



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NUMBER 11



**NEXT MEETING:** October 21, 2016  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Clear Lake Park Building  
 5001 Nasa Parkway  
 Seabrook, Texas

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Announcements Pietersite	3- 7	Topics include: 1) Indian mounds: Earth architecture with sand painting veneers at the location of discovery of the Missouri State and the Illinois State Museum Artifact.
Bench Tips Beading Workshop	8- 9	2) Birdman tablets from museum vault collections. Artifacts discussed will include Utz, Birdman, chert Shark tooth club from Illinois, Winnebago War Club, Stone carvings of silk worms, Wilmington Adena Tablets, the others. These key artifacts will be compared for Sun Bird symbolism. .
Upcoming Shows	10	

## NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

### TOPAZ



In shades of yellow, brown, honey, green, blue, red, pink and sometimes no color at all, Topaz has a mass appeal. Topaz is often found in an amber gold, yellow, or a blushing pink orange but a pale pink or a sherry red Topaz is very exceptional. The most prized color of Topaz is called Imperial Topaz and features a magnificent orange with pink undertones. Blue, once the most rare color of Topaz, is the most common today due to man's ability to enhance its color; Topaz with a naturally blue color is very rare.

The ancient Egyptians and Romans associated this golden gem with the sun god giving it the power to protect and heal. Legend says that topaz dispels enchantment. With its worldwide mass appeal throughout the centuries, once you find that perfect Topaz you'll soon be under its spell.

<http://www.wixonjewelers.com/education/gemstones/gemstone-guide>

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING

Our monthly meeting met at 7:30 on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

We started with our presentation.

### Business meeting

- A vote of the bylaws was postponed. The members requested to have a paper copy for review at the next meeting. Raul will print copies for the meeting.
- There were no volunteers for the nominating committee.
- Our vests have arrived.
- The minutes in the stony statement were approved.
- We now have club business cards.
- We had a number of new faces at the meeting.
- We need to consider working on vests during the next board meeting, this will make vests ready for the Houston Show.

Respectfully submitted:  
Trina Willoughby, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The November board meeting was called to order on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

Show items:

- 24 vendors and 108 tables are lined up for the show
- We need to contact George Wolf to see if he is able to display at the show
- We discussed the possibility of radio ads. We will discuss this at our club meeting

For Christmas dinner Sandy will look into getting a ham and brisket.

Nominations are still needed for the 2017 officers. We will need to vote in new officers in December.

Vince volunteered himself and his wife Shari to volunteer at the club booth at the Houston show on Saturday. This means we have almost all times filled to man our booth.

Respectfully submitted:

Trina Willoughby, Secretary

## REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The revised CLGMS constitution is on our website at

<http://www.clgms.org/constitution.doc>. We will be voting to accept these modifications to the constitution at the 10/17/2016 meeting. Please read the constitution and vote at the meeting.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We need volunteers for the Nominating committee. Please come to the meeting on 11/21/2016 and volunteer for the Nominating committee. Committee members will nominate at least one member for each of the offices listed below:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Program Director

Director

Director

## PIETERSITE

by John Bennett

Pietersite (pronounced PEE-tur-site) was discovered by Sid Pieters while visiting a farm in Namibia, Africa in 1962. The stone was heavier than expected, so he took it back to his shop to learn more about it. When he cut the stone open and saw the colors inside, he is quoted as having said, *"Of all the gemstones I have seen in the world, this is one of the most beautiful."*



In 1993, a variety of pietersite was discovered in the Henan Province in China, although, it wasn't until 1997 that Chinese pietersite began appearing on the market. Partially due to the fact that pietersite is found in only two places in the world, it is a relatively expensive stone with small cabochons selling for several hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars. Pietersite beads sell for about \$20 per gram while the larger, rough pieces can easily cost as much as \$100 a gram.

### **Rough Namibian Pietersite**

Pietersite is a colorful aggregate of hawk's eye and tiger eye. Namibian pietersite has a bluish color while the pietersite that is found in the Henan Province of China has more of a reddish brown hue. Both colors of pietersite contain swirls and streaks of crocidolite that can be in shades of gold, orange, yellow, or even fiery red. Crocidolite is responsible for the streaks of light, or chatoyancy, in both pietersite and tiger eye. While the crocidolite in tiger eye is predominately parallel, the crocidolite inclusions in pietersite randomly differ in density and alignment causing areas of varied, intense color. The crocidolite fibers in pietersite are eventually replaced by quartz which causes white and clear areas to be interspersed with its already chaotic colors. Pietersite is also sometimes used as a term to describe brecciated tiger eye.



### **Namibian Pietersite Cabochon**

Pietersite is a transparent mineral with a silky luster that can be intensified by polishing. It is another variety of quartz, so it is one of the harder minerals with a 6.5 to 7 on the Moh's scale although the different areas of chatoyancy can break apart if the stone is struck against a solid surface.

Pietersite is most often cut into cabochons that capture the beauty of its chatoyancy, although care must be taken to ensure that it is cut parallel to the crocidolite fibers. The crocidolite in pietersite is a mildly hazardous material. The Center for Disease Control recommends wearing long sleeves, glasses, a mask to filter out dust particles, and adequate ventilation when cutting pietersite or tiger eye. Getting crocidolite dust in your eyes can cause redness and irritation. It will cause mild coughing if inhaled and it will dry exposed skin.

The vibrant colors of pietersite work well for both men's and women's jewelry. Cabochons can be used for pendants, bracelets, rings, or earrings. The stones used in earrings, because of the smaller size needed, will usually lack the combinations of banding and chatoyancy of larger specimens, so that is something to keep in mind when cutting. Pietersite looks equally good whether set in gold or silver-tone settings. It is also a nice stone for wire-wrapping. Pietersite jewelry is available from some stores, however, the stones in mass produced jewelry are generally common looking. If you want to display the true beauty of pietersite, you are better off creating your own.



### **Chinese Pietersite Rough**

There is another mineral available that is marketed as Arizona pietersite. Actually, pietersite from Arizona is a form of serpentine containing chrysotile fibers. The serpentine can be either green or brown with gold or silver chrysotile inclusions. It is an attractive stone, but it is not really pietersite.

There is no documented evidence of pietersite that has been treated or enhanced in any way. Pietersite has yet to be synthesized. It still isn't a commonly known mineral.

When cleaning pietersite jewelry, avoid using chemicals or sonic cleaners. Some chemicals will change the color to a dull gray. Simply wiping the stone with a soft cloth will take care of most of the cleaning that needs to be done. Also, avoid exposing pietersite to temperature extremes. There have been cases of high heat ruining the color of pietersite pendants. Under an ultraviolet lamp, pietersite will glow with a moderate to strong fluorescence, either green or white.

### **Pietersite in History**

There are no historical references to pietersite as it has only recently been discovered.

### **Mystical Properties of Pietersite**

“Tempest Stone”, because of its dark blue color and bright golden flashes, which are reminiscent of stormy, lightning-filled skies. Pietersite removes negative energy and emotional turmoil. It will clean your aura, much like a rainstorm will clear the air. It helps to calm pets and people during storms, protects you from the elements as well as guarding your home or business against storm damage.

Pietersite shields against the negative effects of technology, especially if you spend a lot of time on a computer or use your cell phone often.

It brings you the power to overcome your tension and hardships. Its energies will increase your focus and personal will. Pietersite will enhance your clarity of thought and encourage intuition.



Pietersite will aid in bringing pent-up feelings to the surface, allowing you to remove negativity from conflicts and begin the process of healing your emotions. It also gives you the will to take the steps toward new goals.

This stone can help to cure various addictions and increase your confidence in yourself. Even if you have failed to get over an addiction many times, a piece of pietersite carried or worn can grant extra insight in the underlying reasons for the addiction and increase your resolve to ‘kick the habit’.

Pietersite may even relieve eye infections. Some people carry it to improve their long-distance and night vision.

### **Carved Chinese Pietersite Angel**

Pietersite stimulates your body by providing extra energy and strength. It is a useful stone for the nervous-system as it stimulates and strengthens the nerves and brain. It also can relieve headaches and neutralize diseases of the nervous system.

Pietersite grounds your body to the etheric realms, helping to regulate your physical energy. This will enhance meditation and aid in the use of your telepathic powers.

Pietersite even helps to balance your hormones, temperature, and blood pressure.

Pietersite is very useful for those creative people who don't have enough confidence in their artistic abilities. It increases attention to detail and instructions, as well as carrying

the potential to impart the clarity of vision necessary to see the true beauty of life and the world around us.



Pietersite is said to hold the "keys to the kingdom of heaven." It is a great stone for spiritual seekers studying the philosophies of mysticism. It helps you to visualize your thoughts with greater clarity, allowing you to gather your disparate thoughts, and understand the connections between them.

The blue shades of color that are found in Namibian pietersite help us to experience trust, faith, patience, and respect. Darker blue stones will increase the respect and compassion for others that we have within ourselves. They will teach us discretion, and honor, as well as encouraging us to act more charitably and to focus our efforts on service to others.

### **Arizona Pietersite Cabochon**

Dark gold color energy is dominant in pietersite. It provides us with the ability to lead projects and organizations. Stones with the darker shades of gold are the ultimate power crystals. They will impart authority, control, influence, leadership, and success.



Pietersite is an excellent stone for those who are interested in interdimensional travel, vision quests or shamanic journeying. It works with your body during meditations and acts quickly to access a high state of altered awareness.

## [BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH](#)

### TEMPLATES



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include [cooltools.us/](http://cooltools.us/) and [kingsleynorth.com/](http://kingsleynorth.com/)

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

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### DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and

bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](http://Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

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### **BEADING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, November 19

We will hold a jewelry making workshop on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Clear Lake Park Building. Sara Chelette will be teaching various wrapped loop connections to make your choice of a necklace or bracelet. All supplies are included (wire, beads and clasps). Please bring jewelry pliers and wire cutters if you have them. The cost of the workshop is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Please reserve your spot by emailing [CLGMSworkshops@hotmail.com](mailto:CLGMSworkshops@hotmail.com) or call [281-507-1622](tel:281-507-1622). Include your name and phone number.





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 27-28, 2016  
 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	Trina Willoughby	713-815-0275
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan	281-286-6869
	Program Director	vacant	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Sara Chelette
		Bob Brock	Jim Edwards
		Sandra Christiansen	vacant
		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.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2016: 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

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