

# The Rock Rattler

Volume 30 Number 10

November 2005



## 2005-2006 Club Officers

**President** Edna House  
**Vice-pres.**  
**Secretary** Gail George  
**Treasurer** Bill Hart

## Board of Directors

Mary West (1)  
John Quade (2)  
Ike House (3)

Plus all Club Officers

## Show Chairman

Bill Hart  
Charlie Johns (Co-chair)

## Dealer Chairman

Joe Beasley

## Rock Rattler Editor

Wilford House  
200 Liberty Hill Dr.  
Haughton, La. 71037  
[wihouse@bellsouth.net](mailto:wihouse@bellsouth.net)

The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society meets at 6:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Bossier Parish History Center, 2006 Beckett St Bossier City, La. 71111

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I want to begin this Presidents Message by saying, Thank you for your support and confidence in me.

Wil and I have been members of the Club for over 25 years and my being president and Wil taking editorship of the Rock Rattler just proves that we'er never too old to take on new ventures! So wish us luck.

My primary objective will be to promote the purpose of the club; which is education. To educate the public and Club members regarding earth sciences and the lapidary arts.

Over the years the "running of the Club" has gradually begun to be taking place at the regular meeting. This has often resulted in long drawn out discussions with little or no time for instruction, or meaningful educational programs. Initially the charter members' plan was to "work out the details" of running the club at the Board of Directors meeting, with the results presented to the entire Club for acceptance or rejection. The business portion of the meetings were usually very short with the majority of time spent in programs, or demonstrations.

Beginning with the November meeting, the original plan of the charter members will be reinstated. Every member is encouraged to contact an officer or Board member with any suggestions that they would like to see adopted, or attend the Board meeting in person to present their ideas. These meetings will be open to any Club member, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

Our first program will be at the November meeting, and will be presented by one of our own Club members. Cindi Adams will demonstrate bead knotting by using a "bead board". The meeting date is Nov. 1 at the History Center, behind the Bossier Parish Library on Beckett St.

I would like to thank James and Pam Hendrix (our past President, and Secretary) for their efforts. They did a super job! I am looking forward to working with the Hendrix's this year.

I hope to see all of you, as Wil and I will be sharing some 50th wedding anniversary cake and coffee for refreshments. Please join us in celebrating!

As you can tell, we will be having a great meeting in Nov.. See you there-

Rock on  
Edna

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### \* Election of Vice-President \*

As most of you are aware, a Vice-President was not elected at our October meeting. It will be necessary to have an election to fill that post at the November meeting..

There is a member that has agreed to serve in that capacity, if elected. The person is John Autry. John has been a member for some time, but due to family health problems, he has been unable to be active in the Club. John is now able to become more active in the Club.

John is a retired City of Shreveport fireman, and presently works at the 911 Commission, he is an active member of the Bossier Parish Sheriffs Posse. John lives in the Haughton area.

John will make a wonderful Vice-President and a great addition to our active membership.

#### \* Board of Directors meeting \*

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Monday, October 31 ( before the club meeting on Tuesday). All officers and board members are urged to attend. Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm at 200 Liberty Hill Dr.

#### \* Christmas Party information\*

Don't forget the December meeting is our Christmas meeting. We will be having finger food, and drinks. Please be thinking about what you want to bring.

#### \* Christmas Auction \*

The December meeting program will be the annual auction to raise money to donate to a worthy cause. The auction items do not have to be rock related. Items can be anything you would like to donate. The disposition of the proceeds will be voted on by the club membership after the auction.

**Club Dues are Due!**

**Use Renewal Form on Back**

### NEARBY SHOWS, 2005

#### \* South Central Federation Dec. 2-4 \*

The South Central Show and Convention will be hosted by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, Texas.

#### \* DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society\*

November 12-13 Beauregard Parish Exhibit Hall  
610 West Street, DeRidder, La.

#### \*Dallas Gem and Mineral Society\*

November 19-20 Rodeo Center,  
Mesquite, Texas

### SCFMS NEWS

\* One of the 2006 goals of the SCFMS is the recruitment of new members for each club. While overall membership is a target, special emphasis needs to be placed on increasing the junior membership. There is now a "Junior Rockhound of the year" award available.

#### \*Fall safety - Geo. Browne Safety Chair

Points to remember for fall safety:

- Its hunting season. You may be sharing the great outdoors with hunters. Wear highly visible clothing, and do not make any sounds or movements that could be mistaken by a hunter.

-Leaves ( and grasses) are slippery, especially when wet. Use caution while walking and driving.

-Be prepared for sudden weather changes, with alternative clothing and other gear that might be necessary.

-Be constantly aware of your surroundings.

#### OLD CD'S by GEORGE FINLEY

Old CD's can be used on your faceting machine. Just scour them then put diamond spray on the disk. According to "The Gem Facetor", as well as Gene Potts, they work well for polishing from Shawnee Slate, Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club ( via Rocky Mountain Federation News)

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### What?

What can I do to help? What can I do? This is the question that everyone has probably asked recently with all the natural disasters that have occurred. However, there is yet another disaster that occurs daily and that's the disaster of indifference. We have our clubs, our churches, and our civic organizations to do various things, for various reasons. But, do we ever look around to see what we're missing? I'm referring to our youth. There are more drugs, gangs, and teen suicides than ever before in history. Our youth no longer has moral or spiritual values. They don't know anything about compassion for life. They don't know anything about responsibly. Why?

Look in the mirror and then you will know. None of us want to admit that as adults and parents we're failing today's generation of children. That's where as Gem and Mineral Club members we can help. There are so many things in the lapidary arts that we know and could pass down to our youth. But are we doing that? No! Now I know that not all youths are going to show an interest in what we do. But how are we going to know until we ask. If we reach just one kid out of a hundred, it's worth it. So, why don't we? This is my question. Never say we can't, or we've never done it that way before. Always ask why not? Why not talk to Johnny down the street, or Mary next door? Maybe if we reach them, Johnny & Mary may reach a few friends. Maybe their Moms and Dads will come. Maybe they can find something to do as a family. Folks, we need to get out of our comfort zones and go to work.

I would like to challenge everyone reading this to look around and take notice of a child or youth in which you may be able to grow a lapidary interest in their life. This will also help continue in the legacy of Gem & Mineral clubs everywhere. Think about it.

Until next time,  
Jack Adams

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### **Code of Ethics put forth by the American Federation of Mineral Societies:**

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
7. I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
8. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
9. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
10. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
11. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
12. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
13. I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
14. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
15. I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the public stature and public "Public Image" of rockhounds everywhere.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE**

**[www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)**

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 nonprofit 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 flint-knapping (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.

**Minutes of October 4, 2005 meeting.**

The meeting was held at the pavilion near the boat launch on Teague Parkway in Bossier City. Hamburgers and other goodies served were delicious. Jack Adams had the thankless task of cooking the meat, but he did a great job.

Bill Hart made a motion and James Hendrix seconded, that Okley Davis be made an honorary member - voted was unanimous. Lisa Riddick has asked to be relieved of her duties as the Rock Rattler editor. Wil House volunteered to take over.

A discussion was put forth concerning the by-laws in relation to voting for officers. The original by-laws stated the voting would take place in Dec.. Bill Hart stated the by-laws were amended to vote in October to coincide with the paperwork for liability insurance, however the by-laws had not been updated. Okley Davis proposed we waive the provision and hold the election tonight - the motion carried.

Election results: President - Edna House; Vice-pres.- no candidate office vacant; Treas. - Bill Hart; Secretary - Gail George; 3 year board member - Ike House

Ike House went over show attendance results based on the various advertising medium.

Money spent to feed the vendors at the show was in dispute. Jack Adams said the vendors were so appreciative; they contributed money towards the food. Jack indicated there was part of the money left over, and proposed designating that towards similar funding for the next show. Bill Hart said there was no need to keep this money separate. Instead, since the feedback was so positive, this could be a specific line item in the 2006 show budget. This would eliminate any question of approval of expenditures. Gail George Secretary

**Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society Membership Application**

Individual Membership	\$ 15.00 per year
Couple Membership	\$ 20.00 per year
Family Membership	\$25.00 per year

Send completed application to:  
Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 6633  
Bossier City, La. 71111

Name(s).....

Address.....

Renewal?.....Phone(s).....Email.....

Membership option (check one) Individual:..... Couple:..... Family:.....

Signature.....