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The Red Stick Rockhound News
With members from the greater Baton Rouge area

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society , Baton Rouge, LA.



This will be my last newsletter for the BRGMS. Thank all of you for the opportunity to be your Newsletter Editor. I appreciate all of the encouragement from each of you. Marguerite Acosta has been appointed by the President as the new Newsletter Editor. I know she will do a fantastic job. Give her the same encouragement that was given to me. Thanks all!!!
 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, as well as their related fields.

2014 AFMS Endowment Fund

The kickoff for the 2014 AFMS Endowment Fund drawing has been announced in the December issue of the AFMS Newsletter. Donna Moore (mwfsecretary@gmail.com) chairs the fund raising this year. In the SCFMS, tickets can be purchased from Catherine Rouchon, 5845 Winchester Ln, Clinton, LA 70722 (rouchonc@starband.net). The drawing will be held at the AFMS Banquet, July 14th in Tulsa, OK but you do not have to be present to win. Some of the items to be won include a framed fossil fish, a Mosasaur tooth, a page of mineral stamps, a Montana agate petrified limb cast, a calcite cluster, and two 2 lb copper floats. If you would like to donate a prize or want to purchase tickets, contact Catherine Rouchon. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

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CLUB NEWS

Next Meeting: February 25, 2014
Meetings held fourth Tuesday of the month at the
Jones Creek Library @ 7:00 pm**

**All newsletter articles and/or reports must be
submitted by the first (1st) of the month if you want it
in the next edition.**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Lynn Terrio.....2/2
Rena McMickens.....2/11
Kimberly Brannon.....2/17
Don Coulter.....2/18



AMETHYST - FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE

Amethyst is the birthstone for the month of February and the traditional anniversary gemstone for the sixth of marriage. The name “amethyst” comes from the Greek which means “sober”.

Amethyst is famous for its purple color. Not all amethyst is purple in color, there are also light purple, reddish-purple, bluish-purple, dark purple and there is even almost black in color. Top quality amethyst is a deep medium color of purple with rose-colored flashes. In its purest form, amethyst is colorless. The color agent of amethyst is iron. A fine amethyst is transparent, which allows light passes through the gem unhindered, while a translucent amethyst slightly weakens the passage of the light through the stone. Amethyst of best quality is "clean" or free of visible inclusions of any kind. In order for the color of the gem to shine through and eliminates any darker or uneven patches of color, most amethyst pieces are cut into circular or round shapes. Amethyst crystals consist of two types. The first is a six sided piece (looks similar to a pyramid) and the other type is a crusty type with pointed ends.

Pieces of amethyst cut are graded or labeled as Uruguayan, Bahain or Siberian. These cuts represent high grade and low grade pieces and are used no matter where the piece comes from. For example a Mexican amethyst may be labeled as Bahrain depending on the quality. Expert can identify where the piece of amethyst comes from based on its characteristics and color. The Siberian deep purple with blue and red flash commands the highest prices.

Amethyst and Citrine

Today, most of amethyst gemstones on the market are heat-treated to produce deeper color. The process is permanent and these gems will not fade over time. Amethyst can lighten if exposed too long to strong sunlight. Its color will change to dark reddish brown or yellow when heated to 550-560 Centigrade (they are then called citrine; they are more expensive and richly colored than natural citrines). Also note that most citrine found on the market today is actually heat treated amethyst.

Since purple has always been the color of royalty, amethysts abound in the ornaments of in the British Crown jewels and in the adornments of the ancient Greeks and Egyptians as well. Purple dye was once scarce and very expensive; therefore it was reserved for the garment of royalty, the color then regarded as symbol of power and status. Tibetans consider amethyst sacred to Buddha and fashion rosaries from amethyst beads.

Amethyst is the most popular crystalline quartz for jewelry and is the most valued member of the quartz family, it is considered to be a semi-precious gemstone. Amethyst gemstone appears to be transparent to translucent and it is a Type II gemstone and is usually included. The Crystal structure of the Amethyst is hexagonal. Amethyst can occur as six sided crystals on either end. It also forms as drusy (sometimes misspelled as druzy) which are crystalline crusts covering the host rock. It is found inside geodes and in alluvial deposits and occurs in both crystalline and massive forms. Amethyst is produced when manganese is present in clear quartz, while the amount of iron contained in the specimen accounts for the depth of purple.

Amethyst Healing Properties

Amethyst is the birthstone for the month of February and the traditional anniversary gemstone for the sixth of marriage. The name “amethyst” comes from the Greek which means “sober”. In ancient Greece, the gemstone was associated with the god of wine, and it was common practice to serve this beverage from amethyst goblets in the belief that this would prevent overindulgence. Even today, amethyst is considered a stabilizing force for those struggling to overcome addictive behaviors. Once amethysts birthstones considered more valuable than continued: [diamonds](#), it occurs naturally as crystals within rocks. Amethyst generally illuminate if exposed to strong sunlight for a long time.

List-of-birthstones.com

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



Diana Martin Jewelry

Custom Silver and Natural
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Judy Perkins
Rhonda Robinson-Smith



Cheryl Duplechain; Newsletter Editor

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

Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors

DID YOU KNOW?

Petrified wood is a type of FOSSIL, in which the tissues of a dead PLANT are replaced with MINERALS (most often a SILICATE, such as QUARTZ). The PETRIFICATION process occurs underground, when wood or woody materials suddenly become buried under sediment. Mineral-rich water flowing through the sediment deposits minerals in the plant's cells and as the plant's LIGNIN and CELLULOSE decays away, a STONE cast is left in place

From T-Town Rockhound 6-05, via the Roadrunner
11-05

January/February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society

February 4, 2014 @ 7:00

January meeting was canceled due to an ice storm. Rescheduled for February 4th.

February regular monthly meeting will be held on February 25th @7:00

Meeting call to order by Scott McMickens

Minutes read by Sharon Rouchon- only part of the minutes were read, the rest of it was at home.

Treasure's Report- N/A

New or Prospective Members: Judy Perkins

Rhonda Renee Robinson-Smith

Federation report: Ray checking on how many displays is needed for the show.

Reports from the standing committees-

Publicity: N/A

Show: N/A

Field Trip: possibly one in March

Education: Cherie contacted the library about the reading programs. Keep collection the friendship rocks for her program.

Hospitality: We are asking everyone to take a turn bring snacks for the meeting. Mr. Ken has the signup sheet.

Function Staffing Committee: they need volunteers to help with Rockin @the Swamp, Earth Day.

Newsletter: is in need of articles.

Old Business: A special thanks for Charles and Marie for hosting the Christmas Party.

New Business: people who sign up at the show or until the end of the year are covered for the following year membership.

Mr. Joe volunteered his home to the club to come and use his equipment to work on some rocks.

Potlucks are being planned for future meeting. Dates will be posted.

Motion made by Ray for Charles to buy a new blade for the club saw. Second by Claire.

Motion passed.

Drawing for William Holland Scholarship will be held at the next meeting.

Ray has a display case if anyone needs it.

Program by Charles Ray on the Heather Stone.

Door Prizes

Show and Tell

Meeting adjourned

In Memoriam



Mr. Paul Broussard was an honorary member of the BRGMS. He was instrumental in starting the Annual BRGMS Gem & Mineral Show. He was a very active member until he became ill.