



# Arkansas Rockhound News

Official Newsletter of the

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society



St. Patrick's Day

March 2010

## 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](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

**Member of:** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**CAGMAGS**  
**4900 Sparks Rd.**  
**Little Rock, AR 72210**

March 2010

Arkansas Rockhound News Page 2

**Next Meeting: March 23, 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](mailto:steelpony@aol.com)  
Phone 868-4553

**Vice President: Tom Sharp**  
[thom61847@yahoo.com](mailto:thom61847@yahoo.com)

**Past President: Jim Schenebeck**  
[jsjimstone@yahoo.com](mailto:jsjimstone@yahoo.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Kissire**  
4900 Sparks Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72210  
501-821-2346 [pkissire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pkissire@sbcglobal.net)

**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](mailto: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**

**March 23 Program by Jerry Roth**

**April**

**27 May 25**

**June 22**

**July 27**

**August 24**

**September 28**

**October 26**

**November 23**

**President's Message**



The weather was nice for one day at least, and we got in the field trip to Leslie at last. Two trips are planned for March one to Arrowhead for quartz on the 13th, and one later to a quarry at Magnet Cove. The club has not been to either of these locations before so it should be exciting. Details for the trips will be sent out later, call James Burns for plans and last minute changes.

We welcomed a new club member this month, so that is two meetings in a row with new members. Let's keep that up for the whole year, remember there is an on going membership contest.

The club held an auction at our meeting this month with over fifty items for sale. It was a lot of fun with some very heated bidding on several things. I know I won some nice specimens but also lost a few. Next month the program will be about birthstones, and should be interesting,

The latest news from Craters of the Diamonds Park is that a 2.13 carat brown diamond was found this week. The lucky finder said this was the largest one he had ever found, his old record was a 2.04 carat find last April. Twenty-two diamonds have been found so far in 2010. Some people have all the luck, I would settle for just any old diamond.

MIKE

**Club events**

**Mar 13 Field trip to Arrowhead quartz mine.**

**Apr 17 Swap Meet at Burns Park**

**June 12 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 February 23, 2010**

President Mike Austen called the meeting to order. There were 24 members present including a new member, Bill Alcott.

The Minutes and Treasury's report were approved as posted

The February field trip was to Leslie for fossils. The weather was good. New stuff had fallen due to our bad weather so it was a fun day. The March 13<sup>th</sup> field trip on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday will be to Arrowhead in Mt. Ida. For trip information call James Burns, David Murray or Mike Austen. A second field trip is tentative for the third weekend (March 20<sup>th</sup>) to a gravel mine. It is a sign up only and restricted to 10 people. The contact person is Phillip Nierstheimer.

Ann Austen located a used copy of the Encyclopedia of Minerals for \$240 plus shipping. **Approval was given to purchase it as a memorial to Mary Frances Eubanks.**

Pearl Roth reported the March program will be Gerald Roth with a program on Birthstones – Old and New. Gerald has an extensive background in Geology and Mineralogy.

If you know of someone or a subject for a program, please give Pearl a call (501-623-7753) or sign up at a meeting.

Dave Murray reported on the Mine Safety class. He is signed up for the March class and will check on becoming an instructor.

Meeting was adjourned for the Auction.

There were 51 items to auction and the club cleared \$320. We had a good time and if you missed it we are planning another in June (maybe).

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kissire, Sec/Treas



**March Birthstone Aquamarine**

Aquamarine (from Lat. *aqua marina*, "water of the sea") is a blue or [turquoise](#) variety of beryl. It occurs at most localities which yield ordinary beryl, some of the finest coming from [Russia](#). The gem-gravel [placer](#) deposits of [Sri Lanka](#) contain aquamarine. Clear yellow beryl, such as occurs in [Brazil](#), is sometimes called aquamarine chrysolite. When [corundum](#) presents the bluish tint of typical aquamarine, it is often termed Oriental aquamarine. The deep blue version of aquamarine is called *maxixe*. Its color fades to white when exposed to sunlight or is subjected to heat treatment, though the color returns with irradiation.

The pale blue color of aquamarine is attributed to Fe<sup>2+</sup>. The Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions produce golden-yellow color, and when both Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> are present, the color is a darker blue as in maxixe. Decoloration of maxixe by light or heat thus may be due to the charge transfer Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>[5][6][7][8]</sup> Dark-blue maxixe color can be produced in green, pink or yellow beryl by irradiating it with high-energy particles ([gamma rays](#), [neutrons](#) or even [X-rays](#)).<sup>[9]</sup>

In the [United States](#), aquamarines can be found at the summit of [Mt. Antero](#) in the [Sawatch Range](#) in central [Colorado](#). In Wyoming, aquamarine has

been discovered in the Big Horn mountains, near Powder River Pass. In [Brazil](#), there are mines in the states of [Minas Gerais](#), [Espírito Santo](#) and [Bahia](#). The Mines of [Colombia](#), [Zambia](#), [Madagascar](#), [Malawi](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Kenya](#) also produce aquamarine.

The biggest aquamarine ever mined was found at the city of Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm long and 42 cm in diameter.

(Birthstone courtesy of [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).)

### Field Trip Report by Mike Austen

After watching it rain and snow every weekend this year, we finally got lucky, sunshine, dry, and 60 degrees. It was a wonderful day to be out in the field looking for that next great find. The bad weather the last few months had brought down a lot of fresh material, and fossils were everywhere. Everyone had a good time and went home with some nice stuff, including some new club members on their first field trip. I found my longest crinoid stems to date, and some nice archimedes. Some strange coiled worm like fossils were found that are yet to be identified. If you didn't get to go, then you missed out on a good time.



### TOP TEN VARIETIES OF LEVERITE

Buddyrite – Rocks your buddy won't carry for you.  
 Parkerite – When the car is parked just too far away.

Wetnbright – Looks nice wet, but gets ugly when dry.

Bucketite – Just won't fit in the bucket.

Goterite – Got too much already, don't need any more.

Yardenite – The stuff that will look better in somebody else's yard.

Whatsitite – No one has a clue what it is.

Groanerite – My back will hurt for a week if I pick that up.

Moanerite – Those worthless rocks you are sorry you kept.

Wishnite – That rock you will really wish you had later

### Rock Hunting in Oklahoma by Phillip Nierstheimer

Carl, Barbara and I joined the Tulsa rock club for a field trip to collect claystone geodes in the Permian redbeds near Tecumseh. Mudballs formed in shallow Permian seas. When the seas receded, the mudballs slowly dried out, causing their interiors to shrink and crack. Over time, the remaining minerals precipitated out, forming crystal linings in their hollow interiors, composed primarily of barite and calcite in various forms, some included with oxidized iron molecules giving them a deep, brick red coloration.

The weather was great, the folks interesting and buckets full of geodes are very heavy. More to come after we get a chance to crack open the rocks.

### CALENDER OF AREA ROCK SHOWS

(from Rock and Gem Magazine)

5-7--RICHMOND, INDIANA: Show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society; Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students \$1, children 6 and under free; contact John LaMont, 14158 St. Rd. 1, Brookville, IN 47012, (765) 647-4503; e-mail: Midwestchar@peoplepc.com

5-7--SHARONVILLE, OHIO: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; The Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com)

6-7--BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 41st annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrators; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340

6-7--CALDWELL, IDAHO: Show, "Collecting Gems for 2010"; Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society; O'Conner Field House, 2200 Blaine; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Carolyn Roberts, (208) 466-6191; e-mail: ncrobertsrp@msn.com

12--HOUSTON, TEXAS: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn Southwest, 11160 Southwest Fwy.; Fri. 12-4, ; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, P.O. Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: [www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston](http://www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston)

12-14--BEREA, OHIO: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; The Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, The Arts & Craft Bldg, 164 Eastland Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com)

13--Collinsville, Oklahoma, Annual rock sale, swap and potluck; Hicks' Rock farm, contact Bob or Nancy Hicks at 918-371-2406 or [ronan1090@aol.com](mailto:ronan1090@aol.com)

13--SKOKIE, ILLINOIS: 61st annual silent auction; Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society; St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave.; Sat. 5:30-10; free admission; silent auction, rocks, minerals, fossils, handmade jewelry, lapidary items, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult; contact Jeanine N. Mielecki, (773) 774-2054; e-mail: [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com); Web site: [www.chicagorocks.org](http://www.chicagorocks.org)

16--DALLAS, TEXAS: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Best Western Dallas Hotel and Conference Center, 8051 LBJ Fwy.; Tue. 12-4; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, P.O. Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: [www.rings-things.com](http://www.rings-things.com)

17--OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Biltmore Hotel, 401 S. Meridian Ave.; Wed. 2-6; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, P.O. Box 450; Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: [www.rings-things.com](http://www.rings-things.com)

19-21--ROME, GEORGIA: Show, "Valley and Ridge Gem & Mineral Show"; Rome Georgia Mineral Society; The Forum, 2 Government Plaza; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, crystals, demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, door prizes; contact Tim Biggart, (706) 232-7143; e-mail: [tbiggart@berry.edu](mailto:tbiggart@berry.edu); Web site: <http://rogams.wordpress.com/gem-and-mineral-show/>

20-21--CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA: Show; Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society; Teamsters Union Hall, 5000 J St. SW; Sat. 8:30-6, Sun. 9:30-5; adults \$2, students \$1, children free; 33-inch Duckbill skeleton compliments of Michael and Barbara Sincak; contact Thomas Whitlatch, 1147 Staub Ct. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, (319) 551-3870; e-mail: [whitlatch@mchsi.com](mailto:whitlatch@mchsi.com); Web site: [www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org)

26-28--ADA, OKLAHOMA: Show, "The Rock 'n Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show 2010"; Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, NE corner of state Hwy. 99 and Richardson Loop Bypass; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; demonstrators, fluorescent displays, dealers, kids' fossil dig, spinning wheels; contact Ed Vermillion, P.O. Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080, (405) 527-6431; e-mail: [okieed42@windstream.net](mailto:okieed42@windstream.net); Web site: <http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm>

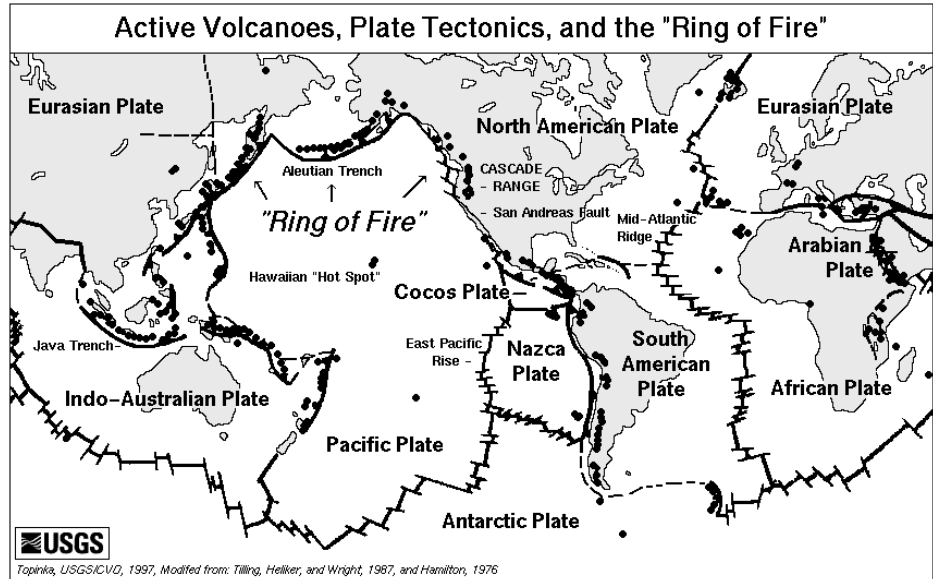
26-28--BRIDGETON (ST. LOUIS COUNTY), MISSOURI: 50th annual show; Rock Hobby Club; Machinist Hall Auditorium, 12325 St. Charles Rock Rd.; Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, students \$2, children under 5 free; exhibits, museum and university special exhibits, demonstrations, dealers, supplies; contact Vickie Corley, 1727 Parkway Acres, St. Louis, MO 63043, (314) 521-8896; e-mail: [Missouri-gem@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Missouri-gem@sbcglobal.net)

26-28--MACOMB, ILLINOIS: Fossil show; Mid-America Paleontology Society; Western Hall, Western Illinois University; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 8-12; free admission; fossils only, buy, sell, swap, display, children's activities, silent auctions, keynote speaker Dr. Robert Frey, auction Sat.; contact Tom Williams, (815) 223-9638; e-mail: [Paleotom234@dishmail.net](mailto:Paleotom234@dishmail.net); or Steve Holley, (309) 231-8861; e-mail: [lfossil@hotmail.com](mailto:lfossil@hotmail.com); Web site: [www.midamericapaleo.org](http://www.midamericapaleo.org)

28--BOISE, IDAHO: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport, 2645 Airport Way; Sun. 12-4; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, P.O. Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: [www.rings-things.com](http://www.rings-things.com)

# Kid's Corner

A puzzle, some pictures to color and a little geology.



**Start**

