



# The Rock Rattler

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## President's Message

The year is really getting away from me. It is hard to believe it is June already. My trip to the high desert is over and I have been cutting rock for nearly two weeks. I have been fortunate enough to have gotten some fairly nice rocks. I will bring some to the meeting on Tuesday. But if anyone wants to see them all, they will have to come to Ida and spend the day. We can cut some nice agates and visit the day away. I think we have more field trips on the books, let's talk about what you want to collect. I hope we have a full house for the meeting; we need more volunteers for the show to help with the vendors. I know it is a few months away but it will be here before you know it. Bring something for show and tell; we want to see what you have. See you on Tuesday

Larry

## Next Meeting

When:	June 3, 2014
Time:	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Where:	Bossier City Library Historical Building Bossier City, La
Program:	Larry, John, Del and Tony's Excellent Adventure
Refreshments:	Jeanette White
Door Prizes:	Wil House

## Minutes of Meeting

May 6, 2014

Opening: Larry Maguire  
Pledge of Allegiance Del Glasner  
Prayer: Larry Maguire

### Business Discussed:

- Building Update
  - We still need volunteers that can help get the buildings ready for use
- Field Trips
  - Field trip update to N. Sulfur River given by Tony
- Treasury Report given by John Autry
- August 16, 17 Show Update
  - Del Glasner will be the Show Chairman
  - 39 dealers have been invited
  - Would like to get in touch with glass blower
  - Looking for additional demonstrators
  - Lyn and Sharron suggested Geauxsicles as a food vendor
    - Sharron will call and ask for their attendance
  - Suggestion was made for an NPR ad on Red River Radio
  - Susan Fortenberry will help with advertising with library and schools
  - Sue requested donation for the kids booth
  - Location of signage was discussed.
    - Tony will be in touch with Lamar for location and cost
- Maker's Fair
  - Update given
- Flyers
  - Lyn gave a cost analysis on printing the flyers for the club
  - A vote was confirmed to have 500 flyers color, gloss printed and folded
- Chairs
  - Tony requested a vote to purchase 4 chairs for the clubhouse
  - A vote was confirmed for purchase
- Program was on Geomans Mineral and Rock Glossery

Members in attendance: Del Glasner, Sharron Thomas, Sue Autry, Nina Hustus, Antony Thomas, John Autry, Gwynne Lowe, David Lowe, Lyn Simms, Larry Maguire, Marjorie Thomas, Dwain Spillman, Nancy Spillman, Kathy Haney, Teresa Crawford, Milton Bauldree, Linda Leedom, Heather Cregut, Sandra Talley, Bill Bacle, Mary Ann Wiggins

New Members: Gary Rushworth, Leondard Hollar, Susan Papp

# *tips and tricks*

## *Foredom Tool Manipulation*

It is often necessary to 'burnish' metal either to even it out (in the case of an uneven solder join for example) or to remove small pits by burnishing the metal over them. This is often done by hand but it can also be done using a tool in your Foredom. You can make one by modifying an old worn saw blade or an angle bur.

Take a worn out saw blade. Make sure it is round; if not use a file to round it out. Mark the blade at 6 equal points with a Sharpie. Now, using a cutoff-wheel, cut about 2 mm into the edge of the blade at a slight angle. This wheel will burnish metal in difficult places such as bezel/back plate joins, etc. You can make other burnishes' by doing the same thing to other old worn burs.

How about when you need a sharp edge on a smoothing wheel such as a craytex or small grinding wheel? Use either a diamond faced cut-off wheel, another abrasive grinding wheel or stack several cut-offs wheels together on a mandrel. Place the wheel you wish to dress a sharp edge on into your hand-piece and while running at slow speed, hold it against the flat surface of the diamond or abrasive wheel until it attains the shape you need for the job. You will need to 'dress' the edge occasionally as required. When you are dressing wheels in this manner, wear safety glasses and, if necessary, to protect your eyes and lungs.



## Field Trips for 2014

Anyone planning to attend a field trip must notify field trip coordinator that you will be attending.

If you are unable to attend a field trip but would like something brought back just ask. Arrangements can be made.

**June 14**----Mississippi – Homachita River. Banded Agate

**July 12**----Ashdown, AR – Fossils

**August 23, 24** (tentative date--waiting on confirmation from host group)

Jasper, Tx – Petrified Wood. Fee of \$30 must be paid by June meeting

**September and October**- Open—if you have an idea give info to field trip coordinator

# Upcoming Show Dates

## June

7-8—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 S. Main St.; Sat. 8-6; adults \$3; contact Kris Kister, 1813 Arthur Dr., Colleyville, TX 76034, (817) 545-7239; e-mail: [Krisk@kirstnerphotogrhy.com](mailto:Krisk@kirstnerphotogrhy.com)

## July

26-27—FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS: Annual show; Corporate Employees Recreation Assn.; Brookhaven College; 3939 Valley View Ln., Bldg. H; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; indoor show; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr., Saginaw, TX 76131, (817) 777-1997; e-mail: [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com); Web site: [www.2oldcurmudgeons.com/cera-show.htm](http://www.2oldcurmudgeons.com/cera-show.htm)

## August

9-10—BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: 50th Anniversary Show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society; Marriott Hotel; 5500 Hilton Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children \$3; demonstrations, cabbng, faceting, wire wrapping, door prizes, silent auctions, Scouts and educational groups welcome; contact Diana Martin, (225) 931-7543; e-mail: [Cajunladi@cox.net](mailto:Cajunladi@cox.net); Web site: [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org)

23-24—JASPER, TEXAS: Annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society; The Event Center; 6258 State Hwy. 190W, 5 miles west of Jasper; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students and children free; lapidary demonstrations, exhibits, dealers, gems, jewelry, rough rock, hourly door prizes, silent auction, raffle, kids' activities, mining sluice, spinning wheel; contact Jonetta Nash, 737 FM 254 South, Jasper, TX 75951, (409) 384-3974; e-mail: [jonetta.nash@yahoo.com](mailto:jonetta.nash@yahoo.com)

## October

4-5—JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Central Arkansas Gem Mineral and Geology Society; Jacksonville Community Center; 5 Municipal Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; 25 dealers, rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary material, jewelry, beads, displays, demonstrations, kids' dig, door prizes; contact Tom Sharp, 14705 Chambery Dr., Little Rock, AR 72211, (501) 379-8653; e-mail: [thom61847@yahoo.com](mailto:thom61847@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

10-12—METAIRIE, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana; Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel; 2601 Severn Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, students \$3, children (under 12) free; exhibits, demonstrations, fluorescent mineral room, door prizes, grand prize; contact Levette Carlos, (504) 214-3205; e-mail: [gemshow2014@gmail.com](mailto:gemshow2014@gmail.com)

10-12—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 7-3, Sat. 9-3, Sun. 2-3; adults \$85; dig quartz crystals, keep all you find, win a prize; contact Sherrie Ellison, Hwy. 270W, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: [director@mtidachamber.com](mailto:director@mtidachamber.com); Web site: [www.mtidachamber.com](http://www.mtidachamber.com)

10-12—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: 30th Annual Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Show; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dealers, quartz crystals, minerals, jewelry, quilts, crafts; contact Sherrie Ellison, Hwy. 270W, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: [director@mtidachamber.com](mailto:director@mtidachamber.com); Web site: [www.mtidachamber.com](http://www.mtidachamber.com)

## November

7-9—HUMBLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center; 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, seniors and students \$7, children (10 and under) free; Kids Daze Fri., fluorescent exhibit, lapidary demonstrations, swap area special kids' area, Dino Dig, Youth Section; contact Michele Marsel, Houston Gem & Mineral Society, 10805 Brooklet, Houston, TX 77099, (281) 530-0942; e-mail: [show@hgms.org](mailto:show@hgms.org); Web site: [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)

# June Birthstones

## PEARL

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as *the pearl age*. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.



## ALEXANDRITE

A relatively modern gem, *Alexandrite*, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.)



# MOONSTONE

The third birthstone for June is the *Moonstone*. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon – a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called *adularescence*) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called *feldspar*, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.



- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/june-birthstones#sthash.zFsPSMcG.dpuf>

# 2014 Officers and Board Members

Position	Name	Contact #	Email Address
President	Larry Maguire	(318) 284-3544	<a href="mailto:oldhd68@gmail.com">oldhd68@gmail.com</a>
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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.

**Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society**  
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