



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

Joe Beasley (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

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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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings - As we approach early springtime, (seems like its spring now) we have some interesting events in the works.

We have the Science Fair and Earth Day as well as The Chipalottas will do a demo at the Corps of Engineers (on Clyde Fant, near Sci-Port). These are "happy" events, because they involve school children. The Science Fair is March 2. The Beasleys need some help with judging, so if any of you would like to help out, see Joe or Lee. Bill Hart is heading up the Earth Day event, and would welcome any help. The Corps of Engineers demo will be on Saturday, Feb. 11

These are just some of the opportunities to get out of our "Comfort Zone" and talk about our hobby. I was recently at the Post Office buying stamps, and I looked at the stamps and exclaimed " Oh, what a beautiful squash blossom necklace". The lady asked what I had said, she explained that no one at the branch post office knew what that was on the stamp. I did enjoy sharing my knowledge of the turquoise squash blossom necklace. This then allowed me to show off my Don Talbot silver and turquoise ring. (love it!) I hope each one of you will get an opportunity to share your interest in rocks. (continued page 3)

January, 2006 Minutes

One of the Board members, Mary West, has resigned that position and Joe Beasley was asked and has agreed to serve the remainder of her term on the Board. That was voted on and passed by the membership.

Visitors Terry Thomas and Bob Jennings were welcomed as well as Garry, Sheri and Cody Stewart.

Okley Davis provided an excellent and informative program on moonstone.

The Wil and Edna House scholarship to the William Holland School was discussed in detail – The details will appear in the Rock Rattler.

Part of last month's auction proceeds had been designated for AFMS programs. That was rescinded via a member vote at this meeting. Ike House has investigated the possibility of an LSU scholarship. A member of the LSU staff will be asked to come to speak to the Club members so relevant questions and concerns can be addressed. After that information is available, the members will then vote on the distribution of funds.

David Howard proposed a possible Club calendar similar to one that had been passed around showing our member's work or collections as a potential informational handout.

Door prizes were provided by Charlie Johns.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

!!!THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN, IF DUES ARE NOT PAID!!!

RULES FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
TO
WILLIAM HOLLAND SCHOOL OF LAPIDARY ARTS

1. The award will be made based upon a random drawing of qualified full members of the club. Junior members may not qualify. Drawing will be made at the September meeting.
2. The award will be for the tuition necessary for the recipient to attend a one (1) week class of the winner's choosing. The award does not cover fees, costs of material, transportation or other incidental costs associated with attending the school. (Tuition includes room, meals, and instruction while attending school.)
3. Tuition award will be based upon a double occupancy room.
4. The winner may attend any class of their choosing at any time during the succeeding 12 months after the drawing. Should the recipient not utilize the scholarship during this 12 month period, the award will be forfeited.
5. To qualify for the drawing, a member must reach a minimum of 24 points. Points will be accumulated by participating in various prescribed club activities. The activities and points are:

ACTIVITY	POINTS	MAX. POSSIBLE
Attend club meeting	1	8
Work 2 hr. shift at Aug. show	1	6
Go on club sponsored field trip	3	9
Write and publish bulletin article or poem	3	6
Active member of Show Committee	3	3
Have a display case at Aug. show	3	3
Sign up a new club member	2	6

(Maximum points possible is based on Jan.- Aug. activity period for 2006)

6. All interpretations concerning application of rules will be made solely by the Rock Rattler editor.

Safety Check Up

This is the time of the year when people usually make a lot of New Year resolutions, but for one reason or another, they don't always work out. So lets not make any safety resolutions that we are not going to keep. Instead, lets have a safety check up.

What is a safety check up? A safety check up is where you check all of your equipment, tools and other gear to make sure they are ready to be used if needed. In your shop check your fire extinguisher. How long has it been since it was charged? Check your first aid kit. Is it full and ready? Dont forget to check the belts and shields on all of your power equipment. Check your dust removal equipment, clean or change your filters if needed. If you use gas tanks check the valves, hoses and regulators. In other words, go through your shop and think safety.

The same applies to your field trip gear. In a few months we will be ready to start some great field trips. Check your field first aid kit, your hard hat, knee pads, safety glasses, steel toe shoes, gloves and tools. Repair or replace any tools that are unsafe.

How about that stuff you load in your vehicle just in case: like a water jug, blanket, radio, flashlight, tow straps and emergency food. Now is the time to check all your gear and supplies.

Remember the three "R's". Replenish, replace or repair. I'm sure that you can think of a lot of stuff that I didn't mention. The important thing is to check everything while you are thinking safety. Do a safety check up. Be prepared to be safe, it will make your hobby a lot more fun. Happy holidays - Stay Safe, George

GEORGE BROWNE, SCFMS Safety Chair

Agates - Rich in Fiber!

Sometimes chalcedony, including agate is described as a fine-grained quartz. But the real case isn't quite this simple. There are lots of clues for this. Arrowheads and other stone tools are harder and more durable when made from chalcedony rather than coarse quartz. On the other hand, coarse quartz is better to grind up as a concrete additive than chalcedony. The chalcedony causes various chemical reactions in the concrete which can fail, while quartz is unreactive.

With the advance of modern analytical tools, the reasons for these differences can finally be investigated. Chalcedony has a microscopically fibrous structure, made of evenly spaced silica rods. More surprising is the fact that the fibers show a regularly alternating pattern of elongation -some parts being "length fast" and some parts "length slow". This means that in part of a particular fiber, light travels faster parallel to the long axis of the fiber. In other parts of the same fiber, the light travels slower parallel to the fiber length. This further implies that the silicon and oxygen atoms for some reason regularly twist or change in orientation as each fiber grows. Mineralogists are still trying to figure out why the fibers twist and what different forms of silica are intertwined with each other.

It is these inter-grown fibers that gives chalcedony its great strength and durability. The peculiar structure also gives chalcedony its unexpected chemical reactivity in concrete.

One theory is for the growth of the fibers is being developed by two researchers (Yifeng Wang and Enrique Merino) at Indiana University. They envision agate as developing as fingers of silica growing progressively outward into a cavity filled with siliceous "media". They do not specify as to whether this "media" is a solution or a gel. The first step is the formation of a coating of silica around the cavity. The coating (this being the real world) won't be completely smooth. In some places, the coating will bulge out slightly into the "media". It is these bulges which will grow rapidly outward into the solution to form the fibers. Impurities in the solution (such as iron or copper) will slow the growth briefly until these impurities precipitate as their own minerals on top of or between the silica fibers.

Once the impurity's concentration is briefly reduced in this manner, silica growth will proceed again. Withdrawal of silica makes the solution richer in impurities, causing them to form another layer. This rhythmic precipitation is repeated many times as the agate grows. These layers of impurities show up as the color banding that characterize agates.

Bill Cordua, U. of W. - River Falls

References: Heaney, Peter J., D. Verlen and J. Post, 1994, "Structural disparities between chalcedony and macrocrystalline quartz", *American Mineralogist*, vol. 79, p. 452-460.

Wang, Yifeng and Enrique Merino, 1995, "Origin of Fibrosity and Banding in Agates from Flood Basalts", *American Journal of Science*, vol. 295, p. 49-77.

From Mineralogical Society of Arizona

(cont. from page one) President's Message

This month we will have a short board meeting, please try to be there by 6:00 p.m.

We will have a program brought to us by Ms. Linda Erwin, who will talk to us about the LSU scholarship programs, and what we might be able to do for local students.

Bring your "show and tell" items, for all to enjoy.

March will be an "eating meeting", and we all should be thinking about a location for the meeting. Will mentioned David Beards Catfish King located across the street from the Outback Steakhouse.

Please try to attend our February meeting. Until then,

Rock on - Edna

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.

DOOR PRIZES WILL BE PROVIDED BY:

- BILL HART -- FEBRUARY**
- OKLEY DAVIS -- MARCH**
- DON TALBOT -- APRIL**
- JOHN QUADE -- MAY**
- RED FLUITT -- JUNE**
- IKE HOUSE -----JULY**

UPCOMING SHOWS

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**

APRIL:

- 8-9 ABILINE, TEXAS**
- 29-30 LUBBOCK, 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

- FEBRUARY-----JOHNAUTRY**
- APRIL-----DON TALBOT**
- MAY-----DAVID HOWARD**
- JUNE-----THE STEWARTS**
- JULY-----IKE HOUSE**
- AUGUST----**
- SEPTEMBER---PAM HENDRIX**
- 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:.....