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Baton Rouge, La.

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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.

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Message from the President

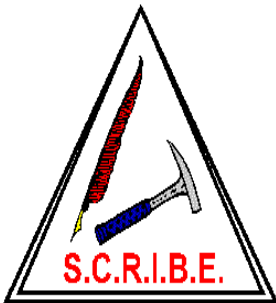
Hello Everyone

This coming month begins the stretch of events our club will be involved in. First up is Rockin @ The Swamp. It will be March 9th. We will need much help at our club booth. Contact Cherie Schofield or Catherine Rouchon and let them know you are willing to assist. We will need some door prizes to be given away. Bring your donations to this month's meeting. We should have enough if everyone brought one donation. It can be a specimen or something made. Astronomy Day is April 20th and Earth Day is the following day on April 21st. We will talk more about those events as it gets closer.

The trip to Texas to hunt for petrified wood is slow in developing. I did call and speak to our contact and he is very busy this time of year. He assured me he will lead us on a trip. It is looking more like May. We will gladly take whatever date he chooses. I will let everyone know as soon as it is set up. As some of you may have heard, there is a new dig site being looked into. Details are sketchy but I assure you it is something that is worth checking on. I will keep you updated on it also.

What an honor it is to have someone from our club appointed to a position with the AFMS. Congrats to Catherine Rouchon.

Ray



Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Duplechain

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

Special Congress Representing



Minutes January 22, 2013

by Secretary Norma Travis

Meeting called to order by Ray Duplechain.

Minutes read by Norma Travis for approval Accepted Emile Poche, second Marie Ray.

Treasurers report given by Ray D. in Glenn's absence, Report from Federation e-mailed to all members by Ray D.

Reports from standing committees
None from Publicity, or Education.

Hospitality- Ken will be calling members to bring cookies to meetings.

Old Business;

Update on fieldtrip to Jasper, Texas. Ray will let us know if it will take place.

Discussed collecting fees from members to assure people who sign up will actually make the trip, and not take space others would use. There is a maximum of 30 people.

Dues- Norma Travis will be in touch with members who have not paid, to collect dues, or remove from roles.

Reminder to William Holland winners to schedule their class reminded

New Business;

Claire Coco gave info on how the building will be set up for Rockin at The Swamp March 9, 2013.

Members reminded to bring money or rocks for booth fees. Also asked for volunteers to man the Club Booth.

Events scheduled for April 20, Astronomy Day, April 21, earth Day. Will need volunteers to work.

Program presented by Jimmy Lapham on "How to Buy a Diamond". A very informative presentation.

Meeting adjourned.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT**Jimmy Lapham**

When I was a kid my Dad got me interested in many branches of Science, and Geology was one of those branches. He had known people in the Geology department of LSU and took me to see the rocks and bones on display in the Geology building on more than one occasion. Our house had a gravel driveway and I would sit for hours picking through the rocks (there are still piles of gravel in my mother's garage). When my wife and I moved to California in 1985, we attended a Rock Show put on by the Northrop Gem and Mineral Club. She picked out a piece of rhodonite and told me she would like earrings made out of it. I asked one of the club members if he could make the earrings. He told me he would rather show me how to do it myself. The club had a very nice workshop and I was taught by various members of the club many of the techniques I know. I eventually became President of the club and was re-elected sixteen more times! When the club was disbanded as the company downsized, I joined the South Bay Gem and Mineral Society and, a couple of years later, served as president for two years there. My wife is supportive of this hobby, and enjoys the things I, and others, make, but does not actually grind rocks herself. Her hobby is paper crafting. From an appreciation standpoint, I don't really have a favorite rock. I think the infinite number of colors and patterns found in rocks is just endlessly fascinating. From a lapidary standpoint, I like working with jasper. Jasper is hard enough to make you work a bit to get a good shape and polish but not so hard as to exhaust your patience or wear out your equipment. And it's hard enough to take a really nice polish. My work schedule has only permitted me to make only one or two short field trips for collecting in all the years I have been involved in this hobby. Southern California had MANY great areas for collecting and I was often able to trade or buy rough from some of the members who were active with field trips. When I finally do retire I hope to be able to participate in more of the field trips although I still stoop to pick up a piece of gravel that catches my eye....

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lynne Terrio – 2nd

Cheryl Duplechian – 9th

Rena McMickens – 11th

Kimberly Brannon – 17th

Don Coulter – 18th**February's Birthstone**

Amethyst: Crystalline quartz in shades of purple, lilac or mauve is called amethyst, a stone traditionally worn to guard against drunkenness and to instill a sober mind. The word amethyst comes from the Greek meaning "without drunkenness" and amethyst is believed to protect one from poison.

It is used as a dream stone and to help insomnia. Put an amethyst under your pillow to bring about pleasant dreams, or rub it across your forehead to offer relief from a headache.

Ancient Egyptians used the amethyst guard against guilty and fearful feelings. It has been worn as protection from self-deception, as well as a protection against witchcraft. The amethyst has long been used to open the spiritual and psychic centers, making it one of the power stones. It is also used as a meditation aid when worn as a necklace.

The amethyst is known as the Bishop's Stone and is still worn by Catholic Bishops. The amethyst symbolizes piety, humility, sincerity and spiritual wisdom. It is thought the amethyst is the perfect stone to symbolize The Age of Aquarius.

Healing properties of Amethyst: is a gemstone often worn by healers, as it has the power to focus energy. A healer will usually wear several pieces of jewelry with amethysts set in silver, especially an amethyst necklace. The person to be healed will have an Amethyst to hold while the healing is being done. The healer will place another piece of Amethyst on the area of the body in need of healing, the heart or lungs usually. Amethyst is used for problems in the blood and in breathing problems. Amethyst crystal clusters are used to keep the air and life force in the home clean and positive. Clusters, points or several tumbled Amethysts placed in a window that receives sun most of the day are very beneficial to use in healing and to heal negativity in the home.

CLUB NEWS

Next Meeting: February 26, 2013
At the Marriot Hotel 7:00 pm

**Well it's here everybody!!!
Our club website is up and running...
Check it out: brgemandmineral.org
A BIG thanks to Ray for his vision
and to Kevin Hood of Webovation
Studios for his time and expertise.**

Congratulations to Catherine Rouchon for being appointed chairperson of the AFMS Endowment Raffle Committee representing the SCFMS

Bring your favorite un-identified Rock, Gem, or Mineral to the February meeting. Mr. Joe Samrow and Mr. Emile Poche will identify those collectibles we can't.

Stay tuned to **YouTube** for the interview Ray did for the Lafayette public channel.

Rockin At the Swamp – March 9, 2013
Sign up to help out at the club information table and door prize table.

Field Trip – Petrified Wood dig scheduling being worked out.

The February meeting will be the last day to pay your membership dues for 2013. The membership roll will be purged. You still have time to pay your dues by contacting: Glenn Gawarecki @ 225-683-9234.



Brain Teaser
A variety of Chalcedony...

Answer: Petrified Palm Wood



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

WELCOME to our new members:
Jason Lowry, Robin Coulter and Helen Coulter

2013 Show Dates

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.

FEB: 23-24 Jackson, MS. Jackson Gem & Mineral Society.

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

MAR16-17, 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/>

A Petrified Fact

By Ed Wengerd in Gem Cutter's News, via El Gambrisino


Many pieces of petrified wood, especially those from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the cast and the wood were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

from Monrovia Rockhounds, MOROKS Newsletter. December 2012 via Canaveral Moonstone 12/12

Diana Martin

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WELL, SOMEONE CALLED AND SAID THERE WAS A ROCKHOUND RUNNING LOOSE !



(From Rock Buster News 5/88 via SHAWNEE GEM & MINERAL CLUB 11&12/89)



How Do You Find Agates : Part 3

Agates Inside Out by: Karen A. Brzys

By: Rena McMickens

How Do You Find Agates: To look for rocks that have the highest likelihood of being agate, you want to keep your eyes open for anything that looks like it may have self-organized into a pattern of some type. Murphy's Law seems to dictate that most of the time; the side of the rock with obvious agate structure will be facing down at the collection site. But even the "rougher" sides of agate nodules sometimes show indications of self-organized banding behavior.

Of course, it is important when you are agate hunting to look at all sides of every specimen. The obvious agate sections may be on the opposite side of the rock you pick up. Even if you have 20-20 vision, it is a good idea to bring some sort of magnifying lens or loupe with you. This can be very helpful since magnification allows you to peak a little closer at any possible agate structure.

Translucency is an optical feature that can be very useful in helping you spot agates, even if they are covered with dust or dirt. Chalcedony microcrystalline quartz allows light to penetrate to varying degrees, depending on the agate's husk, producing a "glow" that distinguishes it from other rocks. While it is true that not all agates are translucent, the vast majority of specimens are. Examples of non-translucent agates are paint stone agates and some jasper agates. Sunny days are the best for observing agate translucency.

Translucency is the key characteristic that will help your agate hunting success. When you are looking for agates without rhyolitic or similar opaque husks, you can increase your success by taking advantage of translucency. In case it is not sunny, we recommend that you bring a flashlight that has a high intensity bulb. Use the flashlight to check for translucency through all angles of the rock. For larger specimens, sometimes the translucency only shows through the outer section of husk. When the sun is out, you can carefully hold up one hand to block the sun and protect your eyes, while using your other hand to hold the rock directly under your "blocking" hand.

Now just because a rock is translucent doesn't mean that it is agate. Macrocrystalline quartz can also be translucent, as compared to jasper and chert that usually are not. Many other rocks and minerals are translucent, but in most cases they are not confused with agate because their characteristics are distinctly different. A few that may be confused include feldspar, amazonite, fluorite, calcite, rhodochrosite, dolomite, datolite and labradorite. ◆

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION CONVENTION NEWS

ANNUAL SHOW

The ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA, will host the SCF 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 SFC in 2014.

Gems by Ray

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rings, necklaces, slabs and
lapidary rough.

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HINTS AND TIPS

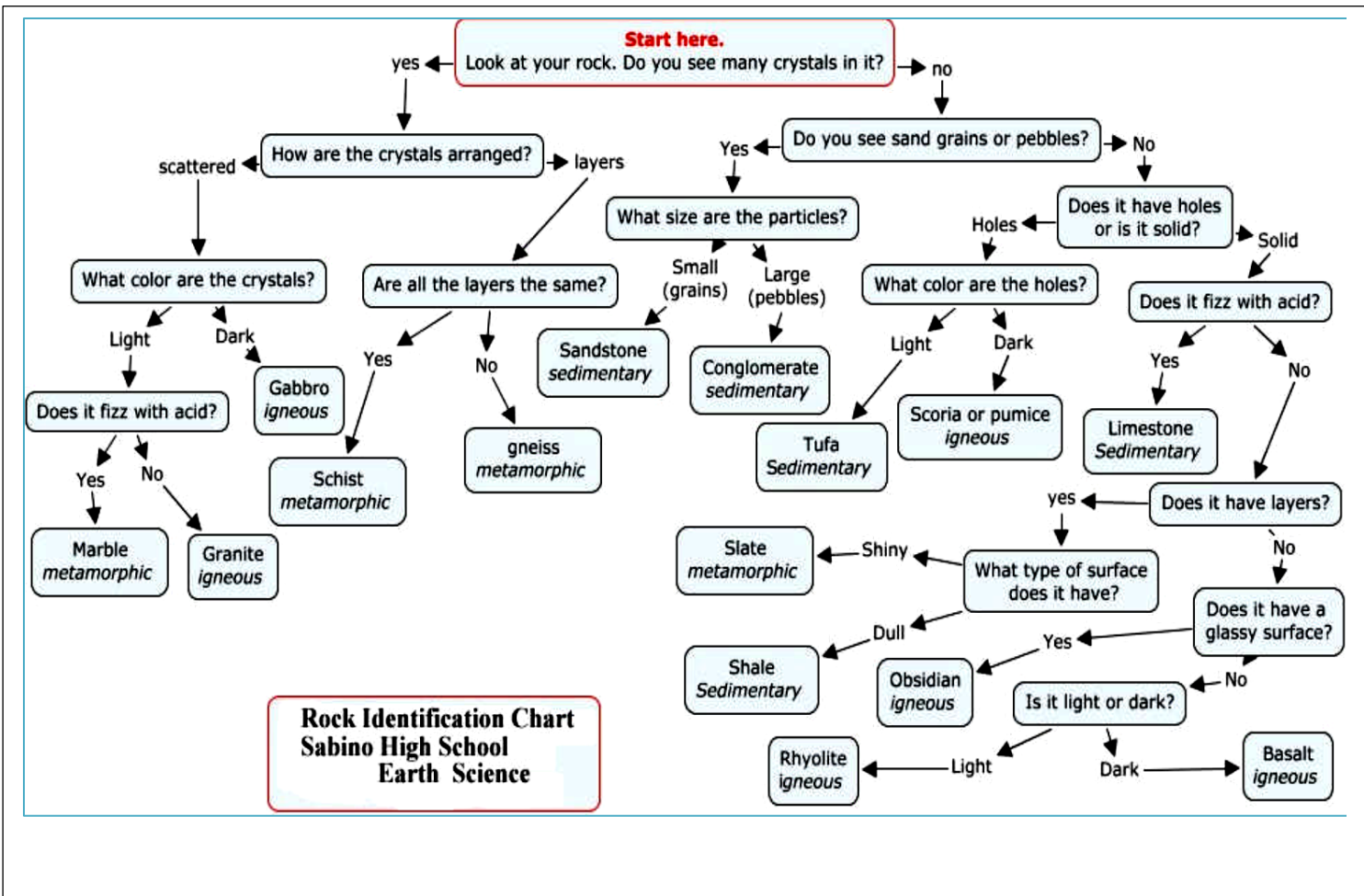
Stones sometimes develop fine, thread like scratches while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff. (One grain will do it.) To clean, hold a strip of soft plywood firmly against the butt. The grit will imbed itself in the wood, leaving the buff clean. I have also heard that a rubber eraser will work too, also a crepe rubber shoe sole.

For that glass finish on tiger eye, polish once, dry the stone then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let it dry a few minutes, then give it a second polish.Hmmm....

Most people think that there are three kinds of rocks, namely igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. To a rockhound there are still three, but not the three mentioned above. The three, to a rockhound are, "pretty rocks, interesting rocks, and pretty interesting rocks." (Swirlite could very well be one of those.) Just thought you'd like to know.

SCFMS 2013

ROCK IDENTIFICATION FOR DUMMIES



Rock Identification Chart
Sabino High School
Earth Science

FOR SALE

Faceting Machine; Brand Facetron

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Kid's Rocks & Minerals

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H	C	O	G	Y	P	S	U	M	A	R	Y
E	S	I	H	B	X	K	W	P	A	W	L
S	U	W	H	S	V	O	O	T	S	D	E
A	O	Y	P	P	Z	T	N	O	X	N	T
L	E	R	M	R	R	E	P	Y	Z	O	I
C	N	H	F	T	M	O	D	E	W	M	R
O	G	G	A	I	L	A	M	C	K	A	O
H	I	L	D	H	C	J	R	A	X	I	U
T	C	E	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	T	D	L
R	S	C	A	L	C	I	T	E	B	E	F
O	C	O	R	U	N	D	U	M	O	G	M

Mohs' hardness scale and the three main rock types

MOHS	ORTHOCLASE	IGNEOUS
TALC	QUARTZ	METAMORPHIC
GYPSUM	TOPAZ	SEDIMENTARY
CALCITE	CORUNDUM	
FLUORITE	DIAMOND	
APATITE		

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