



## APRIL BIRTHSTONE



As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one, with more choices now than ever.

Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gems of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value.

In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called *color-treated diamonds*.

When purchasing a fancy-color diamond, the shopper should ask if any enhancements or treatments were used to improve its color and/or clarity.

See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING



The March meeting was called to order on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Clear Lake Park Building at 7:34 pm.

We had one visitor, the current president of the HGMS – Paul Brandes. He just wanted to see how CLGMS operates.

Three Community Benefit representatives recipients were present, Raul and Charlie presented a \$500,- check to each recipient; Parks, Burnett and Frazier Elementary Schools.

A show and tell from McFadden Beach finds were presented by Pam, Jim, and Becky. Charlie and Becky also showed their purchases from the CLGMS show.

Official Business:

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Sandy seconded and the minutes were approved.

-Treasury: Report from February.

-Membership: Several new members signed up at the show.

-Library: Still looking for a rolling shelf.

-Field Trip, Historian, Program: No report.

-Annual Show: Thank you to all the volunteers that helped during another successful 2016 CLGMS show.

Budget Committee: for 2016 - Raul, Trina, and Gary were nominated – will be approved on the next Board meeting.

Old Business:

- San Jacinto Day (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) booth was approved – Eddie will be working on the detail.

- Library Day: John L. manned the booth – It was a very successful – CLGMS booth rocks!

- Vest: still being discussed.

New Business:

-Eddie brought up that the club needs to have business cards to hand out.

Door prizes were drawn and awarded.

Thank you to Sandy for the goodies.

Respectfully submitted:

David Tjiok for Trina Willoughby.

Trina Willoughby, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The April Board meeting was called to order on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

The budget committee of Raul, Trina and Gary was approved. At the end of the meeting the committee put together a proposed budget. This will be presented at the April meeting.

We approved the evaluation of some new equipment. We need folks to volunteer to look into the below items and what they would cost.

- Computer with speakers, possible projector or screen. The projector and screen are not currently in the budget.
- Florescent Box

The suggestion has been made to get business cards for the club. Raul will look into this.

Gary was contacted by the family of Bill Addis. Bill was president of our club in the 70's. His family is in town for one more day and has 3 nice machines they are looking to sell. We approved purchasing the machines for a reasonable price, storing them at Gary's, then selling them to members. Mike and Raul are attempting to contact the family and get with them tomorrow.

Jerry and Jim have volunteered to make sign bases for the show once we get one out of the locker. Raul will bring one to the meeting.

Raul will go to the locker and get our 'travel box' so that he can bring it to the meeting and give it to Eddie. Eddie is attending the San Jacinto Battle reenactment

We need to talk to Annabel and find out what days are reserved for workshops. The constitution committee that was put together previously needs to be revived. We have not yet received scholarship applicants. Members – please let folks know that we have scholarships for geology related fields. Info is on our website and the deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. If applications are received after this date they will be eligible for our next round of scholarships.

Respectfully submitted  
Trina Willoughby, Secretary

### **BOOTH AT PASADENA LIBRARY**

John Caldyne set up a booth at the Pasadena Library representing the club. He had sample rocks and minerals which he explained to the kids and adults. He discussed the types of rocks and their origin. Membership applications were distributed.



## THE TUCSON EXPERIENCE



If you have not actually been to the Tucson Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Shows, you cannot understand just how overwhelming it can be. This year there are a total of 46 different locations during the two week period, within Tucson. Each location has between 6 and 600 dealers, selling everything rock, mineral and jewelry related, and many additional items (clothing, tools, food, woodcarvings, toys, etc.). Dealers and buyers come from all over the country and from around the world to buy, sell, collect, trade and talk about lapidary and lapidary materials. I met folks from Germany, Sweden, Pakistan, Croatia, Denmark, England, Australia, Afghanistan, and Japan – and that was but a tiny bit of the accents and languages floating about. Many people who could not speak any English stopped to take a photo with Ike!

If you are planning a first time trip to Tucson for the shows, I recommend you pre-order a show guide (available online). They don't cost much (basically covers shipping), and they provide enough info so you can organize your trip and spend time at the locations which match your interests. Some venues specialize in beads, finished jewelry, rough, mineral specimens, tools and equipment, others have combinations of the above. Some provide classes in lapidary or metal working techniques. Not all the shows run for the whole two weeks – some start early, some late, and a few are only open for a few days. The show guide will help you schedule and organize your trip.

Because the Tucson Shows are so popular, the motels and restaurants get overwhelmed at times, plan early and make reservations to ensure you have a fun trip.

The Rock Prattle, February, 2016

## THE HELIX – AN AWESOME AQUAMARINE

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, Chips and Chatter, March, 2016



The “Helix Aquamarine” is one of the most interesting mineral specimens on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals. The Helix was mined in the 1930’s in the Marambaia Region, Carai, Jequitinhonha Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The specimen was originally owned by the family of Professor Doctor Hermann Bank of the famous Idar-Oberstein family of gem cutters. It remained in their private collection in its natural state, dirty and unprepared for 80 years. Very few photographs of the specimen were taken until recently. A photograph of the specimen did appear on the cover of Dr. Bank’s private book published in 1981, but had never been professionally photographed or cleaned and displayed for a public audience. The specimen is over 15 pounds in weight. It has never been heat treated – it remains the greenish-blue color for which Aquamarine was named.

Arkenstone of Richardson, TX helped broker the deal that brought the Helix from Germany to its new owner in Dallas. Arkenstone also cleaned and prepared the specimen for display. The Helix is on loan for display at the Perot Museum. Like all loaned specimens, the loan is for 3 years. I can only hope that this piece will remain on loan for longer than the nominal 3 year period.

The helical structure looks like a continuous spiral crack in the piece. However, it is not a crack, but a trace of the faces of phantom crystals inside the specimen. The exact reason the visible surfaces are spiral (helical) in shape is not know. Some speculate that the piece was rotating during formation; others believe that it is a physical property of crystal formation. The Helix is not the only aquamarine specimen to show a helical structure inside the piece, but it is far and away the most spectacular.

When I look at the piece I can see 6 cycles of the helix. I often think that I see 3 cycles and then 3 additional cycles, but I can’t determine if the cycle groups are attached. I would encourage you to make your own examination and see what you come up with.

Reference:

- Beryl variety Aquamarine, <https://www.facebook.com/Arkenstone.iRocks>
- The Earth Story, <http://the-earth-story.com/post/84667485805>

Picture by Don Shurtz of “The Helix” on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

## [BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH](#)

### GRIPPING SMALL DRILLS



Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

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### PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS



As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

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"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon.

## RESPONSIBLY CARE FOR YOUR PILE OF ROCKS

by Neal Behnke

From Facebook "Rock Hound" Public Group

So, you are one of those people who has a really, really big pile of rocks. So many, in fact, that your family and friends have made comments. It's Sunday morning and Uncle Neal has some tips and tricks to remedy your current situation.

If you think your Mt. Dustmore will just go away, you are deluded. It's like thinking that your car insurance company will call and thank you for being a good driver, and give you a year off making payments. That rock pile in the side yard, the front yard, and in crates out back is only going to get larger until it punches a hole in the earth and swallows your house. This actually happens quite frequently but rarely gets reported, as most neighbors are too busy to notice an event that only takes 12 seconds.

Make sure if you do have rocks placed in a massive pile that you rotate them regularly. This does not just mean hosing them off before friends come over; no, this is a careful rotation of the older stock, back to front as it were. This is a good way to get exercise, note new things about the rocks, and make it seem to your spouse that this is a legitimate hobby. Keep a bucket and small pointed stick handy to capture rodents and large jumping spiders.

Part of the rock hound's code of conduct is that when a rock hound first comes to your home, they sniff around your pile. Unfortunately, this may be a problem for some of you without large piles or who live in apartments. Rocks can be placed on the stairs leading to your door, in large, overflowing buckets or on the kitchen countertop. Make sure that they are placed in a way that, like nature, can trip or maim you. Do not worry about theft as most who are not rock hounds do not even see these rocks, like people do not notice fire extinguishers or engine oil lights.

If you have relatives coming over who have given you lectures about the sins of coveting and how you are destroying the earth (all true, it's in Revelations), and find your entire hobby as some sort of a manifestation of what is wrong and very annoying in the world, then either feign death when they arrive or hide. Covering the "quarry" with blue tarps only annoys them. If you have friends that make rude and cruel comments about your odd propensity towards ruining your yard, leave the Bible your relatives left you open, and point out what happened in Acts 7:59.

Make sure when you bring a new rock home and add it to the pile, you properly remove all tags and price stickers; this includes the ingredient list all rocks now are required to have in California. Waiting for the rain to do it is just sloppy rock hounding.

A good way to see if any of your rocks have been removed either by wandering hobos, Mormon missionaries, or squirrels, is to take a picture and compare it with the one you took yesterday. Repeat daily.

DO NOT just toss rocks on the pile. Gently lay them; this reduces chipping, fracturing, and just makes you look responsible. Standing in the back of one's trunk and tossing rocks over the fence is like shopping, going home and filling the refrigerator from across the room. Sure it's fun, but you will get yelled at, and it really is hard on the door seal.

Pick & Shovel, February, 2016

### **VISIT TO WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT AND WACO PIT FIELD TRIP**

We are planning a field trip to Waco Pit near Waco, TX, on Saturday, April 30.

This is Del Rio Formation, Cretaceous Epoch. You can find some shark teeth, small echinoids, micro ammonites, occasional starfish, nautilus hoods, fish bones, and miscellaneous other invertebrates.

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is a paleontological site and museum in Waco, Texas, where fossils of twenty-four Columbian mammoths and other mammals from the Pleistocene Epoch have been uncovered.

We will meet at the Waco Mammoth National Monument at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 30. After the tour, we will drive to the Waco Pit. Time permitting, we also plan to visit Oglesby and search for turritella. This could be Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.

We are camping at Airport Park, 4600 Skeet Eason Rd, Waco, TX 76708.

What to bring? Sack Lunch, water, extra shoes, socks, rubber boots (sometimes the pit gets very muddy), plastic bags for collection of specimens.

Please RSVP – Annabel Brownfield, 281-486-1866, [annabel.brownfield@gmail.com](mailto:annabel.brownfield@gmail.com).

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=214173209449396905977.0004b6b1506edde4597f0&msa=0&ll=31.600935,-97.213554&spn=0.0071,0.015643>  
<http://www.thefossilforum.com/index.php?/topic/46027-lake-waco-research-area/>



**SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS**

<p>Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&amp;FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, okieed42@windstream.net,</p>	<p>April 09-12, 2016 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&amp;MS Abilene Civic Center North 6th &amp; Pine</p>	<p>April 15-17, 2016 Alpine, TX Chihuahua G&amp;MS Alpine Civic Center</p>	<p>Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&amp;MC, Extraco Event Center, www.wacogemandmin eral.org</p>
<p>May 7 – 8, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&amp;MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention, <a href="http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show">http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show</a></p>	<p>May 21-22, 2016 DeRidder, LA DeRidder G&amp;MS Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds 506 West Drive</p>	<p>May 28-29, 2016 Fort Worth, TX Fort Worth G&amp;MS Will Rogers Mem. Center</p>	<p>Aug 13-14 2016 Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge GMS Marriot Hotel</p>
<p>August 20-21, 2016 Bossier City, LA Ark-La-Tex G&amp;MS Bossier City Civic Center</p>	<p><b>August 27-28, 2016 Gem &amp; Mineral Show Jasper, TX Pine Country G&amp;MS Events Center</b></p>	<p>September 17-18, 2016 Dallas, TX Dallas G&amp;MS Restiol Expo Cen. Mesquite, TX</p>	<p>October 8-9, 2016 Temple, TX Tri-City G&amp;MS Mayborn Civic Cen.</p>
<p>Fort Worth, TX Cowtown Gem, Min. &amp; Glass Society</p>	<p>October 29-30, 2016 Glen Rose, TX Paleo. Soc. Of Austin Somervell Expo Center Hwy 67</p>	<p>November 5-6, 2016 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread G&amp;MS Amarillo Civic Center Exhibition Hall</p>	<p>November 11-13, 2016 Humble, TX Houston G&amp;MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkwly</p>
<p>SCFMS November 10-12, 2017 Humble, TX Houston G&amp;MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkwly</p>			

STONEY STATEMENTS  
 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc  
 PO BOX 891533  
 Houston, Texas 77289

(Postage)

Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month  
 7:30 P.M.  
 Clear Lake Park Building  
 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

**Next Annual Show**  
 February 27-28, 2016  
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:  
<http://www.clgms.org>



American Federation of Mineral Societies

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

**Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc**

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

PURPOSE: To promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields.

2015 OFFICERS:	President	Raul Montelongo	
	Vice President	David Tjiok	
	Secretary	Trina Willoughby	
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan	
	Program Director	vacant	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Sara Chelette
		Bob Brock	Jim Edwards
Sandra Christiansen		vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield		

Annual Show 2016 .....	Sara Chelette	Library.....	Vacant
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Victoria Faulkner
Community Benefits.....	Vacant	WW System Admin.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2016: Adult \$15:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$5.00 per member with adult at same address, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289

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