



# The Rock Rattler

Volume 36    Number 11  
October 24, 2011

[www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)    [larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)

## President's Message

Members,

It's taking a collective effort, but we have a lot of activity in our club. Just a recap...

Our show was a success and will continue to allow us to continue with the education part of our club. Classes are popping up every time you look up, with more to come next year.

We are having more field trips to some interesting places this year. Lots of new members have joined our ranks. New equipment has been acquired.

Thursday evenings in our work shop has been busy.

Ya'll all come to the next meeting. It's election time!!

Thank all of you for a great year,  
Del Glasner, President

## Inside this Issue

Past Field Trip  
Future Field Trips  
Class Schedule  
Up Coming Shows  
November Birthstone  
Contacts

## Next Meeting

When: November 1, 2011  
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Where: Bossier Parish History Ctr  
2006 Beckett Street  
Bossier City, LA 71111  
Agenda: Concretions  
Election of Officers for 2012

## If I were a rock...

Where would I be  
What lucky person will find me  
Probably a rockhound  
I would hope to be found  
For all the world to see  
So just take a look down  
Pick me up off the ground  
Written by Antony Thomas

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.

## Minutes from October 4, 2011 Meeting

**Opening:** Del Glasner

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tom Stringfellow

**Prayer:** Al Simms

### **Old Business:**

- Treasurer's Report – John Autry
  - Checking Account and CD is great shape.
- A motion was made by Bill Hart and Seconded by Larry Maguire for the Society to purchase a Pixie grinding/polishing machine for the class room. Al volunteered to check pricing as he recently purchased one for Lyn at a very reasonable price. Vote was unanimously approved.
- Antony made a motion that the Society purchase \$100 worth of polished rocks to seed the children's' rock dig at the Gem & Mineral Show. Seconded by Bill Hart and passed by unanimous vote.

### **New Business:**

- Field Trips
  - November 11-13 – Houston Gem Show
  - December 10-11 – Deridder Gem Show
  - January 14-15, 2012 – Llano River
  - February 11, 2012 – Simpson/Toledo Bend for Palmwood (14 yrs and older)
  - March 11, 2012 – Lagrange, TX (Petrified wood)
  - April 14, 2012 – Ron Cole Mine (Lv @ 4am)
  - May 5-6, 2012 – Georgetown, TX
  - June 16, 2012 – Van Buren, AR (Lv @ 4am)
- Classes
  - Chain Male – November 12, 2011
  - Framework Beads – Two day class November 19 with Barbara Clevenger Cost \$95.00
  - Knapping – October 8, 2011 with Wil House
  - Basic Metalsmithing – 2 day class October 15 – Class Full
  - Wire wrapping – October 15 at Larry Maguire's Home
  - Casting Classes scheduled for February

## ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society 2011 Officers

President	Del Glasner	318-965-1989 Cell 318-517-7372	dglasner2001@yahoo.com
Vice President	Dwain Spillman	318-872-2193	DwainsDental@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Al Simms	318-865-2453	asimmsjr@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Autry	318-934-3319	jdouglasa@hotmail.com

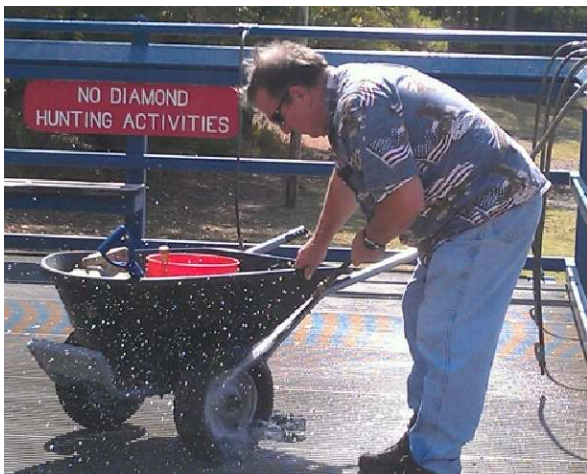
Board of Directors consisting of Officers above and---

Member	Bill Hart	318-746-8735	mufasa35@bellsouth.net
Member	Tom Stringfellow	903-839-6744	TomString@aol.com
Member	Lyn Simms	318-865-2453	lynsimms@gmail.com
Field Trip Chairman	Antony Thomas	318-518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com
Historian	Will House		
Brochures	Geraldine Zelinsky		
Editor	Sharron Thomas		adslthomas@gmail.com

## Our Last Field Trip

Where: Crater of Diamonds State Park, Murphreesboro, Arkansas

Three people attended the field trip to The Crater of Diamonds State Park. The attendees were Leland, Antony and Sharron. We met at the library at 4:30 am. We arrived at the park at 7:15 am. We had to wait until 8 for the park to open. The parking lot was completely empty when we went in to start looking for diamonds. When we left around 2 pm, it was packed with diggers looked for that BIG diamond. Of course our trip was extended a bit longer because Tony's battery was dead when we were getting ready to leave. Thanks to a pack of Boy Scouts they had jumper cables and helped us out. Tony came home with two 5 gallon buckets full of dirt hopefully laced with diamonds.



## Future Field Trips

### *January 2012*

Length of trip: 2 days (accommodations will be needed, so plan finances accordingly)

Location: Llano River and surrounding area

Approx time of travel: 10-11 hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00am from Library

Items to look for: Llanite, chert, flint, pyrite, fossils, pet wood, artifacts, agates, jasper

Children welcome: yes

### *February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

Length of trip: 1 day

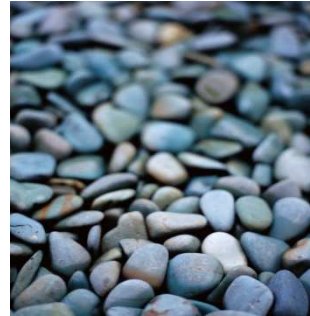
Location: Simpson/Toledo Bend area

Approx time of travel: 3hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00 am from library

Items to look for: palm wood, agate, artifacts, chert

Children welcomed: 12 and over due to rough terrain



### *March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: LaGrange, Tx and surrounding area (antique shop)

Approx time to travel: 6-7hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00 am from library

Items to look for: Agatized wood, agate, artifacts, amazing chert, flint, tektites

Children welcomed: 12 and over due to terrain



### *April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Length of trip: 1 day

Location: Ron Coleman's mine near Hot Springs Village Arkansas

Approx time of travel: 4-5 hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00 am from library

Items to look for: Quartz crystals, smoky quartz, phantom quartz

Children welcomed: yes

### *May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Length of trip: 2 days (the more participants the cheaper the accommodations)

Location: Georgetown Tx

Approx time of travel: 11 hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00 am from library

Items to look for: Palm wood, agate, chert, jasper, flint, artifacts

Children welcomed: yes

### *June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Length of trip: 1 or 2 days

Location: Van Buren/Greenwood Arkansas

Approx time of travel: 6-7hrs

Departure time and location: 4:00 am from library

Items to look for: pet wood, river chert, river jasper, artifacts

Children welcomed: 14 and over due to terrain accommodations will be provided by host if we decide to stay for 2nd day

*If anyone has an idea of where they would like to do a field trip or are looking for a specific type of item, please let me know so I can do some research and see if there is a close location that we can arrange.*

*All suggestions will be taken seriously.*

*Antony Thomas  
Field Trip Coordinator*

*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*

## Class Update

*October 15 & 16*

BASIC BEGINNING METALSMITHING had a turnout of four enthusiastic students who completed a sterling silver pendant and earring set, learning how to use the torch and flex shaft, as well as a range of hand tools common to metalsmithing.

## Upcoming Classes

*November 5 & 6*

FLAME WORKED BEADS is our next class. Off Hand Glasswork is a highly unique craft. We will apply our time to hand making basic glass beads, then move on to the more unusual Japanese Rainbow Bead, 'Bent' Beads, beads with stringers, leaf shapes, hollow beads, and more. Observers welcome.

*November 19*

BEADING WITH NATURAL MATERIALS with Barbara Clevinger. Let an experienced and talented instructor show you how to make the most of your quality beading/stringing work (no plastics or resins; natural materials only)! Five students currently signed up; room for more.

UPDATE--Handmade Chains and Chainmaille', Nov 19. Unfortunately we did not get the minimum number of students enrolled by the cutoff date of Oct 22, therefore the class was cancelled. There will be another opportunity.

Our classroom has new lamps for four stations, a new coffee pot, and more new hand tools. Come see!!!!

**Don't miss our Thursday Open Shops!!**

## Upcoming Shows

*November 12 & 13, 2011*

The Greater Southern Gem & Jewelry Show  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Trade Mart Facility, Mississippi Fairgrounds  
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
Fee: Adults \$6, Children under 6 Free

*November 11-13, 2011*

58th annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society;  
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy  
Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5  
Fee: Adults \$7, seniors and students \$6, children under 12 free;  
Web site: [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)

*November 19 & 20, 2011*

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society  
Location: Rodeo Exhibit Hall  
"The Crystal Craze"

*Helpful Hint...*

*When tumbling rocks at the final stage (polish) add a tablespoon of sugar for an extra gleam...*

**Editors Note:**

If you would like to submit information to be included in the "The Rock Rattler", but submit by email to [adslthomas@gmail.com](mailto:adslthomas@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Sharron Thomas

## November Birthstone

November's gemstone is **Citrine**. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon. One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber.

Perhaps because of its scarcity, there is little mention of Citrine used as a gemstone prior to the first century B.C. The Romans were thought to be the first to wear the yellow quartz, crafting it into



cabochon, or highly polished but unfaceted cuts of stone set into jewelry. Citrine became more popular during the Romantic Period, when artisans often favored these warm colored gems to enhance gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as a talisman against evil thoughts and snake venom. It was also considered to have medicinal properties and was commonly used as a remedy

for urinary and kidney ailments.



Sister stone to the purple quartz known as Amethyst, Citrine crystals are found in igneous metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is believed that some Citrine may have actually begun as Amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to the yellow form of quartz. Citrine is known to change color when subjected to heat and is routinely heated in the jewelry-making process to intensify its color. For this same reason, though, this gemstone should not be left in direct sunlight for a long time because it will permanently alter the color. Most Citrine is mined in Brazil, but other sources of the quartz are Bolivia and Madagascar.



A gift of Citrine is symbolic for hope and strength. With its sunny brightness, this gemstone is ideal for helping anyone to get through the tough times in life!

### Alternate Birthstone

Yellow Topaz is an alternate gemstone for those born in November. It's golden color was believed by the Egyptians to be the glow cast by the sun god Ra. Yellow Topaz ranges in color from a peachy blush to a deep cognac. A gift of this gemstone is said to symbolize friendship and to strengthen one's capacity to give and receive love.

Information was obtained from the following sources:

<http://www.about-birthstones.com/novemberbirthstone.html>

<http://www.google.com/imgres?q=citrine&hl=en&sa=X&biw=1024&bih=632&tbm=isch&prmd=imvns&tbnid=QFrmT1ZCAvTzoM:&imgrefurl=http://www.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/citrine/birthnov.htm&docid=M8g8YifZiDuhSM&imgurl=http://www.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/citrine/cit-16c.jpg&w=480&h=360&ei=OV2rToeJPMjKsQLowqXfDg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=432&vpy=321&dur=60&hovh=194&hovw=259&tx=151&ty=140&sig=113581898148574266072&page=1&tbnh=139&tbnw=196&start=0&ndsp=10&ved=1t:429,r:7,s:0>

<http://gemsandminerals.onsugar.com/>

[http://www.google.com/imgres?q=natural+topaz&hl=en&sa=X&biw=1024&bih=632&tbm=isch&tbnid=XHl2Jmd76f-12M:&imgrefurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/gemstones/51/topaz.html&docid=Z4ei31qvIU\\_jgM&imgurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/images/imagesite/giant\\_topaz\\_382x518.jpg&w=382&h=518&ei=7V6rTvaNE-ONsQKk1qXoDg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=203&vpy=151&dur=4727&hovh=262&hovw=193&tx=61&ty=148&sig=113581898148574266072&page=1&tbnh=138&tbnw=105&start=0&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:1,s:0](http://www.google.com/imgres?q=natural+topaz&hl=en&sa=X&biw=1024&bih=632&tbm=isch&tbnid=XHl2Jmd76f-12M:&imgrefurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/gemstones/51/topaz.html&docid=Z4ei31qvIU_jgM&imgurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/images/imagesite/giant_topaz_382x518.jpg&w=382&h=518&ei=7V6rTvaNE-ONsQKk1qXoDg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=203&vpy=151&dur=4727&hovh=262&hovw=193&tx=61&ty=148&sig=113581898148574266072&page=1&tbnh=138&tbnw=105&start=0&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:1,s:0)

[http://www.gehnabazaar.com/gemstones/51/topaz.html&docid=Z4ei31qvIU\\_jgM&imgurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/images/imagesite/giant\\_topaz\\_382x518.jpg&w=382&h=518&ei=7V6rTvaNE-ONsQKk1qXoDg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=203&vpy=151&dur=4727&hovh=262&hovw=193&tx=61&ty=148&sig=113581898148574266072&page=1&tbnh=138&tbnw=105&start=0&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:1,s:0](http://www.gehnabazaar.com/gemstones/51/topaz.html&docid=Z4ei31qvIU_jgM&imgurl=http://www.gehnabazaar.com/images/imagesite/giant_topaz_382x518.jpg&w=382&h=518&ei=7V6rTvaNE-ONsQKk1qXoDg&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=203&vpy=151&dur=4727&hovh=262&hovw=193&tx=61&ty=148&sig=113581898148574266072&page=1&tbnh=138&tbnw=105&start=0&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:1,s:0)