



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 50 MARCH 2024 NUMBER 3



NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2024**

TIME: **7:00 p.m.**

LOCATION: **Helen Hall Library
100 W Walker St.
League City, Tx 77573**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		
March Meeting	1	<p><u>March MONTHLY MEETING</u></p> <p>The club had another successful 2024 Annual Show. Thank you all for contributing your time to make the success of the show.</p>
Board/General Meeting Minutes Upcoming events Field Trips	2-4	<p>Hawaiian Hot Spots – Hawaiian Volcanoes</p> <p>Socash Studio (Joann) will do this awesome presentation.</p>
Grape Agates	5-8	<p>Please come and join us for a good educational event.</p>
Upcoming shows	8	<p>Show and tell.</p>
		<p>http://www.clgms.org/</p>

MINUTES OF THE February CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

The Month of February general meeting is reserved for final preparation for the club annual show.

We had a little glitch with the Credit Card readers because we had not been using them for a while (outdated?). Monica was working to fix them.

The volunteer list was distributed and pretty much filled.

Big thank you to George Kramer for offering her students to volunteer.

Thank you to Alan Treimann for helping with Geology 101.

Thank you to Lori Westerman for the delicious refreshment and goodies.

MINUTES OF THE March CLGMS BOARD MEETING.

School funding up to \$500.00 per school we need to get their applications in for next school year. Three schools and three libraries for elementary and secondary only.

Cindy will redo our letterhead for this letter and then we will send it out to the school's next time.

March 1st will be the time for Seniors and college students to start to apply for our Science Scholarship and the deadline will be April 30th. The scholarship is for \$2,000.00 and will be given out to up to five students.

Show Report:

48 vendors, 240 vendor tables, and \$23,825.00 collected. There will be a possible increase in table fees for next year's show (depending on the rental fee at PCC). We are getting new credit card readers for the club that we can use during the meetings (membership dues) and next year's show.

Trina and Monica are planning a trip to Arkansas around April 20th, and they will have more information on where they are going.

Christina will make a list of questions for our member directory and email it to Cindy.

Monthly speaker list:

March-SoCash Studio – Hawaiian Volcanoes

April-Chaotic Creations-Singing bowls

May-Sanders Geo Hazard's

June-Truscon Minerals

July-Henry Rock tumbling

Our next show will be February 24-25, 2024.

Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following programs.

Hot spots like the Hawaiian islands and Yellowstone are unique and provide safe (generally) areas to study the relationship between magma miles below the surface and cycles of volcanic eruption in areas that are not part of subduction zones (i.e. Pacific coast). Over the last 20 years, Kilauea, on the island of Hawaii, has gone through some major changes. This presentation will touch on what the hot spot is and how the Hawaiian Islands form. A combination of personal photos and USGS photos are used to step through changes to Kilauea and the surrounding area over the past 20 years.

Socash Studios started out as a mineral enthusiast's craft business where Joann sold jewelry made with wired design elements and natural stones. She brought mineral specimens so people could see and handle the natural stones and began selling them as much as the jewelry. After a few years, she realized that sharing her love of minerals was what she really wanted to do, so her business shifted to minerals. From beginner hobbyists to advanced hobbyists looking for high quality specimens or exotic minerals - there is something for everyone.

Joann can be reached at:
jcs@socashstudios.com
571-730-8947 cell phone



Helen Hall Library
100 W. Walker St.
League City, TX 77573

Hawaiian Volcanoes- An Ever Changing Landscape
& GEM SHOW & TELL
03/19/2024, 7 pm

www.clgms.org



Please check out our Facebook page: **Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society.**

Field Trips Announcement

1. June-Saturday day trip to Livingston Rock Shop (?)

2. Hi Y'all! Rockhunting season is starting in the Big Bend of Texas. As I mentioned in my earlier email, I've provided you with a list of dates that work for me, and you can let me know what date(s) you'd like to hunt, and what ranch(es) you'd like to hunt on. (If you don't have that email, the schedule is on my website, www.terismithrockhunts.com.) Or you can join a hunt that's already been scheduled. The dates I've got people scheduled for right now are:

Saturday, March 02: Ritchie Ranch. Start time 9 a.m.
Sunday, March 03: Ritchie Ranch. Start time 9 a.m.
Monday, March 04: Ritchie Ranch. Start time 9 a.m.
Friday, March 08: South Larremore Ranch. Start time 8 a.m.
Monday, March 11: Ritchie Ranch. Start time 9 a.m.
Tuesday, March 12: East Needle Peak. Start time 8 a.m.
Friday, March 15: East Needle Peak. Start time 8 a.m.
Thursday, April 11: South Larremore Ranch. Start time 8 a.m.

Once again, the hunts will begin in the parking lot of Little Caesar's Pizza in Alpine, at the corner of Holland Avenue and Highway 118 south. To sign up for a field trip, email me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net, or call or text me at (432) 386-3431. Email and text work best because then I have your information written down. You can sign up for an existing trip right up to the day of the trip. To schedule a special trip for you and your group, please give me a few days' notice to ensure that I can get all of my routine tasks done and out of the way so we can have fun rockhunting.

Here are some details about the rockhunts:

East Needle Peak

Cost: \$50 per person per day. First bucket of rocks you collect is included in cost.

Location: About 100 miles south of Alpine Texas via Highway 118 and FM 170.

Road Condition: Bad. Hilly, rough, unmaintained dirt road from highway to site. Can be impassable if it's rained recently. High ground clearance required, 4wd preferred.

Terrain: Mostly rough mountain slopes and arroyos. Several flat places to hunt, including a huge dry creek bed.

South Larremore Ranch

Cost: \$60 per person per day. First bucket of rocks you collect is included in cost.

Location: 45 miles south of Alpine on Highway 118.

Road Condition: Medium. Dirt road from highway to hunting sites. Can be muddy if it's rained recently. Otherwise it's quite dusty. High ground clearance preferred.

Terrain: Basically flat, with occasional gravel mounds and arroyos, including the dry bed of Calamity Creek.

Ritchie Ranch

Cost: \$20 per person per day, plus "Good" rocks at \$1 per lb. I'll work with you to tell you which rocks are "good", and which ones are free.

Location: On the edge of Alpine.

Road Condition: Good. Dirt road from highway to hunting sites. Can be muddy if it's rained recently.

Main road is well maintained, branch roads can be a bit overgrown. Can be traversed in almost any vehicle.

Terrain: Flat to rolling hills.

Regards,
Teri

P.S. I've still got great rocks for sale. I'm still cataloging what I've got, and I'll send out an email about that as soon as I have an idea what I have.

Our mailing address is:
Teri Smith Rockhunts
509 N 8th St

Alpine, TX 79830-3401

If you have a good location for our club field trip – please contact:
annabel.brownfield@gmail.com or call/text: 281-486-1866.

Grape Agate: Properties, Formation, Occurrence

<https://www.geologyin.com/2019/04/what-is-grape-agate.html>

Grape agate is a botryoidal variety of chalcedony, distinguished by its clusters of tiny grape-like spheres. Its name derives from its resemblance to bunches of grapes, with individual spheres ranging from two to eight millimeters in diameter.

The color of grape agate typically varies from pale purple to deep lavender, with occasional inclusions of white, gray, green, or blue. Grape Agate gemstone is a relatively new find. Grape agate is found in Indonesia and has also been found west of the Green River in Utah. It is a relatively new gemstone, first appearing on the market in 2016. Grape agate is popular for use in jewelry and other decorative items.



How is grape agate formed

The formation of grape agate is closely linked to volcanic activity, particularly in areas where andesite lava flows have interacted with seawater. These interactions often lead to the creation of voids or spaces between individual lava pillows, which are bulbous or pillow-shaped masses of lava.

Within these voids, hydrothermal fluids, rich in silica and manganese, circulate and deposit silica minerals, primarily chalcedony. Over time, the silica gradually builds up, forming layers upon layers of chalcedony, eventually giving rise to the characteristic spherical or botryoidal grape-like clusters.

The presence of manganese, a trace mineral often found in hydrothermal fluids, imparts the captivating purple coloration to grape agate. The concentration of manganese determines the intensity of the purple hue, ranging from light lavender to deep, rich shades of purple.

Properties of Grape Agate

Grape agate, with its stunning botryoidal clusters of purple chalcedony, has captivated collectors and artisans for centuries. Let's delve into its captivating properties:

Composition: Grape agate is a variety of chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline form of quartz (SiO_2). It consists primarily of silicon dioxide (SiO_2) with trace amounts of other minerals like aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3), iron oxide (Fe_2O_3), and manganese oxide (MnO_2) contributing to its vibrant purple hues.

Color: Grape agate showcases a range of purple shades, from lilac and lavender to deeper plum and amethyst. The intensity and vibrancy can vary depending on the iron and manganese content.

Luster: Grape agate exhibits a vitreous luster, meaning it has a glassy, shiny appearance.

Crystal System: Chalcedony, and therefore grape agate, belongs to the trigonal crystal system.

Streak: When scratched, grape agate leaves a white streak.

Hardness: On the Mohs hardness scale, grape agate ranks between 6 and 7, meaning it can scratch steel but not quartz.

Cleavage: Grape agate lacks distinct cleavage planes, so it tends to break conchoidally when fractured.

Crystal Form: Grape agate doesn't typically exist in well-defined individual crystals. Instead, it forms botryoidal aggregates, meaning grape-like clusters of microcrystalline chalcedony.

Density: Grape agate has a density of approximately 2.6 grams per cubic centimeter.

Transparency: Grape agate can range from translucent to semi-translucent, depending on the thickness and density of the stone.

Fracture: Grape agate has a conchoidal fracture, meaning it breaks with smooth, curved surfaces.

Specific Gravity: Grape agate's specific gravity is around 2.61 to 2.64.

Solubility: Grape agate is highly insoluble in water and most common acids.

Magnetism: Grape agate is not magnetic.

Fluorescence: Some grape agate may exhibit weak fluorescence under long-wave ultraviolet light, appearing a pale purple or white.

Pleochroism: Grape agate does not exhibit noticeable pleochroism, meaning its color remains consistent when viewed from different directions.

Refractive Index: The refractive index of grape agate ranges from 1.535 to 1.540.

Uses of Grape Agate

Grape agate is used in a variety of applications, including jewelry, art, and crystal healing.

Jewelry and Adornment:

Gemstone: Grape agate's stunning color and waxy luster make it a popular choice for jewelry, often fashioned into cabochons, beads, pendants, and rings. Its hardness allows it to withstand everyday wear and tear.

Carvings and Sculptures: Skilled artisans utilize grape agate's intricate botryoidal formations to create miniature sculptures, figurines, and decorative objects. The play of light and color within the stone adds an extra layer of beauty to these creations.

Metaphysical and Spiritual Uses:

Healing Stone: In crystal healing practices, grape agate is associated with emotional stability, intuition, and spiritual growth. It is believed to promote inner peace, balance, and connection to higher realms.

Meditation and Focus: The calming and grounding energy of grape agate can be helpful for meditation and mindfulness practices. Its beauty can aid in concentration and focus, creating a peaceful atmosphere for introspection.

Artistic Expression and Decoration:

Intarsia and Mosaics: The unique patterns and color variations within grape agate make it a valuable material for creating intricate mosaics and inlaid artwork. Its translucency adds depth and dimension to these artistic pieces.

Home Decor and Accents: Polished grape agate slices can be used as coasters, paperweights, or decorative objects, adding a touch of natural elegance to any space. Its vibrant hues and textures can complement various interior design styles.

Where can I find grape agate?

Primary Source:

Manakarra Region, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia: This is the main source of grape agate, where it forms in veins and cavities within volcanic rocks. The Mamuju Regency within the region is particularly known for its high-quality grape agate deposits.

Alternative Locations:

West of the Green River in Utah, USA: While not as abundant as in Indonesia, you may find pockets of grape agate in this region, particularly near the Uinta Mountains.

Limited Finds: Occasional discoveries of grape agate have been reported in other locations like India, Brazil, and even Madagascar. However, these occurrences are typically much rarer than the ones mentioned above.



Is grape agate expensive?

The price of grape agate can vary significantly depending on its quality, size, color intensity, and rarity. High-quality, vibrant-colored specimens from Indonesia can be more expensive, while smaller or less colorful ones might be more affordable.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
<p>Mar. 16-17, 2024 Badger Lapidary and Geological Society. Rock County Fairgrounds, Craig Center. Janesville, WI www.badgerrockclub.org</p>	<p>March 16-17, Central Texas G&MS, Taylor County Expo Center, Display Building, Abilene, TX, www.facebook.com/p/CentralTexas-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-100082479451581/</p>	<p>March 21- 23, 2024 Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana Rock Show Alario Center 2000 Segnette Blvd. Westwego, LA 70094. www.gmsofla.org</p>	<p>April 6-7, 2024 Lincoln NE Rock Show Ag Society Hall; 84th and Havelock, Lincoln, NE https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/</p>
<p>April 6-7, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Morris Center, SWMS.ORG</p>	<p>April 20- 21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MC, Alpine Civic Center, Alpine, TX, www.facebook.com/chihuahuan-desertgem-mineral-club.</p>	<p>May 18-19, 2024 Wisconsin Geological Society (WGS). Waukesha County Expo Building. https://www.wigeo.org/</p>	<p>June 17-18 – Arlington G&MS Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051; https://www.therockninja.com/event-details/arlington-gem-mineral-show</p>

STONEY STATEMENTS
 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

 PO BOX 891533
 Houston, Texas 77289

Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the Month
7:00 P.M.
 League City Library
 100 W Walker St, League City, Tx 77573



Member of

Next Annual Show
 February 24-25, 2024
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>
FACEBOOK: CLEAR LAKE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY.



American
 Federation of
 Mineral Societies

South Central
 Federation of Mineral
 Societies

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.																											
2024 OFFICERS:																											
	President	Cynthia McGowan	281-546-2662																								
	Vice President	David Tjiok	832-423-4802																								
	Secretary	Christina Rankin	281-723-5408																								
	Treasurer	Monica Duran	281-705-7875																								
	Program Director	VACANT																									
	Board of Directors:	Sandra Christiansen	Jim Hawkins																								
		Jeff Mills	John Caldye																								
		Donna Nelson																									
	Newsletter Editor	David Tjiok																									
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Annual Show 2024</td> <td>Sandra Christiansen</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Membership.....</td> <td>Mike Flannigan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Constitution & Bylaws.....</td> <td>Jim Hawkins</td> <td>WWW System Admin..</td> <td>Mike Flannigan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Benefits.....</td> <td>Charlie Timme</td> <td>Refreshments.....</td> <td>Lori Westerman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Historian.....</td> <td>David Tjiok</td> <td>Education/Field Trips.....</td> <td>Annabel Brownfield</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publicity.....</td> <td>Annabel Brownfield</td> <td></td> <td>Casey Renner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facebook.....</td> <td>Cynthia McGowan</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Annual Show 2024	Sandra Christiansen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan	Constitution & Bylaws.....	Jim Hawkins	WWW System Admin..	Mike Flannigan	Community Benefits.....	Charlie Timme	Refreshments.....	Lori Westerman	Historian.....	David Tjiok	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield	Publicity.....	Annabel Brownfield		Casey Renner	Facebook.....	Cynthia McGowan		
Annual Show 2024	Sandra Christiansen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan																								
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Jim Hawkins	WWW System Admin..	Mike Flannigan																								
Community Benefits.....	Charlie Timme	Refreshments.....	Lori Westerman																								
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield																								
Publicity.....	Annabel Brownfield		Casey Renner																								
Facebook.....	Cynthia McGowan																										
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2024: Adult \$15:00, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289																											