



Arkansas Rockhound News



June 2010

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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CAGMAGS
4900 Sparks Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72210

Next Meeting: June 22, 2010 6:30 PM - Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-337-0511) to find out about the field trip plans.

2010 Officers:

President: Mike Austen steelpony@aol.com

Phone 868-4553

Vice President: Tom Sharp

thom61847@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Schenebeck

jsjimstone@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Kissire

4900 Sparks Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72210

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Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Weldon Kissire

Editor: Barbara Nierstheimer

Club Contact: Lenore Murray

Sunshine Chairman: Angelee Peeler

Junior Programs: Obe Willix

Webmaster: Phillip Nierstheimer

phillspa@hotmail.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

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.

2010 Meeting Schedule

June 22	July 28	August 31
September 28	October 26	November 23

President's Message



May has been a very busy month so far, for both the club and myself. I managed to make two field trips out of a possible four, one rock sale, and my Godson's wedding. That includes trips to Tyler Texas, Omaha Nebraska and Des Moines Iowa. And I thought in retirement you could just relax and smell the rocks or was that roses? Looking ahead to June, the 1st is my birthday and I expect to get lots of nice gifts from everyone now that you have all been warned.

The club is planning a combination field trip, potluck meal, and swap for June. This is an all day event at the Burns place in Malvern, I hope everyone can make it to at least some part of the event. The reason you joined the club was to have fun, meet people, get out and hunt for rocks and maybe learn a little something along the way, now this is your chance. This is sure to be a big part of the Arkansas summer social season, or at least our club's scene, so don't miss out. Details will be sent out shortly.

Remember to be safe this summer as this is the time of year for hot sun, nasty bugs, snakes etc. Take it slow, drink plenty of water, have bug spray and a first aid kit handy. It would be a shame to get hurt and have to stay home while others are out there having fun. So be safe and live to hunt rocks another day.

MIKE

April Rockhounds - Happy Birthday to club member Weldon Kissire, Nancy Thaden, Jerry Roth, James Bauldree, David Theis, and Sharon Watson

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Club events

June 20 Field trip and picnic at the James Burns home in Malvern

Oct 2-3 Club Show at Jacksonville

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

Minutes for May 25, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the President, with 14 members and one new face Gerald Delavan. Birthday presents were handed out to Nancy Thaden, Sharon Watson and Jerry Roth. Up coming events are Crater of the Diamonds show June 5, Tulsa show June 4-6 and the Park Hill show June 10-12. Tom Sharp gave a field trip report on Razor Rock, and Reece Watson gave a report on the Miller Mt. trip with the Mountain Home club. The June field trip, picnic and swap at Malvern were talked about. Details will be sent out later as James Burns was not at the meeting. Meeting dates for the rest of the year were talked about since not all of the fourth Tuesdays are open at the library. A possible joint picnic and swap with the Memphis club for July was mentioned. Gerald Delavan had some quartz from Jeffery's Quarry and other places to show. The winners for the best of show raffle prizes were George Gray Majors a nice Amethyst cluster and Reece Watson with a stone and wood box. The program was a show on Hot Springs Park. Next month the program will be on Arkansas Quartz given by Mike Howard. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Austen

FIELD TRIP PICNIC

SWAP MEET

Sunday June 20

Location – Burns family home in Malvern

Directions – Take I-30 to Malvern, get off on the Hy270 exit, Go south (towards Wal-Mart), go to the third light Moline Street, turn left on Moline for about one half mile, stop at 212 Moline.

Time - Field trips from 9AM till noon at the river for shark teeth and fossils, or Crow creek for Pyrite.

Picnic will start about noon or 1PM, drinks and fried chicken will be furnished, Paper plates and plastic silverware will be provided. Bring a covered dish, veggies, salad or desert to share.

Swap meet will be after lunch followed by a club auction. Bring any material you want to trade or donate for the auction.

Come for part of the day, or all day, whatever you want to do. Bug spray, sun screen, lawn chairs might be a good Idea.

A good head count is needed so let us know if you are coming, or if you have any questions contact –

Mike Austen at 868-4553 or steelpony@aol.com or James Burns at 568-0315

Please note:

Life time member, change of information for us who wish to stay in contact.

Sophia Brents
3433 Palmer Drive Apt 119
Cameron Park, CA 95682
530-672-1920

**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 alexandrites 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](#).

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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.

Birthstone courtesy of Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

CALENDER OF AREA ROCK SHOWS

(from Rock and Gem Magazine)

JUNE 2010:

19-20--GEORGETOWN, INDIANA: 9th annual Open Treasure Hunt; Down'n Dirty Diggers, Mike's Metal Detectors, Hoosier Hills Treasure Hunters Club; entry \$60 (\$70 after 6/1); two days of metal detecting, silver, token prizes, free kids' (ages 7-12) hunt; contact Michael Byrn, 9350 Indian Bluff Rd., Georgetown, IN 47122, (812) 366-3558; e-mail: byrn@hughes.net

19-20--OZARK, MISSOURI: Show, "Gem Fair & Rock Swap"; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Finley River Park, Pavilion; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; public auction, dealers welcome; contact Eddie Maples, (417) 725-3001; e-mail: OMGandMS@gmail.com

25-27--BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA: 45th annual show and swap; Lawrence County Rock Club; Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, from IN 37, go south on IN 45S for 1.2 miles, then right (west) on Airport Rd. for 0.7 mile; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment, supplies, rockhound 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; Web site: www.lawrencecountyrockclub.org

26-27--OSAGE BEACH, MISSOURI: 9th annual show; Osage Rock & Mineral Club; The Inn At Grand Glaize, 5142 Hwy. 54; Sat. 11-5, Sun. 11-5;

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gemstones, jewelry, meteorites, geodes, fossils, minerals, quartz crystals, custom jewelry, cabochons, gift items, demonstrations, displays, kids' games, prizes; adults \$2, seniors (60+) and kids 10 and younger \$1; Scouts in uniform free, families \$5 maximum; contact ORMC, (417) 532-4367, or Roger Varvel; e-mail: rvarvel@fidnet.com

Classified Ads

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 Mike Austen steelpony@aol.com
Phone 868-4553

Learning to do Pearl Knotting

Pearl Roth is teaching pearl knotting classes at 939 Rector Street, Hot Springs, Ar.

Pearl knotting can be used best with any kind of round, oval, or roundish bead. call 501-623-7753.

The equipment needed: Hands that work; knowledge of how to use a needle; Silk thread and needle; mineral beads or pearls: clasps of sterling silver and gold filed or you can make them from gold filed, or sterling silver wire; a mat or towel or bead board; either bees wax or a bar of soap; a scissors; a thimble; a thin straw; and clear nail polish any brand.

You will learn how to make some simple knots, a very simple tin cup pearl necklace and/or bracelet, a complete pearl necklace, a continuous pearl or bead necklace or a bracelet.

Earthquakes

Tasty Quake Activity

Sometimes

it's hard to understand how the earth can move, and why earthquakes damage buildings. This activity will show you how waves will travel to damage buildings. Afterward, you can have dessert!

Materials you will need:

- One metal pan of prepared gelatin dessert (recipe below)
- Sugar cubes or dominoes
- Plastic wrap
- Cups and spoons for serving and eating dessert

Ask your parent or another adult to help with this recipe:

Recipe for gelatin dessert:

- Two (6 oz) boxes of red or purple gelatin dessert
- Two one-serving envelopes of unflavored gelatin
- Four cups of boiling water
- Four cups of cold water
- One 9 X 12 METAL baking pan

Empty the gelatin dessert and the unflavored gelatin into the baking pan. Add the boiling water and stir until all the powder is dissolved. Add the cold water and mix. Chill in the refrigerator for at least three hours or until set.

When

rocks break in the earth's crust they release energy in the form of waves -- waves that can go through rock and dirt. Gently tap the side of the gelatin pan. You will see waves traveling through the gelatin. This is what an earthquake wave is like when it goes through the earth. Tap the pan harder and see how the waves become bigger.

Now

cover the top of the gelatin with plastic wrap (make sure the wrap is right on top and touching the gelatin). Use sugar cubes or dominoes to make "buildings" on the gelatin. What do you think will happen when you tap on the pan to cause "earthquake" waves through the gelatin? Try it. What happened? Make the buildings again and tap the pan harder or softer than the first time. Did something different happen? You can do this over and over. When you're done, take off the plastic wrap and have a gelatin snack!

