



# The Rock Rattler

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

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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 the 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 Rd, 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 included programs of interest to rock hounds, information from the Rock Rattler, and jewelry making classes complete the educational objectives of the club.

From:  
ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL  
BOX 6633  
BOSSIER CITY, LA 7117-6633

The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society meets at 6:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at the:  
Bossier Parish History Center, 2006 Beckett St. Bossier City, LA 71111

# THE ROCK RATTLER

## The 2010 Club

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements

Presidents Message .....	Page 2
Field Trip Details .....	Page 3
Up-Coming Shows .....	Page 4

Articles

Ten Rarest Gems (cont) .....	Page 3
Hints & Tips .....	Page 3
Safety First .....	Page 4
Singing Stone .....	Page 5
You might be a Rock Hound If (cont).....	Page 6

Craft (To Do)

Pebble Pets .....	Page 5
Puzzle .....	Page 6



**LAST CHANCE!!!**

Membership dues for 2010 were **due in Oct 2009**. They were \$15 per individual or \$20 per couple or \$25 for the whole family!! This gets you the monthly newsletter, class room access, and some of the best people to be around in the world!! This is notice, that if dues have not been paid by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, you will be removed from the mailing list, etc.

\*\* We hope you will want to say with the group, and still be our friends and still enjoy the fellowship we have!!!!

If you are unsure if you have paid or not, just e-mail one of the board members... we will be happy to look it up!!

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# THE ROCK RATTLER

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## President's Position

Happy New Year to everyone and 2010 certainly promises to be a challenging yet very rewarding year indeed! Bear with me while I share some of the reasons for both my concern and my enthusiasm.

First of all, I would like to say that I see 2010 as a year of change for our club. Yes, there is some new leadership. Yes, there are some new ideas. Yes, both of these things are bound to produce change. But we have a strong and firm foundation on which to build, thanks to the years of dedication and hard work that preceded us. We have folks like Will & Edna House, Don and Mary Talbot, Ike and Dwight House, Bill Hart, Oakley Davis and several others to thank for this. We miss some of these who have lately not attended our meetings, and wish they would return and continue their valuable support of our efforts. We certainly hope that their absence is by choice and busyness, not due to maladies or irreconcilable differences. Even so, just as "life goes on," so too the life of the club will go on. Please come to our meetings and events and BRING FRIENDS!

So, there you can see the basis of my concern – the loss of membership numbers and participation. If we are truly going to "go on," we must have both numbers AND participation. We must have members who not only attend meetings, field trips, classes and other planned events, but who are also willing to fill vacant offices of leadership in the club. We currently have need of a newsletter editor and a club Secretary who will be able to assume these responsibilities when Wanita is required to vacate them due to her transfer by the Air Force. Any one of you reading this article could do so, and contacting Wanita NOW means that she would be available to show you how to do the work & share the details of the responsibility with you and act as a resource once she is gone – emails are WONDERFUL things!!! So, I am laying it before all of you now, and I ask that you seriously consider your commitment to the club – to the work it requires as well as the fantastic fun it provides.

HOWEVER, THERE IS EVEN GREATER REASON TO BE EXCITED ABOUT OUR FUTURE!!! We are currently looking at properties in which to invest our funds so we can eventually have a place to meet that is all ours – and a place for classes that will be more spacious and conducive to learning. That search is proving to be more promising that first thought, and the property search committee will be reporting to the Board and the membership their findings in just a few more weeks.

ALSO, we have been invited to set up a booth at the Asian Festival (not sure if this is the correct name, but I'll have it by the February meeting) on the Shreveport Riverfront fountain area (they will be turned off) in April! They want us to let them know what demonstrations we can put on at our booth and how long they will last, we can sell items there, AND we can also solicit for membership in our club! I have a small trim saw and flat lap for demonstrating cutting and polishing a cabochon that I can take, and maybe someone or two can demonstrate wire wrapping and/or beading and/or silver working. We can have a large space (16x20 with 4 tables) AT NO CHARGE, and our booth and demos will be featured in the newspaper articles about the festival! We MIGHT even be able to have a canopy over our booth! (Maybe!)

So, 2010 is looking real GOOD right now. I choose to take a POSITIVE POSITION FOR 2010! I pray that you all will join me in this stand.

Lyn Simms

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# THE ROCK RATTLER

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## Field Trip Details

Field trip details, maps, and available lodging will be handed out at the next meeting in February. No bugs this time of year and the storms turn over some great finds. Those who wish to sign-up for this field trip please email me back and let me know as well if you want to carpool for this trip. Come along it will be great fun!

**Field Trip: February 6 High Island Tx:** 250 mi (Mc Faddin Beach, Gulf of Mexico) fossil Horse, Longhorn Bison bones, Teeth, Shark teeth, possible Clovis arrowheads (over 200 have been found) , colored Beach Glass. To get to this location we will have to drive 6-7 miles along the beach.

Del Glasner  
[dglasner2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dglasner2001@yahoo.com)

Check out the website!!!  
Thanks Phillip, for updating it for us!!!!

## HINTS & TIPS

Silver has the problem of tarnishing when left out in the open air; this is primarily from the presents of sulfides in the atmosphere. In order to prevent or at least minimize this, keep your silver jewelry in a clear polyethylene bag. The silver will remain bright and shiny for the next wearing.

Source: The Rock Prattle – June 00

## Ten Rarest Gems on Earth (8 of 10)

8. **Red Beryl Emerald** - Red beryl is found primarily in the Thomas Range and the Wah Wah Mountains of Utah, and has also been reportedly found in a location in Mexico (possibly near San Luis Potosi one of the very few places beryl is also found on rhyolite). Where it is found in Utah it occurs on rhyolite, where it crystallized under low pressure and high temperature, along fractures or cavities and porous areas of volcanic rhyolitic magma. Very few cut specimens exist.



More information at:

<http://www.preciousgemstones.com/GEMCOLLECTING.HTML>

and

<http://www.preciousgemstones.com/GEMCOLLECTINGTWO.HTML>

Lyn Simms

If you have e-mail access and are not receiving the newsletter via e-mail... let Nita know!! She'll update our member roster & send you the letter the fastest & the most cost effective way available...

# THE ROCK RATTLER

## Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

### **Jan 22 – 24, Tyler Texas:**

Gemstone & Jewelry Showcase

POC: Keith Harmon at (903)581-4068 and/or

[kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net)

### **Feb 20 – 21, Plainview Texas:**

48<sup>th</sup> Annual Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Mildred Matlock (806) 293-3476 and/or

[jmmatlock@suddenlink.net](mailto:jmmatlock@suddenlink.net)

### **Feb 27-28, Jackson Mississippi:**

51<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Keith Peacock (601) 863-6535 and/or

[kpcoc@aol.com](mailto:kpcoc@aol.com) Website: [www.missqems.org](http://www.missqems.org)

### **Mar 6 – 7, Big Spring Texas:**

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Jerald Wilson (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-

3340

### **Mar 12, Houston Texas:**

Rings & Things Bead Tour

POC: Dave Robertson (800) 366-2156 and/or

[drobertson@rings-things.com](mailto:d Robertson@rings-things.com) Web Site:

[www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston](http://www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston)

For an expanded list of Show Dates go to:

[www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)

Source: Rock & Gem, Jan 2010



## Safety First

Things to look out for, like bees when you are out and about. All bees patrol a radius of up to ½ mile of their hive or swarm. They post up to 12 guards on lookout.

If they feel you are a threat to their swarm or hive, they'll "bump" you aggressively (but not sting you).

If you don't change direction, they will call for reinforcements. Then two or three bees sort of "pester" you. It is now time to change direction 180 degrees, or suffer stings.

If you discover a swarm:

- Don't panic, turn around and leave the area
- Call 911 if applicable

The best response is to leave them alone, if at all possible. They have a job to do and are really just trying to do it.

But, should you need it...

Dish washing detergent mixed 1 cup to a gallon of water and sprayed on to a swarm in a fine mist will suffocate them. Bees and most insects breathe thru their skin. They accept the spray/mist as rain and the detergent seals the air ducts and kills them.

Source: The Petrified Digest, 2001



# THE ROCK RATTLER

## Singing Stones

### Ringling Rocks County Park

**Location:** Bridgeton Township, Bucks County  
**Physiography:** Gettysburg-Newark Lowland Section of the Piedmont Province

This park encompasses a diabase boulder field, one of the largest in the eastern United States. The boulder field formed during the Pleistocene Epoch ice ages (10,000 to 1.8 million years ago). Although this part of the state was not glaciated, the cold climate caused the ground to be frozen as permafrost. This tundra environment was accompanied by periglacial geologic activity, and the boulder field formed by two distinct periglacial processes. First, the well jointed (that is, fractured) diabase bedrock was progressively broken apart by cyclic freezing and thawing of water in the cracks (frost wedging). Second, these large fragments slowly moved down a gentle slope to accumulate into a field (solifluction). In the summer, the surficial ice would melt, and the water-saturated soil would lubricate the gradual creep of the boulders downhill on top of the permafrost.

Today the boulders field is called "Ringling Rocks" because the boulders emit distinct tones when struck by a hammer. This unusual property is a consequence of the iron content of the diabase. The size of the boulder and its contacts with the adjacent boulders also affect the sound.

#### Resources:

- [Ringling Rocks County Park](#)
- Geyer, A. R., [Hickory Run State Park: Boulder Field, Pennsylvania Trail of Geology, Park Guide 2, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey.](#)

Photo (right) curtsy of: Dave's Photographic Tour at [www.davidhanauer.com](http://www.davidhanauer.com)

Caption: Visitors to the park enjoy climbing over the boulders. Many come with a hammer to bang on the rocks and others find small loose rocks to strike the boulders.

## Pebble Pets (for kids)

You'll need:

1. Smooth rocks
2. Paint – felt – ribbon – feathers – beads - pom-poms - buttons (your choice)
3. Wiggle eyes (a must)
4. Glue
5. Spray varnish (if you want your rock to shine)

Instructions:

1. Find a nice smooth rock that feels good in your hand and wash off any dirt.
2. Paint the rock in interesting colors.
3. Spray with varnish and let dry.(if wanted)
4. Glue on wiggle eyes. (felt, ribbon, feathers, etc)
5. Carry your pet with your everywhere!

Source: About.com



# THE ROCK RATTLER

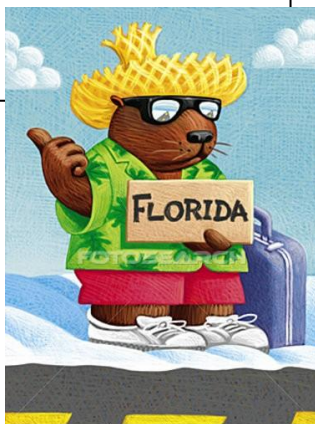
Most of you have seen some of these, but I bet all of you have not seen all of these... (30 of 70)

**You might be a Rock Hound if....**

21 - 30

- You spend hours and hours in the ugliest room in your house
- You give directions like, "turn right at the green farmhouse..."
- You bought the ugliest boots available cause they were water proof
- You know what findings are for
- You watch the scenery in movies instead of the actors
- Your company asks you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor
- The local jewelry stores & libraries give out your name for information on rock clubs
- You examine individual rocks in driveway gravel
- Your wife knows you are down in the basement sorting rocks but can't quite find you nor does she remember that pretty wall down there
- Your local rock shops send you get well cards when you don't stop by in more than a week

Nita



Ground Hog day is Tuesday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!

Is it any warmer in Florida??

grndhog www.fotosearch.com

## Ultimate Rocks and Minerals Word Search

**Katelyn Omar**

C	O	K	M	T	E	G	I	U	A	R	S	G	E
O	N	O	R	A	B	Y	I	G	N	E	O	U	S
R	S	Y	M	E	G	E	B	N	Q	L	B	C	V
L	E	R	F	H	R	M	E	U	D	C	U	O	K
I	Y	A	L	O	E	U	A	T	R	Y	L	T	E
M	E	T	A	M	O	R	P	H	I	C	S	M	C
E	R	N	V	Y	T	L	C	T	A	K	S	Z	O
S	E	E	A	S	P	D	S	N	I	C	I	D	O
T	G	M	Z	G	L	R	O	G	O	O	E	I	L
O	I	I	I	A	R	C	E	P	O	R	N	A	I
N	T	D	R	E	M	A	P	S	S	L	G	M	N
E	S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	S	N	D	O	G
I	M	S	L	A	R	E	N	I	M	U	R	N	O
E	Z	N	O	R	B	S	L	A	T	E	R	D	S
V	O	E	N	O	T	S	I	L	V	E	R	E	T

- volcano
- quartzite
- eruption
- rockcycle
- rock
- gneiss
- igneous
- limestone
- metamorphic
- slate
- sedimentary
- emerald
- heat
- tigereye
- pressure
- foolsgold
- sediments
- copper
- diamond
- gold
- minerals
- silver
- ruby
- bronze
- stone
- gem
- granite
- lava
- magma
- cooling

# THE ROCK RATTLER

We the officers of the Club, both new and old would like to thank everyone for their patients & support. It has been a rough year for some of the members and some things fell by the way. We would like to continue to have your support and understand as we try pick up all the activities.

If you would like to help, here are openings or soon to be openings:

- **Our Secretary**, Nita is temporary as she will **leave Louisiana in first part of March**. We will need someone to replace her (**NOW**). Feb will be the last Meeting Minutes & Newsletter she will be able to complete
- Phillip is a temp for the webpage, to help get it updated from 2007 to NOW!! But his day-to-day activities will not allow him to do this on a full-time basis. We will need someone to replace him.
- Prepare an article for the Newsletter!! Tell us about a trip you took!! It doesn't have to be essay size!!

Any Volunteers? How about **you**!!? The club is only as good as **WE** make it. Join in; help out... lots of hands, make for light work!!

Please submit any articles no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, so the newsletter can be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thanks

Membership dues for 2010 were due in Oct 2009. They were \$15 per individual or \$20 per couple or \$25 for the whole family!! This gets you the monthly newsletter, class room access, and some of the best people to be around in the world!! Pass on a membership application to someone you know - today!!

## ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal? Yes / No Phone #'s \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Option: Individual: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check One) \$15.00

Couple: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$20.00

Family: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$25.00

Mail to: Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society  
PO BoX 6633  
Bossier City, LA 71111

Or Come to a meeting and pay in person!!  
6:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Bossier Parish History Center, 2006 Beckett St.  
Bossier City, LA 71111