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The Red Stick Rockhound News

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society

Baton Rouge, LA.



Okay, so we have been watching the new show “Prospectors” on the Weather Channel. It amazes me that people, still today, try to make their living or try to make their “millions” by digging for gemstones. It’s very interesting to see what these people go through, and what they give up, to be on that mountain to dig. Beside the pretty gemstones they dig up, you can’t help but notice the danger that they put themselves in. Not only is it treaurtous to even get up to the 14,000 + feet on this mountain, they have to deal with pochers, falling rocks, slipping or tripping on rocks and above all the weather that comes out of nowhere. So, along these lines, I thought about the safety hazards of rockhounding, even to us low land dwellers. So, watch where you are walking, be aware of your surroundings, don’t walk away from the group alone. Most importantly...use common sense when you go digging. 🗣️

by Cheryl Duplechain

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

April will be busy!

Yes, this will be a busy month for our Education Committee. As you may have heard, we have a big weekend of the 20th. First on the 20th is Astronomy Day At The Highland road Observatory. A club booth will be set up along with many other booths as many people will be there to view outer space through the many telescopes that will be set up. There will also be all sorts of games and vendors there. A great family day, so come on out and visit.

Then on the 21st we will have a booth set up in downtown Baton Rouge as Earth Day is celebrated. Thousands of people will take to the streets viewing all the craft booths and vendors there. Live music will be playing throughout the day.

Volunteers could be used at both events. Come on out and help or just come on out and be a part of the excitement.

Raffle tickets are still available from Catherine. I saw an article in the Federation Newsletter of all the prizes coming in and there are some very nice things. Support the Endowment Fund and buy some tickets.

Still, no news on the petrified wood dig. I am very disappointed that I have not heard back from them but maybe something will come up soon.

Ray

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Beauford.....4/4

Regina Wilson.....4/9

Birthstone: Diamond

The birthstone of those people born in the month of April is Diamond. In addition to being a symbol of everlasting love. It was once thought to bring courage. In Sanskrit, the diamond is called "vajra," which also means lightning; in Hindu mythology, vajra was the weapon of Indra, the king of gods.



MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH by Norma Travis

Meeting was called to order by Ray Duplechain. Minutes from January 2013 meeting was read by Norma Travis. Minutes were accepted by Diana Martin and 2nd by Joe Samrow. Glenn gave the finance report showing a balance of \$11,437.45. There were no new members or guest present.

Committee Reports:

Publicity- Amanda has taken out ads in Rock, Gem, & Mineral Magazine. No Newsletter report.

Show- Diana Martin gave an updated report on the upcoming show. There were 18 booths sold. The price per table will be \$10.00/ linear foot. The amount from vendors is \$5,415. There was a discussion about space and what we could and could not do. No food or drinks can be brought in, but can be purchased from The Marriott.

Field Trip planned to Destrehan 04/06/2013 to see fluorescent minerals and gem collections of Mr. Joe Dally, and Scott & Theresa Ronney (club members).

Education committee to have a meeting soon.

Ken Edds of Hospitality passed out sign- up sheets for supplying refreshments at club meetings.

The first Youth meeting was held, and was a success. The instructor is Robin Coulter.

Old Business:

Sign -up sheets were passed out for 4/20/13 – Astrology Day and 4/21/13 for Earth Day.

Clair Coco reported 1163 children/adults attended & enjoyed Rocking at the Swamp.

William Holland winner, Warren Travis to attend 7/14/13 silversmithing class. Marie Ray will know by next meeting.

New Business:

New brochures ordered for events. Ray asked for people to sign up to bring displays for Jones Creek Library.

Our member Judy Tanner is ill. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Meeting adjourned

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



CLUB NEWS

Next Meeting: April 23rd, 2013
Marriott Hotel @ 7:00 pm

Catherine Rouchon is selling raffle tickets for the AFMS Endowment Raffle Committee. There are many prizes, including lapidary equipment. See Catherine for your tickets.

This month's program will be on FACETING. There are several members of our club involved in faceting. A faceting machine will be brought in to show a basic example of what it takes to turn a rock into a faceted gemstone.

Field Trip to Jasper for Petrified Wood is still in the scheduling stages.

Junior Members Club kicked off at the March meeting. We want to thank Robin Coulter for volunteering to work with our junior members. They are working on some projects to earn badges and patches.

Saturday, April 20th is Astronomy Day. It will begin at 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is located on Highland Road at the Highland Road Observatory.

Sunday, April is Earth Day. It will begin at 12:00 to 5:00 pm. This is located downtown Baton Rouge.

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.

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Did you know that during the rockhounding era (1950s and 1960s) in the United States, the Walt Disney Studios hosted a Gem and Mineral Society? A water-based decal from that society is shown here courtesy of the "Stuff from the Parks" blog site.



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Let's Remember
Our Troops and
Their families
that are serving
our country

Welcome new Members
Teresa Sanchez
W.H. "Bill" Lee, Josuilin Lee,
Adrian, Archie and Andy
Cristobal

Pikes Peak region residents featured on Weather Channel

March 26, 2013 5:24 PM

BY LINDA NAVARRO

The Pikes Peak or Bust gold rush has turned blue and green. And The Weather Channel came to Colorado last June to follow these modern prospectors, trekking above timberline on 14,275-foot Mount Antero to one of the more enticing gem fields in the world. Instead of gold and silver, these rockhounds, including several from the Pikes Peak region, are seeking their fortunes in amazonite, smoky quartz, topaz and aquamarines. They're part of an original, nine-part series, "Prospectors," which begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Like the early miners, these prospectors deal with rugged mountain terrain, dreaded claim jumpers and the possibility of never striking it rich. They're called "rag-tag" miners although eagle-eye viewers might spot some Hollister sweats and designer jeans. The area prospectors, many of whom will be featured throughout the series, include Amanda Atkins, Rich Fretterd and the Dorris family (father Joe, son Tim and daughter Krystle Velasco). Fretterd has a claim near Lake George/Florissant. Velasco said her family will appear in the first episode "with a very expensive mineral reveal." "We feel this is a truly unique way of life in Colorado," she said. The Dorrises have been known in the Pikes Peak region since 1985, when they opened Glacier Peak Fine Art and Gems, and later set up Pinnacle 5 Minerals. Patriarch Joe Dorris, an author and artist, turned his love of mining into a family affair and headed for the mountains around Mount Princeton. "It's the fact that his kids are by his side that make each find that much sweeter," Velasco said. Tim Dorris handles the heavy equipment duty and Velasco, a former beauty queen-turned-physical fitness buff, is in charge of the business side of things, while maintaining "a special passion for the family's topaz claim," she admits. Although the personalities are in the forefront of the cable TV series, there are enough Weather Channel moments — lightning strikes, high winds, thunder snow — to keep the regular viewers happy. And, of course, there is plenty of footage of the state's abundant beauty.

From Gazette.com

Kids Corner Rocks

THE EARTH'S CRUST

The whole earth is made of rocks & minerals. Inside the earth there is a liquid core of molten rock and on the outside there is a hard crust. If you compare the earth to an egg, the shell on an egg is like the crust on the earth. The crust is made up of rocks and minerals.

Much of the crust is covered by water, sand, soil and ice. If you dig deep enough, you will always hit rocks. Below the loose layer of soil, sand & crumbled rocks found on Earth is bedrock, which is a solid rock.

- **The Crust** makes up less than 1% of the Earth's mass (0.4%) It is made of oxygen, magnesium aluminium, silicon calcium, sodium potassium, iron. There are 8 elements that make up 99% of the Earth's crust. The continents are about 35 km thick and the ocean floors are about 7 km thick.

- **The Mantle** is the solid casing of the Earth and is about 2900 km thick. It makes up about 70% of the Earth's mass (68.1%). It is made up of silicon, oxygen, aluminium and iron.

- **The Core** is mainly made of iron and nickel and makes up about 30% of the Earth's mass (31.5%).

The Outer Core is 2200 km thick and is liquid and the Inner core is 1270 km thick and is solid.

CROSSWORD #2 ROCKS & MINERALS

Across

2. Rocks are made of ____.
4. Type of rocks made from volcano lava.
7. The hardest mineral in the world.
9. June birthstone.

Down

1. Melted rock that comes out of a volcano during and eruption.
3. Small quartz grains found on the beach.
5. Igneous rock often used for counter tops.
6. Large open areas in limestone rock worn away by rain water.
8. The halite mineral is also known as ____.

Choose From: Igneous, Diamond, Quartz, Cave, Lava, Minerals, Pearl, Granite, Sand, Salt

Check out some Cool Kids Links

- <http://www.kidsgeo.com>
- <http://www.rocksforkids.com>
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/>

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Calvin Wiggs



As a child, I was always interested in science. My older brother and I started looking for rocks and fossils when I was about 10 years old. We lived a couple of miles from a concrete company that had a large gravel pile. We used to ride our bikes to the site on the weekends and spend hours and hours and hours ... sorting through the gravel for agates and fossils. It was great because the gravel was used up quickly for concrete so we had a never ending supply of new rocks to look through every weekend. We collected a lot of material from those piles. A good portion of that material was stored in my parent's yard until just a few years ago when we sorted through it (again) and picked out the keepers to bring home. My parents also made several trips to Arkansas when we were young and we stopped at several rock shops where our eyes bugged out of our heads when we saw all the different types of rocks, mineral, and fossils. We purchased some and I still have several of them in my collection.

After graduating from high school, I decided to study geology at ULL in Lafayette. After graduating in 1984, the job market for geologist was in a severe downturn so I decided to continue my education and get a Masters degree. I ended up at the Colorado School of Mines where I studied geology with an emphasis on carbonate stratigraphy and diagenesis (study of limestone deposition and what happens to limestones long after they are deposited and buried). My thesis was on a sequence of 245 million year old stromatolitic (algal) limestones along the front range of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. This is where I found and/or purchased most of the rocks/fossils in my collection today. It was great fun to live in a place where rocks were easily accessible.

My wife (Linda) and I met at the US Geological Survey in Virginia when I started working there after getting out of school. She was working on microfossils from deep-sea drilling cores and I was working on a variety of geologic projects. We have both always been interested in collecting rocks and fossils. Our first date was looking for shark's teeth. We also used to find trilobites in West Virginia before we got married and ended up having our wedding bands designed with trilobites on them. In the last several years, Linda has become heavily involved in lapidary work, which I plan to get involved with too when I have more time. I'm looking forward to it when I retire, if not sooner. For now, I enjoy seeing the polished stones that she produces.

I tend to like fossils better than minerals (or not) but the opportunity to find anything is really what I enjoy. I'd much rather find something than buy it, but that doesn't mean I won't buy things I like too. It's just difficult to find much when you live in south Louisiana (as you know). At the moment, my favorite place to hunt for rocks is on the Amite River (or any place you can find rocks). Whether I find anything or not (it's hard not to on the Amite), the Amite is a relaxing, peaceful, and beautiful place to wander around and find agates, fossils, and petrified wood. The whole family enjoys trips to the river. Our son (Sasha) was introduced to rocks at a very early age. Even though we have buckets of agates and fossils (with three of us collecting it accumulates fast), I still get a thrill every time I find another one - it's truly an addiction.