



The Rock Rattler

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

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

Volume 27, Number 12

December, 2002

President's Message

Greetings for the holiday season!

I want to thank all of you who "took the test" and let me know what you want the club to do and how you will help serve in the coming year. For those of you that missed the last meeting, I asked each member to give their ideas on how the club can serve them and the community through encouraging new and younger rockhounds. I also received ideas for field trips and volunteers to help with various areas. We will begin to implement your ideas in January. Those who missed the November meeting are encouraged to call me to give me their ideas as well.

The December meeting is our traditional Christmas party and will be held at 6 PM on the 3rd. Please bring finger foods and soft drinks, (be careful not to include red drink due to the History Center's policies) as well as your rocks and treasures for the club auction. There are

always so many good things to see and buy so don't forget your cash and checks either. Lastly, bring rocks to donate for the cairn, a rock monument to be built in Shreveport for the September 11th victims.

In January, we'll have a board meeting at 6:30 prior to our regular meeting. Officers and Board members please mark your calendars for this important planning session. I'd like to address our proposed field trips, programs for the meetings, and pre-show planning for 2003.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party.



~Robin House



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 2002-2003

President ~ **Robin House** (318) 949-2008

Immediate Past President ~ **John Quade** (318) 377-0626

Vice-President ~ **Jack Adams** (318) 925-2848

Secretary ~ **Pam Hendrix** (318) 326-4931

Treasurer ~ **Lee Beasley** (318) 949-0552

Board of Directors~ **Don Talbot** (318) 687-0315, **Bill Hart** (318) 746-8735

Mary West (318) 425-5652, **Charles Cupit** (318) 746-8494, and all club officers

Show Chairman ~

The Rock Rattler Editor ~ **Miss 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.

Note from the Editor

Hello! I want to apologize for not issuing a deadline for Rock Rattler articles, and I will be sure to place one in every Rock Rattler from now on. The deadline for the January Rock Rattler will be December 14th. I chose an earlier date than usual because of the Christmas holidays.

I'm sorry I missed November meeting, but I hope all of you were there. I definitely will be at the December meeting because of the free food (just kidding), and I will either see you all there or not (two very big choices). I'll take my leave now with an e-mail abbreviation, TTYL, or, Talk To You Later.

See ya!

~Brittany

Sometimes It Does Take A Rocket Scientist

The Stone Chipper, 10/02

A Scottish scientist with NASA built a gun specifically designed to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets, and space shuttles, all traveling at minimum velocity. The idea was to simulate the frequent incidents of collision with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high-speed trains. Arrangements were made and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was tested and fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the train engineer's chair in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin.

BIRTHDAYS!!



December 10
- Saw West

December 30
- Lola Cawthon

December 30
- Brittany House

Anniversaries

There were none for December



The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and asked the Scottish NASA scientist for suggestions. NASA responded with a one-line memo:
"THAW THE CHICKEN FIRST!"





Hello!
 My what a beautiful time of the year this is! I certainly hope that you all are enjoying the beautiful fall foliage, pumpkins, bales of hay and all the fall decorations

that are lovingly placed on doors and walks for all of us to enjoy. While out in my back yard last week, I smelled burning leaves and was enjoying the smell so much. Then, like a lightning bolt, a fire truck came around the curve, parking in front of the house that was burning leaves, and very soon there were no more leaves to smell.

Wil and I have been very busy going and making arrowheads. There are many festivals going on at this time of the year. Last week we went to DeRitter, Louisiana, for their gem and mineral show. It was a very good show, with perfect weather. The DeRitter Club was very appreciative of having us come. We had a wonderful Friday night spaghetti dinner and the ladies cooked breakfast for us and kept coffee going all day for us. What a treat!

We had a hook up for our RV right near the building where we enjoyed the company of the Patiliosls, the Harmons, and the Ebersols, who were parked with us at the motor home park. Being parked with our old friends was like being with family.

I did find a couple of things to purchase at the show. The first things I spotted were beautiful spheres. I added two of these to my collection. Then, while talking to Margaret Ebersol about a beautiful turquoise pendant, she sold me the one that she was wearing! I now enjoy wearing it on a silver collar that I have at home.

Last spring we had a geode cut to make sphere, but as it didn't work out at that time, Wil just had to purchase two more from Mr. Harmon at the show. Maybe we can get one going soon.

I met a man, Mr. May, who had been a member of our club years ago, and had moved away.

He related to me how he had stood up for keeping the snake on the Rock Rattler. I told him thanks for all the club members. I also told him of our voting on the name for Rocky.

Well, that's all for this time. If you want to really get a fall treat, drive over to Atlantic St. and look at the beautiful foliage of the gingko. Wil has just said that he also saw a gingko on Gilbert St. Gingko trees are very old and have fan shaped leaves that turn golden at this time of the year. See you all at the Christmas Party on the third of December! We will have a auction and lots of goodies to munch on. Until next time, *Edna*

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Translation:

COME TO
 THE
 CHRISTMAS
 PARTY!!!

Door Prizes

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

December Party/Auction



Program for December meeting, November reviewed:



November's program was very entertaining with a picture display by Bud McSparrin to go with our mining video in Oregon.

December's program will be the annual Christmas party at the history Center. Bring finger foods and drinks (no red, please) and rocks and gems for the club auction. It should be a blast!

Hope to see you there!

Make Your Plans!

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

November 30 - December 1 Mobile, Alabama
Mobile Rock and Gem Society

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

???DID YOU KNOW???

From the last meeting

Texas Petrified Wood looks just like Louisiana Petrified wood.

Refreshments



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 _____

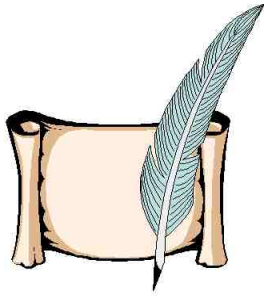
Birthday(s) and Anniversary _____

May we send you the Rock Rattler via email only? _____ Lapidary interests _____

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

Signature _____

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



Minutes of November Meeting, 2002

Everyone (except the editor) came in at 6:30 for our regular snacking and visiting that was halted by the pledge was at 7:01 by Robin and Dwight said our prayer. We had four guests. Jim and Bridget drove Bud from the Pineville group to give us our program. Our other guest was Vernon Love. He made a request for rocks for the Highland Park Cairn. It will have a medicine wheel with different color stones that represent lost lives in Washington DC and New York. Vernon wore native Scottish clothing, kilt and all.

We motioned and seconded a vote to host Toledo Bend next year. It will be a lot of fun and, of course, work. We had a display of petrified wood and fossil corral from this year's Toledo Bend Round Up.

We had a picture display of some scenery and mines in Oregon to go with our program about mining in Oregon by Bud McSparrin.

Door prizes were won by Okley Davis, Bill Hart, James, Pam Hendrix, and John Quade. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 with more talking, laughing, and snacking. Until next time,

Pam

Attention!

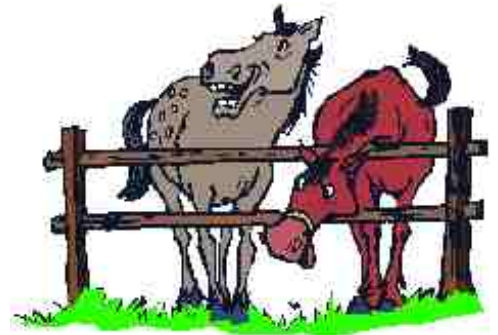
Deadline for January articles in the Rock Rattler is December the 14th.

Humor

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, 6/02

The next time you think a presentation may go on too long, remember how a student summed up Socrates' life in four lines:

- 1) Socrates lived long ago
- 2) He was very intelligent
- 3) Socrates gave long speeches
- 4) His friends poisoned him



CONGRATULATIONS!



to Henry Mitchell and Leo Perry for making front cover on the Minden Press Herald on Monday the 11th of November. The shot was taken at the Germantown Festival.