



The Rock Rattler

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

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

Rocky

Volume 27, Number 8

August, 2002

Greetings.

I guess I roped myself into writing a little something for the newsletter this month. If I don't, I won't be taking my own advice since I said in last month's Rattler to write for **Brittany** if she asked. Well. She asked. So. Here I am writing to ya'll. It is a good time to be a member of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society! We have good leadership, are on good financial footing, are active in our community via BPCC courses (among other things), have our own shop with some new and increasing pieces of equipment, have many involved club members, an award winning newsletter, AND we have our really BIG show coming up! Is this rock club heaven or what?!! Thanks to all of you, the show promises to be "the best ever." Have you been saving your dollars and cents for purchases? Let's all be sure and make it to this month's club meeting where final touches will be put on show plans. I always enjoy the fellowship, food, and fun.

We have a couple of articles by club members this month so be sure to look for them. Many thanks to **Okley, Joe and Lee** for their efforts! Job well done. Remember, we need more articles by club members if we are going to sweep the awards ceremony next February. If you have club news, please contact **Edna**, our Pebble Talk editor, so she can include it in her column. Also, look out for and get to know our many new members, who may have questions and need advice about our wonderful hobby.

It seems odd, but just like the guy on the star observatory show says to "keep looking up" when closing his tv show, I want to close with our equivalent,

Keep looking down,
Ike House

TIPS

Storing a piece of blackboard chalk with your silver jewelry will help prevent the silver from tarnishing.

You can tell man-made diamonds from natural ones by the use of a magnet. Synthetic diamonds will stick to a magnet, but natural ones will not.

From Golden Spike (date unknown) via Dusty Rocks 3/02

DO YOU HAVE LITHOPHYLLOSIS??

From Rocket City Rocks (date unknown) via Dusty Rocks 3/02

The word comes from Latin lithos meaning rock, Phyl, and attraction to, and oisis, condition. Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone at any time, at any age, and it's contagious!



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

Okley Davis (318) 949-2518

Brittany House (318) 949-2008

1151 Hwy. 614, Haughton, LA 71037

email: starlightakh@mindspring.com

Show ChairmanThe Rock Rattler Editor

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.



Happy August!

Whew, am I tired! And it's not even the end of the week yet! I've been volunteering at Sci-Port Discovery Center the past week for their Summer Camp program, and it's a job! I'm sure I'll miss it when Summer Camp's over.

The Rock Rattler will be in pretty much the same format as it's been with my dad, until I can get some time to change it and bring a whole new element into the newsletter. I want to ask everyone to write articles for the Rock Rattler- it makes the whole newsletter different to see our own articles in it! Even if you've only got tips or bits of interesting news, send it to my e-mail address! I'd LOVE to put it in the newsletter.

I'm very excited to be doing the Rock Rattler, and I hope I'll do a good job. Criticism is welcome- e-mail me your thoughts. If you don't have access to the Internet, mail is doubly welcome (I love getting mail). Send your observations to these addresses:

Home address: 1151 Hwy 614
Haughton, LA71037

E-mail: starlightakh@mindspring.com

* Thanks! Brittany



**Ark-La-Tex Gem and
Mineral Society**
Minutes of
July 2, 2002 Meeting
Bossier Parish
History Center
Bossier Parish Library
Bossier City, LA

We opened our meeting at 7:00 pm and the pledge was led by **John** and the prayer by **Bill**.

The first order of business was to talk about the upcoming Rock Show. **Okley** said he had all the dealers "under control". **Joni** is taking care of the ad in the Times. A Thrifty Nickel ad was approved. Everyone is supposed to be looking for any free ads. We are looking into getting about 25 new signs, 75 altogether and about getting new covers for the old ones we already have. There are about 23 dealers and demo for the show. A few examples are glass blowers, faceters, silver casters, spear making, and tumblers. Next we passed around a paper to sign up for the ticker taker table. Safety exits were discussed. Juniors will take care of the Wheel of Fortune and the Treasure Hunt. We have several floor plans for the booths. We decided to get a new woven cloth for the gem dig, as ours is just worn out. Next we discussed our policy regarding limiting the number of dealers. The reason this policy was adopted was so we won't have a lot of the same things and we can have a bigger variety of subjects for our customers to look at. We talked about getting the marquee the Monday before the show.

We all looked at the new 5" saw and the new cab machine for the BPCC classes. The pictures from the cookout were on display. There were some really good ones of everybody.

We talked about putting the Rock Rattler on the internet. We need to get our articles into the newsletter in the next 3 months in order to win a prize.

The Toledo Bend Round-Up is October 25-27. Please mark your calendars!

Door prizes: **Jack** - possible fire agate, **Cindi** - blood stone, **David** - nevaculite, and **Micah** - petrified wood.

Our program for the night was the last 2 minutes of the cabochon film and the first half of the Gem Stones of the World film.

Someone then said, "Before anyone moves, 'Meeting adjourned.'" at about 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hendrix, secretary, Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society

NOTE! I have no personal knowledge regarding this gentleman or his company. Buyer beware but it may be of interest to some.

For the past 14 years, I have been leading mineral safaris to various parts of the world. I have trips to India, Russia, Mexico, China, and now Tanzania.

You can be a participant in the **INNAUGURAL MINERAL SEARCH SAFARI TO TANZANIA**. This exciting Safari will include gem and mineral hunting, natives, cultural learning opportunities and visits to wild animal parks. Combine some of the most spectacular scenery in the world, with big game on the hoof, and mineral digging and searching, along with native artifacts, and you have my idea of a fantastic, exciting, and wonderfully informative vacation.

The safaris will be approximately 10 days in country and cost around \$3500 plus AIR FARE. I am trying to get a group airfare rate for us. I cannot be sure exactly until about a week when the final schedule gets done. We will have lodges, hotels, and tent hotels. Cost is inclusive of almost all meals, transport and lodging. I have been told the hotels and rustic lodges are first class. We will visit tourmaline mines, game parks, tanzanite mines, possibly gold mines and other precious and semi-precious stone mines. We will have a chance to dig and purchase many gemstones of Africa. I am just getting this put together and can't give exact data as of yet. Please keep this in mind. Once I get it all together, we will be on our way. Give me suggestions as to what you might want to see so I can convey this to the land portion operator for possible inclusion.

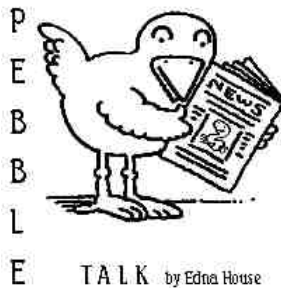
Please pass this along to anyone whom you might think would be interested and please, also pass it along to any **clubs and editors**.

Thanks very much for your time and assistance.

Regards, Walter S. Bowser Ph.D.

Mineral Search Safaris

www.mineralsearch.com



Hi!

I am sorry to report very little this month for our Rock Rattler. I'll have more the next time (for those of you who looooooove my column). The reason for the lack of info is that **Wil** and I are moving over to Shreveport and the move is taking up all of our time. **Wil** has not had time to go to the flintknapping sessions (too bad). The movers will be here the 2nd and we'll have most of our work out of the way. Then we get to mow both yards until we sell our house (I do the weed-eating). It seems as if that is all that the men get to do these days, mow, mow, mow. The grass grows too fast.

I would like to encourage all of you to attend our meeting on Aug.6 (if you get this before the meeting). We will finalize our plans for the big show, the 28th annual gem show, which is held at the Bossier Civic Center. We would like to see all of our members participate. (so be there or be square!!!) The show is what we work for all year. I do hope to see all of you there. Until next time!

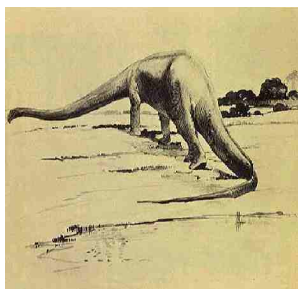
Edna

(Editor notes are in parentheses)

Dinosaur Weight Watchers

The BEMS Tumbler

March Issue, 2002



Researchers studying dinosaur bones have estimated that an adolescent **Apatosaurus (Brontosaurus)** may have gained as much as thirty pounds a day. The much larger sauropod, **Argentinosaurus**, may have gained as much as one hundred pounds a day during its adolescent growth spurts.

Previous estimates of dinosaur growth rates were based on the growth rates of lizards which indicate that it would take over one hundred years for an **Apatosaurus** to reach its adult weight of twenty-five tons. The new study examined the thickness of the bones to estimate how much weight it could support and counting the growth rings in the bones to estimate the age of the specimen. The new study also indicates that the **Apatosaurus** could reach adulthood in approximately 12 to 20 years.



BIRTHDAYS!!!

August 7- **James Hendrix**
 August 18- **Kathy Williams**
 August 31- **Laura Williamson**
 August 31- **Neater Batten**
 August 27- **Charles Hoke**

There are no anniversaries for August.



NEW MEMBER!!!

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

Dennis & Dottie Harter
11180 Hwy. 157, Princeton, LA 71067
949-2447 email:dot222@softdisk.com

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



Pictur e 1



Pictur e 2

Pictur e 2

Here's a couple shots from last month's meeting:

Picture 1: Club Members looking through the gorgeous door prizes!

Picture 2: The refreshment counter with Mrs. Lee Beasley's spot!

Picture 3: Early Club Members; there were more than just a few!

Picture 4: Our President John Quade!

Picture 5: More early Club Members!

Picture 6: Everyone gets serious while more Members arrive.



Pictur e 6

Pictur e 5



Pictur e 4



Door Prizes

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

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 August meeting, July reviewed:



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

This month we will have show updates / discussion and final planning because the time is at hand. 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

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.

See the July edition of the Rock Rattler for more detailed information or contact Arthur or Doris: Arthur and Doris Mott, 337 Walter Rd., River Ridge, LA 70123. (504) 737-0259 e-mail: arthurmott@att.net

See No Evil
 or "I Cab 'Em as I See 'Em"
 by **Okley Davis**

Good lighting and good visual observations are important in cutting quality cabochons. You have to see well to eliminate mistakes in shaping during the grinding process and those ever-popping-up-scratches during sanding and pre-polishing stages. It is almost impossible to remove scratches with 600 grit sanding if they should have been removed by proper grinding followed by sanding on the 200 grit wheels. More than once I have finished polishing and then discovered visible scratches which seem to show up best on the polished stone. About the only thing you can do is go back to those early stages of grinding or sanding. Good lighting can help you detect such imperfections early.

Start with adequate lighting on the working stone. I have reflecting lights on both ends of my capping machine. The lights are on flexible gooseneck supports and I can direct the light where I need it - right over the working stone.

The second factor is some sort of magnification of the stone itself. Some say the finished stone should be free of imperfections with ten power magnification - such as you might get from a jewelers' loupe. Using a jewelers' loupe is awkward and time consuming; the loupe is really intended for close inspection of finished jewelry, coins, etc.



Many stone cutters use the opti-visor, which is available in several powers of magnification. The opti-visor works fine for off-the-machine inspection, but is somewhat awkward to use while you are actually grinding or sanding a cabochon. My preference is three power reading glasses. They cost only a few dollars - much less than an opti-visor and are available at most every drugstore. The reading glasses, if they have plastic lenses, also provide a certain amount of safety. Enough, I believe, if you are using diamond equipment. Most wheel-type diamond equipment is designed where you have to work below the shaft line. About the only mishap that can happen is the stone, wholly or in part, can separate from the dop stick. If this happens (if you are using your equipment properly), the stone (or fragments), will be thrown to the bottom and rear of the capping machine - not upward into your face or eyes. Experts might disagree, but I believe the reading glasses provide adequate safety (on wheel-type diamond equipment) as well as letting you see - constantly - what you're doing.

JUDGING CLASS II - WILDACRES RETREAT MAY 2002

This report is being submitted after the completion of the 3rd and 4th semester of instruction at Wildacres Retreat. Our article in the May 2001, "The Rock Rattler," was focused on our initial indoctrination of the judging process using the American Federation Uniform Rules Book. In May 2002, we returned to Wildacres for the remainder of the session, which was taught by the very capable B. Jay Bowman and assisted by the equally capable Patricia Mummert. This class was very interesting, and it was partially due to the class makeup. As stated in the May 2001 report, Jay Bowman is the former AFMS Rules Committee Chairman and still serves on the committee. Pat Mummert and Jay Bowman authored the "New Guidelines for Judging" and have updated it to keep in line with the rule changes. The other members of the class were Dee Holland who is chairman of this year's Rules Committee and who chaired the Committee at Port Townsend for all suggested changes for 2003; Shirley Leeson who is associated with S.C.R.I.B.E.; Jack Rowland who has held many positions at Wildacres and the Eastern Federation; and Duane Evans who is the EFMLS Supplies Chairperson.

(Continued next page)

(Judging - continued from prior page)

The experience level in judging that was in this session was awesome. The subjects explained were tremendously great. Every portion of the current uniform rules was looked at. This report is an update of changes that have taken place since our last report.

In June 2001, we met with Jay Bowman at the Arlington, TX Show and furnished him with a copy of the published article about our first two semesters on judging in September 2000. He critiqued the report and found two areas that required further explanation. One was the explanation of AFMS Uniform Rules, Section 1, Part 1, Exhibitor Defined, Rule 4.4B, Advanced Exhibitor Group, which states that an exhibitor who has been awarded two Blue First Place Ribbons in the Advanced Group must compete as a Master if he wishes to enter the same Class again.

The other area that required further explanation was Part VII of the rules governing the awards of American Federation National Trophies, which states that these rules are subject to revision and/or adjustments by a two-thirds majority vote of the Regional Rules Committees and normally passed on to the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee. All changes submitted to the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee are voted on at the annual meeting of the Regional Federation Rules Representative and the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee. Comments and suggestions from all Federation Rules Committees are always welcome.

Currently, as per the updated 2001/2002 of the AFMS Uniform Rules Book, the following is submitted:

Section II, AFMS Uniform Rules Book, Division B - Minerals, Rule 2.1 - Labeling:

(a) (1) - Each mineral specimen shall have a label showing the name of the mineral species and the name of the variety of the species, if the specimen is a variety as found in the current AFMS Mineral Classification List, which is the approved reference list of lapidary material names, dated August 1996.

(a) (2) - Each label shall have the name of the chemical classification as found in the AFMS Mineral Classification List.

(a) (4) (ii) If a formula is used, it's source shall be noted on the mineral list submitted to the Exhibit Chairman when the case is ready for judging. (For expanded explanation, see Rule 2.12.)

Rule 2.5 - Exhibits in restricted classes will be judged with respect to quality (rarity has been excluded) available within the range of the restriction.

Rule 2.7 was completely deleted. NOTE: (Rule 2.7 dealt with rarity) (all points that were awarded to rarity are now awarded to quality).

Rule 2.10 (a) - Nomenclature and classification shall be based on the current AFMS Mineral Classification List.

Section II, Division C, Subdivision CW:

Rule 13.1 - Intarsia Jewelry has been added.

Regarding these changes, it is important to ensure your mineral list is up-to-date, and your labels reflect the same. To reiterate, the term "rarity" has been eliminated and points were placed under "quality". We were also briefed on some of the suggested changes that were to be discussed at the Regional/AFMS meeting in Port Townsend, WA. in July 2002.

We hope this report will aid anyone interested in having a display case subject to the AMFS Uniform Rules. For your perusal, we have the following: AFMS Uniform Rule Book, Eighth Edition, Updated through 2002; Mineral Classification List; Approved Reference List of Lapidary Material Names; Exhibiting Guide Lines; and Working With Young People. We are more than willing to share all of the information we have been fortunate to be exposed to. If there is sufficient interest, we will be glad to organize classes to go over this material, as it is too long and complex to attempt to do such a session in a regular Society meeting. Those interested, please feel free to ask.

By Joe and Lee Beasley

IRISH TOAST
(author unknown)

*May the roof of your house not fall in
And may those inside not fall out.*

