



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 AUGUST 2012 NUMBER 8



Enjoy a rocking vacation

NEXT MEETING: August 20, 2012
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR August...

The program will be: Jim Wines will be bringing his portable sluice and material for us to run through.

SHOW and TELL

Share a report of our latest field trip or your own special dig. Bring in your prize specimens and educate us. Bring us your rockhounding finds and let us see how you did.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		Stoney Statements Spotlight	Fm Program Chair
May Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements Salutes Rockhounding. Summer is a good time for visiting one of your favorite far away locations for digging.</p>	CLGMS workshops are scheduled Saturday, October 13, 2012, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wire Wrap Workshop
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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT SILVER/Show Dates	7	<p>Members should help on Programs</p> <p>I have had several inputs from members for presentations on jewelry making and faceting. Now I need some volunteers for assembling a presentation for future club meetings. Volunteers? See Trina!</p> <p>IS YOR NAME NOT ON MY LIST? I am behind on Anniversaries and Birthdays of newer members. If you have not seen your name in the last few months on the right date let me know. Day of Month is fine</p>	

"Energy and persistence conquer all things." Benjamin Franklin

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, May 21, 2012

President Ben Duggar opened the meeting. Trina Willoughby announced the program and speaker.

Program

A Geoscientist in Antarctica: Following Shackleton's footsteps 100 Years Later

Susan Eaton, from Alberta, Canada, presented the program on her expeditions to Antarctica and South Georgia. She is an extreme snorkeler which means extreme temperatures, locations and animal life. She discussed polar exploration and discovery in the 21st century. Her first expedition was in 2010. On their way to Antarctica, they were in a force 11 storm in the ocean with 15 meter high waves. She had pictures of the waves. She introduced her sponsors and discussed an ad placed by Ernest Shackleton. He was born in Ireland in 1874. He lived during a heroic age of exploration, 1800's to 1920's. He was known for always bringing his men home alive. They found fossilized plant remains and fossilized wood and coal. Today explorers are finding cretaceous age dinosaurs and fossil trees, 65 million years before present. Her team was made up of artists, journalists, scientists, teachers, students, etc. Nineteen countries were represented. She took more than 100,000 photographs. She presented a video of over 200,000 penguins. They go into the sea in large numbers for safety from seals. She did a comparison of Shackleton's expedition in 1914 and her expedition in 2010. Her 2012 expedition was 70% female. Antarctica belongs to no nation and is no home for tribes. The purpose of the 2012 expedition was to promote renewable energy. The team was made up of 72 people from 22 nations. There were 10 team leaders. They studied climate change and ocean change. Ocean change is a part of climate change. She shared many photos and videos of her expeditions.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the May Stoney Statements. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

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Anna Brownfield, Secretary

NOTE: May minutes will be placed here since I am out of schedule with getting minutes for the newsletter

From the Editor: Well finally about to get back in schedule now that my computer woes are over and I am back in town for a while. Been a rough summer but I plan to get newsletters out right after the first so if you have a submittal, please try and get me your material by the end of the previous month

PHYLOSILICATES by Lloyd L. Brown

Phyllosilicates are the "leaf" silicates. In phyllosilicates, three of the four vertices of the tetrahedron are linked to six (rarely four) adjacent tetrahedrons to form a sheet structure. Perfect cleavage is along the "c" axis. This axis is where the crystals develop into wafer like crystals or into elongated prisms. Some of the phyllosilicates are: the clays, the serpentine minerals antigorite and chrysotile, the chlorite group of about ten minerals, pyrophyllite, talc, and the mica group of about thirty minerals including biotite, glauconite, lepidolite, margarite, muscovite, phlogopite, and zinnwaldite. Fluoraprophyllite is a tetragonal "four" linked tetrahedron sheet structure mineral.

From The Trilobite 4/97

SCFMS Regional Show

August 25-26, 2012

Show Hours - Saturday 9 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 5

The Event Center, 6258 Highway 190, 5 miles West of Jasper

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting Hosted by PCGMS

Editor's & Web Master's Breakfast - Saturday 8:30 A.M.

SCFMS Annual Business Meeting - Saturday 2:00 P. M.

Awards Dinner - Saturday 6:00 P. M.

All SCFMS meetings to be held at First National Bank Community Room

Rolling Rock Club Meeting Sunday 9:00 A.M.

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, P O Box 2513, Jasper, Texas

www.pinecountrygms.org

PCGMS FIELD TRIP -PETRIFIED WOOD

Thursday, August 23rd and Sunday, 26th, 2012

The Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society invite you to join us in an excursion collecting petrified wood. In conjunction with their annual show and the 2012 SCFMS Regional Meeting and Convention, PCGMS has arranged for a field trip to the Lake Sam Rayburn area where petrified wood is in abundance. The number of participants will be limited to 30 individuals each day, so sign up early to reserve your spot. All participants must be a member of a club affiliated with the SCFMS. The fee is \$10 per person. **Your reservation is completed once the registration form and fee has been received.** Please note that each participant is required to submit a registration form. If you are participating as a family, each family member must submit his/her own registration form. Should you have any questions contact Paul James at (409) 429-7444 or Fred Brown at (936) 661-1024.

For a Packet or Delegate Registration Form or more information about accommodations, contact the editor or President.

BenchTips for the Month

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RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. Solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. Question is what do you use to elevate your cab ?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that there's a better solution, especially for use in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose. In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

TIP FOR A TRANSPARENT CAB

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color & pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish.

This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

An August HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bill Robinett 23
Mike Burns 28

Peridot, also Sardonyx

Marital happiness).
Peridot was called the
“gem of the sun.” Its
black-and-white
alternate, sardonyx,
symbolizes both the sun
and the moon

August Anniversary includes:

Mike Burns 20

IS YOUR NAME NOT ON MY

LIST? I am behind on Anniversaries and Birthdays of newer members.

GOODIE GETTERS...For August

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**TUMBLE POLISHING:
ABOUT TUMBLE POLISHING**

First of all, the condition of the stone in the beginning has a lot to do with the amount of work needed on it. If the stones are picked up on the beach where the water and sand have ground them so they look like jelly beans, a large part of your work is already done.

If they are broken fragments or scraps from the trim saw, then they must be ground in the first grind until they are rounded smooth with no holes or sharp edges. This is where you shape the stones, and to have a stone that is pleasing to the eye after it is polished, it must be pleasing to the eye before it is polished. This is very important.

I run two cans on my tumbler. One is on the rough grind all the time (180 or 100 grit). I open it about once a month and take out the stones that are ground smooth and have nice contours. The balance are put back in, the new ones added to take the place of the ones I took out, and the can is recharged with grit and will run another month. Fill the can about 2/3 full with enough water to just cover the stones. Leave some of the mud in from the previous grind. It suspends the grit, and they grind faster. Watch your cans if they are sealed. You may have to raise the lid to let the gas escape or the cans will blow up.

When I have accumulated enough stones from the first grind to get my second can about 2/3 full, I charge it with 600 grit and run two weeks. Be sure to wash the stones thoroughly between each size of grit or before advancing from one stage to another.

From Supplement to Stonechat, Vol. III, #4, 08/71 - West of Scotland Mineral & Lapidary Society (no author given), via The Burro Express, 12/89, via The Rockhound Gazette, 02/97.

Want to keep scratches off your flat silver while working on it? Common transparent contact paper is the answer. Place it on each side of the silver sheet for protection. It accepts and holds an India ink pen line and will not pull loose when you are sawing through it and the silver.

Michigan Lapidary Society, via Breccia 11/99

Double the life of your diamond blade by keeping the oil clean and the feed low. Adding ¼ to ½ cup liquid detergent to the oil acts as a coagulant and holds the grit to the bottom of the reservoir.

Orange Coast Gazette 11/91, via Breccia 11/99

HIGHLIGHT THE GRAIN: You can highlight the grain of black petrified wood by soaking it in bleach for 3 or 4 weeks – replenish bleach as necessary. When the desired grain contrast is reached, remove the pieces, wash, sand and polish. Some very interesting pieces can be obtained by using this method.

From NFMS Newsletter 2/93, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/99, via SCFMS Newsletter 11-12/99

Clean rubber rollers on your tumbler with lacquer thinner. It will also prolong the life of windshield wiper blades: it keeps them pliable and eliminates drying.

Via Gems of the Rogue 3/99, via The Conglomerate 4/99

Cracking geodes: Soak a string in kerosene, tie it around the geode and burn the string, then plunge it into cold water. In many cases this will develop a crack, and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

CFMS Newsletter, via The Conglomerate 4/99

IS GOLD LEAF MADE OF SOLID GOLD? Yes! A gold block is pounded into a thin sheet by machine. Then, it is reduced to transparent thinness by hand! It can be beaten so thin that 1200 sheets of gold leaf are thinner than a sheet of writing paper!

Via T-Town Rockhound Via The Template Via Slab & Gab 7-8/74

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

Looking for suggestions for fall field trips. Come to the meeting with your suggestions



Thanks,

Ed Tindell 2012 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

GPS for Field Trips

If you just want to get into a site or get back to the truck then any newer 12 channel unit will do. Desirable also would be low power consumption, down-loadable topo maps, and a good back light.

For myself I have invested in several Garmin Rino combo: GPS and Family/General Radio System(FRS/GRS)transceivers, weather band receiver, uploadable topo maps and "polling"—a feature that automatically acquires position data from other members of your party's Rinos and displays them on your screen. (This feature is worth all the money in the world if it is a critical situation as cold numb fingers tend to transpose those manually input waypoints, right?) The FRS/GRS and weather band saves humping extra electronics.

The basic Rino 110 is cheap on ebay and works with the mid and high end Rino 120,130,530 (color) units and makes it easy for every member of the party to carry one. "Group leader" and keep up with all the little warm bodies and at the end of the day overlay everyone's tracks to see if a part of the mountain was left un-walked. I assembled my collection over time on ebay and from pawnshops. The 130/530 have world maps for the GPS plus, FRS/GRS, weather band, altimeters and electronic compass. The Rino 130 is a favorite of GIs in Iraq as they and use it for convoy. Garmin sells maps of the world and these even work with the fishing "blue charts".

For those with a GRS license you can legally use the General Radio System(GRS) settings for those claimed 14+ mile mountain top to mountain top conversations—all at no extra charge—it is built in.

The new Rinos have a touch screen and hopefully a better night light. The menu of cities is all in one not regional so you have to spell through the world database of cities when you want to use the unit as a backup travel GPS.

Garmin has a dashboard computer widget that helps you automatically install software upgrades and if your Rino ever goes, missing you can report the serial number lost or stolen.

The polling and up/download features along with the radio are the choice for meteorite hunting or Search and Rescue scenarios. Every team can have a Rino and since regular FRS/GRS radios can talk with the Rino—every member can be a part of the radio net.

CORALS

The corals belong to a very large group of invertebrates called the Coelenterates (se`-len`-ter-ates) which means "hollow intestine," referring to their hollow body cavity. Common examples are: the jellyfish, Portuguese man-of-war, sea anemone, freshwater hydra, sea fans, and of course, the stony corals that build such extensive barrier reefs in today's oceans. Coelenterates have left a comprehensive record from Cambrian time to the present. Perhaps the most important subdivision of the



"hollow intestine" animals are the corals, or Anthozoans - which means "flower animal," referring to the colorful soft body polyp crowned with a circle of numerous stinging tentacles. During Silurian time, they showed such an extraordinary expansion of types that it is sometimes called "the age of corals."

Corals always live in marine seas and most of them secrete a limy external skeleton roughly resembling a tube or cone. Some are solitary individuals; many are colonial or gregarious. The single cup secreted by one polyp is called a corallite. Two or more corallites combine to form a corallum. The principal features in identification of corals are: the arrangement of the vertical partitions radiating from the central axis, the succession of horizontal supporting structures which the growing polyp built underneath itself as it continued to grow, and the size, shape, and relation of the corallites.

Of the four main types of corals, only two are living today, and neither of these have close Paleozoic relatives. The fossil corals in Michigan, therefore, all belong to extinct types - the Tetracorals and the Tabulate corals.

From Michigan Gem News, Et Al, via The Rock Rattler 10/93, via The Glacial Drifter 05/95

MARBLES

By Jud Milburn

Marbles are, without doubt, among the oldest – it not the oldest – plaything in human culture. Clay and stone marbles are found in Indian graves all over America. The ancient Chinese worked agate and Jade into marbles. Glass and clay marbles have been found in Egyptian tombs. The Romans introduced them into England.

In modern times the production of marbles centered during the 19th century in the Austrian Alps and Southern Germany: stone, agate, alabaster, onyx and glass were the common materials used. Imitations in the U.S. and elsewhere followed. Hand methods of making marbles tended to disappear when marble machines were invented about 1900.

Chalk marbles were used by poor boys of the 18th and 19th centuries because they were cheap, being rough molded and dried. They are generally gray-white or yellow-white, made of compacted calcium carbonate with varying amounts of silica, feldspar, and/or other material impurities. The basic calcium carbonate is derived chiefly from fossil seashells. Blackboard chalk is made of refined calcium carbonate.

Clay marbles were very inexpensive and common in the 19th century. They are found in great numbers on Civil War battlegrounds, lost by soldiers who whiled away spare time playing games with them. They were rough-shaped from wet clay, mostly hydrated silica of aluminum, and fired in kilns; some were left in natural colors, and others were dyed solid, mottled, spotted or marked with lines. Ohio was one center of their production.



Stone marbles were made in great numbers in the German provinces of Saxony and Thuringen in the 19th century. They were rounded mechanically by being rubbed between larger heavy plates of stone and wood. The common stone material was quarried out of local deposits of calcareous limestone. Most of them show the layers of sedimentary deposits.

Agates are among the most beautiful of marbles, showing solid or banded colors of red, brown, white, and green chalcedony. This semiprecious material is fine grained and takes a high polish. Some agates, depending on the luck of the cut, show white or yellow spots at one or both ends. These were called “bulls eye” agates. They were made mostly in Germany.

Like all earth marbles, pottery marbles, or Benningtons, were crude and irregular. They are distinguished by small “eyes” over their surfaces caused by bubbles forming on the colored glaze of brown, blue, green or mottle. The marble’s base is clay, mostly hydrated silicate of aluminum. They were thought to be made by the Bennington Pottery Co., but most of them were made in Germany in the 19th century. They are being reproduced today. They were known as “Bennies.”

China marbles are made of mostly porcelain or pure white clay, the material of which fine dishes, cups and saucers were made, hence, the name “china.” China marbles are found in several forms: unglazed marked, glazed plain, and glazed marked. The various marks were hand-painted – a series of lines or parallel bands in colors of black, blue, red or green, bull’s eyes, and floral designs. They were often called “chinas” and were made in the last century.

Swirls, among the most beautiful marbles, were hand-blown glass and have a pontil at both ends. The large ones were not for boys’ games, but for decoration. Most of them were made in Germany. The glass consists of silicon dioxide, boric oxide, aluminum oxide, etc. Each marble was originally a segment of glass cane, which had been built up of colored rods embedded in clear or colored glass. One end of the cane was heated, one segment twisted in a spherical shape, then broken off. The pontils were ground down when the marble had cooled.

Sulphides are unusual marbles made in Germany between 1860 and 1920. They are of clear glass with a center figure made of china, clay, gypsum, kaolin, or similar material. The white figure is surrounded by air, which gives it a silvery appearance.



The first glass marble made by machines competed with the attractive agates and were called “imitation agates” or acro agates. The colors were dark red, brown, green, blue, and purple mixed with small streaks of white. There were also plain white mixed with clear glass. These first appeared in the 1890’s.

Milk glass was a popular substance for Victorian bowls, water glasses, kerosene lamps, etc., so it is not surprising that it was used for marbles. Milk glass is opaque or translucent white glass made from silicon dioxide or boric dioxide mixed with stannic oxide. They are still manufactured.

Opalescent glass marbles are a refinement of milk glass. These marbles are trans-opals. They come in various colors, mostly varying intensities of white.

From The Shawmish Roktawk 11/96, via the Gemrock 10/98, via The Rockpile 12/98.

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT SILVER

By Jenifer Adams

Although silver was discovered later than gold and copper, it has been known and used by humankind since prehistoric times. Herodotus, the Greek historian, knew of silver used to make coins and beads, exploited from the river sands of the Pactolus in Lydia. The Chinese wrote of silver metals in 2500 BC. In the earliest prehistoric strata at the site of Troy considerable deposits of silver and gold treasure have been excavated. Among the artifacts, silver bracelets and gold earrings, ornaments placed in a silver cup, and more than 8000 beads were buried in the ancient city 2000 years before Christ.

The most ancient silver mines of importance were in Asia Minor and on islands in the Aegean Sea. The Romans obtained most of their silver from Spain until supplies became scarce during the Middle Ages. After the discovery of the Americas in 1492, Mexico became the largest silver producing country in the world. Canada and the United States also produce significant amounts of silver.

Silver is a lustrous white metal, widely distributed in nature. In ores, it is commonly associated with gold, lead, and copper. Much of the world’s silver is obtained as a by-product of smelting these other metals. Horn-silver (Ag₂C₁) is found in the oxidized portions of ore-bearing lodes near the surface. Small amounts of silver in the oxidation zone form as the more complex compounds erode and weather. At deeper levels silver occurs as sulfides, arsenides, antimonides (compounds of silver with sulfur, arsenic and antimony respectively). In these deposits, formation is the result of deposition from primary hydrothermal solutions. Argentite (Ag₂S, silver sulfide) occurs in low temperature hydrothermal veins in association with other silver minerals or sometimes in the cementation zone of lead and zinc deposits.

When found in a metallic state, it is called “native silver.” Native silver usually occurs in dendritic and wire-like forms which are aggregates of minute crystals. Silver may also occur in thin sheets or in large masses. In Kongsberg, Norway, magnificent crystalline wire specimens occur in association with sulfides, calcite, barite, fluorite and quartz.

The world’s largest specimen of massive silver was mined in Aspen, Colorado, and weighs in at 844 pounds. On the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan small amounts of primary native silver can be found in association with native copper. In Mexico, the Guanajuato Mine has been in operation since the year 1500 AD. During that time more than 500 billion kilos of silver have been mined.

About three-fourths of the world’s silver production is used for monetary purposes, either as coins or as bullion that governments hold to redeem paper currency. The leading industrial use of silver is for the manufacture of tableware and jewelry. The second largest industrial consumer is the photographic industry. Compounded with bromine or chlorine, silver forms the salts that register light and shade on photographic film. Silver has the highest thermal and electrical conductivity of any substance, making it ideal for use in electronic equipment. Silver is second only to gold in malleability. One ounce of silver can be drawn into a wire 30 miles long. A silver leaf can be beaten to a thickness of 1/100,000 of an inch.

From Cedar Alley Gems, via Glacial Drifter, 04/98, via Drywasher’s Gazette, 02/99, via Rocky Review, 05/99.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Aug. 11 - 12 BATON ROUGE, LA Baton Rouge G&MS Marriot Ballroom Just off of college Drive	Aug. 18 - 19 BOSSIER CITY, LA Ark-La-Tex G&MS Bossier City Civic Ctr.	Aug. 25 - 26 JASPER, TX SCMFS & Pine Country G&MS Events Ctr.	Dallas G&M show Sept. 29 & 30 at the Resitol Expo center in Mesquite.

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.
 August 20, 2012, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 23-24, 2013
 Pasadena Convention Center



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

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

2012 OFFICERS:	President	Ben Duggar	
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Brownfield	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Jim Wines
		Ed Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2012.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Duggar	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2012: Adult \$10:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$2.50 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

Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2012 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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Deadline for September Issue is August 28, 2012