



# 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

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Rockhounds,

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please bring some rhodochrosite or some of our Arkansas field trip finds so that others might see to the Nov 2 meeting.

See you all at the Nov meeting. This will be our last meeting at this location until Jan 4, 2011.

Dec meeting - we have reservations at Kelly's Place in Haughton for the December 7th Meeting and Christmas Party 6:30 pm

I would like to finish off the elections of officers and board members we started at the Oct meeting. We hope to have some interesting programs at our meetings. We would like you to volunteer to make a 15 minute presentation of some aspect of your lapidary interest.

Each member has something to contribute to the club, and I am asking for volunteers to be responsible for the following committees:  
Field trips Membership  
Education Hospitality/Arrangements  
Junior member Activities Annual show  
Publicity

Del Glasner

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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday Nov 2, 2010

**Time:** 6:30 –9:00 PM (new winter hours)

**Location:** Bossier Parish History Center,  
2006 Beckett St.  
Bossier City, LA 71111

**Program will be:** Rhodochrosite, Red Treasure of the Rockies  
The Story of the Sweet Home Mine

RHODOCHROSITE was first discovered by the Incas around the 12<sup>th</sup> century in Argentina. Generations later, Frank Mansfield rediscovered the mine. Most unusual formations with a circular pattern of light and dark occur in this treasure chest. Highly artistic pieces are carved out of this "Indian Rose". The name comes from Greek "rhodo" (rose) and "chros" (color).

*The Mountain Gem via The Burrow Express via Border Gem Chatter march 2001.*

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## October 5, 2010 Minutes of the General Meeting

**Called to Order** - President Del Glasner

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** – Charlie Johns

**Opening Prayer** - Al Simms

**Treasurer's Report** – John Autry

- Current Balance:\$32,935.76 in Checking (including \$11,000 to be placed in a CD)

### Old Business:

- Report of Equipment held at BPCC by Bill Hart
  - He is still unable to find contact that has any information about the equipment.
  - He is planning on making an offer to purchase any equipment that BPCC has available.
  - Motion from the floor to request equipment be donated to ALTG&MS
- Report of recent Wire Wrapping Class by Larry Maguire
  - Several students had great experience and learned a lot.
  - Another beginner's class is planned by date & time TBA
  - Intermediate class is TBA

### New Business

- Crystal Study Group to be established by Geraldine Zelinsky
  - On October 10, 2010, Bossier Cable channel to air National Geographic special on Crystals.
- Field Trip scheduled October 30, 2010 traveling to crystal quarry near Hot Springs, AR.
  - To be led by Geraldine Zelinsky and Richard Kelly weather permitted
    - RSVP needed one week prior to Richard
    - Cost \$25.00 per person
    - BYOCGM (Bring your own crystal gathering material)
- South Central Federation of Mineralogy Society show to be held in conjunction with the DeRidder Show, December 11&12, 2010.
- Centrifuge Casting Class TBA, Del
- November Election Nominations requested.
  - No nominations offered, but motion and second for current officers to continue in office for another year.
    - Secretary stated that he was not available to accept nomination.
    - Del stated that issue would be passed until next month.
- Acknowledgements
  - Al & Lyn provided door prizes this month
- Show & Tell Time
  - Tom Stringfellow – discussed some of the bracelets that he made and brought.
  - Brenden –discussed some various rocks that he had collected
  - Lawson – discussed a spear with a buffalo bone for the spear head.

### Program

Geraldine Zelinsky discussed “Crystals and Why we are attracted to certain stones”

There were nineteen (19) members in attendance.

Motion for Adjournment made, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Simms, Secretary

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## Christmas Party

I'd like to remind everyone about the Christmas Party !!! The dinner will be **Tuesday, 7 December at 6:30PM at Kelly's Place in Haughton**. If you were not able to sign up on the roster at the meeting, let me know if you plan on being there.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

## CLASSES

Sign-up is underway for November when we will have a [Beginning Silversmithing Class](#). You need to let the club know when would be a good time (evenings or weekend and date for you.) Email – [lrockclub@gmail.com](mailto:lrockclub@gmail.com)

Description of the class as follows:

### **Beginning Jewelry Making I:**

*One class, six hours.*

Beginning soldering and use of the metalsmith's torch. Familiarization and use of the flex shaft. We will make a bezel set stone jewelry piece in sterling silver. Materials Cost: \$60.00 (Silver, Solder, a selected cabbed stone, or one of yours).

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## EDUCATION

## BOOK NEWS

### ANIMALS AND MAGNIFICENT MAGNETITE

#### MINERALS IN OUR LIVES

No other mineral can attract a steel pin to their surface, help a compass determine directions, or induce a steelmaker to create parts for an automobile. Magnetite does all such things.

In addition to those things that magnetite does for humans, it also may be a critical mineral in the lives of some animals. Consider, for example, the role magnetite may play in the lives of migratory birds and butterflies.

Birds have an exceptionally large eye in relation to the rest of their bodies. Within this eye is an unusual, large structure called a pecten gland. How does this organ function and how is it related to magnetite? Recently scientists have discovered that migrant birds have a larger, more elaborate pecten gland than non-migrants. They still speculate why.

One group of scientists believes that this organ, that we now know contains flakes of magnetite, may assist migratory birds in their travels. After all, the earth itself is a giant magnet, with magnetic force lines occurring from each pole. Is it too much to assume that birds, with the assistance of magnetite, use these force lines to find their way?

Recently, too, it has been discovered that our only migratory butterfly, the monarch, has minute particles of magnetite within its antennae. The question is why. Again, some scientists speculate that these particles in some way help these migrants find their way 2000 miles to the central mountains of Mexico where they over winter.

Magnetite, this marvelous mineral, may play a much larger role than just helping humans. Perhaps it also assists in animal survival.

#### REFERENCES

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Pyle, R.M. 1984. Handbook for Butterfly Watchers. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, NY.

Urquhart, F.A. 1987. The Monarch Butterfly: International Traveler. Nelson-Hall, Chicago, IL.

Wallace, G.J. and Mahan, H.D. 1975. An Introduction to Ornithology, Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, NY.

All of these articles have been researched and written by Dr. Hal Mahan, President of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society. He can be reached at [halmahan@bellsouth.net](mailto:halmahan@bellsouth.net) and welcomes comments.

From Stoney Statements June 2009 Clear Lake G&M Society.

## Growth Habits of Single Crystals

**Barrel-Shaped:** Self descriptive term applied to such crystals as vanadinite and mimetite.

**Bladed:** This describes the appearance of crystals that are almost equal dimension in all directions and look like children's toy blocks. Some of the feldspars, galena and fluorite can be so described.

**Columnar:** These crystals are thick and fairly elongated, shaped in miniature like the columns of a building. Examples include beryl, quartz and tourmaline. Sometimes the word prismatic is used to describe the same crystals, because the dominant faces on columnar crystals are usually called prisms.

**Capillary:** From a Latin word meaning hair, capillary is often used interchangeable with filiform, also from Latin, meaning threadshaped. The terms describe minerals such as silver, which is sometimes found as thin wires, or millerite, which is found in long, very thin, stiff wires.

**Pyramidal:** This expression is used when the ends, or even the entire crystal, look vaguely like three-, four-, or six-sided pyramids. Examples include wulfenite and anatase.

**Stubby:** Such crystals are also sometimes described as stout or equant. All these terms try to draw an image of crystals that are neither flattened nor elongate, but are nearly the same dimensions in all directions. Tourmaline, apatite and beryl can be columnar or prismatic, but they may also be of shorter lengths and stubby.

**Tabular:** This means that the crystal growth has been flat, with only minor thickness. Wulfenite is often tabular. Torbernite is almost always tabular.

From STAR-O-LITE 6/09 via Michigan Gem News  
date unknown via Cutting Remarks, 6/09

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## Class Photos



Casting Class was held Saturday and Sunday Oct 22-23. Students learned wax pattern creation and investment casting. Photo above is Larry Maquires rings he cast during our lost wax Investment casting class Oct 23

## Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

NOVEMBER 12-14  
HUMBLE, TX  
Houston G&MS  
Humble Civic Center

*November 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*Dallas Gem and Mineral Society, starting at 10am till 6pm on Saturday.*  
*Resistol Arena Exhibition Hall I-635 & Military Pkwy (Exit 4)*  
*Mesquite, Texas*

Dec 11 & 12  
DeRidder, La  
Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at the Exhibit Hall, located at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds, Hwy 171 North  
\$2.00 Donation - Children under 12 Admitted free  
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jan 15-16, 2011  
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"  
Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission

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## Field Trip to Ron Colemans Mine Photos



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Secretary Al Simms 318-865-2453 [asimmsjr@gmail.com](mailto:asimmsjr@gmail.com)

Treasurer John Autry 318-934-3319 [jdouglasa@hotmail.com](mailto:jdouglasa@hotmail.com)

Board of Directors consisting of Officers above and:

Past President Cristy Holder 318-949-6574 [cristyholder@bellsouth.net](mailto:cristyholder@bellsouth.net)

Member Bill Hart 318-746-8735 [mufasa35@bellsouth.net](mailto:mufasa35@bellsouth.net)

Member Charlie Johns 318-687-4929 [cwsejohns@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwsejohns@bellsouth.net)

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Field Trip Richard Kelley 318-747-2073

Classroom Location: University Storage  
1780 E. Bert Kouns Suite #806  
Shreveport, La  
(Just east of Hwy 1)

**Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Website** [larockclub.com](http://larockclub.com)

**Updates:** See the Rock Rattler Downloads page for a new group of downloads called "Download How To Do It Plans".