



THE ROCK RATTLER



2005-2006 Club Officers

President Edna House

949-9765

Vice-pres. John Autry

390-9200

Secretary Gail George

Treasurer Bill Hart

746-8735

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

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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

You and your family are cordually invited to the Ark-La-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society Christmas party and auction .

Date: December 6, 2005

Time: 6:00 PM Tuesday evening

Place: Bossier Parish History Center

(Behind Bossier Parish Library on Beckett St.)

Bring: Finger food or

Drink (no red drinks) or

Your favorite snack food and

Items for the auction

Merry Christmas

Edna House

NOTICE * NOTICE * NOTICE * NOTICE

There will be a short Board meeting before the Dec. meeting. All Board members try to be at the History Center so we can begin this meeting by 6:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

To date, we have the following foods/drinks that will be for the Dec. meeting:

COOKIES --O.DAVIS

SWEET TEA --A&J HENDRIX

REG & DIET COKES -- C. JOHNS

VEG. TRAY -- J. MILFORD

SANDWICHES -- I. HOUSE

PRALINES -- G.GEORGE

CHIPS -- D. HOWARD

COOKIES -- J. AUTRY

Use this as a guide as to what you might want to bring.

NEAT TIP - If you plan to collect in an area where poison ivy is known to occur, take along a spray bottle filled with Windex. Before you enter the area, spray your clothing and bare skin. When you're through, and before entering your vehicle, respray yourself and clothing. Donnie says it works; it seems to dry out the ivy oils which are so toxic to many people. (Courtesy of Donnie Heffley) From Sooner Rockhound Feb.2002

2006DUES ARE DUE, PAY BILL HART

ROCKS AND MINERALS OF LOUISIANA

By Wilford House

Contrary to what most believe, Louisiana has a significant number of beautiful and interesting rocks and mineral specimen. There are both “native”, and “transported” materials to be found in the state. While the items listed below are not all-inclusive, they do illustrate the fact of a wide assortment of rocks and minerals that may be found in Louisiana.

DIAMONDS

Diamonds are not native to Louisiana, however there have been a number found in the gravel beds located in the Minden area. At one time, there was a corporation formed for the purpose of mining diamonds of that area. The number found was never publically revealed.

PRECIOUS OPAL

In the Toro Creek area of central Louisiana, near the Texas/Louisiana line, there are deposits of precious opal. The matrix is sandstone, and finished stones have a different appearance from Australian opal. Many pieces are very beautiful, and have a lot of “fire”. Colors range from blue to green to red.

CHAMBERSITE

Extremely rare crystals of Chambersite have been found in the salt dome at Venice, Louisiana. These crystals are valued at between \$250 to \$300 per carat.

PEARLS

Pearls may be found in oysters dredged from the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, fresh water pearls have been found in clams in various streams. Mother of pearl from fresh water clams are still collected and used by amateur jewelry makers.

AGATE

In addition to agate found in alluvial gravel, some of which is most beautiful, there is at least one deposit of native agate. The deposit is in the Castor area, and colors of all hues are present.

PETRIFIED PALM

While the most attractive palm is located in the area around Flatwood, Louisiana, and westward to Toledo Bend lake, there have been finds of petrified palm in many other areas of the state.

PETRIFIED WOOD

Finds of petrified wood have been reported in almost every parish in the state. Either in strata, or gravel beds.

CHERT

Significant amounts of chert are found in stream and gravel beds throughout the state

CORNELIAN

Found in stream and gravel beds throughout the state.

QUARTZ CRYSTAL

In addition to being found as alluvial gravel in stream beds and gravel beds throughout the state, defined crystals can be found in cavities in petrified wood, iron ore nodules, and other rock formations.

JASPER

Found in stream and gravel beds throughout the state.

IRON ORE

There are iron ore out-croppings to be found in several locations in north west Louisiana.

IRON ORE GEODES/NODULES

Iron ore geodes and or nodules have been found in dirt pits, along road cuts, stream beds, and washes in northwest Louisiana. In addition, along with the iron ore geodes and nodules, concretions with an iron ore matrix have been found in similar locations.

SANDSTONE

Massive pieces of sandstone have been found adjacent to the current , as well as in ancient, stream beds of the Red River.

LIMESTONE

Outcropping of limestone have been found in the northwest portion of the state.

MUDSTONE

Found along the southeast edge of Caddo Lake, in northwest Louisiana.

The area of Louisiana that contains some of the oldest rocks found at or near the surface is in southern Bienville Parish, near the town of Saline.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

As your new editor, I want to ask each member to be on the lookout for items to be used in the Rock Ratler. These may be articles that you write, articles that you read in other publications that may be reprinted with permission, or poems that you write that are “rock” related. Deluge me with articles so that we will have to go back to a larger bulletin in order to include them all. Editor.

Minutes - November 1, 2005

Refreshments included a 50th Wedding Anniversary cake provided by Wil and Edna House. Congratulations!

John Autry was introduced as the candidate for Vice President. The vote to confirm him was unanimous.

Any programs will be done at the beginning of each meeting in case someone needs to leave early. Just a word about meeting or demonstration etiquette - please be respectful of your neighbors who might be interested in what is being said. Also, respect the person(s) conducting the meeting/demonstration - if you must have an ongoing conversation that cannot wait, please take it outside the meeting room.

Okley Davis has offered to provide a program on moonstone. Cindi Adams demonstrated a bead knotting technique that was interesting, informative, as well as ending up with a beautiful result. Thanks for the lesson Cindi!

Wil talked about his and Edna's trip to the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA. Course information was passed around. Wil went into detail of the courses they both took and had examples of their classwork. Wil and Edna will discuss the possibility of a contest for a potential scholarship they wish to sponsor for this school with the Board. Details will follow at a future date.

The Treasurer's report was given by Bill Hart. He has received a registration certificate from the Louisiana Secretary of State of our non-profit status. Edna will hold it with other club documents. Bill indicated the price of the Civic Center has gone up, so we may have to go up on admission for our show. He went through the package of information that would be sent to the SCFMS. He also stated the catering for next year's meeting will be done by the Culinary Department of BPCC.

Ike House stated the Austin show was December 2-4. At this show the SCFMS will have its business meeting and have requested at least one representative from each club to attend. Postcards for our 2006 show have been printed up and will go with Ike to the Austin meeting.

Refreshment and door prize lists were passed around, asking for volunteers to bring these items to the monthly meetings. Also requested were finger food and auction items sign-up for the charity auction at our Christmas party. Be sure if you have an item you wished auctioned, and you want a reserve or minimum bid, please mark that reserve.

Jane Milford was introduced as a guest of Edna's. It was good to have Jane, and she even said she would be back - GREAT! Edna asked if James would consider becoming a field trip coordinator. Pam said she would ask him and report back.

The Chipalotta's have been very active. Anyone interested in learning how to make arrowheads or flintknapping are invited to participate at the Dixie Monument Company on Hwy. 80 on Mondays or Wednesdays.

John Quade has volunteered to be the official photographer for any projects to be tied to the club web site via other web links.

Gail George won the door prize. Please be sure to invite any current or potential members to the next meeting.

Gail George, Secretary

WANT ADS

Many of our members are not aware that it is permissible for club members to have ads inserted in the Rock Rattler for items that they want to sell or buy. While the general idea is for these items to be "rock" related, it is not absolutely necessary for them to be. Also, you may have an item that, in your mind, is not rock related, but to some member it may be. An example of such an item might be a ceramic kiln. Some of our members might be into glass fusion, or enameling, and would welcome an opportunity to pick up a suitable kiln at a good price. Call or e-mail the editor, and he will see that your ad is put in. Ed.

POISONOUS MALACHITE

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke, and the taste becomes very sweet, you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation.

From Amador Nugget 7/00 via Grant County Beacon 8/03
Rockhound Record 12/03, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

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.

**WIN A SCHOLARSHIP TO
WILLIAM HOLLAND
SCHOOL OF LAPIDARY**

Edna and Wil House are sponsoring a one week scholarship to the William Holland School of Lapidary. The scholarship will be awarded based upon a drawing of qualified club members. The next big question is, "How do I become qualified?" Briefly, a club member earns "points" by participating in club activities. Once a person reaches a set number of points, their name goes into the "hat". As soon as the date of the drawing is reached, a name is withdrawn from the "hat", and that person has won. They then have one year in which to use the scholarship. Final details will be worked out, and rules for the contest will be announced at the January meeting.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

- JANUARY-----IKE HOUSE**
- FEBRUARY----JOHN AUTRY**
- APRIL----**
- MAY-----DAVID HOWARD**
- JUNE----**
- JULY----**
- AUGUST----**
- SEPTEMBER---**

Note: March, October and December are special meetings, and "normal" refreshments will not be provided.

DOOR PRIZES WILL BE PROVIDED BY:
BILL HART -- FEBRUARY
IKE HOUSE -- APRIL

CHARLIE JOHNS -- JANUARY
OKLEY DAVIS -- MARCH
JOHN QUADE -- MAY

ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual Membership \$15.00 per year
- Couple Membership \$20.00 per year
- Famil Membership \$25.00 per year

Mail 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.....