



The Rock Rattler

www.larockclub.com

larockclub@gmail.com

Volume 42 Number 3
March, 2014

Dear Members—

Well here it is March already!

The flowers will be blooming and the bees will be buzzing.

We can start doing all sorts of outside things finally.

I went to the club house last week to look over what needs to be done and we have our work cut out for ourselves. We could use some help to get this done. Who is up for it? Let us know.

We have field trips set up soon and I don't know about you but I'm ready to hunt for new rocks with friends doing what we like to do.

If you have any ideas for the club please share with us on Tuesday at the meeting.

I plan on bringing a few surprises for the door prize give away. If you have any rocks you would like to share or just show off, please bring them.

See ya'll on Tuesday.

Larry Maguire
President



Next Meeting

When: March 4, 2014
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Where: Bossier City Library
 Historical Building
 Bossier City, La
Program:
Refreshments: Diane Hendricks
Door Prizes: Don Gednetz

Minutes of Meeting

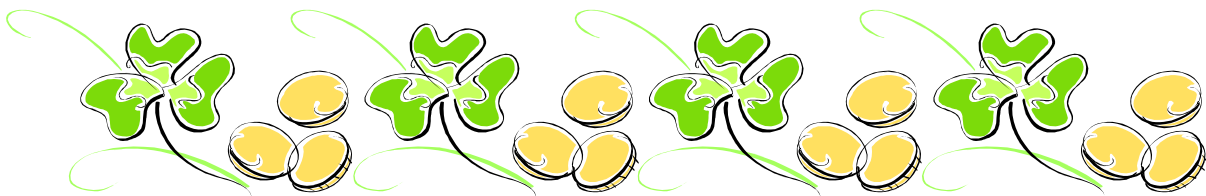
February 4, 2014

Opening: Antony Thomas
Pledge of Allegiance Wil House
Prayer: Wil House

Business Discussed:

- Building Update
 - We need volunteers that can help get the buildings ready for use
 - Volunteers can meet at new clubhouse at 9 am on Feb 8 to have a work day
- Field Trips
 - Next field trip will be to Columbia, LA for searching of megladon teeth with Dr. Stringer
 - Everyone will need to complete a liability form at next meeting
 - Meet at Library at 7 am or you can go ahead to the other meeting place at McDonalds in West Monroe at 8:30 am
 - For the field trip for March, we will be going to Mt Ida to the Wegner mine
 - All money must be paid before meeting in March.
 - Waiver will also need to be signed.
- Treasury Report given by John Autry
- Show dates are Aug 16-17
 - Del Glasner will be the Show Chairman
 - Del said we will increase number of vendors from last year
 - It was suggested that possibly renting the entire civic center to add booths in the other hall area.
 - It was suggested that we add our show information to the “Lapidary Journal” and “Art Magazine”.

Members in attendance: Susan Fortenberry, Del Glasner, Sharron Thomas, Sue Autry, Nina Hustus, Antony Thomas, Leland White, John Autry, Wil House, Don Gednetz, Gwynne Lowe, David Lowe, Diane Hendricks, Jody Hendricks, Sharon Glasner, Tom Stringfellow, Lyn Simms, John McDonald, Sandra Talley, Larry Maguire, Susan Hancock

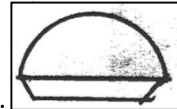


tips and tricks

Make a stone fit a bezel:

How many times have you carefully measured your stone and cut a bezel to fit....only to find that after soldering the ends together or soldering it onto a backplate the stone doesn't quite fit! Exasperating isn't it? Well, rather than starting over and making an entirely new bezel, how about simply modifying the stone (slightly) to fit the bezel? I always have a set of diamond files in my kit. They can be purchased at Harbor Freight for a few dollars and save you hours of pain! Simply hold the offending stone firmly in your fingers and gently file the bezel edge until it fits snugly into the bezel,

By the way, when you purchase cabochon stones there is one important aspect of which you should be careful to check.



The bottom part of the girdle should have a slight bevel (about 45 deg) all around the stone. If it doesn't you should either not purchase it or, if you do, put down the bevel yourself. When the bezel is soldered to the backplate, the maker often uses too much solder. Thus, when the join of the two pieces of metal is full, the excess solder must go somewhere. Where? Well, it forms a fillet on the inside of the join. So when the stone is pressed into the bezel, a sharp edge will butt against the fillet and several things can happen; (1) it won't allow the stone to fill to the bottom (or make it crooked), (2) it will chip the edge of the stone, or (3) it will crack the stone. The beveled area allows for the fillet.



Upcoming Field Trip Info

Date: March 15, 2014

Location: Wegner Mine, Mt. Ida, AR

If you are interested in attending this field trip, you will need to reserve your space by paying the \$30 entry fee at the Feb meeting and fill out the liability form. We must have at least 10 people attending to be allowed to enter the private dig in the Phantom mine. If you are paying by check, please make check out to Sharron Thomas. If you are unable to attend and would like to get crystals from the mine get with Tony.

Field Trips for 2014

Anyone planning to attend a field trip must notify field trip coordinator that you will be attending.

If you are unable to attend a field trip but would like something brought back just ask. Arrangements can be made.

March 15

Mt. Ida, AR – Wegner Mine for crystals. 10 person minimum

April 12

N. Sulfur River – Fossils and petrified wood

June 14

Mississippi – Homachita River. Banded Agate

July 12

Ashdown, AR – Fossils

August 23, 24 (tentative date--waiting on confirmation from host group)

Jasper, Tx – Petrified Wood. Fee of \$30 must be paid by June meeting

September and October- Open—if you have an idea give info to field trip coordinator



Upcoming Show Dates

March

8-9—PASADENA, TEXAS: Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, students (6th-12th grade) \$3, children (under 12) free; 32 dealers, lapidary equipment, rocks, minerals, gems, jewelry, rockhound equipment, books, swap area, lapidary and jewelry making demonstrations, Scout merit badge workshops, fossil exhibits, children's gem mine and hands-on workshops; contact Sara Chelette, CLGMS, PO Box 58072, Houston, TX 77258; e-mail: sara_chelette@sbcglobalnet.com; Web site: www.clgms.org

April

12—NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society; Elder Johnson Pavilion, Burns Park; Military Dr.; Sat. 9-4; free admission; buy, sell or trade rocks, minerals or fossils; contact Mike Austen, PO Box 241656, Little Rock, AR 72223, (501) 868-4553; e-mail: steelpony@aol.com; Web site: www.centralarrockhound.org

Pictures from February Field Trip









FOSSILS



FOSSILS



PETRIFIED CLAM SHELL



MISC RARE SHELLS



STINGRAY TEETH



SEA SHELLS



WHALE BONE

2014 Officers and Board Members

| Position | Name | Contact # | Email Address |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| President | Larry Maguire | (318) 284-3544 | oldhd68@gmail.com |
| V. President | Antony Thomas | (318) 518-0907 | adslthomas@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Sharron Thomas | (318) 423-2130 | adslthomas@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | John Autry | (318) 210-9416 | john.autry451@gmail.com |
| Board Member | Edna House | (318) 949-9765 | edna.house@gmail.com |
| Board Member | Nina Hustus | (318) 219-9136 | pochance@bellsouth.net |
| Board Member | Lyn Simms | (318) 347-8621 | lynsimms@gmail.com |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Antony Thomas | (319) 518-0907 | adslthomas@gmail.com |

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.

Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society

PO Box 6633

Bossier City, LA 71171-6633