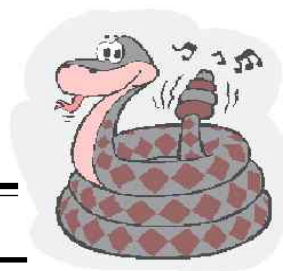


The Rock Rattler



Volume 30, Number 8

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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.larockclub.com

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!

Join us August 19-21 at the Bossier Civic Center because...

AT LAST... IT'S SHOWTIME

Note: Our Tuesday, August 2nd, meeting will start early beginning with snacks at 6:00 pm and business at 6:30 pm. There is still work to do on show so please attend!

check out our new website

www.larockclub.com

Swap Shop

For Sale or Trade: 10 Inch Saw; 6 Inch Saw; 8 Inch Grinder; 6 Inch Grinder; Tumbler; and Graves Faceting Machine-Contact Joe Beasley 949-0552 or email leebeas@softdisk.com.

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-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

To add an item for Swap Shop please contact the editor!

President's Message

Well it's almost show time. We still need more auction pieces and door prizes.

Last meeting we got a lot of last minute decisions made. First, we have a man coming to take the place of the food table. He will be bringing models of dinosaurs and skulls. The man puts on a good display. He will not sell, only display, but he will take orders.

On the dealer dinner, we will do the same as last year. Wil House has agreed to cook the brisket again. Mr. House does a very good job of cooking. Everybody loves it. Everyone else will bring drinks, desserts and side dishes. The list on what needs to be gotten will be at the next meeting starting at 6:00 pm. We still need a few more things.

The next list is on duty stations for the watches, the kids table, club table, tickets and the silent auction.

Edna House has agreed to make the center pieces for the dealers' dinner tables. Ms. Edna has done the center pieces now for several years and we always receive a lot of compliments on them from the dealers and everyone.

Also, the Chipalottas will be at the show to demonstrate their art. I think that is a very big plus for our club. Some are still members and some probably will be again.

If you have display cases, get them ready and bring them to the show. There will be ribbons this year. We didn't judge last year-an oversight on my part. Joe Beasley has agreed to handle judging this year.

On advertisement, Ike House has it under control. I think he had a good suggestion on the advertising and will reach more people at the age and income we want for patrons in the price range we agreed on.

While on the subject of advertisement, there are three more things to mention. Joe Beasley is printing up 500 fliers "notebook paper size" and is getting new date stickers for our big signs. Ike is getting the stickers of our club's mailing list for us at the next meeting to put on the postcards. There was also a suggestion from Charlie Johns on a TV spot for 50 commercials for \$325 on KPXJ.

Well this year we will spend a little more money but will reach a lot more people. That was a concern of the dealers that came to our show from last year's survey.

Dwight House came and had slides of our new website and showed us how to navigate through it. We were shown the new stuff he has been working on. Dwight has done a very good job on this website and deserves a big hand and a well done. Dwight has asked for some pictures of the club members art and crafts and pictures of field trips and articles.

I am sure there is something I forgot. So if you think of something, please write it down and bring it to the next meeting. We still have some little things to finish.

This up coming meeting is the last before the show. We still have a lot of empty spaces in the dealers dinner and the duty watches at the various tables.

Well that's all for now. See you at the next meeting!

James Hendrix, President

P.S. Be sure to read the secretary's report for more detailed information.

Exhibiting

Prepared by Joe A. and Lee R. Beasley

What is Exhibiting? Displaying items that you possess (own) as the exhibitor and you would like to show to the public. This allows for you to advertise your skills if they are items of lapidary, jewelry, fossils (that you have prepared), items of educational value, petrified wood or fluorescent minerals. This is your chance to shine. The main purpose of exhibition is sharing.

What is the Best Way to Gain Experience? Visit shows. View all exhibits, read critique sheets of show cases that have been judged by mineral/jewelry judges.

Where May You Exhibit? At your local Gem and Mineral Shows, shows in the surrounding areas (look in Rock and Gem or Lapidary Journal for dates), State and Parish Fairs, all Regional Federal Shows, and American Federation Shows. Look across your town/city where exhibits are such as libraries and senior citizen centers, malls or even bank lobbies and ask if you can participate.

What May I Exhibit? First, select a theme that you enjoy and would be appealing to others. Example of a theme: all one type of species; minerals of one size or from one geographical location; lapidary theme (could be faceted stones, all cabochons, cutting roughs into a finished specimen). An explanation of this is to show a rough slab/specimen with the finished cabochon/faceted stone. An educational theme could be based on the aforementioned themes with more detail such as labeling to include the scientific description of the mineral or host mineral.

Selecting the Contents to Include in Your Case: You are the Show Person of your hobby, both the producer and the director. Your production will depend on what you have to show and the theme you choose. Look at your minerals/jewelry as a talent scout

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July Meeting Minutes

Pam Hendrix, Secretary

The meeting was held 7/5/05. Annual show as discussed: John Fisher is going to display his dinosaur bone cast in place of the Rock Food Table. John will be displaying only. He will not be a dealer. The Food table will be at the Federation Show this year but it is already scheduled for our show next year.

Wil House will cook the brisket for the vendor dinner on Friday night. Edna House will do center pieces for the tables. Pam Handrix will get plates, silverware and napkins. Oakley Davis will bring donuts and coffee on Sunday and James Hendrix will provide them on Saturday.

Edna House and Joe Beasley will provide cards with rocks for giveaway at entry to the show. Joe will also put together a booklet on "How to Make a Display Case" for this year's show, get ribbons for judging and take care of changing dates on 110 yards signs advertising the show. The clubs internet site has been updated and a new name was needed for the site. It will cost \$58 for domain name registration and hosting. www.larockclub.com was suggested and a motion was passed in favor of the new name. Ike House gave an update on advertising for the show. Instead of billboards, large color postcards will be sent to 8580 households in Shreveport/Bossier from demographics of our choosing. In addition 2500 cards will be sent to the names on the club's mailing list. The cards will also say "Please bring your post card for a special drawing." Charlie Johns gave information on buying 50 spots on KPXJ TV for the week before the show for \$325. Twenty five spots will be scheduled and 25 will be random. A motion was made and passed to purchase the spots.

Door Prize winners were Oakley Davis, Dwaine Spillman, Joe Beasley and Wil House.

Meeting Snacks 2005:

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:

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

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would look at a production he/she was about to produce. Look at each item (mineral) as a player and how it will fit on your theater stage (case) in selecting characters to go on your stage. Look at the general eye appeal, color, patterns, polish, size, shape and the relationship to your chosen theme. (Note: be sure to look for cleanliness, scratches, flat spots, cracks, polish and other general things.) Always use common names (geologic names for fossils), scientific classifications or scientific names. Always try to put on a show that will draw others to your theater (case). Always use the very best quality that is available to you. A simple rule to follow is not to display damaged items, that fossils are well prepared and that lapidary work is the finest workmanship. Always look at your case and ask yourself if it is pleasing to you. Make your stage production well balanced.

Preparing the Contents of Your Case. Have a rehearsal at home. Look at the placement of each item in your case as to its advantage. (ALWAYS LOOK FOR CLEANLINESS.) Look for proper orientation. Use, when desirable, appropriate bases, pedestals or stands. Always look at the base as to size of mineral/specimen displayed. Sometimes T-pins are nice to use, and you can make or buy your stands. For some items, a nice slow-turning turntable is appropriate. The main thing to remember is the "staging" of your production. DO NOT CROWD YOUR CASE. A good rule of thumb is to leave as much space around the mineral/specimen displayed as is required for the mineral/specimen.

Labeling. The next thing about your case that is important is the labeling of its contents, such as the cast of characters' names that are on your stage for the production, almost a program. As an average, the general audience who views your case know very little about your cast (minerals/jewelry). Label your exhibit accordingly so that the least knowledgeable viewer

can understand what it contains. Labels should be physical, accurate of information and aesthetic. Labels should not curl from heat, should be mostly in white or off-white or may be a color that would blend with the case liners (plain is usually best). Be sure of the accuracy. Do not depend on a dealer but take their suggestion and check the mineral library for accuracy and identification. The physical size of label should be approximately 1" high by 3" wide. Throughout the case, the labels should be uniform.

Setting Up Your Exhibit. Check the security in the area where your case is displayed (possibly lock your display). When set up, look at your exhibit and adjust the minerals/specimens to your liking. Then hope that everyone who views your case likes it as much as you do. Always encourage others to exhibit and hope you will be the instigator of someone joining your loved hobby.

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.