



# 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

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## President's Message

Dear Fellow Rockhounds,

Beginning silversmithing classes came off without a hitch thanks to instructor Tom Stringfellow. Our classroom is now equipped with two soldering stations and two flex shafts for additional classes. Fine work was completed by all. Finally our classes are on a roll. Hot Diggity Dog!! Please join us for an educational program at our June 1 meeting on **Mineral Identification** presented by Richard Kelly. He is quite knowledgeable and will show some great examples.

See you all at the June meeting.

Del

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### **Next Meeting:** June 1, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Bossier Parish History Center,  
2006 Beckett St.

Bossier City, LA 71111

**Program will be Mineral Crystal Identification delivered by our own Richard Kelly**

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[Beginning Jewelry Making I Class Photos May 21/22, 2010](#)



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## UPCOMING CLASSES

June 11 (Friday) & 12 (Saturday)

**BEGINNING WIRE WRAPPING** One day class, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Up to six students. Learn use of basic tools and silver wire. We will make a wire wrapped pendant. Cost will be \$60 per student, cost includes wire and a 20 x 30 cab. Students will need basic tools which include : flat nose pliers; chain nose pliers and flush cutters. If you want to learn to twist wire you will need a tool for twisting also.

Signup at our next meeting or contact Larry Maquire ([wood@centurytel.net](mailto:wood@centurytel.net) or 284-3544) **We have had a number of people sign up for this class already.**

JUNE 25 (Friday) & 26 (Saturday).

**SIMPLE, INEXPENSIVE, FUN CLASS !!!**

Make a Belt Buckle, Money Clip, Bracelet, or Pendant in Nickel Silver, or Nugold with ETCHING. If you have learned to solder you can add silver embellishments to really jazz it up!

One day class, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Up to five students, Tools and base metals supplied (Silver will be available for purchase, or bring your own). Cost: \$20.00 plus \$5.00 shop fee = \$25.00.

Samples of work possible will be on display at our next meeting.

Signup at our next meeting or contact Tom Stringfellow ([TomString@aol.com](mailto:TomString@aol.com) or 903-839-6744)

### Future Classes:

**Cabbing or making Cabachons from rough stone.** (Grind yourself a beauty!) Starting with a slab of stone about ¼ inch thick, you will saw out a rough shape, then carefully grind and polish you special gemstone. Pick from among a large array of the club's collection of slabs or bring your own. With a three class offering, each being three to four hours, we should be able to make three cabs! Details, dates and cost should be available in June newsletter.

**Wax Modeling and Investment Casting:** Work with different types of waxes and modeling techniques and cast and polish your models. Details, dates and cost should be available in June newsletter.

**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.

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## Ten Rarest Gems on Earth (5 of 10)

### 5. **Painite** USD \$50-60,000/Carat



Once believed to be the rarest mineral on earth, painite is still considered very rare even today. It was first found in Myanmar (Burma) by British mineralogist and gem dealer Arthur C.D. Pain in the 1950s. When it was confirmed as a new mineral species, the mineral was named after him. For many years, only three small painite crystals were known to exist. Before 2005 there were fewer than 25 known crystals found, all numbered and accounted for, though more material has been unearthed recently in Myanmar. Painite has an orange-red to brownish-red color similar to topaz due to trace amounts of iron. It is very strongly pleochroic (showing different hues from different angles) and fluoresces a lovely green under short wave UV. The crystals are naturally hexagonal in shape, and, until late 2004, only two had been cut into faceted gemstones. Specimen No. 5 has been faceted into an oval and weighs 2.54 carats (far right picture, above). More recently, painite specimens have been discovered at a new location in northern Myanmar. It is believed that further excavations in this area will yield more painite crystals. Extensive exploration in the Mogok region of Myanmar has identified several new painite occurrences that have been vigorously explored resulting in several thousand new painite specimens. Most of the recent crystals and fragments are dark, opaque, incomplete crystals. A modest number of transparent crystals have been found and have been either saved as crystals, or, mostly, cut into gemstones. Originally, few of the known painite specimens were privately owned. However, the recent finds have become widely available to individuals.

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## Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

June 5--MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS: Show, "Crater Gem & Mineral Show"; Crater of Diamonds State Park; 209 State Park Rd.; Sat. 8-4; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, diamond search area adults \$7, children \$4); contact Margi Jenks, 209 State Park Rd., Murfreesboro, AR 71958, (870) 285-3116; e-mail: [margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov](mailto:margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov); Web site: [www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com](http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com)

Aug 21-22--BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: Show; Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students \$1, children 5 and under and Scouts in uniform free; door prizes, youth activities, exhibits, live demonstrations; contact Charlie Johns, 9314 Overlook Dr., Shreveport, LA 71118, (318) 687-4929; e-mail: [cwsejohns@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwsejohns@bellsouth.net); Web site: [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)

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

## EDUCATION

**Bet You Didn't Know.....**

### Arkansas Stone

Arkansas Stone, a form of Novaculite, is the traditional wherstone. Novaculite is chert, a form of quartz, composed almost entirely of silica in a dense mass of crystals. These stones come in four grades. Washita, a pink and white stone of 400 grit, is used to remove nicks in a knife blade. Soft Arkansas, a grayish stone of 800 grit, is good general purpose stone for finishing an edge. Hard Arkansas, is a white stone of 1000 grit, is strictly a fine finishing stone and will produce a superlative edge. Black Arkansas, relatively rare and expensive, is a polishing stone used for honing surgical instruments.

Via The cowtown Cutter 3/2000 and The rock Prattle 4/2000

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# THE ROCK RATTLER

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2010 OFFICERS:

President	Del Glasner	318-965-1989	<a href="mailto:dglasner2001@yahoo.com">dglasner2001@yahoo.com</a>
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Member	Charlie Johns	318-687-4929	<a href="mailto:cwsejohns@bellsouth.net">cwsejohns@bellsouth.net</a>
Member	Tom Stringfellow	903-839-6744	<a href="mailto:TomString@aol.com">TomString@aol.com</a>

Appointments and Committees:

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