

# *THE ROCK RATTLER*

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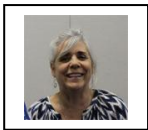
**THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**

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## Presidents Message - by Nina Hustus



I am AGING! Yup, it's true.... And one of the things I hear all the time is as we age our minds need to learn new things to keep them sharp and to keep a whole host of cognitive problems at bay. Now, if you are one of those lucky people who don't age.... well, keep reading anyway! How does this tie into our Gem & Mineral doings.... CLASSES. This is the subject most on my mind recently. Tom Stringfellow offered a one day wire wrapping class to the club members several weeks ago. It was a very well attended event. And it was FUN. Now, I don't know about you, but I love having fun while I am learning. And it was so easy to follow Tom's instructions. He did an amazing job of making something I had always thought was complicated, EASY! And, our finished pieces were beautiful, truly exceeded my expectations. If you were unable to attend this class you might want to give some thought to taking the next one. You really won't regret it. And it will help your brain stay young and agile!

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting, May 1<sup>st</sup>, back at our old meeting place, the History Center

## Minutes of April meeting:

The regular meeting was called to order by President Nina Hustus at 6:45pm, there were 18 attendees. Everyone was welcomed and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Michael Keyes gave the prayer.

- ❖ John gave the Treasure's Report (available to members )
- ❖ Del was asked for show updates, there were none
- ❖ Laura was asked for shop updates; the only shop update was that the shop would not be open on April 14<sup>th</sup> so everyone could go on the field trip.
- ❖ New board member was to be voted in.
  - Laura McWilliams was nominated by Nina Hustus
  - Laura was the only nominee
  - Laura was unanimously voted in as a board member
- ❖ Nina announced that the club would have a booth at the Texas Ave. Makers Fair on April 7<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Nina announced that the club would also have a booth at the Centenary Art Walk on April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - It was pointed out by Susan Fortenbery that it would be in the baseball area not the college proper
  - It was asked what the booth would have and it was explained that it would have information, photo boards, membership applications, etc.
- ❖ Nina gave the Rock of the Month which was Pyrite aka Fools Gold.
  - Examples had been brought in by Don and were passed around
  - The differences between real Gold and Fools Gold were explained
  - After some technical difficulties with the audio were fixed we watched a video that further explained the differences.
    - Gold is heavier than Fools Gold
    - Gold is soft and if it with a hammer it just gets thinner and flatter
    - Pyrite is flaky and brittle
    - Pyrite if hit with a hammer turns to dust
    - Pyrite is brassy
    - Gold is more yellow and is more reflective
    - Fools Gold is an indicator that Gold is in the area
- ❖ Del gave a program on what you can do with Fossils to make jewelry
  - Showed some pictures of early man jewelry items

- One was of a figure carved from ivory that represented a woman
- Another was of snail shells that had been drilled
- Another was of Eagle Talons from Croatia and was 130,000 years old
- One was a purse from Germany that the outer flap that was covered in dog teeth from 2500 b.c.
- Showed a picture of Heishe beads made from Ostrich Shells
- Another picture showed old Turquoise Beads
- There were several other pictures of shells, some had been carved or engraved, and many other types of Fossils
- Del was asked how they made the holes and he explained that they would have used a flint drill
- He also had some pictures of gorgets made from banded slate that were believed to worn as an ornament on their wrist
- He had pictures of King Tuts tomb where there was pieces of glass made by lightening strikes out in the desert sand
- A question was asked, what caused the different colors in glass made by lightening strikes and the answer was the mineral content in the sand
- He showed more modern jewelry made from fossils such as ammonites that can be found today in places such as the North Sulphur River
- It was brought out that Amber has natural analgesic properties and that it is used frequently in Europe for babies that are teething, necklaces made from Amber are placed on teething babies
- He also had pictures of things such as door knobs and drawer pulls made from fossils, bone, and petrified wood.
- Del many many pictures of some very gorgeous pieces of fossils and things made from them.

After the program everyone had a chance to examine the pieces made in the Wire Wrapping class, the examples of pyrite and fossils that had been brought in for show and tell.

Laura handled the distribution of the door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

**NEXT MEETING: "Old Location" Bossier Historical Center  
2206 Beckett St., Bossier City**

**Tuesday May 1 Meeting 6:00pm till 7:30 pm**

(Bring your Desert Roses for show and tell)

**Program :** – Michael Keys. He has put together some awesome gem identification kits and will be explaining what the tools are, how they are used and where you can purchase them. He will be bringing 2 extra kits, one to be a door prize and one for us to sell in silent auction at show.

**Rock of the Month:** - Desert Roses



**Field Trip:** - Field trip to Midlothian has been canceled at site because of water in the quarry.

## Member Spotlight: Bill Eeds



1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Springhill Louisiana and grew up just outside of town.

2. What started your interest in rocks?

I got the rock hound gene from both my maternal Grandmother and my paternal Grandfather. So I got a double-whammy. My grandmother brought home rocks from the Ozark mtns where we camped at for our family outings at Shady Lake, Arkansas. My grandfather built a large flowerbed out of large petrified wood pieces he collected over years.

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

My favorite rock adventures been when I find large amounts of petrified wood or large pieces. My favorite would have to be the largest piece of wood found in Colorado that likely weighs about 200 pounds.

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

Besides rocks, I've been an avid birdwatcher for 50 years. My mother had me helping her to fill the bird feeders after we moved to our house in the country. I started listening to and identifying them, and my longest tenured employment was at the Wild Bird Center store in Colorado. There, I sold bird seed, feeders, binos, and talked to everyone about their bird questions. 12 years worth of doing that.

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

The wisest thing anyone ever told me, my brother in law told me when I a young man to always give someone a firm handshake and look them straight in the eyes.

6. I am happiest when \_\_\_\_\_?

I am most definitely at my happiest when I'm communing with Mother Nature. Anything that gets me outdoors, hunting, fishing, birdwatching, rockhounding, or just hiking! Give me some fresh air and the smell of the forest



# Upcoming Classes & Demonstrations

## Demos

### Enameling

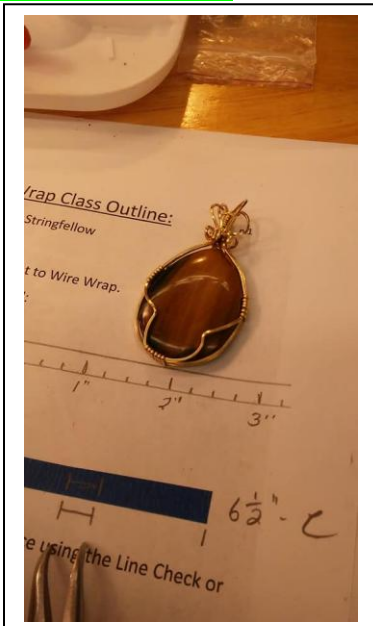
May 26, 2018 @ 1:00pm

This will be a short introduction to enameling with glass enamels over copper and silver. Certainly a great way to enhance your work by adding color!



## Member Photos

### WrapClass Photos:



### Meeting Photos:



## Centenary Art Festival



## April Rock of month (Pyrite)



## Dragon Bones



Upon looking for other ways to use Dinosaur bones I came across an interesting article in the Kids section the July 2016 issue of Rock and Gem magazine. It was called "Dragon Bones": The Drugstore Fossils by Jim Brace-Thompson. This led to searching the Internet for additional information.

It seems that Dinosaur (flying dragons) and Mammal bones has been used as a traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years.

Said to treat such ailments as insomnia, dizziness, and leg cramps hypertension, delirium, coronary heart disease, mental illness, schizophrenia, and anxiety.

Basic chemical compositions include calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate. They also contain small amounts of iron, aluminum, silicate, sodium and potassium chloride, and traces of manganese, magnesium, titanium.

Farmers made additional income by finding and selling these fossil bones and teeth. Colors of yellowish white, mixed up with blue-gray and red-brown patterns. Surface is smooth, and with small cracks occasionally. It is highly absorbent and has suction when licked with tongue. It is odorless and tasteless. Preferred quality is crisp, layered with colored patterns, and with high hygroscopicity.

Pharmacies dispense as raw for treating convulsions, as in epilepsy and calcined. Calcining is done by heating the fossil until it turns red, in a low oxygen atmosphere. This will make the bone material more suited for use as an astringent, such as to treat diarrhea, or night sweating. For the teeth, the calcining is used for treatment of insomnia and night sweats.

Delivered as crushed into a powder and boiled. Additional herbal, mineral or animal ingredients added per formula .

Example:

Bupleurum and Dragon Bone Combination	bupleurum, scute, pinellia, ginger, hoelen, cinnamon, ginseng, jujube, dragon bone, oyster shell, rhubarb	Disorders involving mental distress or tremors.
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After reading all of this I think I'll still take my medicine from a bottle and leave it up to the pharmacist as to where they get it and save my dino bones in a dusty box in the garage.

Del Glasner

## Shows

### May -South Central Federation Show

**5-6—LUBBOCK, TEXAS:** Show and sale; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-06, Sun. 10-05; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Students \$2, Children Free; 60th Anniversary show; This year the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society is Hosting the South Central Federation Convention (SCFMS). Vendors with Jewelry, Loose Stones, Rough, Cabs, Slabs, Geodes, Beads, Gemstones, Mineral Specimens, Crystals, Fossils, Spheres, and Lapidary Tools. Hourly door prizes. Drawings for two grand prizes, one for Kids and one for Adults. Numerous display cases and large rocks in our "rocks you can touch" area! Our kid's area will have games and grab bags, and we will feature our new fluorescent tent with rocks that "glow in the dark". Proceeds support the LGMS (501(c)(3) organization), and scholarships in the Earth Sciences at Texas Tech.; contact Walt Beneze, PO Box 6371, Lubbock, TX 79493; e-mail: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Web site: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

**26-27—FORT WORTH, TEXAS:** Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club, Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 West Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children 16 and under free; Gem, mineral, fossil, bead & jewelry shop ; contact Janice Craddock, PO Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76116; e-mail: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

**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; e-mail: show@agemclub.org; Web site: 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

## INFO :

TIPS:

### Cameo Care

Since cameos made of shell are especially delicate, they will require special care. While dusting, pay attention to the deep ridges in the cameo where dust is likely to collect. Dust can scratch a cameo, so it is important to keep it as dust-free as possible. After you dust it, you may rinse a shell cameo with warm water, drying it afterward with a soft cotton cloth. Afterwards, wipe the cameo down with a little oil. They should be oiled at least once a year. It is recommended that one use mineral oil. Olive oil, if it is not completely removed, may turn a cameo yellow. Shell cameos are easily damaged, so avoid using soap, harsh cleaners or commercial jewelry cleaners. Remember, use a light hand! Do not scrub the cameo! And do not leave it to soak! Shell cameos may be stored in a clean, dry place, away from heat and bright lights. It is preferable that the jewelry box containing the cameo be lined. Follow the above guidelines and you will enjoy your shell cameo for many years to come!

## Websites to look at:

### Identified Fossils of Mineral Wells Area

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIIMcH5kscw>

## Officers for 2018:

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

**Vice President – Bill Eads** wceeds@me.com 303-859-5821 Spring Hill, 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 -**

**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](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)  
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