



Rocky

The Rock Rattler

Newsletter of The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 6633, Bossier City, LA 71111

Volume 27, Number 7

July, 2002

Greetings.

The season of the rock show is closing fast. One item of business passed at the last club meeting was to change the dealer supper menu back to red beans and rice cooked by the master chef of the club, **Wil House**. There will be some cold cuts for the non bean eaters!

In my reading of other newsletters, I observed that one club had an enormous fossilized crocodile head at their show. They were able to get television coverage because of the unusual item, which helps with attendance I'm sure.

The April field trip to Mt. Ida went very well for all that went. We collected very clear quartz crystals. I have a few photos of the crew and the mine, which was a hole in the side of a mountain that had been dug with a track hoe. For safety reasons, the mine operators would not allow anyone to go in the hole because of the danger of falling rocks. The layers run 90 degrees from horizontal. Some major force took place to fold the earth like that. To find the clear stones you have to look in the iron ore and clay layer. My best crystal came from an 8-inch ball of red mud. Cleaning is a slow process. Some are sitting in the yard taking advantage of natural weathering. I tried to clean the faceting grade with a porcelain cleaner called Iron Out. It loosened up some of the rusty material. I don't think it is as abrasive to the stone as oxalic acid. I want to go back when the weather cools off, maybe in October.



John Quade

Editor News



Well, it looks like the end of an era has come, if you want to call it an era. You illustrious editor is going to retire from newsletter making and go into newsletter consulting. Brittany is going to take it from here and see how she can do with it. She will need your help to make the newsletter a success. It should be no secret that becoming a first place winner in last year's bulletin editor's contest was largely due to really great contributions by the members. So I am putting you all on notice: articles are needed, wanted, and appreciated! If Brittany should call and ask you to write an article, just say yes! Remember, it doesn't have to be fancy or even very polished. The editorial staff will be happy to assist in making any necessary changes to make your article more readable or to correct spelling, etc. Just write!

You can continue submitting your items to Brittany via my email address for the time being. She will put her personal contact information in The Rock Rattler soon.

The Rock Rattler is a monthly publication of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society located in Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana. The society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS).

Club Website

www.geocities.com/arklatexgemandmineralclub

Officers in 2002

President	John Quade	(318) 377-0626
Immediate Past President	Wil House	(318) 949-6493
Vice-President	Luther Mathis	(318) 524-0093
Secretary	Pam Hendrix	(318) 326-4931
Treasurer	Lee Beasley	(318) 949-0552
Board of Directors	Don Talbot (318) 687-2356, Bill Hart (318) 746-8735 Mary West (318) 425-5652, and all club officers	

Show Chairman

Okley Davis (318) 949-2518

The Rock Rattler Editors

Ike and Brittany House (318) 949-2008

1151 Hwy. 614, Haughton, LA 71037 email: tiger80@mindspring.com

The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society meets at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Bossier Parish Historical Center, Bossier Parish Central Library, 2206 Beckett St., Bossier City, LA 71111. One month in the spring and fall, the club assembles for dinner at a local restaurant or at a cookout site. Contact any officer or the editors for more information or see the meeting announcement in the current Rock Rattler. Permission is given to reproduce this document all or in part with proper credit given. Articles with no byline are by the editor.

The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization devoted to promoting interest in the various earth sciences, particularly the art of lapidaries and their related fields. Informational speeches presented at area schools and the presentation of awards and cash prizes at the Public School Earth Science Fair are two of the ways the society achieves its goals. Another contribution to the community is the annual show, held at the Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Road, in Bossier City. This "Jewelry, Gem, & Mineral Show" functions as a fund raiser for our group and a venue for the demonstrations of gold and silver casting, jewelry making, bead stringing, faceting, cabochon making, and flintknapping (the art of flaking stone tools such as arrowheads). The monthly meetings (including programs of interest to rockhounds), information from the Rock Rattler, and jewelry making classes through Bossier Parish Community College complete the educational objectives of the club. Membership is \$15 per for an individual, \$25 for families. Subscription to the newsletter only is \$5 annually.



FLAT LAPPING WITHOUT A MACHINE: The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have flat lapping machine. So go to it and polish the bookends you want, or that clock face. Just get a piece of aluminum about 12-14 inches square. (Larger for larger pieces.) Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit (or even 90 grit if you have saw marks on your slab.) Mix your grit with Vaseline or water. (I like Vaseline because it holds the grit better, doesn't dry out and doesn't splash.) Now take your slab to be polished and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold it down on the grit. Just keep twisting it over and around on the grit. Be sure that your grit is always under the slab. Don't run it over dry aluminum. Move the slab in any pattern you wish, adding grit as you feel necessary. Keep at it until all the saw marks are well gone. Wash the stone and aluminum between grades of grit using progressively finer grits as you go. The slab should now be ready for polishing. To polish use a piece of leather about 12x12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tack heads can scratch. Put your favorite polishing mix all over the leather and start polishing your stone. This is the oldest way to polish slabs and it still works well if slowly. In answer to the statement that it will take a long time; a question, "What else would you be doing?"

From The Puget Sounder 7/01 via Owyhee Gem 6/02



Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes of
June 4, 2002 Meeting
Bossier Parish History Center
Bossier Parish Library
Bossier City, LA

We opened our meeting at 7:00 with the pledge led by our President **John Quade** and our former president **Wil House**. We had a big display of chalcedony and a display of quartz for folks to look at.

Business: The field trip to Sweet Surrender Mine was a success. It was **John's** first long distance field trip. All that went had a fun time and brought home some pretty samples. Maybe we can do this again when it is cooler.

Okley talked about our annual show. We are starting to sign up for volunteers. Any pair of hands are welcome. We passed around the Job Volunteer paper. There are more jobs still open. It is always a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and fellowship. We voted to have red beans and rice this year for the dealer's dinner instead of the pot luck we did last year.

Wil asked everyone if they got their e-mail Rock Rattler and if they were satisfied. Some said yes and some said no. There are a few bugs to be worked out.

Next order of business was if we wanted to do BPC classes again this fall. Everyone said yes. It was put to a vote to buy two cabochon machines for \$250 a piece for use in teaching classes at BPC. The money was from the spring semester. We are thinking about offering individual classes; for example, Intermediate Wire Wrapping. Four students graduated this spring.

We sold raffle tickets for the Education Fund by the South Central Federation.

Joe Beasley gave a talk on his trip to North Carolina by way of Ohio. It was a camp called Wild Acres for all kinds of lapidary arts. **Joe** and **Lee** had a very busy and very good time. The camp had so many different courses, it was hard to choose which to take.

Dwight has redone our website and added frames. Please take time for a peek; it looks really good!

We spent a lot of time discussing the rocks on the front table. There were many different kinds. Everyone handled them and passed them back and forth, commenting. There was even some bribery going on to try to get some of the samples into private collections, though none were accepted, given that the pieces were very fine. There was also some guessing as to what some of them were.

Our new door prize list goes as follows:

James, Wil, and David - chalcedony

Brittany - a red necklace

Roanna - a blue necklace

Cyndi - a brown necklace

Edna - a pin

John - nevaculite

Lee, Charles, and Dwight - Crystals

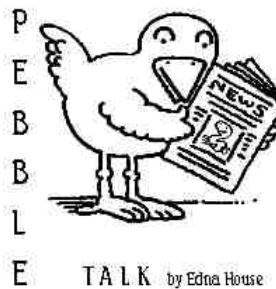
Sam - Swirl Agate Light Green

Jack - moss agate

The meeting was officially closed at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully yours until next time,

Pam Hendrix, secretary



Greetings from Pebble Talk!

Today I am going to attempt to relate, for all of you, the most exhilarating and interesting Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Club meeting that we had last Tuesday night. Presiding over the meeting was our very capable John Quade. John is always congenial and accommodating. A most interesting president.

The Hendricks were present, with Pam dutifully taking notes, and James sporting a new "haircut". Sam and Mary West were visiting with everyone, and having a good time. David Howard was right up front, during the program portion, enjoying the rock display.

Now all of you should have seen the two tables of rocks that Luther and Laura brought for the program. Luther invited anyone who would like to come forward to help identify the rocks, Reuben House quickly came forward to assist. The rocks on display included, obsidian, jasper, turquoise, tiger iron, opalized wood, lace agate, and petrified wood. These rocks were just greatly admired, discussed, and lovingly handled. Truly a rock hound's dream.

Okley Davis spoke of our big show in August—making all of us excited about our 27th show!!!! Joe and Lee Beasley brought us information about their lapidary school that they just attended. These two are becoming educated in jewelry making as well as Pebble Talk (continued from previous page) getting accredited to judge. Leo Perry came late but

(continued next page)

had a big smile—happy to be there. Dwight House cordially invited us to add information on the club web site. Good job, Dwight!! Bill Hart was present, happy to have received his Rock Rattler on e-mail.

Roanna Shaw was present and seemed to enjoy the meeting. Charles Cupit brought his lovely lady for us to get to know. As usual Charles was pitching in to pass out the slips of paper for all of us to enter our names in the basket for the door prizes. We had more than 5 door prizes!!! Brittany House won a beautiful necklace. Wil House didn't win anything.

Oh yes, the staff at the History Center welcomed us. You really should have been there, it was a GREAT meeting. I hope this makes you want to attend our July meeting. Hopefully I will see you there!!

Edna

Club Calendar

The shop is open on Tuesday nights by appointment. Please call **Joe Beasley** to arrange. Other times may be scheduled as needed.

The Chipalottas, our flint-knapping society, meet at Dixie Monument Company on Highway 80 East in Haughton, LA every Monday and Wednesday. It is hosted by **Leo Perry**. Please contact him or **Wil House** for more information.

Club Members' Anniversaries and Birthdays

Carolyn and Roy Adley --- July 18, 1980

Wil House --- July 10 **David Howard** --- July 22

NEW MEMBER!!!

Please add the following new member information to your club roster:

Gary Rushmore Sr.
2002 Pluto Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana 71112

Welcome, Gary, to our fellowship. Hope to see you at the various functions and get to know you.

Safety Report - Take Care of Yourself

For the safety article I usually select an abstract topic and then attempt to explain the subject and give hints and suggestions. This article will be a little different. Instead of an abstract subject I want to relate something that happened to me. Please understand that this article is written a few months before it is published and you read it. But, even if the event is past history the message is still pertinent. Take care of yourself and do it immediately.

In April I was doing the usual spring yard clean up. This involved mowing and bagging to remove the dead grass. I was not wearing a respirator even though I just recently had a bout of pneumonia. As you can imagine it was dusty and I got really plugged up. I thought, it will be better tomorrow, but it wasn't. In fact I got progressively worse for the next three days. Finally on the fourth day my wife said, "That's enough! You're going to the hospital!" Sure enough, it was an advanced case of pneumonia and I was in the hospital for three nights.

The point of this article is that if I had gone to the doctor when I first had the symptoms I would have probably been given a pill and I would have avoided the hospital stay. In other words, I did not take care of myself first. I suspect that many of you have had similar experiences. It may have been a cut that got infected, a sprained bone, joint or something that you thought would get better. Waiting for something to get better is not macho. It's just dumb. Take care of yourself first and avoid the aggravation.

From now on I'm going to the doctor if I sneeze. Remember to take care of yourself first and keep it safe.

- George E. Browne, SCFMS Safety Chair: from the SCFMS NL 5-6/02

Door Prizes

The following generous members have agreed to provide door prizes for the club meetings in the months indicated:

July	Lee Beasley
August	Ike House
September	Edna House
October	
November	



Make Your Plans!

August 17-18 Bossier City, LA
Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society
Bossier City Civic Center

September 6-8 Jasper, TX
 Pine County Gem and Mineral Society

September 21-22 Richardson, TX
 Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

September 27-28 Houston, TX
 Houston Gem and Mineral Society

October 5-6 Denison, TX
 Texoma Rockhounds

October 5-6 Baton Rouge, LA
 Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society

October 12-13 Austin, TX
 Texas Faceter's Guild

October 12-13 Temple, TX
 Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society

October 25-27 Glen Rose, TX
 Austin Paleontological Society

November 9-10 DeRidder, LA
 DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society

February 22-23, 2003 Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society
SCFMS Show and Convention

Program for July meeting, June reviewed:



Last month we had a great meeting, and if you don't believe it, see the minutes and Pebble Talk for the blow by blow details!

This month we will resume our viewing of the video we've been watching (if there is time). I'm sure we will have show updates / discussion because the time fast approacheth. We need you at the meeting to help plan and assist!

Hope to see you there!



Refreshments

July - Lee Beasley	August - Hendrixes
September - Edna House	October - cookout
November - Roanna Shaw	December - party

Application for membership in the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone # (home) _____ (work) _____ e-mail _____
 Birthday(s) and Anniversary _____
 May we send you the Rock Rattler via email only? _____ Lapidary interests _____

Signature _____
 -Individual _____ (\$15/year) -Family _____ (\$25/year) -Subscription only _____ (\$5/year) #adults _____ #children _____

Mail to: Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 6633, Bossier City, LA 71111.

For more information contact club member **Joe Beasley** at 318-949-0552

Greetings - from Ron Carman, SCFMS President Elect - rcarman@ev1.net 6947 Foxhurst, Humble, TX 77089-1392

In a few of these messages we have discussed the importance of our shows and how they can make a good impression on the public if presented properly. I'm sure I don't need to remind everyone of just how important it is to make our shows as informative and attractive as possible to keep visitors interested and coming back. Club members are encouraged to show their work or some of the items they have collected. I barely mentioned competitive displays, which to me has been a sadly neglected part of our shows with increasing frequency for some years now, and I am not sure just what the trouble is.

The main symptom I have seen is the complete lack of competitive displays in nearly all the local show, and a decrease in the number of competitive entries at regional federation and AFMS shows. Far too many of the clubs that used to include competitive cases in their annual shows have eliminated them entirely. The regional Federations have competition in their shows, and of course there is competition at the AFMS shows each year, but the number of competitive cases I see has dropped steadily over the years. I must admit that I really don't know what is wrong! I have asked some persons in the past what they believe the trouble is, but have not received too many definitive answers. I have heard comments such as "too strict rules" or "hard-nosed judges" along with other comments some of which would set fire to ordinary writing paper. But I really do wish we could find a way to encourage exhibitors to compete at our shows, both local and federation.

Do any of you members reading this article have any ideas? Would the cost of any awards made be too high? That has not been a problem in any shows I have helped with; the problem is lack of persons putting in competitive exhibits.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to encourage everyone to show off his or her handiwork, collections, etc. at all our shows. A row of attractive display cases at a club show can be a pleasure to look at! It can look even better if some of the cases have ribbons or trophies or both. The rules allow all cases to receive awards, if they earn enough points, so don't be scared because someone else received one more point. What do you think?

If anyone has any ideas that might be of benefit, please feel free to let me know. Thank you all in advance for your consideration and any thoughts you may bring this way.

It might be a little late to remind you again but the AFMS show is in Port Townsend, Washington on July 18-21. There's still enough time to get your aero-plane tickets and scoot on up there, jiggety-jog. I KNOW for a fact that there are lots of good rocks up there and probably some real deals at the show. Probably there will be 6-inch polished thundereggs for \$5 each! If anyone from the club decides to go, let me know ASAP. Thanks, Ike

First Annual Texas Rock And Fossil Summer Swap

Who: Open to anybody state-wide with some rocks to get rid of. We hope to see people from the Houston, Austin, Galveston, Clear Lake, Jasper, Dallas, and Victoria clubs ... any others as well.

What: First Annual Texas Rock And Fossil Summer Swap.

When: Sunday, July 14, 2002 from 1 PM to 5 PM.

This is outside in the parking lot ... work out of your car and remember to consider the July sun and the heat.

Where: HGMS Club House parking lot (see below for driving directions).

Cost: Free. We might BBQ some burgers ... so bring grill items & drinks.

Come one, come all to the First Annual Texas Rock And Fossil Summer Swap.

Because we are driving in and out of this event, please keep your tables alcohol free. The HGMS clubhouse is non-smoking, but you can smoke outside and long as you police your own trash ... we would expect this anyway. This event is a venue for rockhounds from around the state to swap/trade/sell their rock and fossil specimens. Also tables and display cases. We will also have a "Brag Night/Rockhound Poetry" reading competition (sharing) for those who wish to participate and we may stay a little past 5 PM if the company is good. The HGMS clubhouse has full amenities - water, electric, bathrooms and A/C.

(Continued on next page)

Rock Swap (continued from prior page)

Come for the rocks or just come for the social interaction. There is no cost and the distinction between amateur and dealer will not even be attempted. We are just a bunch of guys and gals that love rocks. Because there is really no show organization or rock police ... let the buyer beware on any swaps or purchases. There will be many experts in many rock related fields who will likely offer an opinion on any rock or claim. These opinions are likely to happen if requested or not.

This is a tail gate affair so please bring your own tables, chairs, food, et cetera. If you have special needs please email Ed Tindell at ed-tindell@sprynet.com with your questions and/or requests. People wanting to borrow a table will most likely be taken care of at no charge other than being responsible. Everybody will work together at the end to clean up the site as if nothing has happened that day.

Directions to the HGMS Clubhouse:

The HGMS clubhouse is in the northwest corner of the Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Toll road) and Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) about 10 miles southwest of downtown Houston, Texas. The address is 10805 Brooklet, Houston, TX 77099, on the northeast corner of Rockley and Brooklet.

Coming south on Beltway 8, I exit at the last frontage road exit before the toll road exit onto Hwy 59. Going down a few blocks, I turn right onto Roark Road and then Rockley is the first turn on the right. The clubhouse is on my right after going down Rockley for one block.

Going southwest on Hwy 59, I exit either on the frontage road just before coming up on the Toll road exit, or at the Murphy road exit almost under the large highway interchange. Then I turn right on Stanclift off the frontage road. Then make the first right onto Brooklet. The clubhouse is on my right after about three blocks on Brooklet.

Most other directions (and taking the smaller streets) get you to either the corner of Bissonnet & Wilcrest ... or West Belfort & Wilcrest. Wilcrest is a north-south street and Rockley is an east-west street north of West Belfort and south of Bissonnet. The clubhouse is several blocks east of Wilcrest on the left side of Rockley. There is a large ROCK on the corner of ROCKley and Wilcrest.

There is a phone in the clubhouse, but the cell phone (713) 478-4555 would be more helpful if you get lost.

- John, 2002 President of the HGMS

2002 LOUISIANA ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 25 – 27, 2002

Mark these dates now for the 2002 Roundup. This year the Louisiana Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana is hosting this annual event at the Pleasure Point, Park Site 15 on the Toledo Bend Reservoir. All clubs in Louisiana and surrounding areas are invited to participate.

AGENDA

Friday, Oct 25	6:30 PM:	Hot Dogs and Chile -Bring your drinks and chairs
Saturday, Oct 26	8:00 AM:	Gather at Roundup Headquarters for donuts and coffee
	8:30 AM:	Depart for Saturday rock hunts (bring water and lunch)

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LA Rockhound Roundup (continued from prior page)

Saturday, Oct 26	3:00 PM:	Return to campground for Rock Swap and Auction
	4:00 PM:	Auction Activities (bring items for auction)
	6:00 PM:	Pot Luck Dinner-- Bring covered dish, drinks, chairs & table
	7:00 PM:	Campfire, stories and bring your instrument
Sunday Oct 27	8:30 AM:	Meet at Campground Headquarters for coffee and stale donuts
	8:45 AM:	Leave for Sunday rock hunts
	11:30 AM:	Those that like can return for farewells
	6:00 PM:	Campfire for those who decide to leave on Monday

FACILITIES

Campsites for tents, trailers and motorhomes are available with electricity and water. A few unfurnished cabins with concrete floors, electricity and water are available; however, you will need sleeping gear. Pleasure Point does not have a reservation system so it's first come, first served. We will secure site 33 (on the hill) as our meeting place and headquarters for all functions. For more information on the campground call the Sabine River Authority (318) 565-4810. For those who desire the use of a motel, two are available: Indian Creek Lodge is about six miles from the campground across the dam on the Texas side. Turn right on Highway 255 and go about 1.5 miles. Telephone (409) 565-2222. Just south of the campgrounds is the Bass Heaven Resort (J.L. Marina). Telephone (337) 286-9239 / 888-286-9239.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Various varieties of petrified wood, agates, fossils and other minerals will be easy to find. You will need such items as a 3' metal probe, shovel, buckets, clothes for the weather, sunscreen, water, food, and a willing back. Gas your vehicles prior to the field trips. Fishing is excellent in Toledo Bend. Please wear your name tags so we can get to know each other better. Please bring items for the auction as this is how we finance the event and let us know how many plan to attend so we can prepare food.

Contact us if you have any questions,

Arthur and Doris Mott, 337 Walter Rd., River Ridge, LA 70123. (504) 737-0259

E-mail: arthurmott@att.net

Crystal Hunt Pics

Mine Staff



Mine Operator



The Mine in all its glory!