



January 2013
Volume 2, Issue 1

Baton Rouge, La.

Inside this Issue

- 2 Message from the President
- 2 Club Spotlight
- 3 Upcoming Show Dates
- 3 Birthdays
- 4 Club News
- 5 AFMS Code of Ethics
- 6 How Do You Find Agates Part 2

Newsletter Editor:
Cheryl Duplechain
brgemmineralsociety@
hotmail.com

The Red Stick Rockhound News



OFFICERS

President: Ray Duplechain
225-978-0031
rayduplechain@hotmail.com

Vice President: Charles Ray
225-381-8465
the_rays@cox.net

Secretary: Norma Travis
225-664-2684
someoneatsea@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Glenn Gawarecki
225-683-9234
gagawarecki@aol.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Scott McMickens
225-921-2192
scottmcmickens@gmail.com

Emile Poche
225-257-4944
emile256@yahoo.com

[Ken Edds](mailto:KenEdds@ix.netcom.com)
225-925-9054
kedds@ix.netcom.com

Ex Officio Diana martin
225-756-3588

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, in particular those hobbies dealing in the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields.

COPYRIGHT

January 2013 issue of The Red Stick Rockhound News copyright by Cheryl Duplechain. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as a reference.



Message from the President

Hi All,

We've made it through another year. Last year was very exciting in many ways. As the New Year begins we all are contemplating New Year's resolutions. Mine will be no different than the usual (weight loss and being a better person). But I would like to see our club think beyond the normal. There is so much we can do in this community to expand awareness of our club but also awareness of the gem and mineral field. It will begin by us continuing the publicity that we've begun for our Gem Show. We should also try to be more visible in the school systems. Some of the club members have already taken action to do some show and tells. The different booths that we had last year at some of local shows will be done again. Let's not forget the first one of the year will be Rockin @ The Swamp on March 9th. Volunteers are needed for the Club Booth and door prizes. So, make one of your resolutions to join me and bring this club to greater heights than ever. Happy New Year to all and I'll see you at our Jan. meeting on the 26th. Ray 

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Keeping in touch Paul Broussard

As club's growth continues, keeping up with our past is very important. Many people have been instrumental in our club and should be credited for their work. One such person is Paul Broussard. Paul and his wife Clara have been in the club for many years. Both have held the position as this club's president. In fact Paul has held it twice. Clara has also had the job as one of this club's newsletter editors. It has now been six years since the passing of Clara. Paul had been carrying on many duties with the most recent being show Chairman. Health issues suddenly caught up with him a couple years ago and he has been absent. Some have had a difficult time trying to keep up with him.

Continued...

I received a phone call from Joe Samrow on Jan 4th saying he had made contact with him and he had been staying at an assisted living facility in Baton Rouge. Paul sounded great and their conversation had led talk of a visit. We set up a time to go the next day at 3:00pm.

At 3:00pm sharp, Joe and I arrived there. With a knock on the door, we heard a familiar voice from within welcoming us in. Paul greeted us with a smile and a handshake. His hair was longer, but it was the same Paul that I remembered.

He was presented with his plaque as lifetime honorary membership. He was very appreciative of the recognition and said to thank everyone.

I sat between the two old friends, as they were chatting and remembering the good times had on their adventures with their wives and other friends. Paul still has his home in Plaquemine and his camp in Mississippi. He is hopeful someday get back there and enjoying all he has missed. It was a great visit! These kinds of things are why we must always cherish friendships and not forget those whom have kept this club going through slower times. Thank you Joe for the invite and thank you Paul for all you have done.

By Ray Duplechain



Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Duplechain

Member of S.C.R.I.B.E

Special Congress Representing

Involved Bulletin Editors

Gems by Ray

Custom cut stones, cabochons, rings, necklaces, slabs and lapidary rough.

South La.'s only Ultra Tec Rep.
**Faceting classes available on
Monday and Thursday evenings.**

Supplies furnished
6 week course

225-978-0031 rayduplechain@hotmail.com

2013 Show Dates

JAN 25 – FEB 17, Tucson, AZ, rockshowtucson@gmail.com
 JAN 19-20, Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park
 JAN 16-17-18, Tyler TX East Texas G&MS Rose Garden Ctr.

FEB 1-28, Quartzsite, AZ, info@desertgardensrvpark.net, site www.desertgardensrvpark.net
 FEB 2-17, Tucson AZ Wholesale and Retail Show, rockshowtucson@gmail.com
 FEB 16-17, Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park , dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com, www.wcgms.org
 FEB 16-17, Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr. , josefcmacha@aol.com
 FEB 23-24, Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr.

MAR 02-03, Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn
 MAR 02-03, Robstown, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds, jsimpson1@stx.rr.com, www.gcgms.org
 MAR 7-10, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWMN Fairgrounds, thedgms@gmail.com, dgms.bravehost.com
 MAR 8-9, Ada, OK, Ada GM&F Club, Pontotoc Cnty. Agri-Plex, okieed42@windstream.net, www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.com
 MAR 9, Baton Rouge, LA, Rockin' at the Swamp Festival, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Cntr, ccoco@brec.org, www.brec.org/swamp
 MAR 15-17, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Albuquerque Stat Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, www.agmc.info
 MAR 16-17, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr., krbotx@gvtc.com, www.lswgemandmineral.org

Ref: Nov-Dec SCFMS Newsletter
 Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>

Diana Martin Jewelry

Custom Silver and Natural Stone
 Jewelry

Private silversmithing instruction available
 (225) 931-7543

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Glen Garwicki – 5th
 Glenna Coulter – 9th
 Warren Travis – 11th
 Niki Chheda – 16th
 Cherie Schofield – 30th
 Andrew Garwicki – 31st
 Wanda Garwicki – 22nd

January's birthstone, the garnet, is thought to keep the wearer safe during travel.

Garnets are a pretty mineral that is generally purple, red, orange, yellow, or green in color. All garnets are 6.5 to 7.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, so they are hard enough to withstand a lot of wear and tear in jewelry. Most garnets are faceted stones, but the star variety, which has rutile asterism (e.g., the star garnets from Emerald Creek from northern Idaho) are generally cut as cabochons so as to display the 6 pointed (most common) star. In addition to being used as gemstones, garnets are an important abrasive in industry. Garnet sand paper (garnet paper) is quite commonly used in cabinet making. Garnet sand is also used in water filtration systems.

Ref:
 American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/december-birthstones>

CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to our club president Ray Duplechain for being selected as Chairman of the SCFMS Bulletin Aids. This is the Author and Editor contest for bulletins and newsletters published in 2012.

Field Trip – March 2013

Next Meeting: January 22, 2013
At the Marriot Hotel
7:00 pm

Remember if you haven't paid your dues for 2012, please contact Glenn Garwarecki @ 225-683-9234 or email @ gagawarecki@aol.com

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



Brain Teaser

A Rich Source of Lead and Silver is this mineral...

Answer: Galena



Sweet WITCHERY
PURE SOY CANDLES & HOMEMADE SOAP

Rena & Scott McMickens
sweetwitchery@gmail.com
"Be sure to find us on Facebook!"

225-618-0997 225-405-7452



**Let's Remember Our Troops
And their families that
Are Serving our Country**

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

There's Nothing Wrong With Us

Did you ever stop and think
and perhaps analyze
How ridiculous our hobby looks
through other peoples eyes?
A group of grown-up people in a field
on hands and knees,
With noses nearly to the ground,
raised rumps is all one sees.
Or this same group of people
lugging sacks filled up with rocks.
It's a wonder that the uninformed
think we have "Rock-Pox".
And when they see us fairly drool
over someone else's find,
It's hard for them to comprehend
the joy we all derive
From fellowship and the great outdoors,
and just to be alive!
The unknowing ones may scoff and jeer,
they just don't understand
That each of us is rich, indeed,
with prizes from our land.
So if you think we're slightly daft,
or perhaps one rock short,
They are the losers, because we know,
our hobby is a great sport!

(From AFMS Newsletter, 11/89)





How Do You Find Agates : Part 2

Agates Inside Out by: Karen A. Brzys

By: Rena McMickens

Since the agate genesis process and chemical composition is similar for all agates, there are certain characteristics that are universal. However, there are nuances that are typical for agates from a particular area. There are also specifics about how, where and when to look, given the local terrain. You can increase your success rate if you do your homework. If you are interested in information about rockhounding for a particular agate, you may want to complete the following steps:

1. Find out if there is a book that has been published about agates from that location. New agate books are being published all the time that explain the specifics of agates from certain locales.
2. Conduct an internet search. Many web pages have information about how to find agates in a specific location.
3. Look on the internet to find out if there is a rock shop in the area to which you are going. One fairly good list of rock shops in the U.S. is available at www.osomin.com/SHOP1.HTM. You can visit the local rock shop and ask to see agates found in the area. You can also ask people for advice about local agate hunting.
4. One of the best sources for information about rockhounding can be obtained from members of local rock clubs.

Since agates are hard and more resistant to erosion, they usually survive long after their host rock has weathered away. The world's agates are widely distributed and often can be found great distances away from the location of their original genesis. Rivers, glaciers, icebergs, waves and ocean currents facilitate this transport. Depending on where you live or where you travel to in search of the elusive agate, the prospecting area can vary. Agates can be collected in many locales including:

1. On mountain in areas of snow pack melt and run-off;
2. In and around creek beds and rivers, especially after a heavy rain;
3. In desert gravel beds;
4. In grassland gravel beds;
5. In farm fields that are situated in glacial till areas;
6. In piles of rocks next to farm fields;
7. In gravel pits, especially those situated in glacial till areas;
8. Along old railroad tracks;
9. In the root balls of uprooted trees;
10. In recently landscaped areas with decorative rocks, especially if the rock was supplied from glacial till;

11. Along beaches where the rocks have been washed by waves, especially after storms;
12. At construction sites after a heavy rain washes the surface stones;
13. On gravel roads after they have been graded, especially after a rain;
14. Along hiking trails;
15. In areas where the original host rock still exists, allowing access to agates in situ.

It is most important that wherever you look for agates, you make sure the area is available for legal agate hunting. Many gravel pits no longer allow agate hunting because rockhounds have abused the privilege. Some agate hunters have acted in irresponsible and dangerous ways by leaving garbage behind and refusing to stay away from equipment or working operations. This is unfortunate, because gravel pits are ideal places to look since the rocks are washed and mechanically sorted by size. So if you are lucky enough to secure permission to hunt for agates in a quarry or gravel pit, please be respectful. The same is true if you are hunting on private property. Please secure permission in advance.

When you are looking on the beach, go to the water's edge and observe the rock patterns above the high water mark. As the wave heights vary on a day-to-day basis, there are often rows of rocks marking the high water marks for different days. Look at the rock in each row and identify the row that seems to have the most gold chert or red jasper. Since rocks of the same specific gravity tend to fall out of the waves at the same point, agate will be near its first cousins.

There are a lot of agate characteristics to think about, making the task of finding them more difficult. Concentrate on those characteristics that will give you the highest chance of success. The specific characteristics will vary with the agate and the hunting environment.

Concentrate on those characteristics that will give you the highest chance of success. The specific characteristics will vary with the agate and the hunting environment.

If you are looking for agates that have weathered so the husks have eroded away, these agates will tend to be more translucent than other rocks. It is best to agate hunt on sunny days so that you can take advantage of this characteristic. Orient the angle of your search so the sun is in front of you, shining through the rocks. Agates will tend to "glow."

If it is not sunny, bring a small flashlight with you, preferably one with a bright quartz bulb. Use the flashlight to check for translucency. Even agates with a husk can show translucency along the edge of the husk.

Bring a magnifying lens or jeweler's loupe with you. Many rockhounds wear a headband magnifier when they go agate hunting so that they can easily pull down the magnifier as needed.

Select agate search locations that are beyond the "umbilical cord" of other rockhounds. Most people only walk a short distance from their vehicle. You can have more success if you are willing to hoof it farther from road access than others are willing to go.

There are advantages and disadvantages of looking in wet vs. dry rocks. The banding patterns are amplified when the rocks are wet, making them easier to spot. However, you can see the conchoidal fractures and waxy luster better in the dry rocks. It's not a bad idea to bring along a spray bottle of water to wet down rocks to accentuate any banding.

Rock scoops can be very useful. They will save your back by limiting the number of times that you have to bend down to pick up a rock. You can also use them to reach into water to retrieve a rock as well as dig in sand or in gravel pits. If you are looking in an area where most agate hunters walk, sit down and dig instead.

If you are searching near water and don't want to get your feet wet, you may want to think about wearing high boots. You can also designate an old pair of shoes or purchase water shoes.

The search can be frustrating, yet rewarding. Luck may help you be at the right place at the right time, but in the end you will be successful if you commit to the task, spend time, stay positive and know what agate characteristics to look for. Happy Hunting! ◆

By Rena McMickens

Letter from the Editor

brgemmineralsociety@hotmail.com

What I have learned so far in completing a "proper" newsletter is that this is not a one woman's/man's job. It takes a club to make a newsletter. I have received great articles from Mr. Jimmy, Rena, Kimberly and Cherie. By the way, THANKS!! It is hard to put articles about the club and its members in a newsletter without articles from club members themselves. I want to challenge the members of this club. Let me know what's going on with you. If you have gone on a personal dig, found or purchased a new specimen, learned to cab or facet, let me know and send pictures. Whatever is on your mind.

To the juniors in our club:

I would love to hear from you. Write an article about why you like rocks or rock digs or pictures you have taken. Because this is a club, we would also like to keep up with the great things going on in your lives; births celebrations, etc

If anyone has anything that they would like to Buy, Sell or Trade; let me know and we can put it in the newsletter.

Thanks,

Cheryl Duplechain

Announcing "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making", a new book for beginning to advanced jewelers now available in print and e-book editions.

These practical tips from a studio jeweler and classroom teacher include 101 useful ways to improve skills and work smarter at the bench - tricks of the trade for improving quality and saving time. The book is filled with tips to improve soldering, ways to avoid hazards, suggestions on how to make your own equipment, plus over 80 close-up photos to illustrate the methods.

"Bench Tips" is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble as a 96 page paperback or as an e-book for the Kindle or the Nook.

Print Edition - www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

Print Edition - www.bn.com/w/?ean=9780988285804

Kindle edition - www.amazon.com/dp/B00A5ELDRU

Nook edition - www.bn.com/w/?ean=2940015848915

Or just go to the main site and do a search on the book title. Both companies offer you a quick look at the contents.

Best regards,

Brad Smith

submitted by Diana Martin via email