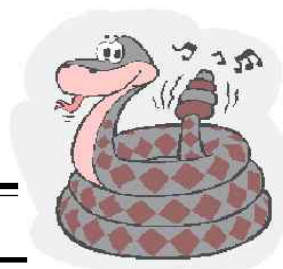


The Rock Rattler



Volume 30, Number 7

July 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!

Exhibit Showcasing Gold Now at Houston Museum

Until August 7, an exhibit entitled "Gold! Natural Treasure/Cultural Obsession" is on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences. On display are over 60 pieces of gold jewelry from all over the world from ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt and the New World. Also on display are some of the finest gold specimens on Earth. Ticket price also includes entry to see the large-format film "Gold Fever." This exhibit aims to teach how gold is found, mined, refined and turned into objects of fascination and beauty.

NEW FEATURE...NEW FEATURE...NEW FEATURE

Introducing a new monthly feature. If you have something that you would like to trade just contact your editor to have your items listed in this section.

Swap Shop

TO SWAP 4 issues of Lapidary Journal: August 1995-Fossil Edition; June 1996-Aquamarine, Andean Lapis, Tanzanite; June 1997-Chalcedony, Fiber Optics; July 1997-50th Anniversary Issue.

IN RETURN I would like: Lapidary Journal October 2002-The Bead Annual and Lapidary Journal June 2001--Lisa Reddick--318-858-2438 or email thorella@cmaaccess.com

TO SWAP Slabs or rocks-Blue Tiger Eye, Palm, Petrified Wood and some others. IN RETURN for some other slabs or Rocks--Bill Hart--318-746-8735 or email to billysrocks@bellsouth.net



Have a Happy & Safe Independence Day

President's Message

Hello folks! At our last meeting we talked about the show and what we will do about the food table space and about the up-coming show. We didn't even get to watch the rest of the movie on Rhodochrosite crystals. We started at 7:00 and had to leave at 8:00. We have asked the curator of the center to stay late next time. Our next meeting will start at 6:30 and we will stay late to get things ready for the show and maybe to watch the rest of the movie.

Dwight House is going to be there to talk about the club's website. He is going to tell us about new updates. Dwight would like some action pictures for the site so if you have something he can use, please bring it with you to the next meeting.

We will have the list for the watches and decide on what we are going to do about the dealer supper.

Don't forget stuff for the silent auction. Anything that you can think of to donate will be fine for the auction.

James Hendrix, President

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



Meeting Snacks 2005:

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:

July 5	Volunteer Needed
August 2	James Hendrix
September 6	John Quade
October 4/Nov 1	Volunteer Needed
December 6	Annual Auction

June Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

Twenty two members were present. Don Talbot said our prayer and all said the Pledge.

We discussed advertising for our show with postcards and direct mailings. We also talked about making posters for restaurants and businesses.

Our president has donated the main adult and the main child door prize. We seriously need silent auction stuff. It can be finished or raw, hand made or bought, but it needs to have something to do with rocks, fossils or minerals.

We talked about getting more people to demo stuff in the outside lobby. They can sell what they make while doing demonstrations.

Our webmaster is redesigning our website so that no matter what browser you use it will look the same. He is going to put the Rock Rattler in it for the past 3 years. He wants digital pictures of anything (field trips, get togethers, etc.) He wants reports on field trips. There will be a BPC page and much more.

Door prizes winners were Oakley, Charlie, James and Bill.



Editorial Numero Uno

Since I have only been your humble Rock Rattler editor for 10 months now I finally decided it was about time I wrote something of an editorial piece. These literary ravings of mine may not occur on a monthly basis-since the first one took so long, I expect another in about six months-but the other day on a drive to town with my husband inspiration finally hit me.

On the day in question, we saw a group of buzzards flying in a circle over some unidentified something and we began to wonder what a group of buzzards is called. A flight or a flock of buzzards just sounds too "nice" so we began to think of some alternatives. "What about a yark," said my hubby "or a loom, or a lurch." "Those are great!" I thought and then I added a gallows or perhaps a scavenge. When I got home later I wondered if there was really a name for a bunch of buzzards and as it happens, there is-A WAKE OF BUZZARDS. Now that is appropriate! Some other interesting animal groups are:

- A crash of rhinos-very visual
- A bask of crocodiles
- A knot of toads
- An exhaltation of larks
- A murder of crows
- A parliament of owls

Then I began to think about what you call a group of rockhounds. So again, we began to think of what a good name would be. Together we managed to come up with some interesting ideas. How about a scrabble of rockhounds or maybe a gather. What about a trek or perhaps a quest. I liked a dig of rockhounds and he liked a quarry or a rubble of rockhounds. And there is always a prowl. And for our club there is always this one-a rattle of rockhounds. Maybe we should have a poll to come up with the best name...or maybe there already is an official name for a group of rockhounds, but I couldn't find it.

Have a Happy Holiday-Your Editor, Lisa

Golden Tidbits

Gold plays an important role in keeping American pilots safe. Gold is used in micro-electronic circuitry in escape mechanisms, parachutes and air-survival radios. Gold is the best metal to use in these applications because it does not corrode, crumble or tarnish whatever the conditions; it is unaffected by moisture, oxygen or ordinary acids and is virtually indistructible.

Gold helps save lives on the nation's roads. More than 30 million automobiles are equipped with air bag systems that have gold-coated electrical contacts to ensure that the system will work flawlessly for the life of the car.

Hospitals and office buildings are monitored by gold-coated infrared sensors to detect unhealthy buildup of carbon monoxide and other indoor pollutants.

In the space program, gold's ability to reflect infrared radiation helps shield astronauts, sensitive electronic equipment, circuitry and protect the tether that secures astronauts on spacewalks.

White gold was originally developed to imitate platinum and is usually an alloy containing 25% nickel and zinc. If stamped 18 karat, it would be 75% pure gold.

What is the meaning of the karat mark on gold jewelry? The fineness of jewelry gold is stated as the number of parts in twenty-four that are gold. Thus, 24 karat gold is pure gold; 12 karat would be an alloy that is half gold and half copper or other metals.

Because gold is visually pleasing and workable and does not tarnish or corrode, it was one of the first metals to attract human attention. Examples of elaborate gold workmanship, many in nearly perfect condition, survive from ancient Egyptian, Minoan, Assyrian, and Etruscan artisans, and gold has continued to be a highly favored material out of which to craft jewelry and other decorative objects. from USGS website, date unknown, mineral.usgs.gov

What Kind of Rockhound Are You?

THE FORTUNE HUNTER: This rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

THE OPTIMIST: Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

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.

THE ROAD RUNNER: No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rules - never look further than 12 feet from the car. The road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

THE SMASHER AND BASHER: This one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rocks must have been originally unsound anyway. from Scribe CD 2005 via Ft. Lewis Rock Club News June 2001

WHETSTONE FACTOID: Next time you find a deposit of chert, bring home a solid piece and slice it. You will have the finest whetstone for sharpening knives that you could possibly ask for.

by Al Cowan from Rock Chips, December 2002

Summer Happenings...

July 16-17

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

August 13-14

Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society
Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1
Greenwell Springs Road, Baton Rouge, LA

August 27-28

Texas School of Earth Sciences
University of Texas, Arlington, TX

September 3-4

Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society
VFW 7 miles W. of Jasper
Jasper, TX

September 23-25

Houston Gem and Mineral Society
Humble Civic Center
Humble, TX