

CAGMAGS
4900 Sparks Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72210



Arkansas Rockhound News

January 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 February 22, 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

218 Old Hwy 11 South

Hazen, AR 72064

(870) 255-3679

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



Ann and I attended the Tyler Texas rock show last weekend, and had a great time as always. Their show had several interesting demonstrations including one on knapping arrowheads that I really liked. The Rock Food Table was there again, but with different stuff than the last time I saw it. Where do they come up with all those rocks, makes me hungry looking at all the food. If you have never seen the display, you can go out on the Internet and check it out.

The club managed to have a January meeting in spite of work going on in our old meeting room, and the nasty weather. Next month the meeting will be back to normal at the library. We talked about the coming year and what we would like to do. A field trip plan for the year is being worked on, with the possibility of some over night trips. If anyone has any ideas for a new spot for a trip please let us know. If you would like to work on any of the committees this year let us know, your help will be appreciated. Please pay your dues as soon as you can if you have not done so already. Now that the weather is getting a little better, I hope to see you all soon out in the field where good rockhounds are supposed to be.

Mike

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

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

The January meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen on Tuesday Jan. 25, 2011 at the Whole Earth Foods store. There were 23 members and 1 guest present. Our visitor was Kevin Stinson, a member of the Buffalo, N.Y. Geology Society. Mike presented Carl Hill with a January birthday rock.

Mike announced we have the Terry Library reserved for February through July. The meeting dates will be Feb. 22, Mar. 22, April 26, May 24, June 28 and July 26, so you can mark your calendars. He also reminded people that dues are now due. If you haven't paid, please send to Lenora Murray, the new secretary-treasurer. He also summarized an interesting article about the Wegner Crystal Mine in Mt. Ida.

REPORTS:

The secretary-treasurer report for November was approved. The audit of the books for 2010 was presented by Lenora Murray and Ann Austen. **A motion to accept the audit report as printed was made, seconded, and passed.** A short discussion was held on the work done by the American Lands Access Association to keep us informed about pending legislation regarding government regulations on public lands. **A motion to renew our membership to ALAA for \$50.00 for this year was made, seconded and passed.** We were also informed that we have reserved and paid for the Burns Park Pavilion for our Spring Swap on April 9. We also paid for the Jacksonville Civic Center for the 39th Annual Fall Show to be held October 1 and 2 this year.

Ann Austen, our librarian reported we have many new magazines for check out. Our Rock and Gem and Lapidary Journal subscriptions are renewed for another year. Please call her before a meeting if you want to check out some of the books or magazines.

James Burns, the field trip chair, will be setting up the February field trip to Razor Rock Quarry on Sat. Feb. 12. Please call him (501-568-0315) for meeting time and location if you plan to attend. No field trip was held in December or January due to inclement weather. Hopefully this will start off a good collecting year for us all.

Pearl Roth, the program chair gave us a tentative future programs list. February will be the annual club auction. Members are invited to bring up to 5

items per person, with 20% of the proceeds going to the club. Mike Howard will present a program on Lapidary Hazards in March. And the April program will be a slide presentation about crystals. She encouraged members to share interests and program ideas for future programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Mike announced that our Christmas Party at the Kissire's residence was a huge success. Angelee Peeler shared pictures of the event with us all. It was agreed that we need to have another party like this next year, if someone will volunteer their home.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike passed around a list of committees for 2011, and asked folks to sign up if they weren't already on a committee. He also asked members to check if their mailing address, phone, and e-mail are correct. Please notify Dave Murray or Mike Austin if there are any changes.

Bill Alcott presented information on a Silversmithing instruction program on DVD. It is a set which has over 80 hours of instruction. He said he'd pay \$100 toward the cost of \$200 for the club to purchase the program. **A motion to buy the Silversmithing DVD program, with the club paying \$100.00 toward the cost, and the club retaining ownership in our library was moved, seconded and passed.**

SHOW and TELL:

We had many interesting items for Show and Tell. Mike Austen gave us an informative talk on the Tyler Texas show, with a display of the items, including a couple fine trilobites and some petrified wood, that he won at their silent auction. Their silent auction consisted of items members found all year long on their field trips. He mentioned they had a rock food table, arrow head making demonstration, and other things we may want to add to our show. James Burns brought a few fine samples of a rock collection he recently acquired. George Gray-Major brought three beautiful samples from his own collection, and refused all bids to buy them from him. Two were beautiful carvings with fluorite, albite, and jade, and the third was a piece with gorgeous tourmaline in matrix. Pat Kissire

announced that they hosted a Webelos troop recently, and helped them pass the requirements for a scout badge. A discussion was held about the club helping other Scouts pass their merit badges. Angelee Peeler agreed to help with the Scouts and Junior Programs, and Ann Austen reminded us of the possibility of helping with the Scout Merit Badge University held once a year in Little Rock.

Since the store closed at 8:00, we had no time for a formal program, and the meeting was closed with the raffle. Thanks to a generous donation of a dogtooth calcite on dolomite from New York collected by our visitor Kevin Stinson, we had three Best of Shows. Kathy Ridley won the New York calcite, George Gray-Major won a trilobite from Morocco, and Bill Ridley won a selenite cluster from Great Salt Plains, Oklahoma. A special thank you goes out to the Whole Earth Foods store for the use of their meeting room this month.

Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Murray Secretary-Treasurer

Members' Birthdays in January

Carl Hill and John Thaden. Happy Birthday!

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND

If you have ever screened through the kids sand box.
If you go to a Rocky movie expecting to see the last club field trip.
If you think the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a geology museum.
If your dream is to eat Thanksgiving dinner at the rock food table.
If you wife asks for some new crystal and you give her quartz.
If you think rock lobster is a kind of fossil.
If you pack more stuff for a field trip than for deer camp.
If the only state office you have ever been in is the state geology commission.

From the Editor's Cave:

Well, another month has slipped by, and I find myself still unable to get my butt in gear in time to get a newsletter out early! The January meeting slipped by before I had this issue out, and the month

is almost over. I'll just get this one squeaked out before it's February and it'll be time to get the next one on it's way. There's light on the horizon, however! I recently subscribed to an organization called SCRIBE which is a group dedicated to the newsletter editors of rock, gem and mineral groups across the country. Among other things, I now have a wealth of information on a wide range of subjects that is (1.) re-printable without having to get authorization or permission from anyone, and (2.) already in a computer friendly format so I don't need to scan old and sometimes wrinkled or yellowed pages. The benefits to me is amazing, and the benefits to y'all is that if you have some topic you'd like to see, drop me a line and I'll check out the newsletters and articles and see if I can find something. Of course, if there's something you would like to share with the group, please feel free to take some pictures, write an article, or BOTH! It would be greatly appreciated!

Workshop Tip

Many tumbling instructions tell you how much grit or polish to use per pound of rock, and this is usually in ounces. If you do not have an ounce scale handy, here are the equivalent teaspoon measurements.

Coarse grit: 1 oz = 4 level tps
Medium grit: 1 oz = 4 level tps
Fine grit: 1 oz = 4 level tps
Polish: 1 oz = 8 level tps

*From Outcroppings 11/94
Via Cabber Gabber 4/09*

AUCTION NEXT MEETING!

Bring up to 5 items to auction off, and a pocket full of money. No limit on how many items you can buy!



2011 Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, & Geology
Society Officers and Committee Members

If ***YOUR*** name doesn't appear on this list, feel free to contact any of the officers, or the chairman of the committee you want to help

President Mike Austen
Vice President Tom Sharp
2nd Vice President Jim Schenebeck
Secretary/Treasurer Lenora Murray

Librarian Ann Austen
Webmaster Bill Alcott
Asst web George Sterpka
News Letter Editor Bill Alcott
Club Geologist Tom Sharp

Annual Show Chairman Dave Murray
Asst Chair Weldon Kissire
Members Doug Stone Kids Dig
George Sterpka

Spring Swap Chairman Mike Austen
Members Ann Austen
Carl Hill
George Sterpka

Field Trip Coordinator James Burns
Members Dave Murray
Obe Willix
Carl Hill

Program Chairman Pearl Roth
Jerry Roth
Mike Howard

Membership Chairman Mike Austen
Members All Club Members

Club Contact Chairman Ann Austen
Members Tom Sharp Phone calls
Sharon Watson Phone calls
Mike Austen E-mail

Raffle & Auction Chairman Weldon Kissire
Members Dave Murray procurement
Tom Sharp procurement

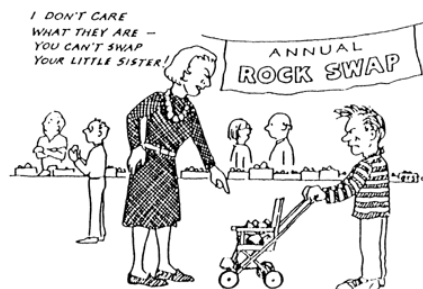
Sunshine Chairman Angelee Peeler
Lenore Murray

Junior Programs Chairman Obe Willix
Members Lenore Murray
Tom Sharp
Jerry Roth
Angelee Peeler

SWAP MEET IN APRIL

The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society will hold it's annual rock, mineral, and fossil swap meet on April 9, 2011 from 9 am until 5 PM. It will be at Burns Park in North Little Rock Arkansas at the Elder Johnson Pavilion next to the visitor center. Take exit 150 off of I-40 on to Military Drive, and go north on Military Drive to the first road to the West. Go west to the park visitor center; the Elder Johnson Pavilion is next to it on the West side. The swap is open to all area rock clubs and the public. Free admission. Contact Mike Austen 501-868-4553 or steelpony@aol.com.

The Central Arkansas club along with others from the area will have rocks, minerals, fossils and other related items for sale or trade. Bring along your own items for free identification or trading. There is no charge to the public, so just come and see what kinds of wonderful items can be found in our state. You can talk to some great people with a lot of knowledge of geology and the hobby of rock collecting. You can get information about or join the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society.



Cartoon from Rockbuster News 6/89
via T-Town Rockhound 9/97
via The Burro Express 10/97

CAGMAGS Christmas Party 2010

The Christmas party was a big hit this year. About 30 people showed up at the home of Pat and Weldon. The club gives a big round of thanks to them for letting us use their home. There was a lot of great food and conversation by club members. Weldon gave everyone a tour of "THE ROCK BARN." If you have never seen his little collection you are really missing something. Club members then played dirty Santa and after lots of action, but no blood shed, everyone went home with a prize. Members did a lot of talking about plans for next year, and what they would like to see the club do. If you could not attend the party this year, you really need to start planning for next year so you do not miss out again.
MIKE



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Experience is something you don't get until just
after you need it.

Via *Golden Spike News* 8/01

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HELPFUL HINTS

1. Manual Car washes are good places to clean large rock specimens that are not fragile. The hard spray cleans all nooks and crannies. Dusty Rocks & others via Broccia 10/97

2. Before grinding and sanding cabochons, put cold cream on your hands and rub them until they are dry. This fills the pores and cracks in your fingers. When grinding, sawing, or sanding is completed, the dirt can be washed off easily. Good idea for painting also.
Gemstar via Breccia 10/97

From Napa Gems 12/97
via Beehive Buzzer 1/98

Clean obsidian needles by washing in Castile soap using a toothbrush to get the clay off. Never put obsidian in detergent, as it leaves a white film which is difficult to remove. To remove stains, soak in oxalic acid and then wash well'

Trouble polishing peridot? Try a drop or two of lemon juice or vinegar - it will speed things up. Wash and rinse your laps and other tools with plain water when finished polishing.

(Both hints above from Breccia 6/97, via T-Town 9/97)

If you drop a stone on the floor and can't see it, put some pantyhose on the end of a vacuum hose, and turn it on.

(Linda Felker, Conglomerate 7/97 via Nodule Nocker 9/97)

One of the least known methods of finding mineral specimens is also one of the easiest and many times one of the most Productive. It consists of inspecting and testing the materials which ants, gophers, prairie dogs, moles, etc. bring to the surface.

Some ants tunnel down to 15 feet and spread over more than an acre. Excellent gemstones, especially red gemstones, have been found in anthills.

(From Staurolite 6/97 via Rock Chips 9/97)

A gram of gold can be beaten into a leaf .0000033" thick that will cover six square feet.

(From Gem & Mineral 9/59 via Green Valley Rocker 9/97)

via The Burro Express 10/97

To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface of petrified wood, use MR. CLEAN. (Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen.)

(From Scott Shrader 2/24/98 on the Internet at shrader@scsn.net via rocks-and-fossils@world.std.com via T-Town Rockhound 4/98)

Still Think It's Jade?

Lapidaries and jewelers should constantly attempt to call gemstones and rough materials by their correct names. The term jade is applied to many non-jade stones, such as: Korean jade is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine; Transvaal jade is a massive variety of green, grossular garnet; Amazon jade is aventurine; American jade is a rock - a mixture of idocrase and grossular; Australian jade is chrysoprase; Colorado jade is green microcline; Jasper jade is green jasper; Flukien, Manchurian and Honan jades are all soapstone; Mexican jade is green-dyed marble or calcite; Oregon jade is dark green jasper; Silver peak jade is malachite. It would be clearer to beginners if jade were called jade, malachite called malachite, aventurine called aventurine.

From Carmel Valley Prospector Via Gravel Gazette 10/01

Lincoln's Marble Leaks!

Did you know the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC is sprouting stalactites and stalagmites in its basement? This phenomenon is caused by water seeping through the marble. Though the Memorial is a little over 55 years old, the formations have grown several feet in length. When the Memorial was built, engineers sank 122 cylinders to bedrock 50 feet underground. The base of the Memorial is set high above ground on a rectangular platform, thus forming a cavernous space beneath the floor. This is where the stalactites and stalagmites are growing.

Souce: Rockhound Ramblings—February 2006

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Differences Between Rocks and Minerals:

A mineral is a naturally occurring solid with a definite chemical composition and a specific crystalline structure. A rock is an aggregate of one or more minerals. (A rock may also include organic remains and mineraloids.) Some rocks are predominantly composed of just one mineral. For example, limestone is a sedimentary rock composed almost entirely of the mineral calcite. Other rocks contain many minerals, and the specific minerals in a rock can vary widely. Some minerals, like quartz, mica or feldspar are common, while others have been found in only one or two locations worldwide. The vast majority of the rocks of the Earth's crust consist of quartz, feldspar, mica, chlorite, kaolin, calcite, epidote, olivine, augite, hornblende,

magnetite, hematite, limonite and a few other minerals.[5] Over half of the mineral species known are so rare that they have only been found in a handful of samples, and many are known from only one or two small grains. Commercially valuable minerals and rocks are referred to as industrial minerals. Rocks from which minerals are mined for economic purposes are referred to as ores (the rocks and minerals that remain, after the desired mineral has been separated from the ore, are referred to as tailings).

Find The Gems And Minerals

Find the gems and minerals listed up, down, diagonal, or backwards.

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E E C H R Y S O P R A S E T S
T E T I L A D O S P I N E L S
I T L O N Y X E N O N L E E A
S A Z T R A U Q D S Y C L L E
O Y E L Y R E B O R O N A I T
R D B O R T D L O G A P H T I
H I O U C K R E V L I S S U N
C A T U R Q U O I S E H O R O
O M I C A E T I L U H T U C G
D O J A D E L A T S Y R C O A
O N O C R I Z M L D F E L P X
H D I F F U T B E A V H A P E
R H Y O L I T E T R P C T E H
P E N I L A M R U O T O K R T
    
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AMBER	ONYX
BERYL	OPAL
BORON	QUARTZ
BORT	RHODOCHROSITE
CHERT	RHYOLITE
CHRYSOPRASE	RUBY
COPPER	RUTILE
CRYSTAL	SARD
DIAMOND	SILVER
GOLD	SHALE
HEXAGONITE	SODALITE
JADE	SPINEL
LAPIS LAZULI	TALC MICA

Tips & Hints

Torch Safety Tips: *from Golden Spike News 6-7/2005, via SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2005*

Don't—use oil on torch equipment.

Don't—leave the torch on if you leave the area, no matter for how short a time.

Don't—leave pressure on regulators when shutting down.

Don't—hesitate to ask for help or instructions if you are unsure about equipment or technique.

Don't—attempt to save money when buying hoses.

Don't—take chances—your life may depend on it.

Polishing Guide

by Carl Childers

Cerium Oxide on Felt: *from the Rockytier 6/2005, via SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2005*

Use approximately 30 ml dry cerium with enough water to make a slurry. Stir with a stick, and apply to wet pad. Polish your stone. Try different speeds, but fast is not necessary. If the pad dries out, spritz with a water bottle so that the polish does not ball up on your stone. Two to four minutes should suffice.

Heat Treating Agates: *from Golden Spike News 7/2004, via Huntin' & Diggin' 7/2005 and SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2005*

Some agates respond well to heat treating to restore colors. For example, many Lake Superior agates have lost their vivid reds and oranges. The structures are intact, but the color has faded to almost uniform light tans and browns. Heating them restores much of their original vibrancy. Some other stones that especially benefit are the Brazilian agate and carnelian. To treat, place a layer of clean sand or kitty litter 1/2 inch deep in a Pyrex™ dish. Place a layer of rocks (slabs) in the dish. Cover thinly with sand or kitty litter. Repeat until all rocks are used. Place in oven at lowest setting (150 degrees) for two hours. This drives out the moisture that could cause the stones to explode. Then raise the temperature 50 degrees every 1/2 hour until 500 degrees is reached. Leave on for two hours at 500°, then turn off the oven to let cool—preferably overnight... NO PEEKING! Allow container to cool completely to room temperature before opening the oven door. This process takes approximately 10 hours.

Safety Report

Safe Safety SAFETY

by George Browne

SCFMS Safety Chair

from SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2005

Causes: What causes us to do the often dumb and sometimes stupid things that may result in property damage, injury and “heaven forbid” fatalities? Well, unfortunately there is no single cause because if there were, we could correct it and we would all be safe. In the real world, there are numerous causes which singularly or collectively contribute to our problem. Perhaps if we can identify some of them, we can eliminate them and increase our chances of being safe. The following is not a complete list. I'm sure you can think of additional items—and that is good. The purpose of this article is to make you think—**safety–Safety–SAFETY**.

Knowledge: I think most rockhounds know how to be safe. It is your responsibility to be aware of the hazards associated with your equipment and the materials you handle. It's just dumb to get hurt because you didn't read the instructions.

Apathy, Arrogance: Why do you think you are immune from injury? Perhaps if you thought about the bad consequence you would change your attitude. To become blind or lose a hand because you didn't care or because you wanted to show how daring you are is absolutely stupid.

Carelessness, Inattention: These are the most common causes of injury. You must be aware of what you are doing and how you are doing it. Pay attention, be aware, use caution. Keep your head in the game. A little carelessness can result in a lifetime of permanent disability.

Awareness: Know your surroundings, avoid dangerous areas, be alert for danger. You must admit it's just dumb to pick up a piece of metal that you just heated with a torch. These are just a few of the causes. The important thing is to constantly think about safety. Most injuries are caused by dumb acts. Before you do anything, determine if it is safe. Be sure you have the proper equipment. Develop a safety attitude, keep alert, and practice safety until it becomes routine. Our hobby is much more enjoyable when it doesn't hurt! Safety is your job—do it! Be safe, and develop a safety attitude!

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!