



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 NOVEMBER 2012 NUMBER 11



NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2012
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR November...

The program will be: For November, will be Trina Willoughby.

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.

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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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"Energy and persistence conquer all things." Benjamin Franklin

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2012 MEETING
OF THE CLEAR LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

The meeting was opened by the president of CLGMS at 7:30pm with the “call to order” followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the US. First time visitors were then recognized and welcomed.

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes of the September 2012 meeting. Since the September meeting minutes had only been published the previous day, few of the members in attendance had read them. Thus, any corrections and the approval of the September minutes were deferred until the Nov. meeting. The club treasurer being absent, a Treasurer Report was not available.

Committee Reports:

- Library - Ed Tindell will assume responsibility for the library collection until a permanent replacement for the position can be selected. Any member interested in taking on the position of librarian is urged to contact the President or Vice President. In the meantime, any member interested in borrowing books from the Club collection should contact Ed Tindell.
- Club Historian, nothing to report.
- Nominating Committee – any member wishing to serve on the nominating committee is urged to contact the President or Vice President. We will need to select a committee at the November meeting and have elections of 2013 officers at the December meeting.
- Membership – Mike Flanigan reported that we have continued to obtain new members and that total membership is steady.
- Show committees – Jim Wines had just returned from extensive travel and had not yet been able to come up with a final count of number of exhibitors. Ed Tindell who has been responsible for the putting up and taking down of displays and exhibits asked for someone to be his replacement as he has an injury to his shoulder which makes it difficult to continue to do this job. Scout Activities – Tina Willoughby described progress in contacting scout organizations. Mike Flannigan has distributed a sign-up sheet via email for members to use for volunteering for the various jobs which need to be done. Other show committee chairpersons were not present and their information will be presented at the Nov. meeting. The need to make some new signs for new dealers, and for repairing old signs was brought up and we will need to organize a work day sometime in December or January to repair the signs and some of the display cases. Volunteers will be solicited at the Nov. meeting.
- The Community Benefits committee chair, Nancy Duggar, described the process and criteria used in previous years for selecting 10 schools to each receive up to \$300 for the purchase of earth science related library books. Because of changes in the techniques used by the state to assess school performance our previous ability to identify schools in greatest need of help can no longer be used. She then suggested that we reduce the number of schools to 6, but increase the amount per school to \$500 and open up the use of the funds to other supplies and equipment. This raised the issue of whether or not the purchase of library books for schools is an effective way to educate the public about geology and the collection of rocks and fossils. Nancy proposed to speak with several school science teachers, librarians, principals, and students and to then report back with any recommendations for strengthening our program. This then will be discussed at the Nov. meeting.
- The Education Committee chairman, Ed Tindell, reported on opportunities and plans for field trips this winter. The trip to Ashbury quarry on Oct. 27 is fully subscribed. Ed then gave a tutorial and demonstration of the equipment which every rock or fossil collector will want to own. His discussion started with the bag of tools he carries, then to each item in his bag. As Ed said, it is better to have a particular tool and not need it than it is to need a particular tool and not have it. Other items in his bag included: a 15” mattock, probes, magnet, chisel, wedge, hammer/maul/sledge, pry bar, rain poncho, trowel, safety vest, etc. He washes all of his tools after each use, then rubs oil into the metal tools and/or sprays them with a Krylon clear coat to protect them until the next trip. He also demonstrated a set of feathers and wedges for splitting rocks after drilling holes in the rocks. Ed’s presentation prompted a lot of discussion and questions. Ed described where most of the items could be purchased.
- The Club Publicity Committee Chair was absent and her report will be deferred until Nov.

Refreshments were then taken while Tina Willoughby displayed her fossil collection from a recent trip to Mineral Springs. Jim wines then gave a brief description of his trip collecting rocks on the Mojave Desert. Door prizes were then awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ben Duggar

CLGMS Philanthropic Activities

During the past few years the philanthropic activities of the CLGMS have centered on our donation of funds to school libraries for purchase of earth science related books, and the scholarship program for geology students studying at San Jacinto College. Several years ago one of the intermediate schools selected to receive a library donation asked if we might instead provide some science laboratory equipment, which we did. Other than that one exception we have kept our benefits fairly constant in recent years since our funds, mostly derived from our annual show and from the generosity of members, have also been relatively stable. At the October monthly meeting the Chairperson of the Community Benefits Committee, Nancy Duggar, raised the issue of considering changes in the school library gifts. Her suggestion was to reduce the number of schools selected for a gift while increasing the size of the gift to each school, so as to keep the annual budget the same. This suggestion produced a healthy discussion and additional suggestions from the membership for the use of our funds. As a result, Ms. Duggar offered to discuss with school representatives how we might best promote the interest of students in the earth sciences while not supplanting school system funds. This is the report of her findings.

Ms. Duggar discussed school needs with several librarians, a science teacher, a principal, and with several students in local schools. Although not intended as a representative survey, this purposeful sample was selected to provide information to guide our benefits program design. First, the librarians (from several elementary schools) reported that most of their earth science books were ten or more years old and that the school staff was thrilled to be able to update the collection with new books. They urged a continuation of the earth science books purchase. The principal of an intermediate school (6 thru 8th grades) noted that the science program budget had been severely cut and that Ms. Duggar should meet with a math instructor at her school who was now also teaching the science course. The science teacher pleaded for laboratory equipment rather than books, noting that the students have access to computers in school and have been taught how to gather very current information for their research projects over the internet. This science teacher requested purchase of a half dozen or more digital scales suitable for use in experiments demonstrating different densities. Another science teacher pleaded for safety goggles, enough for a small class to use to protect their eyes during demonstrations and student experiments. Ms. Duggar than spoke to a few students and confirmed that those in elementary school were working primarily with books to gather information, and greatly liked the new science books acquired for their school library. Moreover, each summer these students had reading lists from which they had to select perhaps a dozen books, find them in the public library, then read and prepare book reports on those. However, the intermediate school students did most of their information gathering for projects over the internet and made little use of the library collection.

Ms. Duggar is, therefore, requesting approval from the membership to modify the school library book program to permit reducing the number of schools while increasing the sum provided to each school such that the budget remains that which was previously approved by the membership. Further, she is requesting permission to discuss current needs with science teachers at each intermediate school selected and offer those schools the same allocation of funds for lab equipment rather than books. She further recommends that, after the current academic year, the membership of CLGMS undertake a broad review of our mission, what our objectives should be, and how best to meet these objectives. Based on last years' performance scores we can select schools by replicating the criteria used in recent prior years. However, because of new state techniques for monitoring performance of schools we will need to develop new selection criteria if the school benefits program is to be continued in 2013.

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 2013 dues.

GOODIE GETTERS...For November

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**SHOP HINTS:****Making Diamond Tools****Lapidary Digest Nov 97**

If, for instance, you need a diamond bit to drill a hole in a rock, get a piece of copper or brass wire or tube a little smaller than the diameter of the hole desired. For larger holes the tubes work better. Coat the end of the wire or tube with Vaseline (diamond has a great affinity for oily/greasy items). Sprinkle a very little diamond grit on a smooth surface. Roll the greased end of the wire or tube through the grit. Only about 1/8 - 1/4 inch of the tip needs to be diamond

coated. Use modeling clay or putty to build a small dam around the area to be drilled, leave about 1/4 inch clearance on all sides of the drill. Start to drill the hole. After the hole is started just enough to keep the drill from wandering, put some water in the dam. It should be pointed out that for this type of drilling, a prill press works best. It is not necessary to apply much pressure, just enough to keep the drill in contact with the work..

Check your progress often, allow the bit and hole to get water. The water is used to cool the drill and work as well as flushing out the swarf. You may need to add more diamond grit and water from time to time. Add the diamond grit sparingly.

If you want to make a flat lap with diamond, start with a relatively soft metal such as copper. Sprinkle a little of the selected diamond grit over the surface as evenly as possible. The entire surface doesn't have to be covered, but the coverage should be uniform. Use a hard steel roller (an old steel ball bearing works well) to press the diamond grit into the copper. Keep a steady drip of water on the lap when it's in use. Depending on your requirements, most any soft metal (something the diamonds can embed in and that will hold them after being embedded) will work.

For flat laps you can even use plastics. Commercially, diamonds are polished on cast iron scaifes (flat laps) revolving at high speeds. These instructions are for using large size (100-600) grit and removing relatively large amounts of material. They will result in a 'frosted' appearance on the item being ground. Finer diamond grits (14,000 - 200,000) are used to achieve a high polish

Diamond powders are sold by micron sizes. A micron is one thousandth of a millimeter (1/1000 mm) or 0.00254 inches. A mesh size is the number of wires per inch in a screen mesh. Thus a mesh or grit of 100 will pass through a screen with 100 wires to the inch (or 10,000 openings per square inch), but can't pass through the next smaller screen.

COLORFUL SEAS

The Black Sea is black because of the high concentration of hydrogen sulphide (a gas) in the water. The Red Sea gets its red hue from the recurring bloom of small algae. The Russian White Sea earned its name from ice that covers it most of the year. The Yellow Sea derives color from the mud the rivers carry into it. (Fr. many bulletins via Big Rock Trader - 10/92)

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

Think about Field trips for next year



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

Tip for a Transparent Cab

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color & pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at
facebook.com/BenchTips or
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips

Fall rock hunts & the Woodward Ranch

FYI – I will be setting up at least one fell field trip to East Needle Peak. I'll keep you informed.

I've been getting requests for information about Fall Big Bend Rockhunts, so I thought I'd send out an update, even though the news isn't very good. Right now it looks like neither the Walker Ranch nor the ranch south of Marfa will be open this fall. There hasn't been enough rain south of Marfa to make the rancher comfortable with us being out there, and

the owner of the Walker Ranch will be unavailable until January at the earliest.

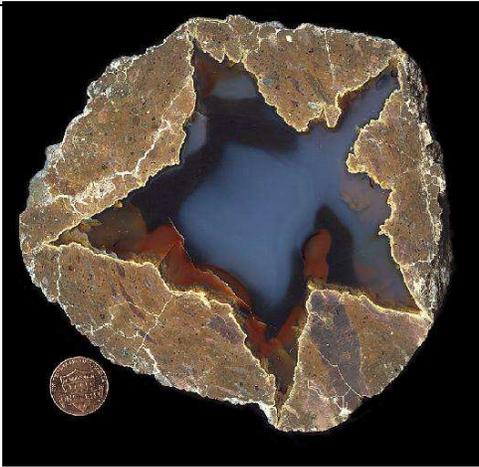
Although that's bad news, it still leaves us with two lovely places to rockhunt: The Ritchie Ranch, and East Needle Peak. The Ritchie Ranch is still \$5 per person per day admission, and the fee per pound will probably be \$1. East Needle Peak will be \$40 per person per day. There's been lots of rain in Alpine and Terlingua, so there ought to be lots of freshly uncovered agate that's easy to find!

I am also looking into a couple of other places, but they're not all that likely to come through yet, so I don't want to mention them.

As for the Woodward Ranch, it's still open to rockhunting on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. And, it's on the market if you have a few million dollars hanging around that you'd like to invest. It's about 2200 acres at \$2500/acre, including all the improvements. That's about \$5.5 million. If you buy it, I'll be glad to run the rockhunts for you! Here's the link to the listing:

<http://www.jwcarpenter.com/R122.htm>. I can recommend the realtor as being honest and conscientious, in case you're interested.

I'll let y'all know when I have some more information about Fall rockhunts.



Thunder Egg from Friend Ranch, OR. Are you ready to find a treasure that will give you plenty of surprises? Unlike most treasures once you've found them the real surprises and adventure is over, but with this one they may be just the beginning. Because once you open it you see what you've really got.

So you're wondering what I'm talking about, well I'm talking about thunder egg hunting of course. What is a Thunder Egg the final or even full answer.

How is a Thunder Egg Formed A thunder egg is formed inside of bubbles that were formed in the magma that followed over several parts of the world many millions of years ago. Over the

many millennia that followed, water that had quartz suspended in it would fill into these voids in the lava, and as the water evaporated it would leave the quartz behind.

In the case of a thunder egg the quartz that was left behind eventually filled the entire void with either agate or jasper.

The way the thunder eggs were filled over the years, the colors you will find, and the patterns of those colors are almost endless, and will depend on where you find them. When you find one thunder egg you will almost always find others because they usually form in what are called beds. In some areas many beds can be within only a few hundred feet of one another, but when you compare a thunder eggs from each bed you will find that they can be amazingly different.

The differences in the thunder eggs from each bed in due to many things, such as the minerals that seeped into the voids, the depth that they formed at, or the pressure they were formed under.

How to Identify a Geode or a Thunder Egg You may be wondering, what is a thunder egg and is it any different then a geode? Although that may seem easy to answer, you will probably be surprised at the answers you're about to get. To be honest there seems to be no firm answer to these questions, so all you see here is just some generally accepted answers, there are many exceptions to these, and they should not be judged as

Red Fire inside a thunder eggs from France. The outside of your thunder egg or geodes will be covered with whatever the surrounding matrix is made of, but you will be able to readily identify them by their round or peanut shape, and the fact that they will be much harder then its surrounding material. So how is that different then a geode? Well geodes are usually formed in sedimentary rock, such as sand stone, and they generally are not completely filled in. Most geodes still have a void inside of them and will often be filled with very beautiful quartz or amethyst crystals. How do I identify a geode as compared to a thunder eggs? The best answer for this is you can't until you cut or break it open.

You were hoping for a better answer? Sorry there really isn't one.

You may be wondering where the name thunder egg comes from well it comes from the lore of the local Indians in the North West US. They believed that thunder eggs where projectiles that the gods would through at one another from the tops of mountains during thunder storms, thus the name thunder eggs
Where Are Thunder Eggs Found So where should you go for your treasure hunting vacation to find thunder eggs? Richardson's Rock Ranch Madras , OR Friend Ranch Agate Ashwood, OR Valley View Thunder Eggs Mitchell, OR Black Agate Thunderegg Mine Blythe, CA

From The Rock-It, 10/12



DINOSAURS: FACTS AND FICTION

DID ALL DINOSAURS LIVE TOGETHER, AND AT THE SAME TIME?

Dinosaur communities were separated "by both time and geography. The "age of dinosaurs" (the Mesozoic Era) included three consecutive geologic time periods (the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods). Different dinosaur species lived during each of these three periods. For example, the Jurassic dinosaur Stegosaurus already had been extinct for approximately 80 million years before the appearance of the Cretaceous dinosaur Tyrannosaurus. In fact, the time separating Stegosaurus and Tyrannosaurus is greater than the time separating Tyrannosaurus and you. At the beginning of dinosaur history (the Triassic Period), there was one super continent on Earth (Pangaea). Many dinosaur types were widespread across it. However, as Pangaea broke apart, dinosaurs became scattered across the globe on separate continents, and new types of dinosaurs evolved separately in each geographic area. The discovery of the one time existence of the supercontinent Pangaea was the crowning triumph of the theory of Plate Tectonics. Books, articles, maps, and diagrams abound describing Pangaea and documenting its ultimate breakup at the end of the Mesozoic era. But Pangaea was, geologically speaking, a rather short-lived phenomenon. Many learned articles have been written based on faulty assumptions of its antiquity and origin. Yet the evidence of the last round of orogenies leading to the formation of Pangaea remains visible for anyone who has the time and inclination to examine it.

HOW ARE DINOSAURS NAMED?

Dinosaurs generally are named after a characteristic body feature, after the place where they were found, or after a person involved in the discovery. Usually the name consists of two Greek or Latin words (or combinations); in order, these are the genus (plural, genera) and the species name. For example, the Greek and Latin combination (binomen) Tyrannosaurus rex means "king of the tyrant lizards." Biologists name modern animals exactly the same way. Some examples include humans (Homo sapiens), domestic dogs (Canis familiaris), golden eagles (Aquila chrysaetos), box turtles (Terrapene Carolina), and rattlesnakes (Crotalus horridus).

WERE DINOSAURS WARM-BLOODED?

Scientists have conflicting opinions on this subject. Some paleontologists think that all dinosaurs were "warm-blooded" in the same sense that modern birds and mammals are; that is, they had rapid metabolic rates. Other scientists think it unlikely that any dinosaur could have had a rapid metabolic rate. Some scientists think that very big dinosaurs could have had warm bodies because of their large body size, just as some sea turtles do today. It may be that some small dinosaurs were warm-blooded. The problem is that it is hard to find evidence that unquestionably shows what dinosaur metabolisms were like.

HOW LONG COULD A DINOSAUR LIVE?

Animal life spans relate in part to their body size and in part to their type of metabolism. Dinosaur life spans probably varied in length from tens of years to hundreds of years. Their possible maximum age can be estimated from the maximum life spans of modern reptiles, such as the 66-year lifespan of the common alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) and the impressive lifespan of a Black Seychelles Tortoise (Geochelone (Aldabrachelys) sumeirei). One specimen of this now extinct species, which was an adult when captured, lived a record 152 years in captivity (1766-1918) and had an accidental death. These estimates, based on life spans of cold-blooded animals, would be too long if dinosaurs had metabolisms more similar to modern birds and mammals.

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER
Sept 2003

.SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Nov. 03 - 04 AMARILLO, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Ctr. Exhibition Hall	Nov. 03 - 04 MIDLAND, TX Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.	Nov. 09 - 11 HUMBLE, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Ctr. 8233 Will Clayton Pkway	

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 19, 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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