



Arkansas Rockhound News



Happy Father's Day
June 2009

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

Next Meeting: June 23, 2009, 6:30 PM - Terry Library

Please call James to find out about the June field trip.
He should have something exciting planned.

2009 CAGMAGS Annual Show
October 3-4, 2009
More info to come!!

2009 Meeting Schedule

June 23	September 22
July 28	October 27
August 25	November 24

CAGMAGS

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

Colors: Blue and White

Website: www.centralarrockhound.org

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Time and Location of Meetings:

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November) 6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212,
(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 who enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

2009 Officers:

President: Jim Schenebeck 501-223-3668 jsjimstone@yahoo.com

Vice President: Mike Austen steelpony@aol.com

Past President: David Murray 870-255-3679 davidmur99@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Kissire, 4900 Sparks Rd., Little Rock, AR 72210, 501-821-2346,
pkissire@sbcglobal.net

Committees / Chairs Programs: TBA **Library:** Ann Austen **Membership:** TBA

Field Trips: James Burns 501-568-0315 **Show Chair:** TBA

Editor/Webmaster: Barbara & Phillip Nierstheimer phillspa@hotmail.com

President's Message Jim Schenebeck

Rockhounds:

Not much going on right now. The heat is upon us and hunting in this heat is not pleasant.

We had a good meeting and thanks to Tom Sharp we got to look at his last gathering at Razor Rock. Tom seems to find some very interesting material, guess he has a good eye for it. Since we are missing some of our programs I have asked everyone to bring just one rock that interests them and that should make a good show and tell and should be very interesting. We also have a group that wants to put together a table of rocks, the ones that look like food, just like they have done in Memphis. I saw it a few years ago and it was fantastic. If anyone has any rocks that look like food then please let us know, we would like to use your rocks and you will get them back. Just put your name on the bottom.

That is about it for now so happy hunting and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Jim Schenebeck



June Birthstone: Alexandrite

The **alexandrite** variety displays a color change (*alexandrite effect*) dependent upon light, along with strong [pleochroism](#). Alexandrite results from small scale replacement of aluminium by [chromium](#) oxide, which is responsible for alexandrite's characteristic green to red color change. Alexandrite from the [Ural Mountains](#) in [Russia](#) is green by daylight and red by incandescent light. Other varieties of alexandrite may be yellowish or pink in daylight and a [columbine](#) or [raspberry](#) red by incandescent light. The optimum or "ideal" color change would be fine emerald green to fine purplish red, but this is exceedingly rare. Because of their rarity and the color change capability, "ideal" alexandrite gems are some of the most expensive in the world.

According to a widely popular but controversial story, alexandrite was discovered by the Finnish mineralogist [Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld](#), (1792 -1866) on the [tsarevitch](#) Alexander's sixteenth birthday on April 17, 1834 and named alexandrite in honor of the future Tsar [Alexander II of Russia](#). Sometimes, [Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld](#) is confused with his son, [Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld](#) (1832–1901), also a famous Finnish geologist, mineralogist and Arctic explorer who accompanied his father to the Ural Mountains to study the iron and copper mines at Tagilsk in 1853. However, Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld was only two years old when Alexandrite was discovered and only ten years old when a description of the stone was published under the name of Alexandrite for the first time.

Although it was Nordenskiöld who discovered alexandrite, he could not possibly have discovered and named it on Alexander's birthday. Nordenskiöld's initial discovery occurred as a result of an examination of a newly found mineral sample he had received from Perovskii, which he identified as emerald at first. After the discovery of emeralds in the roots of an upturned tree, the first emerald mine had been opened in 1831, not long before Nordenskiöld had received this particular sample. [5] Confused with the high hardness however, he decided to continue his examinations. Later that evening, while looking at the specimen under candlelight, he was surprised to see that the color of the stone had changed to raspberry-red instead of green. Later, he confirmed the discovery of a new variety of chrysoberyl, and suggested the name "diaphanite"[2] (from the Greek "di-", twice- and "aphanès", inapparent[[dubious](#) – [discuss](#)]).

The name of the first person to actually find this stone is unknown. However, the first person to bring it to public attention, and ensure that it would be forever associated with the Imperial family was Count Lev Alekseevich Perovskii (1792-1856.)[6]

The finest alexandrines up to 5 carats (1,000 mg) are being found in the Ural Mountains, but the largest cut stones are in the 30 carats (6.0 g) range, though many fine examples have been discovered in [Sri Lanka](#) (up to 65 cts.), [India \(Andhra Pradesh\)](#), [Brazil](#), [Myanmar](#), and especially [Zimbabwe](#) (small stones usually under 1 carat (200 mg) but with intense color change). Overall, stones from any locale over 5 carats (1.0 g) would be considered extremely rare, especially gems with fine color change. Alexandrite is both hard and tough, making it very well suited to wear in jewelry.

The gem has given rise to the adjective "alexandritic", meaning any transparent gem or material which shows a noted change in color between natural and incandescent light. Some other gem varieties of which alexandritic specimens have been found include [sapphire](#), [garnet](#), and [spinel](#).

Some gemstones described as lab-grown (synthetic) alexandrite are actually [corundum](#) laced with trace elements (e.g., [vanadium](#)) or color-change [spinel](#) and are not actually chrysoberyl. As a result, they would be more accurately described as simulated alexandrite rather than synthetic but are often called [Czochralski](#) Alexandrite after the process that grows the crystals.

**Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society
Minutes for May 25, 2009**

President Jim Schenebeck called the meeting to order. There were 20 members present.

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved as posted.

Ann Austen, librarian, presented an inventory for us of the books, magazines and DVD's we have. There are several items that have been checked out and not returned at this time. She will be contacting members to get the items returned and continue to add to the inventory as she receives other items. The list will be on the website.

There was no field trip report since the April Trip was the Burns Park Club Swap and the first part of May was rained out.

Flyers for the October Rock Show are available for anyone who can distribute them.

The meeting was adjourned.

Best of raffle went to Weldon Kissire – Fluorite and George Gray-Major – Agate egg.

Tom Sharp, who had brought several specimens collected on the March Field Trip to Razor Rock, presented the program. He had petrified wood, coral, coral with drusy, red coral, a geode segment with crystal, several agates some with blue or red banding, chert with banding and a conglomerate that was silicate not iron oxide. His specimens pointed out the variety that is offered on the trips to Razor Rock as well as the ease of collecting there. Good job, Tom, and thanks for the program.

Everyone had a good visit after.

Respectfully submitted.

Pat Kissire, Sec/Tres.



MINERAL of the Month: Chrysoberyl

The [mineral](#) or [gemstone](#) **chrysoberyl**, not to be confused with [beryl](#), is an [aluminate](#) of [beryllium](#) with the formula BeAl_2O_4 . [1] The name chrysoberyl is derived from the [Greek](#) words *chrysos* and *beryllos*, meaning "a gold-white spar". Despite the similarity of their names, chrysoberyl and beryl are two completely different gemstones. Chrysoberyl is the third-hardest natural gemstone and lies between [corundum](#) and [topaz](#) on the [hardness scale](#). [2]

An interesting feature of its crystals are the [cyclic twins](#) called *trillings*. These twinned crystals have a hexagonal appearance, but are the result of a triplet of twins with each "twin" taking up 120 degrees of the cyclic trilling.

There are three main varieties of chrysoberyl: ordinary yellow chrysoberyl, cat's eye or cymophane, and alexandrite. Although yellow chrysoberyl was referred to as chrysolite during the Victorian and Edwardian eras, that name is no longer used in the gemological nomenclature.

Ordinary *chrysoberyl* is a yellowish-green, transparent to translucent *chrysoberyl* and has often been referred to in the literature as chrysolite due to the common olive color of many of its gems, but that name is no longer used in the gemological nomenclature. When the mineral exhibits good pale green to yellow color and is transparent, then it is used as a gemstone.

Alexandrite, a strongly [pleochroic](#) (trichroic) gem, will exhibit emerald green, red and orange-yellow colors and tend to change color in artificial light compared to daylight. The color change from red to green is due to strong absorption of light in the yellow and blue portions of the spectrum. Typically, alexandrite has an emerald-green color in daylight but exhibit a raspberry-red color in incandescent light.

Cymophane is popularly known as cat's eye. This variety exhibits pleasing [chatoyant](#) or opalescence that reminds one of an eye of a cat. When cut to produce a cabochon, the mineral forms a light-green specimen with a silky band of light extending across the surface of the stone.

(Birthstone and mineral of the month courtesy of www.wikipedia.com.)

Club T-shirts

They are a Royal Blue with a large Club logo and the established club date.

Sizes are Medium, Large, X-Large, and XX-Large Price is \$8 each.

Contact George-916-221-1568

 Dave and Lenora Murray are now OFFICIAL Arkansas dealers for the GEM SCOOP . (Now known as the TREASURE SCOOP)

We have the old standby 36" and a new 42" scoop. Both will be available at the rock show in October, along with great rock hammers. Or, call us , and we can bring yours to the club meeting.

That's **D.L.M. Gem 'N' STEM** at 870-255-3679.

 In November 2006 John, Obe, and Aaron Willix acquired the Rock & Mineral collection created by Hughey Howard Killough. Over 5000 rocks (moss agates, fossils, copper ore, petrified wood, chalcedony, plume agates, thunder eggs, rose quartz, wulfenite, halite, amethyst, quartz, jade, tiger eye, etc.), four agate windows, a large Brazilian agate, a large Arkansas quartz crystal, 7 large antique oak display cabinets, one ring cabinet, over 156 pieces of jewelry, lamps, stands and various other misc. items.

Presently the collection is on display in Magnet Cove, Arkansas and can be seen by appointment. Anyone with an interest in rocks and minerals is welcome. Just call or email **John** 501-351-0049 or jwillix@newcopiers.net, **Obe** 501-804-2331, or **Aaron** 501- 337-0511. The best times for us are Wednesdays all day or Saturday after 1 PM. Please feel free to visit us. We would like to share the collection with everyone. Prices anywhere from give away to trade to \$1 to \$2500. We are open minded and just having fun.

2009 Show Dates

JUNE 2009:

26-28--BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA: 44th annual show and swap; Lawrence County Rock Club; Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, from the junction with IN 37, go south on IN 45S for 1.2 miles, then right (west) on Airport Road for 0.7 mile; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment and supplies, rockhounding and prospecting supplies, 4-H project material, science project material; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812) 295-3463; www.lawrencecountyrockclub.org

26-28--GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

27-28--LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI: Osage Rock & Mineral Club; 8th annual show; The Country Club Hotel and Spa, 301 Carol Rd.; Sat. 11-5, Sun. 11-5; free admission; gemstones, jewelry, meteorites, geodes, fossils, minerals, quartz crystals, custom jewelry, cabochons, gift items, demonstrations, displays, kids' games, prizes; contact Roger Varvel, (417) 532-4367; e-mail: rvarvel@fidnet.com

JULY

2009:

10-12--MARIETTA (ATLANTA), GEORGIA: Show; Frank Cox Productions; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.; Fri. 1-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; gems, jewelry, beads; contact Frank Cox Productions, 755 S. Palm Ave. #203, Sarasota, FL 34236, (941) 954-0202; frankcox@comcast.net; www.frankcoxproductions.com