

THE ROCK RATTLER



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**THE ARK-LA-TEX
GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**

**PO BOX 3366
BOSSIER CITY, LA. 71111**



ROCKY

Dear Fellow Rockhounds,

Well, we are all reminded that fall is upon us when we have our October cookout. What a great time we all had at ours this year. Christy Holder did a fabulous job on the planning of the food, and the games as well. We will present our winners of the water balloon contest, and the bubble gum blowing contest with their prizes at the November meeting.

Jack Adams was a wonderful chef. Thanks for taking over that job Jack. And thanks to Wil for providing the hamburger patties, and the buns. And thanks to everyone else for the wonderful deserts, and the “dressing” for the burgers.

Our program for November is a surprise. Please join us, and have a lot of fun.

We have a volunteer to head up our field trip committee, Mr. Ersel Holder. Please offer to assist Ersel in the selection and planning of these trips. Field trips are a vital part of the Club’s purpose, which is to educate.

My sympathy goes out to Duane Newton (our volunteer coffee maker) on the injury he suffered to his hand (17 stitches).

We have a lovely auctionette to conduct our Xmas auction, as well as head up our finger foods. Mrs. Mary Talbot has volunteered to coordinate this function, so help her out with good food and auction items for a wonderful kickoff to Xmas. Bring items for the auction to the November meeting, if you have them ready. The auction items do not have to be rock related.

I would like to thank Bill Hart for his years of serving as our Club treasurer. Bill, you have done an outstanding job.

Our new treasurer is John Autry, and our new Vice-President is Charlie Johns.

See you all at the November meeting.

Edna

**2007 CLUB DUES ARE DUE NOW
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2007 DUES, DO SO AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WANT TO GET A NEW ROS-
TER OUT, BUT WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO DATE**

Selecting A Stone

By Joe A. Beasley

This continues the discussion of stone, 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 Facetor 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 Facetor 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. Dahlaus
The Faceting Handbook by Margaret Reed and Ed Peters

October, 2006 Minutes

If you were unable to attend this meeting, you missed a really good time. Jack Adams cooked the hamburgers (and did an excellent job); Wil House provided both the meat and the buns and Cristy Adams organized everything else. Our thanks go out to each and everyone that provided other food or drink items – it was greatly appreciated!

Bill Hart indicated vests were available to order. They will be of blue denim with four buttons and the Club logo screen printed on the back. The price is approximately \$25. They are available in sizes XS through 3XL – please let Bill know if you are interested.

The November meeting will have a MYSTERY program. You must attend to find out what the MYSTERY is all about.

We had a bubble gum bubble blowing contest – There was a tie between Cody Stewart and Chelsea Adams. The winner of the tie breaking “blow-off” was Chelsea.

We also had a water balloon toss – The winning team was Emily and David.

Congratulations to the winners and I hope all participants had a great time.

Respectfully Submitted, Gail George

20 QUESTIONS

At one time, there was a television show entitled “20 Questions”. The panel was given only one hint. The item was describes as either “animal”, “vegetable”, or “mineral”. There is a site on the internet that has a series of photographs, and you are to guess if the picture depicts an animal, vegetable, or mineral specimen. Sign onto the internet, then cut and paste this address. It will take you to the “ test” site. Try it, I think you will enjoy it. ED.

Animal Vegetable Mineral Quiz or copy/paste
<http://www.modestypanel.com/whatisit/#>

Jewelry Cleaning Solution

Linda Dallas of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral club has found a new jewelry cleaning solution at: <http://jewelrymaking.about.com/cs/allprojects/a/041804.htm>. It consists of mixing a household cleaning detergent (Top Job, Mr. Clean, etc.) with equal amounts of dish washing liquid and ammonia and water to fill up your mixing container. Warm it on the stove or in a microwave then put your gold or silver jewelry in the mixture for about 10 minutes. Remove, rinse, dry and you are done. The web site cautions you to keep the kids and pets away from this solution.

*From Texas Faceters' Guild Newsletter, 10/04 via The RockCollector
Dec, 2005*

TIGEREYE

by Garry Stewart

First of all, tiger's eye, tigereye, tiger eye and tiger-eye are all accepted ways to write this name.

Up until recently tiger eye has been considered to be pseudomorph but new evidence proves otherwise. It has long been thought that the crocidolite fibers were replaced with quartz much like the replacement that happens in petrified wood. This new evidence proves this may not be the case and that quartz and the crocidolite co-exist.

Tiger eye has a fibrous structure and in the lapidary shop must be oriented properly to get the chatoyance and/or the "cats eye" effect. Cuts must be exactly parallel to the length of the fibers to get full chatoyance. If the saw cut is perpendicular, or 90% to the fibers, you end up with a lifeless, dark brown to black stone with no chatoyance or light play at all. Orientation of cutting is critical to getting good chatoyance and color out of tiger eye.

These fibers in Tiger Eye may be up to about two inches long and very thin. Most are only 0.001 millimeters, or 0.000039 inches in diameter and are not always straight making it even harder at times to cut good chatoyant stones.

There are natural occurrences that tiger eye can be found with red color. And other known ways have been from brush fires where the deposits are found and also when miners would build fires next to the seams to help crack it up into smaller pieces. Remember, most of these miners had nothing but hand tools to work with. While in most cases, but not always, red tiger eye is not a natural occurrence, it is usually a result of heating and can be done using the kitchen oven. Here's a basic recipe for heat treating tiger eye.

To protect the tiger-eye from thermal shock during heating cover slabs of ordinary, gold tiger eye in fine clean silica sand, at least 3" all around the slab.

Place the metal container in a cold oven and increase the temperature 50°F every hour until it reaches 400°F. Then turn the oven off AND DO NOT open the door. Allow plenty of time for the container to cool all the way through. (If you heat treat tiger eye to sell BE SURE you let it be known it has been treated, it's only right and it's the law.)

Not long after tiger eye was first discovered for lapidary, the world famous Idar-Oberstein lapidaries discovered by using hydrochloric or oxalic acid they could bleach tiger eye to an evenly colored light, translucent yellow. When cut properly they produced "cats eye" stones that look much like the rare variety of chrysoberyl but can be distinguished very easily between the two by gemologists.

There are many other types of stones that display a "cats eye" or shimmering chatoyance but we'll get into them later. The word "Chatoyant" comes from the French word for "cat" or to glow like a cat's eye.

Tiger eye is the anniversary gemstone for the 9th year of marriage

2006-2007 Club Officers**President Edna House**
949-9765**Vice-pres. Charlie Johns**
687-4929**Secretary Gail George****Treasurer John Autry**
390-9200**Rock Rattler Editor**Wilford House
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318-949-9765
wihouse@bellsouth.net**Board of Directors**

Joe Beasley (1)

John Quade (2)

Ike House (3)

Plus all Club Officers

Show Chairman**Dealer Chairman****Webmaster**Dwight House
www.larockclub.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual Membership	\$15.00 per year
Couple Membership	\$20.00 per year
Family Membership	\$25.00 per year

Dues are due on October 1 of each year

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

The secret or the art of healing fractures in a
cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. To get rid of that nasty crack, heat the stone to 200 degrees in the oven. Mix the epoxy and apply it to one edge of the crack. Gradually apply the epoxy, working from one end of the crack to the other. This is very important. You will notice that the epoxy becomes very liquid when it touches the hot stone and it flows right into the crack. By applying the epoxy at one end and working toward the outside edge of the cab the air is driven out. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes. The epoxy will harden. Scrape off the surplus and finish polish. If done right the fracture will be difficult to detect.

via Puget Sounder, Rock Rollers, Contact Zone, via The Rock Collector
2/2004

Author Unknown

Petrified wood deposits have been found in every one of the United States, as well as in many foreign lands.

Second to the Petrified Forest National Park in Northern Arizona the largest deposit of petrified wood is believed to be lying in the Egyptian desert south of Cairo. A petrified tree accumulation in Patagonia at the tail-tip of South America also is notable for size. It contains Araucarioxylon similar to that of Arizona. The oldest petrified trees are the sheared stumps of *Eospermopteris taxilis*, a seed fern uncovered by a flood at Gilboa, New York in the Catskills. They are extinct relatives of a New Zealand fern tree, and are thought to have prospered 330 million years ago. This unique antiquity also makes them the earliest known trees. Ginkgo Petrified State Forest State Park west of Vantage, Washington was established in 1934. Despite the park's name, over 2000 varieties of petrified wood have been identified there, but only a few trees are ginkgos. Near Calistoga, California in the Napa Valley is the Petrified Forest (that is its proper name) where sequoias are embalmed in volcanic mudflows; above them soar living trees of the same kind.

Yellowstone National Park has a number of petrified tree forests. The most notable lies imbedded in the walls of the Lamar Valley. Twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forests, one on top of the other, are exposed in the steep valley, and many trunks remain upright, an unusual occurrence, because even when petrified in that position, erosion and quakes and shifting of the earth eventually bring most to a humbler posture. Over 100 species have been counted-hickory, maple, dogwood, chestnut, laurel, elm, magnolia, fig, redwood, sycamore, walnut, willow and more.

A short drive from Florissant, Colorado, is the Pike (also called the Colorado) Petrified Forest. It is small, but the sequoias that once grew here were towers. One of the stumps has a base diameter of 27 feet. The height of the live tree can only be conjectured. The largest tree yet discovered is also a sequoia - 14 feet, not the greatest diameter, but the trunk can be traced to 295 feet. Weight may be 500 tons. It rests prone, partly covered by desert sand in the Emerald Formation of Southwest Nevada near Coaldale.

Circle Cliffs in the Capitol Reef country of south central Utah, may have more large petrified trees than any other area in America. A number of monoliths measure, it is said, 10 to 123 feet in diameter. The region is difficult to reach and [is] only superficially explored.

The most valuable single piece of petrified wood gem material is believe to be the famous Roebing Opal, a hunk of silicified bark weighing 17 ounces and valued at more than \$20,000. The gem came from Humboldt County in northern Nevada near the Oregon line where much preprecious opalized wood has been uncovered.

With erosion constantly going on, there may well be larger tree unearthed since the article was first written

From Tuscarora Bulletin 11/77 via RockCollector Dec. 2005

GEMSTONE DIVA

By Edna House

A gemstone diva I'd like to be,
 Instead of doing this housework you see!
 The magazines boast of glitz, glitter, and shine,
 Of stones that amazingly come out of a mine.

Faceted in topaz, my star cut London Blue,
 Cut by a master faceter, how we all miss you,
 natural, brilliant, trillium or round,
 Abe Starkey cut them by the pound.

Ah, creamy pearls, any ladies delight,
 Will make you stand tall, and walk upright.
 Aquoia, Honoria, salt or fresh water,
 Pricing these will make your heart flutter.

When you hear "southwestern" or "sleeping beauty" mine,
 Yes, turquoise quickly comes to ones mind.
 Colors in blue, green, or even yellow,
 When wearing these makes one feel zealous.

So many gemstones, so little time
 In which to get at least one of each kind.
 And when I've spent my very last dime,
 I'll resort to digging in the Murfresboro mine.

BOTHERED BY MISQUITOS AT HOME?

I was recently introduced to a product to use around the home, to reduce, (practically eliminate) misquitos. It is Spectracite "Terminate". Termite and carpenter ant killer. It gets rid of spiders, fire ants, and many other insect pests, as well as misquitos. It has the added benefit of keeping your house foundation free of new termite infestation. We can now sit on our porch, and do outside chores without the hassle of bug sprays, and misquito repellants. Ed.

LET'S START SILVER SMITHING

By Wilford House

Anyone considering getting into silver smithing is immediately faced with the problem of where they can find space for a jewelers bench, and the expense associated with outfitting it with all the tools often listed as "basic tools." A typical jewelers bench is the size of a small office desk. The list of "basic tools" can run on to a page or more.

Just what ARE the minimum requirements for a beginning silversmith? Surprisingly, there are not as many "required" items as one might think. Let me list them:

1. A flat surface on which to work
2. A tool to cut silver with
3. A fireproof soldering surface
4. Something to "square up" the silver prior to soldering
5. Some method to remove oxidation and fire scale
6. A heat source to melt the solder

These requirements can be exotic, and expensive, or can be plain, and cost next to nothing. The flat surface might be a workbench in your garage. The tool to cut silver could be a pair of scissors, a hacksaw blade, a paper cutter, or a pair of tin snips. A fireproof surface might be an old asbestos shingle picked up at a home demolition site, a tile out of a discarded ceramic kiln, or a piece of firebrick a bricklayer discarded while building a fireplace in a new home. Silver can be "squared up" with a file, or sandpaper glued to a flat surface. Oxidation can be removed by sanding, or with a cheap chemical picked up at a swimming pool supply store, and placed in a ceramic bowl, or heated potpourri pot gotten from your local Goodwill store. An inexpensive heat source would be a propane torch picked up at your local hardware store for less than \$20.00.

While these items might leave something to be desired as far as convenience or production is concerned, you can certainly make jewelry with such a group of tools. How can I be so certain that you can? Because this is the list of items that I used to make my first jewelry item. (It was a belt buckle)

If these are the only items needed, why do you find silversmiths with such a huge number of specialized tools on their workbench? The answer is convenience, and a better looking finished product. Did the silversmith start out with all these special tools? The answer, of course, is that he did not. As he "needed" a special tool to accomplish a particular design feature, he either adapted an existing tool he already had, purchased one, or made it himself.

Another excuse for not getting started is " silver is so expensive". Well, then just do not start out working with silver. Begin working with copper. Small flat sheets are usually available from any sheet metal shop. It is not uncommon to be able to get small pieces at "scrap" prices, from shops that do metal flashing on new homes. (My first piece was made of copper.)

Silver smithing is fun, interesting, and need not be expensive. If you have ever had an inclination to get into it, now is the time to start.

REF: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS: There will be a Board meeting at 6 P.M. prior to the regular November meeting . Please mark your calendar.

Items for auction: Please bring items for the December meeting annual auction to the November meeting. Items do not necessarily need to be rock related.

UPCOMING SHOWS

NOVEMBER:

- 10-12 Pascagoula, Miss.**
11-12 DeRidder, La.
18-19 Mesquite (Dallas), Tx.

DECEMBER:

- 1-3 Austin, Tx.**
1-3 Kenner, La.

JANUARY:

- 1- Ada, Ok.**
20-21 Fredericksburg, TX.
24-25 Tyler, Tx.
24-28 Quartzite, Arizona

S.C.F.M.S. AND A.F.M.S NEWS

SCFMS 2006/2007 officers

President	Chuck Schuler
Executive Vice President	Ike House
Secretary	Ruth Cress
Treasurer	Jonetta Nash
Executive Secretary	Jonathan Moehring
V.P. District VIII Louisiana	Bridget Marle

(for complete list go to <http://www.scfms.net/>)

2007 AFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW

AFMS Convention June 7-10, 2007 Roswell, NM

The Chipalotta's just keep "chipping away" in the area. A group was on hand to represent the Club at the Bayou Bodcau Hunting and Fishing expo. at the Corps of Engineers campground in late September. They also participated in "Pioneer Days" at L.S.U. Shreveport on October 14. They went to the Caddo-Addais Pow-Wow at their reservation near Robeline on the 21 of October.. They plan on travelling to Texas on the 28 or 29 of October to meet with the East and Central Texas knappers.

In case you do not know, we get together almost ever week at Leo Perry's shop (The Dixie Monument Company) on highway 80, across the street from Brookshires. We try to get started between 6 and 6:30 P.M., and stay around until around 8 to 8:30. Anyone interested in learning how to flintknapp, or just to learn a little bit more about the process are welcome to drop by.

We usually try to take a trip up to Magnet Cove, Arkansas (near Hot Springs) once or twice a year to get a supply of Novaculite. Our fall trip will probably be in November. While our purpose is to obtain knapping material, much of it is quite colorful, and makes interesting cabs. Some points will be at the November meeting which will allow interested members to decide if there is enough material of interest to them that might entice them to join us for the trip.

Wil House

The "Chipallotta's" are a sub-chapter of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society. While their overall goals are the same as the Club, they provide their education in a somewhat different manner. They do demonstrations for local Scout groups, civic and church groups, schools, and other venue as they are available. They provide instruction to anyone interested in wanting to learn the art of flintknapping. They also assist one another in refining their flintknapping techniques. They are a storehouse of knowledge regarding points, point types, and general information regarding paleo to historic flintknapping tools, materials and techniques

Editor

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.