



Web Address: brgemandmineral.org

Email: brgemmineralsociety@hotmail.com

The Red Stick Rockhound News

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society

Baton Rouge, La.



I read an article in the New York Times that Southern Hospitality is almost non-existent. That we no longer hold to our true ways in the south by not teaching our children to say “yes ma’am” and “no sir”. That manners, were at one time one of the many things that were central to a Southerner’s identity, but, that is not the case any longer.

But, I say that manners will always be a defining characteristic of the South. We will always be defined by our charm, our food, our speech, and our referring to everybody as “Ya’ll”. So, ya’ll, it’s time to brush up on our Southern Hospitality. Our annual Gem and Mineral show will be on August 10th and 11th. Let’s make everyone that comes through the door feel at home. Help them in any way you can. Call them honey and sweetie, show them that our Southern charm is here to stay. Just don’t say “*kiss my grits.*”

OUR PURPOSE

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS IS IT! The wait is over with! This is our biggest month of the year. First thing on the agenda is our Annual Gem & Mineral Show.

The afternoon of Friday the 9th we will start to set up. Remember not till after 12:00 because we will need to give the Marriott time to arrange the tables. Then it will be plenty work to do helping our vendors. They have said that our help, is much appreciated and makes their jobs so much easier. For those whom can't make it Friday, we will have plenty need for the rest of the weekend. So, come on out and enjoy the show and volunteer to help however you can.

Then the weekend after our Show, The Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society will have their show in Bossier City. They are also hosting this year's Convention. Several of us will be headed up that way to take part in all the activities that happens at the convention. Oh, did I mention some of the awards some of our club members will receive? At The Editors Breakfast the awards will be handed out.

As I have mentioned before, we will be hosting the Convention next year. The experience that we get there will help us understand our roll for next year. If you do indeed decide to go, let me know. I would like to see all of the B.R. Club members get together one night to enjoy a meal out.

The following weekend on August 17th & 18th The Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society will be having their Annual Gem Show. They have put together a Fieldtrip to gather petrified wood. The response to their announcement has been overwhelming. They filled the quota in less than a week of their announcement. Several of the B.R. Club members made the cut and will be headed that way.

And lastly is our monthly meeting on the 27th. Adventure stories will be running rampart. Gonna be fun! See you all at the show. Ray

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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Birthstone: Peridot



by Norma Travis

July 23, 2013 meeting called to order by Ray Duplechain.

Minutes read by Norma Travis, Approved by Joe Samroe, seconded by Warren Travis.

Treasurer's report by Glenn Gawarski.

No new members present.

No SCFMS report. Ray reminded members the Federation Show at Bossier City week after ours for members who wish to attend.

Standing Committee Reports; Publicity- Amanda -Advertising in Country Road Magazine & The Advocate in August.

No Newsletter

Show- Diana Martin read list of TV Stations she will appear on for Show Ads.

Volunteer sheets passed out for members to sign & work.

Rena said 30 people attended the 6/29 River Trip. Good time was had.

Hospitality- Ken continues to do great job with refreshments.

Nomination committee chairman, Norma Travis passed out forms for each member to list any suggestions for officers.

Old business- Library takedown will be 7/28/2013 No 08/2013 displays.

Great turnout for Beauty and The Rock.

New Business- Meetings will be held at Jones Creek Road starting in September.

Announces- Dues will need to be paid. See Glenn.

Next meeting 08/27/2013

Set up for Show 08/09/2013

Raffle tickets for grand Prize are \$1.00 or \$5.00 for six.

Meeting adjourned

Door prizes given

Program on Gem ID given by Rick Hodom.

CLUB NEWS

Next Meeting: August 27, 2013

Marriott Hotel @ 7:00 pm

Annual Gem and Mineral show – August 10th & 11th

Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society in Bossier City – August 17th and 18th

Petrified Wood field trip – August 25th



We're moving to a new meeting location

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION CONVENTION NEWS

ANNUAL SHOW

The ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA, will host the SCFC Show in 2013, to be held on August 17-18, 2013. So, mark your calendar and plan to be there for that show. We can get an idea as to what we will need to do when we sponsor the SCFC in 2014.

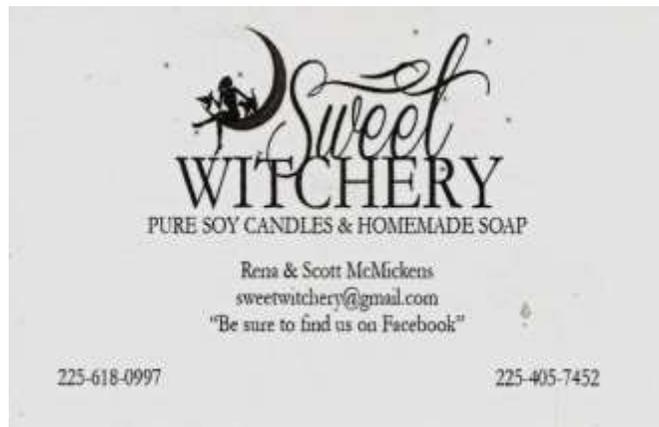
Diana Martin Jewelry

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DON'T FORGET!!
It is time to pay your membership dues...



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*Newsletter Editor: CherylDuplechain
Member of S.C.R.I.B.E.
Special Congress Representing
Involved Bulletin Editors*

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

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

Ken Edds
(225) 751-4810
kedds@ix.netcom.com

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

Ex Officio: Diana Martin
(225) 931-7543
cajunladi@cox.net



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and their families that are
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HOW TO BECOME A ROCKHOUND

***First, buy a bag of marbles. Then,
when you find a rock, leave a
marble.
When you've lost all your marbles,
you're a rockhound***



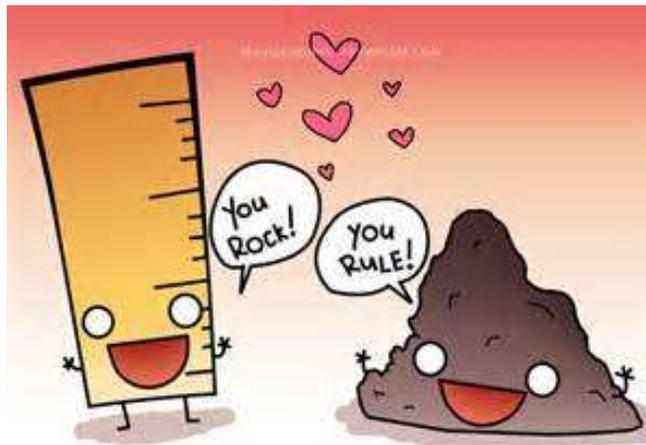
August Birthstone: Peridot

If fire appears to leap from the vibrant green surface of the Peridot, this may be because this gem is formed as a result of volcanic activity. Many years ago, natives discovered Peridot crystals in the black sands of Hawaii, explaining their presence as tears shed by Pele, the volcano goddess. Throughout history, August's birthstone has been used as a means to connect with nature. Early Egyptian priests drank a stimulating beverage called Soma from cups made of Peridot, believing this practice to draw them closer to Isis, the goddess of nature.

The name Peridot comes from the Arabic word "faridat," meaning gem. Ancient Egyptians called them the "gem of the sun," because of their dazzling brilliance when seen in the desert sun. It was believed that the Peridot glowed with light even as darkness fell, which is why miners were said to have scouted for these gems during the night, marking their location, and returning in the light of day to retrieve them. Perhaps this legendary mining method is the reason that the Peridot is sometimes called "evening emerald."

Peridot is a mineral named Olivine, which is found in a variety of greens, ranging from light yellowish green to a dark olive. Early mining for this gem was done on Saint John's Island near Egypt around 1500 BC. The green crystal was considered protective against evil and when set in gold, especially helpful against night terrors. It was ground to powder and used as a remedy for asthma and as a cure for thirst brought on by fever. Today, Peridot is mined in Burma, Norway, Brazil, Australia, Hawaii, the Congo, and in Arizona.

The force of nature is alive within a Peridot, making a gift of this gemstone symbolic of vitality. It signifies strength, both individual and within a relationship, as well as the promise of new growth in years ahead.



CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Doug McKenzie

This month's spotlight is Doug McKenzie. He has been a member of the B.R. Gem and Mineral Society for several years. He became a rock enthusiast at the ripe age of 3. He was fortunate to have parents that were rockhounds, so it became a family hobby. He traveled around the country, particularly around the western states with his family in search of rocks. Colorado and Arkansas are his favorite places to go to search for rocks. He also enjoys searching for rocks locally around the St. Francisville area. His favorite rocks are Kyanite and Quartz. He enjoys exploring and collecting. At the age of 10 he realized that he wanted to learn more about rocks and the lapidary arts.

In 2002 he opened Coyote Moon, where he sells and shares rocks and minerals. But, that's not all...he carries a variety of candles, incense, New Age items, jewelry, purses, items for children and much, much more. Coyote Moon has become a regular at Rockin At The Swamp. If you have never been to his shop it is definitely worth the trip.

By Cheryl



Moonstone: by Rena McMickens

Moonstone derived its name from its opalescent moonlike appearance. It was sacred in India, where it was said that if lovers placed it in their mouths during the full moon, their futures would be revealed. In 11th century Europe, moonstone was believed to bring about the reconciliation of lovers.

Moonstone is an opalescent variety of orthoclase and some other feldspars, which has a blue or white sheen known as schiller. This sheen is a result of the inter-layering of orthoclase with albite. Very thin layers yield a blue sheen much prized in jewelry, while thicker layers give a white sheen.

Anorthoclase, another member of the feldspar group, takes its name from the Greek for "not fracture", referring to its oblique cleavage. Orthoclase means "straight fracture". It is one of several feldspars that is known as moonstone when cut 'en cabochon'. Other moonstones are sanidine, albite and oligoclase.

The moonstone is intimately connected with the moon in magical lore.. So much so, in fact, that many use it in accordance with the lunar phases. Some say that it is more magically potent during the waxing moon and less so during the waning. Others use this stone during the moon's apparent lessening for divinatory rituals. Moonstone has long been dedicated to Moon goddesses.

Information compiled from:

Smithsonian Rock and Gem

National Audubon Society- Field Guide To Rocks and Minerals

Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Crystal, Gem & Metal Magic by Scott Cunningham



The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society is in its 49th year - and counting. The year 2014 will mark 50 years since a small group of people in Baton Rouge gathered together to learn and share their knowledge and stories of rocks, more correctly known as gems and minerals. Reading this one might think: *rocks, what would people in Louisiana know about rocks since there are none to be found in this land of swamps and mud.* Well, true, there are more valuable and prolific samples to be collected from places further from home; but what is clear to anyone paying attention is that Louisiana is rich in its own deposits and formations, including the extremely rare Louisiana opal. We even have a State Mineral known as the Louisiana Banded Agate, found in abundance on the waterways meandering through our wet and muddy state. In fact, there is a wider array of gems and minerals – rocks – to be found here than just about anywhere due to what you see in the attached map; we are the watershed for most of United States.



In the almost 50 years since its inception, the club has grown to include local, national, international collectors. We also boast in our membership many jewelers and silversmiths who teach, create, and sell their wonders.

This year will mark the Society's 13th year of hosting its annual Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Show. Twenty vendors from several southeastern states will be there to demonstrate and sell their wares over a two day period, August 10th and 11th at the Marriott Hotel off I-10 and College Drive. Please join us on this weekend and consider joining our group as we move into our 50th year. It's going to be a grand celebration, and you won't want to miss the fun.

Cherie Schofield

