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Arkansas Rockhound News

June 2011

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

CAGMAGS

The Arkansas Rockhound News is published monthly by the **Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society**

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Website: www.centralrockhound.org

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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Next meeting is July 26, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-804-2331) to find out about the field trip plans.

2011 Officers:

President: Mike Austen

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Secretary/Treasurer: Lenora Murray

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Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Dave Murray

Editor: Bill Alcott

Club Contact: Ann Austen

Sunshine Chairman: Angelee Peeler

Junior Programs: Obe Willix

Webmaster: Bill Alcott

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

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.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Jan 11	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 26
May 24	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23
Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 22	

There is no meeting in December

President's Message



The weather was better for the last meeting, and we had a large turnout. Our club seems to be growing, but I would like to see more members joining in to help out the club in all areas. We have a few people that do most of the work year after year. One way to learn more about your club and hobby is to jump in and help. You can make new friends, learn what others are interested in, and you just might have fun. The show is only a few months away so we all need to start making plans for it. The club needs everyone to pitch in and make it a great show. If you are going to put on a demonstration or if you have a display to show off, let Dave know. The time to start planning is now. Don't wait till it is too late and say, oh well maybe next year.

The club might have a silent auction table at the show this year, if we have enough material to sell. If you have anything to donate, let me know as soon as you can so we know where we stand on the auction. When you are out on field trips this summer, pick up some extra material to donate. Remember to stay safe, it is really hot out there, so pace yourself and don't over do it.

Mike

MINUTES for the JUNE Meeting of Central Ark. Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

The April meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen on Tuesday June 28 2011 at the Terry Library. There were 26 members and one visitor, Christian Herzog, present, with Reese Watson receiving a June birthday rock (Mike didn't give himself one). Some upcoming show dates are; St Louis August 19-20 and the Midwest Federation at Toledo, OH on Sept 9-11. Our next meeting will be July 26. In other announcements, there were more diamonds found at the Crater of Diamonds park. Mike also shared an article about dinosaurs from the newspaper. And we have a club artist, David Dodson, who will have a one-man photography show at the Forrest City College beginning July 6.

REPORTS: The secretary-treasurer report for MAY was approved as posted. Our Librarian, Anne Austen, brought 2 books donated by Tom Sharp: Midwest Gem Trails and a Pictorial Guide to Fossils. She also had copies of the Mineralogical Record to check out. Anne reminded us that if you want any of the many books on the library list, please call her so she can bring them to the meeting for you to check out. Since James Burns, the field trip chair, was not present, there was no new field trip planned, but a discussion was held. It was agreed a trip to the Magnet Cove creek would be appropriate in this weather. Last month the third field trip to the Geology Commission led by Mike Howard was a huge success, according to the report given by John Peeler and George Gray-Major. If you missed out, on these, give Mike Austen a call to see about a future date for the next one.

Old Business -A quick reminder that the AUGUST meeting will be a club auction, so mark your calendars and get those 5 items you CAN live without ready for the auction! Dave Murray announced almost all the inside tables are sold, but we have room for outside vendors. We need a food vendor or club member to organize the concession area. The SHOW FLYERS are available, thanks to the hard work of David Dodson, and members are encouraged to pick

some up and hand them out on their travels. Also, please think about volunteering at the show—as a demonstrator or helper at the club table or kitchen. We had three volunteers: BJ Frost, Pearl Roth, and Mike Howard who all agreed to demonstrate again this year. Please contact show chair Dave if you are able to help!

New Business – Sarah and Dave Dodson donated some old magazines for club members: Rocks Digests and Big Rocks Trader. Although 'older' the articles are still quite informative. Mike Austen mentioned a big study being conducted by Northwestern University and the Smithsonian on AMBER. He gave a brief synopsis of the huge article, and mentioned they are looking for folks to contribute amber for the project.

Show and Tell: Mike Austen brought an "Arkansas Minerals" card he found at a yard sale. It was identified as one made by long-time member Meredith York, and sold in various gift shops somewhere in the 70's. Mike Howard shared some rocks sent to him from Crowley Ridge, a carnelian, and the interior of a brachiopod coated with yellow agate. Carl Hill brought in a glass sphere identified as an old Japanese fishing float. Bill Ridley showed a big Razorback Pig Tusk from the Island of Palau in the Pacific. And George Gray-Major brought in a huge cabinet size specimen from Morocco containing 5 trilobites and other fossils in matrix. Thanks for sharing guys!

Raffle: The two best of show pieces won by Carl Hill, a stilbite specimen from India and Angelee Peeler, a carved frog.

Program: Pearl Roth gave an interesting slide presentation about a trip to the Gallatin Forest in Great Falls Montana and Yellowstone National Park in 1988. What made it unusual is that she and her sister were there during the big Yellowstone fire of the summer of '88. So many of the sites they hoped to visit were off limits. But they can say they were there during a historic time. She had many facts about Yellowstone, and the fire. There were over 25,000 firefighters who helped fight the blazes. And the damage done by the fire is still visible. Thanks for a very interesting program Pearl. And thanks to John Thaden for his expertise in

setting up the projector !
There being no other business, the meeting was
adjourned . Respectfully submitted, Lenora
Murray, secretary- treasurer

Members' Birthdays coming up

JUNE

Mike Austen
Barry Findley
Madelyn Anderson
Steve Losey
Tom Sharp
Reece Watson
Obe Willix

JULY

George Gray Major
Bill Alcott
Mitchell Meux
Philip Nierstheime
Mike Howard

Happy Birthday!

Low cabochon: This has a much flatter top than the simple cabochon. It is suited for softer stones, such as turquoise, where a high, protruding top is apt to be chipped and worn dull in a comparatively short time.

High cabochon: It has an especially high top and is thus more suitable for a hard stone. Translucent materials, such as chalcedony or quartz, are well adapted to the style because they will yield a high gloss polish while also preserving and enhancing the greatest depth of color from the stone.

Hollow cabochon: The hollow cabochon has a concave bottom or back. This style of cutting is used for dark, transparent stones where the light passing through the stone is largely lost. Carbuncles, or deeply colored garnets, have their beauty enhanced when cut this way.

Double cabochon: This is a style where both the top and bottom of the stone have been cut in convex domes. Both sides have been polished and the curvature on the back is typically less than that on the top. This cut is useful when the stone is either transparent, translucent, or has inclusions. Moss agate is a likely stone to be cut this way.

Lentil cabochon: This is like the double cabochon cut in that both the top and the bottom have been cut and polished in convex domes. However, unlike the double cabochon cut the lentil cabochon features identical curves on the top and bottom of the stone.
Author unknown, original source unknown, taken from The Voice, El Paso M&G Society El Paso Texas, August 2007, via Quarry Quips, August 07

A TIP FOR POLISHING WITH CERIUM OXIDE

As a newbie, I find things as I go that may or not be news to anyone else. The most recent is that cerium oxide on a felt wheel does a MUCH better job of polishing if it's just barely damp. I had been soaking the felt and getting marginal results. I waited a bit longer than normal to spray the wheel, and let it get almost dry. When the stone started to grab, I took it off the wheel and noticed a much brighter shine on that spot. I've been fighting the grab ever since! *Bill Alcott*

To Clean Flourite, do not use hot water or even warm water – the luster will vanish forever. And the specimen will crack along cleavage planes very easily. It can be placed in muriatic acid to remove calcite, and then washed in cold water.

Taken from: The Tulip City Conglomerate, Tulip City G&M Club Holland Michigan, June 2007, via Quarry Quips, Aug 07

Variations of the Cabochon

The word cabochon comes from the French en cabochon, meaning "like a bald head". The similarity of a bald, shining pate to the rounded top of the gemstone is quite apparent. Other than that, here are a few descriptions of the different types of cabochon cuts:

Simple cabochon: It has a flat back and a simple, curved top. Then, looked at from above, the stone may be round or elliptical, square or rectangular, or any other freeform shape.

There is always something to be thankful for, for example, wrinkles don't hurt!

Via golden Spike News 8/01 via SCRIBE 2009 DVD

FIND THE MISSING GEMSTONE

Reveal the missing gemstone by searching for the gemstones listed below. What you're looking for is the one gemstone that's not on the list. Good luck!

Amethyst	Pearl
Aquamarine	Ruby
Emerald	Sapphire
Garnet	Topaz
Jade	Turquoise
Lapis	Zircon
Opal	The missing gem: _____

R I K T E R U B Y F I N A C K X
 E S T U R K L E S T Q Z M B G A
 M X L A P I S I X R B H E C S Q
 E R C K D I A M O N D X T Z I U
 R J M O L A P W D O Q U H R T A
 A C G E V E P J T C H F Y O O M
 L I D A M K H O T R G U S I P A
 D N X Y R U I M S I E V T U A R
 N R C K I N R O U Z T B S R Z I
 U K Z J A D E E C K V N Y E Q N
 M I U F I V X T U R Q U O I S E
 R O U C E Y G U B W U R P C K G
 Y P K T F O E G D S P E A R L H
 U A F R I G R K W C Z H L U X M
 Q F I J B T X O I K A P Y M Z T

Submitted by our very own George Gray Major.

Is it Citrine, or Topaz? Clean the stone, then, using a toothpick, put a drop of water on the table of the stone.

The water will form a high bubble on real topaz. On quartz, the water flattens out.

Is it a CZ (Cubic Zirconia), or Diamond? If the stone is loose, turn it upside down on its table and slide it over a thin black line on a piece of paper. When looking straight down through a CZ, you will see a circle in the center of the stone. A diamond won't do this. *From Delvings - 11/04 by Don Ashbury Via The "Rock Rollers" Spokane June 2005 via The Rock Vein, Dec 2005*

Preserving Halite & Hanksite : Hanksites and some of the minerals from the deeper brines at Searles Lake need to be oiled monthly to prevent humidity in the air from breaking down the surface and turning it a powdery white. Salt crystals are a little different, and oil is not recommended. Many prefer to let them dry in a very low humidity environment, on newspapers or what have you, then when they are truly dry (this takes a while, the bigger the specimen, the longer you must wait for it to dry), you spray them with a non-yellowing acrylic spray to preserve them. **Tip:** when drying out salt crystals take thin plastic and drape it across the top of the crystals to avoid dust building up on the crystal faces while they dry. The dust is very hard to remove and gets embedded in the crystal cavities. This way, before you lay on the acrylic, the surface is clear and you can create a reliable barrier between the mineral and the air. Some say that the acrylic will last up to 7 years (this from folks where humidity is a factor). Keep specimens out of direct sunlight to preserve color. If you have smaller pieces, you may consider small acrylic boxes. I get mine from US Acrylic for a couple bucks for an 8" x 5" x 5" size box which holds nicer specimens. *From LA-Rocks of 10/30/05 (summarized by Tina), Via The "Pegmatite Bulletin" San Diego September 2005 via The Rock Vein, Dec 2005*

A Handy Gadget:

The next time you're in the lumberyard or home improvement store, pick up a pack of carpenter's shims. Traditionally, they're just wedges of wood, but I've seen them made of a resin and wood chip composite, Slip a pair of them under the short leg of a wobbly table or tool and adjust to fit. Keep one by the trim saw to slide the scraps away from the blade and scoop up the mess when you're done. Use one as a straightedge for getting the slabsaw lined up with the right spot on that rock you want to cut. Use one like a spatula in your cabbng machine to clean up the accumulated rock dust and grit. (while it's damp) *Bill Alcott*

THIS PAGE RESERVED FOR MEMBER'S ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

Articles and photos may be *emailed* to your newsletter editor at
mister.bill@starband.net

mailed to:
Bill Alcott
430 Stoney Point Church Road,
Beebe, AR 72012,

Or *brought* to a monthly meeting.

If you have hard copy photos and you give me an advance notice, I'll
bring the laptop and a scanner and scan them right there at the
meeting.

ROCKHOUNDS ON THE PROWL

Ten happy rockhounds set out,
Just feeling fine.
One forgot directions,
Hence, proceeding nine.

Nine eager rockhounds
Hurried, not to be late.
One ignored a stop sign.
Their numbers shrunk to eight.

Eight determined rockhounds.
The sun blazed down from Heaven
So hot, one had a heat stroke.
Thus, there were seven.

Seven thoughtful rockhounds
Digging with their picks.
A flying rock engaged one's eye,
And there remained – six.

Six silent rockhounds
Working hard, did strive
To climb a cliff, but one lost foot
And, quickly, there were five.

Five wary rockhounds
A cave went to explore.
One took no light, nor knew the way,
So there emerged just four.

Four worried rockhounds
A deserted mine did see,
But failed to note a blasting cap,
Which blew up, leaving three.

Three discouraged rockhounds,
Their plans all askew,
Went their separate ways to hunt.
One's still lost, leaves two.

Two just-plain-scared rockhounds
Sat feeling quite undone
Beneath an overhanging rock
Which gave way, sparing one.

One dejected rockhound
Sadly thought, "What fools,

It's such a crime, not one took time,
TO LEARN OUR SAFETY RULES."

from Napa Gems 11/2004, Napa Valley Rock and Gem
Club, via the Petrified Log 11/2004, via Tumbler
04/1999, via Diablo Diggins 02/2005

TALC – THE MINERAL THAT WON THE WAR

If your only contact with talc is the powder that comes from cans, the above statement may seem absurd, but it is not far from the truth. Ben M. Page in California Division of Mines Special Report 8 "Talc Deposits of Steatite Grade, Inyo County California" states Steatite is exceptionally pure talc suitable for the manufacture of high-frequency radio insulators and for other exacting uses. It was a critical mineral during World War II. At the beginning of the war there was a single major domestic source, the Talc City mine, Inyo County California. During WWII the government decreed that all the steatite was to be used in high-frequency radios. There are two definitions of steatite, the mineralogical definition of massive talc, and the commercial one. The commercial definition of steatite is that it is talc having less than 1.5% lime (CaO), 1.5% Ferric oxide (Fe₂O₃), and 4% alumina (Al₂O₃) as impurities. It was used in two forms. Blocks of "Lava" talc were machined into the desired shape and then fired to make ceramic insulators. The second and more common method was to grind the talc, and mix it with a binder. This mixture was then molded into the desired shape and fired. During and after WWII the Southern Inyo Mountains were extensively prospected and 18 talc mines were put into operation. All have since closed, and most have been abandoned. The most extensive deposits were at the Talc City Hills located north of Darwin. The talc is a dull gray, and makes for uninteresting specimens at best. But if you do not have any in your collection you do not have the mineral that won the war. If you still wonder why I call it that, the most

important high-frequency radio it was used in was called RADAR!

By Walt Margerum From The Mineralogical Society of Southern California (July '02), Via The Rollin' Rock (Aug. '02), via Fire & Ice (Jun 2003)

TALC TIPS

- In icy weather, rub talc on your automobile door seals to prevent the doors from frosting up.
- If you have problems with rabbits getting into your garden, spread a band of scented talcum powder around the garden border to keep them out. Rabbits don't like the smell and will not cross the powder. It really works!
- Grease on upholstered furniture can be removed by sprinkling talcum powder over the mark. Let stand for 15 minutes or until grease is absorbed. Brush off the powder. Repeat if necessary.
- For squeaky clean crystal glasses, wash them in a mixture of water and talc and dry with a tea towel.
- If your automobile engine is leaking oil and you can't find the source, try dusting the clean engine surfaces with talcum powder. The powder will absorb the oil and you'll be able to follow the oil's trail in the talc.
- Stop floor boards from squeaking by sprinkling liberal amounts of talcum powder over the area and cover with a cloth. Walk over the area repeatedly to work the powder into the cracks. Add more powder and repeat. This should silence the squeak.
- Talcum powder can help frustrated golfers to practice putting indoors during the winter months! Dip the golf ball in talcum powder and position the ball so that the club at impact hits the back of the powdered ball. After the putt, examine the clubface and you will see the point where you contacted the ball.
- If you wet the pages of a book accidentally, sprinkle each page with talc

and spread it with a soft cloth. Leave the book under a weight for a few days and then brush off the excess talc. The pages of your book will be like new again.

- To keep your scissors from getting sticky when you are cutting a sticky surface, dust the blades with talcum powder before cutting.

From The Luzenac Group (www.luzenac.com/talc-innov.html), Via The Rollin' Rock (Aug. '02), via Fire & Ice (Jun 2003)



Clean Saw Oil

The next time you clean your slab saw, line the bottom with a double layer of burlap. When it's time to clean again pick up the liner by the corners and let it drain overnight on the carriage. Most of the sludge will be trapped inside the burlap and easily disposed of. The oil left is much cleaner and may probably be used again.

From Las Vegas and Gem Time via The Green Valley Rocker, The Rocky Reader and The Golden Spike News. Via Rock Chips 12/98

STAY SAFE, STAY COOL!