



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 to you all –

It is my pleasure to write about our 32 nd Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Show being one, the best (in the form of the most pleasure) that I have experienced. The most important factor that made it successful was our club members.

I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In the process we have gained five new families as members. This is just great! I have the new members phone numbers and will call them, so hopefully, we will have an opportunity to meet them at our September meeting, next Tuesday night.

We will be planning our cook-out that will take place in October. Plan to be there t o help plan and contribute to a good cookout.

Thank you again.

Edna

Thank you all!!

I would like to express my appreciation to each and everyone who contributed to the Dealer's dinner. Those who cooked, bought, cleaned, decorated, served and supported in general – all the efforts were wonderful. The successes of any project are due to the willingness to meet the commitment made by each individual.

Our dinner was a rousing success. My thanks go out to each of you – for the food, services and support. It wouldn't have been possible without you.

Thank you once again.

Gail George

FACETOR'S CORNER

By Joe A. Beasley

Selecting your first stones

This continues the discussion of stones, their colors and inclusions. A lot of professional cutters will not cut a stone with visual inclusions. Depending on the inclusions, the type of inclusions and the depth in the stone, the stone can be cut successfully and not be a big obstacle. The key in this is that you get the same practice as you would with a perfect stone at a fraction of the cost. When choosing a stone that is very dark in color, it can be so dark that light will not pass through it (no reflection back). This type of stone will have little brilliance. Once again, you can cut the stone at a much shallower angle. First try reducing the pavilion and, if that does not let light pass through, you can cut the crown shallower. Sometimes this will make a gorgeous stone for setting. The aforementioned is another opportunity to acquire some less expensive material to cut on.

A lot of instructors will introduce you to cutting glass marbles and other types of glass. This is to let you practice on something that is less expensive, which is alright, but I feel if you are going to go through the process and effort, hope for a good cut stone. When choosing stones for cutting, a common occurrence in natural material is a small spot or band of good color with the remaining majority of the stone having very little color. You can overcome this by orienting the desired color as close to the point of the pavilion as possible and the entire stone will reflect the desired color. This will be quite prevalent in Amethysts and Sapphires. Other things to be considered when buying roughs to cut, are shapes and sizes. (When you walk into a Jewelry Store and look at the different cuts (shapes) of minerals you wonder how these shapes and sizes come about. A facator never comes to work with the idea in mind that he will cut an Emerald, a Brilliant or a Marquis when he sits down at his Faceting Machine. I assure you he does not.) A facator looks at the stone/stones in front of him and decides, "I can cut this stone into a Marquis and lose very little of the total weight." This is money in his pocket and the jeweler's. A lot of cutters/casters will cut a stone to the best shape and maximum weight, then manufacture a mount to fit the stone. It is possible to lose 50% or more to cut a stone to a specific shape and to a standard size. A standard size is a calibrated size that will fit pre-manufactured mounts. Today, with the modern computer programs, you can put the dimensions of your rough stone in the computer and it will design a cut for that size and shape stone with minimum loss of material.

Back to the dark color stone, the important thing about the stone you select is how the light enters the stone and its return. This is somewhat known as 'optical principles.' The optical principles and the properties of gem material are of importance to Gem Cutters. Minerals are classified according to their crystal structure. Minerals are divided into groups according to the way the light enters the crystal and exits them. All stones have a calculated refractive index (RI). The refractive index is the ratio of the speed of light within a substance compared with the speed of light in air (RI of 2 means light within the substance travels at 1/2 the speed of light in air). A ray of light is slowed when it travels from air into a mineral that has a density greater than air. If you look at a very dark cut stone where little light could penetrate, there would be little sparkle or a low RI (the light cannot return). This lends to the critical angles, which offer the best sparkle. We will leave the subject of 'critical angles' for a later article.

I hope this will enlighten some of those interested in faceting. Anything worth the time and effort that is required to produce a good faceted stone is time and effort well spent.

References: Guide to Faceting by James K. Dahlausen
The Faceting Handbook by Margaret Reed and Ed Peters

JEWELERS HINTS:

This is a great way to keep your sterling silver jewelry from tarnishing. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur. So place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer, or just around your jewelry.

Firescale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent firescale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

When making a bezel for a smaller stone, it is often very difficult. So try using a super glue to attach your stone to your metal block. This will hold your stone in place and it can be removed when you are ready for it by placing a solvent on the glue. This method is not recommended for opals (especially doublets and triplets). Hot Stuff works well for this. From April 2005 Hound's Howl, Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society

August, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

The cost for the Editor's Breakfast will be approximately \$6.50; dinner will be approximately \$20 (this includes the tip). Bill Hart will check to see if there will be a buffer for any overage attendance. Currently, there are forty-seven signed up for both breakfast and dinner.

There will be 5 x 9 envelopes at the Club booth containing meal tickets. We will have pins and cups for sale for \$5.00 ea.

There will be no competitive case judging – if someone wishes to submit a case, they can.

To date, we have nineteen paid vendors.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

August, 2006 Minutes

We have two new members – Billy and Eydie Lindsey. Welcome – it is wonderful you have joined us.

Bill Hart has advance tickets to the show for sale – the price is \$20 for a quantity of 15. Contact him if you need tickets. Pins and mugs will be on sale for \$5.00 each.

The following members have earned trophies (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in the 2006 Bulletin Editors Contest: Dwight House, Lisa Reddick and Wil House.

Also, the following have earned certificates: Robin House, Edna House, Charlie Johns, Pam Hendrix, Joe Beasley, Lee Beasley, David Howard, Cindi Adams, Linda Mauldin, James Hendrix and Milla Margaret Reddick. Congratulations and applause go to each of the winners.

The Editor has indicated there is not enough space in the mini-bulletin format we have been using. A motion was made and seconded to go to a larger bulletin.

- 1 Joe Beasley will coordinate the delivery and set-up of the children's games on Thursday before the show. Please come as early as you can to help with move-in on Friday. Someone will be there between 8:00-8:30 a.m. to get everything started.
- 2 There will be no competitive case judging this year. Anyone wishing to submit a case may do so.
- 2 Mail-out cards are ready to go. They will be sent out Thursday week prior to the show.
- 3 Yards signs are available for club members. If you put out signs, please make sure they are on private property – not public property.
- 4 The Dealer's Dinner will be held in the same rented room as the other meals.
- 5 Security will again be handled by off-duty police.

Volunteers are needed for the November refreshments, also for door prizes and someone to provide coffee for the meetings for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

POPPY JASPER

By: Garry Stewart

Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper is a famous, but increasingly rare, orbicular jasper with red and yellow dots of "poppy flowers". It is actually petrified blue-green algae. It grew and fossilized in clumps called stromatolites. It is a brecciated jasper, meaning it probably came from sun-dried and oxidized iron-rich clay. The cracks were filled in by other natural substances. Jasper is from the chalcedony/quartz group. It is a microcrystalline variety of quartz that contains up to 20% foreign material. This material is some 3 billion years old. These materials are what determine the color and appearance of the stone. Also because of the foreign materials, jasper is rarely uniform in color. It is usually multicolored, striped, and/or spotted. Poppy Jasper is naturally highly fractured. Jaspers of all kinds have long been attributed magical powers in just about every culture known to man. Jasper was used in Ancient European times as a "rain bringer" and it is interesting to note that the word for jasper in some American Indian cultures also meant, "rain bringer". Jasper runs between 6.5 and 7 on the Mohs scale. Morgan Hill poppy jasper is found in the area of Morgan Hill, California, USA. Other popular jaspers are found in Germany, India, Russia, Pakistan, France and the USA as well as many other countries.

Sources of Information:

The Curious Lore of Precious Stones by G.F. Kunz. J.D. Lippincott. 1913: The Mineral Gallery: The Mineral and Gemstone Kingdom
 International Colored Gemstone Association: National Audubon Society Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals Alfred A. Knopf 1979
 Stones - Their Collection, Identification and Uses by R. V. Dietrich. Geoscience Press. 1980: Guide to Gems and Precious Stones Simon & Schuster 1986: 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

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.

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE A DOOR PRIZE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

ANY TAKERS???

UPCOMING SHOWS

SEPTEMBER:

- 2-4 Arlington Gem and Mineral - Arlington, Tx**
- 15-17 Mozarkite Society of Lincoln - Lincoln, Mo.**
- 22-24 Houston Gem and Mineral - Humble, Tx.**
- 30-Oct 1 Texoma Rockhounds - Denison, Tx.**
- 30-Oct 1 Pleasant Oaks Club - Farmers Branch, Tx.**

OCTOBER:

- 3-8 Idabel, Ok.**
- 7-8 Golden Spread Gem and Mineral - Amarillo, Tx.**
- 7-8 Central Ark. Gem Society - Jacksonville, Ark.**
- 14-15 Tri City Gem and Mineral - Temple, Tx.**
- 27-29 Dallas and Austin Paleo. Soc. - Glen Rose, Tx.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: AGATE, BLOODSTONE, JASPER OR ANY OTHER EXOTIC STONE SLABS SUITABLE FOR FLINT KNAPPING. DIG THROUGH YOUR OLD SLAB BOX, AND CONTACT ME AT "wihouse@bellsouth.net" or call me at 318-949-9765 Wil House

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

NOTE: UNLESS SOMEONE VOLUNTEERS, THERE WILL BE NO REFRESHMENTS IN NOVEMBER

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REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

**SEPTEMBER---PAM HENDRIX
NOVEMBER---**

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:.....