



Arkansas Rockhound News

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



October 2013

Upcoming Events

- October 5-6 CAGMAGS 41st Annual Central Arkansas Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show, Jacksonville, AR
- October 11-13 Mt. Ida Mineral Show and Quartz Dig Mt. Ida, AR
- October 23 Next CAGMAGS meeting Terry Library @ 6:30 pm
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HI M N H NL !

CAGMAG 41 A C A G , J & M !

Please join us for the 41st Annual Central Arkansas Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show! The show will be located at the Jacksonville Community Center (5 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville, AR – Hwy 67/167 Exit 9 Main Street), and will run on October 5th & 6th from 9 AM to 5 PM. The show will feature minerals, fossils, beads, lapidary material, and jewelry. There will also be a Kid's Dig and door prizes! For more information, please contact Tom Sharp (501-379-8653; thom61847@yahoo.com) or visit the CAGMAGS website at: www.centralarrockhound.org.

FEE ADMI I N!

Bauxite!

Do you know everything you need to know about the state rock of Arkansas? Check out our Bauxite article to learn about this interesting and important Arkansas treasure!

President's Message

CAGMAGS show, Mt. Ida show, and more...

The real hot weather is gone and it is safe to go outside again, before the real cold weather starts. The next field trip is to the Jones Mill Quarry in Magnet Cove on Sept 28, call James Burns if you want to get on the signup list, there is a limited number that can go. There are a number of shows this time of year starting with our CAGMAGS show in Jacksonville Oct 5-6, and the Mt Ida show and quartz dig Oct 11-13. Plan on going and having a great time. The club works hard to put the show on, so go have fun and enjoy. Speaking of our show, there is still time to put together a display, do a

demonstration, or sign up to work a few hours. Call Tom Sharp if we can count on you. The best thing you can do is spread the word about our show and club.

The meeting was a day late this month and will be again in October due to a conflict at the library. Mark your calendars so you do not forget. The next meeting is Oct. 23rd, the fourth Wednesday. The program for next month will be a show and tell, so bring the best item you got on the latest fieldtrip or show. The November meeting will have a club auction so do not miss out on that one. In case you have not heard Chris

Butterworth is the new webmaster, and Mike DeAngelis is the new newsletter editor. They would both like to hear any comments or ideas you have for them. The club has a display at the Thompson Library at 38 Ralhing Circle this month. It answers the question what is a rockhound and what do they do. Which brings up another question, which came first the dinochicken or the rock egg?

Mike 

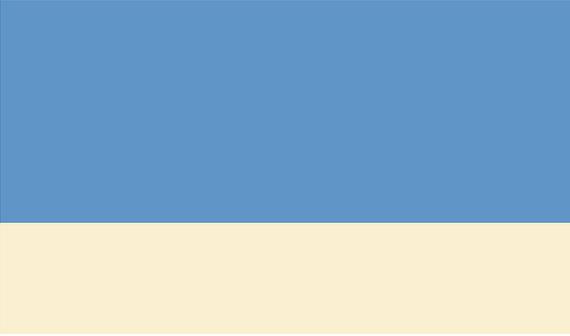
Can you guess this *Mystery Mineral*?

Hint #1 – Produced by the weathering of copper ore deposits

Hint #2 – May be the favorite mineral of Smurfs? (unverified)

Hint #3 – Is usually found hanging around with a green mineral buddy

Answer on page 3



Bauxite!

Everything you need to know
(well, a few things anyway...)
about the State Rock of Arkansas!

Bauxite was designated the state rock of Arkansas in 1967. This image shows the spotted “birds eye” variety.

What is Bauxite?

Bauxite is a term used for any basic aluminum hydroxide or a mixture of them. The specific minerals that make up bauxite include: gibbsite $[Al(OH)_3]$, boehmite $[AlO(OH)]$, and diasporite $[HAlO_2]$. Bauxite is an earthy, oolitic, pisolitic mass harder than most clay. It can vary in color from white, gray, red, yellow, and brown, to a spotted birds eye variety. Bauxite is a secondary material formed by surface alteration of aluminum rich minerals, and it is the principle ore of aluminum. Bauxite has been mined in Arkansas for over 100 years and 90 percent of the United States production comes from here. The name comes from Les Baux, a site in France.

Commercial uses of Bauxite

Bauxite has many commercial uses including the production of aluminum metal. It is used in the making of many abrasives and refractory materials. Bauxite is also used in many chemical processes and products. It can be used as a

fluxing agent in the manufacturing of steel, and is used in some cement. Some bauxite is used for absorbents including kitty litter.

Arkansas Bauxite

Dr. W. Byrd Powell was the first person to describe bauxite in Arkansas in 1842 in Fourche Cove, but did not recognize its true nature. State geologist John Branner was the first to positively

mined. The largest mining firms were the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA), and Reynolds. The bauxite deposits in Arkansas are associated with intrusions of nepheline syenite in Saline and Pulaski counties. The mines today are between Bryant and Bauxite in Saline County. Aluminum remains a very important resource today and is in more demand than ever. With limited ore available, recycling aluminum is important and makes up for about one quarter of our yearly demand.

For more information

For more information about the history, geology, and uses of Bauxite, particularly in Arkansas, please check this informative pamphlet about Bauxite available Arkansas Geological Survey (AGS) website:

www.geology.arkansas.gov/pdf/pamphlets/Bauxite.pdf

Bauxite is associated with intrusions of nepheline syenite

identify this new material in 1887. In the mid 1890's active mining was started in Arkansas and continues to this day. The production reached a high during World War II when more than 6 million tons were

Mystery Mineral for October
Azurite

BenchTips

by Brad Smith

SOLDERING EARPOSTS

I don't solder enough earposts to develop the dexterity for holding the wire by hand. So I modified a set of locking tweezers to help with the job. It's quick and easy.

Use a triangular file to make a notch at the tweezer tip to keep the wire from moving around, and file a groove in the tweezer body to rest the tweezers on a stand that keeps the earpost wire at the right angle. The stand is just soldered up from scrap copper or nickel.

This way the tweezers act like a see-saw that's weighted just a little bit more on the soldering end. If the weight of the tweezers puts too much pressure on the earpost wire, the wire can buckle when it gets up to soldering temperature.

For more great BenchTips, visit the BenchTips page at:

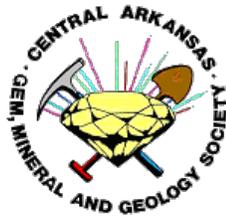
www.facebook.com/BenchTips

Editor's Note

This is a new look for the Arkansas Rockhound News, and I would REALLY like your feedback. I didn't have time this month to include everything that should be in the newsletter, but there will be more to come in future issues. Please feel free to send me your comments via email:

mtdeangelis@ualr.edu

Thanks,
Mike D.



The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society (CAGMAGS) meets on the fourth Tuesday at the Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, in Little Rock at 6:30 PM. Visitors and pebble pups are always welcome.

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L

submitted by Mike Austen

- 10 Buddyrite – rocks your buddy won't carry for you
- 9 Parkerite – the car is parked too far away
- 8 Wetnbright – looks nice when wet, but ugly when dry
- 7 Buckerite – just won't fit in the bucket
- 6 Goterite – got too much of the stuff already
- 5 Yardenite – stuff that looks better in someone else's yard
- 4 Whatisitite – no one knows what it is, and no one cares
- 3 Groanerite – my back will hurt for a week if I pick it up
- 2 Sorryrite – worthless rocks that you are sorry you brought home
- 1 Wishnite – rocks you left, but wish you had later

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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.

“Old rockhounds never die, they just slowly petrify!”

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