



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 9

September, 2002

Greetings!

The 2002 edition of the show is history and what a good time we had, from the kids digging in the rock pit to seeing old friends and finding out about the latest aches and pains. The numbers are in and we will have a report at the next meeting. If you can think of something to add to the show next year write it down and bring it with you. If you believe something needs to be changed bring that idea also. I, for one, would like to have lighter rocks to load up when the show is over. I only picked up a few buckets but I had to go back on my arthritis medicine when I got home.

I would like to give a special thanks to our show chairman, Okley Davis and our treasurer, Lee Beasley. Their many hours of hard work is appreciated by the whole club.

The new officers take over in October, so if you want to take part in the growth of this great club, don't be bashful. Stand up and take part in next year's show.

I must have handed out 30 membership applications to visitors in the hope of making them members! One young man inherited his grandfather's lapidary equipment and had that look in his eye that this is something that is going to be great fun. The total number of adults attending was 1,164, and under 12, I would guess at about 300. A few more than last year.

Bring your treasures to the next meeting so we can see what you picked up. Brittany was so proud of her new Tanzanite bracelet. It really sparkled! I took a few pictures of the show and I hope you enjoy them.

Thanks again for all the work performed by club members: ticket takers, announcers, cart pushers, coffee makers, red beans and rice cookers, bean counters, demonstrators, question answerers, timers, salad servers, rock loaders, black light tent makers, show case exhibitors, and dealers. Thanks for a great show!

-John Quade

The closest distance
between two points is
always under
construction.

Dusty Rocks June, 2002





Lookit! Photos!



Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS). 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

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 Editor: **Brittany House** (318) 949-2008

1151 Hwy. 614, Haughton, LA 71037 email: starlightakh@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.



Hi!

Here's the Editor's message, and this message says..... It's **Picture Day!** Rather, this is the edition where it's made up of mostly pictures. Don't forget to read **Whoops!** and see who's on the birthday list. The pictures are from the show, so those who weren't there can get a glimpse of how much fun we *really* had. Anyway, if you want to contact me to put in an article * my addresses are.....

E-mail- starlightakh@mindspring.com

Home- 1151, Hwy 614 Haughton, LA 71037

Enjoy!

Brittany

* I will proof-read and correct any mistakes in the writing.

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

What a great show we had! Although the attendance was not as large as we believe it should have been (100,000 would be about right!), the public seemed happy and pleased with the goings on for the most part. There were an awful lot of folks who pitched in and helped a bunch. Thanks to all for their efforts on behalf of the club. I look forward to the final economic tally at the next meeting. By the way, be sure to make it to the board meeting if you are interested in the administrative side of the club. There are some important issues that need to be attended to.

Joyce Speed, outgoing president of the SCFMS, presented the AFMS awards from the bulletin editor's contest just before the dealer dinner and I am proud to say the club did well nationally. We didn't have any national top three winners this year as in the past but we helped the SCFMS achieve the coveted "Most Awards Per Capita" award! For our size, the SCFMS outgunned the other component groups in the AFMS. Overall, there were 19 AFMS awards won by members/newsletters of the SCFMS. Among some other clubs who garnered lesser accolades, the Austin Gem & Mineral Society received two awards, the Dallas (Pleasant Oaks) club won four. The Houston club gained four also and, although we are less than 1/4 the size of these larger clubs, the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society won 5! That is outstanding and our club deserves a pat on the back for our efforts. Let's keep up with the tradition in 2002 and put out an article deserving of recognition in your area of interest.

The particular awards:

Fifth place	Small Bulletins	The Rock Rattler
Tenth place	Adult Articles	Robin House
Eight place	Junior Articles	Brittany House
Seventh place	Poetry, Adult	Ike House
Hon. Mention	Poetry, Adult	R.J. Felts

The SCFMS show is being held in Pasadena, TX, Feb. 22-23. Because the show is so early in the year, the deadline (once again) is in October. Please get your articles in by September 20 so they may be considered for inclusion in the contest. The AFMS show is in conjunction with the CFMS (California Federation of Mineralogical Societies) show on June 5-8 in Ventura, California. That would be a fun one to go to! Start making your plans.

Speaking of shows, the Toledo Bend club is holding a show September 6-8 in Jasper, TX. Let's all go down and support their show since so many of them came to ours. There are always things to see at the other shows!

Don't forget we voted to change the membership date to October 1st starting this year back in the spring. Dues are due by September 30th. I know that doesn't give us much time but it kinda snuck up on us this year. We voted to have a slight dues increase to pay for increased postage and copying for the newsletter and to include coverage with an insurance carrier for personal injury while on club activities. Since we cannot get the insurance company to decide on whether or not they want to provide the coverage they talked about, I am assuming we will eliminate that part of the increase. The board will make a recommendation for a final vote at the next meeting so I can't tell you what the new dues will be but we will try to contact everyone personally to let you know within a couple of weeks. Also, new officers are due to be elected at the October meeting. A recommended slate of officers from the board meeting will be included in next month's Rock Rattler along with final show statistics.

The winner of the grand door prize, pictured elsewhere in the newsletter, was:

Karen Emmons, 224 Bossier Road, BAFB, LA 71110

Congratulations, Karen! We are all envious of your good fortune but we are glad you won! Karen said she heard about our show from a friend. I wonder if she will time share the gorgeous amethyst cathedral with her friend?!

Until next Tuesday,
Ike House

Birthdays!!!



September 4
- John Quade

September 23
- Cindi Adams

September 23
- Floy Hoke

There were no
anniversaries
for September.



NEW MEMBER!!!

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

Gary Rushmore Sr.
2002 Pluto Dr. Bossier City, LA 71112
949-2447

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

Whoops!!

Rock Bottom Facts, June Issue

A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. Because both had jobs, they had difficulty coordinating their travel schedules. It was decided that the husband would fly to Florida on Thursday, and his wife would follow him the next day.

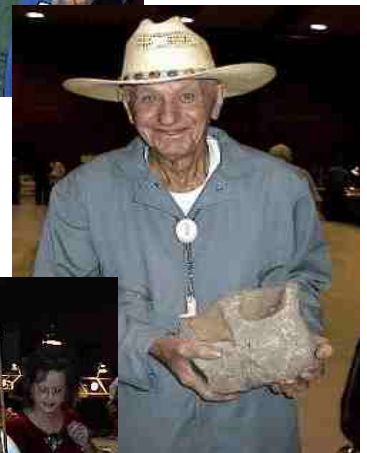
Upon arriving as planned, the husband checked into the hotel. There he decided to open his laptop and send his wife an e-mail back in Minneapolis. However, he accidentally left off one letter in her address, and sent the e-mail without realizing his error.

In Houston, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who had been "called home to glory" following a brief illness. The widow checked her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. Upon reading the first message, she fainted and fell to the floor. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
 From: Your Departed Husband
 Subject: I've Arrived!

I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey was as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!



Door Prizes

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

September **Edna House**
October
November



Make Your Plans!

- 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 September meeting, August reviewed:



Last month we had a great meeting! We discussed last-minute ideas for the show, pulling it off without a hitch! There were no minutes for last month's meeting.

This month we'll be discussing even more ideas for next year's show, so bring your ideas and we'll see what we can do.

Hope to see you there!



Refreshments

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

Upcoming Regional Federation Shows

Mary Trammel , AFMS Newsletter

2002

Midwest

October 4-6

Springfield, Illinois

Southeast

October 5-6

Jacksonville, Florida

2003

California / AFMS

June 5-8

Ventura, California

High School Equivalency

from Carl Phillips, Rock Bottom Facts, June Issue

The following questions and answers ere collected from pre-college test given in Mill Basin, Brooklyn in 200 to 16-year-old students. (Don't laugh too hard, one of these may be the president someday.)

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard, and vinegar

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep, and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What is a planet?

A: A body of earth surrounded by sky.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: What is the Fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What are steriods?

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the floor.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (E.g., abdomen)

A: The body is consisted into three parts- the branium, the borax, and the abdominal cavity. The branium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, and U.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?

A: Keep it in the cow.