



# The Pineywoods Rooter

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

November 2014

Volume 22 Number 11

## 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.

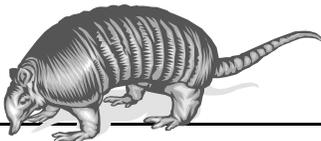
Visitors are invited to attend any of  
the regularly scheduled meetings.

### 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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looks like we didn't have to wait long for winter to get here because it is cold outside today. Just a short letter for everyone to let them know about next week's meeting. Even though we have just completed the national elections, we still have some club elections coming up this next meeting. We will elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the coming year. The nominating committee will meet sometime before our Thursday meeting to compile a list of nominees for the positions for 2015. Make sure you come to the meeting, because sometimes folks get elected to these positions by acclamation. Think we would not do something like that, think again. Along with that, if you have any suggestions for nominees, we will be glad to add them to the list, just contact me.

Also, our "Rock Hound of the Year" nominee will be chosen at the next meeting. Please in 50 words or less define your choice for this prestigious award in our club for the year.

This will be our last official club meeting of the year followed by our Christmas Party in December. See you this coming Thursday night.

Bill Talcott

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 20, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

**102 Zavalla Street, Jasper, Texas**

**Program:**

UP-COMING SHOWS &

NOVEMBER 15-16 ROUND ROCK, TEXAS  
Old Settlers Association Headquarters  
3300 Palm Valley Blvd.  
showchair@austinpaleo.org

NOVEMBER 22-23 MESQUITE, TEXAS  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society  
Rodeo Center & Exhibit Hall 1800 Rodeo  
www.DallasGemAndMineral .org

DECEMBER 5-7 EL PASO, TEXAS  
El Paso Mineral & Gem Society  
El Maida Auditorium 6331 Alabama  
gemcenter@aol.com

JANUARY 23-25 TYLER, TEXAS  
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society  
Rose Garden Center 420 S. Rose Park Dr.  
keithharmon19@yahoo.com

APRIL 11-12 ABILENE, TEXAS  
CentrealTexas Gem & Mineral Society  
Abilene Civic Center , North 6th and Pine  
rocjclub.txol.net

APRIL 25-26 WACO, TEXAS  
Waco Gem & Mineral Club  
Extraco Events Center  
4601 Bosque Blvd. Creative Arts Building

ANNIVERSARIES

Kim & Scooter Whitton 11/2  
Wanda & Roger Page 11/12  
Carmon & Zeb Rike 11/27  
Shari & Don Gunter 11/26

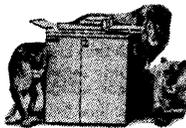
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2014 Officers

President . . . . .Bill Talcott  
Vice President . . .Joe Griggs  
Secretary . . . . .Michelle Talcott  
Treasurer . . . . .Sharon Stalsby

Board Appointees

Activity - Field Trips . . . Fred Brown, Paul James  
Membership - Publicity . . Jonetta Nash  
Web Page . . . Sonja Richard  
Programs . . Bill Talcott & Others!  
Historian . . . Imogene Mitchem  
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:

Ramona Howell 2/11  
Ann James 3/11  
Reagan Ratliff 9/11  
Olivia Marsh 10/11  
Jackie Stubblefield 17/11  
Christi Hill 18/11  
Kim Whitton 19/11  
Don Gunter 25/11  
Keith Stephens 30/11

BIRTHSTONE FOR NOVEMBER:  
TOPAZ OR CITRINE

## Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Meeting

### Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Meeting

P. O. Box 2513 – Jasper, Texas –

**MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 16, 2014**



The PCG&MS met on October 16, 2014 at the clubhouse for the regular monthly meeting. There were thirty-two members attending and two visitors Kevin Stafford and Mindy Shaw.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Talcott. The business meeting began with a motion by Ann James and a second by Ron Ducote 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 Joe Griggs and seconded by Charles Kerr, the motion passed.

Committee reports were presented. Paul James/Fred Brown (field trip) nothing is planned right now but will work on something for spring. Jonetta Nash (membership/publicity) membership lists are available. Ron Ducote, Robbie Smith, and George Wells (programs) working on programs for next meeting. Imogene Mitchem (historian) is taking many photos. Ann James (Chamber activities) reported many activities for fall. November/December shop Jasper, Festival of Trees on courthouse square, Business Expo (November 6), Christmas in The Park (November 29), I'm Chamber Proud campaign, and Women's Civic Club bake sale. Janice Herron (education) many areas were covered by the show publicity. Junior Rock club will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Ann James (Annual Show) submit suggestions for improvement. Linda Talcott (hostess) there will be a new list for the New Year. The Christmas party will be the December meeting. Bill Talcott (building) will have a work day soon.

The program was presented by Dr. Kevin Stafford from Stephen F. Austin State University. We appreciated him and Mindy Shaw for making the drive

from Nacogdoches to speak to us.

In new business, nominations of officers and two positions on the Board of Directors will be done next month. Charles Kerr and Julia McCormick will join the Executive Board as the nominating committee. Rock Hound of the Year nominations are due for the November meeting. The Women's Civic Club will be honoring veterans on November 13. Master Gardeners Holiday Market will be November 8 at Tractor Supply parking lot. October 25 the Jasper Community Theater is having a rummage sale and open house. They will conclude the day with a local edition of "War of the Worlds."

Winner of the half and half drawing was Garry Stubblefield and Jonetta Nash won the door prize drawing that was provided by Tom Howell.

On a motion by Joe Griggs and seconded by everyone, the meeting was adjourned.

Attendees at the Meeting: Bill and Linda Talcott, Lonnie and Sharon Stalsby, Paul and Ann James, Michelle and Carter Talcott, Ron and Donna Ducote, John and Jonetta Nash, Joe Griggs, Maxine Wagner, Fred Brown, Charles and Sharon Kerr, George Wells, Garry Stubblefield, Fred and Janice Herron, Wayne and Olivia Marsh, Robbie Smith, Jody Dorman, Roger and Wanda Page, Shari Gunter, Imogene Mitcham, Tom and Ramona Howell, and Ruth Howell.

Submitted by Michelle Talcott, Secretary

**Are you familiar with the American Land Access Association, ALAA? Well, don't feel bad, very few people in our region are. Read Shirley's article concerning problems in the western region. How long will it be before we are in the same condition. Or are we already? We need to begin backing ALAA or suffer consequences later. John**

### **WARNING!**

Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

If you or your club had thoughts of a field trip, or if this was on your personal "bucket list," here is a warning about LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, close to Lolo Hot Springs, on the border of western Montana. The collecting site is CLOSED and will remain in effect until rescinded.

I bring this important information to you because the area is being patrolled by the Forest Service Patrol Unit and the local Sheriff's Department. There are penalties and fines.

This area has been a favorite collecting site for quartz crystals going back many years before the Forest Service had jurisdiction. This is one of those "land transfer" deals.

Unfortunately, rockhounds have not lived up to the AFMS Code of Ethics and the place looks like a WWII war zone. Let me be frank here, many of those were commercial entrepreneurs who were "out for a buck," but we're all painted with the same dirty brush. In speaking recently with the Forest Service Office that oversees the area, we were informed that the closing was because of concern for the public safety, not animals, but humans. It seems the soil is granitic in nature with only a little topsoil, with the removal of the overburden the topsoil is either washed away or blown away, leaving the granitic material.

This is susceptible to cave-ins or undercutting. We have begun preliminary work with the Forest Service office out of Missoula and will keep you informed as to any progress in the re-opening of this area. In the meantime, stay out or face the consequences... (permission to copy, Sharon Marburger,

### **Junior Club Happenings**

By Michelle Talcott

After an informational meeting in October, the first meeting of the newly formed Junior Rock Club met November 4, 2014. There were 10 very excited young people ready to talk and learn about rocks. They were encouraged to bring some of their rock collection to show everyone and most of them did. Many brought rocks that they had gotten from our annual show in August. They all thought the spinning wheel was the best!

We discussed identifying and labeling their rock collections. I showed them my first rock collection which brought back great memories. As they left I gave them each a half of a geode (thanks to Lonnie Stalsby) and a piece of petrified wood to add to their collection.

We will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm and I encourage anyone to stop by the clubhouse and meet some of these young rockhounds.

### **Fossil News - Dinos With Feathers!**

by Mazie Soderstadt and Ken Dearborn

China has become the hotbed of early bird and perhaps dinosaur crossover-to-bird fossils. We always have to be a bit careful with the discoveries in the closed east because occasionally specimens are tampered with, but this new find has also been analyzed by American scientists.

An article in 'Nature' magazine reveals a well preserved, 130 million-year-old specimen that was found in north eastern China. The three-foot-long creature has a long reptilian tail, a duck-like head and feathers. The delicate fibers of down covering its body and quill-type feathers on its front appendages left an imprint in the fine grain mud that covered the dromaeosaur and fossilized it.

Dromaeosaur is a small relative of velociraptor and belongs to the theropod family. This adds to the mounting evidence that some dinosaurs, such as the theropods were closely related to modern birds.

From The Del Air Bulletin 6/01 via Golden Spike News 7/01

### Mineral Primer

#### Bridget Joubert, CenLa Rockhound

Many of us bring rocks into the meeting to have them ID-ed. Here are some basic mineral facts that may help guide you as you wonder what they are. From the "Glacial Drifter, Vol.57.#2, Feb.'14" the following facts were found:

Minerals are the building blocks of rocks and a rock may (usually) be made up of more than one mineral. As one looks at the different colors in a rock, this often indicated the presence of those multiple minerals. Even though there are over 3000 minerals described in the literature, there are only about 30 that we casual collectors need be concerned about. Of course, first, is it really a mineral? 1) not formed from the remains of plants and animal. These are classed as fossils. 2) naturally occurring and not man-made, i.e. concrete, many counter tops, etc 3) Has the same chemical make-up wherever it is found, i.e., quartz minerals are always made of SiO<sub>2</sub>. 4) has a crystalline structure. Massive forms may require a microscope to see the crystal nature.

Now that you are sure that it is a mineral, these test are used to try to ID the mineral class. A Geology or Rock field guide book is very helpful to use as you do these tests. Color: Many minerals are colored and this can be very helpful BUT not used alone, i.e. copper minerals are blue to blue-green Shape: the crystal make-up often gives a mineral a distinctive shape / style. Quartz has only one basic crystal shape but calcite can have many styles... to confuse the novice. Hardness: always carry a pin knife to see if the mineral scratches. This will help split the minerals you collect into those harder than a knife( +6.0 ) and those softer. Quartz never scratches, calcite often does, even though they may both look somewhat similar! Learn the Mohs hardness scale!!! Streak: using the back of a white ceramic tile, scratch the mineral and see what color the mineral leaves on the tile. No matter what shape/color the mineral exhibits, it will scratch the same color. Density: the density refers to the weight of a mineral per unit size. Topaz will weigh more than the same size piece of quartz. Lead(galena) will be very heavy, more so than iron(hematite). Luster: the way light reflects off a mineral is some-

time very useful in separating one group from another.

Now go out there and get those rocks and practice these basic tests!!!!!!

### Biggs Jasper

Biggs jasper is one of the more recently discovered picture rock materials. The first piece was found about 1960 in a creek bottom south of Biggs Junction, Oregon. It is one of the more distinctive jaspers even though it lacks brilliant colors, its design is unique among siliceous rocks. It takes an excellent polish.

Biggs jasper seems to have developed from the muds of short-lived streams that evolved on the surface of a cooled basalt terrain. The raw materials (plastic colloids, silica, clay and iron) came from the weathering of recent igneous rocks and were deposited in the settling basins of stream channels. Heat and pressure from volcanic activity then served to form jasper, small creeping motions led to the marbled rosettes and picture designs.

Biggs jasper is sandwiched between two basalt lava flows that cover Oregon, Washington and parts of Idaho. That plants and animals inhabited the newly formed water courses is shown by the fossil fish found in the area.

Condensed from The Rock Licker, via THE ROCK RATTLER 1/94

Via Glacial Drifter 2 & 3/01

### DO YOU OWN AN IPOD?

I was in a restaurant the other day when I suddenly realized I desperately needed to pass gas. The music was really, really loud so I timed my gas with the beat of the music. After a couple of songs, I started to feel better. I finished my coffee and noticed that everybody was staring at me....Then I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod.

(Thanks to George Kadonsky, Fractured Agate, OCT 14)

## Fencepost Limestone

By John Gholson, Quarry Quips 1/78

Until recently, I thought I knew quite a lot about the stone fence posts of Western Kansas. I knew where and how they were quarried, the particular bed of limestone from which they were cut, and many of the uses to which the stone was put. Then I came upon a book, "Land of the Post Rock", written by Grace Mullenburg and Ada Swineford and published by University Press of Kansas in 1975. I probably don't know everything there is to know about the Fencepost Limestone yet, but I know a lot more than I did. For example, I knew that the majestic "Cathedral of the Plains", the twin-spired church at Victoria, Kansas, is built of Post Rock and at the time of its construction each male parishioner was required to furnish forty-five dollars cash and several "boat" loads of stone. A boat was a heavy wooden sled which was used to transport the stone from the quarry to the building site, although horse drawn wagons were the usual method. A boatload was a certain number of cubic feet of stone. I learned from the book that there were quite a number of churches, in other towns and settlements, built of the same material. Also corrals, storm caves, and even a filling station constructed of this easily obtained, durable and plentiful stone. The filling station, built, I believe, after World War I by a soldier who was impressed by the ornate towered stone structures of England. The station had the small square office, with a roofed driveway in front, and at each corner was a round stone tower which extended several feet above the roof. In the book is a picture taken soon after the station was opened. Most of the houses were small, but several were quite pretentious, having two floors, with a large attic under a steep pitched roof. Window and door openings were frequently outlined in carved stone.

North Central Kansas was settled in the late 1860's and 70's, largely by immigrants from the eastern states, many of whom had only recently come to the United States from Europe. They were German, Czeck, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish, and tended to settle in communities with their own nationality. Among them were many skilled stone masons, to whom easily obtained soft limestone was a blessing in a land which had few trees and where lumber was expensive. Many had exposures of

"postrock", as it is generally known, on their land or could get it from a neighbor nearby.

The Fencepost limestone, as it is known to geologists, is a persistent bed that has been traced in oil wells as far west as Wyoming. It is the top member of the Greenhorn Limestone formation. Just above it is the Fairport chalk, and below it is the rest of the Pfeifer shale, of which the Fencepost is part. With shaly chalk both above and below, the Fencepost separates easily in solid slabs, which makes its use for building stone and fenceposts particularly convenient.

In quarrying the stone, at least three methods were used, with the wedge and feather the most popular. In this method, a series of holes were drilled almost through the layer in a straight line, the distance of the holes from the edge determining the width of the stone to be removed. Into these holes were placed two "feathers" which were tapered pieces of iron, rounded on the outside to fit the sides of the hole, and flat on the inside. Between the feathers was placed a wedge, also of iron. By carefully tapping the wedges with a hammer, a section of the limestone would break off along the line of holes. If the section was long enough it could be used for a post; if not, it became building stone. The second method was called sledging, and was used mostly to quarry building stone. The limestone was uncovered, and pieces broken from the edge by striking it with a sledgehammer. The third method came later, just before the abandonment of the use of the stone, and employed diamond or silicon saws, which cut a slit in place of the line of holes. There have been stories of using freezing to break the stone from the layer by pouring water into the holes in winter, but the authors were unable to verify the practice. Post rock is fairly soft when quarried, but hardens with exposure to the air and is very durable, as thousands of posts still standing in the Post Rock country proves.

Fencepost limestone is readily identified by from one to three rusty streaks running the length of the stone on the sides where it was broken from the layer. Then there is a single streak, it will be approximately in the middle. Fencepost is from nearly white to deep buff in color, and can be distinguished from another limestone, called Shellrock, by the absence of color and the lack of the brown streak. Shellrock is whiter and softer than Fencepost and

contains many fossil shells. It comes from the Jetmore chalk member of the Greenhorn formation, about twenty feet below the Fencepost.

Another thing I learned was that the postrock was sometimes split at the brown streak in the middle, providing a building stone which was light color on one side and light brown on the other. The stone was used in both colors in the same building, to form a pattern or trim.

via FROM THE ROCK PILE 2/97

## DINOSAURS — What is Learned From Their Tracks?

by Dee Grover

The tracks of dinosaurs, when associated directly with bones, can exhibit a very large bank of information about the animal that made the tracks. This is especially true if there is a series of tracks that display a walk, a jog, or running activity.

One example that tells us a fascinating tale is located 23 miles north of Moab, Utah. Following the directions provided by BLM to the parking area, we walked up a small hill and looked down into what appeared to be a dry streambed that was topped by a slate looking rock. Imprinted in the rock were 14 or 15 very deep tracks that were probably made by a huge four-footed dinosaur, said by paleontologists to be a *Brontosaurus*.

After about four steps the *Brontosaurus* suddenly made a sharp 90-degree turn and his prints disappeared under the banks of the stream bed. A turn of this magnitude is highly irregular for an animal of his (or her) size. Closer examination of the site reveals a very large theropod track which was made by an *Allosaurus*. The track was aimed at the left shoulder of the *Brontosaurus* at the point when the 90-degree turn was made. It is surmised by me that was the last step taken by the *Allosaurus* as he jumped upon the back of the *Brontosaurus* and had "Baby (giant) Rib Rack" for lunch.

Other tracks that are sited in areas that are completely trampled with hundreds of dinosaur tracks are described as "dinturbation." The proof in that is that some dinosaurs lived in packs. Evidence based mainly on tracks, also backed by bones, shows horned dinosaurs such as *Triceratops*, *Anky-*

*losaurus*, and *Protoceratops* were gregarious as were herbaceous dinosaurs such as Brontosaurus, Iguanotids, and types of duckbills.

Some measurements can give ballpark figures of length, height, size and speed of the maker of the tracks. The length of the foot times four equals the hip height for smaller dinosaurs. And five and one-half times for larger ones. Length of stride can determine speed of the animal, provided the bone structure of the leg is known. If a step is shorter than four feet while walking and more than four feet while running, the speed will be 5- 10 kilometers per hour. The distance of the midpoints of the manus (front) and pes (back) foot strides equals the hip to shoulder measurement and gives a good estimate of the size of the animal.

Some slender, long-legged dinosaurs such as *Coelophys* could probably attain speeds of 40-45 kilometers per hour. Huge dinosaurs such as *Titanosaurus* could probably only move 5 kilometers per hour as he shook the earth in his walk. Speed can be judged by the angulation (angular deflection of the foot from the center line of both feet as they move) of the tracks and the length of the steps and strides. Studying modern animals has helped in this study. Migration has been proved by the discovery of tracks of disabled animals or those with missing digits which have been tracked intermittently for many miles. Probably they were in search of food or traveling to breeding/nesting grounds.

(Dee Grover, and FGMS Ichnologist, wrote this article for *Lithosphere* 6/00, via THE GLACIAL DRIFTER 1/01)

via T-Town Rockhound 11/01

