

THE ROCK RATTLER

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THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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Presidents Message - by Nina Hustus



Our club members are the best!

If you were not able to make the past few meetings I feel sorry for you. These past several months we have been fortunate to have had programs delivered by club members who possess an abundance of knowledge. In April we had fossil expert Del Glasner presenting on Fossils in Jewelry. It was an inspiring presentation. Who knew the hundreds of ways fossils are incorporated into wearable jewelry. In May, Michael Keys delivered a program on mineral identification in an easily accessible way. His delivery was fun and interesting. He had hands-on tools to aid in his presentation. Our last meeting, June, had Lyn Simms, our resident opal expert, delivering an amazing program on all things opal. She not only had available actual opals of many different types for the members to view, but also provided an excellent color handout with more information and photos of pieces which were not available. There is so much to learn about opals! By the end of the evening I felt as if this program helped me better understand opals, how to care for them, how they are created and so much more. I can only say, "Thank you." To Del, Lyn, Michael and everyone in the club who shares their knowledge. For that is what this club is all about, sharing our knowledge with each other.

(If you would like to host a program some month please let me know.)
See you soon.

Previous Meeting Notes

Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Notes 06.05.18

- Opening Prayer – Laura McWilliams
 - Treasurer Report
- Old Business
 - June 16th Midlothian Field Trip
 - Leave 5 AM from Bossier Central Library
 - Septarian nodules, pyrite, shark's teeth
 - No kids
 - Contact: Tony Thomas
 - 318-518-0907
 - adslthomas@gmail.com

- Summer camp week of 6/10 at the Broadmoor Library M-F 9:30 – 11:30 taught by Del where they will be making and learning about fossils

- **New Business**
 - **Next Meeting will be held at Aulds Library.** We need suggestions for a permanent meeting location with guaranteed booking.
 - Show
 - Volunteers needed Aug 11, 8 AM - Workshop
 - Need help bagging items for silent auction
 - Del needs volunteers hauling the kids' dig gravel from storage to wash
 - 22 dealers confirmed
 - Laura will get a quote for shirts. Nina will get a quote for pins.
 - Sue is taking donations for the kids' dig
 - She has bought shells
 - Del has been polishing rocks
 - No sharp objects, but can use for prizes in other games
 - Can always use more polished rocks
 - Sign-up for volunteer stations next meeting
 - Looking for more volunteers for demos – Lyn is cabbing
 - Looking for a location for Member Swap Meet
 - Needs to be semi-private and allow selling
 - Looking into park pavilion reservations and selling rules
 - Shop will be open every Saturday in July
 - Foreshadows Crystals, Gems, & Jewelry
 - Jeanette handed out cards for a new shop in Keller, TX
 - Foreshadowsrocks.com

- **Rock of the Month – Diamond**
 - Nina handed out a pamphlet, *GIA 4 C's of Diamond Quality*

- **Presentation – Opals by Lyn Simms**
 - Overview
 - Lyn provided a handout from geology.com

- Opals are comprised of water (3 -21%) and silica, the same materials as glass, but are crystalize as amorphic spheres
- The more irregular the structure, the more diffraction, the more precious
- Technically a mineraloid because of amorphic structure
- National gem of Australia – they produce 95% of opals on market
- Doublets and triplets are layers glued together
- Types
 - Hydrophane
 - “Water loving” – goes clear when exposed to water, but color will return when dried
 - Has higher water content
 - Mostly found in Ethiopia
 - Precious
 - Color play
 - May be backed by a “patch” or non-color play opal
 - Common
 - No color play
 - Attractive – color, dendrites, pattern
 - Fire
 - Transparent or translucent
 - Reds and oranges
 - Usually found as cantara opals from Queretaro, Mexico
 - Boulder / Matrix
 - Thin veins in brown ironstone or other matrix
- Locations
 - Australia
 - Andamooka – matrix – often treated to darken matrix and increase contrast
 - Coober Peady – white
 - Lightning Ridge – black
 - Ethiopia
 - Precious, common, fire
 - Harder than Australian and are sometimes faceted
 - Honduras – pins of fire in black basalt and andesite

- Peruvian – common
- Turkish - various
- United States
 - Arizona – precious blue and common red sunset
 - California – Mule Mountains - fire opal
 - Idaho – Spencer, ID - precious
 - Louisiana – Vernon Parish - larger grains
 - Nevada – Virgin Valley - precious and common - tend to crack (craze) when exposed to water
 - Oregon – Owyhee blue, Juniper Ridge fire
 - Utah – bacon banded
- History
 - Romans – good luck
 - Medieval Europe – evil eye
 - Alfonso XII's curse
 - Sir Walter Scott's novel *Anne of Geierstein* dropped opal sales by 50%
 - Worn by Queen Victoria
- Working with
 - Can cause silicosis - wear a mask N95 or better (not a dust mask)
 - Identification
 - Close shades
 - Use a 100 watt daylight bulb
 - Check for cracks a few months after cabbing
 - Hold 1 inch from a lamp's edge and cracks will appear bright orange
 - Look for inclusions, sand pits, brightness, pattern, color
 - Quality Numbered on a 1 – 5 scale
 - Put on a dark text printed background to test transparency
 - Care & Cleaning
 - Avoid temperature changes to prevent cracking
 - Keep in a humid environment
 - Clean with a soft cloth and water
 - Never use an ultrasonic cleaner
 - Avoid oils and detergents

- Treatments to blacken matrix
 - Smoking
 - Sugar & Acid
- Synthetics
 - Type 1 – Aurora
 - Type 2 – Synthetic Impregnated Non-Directional
 - Type 3 – Kyocera Synthetic
 - Sea Opals and opaline glass

NEXT MEETING: "New Location"

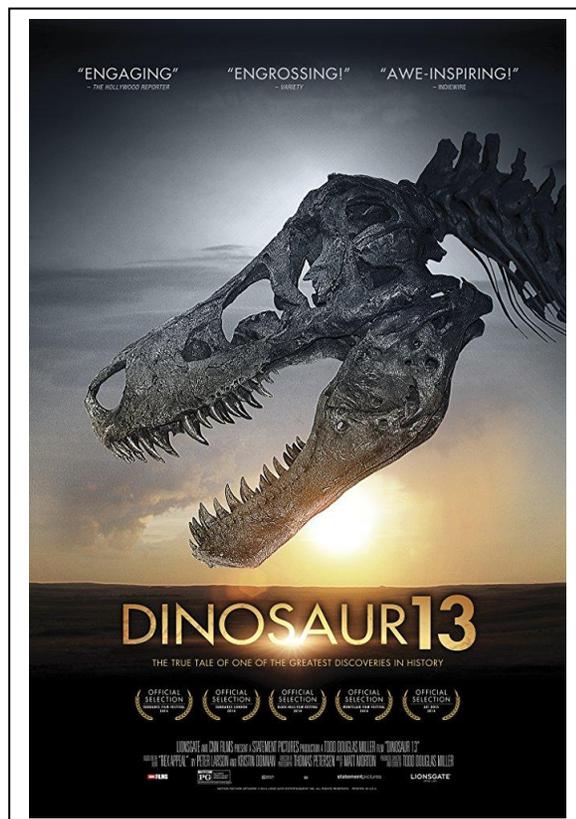
Tuesday July 10 (changed to this date because of Holiday on 4th)

Meeting 6:30pm till 7:30 pm

Location for meeting is **Aulds Branch Library** [3950 Wayne Ave, Bossier City](#)

Directions: Hwy 71(Barksdale Blvd) 2.1 miles south of Barksdale West gate, turn left at(Mcdonalds) onto Shady Grove dr. and go down 7 streets to Wayne Ave. and turn left and follow to Library.

Program : – Program will be Documentary, "**Dinosaur 13**" - about the worlds greatest dinosaur discovery - the largest most complete T Rex ever found!!!



Rock of the Month: - The rock of the month is being presented by Laura McWilliams and will highlight red, white and blue rocks.



Member Spotlight:

Member Profile Questions & Answers

Michael Clark

1. Where were you born and raised? Born in Dallas, TX.

Moved to Shreveport when I was 3 months old. Been here ever since.

2. What started your interest in rocks? I don't really remember.

I've always had a fascination with rocks, and science in general.

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

Probably taking a trip with my family to Franklin, North Carolina and spending almost a week gem hunting.

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

Shooting sports.

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

I don't know if it's the wisest, but it's one I remember; "Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional. Have fun."

6. I am happiest when I'm doing things, vacation, etc. with my family.

Member Photos

Del Glasner Shared– Crafted and photos By Ed Moreland (Flint Knapper- Ohio)

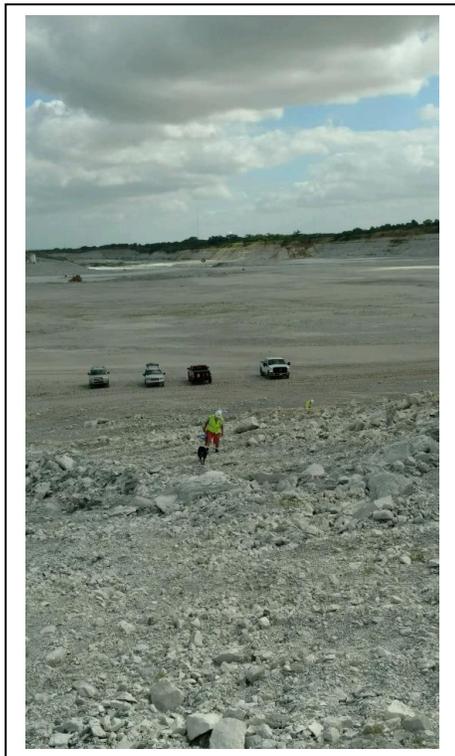
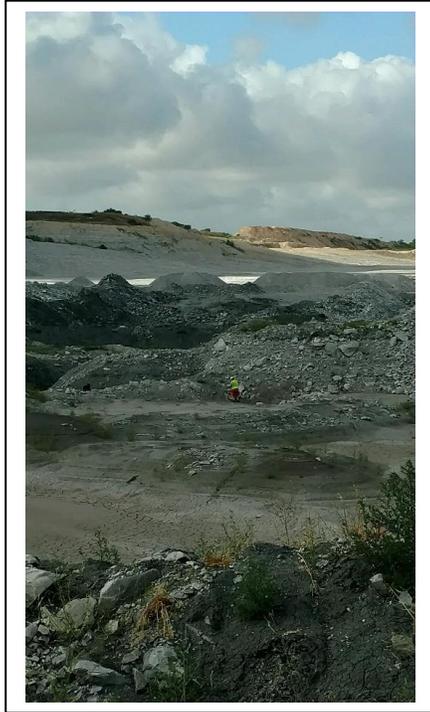


STEM Summer Camp
At Broadmoor Library
Subject: Fossils

Our club was represented by : Jeanette Jonas and Del Glasner



Field Trip Photos to Midlothian, Tx 6-16-2018 : - By Tony Thomas



Shows

June/July

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; Email: show@agemclub.org; Website: 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: larockclub@gmail.com; Web site: larockclub.com

25-26—MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Ozark Earth Science Club; Baxter County Fairgrounds, 1507 Fairgrounds Drive; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children 12 and under free; vendors selling beautiful gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, and more, games, geode cracking, speakers, demonstrations, displays, presentations, free hourly door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Sharon Waddell, 6463 US Hwy. 63, West Plains, MO 65775, (417) 274-8712

25-26 Jasper, TX show

INFO :

Who Dug the Gold Mine

Natives of Florien believe their section of the state has the only gold mine ever heard of in Louisiana.

Nobody knows how old the abandoned site is or who dug the many bee-hive of tunnels which traverse the approximate seven acres of high ground, deep in the woods west of Florien.

According to Kile Salter, a resident of rural Florien, that section of Sabine Parish was Settled about 1882 and those early settlers said the "mine" was old when they first came.

He said there are three legends surrounding the hill, which towers approximately one hundred feet and is covered with underbrush and trees: Ancient Indians could have dug those tunnels, the Spaniards could have dug them when they held that section of the state or it could have served as a hideout for the desperate Murrell outlaw gang which operated in the Free State of Sabine before it became a part of Louisiana.

Walls sparkle

At any rate, the walls of the tunnels sparkle here and there with a golden dust: and the sandy soil topping the hill gleams with the same substance when closely inspected.

Salter said in the early thirties, carloads of the gold-flecked dirt was shipped out of state by a company working the site and that some people baked and chipped some of the soil with the hope of getting enough "dust" to do some good.

Salter said legend also has it that a room filled with a fortune in gold is supposedly sealed off from one of the tunnels. Through the years various prospectors have dug down into the hill crest as deep as seventy five feet in.the hope of penetrating the treasure room. Nobody has yet succeeded. Area folks believe the flecks to be gold dust but as to the who, when or why of the tunnels, which are over a hundred years old, the mystery remains a mystery.

Source: Sabine Parish Library; authors: Florien, Louisiana Before 1940 by Samuel J. Touchstone and Who Dug the Gold Mine by Dorothy Seals

TIPS:

Found on Internet

DIY Tumbler



Websites to look at:

<http://wheretofindrocks.com/rockhounding-101-how-to-really-find-minerals-and-rocks/>

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/five-tips-for-your-first-gem-show/>

Display

<http://www.treasuremountainmining.com/index.php?route=pavblog/blog&id=40>

Officers for 2018:

President – Nina Hustus pochance@bellsouth.net 318-464-2870 Shreveport, La

Vice President – Bill Eeds wceeds@me.com 303-859-5821 Springhill, La

Secretary – Lauren Brown lauren@animationnerd.com 318-678-61119 Bossier City, La

Treasurer – John Autry john.autry451@gmail.com (318) 210-9416 Haughton, La

Board Member – Lyn Simms lyncsimms@gmail.com 318-865-2453 Shreveport, La

Board Member - Laura McWilliams

Board Member - Tom Stringfellow TomString@aol.com 903-839-6744 Troup, Tx

Others:

Field Trip Coordinator – Tony Thomas

Head Shop Steward – Laura McWilliams

Show Chairman – Del Glasner

Newsletter Editor – Del Glasner

Send in photos of your craftwork or comments via email: larockclub@gmail.com

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ArkLaTexGemMineralSociety/>

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