

THE ROCK RATTLER

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THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Minutes for 3/7/17

Antony Thomas opened meeting with Prayer

Del Glasner gave update on show. ½ of the vendors have paid their entry fees. He has replaced the vendors that were unable to return to our show. Deposit on the civic center has been paid.

Tom Stringfellow gave update on upcoming classes. He gave handout on what is on the calendar at this time. Anyone interested should contact Tom for payment. Membership dues have to be paid before attending a class. Shop will be closed on Mar 11 due to no steward available. Tony has volunteered to be at the shop on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

Mr. Cupit brought up an idea of investigating having our show at the Red River Event Center on Authur Teague. Will look into it for next years show.

Tony and Bill Eeds gave info on their excursion to Poverty Point last weekend.

Field Trip to West Texas the last weekend in May is still being organized. All interested should contact Del for information.

Program was on Marjorie Thomas and Marylyn Wiginton's 29 day trip to the Amazon River.

34 members present at meeting

NEXT MEETING: We'r Back at our original location for April 4th !!

Historical Center

Location:

2206 Beckett Street (318) 746-7717

Bossier City , LA 71111

See map: [Google Maps](#)

Gathering 5:30pm Board meeting 6:00pm Meeting starts 6:30pm

Refreshments by: Catherine Jack & Andrea Sattler

Door Prizes by : Nina Hustus

Program :

"Photographing your finds" Make your own light box

Club Shop is open to current members. Shop is open most Saturdays. Check our Facebook page for open dates or emails. Knowledgeable shop stewards will available to help you operate tools and machinery. Typical activities include sawing rocks in half, polishing rocks, jewelry creation and how it's done demos. Come out and see what's going on.

Upcoming Classes :

CHAINMAILLE – May 6 & 7 Fee \$85

CHASING & REPOUSSE' – May 27 & 28 Fee \$125

INTRODUCTION TO METAL CLAYS – July 15 & 16 Fee \$165

Class fees must be paid at least 14 Days before classes.

For information call 903-839-6744 and make checks payable to:

Tom Stringfellow

168 address 16856 Cardinal Lane

Troup, Tx 75789

Shows

Apr 8-9 Abilene, TX

Apr 14-16 Alpine, TX

Apr 29-30 Waco, TX

May 6-7 Arlington, TX

May 6-7 Lubbock, TX

May 27-28 FT. Worth, TX

Aug 12-13 San Antonio, TX

Our Show is Aug 19-20 Bossier City, LA

South Central Federation of Mineral Society's Annual Show hosted by
The Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Humble, TX November 10-12, 2017.

Hints:

Cleaning Your Saw Before throwing out a blade because it no longer cuts, try cleaning it by sawing a common brick. Amazingly, this can extend the life of your blades. This removes tiny particles of grit that have accumulated between the diamonds. Harder stones, like agate, won't do the same job. Periodically, you'll also need to clean the sump of your saw. Fortunately, it doesn't have much odor, because this one of the nastiest chores you'll ever undertake while gem cutting. You need a large can or bucket to hold the residue, scrapers, and rubber gloves to protect your hands. Open the valve or tip the saw to remove the lubricant. If you run it through a filter (coffee filters work), you can reuse the lubricant. You'll need to manually scrape out a layer of sludge that will be left at the bottom. Any flat scraper will do, but a putty knife works particularly well for getting into corners. You don't have to remove every last bit of sludge. However, the more you get out, the longer it'll be between cleanings. Now, you need to find a home for the mess you've removed from your saw. The stone residue is nicknamed "the plumber's best friend" because it takes so little to plug up a drain. So that method is out. Most likely, the residue will be mixed with a toxic petroleum product. Find a hazardous household waste disposal site near you or contact your waste collection service provider.

INFO :

Jade, nephrite: Centuries ago, jade was believed to prevent colic and cure kidney diseases. The Greek word for kidney, nephros, is the root of nephrite, the modern term for one of the two jade minerals, the other being jadeite. In the 1500's, Spanish Conquistadors encountered jade in use by many Mesoamerican cultures, and this "colic stone" was called piedra de ijada or "stone of the colic" in Spanish. The French shortened the Spanish term to l'ejade or le jade, which was further shortened in English to jade.

Rarest Gems #1 Jadeite \$3 + Million/Carat Until recent years jadeite has been something of a mystery mineral, but we now know of primary sources in Guatemala as well as several California occurrences of white or grayish jadeite. Boulders in which a few small freestanding crystals have been seen occur in San Benito Co., California, with additional finds in Clear Creek, between New Idria and Hernandez. All Mexican jadeite is in artifacts, from unknown sources. The record price for a single piece of jadeite jewelry was set at the November 1997 Christie's Hong Kong sale: Lot 1843, the "Doubly Fortunate" necklace of 27 approximately .5 mm jadeite beads sold

'It's like nothing else on earth': Rarest of gemstones fuels boom for Alberta miners
This story was originally published at www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary on Feb. 22, 2017. A Calgary-based mining company says its operation will quadruple in size within 12 months — thanks to prehistoric squid-like creatures transformed into gemstones that can only be found in one spot in the world, southern Alberta. About 70 million years ago, Korite's mine would have been found in the bottom of the Bearpaw Sea. Today, it is in

the bottom of a coulee about 20 minutes south of Lethbridge, Alta. in the geographic formation is known as the Bearpaw Formation. While the animal's fossils can be found around the world, a southern Alberta river basin is the only place where a confluence of factors made the mollusc into a gem. "All the colors are on top of each other, the same as a rainbow — and it's all natural. So that makes it one of the rarest gemstones in the world," Rene Trudel, Korite's operation field manager, told CBC News. "In this sediment, the preservation is incredible ... you cannot find anywhere else the full spectrum [of colors]." And that's good news for Korite, which is scrambling to keep up with surging demand. "We were mining two acres a year, and in the next 12 months we'll mine eight acres. So we're expanding dramatically," Korite president Jay Maull said. "It's not only do we have to find it, we have to process it. We were processing about six million carats of gemstone per year. We're growing to 8 million this year, but to meet demand we're going to have to double that over the next two years." The expansion will also mean hiring both at the mine — for the Lethbridge area that means about 20 more jobs — and for jobs in Rainbow-hued ammolite, an extremely rare gem found only in a southern Alberta river basin, studs a piece of shale held by spotters. The ring on the left shows an example of the processed gemstone. (Sarah Lawrynuik/CBC) marketing, sales, distribution and processing at the headquarters in Calgary. Trudel was never formally trained as a geologist but he knows the Bearpaw Formation like the back of his hand, having worked there for 35 years. He's also overseen the excavation of about 57 hectares of land in the area, searching for the elusive gemstone. The combination of heat and pressure turned the squid-like mollusk called an ammonite into the rainbow-colored ammolite gem. The fossils have been buried for the past 71 million years. (VPD) The company has come a long way from where it started in the late 1970s. At that point, the company was only using surface extraction and marketing the treasures to tourists in Banff, Alta. That was the landscape before ammolite was even recognized as a gemstone. The official designation changed everything in the early 1980s. "If it weren't for the Japanese — at that time they were traveling in large numbers in Alberta — they wanted souvenirs unique from Canada," Trudel said. "That really helped us. It's not easy to start a new gemstone." The first mine was dug in 1983, and four others have been dug since. "Then lots of people started to hear about us. And it's growing very fast in different markets, like the Caribbean with the cruise boats," said Trudel. Trudel jokes about the fact that in the time he's been plotting Korite's mines, he's never missed. He has followed the Bearpaw Formation all the way down into Montana and nowhere else has he found ammolite in the condition it exists in the St. Mary River Valley and along parts of the Oldman River. Of course, the squid-like ammonites weren't the only creatures living in the area during the Late Cretaceous Period. The Korite team has also found seven Mosasaurs — a scaly skinned, flesh-eating marine reptile that lived between 65 million and 135 million years ago — and a Plesiosaur — a large carnivorous sea animal with a broad body and two pairs of flippers that lived at the time of the dinosaurs. All were pulled out of the ground by the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, in Drumheller. The cost of the gemstone is comparable currently to sapphires or black opals.

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Member Photos of Poverty Point Mounds by Tony Thomas and Bill Eads







SPEAR POINTS

Over 8000 whole spear points have been found at the site. This implies that hunting was extremely important to this culture. These stone points came in a variety of shapes, sizes, and materials. Due to the lack of local flint, these people must have developed an exchange system, to bring this material from hundreds of miles away.

Websites to look at:

Caddo Indians

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/archaeology/virtualbooks/CADDO/devel.htm>

Poverty Point National Park

<https://www.nps.gov/popop/index.htm>

south Central Federation Mineral Society Newsletter

http://www.scfms.net/Newsletters/2017_MAR_APR_SCFMS_NEWSLETTER.pdf

Send in photos of your craftwork or comments to: lrockclub@gmail.com