



The Rock Rattler

Newsletter of The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral society
P. O. Box 6633, Bossier City, LA 71111

Vol. 29 No: 05

May, 2004

AFMS ITEMS FOR 2004 ENDOWMENT FUND

The Federation Endowment Raffle will be held during the American Federation/Eastern Federation Show in Syracuse, NY, on July 9-11, 2004. A motion was made and voted on unanimously; after a briefing by Ike House.

The decision was made that I should attempt to locate a Louisiana opal cabochon of superior quality along with some of the history of Louisiana opals. I acquired a 40 X 30 mm cabochon from Bill Alcorn in January 2004. Our Society made the decision to contribute something to the American Jasper, TX (shown in color picture insert). I was able to locate two articles on Louisiana opals in Rock and Gem Magazine. After many calls, in attempt to buy a back issue, I was finally told that they did not have a copy. I explained to the editor why I wanted it and after searching their Archives (Computer Disk) they mailed me a copy of the article for free. The other article I located in my own library. The two articles, along with the cabochon were shipped to the endowment fund chair, Joy Bourne. Our contribution was a little late to make the April 2004 newsletter however, the newsletter indicated that a number of items had already been received. The famous B. Jay Bowman (AFMS Uniform Rules Chairman) submitted an engraved glass vase - Lee and I have seen some of his engraved cut glass and they are beautiful.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message

Hello folks! We enjoyed the last meeting at Ryan's Steak House and enjoyed seeing new faces as well as the old. Joe Beasley brought pictures as well as the article describing the opal the club purchased to donate to the American Federation for their raffle.

We received a thank you note from the Bossier Parish Community College for helping with the judging and prizes at the science fair. The college also asked for our continuing support with the science fair.

This was more of a social meeting for eating and to get together but some discussion was held about going on a field trip soon. Perhaps we will have some plans by our next meeting.

The display at the Sci-Port about rocks of Louisiana has been assembled by some of our members. We should all go by and take a look at the display.

Until next meeting, may God bless you all and keep you. (see photo below.)
James Hendrix, President



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:

President: James Hendrix

Vice President: Christina Hardwick

Secretary: Pam Hendrix

Treasurer: Bill Hart, 1610 Success St, Bossier City, LA 71112

Board of Directors: Don Talbot (318)687-2356, Bill Hart (318)746-8735, Mary West (318) 425-5652 and all club officers.

Show Chairman: Bill Hart

Dealer Chairman: Joe Beasley

The Rock Rattler Editor: Karl Metzler, 5801 Caspiana Ln, Bossier City, LA 71112 - (318) 742 9848 - Email: metzjk@hotmail.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 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, Bossier City, LA. This "Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show" functions as a fund raiser for our group and venue for the demonstrations of gold and silver casting, jewelry making, bead stringing, faceting, cabochon, making and flint knapping (the art of flaking stone tools such as arrowheads). The monthly meetings (including programs of interest to rock hounds), information from the Rock Rattler and jewelry making classes through Bossier Parish Community College complete the educational objectives of the club. Membership is \$15.00 per individual, \$20.00 Couples, \$25.00 for families. Subscription to the newsletter is only \$5.00 annually.



PEBBLE TALK

Greetings! What a beautiful spring season we are having here in Bossier-Shreveport. The azaleas will almost take your breath and the colors are so vibrant.

Oh - "what's up" you ask? Almost all is happening over at the Leo Perry shop on Hwy. 80. On Monday night there is the famous Chipalotta tribe making arrowheads. They have crafted several beautiful hand made knives for the St. Jude Hospital auction to be held later this year. The blades have been donated by various knappers and Leo is doing the carving and engraving on the antler handles. Others are helping to finish them.

Caroline Perry has cooked some wonderful dishes for the guys. The most repeated phrase is, "don't do anything to upset the cook!"

On Wednesday night Joe and Lee Beasley teach wire wrapping. All the students are doing beautiful work. Lisa attends this class and brings her beautiful beads for us to see. There are six (more or less) students and they are learning to wrap cabochons as well as arrowheads. Joe and Lee have a fantastic ability to teach. One student wants to take Karl Metzler's stained glass course. Since Karl's classes are over for this session we will get to see his smiling face at our meetings now.

Last month Lee Beasley had some surgery scheduled. We are happy to report that she had the surgery and is recovering at home. Her surgery was extensive and it is a slow recovery. We are thankful that it is behind her.

Our Club webmaster, Dwight House, was home for spring break from LSU. His first year of college is almost behind him. We are looking forward to Reuben's high school graduation. He was selected for the Honesty and Integrity Award by the Haughton Masonic Lodge in April. Way to go Reuben!

On April 16th Joe, Henry and Wil traveled to Elm Grove School. The Chipalottas participated in the history fair at the school and demonstrated flint knapping. The fair features Civil War re-enactments, the art of quilting and various other historical demonstrations.

Until June, I will leave you with this tidbit of wisdom, "Always remember, birds have bills and they still sing."

Edna

Raffle (Continued from page 1)

Other items submitted are a Tennessee Spider Agate free-form pendant, a silver lace onyx 40 X 50 mm cabochon wire-wrapped in 14K Gold, two opal pendants set in 14 K Gold, a turquoise necklace, a collection of fossil shark's teeth and by now, numerous other items.

The Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold throughout the AFMS/EFMS combined Show in Syracuse, NY, on July 9-11, 2004. You will not want to miss getting the opportunity to win one or more of the outstanding prizes and at the same time you will be helping to build this important funding source for the services provided by the AFMS. You do not need to be present at the drawing.

Show send a check payable to "AFMS Endowment" along with a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope to: Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair, RR #1, Box 159A, Towanda, PA 18848-9739. The deadline for receipt of mail requests for tickets is July 1, 2004. If you'd like to speak with the Chair, she can be contacted at (570) 265-6454 or Email at CSPRINGS@EPIX.net

Submitted by Joe A. Beasley

NOTE: Endowment data extracted from the April 2004 AFMS NEWSLETTER Article by Joy Bourne.

Birthstones

April

Modern	Diamond
Traditional	Diamond
Mystical	Opal
Ayurvedic	Diamond
Other	Quartz, White Sapphire

Diamond - The crystals form as octahedra, cubes, dodecahedra and tetrahedral, often with curved faces. Diamonds also occur in rounded masses with radiating structures and microcrystalline masses (carbonado.) They may be colorless, white, gray, orange, yellow, brown, pink, red, blue, green or black. The streak is white. Diamonds are transparent to opaque and have an adamantine to greasy luster. Used chiefly as industrial abrasives and are also highly valued and sought-after gems. Diamond is the hardest of all the known minerals. It can be scratched only by another diamond. Hardness: 10

Where is the world's highest waterfall?

The water of Angel Falls in Venezuela drops 3,212 feet (979 meters).

**The May-pole is up,
Now give me the cup;
I'll drink to the garlands around it;
But first unto those
Whose hands did compose
The glory of flowers that crown'd it.**
- Robert Herrick, *The Maypole*, 1660

April Minutes

The meeting was held at Ryan's Steak House. It is an annual tradition to eat out once a year. There were some of the members we had not seen for awhile and we welcome them back. The food was wonderful and plentiful.

The business was that of passing around an opal and an article which was donated to the American Federation raffle.

Bill Hart read a thank you note from Bossier Parish Community College regarding the work and prizes contributed by our club to the science fair.

A motion was passed to send a \$25.00 donation to the South Central Federation in memory of A. C Atkins. The club also got notice that the SCF received the donation in memory of Margaret Foshee and John Musser.

The club will get a new face plate for staying # 1 in donations for the South Central Federation.

Discussion was held regarding hosting the South Central Federation show in 2005 or 2006 or 2007.

A treasury report was given.

Discussion was held about renting a van to go on field trips so people can go who normally wouldn't because they can not drive that far or their cars won't make it.

Twenty nine people attended our meeting at Ryan's.

Pam Hendrix, Secretary.

QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA COMMUNITY PROFILE

Quartzsite is 125 miles west of Phoenix at the junction of Interstate 10 and U.S. 95, near the Colorado River. Quartzsite is located within La Paz County. The community has a Mohave Desert setting and is only 879 feet above sea level. The nearby Kofa, New Water and Plomosa Mountains provide topographic relief while the Colorado River lies only 17 miles to the west. Quartzsite incorporated in 1989

Quartzsite was established in 1867 on the site of Old Fort Tyson, a privately built structure constructed in 1856 by Charles Tyson for protection against Indian raids. Named Quartzsite because quartz was occasionally found in the area, the name evolved to

COMMUNITY PROFILE QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA

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PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Tourism is the major contributor to Quartzsite's economy. The retail trade and service sectors benefit from the visitors who reside at the numerous (more than 70) mobile home and trailer parks in the vicinity between October and March. Beginning in October, nine major gem, mineral, and over 15 general swap meeting shows are popular tourist attractions. The Bureau of Land Management and law enforcement agencies estimate more than 1.5 million people attend these events.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

A rock hunter's paradise surrounds Quartzsite. Agates, limonite cubes, gold, and quartz are especially good "finds"-but they are only a few of the many different types around. In town, the Hi Jolly Monument is a reminder of an unusual pioneer experiment; it honors the Arab camel driver, Hadji Ali, who took part in an unsuccessful 1850's U.S. War Department attempt to use camels as beasts of burden in the Arizona desert.

Southward, off U.S. 95, rise the Kofa Mountains. Historic and scenic areas include Crystal Hill, Tyson Tanks, Tyson Wells Museum and the Hi Jolly Monument. South in the Kofa Mountains is Palm Canyon, a tight gorge and home of Arizona's only native palms, reached by a steep but rewarding climb. Farther south is Castle Dome Peak at the elevation of 3,793 feet.

Birthdays! May

- 1 - Reuben House
- 3 - Carolyn Perry
- 9 - Samuel Touchstone
- 20 - George Jacob
- 25 - Edna House

Anniversaries

- 2 - Jack & Cindi Adams
- 14 - 1980 - Joe & Cindy Ham

What does this mean? **HIOIWEIR**

DIAMOND History

Diamond Routes and Centers:

Indian diamonds reached Venice by two Mediterranean routes -- the southern route was by way of Aden, Ethiopia, and Egypt, and the northern route was through Arabia, Persia, Armenia, and Turkey. Then, thanks to the Portuguese discovery of the direct sea route to India, Antwerp flourished as a diamond center, as the city was well-situated to receive vast supplies of rough from Lisbon as well as from Venice.

After Spanish attacks on Antwerp in 1585, many diamond cutters relocated to Amsterdam. And the Netherlands, with its liberal civil policies, attracted diamond craftsmen (including many Jews) who were fleeing religious persecution in Spain, Portugal, Germany and Poland.

In the late 1600's, as the English fortified their interest in India, which was still the world's central diamond source, London became an important cutting center. Later, London became the primary world market of diamond rough.

Today, there are cutting centers all over the world, most notably in Belgium, India, Israel, South Africa, and the USA.

This article will be continued due to its length.

Obtained from: www.diamondcutters.com/history.htm

THE RIDDLE:

He starts and ends 2 common English words. One painful in love, One painful in everyday matter. Do you know what 2 words I must be?

U.S. Gold Jewelry Sales Up 2.5%; Gold Month Set to Launch in May

Gold jewelry sales in the U.S. topped \$16.3 billion in 2003, an increase of 2.5% from 2002. The sales growth came amid political uncertainty, a weak dollar and rising gold prices, says the World Gold Council. In a marketing initiative to drive more sales, WGC and Jewelry.com, with key support from Aurafin-OroAmerica and Andin International, are partnering to bring a gold jewelry marketing program to consumers across the U.S. under the banner "May is Gold Month." from Professional Jeweler web site.

TURRITELLA AGATE THE NAME IS FALSE!

Turritella agate is found in Sweetwater County, Wyoming and around Superior and Wamsutter, Wyoming, too. The little snail that inhabited the shell lived in the Eocene, about 40 million years ago: These fossils were not laid down in a sea, but in a fresh water lake. The shell is highly silicified, more so than the brown matrix from which they can be etched. Whoever named this agate only knew that the sea-snail Turritella had a high spiral shell. He jumped right in with this name without bothering to check the species out. The name has stuck, causing many people to be misled. These fossils are not even in the Turritella family; the true name is Dxyterma genera. A few years ago this species was known as Goniobasis tenera but further research caused the additional name change. You better check your collection right now and perhaps bring your identification up to date with the correct name on this beautiful little gastropod.

From MAPS Digest and Show-Me Rockhounds Newsletter Via Ozark Earth Science News, March, 2003 via Snoop Gems 2/04

Words are like leaves and where they most abound
much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.

From Essays on Man written by Alexander Pope in the
1800's.

Multi-Tasking Metals

*Titanium and stainless steel are highly technical
and very versatile.*

Once used almost exclusively in the aerospace
and medical industries, titanium and stainless
steel have found new life in the jewelry industry
because they are beautiful, strong, lightweight,
biocompatible and hypoallergenic. They have
the look of platinum without the price and can
be mixed and matched with other metals and in
various finishes.

If your customers have a hard time thinking of
stainless steel or titanium as jewelry metals,
help them make the right selection of
merchandise and manufacturer.

In the case of titanium, the World Titanium
Council awards a seal of approval to products
that are tested and deemed high-quality, says
Larry DeBerry, executive vice president of
Spectore Titanium, Deerfield Beach, FL. "By
looking for this endorsement, titanium
purchasers are prevented from making the
mistake of selecting inferior goods in a product
category that is relatively new to them," he
says.

Also be innovative in your displays. Use props
from the worlds of aerospace, sporting goods
and medicine to relate the metals to their more
well-known uses.

— by Lorraine M. O'Donnell, A.J.P

Riddle Answer:

Heartache and Headache.

What is this answer:
Eisenhower (I's in Hower)

Plate Tectonics

In geologic terms, a plate is a large, rigid
slab of solid rock. The word tectonics comes
from the Greek root "to build." Putting these
two words together, we get the term plate
tectonics, which refers to how the Earth's
surface is built of plates. The theory of
plate tectonics states that the Earth's
outermost layer is fragmented into a dozen
or more large and small plates that are
moving relative to one another as they ride
atop hotter, more mobile material. Before
the advent of plate tectonics, however, some
people already believed that the present-day
continents were the fragmented pieces of
preexisting larger landmasses ("super
continents"). The diagrams below show the
break-up of the super continent Pangaea
(meaning "all lands" in Greek), which figured
prominently in the theory of continental
drift -- the forerunner to the theory of
plate tectonics.

For more information go to web site:

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/text/historical.htm>

I

Obtained for the USGS web site

A woman called a local hospital. "Hello. Could you connect me to then
person who gives information about patients. I'd like to find out if a
patient is getting better, doing as expected, or getting worse."

The voice on the other end said, "What is the patient's name and
room number?"

"Sarah Finkel, room 302."

"I'll connect you with the nursing station."

"3-A Nursing Station. How can I help You?"

"I'd like to know the condition of Sarah Finkel in room 302."

"Just a moment. Let me look at her records. Mrs. Finkel is doing very
well. In fact, she's had two full meals, her blood pressure is fine, to
be taken off the heart monitor in a couple of hours and, if she
continues this improvement, Dr. Cohen is going to send her home
Tuesday at noon."

The woman said, "What a relief! Oh, that's fantastic... that's
wonderful news!"

The nurse said, "From your enthusiasm, I take it you are a close family
member or a very close friend!"

"Neither! I'm Sarah Finkel in 302! Nobody here tells me anything.

