



The Pineywoods Rooter

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

May 2013

Volume 21 Number 5

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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
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.

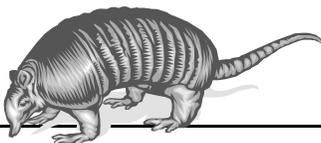
Visitors are invited to attend any of
the regularly scheduled meetings.

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



Where did the last 4 weeks go? I just realized that next week is club time again. It is just the 16th which means that there is still two weeks left in the month after our meeting. Time does fly.

It is getting close to summer finally after a rather cool spring, and the next several months will be busy time for everyone as summer activities start with school getting out and outdoor activities begin. I want to remind everyone to be careful and safe this summer. The heat can take its toll on just about everyone and precaution is always a necessity, especially in our hobby of rock hunting. I haven't found too many rocks in areas that are inside and air conditioned except for the rock shops I have visited.

As I write this, plans are being put together for our show coming up in August. As fast as time is going, it will be here before we know it. I want to remind everyone to get the rock saws and tumblers going, we are going to need a lot of material for the silent auction and the spinning wheel. These events contribute a lot to our clubs financial well being for the year and I hope this year is no exception.

I hope everyone will make it to the meeting next Thursday night. We will have a very interesting program on flint knapping from a member of the Shreveport club. See you then.

Bill Talcott

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 16, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Club House at 110 North Zavalla, Jasper TX

PROGRAM: Wilford House

"THE ART OF FLINT KNAPPING"

ALERT: Demonstration starts at 4:00 p.m.

UP-COMING SHOWS &

MAY 25-26 FORT WORTH, TEXAS
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Society
Will Rogers Memorial Center

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES
JONETTA & JOHN NASH 5/16

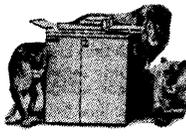
2012 Officers
PresidentBill Talcott
Vice President . . .Joe Griggs
SecretaryMichelle Talcott
TreasurerSharon Stalsby

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
RUTH HOWELL 5/14
KEVIN FARRELL 5/19
MAXINE WAGNER 5/28

BIRTHSTONE FOR MAY:
EMERALD or CHRYSOPRASE

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Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

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

MINUTES FOR APRIL 18, 2013



The PCG&MS met on April 18, 2013 at the club house for the regular monthly meeting. There were twenty-three members attending.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Talcott. The program was presented by Zeb Rike on the Russian meteorites. The program was very interesting and informative. Everyone indicated that they would like to know more about the meteorites.

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 Ron Ducote and second by Linda Talcott, the motion passed.

Committee reports were presented. Fred Brown/ Paul James reported that they were still working on a field trip to Crockett to collect petrified wood, fossils, and arrowheads at a gravel pit. Jonetta Nash reported that a publicity picture for the annual show is needed and that the show announcement needs to be submitted to *Rock and Gem*. Bill Talcott will talk to the Corp of Engineers about doing a program on collecting options. Ann James reported that vendor applications are being returned. She is also looking into using some high school students to help load tables after the show. Bill Talcott reported that the new front door looks great and another work day is needed. It was also discussed that the leaks in the roof need to be checked and decide on options for the roof.

In new business, American Federation Endowment Fund has a raffle at the annual meeting in September. The tickets are \$5.00 and anyone interested

should see John Nash.

Winner of the half and half drawing was Lonnie Stalsby and Bill Talcott won the door prize drawing that was provided by Carmon Rike.

On a motion by Carmon Rike and seconded by Lonnie Stalsby the meeting was adjourned.

Attendees at the Meeting: Zeb and Carmon Rike, Lonnie and Sharon Stalsby, Paul and Ann James, Bill and Linda Talcott, Michelle and Carter Talcott, Ron and Donna Ducote, Jody Dorman, John and Jonetta Nash, Fred and Janice Heron, Fred Brown, Joe Griggs, Robbie Smith, Keith Stephens, Lori Horne, and Tom Bailey.

Submitted by Michelle Talcott, Secretary



Cartoon by Erston Barnhart, from Breccia 4/97 via Rockbuster News 3/99 T-Town Rockhound 4/99

“METEORITE MAN” BOOKS

Zeb William Rike III

Some time ago, I learned of the “Meteorite Men” TV shows but did not have cable TV so have not seen any. But I have bought both books and have thoroughly enjoyed them. The first book was *Meteorite Hunting: How to Find Treasure from Space* and the second, *ROCK STAR: Adventures of a Meteorite Man*.

The author, Geoffrey Notkin was born in England and was fascinated by nature from his earliest days; he tells about his mother taking him fossil hunting and him learning Latin so he could properly pronounce the names. On a visit to an active volcano, he accidentally slipped down the inside of the rim but got out and never told his parents. He had a “collection of fossils, shells and bones” and other interesting items. He was apparently not a particularly good student and tells many tales of the kinds of English schools he attended. He went to college not really knowing what he wanted to do, other than being a Rock Star. He spent a couple of decades as a rock performer, business manager and publicity person.

The first book told how he became interested in meteorites and introduced a number of people he met through his travels, then utterly fascinating stories about various expeditions to search for meteorites and filming of live hunts. About the first half the second book was about his career with Rock Bands as well as various things leading to increasing business knowledge, with the rest on the expeditions and filming of the “Meteorite Men” episodes.

On his first visit to the Odessa, TX Meteorite Crater, he was basically run off and told that “you can’t hunt out there (outside the park) and we will be watching and have you arrested”. While on a later visit, with some official backing and partnering, he made a find of a sizeable iron meteorite in one of the buried outlying craters.

By partnering with various locals or with known researchers, he has gotten into sites that would be off-limits to any of us. He had to go to the Pentagon for permission to hunt one site and had to be on the lookout for armed guided missiles (which he did find). Hunting in northern Europe yielded not only meteorites but munitions from two world wars. One expedition to the Australian Outback required specialized trucks with sealed engine compartments with air intake and exhaust at about the eight foot level. They drove out in the morning over dusty roads and were caught in “the heaviest rain in thirty-five years” and drove the same road back out with water to the windshield.

“American Choppers” custom built a specialized, heavy duty three wheel motorcycle to carry massive amounts of equipment and supplies. They were allowed to use it on several expeditions. The company would not sell it to them but has it on display.

In cooperation with some Russian meteorite authorities, they were allowed in to a very large ancient asteroid impact crater to collect impact melt rock. The crater is so old that no trace of meteorites is left. The impact was in carbon-rich sediment where the shock converted the carbon to enormous amounts of industrial grade diamonds, of which millions of carats have been mined. They were the first outsiders to have ever been allowed in the crater.

They leased several square miles of land around the Brenham, Kansas strewn field and used their custom-designed metal detectors to find on-camera the largest “Pallasite” stony-iron meteorite ever found in the area. Other expeditions were all over the world including the Atacama Desert in Peru, and several strewn fields in Arizona and Iowa. The human-interest sidelights and descriptions of local meteorite hunters in his stories give the reader a feeling of almost having been there. I thoroughly recommend both books.

THUNDER EGGS

by Jody Dorman, member PCGMS

Thunder eggs are a kind of solid geode : a rocky shell with a filling of agate. They form in lava beds, perhaps where the volcanic gases left bubbles frozen into rock. Thunder eggs are found wherever conditions are right. On March 30th 1965, the thunder egg was announced as the Oregon state rock by joint resolution of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. Oregon is famous for it's thunder egg. But Germany is also an important center for thunder egg agates. Other counties known for thunder eggs are in Africa, Poland, Turkey, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Australia, and France. While thunder eggs are collected all over Oregon, the largest deposits are found in Crook, Jefferson, Malheur, Wasco, and Wheeler counties. The world's largest thunder egg ;is a 1.75 ton specimen, it is in the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Oregon. According to Pacific Northwest native legend, the Thunder Spirits lived at the highest reaches of Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson, and when the Thunder Spirits got angry with each other they would throw these round spherical rocks at each other.

source Wikipedia and facts about thunder eggs

Cutting Small Agates

We have found the BEST and SAFEST way to cut small agates--and still save the QUALITY of the slice is to **glue the small agate to a block of wood** with ordinary Elmers White Glue. The block fits snugly in the vise. Depending on the size of the agate, you can cut one or two slices. Then put the block of wood into a bucket of water. overnight, the glue softens and you can pry off the last piece. Sometimes, we've hammered an **indent** into the block of wood to allow the agate piece to fit securely. You sure don't want it popping off half way through the slice.

Who wants all that gunk and goo from plaster or whatever was used to create a block, gumming up the oil in the saw when a block of wood will do the same thing with less muss, less fuss and less cleaning? Happy Cutting,

Trudy & Mel Martin, long time agate pickers via The Lodestone, Oct. 2006

Julie's Page

By Julia Larson, Pinellas Geological Society

I like words. If I hear a new word, I will turn it over and over in my mind, savoring the sound and the definition. I am a great fan of the Wordsmith web site which recently featured a word that was new to me.

The word was ventifact, which is a stone shaped, polished or faceted by wind. That got me thinking about other interesting rock-related words, and I will share a few of them in this month's page.

Astrobleme is a word derived from the Greek for "star wound." It is an impact feature formed by a big (building-sized) meteorite. The Meteor Crater in Arizona is one example.

An impactite is a terrestrial rock that has been radically deformed by the intense heat, pressure and shock waves of a meteorite impact. There are many types of impactites. Here are a few:

A meteorite impact, volcanic activity, landslides and other geologic activity sometimes cements smaller terrestrial rocks together, forming breccia. This type of rock is usually composed of sharp, angular fragments that can be from widely differing eras.

Meteorites that contain abundant silicate inclusions, usually gem-quality olivine crystals, in a nickel-iron matrix are called pallasites.

Moldovites are emerald green impact glass from the Czech Republic.

Similar to obsidian, tektites are black and glassy, but these meteorite glasses have crater-like features on the surface. They come in many shapes, from spheres, drops, buttons, even dumbbells. The most abundant tektites are indochinites from a meteorite strewnfield that covers parts of China, Thailand and Cambodia.

Turn these words over in your mind and see what kinds of images they conjure. from Outcroppings, January 2011 via The Hound's Howl, March 2011, Aiken, SC

Members Happenings

By Michelle Talcott

Happy Mother's Day!

There have been many Chamber of Commerce activities in Jasper this spring. PCGMS is always represented by members participating in the events.

April 13-14, The Talcott's (Smooth Talkin' Stones) went to Chappell Hill for the Bluebonnet Festival. The timing of the festival was perfect with the wildflowers in beautiful bloom. Club member Carter Talcott came home from the festival with a new family member, Smokey Joe, a gray and white kitten.

Smooth Talkin' Stones also went to Leesville, LA for May Fest 2013, May 3-4. The music festival always has large crowds and the cooler weather made for a wonderful weekend.

High Country Snowball is a great way to cool off as the temperatures begin to rise. High Country Snowball is located on Highway 96, south of Baskins parking lot.

A reminder that the Farmers Market is going on every Saturday morning, 8 am to 11 am, in front of Tractor Supply at Hwy. 190 & Hwy. 96. The cost is \$5 for anyone who wants a space.

IT'S A JOKE, ANN

Mother: Doctor, Doctor! My little Billy swallowed a dozen aspirin. What should I do?

Doctor: Are you sure it was a dozen?

Mother: Absolutely! Doctor, I'm scared to death.

Doctor: Calm down. Is little Billy crying?

Mother: No.

Doctor: Is he sleeping?

Mother: No.

Doctor: Is his color funny?

Mother: No.

Doctor: Did he throw up?

Mother: No. But I'm scared. All that aspirin shouldn't I do something?

Doctor: Try and give him a headache.

MAY PROGRAM: WILFORD HOUSE

The program for this month will be presented by Will House from the Shreveport club on "flint knapping"

Will has requested that if anyone is interested in some hands on flint knapping to be at the club house early like 4:00 P.M. He will be doing some demonstrations early for those interested that time during the program will not allow. He will present some techniques for those who are not as strong as the young. He will have something for everyone in his presentation including kids, jewelry makers, and the older generations. Also if you would like to bring some material that you think may be used for flint knapping, but are not sure, he can advise you if it will work. He will also talk about heat treating material to be use for flint knapping. I encourage everyone young and old to attend, it will be interesting. I am going to allow for some additional time for him to present everything during the meeting

BE SAFE – BE WELL

Don Monroe & Linda Behr – SFMS Safety Committee

Compact Florescent Light (CFL) Bulbs

Below is a picture of a CFL light bulb from my bathroom. I turned it on the other day and then smelled smoke after a few minutes. Soon, four-inch flames were spewing out of the side of the ballast like a blow torch! I immediately turned off the lights,

but I'm sure it would have caused a fire if I was not right there. Imagine if the kids had left the lights on as usual when they were not in the room.

I took this bulb to the Fire Department and reported the incident. The firefighter wasn't at all surprised and said that it was not an uncommon occurrence.

Apparently, sometimes when the bulb burns out there is a chance

that the ballast can start a fire. He told me that the Fire Marshall had issued reports about the dangers of these bulbs. (Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) Upon doing some internet research, it seems that bulbs made by "Globe" in China have the lion's share of problems. Many of these fire incidents have been blamed on misuse of CFL bulbs like using them in recessed lighting, pot light fixtures, track lighting, or in light fixtures with dimmer controls. Mine was installed in a conventional light socket.

I bought this Globe brand CFL at Wal-Mart; however, I will be removing all the Globe brand CFL bulbs from my house. CFL bulbs are a great energy saver but make sure you buy a name brand like SYLVANIA, PHILLIPS, or GE and not the ones from China.

--from Lodestar, March 2011| via The Hound's Howl, Aiken, SC March 2011

HINTS & TIPS

How to find the Fire in fire Agate: Fire agate is a quartz-based rock with layers of iron oxide in chalcedony which results in iridescence. It occurs in nodules of milky or grayish translucent chalcedony. Sometimes it is found in botryoidal growths in geodes and in chalcedony roses.

Fire agate appears as a dull, reddish brown layer, but when the surface layers are removed the rainbow colors or iridescence are exposed. The fire is brought out by tumbling, trimming, and grinding off the outer layers to expose the iridescence.

Polishing magnifies the fire.

To find the fire, remove the matrix, then tumble polish the stones. Tumbling removes the excess chalcedony. When polished, remove excess stone around the edges, then polish and set. Allow the stone to retain its irregular shape and polish slowly, so you don't go through the fire layers. The graceful natural shapes are superior to those cut to calibrated sizes, as the best fire doesn't always fit a mold. To set it off, mount the fire agate in a custom-made gold or silver setting. Fire agates are most often found in Arizona, California, Idaho, and Mexico, among other locales.

(From Breccia 7/01 via GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 10/01) via SCRIBE CD2008

New Method of Tumbling

by Al Nutile in Tulip City Conglomerate

The writer believes that the following idea can take much of the work from the popular method of tumbling. All of the instructions we have seen state: "Wash stones and tumble very clean between each change of grit or final materials," at the same time stating, "If liquid is too thick add some slurr or grit from previously used material."

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes: Don't wash at all after each week of tumbling with grit! Start with #50 grit, tumbling a week. Then DON'T EMPTY THE TUMBLER, but add 5 teaspoons of new grit [one step finer] to the mixture in the three pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now [finally] thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before pre-polish and final polishing.

For a really glossy finish, take one or more weeks [after washing out the polishing powder] adding three spoons of sugar, one spoon [level] of *Cascade* or *All* or any non-sudsing detergent and add about ten drops of muriatic acid, if you have some, let stand one minute - open, close tub, and tumble for a week.

We have run eleven tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for extra final steps, you save three washings and getting rid of the slurr each time. Saves time, work and mess, and still gets a better polish.

From Pickin's & Diggitis 7/96 et al via The Rockhouser October '99 via The Pseudomorph May 2000 via Rock Chips 6/00 via SCRIBE CD 08



By Ernston Barnhart...Rock Buster News 2/00
via Golden Spike News 3/00