

# ROK TOK

SEPTEMBER 2005

VOLUME 9

THE DALLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We had two great field trips in August. Those of us who joined Dallas Paleo at Oliver Creek found all the fossils we could carry. I had more fun watching all the kids have such a good time than I did digging my own fossils. I found out that digging out fossils is hard work! Several of us conceded defeat and let the fossil win. They will be there on the next trip for the rest of you with more energy. Thank you Brian Bowles for inviting us.

David Dobson organized us another trip to TXI. We found lots of beautiful pyrite crystals, calcite crystals, and several types of shark teeth and other fossils. We got lots and lots of exercise in that sauna they call a quarry, but everyone survived. Those of you who abhor exercise don't want to go on this trip. John Woodward can show you how to find petrified wood by driving along in the car so you only have to open the door and pick it up. I never would have believed you could collect rocks that way until I saw it for myself!

The Big Bend trip is set for October 24<sup>th</sup> departure if we vanpool, or I'm leaving on the 23<sup>rd</sup> if we don't get a vanpool together. We will be there all week, so you can join us for any portion of the trip you can make.

Email or call me with the following info: Name and # of people going, do you want to camp or hotel, do you want to vanpool, if you are driving and someone can ride with you, phone# and email. I need to know for how many people to plan. I'm not asking for a firm commitment, just whether you are interested enough to try to go.

Thank you Bobby Thornton for teaching silversmithing classes. Bobby is dedicating his time for *three months*

to teach us more about our hobby. Our club wouldn't be much without people like him making it happen, so say thanks the next time you see him.

I still need volunteers for field trip chairman and meeting host.

## ROCK SWAP

Saturday, September 17  
at THE SHOP  
8:00 AM until we're DONE

The shop is located on Plano Rd, one block north of LBJ. Exit LBJ at Plano Rd., go north underneath the RR tracks and turn left at the first road. The shop is behind the office strip, on the right, about half way up the street.

The Pleasant Oaks and Dallas Gem and Mineral Societies are sponsoring the swap (members bring baked goods to sell). There will be coffee and goodies to munch and lots of good rocks. Bring your rocks to trade/sell and lots money to buy stuff.

## Big Bend Field Trip October 23 - 30

The club is organizing a week-long field trip to Big Bend for the week of October 23 - 30.

The entrance to Balmorhea State Park is on Texas 17, about 12 miles southeast of I-10, in Toyahvale.

For reservations to San Solomon Courts or a campsite call **432-375-2370**; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

The Toyahvale Desert Oasis, where you can rent scuba and snorkeling equipment, is just west of Balmorhea State Park on TX HWY 17; hours 10-6; tel: **432-375-2572**; [www.toyahvale.com](http://www.toyahvale.com).

The Davis Mountains State Park is 33 miles south of Toyahvale and 4 miles West of Ft. Davis on TX HWY 118. For reservations at the park's Indian Lodge, call **432-426-3254**; to reserve a campsite, call **512-389-8900**. To contact the park, call **432-426-3337**; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

The McDonald Observatory is about 14 miles northwest of Fort Davis, off TX HWY 118. Phone: **877-984-7827**; [www.mcdonaldobservatory.org](http://www.mcdonaldobservatory.org). Ft. Davis Visitors Center: **800-524-3015**; [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com).

If you have further questions contact Rick at [rick.r.1@juno.com](mailto:rick.r.1@juno.com)

## NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 20

Our next meeting will be held on September 20, at the Ridgewood Recreation Center, 6818 Fisher Rd.

We want to remind members to bring food to share for our dinner. We seem to get plenty of desserts but not enough main dishes. We have many new members, so let's make a good impression by having great food and warm hearts indicated by our greetings.

Speakers will be Brian Bowles and Jeanine Fulton, who spent three weeks in England this past June hunting for fossils along the southern coast from Eastbourne to Lyme Regis. They also traveled to the Isle of Sheppey, Folkestone and Quontoxhead. They have a great program to present and fossil specimens to show us. You don't want to miss this meeting. It starts at **7:00 PM**.

## SHOP TALK OPEN SHOP --

Monday evenings: 6:00-9:00

Saturday mornings: 8:00-12:00

Shop phone: 214.906.8834

For info on qualification classes,

email Mike at

twinman72@yahoo.com.

**MIKE'S MESSAGE:** We had 5 who 'cleaned' in the shop. Good progress in cleanliness was made.

The shop now has new 6" belts for those who use the expandable grinding wheels for working rock. We will have to order at least one 8" diamond wheel for the large grinder, as the 100 grit wheel has developed a 'pot hole' in its face.

Consideration is being given to changing wheel grits and sizes on this machine at this time, since we have a need to replace the one wheel. A switch to two 1/2" wheels, one at 80 grit and one at 220 grit, seems like a better use of the machine.

Thanks to every one for the clean up and repairs!

## TIP:

### REMOVING A STUCK CABOCHON

Here's a quick, safe way to remove a cabochon that gets stuck in the bezel of a finding when grinding for a perfect fit, or when fitting during silversmithing:

#### Don't pick and pry and end up chipping or cracking your stone.

- ◆ Take it to the kitchen, and have a towel or washcloth handy.
- ◆ Put a cup or two of water into a pan and bring to a boil.
- ◆ Take a pair of needlenose pliers or tweezers and dip the offender in the water (one or two minutes should be enough).
- ◆ Remove it and tap it gently with a pencil over the towel.

It should drop out unharmed, as the metal expands while the stone does not.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

September 23 & 24

Houston Gem and Mineral Society

Humble Civic Center

8223 Will Claton Parkway

Humble, TX

October 1 & 2

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute

Brookhaven College

3939 Valley View Lane

Farmers Branch, TX

October 1 & 2 (9-5 daily)

Chaparral Rockhounds

"Gems Alive in 2005"

Roswell Civic Center

912 N Main St.

Roswell, NM

www.chaparralrockhounds.com

October 7 - 9

Intergem Gem & Mineral Show

Palmer Events Center

Austin, TX

October 8 & 9

Tri Cities Gem & Mineral Society

Mayborn Center

Temple, TX

October 14 - 16

Intergem Gem & Mineral Show

Reliant Center [Hall C/D]

Reliant Park

Houston, TX

October 21 - 23

Intergem Gem & Mineral Show

Dallas Market Hall

Dallas, TX

October 21 - 23

Victoria Community Center

Victoria, TX

November 19 & 20

DGMS Show

Resistol Rodeo Arena Exhibition Hall

Mesquite, TX

December 2 - 4

Austin Gem & Mineral Society's

Gem Capers Show

Palmer Activity Center

900 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX

## Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

www.dallasgemandmineral.org

P.O. Box 742033

Dallas, TX 75374-2033

NEXT  
MEETING:  
SEPT. 20

ROCK SWAP  
SATURDAY  
SEPT. 17  
8:00 AM