

THE ROCK RATTLER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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NO. 07

Presidents Message

the heat is on. please hydrate and be very careful when going outside. thank you to del, john, marjorie, lyn, nina and don for coming to the shop this past saturday and getting our silent auction items ready. this years items are going to be great. members start thinking about where you want to volunteer for the show. if you are unable to attend the meeting this month send sharron an email of where you would like to work. remember if you are not at the meeting, you will get what is left over. our show pins are in and i will have them at the meeting. del is asking for ideas for field trips and tom is asking for ideas on classes,so please do not let these guys down. we need your input. see you at the meeting.

tony

Minutes for 6/6/17

Minutes for June 6, 2017

Called to order by Antony Thomas with prayer and salute to flag

John gave financial statement

Design for show pin was viewed by members and approved to purchase.

Lauren showed artwork for mailout cards for show. Suggestions were given for changes. She will make changes and resend to board members for approval.

Tony and Lauren will be working on ads for the digital signs.

Tony would like to change the scavenger hunt items.

Del has requested members to assist vendors unloaded on Friday before show.

Del has requested that there be 3 volunteers to work tickets.

Idea was given for putting vinyl footprints on the floor to direct children to the childrens area.

Field trip to N. Sulfur River will be June 10. Members can meet at library at 7 am.

NEXT MEETING: Special Tuesday July 11th !! (Because of July 4th Holiday)

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 : Gwynn Lowe

Door Prizes by :

Program : **Dinosaurs and the Bible presented By Debbie Copper**

Upcoming Classes :

Tom Stringfellow has asked members to note a list of possible classes to for introduction at our show.

Please complete ASAP.

Address to Tom Stringfellow, 16856 Cardinal Lane, Troup, Texas 75789.

Shows

July 2017

1-2—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; AGMC, Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 South Main Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, Seniors/Children \$4; 2017 AGMC Jubilee Show. Jewelry, Gems, Minerals & Fossils. Vendors, classes, food, fellowship. Rockhounds, geologists, gemologists, jewelry artisans featuring custom designs, designer fine jewelry, stone identification, faceted gemstones, druzy, cabochons, special shaped stones, tons of rough stones, rocks, slabs, rare minerals, fossils, beads, metaphysical stones, arrowheads, carvings, sculptures, skulls, antlers, bones, petrified wood, glass fusion, enameled jewelry, crystals, himalayan salt lamps, rock/mineral home decor, steampunk designs, butterflies and mine from a mobile mine. ; contact Nadira Charaniya, (469)-751-2944; e-mail: show@agemclub.org; Web site: www.agemclub.org

August 2017

12-13—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show; Peppers Gems, Crystal Mystic; 4703 Shavano Oak, Ste.100; Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-5; Free Admission; The Amateur Rock, Gem and Jewelry Show is put on by local people. There will be minerals, fossils, meteorites, gems, jewelry, lapidary instructions and metaphysical stones. ; contact Sam Rogers, 14835 Willow Moss Street, San Antonio, TX 78232, (210)-240-7721; e-mail: jspeck2@att.net

12-13—GONZALES, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society , Lamar Dixon Expo Center Trademart Building; 9039 S St. Landry Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Children \$3; Demonstrations: Capping, Faceting, Wire wrapping, and more... Door Prizes all day Silent auctions going on both days Scouts and educational groups are welcome. ; contact Wanda Gawarecki, LA; e-mail: mercymom3@gmail.com; Web site: www.brgemandmineral.org

19-20—BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society, Bossier Civic Center; 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4; The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society will host their 42nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Parking is free at Bossier Civic Center and refreshments will be available for purchase. Vendors at the show will be selling custom and unique jewelry, gems and minerals including amethysts, emeralds, jade, pearls, fossils and more. Educational programs will include: exhibits by society members; demonstrations on how to convert a rough mineral into a piece of wearable or displayable jewelry or art; making cabochons from rough slabs; a step-by-step guide to the process of faceting; how-to instruction on the use of equipment; presentations on “knapping,” the ancient art of arrow-head making, and more. Door prizes will be awarded hourly throughout the event. ; contact Del Glasner, Benton, LA; e-mail: larockclub@gmail.com; Web site: larockclub.com

26-27—JASPER, TEXAS: Annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$3, Students/Children free; Exhibits, door prizes, silent auction, grand prize raffle, spinning wheel, lapidary demonstrations, ; contact Jonetta Nash, 737 FM 254 South, Jasper, TX 75951, (409)-384-3974; e-mail: jonetta.nash@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pinecountry-gms.org

26-27—MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Ozark Earth Science Club, Baxter County Fairgrounds; 1507 Fairgrounds Drive; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Admission \$4, Children 12 & under free; The Ozark Earth Science Club is sponsoring it's annual show this year at the Baxter County Fairgrounds. Wide variety of dealers selling gems, minerals, fossils, unique crafts & jewelry, kids games, demonstrations, speakers, Silent auction, free hourly door prizes, Grand prize drawing, Live radio broadcast with Treasure Chest on Sat., Geodes/cracking. Concession will be available and provided by the Clarkridge Fire Dept. ; contact Sharon Waddell, (417)-274-8712; Web site: www.ozarkearthscience.com

September 2017

15-17—DENVER, COLORADO: Annual show; The Original Denver Gem & Mineral Show, Expo Hall of the Denver Mart; 451 E 58th Ave; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$7, Seniors/Students \$5, Children under 13 free; Come help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. It is fun for the whole family. The show theme is Gold and Silver, and we are expecting to have some fabulous educational exhibits. The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is proud to host mineral, gem, fossil, book, and jewelry dealers from across Colorado, the United States, and around the world. Drop in for one of our illustrated talks for a more in-depth look at the worlds of minerals, fossils, meteorites, and gemstones. Our slate of expert speakers share their knowledge on various aspects of the show theme and collecting in general. ; contact Lesley Sebol; e-mail: info@denvermineralshow.com; Web site: www.denvershow.org

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

Field Trip: TOO Hot

Tips:

COLLECTION TIPS

1. Place each sample in a collection container as you collect them. The collection containers may be a plastic baggie, a piece of newspaper, or a plastic collection jar. Label each sample as you collect them. Note that you do not have to identify the rock on the collection container, but you should be specific into where each sample was found. This ensures that samples do not get mixed up when you return home.

Did You Know?

* Cleaning Stones is an art by itself. Eyeglass silicon treated tissue removes fingerprints from stones.

* Flush the dirt to the surface using toothpaste that has fluorite. It can penetrate brick, terracotta, ceramics and stone easily. The dirt can then be rinsed off with water.

* Desert roses and best cleaned using a solution of “axion”. Soak overnight, brush gently and rinse in clean water. This is an easy and safe method.

* Ultrasonic cleansers are used by some professionals but there are some stones that must not be cleaned in this manner. They are stones like pearls, lapis, opal, coral, tourmaline, mother-of-pearl, emerald and turquoise, agate, topaz and malachite.

* Fluorite should never be cleaned in warm or hot water because it will wash off the luster and it will never come back. A better idea is to put in 'muriatic acid' which will remove the calcite and then rinse in cold water.

* Pyrite, quartz and other silicas are best cleaned with radiator cleaner DuPont No.7. Use one tablespoon for one quart of water then rinse with silute ammonia and a final rinse in clean water.

* A good soak in water and ammonia will clean out lichen and algae from your rock samples.

* If you want to see what's inside your stone then before you commence faceting drop them in some oil of cassia or cinnamon. All flaws and inclusions will be visible as the refractive index of these oils is very similar to that of most gemstones. The surface irregularities disappear, making it easy to see.

* Jade and other soft stones like aventurine and tiger eye, can be effectively polished using a wet 600 sanding cloth. Once done, apply the No. 1200 metal lapping compound, available at any auto supply store, to one inch of a leather lap and work the stone, you will find that the stone gets a dull polish which can then be given a good shine using cerium oxide or tin.

* Peridot is best worked on suing a 260 to grind, 1,200 for pre-polishing and then with Linde A on a type metal lap or a tin lap.

* Malachite can be cut using a saw. This is soft stone so it's best to keep away from the direct parallel of the grain by about ten degrees. By doing this you will get the bull's-eye effect when you dome the stone. Wear a mask while grinding as the flying dust is toxic and grind on a well worn out 600. Give it a final polish with "ZAM on hard felt" the more you polish the better the stone becomes.

* Fire Agate is really a [chalcedony](#) which has a layer of iridescent limonite that is trapped in-between the chalcedony layers. You need to be careful when working with fire agate. Start your grinding slowly suing a 100 grit wheel. The "fire" is the dense spot inside where the iridescent limonite is. Once done, grind on a finer wheel so you "fire" is seen more clearly and clover to the surface. Be careful you don't sand away the "fire". Finish off with a leather buff using tin oxide.

Interesting facts

* Molten rocks are responsible for the formation of topaz, emeralds, diamonds, and rubies.

* Ground water evaporation is what forms opal, [amethyst](#), quartz and turquoise

* Metamorphic re-crystallization makes garnets and staurolite.

* Of all gemstones jade is the most durable.

* Wear opals, pearls, [amber](#) and turquoise carefully as they scratch easily.

These are just a few tips and hints on polishing and cleaning of rocks and minerals. Read up all you can before you commence with the cleaning and polishing for best results.

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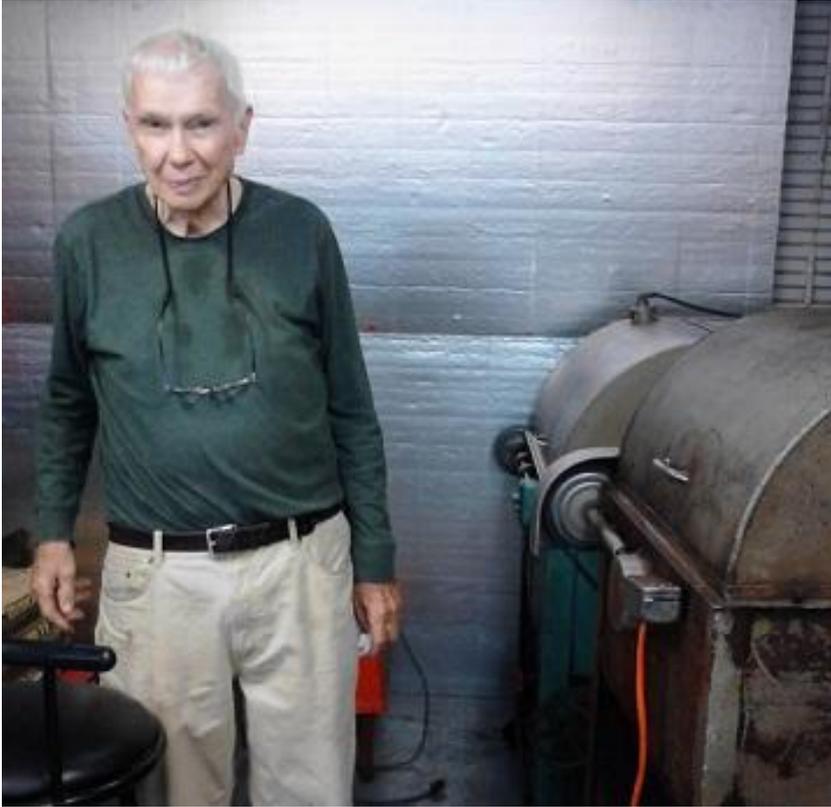
<https://www.jewelinfo4u.com/helpful-rockhounding-tips>

Member Photos

**Silent Auction Party people – Sorting and bagging rocks.
John, Tony, Lynn, Nina and Marjorie**



Don Sawing rocks for Silent Auction



Websites to look at:

<http://rocktumbler.com/blog/fee-mining-and-digging-sites/>

<http://www.durangorocks.org/>

Send in photos of your craftwork or comments via email: larockclub@gmail.com

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ArkLaTexGemMineralSociety/>

Website - <http://larockclub.com/>