



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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again from the Houses. We were planning on going to the Jackson show on Saturday, but the weather was so bad, we decided to wait a day. We are glad that we did, as the weather could not have been any better. Beautiful sunshine, and nice warm weather. The show was really nice. The Jackson club members were very active in doing demonstrations. There was a wide assortment of crafts being demonstrated. We learned how to make paper gift (small) boxes from old greeting cards, plus Wil got some good information regarding faceting. There were "gem tree" instruction, bead stringing demonstrations, and many others. One thing that I noticed was that the local archaeology club had several displays, plus a booth where they gave demonstrations, and discussed archaeology. Maybe we could contact the local society, and see if they would be interested in having some sort of presence at our show.

Joe Beasley is working diligently on getting a faceting workshop up and running, and Wil is his "trial run" student. Anyone interested in learning how to facet should contact Joe and get in line. He says that as soon as the weather gets warm, he will have space for several students.

We are looking forward to our "eating meeting" in March, to be held at **DAVID BEARDS CATFISH KING** off Airline Drive, in Bossier City. The food is really good, and the prices are reasonable, so plan on being there. Oakley has submitted a plan for the direction of the Club, and perhaps we can talk about it at the meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Rock on - Edna

MARCH MEETING
WILL BE AT DAVID BEARDS
CATFISH KING RESTURANT
2712 VILLAGE LANE, BOSSIER CITY
6 PM

FEBRUARY 2006 MINUTES

Ike House introduced our guest speakers- Glenda Erwin from the LSU scholarship program and Gary Hanson with the Earth Sciences Department of LSU.

Glenda provided information of what could be possible for a scholarship to a local student of the Earth Sciences group. She went through proposed criteria and possible recipients. Glenda indicated in some cases, text books alone can run as much as \$500 per semester for some courses.

Gary spoke about water shed management and geology aspects of his department. He gave a wonderful slide presentation depicting multiple active projects in which student participation is essential.

The Board will discuss the scholarship issues and get back with members. Our club must decide disposition of the auction monies at some future point, hopefully before the fall semester

There are several upcoming events – The Bossier Parish Science Fair will be Saturday, March 3 at the Bossier Civic Center. Our club provides a \$25 prize for each age category. (Joe Beasley would like some help with judging – contact him.) Earth Day for Bossier Parish 4th graders will be April 28 at the Knights of Columbus (Bill Hart could use assistance – contact him).

Bill Hart gave the Treasurer's report. We have a CD coming due 3/15. A motion was made and seconded to roll it over for another six months – the motion passed. Bill has already mailed the dealer's contracts for the August show. He indicated he will begin expending funds soon, such as deposit for the Civic Center, etc.

The March meeting will be an "Eatin' Meetin'" and will be held at David Beards, across from Outback Steakhouse at 6:00.

Door prizes were provided by Bill Hart.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

FEBRUARY 2006 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Edna had received a proposal of items to be addressed by the board from Okley.

Bill indicated the contracts for the dealers for our show in August are in the mail.

The dealer's dinner setup will be in the banquet hall. The food table will be there as well.

Gail George will coordinate the dealer's dinner.

The Holiday Inn is the base hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George - Secretary

BUILD A ROCK FENCE

Ray Hill (GREAT SOUTH GEMS & MINERALS, INC) has a nice article (<http://www.greatsouth.net>) about a good way to get rid of all of your piles and buckets of rocks that rockhounds tend to have around the house.

His idea is to use 2 - 8 inch concrete cinder blocks, and place a 2" X 10" pressure treated board between them, then place your rock specimens on the board. By stacking several layers, you end up with a rock fence. You can make the fence as long as you want, by adding additional segments. The completed "fence" looks a little like a split rail fence, without the zig-zags. Even without the interesting (no doubt) rocks that you might place on the fence, the design is quite attractive.

If you have never visited Ray's website, you are missing out on some neat ideas. I would encourage any rockhound with a computer to visit his site. I do not believe that you will be disappointed. Editor

MOONSTONE

Both modern man and the ancients share various beliefs about the moon and its effects on their lives. For modern man thinks about such things as: (1) the man in the moon, (2) romantic songs concerning full moons, (3) the blue moon, (4) a dark moon suggestive of something evil, (5) crop plantings only in a certain phase of the moon, (6) exploring, and (7) habitation. The ancients believed: (1) a full moon expressed anger from the gods, (2) moonstones were pebbles fallen from the moon, and (3) eclipses occurred because someone was using moonstone to reflect back the moon's rays.

Actually, moonstone is a feldspar - the most common mineral on earth. It, and Labradorite (spectrolite) are the only two feldspars of jewelry significance. Moonstone exhibits adularescence, a cloudlike white, or bluish white, schiller effect which appears to float off the surface of the stone. When cut in a certain orientation, it may be a "catseye". It has the same schiller effect as adularia, a colorless stone, found in the Swiss and Italian alps. Labradorite (spectrolite) is a much different feldspar compound. It's schiller effect is a more solid color, more golden, and more massive.

The major sources of moonstone are Sri Lanka, and India. It can also be found in several other countries and within the USA. In Virginia and Oregon, Moonstone rough is rarely available, much of it is cut in India and fashioned into jewelry there.

Some facts about Moonstone. It has a hardness of 6-6 1/2, and has perfect cleavage. There are certain stones associated with the planets - Moonstone for the moon. As an astral stone it is associated with Cancer or Sagittarius. In some countries, or cultures, it is the birthstone for June, August or October. It is the anniversary stone for the 13th anniversary. It is the state stone for Florida, although it is not found there.

In comparison with other lapidary or jewelry stones, it is priced comparably with chrysophase, fire agate, jade, and lapis. It is much less expensive than semi-precious stones such as rubies, sapphires, and emeralds.

Depending upon the grade, the cost of moonstone cabs can be (purchased) for (as little as) \$10.00, and up to (as much as) \$250.00 or more. Faceted stones might cost from \$30.00 to nearly \$100.00. Low cost silver pendants with moonstones might cost from \$40.00 to under \$100.00. Faceted moonstones in gold settings, such as earrings, can be purchased for about \$150.00.

OKLEY DAVIS

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER

This cleverly written piece of unknown origin accentuates the importance of every member being involved in the work of this organization.

Xvxn though this kxyboard is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcept for onx kxy. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfxctly. It is trux that thxr arx forty-onx kxys that do function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working surx makxs a diffxrxncx !

Somtimxs a club is likx this kxyboard - not all the mxmbxrs arx working proprly. You may say to yoursxlf, "wxll, I am only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak a projxct." But, it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcausx any projxct, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx participation of xvxy mxmbxr.

So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr this kxyboard and say to yoursxlf, "I am a 'kxy mxmbxr' in this club, and I am nxxdxd vxry much !"

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

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**

MAY:

- 6-7 WACO, TEXAS**
- 27-28 FORT WORTH, 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.

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF...

You can pronounce "molybdenite" correctly on the first try. You find yourself compelled to examine rocks in driveway gravel. Your children are named Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl. from the Backbender's Gazette December 2005

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:.....