



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

The 2010 Club

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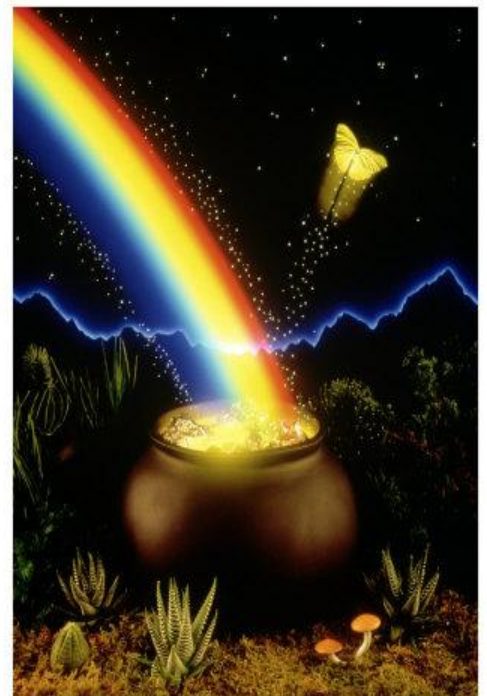
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Happy St Patrick's Day!!!!

March 17!!!

Kiss someone Irish!!



THE ROCK RATTLER

President's Position

What a wonderful start on 2010 we have had! There have been some super new ideas and great folks pitching in to put them into action. As I see it, we've got a fantastic club with only one real problem – the same few folks are attending and the same few folks are working.

Now, there are a couple of things we can do to try to remedy this problem:

1. Keep using the same workers but give them a fresh start on new approaches to work toward increasing our active membership numbers. If you've been reading your emails/mail and newsletters, you've already seen ideas being proposed and the implementation of some are now underway. Even so, this will take some time to accomplish with significant numbers. So.....we must move on to point #2.
2. Re-energize those who have not been attending the meetings. How many of you just "forget" the meetings, never got in the habit of coming, or have lost interest? Can we send reminders? We already try to do so – how can we do better? Send us your ideas. What can we do to capture interest better? **Send us your ideas, please!** Not in the habit? Come on, please work with us here. We promise to be VERY glad to see you at the meetings! We can't plan activities that will appeal to you if you aren't there to share what interests you. We can't know what skills you can share with us unless you come and tell us. Yes, we have had some illness, so I am not referring to those who have made us aware of that - and we are praying for restored health for everyone so afflicted. Also, there are a few who have had schedule conflicts or whose lives have become overwhelmingly busy – and we are praying that these issues will resolve for them.
3. Reach out to those who have not yet paid their 2010 dues before their membership lapses (March 31st!) and they are faced with having to reapply and have their application come to the members for a vote (according to the bylaws, we were all "voted in" by the club when we first applied and paid our dues, in case some of you were not aware of that). Oh, this is not all that hard to do, but why go through all of that when our dues are the best deal I've ever seen for ANY organization I have ever joined – and I've been in a pretty fair number of them. So, THIS IS THE REMINDER, OK? Just mail your check to P.O. Box 6633, Bossier City, LA 71111 - \$15.00 for an individual, \$20.00 for a couple or a maximum of \$25.00 for a family living in the same household. Yes, you'll have to work a shift or two, but these dues even get you into our August Gem & Mineral Show for FREE!!!! Just show your current membership card and you're in! (Don't have your card AND you've paid your dues? Call me at 865-2453, leave a message if I'm not in, and I'll check the records and make one for you to pick up at the March meeting, OK?)

So, where do we go from here? We keep on working. We keep on reaching out to you and to others who share our love of God's creation and what we can find when we look and dig, cut and polish, cast and string, fire and burnish, scratch and chip away. We can work alone, study alone, and admire our own "pretties," or we can work together, share and learn together, and bask in the warm glow of each other's encouragement and accolades over our work. You are free to choose. Please choose to come and be an active part of our efforts. I cannot promise you fame or wealth, but I really do think you will have fun and will find the effort rewarding. We still have a lot of 2010 left in which to accomplish our goals. Come....be a part of it! BTW, this is my last "pleading" column - from now on, just "news and needs," with more emphasis on the "News!" I intend to have FUN this year, and the more the merrier!

Lyn Simms

THE ROCK RATTLER

Field Trip Details

Field Trip: February 6 High Island Tx:
 He trip was cancelled for lack of support.
 Thanks to the few who wanted to go...
 Hopefully we'll get to go on the next one!!!
 Speaking of....

March 6 La Grange/ Barton Tx: 335 mi
 Opalized Palm wood, Tektites. .Fee area Del
 will be providing more information soon...

Del Glasner
dglasner2001@yahoo.com



HINTS & TIPS

Need somewhere to store your 6" sanding and polishing discs? Use an inexpensive music CD case. They fit in the pockets perfectly, and you can label each pocket with a different grit number.

Ten Rarest Gems on Earth (7 of 10)



7. Musgravite - Musgravite is one of the newest and most rare gemstones in the world. Musgravite is a silicate mineral whose main ingredients are beryllium (Be), magnesium (Mg) and aluminum (Al). It was named 'musgravite' after the area Musgrave in Australia from where the material was first found. The musgravite was later found also in Greenland and Madagascar, but neither of them produces gem quality material. Two pieces of faceted gem-quality musgravite from Sri Lanka were reported first in 1993. Keep in mind; this is the LEAST priceless of the rare ten.

More information at:

<http://www.preciousgemstones.com/GEMCOLLECTING.HTML>

and

<http://www.preciousgemstones.com/GEMCOLLECTINGTWO.HTML>

Lyn Simms

If you have e-mail access and are not receiving the newsletter via e-mail... let a Club Officer know!! The new secretary will update our member roster & send you the letter the fastest & the most cost effective way available...

THE ROCK RATTLER

Up-Coming Shows:

(Nearby)

Feb 20 – 21, Plainview Texas:

48th Annual Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Mildred Matlock (806) 293-3476 and/or jmmatlock@suddenlink.net

Feb 27-28, Jackson Mississippi:

51st Annual Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Keith Peacock (601) 863-6535 and/or kpcoc@aol.com Website: www.missgems.org

Mar 6 – 7, Big Spring Texas:

41st Annual Gem & Mineral Society Show.

POC: Jerald Wilson (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340

Mar 12, Houston Texas:

Rings & Things Bead Tour

POC: Dave Robertson (800) 366-2156 and/or [drobertson@rings-things.com](mailto:d Robertson@rings-things.com) Web Site: www.rings-things.com>Show/city.php?city=Houston

OURS!!! Aug 21 – 22

Are you ready??!!!

For an expanded list of Show Dates go to: www.rockngem.com

Source: Rock & Gem, Jan 2010



Safety First

When you want to crack open a geode... one of the best ways is to use an old sock and a thin hammer, like a rock hammer. Find a nice smooth part and whack it, hard, but evenly. Smacking it again concrete or something like that tends to crumble them too much. One swift hard strike seems to result in the best cracking of most geodes.

March 21st, 2009 by admin

Collection Tip

Place each sample in a collection container as you collect them. The collection containers may be a plastic baggie, a piece of newspaper, or a plastic collection jar. Label each sample as you collect them. Note that you do not have to identify the rock on the collection container, but you should be specific into where each sample was found. This ensures that samples do not get mixed up when you return home.

By: e-how

HINTS & TIPS

Fire scale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent fire scale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

THE ROCK RATTLER

Rock Crafts (for kids)

Great if your kids were a little too old for the last article...

With just a few supplies -- paint, glue, and clay -- children can try out their skills as rock artists. Like sculptors, they'll learn to judge proportion and form. Like painters, they will need to consider color and shape, along with such pleasant dilemmas as how to create a tapered wing on a rounded rock. (See Martha Stewart.com)

Materials

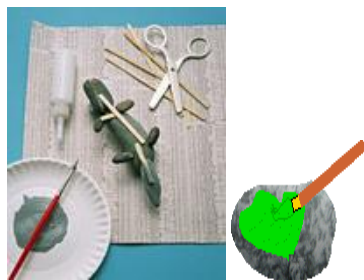
Both tempera and acrylic paints work well; tempera looks chalkier but washes off easily, making it the best choice for kids. Acrylic paint has a glossy finish. Before painting, kids should sketch out their plan: It's easier to envision what the finished project will look like if they draw it first with pencil on paper.

1. Glue rocks together before painting them, attaching small stone features such as eyes, feet, or beaks to body parts before joining larger parts; attach whiskers and tails after painting. Cement glue makes the strongest bond but should be used only by parents working in a well-ventilated area. (Kid-friendly glues are less durable and are best for rock crafts that will sit on shelves.)
2. Kids can design a project by arranging rocks until the figure looks right. Use little cushions of nondrying clay to support parts while the glue sets; bread clay works especially well. For example, the alligator's hungry mouth is partly supported by his pink tongue (below right #1). Cut-up coffee stirrers are glued to the fellow's underside for stability (below right #2) and painted gray.

#1



#2



Just in time for March... Paint your own custom Blarney stone and use it as a paper weight.

Materials Needed:

- Large Stone & Paint

Instructions:

Go on a hunt and find a nice rock that would make a good paper weight. Wash it well. Wipe dry. On the rock using green paint, paint the words "Kiss Me" and /or "Blarney Stone". You could get creative and try your hand at painting a shamrock! If you kiss the Blarney Stone, it is supposed to give you the gift of eloquence.

Flat disks are perfect for magnets, attached with cement glue.



Contented ducks have secure beaks, attached with glue.



A portly lop-eared rabbit is the perfect weight for a bookend.



Ladybugs who lunch are elegantly attired in polka-dots.



This turtle would be happy on a log.



Diplomatic pandas keep their thoughts to themselves.



This mouse can sleep in a fabric-covered matchbox.



These frogs are up to no good -- ready to pop open at the prospect of a fly lunch.



THE ROCK RATTLER



Fable

Have you ever seen a rainbow and thought about finding the fabled pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?

The famous Irish lore is based on a bit of trickery -- there really is no end to a rainbow.

The way the physics work, rainbows are actually full circles -- only the Earth's ground gets in the way of us seeing the complete circle.

One version of the fable is that a leprechaun granted one wish to a couple who was very poor and had little. They asked for riches of gold and silver. The leprechaun was angered that the couple would be so selfish, but as a hint, told them he put their riches in a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and the story goes the couple is still looking for the end of the rainbow to this day.

*Story Updated: Aug 31, 2006 at 12:25 AM PST
KOMO News Channel 4, Seattle*

Finding Gold in a River

Gold: Where is it in the River?

Gold is found in lode deposits, residual deposits, alluvial deposits, bench deposits, streambed deposits, ancient rivers, and flood layers. A lode deposit is a crack or fissure in hardrock that's full of gold. This is the original source of placer deposits.

Residual deposits are pieces of ore that have eroded away from a lode. They are usually directly under the lode that they broke away from.

Alluvial deposits are pieces of ore that have eroded away from a lode, but haven't been deposited in a stream. The hill that they came from may no longer exist, or may even be further downhill.

Bench deposits are found on the banks of a stream, and streambed deposits are found under the water. You can start your exploration in the streambed. If you don't see any signs there, chances are that the entire basin is bare.

Look for cracks or crevices in the rock at the bottom of the stream. Gold will settle into them. Any rough or irregular bedrock surface will act as a gold trap. Potholes in the bedrock will trap gold, so dig until you find the hard edges of the hole. Smooth and polished surfaces don't trap gold well.

Dikes in the bedrock will trap gold in different ways. If it angles downstream, gold will collect on the downstream side. If it angles upstream, it will tend to collect on the upstream side. Rock outcroppings from the stream sides work about this same way.

Any sudden drop-off into a deeper and larger volume of water is a good place to look. Boulders at the base of a waterfall will protect gold deposits from being boiled away by the falling water. Sometimes the gold will settle out just beyond the boilout point. If the slope of the streambed lessens and smooths out, there may be a good sized deposit there. Look on topographical maps for places where the grade levels off and check it out.

Gold tends to follow the shortest route between bends.

Boulders in the stream may trap gold on the downstream side. Of course, if they are in the shortest path, they are even more likely to do so.

During the Tertiary period, about 2 million years ago, the mountains underwent a lot of twisting and faulting. Many streams were formed, most of which ran in a South-East direction. The benches of these ancient rivers and streams are well known for the rich deposits they contain. These deposits often have a deep blue color, and are called 'Blue lead', which turns a rusty reddish brown after being dug up and exposed to the air. They are often very hard and compacted.

Flood gold can be found at the bottom of flood layers where heavy storms with enough force to move large amounts of gold will produce concentrations. Watch for layers of differing color, hardness and consistency. Some hard layers may masquerade as bedrock, so don't give up if the going gets a little hard. The shortest route idea applies here, also. Sharp bends may show good return in the inside edges quite far from the normal water line.

Excerpted from "Let's get Physical", by James C. McNeill (copyright © 1995)

THE ROCK RATTLER

Most of you have seen some of these, but I bet all of you have not seen all of these... (30 of 70)

You might be a Rock Hound if....

31-40

- The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage
- The local university's geology department asks permission to hold a field trip - in your back yard
- The city sends you a letter informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks in the back yard
- UPS has a regular pickup and delivery schedule for your house
- You can debate for hours on the differences between spectrolite and labradorite
- You shouted "Obsidian!" to a theater full of movie-goers while watching the Shawshank Redemption
- Your children have names like Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl
- You get excited when you find a hardware store with 16 pound sledge hammers and 5 foot long pry bars
- You debate for months on Internet about whether vibratory or drum tumblers are best
- You can't remember the last time your car still fit in the garage.

Nita

WORD SEARCH – MINERALS

STRATE GEM - DEC 2007

N	I	H	X	G	C	C	H	U	S	X	Y	L	J	E
A	G	E	X	Q	I	H	N	Y	Y	R	I	Z	R	Y
I	N	C	Y	W	H	A	E	N	A	S	T	I	M	M
D	E	J	Y	E	P	L	O	T	S	C	H	V	E	D
I	O	K	T	Y	R	C	N	O	I	P	A	T	D	N
S	U	S	R	G	O	E	F	O	P	C	E	O	O	O
B	S	I	D	L	M	D	G	A	N	O	L	P	E	M
O	T	L	R	I	A	O	S	I	R	E	T	A	G	A
E	L	V	D	Y	T	N	Z	I	T	R	Q	L	C	I
E	A	E	K	X	E	Y	T	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	D
G	S	R	S	V	M	E	D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R
F	L	U	O	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	J	H	J	R
R	E	D	E	I	F	I	R	T	E	P	X	A	U	X
G	O	L	D	O	O	W	F	P	B	M	Q	B	D	A
T	O	D	I	R	E	P	U	M	D	E	Y	R	V	E

AGATE

CALCITE

CHALCEDONY

DIAMOND

DINOSAUR

FLUORESCENT

FOSSIL

GEODE

GOLD

IGNEOUS

JADE

METAMORPHIC

METEORITE

OBSIDIAN

ONYX

OPAL

PERIDOT

PETRIFIED

PYRITE

QUARTZ

RUBY

SAPPHIRE

SEDIMENTARY

SILVER

TIGEREYE

WOOD

Just a note from Nita.

I have enjoyed my short time here with you all. It has been both my honor & privilege to know & work alongside you. I wish you & the club a long, happy life. May your journeys find all your favorite stones & your life be filled with their many colors. I pray God bless you & keep you safe in his hands!

THE ROCK RATTLER

We the officers of the Club, both new and old would like to thank everyone for their patients & support. It has been a rough year for some of the members and some things fell by the way. We would like to continue to have your support and understand as we try pick up all the activities.

If you would like to help, here are openings or soon to be openings:

- **Our Secretary**, Nita is temporary as she will **leave Louisiana in last part of Feb**. We are in desperate need of someone to replace her (**NOW**). **THIS will be the last Meeting Minutes & Newsletter she will be able to complete!!**
- Del has agreed to replace Phil for now on our website!!! Thanks Dell!!!
- Prepare an article for the Newsletter!! Tell us about a trip you took!! It doesn't have to be essay size!!

Any Volunteers? How about **you!!**? The club is only as good as **WE** make it. Join in; help out... lots of hands, make for light work!!

Please submit any articles no later than the 10th of each month, so the newsletter can be completed by 15th of the month. Thank

ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Renewal? Yes / No Phone #'s _____ E-Mail _____

Membership Option: Individual: _____
(Check One) \$15.00

Couple: _____
\$20.00

Family: _____
\$25.00

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!!
6:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month
Bossier Parish History Center, 2006 Beckett St.
Bossier City, LA 71111