

CAGMAGS
4900 Sparks Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72210



Arkansas Rockhound News

December 2010

Official Newsletter of the
Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

CAGMAGS

The Arkansas Rockhound News is Published monthly by the **Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society**

Colors: Blue and White

Website: www.centralrockhound.org

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Next meeting is January 11, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-804-2331) to find out about the field trip plans.

2011 Officers:

President: Mike Austen

steelpony@aol.com

Phone 868-4553

Vice President: Tom Sharp

thom61847@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Schenebeck

jsjstone@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Lenora Murray

218 Old Hwy 11 South

Hazen, AR 72064

(870) 255-3679

Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Weldon Kissire

Editor: Bill Alcott

Club Contact: Lenore Murray

Sunshine Chairman: Angelee Peeler

Junior Programs: Obe Willix

Webmaster: Bill Alcott

Time and Location of Meetings:

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November)

6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015

Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 7221

(Non-smoking) Visitors are always Welcome

Membership Dues \$15 Individual \$25 Family (Yearly)

Mission Statement: The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is dedicated to promoting interest in mineralogy and the related sciences, interest in lapidary and

the related arts; to encourage field trips and the enjoyment of collecting and preserving minerals as they occur in nature, and the study of geological formations, especially those of our Natural State of Arkansas. We are a small group of people that enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Jan 11	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 26
May 24	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23
Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 22	

There is no meeting in December

President's Message



The club just had the last meeting for 2010, where has the year gone? Our last meeting was an important one. The election of officers for 2011, I will be back as president, Tom Sharp will return as vice president and Lenora Murray will be the new secretary/treasurer. But most importantly, plans for the Christmas party were made. I hope everyone can attend, it will be great to have time to relax, eat and talk, since the meetings always seem so hectic. As an added bonus you will all get to see Pat and Weldon's great rock collection, and who knows, Weldon might just get in the spirit and let us all take home some presents.

I want to wish you all a happy holiday season.

MIKE

**Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society
Minutes for November 23, 2011**

President Mike Austen called the meeting to order. There were 17 members present.

The Minutes and Treasury's report were approved as posted.

Dues are due. Please pay by December 15th, send your check to Pat Kissire - 4900 Sparks Road, Little Rock, AR 72210.

We will have a Christmas Party at Weldon and Pat Kissire's on Tuesday, December 14th. Bring an unwrapped gift in a paper bag relating to rocks or minerals to be exchanged in a Dirty Santa drawing. We will have a potluck meal at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in the rock collection come early or stay late. Directions will be sent by e-mail and calls made to other members who do not have e-mail. The club will provide the meat (ham and turkey). Please call - 501-821-2346 - if you are coming and what you will bring for the potluck. We need a head count.

Lenora Murray, Phillip Nierstheimer and Ann Austen will audit the books by January 15, 2011.

There is a new book in the library - *Fossils and Introduction to Prehistoric Life* donated by George Gray-Major.

Two large diamonds were found last week at the Diamond Mine. There is a possibility of a December or January field trip to Murfreesboro. Call Mike if you are interested.

David Murray presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for 2011 as: President - Mike Austen, Vice President - Tom Sharp and Sec/Tres - Lenora Murray. A motion made by John Peeler, seconded by Gerald Roth and the slate was elected by acclamation.

Carl Hill told us about his trip to Tahlequah, OK 2 weeks ago. There was a nice swap, free lunch and free set-up. John Peeler showed us his rockhammer walking stick.

Best of raffle went to Reese Watson - copper and Weldon Kissire - amethyst.

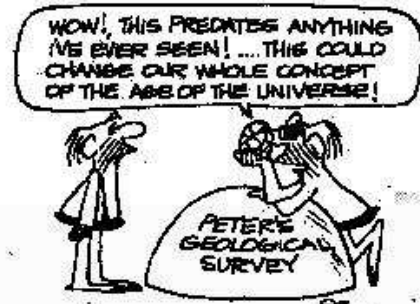
Meeting was adjourned.

The program was a video on Jewelry Making by

Paul Casteel - a good description of tools needed and a demonstration of ring making.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kissire, Sec/Tres



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CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The club will have a Christmas Party at Weldon and Pat Kissire's home on Tuesday, December 14th. There will be a potluck meal at 6:30 PM. The club will provide the meat (ham and turkey). Please call Pat at 501-821-2346 as soon as possible if you are coming, we need a head count. Let her know what you will bring for the potluck, side dishes, salads, deserts etc. If you are interested in seeing their rock collection, or great new home you can come early or stay late. Bring an unwrapped gift in a paper bag relating to rocks or minerals to be exchanged in a Dirty Santa drawing.

Directions to WildAcres
Home of Weldon and Pat Kissire

From I430 take the Col Glenn Exit

Go west through the light to Joe's Grocery (about ½ mile)
Turn Left on Lawson Road
Go approximately 7 miles (?). You will pass the storage buildings on the right, go up a hill, pass the Baptist Church, pass Marsh Road and the Gas station, pass Lawson Elementary School on left and ½ mile later on your left will be Sparks Road. Our WildAcres Sign is on the corner. Turn left on Sparks and at the END of the white fence on the left turn right into WildAcres through the gate (LARGE mailbox on road). Another ¼ mile in and swing to the left past the first barn and park anywhere around the open space or circle drive. Be careful our new walkway into the house is a work in progress !!!!

From Chenal Valley/Kanis Road

Go west past Kroger's and turn west on Kanis. Turn left just past Denny Road on Summit (?) Go to the End and turn left Burlingame to Col Glenn. Turn left on Col. Glenn to Marsh Road, turn left to Lawson Road. Turn right go past the School to Sparks (see above).

From Springhill Road in Bryant

Take Springhill pass the School and Church. Just past the church turn right into Springhill Farms (bear left) the road ends at Sparks Road turn right for 3 miles or so (road is crooked). Go under the power lines, cross the bridge (you face the back of our property) make two 90 degree turns (first right then left), turn left into gate across for where the white fence meets the wood fence (if you get to Lawson road turn around).

From Hwy 5 (Stagecoach Road)

Take Crystal Valley Road to Lawson Road, turn left on Lawson. Crystal Valley Baptist Church is on the corner. (See above)

Call if you get lost. PHONE 501-821-2346

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND

If your flower beds have more rocks than plants
If you think a rocking chair is a place to store rocks
If you hand out rock candy on Halloween
If you think passing a stone, is walking past
leaverite
If you think rock and roll is the way to move big
yard rocks
If you have ever tried to tumble rocks in a washer or
dryer

Tumbling & Polishing Rocks Made Simple – Well, Sort of

By Clarence Sterling

The most time consuming and easiest way to tumble rocks, although you won't necessarily get a good shine, is to dump the rocks in the ocean a few hundred miles off shore and wait a thousand years or so, then pick them up off the beach. (This same method can be used in colder climates: simply bury the stones deep in a glacier instead of dropping them in the ocean). Of course there are several drawbacks to this, the largest being that you never see the results of your work. Rivers, oceans, lakes and seas (and glaciers) are Mother Nature's rock tumblers. Of course we don't want to wait that long, and we want a better shine.

The theory of tumbling is to duplicate sea-shore wave action in a controlled environment: the barrel of your tumbler. The first step uses a coarse grit to grind down sharp edges and to shape your stones. The second step uses a medium grit to smooth the stones. Third step uses a fine grit (a.k.a. pre-polish) to make your stones even smoother. Finally, the last major step is to polish the stones. Some tumblers may use less steps, some may recommend more steps. The final product is a shiny stone, suitable for impressing your friends and relatives.

A quick scan of a lapidary supply catalog shows that not only are there several methods of tumbling and polishing rocks; but there is also a wide range of available equipment and supplies. There are vibratory tumblers and rotary tumblers, tumblers with one barrel, tumblers with two barrels, and tumblers with modular "Add-a-Barrel" accessories. There are tumblers with small barrels and tumblers with great big huge commercial sized barrels. There are tumblers with smooth barrels and tumblers with multi-sided barrels. There are mini-tumblers and tumblers with "patented swivel actions." There is also a wide range of grits and polishes, which I ,am' not going to list here, because this is not a Dr. Suess book: "One-Hundred Grit, Two-Twenty Grit, Red Rough, Linde A. Powder."

Where do you start? Having looked through the catalog, and in a state of sticker shock, you are probably ready to abandon all hope of ever getting started. Talking to friends, unless they tumble stones, will probably discourage you more. "I had one when I was a kid, and we had to keep it in the basement under the stairs, wrapped in a blanket, it was so loud," states a coworker. "I got one for Christmas when I was in the 5th grade, it leaked all the time," pipes up a classmate. "Polish is expensive, " "It's boring," "It's time consuming." Ignore these people.

I remember having a tumbler as a kid also. It worked. It leaked slightly between the inner seal and the screw-on lid, so that I had to replace the lid. It wasn't too noisy. It sat on a workbench in the basement and could not be heard upstairs. Tumbling stones takes less effort than caring for a cat or a dog. Tumbling takes less time than an exercise program. Tumbling is going to cost \$50 or more for a tumbler. Nice ones are available for under \$100. Grit and polish for a year or . more may run \$35. Other supplies, except rocks, less than \$10. Used equipment may be available at swap meets. If you buy a used tumbler, inspect the barrel closely. If the rim is pitted, or the seals for the lid are pitted or worn, you may need to replace them. Cheaper tumblers are available at toy stores, if you are serious about tumbling don't buy a toy. Some tumblers are louder than others. Rubber barrels are quieter than plastic, newer motors are quieter than older ones. My wife and I find the water sound soothing. It makes a noise like a small . waterfall or fountain. Tumbling does take time, there is no instant gratification.

Once you have your tumbler you will need grits and polish, a strainer, a slop bucket (I use a cut-down milk carton), some plastic pellets (available via catalog), nondetergent soap (Ivory Flakes), and of course rocks (a.k.a. tumbling rough). You also need water. Set up your tumbler on a flat surface in an area where a leak will not damage anything. If you have the directions, make sure you read them. Also read any safety notices. Follow the directions supplied with your tumbler; you can experiment

later. The steps outlined below are pretty generic, and I'll try not to leave anything out. I own a rotary tumbler made by Lortone with a 3-pound barrel.

First fill your tumbler's barrel about three quarters full of rocks. The rocks should be of a similar hardness in assorted sizes. The larger your barrel, the larger rock pieces you can use. A good assortment of sizes is important. If you break up rocks to tumble, put all the pieces in, including the ittybitty shards. Add a coarse grit. I use an 80 grit. In a 3- pound barrel, I use 4 tablespoons of size 80 grit. Grit sizes are like sandpaper - the higher the number, the finer the grit. After adding the grit, add enough water to just cover the stones in your barrel. This process is called "charging your barrel." Make sure the barrel is dry and clean around the rim where it seals shut. Seal and close the barrel, put it in your tumbler and let it run for a week. Make sure it doesn't leak. Most leaks are apparent in the first five minutes.

After the tumbler has run for 7 to 10 days (less time if you have very soft stones) you need to open it up, clean off the stones, and clean the barrel and lids. Either dump the old muddy grit (called slurry) outside or in a slop bucket. Use a strainer to keep from losing any stones. I prefer a metal strainer over a plastic one, the plastic ones tend to have larger holes. A strainer can be bought at any department store in the kitchen supply area. Do not put old grit down a drain or toilet - it will cause plumbing problems. Clean off the stones. If any still have sharp edges or deep rough gouges, you need to repeat the first step with those. The rest you put back in the now clean barrel. Harder stones like quartz and petrified wood are more likely to require a repeat of step one.

The second grind is the same as the first, but you use a finer grit. I use a 220 grit, four tablespoons for a three pound barrel. Again, make sure the barrel rim and seals are clean and dry. Tumble for a week. Clean everything between steps.

The third grind uses pre-polish. I use a 600 grit, and it take 6 tablespoons for a three-pound barrel. By now, the volume of material in your barrel has shrunk noticeably. You have

ground the stones down considerably. Use plastic pellets to bring it back up to the three-quarters mark. The pellets will help cushion the stones during tumbling, and keep them from scratching each other. Tumble for a week. Clean everything. Try not to bang the stones around, as rough handling can destroy the finish.

Cleaning the stones and making sure all of the old grit is removed is even more important in this last step. An aid to cleaning is to charge the barrel with soap instead of grit. Leave the pellets in. Use 1 tablespoon of Ivory Flakes. Do not use dish soap, detergent with phosphates, or any soap with additives; these will damage the barrel. Run the barrel for a day. Replace the pellets with new ones, save the old ones to re-use the next time you run a pre-polish step.

Now you are ready to polish. Polish is more expensive than grits. The most inexpensive all-purpose polish is cerium oxide. Tin oxide is a better polish, but it is very expensive. I use six tablespoons of cerium oxide for the three-pound barrel. Tumble for a week. Do not dump used polish slurry down drains or toilets. Clean carefully, rough handling will mar the polished surfaces. If your stones appear to have a dusty coating, tumble them for a day with soap.

Your stones, when properly polished, will look almost the same dry as when wet. Some types of rocks do not polish well using this method (Petoskey Stones, for example). If your rocks don't seem to be polished correctly, try repeating the pre-polish and polish steps. If you think they may be O.K., but aren't sure, compare them to polished stones available in stores or at swaps. Make sure you have followed any special instructions that may have come with your tumbler.

Note, the steps I've outlined are from memory, and for a rotary tumbler. Vibratory tumblers take less time to complete individual steps. Different-sized barrels use different amounts of grit. It is suggested in my instruction manual that for best results, you should use loads made of the same type of rock. I prefer to mix and match, getting a wide variety of finished stones each cycle. You should feel free to experiment with different

grits, polishes, and time intervals, but don't feel disappointed if things don't work out. I sometimes have a partial barrel of rocks that are ready for a particular step set aside waiting for another batch to finish so that I will have a full load. You can always start over at an intermediate step. If you have a load of rounded pebbles from a beach, that are already mostly smooth, you can even skip the coarse grit.

What should you tumble? Almost anything. Agates and other quartzes work nice. Avoid anything that is soft or flakey. If you have doubts, ask someone, or try a small sample first. I like to say, "Hit it with a hammer, and throw it in the tumbler." If you do this, please keep safety in mind. Wear safety goggles, and wrap the stone in a thick rag so you don't lose any pieces or body parts.

- The Pterodactyl, 12/97

TAKE THIS TEST

Blow on this area. If it turns red, call your doctor. If it turns yellow, see your psychiatrist. If it turns blue, see your dentist.

If it turns green, see your lawyer. If it does not become colored, you are quite healthy and there is no reason for you not to submit material for the Arkansas Rockhound News and attend club meetings!

Send to Bill Alcott at
mister.bill@starband.net or call (501)
231-2030

Hints and Tips

(editor's note: I've neither tried or tested any of the following)

Use a glasscutter to do your trimming of slabs. Saves your diamond trim saw blade for more detailed work. The glass cutter to use is the one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten. You can get one at any Sears store. Put a good solid handle on it so you can bear down hard, then use pliers to break the slab along the scored line.

From "Golden Nugget" via "Chips and Facets"

Use denture cleaner to clean the residue from cabochons after polishing. Use as directed for dentures. Also use it to clean the insides of geodes.

From "Black Hills Prospector"

To polish inlay work, of both stones and silver, use chromium oxide. Tin oxide will abrade the metal.

From "The Mountain Gem" via "GI Nugget"

Some Definitions of Unusual Words

From "Dinny's Doin's" 8/93

Crenulations are wrinkles or small folds, with a wave length of a few millimeters, chiefly in metamorphic rock.

Escarpment - the steep face frequently presented by the abrupt termination of stratified rock. The world's greatest escarpment is along the eastern coast line in South America, south of the Amazon Basin of Brazil.

Anticline - a fold that is convex upward giving a rainbow effect as earth layers are curved and not broken. One of the most famous anticlines in the world is the Sheep Mountain anticline north of Greybull, Wyoming.

Ripple Marks - Ancient ripple marks are of two origins; those from water and those from wind. Aqueous ripple marks are commonly found where once were ancient seas. They are preserved in hardened sandstone.

Gap - any deep notch, ravine, or opening between hills or in a ridge or mountain chain. It was through a gap than an early explorer would seek to continue his way west. Later, wagon trains made trails often through gaps.

Allergic to Your Jewelry?

Costume jewelry may start a rash of problems. It's an old joke that cheap jewelry can turn your skin green. A more serious problem is allergic contact dermatitis due to an acquired sensitivity to a particular metal. This allergic reaction may cause mild inflammation with minor itching and redness or swelling and blisters. In chronic cases, your skin may thicken and develop scales or crusts.

THE CULPRIT IS NICKEL

Nickel imparts a smooth texture and glossy finish to jewelry such as rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. It also is found in zippers, hairpins, hooks, buttons, eyeglass frames, snaps and identification tags.

In the production of costume jewelry, a very thin layer of gold often is plated over the nickel. When the surface gets scratched, the salt in your perspiration corrodes the gold permitting the nickel to contact your skin.

About ten percent of Americans are allergic to nickel. Since women wear more jewelry, they are more likely to develop the skin problem. There is no way to predict when the reaction will first appear. You can wear the same piece of jewelry for years before developing the rash.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

The location of the rash, such as earlobes and neck, usually suggests the diagnosis.

Involvement of the skin around the eyes may follow use of eyelash curlers. Women who hold bobby pins in their mouths while setting their hair may develop itchy red lips. A rash limited to the navel area may be due to a buckle or metal button on a pair of jeans. Involvement of the fingers suggests that nickel in a ring may be responsible. However, a more likely cause is accumulation of detergent and water between the under surface of the ring and the skin.

In doubtful cases, topical allergy tests called patch tests can determine if you are allergic to nickel.

If you eliminate contact with the nickel, the rash usually subsides in a few days without

treatment. To hasten an end to the redness and itching, apply a cortisone containing cream, 0.5% hydrocortisone, available without a prescription. Occasionally, more potent, prescription steroid creams are required.

HINTS TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN

The most effective approach is to avoid all skin contact with nickel-containing metals. But if you can't avoid the substance, or don't want to, consider these suggestions:

1. You can purchase for home use a DMG (dimethylglyoxime) test kit, which can determine if a metal object contains nickel. Rub a white cotton tipped swab moistened with the test solution on the object. A pink stain on the swab indicates the presence of nickel. The test solution does not harm metals, and some merchants allow customers to use it in the store.
2. Insert cloth padding between nickel plated zippers and hooks to prevent them from touching your skin.
3. Wear plastic covered rather than all metal eyeglass frames.
4. If your sensitivity is mild, coat your jewelry with lacquer or clear nail polish to help prevent the reactions. Hypoallergenic earrings made of stainless steel are available.
5. There is less nickel in 14 and 18 karat gold jewelry than in inexpensive costume jewelry. As a result, you may be able to wear high quality gold even though you break out while wearing cheaper costume jewelry.



Season's Greetings!