



# Arkansas Rockhound News

February 2013

Official Newsletter of the  
Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

**CAGMAGS**

The Arkansas Rockhound News is published monthly by the **Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society**

Colors: Blue and White

**Website:** [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

**Member of:** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Dave Murray

Editor: Bill Alcott

Club Contact: Ann Austen

Sunshine Chairman: Angelee Peeler

Junior Programs: Obe Willix

Webmaster: Bill Alcott

#### **Time and Location of Meetings:**

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November) 6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 7221. **NOTE: The March Meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (March 27<sup>th</sup>) as a one-time exception.**

(Non-smoking) Visitors are always welcome  
Next meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Terry Library.

Call James (501-568-0315) or Jerry Johnson (479-876-1646) to find out about the field trip plans.

**Membership** Dues \$15 Individual \$25 Family (Yearly)

**Mission Statement:** The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is dedicated to promoting interest in mineralogy and the related sciences, interest in lapidary and the related arts; to encourage field trips and the enjoyment of collecting and preserving minerals as they occur in nature, and the study of geological formations, especially those of our Natural State of Arkansas. We are a small group of people that enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

## 2013 Meeting Schedule

(Tentative dates pending availability of our meeting room)

Jan 22	Feb 26	Mar 27*	Apr 23
May 28	Jun 25	Jul 23	Aug 27
Sep 24	Oct 22	Nov 26	

*\* - The March meeting will be held the 27<sup>th</sup> instead of the 26<sup>th</sup> due to non-availability of our meeting room on the fourth Tuesday.*

There is no meeting in December

## President's Message



*First, the January message:*

The club has the first 2013 meeting in the books. There was a large crowd on hand, the weather was cold, but not bad for a change. Maybe the worst of this winter is over and we can get back outside to go collecting or attending some shows. The next field trip will be to the Ron Coleman mine for quartz on Feb. 16th. This will be a joint trip with several other clubs from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee. It will be a chance to meet with other rockhounds and make new friends. Doug Stone and his daughters brought some large quartz crystals to show at the meeting that they just found, so everyone is in the mood.

The program was by Dave and Lenora on the classes at the William Holland school. They also brought examples of many items that they made there. It looks like a great place to go to learn about the different areas of lapidary arts and crafts. The next meeting on Feb. 26 will be a club auction so do not miss this meeting the auctions are always great fun. You can bring up to five items to sell with 10% of sales going to the club, items can also be donated to the club.

If you have not yet paid your 2013 dues, please do so as soon as possible. The club needs members to help out with field trips. Most of our club likes to go on fieldtrips, so if you are one of them, please think about stepping up and helping out. Contact James Burns or me if you want to volunteer.

Mike

*And then the February message:*

The February meeting was a great one. We had some new members, as well as people who volunteered to help out in several areas. It is good to see people joining the club, but even more important to see them really getting involved. An auction followed, and it was big success with over fifty items for sale. Bidding was very spirited at times and everyone had fun.

The next CAGMAGS meeting in March will be on Wednesday the 27th. Our normal Tuesday night was not available. The program will be on meteorites, and should be very interesting. There is going to be a planning meeting at my home on March 12th at 7 PM for people involved with the annual club show.

The rock swap at Burns Park on April 13th is fast approaching, so make sure you are ready and do not miss out. The club will have a table at the Memphis show on April 27th & 28th to promote CAGMAGS and Arkansas. Anyone who wants to help, please let me know.

Mike

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM, MINERAL AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY

### Minutes for January 2013 meeting, held on January 22.

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen. There were 25 members and 3 visitors present. He announced several upcoming shows: Jan25-26 in Tyler Texas, March 8 & 9 in Ada, OK, March 15-17 in Kansas City, April 6&7 Midwest Federation in Lincoln. Our swap on April 13 in Burns Park, April 13 & 14 in Siloam Springs, and April 27 & 28 in Memphis.

**Other announcements:** 2013 dues are due NOW. A Mars meteorite has been found recently, documented as same type of rock being found on Mars now. Rockaholics, who are always dealers at our show, have lost their pictures of this year's show and need some for their web site, if you have some they could use.  
New business: A proposal to split the Sec/Treas position into a 2-person job if possible. See text in newsletter. To be voted on at next meeting. There was no old business.

**REPORTS:**

**Sec/Treas:** Audit not yet completed

**Library:** We have received the book in memory of Sophia Brents, Agates and Jaspers by Ron Gibbs, and a DVD called Gemstone Adventure—Pearl Story. Both ready to check out. A nice new feature, a notebook on the club table, sign in or sign out of library materials.

**Field Trips:** 1) James needs help running the field trips. He has health problems as we know, and could use assistance. 2) Field trip Feb 16 is a joint trip with clubs from AR, TN, OK to Ron Coleman's mine. With this large a group known to be coming, there should be some good stuff brought up.

**Next Program:** The auction! Each person may bring 5 or less items to auction. The club keeps 10% and donor gets the rest. Bring money! (Please bring small bills, but lots of them!)

**Show and Tell:** Tumbled stones by David Hodges. His first batch. Good work!

**PROGRAM:**

Lenora Murray gave a great program on her and Dave's trips to William Holland School for Lapidary classes. This is in Young Harris, GA which is about 1 hour from Franklin, N.C., and something like 550 miles from Little Rock. Classes last a week, Sunday night through Friday evening. There are 26 weeks of classes, all taught by volunteers. 31 subjects are listed in the catalog, with skill levels from beginner to advanced in each class. There are 15 classes per week, and some fill fast. Their web site is [www.williamholand.org](http://www.williamholand.org). Lenora had catalogs and class schedules with her. Cost is \$350/person for double. Lab fees vary and cover your supplies. This is beautiful country and would make for a great vacation. Learn new skills at a quiet retreat, then see the area, find some rocks,

take pictures, hike, look for antiques, etc.

Submitted by  
Sarah Dodson, Sec/Treas

**CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM, MINERAL,  
AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY  
Minutes for February 2013 meeting,  
held on February 26**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Austen. He had several shows to announce, but the most important announcement was that the March meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27 rather than the usual 4th Tuesday. The Library is reserved through August for the 4th Tuesday, excepting March. April 13 is our rock swap at Burns Park. UALR will be having a seminar series on geology in April. More info to follow. Welcome to new member Bee Meldahl, who joined at this meeting. Old business was to vote on a constitutional amendment as follows: Article IV Officers, section 2: The Secretary/Treasurer position can be held by one person, or it can be two separate positions, a Secretary and a Treasurer, held by two different people. Motion in favor by Mike Howard, seconded and passed.

**New business:** A motion by Lenora Murray that we rent a post office box for the club to have a permanent address was seconded and passed. (The box is now rented for a year. It is box 241188, Little Rock 72223.)

**Reports:**

**Treasurer**—the transition audit has been done. January report on the sign in table.

**Library**—several new DVDs and magazines have come in. "The Frugal Collector" book seems to be missing. Contact Ann if you know where it is.

**Field Trip**—Three members went on the joint clubs trip to Colemans. Lots of people from the other clubs. It was reported that some good quartz was found, on Friday, and the field trip was on Saturday. For March, James will check into RazorRock. Stay tuned. David Hodge has volunteered to help James with the field trips. A big thanks to you David!

**Programs**—March will be a timely report on meteorites (the Memphis show theme this year is meteorites also). Thank you George for all the good

speakers you're finding for us.

**Show**--There will be a meeting for the show committee and club officers at the Austens on Tuesday, March 12 at 6 pm. This is NOT a dinner meeting.

There was no raffle due to the auction. The business meeting closed and the fun began. We had 26 people signed in, of which we had 10 sellers and 19 bidders. 5 bidders didn't win any bids, but I think everybody was in on the bidding. Things were pretty lively for about an hour there. A few items drew some fairly competitive bidding back and forth. A good time was had by all. If you weren't there, you missed it!

Submitted by

Sarah Dodson, Sec/Treas

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**Just thought I'd let you know that we've had to shuffle the scheduling of programs for the March 27th (Wed.) meeting. Our program will be on the Seismic Activity in North Central Arkansas due in part to the drilling and "Fracturing" to retrieve Natural Gas and dispose of the waste water. Our program will be given by a member of the Ark. Geological Survey.**

**Our April program will be on Meteorites and will be given by professors from UALR.**

**George**



If you missed the December newsletter, it's because there was no meeting and no newsletter. If you missed the January issue, blame me. Between computer problems and hectic month at work, I simply didn't get it out. I've included both sets of President's Message and the minutes from both meetings, as well as some of the submissions I've received from y'all.

Bill Alcott

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## SAVE THE DATES

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show  
"The Earth Wide Open"  
Saturday, April 27 9-6:00  
Sunday, April 28 10-5,  
Memphis International Agricenter

Enter at Section B

7777 Walnut Grove Road

- Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for those 12 and under. Scouts in uniform admitted free. Part of the show's proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Memphis and C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa.
- Over 60 dealers, exhibitors, displays and demonstrators from through out the USA. ½ mile of tables stocked full of rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry, beads and supplies
- Rockzone area for the kids with the Gem and Fossil Dig, Rocks Around the Clock, Geode Bowling, Rock Toss and Exhibits
- "METEORITES HIT MEMPHIS"- a special exhibit of meteorites, tektites, impact craters such as Wells Creek in Tennessee, and educational displays
- Grand Door Prize - 20 pound Deep Midnight Purple Fluorite Mineral Display Specimen from the Cave-In -Rock area of Illinois. Rare and area is closed to collecting

<http://www.theearthwideopen.com/>

[info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com)

901-274-7706

### Slab Saws for Sale:

36" saw with one used blade and one new.  
\$4,000.00

20" saw with two blades. \$1,000.00  
Contact David McAlister, (901) 212-8659  
Please call **AFTER** 9PM

## Just Wear It!

*By Stephanie Blandin, 2012*

I have been told for many years that I am "weird". I love the rain, it energizes me! I love to walk around in it. Well, I also decide what jewelry I want to wear & then decide what clothes to wear. (I guess you could say that my clothes are my accessories!) I was reading the other day about Christie's Auction House, The Best of the Best, in jewelry and gems. There is a silk-screened motto on the wall "Style is a simple way of saying complicated things"...Jean Cocteau. Simon Teakle (Head of Christie's jewelry dept.) states that "The great thing about jewelry is, it's about individual taste. It's a very personal, subjective thing. The way you wear jewelry is the way you wear your clothes: It's an extension of yourself." Well that made me hold my head a little higher... Maybe I ought to rethink that walking in the rain thing... Might drown!

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## GEMS, ROCKS, & GEOLOGY QUIZ

### Multiple Choice

(Select the correct word in each sentence.)

1. Fossils in igneous rock are (nonexistent / rare / numerous)
2. One of the factors in the formation of minerals is (pressure / topography / refraction)
3. An example of lapidary material found in a saline deposit is (chalcedony / hematite / calcite)
4. Oxygen and silicon are the most abundant elements in Earth's crust. Another of the most common elements is (iron / carbon /

sulphur)

5. Agates and gem crystals can be found in basalt cavities called (amygdules / vesicles / porphyritic)
6. Crystals in pegmatites are sometimes extremely large, more than (10 feet / 18 feet / 40 feet)
7. The obsidian nodules called Apache Tears are found in (pumice / pitchstone / perlite)
8. An indurated clay used as a lapidary material is (bentonite / argillite / catlinite)
9. A water soluble lapidary material is (alabaster / halite / chert)
10. Branching patterns of pyrolusite found in agates are called (styolites / dendrites / aggregates)

### MATCH

1. geology
  2. paleontology
  3. archaeology
  4. limestone
  5. granite
  6. basalt
  7. silicates
  8. gold
  9. perlite
  10. breccia
- a. composed of quartz, feldspar, mica
  - b. dark fine-grained igneous rock
  - c. largest chemical group of minerals
  - d. Au
  - e. CaCO<sub>3</sub>
  - f. Science of the earth
  - g. Angular broken recemented rock
  - h. Study of the history of mankind
  - i. Science of the study of fossils
  - j. A glassy bubbly rock

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. Jet is found in sedimentary deposits.
2. obsidian is an igneous gem material.
3. serpentine gem material are metamorphic.
4. Zircon is a sedimentary gem.
5. Calcite, opal, and chalcedony are often fluorescent.
6. Agatized coral is a pseudomorph.
7. There are no working diamond mines in

North America.

8. Glaciers brought the Lake Superior agates to the U.S.
9. Salt deposits of over 600 feet thick are near Detroit.
10. Contact metamorphism is caused by magma.

### ANSWERS

Answers? What answers? Oh, all right. I'll post them here next month! Have fun!

*Submitted by Stephanie Blandin, original source unknown*

### SCRIBBLE RINGS

A ring that was popular during the time of Queen Elizabeth is called a "Scribble Ring". Why, you may ask, because diamonds were a novelty and were worn uncut (cutting technology had not yet been developed). The diamonds were set in rings so that the wearers, like vandals or romantics, could use the point of the crystal to leave graffiti or love notes on another item of the rich... window glass! Please limit all your love notes to me on paper (diamonds, cognac please, would be ok though!).

*By Stephanie Blandin, 2013*

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Here are some finishing hints for specific materials recommended by lapidary teachers and professional cutters.

Amazonite: Grind with care because of strong cleavage. Not being heat sensitive, it takes a good polish with cerium on leather

Fluorite: Because of strong cleavage, use the fine grinding and sanding wheels. Cold dop. Finish with chrome oxide on leather or 1200 diamond.

Malachite: Saw parallel to the botryoidal pattern. Subject to undercutting. Keep it cool and sand meticulously. Polish with Linde A on leather. (Some say Malachite is toxic)

Obsidian: Brittle but no cleavage problems. Cannot stand thermal shock. Grind on fine, smooth wheel. Wet sand through 600. Polish with cerium on felt.

Rhodochrosite: Soft, distinct cleavage, and moderately heat sensitive, rhodochrosite should be worked wet with fine wheels and polished with tin

oxide on leather.

Turquoise: Cut with water instead of oil. Use fine wheels. Keep it cool. Polish with chrome oxide on leather if the material is greenish, otherwise tin oxide or Linde A on leather.

*Submitted by Stephanie Blandin from Lapidary Journal, June 2001*

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## CAGMAGS Christmas Party 2012





