

The Rock Rattler



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

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John Quade Edna House
and all club officers

Show Chairman

Bill Hart

Dealer Chariman

Joe Beasley



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Rock Rattler Editor

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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

Club Website

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

Rockhound's 12 Days of christmas

A shameless parody by Lisa Reddick

- 12 Tumblers Tumbling
- 11 Kinds of Agate
- 10 Knappers Flinting
- 9 Slabs for Cabbing
- 8 Opals in Matrix
- 7 Spheres for sellin'
- 6 Wire Wrapped Rings
- 5 Spare tires
- 4 Casting Burns (ouch!)
- 3 Chunks of Turquoise
- 2 Tons of Crystal
- and A Meteor by My Pear Tree

Editor's Challenge...

For the next meeting, please bring your list of things you would NEVER hear a rockhound say. The top 10 will be in the next Rock Rattler.

SCFMS Challenges Other Regional Federations to Raise Scholarship Funds

At July's AFMS meeting, Directors of the AFMS Scholarship Fund were informed of a shortage of funds available to award scholarships for 2005. The South Central Federation has challenged all regional federations to raise and donate to the scholarship fund the equivalent of \$1.00 per member to make up this shortfall. A total of \$12,000 is needed in all and the only stipulation is that the money given must be marked for unrestricted use.

Because two scholarships are awarded every year, the funding shortfall will mean only one will be available for 2005 unless money can be raised. The nomination process is already underway for deserving recipients so the deadline for donations to help this year is August 21, 2005 at the AFMS meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

AFMS Newsletter, November 2004



Happenings...

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

January 15-16, Fredricksburg, TX
Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show
Ladybird Johnson Municipal Park

November 2nd Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

Bridget and James Marler were our guest speakers for this meeting. Mr. Murty was our guest student. There were 26 people present.

Everyone said the Pledge and Will said our prayer.

We had sign-up sheets for snacks and door prizes for 2005. We need one more snack month for June and four more months for door prizes. (June, July, October and November).

Ms. Edna brought a cake to the meeting to celebrate her and Will's 49th wedding anniversary which was the Saturday following the meeting.

Bridget and James Marler came up from Alexandria and brought a slide show and samples of what they dug up in New Mexico last summer.

We have approximately \$11,800 in the bank minus \$343 out in checks.

Please don't forget dues are due. Checks and cash are accepted.

We are having a 2 day show for the 2006 South Central Federation Show and Meeting.

Bill said the Bossier Civic Center would let us cater the editor's breakfast and awards dinner if we wanted to.

Christmas dinner meeting will start at 6.00 pm on December 7th because our auction always takes a long time. I asked everyone to bring a dish plus a 2 liter drink to the party. I will have all the paper products and ice.

November door prizes winners were: Jack, Red, Jim Marler, David, Lisa, Cindy, Charlie, John, Pam, James H., Bill, James G. and Will.

There were a lot of door prize donations this time. Starting in January we will start collecting for our silent auction for our August show so please bring your donations. Also think about field trips. They will probably start up in March.

CONNECTIONS: Links and Websites

AFMS Website: www.amfed.org

SCFMS Website: www.scfms.net

President's Message

At the last meeting we had two guest speakers, James E. and Bridget Marler. They talked of their rock hunt to New Mexico. There were slides of different mines and of the Bottomless Lakes of New Mexico. They brought many samples of alabaster, Pecos diamonds, selenite crystals, gypsum, topaz and garnets, many in matrix. The couple said they were happy to come and would come again if asked. They left the club some samples for the silent auction at the Christmas party.

Michah Adams brought his new dinosaur skulls and claws. Micah set up his display and it was very impressive. He was so happy and proud. Never have I seen a person so enthusiastic about dinosaurs.

Mr. West also brought some samples of different things from New Mexico that were very interesting. It makes a rock hound want to go west because they've got a lot of cool rocks.

Our next meeting is our Christmas party so everyone please bring something to eat and drink. And don't forget something for the silent auction. What charities the money will go to will be voted on at the beginning of the meeting.

Don't forget to pay your club dues. We accept checks, travellers checks and cash...but no rocks.

I've asked Mr. and Mrs. Marler about coming back in February or March and they agreed. In March or April we will begin going on field trips again.

James C. Hendrix

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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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.



from Norweigan
Rockhounds website
www.folk.uil.no/hansjb

Fly on the Wall: Observations at the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Show

By Pam Hendrix

I was flying around Bossier City one weekend in late summer and saw a bunch of cars parked by this weird shaped building. I decided to investigate. Everyone was going in this door so I hitch a ride on someone's back. This way no one would notice me.

I followed the crowd and went through some double doors. Wow, what a big room. I looked to my left...wow-food. One big huge table of food and a smaller table further down. I was hungry so I flew down on the table. Ouch...that hurt! This food is hard! I can't smell it but I have a slight cold. It looks real, but it is all as hard as a rock. No telling how old the food is. There sure is a lot of it just ruined. It is all hard and cold.

I decided to keep flying to the left. It looks like some old bones over there. Maybe there is something on them to eat. This is one weird place. These bones aren't any good either. Some are little and some are big but none have any meat on them. What good are they?

Let me fly a little further. Here are some little sea animals. How can they survive out of the water? How did they get here? I've never seen anything like them before. Here are some big triangular things in glass display cases. This foot print is so much bigger than mine. I wonder what it is? They don't have my foot print. Why? Am I not famous?

Over here are some purple caves...they look deep. Let me check it out. There sure are many different sizes and they aren't very deep. From a distance they looked really deep.

Oh, there is some sand. Maybe I can find something to eat over there. There is a big square box with rocks in it. It is full of the short bi-ped things digging. There is some sand over here in a cut. I'll rest here.

Oh dear! A large bi-ped just put his appendage over the top and is moving me over to another table. AHHHHHHHH...a small bi-ped is dumping me in a bow. Oh, Oh, Oh I'm going round and round banging on many small colorful rocks. I am getting dizzy. Finally, it stopped and I escaped.

There is a row of something that doesn't seem to be moving. I'll go rest there. Interesting...there are square boxes with lights in them. Here is one with more bones in it. This one has one of those purple cane things in it. Several have pretty shiny metal things with colorful rocks in and on them. I see the large bi-peds like wearing these on themselves. Here are some pretty rocks with a curve on the top...really smooth.

Come to think of it, there are quite a lot of places in here that have shiny ornaments. These bi-peds are covered with them. I am sitting here looking and they are trading paper stuff for the ornaments and putting them on right then and there. Around their necks, in their ears and on their appendages. The ornaments are really colorful and are surrounded by shiny stuff too.

OK. Let me go see what all this yellow stuff is over in this corner. Oh no...I must hide! But I have to see if it is real. Oh no. It can't be true. There are a lot of my cousins, relatives and friends trapped in this prison. I have to rescue them. Let me sneak up and see what I can do. I don't want them to catch me and put me in there. I couldn't stand it. What a terrible prison. It is light weight but I can't carry it anywhere. Let me try to peck it. Ow...I hurt my nose. They aren't moving.

I need to escape. I see double doors over there. Wait, what is this? I have all the stuff to make the stuff that trapped my friends and all the pretty stones. Books. Here are books on how to do the trapping. Oh my gosh. I need to leave. These bi-peds are not safe to be around, but I need one to get all the way back out. I think I will never be this curious again. It is better to be outside than in. Ah, fresh air and blue skies at last.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2005 DUES TODAY!