



Arkansas Rockhound News

October 2012

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.centralarrockhound.org

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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Show Chair: Dave Murray

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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!

See the schedule on the next page for the date of the next meeting.

Call James (501-568-0315) or Jerry Johnson (479-876-1646) to find out about the field trip plans.

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.

2012 Meeting Schedule

(Tentative dates pending availability of our meeting room)

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

There is no meeting in December

President's Message



The October meeting was well attended, with new members again this month. The program on Crater of Diamonds State Park by Mike Howard was interesting, but we were disappointed that no free diamonds were passed out. Next month the November program will be on the fossils of Arkansas.

We had 41 people that went on the field trip to Razor Rock, including some from the Memphis club and UALR. Agates, fossils, petrified wood and other neat stuff was found. Most people have already asked when can we go back there again. On November 10 the next field trip is to the old Jones Mill Quarry in Magnet Cove. This is the first time the club has gone to this location, so it should be exciting. Hard hats, safety glass and steel toed safety shoes are required. No children under 18 will be allowed to go this time. We need a head count as soon as possible, and space is limited so if you want to go, please get your name on the list now. First come first served and no late comers will be allowed to go. If you are interested, call James Burns at 501 568 0315 to get on the list and for more details.

Next month will be the election of club

officers for 2013. If you think you might want to hold an office, now would be the last chance to throw your hat in the ring. It is also the last regular meeting for the year. A Christmas party is in the works and the details should be worked out by the next meeting. The weather is great this time of year so get out there and go rock hunting before the snow flies. A rolling stone gathers no moss, but a rockhound that just sits around inside might get kind of moldy.

Mike

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT:

Michigan Native Copper

Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula is the most important locality in the world for pure native copper. Small amounts occur in several areas throughout the world. Mining operations began in 1845 and continued until 1968. During that time, over 5 million tons of refined copper were recovered from Michigan's native copper mines. Near the turn of the century, Michigan led the world in copper production and "Lake Copper" was the purity standard to which other refined copper was compared. The copper occurs in various rock types and ranges in size from microscopic grains to large masses. The largest, discovered in 1857, weighed about 520 tons.

copyright Red Metal Minerals, Hancock, Michigan

Stephanie Blandin (2012)

Minutes of Central Arkansas Gem Mineral and Geology Society

September 25th meeting

October's Minutes have not yet been received

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen, with 26 members and visitors present. By the night's end, 3 of the visitors became members. Mike handed out 2 birthday rocks, and mentioned quite a few upcoming shows: OURS on Oct 6,7 , Idabel Ok on Sept 24-26, Joplin, Mo. On Sept 28-30, New Orleans Sept 29-30, Temple, Tx on Oct 6-7 and Mt Ida Oct 12-14 with Ft.Worth Tex, Oct 13-15 and Nashville, Tn also oct 13-14. Our next meeting will be Oct. 23

There were reports on the estate auction in Northwest Ark, and the trip to Coleman's for quartz in September. Not many club members joined the Memphis club, but those who did found good quartz.

IT was moved and seconded to accept the secretary's and treasurer's reports as printed. We have 2 Rock and Gem magazines, and the Mineralogical Record and DVD from this year's Tucson show. **It was moved and seconded to renew the Mineralogical Record for next year.** Our next field trip will be Oct 20 to Razor Rock, with the Memphis club joining us. There will be a trip to Magnet Cove in November to a site the club has not visited. Check later for more details of these trips. The program next month will be by Mike Howard on the Crater of Diamonds.

No one mentioned old business except for the show. The flyers and 900 address labels were printed, and 4 kind members spent the meeting time putting on labels and stamps so they can be mailed out this Thursday. Thanks Pat, Weldon, Angelee and Stephanie! We passed around the volunteer list again. Many members are volunteering. Stephanie mentioned bringing desserts

and/or drinks to go with the food the club will supply for the hospitality room. We always can use rocks for the kids dig and the spin to win. Demonstrations will be by Mary Bolin, PJ Frost and Mike Howard. We will again meet at the Golden Corral Saturday evening as a chance to visit with members and dealers. **IT was moved and seconded to reserve the Jacksonville Community Center for 2013—the first Sat. and Sun in October. (Oct 5-6).**

New business: Mike appointed the nominating committee of Bill Alcott, David Dodson and John Schoenemanto present a slate of officers at the next meeting, to be voted on in November.

The raffle was held with John Schoeneman winning the grand prize Stilbite from India. The businessmeeting was then closed for the program.

Our program was from the UALR Department of Earth Sciences teachers, headed by Mike De Angelis. Four faculty members spoke about their backgrounds, why they chose to become geologists, and what areas of study they currently are pursuing. **Dr. Mike DeAngelis** switched from studying glaciers to minerals, and currently studying the olivine found on Mars, and even making his own iron-rich olivine to study. **Dr.Laura Ruhl** studies "environmental geochemistry"—pollutants, and how pollutants affect our water supplies. Her goal is to investigate medical geology – the science that deals with relationships between geology and health. **Dr. Beth McMillar** has travelled the US. Extensively, and is currently involved in surface geology, mapping rivers, caves, and whatever. She was involved in the g.i.s. mapping after

Hurricane Katrina, and enjoys teaching UALR students at a summer field camp in Colorado (along with Dr. DeAngelis.) **Rene' Shroat-Lewis** is a recent Arkansas transplant via the Navy, California, North Carolina and the Univ. of Tennessee. She teaches introductory courses in geology, and is interested in geoscience education for K-12. She specializes in invertebrate paleontology – the 'tiny things', like Kathy Riley's work this January. All four speakers were very enthusiastic about their fields of study, and in increasing the UALR geology department's involvement with our club. We are truly blessed to have such caring, interested professionals join us. We look forward to hearing more about their research. Thank you again for a great presentation!!

Folks: if you just get the newsletter, and never get to a meeting you are missing some GREAT SPEAKERS. Thanks to George Gray--Major, our Program chair, for the delightful engaging speakers every month!!

There being no further business, the meeting closed with time to socialize.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Murray, secretary

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Larvikite is an iridescent variety of syenite, any one of a class of rocks essentially composed of and alkali feldspar or sodic plagioclase (or both), a ferromagnesian mineral usually biotite, hornblende, or pyroxene and little or no quartz. Larvikite contains feldspar, pyroxene, mica and

amphibole. It looks a lot like granite, but can be distinguished from it by the absence or scarcity of quartz.

Spectrolite is a calcic, a middle-range member of the plagioclase feldspars with a schiller effect. It has a hardness of 6 to 6 1/2. It is a high quality, highly colored labrodite gemstone from Finland.

Stephanie Blandin (2012)

Notes from: Rock & Gem (Smithsonian)



I've had some comments recently about the timeliness of the newsletter and the fact that it arrives after some of the events listed have already passed. Fair enough, I'll be first to admit I don't get it out as early as I should. I'm going to make an effort to get it out sooner, and this month I'm getting it out on one end of a week when there's a field trip scheduled for the other end. See Mike's comments for the details as we have them, or call James Burns at 501 568 0315 for the latest. Getting the newsletter out earlier does have its pitfalls, though. There may not be enough info to fill up the eight page newsletter, but I'll publish what I've got. Thank you to Stephanie Blandin for providing some informative articles in this issue, and to Mike and Lenora for getting info to me. Those of you who don't like a late newsletter probably don't like a shorter newsletter either. Here's a hint for you: Submit articles, stories and/or photos that I can put in the newsletter! Heck, I'll even let the rest of you do the same! Everyone's

invited to become a part of OUR newsletter!
Just in case you don't have it handy, here's
my contact info:

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Recently, I needed a particular gauge of half-round wire. I didn't have any of that size, so I considered rolling some out from round wire. That's where the fun started. I quickly discovered that the lessons I had learned in 40+ years of electronics work regarding gauge went right down the tubes when talking about jewelry wire. Shapes other than round are almost unheard of in electrical applications. My first question was how is gauge determined for shapes other than round? That answer was fairly easy to find, and it's the widest flat on the shape, or the widest dimension on a shape that has no flat side. A 21ga round wire cut in half lengthwise would be two 21ga half round pieces. A 21ga square wire is as wide as a 21ga round wire. Okay, having that figured out, the next step was to find what gauge round wire could be rolled down to a particular half round gauge. I needed to determine the area of a cross section of the half round, and then find a gauge of round wire with the same cross section area. Maybe I should have just gone out and bought a drawplate! There are charts out there that list the diameters for wire gauges, and the area can be calculated for any of those as well as the areas for half round wire. In the search for a way to be able to calculate the gauge I needed, I found the

formula to convert from gauge to diameter. Letting G =gauge, diameter = $92^{((36-G)/39)}$. I placed an order with RioGrande the next day for some half round wire.

I needed some information from our website, but was at work and didn't have the URL in my cellphone bookmarks. So I Googled "CAGMAGS" and found it. I also found the following article from Worl Wide Words <http://www.worldwidewords.org/> by a gent named Michael Quinion. Apparently, our club name has roots that may not be totally complimentary, but it makes for an interesting read!

Q From Alex Wade: My dad has a word I've often wondered about: cag-mag for cheap sugary foods (he also uses it for my mum's baking!).

A Cheeky devil. If I were your mum, I'd give him a belt round the ear.

Cagmag is an intriguing item of British regional dialect that starts to be recorded in the eighteenth century. It has had several senses, all of them disparaging. The oldest references are to geese:

Vast numbers are driven annually to London, to supply the markets; among them all the superannuated geese and ganders (called here Cagmags) which serve to fatigue the jaws of the good Citizens, who are so unfortunate as to meet with them.

A Tour in Scotland, by Thomas Pennant, 1772. Despite the title, Pennant is referring to Lincolnshire.

A century later, the English Dialect Dictionary lists a number of meanings, starting with this one and moving on to tough, inferior meat or carrion; unwholesome or bad food; worthless items; inferior or spurious things; an animal that is coarse or mongrel bred; and "a term of opprobrium applied to persons", typically an old woman. Correspondents have told me that elderly relatives have also used it for cheap sugary foods, including sweets and shop-bought cakes, so your father's sense is certainly

known.

It was widely used in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and other counties, but nobody has the slightest idea where it is from. In his Slang Dictionary in 1864, John Camden Hotten notes a suggestion from a correspondent at Trinity College, Dublin, that the word was a corruption of the Greek kakos mageiros, a bad cook, a learned slang term once known in university circles. Nobody now believes this, but there's nothing to put in its place.

It's still around in Lincolnshire and also in Nottinghamshire, the Birmingham area and the Black Country (where in 2003 it was said to mean a gossipy old woman). I've also found references in Australian English.

Although she was poor, my mother wouldn't buy the cheap meat she called "cag mag".

Birmingham Evening Mail, 7 Dec. 2002.

The late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn escaped rebuke, but not disdain, by describing women MPs as "mostly hideous — they have no fragrance and I dislike women who deny their femininity. They are just cagmags, scrub heaps, old tattlers".

BBC News, 8 Dec. 2005.

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Editor's note: I did indeed contact Mr Quinion, explained why I wanted to reprint this one article from his page, and he graciously granted my request.

WHAT'S IN THAT MUD BALL?

Septarian Nodules

Septarians were formed during the Cretaceous period, 60 to 70 million years ago. Decomposing sea life killed by

volcanic eruptions had a chemical attraction for the sediment around them, forming mud balls. As the ocean receded, the balls were left to dry and crack. Because of their bentonite content, they also shrank at the same time trapping the cracks inside. As decomposed calcite from the shells was carried down into the cracks in the mud balls, calcite crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite was transformed into aragonite separating the bentonite heavy clay exteriors from the calcite centers. Because of this, the nodules are called septarians.

The name septarian is derived from the Latin name, Septem, meaning seven. This relates to the fact that the mud balls cracked with 7 points in every direction, thereby creating the beautiful design.

Septarians are composed of Calcite (the yellow centers), Aragonite (the brown lines), and the outer grey rock is limestone. Occasionally the fossil of some of the fossils which started the formation of the rock is noticeable in the rock.

Stephanie Blandin (2012)

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

