



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 42

DECEMBER 2016

NUMBER 12



**NEXT MEETING:** December 19, 2016  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Clear Lake Park Building  
 5001 Nasa Parkway  
 Seabrook, Texas

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December Meeting December Birthstone	1- 2	<b>CLGMS Christmas Dinner &amp; Meeting</b> This month's meeting will be our annual Christmas dinner and meeting!!
Monthly Meeting Minutes Board Meeting Minutes	3- 5	<b>12/19/2016 at 6:30 PM</b> Table setup and decorating will start at 5:30 PM with Dinner served at 6:30 PM The club will furnish the main dish (Ham, Brisket, rolls, and drinks)
Ancient Rocks	5- 6	<b>Bring a side dish, salad, desert, etc. to add variety to our feast!!</b> Feel free to bring rock specimens or appropriate table centerpiece decorations
Bench Tips	7- 8	Bring your family and friends (more)
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**Join us for a fun and festive time!!****Remember:**

There is an oven in the kitchen, so you can keep your food warm as you help with setup. If you bring food, don't forget to bring your own serving spoons since there are none at the Park Building. (Please put your name on items) Elections for new officers will be held during the meeting. Please consider running!! We can put you in touch with the Nominating Committee.

**DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE****TANZANITE**

Tanzanite is a one-of-a-kind gemstone unlike any other and can only be found in one place on Earth: the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. This gem possesses an exotic velvety blue with a rich overtone of purple, a color unlike any other.

One of today's most popular blue gemstones, Tanzanite comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and striking assortments of blue tones. Rarely pure blue, Tanzanite almost always displays its signature overtones of purple. In smaller sizes, Tanzanite usually contains lighter tones and the lavender color is more common. While in larger sizes, Tanzanite typically displays a deeper, richer and beautiful blue.

<http://www.wixonjewelers.com/education/gemstones/gemstone-guide>

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

Show and tell was given by Zach Gibson was an immense geode from Kentucky. They recently sawed and cracked it open and it is a beauty. We will have pictures of it later.

We are looking for members to run for office positions at the next meeting. Here is what we know so far:

Raul will run again for President, which he has done for 1 year now.

David Tjiok will run again for Vice President, which he has done for 1 year now.

Pam Dudley will run for Secretary.

Jerry Newberry will run for Treasurer.

Doug Dan will take over the job of obtaining refreshments for the meetings and other functions.

Mary Wells is willing to serve a Board Director position.

The board would like to know the cost for the vests. Charlie Timme made a motion to supply the vests to members free of cost. The board said they would consider it. No vote was taken at the meeting.

The program was very good. Vincent Barrows talked about Indian mounds and artifacts across the USA.

Ben and Nancy Duggar gave a trip report on the Special Exhibit "Mummies of the World" they attended at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It was exceptionally good.

We determined that a new cable is needed to use the new computer with the projector.

Charlie and Bernice Timme will look into CLGMS giving out elementary school donations.

We have 28 vendors for the show so far. 3 are new vendors. 130 tables have been sold. \$8,308 has been collected so far and total sales are \$9,825. Love of Land and Shus is not attending this year.

Someone is going to look into getting the NASA space suit and other NASA items as an attraction for the upcoming show.

The constitution by-laws were accepted with corrections.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Holidays celebration with a Christmas Dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. The ham and brisket will be provided by the club. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Last year we had too many desserts, so we encourage people to bring a side dish.

Respectfully submitted:  
Mike Flannigan, Treasurer

### MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The December board meeting was called to order at 7:30 on December the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Show topics

- Advertising
  - We approved advertising with 104.1 KRBE for a total of 50 adds for \$1200. This is a holiday special and must be committed to tomorrow.
  - We like the idea of advertising with 92.9 and 97.1, country stations, but currently the rate is \$2400 for 24 ads on each. We would like to work with them on price.
  - We will not use billboards this year
  - We have not heard back from Groupon
- Last year we had a dealer who was hospitalized right before the show. We had told them that their funds could be applied to this year, but unfortunately this dealer has passed away. His family has requested a refund. This was approved.
- 160 tables have been sold for the show. There are 5 new dealers.
- We would like to go with a NASA display
  - Trina will submit the request for an astronaut appearance. We will try for an astronaut that has an interest in Geology.
  - Sara will look to see what Mars displays are available.
- Trina will contact Walt who put on the dino show last year. He also has a gem show and we would like him to put on shows for the same cost as last year.

- Sara is going to look into printing costs for both postcards and fliers. If we do not go with an online printer for postcards David will handle using our normal. Printer and mailer for postcards.
- Trina will contact John Mohr about college student volunteers.
- Trina will bring the router template to the next meeting so Jerry can make dealer signs for the new dealers.
- We would like members to show off their work and collections. Members – please consider having a display in our show.

#### Non-show items

- For next year, we have nominations for all positions except show chair.
- We need an adapter to be able to use the new computer with the old projector.
- Dave and Sandy are taking care of the club sponsored items for Christmas Dinner. Don't forget the December meeting starts at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted:

Trina Willoughby, Secretary

## **ANCIENT ROCKS HOLD EVIDENCE FOR LIFE BEFORE OXYGEN**

Somewhere between Earth's creation and where we are today, scientists have demonstrated that some early life forms existed just fine without any oxygen.

While researchers proclaim the first half of our 4.5 billion-year-old planet's life as an important time for the development and evolution of early bacteria, evidence for these life forms remains sparse, including how they survived at a time when oxygen levels in the atmosphere were less than one-thousandth of one percent of what they are today.

Recent geology research from the University of Cincinnati presents new evidence for bacteria found fossilized in two separate locations in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.



"These are the old-est reported fossil sulfur bacteria to date," says Andrew Czaja, UC assistant professor of geology. "And this discovery is helping us reveal a diversity of life and ecosystems that existed just prior to the Great Oxidation Event, a time of major atmospheric evolution."

The 2.52 billion-year-old sulfur-oxidizing bacteria are described by Czaja as exceptionally large, spherical-shaped, smooth-walled microscopic structures

much larger than most modern bacteria, but similar to some modern single-celled organisms that live in deepwater sulfur-rich ocean settings today, where even now there are almost no traces of oxygen.

In his research published in the December issue of the journal *Geology* of the Geological Society of America, Czaja and his colleagues Nicolas Beukes from the University of Johannesburg and Jeffrey Osterhout, a recently graduated master's student from UC's department of geology, reveal samples of bacteria that were abundant in deep water areas of the ocean in a geologic time known as the Neoproterozoic Eon (2.8 to 2.5 billion years ago).

"These fossils represent the oldest known organisms that lived in a very dark, deep-water environment," says Czaja. "These bacteria existed two billion years before plants and trees, which evolved about 450 million years ago. We discovered these microfossils preserved in a layer of hard silica-rich rock called chert located within the Kaapvaal craton of South Africa."

With an atmosphere of much less than one percent oxygen, scientists have presumed that there were things living in deep water in the mud that didn't need sunlight or oxygen, but Czaja says experts didn't have any direct evidence for them until now.

Full story at: University of Cincinnati. "Ancient rocks hold evidence for life before oxygen." *ScienceDaily*. ScienceDaily, 29 November 2016.  
<[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161129144840.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161129144840.htm)>. The Hounds Howl, 12/16

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

### TEMPLATES



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include [cooltools.us/](http://cooltools.us/) and [kingsleynorth.com/](http://kingsleynorth.com/)

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

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### DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your



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 25-26, 2017  
 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	832-341-0416
	Vice President	David Tjiok	281-423-4802
	Secretary	Trina Willoughby	713-815-0275
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan	281-286-6869
	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	WWW 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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