



# Arkansas Rockhound News

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

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

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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!

*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



It is that time of year again, too much to do, so little time. It seems like all the rock shows, field trips, nice weather, football, school and everything else hits at the same time. For those like me who hate to miss out, we do not know which way to run first. That's life, just a few weeks ago I was complaining about how hot it was and there was nothing to do. And in a few more weeks I will be complaining about how cold it is and there is nothing to do. Maybe it is just me, maybe I just like to complain HMMMMM. So I guess we all need to get out there and do something while we can.

The September meeting had a large turnout and several new members joined us. The last minute details for the annual show were taken care of. It should be the high point of the year for our club. I hope all of you can turn out for at least part of the show. The program this month was by three members from the UALR faculty, about their backgrounds in geology and work at the university. Next month Mike Howard will talk about The Craters of Diamonds area. It is time to start thinking about elections for club officers next year. If you would like to show your support for the club

and step up and serve, please let us know. It is easier than you think, and a lot of fun.

## 2012 CAGMAGS SHOW

Another show has come and gone. I think everyone can agree that it was great to see it come, but nice to see it go, at least for another year. The show finished strong Sunday, but Saturday was a washout thanks to a monsoon rainfall.

I would like to thank all of you that help make this show what it has become every year. This is your show and it cannot happen unless you make it happen. Special thanks to Stephanie and Angelee in the kitchen, Sharon and Reece at the front table, Lenora and Pat at the club table, Bill for the spinning wheel and Doug for the kids dig. Thanks to all the club members new and old that gave their time during the show this year. Thanks to the students and faculty from UALR who pitched in also.

A big round of thanks to Dave with help from Weldon for being the Show Chairman for the last few years. As most of you have heard by now, this was Dave's last show, he plans to travel a lot with a camping club next year and take some much needed rest. Tom Sharp will be the new Show Chairman next year.

Bill Alcott won for the best display this year, again. He showed the stages of polished rocks when using a tumbler. The club will try to have more display boxes by next year, because there was a lot of interest in using one.

And do not forget the people that put on the demonstrations, many people came just to see them. Thanks to Mary Bolin for beading, Roberta Frost for wirewrapping and Mike Howard for mineral identification.

Everyone gets a big pat on the back for this year's show, and some much need R&R. But remember, that it is never too early to start the planning for next year.  
Mike

**Minutes of Central Arkansas Gem  
Mineral and Geology Society**

*NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME*

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**LIBRARIAN'S REPORT  
(SPECIAL EDITION)**

The following publications have been donated to the club.

**THE EARTH SEIENCE DIGEST**

1947 (Entire year)

1948 (Jan – April)

**ROCKS AND MINERALS**

29 issues from Dec 1929 to Feb 1935  
(The June 1931 issue has an old picture of our diamond mine on the cover.)

**THE MINERALOGIST**

All issues for the following years:

1935 1937 1938 1939 1940 1942

1944 1945 1946 1948

1949 1951 1952 1953 1954 1957

1958

(The April 1938 issue is a special edition on "The Art of Gem Cutting")

**LAPIDARY JOURNAL** (6 issues for each year except for those noted.)

1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953

1954 (1) 1955 1958 (3)

1959 1961 (1)

If anyone would like to browse through this material you might find some old tidbits from the past that could make interesting reading in our newsletter. By the way, your librarian has allergies that prohibit extended contact with this material so I am looking for a volunteer to give them a home elsewhere. Due to their condition they have been sealed in ziplock bags with bits of dryer sheet to keep the odor of smoke, mold and mildew down. They also came with a good population of silverfish – hopefully extinct now.

I plan to bring them to the next meeting and go home without them.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Austen, CAGMAGS Librarian

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**Saturday, October 20 FIELD TRIP to  
RAZOR ROCK**

Harrisburg, Ark. is in N.E. Ark, at the junction of highway 14 and highway 1. Razor Rock Quarry is located just 2 or 3 miles south of town on highway 1. There is a large sign for the quarry with a red razorback on it, on the East side of the highway. Turn east at the sign on to a gravel road, you will go across the RR tracks and stop along the road there. That is our meeting point, we will be there at 9 am. From there we will travel as a group about two more miles to the quarry that we will be in. There are several quarries in this area, so please do not try and go past the meeting place on your own, or you will not be able to find the right place to collect.

You will be able to drive right up to the

rock piles. All you need to collect is a bucket for rocks, there is no digging needed, everything is loose on top of the ground. You can walk along the bottom of the piles and do just fine, or you can climb the piles, they are steep loose rock and the footing is tricky, you will want some kind of walking stick for balance. You really do not have to climb on them because the material is the same everywhere. The rocks are dusty unless it has rained, so a squirt bottle of water to wet your rocks is a good idea. The agates look great wet, but it is hard to see them when dry until you get some practice.

I will be your contact person---

Mike Austen home phone 501-868-4553 steelpony@aol.com  
or James Burns home phone 501- 568-0315

The day of the trip I will have a cell phone 501-912-0287 with me, but I don't carry this phone with me all the time, so use the home number to contact me before the trip.

There will be a locked gate to go through to get to the collecting site so if you are going to be late please wait at the meeting place and call the cell phone number and we will come and get you. This is a primitive site so bring lunch and drinks, if we can we will try to have one of the buildings with a restroom open for our use, but this may not be possible. We stay until about 4 PM.

### **Saturday, November 10th FIELD TRIP to MAGNET COVE**

Details to follow later, this will be a new site for the club.

## **BENCH TIPS**

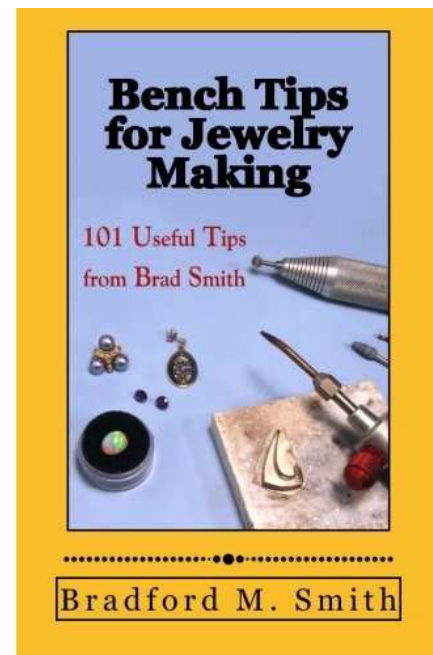
*By Brad Smith*

### **LOOSE HEADS**



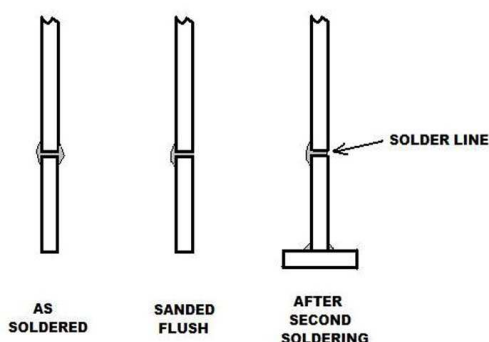
Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work, but there's a fast and easy solution available for about 50 cents - superglue. Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin superglue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

### **NEW BENCH TIPS BOOK**



Announcing "Bench Tips for Better Jewelry Making", a new book for beginning and intermediate jewelers by Bradford Smith. It contains 101 useful Bench Tips to help improve skills and increase quality at the bench. The 96 page book is filled with close-up photos to help explain the techniques. For more details, see <http://CreateSpace.com/3976439> or <http://Amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

### AVOIDING SOLDER LINES



After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear when you solder the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder dissolves a little bit more into the base metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a couple paper thicknesses excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation would prevent you from gaining access for final sanding and polishing of an area.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at:

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)  
or  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)

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### Is There A Ghost In My Quartz?

*By Stephanie Blandin, 2012*

Phantom quartz forms when gas bubbles or tiny crystals of other minerals accumulate on the termination of a quartz crystal during its growth and the color of the crystal is subtly changed. This can happen at several stages, leaving a "shadow" or "phantom". Green phantoms usually result from chlorite, reddish-brown from various iron minerals, blue from riebeckite and white from gas or liquid bubbles or as a result of etching. It is widespread and has a hardness of 7. Blue phantoms come from Sao Paulo, Brazil; green from Hot Springs, Arkansas and Quartzsite Arizona; reddish-brown from Minas Gervais, Brazil. White phantoms are found widely throughout Brazil and also in Arkansas.

*From Rock & Gem (Smithsonian)*



Okay, I usually start out this corner of the newsletter with a gripe session about not having enough input from y'all. Not so this month! Angelee Peeler took some great shots of the rock show and got them to me.

Thanks, Angelee! Stephanie Blanden has been doing some more research which is included in this issue as well. Thanks, Stephanie! Mike Austen sent along not only the President's Message, but also a report on the show. Thanks, Mike! That input certainly makes editing this newsletter a whole lot easier \*AND\* makes it OUR newsletter!

Hoping to continue the trend, I ask for input on this: Some time back, I came into possession of a palm sized piece of polished rock that was a dark grey with many splashes of brilliant silver schiller. Someone identified it as a piece of Spectrolite. My wife adopted that stone and wanted more of it. Well, after much searching the web and several books, we've determined that our rock isn't Spectrolite at all, but instead Larvikite. Spectrolite, it appears, is similar to Labrodorite, but that's where the disagreement starts. Some accounts define Spectrolite as a rock from a particular location, while others simply classify it as a more colorful version of Labrodorite. Anybody out there care to shed any light on the real scoop on Spectrolite?

Last month, I mentioned Ken Morris was advertising some gemstones and various lapidary equipment. I have talked to him a couple of times and got a list of some of the things he wants to sell. If you're interested, give him a call at (501) 916-0787.

**Bill,**

***Here is a list of some of the items I have for sale.***

***Raytech Dimafast F 360 6" \$45***

***Raytech Nu Bond 600 6" (Red) \$45***

***Raytech 1200 6" disc (Blue) \$45***

***Raytech 3000 6" disc (Orange) \$45***

***Graves Flat disc Ceramic \$65***

***Czeckpoint Diamond Tester (nearly unused) \$50***

***Or buy the lot of disc and tester for \$210***

***Shalom,***

***Ken***

If you have any info you'd be willing to share, or anything to put in the newsletter, please contact me at:

Bill Alcott

430 Stoney Point Church Rd

Beebe, AR 72012-9688

(501) 231-2030 (cell)

(501) 882-2526 (home)

[Mister.bill@starband.net](mailto:Mister.bill@starband.net)

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### **How Hard Is It?**

*By Stephanie Blandin, 2012*

Testing hardness is an extremely useful aid to mineral identification. The hardness of a material is the relative ease or difficulty with which it can be scratched. A harder mineral will scratch a softer one, but not vice versa. Any mineral can be allotted a number on the Mohs scale, which measures hardness from 1 (as soft as talc) to 10 (as hard as diamond). Hardness should not be confused with toughness or strength. Very hard minerals (including diamond) can be quite brittle. There is a general link between hardness and chemical composition. Most hydrous minerals – that is, minerals containing water molecules – are relatively soft, as are halides, carbonates, sulfates, phosphates and most sulfides. Most anhydrous oxides – those not containing water molecules – and silicates are relatively hard (above 5 on the Mohs scale).

Testing Methods: Specialist tools are

available to test hardness, but you can use a fingernail (scratches a mineral less than 2 ½ on the Mohs scale) or a knife blade (scratches under 5 ½).

**The Mohs Scale of Hardness**

<u>Hardness</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Other materials for testing</u>
1	Talc	Easily scratched with fingernail
2	Gypsum	Can be scratched by fingernail
3	Calcite	Just scratched by copper coin
4	Fluorite	Very easily scratched by knife
5	Apatite	Just scratched by a knife
6	Orthoclase	Just scratches glass
7	Quartz	Scratches glass easily
8	Topaz	Scratches glass very easily
9	Corundum	Cuts glass
10	Diamond	Cuts glass

*From Rock & Gem (Smithsonian)*

**PHOTOS FROM  
THE 2012 ROCK SHOW**  
*Photography by Angelee Peeler*





## Is That Stone Bleeding? *By Stephanie Blandin, 2012*

Heliotrope, also known as bloodstone, is a dark green variety of chalcedony colored by traces of iron silicates and with patches of bright red jasper which show throughout, polished or unpolished, hence the name “Bloodstone”. Helio(Greek) means “Sun” and Trepein means “Turning”. The ancient source was from India, and the modern sources are from Brazil, China and Australia. It has a hardness of 7 and its occurrence is through deposition from low-temperature, silica-rich waters percolating through cracks and fissures (narrow openings) in other rocks. There is a legend that says bloodstone was formed from the blood of Christ dripping on the green earth and solidifying. Bloodstone is also a symbol of justice. It is used in jewelry, carved into beautiful bowls and has decorated many ancient sacred statues.

*From: Rocks & Gems (Smithsonian)*

