



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 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,

In January, we'll have a board meeting at 6:30 prior to our regular meeting. Officers and Board members please mark your calendars for this start on planning for this new year. (members are welcome)

Some items we should consider might be classes, field trips, programs for the meetings and pre-show planning.

Membership dues for 2011 are due now. They are \$15 per individual or \$20 per couple or \$25 for the whole family!! This gets you the monthly newsletter(via email), class room access, and some of the best people to be around in the world!! . Dues help us pay for insurance. ** We hope you will want to stay with the group, and still be our friends and still enjoy the fellowship we have!!!!

Del Glasner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President Message.....Page1
 Program Bio..... Page 1
 Finds in Louisiana..... Page 2
 Field Trips.....Page 2
 Christmas Party.....Page 3
 Shop Tips.....Page4
 Deridder ShowFinds.....Page 5
 Classes and Up-coming Shows.....Page 6
 Contacts.....Page 7

Next Meeting: Tuesday Jan 4, 2010

Time: 7:00 –9:00 PM

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

Program will be: PMC (Precious metal clay) Jewelry making. If you have a example, bring it along.

Precious Metal Clay, PMC, is an exciting material developed and patented in the 1990s by Mitsubishi Materials of Japan. Microscopic particles of silver are mixed with a moist binder to create a material that has the feel and working properties of modeling clay. Using simple tools, objects are easily given shape, texture, and character. After air-drying, the objects are heated to temperatures approaching the melting point of the metal, where the particles fuse together to make a dense, fully metallic object. Fired PMC work can be polished, soldered, enameled, and enjoyed like any other silver item. PMC is available in different versions of silver, Bronze, Copper and in a 22k gold alloy.

THE ROCK RATTLER

Finds in Louisiana

Meteorites

Atlanta.....31'48' N., 92'45' W.

Winn Parish, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Found 1938

Stone. Enstatite chondrite (E6).

A fragment of 5.5kg was found in SE. 1/4, section 14, township 9 N., range 4W. Analysis 28.95 % total iron.

Greenwell Springs.....30'30'55' N, 91'00'44' W

Greenwell Springs, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

Found 1987 November 30

Stone . Olivine-hypersthene chondrite, amphoterite (LL4)

A single mass was found by Mr. Rapuana in the front yard of his residence. The fall probably occurred within one week of recovery.

FIELD TRIPS

Below is an example of field trips taken by a club in Colorado. We could have some great field trips of our own with a little participation.

CSMS Field Trip Schedule 2010

- Apr 17 - [North Table Mountain Zeolites](#) - Leader Dennis Gertenbach
- Apr 24 - [Holcim Cement Quarry](#) - Leader Bob Germano
- May 8,9 - [Yellow Cat/Cisco, Utah & Grand Junction Mineral Show](#) - Leader Marg Regel
- Jun 5 - [Peridot Claim \(Claim rules\)](#) - Leader Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski
- Jun 5 - [Sedalia Copper Mine](#) - Leader Don Bray
- Jun 5 - [Gold Camp Road](#) - Leader Steve Russell
- Jun 12 - [Spruce Grove Topaz - Tarryall Mtns](#) - Leader John Rakowski
- Jun 20 - [Western Utah](#) - Leader Mike Nelson
- Jul 10 - [April Fools Claim](#) - Leader John Casto
- Jul 10 - [Peridot Claim \(Claim rules\)](#) - Leader Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski
- Jul 18 - [GPOC Woody's Claim](#) - Leader Big Ben Higley
- Jul 28 - [Cotopaxi Mine Field Trip](#) - Leader Marg Regel
- Aug 21 - [Peridot Claim \(Claim rules\)](#) - Leader Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski
- Sep 4,5 - [Mt. Antero](#) - Leader Amanda Adkins
- Sep 25 - [Topaz Claim](#) - Leaders Yam / Joe Dorris
- Sep 26 - [Kimberlite](#) - Leader Paul Lange Cancelled
- Oct 2 - [Holcim Cement Quarry](#) - Leader Bob Germano
- Oct 9 - [Niobrara Fossil Collecting](#) - Leader Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski
- Oct 16 - [April Fools Claim](#) - Leader John Casto
- Oct 23 - [Picketwire Canyon](#) - Leader Terry Beh

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Christmas Party and Auction complete with bidding wars



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SHOP TIPS

To remove the residue left on plastic items from price labels or other stickers, peanut butter, let set for a few hours, and rub with a paper towel. Presto! It's gone.

Via Osage Hills Gems

To Avoid losing snippets to be used for soldering, cut them inside a plastic bag.

Dopping wax becomes stiff and unmanageable after being heated and cooled many times. Add shavings from a candle to make it flow easily.

Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

Robert Brault via SMS Matrix

Dusty and Soiled stones can be cleaned to a bright polish with *Armor All*, an auto polish, and a soft cloth.

A good test for Jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs water and dries rapidly, throw it away; it will not polish. If it does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony (quartz) and will take a good polish.

A simple and inexpensive way to clean quartz or amethyst crystals is to cover them with vinegar and let them stand for 24 hours. (Repeat as needed) Wash and rinse the crystals and soak them overnight in household ammonia. Rinse, dry and see them shine! Repeat as needed. Pickled quartz!

If you want to bring out the color and banding of Lake Superior agates without tumbling them, rub with heavy mineral oil and place on a cookie sheet in a 200 degree oven for 20 minutes. Remove and let cool. The results will surprise you.

Via Loop Scoop and Osage Hills Gems

If you have trouble with rock specimens scratching your glass display shelves, put three or four drops of silicon rubber on the bottom of troublemakers. Put them on wax paper while the rubber cures (24 hours).

Via West Seattle Petroglyphs

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Geraldine Zelinsky's Deridder Show Finds



AGATIZED WILLOW WOOD

DENDERITIC OPALITE



Louisiana opal

Louisiana palm wood

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Classes

New classes and work shops for those that have had a class are being offered starting in January. Come to the Jan 4 meeting to hear the details.

Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

Jan 15-16, 2011

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"

Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission

JANUARY 21-23 TYLER, TX

East Texas G&MS

Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 S. Rose Park Dr. on East Texas Fairgrounds on Front St. (Hwy 31), Tyler, Texas

March 12—BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: 2nd show, "Rockin' at the Swamp"; 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, vendors, exhibits, rough and polished mineral specimens, fossils, geode-busting station; contact Claire Coco, 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 757-8905; e-mail: ccoco@brec.org

March 19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS: 50th annual show, "Fiesta of Gems"; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Dr., Canyon Lake, TX 78133; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

April 2-3—SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS: Spring show; Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society; Community Bldg., Mt. Olive Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, students \$1, children free; contact Charlotte Leininger, (479) 721-3882; e-mail: TheSwankyStone@aol.com; Web site: www.nwarockhounds.org

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Classroom Location: University Storage
1780 E. Bert Kouns Suite #806
Shreveport, La
(Just east of Hwy 1)

Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Website larockclub.com

Updates: See the Rock Rattler Downloads page for a new group of downloads called "Download How To Do It Plans".