



The Red Stick Rockhound

News

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Message From the President

Ray Duplechain- President



Hi All

The holiday season is fast approaching and the cool weather is a welcome feeling after such a blistering summer. As we begin to wrap up this calendar year, our club year is starting anew with some new faces in, memberships and officers.

At our October meeting, we had Joe Daley and his wife, Carol present their collection of fluorescent minerals. He gave a great talk on how he became interested in collecting fluorescents. Eyes were wide open as lights were dimmed to show the specimens under short wave lights. The kids (young & old) were fascinated with them. Joe has invited the club over to their home for a field trip to see the rest of his collection. Let me know if you are interested in going. I will try to set something up this spring.

Our Christmas party should be festive as it is scheduled a little closer to Christmas than normal. Details are posted in this newsletter.

It is also the time of year that we award someone with a scholarship to William Holland. This has been a great success with several of our members attending classes. So, give this some thought and put your name in the hat for the drawing. We will be awarding two scholarships again this year.

I am still working on the field trip to Jasper in the spring. I will keep you updated. Ray

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 27, 2012

7:00 PM

At The Marriott

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presentation: Catherine Rouchon of Compass Rose will give a presentation after the meeting.

Club Christmas Party: December 15th at Charles & Marie Rays home. 6:00 pm.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joe Samrow- 4th
Ashley Reddon - 4th
Jimmy Lapham- 6th
Catherine Rouchon - 7th
Emily Bower - 8th
Claire Sanchez - 11th
Trey Wilson - 12th
Darlene Reaves - 16th
Claire Coco- 21st
Jerry Cagle -27th
Nancy Glahn - 30^t

Novembers birthstone is the Topaz.
Courage, fidelity, wisdom and serenity are the characteristics of the Topaz. They are associated with mental clarity and focus.



Newsletter Editor:
Cheryl Duplechain
A member of S.C.R.I.B.E.
Special Congress Representing
Involved Bulletin Editors

Geodes



are **geological secondary sedimentary structures** which occur in **sedimentary** and certain **volcanic rocks**. Geodes are essentially spherical masses of mineral matter that were deposited syngenetically within the rock formations they are found in. Geodes have a **chalcedony** shell containing various minerals, usually **quartz**. Geodes differ from **vugs** in that they were formed as a separate entity from the surrounding rock, whereas vugs are voids or cavities within a rock formation. Geodes also differ from "nodules" in that a nodule is a mass of mineral matter that has accreted around the nodule nucleus. Both structures had the minerals contained within, deposited from groundwater or hydrothermal processes. The exterior of most geodes generally consists of chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline form of quartz. Inside the chalcedony shell many minerals have been found such as **calcite**, **pyrite**, **kaolinite**, **sphalerite**, **millerite**, **barite**, **dolomite**, **limonite**, **smithsonite** and quartz, which is by far the most common and abundant mineral found in geodes. Geodes are found mostly in **basaltic lavas** and **limestones**.
wikipedia

Christmas Goodie Box

Remember to get your goodie boxes to Rena McMickens.



BR Gem & Mineral Society

MINUTES:

October 23, 2012 Meeting

Ray Duplechain called meeting order.
Minutes of the September meeting read by Cheryl Duplechain for Norma Travis.
Minutes accepted by Scott McMickens and seconded by Mr. Joe Samrow.

Treasurer's report given by Glenn Gawarecki.

There were no special reports or committee reports.

Glenn will make deposit for Marriott for 2013

Ray announced that a filed trip to Jasper Texas for petrified wood has been tentatively set for March of 2013. There will be more details at a later date.

A discussion of the club's Christmas party was discussed and it was decided that we would have a traditional party and it will be held at Charles and Marie Ray's home. The cost is five dollars per person and must be paid by November meeting. It will be catered and each person is to bring a Female/Male gift to be given out.

Ray passed out forms for everyone to sign up for a committee for the next year.

Ray announced upcoming Gem/Mineral Shows.

Scott McMickens suggested that the club discuss getting a Card Reader.

Meeting was adjourned.

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



BRGMS SPOTLIGHT

Rena McMickens has been a member of BRGMS since August 2010. She learned about the BRGMS at our first participation in Rockin at The Swamp. She is an active member that enjoys volunteering at the silent auction table at our annual gem show.

She and husband Scott take on the responsibility of putting together field trips to our local creeks for our members.

Rena enjoys rockhounding on the Amite, but, has visions of making a trip to Montana to hunt along Yellowstone National Park.

She discovered her love for rocks as a child, bringing home pockets full of rocks. Her favorite rock is the Montana Moss Agate and the Fairburn Agate.

She enjoys collecting and displaying for her own pleasure.

She has been an asset to our club since joining and is always willing to help.

Thanks for everything you do Rena, we truly appreciate you.

Rena also has her own soap/candle business. See her ad below



If you would like to advertise your business in the newsletter please contact me.

A Visit to Poor Boy Rock Shop

By **Kimberly Brannon**

Undoubtedly, the best part of being connected with other rock hounds are the precious gems they drop in the form of information. Mining for the information doesn't require heavy equipment or a shovel, but simply making yourself available as a student of those with more experience. Ray Duplechain dropped one such nugget when he suggested that my boyfriend Mattson and I make a trip to Poor Boy Rock Shop, adding that it's in Flatwoods 'somewhere' and we WOULD get lost. We certainly did!



Having just relocated to Alexandria, LA, one of my first tasks was discovering where to hunt for stones in the area and who to connect with to discuss what might be found. Following Ray's recommendation, we drove up I-49, but soon discovered that finding Poor Boy Rock Shop is about as elusive as finding Louisiana Opal. Flatwoods is a beautiful area, we saw most of it by driving up and down every road until we determined it was an impossible task and called Ray. He encouraged us to keep searching and reassured us it would be worth it in the end, but my search soon turned to Google. Of course, you won't find Poor Boy Rock Shop online. You won't find it in the list of 'things to do in Flatwoods.' What I did find after much frustration was one blog. One blog of a biker who'd passed by when the shop was closed, he got out, looked around outside and took a photo of the sign out front. The photo of the sign included a phone number, the phone number made it possible to do a reverse look up in the white pages. The reverse look up revealed that the address is 107 Tom Edwards, Flatwoods, Louisiana. We finally had a destination and a new label as stalkers! No one answered our call, but undeterred, we continued until we arrived.

Ray was absolutely correct, it was worth the trip. We couldn't have imagined that such a place was hidden just thirty minutes from us. We were greeted warmly by Cheryl George, who proceeded to unlock the house (which is more a museum to her husband's love of palm wood) and allowed us to look inside. I can't begin to describe the amount of time and dedication it must have taken to create this palm wood wonderland! The walls are adorned with slab after slab of palm wood, all of which he'd found in the area. He's created a table, covered completely with palm wood and epoxy, every place you look is covered in stone, from the floors to the beams, to the walls and every available surface. His obsession with petrified wood and stones in general is evident and finely displayed in every corner of the house. Cheryl jokes that she wouldn't have agreed to the decor, but the project began before they were married. She also mentioned her secret to keeping him 'at home' was not keeping a stitch of food in there for him or he might never come back. Who could blame him though? I didn't want to leave, you could spend days in there and still uncover something you hadn't seen before.

The 'stone palace' is a shrine to his personal collection, but the best was yet to come. Following a path lined with more stones and huge petrified logs, she brought us out to the shed where everything is for sale. I stood dumbfounded with a thunderegg in my hand when Mattson pointed to a bucket full of them. Cheryl pointed just beyond where I was standing to reveal bin after bin... full of every variety I could wish for. The garage is packed, from top to bottom with dusty boxes of jaspers, agates, petrified woods, fossils, and knick knacks. Some of the boxes hadn't been touched or moved in what seemed like decades. At first the cobwebs made me timid, but eventually I was knocking them aside to dig in. Be prepared to leave dirty and satisfied!

J.H. George is a personable fellow, very much like Santa Claus and is known around town as 'the rock guy.' He began collecting sometime in the 60's and was fortunate enough to acquire much of his petrified wood during the building of the I-49 corridor. He heads out to Tucson and Quartzsite for several months of the year, but his prices have somehow stayed where they might have been when he began collecting. Once you get him talking, you'll hear the back stories of how many people it took to put a certain heavy piece in place, where such a wonder came from, and after a few visits, you begin to hear the equally interesting stories of his life. He laughed so hard telling the tale of the raccoon that slapped his father-in-law that it worked him into a coughing fit.

The Georges are warm and generous, both with their time and their collection. You can tell they love visitors as much as they love showing off the years of accumulated stones. They offer the opportunity to peek into their lives free of charge, allowing elementary schools to come and tour the location and opening their arms to complete strangers, like us. Mr. George's health isn't what it used to be and one has to wonder whether his family will recognize the value in his life's work and continue the tradition. It's evident that he enjoys sharing his vast experience with anyone eager to listen and learn, with anyone who smiles and can appreciate the lifetime it took to painstakingly find, cut, and place every piece. I would highly recommend making yourselves available... I can't say enough to describe the place, you must see it (more than once) to fully take it in. Oh, and an aside, I wouldn't expect to find much petrified palm wood in Flatwoods, Louisiana. just two miles from his current location and I'm certain he has every piece!

Location:

Poor Boy Rock Shop
J.H. and Cheryl George
107 Tom Edwards
Flatwoods, Louisiana 71427
318 793 8686

