



# The Red Stick Rockhound

## News

### Message From the President

Ray Duplechain- President



### OFFICERS

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### BOARD MEMBERS

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### NEXT MEETING DATE

**Oct. 22, 2012**  
**7:00pm**  
**At the Marriott**

Hi All

The last few months have been a very busy time for us. Our Annual Gem Show was a huge success. We've had our largest turnout of vendors, our largest turnout of visitors, the most volunteers, our largest venue and our largest amount of profit ever. All those things are good but let us keep in mind what other great benefits have been accomplished. The amount of exposure that we had is immeasurable. We have reached hundreds of people and they have become aware of our existence. How many times have we heard them say: We did not know that such a group was here! We signed up many new members. Along with new members come new, fresh ideas. Let's not lose our zeal for what we do. Excitement breeds excitement. That has been a large reason for recent club growth.

I am so proud of our membership for reaching out to others and offering to help and teach them on many aspects of our love of gems & minerals. Sharing our finds and offering of door prizes at meetings is one example.

Christmas will be upon us soon, so we need to start planning the Christmas party. If you have any ideas of where to have it or if you would like to do something different please let us know. So, put on your thinking caps and let's come up with a great party. continued

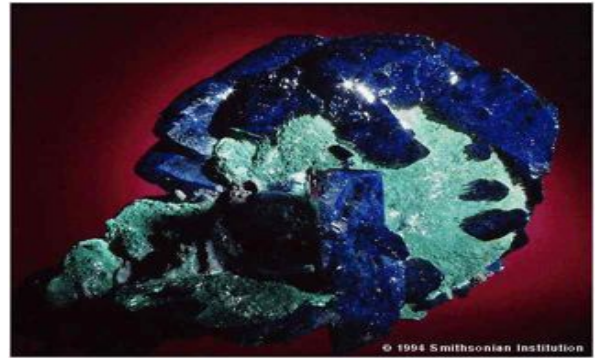
I am also anxious to get started on our display cabinets. I have sent out request to the federation for required specifications. I saw some great display cabinets at The New Orleans Gem Show that I liked. The gentleman that made them said he would gladly assist us with ours. So, once I hear back from the federation we will begin planning.

I hope to do much more including getting the Federation Convention to come here.

We have continued our relationship with The Bluebonnet Swamp. The Rockin at The Swamp grows yearly. We did Earth Day this years and spoke to hundreds of people. We did Astronomy Day at The Observatory. Had a few field trips including one to Georgia to dig for amethyst. We sent two of our members to William Holland for classes. Purchased a new projector and had some great programs.

So, as we begin a new year, let's keep moving forward and spreading the word of who we are and what we do.

See you at the meeting.



## FLUORESCENT MINERALS

Fluorescence is a phenomenon that causes a mineral to “glow” in the dark within the visible spectrum when exposed to ultraviolet light. Minerals that exhibit fluorescence are known as “fluorescent minerals”. Fluorescent minerals contain particles in their structure know as *activators*, which respond to ultraviolet light by giving off a visible glow.

Fluorescence is not always a reliable method for mineral identification, since certain minerals of the same species may fluoresce different colors from different localities, but it can still be an indicator. If an unidentified mineral from a certain locality glows a specific color, it can often be identified by the color of its fluorescence.

Color and intensity of the fluorescence varies among specimens of a particular mineral. However, specimens from the same locality virtually always fluoresce the same color.

There are two forms of ultraviolet wavelengths: longwave and shortwave. Some minerals fluoresce the same color in both wavelengths, other fluoresces in only one wavelength, and yet others fluoresce in only one wavelength.

When a mineral is labeled fluorescent without specifying longwave or shortwave, shortwave fluorescence is implied.

[www.minerals.net](http://www.minerals.net)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 22, 2012 Meeting  
Presentation: Fluorescent Minerals  
by Joe Daly from the N.O. Gem & Mineral Club

Club Christmas Party: To be decided

## BR Gem & Mineral Society Sept. 25/2012

### ***MINUTES: by Norma Travis***

Meeting called to order by Ray Duplechain.

Minutes read by Norma Travis. Approved by Diana Martin, seconded by Glenn Gawarecki .

Treasurer's report given by Glenn Gawarecki

New members presented: Bill Myrick & JoAnn McMullen.

Federation report given by Ray D. We should consider hosting in 2014.

Committee reports; Show- Diana M. We cleared over \$3,000.00 on Show. Spent more on drinks and advertising than expected. Over 850 attended. Suggested we set up more items at each round of Silent Auction.

Rolling Rock Club donated \$262.00 to our scholarship fund. Six memberships signed at auction, Vendors were given Dinner Prizes; Cherie Schofield sent thank you notes to restaurant providing meals & discounts.

Discussed Article 11 Section 11 by-laws. Honorary members pay no dues, but cannot vote. Motion to allow voting by Warren Travis, seconded by Norma Travis. All agreed to allow voting by honorary members.

Old Business: Projector has been purchased by club. Suggestion made by Ray D. to think about buying an inexpensive computer for club use.

New Business; officers voted in: President: Ray Duplechain, Vice President: Charles Ray, Secretary: Norma Travis, Treasurer: Glenn Gawarecki. Board Members: Emile Poche & Scott McMickens. Congrats, all.

Announcements; Ray called a Board Meeting to follow immediately after this meeting. New Orleans Gem & Mineral Club will hold their Show 09/28-09/30/2012 at The Doubletree Inn -Veterans Blvd. Kenner.

Rocking on the swamp will be 03/ 10/2013

Cherie requested us to bring worrystones & friendshipstones when we find them.

Ray will be changing committee structure to get new input and give committee heads a break.

Linda Wiggs presented slide show on Amite River Rocks & fossils.

Meeting adjourned.

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## **FIELD TRIP**

**It seems we all lead such busy lives that fieldtrips are hard to organize! Summertime is often too hot to get out. Then preparing for our Annual Gem Show keeps us busy in the fall. Now that hunting season is here it is too dangerous to be hiking around looking for rocks. I have arranged for a road trip to Jasper Texas to dig for petrified wood. The contact cannot get us on the property till hunting season is over. He told me to call him after hunting season to set it up. But our window of opportunity is small because turkey season starts in April. I will try to schedule it for around March. I went this past month to the same location and there was so much on the ground that I had to be picky as to what I would load up! I was exhausted carrying wood but well worth it. So, if you go, be prepared to get a work out! Also there is going to be a limit on how many can go. So, I will be making a sign up sheet soon. A deposit will be required. That is the only fair way to do it because of the limit. Once you sign up and pay the deposit, you are good to go. If you back out your deposit will be forfeited. I will keep everyone updated, as time gets closer.**

**Ray Duplechain**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Graves – 2nd  
Jim Gardner– 5<sup>th</sup>  
Dawn Bosh – 6th  
Earl Dyer – 7th  
Bob Graves – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Judith Schiebout – 16th  
Linda Wiggs – 18th  
Amanda Clark – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Joanne McMullen – 28th  
Carol Rabb– 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ben Turley – 30th

October Birthstone: OPAL  
Symbolizes faithfulness and confidence. The word comes from Latin opalus, meaning “precious jewel”. Necklaces with opals set in them were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight.

Membership dues are now due:  
Please get with Glenn Gawarecki. If you can't make the meeting, you can mail your dues to:

Glenn Gawarecki  
BRGMS  
5191 Hwy. 19  
Ethel, La. 70730

\$15.00 – Single  
\$25.00 – Family



We'll be on our way in no time Agnes  
You unload the rocks and I'll change the tire

by Bill Mittlebeeler via Dust & Grit 2/00  
via Golden Spike News 4/00

## BUY, SELL or TRADE

If you are looking to buy, sell or trade rocks or equipment send me an email at:

[brgemmineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:brgemmineralsociety@gmail.com)

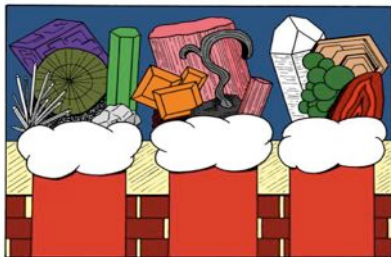
I will put your Ad in the newsletter



## Christmas Goodie Box

Who wouldn't love getting an extra special box of goodies from Santa! Well, here's your chance! All you have to do to participate is contribute a little something to the goodie box. And the best part is your contribution doesn't cost a penny! Simply rummage a bit through your stash of specimens, cabs, and slabs, whatever you choose! Select a piece, label and wrap it and bring it to the October or November club meeting to place in the box. Wrapping doesn't have to be fancy. You can use newspaper and tape; whatever you wish. Only one piece is required per member. You can contribute as many pieces as you wish, but understand that your name only goes in once, so we ask that you only contribute one piece each to make it fair. You are not required to contribute, but it's the only way you will have a chance to win! As each wrapped piece is placed in the box, your name will be added to a list and placed in the drawing for the box. Pieces will be collected at the meetings by Scott & Rena Chickens. Should we not be in attendance at the meetings, please give your contributions to Ray or Cheryl Duplechain. We will collect them and place them in the box. The drawing will take place at our club Christmas party in December. If you are not present for the drawing, you will be contacted and have until the January meeting to collect the box. If the box isn't collected by the January meeting, another name will be drawn before the January meeting adjourns.

Let's have fun with this and see who ends up having a little extra "something" for Christmas  
Rena McMickens



Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Duplechain

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Joe Samrow

Mr. Joe and his wife Tekla joined the BRGMS in 1975. He is one of our past presidents. At the time that he joined the club there were approximately 40 members.

He discovered a love for rocks at a young age, but did not really begin collecting until 1975.

He and Tekla enjoyed rockhounding together. She enjoyed making Gem Trees. Mr. Joe has several in his collection that she made.

Mr. Joe's favorite rock is the Chrome Diopside, which is man made. He enjoys going to Needle Peak at Big Ben where he finds agates.

Mr. Joe loves talking rocks, so take advantage of his wealth of information.

He is a very important part of our club and we are honored that he is still active in the club.

Thank you Mr. Joe for your contributions to our club.