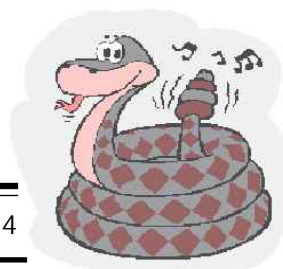


# The Rock Rattler



Volume 29, Number 11

November 2004



## Club Officers 2003-2004

**President** James Hendrix  
**Vice-Pres** Dwain Spillman  
**Secretary** Pam Hendrix  
**Treasurer** Bill Hart

## Board of Directors

Oakley Davis (1)  
Mary West (2)  
John Quade (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  
[thorella@cmaaccess.com](mailto:thorella@cmaaccess.com)

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 encouraged and welcomed!

## Ark-La-Tex Members win big at South Central Federation Show

The talents of our members shined in the SCFMS 2004 Bulletin Editor's contest at this year's South Central Federation Show in Humble, TX. Brittany House was first place winner for Large Bulletin Editor, the youngest recipient of this editorial award.

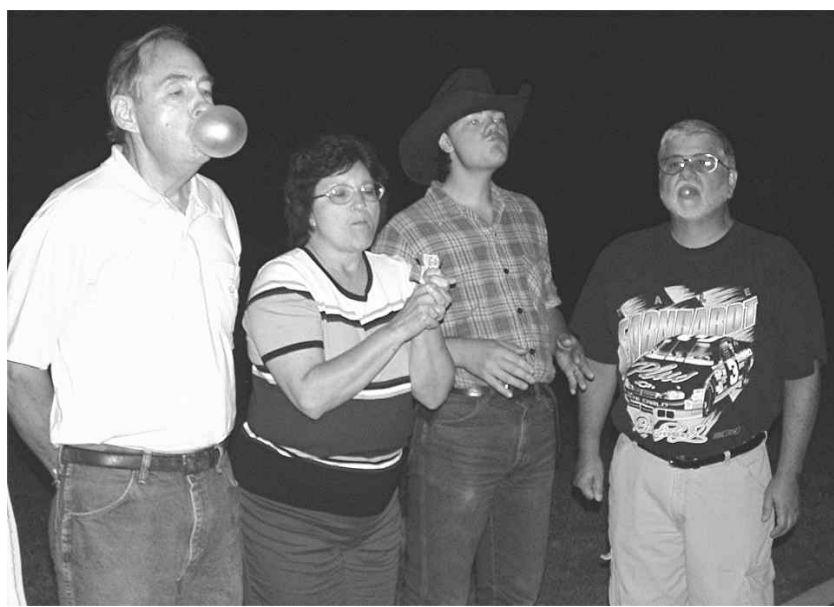
For Adult Articles Wil House was awarded second place trophy for his piece "Louisiana Agate." "My Love Affair with Opals" garnered fourth place for Bill Hart. Jack Adams won 7th place for "Our Rock Hunt" and Pam Hendrix received 9th place for "A Tale of What to Do on a Rainy Weekend."

Reuben House was recipient of second place in the Junior Article division for "Bloodstone."

A surprise inductee into the the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Bulletin Editors' Hall of Fame was Ike House. "I have no idea where that came from but I'll take it," said Ike of this honor.

Congratulations to the winners!

(For a complete list of award recipients, please contact the editor.)



Competition is fierce as bubble blowers (from left) Will House, Nancy Spillman, Micah Adams and Dwain Spillman compete for prizes at the annual cookout on the Arthur Teague Parkway.

### November Meeting Minutes Pam Hendrix, Secretary

Approximately 19 people attended. Bill arrived early to reserve the pavillion at the boat dock. Then James arrived to keep him compnay. I finally showed up with the Barbecue.

We started cooking about 5:00 pm and everything and everyone was ready to eat at 6:30. Everyone brought their side dishes and condiments. Several went back for seconds.

Next our president gave out all the awards our club won in Humble, Texas.

We then opened the door for nominations for our officers for next year. Bill Hart made a motion to accept a slate for nomination which included James Hendrix for President; Dwain Spillman for Vice-President; Pam Hendrix for Secretary and Bill Hart for treasurer. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next we voted on a Board Member for a 3 year term. John Quade was elected unanimously to the office.

Next we played two games. During egg toss there were many close calls and a lot of broken eggs. There was a \$10 prize for the winners James and Pam who won from 25 feet apart.

The bubble blowing contest was won by Will House who received \$10 and John Quade was second and won \$5.

Several door prizes were given out and people stayed until well after dark.



## Happenings...

November 5-7, Round Rock, TX  
Fossil Fest  
Central Texas Paleontological Society

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

November 26-28, Mobile, AL  
Mobile Rock and Gem Society  
Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds

December 3-5, Ausin, TX  
Austin Gem and Mineral Show  
Crockett Center, Hwy 290E

December 10-12, Norcross, GA  
Southeast Federation Show  
Georgia Mineral Society

# 2005 DUES ARE DUE. PLEASE PAY YOURS TODAY!

### CONNECTIONS: Links and Websites

AFMS Website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

SCFMS Website: [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_  
 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, round two with the rookie. Our last meeting was at Arthur Teague Parkway on the Red. I passed out the awards that the club and members won at the South Central Federation show in Humble, TX. Ike house won the best of all, first place, and was entered into the American Federation Hall of Fame. Will House won two awards. Brittany House won an award and was mentioned as being the youngest editor in the Federation. Reuben House won two awards. Jack Adams won one and Pam Hendrix won one. The club won one award for money donations for the American Federation. These club members have done a really good job and have earned the pride of the club. A very special well done goes to Ike House and the House family.

When in Humble, Texas, Pam and I came across dealer James Marler. He has agreed to come to our next meeting in November to give a slide show presentation and talk about gem stones. He will bring samples of things he has dug. This could prove to be a very interesting program.

We also elected officers for the club for next year: James Hendrix - President; Dwain Spillman - Vice-President; Pam Hendrix - Secretary and Bill Hart - Treasurer. Charlie Johns was elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term. Personally, I'm truly flattered and honored by your vote of confidence in me and will try to live up to your expectations.

Coming up soon is our Christmas dinner and auction so be thinking of auction pieces.

James C. Hendrix

### What is a Rock by May E. Hansen

A rock to a boy is something to throw.  
A rock to a jeweler has value like gold.  
A rock to a gardener is an ornament for flowers.  
A rock to a farmer is a burden when plowing.  
A rock to a fisherman makes a fine seat.  
A rock to a sailor is a landmark at sea.

But of all the meanings it has been to man  
Since the world's creation and it all began,  
Surely, no value can hardly be measured,  
Nor can a rock be so highly treasured  
As that rock, the rockhound holds in his hand,  
A specimen so great, a specimen so grand  
Be it pyrite, topaz, jade or a geode,  
After digging and digging, that rock he holds  
Has value unmeasured, much higher than gold,  
For the discovery of nature is an experience untold.



poem from Rockhound Ramblings 11/90  
via The Sooner Rockologist 01/02  
via Osage Hills Gems 3/02  
via Strata Gem, Toole G&MS 7-8/04

## Use Oils to Reinvigorate Gold and Silver Polishing Compounds

Most of the polishing compounds (Zam, Fabuluster, rouges, etc.) used to polish gold and silver come in sticks or bars that tend to dry out over a period of time and will no longer adhere well to the cotton or felt polishing buffs. To reactivate these compound bars and produce an even better shine than when they were fresh, purchase a small bottle of Spearmint, Wintergreen, Peppermint or Cinnamon oil. Apply a couple of drops to the bar and allow it to soak into the bar for 30 seconds to a minute before applying the bar to a spinning buff. The result will be that the compound will adhere to the buff instead of blowing off as dust and getting in your nose, and you will achieve a superior, longer lasting shine without tarnishing for a longer period.

A word of caution! Read the label carefully to make sure it is 100% pure oil and not extract. The extract will not work and most of it contains alcohol that could ignite from the heat of polishing. Also, do not apply oil to cutting or bobbing compounds.

Tip from Craig Kime by Paul Cinnamon from the Sooner Rockologist, October 2004

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.

### At the next meeting...

Tuesday, November 2nd

Welcome guest speaker James Marler

Sign up for refreshments/door prizes for next year

Plan Christmas party

### News from the Fed...

## Merit Badge Program is Reality for Future Rockhounds of America

The AFMS board has approved funding for a merit badge program for clubs with youth members enrolled in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America (FRA).

The new program consists of an FRA membership badge, 9 merit badges and a "Rockhound Badge" that will go to youth members who earn 6 out of 9 merit badges. A 100 page guidebook describes and outlines requirements for each of the 9 badges. There are 52 activities in all to choose from or about half a dozen activities per badge with kids required to complete only 3 activities to earn any particular badge. The guidebook is available in both hardcopy format and a downloadable version on the AFMS web site ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)).

To enroll your club's kids contact Jim Brace Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair, at [jbraceth@adelphia.net](mailto:jbraceth@adelphia.net) or (805) 659-3577. synopsis from South Central Federation newsletter July/August 2004 by Jim Brace Thompson