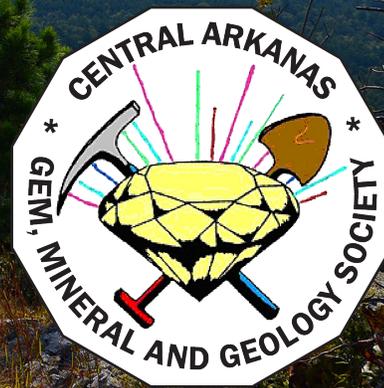


# ARKANSAS ROCKHOUND NEWS



## 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.

Regular meetings are at the Terry Library (2015 Napa Valley Drive Little Rock, AR 72212) 6:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December)

SUMMER 2021

## The Shah Diamond's Interesting History

*By Emerald, a Geo Junior Member, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society  
From the January, 2021 Pick & Dop Stick*

We do not know who found the Shah Diamond. The Shah Diamond probably is a Golconda diamond, mined in India. [Editor's Note: Golconda diamonds, mined in a specific area of India, are named after the diamond trading center in Golconda where many of them were originally sold.] It was found before 1591, but we do not know the exact year.

People think it weighed 95 carats when it was found. It is now only 89 carats.

The shape of the Shah Diamond is a long octahedron. The diamond is polished on some sides and has 15 facets. Some of the facets are still natural. The cut is called a table cut. It is a yellow tinted stone, and does not have any clouds or flaws.

The Shah Diamond changed over time. Someone added a groove. The groove was to put it on a cord that the Shah could wear around his neck. It also has engravings in ancient Persian.



The Shah Diamond after cutting.  
Photo via Indianetzone.com.

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## 2021 Officers & Committee Chairs

President, John Schoeneman  
501-679-4531, jschoeneman@hughes.net

Vice President, Mike Howard  
501-246-0964, jmichaelhoward@  
sbcglobal.net

Secretary, Lenora Murray  
501-346-5990, lenoramur@aol.com

Treasurer, Barbara Champagne  
501-258-2576, bachampagne@comcast.  
net

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster,  
Nikki Heck  
501-626-5440, nikkidheck@gmail.com

Show Chairs, David Murray  
870-255-3679, davidmur99@hotmail.com  
Lorrie Norwood  
501-650-4361, cagmags.showchair@  
yahoo.com

Swap, John Schoeneman  
501-679-4531, jschoeneman@hughes.net

Field Trip Coordinator/Library  
David Hodge  
501-837-6713, dc42hodge@yahoo.com

Programs/Education, Stephanie  
Blandin  
501-590-5760

**HELP!**  
**Send in your:**  
stories, articles, tips,  
photos  
suggestions or questions!

Submissions due by the  
28th of each month.

## Meeting minutes...

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April 27, 2021

*-Lenora Murray, unofficial note taker*

This club hasn't had a secretary since before COVID, and not many folks were attending meetings, but Stephanie Blandin and Mike Howard have been giving interesting programs for a small but devoted group of members every month. It was so encouraging to see TEN members at the April meeting when the program was a "Show and Tell" session. President John Schoneman opened the short business meeting. Treasurer Barbara gave her short report. Show chair Dave reported he and Lorrie Norwood had met, and he has all the paperwork from 2019. Letters went out to vendors, and phone calls will follow. We also discussed club shirts, field trips, and scholarships, but I didn't take notes. The business meeting was closed for the very interesting Show and Tell presentations.

First, Doc Roy Mathews showed off a huge pyrite specimen, and told an engaging story about the history of this exceptional piece from Colorado. John Schoneman had some of the poker chip calcite he recently collected, and even let us all pick a piece to take home. David Hodge brought a collection of slabs, cabs, and specimens he recently acquired from India. They were remarkable colorful pieces. Bill Alcott brought the sterling silver Byzantine Chain necklace and bracelet he made. Beautiful work Bill. Lenora brought specimens of rose quartz and other minerals native to South Dakota from their trip last fall. And Mike Howard showed a few of the treasures he found locally, (he wouldn't say where) . They glowed bright red under his new long wave light. Fascinated, the Murray's had to buy one that week. Now we have at least four families in the club that are actively collecting fluorescent minerals. Be sure to come to the JUNE 22 meeting for Mike's presentation on FLUORESCENTS. Hope to See you there.

May 25, 2021

*-Lenora Murray, secretary*

The meeting was called to order by President John Schoneman at 6:30 PM. There were 16 members and 'guests' who became members. Returning 'new' members were Debbie Bodeker and Jim Lybrand. We welcomed our newest members who just joined today: Mary Epstein and Ian Goldsby.

In old business, Stephanie Blandin gave a report about t-shirts. She will order these for members who sign up. She can order more as members pay and give her their sizes. Dave Murray gave a show report. All dealers from 2019 have been contacted. Only 2 moved away and 2 passed on. We were sad to hear Mary Bolin and Patrick Miron passed away recently. They will be missed. Both were with us as active show dealers, and Mary was the excellent beading artist who made special necklace sets for our grand prize yearly! Dave, Lenora and treasurer Barbara Champagne inventoried items in the storage shed. Some are available at today's auction later. The club was asked to formally change the show name back to the 48th Annual Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. It was passed unanimously.

Barbara reported we have the Burns Park pavilion for June 26 if we want it. Club members voted to do this. (It has since been confirmed from North Little Rock Parks) We will again have the Eldor Johnson Pavilion from 9 to 4 this upcoming Saturday June 26 for our annual big SWAP MEET. More information to follow.

In new business, the club elected Lenora Murray to be the new secretary. John also reminded us since Terry Library is only open until 6 PM, we will continue to meet at this clubhouse for now. Thank you to David Hodge for arranging this. John will be out of town for the June 22 meeting. Mike Howard agreed to be the acting president. Stephanie told of upcoming events: Memphis is holding a Swap Meet Sat. May 29 at Lou White's home, and invited all our members to join them. The June Field trip will be a joint trip with the Memphis club for quartz digging June 19-20.

Meet at the Ron Coleman Mine at 8:30 on the 19th. The second day may be at Jim Coleman's Miller Mt. mine or Wegners. See Note BELOW. Bill Alcott and John Schoneman reported about attending the mineral estate sale in Beebe. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to begin our FIRST Auction of 2021.

Bill Alcott was our always delightful auctioneer. With 8 sellers, and over 46 'lots' there was excitement and spirited good natured bidding! Some went home with wonderful prizes (I did!) and a few went home with some money for parting with a few treasures. Since treasurer Barbara had to leave early due to illness, this 'acting' treasurer is announcing the club made \$98.60 on the auction. All had a great time, and the assurance that the Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is BACK IN BUSINESS!

Note: Due to the Memphis bridge and heat issues, the quartz dig plans may change! CALL Stephanie 501-590-5760 or Murray's 501-346-5990 as Memphis votes June 11 on whether to change the date. Of course CAGMAGs members won't need to get hotel rooms for a dig, but Memphis folks would. (**EDITORS NOTE:** The field trip has been postponed, but I am leaving the official minutes as is with this additional note.)

### *From the editor...*

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Here we are in June! We're slowly coming back from the COVID year and back to even meeting in our regular meeting location!

We have lots of new ideas and plans for the club and the newsletter. I have been talking with Lenora and Stephanie and you'll be seeing some new features in upcoming issues. Don't be surprised if you hear from one of us with a request, just saying!

Thank you to Lenora for taking over the secretary position and sending the minutes, thanks also to Stephanie and W.C. for sending in some articles. Let's keep that going, y'all send me articles and photos and I'll get them in here.

## Our recent meetings...

In the last couple of months we've had show and tell and an auction. Fun was had by everyone!



April's "Show and Tell." Above, Roy M.'s giant pyrite cube with a story to tell! Right, Mr. Bill's beautiful silver work.



Above and right, minerals and cabs from India.



Above, left and below are items won from our recent auction.



## Of interest...

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### Scribbling Rings?

by *Stephanie Blandin, April 6, 2021*

The scribbling ring was popular during the 16th century. Usually people were considered rich that were scribblers. One reason is the messages were scribbled on window glass, which was very expensive. Another reason was the ring used for scribbling was an uncut diamond! The ring had a sharp point on it unlike the facet cuts of today. It was exchanged by lovers such as Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh. He was said to have scribbled upon his Queen's window: "Fain would I rise but that I fear to fall." Her reply was: "If thy heart fail thee, do not rise at all." Mary Queen of Scots was also a scribbler.

A scribbling ring was discovered in Leicestershire, England which has been dated back to the early medieval period. Maybe even as far back as the 11th century. A reporter from "The Times" newspaper on August 21, 2008 reports that a Mr. Stevens, who was using a metal detector, found a black diamond scribbling ring in a local field. It is believed to have belonged to either the Church or Royalty. As history has proven, what goes out, comes back in, such as the scribbling ring...

Note: Please limit all love notes to me on paper but diamonds (Cognac preferred) would be welcome!! I might even scribble a Thank You!

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### Canadian Pinolite

by *WC McDaniel*

It was love at first sight. Walking down one of the many, many tents and aisles at the Tucson Kino Gem Show I saw a booth display and said to myself that is some of the nicest fossil plants I have ever seen, displaying super and almost perfect shapes with vivid colors. I was wrong, about the fossil part, not the love at first sight part. Instead of fossils it was pinolite and it was from Canada. A new word/rock for me, so I needed to investigate beyond its good looks:

- "Pinolite is a semi-precious gem-stone consisting of magnesite, dolomite, and graphite; that when brought together, these minerals form a stunning grey,



black and white pattern like nothing else in this world. Also called Pinolith, this stone gets its name from the pinecone like patterns formed by the slow cooling of the three minerals." The MOHS Hardiness is around 4-5.

- The first mention of pinolite dates to the 17th century where it was mine in the Sunk, Austria region. It was mined for industrial and decorative usages and actively mined into the 20th century until it closed and most recently the mines have reopened.
- Sunk, Austria's claim to be the only pinolite site in the world was relinquished in 2018 when gold miners came across the current pinolite sight in the mountains of British Columbia.
- All the specimens pictured are from the Canadian site and were purchased by the author at the Tucson show.
- Another good thing about the pinolite not being a fossil was the pricing which was considerably less than a fossil plate of good quality ferns or leaves.

Sources:

<https://www.pinolite.ca/>

<https://www.mindat.org/min-26694.html>



...continued from page 1

It is unique because the names of three shahs are engraved on it. A shah was an emperor in ancient Persia or India. The shahs' names that are engraved on it are: Burhan Nizam Shah II 1000, Son of Jehangir Shah; Shah Jahan 1051; and Kadja Fath Ali Shah 1242. The years listed are from the Muslim calendar. In the modern calendar those years were 1591, 1641, and 1826.

Burhan Nizam Shah II was a Shah in hmendagar in India. Shah Jahan was a Mughal emperor who built the famous Taj Mahal in India.

After Shah Jahan had the diamond, Nadir Shah took it from the city of Delhi in 1739. Nadir Shah brought it to Persia, now called Iran.

Czar Nicholas I of Russia got the diamond in 1829, just a few years after the last engraving. Fath Ali Shah gave it to Czar Nicholas as a gift. Why would someone give away such a big, clear diamond? A mob of people in Tehran had killed the Russian ambassador. The Shah Diamond was a gift to calm down the Russian czar.

The Shah diamond is now in the State Diamond Fund of Russia. It is in a museum at the Kremlin in Moscow.

#### Bibliography:

Oldershaw, Cally. Firefly Guide to Gems, p. 35. Firefly Books, 2003.

Manutchehr-Danai, Mohsen. Dictionary of Gems and Gemology, p. 425. Springer, 2000.

Streeter, Edwin W. The Great Diamonds of the World: Their History and Romance, p. 232-236. G. Bell & Sons, 1882.

Erlich, Edward and Hausel, W. Dan. Diamond Deposits: Origin, Exploration, and History of Discovery, p. 68, 2002.

## Brad's bench tips...

### Drill Press Vise

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the of risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com msdirect.com/enco smallparts.com grizzly.com

### Dental Gold

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small lots.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. They ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use for accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## Kids Corner...

Brandon Heck is the Junior Editor of Arkansas Rockhound News. He is 13 years old and has enjoyed rockhounding since he could walk. In each issue he will share information about minerals that he loves and about his adventures in rockhounding.

### **SOME FAVORITES FROM THE BRANDON HECK COLLECTION**



Hematite with Hausmannite  
N'chwaning Mine, Kurman, North  
Cape Providence South Africa  
(acquired from Rocksaholics, 2020)



Amethyst  
Las Vigas, Veracruz, Mexico  
(acquired from McNeil's minerals, 2019)



Pyrite pseudomorph after Pyrrhotite  
Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico  
(acquired from Rocksaholics, 2020)



Close up of pyrite

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society**  
**Membership Dues: \$15 / year Individual; \$25 / year Family**

Make checks payable to: "Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your Club Newsletter delivered? U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members are considered as all of those living at the above address.

Please list their names, Birthday Mo./Day, if applying for a Family Membership.

Because of limited space, only one name will appear on the newsletter mailing label.

How did you hear about our Club?

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been interested in this hobby? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any equipment? \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Hosting \_\_\_\_\_ work shop in \_\_\_\_\_ (subject)  
on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of week)

Please circle your club interests:

Mineralogy    Lapidary    Fossils    Field Trips    Geology    Carving  
Collecting    Jewelry Making    Casting    Silversmithing    Beading    Wire Wrap

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Outside Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

These will be listed in the Membership Directory, so that members can find others with similar interests. In what areas would you be able to assist the Club:

Social    Publicity/Advertising    Educational    Junior Programs    Membership  
Annual Show    Committee Work    Newsletter Articles    Mineral Display

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see the club focus on in the coming year? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my name to appear in the Club Directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ My name and address can appear, but NOT my Phone Number.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do NOT include specifically the following info about me: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to:

**CAGMAGS, c/o Barbara Champagne, P.O. Box 241188, Little Rock, AR  
72223**



Central Arkansas Gem,  
Mineral & Geology Society  
PO Box 241188  
Little Rock, AR 72223

Rock Swap  
June 26th @ 9:00am  
@ Eldor Johnson  
Pavilion, Burns  
Park, NLR

2021 CAGMAGS  
Gem, Mineral &  
Jewelry show  
October 2 & 3

## 2021 Meeting Dates

We are back to  
meeting at Terry  
Library each  
month!

June 22nd  
July 27th  
August 24th  
September 28th  
October 26th  
November 23rd

## Upcoming area shows...

### June 2021

19-20—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Arlington Gem and Mineral Club; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S Main St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, seniors and children (3-15) \$7, free admission for military personnel with ID and scouts in uniform; contact Rick Allen - Show Chairman, (817) 528-475; Email: rickallen57@sbcglobal.net; Website: [www.agmc57.org](http://www.agmc57.org)

### July 2021

16-18—FRISCO, TEXAS: Annual show; Texas Mineral and Fossil Dallas/Frisco Show; Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Frisco Hotel Convention Center & Spa, 7600 John Q Hammons Dr.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free admission; Retail / wholesale dealers - minerals, fossils, meteorites, jewelry; contact Sandra Gonzales, Denver, CO 80222, (720) 425-3948; Email: [info@rockygems.com](mailto:info@rockygems.com); Website: [www.rmgmpromotions.com](http://www.rmgmpromotions.com)

17-18—TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Annual show; Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society; Tulsa Fairgrounds-Exchange Center, 4145 E. 21st St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, free admission for children, scouts in uniform, and police, fire, and military with ID; Vendors offering rocks, minerals, jewelry, fossils, a fluorescent display, demonstrations, and activities for children; contact Martha Rongey, 612 W. 120th St. S., Jenks, OK 74037, (918) 230-1094; Email: [m\\_rongey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_rongey@sbcglobal.net); Website: [www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org](http://www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org)