



The Pineywoods Rooter

Newsletter of
PINE COUNTRY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
of Deep East Texas

August 2013

Volume 21 Number 8

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Club Officers

President, Bill Talcott 384-8244
Vice President, Joe Griggs 381-1123
Secretary, Michelle Talcott 384-8244
Treasurer, Sharon Stalsby 382-5314

Membership & Publicity,
Jonetta Nash

Newsletter Editor

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Member News, Michelle Talcott
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Membership

Club Membership is open to all who
are interested in the Earth Sciences
and the Lapidary arts.

Dues are \$24 yearly for families,
\$18 for single adults and \$2 for kids.

Meetings

The regular monthly meeting is held
on the third Thursday of every month
at 7 p.m. in the Club Building at 110
N.Zavalla St. in downtown Jasper.

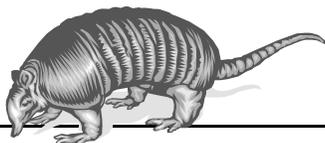
Visitors are invited to attend any of
the regularly scheduled meetings.

Club Purpose

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society
was formed for the purpose of
encouraging interest and a better
understanding of all phases of the Earth
Sciences and Lapidary Arts and to
promote fellowship and cooperation
among members and with other
groups with like interests.

Member Club

South Central Federation of
Mineralogical Societies
and
American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's almost time for the annual show. If you don't remember the dates let me remind you, it is the 24th and 25th of August about two weeks off. There is a lot to do between now and the show, but I think Ann has it all lined up. It looks like a full house of dealers and activities. The meeting this coming week will be an outline and focus of what is to take place with all the times and places so do not miss it. If you do not have a job assignment we can find one for you. Also, let me remind you that we will still need rock related things for the silent auction and the spinning wheel. This is always good sources of income for the club and also is an opportunity to introduce folks to our club. As always, during the annual show visit with folks around you, telling them about our club and some of its activities, especially the fact that sometime soon we will have a work area where some of the lapidary crafts will be taught to those who may be interested. This is also the one time each year that we get to interact with the general public and we do not want to miss the opportunity to tell people what we are all about. The important things for them to be told is you do not have to know anything about rocks or minerals to be part of our club, just an interest in the subject and the rest will take care of itself. With all of that said then make plans to attend next week's meeting and be sure to spread the word and remind folks about our upcoming show.

Bill Talcott

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 15, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Club House at 110 North Zavalla, Jasper TX

PROGRAM: "FINAL SHOW PREPARATIONS"

UP-COMING SHOWS &

AUGUST 24-25 JASPER, TEXAS
Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc.
Event Center, Hwy 190 West

SEPTEMBER 14-15 GRAPEVINE, TX
Arlington Gem & Mineral Soc.
Grapevine Convention Center

SEPTEMBER 21-22 DENISON, TEXAS
Texoma Rockhounds
Denison Senior Center

SEPTEMBER 28-29 MESQUITE, TEXAS
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall

2013 Officers

PresidentBill Talcott
Vice President . . .Joe Griggs
SecretaryMichelle Talcott
TreasurerSharon Stalsby

Board Appointees

Activity - Field Trips . . . Fred Brown, Paul James
Membership - Publicity . . Jonetta Nash
Web Page . . . Sonja Richard
Programs . . Bill Talcott
Historian . . . OPEN
Auction . . . John Nash
Education . . . Janice Herron
Chamber of Commerce...Wanda Page
Show Chairperson . . .Ann James
Hostess...Donna Ducote
Building Chairman...Bill Talcott
Address Correspondence to:
Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society
P O Box 2513, Jasper TX 75951
CLUB WEB SITE: www.pinecountry-gms.org

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Bill Talcott

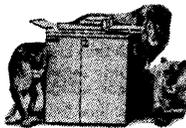
BIRTHDAYS

**Vance Beaver 8/14
Carter Talcott 8/15
Donna Ducote 8/22
John Matthews 8/27
Waltraud Saylor 8/29**

BIRTHSTONE FOR AUGUST:

PERIDOT OR SARDONYX

Star
graphics



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Notice to Exchange Bulletin Editors:

You may reprint any article in this newsletter in non-commercial club publications, provided that credit is given to the author of the article copied and to the Pineywoods Rooter. Editor

**Note the new web address-
www.pinecountry-gms.org
The web page is functioning
now.**

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Meeting

P. O. Box 2513 – Jasper, Texas –

MINUTES FOR JULY 18, 2013



The PCG&MS met on July 18, 2013 at the club house for the regular monthly meeting. There were thirty-four members and two visitors attending.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Talcott. The program was presented by Cindy VanDevender from the Jasper County Extension office. She presented information on preparing a disaster supply kit and with hurricane season upon us, the information was very timely. She also shared a great idea of making a beaded bracelet as a reminder of what to pack and take with you in the event that a disaster occurs. This was great information for everyone to keep in mind.

After a break, the business meeting began with the adoption of the minutes as recorded in the bulletin. A motion was made by Gary Stubblefield with a second by Joe Griggs, the motion passed. The Treasurers report was given by Sharon Stalsby with a motion to accept by George Wells and seconded by Ron Ducote, the motion passed.

Visitors present were Cindy and Jordan VanDevender.

Committee reports were presented. Jonetta Nash (publicity) reported that the new East Texas Quarterly is out and the back cover features an advertisement for the annual show in August. Annual show post-cards have been printed and are available to take and hand out. Numerous ads are being placed in the Peddler, Thrifty Nickel, and other publications promoting the annual show. Sonya Richard (webpage) has the new webpage up and running. The new web address is www.pinesouthern-gms.org. She encouraged everyone to share the new webpage through Facebook and other means. Wanda Page (Chamber) announced the next big Chamber of Commerce event

is the Fall Fest on October 5. Bill Talcott (building) indicated that the building improvements will be delayed until after the show. Ann James (annual show) gave the latest updates on the annual show. All the vendor spaces are full; the field trip is full with many already sending their money for the field trip. Everyone is encouraged to help where they can and be available during the show. A fieldtrip is planned for July 21 to Lufkin to the Museum of Natural History, an email with the details will be sent.

Jonetta Nash has worked on the paperwork for the hotel/motel tax funding from the Chamber of Commerce. The paperwork is extensive, many thanks to Jonetta for her efforts. In new business, the Jasper museum has a portion of Mrs. Jones fluorescent minerals on display.

Winner of the half and half drawing of \$29 was Linda Talcott and Ann James won the door prize drawing that was provided by Rich Geist.

On a motion by Bill Talcott and seconded by everyone the meeting was adjourned.

Attendees at the Meeting: Zeb and Carmon Rike, Lonnie and Sharon Stalsby, Ann James, Bill and Linda Talcott, Michelle and Carter Talcott, Ron and Donna Ducote, Jody Dorman, John and Jonetta Nash, Fred and Janice Herron, Joe Griggs, Keith Stephens, Lori Horne, Tom Bailey, Maxine Wagner, Roger and Wanda Page, Ruth Howell, Ron Carpenter, Charles and Sharon Kerr, Ellis Clifton, Charlotte Beebe, Wanda Hobbs, Sonya Richard, George Wells, Gary Stubblefield, and Briana Burzynski.

Submitted by Michelle Talcott, Secretary

Members Happenings

By Michelle Talcott

On July 21, many club members traveled to Lufkin, Texas for a field trip. The members first congregated at the home of Rich and Bridget Geist for a time of fellowship and pizza. We were treated to a tour of Rich's workshop and personal rock, mineral, and fossil collection. Many thanks to the Geists for their hospitality. We then traveled to the Naranjo Museum of Natural History where we were treated to a personal tour by Dr. Neal Naranjo of his museum. The museum is a walk through geologic time through the compilation of rocks and artifacts that Dr. Naranjo has collected and acquired through his lifetime. The "star" of the museum is Mary Ann Hadrosaur that Dr. Naranjo found in Montana. The fossilized skeleton is 90% complete with the outstanding features being the two hoofs and skin impressions on the left foot and the skin impression along the length of the tail. Mary Ann Hadrosaur is 30 feet long and 20 feet tall. I would encourage everyone to visit the museum when you have a chance; I know I will go back again.

New Test For Mineral Hardness!!!!

You're out in the mountains, near Tarry-All Creek. You see a sparkly clear crystal in the water and pull it out. How do you tell if it topaz and not quartz? Without using a quartz crystal to test the hardness? Dry it off, wipe it clean with a cloth to remove all grease, and then drop a drop of water (that's right good H₂O!) on it from an eyedropper or soda straw. Watch the water bubble. On stones 7 or less in hardness, the water drop will disperse! On harder stones it will form a globule. The harder the stone, the bigger the globule!

The principle is called "cohesion." The water drop "pulls" together on a hard surface. The greater the difference between the surface tension of the water and the stones, the bigger the water globule. Tried & tested by the T&C Editor and by folks from Gem Cutters News ,

Bornite or Peacock Ore and Chalcocite

Jody Dorman, member PCGMS

Bornite: one of nature's most colorful minerals. Bornite, which is a copper iron sulfide, and a major ore of copper, can show beautiful colors such as purple, blue, and red which is why it is called Peacock Ore. Bornite's name is from the Austrian discoverer mineralogist Ignaz Von Born. Bornite crystals are relatively common, but when found they are pseudocubic, dodecahedral, or octahedral, frequently with curved or roughed faces. Although Bornite is more often compact, granular, or massive, its colors can be coppery red, coppery brown, or bronze. Bornite frequently changes upon weathering to chalcocite. Chalcocite is one of the most important ores of copper. Chalcocite is usually massive but on rare occasions, it occurs in short prismatic or tubular crystals or as pseudo-hexagonal prisms formed by twinning. The name chalcocite is derived from the greek word for copper. Chalcocite belongs to a group of sulfide minerals formed at relatively low temperatures as alteration products of other copper minerals, such as Bornite . These alteration zones are often hydrothermal veins with minerals such as Bornite, Quartz, Calcite, Covellite, Chalcopyrite, Galena, and Sphalerite in addition to chalcocite. Bornite major deposits occur in Tasmania, Chile, Peru, Canada, and the United States. Chalcocite's valuable ore deposits occur in the US in Ely, Nevada ,and Morenci, Arizona, and Butte, Montana and excellent crystals are found in Bristol, Connecticut. and are also found in Australia, Chile, the Czech Republic, Norway, Peru, Russia, and Spain.

source is Smithsonian Rock and Gem book

* * * * *

According to statistics, last year over 23 million American families paid a lot of money for things that looked funny and didn't work. Three million of these were antiques, the rest were college students.

* * * *

Joe - What was your college yell?
Moe: Lend me five bucks.

WHY IS SOME OF THE TEXT

COLORED?

Zeb William Rike III

Perhaps you have seen underlined text highlighted in blue or red in **THE ROOTER**, such as www.pinecountry-gms.org. What does this mean and how do you use it? These are 'live links' when you are reading an electronic copy of **THE ROOTER** (but just colored text when printed.) In addition, if you are reading a *.DOC or *.DOCX file on your computer, this type of text is a live link from these.

Assuming you are reading this online, go back up and position your cursor on the blue text, press down [Ctrl] and click the left mouse button. You will see that your 'browser' will open and go to our club web page. Browse there a while, then press the [x] in the upper right corner of screen. Note also that the (formerly) blue text is now red. So the difference in the two highlight colors above was that I had already clicked on the second one.

Do [Ctrl] [left Click] on <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/> While you are there, click on the Menu item, [**Granite is like ice Cream**] and read it. *HINT: I did not type in that whole long internet address.* I did a Google search for [Rob's Granite Page] and got a list of 'hits' I clicked on this one and got to Rob's page, then highlighted the text in the address bar, did [Ctrl][C], then pasted it above with the [Ctrl][V].

In **FOOTNOTES**, I always use the 'copy and paste' procedure. I have read the material, so I just 'copy and paste' the internet link address into the **FOOTNOTES** in my article. In any **ROOTER** on-line, the highlighted footnotes are available with a [Ctrl] [left Click] Pick one (or more) and follow back to the original source and satisfy your curiosity

Some more fun links:

FOOTNOTES (copied from an article)

1. "Plate Tectonics", http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_tectonics
2. "Wadati-Benioff zone", http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadati-Benioff_zone
3. <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/>

So now you understand why some of the text in any on-line article is highlighted and how to use it.

A Diamond is Forever

Now here is an interesting thought! Would you like your earthly remains incorporated into a gem that a loved one could wear and that could become a family heirloom? If you would, AlgorDonza head-quartered in Switzerland can turn your cremated ashes into a diamond. And as DeBeers has indelibly planted in our memory, "A Diamond is Forever".

AlgorDonza uses the same process as was developed by General Electric Co. back in the 1950s. The ashes are baked at just over 5,000o Fahrenheit to oxidize all the elements except carbon, which becomes graphite. It takes weeks! The graphite, together with a diamond seed crystal and a metallic catalyst is inserted in a core that is then placed in a diamond press. The core is subjected to about 2,500o F and 800,000 pounds per square inch of pressure; and, viola, you have a diamond. Lastly the stone is cut to shape and caratsize.

Are you interested? Just Google AlgorDonza (if you read French) or diamond ashes for sites in English. via Chips & Deposits May 2009 via El Gambrisona, June, 2011 Las Cruces, NM

Morganite

Besides Emerald and Aquamarine, Morganite is probably the best-known member from the fabulous multi-colored Beryl-group. Women all over the world love it because of its very fine pink color, which emanates charm, esprit and tenderness.

Also Gemstones Change their Names: Pink Beryl, aka Morganite

Although it came into existence millions of years ago, Morganite found its name less than a hundred years ago. To be precise, only in 1911, for before this the gemologists considered "Pink Beryl" simply a variety of Beryl in general, and not as an individual stone. However, it is not only people but also stones that sometimes change their names. Thus in the year 1911 New York gemstone expert G.F. Kunz suggested to give Pink Beryl the status and standing of an individual kind of gemstone, and it was named in honor of banker and minerals collector John Pierpont Morgan, thus receiving its current name: Morganite.

Beryls are hard minerals consisting of beryllium aluminum silicate. Pure Beryl is colorless. However, due to its hexagonal structure it is able to integrate other elements such as, e.g., iron, manganese, chromium or vanadium. If manganese is embedded in Beryl, the plain and unexciting gemstone is turned into a pink and precious beauty:

Morganite. Today this gemstone is mainly mined in Brazil, Madagascar, Afghanistan and California. Its excellent hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs' scale is the reason why it is so ideally suited to being worn.

La vie en rose....

Morganite comes in many fine shades of pink. Some are clearly pink, others tend more towards purple. Even a slight orange hue may be sometimes discerned – after all, Mother Nature created the ideal gemstone color to complement any shade of complexion. But no matter which shade and hue, Morganite always radiates charm, esprit and certain tenderness. This gemstone is endowed with a wonderful gift: even in times of high stress it will man-

age to let you focus on the bright side of life. Just give it a try and see for yourself. The sight of a Morganite cannot fail to cheer you up. A person who decides for this stone, will be able to see "la vie en rose" even in the gray monotony of everyday routines. Therefore, then, it is easy to understand that for the stone healers, Morganite is considered the typical stone to be used as the antidote to cure the problems caused by hectic modern life: to relieve stress and provide clarity. It will provide a pleasant feeling of relaxation, peace and joy of life.

Color and Cut Determine the Quality

When determining the quality, color is the most important criterion. Please note: This gemstone should be selected as large as possible, for it requires a certain size to best bring out the beauty of the stone. The rule that a higher clearness equals a higher value can only be applied with restrictions, since a Morganite showing fine inclusions like pure silk is also quite coveted by gemstone lovers. The main decisive factor, then, is definitely the quality of the cut, because it needs an expert's cut to enhance the fine beauty and bring out the brightness of Morganite.

Gypsum and its 'anhydrite'

Bridget Joubert

CenLa Rockhounds

When Jim and I started collecting minerals, some of the more common ones were those that belonged to the 'gypsum' group. What is 'Gypsum' you ask? Well, most people are familiar with gypsum as the wall board in their house. A basic American home contains up to 7 tons of gypsum and it will last a long time...until it gets wet... then it will dissolve away. It is used in agriculture and industry and is mined all over the world.

Chemically it is very simple, calcium sulfate- CaSO_4 - Mohs hardness 2, and is the result of the evaporation of ancient lakes and sea beds. Vast areas of the Western states contain valleys

where the soil is saturated with gypsum. The Pecos River valley of New Mexico and Texas is a prime example! We mined large pieces of ‘alabaster’ which is a massive form of gypsum that artist use to carve figures (think Michelangelo!) . We had more than we needed so we made the mistake of putting several pieces into the rock garden.... Well, several rains later we had no more alabaster! In the flat desert areas of OK, NM, AZ and old Mexico, the gypsum often forms bladed gypsum/sand balls that are sold as ‘desert roses’ and these roses are repeatedly being formed whenever there is a rain to bring new gypsum down to the desert. If the gypsum ‘bakes’ in the sun long enough, it losses its water and becomes “Anhydrite” (without water), and is a much harder form of gypsum called “alabaster”. This was prized by Italian artists and many fine life sized figures were carved from it. On the down side, it will still dissolve away slowly if left in the weather so if you have an alabaster figurine, keep it dry!

One of the wonders of the rockhound world are the huge crystals of gypsum called “selenite” that are found deep in a mine at Naica, Mexico. Selenite is the nearly clear form of gypsum that has a fine trapezoidal shape. These big crystals are over 30 feet long and up to 4 feet across ... as big as telephone poles! Many articles have been written about them so look them up on the web and be amazed. As with the desert roses, these crystals are constantly being formed but at much higher temperatures. It is over 140 degrees down there and not a friendly place to visit.

Another of the ‘being formed’ crystals of selenite are those seen in an old Polish coal mine. They form on wood and other items at the bottom of the mine in hot gypsum saturated water. We have several of these Polish bridges of Selenite and they still amaze us with the beauty and complexity of the specimens.

The “Ram’s Horn” gypsum coming out of Chihuahua , Mexico is a ‘must have’ for any mineral aficionado so if you see one of these unique specimens at a dealer’s table, try to get it for your collection. We do not recommend going to Mexico to dig your own!

When Jim was a kid growing up in Corpus Christi, he found many blades of selenite in the clay ‘cliffs’ bordering Corpus Christi bay. He thought he was finding arrowheads! He went back several years ago to find some more and the whole area is now houses and Condos...No Trespassing!...ah, progress is action!

So, if you are up to a ‘mineral quest’, try to collect the many varieties of gypsum that are available at rock shows and in the wilds of NM, AZ, OK, and CA. Drop by the house in Alexandria and look at what we have in our collection to give you some ideas of what can be found. Bridget via DeRidder GMS, August, 2013

Herkimer Diamond Quartz Crystals

Reposted from Stoney Statement, May 2013 via The Cowtown Cutter, Fort Worth GMS, May 2013

"Herkimer Diamonds" is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. Examples of these crystals are shown in the photo. Note that these crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz; however, instead of having a termination on one end, they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare and this is part of what makes Herkimer Diamonds so popular with mineral collectors.

The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-age, Little Falls Dolostone. The Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone. These cavities are frequently lined with drusy quartz crystals and often are coated with a tarry hydrocarbon.

Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, Ukraine and China. They have the same appearance but cannot rightfully be called "Herkimers".