



# Arkansas Rockhound News

**May 2015**

Official Newsletter of the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

**CAGMAGS**

The Arkansas Rockhound News is published monthly by the  
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## CAGMAGS 2015 OFFICERS

**Barbara Champagne, President**

(501) 258-2576

[cagmagsprez@gmail.com](mailto:cagmagsprez@gmail.com)

**Stephanie Blandin, Vice President**

(501) 590-5760

no email access

**Sarah Dodson,**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

(501) 920-0570

[dodsonsf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dodsonsf@sbcglobal.net)

**David Dodson, Meeting Program**

**Director** (501) 920-0569

[ddodson4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddodson4@sbcglobal.net)

**David Hodge, Field Trip**

**Coordinator & Librarian**

(501) 837-6713

[dc42hodge@yahoo.com](mailto:dc42hodge@yahoo.com)

**Tom Sharp, Club Show Chairman**

(501) 379-8653

[thom61847@yahoo.com](mailto:thom61847@yahoo.com)

**Michael DeAngelis, WebMaster**

(501) 569-3542

[mtdeangelis@ualr.edu](mailto:mtdeangelis@ualr.edu)

**Bill Alcott, Newsletter Editor**

(501) 231-2030

[mrbill@fidmail.com](mailto:mrbill@fidmail.com)

## Elders Committee Members

**Mike and Anne Austen**

(501) 868-4553/912-6652

[steelpony@aol.com](mailto:steelpony@aol.com)

**Lenora & David Murray**  
(870) 255-3679  
[lenoramur@aol.com](mailto:lenoramur@aol.com)  
[davidmur99@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmur99@hotmail.com)

**Pat Kissire**  
(501) 821-2346  
[patkissire@gmail.com](mailto:patkissire@gmail.com)

**Doug Stone**  
(501) 590-9469  
[ddws@aol.com](mailto:ddws@aol.com)

## **Time and Location of Meetings:**

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November)  
6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive,  
Little Rock, AR 7221  
(Non-smoking) Visitors are always welcome!

### **2015 Meeting Schedule**

May 26<sup>th</sup>

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

July 28<sup>th</sup>

August 25<sup>th</sup>

September 22<sup>nd</sup>

October 27<sup>th</sup>

November 24<sup>th</sup>

There is no meeting in December

**Membership** Dues \$15 Individual \$25 Family  
(Yearly)

### **Mission Statement:**

The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is dedicated to promoting interest in mineralogy and the related sciences, interest in lapidary and the related arts; to encourage field trips and the enjoyment of collecting and preserving minerals as they occur in nature, and the study of geological formations, especially those of our Natural State of Arkansas. We are a small group of people that enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

Call David Hodge (501) 837-6713 to find out about the field trip plans.

## **President's Message**



Hello, I would like to introduce myself, Barbara Champagne, as the CAGMAGS 2015 President. While I am originally from Michigan, I have lived in many locations from the Florida Keys to, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and finally Arkansas. I have lived here now for 12 years and am enjoying it very much. I currently work for Fleming Electric Inc. in Bryant, where I also live. I have one daughter that lives in St. Louis. I am new to the position of President and ask that you be patient with me during my learning process.

It has been a good start to a new year. We started off on a different night in January, only to be iced out in February. March welcomed us with some new members and in April, we grew even more. Welcome New Members and it is great to have some UALR students with the group.

January was a good start to the New Year, we had a good turnout to our meeting. March was an opportunity to 'Ask Mikey' and we learned of some of the shenanigans of the Arkansas gold claims that were sold in the 1800's and our recent past. The Rock Swap at Burns Park was fun, we were able to visit and sell and trade some of our treasures. The April meeting was a trip to the Bahama's with Dr. Rene from UALR. I wish I was a student again, what an awesome experience. Some of the Group shared the good time that we had and things we saw at the Memphis Gem & Fossil

Show. We also discussed the upcoming Boy Scout Merit Day at UALR for the new badge called Mining in Society. We got a report from Tom about the Club show in October. Things are gearing up as vendors are reserving and confirming their tables.

Speaking of the Club show, SAVE THE DATE of OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, we will need Everyone's help to pull off ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOW! Please think about ways you can help, there will be tables to set up and take down, vendors to cater to, tables to be manned, as well as display cases that will need to be filled with items of learning, information, collections for public to enjoy. How can you help? If you want to volunteer please check your calendar to determine when you can be available and let us know what you would like to do, if you are willing to do anything, we will try to make it enjoyable. I had a Great time last year and am looking forward to the Marathon of Fun!

May brings a dig in Leslie! See you there! Don't forget "AUCTION NIGHT" bring up to 5 items for sale, please try not to break the bank- it might not sell, but bring some items that need new homes!

I want to thank Mike Austen our outgoing President, he has and continues to give me guidance and support in my current position. Also My Appreciation and Thanks go out to Sarah, Stephanie, David D and David H, Tom, Bill and Bill for stepping up and continuing to be leaders in our group.

See You At The Dig!

Barbara

## **Minutes of Central Arkansas Gem Mineral and Geology Society April 28, 2015**

The meeting was called to order on April 28, 2015 at Terry Library by President Barbara Champagne. We welcomed guests Holly Elliot and Lynn Barton (a geologist with Granite Mtn Quarry). Three UALR students attended: Sarah, Matt, and Kevin. It was noted that there were 4 electrical engineers on the latest field trip: Kelly Rigsby,

his friends (and new members) Randy Robinette and Robert Robinette, and George Carroll. Marc Mueller of Memphis joined the club at the Memphis show.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes from March were read, in the absence of a newsletter to print them in, and approved, as was the treasurer's report.

### **NEWSLETTER**

We have a new newsletter editor, Bill Alcott. Bill requests that items for the newsletter be to him within a week of the meeting, so that he can have the newsletter out two weeks after the meeting.

### **LIBRARY**

David Hodge will be our new librarian. He and the Austens will get together to exchange the library materials. On this note, Ann Austen suggested we consider selling off magazines older than 10 years. Mike Howard suggested doing this at the club auctions, in case club members want to bid on them. Mike Austen made a motion that we put out groups of them at the auction, if they don't sell, either put in raffle or give away at the show to promote interest in the hobby. Motion seconded, and passed. Ann also suggested we might give the books to UALR Earth Sciences dept. Mike DeAngelis will check into this at UALR.

### **BOY SCOUTS**

Two merit badges are offered. 10 boys have signed up. It will be in room 162 of the UALR science lab building.

### **SHOW REPORT**

All 23 dealers from last year want to return. 16 have already paid. Tom has had no contact with 3 dealers. 94 of 103 tables are rented. It was agreed to continue free admission to the show, which will be Oct 3-4. Volunteers are needed for table set-up, food, displays. Mention was made of having a club dinner on Friday night before the show. There will be a planning meeting soon. Tom will contact Barbara with a date.

Barbara will call NLR Parks to reserve the pavilion for next spring's swap.

## UALR

Mike DeAngelis noted that the club display has been up the whole school year and has generated a lot of interest. He mentioned that we may want to change it in a few months. It is now Arkansas specimens, and asked we think about another theme for the next one. He noted that the display is very cohesive, with nice labels, and if we wanted to, it would make a nice display all together, like in a library. Or the individuals who own the specimens could retrieve them when the display is eventually removed. He emphasized that there is no rush to do this.

## NEXT FIELD TRIP

Leslie AR fossil dig on May 16th. Go to Conway and take the exit for Highway 65 north toward Branson. Follow Hwy 65 to Leslie AR. Right before Hwy 66 there is a gravel parking lot we will meet there. Be there at 8:00 AM. If you would like to travel there as a group, contact Barbara at 501-258-2576 for meeting location in Conway. Approximate travel time is 1 hr 30-45 minutes.

## MEMPHIS SHOW

Several members were present. Mike Austen and David Hodge donated pyrite and quartz crystals for give-aways at our club's table. Ann and Mike Austen, David and Sarah Dodson, and Tom Sharp all relieved Barbara and Stephanie at the club's table so they could go buy stuff. Tom got several nice minerals for his collection. Mike and Ann went to Steve Arnold's meteorite talk and got 2 from Arkansas, a pallasite from Newport 1923 and a chondrite from a witnessed fall at Fayetteville in 1934. They also got an invite to go on a trip with him sometime soon.

Barbara bought 5 flats of minerals for the raffle for \$300. After discussion, the club voted to reimburse her.

## SHOW N TELL

John Peeler brought a recent creation—a multi use staff he'd made. George Carroll brought rocks from the Paragould trip, and a quartz specimen he'd irradiated himself.

Barbara brought a couple of fluorescent specimens she got in a grab bag at the Memphis show.

## NEXT MEETING

We will have an auction. Each member can bring up to 5 pieces to sell. The club keeps 10%. Bring money! This is always good fun. The meeting is at Terry Library on May 26 at 6:30.

## PROGRAM

Our presenter was Dr. Rene' Shroat-Lewis from UALR. Thanks to Rene' everybody now wants to go to the Bahamas. She and the UALR students on the trip were on San Salvadore Island to study the geology and ecology of a shallow marine carbonate environment. They were at the Gerace Research center, and there were 2 faculty and 11 students. In addition to the beautiful pictures, she brought a sample of the beach sand, which is carbonate not quartz. With a hand lens it was definitely different—rounded grains instead of angular. This presentation was almost enough to make us old folks want to go back to school.



I'm baaack! At the April Meeting, I told President Barbara that I'd be willing to step up to the newsletter editor's position again with a couple of stipulations: I need inputs within a week after the meeting, I'll get a newsletter out within 2 weeks after the meeting, and I'll send the completed newsletter back to Barbara for e-mailing and hardcopy distribution. The newsletter is going to be variable length instead of the previous 8 page format. I'll provide at least one article, there will be a statement from the President, and the

minutes of the last meeting. If there's no other input, it will be a short newsletter. This is where all of you come in, and I'm talking to **YOU!** Every member of this club is capable of sharing something for OUR newsletter. It doesn't have to be lengthy or hi-tech. It can be a photo and description of your favorite rock. It can be information on an upcoming TV show. It can be a new technique for polishing rocks, cleaning crystals or making jewelry. It can be photos and story of a rockhunting trip. It can be a classified ad for selling or buying equipment and materials. It can be any rock, gem, or geology information that's new to you that someone else might not know and may want to. If I can't get that support from y'all, I'll get a newsletter out anyway, but it'll be short. For time sensitive articles and information, please see the see the schedule I've come up with and get these to me in time to get into the appropriate newsletter. For items that aren't time sensitive, just get them to me! A few of us will get this newsletter back to minimums. It'll take all of us working together to get it up to a great newsletter. I ask for your help!

Bill Alcott  
430 Stoney Point Church Rd  
Beebe, AR 72012-9688  
(501) 231-2030 (cell)  
(501) 882-2526 (home)  
[mrbill@fidmail.com](mailto:mrbill@fidmail.com)

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## NEWSLETTER COMPLAINT FORM

I am unhappy with the CAGMAGS newsletter for the following reason(s):

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By submitting this form, I am volunteering to take over as newsletter editor and do a better job!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Do You Know Victoria Stone?

Several years ago, I happened upon several specimens of a wildly chatoyant stone in a shop buy-out. I was instantly hooked on it and started a quest for information. What I found out, it now appears, is that most of what I thought I knew was false. Here's just a few of the "facts" that are now shown to be "myths";

1. "Dr. Iimori made Victoria Stone by blending several different minerals together using a special process known only to him."

***True or false: This one is false.***

2. "To protect his market, Dr. Iimori did not patent his process. Instead he preferred to keep the manufacturing process a secret, even from his family."

***True or false: Sorry folks, it turns out that the most intriguing part of the Victoria Stone story is absolutely false.***

3. "Dr. Iimori kept the process a secret, even from his family. When he passed away the process was lost."

*True or false: This is also false.*

4. "Iimori Stone is the real name of Victoria Stone."

*True or false: No, this is false.*

Walter Hadfield, of Gemtree Creative Designs, has been in contact with the Iimori family and is working toward setting the record straight about Victoria Stone. You are cordially invited to visit his website at:

[www.gemtreecreativedesigns.com/jewelryinfo/victoria-stone-part-1-page-1.htm](http://www.gemtreecreativedesigns.com/jewelryinfo/victoria-stone-part-1-page-1.htm)

to read the real story of this fascinating gemstone.

The Iimori family would appreciate your help in spreading this corrected information, and although the website itself is copyrighted, this article may be freely copied and reprinted.

William J. Alcott  
Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology  
Society

## FOR SALE

10" Slab Saw with two blades.

Montgomery Ward Brand.

Asking \$400.00.

Contact Lynn Burton at (501) 847-9791.

# FIELD TRIP

Barbara mentioned it in her message, and Sarah gave details in the minutes of last meeting, but I thought it would be worth posting a stand-alone comment about the upcoming field trip.

Leslie AR fossil dig on May 16th. Go to Conway and take the exit for Highway 65 north toward Branson. Follow Hwy 65 to Leslie AR. Right before Hwy 66 there is a gravel parking lot we will meet there. Be there at 8:00 AM. If you would like to travel there as a group, contact Barbara at 501-258-2576 for meeting location in Conway. Approximate travel time is 1 hr 30-45 minutes.

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