



The Rock Rattler

VOLUME: 35

NO. 03

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

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

PO BOX 6633
BOSSIER CITY, LA. 71171-6633



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 1st 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,

With the withdrawal of Lyn Simms as president for health reasons, I will tackle the job with your help to have a club that is doing what you like to do. To make sure it does, please talk to the board members about your ideas for programs, field trips and other things you would like to see the club do. We have a diverse group and should be able to support , and learn many things from each other. I enjoyed seeing your favorite rocks you brought to last months meeting, please bring some for the April meeting also.

See you all at the April meeting.

Del

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements

Presidents Message	Page 1
Last Meeting Minutes	Page 2
Up-Coming Shows	Page 4
Education.....	Page 5

Articles

Ten Rarest Gems (cont)	Page 3
Hints & Tips	Page 4
Lapidary corner.....	Page 6

Contacts.....	Page 6
---------------	--------

Next Meeting: April 6, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

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

THE ROCK RATTLER

March 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Opened by President Lyn Simms

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag and Prayer by Cristy Holder

Old Business: President Lyn Simms announced the extra table offered for the Ark-La-Tex Gun Collectors Show has been spoken for by Bill Hart

Saturday, April 10th - ASEANA Festival - 11AM-7PM - corner of Texas and Milam in downtown Shreveport - no cost to us and may be very good publicity. ALTG&M offered space to set up display and demo area. Sales are permitted with 10% of gross sales to be donated to the ALTG&M Society as a donation. Sign-up sheet provide for members to sign up for demos. Lyn will have her 4" trim saw and 6" flat lap there to cut and polish some cabs, but someone else could use them if you have a special rock you want to cab and demo while doing so.

Bossier Green offered ALTG&M a space to demo and display on April 22, 2010. Event will be held at the Shady Grove South Bossier Community Center. Fourth and fifth graders will be bussed in. Usually begins at 8:30am til 2:00pm.

Discussion about rollover for current Certificates of Deposit, currently held by Chase Bank. Al Simms researched on the internet current interest rates advertised by national banks. The highest was an on-line bank that offered 1.66%. Motion made, seconded and passed that our Treasurer is to check with Chase to see if they will reissue at an interest rate not less than 1.5%. If they will not, John will close CD and deposit money into checking account until a higher interest rate is available.

Audit subcommittee report: Audit indicated that all accounts were properly recorded, up to date and reconciled.

Publicity subcommittee report: Neither Tammy nor Lee were present, but report given to Lyn by Tammy. Tammy is to contact Sci-Port to check on possibility of setting up a display. Bill Hart stated that we currently had a display already set up, entitled "Gems of Louisiana" located in the Red River Valley Area near the oil rig. Lyn will request that Tammy to check the status of that Sci-Port display. She will also ask Tammy to check with them about the possibility of setting up a fluorescent mineral display that would also be available for display at our Gem & Mineral Show. Bill also reported that two years ago, when contacted about a display at our Show, the new director of Sci-Port wanted to charge us to set up at the show. Tammy is to explore the issue with Sci-Port and try to resolve the problem so Sci-Port can again join us at the show.

Show Report: Cristy reported that contracts have been sent out to the vendors with a June 15th deadline for return. Any member that desires to setup a display or provide a demonstration should contact Cristy prior to June 1st.

Charlie Johns reported that an announcement has been sent to "Rock & Gem" magazine advertising our show. Next project is to prepare the mail out cards. Someone is needed to enter the new door prize card information into the computer database. Ike is currently maintaining the database. Lyn agreed to assist with this task.

Redesigned brochure – Lyn passed around a color and a black/white brochure with highlighted changes. Cost of the two proposals is color @ \$120/1000 copies or \$80/1000 black & white copies. Cristy made a motion (which was seconded and passed) that we authorize the production of the color brochure with highlighted changes.

Lyn reported that a letter has been sent to the IRS letter requesting confirmation of our 501(C)(3) status.

Reminder that membership renewals are due with final deadline of 3/31

New Business:

Lyn announced the appointment and acceptance of Wil and Edna House as our new Club Historians.

Lyn announced that because of health and stress issues, she needs to step down as Society President. After much discussion, it was decided that Del Glasner, current Vice-President, assume the role of President. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the election of a Vice-President be tabled until next month.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Al Simms, Secretary

THE ROCK RATTLER

Ten Rarest Gems on Earth (8 of 10)

Red Beryl Emerald USD \$10,000.00/Carat



Red beryl is found primarily in the Thomas Range and Wah Wah Mountains of Utah. It has also been reportedly found in a location in Mexico and two locations in New Mexico. Very few cut specimens exist. It was first described in 1904 for a find at the mineralogist Maynard Bixby's Claim in the Thomas Range. The old name bixbite is no longer widely used because of confusion with the mineral bixbyite, which is also named after Bixby. The greatest concentration of gem-grade red beryl comes from the Violet Claim in the Wah Wah Mountains, that was discovered in 1958 by Lamar Hodges while he was prospecting for uranium. Gem-quality red beryl is very rare, and the largest crystal yet recovered was 14mm x 34mm and weighed approximately 54 carats. The average faceted gemstone is 0.15 carats and the largest faceted gemstone to date weighed 8.0 carats. Red beryl is currently selling for \$150 and up per carat for rough, and upwards of \$1200 per carat for faceted gems. Very fine quality gems have sold for over \$3000 per carat. Again, it is estimated that the price for this gem will skyrocket, once more gem dealers become aware of its rarity. For every Red Emerald gemstone in the world, it is estimated there are 150,000 Diamonds, 12,000 Green Emeralds, and 9,000 Rubies. This rareness is a result of the unique conditions under which it was formed. Despite its rareness and spectacular beauty, Red Emerald is hardly known by the general public, and as a result, is rarely found in jewelry. In 1984 it was said, "Red Beryl is now - and is likely to remain - the rarest of all gem beryls... Material from the Violet Claims provides both spectacular gemstones and mineral specimens." (Gems & Gemology Vol. XX, 1984 © Gemological Institute of America) **CAUTION:** There was confusion when rumors of a new mine in Madagascar came to light. The gem being mined was very similar to Red Beryl, but was soon discovered to be an altogether different gem. This new gem, Pezzottaite, is strikingly similar to Red Beryl, but is often a "bubblegum pink" and is not near as rare. Another new mine, in Afghanistan, has also been reported to be mining Pezzottaite, markedly diminishing its rarity status even further. There are gem brokers mistakenly selling this gem as "New red Beryl". It is NOT red Beryl at all, and care should be taken when purchasing either gem.

Sources: <http://listverse.com/nature/top-10-rarest-gems/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_beryl

<http://www.redemerald.com>

Lyn Simms

THE ROCK RATTLER

Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

APRIL 10-11
ABILENE, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Center
North 6th & Pine

APRIL 24-25
WACO, TX
Waco G&MS
TX ST. Technical
College
ITC Building I-35 N

MAY 1-2
LUBBOCK, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Center

MAY 29-30
FORT WORTH, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr

AUGUST 14-15
BATON ROUGE, LA
Baton Rouge G&MS
Fraternal Order of
Police

AUGUST 21-22
BOSSIER CITY, LA
Ark-La-Tex G&MS
Bossier City Civic
Center

AUGUST 28-29
JASPER, TX
Pine Country G&MS
Events Center

For an expanded list of
Show Dates go to:

www.rockngem.com

HINTS & TIPS

A HANDY LITTLE HINT.....

SLEEVE GUARDS: Plastic newspaper
wrappers or bread wrappers
make excellent sleeve guards when using the
trim saw. Make holes for the fingers and
thumbs. This covers the arm and it is disposable.
BUT BE SURE TO tape the plastic
so it is not a loose bag that could get caught
in the belt.

from the Roadrunner, Jan. 2010

THE ROCK RATTLER

EDUCATION

Notes from Tom Stringfellow:

A few pieces of equipment have yet to be purchased but here is a synopsis of classes to be offered:

[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).

[Intermediate Jewelry Making II:](#) *One class, six hours.*

Advanced soldering, plus some use of the flex shaft. Tricks with the torch: texturing, reticulation, annealing, granulation. We will make a combined prong-set, bezel-set piece with an arrowhead (YOUR arrowhead). Materials cost: \$60.00 (Silver, Solder).

[Advanced Soldering & Jewelry Making:](#) *Two classes, six hours each.*

When you complete this class project you should be able to handle most any soldering task!! We will make an ID Bracelet (man or woman's) which will stretch and reinforce your soldering skills. Materials cost: \$60.00 (Silver, Solder).

Membership in Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral is required to take a class. All classes are held in the our classroom, 1780 E. Bert Kouns #806. The class schedule is subject to change based on expected attendance and instructor availability. Call Tom Stringfellow at (903) 839-6744 if you wish to take a particular class or for more information. When enough students request the class you want, you will be contacted. A \$25 advance nonrefundable deposit is required to reserve a spot in a scheduled class. Send your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and a list of your classes of interest to larockclub@gmail.com

Lapidary Corner

How to Cut Obsidian

Author unknown

GOLD SHEEN: To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to unstuck them. Watch for "fire spots" in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opallike colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

IRIDESCENT: There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of



the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get effect. To get a rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximately 15-degree angle across the bands. **MIDNIGHT LACE:** Lace-patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce. Although obsidian is comparatively soft it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try cerium oxide on Lucite®, but keep it wet.

RAINBOW OBSIDIAN: Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an



overhead single lamp As[the

layers] are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained. **SAFETY TIP:** After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

GRINDING OBSIDIAN CABS: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience, as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

POLISH ON OBSIDIAN: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing will result in blisters and scratches. Obsidian is relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and soft. With proper understanding of its glassy properties you can obtain some beautiful results. –

from The RockCollector 10/09 via *Golden Frog*, February

2005

THE ROCK RATTLER

2010 OFFICERS:

President	Del Glasner	318-965-1989	dglasner2001@yahoo.com
Vice President	(open)		
Secretary	Al Simms	318-865-2453	asimms@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Autry	318-934-3319	jdouglasa@hotmail.com

Board of Directors consisting of Officers above and:

Past President	Cristy Holder	318-949-6574	cristyholder@bellsouth.net
Member	Bill Hart	318-746-8735	mufasa35@bellsouth.net
Member	Charlie Johns	318-687-4929	cwsejohns@bellsouth.net
Member	Tom Stringfellow	903-839-6744	TomString@aol.com

Appointments and Committees:

Historian	Wil and Edna House	318-949-2008	wilhouse@bellsouth.net
Show Chairman	Charlie Johns	318-687-4929	cwsejohns@bellsouth.net
Assit.Show Chairman	Bill Hart	318-746-8735	mufasa35@bellsouth.net
Dealer Chairman	Cristy Holder	318-949-6574	cristyholder@bellsouth.net
Show Mailing	Pamela Fredrick	318-230-0526	Fredrick1973@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Del Glasner	318-965-1989	dglasner2001@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Del Glasner	318-965-1989	dglasner2001@yahoo.com
Chipalotta's	Wil House	318-949-2008	wilhouse@bellsouth.net