



# The Rock Rattler

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## President's Message

Those that took advantage of the last field trip brought back lots of rock and fossils. Some of those finds can be seen at the next meeting.

Please take advantage of the up coming field trips, Demo's, classes and workshops.

Del Glasner

## Next Meeting

When: February 7, 2012  
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Where: Bossier Parish History Center  
2006 Beckett Street  
Bossier City, LA 7111  
Program:

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I can't believe I ate the whole thing

# Future Field Trips

## **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**NEW DATE!!!!**

Length of trip: 1 day  
Location: Simpson/Toledo Bend area  
Approx time of travel: 3hrs  
Departure time and location: 6:00 am from library  
Items to look for: palm wood, agate, artifacts, chert  
Children welcomed: 12 and over due to rough terrain

## **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: Ron Coleman's mine near Hot Springs Village Arkansas  
Approx time of travel: 4-5 hrs  
Departure time and location: 5:00 am from library  
Items to look for: Quartz crystals, smoky quartz, phantom quartz  
Children welcomed: yes

## **May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Length of trip: 2 days (the more participants the cheaper the accommodations)  
Location: Georgetown Tx  
Approx time of travel: 11 hrs  
Departure time and location: 5:00 am from library  
Items to look for: Palm wood, agate, chert, jasper, flint, artifacts  
Children welcomed: yes

## **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Length of trip: 1 or 2 days  
Location: Van Buren/Greenwood Arkansas  
Approx time of travel: 6-7hrs  
Departure time and location: 6:00 am from library  
Items to look for: pet wood, river chert, river jasper, artifacts  
Children welcomed: 14 and over due to terrain accommodations will be provided by host if we decide to stay for 2nd day

*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*

# Recent Field Trip to Llano, Texas

After 8 hours of driving which included 1 1/2 hours of night hunting for fossils we made it to Llano. After a short visit with a local rock and mineral historian we were able to join the San Antonio Rock and Mineral Club which led us to an amazing serpentine mine that is usually closed. This trip was full of surprises including deer sightings, fossil findings, arrow head hunting and making new contacts for future field trips. Too bad we did not have more participants as we found some very unique specimens. Our field trip leader, Del, introduced John and I to some fossil findings we will never forget.



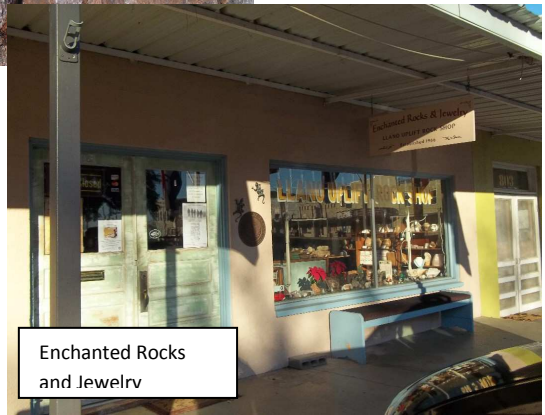
John at Llanite outcropping



Llanite



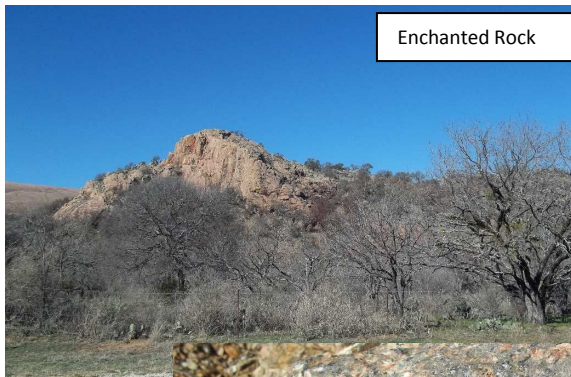
At Serpentine Mine



Enchanted Rocks and Jewelry



John in the Llano River



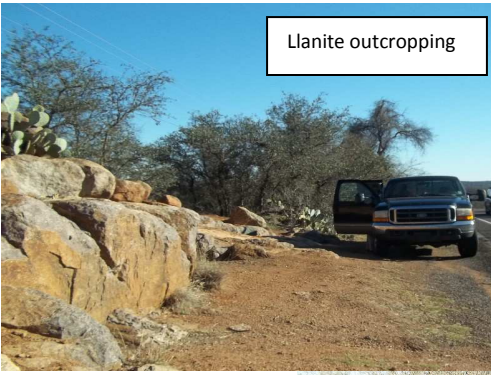
Enchanted Rock



Tony working the Llanite outcropping



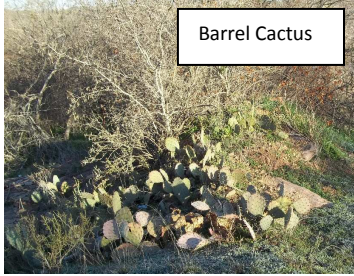
Llanite



Llanite outcropping



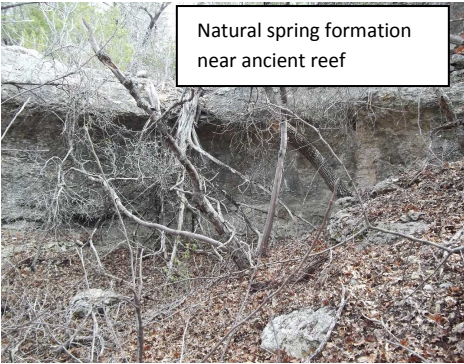
Llano River



Barrel Cactus



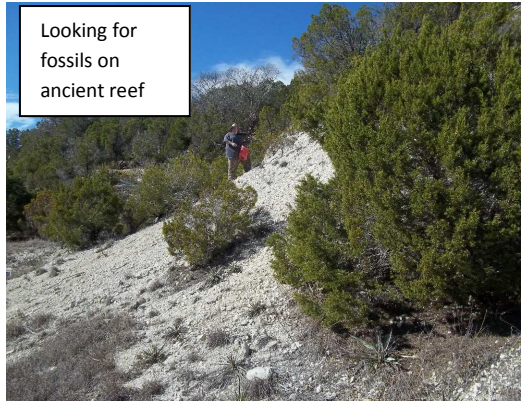
Arriving at Llano River



Natural spring formation near ancient reef



Sledgehammer time



Looking for fossils on ancient reef



Looking for dinosaur bones near Glen Rose Texas



Parked on ancient dinosaur bed



Pyrite crystals in feldspar from side of road



Looking for Del's most elusive fossil

# Upcoming Shows

## February 2012

11-12—RICHARDSON, TEXAS: Retail show; Rebekah Wills; Richardson Civic Center; 411 W. Arapaho; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; beads, pearls, findings, tools, books, wire, jewelry making supplies; contact Rebekah Wills, PO Box 494, Gilmer, TX 75644, (903) 734-3335; e-mail: rebekah@thebeadmarket.net; Web site: www.thebeadmarket.net

## 18-19---GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society; Community Center; San Gabriel Park; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, children (under 6) free; Rollin' Rock Club meeting Sun. www.wcgms.org

## 25-26—PASADENA, TEXAS

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Pkwy; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, students \$1, children (under 12) and all Scouts and leaders in uniform free. Scout merit badge assistance, childrens Gem Mine and activities, displays, fossils, gems, minerals, hourly door prizes, grand prize. www.clgms.org

## 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

## Minutes January 3, 2012

**Opening:** Del Glasner

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Antony Thomas

**Prayer:** Al Simms

### **Old Business:**

- Treasurer's Report – John Autry
  - Checking Account and CD is great shape. (Specific amounts withheld from published newsletter)

### **New Business:**

- Classes
  - Demonstration Class, Casting Saturday 2/11 11am til 3 pm. No registration/no fee
  - Gem ID Workshop, 9am – 12noon, 1/21/2012 by Geraldine Zalinsky. \$80.00 for ALTG&M Society members/\$125 for non-members
- Field Trip: January 13 thru 15, leave Bossier History Library at 9pm headed to Llano Texas. Local guide will lead group to two different dig sites. Attendees will share travel expense and dig sites will charge \$10 for closed mine.

### **Program:**

Larry Maguire discussed Tanzanite and showed several specimens.

### **Adjournment:**

## Upcoming Classes Info

1.) The CASTING CLASSES have been totally revised! There will be DEMONSTRATION classes that are FREE of charge. On Saturday, 2/11/12, Del and Tom will demonstrate lost wax casting. They will show you how to cast a silver item or two! Our club has the equipment and the expertise!

The Wax Model Demo Class will take a look at ready-made wax model sources, as well as wax carving and assembly. All presentations will be done at the BEGINNER level.

Demo for MODEL MAKING for Silver Casting will be Saturday, 2/18/12, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. How to make the model (wax and more) in order to cast silver. If Casting caught you're attention, you will need this demo!!

REMEMBER: The demos are free and our shop is equipped and manned. COME SEE. On our Thursday evening shop time, interested students can practice casting and wax model making under the personal guidance of the shop stewards.

3.) On Saturday, 3/10/12, we will have a demo on Precious Metal Clay (PMC), again NO CHARGE. (A later, two day class will be offered for up to six students; all tools and supplies included for only \$125.00.)

4.) Revised Class and Demo Schedules will be available at our next regular meeting.

5.) The date for the SHELL CARVING CLASS with Del has been moved to Saturday, May 12, 2012.

**For those that were unable to attend the Tyler Gem and Mineral Show this last weekend, Keith Harmon says hello. They had a great fluorescent display and many educational stations on display for the kids. There were hundreds of children in attendance which I'm sure their minds were deeply stimulated. We saw firsthand local students asking a lot of questions looking for detailed information which they were prepared to take back to their teachers and class mates.**

**Antony Thomas**

# *Zelinsky and Company*

## **Pictures from the recent Gem Identification Classes**

**Attendees:** Lynn Simms---runner up on quiz  
Richard Kelley---Quiz WINNER  
Dave Ginsburg  
Geraldine Zelinsky  
Bridget Joubert---guest speaker  
Jim Marler--guest speaker



# February Birthstone

## Amethyst

If gazing into the sparkling purple depths of an Amethyst suffuses you with a sense of powerful well being, this is only to be expected. The ancient Greeks believed that this gemstone held many powers,



among them protection against intoxication. In fact, the word Amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos," meaning sober. In ancient Greece, the gemstone was associated with the god of wine, and it was common practice to serve this beverage from Amethyst goblets in the belief that this would prevent overindulgence. Even today, Amethyst is considered a stabilizing force for those struggling to overcome addictive behaviors.

February's purple birthstone has been found among the possessions of royalty throughout the ages. The intense violet hue of Amethyst appealed to early monarchs, perhaps because they often wore this color. Purple dye was scarce and expensive at one time, and so it was reserved for the garments of kings and queens. Amethyst has been found in ruins dating as far back as the ninth century, adorning crowns, scepters, jewelry, and breastplates worn into battle. A large Amethyst is among the closely guarded gemstones in the British Crown Jewels.

Amethyst is also symbolic of spirituality and piety. It has been used to ornament churches and crosses used in religious ceremony, and worn in rings and on rosaries by bishops and priests.



Once considered more valuable than diamonds, Amethyst is a member of the quartz family, occurring naturally as crystals within rocks. Deposits of this gemstone are found in Brazil, Canada, Australia, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Russia, Sri Lanka; and in the United States.

The gift of Amethyst is symbolic of protection and the power to overcome difficulty. It is said to strengthen the bond in a love relationship, so it is an ideal anniversary or engagement gem. Whether or not Amethyst holds such power, it's stunning beauty will certainly make anyone who wears it feel like royalty!!



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>             |
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| 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.