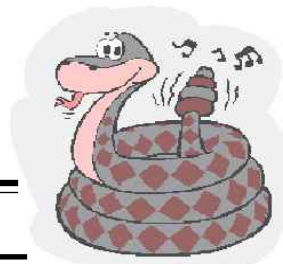


The Rock Rattler



Volume 30, Number 6

June 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
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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!

Opal Deposit in Wyoming Interests Rockhounds

A 34 pound opal was discovered in central Wyoming in late February and has generated much interest.

Even though the opal was of the common variety, lacking in opalescence, hope is high that more precious varieties may be found with more searching. Two prospectors, Dan Hausel (a state geologist) and his associate Wayne Sutherland, have seen traces of fiery orange opals and precious opal at an undisclosed site in the area and are optimistic the deposit will yield more of the precious variety.

"The traces of precious opal indicates to us that there is the likelihood of finding more of that," Sutherland said. "...We think there's some real economic possibilities for the deposits."

The deposit is on federal Bureau of Land Management property. Sutherland said the site in a desolate, mountain area southeast of Riverton contains many outcrops of opal within a three-square-mile area.

Opal is thought to form as water percolates through silica-rich rock, drawing out the minerals. In certain circumstances, the minerals drop back out of the water, forming opal's watery mix of silica dioxide streaked with minerals.

from Brodie Farquhar, Casper Star Tribune online , March 4, 2005

**DON'T FORGET PART 2 OF OUR
MINERAL MOVIE NIGHT
Rhodochrosite:
Red Treasure of the Rockies
AT OUR NEXT MEETING!**

Submissions to the Rock Rattler being sought

Any submission to the newsletter will be welcomed and greatly appreciated. If you have a newsworthy item or have expertise in a specific area and would like to write a technical article, please submit it. Poetry, lapidary facts and humorous submissions are also encouraged. Also, if you have any ideas for articles or other things that you would like to see in the Rock Rattler, please send your information and comments to your editor-Lisa Reddick at P.O. Box 103, Grand Cane, LA 71032.

President's Message

Hello folks! Well the last field trip was a success. Eight people showed up plus two new members joined the club. We went to Sweet Surrender mine. Jack, Cindy and Michah Adams went up the night before and camped. Along with the Adams was Ben Partlow and Shirley Murphy, our two new members.

At the last meeting, we watched half a documentary on Rhodochrosite crystals. We will watch the other half at our next meeting. The movie is very good and I'm really looking forward to seeing the rest next time.

The Rock Food Table will not be at this coming August show due to a prior engagement at a Federation Show but the Patillos will bring the display to our 2006 show. This leaves an open space when you walk in so we will need to decide if we want to try to find something else great to look at or do we, the club members, fill the space. Please come to the next meeting and together we will solve this problem.

James Hendrix, President



Meeting Snacks 2005:

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:

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

May Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

We pledged at 7:00 with Wil House saying our prayer. Twenty one members and guests were present at the meeting including new members Shirley Murphy, Ben Partlow and Gail George.

We were glad to see some long lost members show up for our meeting.

The treasury report was given by Bill Hart. A 15% increase in venue rental of the Bossier Civic Center, site of our annual show, was mentioned. It is the first increase since they opened.

The next field trip on May 21st to go to Irish Mountain was scheduled. Departure was set for 6 am from the Bossier Library.

We need donated items for the silent auction. We used all the items we had from last year and our shelves are almost empty. We need anything that has to do with rocks, fossils or minerals. Anything new or old, raw or finished, big or little will do. Bill Hart is storing the items so please bring us something as soon as you can.

The next lapidary/jewelry class at BPCC will be August 22 to November 14. If you are interested in instructing or assisting with the class, please contact Wil House.

Please think about what areas you would like to help with for the August show. I will have a job listing at our June meeting. See you there!

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

AFMS Reports Paleo Bill Still At Large in Senate

The AFMS newsletter for June/July/August 2005 reports that Senate Bill S-263 is still "floating around" in the US Senate. The article stressed the importance of local club members contacting their Senators and Representatives to express views on both the legislation itself and the effort by some to fast track the bill for approval without debate.

For rockhounds, this legislation could hamper amateur collectors rights, and even though the legislation only deals with fossils, it is feared that other collecting possibilities may be threatened next.

A sample letter reprinted verbatim from the AFMS newsletter is included here as a guideline. Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson; AFMS Bulletin Summer 2005

Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator _____:

As one of your most loyal and long-time supporters, and a resident of Congressional District Number 24 of California, I am writing to ask for your help to defeat Senate Bill S-263, a supposed Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. It has already passed through committee without amendment for action on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

As a Registered Geologist and amateur gem and mineral collector, I can attest that S-263 is a very bad piece of legislation, and I ask that you do what you can to block passage of this Bill by a no vote or any other means available to you. There are many good reasons why this poorly conceived legislation is a detriment to this country and it's citizens, and they boil down to this:

1. This bill masquerades as protecting fossils and academic inquiry. IT DOES NOT. To the contrary, it inhibits knowledge and inquiry. The majority of what is know about fossils has been gathered by commercial and amateur collectors, and most museum collections are the result of non-commercial or amateur finds.

2. The Secretary of the Interior asked that academic and commercial fossil collectors be consulted in the preparation of potential legislation regarding fossil resources on public lands. To my knowledge, the commercial collectors were not consulted, input from amateurs was not solicited, and there was never an opportunity for any to testify.

3. This legislation is the product of a few academics alone, in concert with a small group of managers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service. Such collegiate and government personnel have, through aggressive tactics pushed their own skewed agenda. An agenda that is not good for the true science of paleontology, and would be a tragic mistake if enacted.

This Bill (S-263) must be stopped, or at the very least scrapped, as it serves neither the resource nor the public. I believe I can speak for all amateur collectors, and ask that our rights as citizens not be infringed upon, nor should we live under the fear of being arrested simply because we picked up a bone, shell or fossil of some sort.

Please do what you can to shut down and eliminate Senate Bill 263.

Best regards,

Rocks and Minerals Hold Clues to Development of Earth's Atmosphere

"Rocks, fossils and other natural relics hold clues to ancient environments in the form of different ratios of isotopes-atomic variants of elements with the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons," said Douglas Rumble, III, researcher and President of the Mineralogical Society of America. "Seawater, rain water, oxygen and ozone, for instance, all have different ratios, or fingerprints, of oxygen isotopes. Weathering, ground water and direct deposition of atmospheric aerosols change the ratios of the isotopes in a rock revealing a lot about the past climate."

Many groups of scientists-geochemists, mineralogists and petrologists-have been studying anomalies of isotopes of oxygen and sulfur for clues to the formation of our atmosphere almost 4 billion years ago when the crust of the planet was forming. Ultraviolet light from the sun causing breakdown of molecular oxygen are thought to have created the ozone layer, a shield protecting life on earth from harmful solar rays. The anomalous isotopes, none of which were previously suspected, can be detected in samples of rock, ice core samples from Antarctica and atmospheric samples from the stratosphere collected by rockets and balloons. The isotope studies are a new tool for research into relationships between shifts in atmospheric chemistry and

climate change.

Rumble's paper appears in the May/June issue of American Mineralogist.
from [earthobservatory.nasa.gov newsroom](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/newsroom)

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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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.

Summer Happenings...

June 4th and 5th

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 32nd Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park
Birmingham, AL

also June 4th and 5th:

The Bead Market.
The Stafford Centre.
Houson/Stafford, TX
and

Intergalactic Bead Show
Pontchartrain Center
New Orleans, LA
www.beadshows.com

June 10-12

Gem Faire
Expo Square Exchange Center
Tulsa, OK
www.gemfaire.com

July 16-17

AKS Summer Bead and Gem Show
Pontchartrain Center
New Orleans
www.aksshow.com