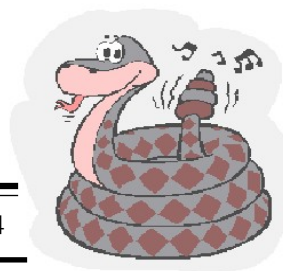


# The Rock Rattler



Volume 29, Number 9

October 2004



## October Meeting Will Really Sizzle

Join the fun Tuesday, October 5th for the G & MS's annual cookout. Instead of the usual Historical Center location, this meeting begins at 6:00 pm at the boat launch just south of the Barksdale Bridge on the Teague Parkway. Please be sure to bring your family and friends for food and fun.

### Club Officers 2003-2004

President	James Hendrix
Vice-Pres	Christina Hardwick
Secretary	Pam Hendrix
Treasurer	Bill Hart

### Board of Directors

John Quade (1)  
Oakley Davis (2)  
Mary West (3)  
and all club officers

### Show Chairman

Bill Hart

### Dealer Chariman

Joe Beasley

### Club Website

[www.geocities.com/  
arklatexgemandmineralclub](http://www.geocities.com/arklatexgemandmineralclub)

### Rock Rattler Editor

Lisa Reddick  
P.O. Box 103  
Grand Cane, LA 71032  
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The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society meets at 6.30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Bossier Parish Historical Center, Bossier Parish Library, 2206 Beckett St., Bossier City, LA 71111  
New members and guests are welcomed and encouraged!

## DeRidder Gem and Mineral Sponsors LA Rockhound Roundup This Year

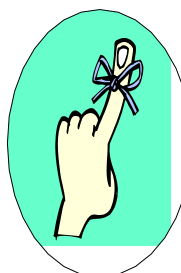
The annual Louisiana Rockhound Roundup 2004, sponsored this year by the DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society, will be held October 22-24 at Pleasure Point, Park Site 15 of the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

This year's agenda includes a hot dog and chili supper Friday night at 6:30pm and a field trip to Poor George's Rock Shop on Saturday. A potluck meal will follow Saturday night at 6:00 pm. The club will also host an auction and asks all who attend to bring something to contribute.

Expected finds for this area include various varieties of petrified wood, agates and fossils.

Campsites are available for tents, trailers and motor homes and include electricity and water. A limited number of unfurnished cabins are available but there is no reservation system so first come, first served. Two motels are within 6 miles of the site this year. For campsite information call the Sabine River Authority at (318) 565-4810.

For Roundup information or if you plan to attend contact DeRidder G&MS president Edith Guenther at (337)238-1396.



## In Due Time...A Reminder

Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th so be sure to renew your membership so you will continue to receive all the benefits the club gives. Dues will be delinquent after October 31st. Bring your checkbook to the cookout and pay Bill Hart.

**September Meeting Minutes  
Pam Hendrix, Secretary**

Opening prayer by Ike House and Pledge by all. New member Rob Short was introduced.

The show went very well, with a lot of compliments all the way around. Dealers found help whenever they needed it. Micah got several compliments for helping everyone. Things went smoothly for unloading and loading dealers.

Most comments were positive but one dealer said they didn't make expenses...several dealers wanted to leave deposits to hold a spot for next year's show. Dinner was enjoyed and not many leftovers remained. It was hard to decide which table to look at first. Bill and Lois with the food table enjoyed dinner and had many comments.

There were 1049 paid attendees. Five new members were gained at the show. Lets hope they start coming to the meetings.

An invitation was read from Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce to dig crystals in October with competition and prizes.

The club sent out 2,200 post cards and only got back 116 for address problems (down 100 from last year.)

*Treasury Report: Show budget was \$8000. Expenses were \$6378 with 1 bill still to come. \$2400 is the approximate profit. The Silent Auction generated \$844 and the kids games made \$330. A motion was made and seconded to roll over the club's CDs for 180 days. We need to use some of our money so we don't have to pay taxes on it. Suggestions included Sci-Port or BPCCC donations or a scholarship to LSU (about \$500) and purchasing some land for the club shop/parking lot. Our BPCCC class has 10 students this session. They are really gifted.*

A bulk mail postcard campaign for next year was discussed sending cards to all residents of Shreveport-Bossier.

There were many door prize winners: Cyndi, Joe, Charlie, Bill, Micah, Ike, Edna, Lee, Pam and David.



**Happenings...**

October 2-3 Denison, TX  
Texoma Rockhounds  
Denison Senior Center, 531 W. Chestnut

October 7-9, Mt. Ida, AR  
World Championship Quartz Crystal  
Digging Competition  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds

October 9-10 Temple, TX  
Tri-City G&MS  
Mayborn Center

October 16-17 Amarillo, TX  
Golden Spread G&MS  
Amarillo Civic Center

October 23-24, Victoria, TX  
Victoria G&MS  
Victoria Community Center

October 30-31, Glen Rose, TX  
Austin Paleontological Society  
Glen Rose Convention Center

November 13-14, Mesquite, TX  
Dallas G&MS  
Bigtown Exhibition Hall  
US 80 at Bigtown Blvd

November 20-21, Leesville, LA  
DeRidder G&MS  
Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall

**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, c/o **Bill Hart** at 1610 Success St., Bossier City, LA 71112

## President's Message

Well the show went off very well. The attendance was down just a little bit but not bad. The Silent Auction went very well. Everybody chipped in and we had plenty of rocks. The kids games went very well too. Both the parents and the children were excited over the variety and quantity of rocks. The door prizes were given away every half hour and on Sunday every 15 minutes. We gave away a lot of very nice stuff for door prizes this year. People had a hard time picking which one they wanted.

In our little adventures we made a lot of people very happy and they won't soon forget our show and probably will come back next year. Happy people tell other people the fun they had. Some mothers will remember us all year because they will be vacuuming up rocks all the time. There were a lot of rocks and prizes that went out that door. The best thing is we made a lot of money this year considering attendance was down a little. For more on the money we made, see the treasurer's report.

The dealers' dinner went off very well for a throw-together at the last minute thing. The briskets were very good and tender. Here is another "well done" to Will House on the main course of the dinner everyone enjoyed.

As a club, we did very well putting on the show. Oakley Davis did a very good job on the Silent Auction.

Bill Hart was at the club table helping out a lot on all sides. The volunteers at the ticket table, children's table and club table did a great job. It was a smooth ride all the way through. We worked like a team and we all did a good job and had fun doing it. Wow!

The dealer's moving in went well but moving them out was a little hectic. We still got them gone before our time was up. Michah worked his butt off helping out the dealers. Good job Michah. David kept the kids most of the weekend at the kid's table.

There were a few things that didn't go down...we forgot to judge the displays. I also forgot about the three door prizes and left them on the table. But Lee and Joe Beasley picked them up and delivered them and took up my slack. Thank you Lee and Joe!

At the club meeting we went over the treasury report which was given by Bill Hart. We have 2 \$10,000 CD's due, a vote was taken and passed to put them back in for 6 months and we have \$11,000 in the bank. It is a hard and tedious job being treasurer and Bill Hart does the job very well. Thank you Bill! There was also a little discussion on the club buying a place for a club workshop and meeting place. Although I think a permanent place for our meetings and workshop is a fine idea, this will have to go to the board first before there can be a discussion on whether to buy or not.

We have a new Rock Rattler editor, Lisa Reddick. She is a relatively new member and she is taking a big job as new editor, one we really need someone to do. On behalf of the club I would like to say thank you very much Lisa Reddick. If you need help, you just have to ask. We have a lot of knowledgeable people in the club on rocks and on the workings of our club.

Our next meeting is a cookout at Arthur Teague Parkway by the boat launch. Please come! We will have fun games and good food and will vote on new club officers. Edna House says she will run for vice-president only if no one else volunteers. We will also vote on treasurer and secretary, positions currently held by Bill Hart and Pam Hendrix.

Pam cleaned the kitchen at the rock show and has all the pans and bowls that were left behind. Pam forgot them at the last meeting but will bring everything to the cookout meeting.

It's been a year now since Will House graciously allowed me to take over as President. I've had a good time and lots of fun and really enjoyed it. I asked a lot of questions and got a lot of help from all of you. The rookie needed all the help he could get!

The 4th weekend in October is the Fall Round-Up at Toledo Bend State Park. Last year we hosted it. Pam Hendrix, Jack, Micah and Cyndi Adams, Oakley Davis and many others were there last year. This is the third year for Pam and me. We found a lot of petrified wood and took out about 1 ton or more of our findings. They have a silent auction and everyone who comes brings something for the host club's auction. There is a potluck dinner Saturday night and donuts and coffee for Saturday and Sunday morning. This year's Round-Up begins Friday, October 22nd and ends on Sunday.

May God bless you and keep you until our next meeting.

James C. Hendrix

## Notes...

Farwell to Kristina Hardwick, this year's vice-president, who has moved to Dallas with her family...we wish her all the best!

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).

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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.

## 2004 World Championship Crystal Dig October 7-9

Would you like to dig in an actual working quartz crystal mine in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains?

Meet other miners, learn more about crystals and improve your digging skills. Who knows, maybe you'll find that crystal you always dreamed about!

Register for the 2004 World's Championship Quartz Crystal Dig. The winners will share in \$1500 prize money and crystal trophies, and keep all the crystal they dig. The pre-registration fee is \$60. The fee after October 1 will be \$75. Drawings will be held every day for t-shirts, caps, special mugs, crystals and other prizes. Call the Mt. Ida chamber of commerce for details at (870) 867-2723.

## Opal Facts: November's Birthstone

The name opal is derived from "Opalus" which meant "to see a change in color."

The 1st century Roman Pliny the Elder wrote "For in them you shall see the living fire of ruby, the glorious purple of the amethyst, the sea-green of the emerald, all glittering together in an incredible mixture of light".

Romans popularized opals: an opal owned by Senator Nonius was so coveted by Mark Anthony that it is said he banished the senator for refusing to sell it to him. Estimated worth in today's currency-\$80,000.

Since Roman times, opals were carried by their owners as a good luck charm or talisman of good fortune.

Royalty prized opals: Queen Victoria wore opals and made them a Victorian fashion statement. Napoleon Bonaparte gave an opal to Josephine named 'the burning of Troy,' for its brilliant red flashes.

from Australian Precious Opal: A Guide Book for Professionals by Andrew Cody, 1991 Mount Press Pty. Ltd, Melbourne, Australia