



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 JULY 2012 NUMBER 7



NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2012
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR July... SPECIAL

The program will be: Carole Henning will answer the question "Why is my house sinking? Story of our local Clay" Carole has a background in geology and will discuss the materials that make up the soil under our houses and their properties.

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
June Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights - America's Founding! It is Summer time and time for a Rock Vacation - Good Hunting! Hey there is a another road cut!</p>	<p>CLGMS workshops are scheduled as follows: Saturday, October 13, 2012, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wire Wrap Workshop</p> <p>Members should help on Programs I have had several inputs from members for presentations on jewelry making and faceting. Now I need some volunteers for assembling a presentation for future club meetings. Volunteers? See Trina!</p>
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**** Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember. **** Oscar Levant

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2012

Vice President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer's report was postponed due to the absence of the Treasurer. Vice President Bob Brock presented the May Meeting Minutes. They were approved. There was no business meeting that month.

Visitors were introduced and welcomed.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Library – Current Librarian Lester Gary reported we need a new Librarian. There are four boxes of books and tapes.

Community Service – Trina Willoughby announced she had been contacted by a boy scout troop to assist them in earning a geology badge. Carole Henning volunteered to help.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell made a short presentation on a flashlight with a white light, a green light and a red laser light.

Club Publicity – Chairperson Anna Brownfield announced the cabachon workshop was canceled due to Father's Day. The basic wire wrap class is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Membership – Chairperson Mike Flannigan announced there are 39 paid members. The lost membership applications/renewals from the show were discussed. Lester Gary will provide access to the locker for Mike Flannigan to pick up the forms which should be in the locker.

Old Business

The work day to repair display cases and dealer signs needs to be scheduled.

Show Committee - Ed Tindell announced we need a new volunteer to handle the show setup and take down.

Visitor Charlie Timme made a short presentation on his wire wrapping. He discussed making the bails. He discussed the different types of wire and had an example to share with the members. He uses 24 gauge ½ round wire and 24 gauge square wire. He feels the stone or glass is the focal point and the wire is there to hold the stone. Bernice Timme added that copper and petrified wood compliment each other. They also make dichroic glass (fused glass). Charlie has taught wire wrap classes and dichroic glass classes.

New members were welcomed. Bobbie and Jay Lefevure explained the monthly meetings and programs. Trina Willoughby added information regarding the monthly programs.

Vice President Bob Brock spoke about the Stoney Statements and the Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show to be held on August 25-26, in Jasper, TX. The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) will hold there Annual Meeting there that weekend. He also announced other upcoming shows in the area.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

NOTE: May minutes will be placed in revised version of June Newsletter



*The International Antarctic Expedition (IAE) 2012 was comprised of 72 people from 22 nations, and included teachers, students, journalists and industry representatives from **Royal Dutch Shell, BP Wind Energy, National Instruments India, Lloyds Register, Coca-Cola, NPower and KPMG**. The IAE 2012 involved an Outward Bound-like leadership course set amidst the harsh backdrop of Antarctica. Participants studied climate change, renewable energy and global sustainability issues. Addressing these weighty global issues, participants collaborated on proactive solutions to take back to their schools, universities, communities, industry associations, companies and governments.*

August 25-26 2012

Show Hours - Saturday 9 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 5

The Event Center, 6258 Highway 190, 5 miles West of Jasper

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting Hosted by PCCMS On May 21st,

Susan Editor's & Web Master's Breakfast - Saturday 8:30 A.M.

SCFMS Annual Business Meeting - Saturday 2:00 P. M.

Awards Dinner - Saturday 6:00 P. M.

All SCFMS meetings to be held at First National Bank Community Room

Rolling Rock Club Meeting Sunday 9:00 A.M.

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, P O Box 2513, Jasper, Texas

www.pinecountrygms.org

A July HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerrett Horn	7
William Cox	11
Gwen Craig	24
Verlin Fox	27

RUBY: said to accord wearers - wisdom, happiness and health, and to bring particularly good luck to gamblers and lovers.

July Anniversary includes:

none

IS YOR NAME NOT ON MY

LIST? I am behind on Anniversaries and Birthdays of newer members. If you have not seen your name in the last few months on the right date let me know. Day of Month is fine.

GOODIE GETTERS...For July



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

The Trivia Vug

by RJ Harris, CPRMC

Plant eating dinosaurs did not eat grasses. Dino's became extinct 65 million years ago. Grasses evolved 45 million years later.

Gold is given for a 50th wedding anniversary and silver for the 25th. Tin is given for the 10th. Red rubies and blue sapphires are the same mineral, corundum.

The name "stilbite," pronounced STILL-bite, is derived from the Greek *stilbein*, meaning "to glitter," a reference to the mineral's bright, vitreous luster. Chemiluminescence is luminescence where the energy is supplied by chemical reactions. Those glow-in-the-dark plastic tubes sold in amusement parks are examples of chemiluminescence.

Sources: Useless Information, Mineral of the Month Club, FMS.

from Rock Buster News, 2/12

TUMBLE POLISHING:

Use material of equal hardness, and high quality stones will give you the best result. After the first coarse run, remove any stones with pits or those not completely shaped. Run these again with coarse grit.

Hard Material 80—100—220—400;

Medium Hard Material 100—220—400;

Soft Material 220—400—600.

Wash everything thoroughly between each change of grit.

from MLMS Ghost Sheet, 5/10

HINTS & TIPS..

DON'T GET LOST! In an open space where the ground is level, drive a stake into the ground. Mark the tip of the shadow that the stake casts with a small rock. Wait at least ten minutes then place another rock at the tip of the shadow. The line joining the two rocks will always run east/west no matter what time of day or year!

From Prospector 8/84

MAKE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Take an empty coffee can, fill it with 3 parts dry sand to one part baking soda. Mix well. Store in strategic places around the house, shop, garage and vehicles. In case of a small fire, sprinkle at the base of the fire to smother it.

From Pegmatite via Rock Chip Reporter 4/96

STERLING SILVER can be given a frosted look by roasting the silver in an oven for 20 minutes at 300 degrees F. This changes the surface copper in the sterling silver to copper oxide, which may then be dissolved in sulfuric acid, leaving a pure matte silver.

RING SIZE VARIATIONS

The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you're using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same. Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

Looking for suggestions for fall field trips. Come to the meeting with your suggestions



Thanks,

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

GRAPHITE

Hematite from the Great Rock Mine, Hennock, Bovey Tracey area, UK, Devon was mined (by hand) from 1820 to 1969 and exclusively provided the pigment for the battleship grey paint used by the Royal Navy. The mine is known for micaceous hematite that is uniquely suited for making paint.

<http://tomaszewski.net/Images/0140a.jpg>

Some time before 1565 (some sources say as early as 1500), an enormous deposit of graphite was discovered on the approach to Grey Knotts from the hamlet of Seathwaite in Borrowdale parish, Cumbria, England. The

locals found that it was very useful for marking sheep. This particular deposit of graphite was extremely pure and solid, and it could easily be sawn into sticks. This remains the only large scale deposit of graphite ever found in this



solid form. Chemistry was in its infancy and the substance was thought to be a form of lead. Consequently, it was called plumbago (Latin for "lead ore"). The black core of pencils is still referred to as lead, even though it never contained the element lead.

The value of graphite was soon realised to be enormous, mainly because it could be used to line the moulds for cannonballs, and the mines were taken over by the Crown and guarded. When sufficient stores of graphite had been accumulated, the mines were flooded to prevent theft until more was required. Graphite had to be smuggled out for use in pencils. Because graphite is soft, it requires some form of encasement. Graphite sticks were initially wrapped in string or sheepskin for stability. The distinctively square English pencils continued to be made with sticks cut from natural graphite into the 1860s. The town of Keswick opened the first pencil factory, near the original findings of block graphite, and still manufactures pencils, the factory also being the location of the Cumberland pencil museum. The first

attempt to manufacture graphite sticks from powdered graphite was in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1662.

It is claimed that graphite from the mine in Cumbria gave rise to an interesting term to the English vocabulary. When it was discovered that you could make writing instruments from the processed graphite, the discovery was a major advance in communication and espionage. The Crown forbid the unauthorized mining and exportation of graphite. From the dumps of the graphite mine, intrepid souls secretly would try to collect and extract the graphite and bring the material to the big city, London, where they would surreptitiously try to sell their contraband. The authorities would easily be able to arrest the miscreants because of the graphite stains on their hands; from these soiled hands we get the term "black market".

I really do have type locality specimens for Battleship Grey and Pencil Lead (and the 'black market'. And both of them were acquired by trades of self collected specimens. Both specimens are pretty ugly, until you learn about their history.

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship Program

Antonio Rios is a graduate of Pasadena High School. He has spent the last two years at San Jacinto College –Central taking prerequisites for a science degree. Antonio will transfer to the University of Houston – Main Campus in Fall2012 as a petroleum engineering major. After taking geology courses at San Jac, he has realized that he really likes geology – maybe even as a career.

Antonio spends his time studying and working two jobs. He is honored to be considered as a candidate for this scholarship.

Jennie Evelyn Ferguson - Jennie is a graduate of Sam Rayburn High School. She is working toward her AA in Geology at San Jacinto College – Central. Upon completion of her AA degree, she will transfer as a geology major to the University of Houston – Main Campus. Jennie is an avid rock collector and has visited many of the show caves (Natural Bridge Caverns and Wonder World) in the immediate area.

The award will take place at the **July** General meeting

Ruby, the King of the Gemstones

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, one of the hardest minerals on Earth, of which the sapphire is also a variety. Pure corundum is colourless. Slight traces of elements such as chrome, iron, titanium or vanadium are responsible for the colour. These gemstones have excellent hardness. On the Mohs scale their score of 9 is second only to that of the diamond. Only red corundum is entitled to be called ruby, all other colours being classified as sapphires. The close relationship between the ruby and the sapphire has only been known since the beginning of the 19th century. Up to that time, red garnets or spinels were also thought to be rubies. (That, indeed, is why the 'Black Ruby' and the 'Timur Ruby', two of the British Crown Jewels, were so named, when they are not actually rubies at all, but spinels.)

The non-red variety of corundum is **Sapphire**. Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color. The red color in ruby is caused by trace amounts of the element chromium. The best shade of red for ruby is often given the name "pigeon blood red", but ruby can be any shade of red up to almost pink.



For thousands of years, the ruby has been considered one of the most valuable gemstones on Earth. It has everything a precious stone should have: magnificent colour, excellent hardness and outstanding brilliance. In addition to that, it is an extremely rare gemstone, especially in its finer qualities.

For a long time India was regarded as the ruby's classical country of origin. In the major works of Indian literature, a rich store of knowledge about gemstones has been handed down over a period of more than two thousand years. The term 'corundum', which we use today, is derived from the Sanskrit word 'kuruvinda'. The Sanskrit word for ruby is 'ratnaraj', which means something like 'king of the gemstones'. And it was a royal welcome indeed which used to be prepared for it. Whenever a particularly beautiful ruby crystal was found, the ruler sent high dignitaries out to meet the precious gemstone and welcome it in appropriate style. Today, rubies still decorate the insignia of many royal households.

Some rubies display a wonderful silky shine, the so-called 'silk' of the ruby. This phenomenon is caused by very fine needles of rutile. And now and then one of the rare star rubies is found. Here too, the mineral rutile is involved: having formed a star-shaped deposit within the ruby, it causes a captivating light effect known by the experts as asterism. Rubies come from all over the world but good gemstones are found at Thailand, India, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, North Carolina in the U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Kampuchea, and perhaps most notably, Burma.

Rubies have a famous place in science - the first lasers were made from artificial ruby crystals. They still are used for this purpose although other materials offer improved efficiency. Some ruby crystals show the fluorescence (actually very short term phosphorescence) that makes a laser possible. *Derived From* www.gemstone.org

Cameos

During the time of Shakespeare, the agate cameo was very popular in England and went by the name of "agatestones." Agate cameos of exquisite workmanship were worn by the nobility and were in the crown jewels.

Cameo is a subject about which comparatively little has been written and much deal with cameos of years past. Practically nothing has been written regarding the techniques of cutting shell cameos.

The old Italian cameo cutters spent their lives in the work, and the "secrets" of the art were handed down from father to son for generations. Usually the apprentice would start work as a young boy so it's to be expected that a number of highly skilled cutters could be developed.

Cameo is a gem carved with figures that are raised in relief. The term often refers to a gem that has layers of different colors. The figures are cut from one layer against a background of another color.

Stones commonly used for cameos include onyx, sardonyx, agate and tiger's-eye. Shell and coral are also used, but the agate and tiger's-eye have long retained their popularity. This is due to the fact that a well executed portrait on one of these hard gemstones lasts for a lifetime.

Beautiful artificial cameos are made from various kinds of shell and fine glass. Shell yields very delicate cameos. Both the Romans and Greeks produced excellent cameos.

Cameos were introduced for decorative purposes about 300 BC as a contrast to the older forms called intaglios, which were incised below the surface and also served as seals. Cameos and intaglios present the highest form of carving, since the cutter is truly a sculptor as well as a cutter.

The cutting is done by means of a small lathe fixed to a table on a bench. The stone to be worked is held in the fingers and freely manipulated against the revolving tool on the lathe. In the 16th Century, cameos were carved from a single stone of five layers, each a different color. Cameos are much in demand today by collectors and are one of the latest fashion accessories. From *The Petrified Digest* (Mar. '98), Via Fire and Ice, 12/03

BRAZILIANITE

George Judd G.G. M.M.L.S. Member

Brazilianite is one of the more recently discovered of the minerals that are of interest to gem collectors. The discovery was made during World War II in Conselheira, Pena district, Minas Gerais, Brazil, where it occurs in phosphate - rich pegmatite dikes. Like beryllonite, it is a phosphate. It is transparent to translucent, yellowish green to greenish yellow, and forms in prismatic monoclinic crystals. In appearance, it bears some resemblance to similar colors of beryl or chrysoberyl; however, it is too soft (5 1/2) and much too fragile (because of perfect cleavage to be of great importance as a gemstone).

The fracture of Brazilianite is conchoidal, the streak is white, and the luster is vitreous. No inclusions have been encountered that gemologists regard as diagnostic. It has an R.I. ranging from plus to minus .002 of 1.602 up to within plus or minus .003 of 1.621; the intermediate index is near 1.605. The birefringence varies from .019 to .021. It is biaxial positive. The pleochroism is very weak and no phenomenon is shown. It is insoluble in hydrochloric acid and fuses with difficulty.

This gem may be faceted or cut in the cabochon style. Because of the excellent cleavage, it must be oriented carefully. Usually, rough material contains many fine flaws, causing pits to occur during the polishing operation. This condition may be eliminated by changing polishing directions. Linde A powder, together with crown angles of 42 degrees and pavilion angles of 43 degrees, prove to be satisfactory.

Brazilianite can be easily distinguished from beryl and chrysoberyl by its R.I., and its birefringence separates it from topaz. Likewise, it may be separated from topaz by the fact that it has an S.G. of 2.94, plus or minus .03, in contrast to the 3.5+ of topaz. From *The Rockpile* 1/04

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
May 26 - 27 FORT WORTH, TX Ft. Worth G&MS Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.	Aug. 11 - 12 BATON ROUGE, LA Baton Rouge G&MS Marriot Ballroom Just off of college Drive	Aug. 18 - 19 BOSSIER CITY, LA Ark-La-Tex G&MS Bossier City Civic Ctr.	Aug. 25 - 26 JASPER, TX SCMFS & Pine Country G&MS Events Ctr.

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.
 July 16, 2012, 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

2012 OFFICERS:	President	Ben Duggar	
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Brownfield	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Jim Wines
		Ed Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

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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