

THE ROCK RATTLER

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THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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HD-Diamond-Wallpapers

Presidents Message - by Nina Hustus



Presidents Message June

Hope all the moms out there had a wonderful Mother's Day and had huge love heaped on them!

Well, here it is, June coming up. That means 6 months of 2018 has come and gone. Where did it go..... If you are like me, feels like so much to do and so little time.

Moving on to our annual show. August will be here in no time. This event is our **BIG DEAL** and we want it to succeed. Our show chairman, Del, is busy as a one armed paper hanger. So, this is the time we ask all of our members to give a little time and energy. Give as little or as much time as you can. Come work the silent auction, take and sell tickets, lend a hand to the dealers..... There is so much you can do. Please, come to the meeting and sign up for a shift or two. For your club.

Thank you!

Meeting Notes 05.01.18

- Pledge & prayer by Nina Hustus
- Old Business
 - Lyn did a booth at Centenary's 1st Art in the Meadow. If you hear of a show, big or small, let the club know.
 - Tom did a demo on filigree on Saturday April 28th at the workshop
- New Business
 - Sara Wallace is the new Secretary as of June
 - Del needs help for summer camp at the library
 - June 11 -15 9:30 am - 11:30 am
 - Email larockclub@gmail.com
 - Tom has an enameling demonstration Saturday May 26th at the workshop
 - Field Trip - June 16 - Midlothian, TX - respond to email with shirt size
 - Look for a sign-up sheet for the show next meeting
 - Upcoming rock sale
 - June 2nd (9-5) and 3rd (9-4)
 - 23 Echo Ridge Ln. Haughton 71037
- Rock of the Month: Desert Roses
 - Give your mom a desert rose for Mother's Day this year!
 - Nina gave out desert roses to moms of all kinds at the meeting
 - Del brought some for display
 - They are selenite clusters that become a mass from the weather
 - The brown is from iron

- Program: How to Identify Minerals by Michael Keys
 - Peterson's 1st Guide to Rocks and Minerals
 - USGS geology.com store has testing kits, sample sets, hardness picks
 - Color
 - Transparency and light play
 - Weight
 - Crystallization, texture, and pattern - use a magnifier x2, x3, x5, x10
 - Hardness
 - Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness (from the 1700s) is the standard
 - 1 - talc - chalk stick
 - 2 - gypsum - fingernail or plastic knife
 - 3 - calcite - old copper penny or hammered copper
 - 4 - fluorite - iron nail
 - 5 - apatite - glass
 - 6 - orthoclase - hardened steel drill bit or needle file
 - 7 - quartz - crystal point
 - 8 - topaz - carbide drill bit (varies)
 - 9 - sapphire / ruby
 - 10 - diamond
 - For 9 & 10 use elimination, crystallization, or specific gravity
 - Hardness makes a difference when you are polishing
 - Magnetism = iron alloy
 - Streak Test
 - Drag across unglazed ceramic surface, like the back of a tile to see the color.
 - Try light and dark tiles.
 - Malachite streaks white.
 - Acid Test
 - Tests for calcium carbonate
 - Look for bubbles as acid dissolves the calcium
 - Hydrochloric acid 10% solution
 - It's called muriatic acid at hardware or pool store
 - Check if acid needs to be warm or cold
 - Can buy at Science Surplus - sciplus.com
 - Try on limestone
 - Be careful - calcite can contaminate other minerals for a false positive
 - Can use vinegar - not as strong, but safer
 - Other Tips
 - Always carry water to wash with to see the true color
 - Remember that rocks can be a mix of different things
 - Diamond testers look at refraction and some can also check electroconductivity. They help differentiate between diamond, zircon, sapphire, and moissanite.
 - You generally can't tell between lab and natural stones except that natural ones have inclusions (imperfections)
- Next Meeting: June 5th at the Bossier Library Historical Center

NEXT MEETING: Bossier Historical Center 2206 Beckett St., Bossier City

(may change location if they are working on the AC

Tuesday June 5 Meeting 6:00pm till 7:30 pm

(Bring your Diamonds and Opals for show and tell)

Program : – Lyn Simms' presentation on Opals!



Rock of the Month: - **Diamond**, since June is traditionally the month of weddings - the majority of brides are sporting their new diamonds!



Field Trip: - June 16 **Midlothian, Tx Cement quarry, 25 mi south of Dallas**

Details will be available at the June meeting.

Member Spotlight:

Jeanette Jonas



Member Profile Questions & Answers

1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Bakersfield California. In my 60's I moved to Colorado, from there to Texas and then last year Shreveport.

2. What started your interest in rocks?

I've always liked finding pretty rocks, but when I retired in 2010 I was looking for something to do with my time. The senior center in Greeley, Colorado offered a class in lapidary, so I signed up. I loved it so much I started taking both classes that were offered each week. I also joined the Weld County Rock & Mineral Society. I enjoyed it so much I wanted to continue after moving here.

3. What was your favorite rock experience, rock adventure?

Collecting rocks while on a mission trip to Ukraine. It became a joke that if there was an extra luggage charge because of weight it would be mine, due to all the rocks I had packed.

4. Other than rockhounding and lapidary what are your other interests?

I love to read and spend some time reading every day. I also enjoy crafting such as sewing, crocheting, needle tatting, and more.

5. The wisest thing anyone has ever told me was?

I saw this the other day and it is so true.

“Life is like a camera. Just focus on what is important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't turn out, just take another shot.)

6. I am happiest when_____?

Spending time with family or friends!

Upcoming Classes & Demonstrations

Demos – May 26, 2018 at 1:00pm by Tom Stringfellow

This will be a short introduction to enameling with glass enamels over copper and silver.



Member Photos

Larry Maguire in field looking for agate with Phillip





Shows

May

26-27—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club, Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 West Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children 16 and under free; Gem, mineral, fossil, bead & jewelry shop ; contact Janice Craddock, PO Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76116; e-mail: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

30-1—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 S. Main Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, Seniors/Students/Children \$5; 61st Annual Show will feature Vendors selling artisan and fine jewelry, gemstones, geodes, fossils, minerals, rough- cut- polished rocks, paleontological books, crystals, petrified wood, tools, glass creations, beads and much more. Members will be demonstrating jewelry designs, teaching 9 on-site jewelry classes, Identifying Gemstones, hosting a Silent Auction every hour, door prizes, raffle prizes, and offering activities to Juniors. Check us out on Facebook or our website for more details.; contact Nadira Charaniya, 1408 Gibbins Rd., Arlington, TX 76011, (469)-751-2944; e-mail: show@agemclub.org; Web site: www.agemclub.org

Aug

11-12—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; Admission \$5, Children ages 5-12 \$3 ; Demonstrations, door Prizes all day, silent auctions going on both days. Scouts and educational groups are welcome. Vendors will be selling rock specimens, fossils, minerals, tools & jewelry ; contact Wanda Gawarecki, LA, (225)-603-9234; e-mail: mercymom3@gmail.com; Web site: www.brgemandmineral.org

18-19—BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Arklatex Gem & mineral Society, Bossier City Civic center; 620 Benton Rd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Admission \$4., Students free w/ I.D., Children free under 6 yrs; 44th annual show. Custom and unique Jewelry, Beads, Gems and Minerals, Fossils,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. There will be a kids' scavenger hunt on Saturday with prizes for the first 60 participants. Door prizes will be awarded hourly throughout the event. Educational exhibits, Free parking and refreshments will be available for purchase. ; contact Del Glasner, P.O. Box 6633, Bossier City, LA 71171-6633, 318-517-7372; e-mail: lacockclub@gmail.com; Web site: lacockclub.com

INFO:

How to tell the difference between Jasper and an Agate? The simple answer is if you put light behind the material and you can see through it, then it is an Agate if you can't then you could be holding Jasper.

TIPS:

Okay, Now You Are at the Site

So, you found a location. How are you going to make the best of it? This is not as easy as it seems. First, be prepared to spend a lot of time. Second, thoroughly explore the area. With a minimum set of tools and supplies (more later), cover the mine and all the surrounding prospects noting for the future likely places to dig. If the territory is really rugged, do a GPS waypoint on a likely place. Dig a bit at potential spots but don't linger unless you really have hit the mother lode. I once took a friend from the East Coast to a really rich mine. He was so stunned by the availability of specimens that he simply sat down in the road and started to peck away at the rubble. I had difficulty getting him to move over to the really good areas of the mine.

But, what am I looking for in this exploration? The answer is anything. The rockhound has to explore anything at all that looks different. Color is an important indicator. If you see color, check it out. Cavities and seams are indicators. They often open up into crystal lined vugs or gorgeous bands. Check them out and be ready to break rocks at their seams with a sledge and chisel. If you find a vug in hard rock, try to break the rock around it. There are almost sure to be more vugs.

With the sun at your back, be on the lookout for glitter which often indicates minerals. Find the glittering mineral, and then find where it came from. Up a creek? Down through the debris? Look for anything at all unusual: an odd shape that does not fit with the surroundings; an unusual outcrop in the surrounding rocks; a patch of vegetation in a desert area that might indicate a water retaining cavity; anything at all unusual.

Follow gullies, ravines and creek beds. Let nature do your rockhounding for you. Water will do your rockhounding for you by washing specimens out of the ground and leaving them in the creek bed. Follow the trail of "crumbs" to the source. I once found some malachite in a creek bed and followed the creek at least a mile, finding more and better specimens all the way. I thought that I had found a new mine, but alas, the creek only led to the same mine I was searching for by the road. I did find some nice specimens of wood replaced by copper minerals. Ah, well! I also found my best claim this way.

Do not hesitate to get down on your hands and knees. It's amazing how much you do NOT see from the height of the average human being. I have crawled a mile or more in creek beds finding wonderful specimens that walking companions have completely missed. They thought I was lucky. Not so – I was doing something different from what they were. Simply use your gloves as knee pads.

Don't be proud. Look for places others have dug before you. Also, always assume that, despite the many who have traipsed around a place before you, they have missed something. Look everywhere. I just found a fantastic piece of Triassic wood replaced by malachite right at the foot of an old copper mine that had been revealed by recent rain.

When at old mines, look for sorting areas. No miners simply loaded the rocks they blasted out of the earth into transportation vehicles. They sorted the ore first. Find where they sorted and dig there. There are likely to be pieces of their best ore in the sorting pile.

Check out all prospects that you see. If you see a pile of rocks along the road, stop and check it out. I recently found an incredible brachiopod location this way. The old miners certainly weren't looking for brachs, but they found them.

Always look for cracks, holes, vugs, etc. in the rock around you. This is where the crystals grow!!!!

Don't Peck, Dig!!

John Scully

May 9, 2010

<http://www.iminethem.com/>

Websites to look at:

Diamond clarity

http://www.afishman.com/diamond-clarity-chart.html?utm_source=yahooglemini&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=diamond+cut+and+clarity&utm_content=%21acq%21v2%21s-c-299268902952-31760228846-8960211610&utm_campaign=Diamonds+-+General+-+VMG_BBM

Diamond Cutting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ-8US5tQNo>

Diamond real or fake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaWIZyLIBsY>

Diamond Education

https://www.bluenile.com/education/diamonds?click_id=909870749

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