



The Pineywoods Rooter

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

June 2014

Volume 22 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

John D. Nash 737 FM 254 S
Jasper TX 75951-9580
(409) 384-3974

johnnash1937@yahoo.com

Member News, Michelle Talcott
fizzycola@sbcglobal.net

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.

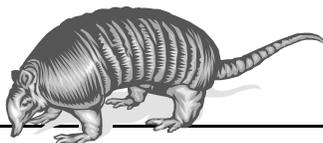
Visitors are invited to attend any of
the regularly scheduled meetings.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer time is upon us, which reminds me to tell everyone to be careful out there is you are working or playing outside, especially if you are rock hunting. Take plenty of water and rest often and if you feel dizzy set down and rest for a while the rocks will still be there as they have for the last million years, but you may not, so be mind-full of the dangers.

I will not be at the club meeting this coming Thursday so Joe will be standing in for me. As I have said before treat him nice, he may be your next president..... I will be in the Colorado high country where it is cool. Hope to bring back some nice rocks to cut and play with, you know I will be thinking of everyone as I collect those rocks. I might even find some that will fit on the auction table at our annual show which will be coming up very soon. Keep in mind that we can always us some help at the show. Ann will be glad to find a place for you. We always need people to set up and take down. Just show up and we will put you to works for a day or even a couple of hours. Support your club if you are a member.

Remember that this month's club meeting will be pot luck so bring something good, but save the real good stuff for when I get back for the next meeting.

See you next month.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 19, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

102 Zavalla Street, Jasper, Texas

Program: RICH GEIST

"Some Tips On Tumbling" (rocks, that is)

UP-COMING SHOWS &

JULY 9-13 TULSA, OKLAHOMA
AFMS show in conjunction with
Tulsa show

AUGUST 9-10 BATON ROUGE, LA
SCFMS SHOW in conjunction with
Baton Rouge Show

AUGUST 16-17 BOSSIER CITY LA
ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Soc.
Bossier Civic Center
620 Benton Road

AUGUST 23-24 JASPER, TEXAS
Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc.
The Event Center 6258 Hwy 190W
5 miles west of Jasper

OCTOBER 3-5 AUSTIN, tEXAS
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center

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

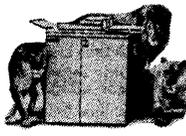
2014 Officers
PresidentBill Talcott
Vice President . . .Joe Griggs
SecretaryMichelle Talcott
TreasurerSharon Stalsby

Board Appointees
Activity - Field Trips . . . Fred Brown, Paul James
Membership - Publicity . . Jonetta Nash
Web Page . . . Sonja Richard
Programs . . Bill Talcott & Others!
Historian . . . OPEN
Auction . . . John Nash
Education . . . Janice Herron
Chamber of Commerce...Ann James
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

BIRTHDAYS:

BOBBI McDONALD 6/7
KADEN BEAVER 6/14
SHARON KERR 6/14
PAULA EWING 6/17
MICHELLE TALCOTT 6/18
GRAYSON MORGAN 6/19
KEITH HARMON 6/19
LORI HORNE 6/22
THOMAS BAILEY 6/24
BRIDGETT GEIST 6/27
FRED BROWN 6/29

BIRTHSTONE FOR JUNE:
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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

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Meeting

P. O. Box 2513 – Jasper, Texas –

MINUTES FOR MAY 15, 2014



The PCG&MS met on May 15, 2014 at the clubhouse for the regular monthly meeting. There were thirty-eight members and six visitors attending. Welcome visitors Sandi Reed, Kenzi Lacy, Theresa Lacy, Mitchel Newman, David Worth and Jo Lyn Piercy.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Talcott. The program was presented by Sheriff Mitchel Newman. He gave a summary of the law enforcement in Jasper County. He concluded by giving information on how to stay safe and prevent certain crimes.

After a short break, the business meeting began with a motion by John Nash and a second by Ann James to accept the minutes as recorded in the bulletin. The motion passed. The Treasurers report was given by Sharon Stalsby with a motion to accept by Rich Geist and seconded by Ron Ducote, the motion passed.

Committee reports were presented. Paul James/Fred Brown (field trip) reported that a field trip to collect petrified wood is scheduled for June 14. An e-mail detailing information will be sent later. Jonetta Nash (membership/publicity) postcards for the annual show are ready and everyone is encouraged to hand them out. Also magazine advertisements for the show are being set and scheduled. Ann James (Chamber activities) reported there are not too many activities scheduled until fall. Ann James (Annual Show) allowed everyone to report on the plans for each area of the show. Plans are being finalized in each area. Bill Talcott (building) new wall for kitchen and dark room have been put up and a new back door has been installed.

In new business, a motion was made by Rich Geist

to purchase 200 Geological Dictionaries. 100 will be to sell at the show and 100 will be for promoting education within the community. Each dictionary comes with an activity page. A second was made by Joe Griggs. The vote passed.

Raffle tickets are being sold for the American Federation auction that helps support the scholarship fund. They are \$5 each or 5 for \$20, see John Nash if you would like to purchase one or a bunch.

Michelle Talcott talked about the plans for the Junior Rock Club. The club will follow the Future Rockhounds of American badge program. Plans are being made to have junior activities at the annual show. Rich Geist reported that a Veterans Day celebration will be held in Lufkin on May 17 from 10-2. Anyone interested is encouraged to come and help promote the club.

Winner of the half and half drawing was Rich Geist and Paul James won the door prize drawing that was provided by Wanda Page.

On a motion by Joe Griggs and seconded by Rich Geist, the meeting was adjourned. Attendees at the Meeting: Lonnie and Sharon Stalsby, Paul and Ann James, Bill and Linda Talcott, Michelle and Carter Talcott, Ron and Donna Ducote, Joe Griggs, Maxine Wagner, Fred Brown, Charles Kerr, Julia McCormick, Ron Carpenter, John and Jonetta Nash, Mike and Linda Lang, Rich Geist, Keith Stephens, Wayne and Olivia Marsh, Jay McDonald, Robbie Smith, Jody Dorman, Roger and Wanda Page, Don and Shari Gunter, Gale Courtney, Frances Perry, Imogene Mitcham, Tom and Ramona Howell, Ruth Howell, and Sonya Richard.

Submitted by Michelle Talcott, Secretary

VFW Family Day Event

Reported by Rich Geist

Last Saturday (May 17) was the Family Day event for our veterans, which was hosted by the VFW in Lufkin. After talking to Gloria Lampkin from the VFW I agreed to set up a table again this year. I met Olivia and Wayne Marsh at 9:30 at the VFW in Lufkin and we set up our booth. The VFW provided the canopy, tables, and chairs, and I provided the polished rocks, fossils, small geodes, a large glass-top case full of mineral specimens from all over the world, and a game for the kids (and adults). We had our PCGMS banner hanging on the front table of our booth for all to see. The prizes for the game were small chunks of Mexican pyrite, polished hematite, polished chevron amethyst, polished apache tears, small chunks of galena, small rhombohedral calcites, and cretaceous Texas fossils, polished agates, and polished petrified wood. On the other table I had a 12 pound and a 3 pound Lortone rock tumbler turning, some small containers of different tumbler grits and polishes, and a box of small Keokuk geodes. I cracked a geode for the kids (and for a few adults) who visited our booth and played our game. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet a World War 2 veteran in front of our booth. I must admit that I was somewhat humbled by this man's presence, since his sacrifices long ago allow me to do and be who I am today. Olivia dove in and helped with our game, where players had to throw a halloween doll into one of six buckets lined up in a row. If someone was unsuccessful playing the game, they were still able to fill a 3x2 ziploc bag with polished agate and polished petrified wood. The game was a big hit, both for the kids and the adults. Wayne worked the table with the polished rocks and fossils by guiding people in the process of choosing their prizes, which was a full-time job due to the amount of people visiting our booth from 10:00 Am to 2:00 PM. He also passed out flyers for our upcoming show. I talked to Gloria Lampkin after the event and found that approximately 400 people went through our booth during our four hours. I guess that's we all three of us were exhausted when it was over. I want to say thanks to Wayne and Olivia for giving donating their time and helping me during this event.

CORAL

By Jody Dorman, PCGMS member

Coral is the skeletal material generated by sea dwelling coral polyps. For most corals, this material is calcium carbonate, but in the case of black and golden corals, it is a hornlike substance called conchiolin. Coral has a dull luster when recovered, but can take a bright polish. It is sensitive to even mild acids, and can become dull with extensive wear. Red and pink precious corals are found in the warm seas around Japan and Malaysia. Black coral comes from the West Indies, Australia, and around the Pacific Islands. Coral is used in carving and beads, and cut as cabochons for use in jewelry. Red coral appears as an ornament in Western European shields and helmets in the iron age, later to be replaced by red enamel. A coral reef forms a ridge or hummock in shallow ocean areas. Corals are the most important part of the reef, and generally form its main structural framework. The coral polyps divide again and again, growing into colonies that can be up to several yards in diameter, becoming so large and heavy that only storms disturb them. Mollusks, sea urchins, calcareous algae, and microscopic protozoa also contribute to the reef, and provide fragments that wash or fall into the gaps between corals. Sheet like growths of the algae and protozoa also bind and cement the reef together. A reef becomes limestone by the slow dissolution, re-deposition, recrystallization, and chemical transformation of reef material. Coral reefs comprise colonies of marine animals called polyps, which form branching structures as they grow.

Coral Properties

Group : Organics - Carbonate

Crystal System : Trigonal, Orthorhombic, Amorphous

Composition : Ca CO₃ / Conchiolin

Form/Habit : Coral - Shaped

Hardness : 3 1/2

Cleavage : None

Fracture : Hackly

Color : Red, Pink, Black, Blue, Golden

Streak : White

Gravity : 2.6 - 2.7

Transparency : Opaque

Source Smithsonian Rock and Gem Book

Emerald Factoids

Emeralds have been highly prized and valued as a gemstone since early times. Of all the members of the beryl family of minerals, the emerald is considered the most valuable.

From the Greek, “smaragdos” and the Latin berylus” and “emeraude,” the name “Emerald” was first coined in the sixteenth century.

In ancient times, emerald was associated with the goddess Venus and endowed with the power to show faithfulness in one's partner.

The Romans brought medicinal connotations to emerald and associated it restoring sight and soothing weary eyes. Over the centuries, all sorts of mystical powers have been attributed to the emerald including the power of prescience, to attract wealth, and ward off epilepsy.

The two most important historical emeralds are the 1,384 carat Devonshire Emerald and the 630 carat Patricia Emerald displayed by the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Classification and Grading:

Emerald can be defined as opaque, translucent or transparent beryl with medium to dark tones of green in color. Beryl that is light or very light in tone are more properly called “Green Beryl.” Over the years a number of terms and classification nomenclature has been used to describe gem grade emerald. These include:

* Colombian Emerald - The finest qualities have traditionally been called Colombian after their country of origin. These fine grades are characterized by the deep, intense pure green with either yellow or blue undertones.

* Siberian or Russian Emerald - From the Ural mountains these stones are lighter and more yellow than Colombian stones.

* African Emerald - In some cases the color of these stones rivals fine Colombian but more commonly are characterized by blue and gray overtones.

—From Chatbox May 2006 via The Shin Skinner May 2006 via SCRIBE CD

Members Happenings

By Michelle Talcott

From Roger and Wanda Page: We celebrated a family reunion of Wanda's “Mitchell” family on Saturday May 17. The reunion was held at First Presbyterian Church in Jasper.

The Talcott's, Ducote's, and Stalsby's spent a few days in Arkansas hunting quartz crystals, visiting rock shops, and enjoying the fellowship.

The Talcott's and Stalsby's participated as vendors at the Deridder Rock Show on May 31 and June 1, 2014. The show date was changed from December due to a scheduling issue with the venue.

Jonetta writes about a day at the Museum. " Pine Country GMS was well represented at the Jasper County Historical Museum on May 22nd when 210 students plus 12-14 teachers visited on a school tour. Members, Lori Horne, Wayne Carpenter, Keith Stephens, John and Jonetta Nash were there to enjoy the day and act as guides together with other Board Members and Volunteers. It was really fun to hear the sounds from the dark room when the fluorescent minerals came to life and all the exclamations of surprise when the students noticed the large display of minerals and specimens collected from around the world and scattered throughout the museum. Mrs. Donese Jones would have been so pleased to know her collection was being enjoyed by so many people (especially the students). The Rock Food Table loaned by another of our members, Charlottee Bebee, was hard for the students to resist just touching to see if it was really rocks.

Museum director, Darlene Nolan reported parents of some students visited the next day after the tour and plans are for several area schools to visit next school year. If you have not had a chance to visit, make plans now and be ready to volunteer some time there.

The Lake Peigneur Disaster

by Ed Peterson

Ever hear of the Lake Peigneur Disaster that happened near New Iberia, Louisiana? I hadn't either until Chuck mentioned it and I checked it out. I remember New Iberia though. Several years ago we drove through New Iberia and marveled at the gorgeous gardens and the elegant plantation houses in the area. There's the Jungle Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, the Live Oak Gardens, and the Rip Van Winkle Gardens. New Iberia has also been in the news lately. It was one of the areas hit hard by Hurricane Rita. I wonder what happened to all the gardens and plantation houses. This isn't its first disaster. On Thursday, November 21, 1980 a strange event occurred on a shallow, 11 foot deep, 1,300 acre lake called Lake Peigneur where Jefferson Island was home to the Live Oak Gardens botanical park. It was also home to many oil and gas wells. Texaco had hired a firm to drill a test hole to check for oil. In the early morning, the drilling rig started to tip. In a short period of time, it started to collapse and the drilling crew abandoned the platform. The water in Lake Peigneur started to move, forming a whirlpool. It formed a crater that kept increasing in size. The rate of the spinning water increased. Lake Peigneur was connected to the Gulf of Mexico by a canal, called the Delcambre Canal. The water in the canal dropped, causing the water in the canal to reverse direction and move toward the lake. A fifty foot waterfall formed where the water from the canal connected to the crater formed by the spinning water in the lake. The rapidly circulating water of the now 50-foot diameter whirlpool was so strong that it sucked up the drilling platform along with a second platform, a tugboat, eleven barges, a barge loading dock, seventy acres of Jefferson Island, a house trailer, trucks, tractors, trees, mud, the gardens, and a parking lot.

It all disappeared into the hole of the whirlpool. Finally all the water in the lake was gone. Fishermen were stranded in their boats in the muck of the former lake. How could this happen? Unfortunately the Diamond Crystal Salt Mine was nearby. The drilling by Texaco had penetrated the edge of a salt dome, the home of the salt mine.

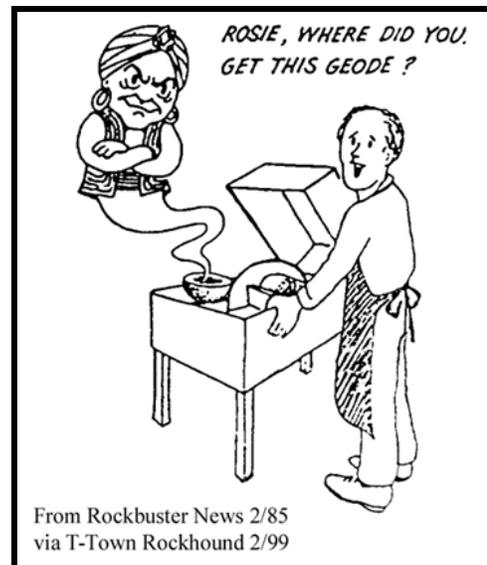
Salt domes form below other types of sediment. Pillars of salt that support the roof form in the dome. Salt water has buoyancy that tends to lift up the hardened sediment above, and evaporate minerals tend to seal off the dome.

When lake freshwater came in contact with the salt, the salt dissolved. Some of the salt also had been removed by the mining company. When the salt dissolved, the land on the surface caved in. The lake water eventually filled the salt mine, and a couple of days later the lake refilled itself. The barges popped to the surface. The drilling platforms were never seen again. No one was killed or seriously injured. The Live Oak Gardens were rebuilt using a 12.8 million dollar settlement from Texaco. The mine was closed, and Diamond Crystal got out of the salt business.

from Central Iowa Mineral Society News Nugget
via Backbender's Gazette 3/06

Editor's Note: I did some additional research on this article. The 11 foot deep lake is now a 1300 foot deep saltwater lake and is home to many species of plants and fish not previously part of the biology of the lake. Texaco and Wilson Brothers, hired by Texaco to do the drilling, paid the mine owners 45 million dollars in an out of court settlement. The 50 miners who were working that shift all escaped unharmed. I did find a fair degree of disagreement between articles in exact numbers for lake depth, number of acres eroded away, financial settlements, etc.

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Long-Necked Dinosaurs: Were They Cows?

Were the long-necked dinosaurs such as Diplodocus and Apatosaurus really ground grazers instead of the tree croppers they have always been considered? According to a study by Michael Parrish, a researcher at Northern Illinois University, the animals were not able to raise their heads much above the height of their backs. Parrish and colleagues used a computer model to test how well the beasts were able to move. According to the model, when the head is raised just above the back height, the vertebrae run into each other and the back locks up. So Parrish believes the head was held straight out or down, which would limit the animal to grazing on the ground instead of from the trees unless it stood on its hind legs. That possibility has not been ruled out, but Parrish said that if they rose up on their hind legs, there would be a blood pressure problem.

(Condensed from Rueters article 4/29/99 via Pebble Pusher] 1/01 and THE PEGMATITE 4/02)
via T-Town Rockhound 1, via Strata Gem May 06

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 IS
"POT-LUCK' SUPPER NIGHT
AT THE ROCK HOUSE.
BE SURE TO BRING YOUR DISH**

Directions for Cutting Fire Agate

Inspect the rough stone by wetting with water under a bright light. Direct light is ideal. (The stone is fragile so hold it over a padded surface.) Observe the depth and location of color layers. The gem material (fire layer) is usually covered by chalcedony. Trim away excess chalcedony by sawing, grinding or sanding. Sawing should be used only for the top portion of chalcedony, which has no color. Leave 1/8 inch for grinding. For grinding use a 100 grit wheel. Grind not more than four or five seconds.

Stop and examine for signs of fire under bright light. Shape the stone in any direction the fire indicates. Do not overheat the stone. Remember grind slowly and inspect often !!

When you are satisfied that you have exposed all the fire, grind on a 600 grit wheel to eliminate scratches. Using a drumel, start with 325 diamond paste, moving to 600, then 1200, 3000 and finally 50,000. Remember: In all of the above steps of grinding use plenty of water. Do not overheat.

From Chips 12/05 reprinted from the Rockconteur 06/05
Via Gneiss Times 2/06 VIA STRATA GEM MAY 06

HEALING FRACTURES

The secret or the art of healing fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. To get rid of that nasty crack, heat the stone to 200 degrees in the oven. Mix the epoxy and apply it to one edge of the crack. Gradually apply the epoxy, working from one end of the crack to the other. This is very important. You will notice that the epoxy becomes very liquid when it touches the hot stone and it flows right into the crack. By applying the epoxy at one end and working toward the outside edge of the cab the air is driven out. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes. The epoxy will harden. Scrape off the surplus and finish polish. If done right the fracture will be difficult to detect.

via Puget Sounder, Rock Rollers, Contact Zone,
via The Rock Vein, 2/2004 Via The Rockcollector 1/06 via
Strata Gem May 06