



# 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

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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

New Year's greetings to everyone,

I wish that all of our club members could have attended our December Xmas party/ auction. It really was a lot of fun.

We started off with delicious food and drinks ranging from a plate piled high with homemade pralines from Gail George's kitchen, to party mix. There was also a table full of desserts!

Jack Adams conducted our competitive and lively auction. The items ranged all the way from Red Fruit's pepper sauce to very "high end" custom jewelry by Don Talbot. Don donated a beautiful Louisiana opal pendant that he had crafted. That piece was so desirable and was so appreciated that Don stood up and took another Louisiana opal pendant out of his jeans pocket and presented this to be auctioned as well. This piece was complimented by a silver feather/leaf on one side. We all wanted this one, but both were works of art. Congratulations to all the lucky high bidders.

The January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature a program brought to us by Okley Davis, which will feature moonstone. We are looking forward to this presentation. The program will be conducted at the first of the meeting so that anyone needing to get their children to bed can leave if need be.

I am personally looking forward to a good year. "Thank you" goes out to our board members and officers.

See you in January -

Rock on

Edna

**BOARD MEETING - BOARD MEETING  
THE BOARD HAS SEVERAL ITEMS TO CON-  
SIDER. MAKE YOUR PLANS, AND BE AT THE  
MEETING BY 6:00PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.  
YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED. ed**

Rules for drawing for tuition to William Hololand Schkool of Lapidary will be available at the January 3, 2006 club meeting. Points will be awarded for attending club meetings, writing Rock Rattler articles and poems, going on field trips, working at the annual show, having a display case at the show, giving a program at the club or some other civic or school organization, and other activities. Start earning points NOW!!!

**2006 DUES ARE DUE, PAY BILL HART**

## Faceting

By

Joe A. Beasley

Somewhere around the 1600's, it was determined that you could polish a window on the surface of a stone and see down inside a rock. Well, this is partially true but to aid and assist into seeing inside a rock (stone-mineral), there are several other products on the market today that helps. We will try to discuss some of them later in the article. During the early stages of faceting, the procedure was a family closely guarded secret. It was considered a trade secret that probably lasted several hundred years.

As early as the 800's, the stones, primarily emeralds, rubies and diamonds, were polished pretty much as the stone was found, there was no attempt to shape the stone. Probably in the early days, this was all accomplished in Antwerp, Paris and Lisbon. Then, for some unknown reason, it seemed the cutting trade moved to Holland. After that, the next recorded cutters seemed to be in India. Still, today probably, the capital of diamond cutting is done in Antwerp.

Faceting is a very misunderstood art by many people. My job is to simplify it and make it interesting for anyone who would like to give it a try. I have been faceting about fifteen years. I became seriously interested around 1990. At that time, I heard many stories about the difficulties and problems in faceting; however, I have never experienced them. I have never experienced these problems because of the instructors I have had along the way. The first instructor was Samuel J. Touchstone who is a Master Faceter. I also have had assistance from Sam West. Both are members of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society. I had instructions from Reivan Zeleznik, Eastern Federation Workshop, at Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC. At William Holland School of Lapidary Art, I received instructions from B. D. Moore and Bruce Brockett. This year, my faceting instructor was John Eberle. All have left an imprint on me.

To get back to some of the misunderstood myths of faceting: it is very difficult if you don't have a good Math background; and, you have to have good hearing and good eyesight. All of these things enter into the equation, but you can overcome every one of them. It is sort of like an old Flintknapper with a hot rock and a bucket of cold water. You have to be able to hold a hot rock. I guess that is not a very good example but only an old Flintknapper would know the real answer. Of course, that has nothing to do with Faceting except you can't get the rocks too hot. It is my philosophy to start out with something not expensive but having the potential to be pretty and a good value once you have finished your stone.

As mentioned earlier, visualize the potential in faceted stones. To look through the stone, you need to have available refraction oil, REFRACTOL IMMERSION LIQUID (Used to examine Facet Rough For Flaws). This can be purchased at your local lapidary supply house, or spray it with WD40. WD40 will allow you to see some fractures, inclusions and problem areas in the stone. Also, you might consider purchasing a lazer pointer, the type used to instruct and point at an illustration board. Lazer lights will let you see a lot more.

I guess the one thing I would like to say is – I, by no means know all the answers, neither does any one book that I am aware of. However, I will be able to assist students in the process of faceting a stone. I enjoy teaching and currently, am in negotiation to establish a faceting studio for those who are interested. I hope to have the studio set up the first part of the coming year. Anyone interested can contact me. If there is an interest in faceting, more articles will follow.

References: Rock and Gem Magazine; Faceting Facinates by Ruth Chin; United States Faceting Guild; The Faceting Handbook by Margaret Reed and Ed Peters

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December 2005 Minutes

At the South Central Federation show in Austin, several members of our club were presented with awards:

Dwight House received fourth place (a certificate) on the web site – Dwight stated they had judged the old web site. For next year's show the new site would be the one judged. He assured us it would take first place – we all think he's right.

Lisa Riddick received first place (a certificate and plaque) for the best mini-bulletin.

Pam Hendrix received fifth place (a certificate) for featured adult articles. She wrote "Fly on the Wall – Observations at the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Show."

Refreshments were provided by everyone and enjoyed by same.

The auction of donated items netted a total of \$561, instead of the reported \$412 – this is due to pilot error on the calculator – Sorry!! Motions were made and seconded to donate portions of the auction proceeds to both the AFMS Scholarship and the endowment fund.

Many thanks to all of you who donated items – there was a wide and interesting variety of items.

Wil House indicated there would be a field trip to Sulfur River on Saturday, December 17. If you are interested, please meet at the parking lot of the Home Depot in Bossier at 6:00 a.m.

Gail George - Secretary

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Work-Brittle  
by Dale Moore

When Craig Kime presented the program on wire-wrapped jewelry at our meeting in November, he mentioned something that took me back to my boyhood. He explained that, when you're working in wire and stroking it with your fingers, you not only are straightening it, or curling it, but also hardening it as it is being worked. As the wire is worked, internal friction creates heat, which causes the hardening.

My Daddy was a hard worker and had been all of his life, even as a boy. He tried to instill that same work ethic in my brothers and me, and acted so proud of us, when we turned out a good day's work. One of the terms that he used, when referring to a man, who had become strong and tough through continual hard work, was "work-brittle."

That strength is a wonderful attribute in many things, including our lives. But you know what happens when you work a piece of wire too much, don't you? It gets so hard that it begins to crack and finally breaks. Before it gets that hard, you have to soften it again, by annealing it.

Sometimes, it seems that we get too hard, ourselves, and need a little softening. You know the old cliché, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." One way that we can soften up from the work-brittle tempering, is to have some fun by getting together with friends and doing something enjoyable.

One of the times when I see people laughing and enjoying themselves is at our work nights. That's one time, when there is no pressure on us, and no real deadlines to meet. We bring something to work on and we work together, visit, share ideas, and have a snack and a cup of coffee. Some people just come to visit. Some people just come to see what's going on. Some people come to learn something.

I hope all of you will come to work night on the first Monday night of each month and join in on this annealing.

( In our case, it is the first Tuesday of each month. All ya'll come, hear! Ed.)

**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.

**DOOR PRIZES WILL BE PROVIDED BY:**

- CHARLIE JOHNS -- JANUARY**
- BILL HART -- FEBRUARY**
- OKLEY DAVIS -- MARCH**
- IKE HOUSE -- APRIL**
- JOHN QUADE -- MAY**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

**JANUARY:**

- 21-22 - FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS**
- 28-29 - TYLER, TEXAS**

**FEBRUARY:**

- 4-5 - PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA**
- 25-26 - JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**
- 25-26 - PASADENA, TEXAS**

**MARCH:**

- 4-5 - BIG SPRING, TEXAS**
- 4-5 - FARMERS BRANCH (DALLAS), TEXAS**
- 24-26 - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**Wanted:** index wheels for an Allen faceting machine. Wil House. Contact me at wihouse@bellsouth.net or see me at club meeting.

**Remember,** want ads may be placed in the Rock Rattler by club members, and may include rock related items. (relation can be very loosely made)

**Space** as needed will be devoted to want ads. Get yours in now.

**REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE**

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

**Note: March, October and December are special meetings, and "normal" refreshments will not be provided. Volunteers for open months are requested**

**ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

- Individual Membership    \$15.00 per year
- Couple Membership        \$20.00 per year
- Family 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:.....