



The Rock Rattler

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

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

Volume 28, Number 8

August, 2003

President's Message

It's show time! August brings our annual gem show and the chance to see and own new items for our rock and jewelry collections. Joe is finalizing the dealers and things are coming together. The show announcements have been mailed, the ads are up on billboards, we're on the air on television and on radio stations. There was some problem with the billboard color but it should be corrected soon. We have distributed tickets for 35 Bossier Parish science teachers and their 4,400 students. We look forward to many new visitors to our show this year. In the event we have an unexpectedly high number of students at the club booth, I hope that each of you will chip in and help our in the children's area. We still need additional volunteers in various areas. The newsletter includes the listing of who has signed up, at what times, and in what areas. If you are already signed up, thank you! If you haven't yet signed up, please do so at the next meeting. Everyone is needed and expected to help out. Please tell Bill Hart and the Beasleys thanks for their work on the show.

If you want to buy advance tickets to the show, they will be available at the next meeting from Lee Beasley before or during the meeting. The cost is \$20.00 for 15 tickets.

If you have a personal display of rocks (rough to ready), please bring it to the show for display on our club tables. Even if you have only a few items, we have case space to put your rocks in. Please sign up what you can bring to share. Your items would be in a sealed display case. I'd also like to have a "touch but don't take" section of rocks children can touch and handle. If you have items for this display, let me know. Please be aware that these rocks could be dropped and break, or someone could walk off with them, so be sure about loaning these specimens.

For those of you who will be handling tickets and money, we will keep all door prize tickets to get a count of our visitors on Saturday and Sunday. Do not discard any tickets. Money for tickets, children's activities, the silent auction, and patches and pins will all be kept separately for accounting purposes. Thank you all for your help and support. I look forward to our next meeting, Tuesday, August 5, 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,

Okley Davis (318) 949-2518, and all club officers

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

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

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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 editor 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, and \$20 for couples. Subscription to the newsletter is only \$5 annually.

PEBBLE TALK



PEBBLE TALK by Edna House

This month I am excited to announce the opening of a new dealership in the gem show world! They are our own club members - Jack and Cindi Adams and their son Micah.

The new business name is "The Rock Market." Their inventory includes a large variety. Some of their best sellers are onyx jewelry boxes and camel bone jewelry boxes. They have vases in green and brown swirls, amethyst cathedrals, geodes, cabochons from Russia, along with pyramids, eggs, and spheres in onyx.

Cindi says their business has really taken off. They started with two tables and have expanded to six tables. Something that is a big hit is their portable "Kid's Dig."

The Adams' have just returned home from the Lufkin, Texas trade days. Following is their schedule:

August 9-10	Nixa, Missouri
August 23-24	Connie Hines, Bossier City
September 6-7	Jasper, Texas

Speaking on behalf of our club members, we wish the Adams much success. We are proud of them!



Birthdays!

August 18 - Cathy Williamson

August 21 - Charles Hoke

August 24 - Mack Ford

August 31 - Neeter Batten

Anniversaries

**MILTON JEAN
BAULDREE - AUG 17
CHARLES FLOY HOKE
 - AUG 28**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN
YOUR BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION,
PLEASE E-MAIL OR CALL ME**

End of an Edna (er, Era)

Well, it looks like this will be the last of our "regular" Pebble Talks from Edna as she has decided to hang up her writer's quill in this forum. I imagine she might be willing to produce one from time to time, though. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank her for all the hard work and time it took to produce a monthly column, calling all the members and trying to keep up with everyone with our busy schedules and happenings. She has been doing this for about 5 years now, ever since I explained the need for a "news of members" column both for the benefit of our membership and competition in the bulletin editors contest. Her efforts directly led to our newsletter's success in competition and helped bring us closer together! Your monthly thoughts will be missed, mom!

Ike House, past editor

Help Wanted!

Joe will need some help setting up the club booth and dig. Please let him know if you can help. Thanks!

Note to members working the ticket table at the show: Show tickets for adults will be red this year. This includes children aged 13 and up. The red tickets will be used both Saturday and Sunday. We will count Saturday tickets for attendance Saturday evening then Sunday tickets Sunday evening to get our daily attendance. Blue tickets will be for Bossier Parish School children in junior high who were given complimentary tickets and for children 12 and under who attend free at our shows. We will have a separate grand prize for children and will draw door prizes and grand prize winners from the blue ticket stubs. Children must fill out the name and address information on their blue ticket stub. Children will not receive grand prize ticket forms. Adults will use their red ticket stub for the door prizes and fill out a separate white grand prize entry ticket they will be given at the ticket table. The white adult grand prize ticket is important to us as it gives us information on how guests found out about our show and becomes part of our show mailing list data base. This year we have 13 billboards around town as well as newspaper, radio, and TV advertising. These white grand prize tickets help us see how to best use our advertising dollars.

Field Trip!

Wow, what a great time we had on the field trip to Lake Ouachita! I don't need to tell ya'll who came how much fun we had but for those of you who did not make it, YA'LL SHORE MISSED OUT!

Lake Ouachita is a man-made lake formed by blocking the Ouachita River just northwest of Hot Springs, flooding a valley and creating a huge reservoir that is popular with boaters, fishermen, divers and rockhounds! The US Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Arkansas Geologic Commission, have developed a "Geo-Float Trail" of interesting and unusual geologic features of the region that can be accessed by private boat or through the park service's ranger guided tour. The club chose the latter since we do not have access to a 24 foot party barge (and a par-tay it was). The weather was so bad going up that we called to see if the tour had been canceled. We were assured that the weather was very pleasant and to come on!

Because the lake's waters are so clear, diving is a very popular activity. Seeing the old townsites where the lake flooded the river valley many years ago is a lot of fun, according to divers. Also, natural rock formations such as Whirlpool Rock, Submarine Slide, Zebra Rock, Recumbent Fold, and Checkerboard Point. We brought our own food and drinks so we ate and laughed and enjoyed the fabulous weather while taking in the area's unique features. At one particular interesting stop, it was obvious how short a period of time it takes to see rocks weather. Since the lake was not present 70 years ago, the lake banks were hills 400-500 feet tall. After the lake was created, 250 foot tall hills jutting out of the water that used to be the tops of these hills are evident. The soil eroded, leaving behind layered rock formations. As the outer rocks weathered, the rocks broke away and weathered to smaller and smaller rocks until a pebbly beach was evident, then almost sand. I always thought these processes took "millions and millions of years." Huh. (Continued next page)

Field Trip (continued)

Our guide couldn't have been nicer and a great time was had by all. Some folks took some pictures which may be available at the next meeting, If you took some, please bring them. Many thanks to Robin for helping to arrange the trip! Hope we can have some more soon. Ike

Show Dates

August 2+3
Arlington Gem and Mineral Society

August 16+17
Ark La Tex Gem and Mineral Society

September 6+7
Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society

September 20+21
Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Society

September 26-28
Houston Gem and Mineral Society

Refreshments

August-
Sandie Smoak

September-
Roanna Shaw



Thank you for
volunteering!

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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-Individual \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15/year) -Family \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25/year) -Couple \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20/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

### Door Prizes!

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

August:

Hendrix

Family

September:

House Family




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### Hint and or Tip

Distinguishing between amber and plastic is quite simple. Amber, because of its extreme low specific gravity, will float in salt water. Plastic will not. Make a saturated solution of salt in a bowl of water until no more salt will dissolve. Put the article in question in the water. If it sinks, it is plastic. If it floats, it is amber. Note - a clasp on a bracelet or necklace will cause the ends to sink but the beads will float.

-from **Cobb-L-Stone** 1/95, via **The Stone Chipper** 5/03

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### Minutes

No minutes were taken at last meeting and there were no minutes from the board meeting because there was no board meeting! I guess we're taking the summer off (except for the show).

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### SCFMS News

There are two new clubs in the federation and two clubs have disbanded.

### New:

Chihuahuan Desert Gem and Mineral Club

Alpine, TX

15 members

[www.agates123.com/cdgms](http://www.agates123.com/cdgms)

newsletter: Chihuahuan Desert News

show dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of April,  
Thanksgiving weekend

North Texas Gem and Mineral Society  
Wichita Falls, TX

44 members

Newsletter: Slab & Gab

Show dates: July 12-13, 2003

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### Disbanded:

Galveston County Mineral Club

Magic Valley Gem and Mineral Club

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## What's Going on Around Here?!!

Last meeting we talked and ate so much, they finally had to run us out of the building! I'd like to say that we learned a lot about lapidary but with the show coming up I'm afraid we spent all of the time planning. It's likely, as is our tradition, that we will do the same thing this next meeting, since the show is imminent. We will have some interesting info on the last field trip along with samples and we should think about bringing the samples we might allow to be used at the kid's "see and touch" display at the club table. I imagine we'll have just as much fun as last time!

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### Palindromes

Anyone have any interesting palindromes about rocks? A palindrome is a word or expression that is the same forward or backward: Do geese see God? I can think of this one: lap opal Brainstorm, folks!