



The Rock Rattler

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

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

Volume 28, Number 1

January, 2003

President's Message

Well, December has brought another round of holiday rush and crush with frantic shopping for family and friends. I hope you are all enjoying this holiday season. We look forward to visiting with family, eating lots of food, and watching football, of course. We had a nice Christmas party and club auction at our last auction. We raised \$221.00 for the club!

Several brought rocks for the Cairn. **Mr. Vernon Love** showed me some of the material he got for the cairn from the World Trade Center on the ninth. He'd for like those who can, from our club, to identify some of the donated rock specimens as things get closer to building time. Give him a call if you have rock specimens to donate. Plans are being made for a stone mason from Scotland to come over to build the cairn.

At our next meeting we will have a video program on collecting gems and minerals. **Jack Adams** is working on the programs for the year. We hope to have the program line up available for the next newsletter so you can make plans to invite friends and prospective members to programs of interest to them. If you would like to give a demonstration or have a program idea, see **Jack**.

Many of you had great ideas for the club and we'll begin implementing them in January. I need a volunteer to help with community outreach including working with science teachers to get more children involved. Let me know if you can help in this area.

Bill Hart has volunteered to help with the annual show as chairman and **Joe Beasley** will be our dealer chairman. We will be discussing dealers and making plans for our August show in January. If you know of an exceptional dealer you'd like to include in our show, let me or **Joe** know.

All officers and board members need to meet at 6:30 on Tuesday, January the 7th for a Board Meeting. If you have anything you'd like to put on the agenda, give me a call.

I hope you all have a Happy New Year 2003!

~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, **Mary West** (318) 425-5652,

Charles Cupit (318) 746-8494, and all club officers

Show Chairman ~ **Bill Hart** (328) 746-8735

Dealer Chairman ~ **Joe Beasley** (318) 949-0552

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



PEACE
IS NOT A
SEASON,
BUT A STATE OF
MIND

NOTICE

The Battens have moved to the Live Oak Assisted Living Apartments. Their new address is:

6000 East Flournoy Lucas Rd. Apt. CB36A
 Shreveport, LA 71105

Their phone number is 798-0793.



AN AGGIE JOKE

The Aggies were having a home football game, and a man who went to every home game got in the stadium with his usual attire. When he had claimed his seat he went to the concession stands and bought some M&Ms, a hot dog, a coke, and some nachos. He got back to his seat to watch the pre-game, sat down, and settled all his purchases where he wanted them.

Then someone called, "Hey, Bob!"

The man craned his head around but couldn't quite see who was yelling. So he put all his stuff down, stood up, turned around, and looked with one hand shading his eyes from the sun (it was a day game and he was near the bottom of the stadium). But no one called Bob again.

So he sat back down and got settled all over again, and about that time, someone yelled, "Heey, Bob!"

Well, the Aggie couldn't just sit there and ignore it, so he put all his stuff down like before, turned around, and looked. When he saw no one was waving at him in the least, he sat back down once again and settled himself.

"Heeeeeeyyyyyyyy, Boooooobbb!!!"

Now the Aggie was mad. He slammed his nachos on the seat beside him, stood up, knocking his coke over, which only made him more angry, turned around, looked, and bellowed,

"MY NAME'S NOT BOB!!!"

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES!

For the Rockhounds Information Page:

<http://www.ghgcorp.com/gpenning/emaildir.htm>

For Ken's Florescent minerals, all about Florescent rocks!:

<http://users.rcn.com/kenx/>

Federated Field Trip

It's that dreaded time of year again when I need to do annual maintenance on the "Federated Field Trip" email list. This list is composed of people from all over who want to attend or lead field trips for members of the list. We have had field trips with up to sixty (62) attendees at a time, the average is around 30-50, with a minimum of about 9-12. If you want to stay on the list please reply to this email message by January 1, 2003 with your full name, club affiliations (if any) and the email address(es) you want me to send field trip announcements to for 2003. I can keep and store other information if you like such as cell phone numbers for when we are on the road and contact numbers for people willing to take riders or looking for rides. I will only give this information out at your request and only to the people requesting it. You can also let me know what you like to collect as I may create lists for fossils, minerals, lapidary, et cetera for 2003 in addition to the club specific ones and the big one, the "Federated Field Trip" list (everybody).

Why be a part of this list? Collecting sites are closing in record numbers and the ones that remain are getting harder to get into. It's actually easier to get a large group into many places than just a few people - the landowners are contacted less and have to deal with "us" less often. 3-4 people are just as much trouble for them as 40-50 and when you deal with everyone as a group say 1-2 times per year it makes for better relations. Your club may not want to share it's field trips - that's OK! Even so your club members are welcome on our field trips - the more the merrier. As a federation of mineral societies we should work together to enjoy and promote the hobby. This is the intent of this list. So let your members know that they can join this list just be emailing me with the above information. We've had a lot of great field trips this year and I think now is an appropriate time to honor some of our own:

Johnny French - Zapata, TX

Matt Dillon - Georgewest, TX

Rick Geist - Lake Nacogdoches, TX

Three great guides and three very memorable field trips! I'm sure you have your personal favorites as well - let them how much you appreciate their time and efforts. (Note: all these sites are along US 59 which I would like to unofficially name the "Rockhound Road". Are there more good sites along US 59 that we can go to?) How about some lady guides this year? Ladies, are you up to it? May each of you enjoy the true meaning of Christmas and God Bless you all.

Thanks,

Ed Tindell

2002 CLGMS Field Trip/Group Order/Swap Meet Coordinator

a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Skeptics go to:

<http://ed-tindell.home.sprynet.com/ert.htm>

Refreshments

January-
Okley Davis
February-
House Family
March-
COOKOUT
April-
Hendrix Family



Thank you for
volunteering!

Make Your Plans!

January 3-12, 2003 Quartzite, Arizona
Quartzite Annual Show
January 18-19, 2003 Fredericksburg, TX
Fredericksburg Rockhounds
February 8-9, 2003 Tyler, TX
East Texas Gem and Mineral Society
February 15-16, 2003 Georgetown, TX
Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society
February 22-23, 2003 Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society
SCFMS Show and Convention
March 29-30, 2003 Corpus Christi, TX
Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

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

January:
John Quade
February:
Bill Hart
March:
Cookout



Program for January meeting, December reviewed:

December's party was a blast! We ate most of the food and drank half the drinks. Then we had our auction which made \$221.00!

January's program will be a video called Collecting Gems and Minerals, a subject we need to keep updated with new information!

Hope to see you there!

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

AFMS news:

2003 AFMS Program Competition

**FROM MARGE COLLINS,
CHAIR**

The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video, or CD-ROM presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or special "professional" category - "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION". (Inquire about CD-ROM entries)

*Each program is judged on its own merits.

*Entrants will receive a composite score sheet with comments/score.

*Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library. Please send a post-paid envelope with request.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society or members thereof, with 2003 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter.

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2003

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

Class 1- Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class 2- Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class 3- "How To Do It" - techniques/equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class 4- "Just for Juniors" - any of the above for youngsters.

Special Category- Programs produced "for sale" are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)

- accuracy of information/educational value
- quality of photographs/visuals
- completeness of story
- narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits, and "The End" slides
- phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script (ex. Sault Ste. Marie, SUE saint marie)

For VHS VIDEOS

- submit a copy. Winners will be contacted regarding duplicates.
- may be 'live action' or static slides with narration

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

- must be 35 mm, in standard mounts.
- must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator

- must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant's initials.

- must be numbered to match script.

- a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) should be typed, double spaced on 8 ½ by 11" paper, ready for duplication. (Sample formats available upon request)

AWARDS

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points) in each Class 1-4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy is given to each Regional Program Library, thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. 2003 Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet and Ventura, CA (6/7/03).

PROGRAM LENGTH

Adult Programs - 40 minutes is optimum

Juniors- 20 minutes suggested maximum

Suggested maximum slides - 138 (+ 2 Award Slides = 140)

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. Winning slides are returned after duplication by a professional service. Arrangements will be made for video copies. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below. Please include post-paid envelope for notification of receipt. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Marge Collins
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd. Buchanan, MI 49107
phone: (269) 695-4323 e-mail: margaret@qtm.net

2003 ENTRY FORM

I/we submit “ _____ ”

(Title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4

OR

“EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” (for programs produced “for sale”)

Producer(s) _____

(your name/s)

Club name _____

Office _____ Federation _____

[If Club entry]

_____ [street address]

[city] _____ [state] _____ [zip] _____

Home phone _____ e-mail _____

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No _____ Yes _____ Cost: _____