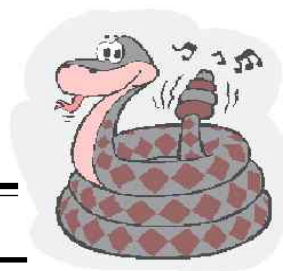


The Rock Rattler



Volume 30, Number 1

January 2005



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

Charlie Johns

Dealer Chariman

Dwain Spillman

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

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!

Rockhounds to hit the big screen

A new feature length documentary, "Rockhounds: The Movie" is in the works showcasing the "wackiness, adventure and a little science" behind the hobby of rockhounding. The independent film is directed by Todd Kent and is a production of Explorer Multimedia Inc. Included is a segment on the World Championship Quartz Dig in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. Distribution for the film is yet to be determined.

Petrified wood without the million year wait

Scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have converted wood to mineral in a few days instead of the millions of years that nature usually takes. Yongsoon Shin and colleagues at the Department of Energy lab used pine and poplar boards from their local home improvement center for their studies. First, small cubes were soaked in a 2-day acid bath then in a silica solution for two more days (a process repeated up to three times.) After air drying the samples were placed in an argon-filled furnace and heated gradually to 1,400 degrees centigrade for a couple of hours then cooled in argon to room temperature.

The finished samples "replicate exactly the wood architecture" with the silica taking up permanent residence with the carbon left in the cellulose to form a new silicon carbide ceramic.

The scientists are interested in studying properties of ceramics build on templates of wood and other natural materials which could prove useful in industrial chemical separations or filtering pollutants from gaseous effluents.

from eurekaalert.org earth science page January 24, 2005 news releases.

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS
Board Meeting before regular meeting
on Tuesday, February 1st at 5:30 pm
PLEASE ATTEND!

CONNECTIONS: Links and Websites

AFMS Website:	www.amfed.org
SCFMS Website:	www.scfms.net
Interesting site and message board	www.rockhounds.com
Super earth science news	www.eurekaalert.org



Happenings...

February 10-13
Tuscon, AZ

Tuscon Gem and Mineral Society
Tuscon Convention Center

February 19-20
Georgetown, TX

Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society

February 19-20
Plainview, TX

High Plains Gem and Mineral Society

February 26-27
Pasadena, TX

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society

February 26-27
Jackson, MS

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Application For Membership

Individual ___ \$15/year Family ___ \$25/year
Subscription to Rock Rattler only ___ \$5/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____

(Work) _____

E-Mail _____

Birthday _____ Anniversary _____

May we send you the Rock Rattler via e-mail only?
circle one YES NO

Lapidary Interests _____

Mail to Ark-La-Tex G&MS; c/o Bill Hart, Treasurer
1610 Success Street, Bossier City, LA 71112

January Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

Ten people were present for this meeting. Gail George was our guest this time. Joe Beasley said our prayer and everyone said the pledge.

The president started by asking what we should do with the Christmas party auction money of \$288.50. We discussed Sci-Port, AFMS scholarship fund and SCFMS and we asked how much we had in the bank.

Our treasurer gave a report of \$13,555.92 plus 2 \$10,000 cd's. The members voted and seconded that Sci-Port receive \$288.50 and both AFMS and SCFMS receive \$200.

The next lapidary class will start at the new Bossier Parish Community College campus on Wednesday, February 9th from 6-9 each week for 12 classes. The class will be in J building, room 104, and will not be held the week of March 23rd because of Easter break. Last day of class is May 4th.

Joe talked about the new room at BPCC. We have cabinets to lock our equipment and supplies in. It is a multi-purpose room that will hold other classes during the week.

We need to purchase fire block for tables by the 6th or 7th week of class before silver work and casting begin. The vice-president will oversee the details for the classes and see what new equipment we need for the classes.

The equipment at BPCC needs to be inventoried and labeled (engraved). Some belongs to the state and some belongs to us. Also, the equipment in storage at Johnny Gray needs to be inventoried.

We voted on provisions for guest speakers who come from over 100 miles away. We will pay them \$50.

We plan on asking Jim and Bridget Marler to come in April with a different program.

It was also voted to discontinue January publication of the Rock Rattler because the editor would have to work on the January issue during Christmas time. We all know how busy this time of year is for everyone.

Door prizes were brought by Lisa. Winners were Bill, David, Dwain, Oakley, Pam, Lee, Gail and Joe.

A board meeting will be held at 5:30 before our next meeting in February.

Oakley brought a whole box of pretty costume jewelry donated by his wife for our silent auction in August.

We need to build a base for a new saw we have.

Quotable:

"There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full." - Henry Kissinger

President's Message

Hello folks. Well we did the January meeting with ten people attending. We voted on the \$288.50 proceeds from the Christmas party auction. There were three suggestions: Sci-port, American Federation Scholarship Fund and the South Central Federation. We decided since we had a good size bank account that we would give some to each. The \$288.50 went to Sci-Port and then we voted to send \$200 each to the AFMS and SCFMS.

There is one office that we have not voted on and that is dealer chairperson. Right now Joe Beasley is dealer chairperson and Dwain Spillman, our vice-president, is our co-dealer chairperson. We started the "co-officers" to learn the ins and outs of particular jobs within the club. The more jobs people know how to do the better off we are. It makes our club stronger because there will never be any jobs unfilled.

Joe Beasley has the show contracts ready to send out. But Joe doesn't have the approval to send them out yet. This is an oversight on my part and we need to remedy this at the next meeting.

There is a board meeting before the next meeting at 5:30 and we have a lot of work to do.

Pam and I will be looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

James C. Hendrix
President

More historic notes and fun facts of Shreveport/Bossier

Henry Miller Shreve, a river boat captain, was the founder of Shreveport. His greatest challenge was removal of the great raft on the Red River.

WAAB was the first licensed local radio station and it began broadcasting in 1922.

The Municipal Auditorium opened in 1928.

Centenary College opened in Shreveport in 1908.

Barksdale Airforce Base was formally dedicated in 1933.

A hippopotamus lived at Cross Creek for a time having locals thinking the lake was inhabited by a monster. He had been stolen from a circus and was eventually returned.

from Eric Brock, Metro phone book 03-04; submitted by Pam Hendrix.

Meeting Snacks 2005:

February 1	Dwain Spillman
March 1	Eating Out
April 5	Pam Hendrix
May 3	Rob Short
June 7	Volunteer Needed
July 5	John Quade
August 2	Oakley Davis
September 6	Jack and Cindy Adams
October 4	Cookout
November 1	David Howard
December 6	Christmas Dinner

Meeting Door Prizes 2005:

February 1	Lisa Reddick
March 1	Dwain Spillman
April 5	Oakley Davis
May 3	Jack and Cindy Adams
June 7/July 5	Volunteer Needed
August 2	James Hendrix
September 6	John Quade
October 4/Nov 1	Volunteer Needed
December 6	Annual Auction



"Remember, we agreed. I'd carry the canned goods in if you'd carry the rocks out."

by Ebners from Dust & Grit 2/00
via Golden Spike News 3/00

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).

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.

News from the Fed...

Lewis and Clarke Update

The long awaited AFMS booklet on Lewis and Clarke Expedition is available at the AFMS website. The booklet, edited by Brenda Hankins with lots of research provided by the regional federations is a great guide for kids travelling the trail.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded by visiting www.amfed.org and following the links.

2005 National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame Nominations Due March 31

It's time again for nominations for most admired rockhound, lapidary or mentor to the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame. The categories for nominees are minerals, lapidary, jewelry, fossils, education and deceased. Clubs can have a nominee in all six divisions.

To nominate your favorite rockhound send:

1. Name and address of nominee.
2. Name and address of person doing the nominating.
3. 150 words or more about why nominee deserves this honor.

Mail nominations postmarked by March 31 to June Zeitner, 7000 Peaceful Pines Rd, Black Hawk, SD 57718.



Creation Story as told by a dog

- On the first day of creation, God created the dog.
- On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.
- On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the dog.
- On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the dog.
- On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.
- On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.
- On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but He had to walk the dog.

VIA GRAVEL GAZETTE 9/01