

Bill Alcott
Arkansas Rockhound News Editor
430 Stoney Point Church Rd
Beebe, AR 72012-9688



Arkansas Rockhound News

July 2011

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

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

Next meeting is August 23, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-804-2331) to find out about the field trip plans.

2011 Officers:

President: Mike Austen

steelpony@aol.com

Phone 868-4553

Vice President: Tom Sharp

thom61847@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Schenebeck

jsjimstone@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Lenora Murray

218 Old Hwy 11 South

Hazen, AR 72064

(870) 255-3679

Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

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

(Non-smoking) Visitors are always Welcome

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.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Jan 11	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 26
May 24	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23
Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 22	

There is no meeting in December

President's Message



As you may have noticed, it has been HOT lately, and the forecast is for more of the same. So in the interest of comfort and safety, there will be no field trips in August. For those of you that really need your "rock fix", there are a lot of good rock shows coming up the next two months.

The program for August will be a club auction, so start getting those items you want to sell ready. Don't miss this meeting because auctions are always lots of fun and you will have a great time. We will limit sellers to five items to start with. You may bring more, but we might not have time to get to them all. Bring cash if you can, it makes it easier to settle up. Remember the club takes a cut, and you can set your starting price. So start saving up your money, you know you really need more rocks.

Mike

**MINUTES for the JULY Meeting of
Central Ark. Gem, Mineral and Geology
Society**

The July meeting was called to order by President

Mike Austen on Tuesday July 26, 2011 at the Terry Library. There were 28 adults and 3 juniors present. Some upcoming show dates are;

Tahlequah, Ok August 19-21,

St Louis August 19-20,

Mt. Home Ark. August 27-28,

Enid Okla, September 16-18,

Siloam Springs September 20-11,

The Midwest Federation at Toledo, Oh. on September 9-11. Anyone going to Ohio? You could be our club delegate!

And of course don't forget OUR show October 1-2. Our next meeting will be a club auction on August 23. July birthday rocks went to Bill Alcott, George Gray-Major and Mike Howard.

REPORTS: The secretary-treasurer report for MAY was approved as posted. Our Librarian, Anne Austen had no new library information. James Burns, the field trip chair, noted that it was really too hot to dig, so no new field trip was planned, but there is some interest in a picnic when the weather cools down. He and Obe Willix did manage a June trip to the Ron Coleman crystal mine. James had 4 absolutely gorgeous huge points from what he declared a really good digging day despite the heat.

OLD BUSINESS: -A quick reminder that the AUGUST meeting will be a club auction, so mark your calendars and get those 5 items you CAN live without ready for the auction! Dave Murray announced almost all the inside tables are sold for the October show, but we have room for outside vendors. Angelee Peeler sent around a form for volunteers in the food concession area. We hope to get a form on line soon for other show volunteers. Members were reminded to pick up show flyers to hand out wherever possible.

NEW BUSINESS: – The club will be setting up a display at the Thompson Library on Rawling Road in September. Mike Austen really needs volunteers to help him get this display organized. It will be great publicity right before our club show. So please call him if you can help. Lenora Murray had William Holland brochures available for members to take home. Pearl Roth also mentioned how great the programs are. If you have a week to spare before Nov 10, check this place out for a really

unique 'learning vacation'.

SHOW AND TELL: James Burns dazzled us with crystals from Ron Coleman's mine, while Bill Ridley passed around a superb emerald cut faceted quartz. Mike Austen brought in a 'before and after' sample of agates from Texas. The 'befores' were rather dull, but the tumbled ones were super. He also had chert from Spavinaw, Ok. Lenora Murray had samples from 3 recent locations they visited: a flat of Graves Mt. materials, with very few rutiles, some hourglass selenite and clusters from Great Salt Plains, Ok, and some coral fossils including one very large one from near Dickson, Tn. Thanks for sharing guys!

RAFFLE: The two best of showpieces won by Pearl Roth: a large laboradorite, and Anne Austen: Hemimorphite XTLS on Limonite.

PROGRAM: Mike Austen showed us part of a video of the Munich, Germany 2010 International Mineral Show. The tape was awesome. The specimens were absolutely dazzling, and the commentary about the locations and collections was quite interesting. They showed specimens from seventeen different countries from Afghanistan to Vietnam. (see list below). And the minerals were from A-adamite to T-tourmaline, with fluorites of many colors the host's favorites. The video was so interesting, it was sad that Mike had to stop part way through due to time. Maybe we can see the rest at another meeting. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Lenora Murray, Secretary-Treasurer

PS: Countries named include: Afghanistan, Austria, Brazil, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Switzerland, Tasmania, the U.S. of A. and Vietnam. Museum-quality minerals included adamite, alabandite, amethyst, apatite, aragonite, and azurite. And those were just the A's.!

"A quick reminder that the AUGUST meeting will be a club auction, so mark your calendars and get those 5 items you CAN live without ready for the auction!"

Members' Birthdays coming up

August

Dave Murray
Pat Kissire
Lenora Murray
Kathy Findley
Don Lum
Diana Moxley
Bob Taylor

September

Sarah Dodson
Karen McNew
Cherece Athy
Debbie Penrod
Sybil Taylor

Happy Birthday!

THE BOLA TIE REVISITED

The **bola** (not bolo) tie, though known in much of the world, is most prevalent in the Southwestern U.S. There are many stories as to the origin of the bola tie, but the one that is normally accepted started in 1949 with Victor E. Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona. Cedarstaff was riding horseback when the wind blew his hat off; the band had come loose. Instead of putting it back on the hat, he put the band around his neck. A friend saw this and remarked, "Nice tie you're wearing!" That gave Vic an idea. He was a silversmith and had taught leather craft, so he made a tie from leather lacings and attached silver balls at the end. Then he made a silver slide with a piece of turquoise on it and slipped in on the lacings. This attracted attention, and he began to get orders to make them. He was unable to get a patent on the tie because such a slide arrangement was already in existence. One problem was to make the slide so it would slip but not damage the leather. Eventually, he designed a yoke which held the leather properly and eliminated the necessity of having to slip the tie over the head. Now he had something new, and on this modification he was issued a patent. He needed a name for the tie which would help popularize it, and first called it a *Piggin Necklet* after the piggin

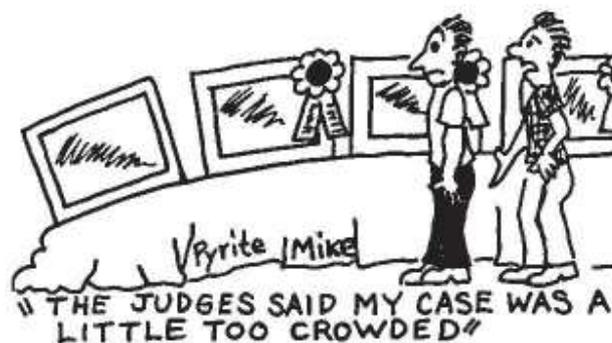
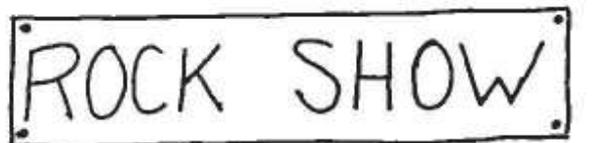
string that cowboys used. Sometime later, a friend who had been to Argentina showed Vic a device he had brought back called a bola. This was used in Argentina for catching cattle and it reminded Vic of what he had made. The initial name never caught on, and Vic decided to call his tie a bola. It is now the official neckwear of Arizona.

Original source unknown The Nugget 9/01 via Breccia 6/98 via Port Townsend Rock Club News 10/2001

DID YOU KNOW?

Chromium is the color determinant for both rubies and emeralds. As a chemical impurity, chromium causes rubies to be red and emeralds to be green. A small amount, co-mingled with the differently spaced atoms of the two gems, causes them to absorb different wave lengths of light. In ruby, green waves are absorbed; in emerald (beryl) red waves are absorbed. The color seen is leftover wavelengths - green in emerald, red in ruby.

Port Townsend Rock Club News 10/2001



Quarry Quips, April 2007

The Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club's
Golden Anniversary
"Going for the Gold"
40th Annual Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show and Sale
Stranahan Theatre
4645 Heatherdowns Blvd # 2, Toledo, Ohio 43614
Friday, September 9, 2:00 to 8:00 PM
Saturday, September 10, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday, September 11, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
20+ Dealers featuring Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Lapidary Supplies, Demonstrations and More!
Directions From Stranahan To Whalen Auction Bldg:
West on Heatherdowns to South on Reynolds Rd. to US 24 approximately 6.5 miles towards the town of Waterville,
then West 7 miles on Farnsworth Rd aka Neapolis Waterville Rd. to facility.
Bring this coupon for \$1.50 off per person for up to 4 Admissions. Coupon Code: WH

THIS PAGE RESERVED FOR MEMBER'S ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

Articles and photos may be *emailed* to your newsletter editor at
mister.bill@starband.net

mailed to:

Bill Alcott

**430 Stoney Point Church Road,
Beebe, AR 72012,**

Or *brought* to a monthly meeting.

**If you have hard copy photos and you give me an advance notice, I'll
bring the laptop and a scanner and scan them right there at the
meeting.**

Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Sponsored by: Greater St. Louis Assoc. of Earth Science Clubs, Inc.
Machinists Hall Auditorium
12365 St. Charles Rock Road, (Bridgeton), MO 63044

Fri Aug 19, '11 Sat Aug 20, '11 Sun Aug 21, '11
3pm - 8pm 10am - 8pm 11am - 5pm

Dealers in Gems, Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, Beads, Jewelry and Gifts
Youth Booth, Exhibits, Demonstrations and Gem & Mineral Club Info.

Donations: Adults-\$5.00, Seniors-\$4.00 (62 & Up), Juniors-\$2.00 (6-17)
Children 5 & under free when accompanied by adult. All Scouts and Leaders in uniform admitted free.

For more information, contact:
Robert Morse 636-462-4423, Email rmorse@centurytel.net
Jerry Kubat - 636-928-4938 Email jkubat7911@sbcgloabl.net



GEM, MINERAL, & FOSSIL SHOW

August 27 & 28, 2011

Sat. 10A.M. - 6PM. Sun. 10A.M. - 4PM.

Van Matre Senior Center
1101 Spring Street (Cooper Park)
Mountain Home, AR 72653

*Gems, Minerals, Fossils
*Spin & Win Game
*Unique Crafts & Jewelry
Drawings

(Grand Prize Need not to be present to win)

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870-424-0956 or 870-481-5697

The Night Before Showtime

'Twas the night before showtime and all thru the place,
Every club member stirred at a breathtaking pace.
Like the shoemaker's elves each worked at his task,
All smiles - no grumbles, when hard jobs are asked.
The cases were crowded with exhibits exotic
And show patrons thrilled with phrases ecstatic.
The show days brought hard work but also some fun,

And old friendships re-kindled over coffee and bun.
'Twas the night after show close, but do not despair,
Every club member was still doing his/her share.
The cases all folded and packed in the crate,
The building all tidied before it was late.
And the Show Chairman pondered, "I do have a hunch,
There never could be found a more wonderful bunch!"
*Author unknown; source Pebbles Jan 1997 via Quarry Quips,
April 2007*

And from a REALLY laid back club:

November 9 7:30pm
Jeff Oberloh will have a napping demonstration

CITRINE, THE "BROWN AMTHYST"

Citrine is a yellow to orangish-brown-colored quartz of gem quality. Its name is derived from the French word citron, which means lemon, and naturally occurring citrine tends to be a pale yellow. However, most of what is on the market is actually lower-grade Brazilian amethyst that has been heated to about 500 degrees centigrade, or 932 degrees Fahrenheit, this citrine tends to have more of an orange or red caste. Both amethyst and citrine get their coloring from the presence of iron in the quartz, the process of heating the amethyst reduces the oxidation state of the iron impurities and fades the purple coloring. Since citrine is so closely associated with amethyst, it is sometimes possible to find both colors in the same stone. When this happens, you have a gem that is called ametrine. It is often faced so that the resulting gemstone is a 50/50 mix of the citrine and amethyst, making for a very showy piece indeed. This particular gemstone has only been on the market for about 30 years. Citrine stands as a gemstone in its own right, however, as one of the most valuable and popular of the quartz gems. It is listed both as the November birthstone and the anniversary gemstone for the 17th year of marriage. Because of its availability and affordability, it is also a popular alternative to the more expensive topazes, yellow sapphires, and yellow diamonds. Despite its beauty, citrine does have a few drawbacks. Because it has already

undergone some natural alteration, its coloring is somewhat unstable, and prolonged exposure to sunlight can fade it, giving it a pale, washed-out appearance. Despite its hardness, it is somewhat brittle, and can be scratched fairly easily. Also, in determining the true value of a particular stone, it is not possible at this time to determine whether or not the citrine was synthetically heated. You don't have to worry about being duped with truly synthetic citrine, though; it's too expensive to produce. Finally, a few technical notes: citrine's chemical composition is SiO₂ (silicon dioxide) with minor Fe³⁺ impurities causing the coloration. Citrine has a hardness of 7, a conchoidal fracture, a white streak, no cleavage, and a vitreous luster. It is transparent to translucent. The crystal structure is macrocrystalline, which means that you can see the individual crystals with the naked eye, as opposed to cryptocrystalline, which means that you cannot discern the individual crystals unaided. The shape of the crystals is hexagonal. Citrine most commonly occurs as protruding clusters of crystals on a geode base, with an igneous origin. It can also occur as massive and crusty or as singular terminated crystals.

Bibliography:

~ Amethyst Galleries, Inc., "Citrine, the Yellow and Orange Variety of Quartz," <http://mineral.galleries.com>
 ~ Eid, Alain, 1000 Photos of Mineral and Fossils, Barron's Educational Series, Hauppauge, NY, 2000.
 ~ Friedman, Hershel, "Citrine: Yellow to Brown Variety of Quartz," 2003. <http://www.minerals.net>
 ~ Gem and Mineral Miners Inc., "Citrine: Mineral Information Page," Jan. 14, 2001. <http://www.mineralminers.com>
 ~Jewelry Mall, "Citrine," 1999. <http://jewelrymall.com>
 ~Post, Jeffrey E., The National Gem Collection, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, 1997.
 Via: T-Town Rockhound, July 2004, via Rock Lore, Nov 2005

Leaverite

by Francis Sick

I found a rock and brought it home
 Because it was so bright.
 I asked the experts what it is.
 They said, "It's leaverite."

I've looked and looked through all my books
 But nowhere can I find
 More information on my rock.
 It nearly blows my mind.

I guess I'll just hang on to it
 Though try hard as I might
 I can't find out any more about
 This mineral ... Leaverite.

*Via: Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society "Rock-A-Gram",
 Volume 36, No. 8, via The Rock Vein, May 2006*

PONDERISMS

- I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.
- Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out easily, it is a valuable plant.
 - The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
 - Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.
- There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.
 - Life is sexually transmitted.
- Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Next meeting is August 23, 2011 at 6:30pm
 at the Terry Library

- Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
 - Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
 - If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?
 - If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?
 - If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
- Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?
 - Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet soup?
 - Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out of the window?
 - Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?
 - Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

from Mahtowa Area Times (TJ's flyer)

Via: Carleton County Gem & Mineral Club Inc. "The Agate Picker" May, 2006 via The Rock Vein, May 2006

HIDDEN DANGERS

Acetone: An industrial type solvent containing harmful vapor.

Hydrogen Sulfide: By-product of sulfur and water. Deadly poison!

Manganese: In dust or vapors, it can damage the nervous system.

Quartz, agate, sandstone, granite, chert, flint: All are of the silica rock family. The dust from this family contributes to silicosis of the lungs.

Abalone: Grind and polish only when wet. Be aware that any odor detected is highly toxic.

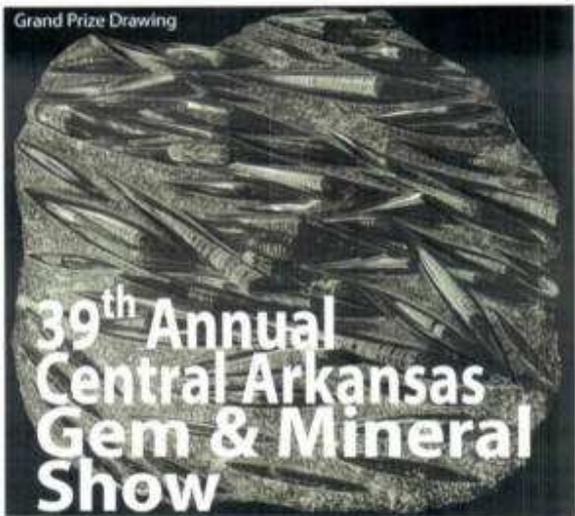
Malachite: Work wet as the dust created when working dry is toxic.

Lead: Known to enter the body from dust, fumes, and water. It can damage the brain and neuromuscular system.

While it is not healthy to fear everything, one should be aware of hidden dangers in apparently innocent looking material that we all use extensively in our hobby.

Source: Calgary Lapidary Journal, via Gems of the Rogue - October 2005 via Cutting Remarks, May 2007

Grand Prize Drawing



**39th Annual
Central Arkansas
Gem & Mineral
Show**

October 1-2, 2011
9am-5pm
Jacksonville Community Center
5 Municipal Drive
Jacksonville, Arkansas
(Hwy 67/167 Exit 9 Main Street)

**Minerals - Fossils - Beads
Lapidary Materials - Jewelry**

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For Information: Lenora 870-255-3679 lenoramur@aol.com