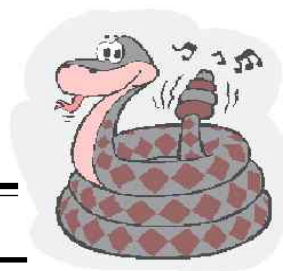


The Rock Rattler



Volume 30, Number 4

April 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

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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 encouraged and welcomed!

Show-Me-State to host to 2005 AFMS Show

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in conjunction with the Midwest Federation will host their 58th Annual Show August 16-21, 2005, in St. Louis, Missouri sponsored by the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs. Host hotel this year is the Marriott St. Louis West and the show will be at Queeny Park. Information and registration forms are available at <http://convention.stleearthsci.org>.

Fabulous Raffle Items Already Rolling In

A number of both precious and rare items have been donated by regional federations for the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle.

The raffle, a much anticipated part of the annual convention, will be drawn on August 20, 2005 at the awards banquet. Tickets are \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20 and are already available from regional committee members (SCFMS member Joyce Speed, 4680 Wisteria, Dallas, TX 75211-8026).

This years prizes include: a Pecos Diamond necklace; 2 opal pendants mounted in 14k gold; a butterfly carved from petrified wood; a rare specimen plate of nine eocene fossilized bird tracks; a Pecos Diamond tree with 327 leaves; keokuk geode pair from the Sheffler Geode Mine in Clark County, Missouri; Brilliant wood specimen from Brilliant, Alabama; Michigan copper specimen; Intarsia shield set in sterling silver; and a sampler suite of New York state minerals.

Information on the raffle with pictures and descriptions of all the current prizes is available at www.amfed.org/endow2005.htm.

SPRING

Happenings...

April 1-3
San Antonio, TX
Southwest Gem and Mineral Society
Morris Activity Center

April 24-25
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

ROCK RATTLER

President's Message

Hello folks. The last meeting went over really well. The food was good and fast. They had a nice place for our meeting. There were even two new members. There was a lot of people at our last meeting. That is always a good thing.

At the last meeting I asked for and got passed three \$25 prizes for the winners at the LA Region 1 Science and Engineering Fair-one each for elementary, junior and senior divisions. These kids are winners at their schools and advance to the regional fair. The students work hard on their projects and stand up in front of strangers to give a very organized speech and demonstration. They do this many times on Saturday with hopes of winning and going to nationals. They also know there is big money to be had at this science fair and if they are lucky enough to advance. Because there are 24 sponsors this year many do not go away empty handed. Each judging sponsor has three or more certificates or awards to give out. Some of the awards were up to \$500 and some kids got more than one award-as much as \$700 to \$800 a piece. Joe and Lee Beasley and myself had a fun time, but it was very hard because all the kids were good. It seems like the kids are getting smarter younger. They are all winners. On Saturday, when it was time for me to give my speech and pass out the awards, I was really nervous. That was only the second time I gave a speech in front of 2,000 people. I plum forgot the second half of my speech but Joe said I did real good. Personally I was scared, but I sure understood how the kids felt on Friday. Some of the science fair sponsors were: Biomedical Research Foundation; American Diabetes Foundation; General Motors Corporation; LA Department of Agriculture; US

Air Force; US Navy; Feist Weiller Cancer Centers and many others. When our club participates in this event we are in good company. It gets our club name out there and helps to keep our tax exempt status. It also helps keep us involved with the community.

At our next meeting Mr and Mrs Marler will return with a presentation on the color of glass which will include a film. Mr. Marler asks that everyone bring a small flashlight, samples of colored glass, Aunt Jane's fine crystal goblet, gemstones amd mineral specimens.

Please try to come for the next meeting. We need a good showing as a club and for our guest speaker. I hope to see all of you there at our next meeting.

James Hendrix, President

March Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

Fire Mountain was the place of our eating meeting. They set us up in a real nice back room. Everyone dribbled in starting just before 6 to just after 7. There was plenty of good food and 2nds and 3rds for whoever wanted it.

When everyone was almost through eating we had our meeting. We had 2 new members and 1 guest. The members are Rob McLeroy and John Miller and our guest was Kathy.

We voted on 3 \$25 gift certificates for the regional science fair. Our bank account stands as follows: \$13,462 in checking, \$20,000 in CD's plus \$2,000 so far from dealer contracts.

Mr. and Mrs. Marler are coming to our next meeting. Please bring samples of glass to our meeting-anything from Aunt Lizzie's china to pretty pieces you found. Also bring a small flashlight with new batteries.

Door prizes went to Micah Adams, George Mouldin, Mary Green and Sam West.

After the meeting there was a lot of visiting and several people brought samples to show and some for identification. The meeting adjourned about 8:00 pm. There were 26 people present.



Rocks

by Robert Burns

(with apologies to Joyce Kilmer)

I think that I shall never see
 A rock that's ugly like this tree.
 A tree that makes one quite aware
 That birdie poop gets in your hair.
 Trees make mowing greater chore
 While ruining view outside your door.
 No fear of lightning striking you
 When standing by a rock or two.
 Rocks come in dizzying range of hue
 While trees have only one or two.
 Don't be so impressed by trees.
 'Pon biggest ones my dog just ____.
 Foresters are little twits.
 Rockhounds beat them all to bits.
 Rocks are beautiful. Rocks are cool.
 Rocks have bling-bling. Rocks just RULE!

Rocks (Girl's Version)

by Alyssa Lane

age 13

Diamonds, emeralds, sapphires,
 They are just for show.
 You put them around your neck and wrists,
 While you get ready to go.
 People say diamonds are a girl's best friend,
 Yes, I guess it's true.
 They do look awful beautiful,
 When they are on me and you.
 You expect your man to get them for you,
 You smile when he does.
 But isn't it the thought that counts,
 What if he got you duds?
 Respect the rocks and nature,
 It is the right thing to do.
 Only because a rockhound
 Might throw a rock at you

Kool Rocks

by James Hendrix

Rocks are pretty. Rocks are Kool.
 They never ever jump in your pool.
 They never ever need to be groomed or petted
 To look so kool.

They never ever make messes that you didn't do.
 They stay where you put them
 and they never ever move.
 Even when you call them

And that's the best thing of all
 And that's really, really kool.

We're Rockhounds

by Wil House

Hey-we're rockhounds!!
 What do we DO??
 Stay here a minute
 And I'll give you a clue.

We hunt for interesting rocks
 Like jasper, turquoise or agate.
 We dig it, haul it,
 Sometimes have to drag it.

We chip it, we cut it
 And often we cab it.
 Gosh this is fun,
 It could become a habit!

These are just some of
 The things we do.
 But there's many more
 And not just a few.

So join in the fun
 Have something to do!
 Hob-nob with use
 You'll be a rockhound, too!

It Can Be Fun

by David Howard

It can be fun to hunt for rocks
 But you don't need to bring a box

Bring a smile
 That will last a mile

Or so.

Use your hands
 To sift the sands.

Don't tarry.
 Bring all the rocks you can carry.
 Especially if you have enough rocks
 To fill a large box

Pop Rocksby Milla Margaret Reddick
age 4

I used to have a rock
 A rock that went pop
 It went pop pop pop pop
 When I picked up it

Meeting Snacks 2005:

April 5	Pam Hendrix
May 3	Rob Short
June 7	Edna House
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:

April 5	Oakley Davis
May 3	Jack and Cindy Adams
June 7	Edna House
July 5	Volunteer Needed
August 2	James Hendrix
September 6	John Quade
October 4/Nov 1	Volunteer Needed
December 6	Annual Auction

How to Get Rid of Leaverites

1. Fix the chuck holes in your driveway
2. Throw them at bill collectors or door-to-door salesmen.
3. Take them to club displays and leave them.
4. Donate them to grab bags.
5. Slip them into your competitor's case when nobody is looking.
6. Throw them over the fence into your neighbor's garden.
7. Fix a large label..."This material insured by Pinkerton's" and leave them unwatched at the shopping mall.
8. Fill up your car trunk to get you through the winter ice.
9. Best of all, don't take them home in the first place!

Of course some mysterious force often prompts collectors to take leaverite home anyway, and the question then becomes what to do with it. These are a number of suggestions attributed to "Chip & Lick", the Roadrunner (who or whatever that is), via RRC Newsletter, 9/98, reprinted in the December 1989 Paleo Newsletter, Austin Paleontology Society from Kuban's K-Paleo Place(humor section) at paleo.cc/kpaleo/

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.

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're okay, then it's you. — Rita Mae Brown

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