



# ROK TOK

JULY  
2006



## THE DALLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message



**Tom Shehee flintknapping**

#### **Next Meeting:**

**July 18, 2006**

**Tuesday, 7:00 PM**

**Ridgwood Rec Ceter**

**6818 Fisher**

#### **TOPIC:**

**Nature Exchange at Dallas Zoo**

#### **Presented by:**

**Rick Kaiser**

Come early so you can buy raffle tickets. Also, if you have something you noger want, donate it for the raffle.

### Flintknaping by Tom Shehee

Last months feature program was on Flintknapping by Tom Shehee. Thank you Tom! He shared early man history and demonstrated the art of Knapping:

Two hundred thousand years ago, paleo man, primitive as he was, made a discovery that was to change civilization forever. The earliest documented accounting of man's existence on earth dates back some 350,000 years (Homo Erectus, Latin for "erect man" which means that man was bi-pedal or, stood erect on two feet). However, 150,000 years of that existence was used by earliest man to just survive as best he could with the elements he had at hand. Approximately 200,000 years ago, man made his first tool using a piece of flint (or chert) called a "hand axe". Primary use of that tool was to split bone to remove the marrow for consumption. Hand axes were small enough to fit into the hand, but large enough with sufficient weight to both split bone as well as be used as a crude chopping tool. This discovery, in conjunction with the development in making fire was to change civilization forever.



**Flake Over Grinding**

Continued to page 2

# History of Early Man by Tom Shehee

. What is interesting is that for the most part, no change or improvement on that tool was made for another 100,000 years. To put that into perspective today, just think of man's advancement over the past 100 years. During the past century, man has overcome gravity, discovered electric power, space travel, micro electronics, and the list goes on and on. Paleo man on the other hand was trying to think of ways just to survive, overcome the extreme conditions of the ice age, hunger, and retreat from wild, predatory animals.

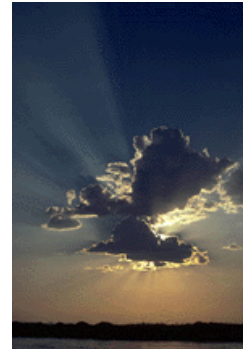
Approximately 100,000 years ago, man discovered that if he changed the hand axe by thinning and reshaping it, he could, eventually make items such as scrapers, knives, spear points, or darts for a device called an atlatl and last, but not least, arrowheads.. It is a common belief that man's origin has its roots in Africa. Countless artifacts, skeletal remains etc. of the earliest humanoids have come from the Ogle vie Gorge in north Central Africa. However, as man's ability to survive expanded with the advent of fire and tool making, so did man. Eventually, he ranged out of Africa, up to Europe and expanded out from there. Not only did his numbers increase, but different species developed as well. For lack of saying it a different way, man was able to spend more time **thinking and focusing** on improving his development and existence rather than simply trying to survive.

One of the biggest changes in tool making to occur was the development of the process we call "flaking". Earliest users of the hand axe made them with what is known as "hammer stones", nothing more than water smoothed cobbles found in streams. The hammer stone struck blows to the raw material to remove large flakes which ultimately resulted in a rough, shaped hand axe. However, as man progressed in his tool making abilities, he discovered that there were other items that could assist in the making of tools such as bone and antler. Eventually, he discovered that by using the tip of antler, he could thin, sharpen, and shape his tools to increase their efficiency to cut, scrape, and kill for both food substance as well as his defense. However, what needs to be remembered is that all tools found their origin in the original shape of the "hand axe". I can liken it to the automobile. The first automobile, known as the model "A" was invented by Henry Ford. Take a look at a picture of that first car and liken it to the "hand axe". Then, look a picture of a modern day Ferrari. Granted there is no resemblance between the two, both accomplish the same functions. But, the Ferrari is a far superior automobile over the Model "A", and that all comes as a result of time effort, and development on a basic idea. Tool making in the past was the same way.

The next time you are out in

the field, looking for rock to pursue our lapidary hobby and you come across an ancient point laying exposed on the surface of the ground, I would ask that you do the following: First, don't touch it. Kneel down, and look closely at how it is shaped, it's thinness in relationship to its length and width, and lastly at the material from which it was made. Look at the flaking pattern. Then ask yourself a couple of questions. First, unless it's a "bird point" (which is actually the only stone point that can be truly called an arrowhead), know that it is probably at least 14,000 to 1,500 years old. Then, ask yourself the following questions: "Wonder how this point got here"? Wonder who made it? Was he using it to hunt or to kill an enemy"? Then, reach down and pick the point up knowing full well that, **you** are very likely the first person in some thousands of years to touch that point!

Next month, I'll try to describe just how paleo man made his tools, followed up with an article of how we do it today in reproduction.



**Tom knapping**

*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*



**Replica points created by Tom**

# TXI Field Trip Report June 10th, 2006

by David Dobson

Our June field trip was planned for Midlothian, TX at the TXI Quarry on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We had 27 people sign up and 27 were in attendance. All had a great time and found some wonderful specimens.

We promptly meet at 8:45am to check and sign in. We eagerly left for the quarry at 9am sharp. We started on the north side of the quarry looking for abundant pyrite and some marine fossils. At 11am we went to the south side to search for abundant marine fossils and some pyrite and septerian nodules.

The pyrite find of the day went to Justin Sues. I'm not sure, but the pyrite piece that he found must have weighed five pounds. Picture not available in time for article.

Many marine fossils were found. Some shown below:

We concluded our field trip about 1pm. From there many of us met at the Los Tapatios Mexican Restaurant in Cedar Hill, TX. I ordered the chicken enchilada lunch special with double rice, no beans, and pink lemonade. The chicken enchiladas were baked and smothered in a succulent sour cream sauce. If I would not have filled up on the chips and salsa, I would have ordered the Pastel de Tres Leches (three milk cake). I have had this there before and it is delicious. Dinner

was great. Now back to the rocks.

## Finding The Pyrite -

The pyrite from Midlothian, TX is found in the limestone upper layer. This upper layer is white to light gray in color. The pyrites are very abundant and can be found on the quarry floor, roads, overbur-



den piles, and in the limestone (matrix). The pyrite is brassy/brown to rust color. The brassy/brown pyrites are the ones to collect, as the rusty colored ones are decomposing and will fall apart. Since the quarry is actively being mined, the pyrite is usually separated from the limestone. The hardest part is bending over to pick up the specimens. However, since Pyrite is Iron Sulfide and very dense, it gets

very heavy after you have picked up 20+ specimens. Some of the pyrite can be found in the matrix. These can be the best finds as they require some work with a rock hammer or chisel to remove.

On a different field trip to Midlothian, I found my prize pyrite in an overburden pile.

As I used my rock hammer to pull up one that was exposed only an inch. I hit the specimen. I moved an inch farther to try again and hit the specimen once more. The next time I moved out a foot as not to damage specimen and my dreams of grandeur. Unfortunately specimen was not that large, but I too have a specimen that weighs about five pounds.

Another TXI trip will be scheduled for the fall. We

*“Another TXI trip will be scheduled for the fall.*

*Hope to see you there!*



# Tell Us

# Field Trip Planner



**Emerald Lake—British  
Columbia**

**If you know of an event coming up!**

If you hear about

- A SHOW involving rocks
- An AUCTION that has rocks in it
- An ESTATE SALE or GARAGE SALE with a rock collection in it
- An ART FAIR showcasing jewelry
- A CLASS having to do with lapidary arts of any kind
- An EVENT involving rocks or jewelry
- A FUNDRAISER for a G&M club
- A FIELD TRIP for rockhounds

## Contact US

**as soon as possible so that we can**

put it in the newsletter and/or on the Web site. The more people we can get the word out to, the better attendance there will be at all events.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING OR PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENT let us know. If you're making jewelry or lapidary art, and you will be selling it at a show, we want the details. Maybe some of the readers will be in that town when the show is going on. OR MAYBE they have friends who would like to know about it.

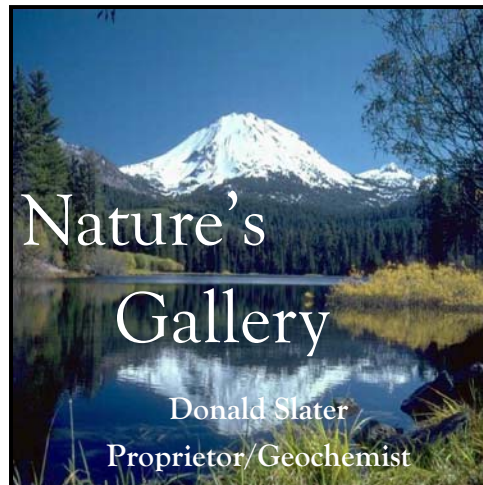
The purpose of this newsletter and the Web site is to build a network among ourselves so that we can all share information on ROCKS and events involving the lapidary arts.

This newsletter finds its way into the hands of many people outside this club; so it will inform them of events in which we are involved or are planning.

[btanas@aol.com](mailto:btanas@aol.com) (Rok-Tok)

[coco@wornstones.com](http://coco@wornstones.com) (Web site)

Newsletter submission deadline: 10 days before the monthly club meeting. Web site posting deadline: At least 24 hours before an event.



On the Square in  
Carrollton since 1994

1102 S. Elm  
Carrollton, TX 75006

Hours:

Tues-Sat  
10:00-5:30

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## ***We Need Rocks for the 2006 Dallas Gem and Mineral Show***

We need the following donations:

- Polished pebbles for the Kids Mine (need BUCKETS of these)
  - Items to sell in the Silent Auction (slabs, geodes, specimens, fossils)
  - Items to be raffled, such as
  - Finished cabs
  - Finished jewelry pieces
  - Large cut/polished decorative pieces
- Display pieces

You still have plenty of time to look through your stuff and see if you have something you'd like to donate, AND you have time to start making something for the show. Get that tumbler going! Clean out those boxes and shelves. You're bound to have a few things you don't really want anymore.

When you get a few things together for the show, put them in a container (box or baggie) and label them as follows:

2006 GEM SHOW

AUCTION or RAFFLE, IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE

Which club's show they are for (DGMS or POGMC)

What mineral it is (if you know)

Your name (in case we have questions)

Drop them off at the shop on Monday nights or Saturday mornings. (Please don't bring them to the meetings unless you have no way to get to the shop).

Remember that your donations are tax deductible. Both Gem & Mineral Clubs are non-profit organizations. If you want a tax receipt, have a list of items you are donating and their value. Shop Manager will give you a receipt. Questions? Contact Mike: [twinman72@yahoo.com](mailto:twinman72@yahoo.com)

### **SHOP SUPERVISORS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER**

If you can spare a few hours, we need supervisors to "man" the shop on Monday nights & Saturday mornings during these summer months. Contact: Mike.Russell

## **Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Show September 30 & October 1**

Pleasant Oaks is busy planning their 2006 show, to be held on September 30 and October 1, at Brookhaven College. As those of you who have helped with the DGMS show know, it takes a lot of hands and hard work to put something like this together and to man it.

If you can pitch in a couple of hours before those dates or on those dates, please contact Beth Hollingsworth and let her know you'll help out.

The following jobs need your help:

- Friday set up
- Sunday tear down
- Security during show
- Kids Mine
- Wheel of Fortune

Silent Auction

They could also use some donations for the Silent Auction and the Kids Mine.

Please let Beth know if you can pitch in some labor and/or donate goods.

[bethhollingsworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethhollingsworth@sbcglobal.net)

This year's theme will be  
FALL FESTIVAL OF GEMS  
Grand prize: Amethyst cathedral  
Show hours:  
Sat: 10:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Sun: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM  
(Sun: 9:00 AM-rolling Rock Club)



Recreation Center  
Ridgewood  
6818 Fisher  
7:30 PM

**July 18th**

Tuesday  
Next Meeting

Rok Tok  
PO Box 742033  
Dallas, TX 75374-2033

# THE DALLAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS—JULY—AUGUST 2006



The Dallas  
Gem & Mineral Society  
Is a member of the  
South Central Federation  
of Mineral Societies,  
a regional branch of the  
American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



2006 Dallas Gem & Mineral Show  
November 18 & 19th  
Texas Rocks!

Jewelry-Rocks-Fossils-Prizes  
Demonstrations-Games for Kids-Scout Instruction  
[www.DallasGemAndMineralShow.com](http://www.DallasGemAndMineralShow.com)

Deadline for submitting articles is 10 days prior  
to the club meeting, which is held on the **third**  
**Tuesday** of each month

### JULY 18TH

Tue.—7:00pm  
DGMS Meeting

### August 3rd

Thur.—7:30pm  
POGMC Meeting

### August 15th

Thur.—7:00pm  
DGMS Meeting & Silent Auction

### CHARTERED IN 1957

DALLAS  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY  
2006 OFFICERS

President—Rick Ramsey  
First VP—Dave Greenberg  
Second VP—Mike Russell  
Secretary—Ben Edens  
Treasurer—Paul Floyd  
Member Rep—Ben Hong

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Show Chariman—David Pirnie  
Vendor Chairman—Linda Dallas  
Ad Chairman—Steve Wheeler  
Field Trip Chairman—Brad Tanas  
News Letter—Brad Tanas & Mike Tanas  
Web Site—Worn Stones Web Design