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The Red Stick Rockhound News

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society

Baton Rouge, LA.



Hi everybody, at the next meeting we will be voting on new officers for the club. It is important that you try to make it to the meeting to vote. This club belongs to all of us, so it's our responsibility to vote on new officers. It's time for our present officers to hand over the baton to the new officers.

Cheryl D., Newsletter Editor

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

Hi All,

Well, here we are heading into our fall season. It has been very hot this year as is the norm here in Louisiana. I have just returned from California and they too have been dealing with this heat. They were complaining of a high humidity (around 70%). That is low for us! I had a great time meeting new friends and rockhounding for fluorescent minerals. I shipped over 150lbs. back home. Plenty of yellows, bright bluish whites, reds and greens.

September is the month to elect new officers and I wanted to say that it has been two very interesting years serving as your president. I have learned a lot from my mistakes but overall a productive time. The club has grown in membership and we have been active in the community promoting the club and rocks and minerals. So, thank you everyone for your support and I look forward to helping our new president.

I am going through a new season in my life where I have taken on a new position with the Federation. I will continue my role as chairman of The BEAC Contest and will also be the Executive Secretary. This will take up a lot of my time but, I feel up to the challenge. I will still remain an active member here and do all I can to keep the club active and growing.

Remember this month we will be moving our meeting place to The Jones Creek Regional Library. Only the venue has changed. We will meet at the same time (7:00pm) on the 4th Tuesday as usual. I'll see you there. Ray

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Mechelle Rouchon.....9/3
- Dorothy Lewis.....9/4
- Sharon Abbott.....9/4
- Doc Hudson.....9/8
- Anna Marie Gafford.....9/10
- Madeline Carbonette....9/14
- Ralph Green.....9/14
- Nina Andrews.....9/15
- Anna Smithers.....9/25
- Norma Travis.....9/26
- Jimmie Johnson.....9/28



By Norma Travis

MINUTES FOR 08/27/2013 MEETING

Meeting called to order by Ray Duplechain.

Minutes read by Norma Travis, approved by Joe Samrow, seconded by Tony Rouchon.

Guests; Nita & Renee Perez, Madeline Cardonet, Chet & Quanita Bozes, Meshlen Linden.

New Members; Sandra & Wade Byrd.

Treasurers' report-Glenn Gawarecki.

Report from SCFMS and AFMS- Great time at Bossier City Show. New Treasurer-Don Shurtz, Executive Secretary-Ray Duplechain. All other officers will remain.

Publicity Report Amanda- Approximately 800 people attended show.

Show report by Diana Martin; Overall positive feedback from vendors and show attendees. 19 vendors

Field trip planned for 09/21/2013 on Amite River (announced by Rena McMickens).

Report on Jasper, Texas petrified wood trip by the Coulters. They also brought their loot to the meeting. They suggested we send a letter of appreciation to the Jasper Club for the invitation.

Education- Cherie Schofield wants volunteers for 10/18, 19, 20 for the New Roads Harvest Festival. We need members to staff the club booth.

Hospitality - Thanks to all providing snacks.

Special Committees; Nomination committee- Norma Travis handed out forms for members to suggest nominations of officers. Election of officers will be held at next meeting.

Convention committee- Cheryl Duplechain heads this & will be looking for volunteers to assist in next year's convention.

Report on William Holland Class by Charles Ray. He also displayed his silver pieces.

Old Business-

Library Display for 09/01/13 will be at Lorraine Ave. & Plank Rd. Cherie will contact those interested with date & time.

Beginning 09/24 meetings will be held at The Jones creek Library.

New Business- SFMS Awards; Newsletter Award 1st -Kimberly Brannon, 2nd - Jimmy Lampham- original article, 5th place Ray & Cheryl Duplechain, 3rd to Kevin Hood for our Website Design.

Member Service Awards; Diana Martin, Robin Coulter, Cheryl Duplechain, Andrew, Noah & Lucas Gawarecki, Sasha Wiggs, Helen Coulter, Jimmy Lampham, Justin, Ashton, Tyler, Landon (Hood Grandchildren) Also, Ashley, Courtney, Miley, Warren Travis, Scott & Rena McMickens, Joe Samrow

Time to pay dues. Remember September Election.

Motion made by Charles Ray to have club make display cases. Joe Samrow added amendment to require all wanting a case pay \$50.00 deposit seconded by Tony Rouchon. We will start with 8 cases.

The Federation will need items donated for the Silent Auction.

Meeting adjourned

Door prizes given.

Mishlen Linden presented program on coral under microscope.

CLUB NEWS

Next Meeting: September 24, 2013

****We will be meeting at our new location at the Jones Creek Library @ 7:00 pm****

Field Trip to the Amite! On Saturday, September 21, 2013. Message or call [Scott W. McMickens](#) with any questions, (225) 921-2192 or (225) 618-0997.



We're moving to our new meeting location at Jones Creek Library!!



The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society (BRG&MS) hosted its annual Gem and Mineral show on August 10-11 at the Marriott Hotel. Pictured here are Dr. James Hudson and current President of the Society, Ray Duplechain. Dr. Hudson, affectionately known as "Doc," is a Professor Emeritus of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness of LSU. He is a long time Baton Rouge resident and a founding member of the Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society, which was established in 1964.

Dr. Hudson's appearance at the show was acknowledged with enthusiastic applause, followed by well wishes from many of those in attendance - longtime and new friends alike. He commented that he is extremely proud to have witnessed the growth of the BRG&MS from a handful of enthusiasts to its present membership.

Over the course of the two day show the club of 100+ members welcomed over 900 visitors. The Grand Prize, a two-foot-tall geode filled with beautiful, sparkling amethyst crystals, was raffled off and won by Jessica Bunnell of Prairieville, whose birthstone happens to be the amethyst. Jessica returned to the site to claim her prize and members of the club gathered around her, watching in smiling, stifled agony; however, as a generous group we want to say, "Congratulations, Jessica. We hope to see you again next year."

Two thousand fourteen will mark the 50th anniversary of the BRG&MS, and big plans are in the works. We invite "Doc" Hudson, Jessica, and all people of Baton Rouge and surrounding area to be a part of the celebration. We no longer think of ourselves as the Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society, but more as the **Greater** Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society, and next year's show will reflect that thinking.

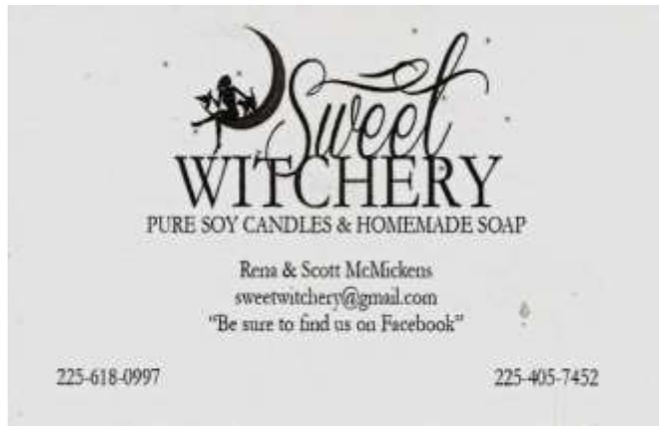
Membership is open to anyone interested in "rocks," be it rocks from your driveway, gems to make into jewelry, minerals that glow in the dark, fossils that tell our history, etc.. Please see our website www.brgemandmineral.org or visit us on Facebook - The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society.
By Cherie Schofield

Diana Martin Jewelry

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DON'T FORGET!!
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membership dues...



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Faceting classes available on
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6 week course

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WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



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Drilling a Stone

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. I think the reason is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond that is on the drill tip. By pivoting, the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1 mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2 mm diameter.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a Foredom, and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure when the drill is about to break through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

Jewelry in Simpson Bay, St Maarten where he creates unique, fine designer jewelry.<http://ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/02/19/miniature-cz-motor-finished-and-running/>



*Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Duplechain
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September Birthstone: Sapphire

The striking deep blue of a quality sapphire is reminiscent of a cloudless night sky. Ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the Ten Commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.

Named after the Greek word "sapphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.

In ancient times, Sapphires were thought to be protective against envy, and even against poisoning. A common belief was that a venomous snake placed in a Sapphire vessel would rapidly die! Ground to a powder, the blue stone was believed to cure colic, rheumatism and mental illness, and to strengthen eyesight.

Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum. Corundum is found in every color of the rainbow, with red being designated as ruby and all other hues Sapphire. But the most prized color of Sapphire is a rich, deep blue. These gemstones were mined as early as the 7th Century BC from India and what is now Sri Lanka. They are found today in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Myanmar, Thailand, Australia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Madagascar, and the United States. Large specimens of Corundum crystals are rare, although the 563-carat Star of India can be seen in the American Museum of Natural History. This is the largest and most famous of star Sapphires, which are cut to reflect light from inclusions within the stone, revealing a bright six-legged star pattern.

The Sapphire is second only to the Diamond in hardness, making it a durable gemstone for setting into jewelry. A gift of Sapphire represents sincerity and faithfulness. As nourishing to the soul as gazing up at the sky on a summer day, this brilliant blue gemstone is truly a heavenly choice!

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Catherine Rouchon

This month's spotlight is Catherine Rouchon: Catherine cannot remember a time when she did not love rocks. As a child she would sit for hours looking for "shiny" rocks in the driveway. When she was in the 5th or 6th grade she really took in interest in rocks. Learning their names and what made rocks and minerals different from each other. She was homeschooled so her mom, knowing what her interest was, would base her lesson plans around it. Her interest continued into high school where she began her jewelry business at the age of sixteen.

Catherine's mom and dad, or as we know them, Tony and Sharon, have always encouraged Catherine and her sister in their hobbies/interest. Tony and Sharon have also found an interest in rocks and minerals. Catherine's family is her support group. Working shows, helping her run her booth and just being there when she needs them.

She doesn't have a favorite rock or stone, but, she says that Kyanite, Amazonite and Imperial Topaz are her top contenders.

As a family the Rouchon's would go all over the country on rockhounding vacations. They did a lot of camping and hiking trips and would visit museums. Her souvenirs would be rocks. Catherine enjoys rockhounding in Colorado, but, her very favorite place to rockhound is right here at home along the Amite.

The Rouchon's joined the BRGMS in 2012 after the Gem Show and has made many new friends and have found people like her that just enjoy rocks.

After high school Catherine enrolled with the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). She has earned her Accredited Jewelry Professional Diploma, Graduate Pearls Diploma and Graduate Gemologist Diploma. She and her family have also taken several classes as William Holland. Sharon likes wire wrapping and Tony and Catherine have taken Silver Smithing classes.

Her love for rocks has started as an interest; it became a hobby, to a career.

Catherine is very knowledgeable about rocks, gems and minerals. Catch her at any of the meetings and she would be happy to answer any questions or just discuss rocks. I'm sure she would love to meet YOU. By Cheryl

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ryan M Seideman
Jim Gibson
Tony jr, Anna Marie & Tony III Gafford
Chet & Juanita Boze
Andria Nasset
Chad, Christina, Myiah Erwin
Laura & Scot McDavitt
Chris & Annette Raby

Michele Dunn
Madeline Carbonett e
JoNell Brister
Nina Andrews
Tim Powell
Liz Heal
David Sparks

What Would a Pre-Historic Rock Hound Be?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

What would a pre-historic rock hound be? Perhaps the best starting off point would be trying to describe the present day rock hound. Let's guess that the average height is 5'10" to 6', past middle age, probably grey or soon to have grey hair, and a distinct forward kink in the neck so that the head is positioned to look downward for that rock treasurer, even if it means looking at the fill material in the flower and shrubbery beds along the edge of the sidewalk or the neighbor's gravel driveway. He would be a craftsman or even a master craftsman with a diamond bladed saw and with wheels, and laps to work the rocks. He would also have access to silver wire and sheets to decorate his finished rocks with, either as wrapped or with bezel settings. He would never have enough time in the day to work with the stones, his all-encompassing passion. Does that sound about right?

So now let's turn our thoughts to the rock hounds of pre-history. He would be of the Homo genus, which means he may be a Neanderthal, Homo erectus, Homo sapiens, or similar. He would likely be a member of a tribe or larger family group. Of all the members of his group, he would be the master craftsman in shaping important items from rock. He would, like his modern counter-part, probably have a kink in his neck from looking down at the rocks, trying to find that perfect size piece of flint, obsidian, or other rocks with a good conchoidal fracture. He would be the master with his hammer stones and antler presses, and he became the master by a lot (and I mean years) of practice – the odds are he is one of the elder members of the tribe. In his hand, a nice size piece of flint will become a pile of tips for arrows, axe heads, blades, needles and scrapers. He would also be the teacher of the craft to almost all members of his tribe so that everyone could at least shatter a stone and pick up the shards as tools. In fact, the very first rock hound probably found out about making stone tools in just that fashion. He probably stubbed his foot on the same small bolder for the twenty-first time in two weeks, so he dug the rock up and threw it to the side where a lucky landing on another hard stone caused it to break into a bunch of small piece that became the first useful tools. For many generations this was probably the way of forming tools, by smashing a piece of flint or similar material into a bolder. Then someone figured out that if you hit the lump of flint with a hard stone, it COULD break in a desirable manner. Trial and probably a lot of error eventually led to his skills in hitting the rock so that it WOULD break in a predictable manner. Somewhere along the line he probably had one of his pieces of flint used as a heating stone for cooking, and it fell into the fire. It stayed there until the fire was extinguished and cooled. He then tried to fashion it and found that it was much easier to work. Then one day he had this beautiful piece of flint but did not have his hammer stones close by. However, there was an antler or animal bone right next to him, so he tried that. It probably didn't work all that well until he tried pressing at the side really hard, and off came the thinnest, longest sliver that he had ever intentionally made. Again with a lot of trial and even more error he perfected the pressing technique. Of course, the pre-historic rock hound and his methods are all figments of my imagination, but somehow pre-historic men learned that certain rocks could be worked into useful tools. They were the first rock hounds.

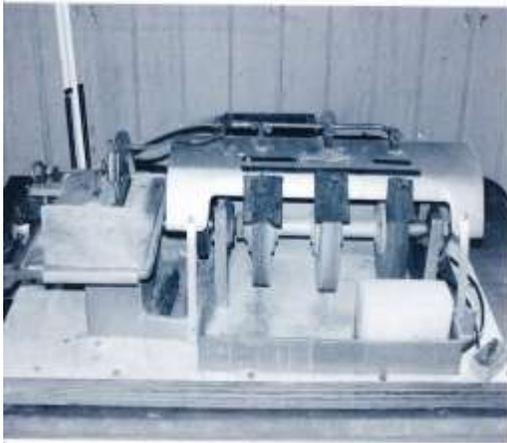
August 2013 issue of Chips and Chatte



Raytec Lab Cabber with sanding drum, 100 grit diamond wheel, Diamond disk, grinding table, saw table, 3 splash shields, variable speed (pulley crank) and water tank (drip cool)

Price \$300.00

Contact Mr. Joe Samrow @225-869-4183 or see him at the next meeting.



Beacon Star/Cabber/Trim Saw

Corundum drum wheels, saw blade, water pump (circulates) and shaft drilled for spin on disk.

Price \$300.00

Contact Mr. Joe Samrow @225-869-4183 or see him at the next meeting.

Ray has fluorescent rocks for sale. These rocks came from the Princess Pat Mine in California. Contact Ray @ 225-987-0031 or catch him at the next club meeting if you are interested.