

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

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order

Election of Officers

The only activity for the meeting was the election of officers. The following slate was approved by members:

President – Annabel Brownfield

Vice President – Sara Chelette

Secretary – VACANT Ben Duggar (Pro Tem)

Treasurer – Trina Willoughby

Program Director – Ed Tindell

Board of Directors — Ed Tindell - Jim Wines - Bobbie Lefabvre- Shannon Oliver,

Newsletter Editor – Al Pennington

The was a prolonged discussion of funding but no one took minutes.

Al Pennington, Substituting for the Secretary.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS MEETING

The Officers and Directors of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society held the annual corporation planning and business meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013 at the home of Past President Ben Duggar. Seven of the ten voting members of the Board were present.

President Annabel Brownfield opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with the distribution of the meeting agenda, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures of the Club, and an unaudited statement of 2012 expenses and revenues. Since the club had not elected a Secretary at the December meeting, the President nominated Past President Ben Duggar to serve as Secretary Pro Tem. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. He will serve until a permanent Secretary can be recruited from among the membership.

A discussion of budgets was the next item. During 2012 the club operated at a deficit and, although our financial reserves are strong, it was the consensus of the group that action should be taken to increase future revenues and reduce expenditures. It is not feasible at this late date to increase our annual show dealer and admission fees for 2013, but this will be done for the 2014 show. Another potential source of revenue discussed is the possibility of charging for supplies used at workshops. It was decided to charge attendees a nominal sum for maintenance of equipment and supplies at future workshops, but to waive these fees for members. We will continue to invite the public to the workshops but will require a fee for supplies, which fee can be applied to their membership dues for that year. Annual membership dues will be increased by a small amount, effective for year 2013, to cover costs of expanding the number of workshops. At present three workshops are on the schedule for 2013. As part of the strategy for improving the finances of the club we will seek to increase the membership base through greater use of our lapidary equipment, workshops, expanding educational programs at our meetings, and the publicizing of field trips. A number of ideas for improving publicity of the club were discussed and accepted by the group. Other ideas for reducing expenses and increasing revenues were discussed and which will be further explored in the months ahead.

Proposed activities and budgets for each of the standing committees were reviewed. Jim Wines agreed to accept Chairmanship of the Equipment Committee and plans were approved for refurbishing several lapidary wheels. It was also agreed to charge a nominal equipment maintenance fee for club members who wish to borrow club equipment for their personal use. We will have an expanded demonstration of use of club equipment at the 2013 Annual Show. Shannon Oliver agreed to become Chairman and custodian of the club library and Bobbie Lefbvre agreed to chair the Publicity Committee. In addition, Sara Chelette will be chairing the Constitution and By Laws Committee.

A proposed budget for 2013 was developed for presentation to the membership at the regularly scheduled January 21 meeting of the club. It was agreed that the need for working capital for this year's show and activities would require that

the Club Treasurer reduce the size of the 30 day CD, but keep the 180 day CD rolling over at the same size. The interest produced by the CDs at present rates is not material to our finances.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Duggar, Secretary Pro Tem

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! The Board of Directors and Officers met on January 14 to make plans for the upcoming year. See the minutes posted in this month's newsletter. We have three workshops scheduled this year for such topics as making cabochons, beading, rock and mineral identification, club equipment and its use, or wire wrapping.

Ed Tindell has accepted the position of Program Chair and we look forward to the 2013 monthly programs. Ed also chairs the Education/Field Trip Committee. Keep in touch by attending meetings and reading the newsletter to get the latest information regarding field trips. Also, ask Ed to add you to his email distribution, ed-tindell@sprynet.com.

Here is a list of our committees and their chairpersons. Chairpersons always need help; so if you are interested, please volunteer to assist.

Editor/Publisher of Newsletter – Al Pennington
Historian – David Tjiok
Constitution and By Laws – Sara Chelette
Library – Shannon Oliver
Community Benefits – Nancy Duggar
Education/Field Trips – Ed Tindell
Club Publicity – Bobbie Lefabvre
Equipment – Jim Wines
Membership – Mike Flannigan
Annual Show – Al Pennington, Jim Wines
Annual Show Publicity – Nancy and Ben Duggar
Refreshments – David Tjiok

The Annual Show will be held February 23-24. Please consider volunteering to help make this year's show an outstanding success. We need help with admissions, membership and information. Please contact Mike Flannigan, mikeflan@att.net, to volunteer.

I have asked Mike Flannigan, Membership Chair, to send out notices regarding membership dues. They are due in January and delinquent March 18. Membership dues are 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. I have also asked Mike to publish a membership directory. Look for it in April.

Annabel Brownfield
President, CLGMS

From the Editor: I have resigned as chairman of the SCFMS Internet and Communications Committee effective January 2013. Don Shurtz is the new appointee.

A January HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marvin Holbrook	4
Roy Garms	14
Keith Overton	14
Ed Tindell	17
Al Pennington	31

The January stone is Garnet (constancy).

Garnet is derived from the Latin granatum, meaning "seedlike," because the gem resembles the pomegranate.

January Anniversary includes:

Joyce Parker	9
Helen & Ron Kosler	14
William Cox	27



2013 dues. are due

GOODIE GETTERS...For January

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**WHY GOLD DISCOLORS**

The most common reason gold will turn different colors is due to chemical reactions with the alloyed metals mixed with the gold when it is exposed to a caustic element. Some of these chemicals are present in common household products. Swimming pool chlorides and Clorox based household cleaners will definitely cause gold to change to an ugly gray. Mercury from a broken thermometer can literally dissolve the gold right out of a ring leaving a burned black spot or hole. Copier ribbons contain xylem, which can cause yellow gold to turn white, and some ink stamp pads contain a medium which will do the same thing. Smog fumes, perspiration, saltwater, or even certain fruit juices can all cause a discoloring effect on gold. Whenever you are going swimming in chlorinated water or will be working with solvents or cleaners it is best to remove your jewelry. If you get any of these chemicals on your jewelry clean it with a mild solution of baking soda and rinse well before wearing it again, or take it to your local jeweler for a professional cleaning.

The most common reason gold will discolor your skin is metallic abrasion. Many cosmetics contain compounds harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds in the cosmetics will wear away microscopic particles of gold, which will collect in the pores of your skin.

Very fine metal particles always appear black, not metallic. When the particles stick to your skin in quantities, they will form a black smudge. To prevent this you should remove your jewelry when applying cosmetics and then carefully clean the area so it is free of any cosmetics where the jewelry is to be worn. Changing cosmetic brands may also help. Gold itself will not corrode, but the primary alloys that are mixed with 10 and 14 karat-gold will. They are copper and silver. Under moist conditions, a person's perspiration which contains fats and fatty acids can cause corrosion in karat gold jewelry. The level of corrosion will differ, based upon each individual's unique body chemistry. Things that you can do to prevent your jewelry from tarnishing or turning your fingers black are, remove all jewelry before using soaps, perfumes, or cosmetics, and have your jewelry cleaned frequently. You will be amazed at how nice it will look when kept free of oils and dirt.

Eighteen-carat gold jewelry is less likely to change because of the lower alloy content and platinum jewelry is nearly impervious to chemical corrosion. Of all the different types of jewelry it will wear the best and give you the least amount of trouble, especially if you experience constant problems with discoloration and black smudges.

from THE ROCKYTIER 9/01

GOLD CLOTH OF LONG AGO

Until the Middle Ages, underwater divers near the Mediterranean coastline, collected golden strands from the pen shell, which used the strands to hold itself in place. Called "bypssus" the strands were woven into a luxury textile, a "cloth of gold", and made into ladies gloves so fine that a pair could be packed into an empty walnut shell. Examples of this lost art exist today in some museums, and the cloth retains its color and softness. (From the Son Diego Pegmatite via The Rocky Ledger and MWF Newsletter)

Field Trips (2013) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

Think about Field trips for year 2013



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

Spring rock hunts & the Woodward Ranch

I've been getting requests for information about Spring Big Bend Rockhunts, so I thought I'd send out an update, even though the news isn't very good. Right now it looks like neither the Walker Ranch nor the ranch south of Marfa will be open this fall but will open in Spring.

Although that's bad news, it still leaves us with two lovely places to rockhunt: The Ritchie Ranch, and East Needle Peak. The Ritchie Ranch is still \$5 per person per day admission, and the fee per pound will probably be \$1. East Needle Peak will be \$40 per person per day. There's been lots of winter snow and rain in Alpine and Terlingua, so there ought to be lots of freshly uncovered agate that's easy to find!

I am also looking into a couple of other places, but they're not all that likely to come through yet, so I don't want to mention them.

As for the Woodward Ranch, it's still open to rockhunting on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. And, it's on the market if you have a few million dollars hanging around that you'd like to invest. It's about 2200

acres at \$2500/acre, including all the improvements. That's about \$5.5 million. If you buy it, I'll be glad to run the rockhunts for you! Here's the link to the listing:

<http://www.jwcarpenter.com/R122.htm>.

Laws for Rockhounding

Sandy's Law: The need to go to the bathroom increases with the distance away from the facilities.

Doug's Theory: Black flies do not live in the woods until you start to dig, at which time and place they instantaneously appear to hold their annual convention.

Ollie's Observation: The distance to crystal groups in narrow vugs always equals your arms length, plus six inches.

John's Theory: In apparent defiance of Moh, when trimming matrix, beryl will break before feldspar.

Sally's Observation: The best crystal of the trip will be found lying on the surface by a ten year old who will be heard to exclaim, "Is this rock any good?"

Jack's Law No. 1 The mine owner will always point out a hole to dig in where "someone pulled out a fantastic bunch of azurite last week!"

Jack's Law No. 2 No azurite will be found in said hole.

Jack's Law No. 3 It will take you all day to discover the truth of Jack's Law No. 2.

Rick's Rule: The attractiveness and desirability of a crystal pocket is in inverse proportion to its accessibility in the wall.

Pattie's Premise: The enthusiasm of any one under the age of 18 on a field trip with their parents expires at the beginning of the sixth minute at the site.

Morry's Misery: The level of enthusiasm maintained while digging in old dumps is inversely proportional to the number of snakes encountered.

Danny's Dilemma No. 1: All paths to collecting sites have more uphill sections than they have downhill sections.

Danny's Dilemma No. 2: All paths from collecting sites have more uphill sections than they have downhill sections.

Danny's Dilemma No. 3: The same paths double in length during your collecting period.

Alfred's Awful Discovery: The vulnerability of fingers to hammer blows will be demonstrated at least once per field trip. Via Canadian rockhound, via Rock & Rose 9/97

THE MICA GROUP

BY Chuck DeFlorin, Minnesota Mineral Club Member

Mica is the generic term that applies to a group of complex aluminum silicate minerals. The Mica group is a very large group containing thirty members, but only a very few are common to most collectors. Those few members make up a large percentage of the earth's crust. Some of the more common Mica minerals are: Biotite, Muscovite, Lepolite, Fuchsite, Phlogopite and Zinnwaldite. Most mineral collectors are sure to have these six mineral

The name Mica is believed to have been derived from the Latin word micare, which means to shine or glitter. Evidence indicates that the ancient Hindus mined Mica as far back as 2000 B.C. They used it in medicines, window glazing and also as a painting surface for pictures.

All Mica members form a flat six-sided mono-clinical crystal, but are most commonly found in the form of scales and sheets. Mica is characterized by perfect basal cleavage that causes them to split into optically flat films. When split into sheets (films) they remain tough and elastic (able to return to its original shape after being bent) even at high temperatures. A piece of Mica that is one inch thick can be split into nearly a thousand sheets, each as thin as tissue paper. Mica ranges in hardness from 2 to 4 and a specific gravity of 2.7 to 3.2. Practically inert and very stable, Mica is virtually unaffected by the action of water and weather. It can be found in sands that have undergone a lot of erosion because of its durability. Mica is also fire proof, infusible, incombustible and non-flammable, resisting temperatures of 600 degrees C to 900 degrees C depending on the type.

There are many uses for Mica because of its many properties. Small dry ground Mica flakes are used as a thin coating on rubber surfaces to overcome tackiness and sticking. In exterior house paints, dry ground Mica adds body, reduces running and improves weatherability. The addition of mica to all types of sealers for porous surfaces (such as wallboard, masonry and concrete blocks) greatly reduces penetration and improves holdout. Wet ground Mica is used to coat wallpaper, because it imparts an attractive silky and pearly luster. Sheet Mica is used as a resonant diaphragm in certain acoustical devices. Mica is also used as heat and electrical insulators for industrial purposes and also dry powder fire extinguishers. Lastly, Mica is used for spraying Christmas trees, giving them a fresh snowed on appearance.

The most useful of the Micas is Muscovite (Potassium Mica) and is sometimes referred to as white or common Mica. Muscovite's name was derived from Muscovia, a district in Russia, where it was identified in 1609. Muscovite is usually colorless (in thin films), but may be red, yellow, green, brown, or silver gray, with a vitreous to pearly luster. No matter what the color it is still referred to as white Mica. There are a number of distinct varieties containing chromium (Fuchsite), Iron (ferrianmuscovite) and manganese (Alurgite). Fuchsite is a dark emerald green color that can have a beautiful shine if the crystals are small. Ferrianmuscovite is a very dark green color and Alurgite is a pinkish red color. Muscovite is one of the most common mineral in rocks, especially plutonic igneous rocks rich in silica and aluminum (pegmatites and granites).

Biotite, sometimes called black Mica is named after the French physicist, Professor Jean Baptiste Biot. Biotite, which contains iron, has a splendid shiny luster and is usually dark green, dark brown or black in color. Because of the iron content, it isn't used industrially as electrical insulators as is muscovite. Biotite is found in many intrusive igneous rocks, pegmatites, lavas and also metamorphic rocks. Fine

crystals can be found in Alaska as well as the U.S.S.R, Greenland and Brazil. *Fm The Southwest Gem 7/03 via The Rock Rustler's News, 5/03*

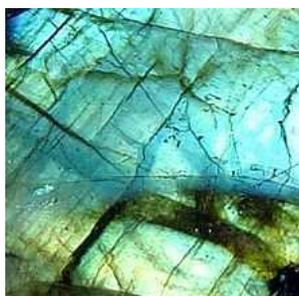
The Beauty of Feldspars by O. Grathwolhl

In spite of the fact that feldspars and feldspathoids could be termed the “Plain Janes” of the mineral realm when compared to their more glittering associates, there are still some varieties which take a worthy place in the sphere of jewelry and decorative stones. Among these are the beautiful potash feldspar varieties such as the champagne-colored orthoclase from Madagascar which is generally cut in facets; yellowish to clear moonstone that is cut in cabochon; green amazonite (microcline) and light brown sanidine that can be cut in either facets or as cabochons. Another very popular feldspar is the sky-blue hauynite of triple brilliant cut. Peristerite (albite) exhibits an intriguing iridescence on a light tan background and is cut into cabochons (laboradorite is similar feldspar).

All of these, however, are put in the shade by lapis lazuli which is an association of minerals, spangled with iron pyrites, created under contact metasomatic conditions and which, in the course of history, has often competed with gold in value. There is evidence that lapis lazuli was already being mined 6,000 years ago in the famous deposits of Badakshan (modern day Afghanistan) and found its way to the old world via the ancient caravan route. Marco Polo, the far ranging Venetian traveler, brought news of these famous mines to Europe as early as 1271.

In ancient Egypt, the lapis lazuli stone (known as “chesbet”) was often framed in gold, and sacred pictures were created from crushed lapis. The death mask of Tutenkhamon is inlaid with lapis.

The Greeks and Romans cherished lapis as an exquisite gem comparing its sparkling luster to that of the star-filled night sky. It is believed that ancient writers referred to sapphire as lapis lazuli not corundum sapphire. Both Theophrastus and Pliny the Elder described the blue color as “cerulum scythian sky blue” used by artists, which was made from lapis lazuli.



During the Middle Ages, lapis lazuli was used in Byzantine art and sacred art from central Europe. It was still considered nearly as valuable as gold. From the feudal age to modern times, lapis lazuli was used for wall paneling and column decorations in many palaces. In the 17th and 18th centuries, lapis was preferred for stone work, for the decoration of fireplaces and for inlay work in combination with precious metals.

In the Czarist Russia, lapis lazuli enjoyed special favor. The beautiful ornamented lapis vases and tables in the Hermitage and the pillars of St. Isaak’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) are two such examples.

The Badakshan deposits are still being mined today under very primitive working conditions and transportation. Other deposits are found at the southwest end of Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union and north of Santiago, Chile (inferior quality).

Lapis lazuli is now used for settings in rings, pendants and necklaces. The lapis lazuli from Chile is used for carving figurines and objects of applied arts. From Cab ‘N Crystal via MINERAL MITE via THE GLACIAL DRIFTER 03/95

.SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
January 19-20 2013 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park	January 16-17-18 2013 Tyler TX East Texas G&MS Rose Garden Ctr.	February 16-17, 2013 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	February 16-17, 2013 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr.
February 23-24, 2013 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr.	March 02-03, 2013 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn	March 02-03, 2013 Robstown, TX Gulf coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	March 16-17, 2013 Live Oak, TX (San Antonio) Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker RD

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.
 January 21, 2013, 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

2013 OFFICERS:	President	Annabel Brownfield	281-486-1866
	Vice President	Sara Chelette	281-286-1195
	Secretary	Ben Duggar (Pro Tem)	281-316-6710
	Treasurer	Trina Willoughby	281-218-0976
	Program Director	Ed Tindell	281-415-7184
	Board of Directors:	Ed Tindell	Jim Wines
		Bobbie Lefabvre	Shannon Oliver
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2013.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Shannon Oliver
Const & bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Duggar	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

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

Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2013 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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