



THE ROCK RATTLER



*****NOTICE***NOTICE***NOTICE***NOTICE*****

**SINCE OUR REGULAR MEETING NIGHT FALLS ON JULY 4
OUR MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY JULY 3.**

There will be a Board of Directors meeting at 6:00 PM.

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

Well, here we are, back from our wonderful Alaskan cruise, and excited to be in the midst of our plans for our show in August.

We will be discussing FOOD (very important) for the dealers' dinner, custom coffee mugs for the Federation guests, (as well as to sell) and a lapel pin, if our budget permits.

Please attend the meeting, and be prepared to volunteer to help conduct our show. You will be so glad that you did.. Make your plans, don't forget, and **BE THERE.**

Edna

Faceting classroom up-date

Earlier in the year, we talked about faceting. I guess it is time to either get something going or stumble on to something else. For one thing, I am still trying to get a Lapidary Studio together, but if you have ever attempted to do something like this, it isn't easy, especially when you are trying to keep the overall cost to a minimum. Everything comes up – yes, you need a rest room, running water, air condition (in Louisiana), and electricity. Well, it is all solved but the electricity part. That may or may not be solvable. If not, we will go a different direction. Once again, those who are interested in faceting, let me know. I have joined forces with Samuel J. Touchstone to try to get this accomplished.

As for teaching, my time and efforts are free; however, there will be a Lab Fee. The major part of that fee will be for electricity and supplies. In the class atmosphere, things we will discuss are the faceting machine, component parts, how they are used, and the sequence of their use. We will discuss minerals (roughs/pre-forms), what to look for in a good stone to cut, how to orient the stone to get the best color, and the best yield.

The next time, we will discuss our "hopeful" Studio and go from there.

Joe Beasley

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.larockclub.com

BLOODSTONE : THE MARTY'S GEM

Hardness:

6.5 - 7.0

Occurrence:

Bloodstone is found in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Kathiawar Peninsula and Wyoming.

Appearance:

This form of chalcedony appears as an opaque dark green stone with red spots, also known as bloodstone, and bluestone. It also occurs in shades of dark green with red, brown and multicolored spots. The iron minerals cause the deep red and brown colors. Bloodstone is a variety of the silica mineral chalcedony with nodules of bright-red jasper distributed throughout its mass. Polished sections therefore show red spots on dark-green background, and from the resemblance of these to drops of blood it derives its name. Its physical properties are those of quartz.

Enhancements:

Bloodstone is not enhanced. (Although it can be heat treated to improve its knappability.ed)

Healing legends: In ancient times, bloodstone was thought to be able to stop hemorrhages with the merest touch. Bloodstone relieves stomach and bowel pain. It strengthens blood purifying organs and improves blood circulation. Bloodstone has a positive influence on a bladder. It is also used to help one become more knowledgeable in the ways of the world.

Shopping guide: Bloodstone is an inexpensive stone. It is often used for pendants, bead necklaces, and sometimes for flint-knapping. Even today, finely powdered bloodstone is used as a medicine and aphrodisiac in India. Perhaps that explains why today it is difficult to find fine specimens of bloodstone on the market.

Bloodstone, a green jasper dotted with bright red spots of iron oxide, was treasured in ancient times and long served as the birthstone for March, along with aquamarine. This attractive chalcedony quartz is also known as Heliotrope. Heliotrope derives its name from Greek words meaning sun and turning. In ancient times, polished stones were described as reflecting the sun: perhaps the appearance of the gem reminded the ancients of the red setting sun reflected in the ocean.

It was used in sculptures representing flagellation and martyrdom. Medieval Christians often used bloodstone to carve scenes of the crucifixion and martyrs, leading it to also be dubbed martyr's stone. The legend of the origin of bloodstone says that it was first formed when some drops of Christ's blood fell and stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. A beautiful example of carved bloodstone with the seal of the German Emperor Rudolf II can be seen at the Louvre museum in Paris.

Care and treatment: Protect bloodstone from scratches, sharp blows, harsh chemicals and extreme temperatures. The polish will be removed if you get this type of stone wet.

Garry Stewart

Information on gemstones provided in part by:

The International Colored Gemstone Association: The United States Geological Survey: The Curious Lore of Precious Stones by G.F. Kunz. J.D. Lippincott. 1913: International Colored Gemstone Association <http://gemstone.org>: Gemstones of the World by Walter Schumann. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.: Gems and Jewelry by Joel E. Arem. Geoscience Press. 1992: Gems in Myth, Legend, and Lore by Bruce G. Knuth. Jeweler's Press 1999: Healing Crystals by Cassandra Eason. Vega 2003

Minutes of June, 2006 Meeting

Okley Davis gave a very informative presentation on quartz. He had many examples of the various colors and classifications. Thanks for your knowledge and willingness to share with everyone, Okley.

Bill Hart gave a Treasurer's report. Various local magazines and media have contacted us for advertising our show. Bill requested all members contribute items to the silent auction. We will need a lot of "stuff".

Bill indicated we need to have at least four colors of tickets for use at the door during the show. So far we have only found red and blue tickets. Has anyone access to different colors? If so, please contact Bill.

At the catered meals during the show the Federation is giving us expected numbers of 65-85 attending the awards banquet, and 70-90 attending the Editors breakfast. (Both of these meals will be Saturday.) These meals have tickets that must be purchased by the attendees.

Okley Davis will be handling the donuts for the "Rolling Rock" as well as each days standard use.

Joe Beasley has contact the "Food Table" people to obtain a firm quote.

(PLEASE NOTE)

The next meeting falls on the July 4th, and the library will be closed. We will meet on Monday, July 3 at the regular time.

Respectfully submitted, Gail George

*****JUST A CLARIFICATION ISSUE*****

The food that Club members are asked to bring will be for the Dealer's dinner on Friday night. This is entirely separate from the Saturday meals. (This seemed to be a confusing issue for some.)

FACETING – July 2006

By

Joe A. Beasley

For your first stone, it is usually best to start with a stone large enough to see the facets as they are being developed. I recommend a stone that will cut to approximately 10 mm. I also recommend keeping the cut simple (such as a round brilliant cut) until you get a feel for cutting.

One thing about faceting machines; they are all different, some much more complex than others. My advice, if considering buying a machine, is to cut a few stones in a "classroom" setting, then buy the very best machine you can afford. The thing that is most important in looking at a used (or new) machine is the fine adjustments and repeatability. Used machines with accessories required to cut your first stone will cost approximately \$500.00 and up. A new machine will cost \$1,200.00 and up. Good steel Laps cost approximately \$100.00 each (you will need a minimum of three). Steel Laps are the most cost-effective (most for your dollar) and will last the longest as long as you will cut in the quartz family. Polishing Laps are strictly a preference. For me, some work better than others.

Some facetors prefer to facet the Crown first. The pros and cons of faceting the Crown first versus the Pavillion first will be discussed in a later article. I prefer to facet the Pavillion first

Prior to Dopping, look at color and stone cleavage. Once deciding on the color and cleavage, Dop the stone. When there is a lot of excess material to be removed, consider using a coarse Lap, such as, 90/100 Grit Diamond Lap. Your next choice will be a 320/360 Grit Diamond Lap. The next choice of Lap will probably be a 600 Grit Diamond Lap (this will take all of the scratches out and allow you to shape the stone into a pre-form). Then, using the 1200 Grit Diamond Lap, shape and pre-polish the Pavillion of the round brilliant cut. Polishing will be discussed in a later article.

REFERENCES: Graves Introduction to Faceting by Henry Graves: Guide to Faceting 1 by James K. Dahlhausen: Faceting by David Lonser: Wildacres Workshop by Reiven Zeleznik: Beginners Faceting by John Eberle: William Holland School of Lapidary

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.

UPCOMING SHOWS

JULY:

- 1-2 Lake Ozark, Mo.**
- 8-9 Bossier City Civic Center - Bead show**
- 14-16 Houston International Gem and Jewelry show**

AUGUST:

- 12-13 Texas School of Earth Sciences - Arlington, Tx.**
- 12-13 Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Show**
- 19-20 Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral - Bossier City, La.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

8" Combination (Beacon Star) Grinder, Sander, Pre-Polish, Polish (4 Wheel): 3 Speed Gem Maker - Some Spare Wheels \$300.00: -Tumbling/ Flat Lap Grit, 60/90, 120/220, 500/600 All for \$2.00/lb. - Usually sells for \$3.75 to \$5.50 per pound. Tumbler - \$50.00 Joe A. Beasley, 318-949-0552 Email: leebeas@softdisk.com

WANTED: AGATE, BLOODSTONE, JASPER OR ANY OTHER EXOTIC STONE SLABS SUITABLE FOR FLINT KNAPPING. Wil House 318-949-9765

Email: wihouse@bellsouth.net

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

DOOR PRIZES TO BE PROVIDED BY:

IKE HOUSE -----JULY

Doorprizes for the months of August, September, October, and November are needed. Please sign up. Ed

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:.....