



The Rock Rattler

www.larockclub.com

larockclub@gmail.com

Volume 39 Number 4
April, 2012

President's Message

Thanks to our members and community our Non-Profit Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society is providing education promoting interest in the various earth sciences, particularly the art of lapidaries and their related fields. It is enjoyable to be able to pass on what we have learned to others.

Because of this, our Society we able to open the doors to property, businesses and people an individual may not be able to go.

Thanks to all of you for making this a great organization to be part of.

Del Glasner

Next Meeting

When: April 3, 2012, Tuesday
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Where: Bossier Parish Library
2600 Beckett
Bossier City, LA 71111
Program: Intro to the Art of Gemstone
Cutting

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If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and want to have it emailed to you, email Sharron at adslthomas@gmail.com

Future Field Trips

April 14th, 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 5th, 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 9th, 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

Minutes For March 6, 2012 Meeting

Opening: Del Glasner

Pledge of Allegiance: No Flag

Prayer: Al Simms

Old Business:

- Treasurer's Report – John Autry
 - o Checking Account and CD is great shape. (Specific amounts withheld from published newsletter)
- Show Report – John Autry
 - o Reported that there are several vendor who have already completed their registration for our show in August.

New Business:

- Classes
 - o Demonstration Class, Casting Saturday 2/11 11am til 3 pm. No registration/no fee
 - o Demonstration Class, Wax Molds, Saturday 2/18 11am til 3pm. No registration/no fee.
 - o Next class on PMC scheduled for March 24-25, 2012. \$125.00 class fee, which will just barely cover the cost of materials to be used. To be taught by Tom Stringfellow.
- Next meetings
 - o Next meeting will be back to Bossier History Library. This month moved to Piccadilly due to library closure.
- Field Trip
 - o Antony discussed the next field trip scheduled for March 17 to LaGrange, TX

Program:

- Larry Maguire discussed different indigenous rock and minerals found in our area. A number of specimens were shown.

Upcoming Class Info

PMC: The PMC Class on March 24 & 25 was well attended, students and observers. Everybody made a number of nice pieces in Bronze and in Silver. We had a great time....until we fired Silver PMC in the shop kiln. Total meltdown!!! Tom has replaced everyone's PMC Silver and will give everyone two gratis days to make more pieces. Additional Fast Fire Bronze and PMC+, beyond that replaced by Tom, will be available.

****There will be a class in PMC for new students on Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20.**** Currently working on specific dates for folks to come back and do more PMC, now that you know the basics. Remember open nights at the shop on Thursdays are great and two sets of the PMC tools are there.

Etching Class: The dates for the Etching Class, originally scheduled for April 14 & 15 will be reset for June or July.

Enameling: Seems there is lots of interest here. The metal clay workers wanted color in many of their pieces. We can do glass enameling or cold enameling with resins. Two very different and separate classes. We will propose dates in May or June in consideration for such a class, after we work out the kiln problems!! Your input is very important. Let us hear which you'd like and when....

Shop Facilities: Shop Stewards are working on cleaning up and better furnishing our shop for your use and enjoyment. We have new cushioned chairs and a 37 inch TV with DVD player to enjoy your instructional DVD's on.

Upcoming Shows

April

14-15 – Little Rock, Arkansas

Annual Swapmeet. Burns Park. Sat 9-5, free admission. Central Arkansas Gem and Mineral Society

14-15 – Abilene, Texas

Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Abilene Civic Center; North 6th and Pine St; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$3, children (6-12) \$1.50, children under 6 free with adult. www.txol.net/rockclub

21-22 – Jackson, Mississippi

Greater Southern Gem & Jewelry Shows; Trade Mart; 1207 Mississippi St., Mississippi Fairgrounds; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children (under 6) free; dealers, demonstrations, opals, Ethiopia's Welo opal, Oregon sunstone, loose and mounted gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewelry, precious stones, rare stones, rough rocks, classes, coins, gold and silver at discount prices, jewelry repair, stones set, rings sized, gold and silver findings, tools, drawings, silent auctions, kids' and adult gold panning, on-site gold and silver buying; contact Stan Bennett, 242 Faith Hill Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157, (601) 898-0407; e-mail: stan@tompkinsdesigngrp.com

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

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WWW.CENTRALARROCKHOUND.ORG

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

Membership

Individual Membership \$15/Year

Couple Membership \$20/Year

Family Membership \$25/Year

New Member? Yes No Renewal? Yes No

Name _____ (Spouse) _____

Children's Names _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (mobile)

E-Mail _____ FB _____

Membership Option (Check One): Individual (\$15) _____ Couple (\$20) _____ Family (\$25): _____

Mail to: Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society
PO Box 6633
Bossier City, LA 71111

Or Come to a meeting and pay in person at 6:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month
Bossier Parish History Center, 2006 Beckett St.
Bossier City, LA 71111

Polished Rocks from 2 previous field trips



Pics from Field Trip to LaGrange Texas & Lake Somerville



April Birthstone: Diamond



April's birthstone is remarkably simple in composition, yet stunning in its unique ability to reflect and refract light into vivid flashes of brilliant color. The ancient Hindus called the Diamond "Vajra," meaning lightening, both because of the sparks of light thrown off by this gem as well as its invincible strength. The Diamond is harder than any other substance on earth.

Diamonds have been revered throughout history. Used to embellish such items as crowns, swords and emblems as well as jewelry, they've even been part of national holidays. Queen Victoria declared the celebration of her 50th year of reign a "Diamond Jubilee." Diamonds have also been credited for having certain medicinal properties. During the middle ages, these gemstones were thought to heal illness, but only if the ailing person took the Diamond into bed to warm it up first!



Formed deep within the earth where there is intense heat and pressure, Diamonds are simply crystallized carbon. Volcanic activity of centuries ago brought these gemstones to the earth's surface, where they are found either within volcanic rock formations or washed out into rivers. India is thought to be the first river-bed source of Diamond mining, but today these gemstones are found primarily in

Australia, the Soviet Union, and Africa.



No more notable in its uncut state than a plain pebble upon the beach, the true beauty of the Diamond was not revealed until the 16th century, when gemstone cutting and polishing techniques were perfected. Prior to this time, it was

considered taboo to modify the original state of a Diamond. Today, the value and appeal of this stone depends largely upon how skillfully it is cut and faceted.



A gift of a Diamond is symbolic of everlasting love. There is no more convincing a promise of an enduring relationship than the brilliant gemstone that has endured in people's hearts throughout the ages.

<http://www.about-birthstones.com/aprilbirthstone.html>
http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&sa=X&biw=990&bih=624&tbn=isch&prmd=imvns&tbnid=fqbGIZp1bU1OCM:&imgrefurl=http://earthsky.org/earth/april-birthstone-diamond&docid=0JyPBp30FOc_IM&imgurl=http://earthsky.org/wp-content/gallery/april-birthstones/04_april_birthstone2.jpg&w=358&h=600&ei=R693T6_fIKq42wXT09S2Bg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=94&vpy=2&dur=1590&hovh=291&hovw=173&tx=109&ty=105&sig=113368220921413237903&page=2&tbnh=141&tbnw=84&start=18&ndsp=24&ved=1t:429,r:0,s:18
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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

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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

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Bossier City, LA 71171-6633

