



# The Rock Rattler

[www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)

[larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)

Volume 38    Number 3  
March, 2012

## President's Message

Members,

Tom has gone to a lot of trouble to set up the free casting and wax pattern demos to have such a small turnout. You are really missing out. Be sure to see the upcoming demos that Tom has set up. You might find something you would like to learn more about and take one of the classes.

Please note that the March meeting will not be at the History Center but at a location noted in this newsletter.

Del

### Next Meeting

When: March 6, 2012, Tuesday  
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Where: Picadilly Cafeteria  
St Vincent Mall  
Shreveport, LA  
Program: Collecting local material for  
specimens and jewelry

### Inside this Issue

Future Field Trips  
Class Schedule  
Contacts

March Birthstone  
Up Coming Shows

A bargain: something you cannot use  
at a price you cannot resist

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and  
want to have it emailed to you, email Sharron at  
[adslthomas@gmail.com](mailto:adslthomas@gmail.com)

# Future Field Trips

## **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: LaGrange, Tx and surrounding area (antique shop)

Approx time to travel: 6-7hrs

Departure time and location: 5:00 am from library

Items to look for: Agatized wood, agate, artifacts, amazing chert, flint, tektites

Children welcomed: 12 and over due to terrain

## **April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: Swap Meet in North Little Rock, AR

Approx time of travel: 6 hours

Departure time and location: 5:00 am from library

Bring items to sell and trade (see ad in newsletter for more info)

Children welcomed: yes

## **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: Ron Coleman's mine near Hot Springs Village Arkansas

Approx time of travel: 5-6 hrs

Departure time and location: 5:00 am from library

Items to look for: Quartz crystals, smoky quartz, phantom quartz

Children welcomed: yes

## **June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: unknown

Approx time of travel: within 3 hours from library

Departure time and location: 6:00 am from library

Items to look for: **Metal detecting field trip**

Children welcomed: yes

*Disclaimer: Club and host are not responsible for injuries, items lost or stolen. So be on your toes, be patient and aware of your surroundings*

**FOR SALE**

**18 inch Covington slab saw, Very low hours \$2500**

**16 inch Covington Vibrating Lap \$250**

**Call 318-564-7605**

# Upcoming Shows

## March 2012

10—BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge Recreation Commission; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center; 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.; Sat. 9-4; adults \$5, children \$4; activities, displays, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, hiking trails, gemstone identification card activity, pyrite "gold" mine, exhibits, dealers, rough and polished mineral specimens, fossils, stone crafts, rock climbing wall, flint-knapping demonstration, geode-cutting station; Web site: [www.brec.org/swamp](http://www.brec.org/swamp)

## 17-18: LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS

San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; Adults \$5, Seniors and Military \$3, Students (with ID) \$2, Children (5-12) \$1, under 5 free; 26 dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, children's games, hourly door prizes. [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org).

## Minutes For February 8, 2012 Meeting

**Opening:** Del Glasner

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Wil House

**Prayer:** Al Simms

### **Old Business:**

- Treasurer's Report – John Autry
  - Checking Account and CD in great shape. (Specific amounts withheld from published newsletter)
- Show Report – Charlie Johns
  - Discussion on availability of digital billboards. Membership requested that Shreveport locations be explored as well as Bossier locations.
  - Field Trip Report – Three members went to Llano, Texas and collected a large amount of specimens including labertrite (spl?) and serpentine as well as a lot of leaverite.

### **New Business:**

- Classes
  - Demonstration Class, Casting Saturday 2/11 11am til 3 pm. No registration/no fee
  - Demonstration Class, Wax Molds, Saturday 2/18 11am til 3pm. No registration/no fee.
- Next Meeting
  - Due to library closing our next meeting will be at a different location. Piccadilly Cafeteria at St. Vincent's Mall was discussed. Antony will check availability of meeting room.
- Classroom
  - Needs more countertops to increase work space. Al has donated a 6' piece of countertop, but additional is needed. John and Antony to check prices.

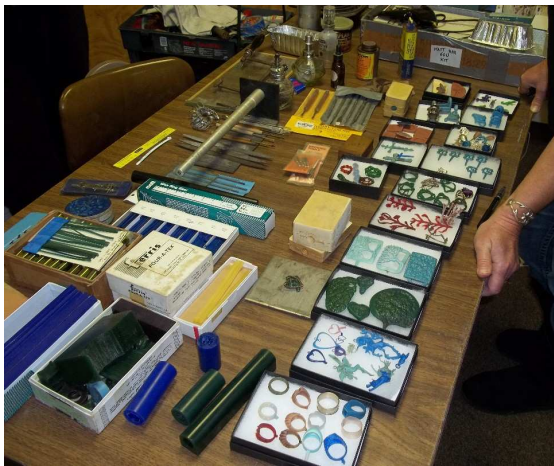
### **Program:**

Del Glasner with assistance from Larry Maguire discussed different geological layers and the various fossils found in each layer. A number of specimens were shown.

### **Adjournment:**

# PICTURES FROM CASTING & WAX PATTERN DEMONSTRATION

*Instructor Tom Stringfellow*



# How safe is your shop?

By Mal McMurdo

Calgary Lapidary Journal 11/92 via T-Town Rockhound 1/99

Edited by the Breccia

How often do you think of the air quality and the safety in your lapidary shop?

We are safety conscious when climbing a ladder, lighting a fire, using volatile fluids, or driving. Are we as safety minded in our shops? Have you stopped to think about all the fumes and gases that come from the chemicals and materials we work with?

Many aspects of our hobby have some inherent danger in the dust or fumes that develop with their use. The following list identifies many known substances that have toxic characteristics. This list, while not complete, identifies a large number of potential problems. When using any item listed, make sure you use power ventilation -- a bathroom or kitchen exhaust fan generally works well for this. Remember, you need a fresh air intake supply for these fans to work well.

Here is the list:

**Acetone:** an industrial type solvent containing harmful vapors

**Acetylene:** an asphyxiant

**Ammonia:** irritant to eyes, lungs, and skin

**Asbestos:** loose fibers can cause asbestosis when inhaled

**Benzene:** (gas, naphtha, etc) vapor may affect the respiratory and nervous systems

**Butane:** has an anesthetic like effect causing headache and drowsiness

**Carbon tetrachloride:** toxic and an irritant

**Chlorine:** restricts the air in passages of the lungs

**Hydrogen sulfide:** by-product of liver of sulfur and water. Deadly poison!

**Lead:** known to enter the body from dust, fumes, and water. It can damage the brain and neuromuscular system

**Manganese:** in dust or vapors, it can damage the nervous system

**Quartz, agate, sandstone, granite, chert, flint:** all are of the silica rock family. The dust from this family contributes to silicosis of the lungs

**Propane:** highly flammable and toxic

**Sparex:** is a diluted acid and should be handled accordingly

**Gold plating solutions:** those with a cyanide base form deadly hydrogen cyanide gas if mixed with another acid. Use plating solutions that are cyanide free

**Styrofoam:** when heated or burned, releases toxic gases

**Abalone:** grind and polish only when wet. Be aware that any odor detected is highly toxic

**Malachite:** work wet as the dust created when working dry is toxic

While it is not healthy to fear everything, one should <http://www.rockrollers.com/features/safeshop.html> be aware of hidden dangers in apparently innocent looking materials that we all use extensively in our hobby. If you are using a material that is new to you, read the labels and heed any warning. We want all lapidaries to remain a healthy lot and continue to live long, active lives

<http://www.rockrollers.com/features/safeshop.html>

## Upcoming Classes Info

The Casting Demonstration and the Wax Model Demonstration were enjoyed by those attending. Those folks should now be able to make a model and cast on our Thursday Open Shop nights with just a bit of help and encouragement. We had FUN !!!!

On Saturday, 3/10/12 from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 PM we'll have another demonstration, working with Precious Metal Clay. Silver and Copper Metal Clays will be used in the Demonstration. Come check out this unique method of jewelry making!!!

Two weeks later on 3/24 & 3/25 we'll explore the metal clays (copper, silver, bronze & glass) in a formal, two day class. Instructor: Tom Stringfellow. Cost: \$125.00, all tools and supplies included.

## 2012 ANNUAL

### CENTRAL ARKANSAS

### ROCK, GEM & MINERAL SWAP

APRIL 14, 2012                      9 AM – 5 PM

### BUY – SELL - TRADE

FREE ADMISSION, NO SETUP CHARGE

LIMITED TABLES AVAILABLE BRING YOUR OWN OR TAILGATE  
OPEN TO ALL AREA ROCK CLUBS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

BURNS PARK (I-40 EXIT 150 – MILITARY DRIVE)  
ELDER JOHNSON PAVILION (NEXT TO THE VISITOR CENTER)  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

SPONSORED BY  
CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM, MINERAL AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY

[WWW.CENTRALARROCKHOUND.ORG](http://WWW.CENTRALARROCKHOUND.ORG)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
MIKE AUSTEN (501) 868-4553  
STEELPONY@AOL.COM

# March Birthstone - Aquamarine

If you can picture the cerulean blue waters of the Mediterranean, you will understand why the birthstone for March is named Aquamarine. Derived from the Roman word "Aqua," meaning water, and "mare," meaning sea, this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater. The ancient Romans believed that the Aquamarine was sacred to Neptune, the god of the sea, having fallen from the jewel boxes of sirens and washed onto shore. Early sailors wore aquamarine talismans, engraved with the likeness of Neptune, as protection against dangers at sea.



The association with water led to the belief that the Aquamarine was particularly powerful when immersed. Water in which this

gemstone had been submerged was used in ancient times to heal a variety of illnesses of the heart, liver, stomach, mouth and throat. Aquamarines were also used to reverse poisoning and to aid in fortune telling.



The Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large grained igneous rocks on the earth's crust. It varies in color from clear to vibrantly colored gemstones such as the Emerald. Beryl was used as far back as 2,000 years ago to correct vision, and it continues to be used today in the manufacture of eyeglasses. It is a very hard mineral, making the Aquamarine a durable gemstone for use in jewelry.



Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, but gems containing green are often heat-treated to remove this less desirable color. The majority of Aquamarines, unlike other gemstones, are flawless. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest deposits being in Brazil, but other sources of Aquamarine are in China, India, Australia, Africa, and the United States.

A gift of Aquamarine symbolizes both safety and security, especially within long standing relationships. Some people even say that the Aquamarine reawakens love in a tired marriage, so if you want to bring back that spark in your partner's eyes, you might consider this gem as an anniversary gift!

[http://www.sodahead.com/fun/what-is-your-birthstone/question-918283/?link=ibaf&q=&imgurl=http://images.sodahead.com/polls/000918283/march\\_birthstone\\_aquamarine\\_answer\\_3\\_xlarge.jpeg](http://www.sodahead.com/fun/what-is-your-birthstone/question-918283/?link=ibaf&q=&imgurl=http://images.sodahead.com/polls/000918283/march_birthstone_aquamarine_answer_3_xlarge.jpeg)

[http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&sa=X&biw=994&bih=624&tbn=isch&prmd=imvns&tbnid=SLHyujN9dTf9QM:&imgrefurl=http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/\\_gems\\_aquamarine\\_dom\\_pedro\\_munsteiner.html&docid=xoR5N5RYqyGByM&imgurl=http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/images/gems\\_aquamarine\\_dom\\_pedro.jpg&w=600&h=660&ei=WtROT72AEurHsQLi34gb&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=91&vpy=206&dur=3375&hovh=235&hovw=214&tx=71&ty=148&sig=113368220921413237903&page=2&tbnh=132&tbnw=120&start=17&ndsp=20&ved=1t:429,r:5,s:17](http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&sa=X&biw=994&bih=624&tbn=isch&prmd=imvns&tbnid=SLHyujN9dTf9QM:&imgrefurl=http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/_gems_aquamarine_dom_pedro_munsteiner.html&docid=xoR5N5RYqyGByM&imgurl=http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/images/gems_aquamarine_dom_pedro.jpg&w=600&h=660&ei=WtROT72AEurHsQLi34gb&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=91&vpy=206&dur=3375&hovh=235&hovw=214&tx=71&ty=148&sig=113368220921413237903&page=2&tbnh=132&tbnw=120&start=17&ndsp=20&ved=1t:429,r:5,s:17)

[http://www.indianetzone.com/27/aquamarine\\_gemstone.htm](http://www.indianetzone.com/27/aquamarine_gemstone.htm)

The rock shop is open on Thursdays for all members to work independently on their personal projects.

Please call Del or Tony to make sure one of them will be in attendance.

If you would like to submit material to be included in the monthly newsletter, please email information to Sharron at [adslthomas@gmail.com](mailto:adslthomas@gmail.com)

### ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society 2012 Officers

President	Del Glasner	318-965-1989 Cell 318-517-7372	<a href="mailto:dglasner2001@yahoo.com">dglasner2001@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Larry Maguire	318-284-3544	<a href="mailto:wood@centurytel.net">wood@centurytel.net</a>
Secretary	Al Simms	318-865-2453	<a href="mailto:asimmsjr@gmail.com">asimmsjr@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	John Autry	318-934-3319	<a href="mailto:jdouglasa@hotmail.com">jdouglasa@hotmail.com</a>
Board of Directors consisting of Officers above and---			
Member	Bill Hart	318-746-8735	<a href="mailto:mufasa35@bellsouth.net">mufasa35@bellsouth.net</a>
Member	Tom Stringfellow	903-839-6744	<a href="mailto:TomString@aol.com">TomString@aol.com</a>
Member	Lyn Simms	318-865-2453	<a href="mailto:lynsimms@gmail.com">lynsimms@gmail.com</a>
Field Trip Coord	Antony Thomas	318-518-0907	<a href="mailto:adslthomas@gmail.com">adslthomas@gmail.com</a>
Historian	Will House		
Brochures	Geraldine Zalinsky		<a href="mailto:Geraldine.zalinsky@gmail.com">Geraldine.zalinsky@gmail.com</a>
Editor	Sharron Thomas		<a href="mailto:adslthomas@gmail.com">adslthomas@gmail.com</a>

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

PO Box 6633

Bossier City, LA 71171-6633

