



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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OCTOBER 2016

NUMBER 10



NEXT MEETING: October 17, 2016
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 Nasa Parkway
 Seabrook, Texas

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October Program October Birthstone	1- 2	<p><u>OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING</u></p> <p>David L. Brown, a Senior Scientist employed at the Johnson Space Center's Chief Technologist Office, will give a talk describing NASA's ongoing plans to develop the capabilities required to enable continued human space exploration beyond low earth orbit. The Evolvable Mars Campaign, or EMC as it is referred to by NASA, proposes to develop a diverse set of technologies, that can be integrated at the appropriate time, to ensure a successful mission to Mars culminating in a manned landing on the Martian surface and successful return to Earth. Mr. Brown will also discuss one of the key research areas being pursued at JSC which is to utilize the planet's soil to extract resource components for both fuel and habitat oxygen systems.</p>
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Mr. Brown, who began his professional career in 1980 working for the world's first industrial robot manufacturer, earned a B.S in Earth Sciences from Norwich University and an MBA in Technology Management from the University of Phoenix and an MS in Technology Project Management from the University of Houston. He lives in Seabrook with his wife Ulrike, Tilda the dog and Dreams the cat, and continues to diligently work while his daughter Katarina finishes her senior year at University of Texas at Austin!

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

TOURMALINE



Available in a spectrum of colors and color combinations, Tourmaline lives up to its name, which means “mixed stone”. With a rainbow of colors, Tourmaline can easily enhance any jewelry collection. Cranberry red, hot magenta, bubblegum pink, peach and orange, canary yellow, mint, grass and forest green, ocean blue, violet: Tourmaline is all of these and more.

Tourmaline is also known for displaying several colors in one gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations and are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as Watermelon Tourmaline and features green, pink, and white color bands. To resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge.

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

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING

The secretary was not present at the September monthly meeting; and no one else took the minutes.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The October meeting will vote on the updates to the constitution.

New business cards are in

We will have a booth at the Houston show in November 11-13.

Volunteers from the club will be needed to advertise our club.

Show items

- We selected the flier for our show
- 15 vendors are signed up for the show.
- We discussed some ideas for an attraction:
 - A NASA exhibit with rock samples and the suite to take pictures in, could we get an astronaut?
 - The “Dinosaurs Rock” gentleman, Walt, also has a Gems program
 - Talk to Neal about possible museum loan items or presentation
- We need to touch base with John Mohr about having students at the show.
- Advertising
- We are considering getting a billboard again. If we do, we think we should get one along highway 3 or 45 in this area.
- We may get a first set of fliers before the main attraction is selected. This would give us fliers for the Houston show.
- We need to get the gem mine work day set up.

Workshops

- Workshop – Charlie is teaching the workshop in October (22nd)
- Sara is teaching beading November 19th. We can combine this with show prep. By having this as a work day for the gem mine. We will have to bring the gem mine, some tools and supplies.

We need a presentation for the November meeting. (Houston president wife? Was flooded out this spring) Mike could present on mine data base.

It is time for the nomination committee. We will be asking for committee members at the meeting.

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.

HGMS ANNUAL SHOW

We need volunteers to man the CLGMS table at the HGMS show in Humble, TX on November 11-13, 2016. HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, Texas

Map of location:
<http://tinyurl.com/hohwabc>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We need volunteers for the Nominating committee. Please come to the meeting on 10/17/2016 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



LOST AND FOUND ARCHIVES

by Dave Hennessey

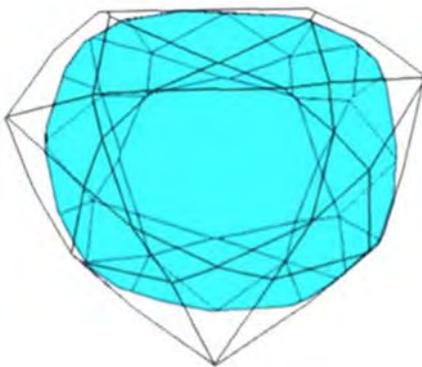
from *Mineral Minutes* 09/2016



Lost (September, 1792): One large deep blue diamond, known as the “French Blue.” Original uncut stone weighed 112 carats and was acquired in India by French merchant traveler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier. Sold to King Louis XIV of France in 1668 and recut to a 67-carat stone. Lost during the French Revolution from the French Royal Treasury during the looting of the crown jewels. If you have information on this missing diamond, please contact the French government immediately. Reward offered. Finding the stone is urgent since Napoleon’s government has issued a law providing for a 20-year statute of limitations on crimes committed during the revolution. Criminal liability for the theft will end in 1812.



Found (in 1812, 20 years and 2 days after the French Blue was stolen): A large deep blue 45.5 carat diamond. Acquired from a London diamond merchant by King George IV of the United Kingdom. Sold at his death (1830) through private channels to Henry Phillip Hope, passing through many hands thereafter including Cartiers, Evelyn Walsh McLean (owner of the Washington Post), and Harry Winston Inc., which donated the stone in 1958 to the Smithsonian Institution where it remains a premier attraction to this day.



Speculation that the Hope Diamond is the French Blue, recut to hide its origins, began soon after the diamond made its first appearance. Drawings of the French Blue survive, and the Hope Diamond shape fits nicely (but tightly) within the shape of the French Blue. In 2007, an inventory update of the mineral and gem collection of the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris turned up a lead cast of the French Blue. The cast allowed precise calculation of the stone’s shape and dimensions through laser scanning, and for the creation of three-dimensional computer models and replicas of the missing stone. The detailed geometric modeling and studies confirmed that the Hope Diamond could have been cut from the French Blue.

Confirming the validity of the analysis, the Smithsonian Institution Web site recounts the origins and history of this remarkable stone and affirms—*Mineral Minutes*, Vol. 75, no. 7, September 2016 Page 4—that the Hope Diamond is in fact the former French Blue that disappeared 324 years ago.

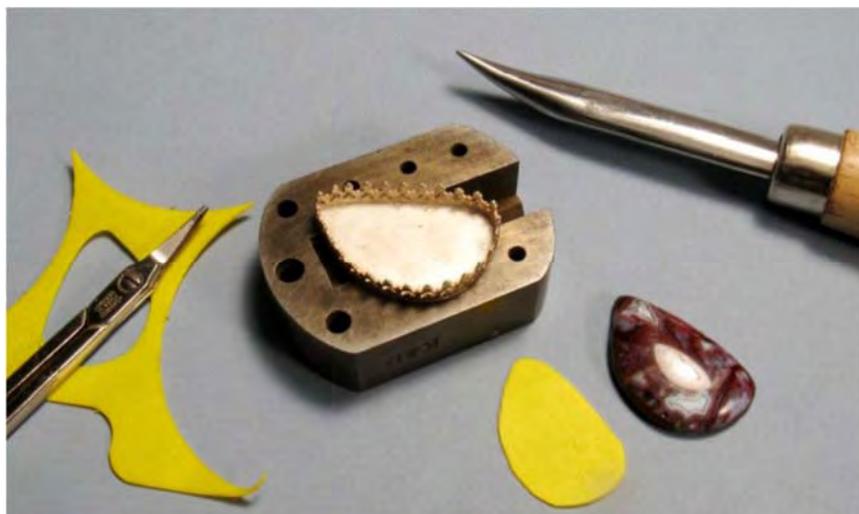
BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. If you're going to raise it up, question is what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.



TRANSPARENT CAB—When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is 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. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

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

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THE AMERICAN GOLDEN TOPAZ

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Are there any out there who remember seeing the American Golden Topaz at an AFMS Show? The American Golden Topaz is a 22,892.5 carats (cut weight) gem from Brazil. In 1987 Mr. John White, curator of the gems and mineral collection at the Smithsonian, approached the AFMS with plans to acquire a topaz that was bigger than the 21,327 carat Brazilian Princess Topaz, but needed \$40,000 to procure the rough stone. The AFMS originally balked at the idea, but did form a committee which supported the concept and rapidly raised the funds to procure the stone. The stone was owned by Drs. Marie and Edgar Bogatta of Seattle WA and was cut by Mr. Leon Agee of Walla Walla WA. The stone was then presented to the Smithsonian and displayed with a plaque that read "Gift of the Rockhound Hobbyist of America through the efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Drs. Marie and Ed Bogatta, 1988." One of the inducements for the AFMS to help in the acquisition of the American Golden Topaz was that the gem would be made available for display at the Federation Show. However, in 1997 the American Golden Topaz was placed on permanent display at the Smithsonian and was no longer available to the Federation.



Now fast forward to today. The American Golden Topaz is one of about 24 Smithsonian "Giant Gems" which go on temporary display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas! Here is some information I received from the Perot Museum:

The stone being held for this photo, to show scale.

GIANT GEMS OF THE SMITHSONIAN (Sept. 9, 2016-Jan. 17, 2017). Never before seen together, approximately two dozen magnificent, Texas-sized gems from the Smithsonian's world-renowned National Gem Collection will be on display in the Lyda Hill Gems and Minerals Hall on Level 3. The mineral masterpieces, many weighing over 1,000-plus carats, include the "American Golden" topaz that tips the scales at almost 23,000 carats (more than 10 pounds), a blue topaz "football" of nearly 7,000 carats, a kunzite Tiffany necklace, the Mogul emerald diamond necklace and more. This temporary installation will mark the first time such a large collection of Smithsonian

gems, some of which have never been displayed in any museum, will be on exhibit outside the famed Washington museum complex.

Special AFMS connection: The “American Golden Topaz” was presented to the Smithsonian in 1988 by the Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). AFMS members had rallied to help raise the money to purchase the American Golden Topaz and the plaque indicated that the gem was donated” in the name of the rockhound hobbyists of American and its six regional federations.”

If clubs are interested in seeing the American Golden Topaz and the rest of this collection, they may contact the Perot museum at 214-428-5555 or reserve@perotmuseum.org for a Group Ticket discount rate (group must be at least 10 individuals).

For the record, I am not an employee of the Perot Museum, but I am an active volunteer at the museum. This article is not intended to be an advertisement, but rather to point out an opportunity to see the American Golden Topaz – a stone that we all helped the Smithsonian Museum to acquire.

Via SCFMS Sept./Oct. 2016 Newsletter.

BASIC RING MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 22

Charlie Timme will present a workshop on Basic Ring Making.

We will start with what I call a radiator clamp design out of 14 gage copper. After we master that, we will make the same design with 14 gage silver. The next project will be a "Friendship Ring" based on a design I saw with a Taxco ring. Bring wire working tools and a ring mandrel if you have one.

We will start at 9:00 and should finish around 1:00. Class will be \$25.00 which includes all the material. Maximum 10 Students.

RSVP: Charlie Timme, 281-620-3033, charlie.timme@gmail.com.

BEADING WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 19

Sara Chelette will present a Beading Workshop. More details will follow.



SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

October 8-9, 2016 Temple, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Center	October 21-23, 2016 Austin, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Events Center	October 29-30, 2016 Glen Rose, TX Paleo. Soc. Of Austin Somervell Expo Center Hwy 67	November 5-6, 2016 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Center Exhibition Hall
November 6-7, 2016 Midland, TX Midland G&MS Midland Center	November 11-13, 2016 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkway	November 29-30, 2016, Paleontological Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park Hwy 29 E Round Rock, TX	January 14-15, 2017 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rock hounds Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park
January 27-29, 2017 Tyler, TX East TEXAS G&M Show Rose Garden Center	February 18-19, 2017 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	February 25-26, 2017 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Center	Feb 25-26, 2017 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Center
arch 04-05, 2017 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn	March 4-5, 2017 Robstown, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	March 11-12, 2017 Southwest G&MS San Antonio Event Cen. 811 Meadow Leaf Dr. San Antonio, Texas	April 08-09, 2017 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Center North 6th & Pine
April 15-16, 2017 Alpine, TX Chihuahua G&MS Alpine Civic Center	SCFMS November 10-12, 2017 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center 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.
 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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