



The Rock Rattler

www.larockclub.com

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Volume 39 Number 6
June, 2012

President's Message

Our membership is diverse with many facets of the rock hounding hobby represented. You will find members who are interested in field trips, lapidary, faceting, beading, metal detecting, wire wrapping, silversmithing, and now we have cameo making. We have something for everyone.

Our treasury is strong and we are aiming towards acquiring our own workshop. We will continue with the rented classroom until then. This classroom is serving us well but it would be nice to have live demonstrations at our monthly meetings. We cannot do this now where we meet.

We welcome new people and new ideas. We like to think that we are doing things well, but even the best can be improved. If you have ideas about how to improve the club, feel free to voice them to any club officer. You will not always see your idea accepted, but you will at least have it politely heard.

We encourage all members to join in running the club. We hold elections in November and welcome all interested members to run for office. In addition, we have many appointed positions and welcome willingness to accept such a role. Just let an officer know that you are willing to help and we will find a place for you to participate. This club will be whatever its members make of it. If members sit back and watch, others will determine the future. If new members dive in, meet people and participate in as many activities as possible, they will help shape the club and enjoy doing it. Come to a meeting and look us over. If you like us, join us.

Have you ever considered writing an article for our bulletin? You may have ideas from a field trip or other event that could be written and published. Please consider writing an article so that others may learn from your experiences.

Guests are always welcome at the monthly meetings.

Del Glasner

Next Meeting

When: June 5, 2012, Tuesday
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Where: Bossier Parish Library
2600 Beckett
Bossier City, LA 71111
Program: Chasing and Repousse'

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If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and want to have it emailed to you, email Sharron at adslthomas@gmail.com

Future Field Trips

September 2012

Location: Open for suggestion

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

Membership

Individual Membership \$15/Year

Couple Membership \$20/Year

Family Membership \$25/Year

New Member? Yes No Renewal? Yes No

Name _____ (Spouse) _____

Children's Names _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (mobile)

E-Mail _____ FB _____

Membership Option (Check One): Individual (\$15) _____ Couple (\$20) _____ Family (\$25): _____

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

Class Info & Updates

The second PMC class on May 19 & 20 was GREAT FUN! Everybody made nice items in learning how to manipulate the clays.

Our CLAY PLAY DAY is scheduled for June 2 & 3 at the shop, 9-5 daily, Saturday & Sunday. This is a great opportunity to try your ideas and stretch your imagination.

Classes for September - August, 2012 - 2013, are now being developed and should be available in time for our show. We have gotten good response from show goers and new members who joined and participated in the classes. If there are ANY CLASSES YOU want, contact me: TomString@aol.com or call and discuss your interests, 903-839-6744.

The Shell Carving Class with Del on May 12 was excellent! Everyone attempted a cameo. Some were good, one young lady made an absolutely stunning one. All were great 'first tries'. Thanks DEL.

Minutes For May 1, 2012 Meeting

Opening: Del Glasner
Pledge of Allegiance: Charlie Johns

Old Business:

- Treasurer's Report – John Autry
 - Checking Account and CD is great shape. (Specific amounts withheld from published newsletter)
- Show Report – Charlie Johns
 - Dates – August 18 & 19, 2012 w/setup on August 17th.
 - Discussion on availability of digital billboards.
 - Ad to run in Shreveport Times Prevue on Friday before the Gem Show
 - Cards are printed and ready for mailing
- Kiln purchase – Tom Stringfellow
 - New kiln and accessories picked up from Metal Clay Supply in Jacksonville, Texas and ready for drop off in our classroom

New Business:

- Classes
 - May 12 – Carving Class, Saturday \$100.00 registration fee Still room for 1 or 2 additional students. Contact Del.
 - May 19-20 – PMC Makeup Class, \$125.00 registration fee. Still room for 1 or 2 additional students. Contact Tom.
- Motion made by Antony, seconded by Dwain to purchase a 4 barstools for the classroom. Motion passed
- Phillip Sanders' family has donated some of Phillip's materials to the Society to be auctioned off and the funds used for the classroom. Auction was held for five items.
- Bill Hart's term on the Board of Directors is expiring and nominations were opened for fill his term. Pam White and Antony Thomas nominated with Antony elected, by close majority.
- Jeanette White appointed to be "Snack Chairperson" to arrange for refreshments at our regular meetings.
- Field Trip
 - May 5, to Ron Coleman's Crystal Mine outside Hot Springs Village, AR. Meet at the Bossier History Library at 5am to carpool.
- Program for next month meetings – Tom Stringfellow will demonstrate Chasing and Repoussé.

Program:

- Show & Tell – Del & Tony showed several specimens they collect on a mini field trip to the Black Lake/Goldonna, LA area.
- Larry Maguire discussed tumbling rocks, equipment, supplies and results.

Adjournment:

*While friends are hard to find
Like minded ones are rarer still
Amateur geologist, rock hounds, living the daily grind
Use their days off to get that adrenaline thrill
After emails and brief calls...sight unseen
Total strangers become friends and family extend
What "He" has created will always bring us together*

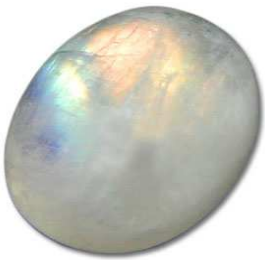
June Birthstone

Pearl

From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.



The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.



Divers find natural pearls in The Persian Gulf as well as in the waters off Japan, the South Pacific Islands off northern Australia, and the coasts of Panama, Venezuela, and California. Most of the cultured pearl industry is in Japanese and Australian coastal waters. These gems come in a variety of colors, from pure white to pink, yellow, gray and black. They also come in different shapes and sizes.



Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra.

Only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry, but eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

Pics from Member Outings

Tony, John and Del

Excursion to Columbia, LA to look for fossils



Tony and Del

Finds during Excursion to Black Lake



Del's finds at Black Lake



Tony's finds at Black Lake



Club Outing to Ron Coleman's Crystal Mine in Hot Springs, AR







Cameo Class



Upcoming Shows

June/July

29-1 — Grapevine, TX— Wholesale and retail show; EGI Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri 11-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5, free admission; beads, silver jewelry, minerals, fine jewelry

August, 2012

11-12 – Baton Rouge - Baton Rouge G&MS. Marriot Ballroom. Just off of college Drive

25-26 – Jasper -Show Hours - Saturday 9 to 5 Sunday 10 to 5. The Event Center, 6258 Highway 190, 5 miles West of Jasper. SCFMS & PINE COUNTRY G&M SOC

How to Stabilize Raw Turquoise

Most grades of turquoise must be stabilized before being cut or drilled. Turquoise, one of the world's rarest opaque gemstones, is also one of the most fragile. It has a tendency to crack or crumble in its raw state when cut, carved or polished. Only the finest gem-quality stones -- less than 12 percent of all turquoise -- do not require stabilizing. However, lower grades of the stone do require treatment before being worked. This hardens the stone, fills fissures and enhances natural colors. Turquoise is stabilized by soaking it or pressurizing resins or acrylic compounds into the pores of the stone, resulting in affordable, higher quality stones and finished jewelry.

Items you will need:

- 1 pint of acetone
- 1 2-part (resin and hardener) epoxy adhesive kit
- Large clean glass jar with lid

1. Lay several sheets of newspaper on a work station. Pour 1 pint of acetone in a dry, glass jar.
2. Carefully add the complete contents of both the resin and hardener tubes of epoxy glue to the acetone and stir the mixture well using a spoon or whisk.
3. Add the turquoise stone to the jar, cap it tightly and swirl the jar a few times. Dispose of the newspaper and stirring utensils or clean the utensils for reuse.
4. Store the jar in a cool, dry area for five to seven days, swirling it daily to keep the chemicals well mixed.
5. Remove the stones from the jar using kitchen tongs and let them air dry for a week, preferably in a sunny location.

-----Reminder-----

The ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society's
Gem & Mineral Show will be
August 17-19, 2012.

Please consider volunteering or donating to this event. Anyone interested in donating or volunteering, please watch for notifications on when to sign up.

The rock shop is open on Thursdays, usually from 5 pm - 8 pm, 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

ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society 2012 Officers

President	Del Glasner	318-965-1989 Cell 318-517-7372	dglasner2001@yahoo.com
Vice President	Larry Maguire	318-284-3544	wood@centurytel.net
Secretary	Al Simms	318-865-2453	asimmsjr@gmail.com
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Board of Directors consisting of Officers above and---			
Member	Antony Thomas	318-518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com
Member	Tom Stringfellow	903-839-6744	TomString@aol.com
Member	Lyn Simms	318-865-2453	lynsimms@gmail.com
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Historian	Will House		
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Arklatex Gem & 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.