



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 37 FEBRUARY 2011 NUMBER 2

	<p>NEXT MEETING: February 21, 2011 TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA ROAD ONE SEABROOK, TEXAS</p>
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The PROGRAM FOR February...

The program will be **The Upcoming Gem Show**: Presented by Al Pennington. It's that time again and so Al will share with us the needs of the various booths and stations to be manned by club members. Also, an added DVD presentation on Rocks

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	Editorial
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Birthdays/Anniversaries	4	<p>Time to prep for the next show and we will be talking about some of the preparations at the next general meeting. Ed Tindell will need 6 – 8 volunteers to load up the trailer on Thursday night before the show, unload and setup on Friday morning and break down on Sunday at the end of the show. They need to bring a pair of gloves.</p> <p>I will have the sign-up sheet for work areas for the show at the meeting so everyone that can, should show up at the general meeting.</p> <p>GEM SHOW – GEM SHOW Hey you all it is that time again! The CLGMS Show is on February 26,27 at the Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway The Rock Food Table is Back! Tell your Friends!</p>
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	 <p>Stoney Statements Salutes some of the hard working dealers having some fun at the 2009 Show. Come crack a Geode!</p>	

**** Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember. **** Oscar Levant

**Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral
January 17, 2011**

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Ben Duggar to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Trina Willoughby and was passed unanimously. The minutes from the December Meeting were printed in the Stoney Statements. There were no corrections. Kay Hester, new member was introduced and welcomed.

Program

Al Pennington presented the program which was related to the upcoming Annual Show. Al reviewed the various volunteer duties. Admissions – need two adults at all times. Information – answers questions about the show. Al reviewed the layout of the convention center. Hands on will be manned by San Jacinto Junior College students. Membership – Sign up new members and collect renewals. Gem Mine – Junior members can help. Demonstrations – lapidary equipment and explain what is being done. Scout Badge area will be administered by Trina Willoughby. SWAP will be administered by Lester Gary. Set up/Tear down – 9:00 a.m. Friday before the show, preload Thursday night.

Current status – all dealers contacted except one. Payment is being received. The Convention Center is paid. The Rock Table will be at the show. Scott Singleton, HGMS member, will have petrified wood identification. Printing is being done. Program is laid out. Need to contract police for guards. Twenty-nine dealers are on the list.

Other Business

President Bob Brock mentioned an article in the Rock and Gem Magazine regarding dangerous dust. He had copies of the article for those interested.

A short break was held and refreshments were served.

Ed Tindell made a presentation on the Alpine/Marfa field trip scheduled for next weekend. He also mentioned Texas Rockers, a www.meetup.com group.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Librarian – Chairperson Lester Gary will obtain the library from storage in February.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar explained her committee and her contacts with school librarians to give them money for books.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell explained the Education Committee and a five-minute presentation asking for volunteers.

Club Publicity – Chairperson Anna Williams requested suggestions from the membership to publicize the club.

Show Publicity – Chairperson Ben Duggar reported that the radio stations have been contacted and a few will publicize the show. The event will be added to their calendar on their web site. Announcements have been sent to local newspapers.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
Anna Williams, Secretary

Paleontology Finds Already in 2011



Two-clawed and parrot-sized: new T.rex cousin unveiled (Jan 26, 2011)

A tiny distant cousin of *Tyrannosaurus rex* has been discovered in China with only a single claw on each forelimb. *Linhenykus monodactylus* weighed no more than a large parrot and was found in sediments between 84 and 75 million years old. The dinosaur belongs to a sub-branch of the theropods, the dinosaur group which includes *T.rex* and *Velociraptor*, and which gave rise to modern birds.

'Dawn runner' casts light on birth of the dinosaurs

(Jan 14, 2011)

Scientists have unveiled one of the earliest dinosaurs yet found, an agile meat-eater from the late Triassic period, some 230 million years ago. Researchers writing in the journal *Science* say *Eodromaeus* or "dawn runner" was a small, two-legged creature of not much more than 1.2m in length and 4-6kg in weight. They reconstructed the dinosaur, a probable ancestor of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, from an almost complete set of bones found in the Valley of The Moon, in northwestern Argentina.

Source: BBC



New Species of Ancient Flying Reptile Identified on British Columbia Coast

(Jan. 10, 2011) — Persistence paid off for a University of Alberta paleontology researcher, who after months of pondering the origins of a fossilized jaw bone, finally identified it as a new species of pterosaur, a flying reptile that lived 70 million years ago.

Source: ScienceDaily

Tips from Brad Smith

Burnishing Bezels

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 8 x 10 cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough to hit the top of the bezel at the right angle to burnish it down onto the stone. Fm The RockCollector 2/2011

An February HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lewis Hall	3
Timothy Burns	9
Dick Rathjen	21

Amethyst (sincerity).
From the Greek
amethystos, meaning
"without drunkenness."
Has been used to signify
Christian humility.

February Anniversary includes:

Ray Jones 28

**2011 DUES ARE DUE**

GOODIE GETTERS...For February



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner ((Rerun from last year by request))**Alunite by Hale Sweeny**

Alunite is a potassium aluminum sulfate, $K-Al_3-(SO_4)_2-(OH)_6$ (sorry, can't do subscripts here). Also called alumstone. They use it mostly to produce alum. There are some (now not active) mines near Marysvale, UT that I have visited a time or two. The ore can be processed to recover both potassium and alum, and they started to develop the Marysvale mines during WWII; more to get the potash for gunpowder than for the aluminum, as I remember.

But they got into a big hassle with the State government vs private parties etc. about just where to build the plant where it was going to be processed, and very little came of it before the end of the war. It is mostly massive or disseminated, but the stuff I have from the "good" mine is somewhat crystalline and rather attractive. It is rather soft, about 4.



Alunite is sulfate of potassium and aluminum. Hardness: 3.5 - 4.0. Sp G: 2.6 I have the chemical composition if anyone wants it. Alunite, also known as Alumstone, is found in Nevada, Utah and Colorado. It is a reddish pink with gray areas and has a waxy feel. The material I have used would not need to be stabilized. I do not think it would absorb stabilizer easily. The suggestion about using a stocking in polishing gypsum sounds interesting and viable. My alunite is in a sphere form and polishing was not easy due to its softness. - Mike Eggleton

Chatoyant stone By Rick Martin

I agree with your definitions, but you are forgetting the *original* chatoyant stone: chrysoberyl. When the term "cat's-eye" is used in the jewelry trade, it means only one thing: cat's-eye chrysoberyl. (Attached is a jpeg of a large, fine stone now in my possession: 14.49 carats of pure beauty! Shadows make the stone seem asymmetrical in the pic but it's perfectly cut.) Chrysoberyl has been synonymous with cat's-eye for hundreds of years. Lately I've been cutting some very nice cat's-eye stones from another form of chrysoberyl,

Alexandrite, the rarest of the rare -- I have some small rough available if anyone is interested. (A jpeg also attached: this stone is .83 ct. and has a decent color change). I've cut lots of star garnets (usually almandine but I've seen rhodolite stars, too). Color play in opals is considered "phenomenal." I have also cut stars and cat's-eyes from Spencer, Idaho opal (triplets). Liddicoat offers additional stones that can exhibit phenomena in his "Handbook of Gem Identification."

Stars or cat's-eye effect: beryl, demantoid, nephrite, enstatite, diopside, scapolite, kornepurine, feldspars, apatite, zircon, sillimanite, as well as chrysoberyl, corundum, quartz and tourmaline. "Orient" in pearls is also considered phenomenal, so I imagine abalone shell and abalone pearls would also fall into the same category, along with mother of pearl, etc.

How about sheen and rainbow colors in obsidian? Fire agate? I'm getting tired. Time to go have a cold one and think on it.
Lapidary Digest 10/99

Add Binghamite and Silkstone to the list of chatoyant stones. Locality closed (due to flooding?) If we are including man-made stones, add Victoria Stone; a chatoyant glass mineralogically similar to nephrite. Hardness 5.5-6.0, colored azure blue, deep indigo, lemon yellow, brownish pink, chocolate brown etc. Invented by Dr S. Iimori and made by himself and his family-
Flint Oct 2001 Lapidary Digest

Field Trips (2011) by Ed Tindell

Hi All -

Name your Field trip

We will be discussing various destinations for our field trips this year at the next club meeting. I threw out several ideas and now we need to begin working toward some goals. Hope to see you there for ideas.



Thanks,
Ed Tindell
2011 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

The February Walker Ranch trip is set for Friday, February 18 through Sunday, February 20, 2011. I'm taking sign ups for that one now. I will also do field trips to East Needle Peak on the day before (Thursday, 2/17) and the Monday after (2/22) the trip to the Walker Ranch.

1. A wonderful 10-section ranch south of Marfa which is, in places, just littered with agate. There's the famous Marfa Bouquet agate, black plume, a bright green agate that I haven't seen anywhere else in the Big Bend, and probably a bunch of things I haven't found yet! There have been very few rock hunters on this ranch, and it's very scenic and rough, so be sure to bring a camera!

2. East Needle Peak, near Terlingua and Big Bend National Park, is open again for the same \$35 per day fee as last year. The owner will accept cash or check. There's a little pompom agate there, but mostly there's patterned and moss agate, fortification agate, petrified wood, calcite, selenite, goethite after pyrite, and lots of fossils! The access to this ranch is extremely rough and a 4wd vehicle is required. If you don't have one, you can drive fairly close to the area and then hitch a ride with someone who does have the 4wd.

3. The Ritchie Ranch will again be open. This ranch is close to Alpine and has very gentle, rolling terrain. There's moss agate and jasper in a number of colors, but no plume agate to speak of. There are geodes and some fairly large (up to 3") quartz crystals, too. It's a great ranch for people with kids or physical disabilities, or those who are just beginning rock hunting and don't want to stay out all day. The cost is \$5 per person entrance fee, and 75¢ per lb. for the good agate you take. The owner will accept cash or check. The Ritchie Ranch is accessible by most vehicles, although high ground clearance is still a plus!

To reserve a place on the Walker field trip:

1. Reply to this email or email me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net that you wish to go.

More later,



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2011 CLGMS Field Trip
Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

FROM ED TINDELL

After 13 years of faithful service, my PC died 1/15/11. It was a Dell Latitude CPI running W2K. I bought a new one and have been setting it up. It's a Toshiba Satellite C655 running Windows 7. We don't even use Windows 7 at work so the learning curve has been larger than normal. I didn't lose a lot of data but my email address list is a little old.



Can you put a blurb in the newsletter asking all former email recipients to send me an email (<mailto:ed-tindell@sprynet.com>) so I can add them back to my address book? My ISP is block all email to Hotmail.com so Hotmail addresses don't work.

What is an Amethyst?

An Amethyst is a type of quartz often found in jewellery, it is Bluish-purple in color and is composed of silicon dioxide (SiO₂) with small traces of Aluminium and Iron which all merge to donate it its distinctive purple color. In today's article we will provide some basic information about the Amethyst in terms of its value, characteristics and price.



Greek Mythology Background

The name Amethyst comes from the Greek words a- (denoting 'not?') and Methustos (denoting 'drunk?'); these terms were used since the Greeks thought that the gemstone protected the wearer from becoming drunk. It was quite usual in Greek times for drinking vessels to be made of Amethysts. For example, many wine goblets were carved from the gemstone.

The story goes that the Greek god of intoxication and wine Dionysus was in a romantic pursuit of a maiden called Amethystos, who refused his advances. The goddess Artemis protected Amethystos by transforming her into a white gemstone; in honor of Amethystos and her longing to stay chaste, Dionysus poured wine on top of the white gemstone making it go purple in color.

Where is Amethysts Found?

Amethysts are found all around the globe, largely in mines in Brazil, South Korea, Austria, Uruguay, Russia, Canada and Zambia.

Specific Amethysts mining areas in Brazil are Las Vigas, Minas Gerais and Piedras Parado. The Amethysts are normally found in geodes which are hollow rocks that contain crystallized minerals around the inside edge.

Another method is to inspect the mining area for something called a vein, The Amethyst can in specific circumstances grow in veins around 30 feet under the ground. Amethysts are commonly found with a stone called Citrine, so if Citrine is found, chances are Amethyst will also be available Amethyst deposits are also found in other countries around the world such as: Bolivia, Argentina, Madagascar, India and Sri Lanka.

How Much Are Amethyst Worth?

The key question asked by many people considering buying an Amethyst is how much do they cost and what constitutes a real stone rather than a fake. Amethysts are considered (along with Diamonds, Sapphires, Rubies and Emeralds) as the most valuable gemstones in the world. However, they seem to have gone down in worth since enormous deposits of the gemstone were found in Brazil - this follows the old adage of increasing volumes resulting in lower price. Important aspects that characterize the value of an Amethyst include Clarity, Color, Cut, Size, Individuality and treatments used to enhance the Amethyst. Clarity,

which refers to the number of flaws inside the gemstone, also affects the value of the Amethyst, with a smaller amount of flaws and scratches resulting in a more expensive Amethyst.

In terms of color, an intensely colored deep Purple Amethyst is worth more than a dull, pale lighter colored one. A superbly cut Amethyst will be more expensive than an average cut gemstone.

In terms of size, with Amethysts size does count. The larger the Amethyst the better and the more it is worth. If an Amethyst has unique features such as special patterns or colors, this can additionally enhance its value. Treatments such as heat, dyeing and coating can also reduce the value of the Amethyst. Natural Amethysts will also be more valuable than those that have been artificially treated and enhanced.

About the Author: Rayaz Siddiqi Ruby resource at <http://rubyandgem.com> This article was printed from: <http://www.easyarticles.com/article-630442.htm> From *The RockCollector* 2/2011 via Rimstones Review, 2/11



Taconite is a variety of iron formation, an ironbearing (>15% iron) sedimentary rock, in which the iron minerals are interlayered with quartz, chert, or carbonate. The term was coined by Minnesota State Geologist Newton Horace Winchell during his pioneering investigations of the Precambrian Biwabik Iron Formation of northeastern Minnesota due to its superficial resemblance to iron-bearing rocks he was familiar with in the Taconic Mountains of New York. The iron content of taconite, commonly present as finely dispersed magnetite, is generally 25 to 30%. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, available iron ore was of such high quality that taconite was considered an uneconomic waste product. After World War II, much of the high grade iron ore in the United States had been mined out, and taconite became a new source of iron. To process taconite, the ore is ground into a fine powder, the magnetite is separated from the waste rock by strong magnets, the powdered iron concentrate is combined with a binder such as bentonite clay and limestone as a flux, and rolled into pellets about one centimeter in diameter containing approximately 65% iron. The pellets are fired at a very high temperatures to harden and make them durable. This is necessary to ensure that the blast furnace charge remains porous to allow heated gas to pass through and react with the pelletized ore. Firing the pellet oxidizes the magnetite (Fe₃O₄) to hematite (Fe₂O₃), an exothermic reaction which reduces the energy cost of pelletizing the concentrate.



The Mesabi Iron Range region of the American state of Minnesota is a major production area. The taconite iron ore pellets are hauled by railroad through the ports of Silver Bay, Two Harbors and the Twin Ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin, all on Lake Superior. The ore is generally shipped by lake freighters to locations on the lower Great Lakes. Many steelmaking centers are located near Lake Erie. From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taconite> via [The RockCollector 2/2011](#) via [Rockhound](#)



YOU CAN WIN.....IN 2011

Chihuahua Desert Gem & Mineral Club, City of Alpine and THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION MINERAL SOCIETIES invites you to: "ALPINE AGATE FESTIVAL", 22nd Annual BIG BEND

GEM & MINERAL SHOW awaits you AT THE ALPINE CIVIC CENTER, Hwy 90 W. & 13th St. N. in Alpine, Texas
 FREE ADMISSION, Grand Prize ~ Door Prizes, Kid's Corner ~ Silent Auctions, Demo Dealers ~ Field Trips, Rollin' Rock Club Meeting!

COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT SHOW! April 15-17, 2011

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
FEBRUARY 19-20 GEORGETOWN, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	FEBRUARY 26-27 PASADENA, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr	MARCH 05-06 ROBSTOWN, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	MARCH 19-20 LIVE OAK, TX Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8201 Pat Booker Rd.
APRIL 09-10 ABILENE, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th and Pine	APRIL 15-17 ALPINE, TX "Alpine Agate Festival" SCFMS AND CHIHUAHUAN DESERT G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr. Hwy. 90W & 13th. St.		

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.
 February 21, 2011, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 26-27, 2011
 Pasadena Convention Center



CLGMS is on the Web: (new location)
<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			
2011 OFFICERS:	President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
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		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591
Annual Show 2011.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Dugger	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2011: 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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