

THE ROCK RATTLER

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Aquamarine- Birthstone of the month

Presidents Message - by Del Glasner

How I Got Into Paleontology –

1956 – Bored while spending the summer with grandma in Leesville, LA, I searched through a pile of driveway gravel for rocks that interested me and found my first fossil. It looked like a curled-up crawfish.

Being born and raised in Louisiana, I knew what a crawfish looked like.

1961 – While visiting my step-father's sister's husband, Ray Norman, I expressed an interest in rocks and he offered to show me a place in Louisiana where he had found some shark teeth as a kid. We made a trip to the Black Lake oil field area in central Louisiana and after a hike through the woods to a small creek with black sand, I had found my first shark teeth.

Later that year, I moved to Bangkok, Thailand. Every chance I got to dive into the Gulf of Siam, I took.

Exploring the coral reefs, I learned what tropical reefs looked like and not to mess with the sea snakes.

1968 – Moved my family to Houston and later visited the rock show where I joined the Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS) rock club and the paleontology section and learned a lot about fossils from people like the Akers. We had lots of field trips where it was easy to build a collection. Programs given at the meeting by paleontologists like Gris Garvey, Dr. Zingula, and others increased my knowledge of fossils even more.

After going on all the field trips, I was given the task as field trip chairman to organize the trips, which meant writing and printing the field trip guides, which was easy using previous guides and just changing dates; contacting landowners for permission; and inquiring about motels for overnight trips.

After being encouraged to put together a competitive fossil exhibit at one of our federation shows, I learned the rules and how to label. At the show, the exhibit was judged by paleontologists and they noted corrections and gave suggestions which were welcomed. Before the showing, I was told to name the fossils – what I thought they were and give references used to I.D. It was up to the judges to prove me wrong. Using what was learned, the next time my exhibit earned me a blue ribbon. Some years later I was elected chairman for the paleontology section of HGMS and enjoyed serving.

Before leading one of our field trips, a senior member gave me a scrap of paper with a location where I could possibly find large urchins and the oyster *Rastellum*. A member without transportation begged to travel on the scheduled field trip and was allowed. After the scheduled field trip was over, we went to the location on the scrap of paper and the sorry dog found the only *Rastellum* that was a perfect banana shape, looked like translucent brown sugar. He donated it to the museum in Houston. I would like to say he did not ride with me again.

I worked with the Boy Scouts for 12 years and donated fossils for help with their badges. I took one scout on a club field trip to Bandera, TX, where he found an unusual urchin. Later he was asked to loan it to the Akers for sketching to be added in the new book on urchins. This made him proud. Years later, he had his photo in the newspaper with a mammoth tusk he found.

Dr. Zingula, a paleontologist with EXXON, offered a 13 night class in Invertebrate Paleontology which I jumped on. Being a diver, his class was about the living animal and the fossil, which helped visualize reefs in the outcrop on land. Class pre-requirement was to learn the periods and how to spell them. This, I enlisted my wife to help me learn and test me on before the first class.

Today, some members of the gem and mineral club in Louisiana I work with have taken a shorter version of Dr. Zingula's class from me. I think I learned more than they did by preparing and teaching the class.

Digitizing my collection and uploading to myFOSSIL has forced me to re-examine the features of the fossils and finally organize and identify them. Thank goodness for the internet to help research locations, I.D. photos. My favorites on the web is bulging with website saves.

Birthstone for March is Aquamarine



Aquamarine's name comes from the Latin for seawater and it was said to calm waves and keep sailors safe at sea. March's birthstone was also thought to enhance the happiness of marriages. The best gems combine high clarity with limpid transparency and blue to slightly greenish blue hues. Like many beryls, aquamarine forms large crystals suitable for sizable fashioned gems and carvings.

Next meeting : Tuesday Mar 3, 2020 At the Bossier History Center
Meeting room Next to the Bossier Central Library 2206 Beckett St

Last meeting notes:

- Laptop purchased from Laura for \$100. And preented to Kat for use as club webmaster
- Field trip to Ron Colemans crystal mine did not show much interest. Kat is going to call and set up.
- Science fair judge volunteers are Malcome , Jeanette, Linda on Friday March 6 with \$300 award for best on Sat 7th
- Civic center now has our show deposit & we have a contract. Show is about 24 weeks away (Aug 15&16)
- Laura is now our winner of the William Holland Scholarship.
- Tom has offered to continue as a board member in the absence of one of our board members.
- Fred Peterson did a great program on Yogo Sapphires and Montana Mining

Program: ? *come-se*

Member Photos –

Del Glasner – Fossils collected on field trips



Dinosaur Tooth





Del made a mounting



(send me some of your photos)

Classes:

Del Glasner is offering a class on **Basic Lost Wax Casting** on Saturday March 14
Cost will be \$35 each person plus material cost. Hours 9:00am-5:00pm at the club
classroom.

Limited Min/max to 6 persons RSVP 318-517-7372 before March 7

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

Check our facebook page link below to confirm.

Location: 581 Rex Beard Rd. Haughton, La

Shows

March 14-15—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Annual show; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; San Antonio Event Center, 8111 Meadow Leaf Drive; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, military and seniors \$3, students \$1; 26 dealers, displays, demonstrations, silent auction supporting university scholarships, activities for children; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Drive, Canyon Lake, TX 78133, (830) 387-1766; Email: krbotx@gvtc.com; Website: SWGMS.ORG

March 27-29, 2020

Houston Spring Jewelry & Bead Show

Stafford Convention Center, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, Texas 77477, United States

C & S Events LLC / AKS Gem Shows

Bill & Kay

504-265-8830

info@aksshow.com

www.aksshow.com/

April 3-5, 2020

New Orleans Spring Jewelry & Bead Show

Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner, Louisiana 70065, United States

AKS Gem Shows

Bill Clift

504-265-8830

info@aksshow.com

<https://aksshow.com/>

April 10-12, 2020

International Gem and Jewelry Show Dallas (April)

Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N Stemmons Fwy., Dallas, Texas 75207, United States

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show - 04/24/2020

Start Date: 04/24/2020

End Date: 04/26/2020

Hours: Friday & Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 10AM-5PM

Contact: Sandra Gonzales

Contact Phone: 7204253908

Venue: The Lone Star Convention Center & Expo Center

Address:

9055 Airport Road

Conroe , TX 77303

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/RMGMTexasMineralandFossilShow>

May 23-24—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 Lancaster; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, military, seniors and students \$5, free admission for children 12 and under; contact Janice Craddock, P.O. Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76121-3975; Email: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Website: fortworthgemandmineralshow.org

INFO

Lapidary tips:

For a "Water Like" polished surface on Amber after 80,120,220,400,600,1200 ect. sanding by hand you can use a soft cotton T-shirt, or a soft felt wheel on an arbor (low RPMs). Use **Meguiars scratch X20 fine scratch & blemish remover**. Available thru stores like Walmart.



Websites that may be of interest:

Louisiana fossil gravels

<https://www.lsu.edu/mns/files/activities/fossilgravels.pdf>

Fossil hunting on the Louisiana interstate

<http://www.savorthedays.com/2012/12/fossil-hunting-along-interstate.html>

Opal Fee digging in Canada

<https://www.opalscanada.com/dig>

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianOpals>
<http://www.whaton.uwaterloo.ca/waton/s984.html>

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Send in photos of your craftwork or comments

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