



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 JUNE 2012 NUMBER 6

Father's Day




NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2012
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR June... SPECIAL

The program will be: *No Program announced*

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 |
|---|---|---|--|
| May Minutes | 2 |  <p>Weather is warming and its time to take a Club Officer to Lunch! *Laughs* Pictured are Al Pennington, Editor and Loyce Pennington, Treasurer</p> | <p>CLGMS workshops are scheduled as follows: Sunday, June 17, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Cabochon Workshop Saturday, October 13, 2012, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Beginning Wire Wrap Workshop</p> <p>The CLGMS is continuously giving back to the local community and this is one of the ways we can help the most. As those of us in all clubs know, the young are the future and it is important to help those interested in pursuing a career in the earth sciences. Scholarship Winners announced on page 5. Will be awarded at July General Meeting</p> |
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**** "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin. ****

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2012

President Ben Duggar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The prior month's meeting minutes were approved with one correction, the spelling of Sara Chelette's name.

Committee Reports

Show Committee – A refund was received from the Pasadena Convention Center for an overpayment. Printing has begun and the flyers are being distributed to the dealers.

Community Service – Bookplates have been received. Chairperson Nancy Duggar reported the schools have received the books they ordered.

Library – Chairperson was absent.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell gave a short report on the past three field trips to the TXI Quarry in Midlothian, TX.

Field Trips – Chairperson Ed Tindell announced an upcoming field trip to Walker Ranch in Alpine, TX. Another field trip to Midlothian in the fall was discussed. Field trips to Waco Pit and the Wilson Clay Pit in Brownwood were also discussed.

Club Publicity – The upcoming Beading Workshop was discussed. Nineteen have registered so far. The Harbor View Nursing Home requested a bead workshop.

New members and visitors were welcomed and introduced.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Loyce Pennington. A motion was made by Trina Willoughby to approve the report and it was seconded by Nancy Duggar. The report was approved unanimously.

New Business

President Ben Duggar announced the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show on April 28, 2012.

Old Business

The Show Workday was discussed. Volunteers were requested.

President Ben Duggar asked for the value of the faceting machine that was donated to the club to present the donor with a gift receipt.

David Tjiok reported the water pitcher is missing from the club box located at the park building.

Program

Sondee Weiss, a member of the Texas Rockers, presented the program on the Midlothian Quarry. Sondee explained the area was once an inland sea. It is now made up of limestone and shale with phosphate deposits. She presented a shark tooth she found there with the root and crown in addition to serrations on the side of the tooth. Three cement companies are in the area. The TXI Quarry went into production in the 1960's. She found four different species of sharks and had examples of the teeth found. She also had some fossil clams found in the limestone. Calcite specimens were also discussed and presented. She explained how she cleaned the mud rock using peroxide and found shark teeth. She also had a septarian nodule and pyrite samples found in the quarry.

A break was taken and refreshments were served.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

NOTE: May minutes not yet received from Secretary



*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 PCGMS 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

An June HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Jones, Ray | 06/01 |
| Schuler, Chuck | 06/06 |
| Schuler, Vicki | 06/07 |
| Lagerwall, Dean | 06/18 |
| Tjiok, David | 06/26 |
| Robinett, Bettie | 06/27 |

Moonstone: Gives inspiration and helps obtain love and romance. Also claimed to promote long life, happiness and loyalty towards the wearer.

June Anniversary includes:

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Sharon Choens | 6/26 |
| Vicki and Chuck Schuler | 6/26 |

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 June



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)



Blacksmithing

For those interested in the field of blacksmithing and ornamental ironwork, a free downloadable book called "The Blacksmith's Craft" has been prepared by Herefordshire College of Technology in England. The book, first

published in 1952, was written for craftsmen, technical schools and apprentice training programs. Though 60 years old, the book continues to be a good introduction to the blacksmith's craft. It can be downloaded from http://www.hct.ac.uk/Downloads/cp_blacksmith.html from Rock-It 5/12

Garnet Bullets

A cool fact about garnets is that they were actually used in ancient Asia and the American Southwest as bullets in guns. The strong, deep red of the stone was said to cause wounds worse than bullets. Read more about it on the Omnigems Blog http://omigems.com/blog/category/gem_stones/ from Rock-It 5/12

HINTS & TIPS...

DO BEZELS SHRINK?

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering. If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. But for harder cabs like jasper or agates, you have to use a diamond file or one of the ruby nail files from the drugstore.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment in the stone size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over onto the stone.

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up. The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Forum From The RockCollector 6/12 Ghost Sheet, 6/12

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"

Bumblebee Agate



This material from Indonesia is becoming quite popular. It is sold as Bumblebee Agate or Bumblebee Jasper.

Analysis online at a gemological web site quotes the miners in correspondence with a contributor. It is mined from sulfur vents. Their speculation on probable composition and viewing with

a microscope shows the following: The material is anhydrite (gypsum), sulfur, hematite, in a matrix of volcanic tuff (welded ash). It also may have plumose calcite and ilmenite. While the miners claim they can call it agate because it could have some opaline silica, conclusions indicate the silica content is negligible so certainly does not qualify as an agate.

The material is the most expensive anhydritesulfur you can buy at a dollar a gram, it can decompose and make sulfuric acid which will rot your jewelry mounting, and is softer than even travertine making it useless for jewelry. It is all about marketing. Essentially the material is decomposed volcanic ash, which is another name for siliceous mud with sulfur, yet the material is dominated by anhydrite. If it was mostly mud, we would call it Biggs Jasper and charge even more for it. Keep in mind agate forms at a pH greater than 6.5, typically around 8.5 in alkaline conditions, and sulfur forms in extremely acidic conditions of pH 4 or less, so there is no significant silica that can be deposited in these vent conditions. In fact, it would take microscopy to find any silica.

Submitted by Bob Rush Lapidary/Gemstone Community

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship Program

Purpose: To fund courses in Geology, Mineralogy, Geophysics or Paleontology at any accredited university or college as part of a course of studies in Earth Sciences. Amount: \$1000.00 each. The number of scholarships will normally be two (2) each year. Additional scholarships may be determined by the Board of Directors based on the funds available. This year's scholarship winners are:

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**

Obsessed with Obsidian

By Sheryl Sims



“...jet, obsidian, ember of bloodstone, glisten of mineral green. And what hangs out there asleep...” Jennifer L. Armentrout
The term obsidian came from an error made by a printer. The Latin word *Obsianus*, was meant to allude to Obsius, who, according to Pliny, the Elder (Book xxxvi), discovered the rock in Ethiopia (formerly Abyssinia).ⁱ Also known as Iceland agate, obsidians are a favorite among my growing mineral collection. The dark, volcanic glass, which is formed by rapidly cooling, solidifying lava may be found in a variety of colors. Most commonly, black or dark gray is found. Much less easy to find is the blueish gray. Obsidian may also be found in a reddish

brown color as well as in iridescent shades of silver, or gold tones. Rare finds of obsidian have streaks of pink, yellow, green, purple and brown. Some obsidians are spotted and others possess more of a free-flowing banded pattern. Obsidian can be translucent, but may also be opaque. They can be vitreous or subvitreous and possess conchoidal fracturing.

Obsidians are often used for jewelry, however, I simply enjoy looking at it and feeling its smooth, glassy surface. It's also been used as mirrors in telescopes. In ancient times, it was used as for weapons and tools because of the sharp edges that occur when broken. It was also used for chalices, vases, and statues. While obsidian is still obsidian despite going by many other names, below are marketplace names by which obsidians may be found:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Agata Negra (<i>black agate</i>) | ▪ Mount Saint Helens emerald. |
| ▪ Apache | ▪ Montana jet. black obsidian |
| ▪ Banded obsidian | ▪ Nevada diamond. |
| ▪ Black lava glass | ▪ Obsidian "cat's-eye" |
| ▪ Colombianite (americanite) | ▪ Obsidianite |
| Chatoyant obsidian | ▪ Onyx obsidian |
| ▪ Desert glass | ▪ Peanut obsidian |
| ▪ Electric blue obsidian | ▪ Pearlylite |
| ▪ Fire obsidian or Flame obsidian | ▪ Pitchstone |
| ▪ Flowering or Snowflake obsidian | ▪ Plum obsidian |
| ▪ Glass agate | ▪ Pumpkin obsidian |
| ▪ Golden sheen obsidian | ▪ Royal agate. |
| ▪ Iceland agate (or <i>Iceland agate lava</i>) - | ▪ Rhyolite glass |
| ▪ Iris obsidian or rainbow obsidian | ▪ Royal blue obsidian |
| ▪ Itatli - obsidian (Aztec) | ▪ Sheen obsidian |
| ▪ Lassenite | ▪ Snowflake obsidian |
| ▪ Libyan glass | ▪ "Star" |
| ▪ Mahogany obsidian or <i>Mountain</i> | ▪ Velvet obsidian |
| ▪ Marskanite | ▪ Volcanic glass |
| ▪ Mexican 'Mayan'/Rainbow obsidian. | ▪ Xaga |

Obsidian may be found in parts of Italy; Russia, Mexico, and the US (Arizona, California, Utah, Oregon, and Wyoming). <http://people.cst.cmich.edu/dietr1rv/obsidian.htm>. Ibid.

Montgomery, 1981; Pough, 1997; VanLandingham, 1962, pt.2; Weiner, 1983.
from Mineral Minutes 6/12

Moonstone



Moonstone is the best known gem variety of orthoclase feldspar, being potassium aluminum silicate $KAlSi_3O_8$. It is usually polished as a cabochon, and is often carved with a moon face. Its importance as a gemstone arises because of its schiller, which in moonstone has been given the name adularescence. This is caused by a feature of its crystal structure. Orthoclase feldspar and albite are present in close association, arranged in layers. This causes an interference effect of light. The color of this schiller regarded as most desirable is blue, which usually occurs in a white or grey body color. If the albite layers are too thick this schiller appears whitish which is less attractive.

Moonstone was very popular early in the 20th century and was extensively used in Art Nouveau jewelry. Moonstone has a hardness of 6 and a specific gravity of 2.57. It is monoclinic; it has one two-fold axis of symmetry. Adularia is a

common type of moonstone. Oligoclase is another type of moonstone; Labradorite and albite are rare forms

Inclusions

Moonstone contains a number of typical inclusions which appear to be stress cracks. These give the appearance of centipede type insects, Chinese "aeroplanes" looking like characters from Chinese writing, negative cavities looking like rectangular crystals, and needle-like shapes. If present in large numbers, the needle shaped inclusions can cause a cat's eye chatoyancy effect.

Colour:

The most desirable colour of moonstone is blue, but it also occurs in grey, white, pink, green and brown.

Mythology:

All qualities related to the moon-- sensitivity, intuition, and clairvoyance -- are also connected to moonstone. Even its appearance is subtle. It's not a brilliant stone; all specimens, from the peach and gray hues to the gem-quality blue-, and rainbow-colored pieces, cast a light which is soft and translucent.

The physical appearance of a stone often suggests its spiritual qualities, and moonstone's foremost attribute is the ability to assist us in calming and soothing the emotions. When one has achieved a state of emotional calmness, this stone may be used to open people to an intuitive understanding of spirituality. Hence, Moonstone: Soothes & balances the emotions; helps eliminate fear of "feeling"; encourages inner growth & strength; aids peace & harmony & psychic abilities; aligns vertebrae; digestive aid.

Lore

The Moonstone

Probably the most famous moonstone of all was not a moonstone but a diamond. In the well-known classic book "The Moonstone" by Wilkie Collins, a large diamond was stolen from an Indian shrine, and a retired policeman is hired as a private detective to investigate a murder and robbery. Wilkie Collins is recognised as the inventor of the English detective novel, and was a friend and colleague of Charles Dickens. Although "The Moonstone" was written in 1868, it remains to this day a masterpiece of English literature. The book is clearly based on a number of stories about famous diamonds which have disappeared and reappeared over the centuries.

Moonstone is the anniversary gemstone for the 13th year of marriage.

Moonstone is the US State Gemstone of Florida and New York.

Moonstone is said to balance yin/yang.

| 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.
 June 18, 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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