

THE ROCK RATTLER

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Topaz Birthstone of the month

Presidents Message - by Del Glasner

Our charter with the state of Louisiana states:

“This corporation is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest and education in the earth sciences, in particular, those activities dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gem, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields.”

In line with this our new rock, fossil & mineral display at Sci-Port looks great in the new display cases donated by Mauldin’s Jewelry. Some of our members did a great job putting it together. Our plan is to change out the displays each month with some of yours.

This is a good way to show what our club is about along with the volunteers that donate a couple of hours to work on Saturdays. Our first Saturday was my turn to demonstrate Cabochon making with the flat lap and gave away free tumble polished rocks to kids and club brochures to adults. Last week instructors Laura McWilliams and Tom Stringfellow demonstrated Wire Wrapping stones. Oct 31 The Chipolotas will demo flint Knapping. Our next step is to advertise a schedule of additional activities for Saturdays in November And December. Please let us know how you would like to help.

Birthstone for November is Topaz

Orange topaz, also known as precious topaz, is the conventional [birthstone](#) for November, the symbol of friendship and the [state gemstone](#) of the U.S. state of [Utah](#).^[6]

Imperial topaz is yellow, pink (rare, if natural) or pink-orange. Brazilian imperial topaz can often have a bright yellow to deep golden brown hue, sometimes even violet. Many brown or pale topazes are treated to make them bright yellow, gold, pink, or violet colored. Some imperial topaz stones can fade on exposure to sunlight for an extended period of time.^{[7][8]}

Blue topaz is the state gemstone of the US state of [Texas](#).^[9] Naturally occurring blue topaz is quite rare. Typically, colorless, gray, or pale yellow and blue material is heat treated and [irradiated](#) to produce a more desired darker blue.^[9]

Mystic topaz is colorless topaz which has been artificially coated via a [vapor deposition](#) process giving it a rainbow effect on its surface.^[10]

Although very hard, topaz must be treated with greater care than some other minerals of similar hardness (such as [corundum](#)) because of a weakness of atomic bonding of the stone's molecules along one or another axial plane (whereas diamonds, for example, are composed of carbon atoms bonded to each other with equal strength along all of its planes). This gives topaz a tendency to break along such a cleavage plane if struck with sufficient force.^[11]

Topaz has a relatively low [index of refraction](#) for a gemstone, and so stones with large facets or tables do not sparkle as readily as stones cut from minerals with higher refractive indices, though quality colorless topaz sparkles and shows more "life" than similarly cut quartz. When given a typical "brilliant" cut, topaz may either show a sparkling table facet surrounded by dead-looking crown facets or a ring of sparkling crown facets with a dull well-like table.[†]

Read the entire text at : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topaz>

Next meeting : Tuesday at the **New Location**

Sci-Port Discovery Center, 820 Clyde Fant Pkwy. Shreveport

Time: 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

Business: Election of officers for 2021, discuss plans for our Christmas party/Auction/Scholarship drawing meeting Dec 1, 2020

Program: Regional and National Rock Clubs – By Kat Coomer
Review of past Field Trips – By Del Glasner

Member Photos –

Del Glasner

Still trying to I.D. this Louisiana Fossil in a small pebble.



Found this fossil jawbone in the badlands. May be a Tapir



Another Louisiana Shark Tooth



This might be a good place to visit this time of year, I enjoyed each visit to New Mexico and this park



Classroom/Shop: Open for members most Saturdays 10-5
Check our facebook page link below to confirm it is open just before you come.

Location: 581 Rex Beard Rd. Haughton, La

Tips & Tricks :

Lapidary

A lapidary is an artist or artisan who forms stone, minerals, or gemstones into decorative items such as cabochons, engraved gems, and faceted designs. A lapidarist uses the lapidary techniques of cutting, grinding, and polishing. Hardstone carving requires specialized carving techniques.

From Wikipedia,

Websites that may be of Interest:

Diamond Mine

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds-state-park>

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Send in photos of your craftwork or comments

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