



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 FEBRUARY 2012 NUMBER 2

	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b> February 20, 2012  <b>TIME:</b> 7:30 PM  <b>LOCATION:</b> 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.

**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
January Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements Salutes some of the hard working dealers having some fun at the 2009 Show. Come crack a Geode!</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.
	2		I will have the sign-up sheet for work areas for the show at the meeting so <b>everyone</b> that can, should show up at the general meeting.
Truck Loading and unloading Schedule from Ed Tindell	3		<p><b>GEM SHOW – GEM SHOW</b>            Hey you all it is that time again! The CLGMS Show is on February 25,26 at the Pasadena Convention Center,            7902 Fairmont Parkway            Tell your Friends!            We will NOT have the Rock Food Table, they are going to Jackson</p>
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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2012 MEETING  
OF THE CLEAR LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

This meeting had been rescheduled from Jan. 16 due to the conflict with the Martin Luther King holiday.

The meeting was opened by the president of CLGMS at 7:30pm with the "call to order" followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the US.

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes of the November 2011 meeting. Since the December meeting was a holiday celebration dinner, there were no minutes for that meeting. The Nov. meeting minutes were accepted with one minor revision.

Committee Reports:

- The Community Benefits committee reported that 10 schools in Galveston or Harris County had been selected for donations of \$300 each for the purchase of earth science related library books. The schools were named and the selection criteria described.
- The Education Committee reported on plans to conduct field trips to Midlothian, TX in March and April. Because the interest in the trip planned for March 24 was so great the field trip coordinator, Ed Tindell, decided to make additional trips on March 31 and April 7 and has received approval from the mine owners to do so. This will permit up to 48 additional rock hounds to participate. Ed has sent out emails to all who signed up indicating time and place to meet, necessary equipment to bring, and the release required by the site owners.
- The Club Publicity Committee reported that the December issue of the West League City Community Bulletin contained a good article about the club and its meeting schedule.
- The Show Committee reviewed the status of dealers, of arrangements with the Pasadena Convention Center, and of volunteers for 1.) staffing the ticket booth, 2.) staffing the CLGMS information table, and 3.) assistance with the access from the storage unit, setup, takedown and return to storage of equipment and display cases. There are still a few slots vacant and those members and friends who would be willing to help can still sign up. It was reported that some of the dealers had complained about the "swap" area taking business away from them since the swappers did not spend any of the swap dollars at their booths. However, it was pointed out that the swappers tended to be dealing in low-end rocks and crystals and would, naturally, tend to spend their swap dollars at dealers who also sell rocks and crystals. Also, one of the missions of CGMS is to get more of the public interested in collecting and the swap area does a lot of business with young people and novice collectors. It was then voted by the membership to retain the swap area.

Under the New Business Category the following were discussed:

- We need to designate one of our meeting dates each year as the annual Corporate Meeting. For 2012 it will be March. However, in the future it was proposed that we so designate the January meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.
- The CLGMS has received a donation of rocks and slabs from Mr. Wade Callender. Mr. Callender provided several large containers of specimens to Ed Tindell to transfer to the club's supplies. Ed displayed these specimens and all present agreed that these were wonderful additions to our supplies. Mr. Callender provided an inventory of the specimens which described what each item is, the weight, and the estimated cost. The members noted that Mr. Callender's estimated costs for most of the items are much smaller than the current market value. Several members volunteered to come up with an estimate of the current market value which we can use on the donation receipt which the club will provide to Mr. Callender. The club president will immediately send Mr. Callender a letter of thanks, and will then see that an appropriate donation receipt is prepared and transmitted.

Our speakers for the meeting were Ed Tindell and Trina Willoughby. Ed described his field trip to northern Georgia where he visited Graves Mountain and the nearby Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine. Six persons accompanied Ed on the visits and all collected great specimens of a variety of minerals, such as safolite, lazulite, quartz crystals, and rutile. Trina then gave an update on recent news items dealing with volcanology, meteors, and specimens from early botanists. Specimens and notes from Darwin's early voyage were recently rediscovered after

having been misplaced over 50 years ago. Meteorites found in Morocco have been identified as of Martian origin. There is a lot of current volcanic activity.

Refreshments were served. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.  
Respectfully submitted:

Ben Duggar

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## Truck Loading and unloading Schedule from Ed Tindell

The 2012 annual CLGMS show will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center on Saturday-Sunday, 02/25-26/12.

The show schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, 02/23/12 6:30PM – meet at the club locker to load the 16' truck I will rent for the weekend. The club locker is located at Magi Self Storage, Locker C3, 4806 Marie Lane, Deer Park, TX 77536. Magi Self Storage is located behind Mamacita's, just N of Spencer Highway, between Red Bluff Road and Center Street.

- 1) I have rented a 16' truck from PEP Boys on Fairmont Pkwy. They have changed their hours of operation and I have to pick up the truck before 5:30PM instead of 6:00PM so I will need a ride over there about 5:00PM. If you can give me a ride let me know.
- 2) Since I will be picking the truck up early we can start loading at 6:00PM instead of 6:30PM so be at the locker at 6:00PM.
- 3) I have managed to arrange to telecommute on Friday 02/24/12 and will be able to help setup after 11:00AM. Better late than never.

Thursday, 02/23/12 6:00PM-7:30PM – load the truck.  
The more people who help load the less time it takes.  
It usually takes no more than 45min-1hr to load the truck.  
Bring gloves to avoid getting splinters from some of the display cases.

Thursday, 02/23/12 7:30PM-8:00PM – park loaded truck at Pasadena Convention Center.

Thursday, 02/23/12 8:00PM-9:00PM – eat dinner.  
We will all meet at Cici's Pizza on Spencer Highway just east of the locker at the Center Street intersection for an appreciation dinner; the club is buying.

Friday, 02/24/12 9:00AM – meet at the Pasadena Convention Center to set up the show.  
I need someone to take responsibility for the truck and back it into the loading dock Friday morning for unloading and then park it back on the lot afterwards.

We need as many people as can make it to help unload the truck and setup the vendor signs, display cases, membership/information area, demo area, etc.

We are usually done by 1PM.

You can sign up here to help: [http://www.mflan.com/clgms\\_sign-up.htm](http://www.mflan.com/clgms_sign-up.htm) or contact Mike Flanagan at [mikeflan@att.net](mailto:mikeflan@att.net)

**A 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



Now is not too early about thinking about paying you 2012 dues.

**GOODIE GETTERS...For February**

Main Goodies provided by club.

**Lapidary Corner** (Special request from a new member)**FLAT LAPPING WITHOUT A MACHINE**

The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have a flat lapping machine. So go to it and polish the bookends you want, or that clock face.

Just get a piece of aluminum about 12-14 inches square. (Larger for larger pieces.) Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit (or even 90 grit if you have saw marks on your slab.) Mix your grit with Vaseline or water. (I like Vaseline because it holds the grit better, doesn't dry out and doesn't splash.)

Now take your slab to be polished and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold it down on the grit. Just keep twisting it over and around on the grit. Be sure that your grit is always under the slab. Don't run it over dry aluminum. Move the slab in any pattern you wish, adding grit as you feel necessary. Keep at it until all the saw marks are well gone. Wash the stone and aluminum between grades of grit using progressively finer grits as you go. The slab should now be ready for polishing

To polish, use a piece of leather about 12x12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tack heads can scratch. Put your favorite polishing mix all over the leather and start polishing your stone. This is the oldest way to polish slabs and it still works well, if slowly. In answer to the statement that it will take a long time, a question, "What else would you be doing?"

The Glacial Drifter 3/03 via THE SOUTHWEST GEM 2/03

**Fire Agate by Karl*****What is a good procedure/process to use in cutting it?***

Most fire agate cutters that I know use diamond-cutting tools, after removing the white or brown unwanted matrix with conventional saws. Since the dust is toxic, use breathing protection and it is safer to cut under water with a Foredom tool, carefully and slowly removing small amounts to bring deep seated fire closer to the top.

***How do you avoid cutting through the fire?***

Fire Agate is really carved rather than cut in the conventional sense. This is the tricky part. Hoping to find deeper fire, it is very easy to cut too much, and suddenly all the fire is gone. Mostly it takes a lot of practice and patience, and careful examining as you go. I cannot tell you how exactly, it is a skill learned by doing.

***How do you know whether a piece of fire agate has fire in it?***

Usually you cannot tell from a piece of rough unless a window has been cut and polished to show the deeper fire colors. This is the reason most sellers of rough will offer you material with windows. Otherwise, it is a case of learning to spot small seams of fire. A good point source light, such as a small tensor lamp or a pen flashlight helps to spot the fire, while slowly turning the piece to examine it carefully. *Lapidary Digest Sept 97*

**Vibratory Lapping by Gary Ogg**

On weighting thin slabs; the instructions that came with my Raytech vibratory lap recommend 1/4 lb. per Square Inch on slabs less than 1" thick. It also recommends steel or lead slugs attached with dopping wax. I recommend lead. It is heavier and it will not rust. You can probably get all you need free at your local tire store. They just throw away all those lead balance weights that they take off when tires are re-balanced *Lapidary Digest Sept 97A* quick and safe way to determine the hardness of a stone is to mark it with an aluminum pencil. The fainter

## Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

**Any takers? I plan to open this trip up to other clubs next week so you need to sign up NOW. Only 23 slots left!**

I have set up a field trip to the TXI quarry for Saturday, March 24, 2012, 10 AM-12 Noon. We may get to stay longer.

Rain Date: Saturday, March 31, 2012

I am playing phone tag with the other quarries trying to add one for the afternoon, etc.

I may add additional trips just to go to the other quarries. I'll keep you posted.

MSHA rules apply: hard hat, safety glasses, closed toed shoes, long pants. It will probably be cold which is better than being hot!

What to bring: hammer, bucket, packing material for delicate specimens, drink

What to look for: fossils, pyrite, calcite, etc.

The trip is limited to 25 people but if we go over a few I don't think they will notice.

Plan to double up in cars as they do count cars!

Meeting Place: Whataburger in town located at 1320 E Highway 287, Midlothian, TX 76065, 972-775-2323. See attached map.

Meeting Time: 9AM

If you want to go let me know as soon as possible.

I will offer all unused spots to members of the Texas Rockers.



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

Hi All –

Due to the overwhelming response for the 3/24 trip I requested that the rain date of 3/31 be turned into a second trip and that a third trip for 4/7 be added.

I just heard back from TXI and field trips for 3/24, 3/31 and 4/7 from 10AM-12PM are now approved!

I must attend each trip as field trip coordinator and so I can take 24 additional people per trip.

- No children, no pets, no cameras.
- Bring personal protective equipment (PPE): hard hat, closed toed shoes (preferably steel toed), safety glasses, gloves, long pants.
- Bring 5 gallon bucket, geology pick, crack hammer/chisel, packing materials, bags, food/water, sun block.

We will meet at the Whataburger in town as previously announced at 9AM. See attached map.

You will need to sign a waiver.

I am working to get us into the other quarries as well and will keep you posted.

Sunday sites are possible.

If you want to go let me know which day(s).

I will allow people to go on multiple trips provided there is room.

Let's fill these trips up!

**HINT** — By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic; instead of the hard, round little plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polishing cycle.

from The Rockcollector 4/01 via Rock Rollers, 3/01



## **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 (SiO<sub>2</sub>) 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

## **Telling Meteorites from Wrongs**

By: Dr. William S. Cordua, University of Wisconsin - River Falls

“Is this a meteorite?” is probably the most common rock identification questions I get. Many people not only find meteorites fascinating, and would love to find one, but also they are aware of their value and hope for a windfall. Here are my clues from telling meteor-wrights from - wrongs.

First, is it magnetic? Most meteorites contain at least some iron-nickel alloy so will respond to a magnet. Those that don’t are so rare, weather rapidly and usually have such drab appearances that they aren’t normally recognizable. We find these rare ones when they’ve been seen to fall from the sky, or they are found in areas where few other rocks accumulate such as on top of glaciers or on the deep sea floor.

Unfortunately, there are a number of earth rocks that also will respond to a magnet, so the magnetic test is not enough. Where I live, the landscape is covered by debris from glaciers that scrapped across magnetic iron formation and gabbros to the north. People picking through this material find lots of magnetic “meteorwrongs”, bring them excitedly into my office and come away bitterly disappointed. I’m sorry - but they are what they are.

Second, does the rock show layering? Meteorites don’t show layers or bands but earth rocks often do. This includes veins, particularly ones with openings containing crystals. These are not signs of a meteorite.

Third, what does the rock look like on a freshly broken surface? Many weathered surfaces contain dark iron and manganese oxides, which make them look dark. Dark is “burned” to many people, who conclude that weathered surface “must” be a fusion crust formed when the sample roasted during passage through the air. Nature is, unfortunately, good at making dark crusts through oxidation, hydration, microbial action and so forth at room temperature. A fresh surface will reveal a lot about the rock. Fresh surfaces will often reveal the details of a rock’s composition and texture and allow its identification usually as a meteor-wrong.

Also, holes are not a good indicator of a meteorite. Many people assume rocks with holes have “boiled”, thus must have hurtled through the air at high speed. Some meteorites may contain pits, called regmaglypts, but not holes. Holes are from earth processes of weathering, erosion or volcanic activity.

On a fresh surface a true iron-nickel meteorite will be steely and not very brittle. Stony meteorites will often have small spherical objects known as chondrules. Beware, though, as earth processes also can make spherical objects in rocks, such as oolites in sedimentary rocks and spherulites in volcanic ones. My fourth test is this: are there minerals present that are known NOT to occur in meteorites.

Quartz and feldspars are common minerals found in many earth rocks but not in meteorites. If any of these are present, the sample is not a meteorite. Fifth, if there is metallic iron present under the altered crust, does it have significant nickel in it? You want to make sure you haven’t found a rusted chunk of Uncle Ned’s old Model T.

Meteoritic iron always has several percent nickel in it. Iron we find, smelt and use on earth does not. There are fairly simple wet chemical or spectroscopic tests that can be done at most universities to determine if nickel is present in any significant amount.

Some excellent books and web sites are out there to help. My favorite book for budding meteorite hunters is Rocks From Space by O.

Richard Norton (1998 Mountain Press). Some good web sites are maintained by: Aerolite Meteorite Men <http://www.aerolite.org/found-ameeteorite.htm> and Washington University in St. Louis <http://meteorites.wustl.edu/meteorwrongs/meteorwrongs.htm> The Washington University site has many pictures of meteor-wrongs.

If you are only finding meteor-wrongs, don’t despair. Meteorites, although rare, can be found anywhere on our planet, so keep looking!

<b>SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS</b>			
<b>Feb. 18 - 19</b> <b>GEORGETOWN, TX</b> <b>Williamson Co. G&amp;MS</b> <b>San Gabriel Park</b>	<b>Feb. 18 - 19</b> <b>PLAINVIEW, TX</b> <b>Hi-Plains G&amp;MS</b> <b>Oliver Liner Ctr.</b>	<b>Feb. 25 - 26</b> <b>PASADENA, TX</b> <b>Clear Lake G&amp;MS</b> <b>7902 Fairmont Parkway</b>	<b>Mar. 03 - 04</b> <b>ROBSTOWN, TX</b> <b>Gulf Coast G&amp;MS</b> <b>Regional Fairground</b>
<b>Mar. 03 - 04</b> <b>BIG SPRING, TX</b> <b>Prospectors Club</b> <b>Howard Co. Fair Barn</b>			

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



Member of:

**Next Annual Show**  
 February Feb 25-26, 2012  
 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	
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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 March Issue is February 28, 2012**