

The Pineywoods Rooter

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

June 2013

Volume 21 Number 6

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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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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

As I write this I am sitting in Lake City Colorado at 9000 ft. + enjoying 60 degree weather. I will not be able to attend the June meeting, but it will be in capable hands as Vice-President Joe Griggs will be directing the meeting. Be nice to him because I might have to ask him to do this again. Ann James will be doing the program on how to build a black-light box for florescent minerals. Of whom I need to remind everyone that Ann is working hard on putting on the annual show which is coming up the third week in August. If you haven't gotten an assignment for you part in putting this event together give Ann a call or ask her at the next meeting what is it you can do to make this a successful event. The show is one of our major money-making events and it requires the effort of every member. We will need help in every phase from setting up, manning booths (spinning wheel, silent auction, and food booth), front door tickets selling, taking down and cleanup. Also want to remind everyone that we will need rock related items for the spinning wheel and the silent auction. Get the tumblers and saws running. Our success will be that we have quality items for these events. As a club I want to remind everyone that it is a joint effort, out of a membership of roughly 50 members we should be able to call on at least 75% of our membership to contribute to the event even if it is just for a few hours each day. This is one of the ways we can relate to the Jasper community what our club is all about. Also check out this year's door prize, the ones who picked it out need to be commended on the quality of this piece and anyone, rock hound or not would appreciate it setting in their house. See you in July. Bill

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 20, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

**Club House at 110 North Zavalla, Jasper TX
PROGRAM: ANN JAMES
"HOW TO BUILD A DISPLAY BOX FOR
FLUORESCENT MINERALS"**

UP-COMING SHOWS &

AUGUST 10-11 BATON ROUGE, LA
Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Soc.
The Marriott

AUGUST 17-18 BOSSIER CITY, LA
Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Soc.
Bossier City Civic Center
SCFMS CONVENTION & SHOW

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

ANNIVERSARIES

LORI & CURTIS HORNE 6/7
JANICE & FRED HERRON 6/23

2013 Officers

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

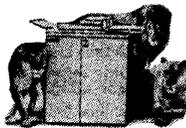
Board Appointees

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:
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P O Box 2513, Jasper TX 75951
CLUB WEB SITE: www.pinecountrygms.org

BIRTHDAYS

KADEN BEAVER 6/14
SHARON KERR 6/14
JASON COLLINS 6/16
DENNIS SAYLOR 6/16
MICHELLE TALCOTT 6/18
KEITH HARMON 6/19
LORI HORNE 6/22
FRED BROWN 6/29
GARRY STUBBLEFIELD 6/30

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BIRTHSTONE FOR JUNE:
ALEXANDRITE, MOONSTONE OP
PEARL

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Meeting
P. O. Box 2513 – Jasper, Texas –

MINUTES FOR MAY 16, 2013



The PCG&MS met on May 16, 2013 at the club house for the regular monthly meeting. There were thirty-two members and five visitors attending.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Talcott. The program was presented by Will House on flint knapping. Mr. House talked about arrowheads and how they are formed. He demonstrated several techniques for forming the points. He gave anyone interested the opportunity to try to shape their own points. His information and displays were interesting to see.

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

Visitors present were Will and Edna House, Gary Hanlon, and Will and Desiree Lewis.

Committee reports were presented. Fred Brown/ Paul James reported that a trip to the Natural History Museum Lufkin was in the works and a date should be planned. A tentative date of July 14 was agreed upon. Jonetta Nash reported that Ann James would do rock talks at the Buna library and Diboll library. Rich Geist and George Wells will represent the club at the Lufkin Veterans Day celebration this weekend. Wanda Page reported that the Chamber of Commerce will honor veterans at the end of May and the July 4th activities are being planned. Ann James reported that all of the vendor spaces are full and that some vendors will be outside. A portable sluice box will be added to the activities. Bill

Talcott reported that the front door has been painted and that a work day will be scheduled before the annual show.

In new business, Gary Hanlon is promoting a new magazine, *East Texas*. It is a free publication about counties in East Texas. He is planning on doing a story on our club. Also on May 25 will be the Honor and Remember ceremony in Jasper. During the ceremony the 638 Texans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan will be honored along with the 6 who were killed in the Fort Hood massacre.

Next month will be a pot luck meal.

Winner of the half and half drawing of \$25 was Fred Brown and Jonetta Nash won the door prize drawing that was provided by Bill Talcott.

On a motion by Joe Griggs and seconded by Lonnie Stalsby 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, Fred Brown, Joe Griggs, Robbie Smith, Keith Stephens, Lori Horne, Tom Dominy, Maxine Wagner, Roger and Wanda Page, Thomas and Ramona Howell, Ruth Howell, Ron Carpenter, Charles and Sharon Kerr, and Ellis Clifton.

Submitted by Michelle Talcott, Secretary

XENOTIME

Jody Dorman, member PCGMS

Xenotime is Yttrium Phosphate. It takes its name from the Greek for "vain honor", because the yttrium in xenotime was mistakenly believed to be a new element when it was described in 1832. It is found as glassy, short to long prismatic crystals, or as rosette-shaped crystal aggregates. Its color can be yellowish to reddish-brown, fleshy red, grayish-white, or pale to wine-yellow. Xenotime occurs as an accessory mineral in igneous rocks and in associated pegmatites, where it can form large crystals. It also occurs in quartz rose and micaceous gneisses, and often found with zircon, anatase, rutile, sillimanite, columbite, monazite, and ilmenite. It is widely distributed, with notable occurrences in Japan, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Brazil, Madagascar, and in the US, New York, North Carolina, and Colorado. Garnet containing yttrium is used to make lasers. Mirrors change the directions of the beam, which is colored by dyes and filters. Red yttrium phosphors are used in the color TV screens. Xenotime forms a solid solution series with chemovite -[Y] [YAs04] and, therefore, may contain trace of impurities of arsenic, as well as silicon dioxide and calcium. The rare earths dysprosium, erbium, terbium, and ytterbium, and metal elements like thorium and uranium [all replacing yttrium] are the expressive secondary components of xenotime. Due to uranium and thorium impurities, some xenotime specimens may be weakly to strongly radioactive, so be careful.

Properties

Group : Phosphate

Crystal System : Tetragonal

Composition : YPO₆

Hardness : 4 - 5

Cleavage : Perfect

Luster : Vitreous to Resinous

Streak : Pale brown or reddish

Gravity : 4.4 - 5.1

Transparency : Transparent to Opaque

Source: Wikipedia and Smithsonian Rock and Gem Book

VFW Family Day Event

by Rich Geist

member of Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society

George Wells and I had the privilege of participating in the VFW Family Day held in Lufkin on Saturday, May 18. The event started at 10:00 in the morning and ended at 2:00 in the afternoon. This event included booths set up by various organizations, live music, and a car show. We set up next to the space used by Steve, who works for the Navarro Museum in Lufkin. Steve had the museum's dig pit set up and also shared information about the museum.

This event allowed George and me to show those in attendance just a bit of what our club is all about. George brought a faceting machine, capping machine, and a lighted view box for slabs. He demonstrated how to cap to those who stopped to watch. He also brought a bin full of cards that had an Apache Tear and a brief description, which were given to visitors as they stopped by our booth.

I brought a three pound rock tumbler and a 12 pound rock tumbler, an assortment of grits and polishes, rough rocks, polished agates and polished petrified wood, a box of zip-loc bags, and a one-gallon bag of small Keokuk geodes. I demonstrated how to use a rock tumbler and then each visitor was allowed to take two pieces of the polished agate and one piece of polished petrified wood, an Apache Tear card, and one of the Keokuk geodes. I cracked their geodes for them using a small chain-type pipe cutter. One young visitor's geode contained Millerite!

Overall, our booth seemed to be a big hit. It was fun to see the smiles as visitors held their zip-loc bags full of rocks. Gloria Lampkin of the VFW thanked us for participating in this event and asked if we would be willing to attend again next year.

A BAD DAY

This was a really bad day for me, I had to put Lassie down today. She went insane running around in circles, barking and trying to get me to follow her to the old well. It's going to be so hard telling Timmy, but I haven't seen him for over 12 hours.

Members Happenings

By Michelle Talcott

Happy Father's Day!

From Joe Griggs: I just spent the weekend in Blanco, TX with my son, aunt and uncle and had the good luck to find a rock shop on US 290 (3 miles west of Henly, TX) in Johnson City, TX. The shop is Red Rose Rock Shop and its owner is Patty Hopkins whose original Red Rose Rock Shop was in Colorado. She is growing her business and was extremely helpful and also volunteered a good savings to me. Her associate knew of our club and said we were one of the better known clubs in Texas. I will give you her card when next we cross paths and hopefully some of our club members may find something useable at a great price.

John and Jonetta have been on the road again. My computer has been showing the "black screen of death" so it was decided it was time for a new one. We went to Lufkin on Friday afternoon to buy one, came back to Jasper for an appointment and had to go back later that night to pick it up. The next day we headed to Huntsville for our Granddaughter's dance recital. We left there on Monday morning for San Marcos to the home of Ron Carman and met Virginia Adian there for a SCFMS Committee Meeting. Brianna went with us and we left there to visit overnight with our nephew and his family in Pflugerville. It was a fun time with dinner at a Japanese restaurant and a visit with the horses at the stables of the Austin Mounted Police (our nephew is a member of the Mounted Police).

The Jasper County Museum will be displaying the collection of one of our charter members Donese Jones in the near future. We have been contacted to help with the fluorescent display. As Publicity Chairman I want to thank George Wells and Rich Geist for representing our club at the Veterans Appreciation Day in Lufkin. I understand they stole the show and I know it was not easy to set up all the equipment they took and we appreciate their efforts.

Ann James also represented our club at the Diboll Library and has plans to be at the Buna Library soon.

Sharon and Charles Kerr did a great job on our post-card picture. We are fortunate to have these talented folks in our club. We are excited to be able to have the cards printed locally and hope to have them ready to hand out soon.

The Talcott's have made their way to Lake City, Colorado by way of Brownfield, Texas. They spent a week helping their son at a new processing plant that Texas Custom Wine Works is building in Brownfield. They arrived in Lake City to find snow and high water in some of the creeks but ample opportunity to fish and hunt rocks. Michelle and Carter Talcott will leave next week to join them.

A COMPLETE REPORT FROM ZEB

Report from the Rikes: We had a delightful day on Saturday, March 23, 2013. We drove to Jasper to go with the Master Naturalist group to Tyler Rose Garden and a drive-through tour of a lignite strip mine. We got to Tyler to be greeted by a cold drizzling rain, so Carmon and I did not see the roses but went to a delightful Quilt show. Then the bus driver drove the Azalea trail and we saw some beautiful flowers. Finally the bus got within two miles of the mine and transmission went out. The driver got the bus off on a wide shoulder and called for help (Beaumont bus line) and they got there after about 4 hours. However, Sharon called the mine and the Public Affairs director came out and gave us a nice talk on the mine--we would have been in a real bad spot if the bus had died down in the mine and in the mud. A bus was dispatched from Tyler to pick us up and we went to the Jalapeno Tree and had a nice leisurely meal, then got back as the new bus from Beaumont arrived. Nothing went as planned but we were with a pleasant group of people, with no one getting upset.

The group is planning another trip on Saturday, June 22 to include the mine tour and a tour of a winery. Cost is \$35 per person. Contact Sharon (409-384-3721) for more information.

From Zeb Rike

MAKING CABOCHONS

By Homer Whitlock

Member of the Wasatch Gem Society

A cab can be a high or a low dome. A cab is any stone that has been cut with a smoothly rounded polished top. Most have a flat back, although two-sided cabs are sometimes cut for special purposes. Most cabs are more or less oval because that is an easy shape to work with. It is ideal to work with highlighting the colors and the patterns of many popular lapidary materials. Cabochons don't have to be just oval they can be hearts, stars, teardrops, or any other shapes. Then there is the free form. They can be any' shape you want, when you have decided what you want to make. You need to choose a material that will make a good cabochon. There are many different kinds, you should know the ones that will work for you.

The Agate is a good one to start with, also Jasper, as they' are hard and you won't cut to fast. There are many different colors and lots of different designs in the material. Now take you template and mark out the size you want to make. This should be a 30 X 40 to start with; as it will be easier to hold and you will have a better chance to have a nice design in it.

There are such things you should have when making a cab, such as an apron to protect you from getting wet. You will have moisture going on your cutting wheels or if you are using a diamond pad use a diamond lube to help keep the dust down, as too much dust will cause you to have Silicoses.

You should have a pair of safety glasses as the will keep the small particles out of your eyes.

Now after you have picked out the slab and studied it for the best design; then take your template, or the decal that you have, and mark your design. You are now ready to cut it on the trim saw. After you have cut it to the size you want, then go to you grinding wheel. You may hold the stone between your fingers to do the rough grinding, you can put it on a dop holder using the wax, or you can use two sided carpet tape. Be sure to use one that has the foam on it, as some of them are not thick enough to do any good. I like to use an epoxy around the tape as it seals out the moisture and will hold the cab on better. You can get it off real easy by inserting a thin blade between the slab and the holder.

There are many crystals that are very heat sensitive and will crack real easy. It will take only a little

heat from the grinding to crack the piece that is about finished, and that is very disappointing.

As you start on your cab, you will be using your coarse. Use either the 100 or 180 grit to start roughing in the shape of your cab. When it begins to take shape you want, then you can go to a finer grit.

The rough grinding can be done by holding the cab in your fingers. After that you should put it on a dop stick, or hold, so that you can go to the finer grit (220). You can go up or down, but notice the way your scratches are on the cab. See that you have all the more coarse ones out before you go to far. Now you will probably be ready to go to the 600 grit. You might want to go in a circular motion with the 600 so that you can tell if you have all the other scratches off the cab. If you have, then it will start to take on a sheen. You can then go to the polish and see how it comes out. If it does not take a nice polish then use a 1200 grit pad. Follow up with a 300 or even 8000 grit. If you have for the final polish you can use a 14000 tin oxide, or cerium oxide.

There are many other polishing compounds to use. Be sure and keep your cab moving. If you hold it too long in one place it will be sure to have a flat spot on it. I like to clean my cabs with a toothbrush in soapy water. Sunlight or White King dishwasher detergents are good to use. It only takes one coarse grit to ruin a good polish.

If you have any trouble be sure to call a club member or arrange to come out to a meeting. There are a lot of members who will be willing to help you succeed. You can start small and increase your equipment as you become more skilled and know for sure that you want to do this.

A FIELD TRIP IS A SOCIAL OCCASION



--Cartoon by Erston Barnhart in *Are We Having Fun Yet? An Irreverent but Affectionate Look at Rockhounds*

via Golden Spike News 11/01

From News & Views 10/01 via SCRIBE CD

Minerals of the Wrong Feather Don't Flock Together

by Dr. Bill Cordua, Univ. Wisconsin-River Falls
Most rockhounds know that certain minerals are often found together. For example, malachite, often is found with copper and gold is often found embedded in quartz. What many don't realize is identification clue is that many together. For example, lazurite, sodalite, and corundum are never found associated with quartz. As another example, beryl does not occur with dolomite in our local limestones. Well, why not? Doesn't that seem a bit arbitrary? Isn't "never" sort of a strong term to be used by a scientist? It turns out that there are good chemical reasons why this is so. In some cases, it is simply a matter of a particular rock type not having the needed chemicals to make the minerals. There is no chemical compatibility between dolomite and beryl in limestone. Why not? In order to make beryl, you need to have beryllium, a chemical present in, at best, trace amounts in most limestones.

By analogy, you can't make a chocolate cake with no chocolate-no matter how hard you try. The fact that chemicals tend to segregate in certain places in our earth leads to the commonly observed mineral associations. Certain granites have a lot of beryllium in them-it's an element that tends to accumulate in such magmas. Thus beryl is found in granites, along with the typical quartz, feldspar, mica and tourmaline.

In other cases the mineral won't form because the proper temperature, pressure or other geochemical conditions (such is acidity) were not achieved in the rock. For example, diamond won't form in a rock, unless certain conditions are met. In yet other cases there is a true chemical incompatibility. It is because of this that quartz is never found with olivine, corundum, sodalite or lazurite. These minerals are just not chemically stable together. Does this mean if you put a piece of corundum next to a piece of quartz that they'll explode? Of course not. The point is that the two minerals will simply not form together in the same environment. If corundum forms, quartz won't form and vice versa. This reason is that corundum forms

only in a low silica environment, but quartz only in a high silica one.

Let's consider a hot magma. There are no minerals in the magma—only loose atoms darting around. As the magma cools these atoms begin to bond together to form minerals. Let's suppose this is a low-silica magma. There are lots of other chemicals, such is aluminum, around. The aluminum likes to link to what silica there is around to form feldspars. But since this is low silica magma, there isn't enough to go around. The extra aluminum has to go somewhere, so, when it gets concentrated enough it forms corundum. Now, let's suppose this is high-silica magma. All this aluminum finds silica and makes feldspar. Now there is silica left over, so quartz eventually forms. In the first case, you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and corundum, in the second case you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and quartz. You can never get a rock with quartz and corundum forming together in it. There are similar relationships between quartz and sodalite, olivine and several other minerals. So if someone offers you a specimen of corundum crystals embedded in quartz, start looking for the glue!

(From Leaverite News via Stoney Statements, 09/2004) via Hound's Howl, Oct. 04

Pyrite Cleaning – an Alternate Cleaner

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

I recently collected a bucket of pyrite specimens at the TXI Cement Factory in Midlothian, TX. The condition of the collected specimens ranged from bright and shiny to (just a few) dull. Many had limestone matrix still attached. Based on conversation with club members, I decided to try cleaning some in an oxalic acid wash. The pyrites were soaked in the a solution of oxalic acid (1 cup acid powder in 3 gallons of water) for 4 hours to several days depending on the initial condition of the specimen. The specimens were then thoroughly rinsed in water and dried. I am quite pleased with the result. via *Chips and Chatter* May 2013