

THE ROCK RATTLER



VOLUME 31 NO. 12

December, 2006

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

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

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



ROCKY

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome all members to our 2006 Christmas meeting/auction. We will have a good assortment of finger sandwiches, snacks, drinks and sweets. The auction money will either stay in our club bank account, or go to a charity that the Club members will select. I would like to invite all of our members to attend, bring food, and stay for the auction.

Our RockRattler editor and myself worked hard and long (Will typed up all the poems) to get the poetry edition of the bulletin sent out, and then mailed to Don Schurtz, before the Nov. 15 dead-line for judging. Thank you Wil, for your efforts.

While I expected many of our members to go on the rock hunt to Arkansas, not many made the trip. Several were sick, and others had to work. Those that went had a great time, and the ones that didn't go, missed a good field trip. Other than fog in the early morning, the weather was just perfect.

A big "thank you" goes out to Okley Davis who volunteered to bring us a program in January. It sounds very interesting. He titles it "Mud Balls". It's one no one wants to miss.

We do need to have more club members volunteer, and provide a program for the club some-times during the year. Think about what interests you, work up a program, and get with Charlie Johns to get on his schedule.

Edna

Removing Outer Layer of Abalone Shells

The colors occurring on the inside of abalone shells arise from the inter-ference of light waves by the laminations of nacre deposited by the abalone. The unattractive outer layer of the abalone shell can be removed with nitric acid. Having been removed, the inside and outside of the shell will be similar in appearance. Nitric acid is very toxic. It should not be used indoors. When used outdoors, the work should be done so the fumes are blown away from you. Wear rubber gloves. Apply the acid with a stick that has been pounded into a sort of brush. To stop all the acid's action, wash with household ammonia, then clear water.

Author: J.G. Ennes, Source: The Petrified Digest Jan 03 via Quarry Quips oct 2005

2007 CLUB DUES ARE DUE NOW
PAY YOUR 2007 DUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I
WANT TO GET A NEW ROSTER OUT, BUT WANT IT
TO BE UP TO DATE ed.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

The following changes in the Society By-Laws were proposed, and approved, at the November Meeting by the Board of Directors. These proposed changes will be voted on at the January meeting.

ARTICLE VI VOTING POWER

Presently :

Section 1. Only paid-up senior members in good standing will be eligible to vote at any regular or special meeting of the Society. No votes may be cast in absentia or by proxy. A voting member must be present at the time of the vote or relinquish his/her voting privilege.

As proposed:

Section 1. Only paid-up senior members in good standing will be eligible to vote at any regular or special meeting of the Society. Mail-in ballots may be authorized by the Board of Directors for specific votes on such subjects as (but not limited to):

- * Candidates for Club officers and members of the Board of Directors
- * Changes to by-laws
- * Major expenditures of Society monies

Add the following article:

ARTICLE IX ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Section 1. All monies (hereinafter known as funds) received by the Society, that exceed the annual operating expenses, shall be set aside for educational purposes. The Board of Directors shall allocate these funds at the end of each annual fiscal period.

Section 2. Once set aside, these funds shall only be used for the allocated purpose. In no year shall less than 50% of these funds be allocated for the acquisition and operation of a clubhouse/ training facility without a 2/3 vote of both the Board of Directors and the adult Club members.

Welcome to the multiple guests we had. Awards were presented the Bubblegum Blowing Contest and Water Balloon Contest – Chelsea, Emily and David respectively.

Ike House had a film on a Skagway, Alaska, rock shop owner/carver showing off not only his knowledge of the mountains and surrounding area, but his abilities to carve large and beautiful animals out of agate. The shop owner would not divulge his source of the “snow” agate he used in his art. Ike also had several other rock samples he purchased and passed around for all to enjoy.

Ike also had a SURPRISE – it was poetry night. Each member was asked to turn in a poem that was rock related. After much grumbling and fussing, many members turned their thoughts inward and came up with a line or two. These poems will be published in the Rock Rattler so they may be entered into Federation judging in both adult and children’s categories. Many entries were read aloud – some funny and some not. Good job everyone.

Mary Talbot will be coordinating the December meeting’s food. She passed out a sign up sheet. If you were unable to attend this month, please call Mary to see what still needs to be brought. Mary has also generously consented to conduct the auction. Be sure to bring your auction items to the December meeting.

Ersel Holder volunteered to be the Field Trip Coordinator. Plans were made for a trip to Magnet Cove, AR on Saturday, November 25. Meet in the Home Depot (Benton Road) parking lot at 6:00 a.m. Several other places have potential for field trips. Anyone interested to help organize, please contact Ersel.

Bill Hart needs to be contacted if you are interested in a Club vest. They are \$25, and are available in XS to 3XL. Bill stated the Show Chairman and John Autry need to begin discussions with the Bossier Civic Center for our next show.

The Board proposed and passed some amendments to the Club by-laws. They will be discussed in the December Rock Rattler and a membership vote will be taken in January.

Wil House indicated there was no winner for the William Holland School Scholarship he and Edna were sponsoring, so the same rules will apply and carry over into next year. Hopefully we will have a winner next time.

John Quade stated the Minden Civic Center could be rented for \$125/day for a member show. A show of hands was called for to indicate interest. John will investigate available dates for the Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

November, 2006 Board Minutes

Two issues were brought before the Board – the issues were changes to the by-laws. They were discussed and voted upon. These issues will be presented in the next Rock Rattler for the information of the membership.

Issues: Need for a building for Club use. This building to be used for Club education activities and meetings. Percentage of monies toward that goal to be allocated will be specified in the by-laws.

Option for mail-in ballots for such things as the annual election of officers and monetary issues affecting all members will be written into the by-laws.

John Quade stated the Minden Civic Center could be rented for a Club member show for \$125/day. The membership will be canvassed for interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail George

Kids, Try This at Home!

Crystal Towers This demonstrates how cave-type stalagmites are formed.

Ingredients: 2 pint jars; 1 jar lid; 10 tablespoons Borax (washing soda); a strip of old towel (1 inch by 18 inches); measuring spoon and cup; stirring spoon; hot tap water; and a cookie sheet.

Place two jars on a cookie sheet next to each other separated by jar lid. Fill each jar with a solution of Borax and water — 12 ounces of hot tap water into each jar with 5 tablespoons of borax in each jar. Stir until dissolved. Put one end of the towel in each jar with a dip in the center between the jars so that the solution will travel along the towel and drip in between the jars onto the jar lid. It will drop one by one drop and create a pillar of crystals. If you let this go long enough the pillar will grow down from the towel and up from the lid until it meets in the middle just like in a real cave! *from East Kingco Rock Club Newsletter, 6/03 via Rollin’ Rock Feb. 03*

FACETING

By

Joe A. Beasley

In the last session, we were discussing R.I. (refractive index), which is interesting as to how we can change the angles of faceting to bend the light that enters the stone. As an example, if we send light at 90 degrees (normal) into a stone, it will travel straight through even though it has slowed in speed from the time of entry until it exits the stone. OK, that does not prove a lot because we did not bend the light. The ray is actually a wave traveling through the material.

There is one other thing we need to talk about – that is a C. A. (critical angle). Each mineral/stone has its own special critical angle. The best way to describe a C.A. is where the ray no longer refracts. At that point, the light ray will reflect rather than refract. That is the point, which is called C.A. In faceting the pavilion angles that are cut below the C.A., most of the light that enters the stone will pass through the pavilion facets. As a result, the stone will be very dull, which sometimes is called “fisheye”. The basic thing to remember is to always look at the C.A. and the R.I. of the mineral you are considering faceting.

There is one other thing that I would like to mention - that is, birefringence (exhibits the property of splitting light rays and refracting two rays in divergent directions). Upon emergence, there are two rays instead of the one that entered. This is called birefringence or more commonly known as double refraction. This is exciting when viewing the stone because it sparkles twice as much. It is important to be aware of the optic axis. Which is the direction of travel that has only a single refraction. The significance is the light passing through the table to the culet (bottom of the stone), which will pass with no distortion. The main facet angles for both the pavilion and the crown can be calculated from the R.I. A pre-published list of all minerals giving proper angles listed by mineral is good to follow. All of the proper angles according to the mineral amounts to “brilliance.” Brilliance is the ability of a gem to totally reflect the light rays. Another factor that enters into this equation is to ask yourself “does it look good?” If proper angles are cut, you can be assured you will have brilliance. Dispersion is the result of the ability of the gem to differently refract the various colors of the spectrum.

This is a touch of the things to look at before we decide on a stone to facet.

References: The Faceting Handbook by Margaret Reed and Ed Peters
 Facet Cutters Handbook by Edward J. Soukup, G.G., F.G.A.
 Introduction to Meetpoint Faceting by Robert H. Long and
 Norman W. Steele
 Guide to Faceting I Class by James K. Dahlhausen

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
200 Liberty Hill Dr.
Haughton, La. 71037
318-949-9765
wihouse@bellsouth.net**Board of Directors**

Joe Beasley (1)

John Quade (2)

Ike House (3)

Plus all Club Officers

Show Chairman

Charlie Johns

Asst. Bill Hart

Dealer Chairman**Webmaster**

Dwight House

www.larockclub.com

It's not too early to begin thinking about new year resolutions. Here are some suggestions

Rockhounds New Year's Resolutions

- 11) Learn a new skill (cabochons, wire wrapping, faceting, etc.)
- 10) Tumble the pile of scrap rock
- 9) Donate extra slabs to raffle
- 8) Write an article for the newsletter.
- 7) Attend a rock show and report on it.
- 6) Finish faceting a few stones, so I can get some dopsticks back
- 5) Find a guest speaker
- 4) Help plan a field trip
- 3) Hide new faceting material (slabs, supplies, etc.) from spouse
- 2) Plan my regional case ahead of time
- 1) Do Not Pick Up any Leaverite. from Rollin'Rock Jan. 03

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

by Lee Burleigh, (edited)

Club members, new members, face your fears. Preparing a showcase is EASY! There are a few simple rules that anyone can follow:

- 1) Decide what you have to display.
- 2) Determine what size case will be needed.
- 3) Decide what lining will best enhance the beauty of your materials.
- 4) Keep it simple.
- 5) Label everything.
- 6) Relax

Decide what you have to display. Give it a try. Don't say: (a) I don't have anything good enough. (b) I haven't had time to finish enough items for a show. (c) I haven't anything new that everyone hasn't already seen.

In a non-competitive display the items shown don't have to be our own work. Buy or borrow whatever you need to make up the display. Whatever your interest- rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, cabs, etc. - you can find these in your home, or those of your friends, relatives, neighbors, or in shops.

Share a case with another club member. As few as 5 or 10 select items can make an attractive and interesting display. Determine what size case will be needed. Most show cases are 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Using a yardstick and a piece of string, mark out a 4x2 foot space on a rug or table. Try out different arrangements of your display items. If you have materials that lie flat, a slant-case is fine. The front of such cases is about four inches high, the back wall about 9 inches. If you have a tall item, an upright case is indicated. Such cases are 4'x2' high. Be sure to reserve your case well in advance so both case and table space will be available.

Decide what type of lining best shows off your materials. While your materials are laid out on a table, decide on the type and color of lining. Neutral colors such as cream, beige, eggshell, and light pastels are best. Avoid bold patterns, bright colors, shiny or reflective textures. Stretch-type materials are excellent as they can be pulled tight. When measuring your case, allow about 2 inches on all edges for folding under. Allow enough material for risers and redecorating another year. Be sure the pattern or nap will all run the same way. Keep it simple. Don't overcrowd your display. Allow room for labels and your name plaque. Remember, you are displaying minerals, fossils, lapidary work, jewelry - try not to distract the viewer with unnecessary decorations.

EXCEPTION: Educational exhibits occasionally need a variety of materials - models of dinosaurs, a fossil bone, a piece of coprolite, and cabs of petrified dinosaur bone, can all be integral parts of an exhibit.

Label Everything. Use a name tag or plaque to identify your case so your friends and visitors will know whose it is. It is frustrating to see beautiful materials unnamed in a case. Every item or grouping of the same materials should be labeled with the name of the material and its source (state or nation). Use one of the reference books in the club library or talk to a club member. Labels should be uniform in size and lettering. They should be typed, if possible, for legibility. 3x5 cards make good label material. Labels should lie flat and parallel to the front of the case. Avoid "label maker" or other such tapes, which can curl in the heat.

Relax. Before you dismantle your trial table-top layout, recheck it for all the above suggestions. Is it exactly as you want it? If so, make a rough sketch showing each piece in the layout, or take a close-up snapshot, to aid in reassembling it the way you want it at the show. Prepare a kit of things to take with your case: labels, liners, paper towels, display items, glass cleaner, pins/tacks, name plaque, layout/ sketch, scissors, etc Now really, RELAX! The hard part is done. If you have more questions or need a little help, call upon an experienced club member for help and ideas.

From Rocky Review via KGeMS Newsletter 7/00 via Rolling Rock Jan. 03

THE MYTH OF “LEAVERITE”

By Wilford House

When first I became involved with the lapidary trade,
Many comments to me were made
Concerning various rocks, where to hunt, and how to find,
To not take everything, but leave some behind.

Such good advice was surely respected,
But some statements were a little unexpected.
While often I was told of a favorite site,
All warned me to beware of a rock called “leaverite”.

It mattered not which collecting site was selected,
Forewarning of the “leaverite” was to be expected.
Now, what a “leaverite” is was fairly expounded,
But as I hunted and hunted, I never found it.

I have now been a Rockhound for many a’ year,
Collected many rocks, but have lost all fear
Of the common “leaverite”, and how it might commence
To cause pain and suffering from working too intense.

As I have grown older, and more reflective,
I notice that Rockhounds are often selective.
They “high grade” and “field trim” their specimen as needed,
To make certain their load limit is not exceeded

But try as I might, and I have searched high and low,
There is not a rock anywhere, that a Rockhound could know
As a bonafide “Leaverite”; that none would select
At some future time, choose to collect.

I now must conclude, and I believe that I’m right,
THERE IS SIMPLY NO SUCH ROCK
AS “LEAVERITE”!

Your Solder Won't Flow

By Alice Davis

Sometimes when you are trying to solder your bezel on the flat piece of silver, which forms the base plate your solder just won't flow.

Don't hang in there until death do us part. Stop. Drop the whole works in the pickling solution. Incidentally, your pickling solution is going to work a whole lot faster and better if it is hot. If you have a hot plate with a very low setting, this will do just fine. It is not recommended that you let it boil or bubble on top of a kitchen stove. It is an acid and it will ruin the top of your stove.

After your silver is clean, rinse it in cold water. Then try again. If you are really having problems, try this. After pickling and rinsing, sometimes your silver looks spotty. I have a little container with some powdered pumice in it. Make a paste of it and scrub up your silver with the pumice and an old soft toothbrush. Then take the last step - really scrub up your hands good. Only handle your silver on the edges.

Sometimes your solder is dirty. This can mess you up. Be sure to flux your solder. I prefer to solder the bezel to the base plate with the flame under the whole works. It pre-vents the bezel from melting. I have a little stand that holds the item up and it has four stainless steel wires stretched across it, on which I place the piece to be soldered. Remember the solder flows to the heat. So if you are soldering from above, a lot of times the solder will climb up the bezel instead of flowing around the bottom like you want it to. This is why it's a good idea to apply your heat from underneath.

Boulder Buster Press date unknown Via rockcollector jan06

TOOL TIPS

by Alphonse Bergeron

Third hand for forming bezels

Cut a 5x5" (or whatever size you want) piece of particle board. Glue 2 popsicle sticks at right angles along 2 edges. You now have a nice corner to mold your bezel to your stone, leaving your hands free to shape

Bezel remover

Have you ever needed to remove a cab from a bezel cup once it was set? Here is an easy tool to make for this purpose. Grind the end tip of a diamond fingernail file to a thin edge. Curve slightly with round nose pliers. You now have a nice thin tool for gently removing a stone from the bezel cup.

From THE PALOMAR GEM, 11/04, via RockCollector Feb.05

Removing a stuck Cabochon

Here's a quick, safe way to remove a cabochon that gets stuck in the bezel of a finding when grinding for a perfect fit. Don't start picking and prying. Take it to the kitchen, and have a towel or washcloth handy. Put a cup or two of water into a small pan and bring to a boil. Take a pair of needle nose pliers or tweezers and dip the offender in hot water (one or two minutes is usually enough). Remove and tap it gently with a pencil over the towel. It should drop out free and unharmed. The trick is very simple. The metal of the finding will expand more quickly than the stone, so the stone drops out.

MAGS Rockhound News Dec. 02, author unknown, via The RockCollector Feb. 05

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

FEBRUARY

3-4 Panama City, Fl.

24-25 Jackson, Miss.

24-25 Pasadena, Tx.

Sign on to the internet at www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp for a complete listing of shows, contacts, addresses, etc.

FOR SALE: Duane Newton has a complete jeweler's bench, with a wide assortment of tools and equipment. Contact him at 318.949.3452.

S.C.F.M.S. NEWS

SCFMS ENDOWMENT FUND Silent Auction at the SCF Convention and Show at Bossier City, LA
 There were only two days at this show and the auction was active both days on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was a very extraordinary busy day, while Sunday did not get busy until about 1:00pm and stayed slow until closing time at 4:30. Friday was set up day and many gifts of rocks, fossils, jewelry, slabs, minerals, books, magazines and other miscellaneous items were received from clubs, members and also the local club. Thanks for the donations that were received from Mac & Fran Ellis, Paul Broussard, Paul & Margaret Good, Ed Ries, Keith & Charlotte Harmon, James Mercier, Bud & Mary Trammell, Dick & Mary-Ruth Rathjen, Bill & Lois Pattillo, Larry Wood, Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society and those that were forgotten. Several clubs sent material by one of the above individuals. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help sort, label and place items on tables, collect money and any other work required to keep the auction running. Those volunteers were: Ersel & Cristy Holder, Lisa Reddick, Okley Davis, Larry Wood, George Jacob, Gary & Cheri Stewart, Red Fluitt, Ed Ries, and Joyce Kiker. Thanks to all of you that supported the auction by bidding on the many auction items. The income for the SCF Endowment Fund from these items was \$1198.50, and for the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Min. Soc. \$399.50. The proceeds from the auction have been placed in the permanent fund of the SCF Endowment Fund, from which only the interest can be used to help support SCF projects. Thanks for your continued support of your Federation Endowment Fund.

Ed Ries

WIN A TRIP TO WILLIAM HOLLAND LAPIDARY SCHOOL

Since no one qualified for the scholarship award in 2006, the contest will be carried over to 2007.

For your information, the rules for the contest are printed below.

editor

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 proscribed club activities. The activities and points are:

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

(Maximum points possible is based on Jan.- Aug. activity period for 2007)

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