

# THE ROCK RATTLER

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*Ruby - Birthstone of the month*

## **Presidents Message** - by Del Glasner

Our annual show is coming August 17-18 and I am not ready just yet. Still trying to decide which rocks to display and how many, I know I can't carry them all to the show. Looks like lots our members are pitching in to pull off a great fun show.

## July Birthstone Color: Red Ruby



Like a perfect red rose, the Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. Called the "Rajnapura" or King of Gems by ancient Hindus, July's birthstone is among the most highly prized of gems throughout history. The Ruby was considered to have magical powers, and was worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past—provided it was in the hands of its rightful owner!

Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blowguns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

The word Ruby comes from the Latin "ruber," meaning red. It is a variety of the mineral Corundum, and is found as crystals within metamorphic rock. Corundum is the second hardest mineral, after Diamond. It comes in a variety of colors, and is considered a Sapphire in any color except red, which is designated as a Ruby. Rubies range in hue from an orangey red to a purplish red, but the most prized gems are a true red in color. Large sized Rubies are very rare and valuable.

The history of Ruby mining dates back more than 2,500 years ago. The most beautiful crystals are thought to be from Burma, but quality Rubies are also found in India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States.

It has been said that the Ruby's red glow comes from an internal flame that cannot be extinguished, making a gift of this stone symbolic of everlasting love. With its hardness and durability, it is a perfect engagement gem. And if worn on the left hand, ancient lore has it that the Ruby will bring good fortune to its wearer, too!

(from [www.about-birthstones.com](http://www.about-birthstones.com))

**NEXT MEETING:**

July 2 - 5:45- 7:45 pm

**NEW 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 - Beryl – by Kathy Haney**



## Last meeting notes: Kathy Haney

We discussed our upcoming show. Laura, suggested using big bag for the scavenger hunt . (Instead of glass jars). She also mentioned name tags for our vendors. Lynn, will order 2000 post cards and 100 flyers. 1,500 flyers will be mailed out and the rest we will give to members to pass out. Dale you lined up a field trip to Lagrange TX. on the 15th of June, to look for opalized petrified wood . June 6th thur 9th agate show in Austin TX. This is all the notes that I have. I hope they are helpful.

## Member Photos – By Lyn Sims



**Classroom/Shop:** Open for members most Saturdays 10-5

Check our facebook page to confirm.

Class location 581 Rex Beard Rd. Haughton, La

## Shows

- **June 29-30—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS:** Annual show; Arlington Gem and Mineral Club; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, seniors and children over 12 \$5, free admission for children under 6, boy and girl scouts in uniform, and active and retired military with ID ; Vendors selling artisan and fine jewelry,

gemstones, geodes, minerals, rough cut polished rocks, petrified wood, fossils, demonstrations, and activities for children; contact Amy Kubes, 1408 Gibbins Rd., Arlington, TX 76011, (817) 300-6946; Email: agmcardvertising@gmail.com; Website: [www.agemclub.org](http://www.agemclub.org)

- **Aug 10-11, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org)**

#### Our own show

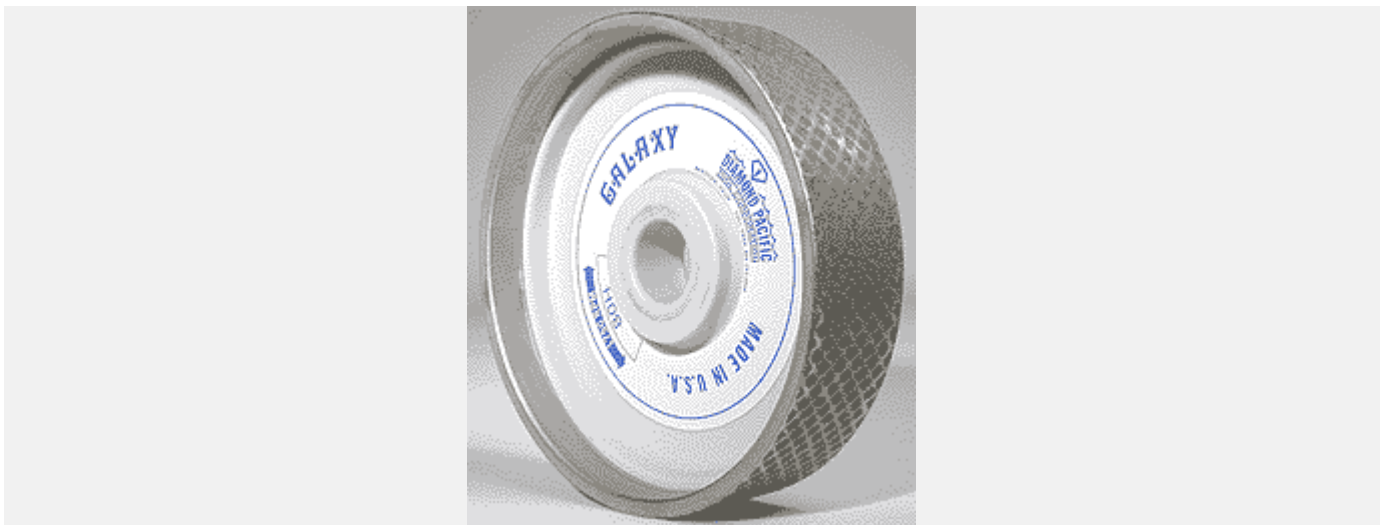
- **Aug 17-18 Bossier City, Louisiana:** 45<sup>th</sup> annual show, Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society, Bossier City Civic Center, Sat 9-6, sun 10-4. Adults \$4.00, Admission is free for Children under 6 & Students with I.D., Custom and unique Jewelry, Beads, Gems and Minerals, Fossils, Educational exhibits and Demonstrations/Speakers, Door prizes.
- For information, Call Del Glasner, Show Chairman, at (318) 517-7372 or email [larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)
- 
- **Aug 24-25, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, The [Jasper] Event Center, [www.pinecountry-gms.org](http://www.pinecountry-gms.org)**

## INFO Tips:

### Lapidary Tips: DIY Inexpensive Lapidary Grinder

Posted on [January 13, 2011](#) by [silverandstone](#)

This blog describes how you can build an inexpensive diamond lapidary grinder that will economically handle a lot of grinding tasks that should never be done on diamond wheels. Any lapidarist quickly learns that using diamond grinding wheels is expensive because diamond coatings are thin and wear off relatively fast.



Galaxy Grinding Wheel

It's necessary to use expensive grinding wheels when the stone surface requires minimal scratches and is being prepared for sanding and polishing. But here are some grinding tasks where scratches are not an issue and they can be done on the grinder described in this blog:

- Removing saw tabs from the corner of slabs
- Grinding away opaque skin from agates to expose features
- Shaping rough so it fits slab saw vices
- Squaring rough to enable a usable first cut slab
- Removing any unwanted matrix from rough stones



DIY Grinder

Diamond wheel coatings are only a few microns thick. Compare this with masonry saw blade diamond deposits of 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick which is several hundred times more than on wheels. Saw blades are only 1/32 inch wide but if grouped together with spacers in between, you can create a wide grinding surface. The photo here shows a simple grinder with 6 seven inch blades separated by water hose washers between each blade. Spacing between blades is about 1/8 inch but you will find that this is not noticeable when grinding. The width of the 6 blades is about 1 inch. The grinder runs quietly and aggressively removes material. You can install water spray to control dust but a simpler alternative is to use a water spray bottle. It's a good idea to always wear a dust mask.

Components for this grinder are:

- Six 7 inch masonry [diamond blades](#) (\$8 each if you shop around)
- Water hose washers for spacers
- Used 1800 rpm motor
- Lortone [Splash Shield](#) (\$50 unless you build your own)
- Motor shaft grinder [adapter](#) (\$10)

REPORT THIS AD

Assuming you have a used motor, you can build this grinder for about \$110. And, it's only \$60 or so if you build or have your own splash shield.

Share your ideas on how to be more cost effective when doing lapidary work. With the price of equipment and materials these days, we all need more good ideas.

(from silverstones blog)

<https://silverandstone.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/lapidary-tips-diy-inexpensive-lapidary-grinder/>

## Websites that may be of Interest:

### Cleaning Jewelry:

<https://silverandstone.wordpress.com/2010/12/07/jewelry-making-tips-polishing-and-cleaning-jewelry/>

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### Send in photos of your craftwork or comments

via email- [larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)

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