




A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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	NEXT MEETING:	December 16, 2013
	TIME:	6:30 PM
	LOCATION:	CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA PARKWAY SEABROOK, TEXAS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		
November Meeting Minutes	2 - 3	<u>December Program - Annual Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m.</u> Table setup and decorations begin at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Bench Tips	3 - 4	The club will furnish a main dish (Honey-Baked Ham), but feel free to add your favorite for some variety! Bring a side dish, salad, desert, etc. and join us. As a recommendation only, if your last name starts with:
December Birthstone	4 - 5	A - M - Bring vegetables or bread and butter N - Z - Bring dessert or salad (with dressing)
January Program	5 - 6	Don't forget to bring your own serving spoons since there are none at the Park Building. Put your name on the dish and the serving spoons so that we don't get them mixed up.
President's Message	6 - 7	Feel free to bring rock specimens or appropriate table centerpiece decorations. There is an oven in the kitchen, so keeping your food warm will let you help with the table set-up. Bring your family and friends to this enjoyable dinner.
AFMS Field Trip		Election of Officers will also be held. We will be electing the 2014 President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Director, Newsletter Editor and two Board of Director positions.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2013 MEETING
OF THE CLEAR LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

The meeting was opened by the President, Sara Chelette at 7:35pm with the pledge of allegiance. First time visitors were then welcomed. The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes from the October meeting as published in the November issue of our newsletter, Stoney Statements. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved. The Treasurer, Trina Willoughby then gave her report.

Committee Reports were then called for:

- Publicity – Bobbie Lefabvre listed publicity activities currently in the works, including an interview on the air with KPFT (FM 90.1). She then described the results of a meeting with geology department representatives of College of the Mainland (COM) in Texas City. COM had previously worked with the Texas City Gem and Mineral Club, but that club was disbanded several years ago. COM offered to assist with the provision of speakers for our monthly meetings and the provision of students to help with the annual show. However, they would only do this if the club committed to making one of our two annual scholarships for studies in the earth sciences available to COM students. A discussion followed in which it was pointed out that students from any accredited school may apply for a scholarship under the current guidelines. The possibility of earmarking a scholarship for COM students was then referred to the next Officers and Directors meeting for appropriate action. Bobbie then acknowledged that since Ben and Nancy Duggar would not be in town for the 2014 annual show that she would take responsibility for show publicity since she is already responsible for club publicity. The Duggars will work with her during December thru mid-February to help with the transition.
- Library – Shannon Oliver reported that he had been in discussions with the Park Dept. on his proposal to store CLGMS library in the park bldg. He would like to store books in several “bookcases on wheels” which could be wheeled out at each meeting in order to increase member’s utilization of these resources. The Park Dept. needs to know exactly how much storage space would be needed. Shannon will continue the discussions with them.
- Constitution Revision Committee – Sara Chelette reported that the committee had been formed and copies of the current Constitution disseminated. She hopes to have recommendations ready for the next Officers and Directors meeting.
- Annual Show Committee – Sandra Christianson reported on the numbers of dealers who had submitted deposits and the number of tables ordered. Chuck Schuler who is also a dealer asked that the club redouble its efforts at publicity this year since the show will occur two weeks later than has been the traditional date for our show over the past 30 years or so. Announcement post cards, news articles and advertisements will need to appear at least three weeks before the show since the public is not aware that the dates have been changed.
- Membership – Mike Flannigan announced membership numbers continue to increase and that monthly meeting attendance is also growing nicely.
- Field trips – a notice received from the Paleontological Society of Austin was displayed inviting CLGMS members to attend their “Fossil Fest” to be held December 7 & 8 at the Old Settler’s Association Headquarters in Round Rock, TX (3 miles east of IH-35 next to Dell Diamonds on Highway 79).

(Minutes-Continued)

Other Business:

The December meeting will be our traditional Christmas potluck dinner. The club will provide ham, beverages, fomites and plates. A suggestion of types of food to bring (dessert, appetizer, side dish), organized by the first letter in member's last name will appear in the December newsletter.

In addition to the dinner we will elect officers and directors for 2014. Sara Chelette then appointed a nominating committee to prepare the slate of candidates. She also asked that members bring specimens that they have collected for "show and tell" before, during and after the dinner.

A brief intermission was then held for refreshments and for attendees to view the specimens which the speaker for the meeting, and several of the membership had brought for display.

Presentation:

Our speaker was Will Heierman who spends his summers in Montana mining for gold the old fashioned way (everything by hand). He and his partners have a non-patent claim in the Helena national forest which they work every summer without running water or powered tools. He showed pictures of the claim with the partners at work extracting and screening glacial gravel deposits before trucking the feed to one of the partner's property where a sluice is used to concentrate the gold for panning. Mr. Heierman, who is a college math professor, discussed the properties of gold nuggets, how they were formed, and also displayed a number of nuggets, gold dust, and sapphires from his mining activities. It was a fascinating presentation and those in attendance had many questions for Mr. Heierman.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Duggar
Secretary Pro Tem

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

MINI DRILL PRESS



If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for over a year.

Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of workpieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

(Bench Tips-Continued)

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.

LASER WELDING

A question came up this week about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.(

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take a lot of heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If you're worried about soldering something close to a stone, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice in the last year, once for a piece with little emeralds a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.

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More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or search for "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon



TURQUOISE CABACHONS

Turquoise is the modern December Birthstone for December, and is also the accepted gem for the fifth and eleventh wedding anniversaries.

Turquoise is one of the most valuable non-transparent minerals used in the jewelry trade. It has been mined since at least 6000 BC by early Egyptians. Most specimens are cryptocrystalline, meaning that the crystals can only be seen under magnification. The finest turquoise comes from Iran, but is challenged by some southwestern United States specimens. Poorer quality turquoise is often dyed and/or stabilized with resins to improve hardness, and dyed howlite is also common on the commercial market, posing as turquoise. The name comes from a French word, which means "stone of Turkey"

A sacred stone for the North American Indians as well as the Tibetans, it is often used by shamans in rituals and ceremonies. It is said to promote mental and spiritual clarity and expansion and to enhance wisdom, trust, kindness and understanding.

Color varies from very green to light sky blue shades. Hardness of the stone ranges between 5 – 6. The color can change with exposure to skin oils if the stone has not been stabilized, and jewelry should be wiped clean to deter this.

(December Birthstone-Continued)

Besides Iran, turquoise can be found in Arizona and New Mexico, USA; Australia; Afghanistan; and other localities in the Middle East.

Reprinted from the *The Rock Prattle*, Newsletter of The Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., Temple, TX



Have a safe, happy Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas

JANUARY PROGRAM

Simplicity Pendants



Holly Gardner with One Glance, Jewelry Supply and Design, in Friendswood will present our program in January. Each attendee will have an opportunity to create a jewelry item of their choice. The cost is \$5.00 per item. Please bring exact change. The choices are Simplicity Pendant and/or Memory Wire Bracelet which are for all ages and skill levels.

One Glance offers nearly 2000 square feet of beads, findings, a huge variety of tools and supplies for jewelry making, as well as tons of classes (over 50!) and support to increase your skills as an artist. (wholesale & retail). They have tons of events to meet all of your needs, and their friendly and knowledgeable staff is always available to help if you just need to stop by and ask a few questions! One of their most popular events besides monthly bingo night, is their weekly make n take projects offered every Saturday at One Glance,

(January Program-Continued)

Memory Wire Bracelets



Tools used for Simplicity pendant: 5mm bailing piers, wire cutters, flat chain nose pliers-no teeth, bead mat for work surface.

Tools for memory wire bracelets: Memory wire cutters, Beadfix glue, bead mat for work surface.

Bring tools if you have them.

One Glance will be providing the supplies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our membership numbers and participation are on the rise. Nearly 40 people attended the November meeting which included an astounding talk on Gold and a hands-on activity for the junior members! I charge each of you to talk to your friends, family and co-workers and encourage them to join us at the next meeting and the show in March.

Officer and Board Elections will occur at the December meeting. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact the nominating committee as soon as possible.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a wonderful rock-filled New Year!

See you at the December meeting for our annual dinner!

Sara Chelette
President, CLGMS

MULTI-FEDERATION FIELD TRIP -- Make Plans to Attend NOW!

By Doug True, Field Trip Chair, AFMS

Mark Your Summer Calendar!

July 31-August 4, 2014

The town of Terry, Montana may be small, but they are planning on rolling out the red carpet for us as they host the AFMS 2014 Multi-Federation field trip gathering. The dates are July 31-August 4, 2014, so mark your calendars and get ready to register!

Terry is right in the middle of some of the best Montana rock hounding areas. We'll have numerous trips to the Gravel Bars on the Yellowstone River; productive areas that I've been hunting on annually for 40+ years. Many are accessed only through private property, but for Montana agates, jasper, pertified wood, fossil coral, stromatolites, and numerous other "oddities." We'll have numerous trips into Montana fossil country to the Pierre and Bear Paw formation areas, and we'll collect ammonites, baculites, scaphites, nautilus and many other shells (70-95 million years old) in the ancient sea bed areas. We are also working on trips to several areas where we can collect dinosaur fossils from the Hell Creek Formation.

More information will be forthcoming as plans are solidified. In addition, we'll have an opportunity to take a guided tour through the Eastern Montana Badlands - a once in a lifetime opportunity. Start planning your collecting vacation now. Kids are welcome!!!! What could be better than four days in Eastern Montana with a chance of collecting wonderful material. But wait, there's more.... The town of Terry is allowing us to use their 2 block city park for dry camping and other activities. We'll have pot luck dinners, a barbecue and much, much more.

For more information contact Doug True, Field Trip Chair, (406) 670-0506, or email <dtruefolssils12@yahoo.com>.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Nov. 30 Dec. 01, 2013 Round Rock, TX Paleontological Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park, Hwy 29 E	December 14-15, 2013 DeRidder, LA DeRidder G&MS Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds 506 West Dr.	January 18-19 2014 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park	January 24-26 2014 Tyler TX East Texas G&MS Rose Garden Ctr.
February 13-16, 2014 Tucson, AZ Tucson G&MS Tucson Convention Center	February 15-16, 2014 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	February 15-16, 2014 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr.	March 01-02, 2014 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn
March 01-02, 2014 Robstown, TX Gulf coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	March 8-9, 2014 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Center	March 15-16, 2014 Live Oak, TX (San Antonio) Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker RD	April 12-13, 2014 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th & Pine

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 Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 March 8-9, 2014
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clear-Lake-Gem-Mineral-Society/612663482095512>



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.

2013 OFFICERS:	President	Sara Chelette	281-286-1195
	Vice President	Bobbie LeFebvre	409-998-3002
	Secretary	Ben Duggar (Pro Tem)	281-316-6710
	Treasurer	Trina Willoughby	281-218-0976
	Program Director	Vacant	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Jim Wines
		Bob Brock	
	Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield	

Annual Show 2014 Vendor Coord.....	Sandy Christiansen	Library.....	Shannon Oliver
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Duggar	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Bobbie LeFebvre	Education/Field Trips.....	Vacant

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2013: 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

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