



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 37 NOVEMBER 2011 NUMBER 11



NEXT MEETING: November 21, 2011
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR November...

"Continents, dinosaurs, greenhouse climates, and world war II" By Cin-Ty Lee, a professor in the Department of Earth Science at Rice University and Emily Chin, one of his students.

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	Editorial
October Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights a time for Reflection. We may soon all be riding rocks like this guy. Time to brush up on your lapidary skills.</p>	<p>The Officers Team will be out looking for candidates for officers for next year. WE will need a full slate, so everyone determine if you can serve in this role. Help your club by serving as an officer or Board Member.</p>  <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>NEW ADDRESS, phone number, e-mail address, etc? Not seeing your Birthday or anniversary? Contact Al Pennington and Mike Flannigan, at the Newsletter address</p>
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"Laws alone can not secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population. - Albert Einstein

Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral

September 19, 2011

Bob Brock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vince Garcia was welcomed. He mentioned that he had been taught jewelry work by Garland Owens.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read and approval was given by Alan Pennington and seconded by Trina Willowbough.

Ed Tindell gave a PowerPoint presentation from Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo. Kinabalu means "land below the clouds". The area is unusual because it looks like a glacier area, even though it lies on the equator.

Details for the Graves Mountain trip at the end of October will be made available soon.

Jim Wines has mailed out contracts to the dealers for the 2012 show. Pads are available to give out to dealers.

There will be class on cabbing on October 15th to be held at the Clear Lake Park Bldg. from 1-5 pm.

Visitor Vince Garcia was welcomed

Respectfully submitted,

Loyce Pennington, substituting for the Secretary

Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral

October 17, 2011

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The September Meeting Minutes were discussed. They will be printed in a revised Stoney Statement which will be sent to the Board of Directors. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report for October. Nancy Duggar made the motion to approve the report. It was seconded by Al Pennington and was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Library – Books are still in the storage unit. Someone needs to contact Lester Gary, the chairperson. Mike Flannigan will provide his phone number.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar shared a nice thank you card from Blocker Jr. High School in Texas City. She reported the rock kits are ready to be delivered to the schools.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell made a short presentation on cell phones regarding them losing loss of power. He suggested deleting missed calls, etc. to save power.

Field Trips – Chairperson Ed Tindell announced the upcoming field trip to Graves Mountain in GA. Meetup.com, The Texas Rockers, have a field trip to Badu Hill in Llano, TX. Check www.meetup.com for dates.

Publicity – The workshop was discussed. Plans will be made to conduct three or four workshops in 2012. Chairperson, Anna Brownfield, will reserve the Clear Lake Park Building for the workshops. Jim Wines also discussed replacing the wheels on the grinders. The Clear Lake Park Building has been reserved for monthly meeting for 2012. President Bob Brock requested a copy of the contract. Al Pennington suggested Dean Lagerwall present a class on wire wrapping. Anna Brownfield will contact him for a program or workshop, possibly in January.

Education – Jim Wines presented a small base with a light that he makes. He places a mineral on it which illuminates the rock or mineral. He also brought two old books from Idaho and another with a detailed map of the geology of Big Bend.

Membership – Chairperson Mike Flannigan reported we have 79 members.

Program – Chairperson Trina Willoughby reported on an upcoming program on diamonds. Green River, UT, formation was discussed. Fish and insect fossils have been found there in layers of rock. A new dinosaur species was found there. A video presentation of making cabochons for the next workshop was discussed.

Show – Chairperson Al Pennington reported a few dealers have pulled out. We have 45 positions and all but 12 have responded. Trina Willoughby asked how soon should she get the information out to the scouts and they should be contacted in November.

Show Publicity – Chairperson Ben Duggar reported they have contacted Rock & Gem Magazine, in addition to newsletters.

Nancy Duggar made a short presentation on the shells she found, She provided them as door prizes, they were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Williams, Secretary

Interesting Tidbits - Geology

By Greg McGill

Maybe you have wondered where geologists get the names of formations and geologic ages. It's not very puzzling at all; it was done to honor some now-forgotten pioneer in the early days of geology. Here is a brief rundown.

Cambrian comes from the name of an ancient Welsh tribe and was named by Adam Sedgwick & Patrick Murchison in 1835.

Silurian comes from another Welsh tribe and was named by Sedgwick and Murchison in 1835.

Ordovician comes from yet another Welsh tribe but was named by Charles Lapworth in 1879 to cover the interval between Cambrian and Silurian.

Devonian comes from Devonshire where the distinctive fauna were first studied. This was jointly named by Murchison and Sedgwick in 1840.

Carboniferous means "coal-bearing" and was named for the strata in north-central England that contained coal. The name was given in 1822 by William Coneybeare and William Phillips.

Mississippian and **Pennsylvanian** – refer to the lower and upper Carboniferous respectively. These names are not used outside America and have only been recognized by the USGS since 1954

Permian is named after the province of Perm in Russia. Murchison suggested the name in 1841.

Triassic refers to the three-fold division seen in rocks of similar age. Fredrich von Alberti, an official in the German salt industry, suggested the name in 1834.

Jurassic was named after the Jura mountains in northern Switzerland by Alexander von Humbolt in 1795. Lepold von Buch, in 1839, redefined the strata and kept the name.

Cretaceous comes from the Latin for "chalk" and refers to the strata encircling the Paris Basin. Not all strata of this age contain chalk but Omalius d'Haloy did not know this in 1822.

Tertiary is a bit confusing. In 1760 Giovanni Arduino classified rocks into three main categories. His Tertiary category included "weakly consolidated stratified rocks usually containing numerous shells of marine origin" and volcanic rocks. The current constituent series - Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene and Pliocene - have their type sections in France, so the Italian-given name is kept to honor Giovanni.

From the Rockpile 5/04 via Glacial Drifter 3/2000 via Quarry Quips 1/04

A November HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Helen Kosler 9
 Mike Bessemer 15
 Charles Buddenhagen 30

Topaz - Believed to protect and heal the wearer, help with weight loss, and bring money & love. (light blue).

November Anniversary includes:

Michael Vanderbles 24
 Al & Loyce Pennington 25



Now is not too early about thinking about paying you 2012 dues.

GOODIE GETTERS...For November



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

Before grinding and sanding cabochons, put cold cream on your hands and rub them until they are dry. This fills the pores and cracks in your fingers. When grinding, sawing, or sanding is completed, the dirt can be washed off easily.

Gemstar via Breccia 10/97, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09

□ *One reason for polishing a stone all over, front, back, and edges, is the polish acts as a sealer. It seals and keeps in water, especially opal. It prevents natural corrosion as in Rhodonite, which corrodes to black ore called wad, and helps stop absorption of harmful substances such as perspiration, etc.*

Polish the back of your cabs by flat lapping on the back of a glass plate or normally.

Gem of the Rogue 8/98, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09

□ *An aluminum pencil can be used to determine the hardness of stone. The pencil leaves fainter marks on harder stones. A stone harder than 7 will not allow itself to be marked.*

A gale Explorer, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09

□ *To spot cracks and vugs in a rock before sawing it, first soak it in a tub of water at least an hour. Then remove it and place it in a sunny spot. The surface will dry quickly, but the fractures and vugs will not. Use a soft pencil to mark the rock for guidance in sawing.*

Star-O-Lite via Roconteur, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09

Bench Tips



wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small areas of your waxes.

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS *Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff blade or a grinding*

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 fit.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/Ball Burs or facebook.com/BenchTips

Field Trips (2011) by Ed Tindell

Who has a field trip notion? Any place you all want to go?



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2011 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Field Trip to Gravel Pit in Eagle Pass

Texas Rockers

Sunday, November 20 at 9:15 AM

We've been invited to join another group on a field trip to the De Los Santos Gravel Pit in Eagle Pass, TX (less than 3 hrs south of San Antonio). This...

Details: <http://www.meetup.com/Texas-Rockers/events/39899232/>

Parking lot of HEB (GPS Coordinates are 28.70936,-100.484304) (2135 East Main Street, Eagle Pass, TX 78852)

Ethiopian Opal

Ethiopian Opals are valued for their bright flashes of colour. Ethiopian Opals are nobby-formed rather than seam-formed and have characteristically brown or darknodule potch. Ethiopian opals with their vivid sunburnt green and red flashes and patterns are prized by collectors. Gondar, a new field only worked in the last few years, is more of a crystal formation than Ethiopian opals. These, too, are valued for their bright colours. Ethiopian Opals have only begun to be mined recently. However, anthropologists report that around 4,000 years BC, early man used opals to make tools, which means that Africa mined opals even before Australia.

<http://www.opalauctions.com/docs/opal-information/ethiopianopals>

Irradiated Quartz: Why is Smoky Quartz Black?

Feldspar minerals all contain *radioactive elements*. Radioactive elements are elements that break down and when they do, they give off *radiation*. Radiation can go through solid objects - like minerals and crystals!

When radiation goes through quartz crystals, the clear, colorless quartz turns black.

When you go to mineral shows, you will often see "Irradiated Quartz" for sale. "Irradiated Quartz" is clear, colorless quartz that has been irradiated in a laboratory. The quartz itself is



natural and was mined out of the ground (usually from Arkansas or Brazil). But the color was caused

- by a human in a laboratory - and not by nature. These crystals can be very attractive, but many mineral collectors don't like to collect specimens that have been changed by humans.

Don't worry about being exposed to radiation. We know that radiation can make people sick. Don't worry, though. When irradiated quartz is taken out of the laboratory, it is *not* radioactive and it cannot hurt you.

Source: Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 5, No 10, October 2011, Diamond Dan Publications, www.diamonddanpublications.net, Rock-A-Gram 2011

Editor's Note: I included these two articles on opal because high quality Ethiopian opal is available on the market now. I tried to get the dealer who goes to both the Buffalo and Syracuse show to come to our show this year but they had a conflict on that weekend. If you've seen their very large pile of rough, you would have a hard time not becoming an "opalholic". Both pictures are

Opal

"Hot Flashes"

Author unknown, from TheMatrix, October 2006 viaRockhounder, 10/11

Opal is known as the "stone of happy dreams and changes". It inspires creativity and imagination, and instills faithfulness and loyalty. It is said to strengthen the memory, alleviate fevers, stimulate the circulation and strengthen the eyesight

The Romans believed opal was the symbol of hope and purity, calling it cupid paederos (child as beautiful as love), and kept the wearer safe from disease. Arabs believed that opals fell from heaven in flashes of lightning, and the ancient Greeks believed it had the power of giving foresight and the light of prophecy to their owners. Cleopatra is said to have worn an opal to attract the attention of Mark Antony. In the Middle Ages, young, fair-haired girls wore opals in their hair to protect its lovely blonde color and Medieval writers believed opal could render its wearer invisible when the need arose.

The Aborigines of Australia have many myths and legends about opals, and believe they have spiritual value, representing something an ancestor left behind as a sign of his or her presence. Somewhat conversely, in the 19th century opal became known as a gem of ill omen and was connected with assorted misfortunes of European royalty; it had a reputation as a thief's stone, with the power to simultaneously strengthen one's eyesight and make the wearer invisible. [Believe it?]



The word "opal" comes from the Sanskrit upala for "valuable stone", the Greek opallios for "color change", and the Latin opalus or "precious stone". "Opal" is also the Indian word for "stone". Opal is one of the most popular gemstones. There are two distinct types of opal, common and precious. The way the silica particles form determines its type. In precious opal, silica particles are packed in regular rows and layers. A special characteristic of opals is their opalescence, a multicolor iridescence that changes with the angle of observation. These iridescent flashes of green, blue, aqua and sometimes yellow or red colors are referred to as "fire".

The sparks of color are caused by tiny spheres of the mineral cristobalite layered in siliceous jelly. Most opal is 50-65 million years old, dating back to the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Opal formed as silica from decomposing rocks mixed with ground water which formed a gel that collected and hardened in underground cavities and fissures. Opal's chemical formula is $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot \text{NH}_2\text{O}$. The stones have a high water content – as much as 30% – thus requiring care when working with them as a heat can evaporate the water. The stone is sensitive to pressure and knocks, and is relatively soft, a 5.5-6.5 on the Mohs Scale. Quality Opals are found in Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, and in the U.S. (Nevada), but most of the world's jewelry opals come from the Australian Outback

From The RockCollector 11/11

CROCOITE

By Bob Farrar

Crocoite is a somewhat rare mineral that not all collectors are familiar with. It is, however, a very beautiful mineral that makes a fine addition to any collection.

Crocoite consists of lead chromate, PbCrO4. It crystalizes in the monoclinic system, and typically forms prismatic (long and slender) or acicular (needle-like) crystals. Its most distinctive characteristic is its color, typically brilliant orange to orange-red. It is named for its color, from the Greek word for saffron, like crocus, the flower from which saffron comes. It is rather brittle, so care must be taken in handling crocoite. Other physical properties include a hardness of 2.5 to 3.0, a specific gravity of 5.9 to 6.1, and poor cleavage. Color and crystal form are generally sufficient to distinguish crocoite.



Crocoite occurs in the weathered zones of lead deposits in the presence of chromium-bearing rocks. Neither lead nor chromium are particularly rare, but they tend to occur in different geological settings, which makes crocoite rare. By far the most important locality for crocoite is Dundas, Tasmania. There crystals up to 6 inches long have been found, along with great numbers of lesser specimens. A huge find was made at the Adelaide Mine in Dundas in 2010. Crocoite was originally found, however, in the Ural Mountains of Russia. Callenberg, Saxony, Germany is another well-known locality. US localities are not as well known, but they include the Mammoth Mine in Tiger, AZ, the Darwin Mine in Inyo Co., CA, and the Eldorado Mine in Riverside Co., CA.

The rarity and beauty of good crocoite specimens makes them highly prized by collectors. Larger specimens, as might be expected, can be quite expensive. However, thanks mainly to the rich deposits of Tasmania, there are enough more modest specimens on the market that most serious collectors can add crocoite to their collections.

*(Photo courtesy Glendale Community College)
Star-O-Lite 11/11 via The Rostrum 20 (4) July, 2011*

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Nov. 05 - 06 AMARILLO, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Ctr. Exhibition Hall	Nov. 05 - 06 MIDLAND, TX Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.	Nov. 11 - 13 HUMBLE, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Ctr. 8233 Will Clayton Pkway	Nov. 19 - 20 MESQUITE, TX Dallas G&MS Resistol Arena
Dec. 03 - 04 ROUND ROCK, TX Paleo. Soc. of Austin Old Settlers Park Next to Dell Diamond	Dec. 10 - 11 DE RIDDER, LA De Ridder G&MS Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds		

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.
 November 21, 2011, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 25-26, 2012
 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			
2011 OFFICERS:	President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Vice President	Ed Tindell	281-930-0698
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Lester Gary
		Cheryl 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 Dugger	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2011: 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 2011 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418			
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