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Arkansas Rockhound News

September, 2011

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**

Colors: Blue and White

Website: www.centralarrockhound.org

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

Next meeting is October 25, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-804-2331) to find out about the field trip plans.

2011 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: Lenora Murray

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Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Dave Murray

Editor: Bill Alcott

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

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.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Jan 11	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 26
May 24	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23
Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 22	

There is no meeting in December

President's Message



Another great CAGMAGS show has come and gone. I think the best thing about the show this year was all those club members who pitched in and helped out. There were actually members just standing around asking to be put to work. I want to thank all of them for a job well done. A very special thanks to our show chairman Dave and his main helper Lenora. Also a big thank you to Reece and Sharon Watson at the front door, their son Robert teamed up with Doug Stone at the kids dig and Angelee Peeler in the kitchen who kept the caffeine and sugar coming. The club would also like to thank all the dealers that came and made the show possible.

There were several nice displays this year from sea shells to rocks, to fossils. The prize for the best display went to Bill Alcott for a great display on making cabs. Bill said he wants to challenge all club members to try and take the title away from him next year. I would also like to thank those people that put on the many demonstrations at the show. Now it is time for me to take a much needed nap, but first a big THANK YOU to everyone for this year's great show.

Mike

MINUTES for the August Meeting of Central Ark. Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

The September meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen on Sept. 27, 2011 at the Terry Library. There were 25 adults and 1 junior present. 5 visitors were present: Larry Fletcher, Bernie Bevill, Peyton McDaniel, and Jenny Malthern, (and one that Lenora missed). Some upcoming show dates are; Idabel Ok, Sept 27-28; Stafford Tx and Lexington, Ky both Oct 1-2; Indianapolis Ind, Oct 7-9; Ft. Worth Tx. Oct 8-9; Temple Tx, Oct 8-9; Victoria Tx, Oct 22-23; Dennison Tx, Oct 22-23; , Mt. IDA, Ark—Dig and show Oct 13-16, AND of course don't forget OUR show October 1-2. Our next meeting will be October 25. A September birthday rock went to Sarah Dodson.

REPORTS: The secretary-treasurer report for AUGUST was approved as posted. Our Librarian, Anne Austen mentioned we need to renew the Mineralogical record. IT WAS VOTED to RENEW the subscription for another year..She also reminded folks the DVD set on Silversmithing was again available for check out. James Burns, the field trip chair, noted that no new field trip was planned. Due to Jerry Roth's illness, he and Pearl can not present the program this month. But George Gray-Major agreed to be the future program chair. Mike Austen reported the club display at Rawling Library during September has drawn a lot of interest and publicity for the club.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Murray reported on last minute items for the show. 900 flyers were mailed out, newspapers and radio stations, and a dozen nearby clubs were also contacted. Flyers were distributed by Virginia Wilhelm and others, so most are gone. We still need workers, as always. And the show will have a hospitality room for dealers and members only, rather than the concession stand. The club will pay for the hot dogs, bakery goods, and drinks, and members are encouraged to bring additional homemade items if they wish.

IT WAS VOTED to RENEW our contract with the Jacksonville Community Center for our 2012 show, to be held October 6 and 7, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike appointed a nomination committee of : James Burns, George Gray-Major

and Dave Murray to present a slate of officers in October, to be voted on in November. Angelee and John Peeler volunteered to host the Christmas party on Saturday December 10. It is to be a pot luck, with the club paying for the meat. IT WAS VOTED to PAY For the meat for the club party in December. Our newsletter editor had copies of the newsletter for all the members who get it by mail. He reminded folks to let him know of address and e-mail changes, and requested that folks who are traveling write up their stories and send pictures to be included in the newsletter.

Show and Tell: Sharon Watson had a huge showy quartz crystal cluster recently found. She said she just turned over a rock someone else had been sitting on, and found this great piece. IT will be on display at the show as well.

Raffle: The two best of showpieces won by Bill Alcott, a fluorite from Mexico, and Sharon Watson, a cerrusite and Barite piece from Morocco.

PROGRAM: Mike Austen again displayed his versatility by presenting a program on The Rocks and Minerals of Michigan. He brought in a great display of iron and copper minerals, Lake Superior Agates, and Petosky stones. He discussed a collecting trip he and Ann took to Michigan. The information available was not current, but they were still able to find some interesting items along the way. Field Collecting wasn't easy, but the rock shops had material to add to his collection. He also discussed Petosky stones which are unique since the white outer part changes color when polished. They are coral, with patterns, and can be found all over the Great Lakes states, but don't stand out until polished. He mentioned copper, azurite, and other minerals found in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and even gave us a history lesson as to how this became part of the U.S. thanks to Ben Franklin. He also had samples of goethite and rainbow hematite. All in all, the program was very interesting and informative. Mike is a born inspirational speaker! The meeting was adjourned for visiting and socializing after.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Murray, Secretary

**A MESSAGE FROM DAVE MURRAY,
2011 SHOW CHAIRMAN**

To ALL the Club Members and Dealers:

Now that the 2011 show is over, I want to THANK YOU ALL for making the show a great success again. I was very happy to see many more club members involved at the show in many areas and want to thank each of you individually for helping out in so many ways. We had 5 new dealers, for a total of 22 different dealer booths. There were five beautiful display cases on the stage, and 3 great demonstrations both days. Our hospitality room seemed to be a big hit with most dealers. The Kids Dig and Spin for Rocks both were big hits thanks to the many members who donated material to make that happen. There was a big crew around Friday to help set up, and an even bigger crew Sunday night for take-down. And, all day both Saturday and Sunday we had many different club volunteers working the floor, the club table, the welcome table, and the hospitality room.

I am sure to miss someone if I try to name all the helpers—you know who you are, and Lenora has a list, honest. We can't agree on which helpers would get the 'prize' for the best help of the show, but a committee DID decide on the best display case: Our FIRST ANNUAL CLUB DISPLAY CASE winner is BILL ALCOTT. Lenora thinks the 'best helper prize' should go to BILL ALCOTT since he did the great display case and built the popular Spin for Rocks spinner, helped set up and take down signs and was a great go-to guy all the time, or to ANGELEE PEELER, our hospitality "hostess with the mostess" who was there before opening to after closing, and bought the food for the show. I disagree, as I think the "best helper prize" is a tie between two families: BILL and CINDY RILEY who were everywhere we needed them. Bill's expertise helped this club in a really sticky situation, he passed out flyers to get WingDing people to the show ; Cindy was Angelee's right-hand person and both were great at doing whatever needed to be done. And the family that continues to be the 'face' of the club: REESE, SHARON and ROBERT WATSON. They were again at the front desk all day both days, welcoming everyone who walked in; Robert did a great job Sunday morning at the Kids Dig after watching our resident Expert Doug Stone Saturday, and Sharon makes the best

tuna salad in the land. So we can't give just one 'best helper award' . Of course, many members came by to give the Watson's a break at the front table.

Besides, we had so many members doing so many things, it just felt great to have this much support. For the first time I can remember we had 9 guys-- and a couple gals at closing helping dealers get merchandise to their vehicles, and taking down the tables, sweeping etc. Lenora and Pat left early—which is a first for both, and Lenora didn't believe I was home BEFORE 10 PM !!! also a first. Lenora likes numbers so -We had 16 club members who were dealers, 3 who gave demonstrations. Thanks Mike Howard and Tom Sharp for all the rock identification .We had 22 'floor volunteers' working the floor, Kids Dig front desk, hospitality room and club desk, and 11 doing cleanup. Now, I don't know how many that makes if I get rid of the double and triple duty folks. But all in all, there was a NICE BIG CREW all weekend long. It makes me, as show chair, want to THINK about doing it again next year.

The hardest workers were our CLUB OFFICERS: MIKE AUSTEN and TOM SHARP our President and Vice-President, and my co-chair and his better half PAT and WELDON KISSIRE. They all were on duty and working behind the scenes doing whatever was needed all three days. THANK YOU ALL for making this job easier. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves. The Golden Corral dinner was a great time Saturday evening to visit with some of you. And I think the hospitality room was a nice social hour place to visit also. We hope to get more social time in the near future. Sorry Lenora and I can't make the October club meeting – we already are signed up for another William Holland week. And with Lenora's substitute teaching job right now, she'll need the break ☐

NEXT year, we WILL need material for the kids dig and the Spin for Rocks wheel. Doug and Lenora were getting down to near bottom for some things. Shiny polished rocks seemed to go very well, and good clear quartz is always appreciated. IF you go on a dig and end up with small material, think of the Kids Dig , Spin for Rocks and Pebble Pup giveaway. The bauxite and calcite, and the tumbled quartz were a big hit. Thanks Mike Howard and

Ron Wilhelm for the donations. They were definitely put to good use. The Kids dig raised \$76, and the Spin for Rocks raised \$79, which is a LOT of rocks. And the pebble pup giveaways are probably close to 100 also. THANKS to all the members who donated—last year and this year. ONE THING really stood out. Many of the dealers commented that they were very impressed with all the club members that were present both days, coming by, talking to them, asking if everything was OK, if they needed anything, and reminding them of the new hospitality room. The shirts and vests were visible signs that many club members were totally involved with the show this year. So the hard work you all did to make the show a success was definitely noticed and appreciated. AGAIN, THANK YOU TO EVERYONE.

Sincerely,
Dave Murray, Show Chair

2011 DEALERS

The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society, along with all the visitors to the show, would like to thank the dealers who attended our 39th annual show.

Kevin and Lori Allind
Rainbow Rocks and Beads

Madelyn Anderson and Ernie Confer
Earth's Treasures

Gilbert and Sharonne Barton
Best of Nature

Mary Bolin

James Carpenter
Unconventional Lapidarist

Vincent Chan
Glory Design Oriental

David Ding
Royal Expressions

David and Sarah Dodson

Roger Freeze

Spud and R.J. Frost

Becky and Dean Haner
Beads by Becky

Aisha and Arif Jan
Rockaholics

David Lars
Jeffery Mining

Harvey and Jacquelyn Larson
Larson's Rocks

Patrick Miron
Austin Gem and Bead

Laurence Nuelle
Fall Creek Rock Shop

Leonard Pousardien

Dave and Debbie Penrod
D. & D. Jewelry Creations

James Schenebeck

Urszula Tomasik
Amber America

Ron and Virginia Wilhelm
Panther Creek

**Our trip to look for Montana moss agate
By Doug Stone**

I began by looking for all the information I could find. Not finding very specific, I hope you will find my account helpful.

I had read that Glendive, Mt. was "ground zero" for the Montana Moss Agates, so we headed there first. We headed North thru Kansas City to North Dakota, then west to Dickinson, ND. The plains are sure plain, so we stopped at Laura Ingalls Wilder's 'Little House on the Prairie'.

It was a nice diversion, for the trip and learned how to make a rope and corn cob dolls.

Before we reached Dickinson, we 'discovered' Roosevelt National Park' south unit. To say the least, it is beautiful and a great photographers wonderland. I took almost 200...

It is a most excellent diversion.

We saw 2 petrified trees in situ there. I also saw a 4 to 5 inch of what appeared to be a piece of blue petrified wood in a pull off area. Being a National Park and no collecting allowed, I was a 'good boy' and did not collect it, but it was sure tempting.

At Dickinson, ND, we had our first hint of things to come. We stayed the Ramada Inn, it was VERY nice and.... expensive, around \$150 for the night. While entering the door to our end of the building, I spoke to a lady I had seen at the check-in desk. She said she had been there for 3 weeks, and was working in the oil fields...

Upon reaching Glendive, MT, we decided to look over the town before deciding on a motel. Nice little town. We visited a local State Park, Montana's largest, and inquired there about lodging recommendations... the ranger said there was a shortage of motel rooms due to the oil boom. He was right, NONE to be had in the town! We checked about six different one's. (One clerk recommended a town about 75 miles away.)

He gave us directions to where we could look for the agates, cross the bridge turn left and then left again, to a park at the end of BELL St. bridge. Closed to cars, it is now a pedestrian bridge.

I decided to try to look on the 'town' side first, but there is NO ACCESS points, and I even went to the edge of town. I could see a gravel bar on the town side, but accessible only by boat.

At the BELL St. site, we parked (there is a small park here) and walked under the bridge to the river, following a well traveled trail. The flood levy is a little steep, but OK. The trail is SANDY closer to the river, and moderately difficult to walk in, especially with a bucket of rocks...

Because this is a moderately difficult to access bar, it is less 'picked over', than the fishing access bars.

We walked probably ¼ mile (at least!) to reach the gravel bar. Seemed like a mile. The bar is upstream from the bridge. Once there we did find a few Moss Agates, maybe a dozen, a lot of other agates and several pieces if petrified wood.

The Moss Agates were somewhat difficult to distinguish from the others, except you can see a little light thru them. It helped that were looking in late afternoon, with sun was closer to the horizon. The beach rocks here were much cleaner here than at the fishing access sites. We looked for about an hour and a half here, as it was getting late.

Note, I have sliced one, and it has nice spotting inside, but no 'trees'.

We encountered one fisherman at the bridge, and a couple of kids walking the beach, but no one else collecting agates, again due to the difficulty of access! But, what is a little difficulty to a dedicated Rockhound...?

We did not nearly look over the entire bar, so there is surely more to be found here!

As it was getting late, we took our bucket and headed west, to Miles City, MT.

We stayed at Motel 6, sure not as comfortable as the night before, but it was a bed.

While there, we found a fishing access point in town. Follow Hwy. 59 North, to a few blocks before the river, look for the fishing access sign. The bank was a little steep at the access point to the bar, at least I think this was the one.



It was much more accessible, but the rocks were covered with fine silt, making 'moss' hunting much more difficult. I discovered that I could stand at the rivers edge and rub over the rocks in the river and look them over much better, wished I had a large broom to do the cleaning... found no 'moss' but a bucket of agates and a little petrified wood. Kathy found a nice wood here, it was covered with silt, but was readily recognizable as wood.

We headed west again, the interstate follows the river. And I saw many places where 'looking was a

possibility, pulled off at one, and found a fishing access point across the river. It's name 'Far West'. We parked right at the river, and began looking along the gravel bar, and soon saw another Rock Hound just upstream. She was from San Francisco. Using a Gem Scoop. She said her husband was on the other side of the river (by boat) had found a really nice 'moss' over there. They used walkie talkies to communicate.

The bar we were looking on was very well traveled and picked clean, no 'moss' to be found, but a few nice agate's anyway. Obviously, lots of Rockhounds have been here in the past!

Gave up on searching at the fishing access points, as no luck and much else planed to do!

More on our trip to come.
Doug Stone

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

First of all, I'd like to say a couple of "Thank-You's". The first goes to the "committee" that selected my display case as the winner at the show, and the other goes to Doug Stone for his field trip article. Now that he's shown y'all how it's done, let's hear from some more of you! Contact me at mister.bill@starband.net with your articles and photos!

Dave mentioned in his show report that "shiny, polished rocks" went quickly at the Kid's Dig, the Wheel of Rocks, and the Pebble Pups giveaway. I usually have a tumbler or two taking a break, and if anyone wants to donate some rough for next year's show, I'd be glad to tumble them for you. See me at any meeting or give me a holler!

A gentleman approached me at the show with some information on two items he wants to sell. I told him I'd pass it along to y'all:

1. RAYTECH Hustler Vibrating Lap, model 20-161
List \$750, he'll sell for half price
15" smooth pan list \$128, sell \$64
15" grooved pan list \$128, sell \$64
Bumper ring list \$14, sell \$7
Polishing pad list \$14, sell \$7

2. 18" Slab saw – This is a Mohave Industries Inc. kit built saw in a fiberglass lined ¾" plywood cabinet. Vise opens to 9 ½", has power feed and

shut-off. Blade included. Case size 29 ¼" wide, 44 ½" depth, 43 ¼" height. Will sell for \$500

Contact Eli Abbott for more information at (501) 548-6235 or email at be75abb@att.net. He's in Conway, so there's no shipping involved.

Members' Birthdays coming up

October

John Peeler
Ann Austen
Milton Bauldree
Connie Bauldree
Brian Reddick

November

David Dodson
Angelee Peeler
Toben Bennett
Mary Bolin
Roger Freeze
Marta Limberg
Gwen Lum
Dale Penrod
Kelly Roberts
Randy Worsham

Happy Birthday!

SAFETY QUIZ

What's wrong in this picture?



