

A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 43	MAY 2017	NUMBER 5
-----------	----------	----------

Memorial Day



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2017
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 Nasa Parkway
 Seabrook, Texas

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		
May Meeting	1	<p><u>MAY MONTHLY MEETING</u></p> <p>Cylinder Seals: Gemstones as Tiny Windows on the Ancient World</p>
Monthly Meeting Minutes Board Meeting Minutes	2-3	<p>The program will be presented by Sarah Kielt Costello, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Art History at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The presentation will introduce the world of ancient Mesopotamia, and in particular, the cylinder seal. Seals were small objects, usually made of stone, carved with images and used as markers of identity and authority. We will look at the different types of stone used for seals in different time periods, and the trade routes that connected Mesopotamia to the sources of the stone. Visitors are always welcomed.</p>
Cylinder Seals Bench Tips	3-6	
Blood Lapis	7	
Echinoids Field Trip Upcoming Shows	8-9	

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING



Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Raul introduced our guest speaker Thomas Lapen from U of H. He shared a very interesting slide show he put together called "Martian Meteorites and the Evolution of Mars". Everyone enjoyed the presentation. Again, we thank Vincent for bringing us such wonderful speakers!

After a short break we continued with the business portion of the meeting. Raul had Vince and Sara tell about their experience at Armand Bayou Montessori School's Spring Fair. Vince and his family and Sara enjoyed sharing our gem mine rocks with the children. The kid's really enjoyed it too. All monies went for their school fundraiser.

Raul rounded up a budget committee consisting of Jerry, Trina and himself. They will check to see if Mike will help them. Jerry gave a treasurer report on our recent show. Expenses were \$18,314. Income was \$26,945 making a profit of \$8,630. With this information the budget committee will be able to make decisions on scholarships, donations to schools, equipment replacement, as well as all our other regular expenses. Thank you budget committee for doing this work for us!

April 22 is the San Jacinto Reenactment at the monument. We will be represented by Eddie Dove in one booth and John Caldine in another. They are getting our name out there.

April 29 is a fossil hunting field trip in the Lampassas area. Annabel sent several e-mails out inviting everyone. Hopefully a nice size group will be able to go.

We need a new Show Chairperson. Sara is stepping down but will be offering guidance on how the job is done. Please consider this position. You will have lots of help. We would like for "show" meetings to start sooner to assure everything goes smoothly. Trina brought one of the 50 magnetic signs she had made so we can place them on our cars the week before the show to help our advertising. It's a really nice sign!

John Caldine is our new refreshment chairman. Thank you John!

We discussed having a mini show in July. We hope to rent the space across the street from where we meet. We are checking to see if any Saturdays are open in July. If you would like to rent a table to sell your goods, please let Raul know. More details after we

secure a date. This is for fun and to promote our club.

Vincent gave a program update. Next month we will have Sarah Costello speaking on cylinder seals. These date back to ancient times when gemstones were used as seals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Dudley, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2017, BOARD MEETING



Meeting started at 7:30pm. First thing discussed were scholarship applications. We are delighted to report that we had 8 applicants. We didn't have all the necessary paperwork to make a final decision, but we did make a tentative list contingent on the last applicant's transcript (once we receive it). It was decided 3 scholarships would be awarded for \$1,000.each.

Next we discussed our possible "small show" in July. Raul made a phone call to the county about renting the room where we have our meetings. Unfortunately all Saturdays in July are booked. He then called the Bay Area Community Center across the street. He was not able to get a direct answer so he and John Caldyne are going to make a personal appearance to speak with someone about renting their meeting room.

John Caldyne gave a report on the San Jacinto Reenactment. John had a booth next to Eddie Dove. Carl helped Eddie and the three worked hard on promoting our club. Thank you for the hard work guys!

Last item, we need a Show Chairperson for next year's show. Please consider stepping up.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Dudley, Secretary

Cylinder seal

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Mesopotamian limestone cylinder seal and impression—worship of [Shamash](#), ([Louvre](#))

A **cylinder seal** is a small round cylinder, typically about one inch in length, engraved with written characters or figurative scenes or both, used in ancient times to roll an impression onto a two-dimensional surface, generally wet clay. Cylinder seals were invented around 3500 BC in the Near East, at the contemporary sites of Susa in southwestern Iran and Uruk in southern Mesopotamia. They are linked to the invention of the latter's cuneiform writing on clay tablets.^{[2][3][4]} They were used as an administrative tool, a form of signature, as well as jewelry and as magical amulets; later versions would employ notations with Mesopotamian cuneiform. In later periods, they were used to notarize or attest to multiple impressions of clay documents. Graves and other sites housing precious items such as gold, silver, beads, and gemstones often included one or two cylinder seals, as honorific grave goods.

The cylinder seals themselves are typically made from hardstones, and some are a form of engraved gem. They may instead use glass or ceramics, like Egyptian faience. Many varieties of material such as hematite, obsidian, steatite, amethyst, lapis lazuli and carnelian were used to make cylinder seals. As the alluvial country of Mesopotamia lacks good stone for carving, the large stones of early cylinders were imported probably from Iran.^[5] Most seals have a hole running through the centre of the body, and they are thought to have typically been worn on a necklace so that they were always available when needed.



Size comparison of seals, with their impression strips
(modern/current impressions)

While most Mesopotamian cylinder seals form an image through the use of depressions in the cylinder surface (see lead photo above), some cylinder seals print images using raised areas on the cylinder (see San Andrés image, below, which is not related to Mesopotamian cylinder seals). The former are used primarily on wet clays; the latter, sometimes referred to as **roller stamps**, are used to print images on cloth and other similar two dimensional surfaces.

Cylinder seals are a form of impression seal, a category which includes the stamp seal and finger ring seal. They survive in fairly large numbers and are often important as art, especially in the Babylonian and earlier Assyrian periods. Impressions into a soft material can be taken without risk of damage to the seal, and they are often displayed in museums together with a modern impression on a small strip.



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.



When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.

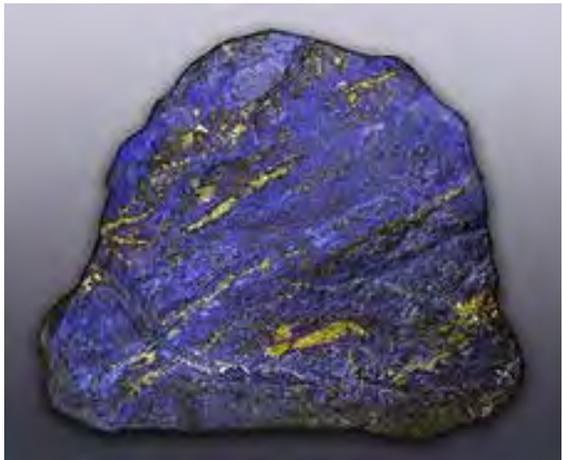
Learn more new skills with:

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



BLOOD LAPIS?

by Jim Brace-Thompson



For those with a sensitive social conscience, “blood diamonds” became verboten many years ago. Also called “conflict diamonds,” these are stones that were often mined by the equivalent of slave labor and sold into the market by warlords in Africa to support their nefarious causes. The international diamond trade came up with ways to supposedly identify and track diamonds mined from more legitimate sources to provide that bride-to-be with a certifiably “clean” diamond, and thus a clean conscience. Now, as reported

June 7 by The Times of London, we have a whole new gemstone to create angst among those of us who are into lapidary arts.

A corruption watchdog group called Global Witness reports that terrorist groups including the Taliban now earn as much as \$20 million a year by illegally mining and selling lapis lazuli from the mountains of Afghanistan. This is supposedly providing them with their second biggest source of income after drugs! As a result, there’s now a move to classify lapis as a “conflict mineral.” Just when you thought it was safe to cut-and-polish again.

Via CMS Tumbler 4/17, Rockhound Rambling, 7/16, The Clackamette Gem April 2017, The Glacial Drifter April 2017

Increase Your Knowledge—A Column of New Words, Rocks, and Minerals

By Ruth Rolston



Picasso Stone: also known as Picasso marble or jasper. It exists in gigantic structures with daintily grained chalcedony. It is optically hazy in nature and has a trigonal crystal structure. It is known to have a hardness of 4-5 on the Mohs scale. It occurs in striking shades of blacks, browns, grays, and whites, and can be found in Utah.

When cut into cabochons, the stones often have a scenic appearance and look like forest trees or hillsides in winter.

Photo of Picasso stone cab.

Via Rock Prattle April 2017

ECHINOIDS FIELD TRIP

Good time had by all. Bring your specimens to the meeting to share with others.



Corrie and Trina Willoughby, Vince Barrouws, Bechy Kadel, Steve and Annabel Brownfeild

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.
 Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 25-26, 2017
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>



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.

2015 OFFICERS:	President	Raul Montelongo	832-341-0416
	Vice President	David Tjiok	281-423-4802
	Secretary	Pam Dudley	281-814-1235
	Treasurer	Jerry Newberry	281-286-6869
	Program Director	Vince Barrows	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Jim Edwards
		Mary Wells	John Caldyne
	Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield	

Annual Show 2016	Sara Chelette	Library	Vacant
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Victoria Faulkner
Community Benefits.....	Vacant	WWW System Admin.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	Doug Dann
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2017: Adult \$15:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$5.00 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

Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is freely given providing credit is given author and Stoney Statements except if the article requires authorization (©RA). Permission may be obtained by E-mailing Editor.