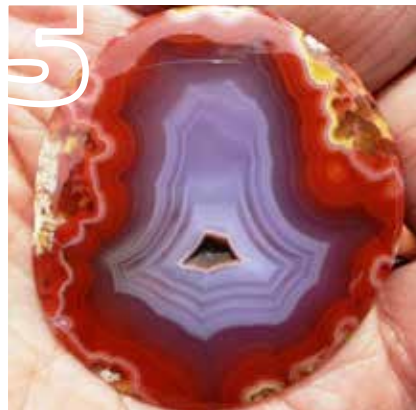
Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society
Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center
Temple, Texas

October 21 - 22

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

October 27 - 29

Fossilmania
Somervell Expo Center
Glen Rose, Texas



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Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GROUP MEETS

LAPIDARY GROUP

September 23 - Lapidary workshop
open from 10 AM-3 PM. Please take \$5 in exact change.
Contact Ed Grounds 903-316-9157 or [egrds1\(at\) gmail.com](mailto:egrds1(at)gmail.com)



SAFETY CLASS

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Contact Ed Grounds at [egrds1\(at\) gmail.com](mailto:egrds1(at)gmail.com)

FIELD TRIP

North Sulphur River for fossils
contact Fred Mahaffey at [frederickmahaffey \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:frederickmahaffey(at)gmail.com)

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Booth at Bergfeld Park – October 21 - 22
This is what we are making critters for.

NEED A RIDE?

etgms.org website: Members Only tab -
For those needing rides the membership list can be found here.
Call someone in your area if you need a ride to a meeting.

***Tom Stringfellow passed away on the afternoon of
September 16, 2023. There will not be a service.***



DESERT ROSE ROCK

Desert rose is the colloquial name given to rose-like formations of gypsum or baryte crystal clusters which contain abundant grains of sand. The 'petals' are crystals flattened on the c (crystallographic) axis, fanning open in radiating flattened crystal clusters.

The rosette crystal habit tends to occur when the crystals form under arid sandy conditions, such as a shallow salt basin becoming evaporated. The crystals form a circular series of flat plates that give the rock a similar shape to a rose blossom.



A Message to the Club



Jerry Sudderth
PRESIDENT

Hey folks, I hope you had a great summer. Now it is time for our Fall auction at the October meeting and the Fall crafts show at Bergfeld Park. It is also time to start signing up for the big show in January. Do not be bashful. We need all the help we can get. I also want to say welcome to all our new members.

ETGMS Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for the regular monthly meeting on September 11, 2023, due to September 4 being Labor Day.

President Jerry Sudderth called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. He asked the new members to introduce themselves. We had nine new members: Mark Mirsky, Mindy Faulkner, James and Mary Margrave, Zechorah Poindexter, Melanie Currant, Tim and Sue Cukr, and Melanie Ertons. Jerry asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Rick Walker made the motion, Margaret Kilanski seconded, and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Jimmy Simpson.

Announcements:

- Julia Toombs will host a Critter/Alien Workshop this Saturday, September 16, from 10-4 PM.
- Lapidary workshop will be open on Saturday, September 23, from 10-3 PM.
- A **Field Trip** is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, to Ladonia Fossil Park. A sign-up sheet and information are on the back table.
- Program: Melanie Ertons has a PowerPoint presentation and updates on her Arkansas search for rare earth minerals.
- Sign-up sheets are now available for the ETGMS annual show in January 2024.
- October meeting will be our semi-annual club auction. Auction items are on the wire rack for members to look at prior to the auction.
- August Rockhound of the Month is Jo Trenary.
- Memorial Service for Cecil Waterhouse will be September 30th at 10 AM at Dayspring Methodist Church in Tyler, Texas.

Old Business:

- Electrical work has been completed.

New Business: None

Jerry made a motion to end the business portion of the meeting. Ed Grounds made the motion, Rick Walker seconded, and the motion carried. The business meeting was adjourned. A short break followed, door prizes were drawn, and the program began.

The program was presented by Melanie Ertons from Stephen F. Austin University. Her PowerPoint presentation was on how she searches for data on rare earth minerals that may be present in the bauxite mining dumps located in Arkansas.

Submitted by, Colleen Hayes, Acting Secretary



Shop Time

By: Terry Roberts

Lately, I have been working on some new cabbing material that I came across while cleaning and reorganizing my shop. I decided to show some of these cabs that I hope will brighten everyone's day. The first photo shows a cab from one of the white, banded agate slabs that I cut from a biscuit collected



Photo 1

on the Woodward Ranch south of Alpine, Texas by one of our club members back in 1962. Notice how the different internal structures (the three-dimensional depth of the white band, the interior quartz crystals, and the purple exterior bands) work together to enhance the beauty of this cab.



Photo 2

The second photo shows a thin Coyamito agate from the Japanese Bed located between El Paso, Texas, and the city of Chihuahua in Mexico. I had to work carefully to complete the cab because the slab was very thin. The effort was worth the extra care to show off the beautiful light red outer band and the central lavender or purple banding. The central red bands and purple interior color also demonstrates another phenomenon called a mimeolith. This refers to patterns that resemble a face

or other structure that one person may see, but another person may see something different. In this case, I see a lavender bell or a flower. What do you see?



Photo 3

The last cab shows a stunning Moctezuma agate with pseudomorph stick-like structures in the lower half of the cab. A friend, Teri Smith who has much experience in hunting agates in west Texas, told me that the original mineral in the pseudomorphs was most likely replaced by aragonite which has flat-topped crystals.

I hope everyone enjoys looking at these beautiful agate slabs as much as I did when making them.

THE OTHER THING

BY BECKY WHISENANT



Sometimes, when giving a presentation about our hobby, it is more effective to have fun, so to speak, than to impart information. Such was the case recently with a small group of 7, 8, and 9-year-olds at a local private academy. Our club received a request from a teacher there for someone to come and discuss rocks, fossils, minerals, etc. and I volunteered to be that scout.

In preparatory discussions with the teacher about expectations, it was revealed that, per the parents' stipulations, I was not to speak of, nor mention, the age of the earth to the children for the duration. This was akin to being asked to discuss natural resources but not mention water. This only added to the challenge.

Armed with charts, a PowerPoint, magnifiers, and myriad samples, I quickly realized, upon arrival, this was going to be more of a pow-wow-circle-on-the-rug type of thing. No problem—I knew from theatre classes that flexibility and knowledge of your audience determines success or failure. Forget the visual aids and the technical terminology. Go right to the eye-catching minerals, the glittery cut

gems, the dino poo, and the artifacts.

I did issue a disclaimer, however, to the teachers before beginning, stating that although I disagreed with the parents on the age of the earth, that was not the purpose of today's lesson.

So, with a lot of body movement (mine), vocal variance, and interpretive gesturing, salted with as many educational facts as I could sneak in, the 45 minutes passed surprisingly quickly. Students were encouraged to feel the surfaces, the weights, the points, to examine the translucence and refraction, and to consider the density. We felt the heat of the sun in the grainy layers of sandstone and heard the roar of a river as it tumbled stones in its journey. We envisioned huge creatures who left fascinating traces of themselves.

There were no glazed eyes, no slumped postures indicating complete disconnection and there was very little preadolescent male scuffling. But there were questions. And questions equal involvement.

The thing is, it only takes one; that is, one kid to catch that spark, one kid to wonder enough to pursue it on his own later, one kid to decide he wants to be the next explorer to solve a mystery. And that is our real job—not just the reciting of facts—but opening a door for them so they get a peek, a glimpse, just one look. That may very well be all it takes.



HOMESCHOOL GROUP AT THE ROCK CLUBHOUSE

BY ED GROUNDS

Another sign that the COVID scare is over! A group of unaffiliated homeschoolers visited East Texas Gem & Mineral Society August 16 for a brief field trip. Thirty-two students, parents, and grandparents attentively listened as “Professor” Jerry Sudderth shared briefly about fossils.

After several questions were fielded from students and parents, the group surrounded Jerry for touch-and-feel time at the fossil table.

The class was dismissed but no one was ready to leave. One group gathered with Ed Grounds around the fluorescent mineral display to view the rocks under UV lighting. Another group gathered by the display cases. There were “oohs” and “aahs” heard around the room and then more questions. The groups traded places, and everyone tried to see both displays.

Everyone went home with a rock or fossil specimen. A few free magazines were taken. The 45-minute scheduled session lasted 90+ minutes.

Within minutes after the session ended, Rick Walker received a call to sign-up the group for School Day at the Annual Show.

Ed Grounds took the following pictures.





William S. Denman

By Julia Toombs

following information is taken from an article written in August 1958 in the Henderson Daily News. Bill and Edith resided in Henderson, Texas.

In 1958, Bill was president of the Rolling Rock Club (RRC), president of ETGMS, and a director in the Texas Federation of Mineral Societies. Edith was the secretary of RRC. RRC was started in 1956 as a worldwide club of 166 rockhounds in 28 states and five foreign countries. It gave those interested in minerals an affiliation with others who did not have access to local clubs. All business was conducted by mail.

Their interest in rock began in 1954. He had the usual equipment and most of it was homemade. He could transform common variety rock into beautiful ornaments, rings, and other jewelry. Their specimens came from Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. They had plans to visit southwest Texas in search of new specimens later in 1958. They also attended rock shows in Texas.

Upon their deaths, his collection was donated to the Geology department at Kilgore College. At one time, it was on display there, but it is still used in classroom instruction.

At our August meeting, we had special guests Martha Hale Deen, Duane Deen, and Louis "Buddy" Hale. Martha and Buddy are grandchildren of Bill and Edith Denman, two of the founding members of our Club in 1956. They wanted to attend a meeting of the club that was such a big part of their grandparents' lives. The



Colleen Hayes held another gem tree class on August 26, 2023, and had three students: Sonya Meinert, Darby Spears, and Jo Trenary. Their creations are above.

I held another critter/alien workshop on September 16, 2023, and six others attended: Rip Criss, Marcia Graham, Amber and Abigail Mulcahy, Euva Scott, and Darby Spears. (To me, a critter is an animal. An alien is most of the weird things I make.) Thanks go out to Jo Trenary for donating some new items that we all worked with.

There may be a November workshop. The final decision will be made following knee-

We Love to Create

By Julia Toombs

replacement surgery. If I can do it, I will plan a day. Otherwise, the next one will be in January, prior to the show. (Everyone is usually too busy in December.)

Enjoy the pictures that Colleen Hayes took for both events.





EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

The 27th Annual Gemstone and Jewelry Show

TYLER ROSE GARDEN CENTER

420 SOUTH PARK DRIVE
TYLER, TEXAS



Gemstones • Jewelry • Minerals • Fossils • Supplies
JANUARY 26, 27 AND 28, 2024

SHOW HOURS:

Friday: 9 am-5 pm
Saturday: 10 am-6 pm
Sunday: 10 am-4 pm

ADMISSION:

Adults: **\$7.00**
Children and students: **\$3.00**
Children 5 and under: **Free**

Colorful Fluorescent Mineral Display

Silent Auction on
Saturday and Sunday

Hourly Prizes

Grand Prize Drawing

Wheel of Fortune

Game for the Children

Lapidary Demonstrations

Gemstones

Gold and Silver Jewelry

Minerals

Fossils

Cut and Uncut Stones

Geodes

Wire Wrapping Demos

Lapidary Materials

The Rock Food Table • www.rockfoodtable.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Show Chairman: Jerry Sudderth - 903.787.2088 • sudderthjerry13@gmail.com
Friday School Day Contact: Rick Walker - 903.262.7161 • rjwalkeretgms@gmail.com

WWW.ETGMS.ORG



In Memory of Cecil Waterhouse

BY DARBY SPEARS

Cecil Waterhouse passed away unexpectedly on January 25, 2023. He leaves behind his wife of more than 30 years, Sherry. In the early 1960s, he was a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps Reserves. He worked for the Department of Defense in San Diego, California, for 36 years.

As a young lad, Cecil helped his dad as he taught in the Boy Scouts. They found geodes and arrowheads together in parks. His interest in gems developed during his adult years. Teaching others what he knew became a passion and he enjoyed passing on that knowledge in Balboa Park in San Diego.

When our Gemology sub-group began, we met one Saturday a month, and Cecil was just a member, at first. But he began contributing more by helping us to identify gems. Soon after, the sub-

group turned into a class. We learned from Cecil's experience. We would bring gems to the sub-group and Cecil would help identify them. He would educate us on how to identify the stones on our own. I remember how patient he was. There would be two-part classes. After each part, we received a Certificate of Completion. Mine are framed and I am happy to have been taught by him. Cecil mentioned how he had taught past students to build a Polariscope out of PVC pipe. I was looking forward to that lesson so I could build mine.

One year, Cecil manned a booth in California. Patrons would bring jewelry, like a ring handed down from their grandmother, and ask him how much it was worth. Some pieces were genuine, and others were not. If a piece was glass, Cecil would say that he could not identify it

because he did not want to hurt their feelings. He would suggest that it be taken to a jeweler.

We will miss his kindness, patience, and teachings!! He was always a happy person. At times, without intent, he would say something that would make you laugh or smile. He was so personable; he felt more like a friend than a once-a-month acquaintance.

Thank you, Cecil Waterhouse, for being a part of our lives and contributing to our further knowledge of gemstones!

There will be a Memorial service for Cecil on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 10 AM, Dayspring Methodist Church, 310 W. Cumberland Road, Tyler, Texas.



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231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961