



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 37 SEPTEMBER 2011 NUMBER 09



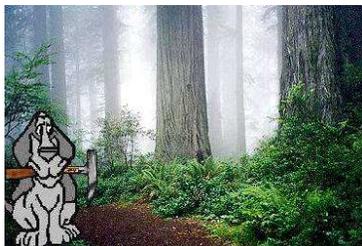
NEXT MEETING: September 19, 2011
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR September...

Jim Wines will talk particulars of the upcoming cabochon training class - Program Chair-Trina Willoughby and Ed Tindell tells us about latest Field Trip

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
August Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights - Fall Coming at last. A nice misty forest, cool and breezy to rest up from the collecting.</p>	<p>The reader of this newsletter is advised that he or she may be subject to an illusion generated by an evil genius, and that his or her "sensory fibers" may be falsely manipulated at any time with neither advance warning nor any possible legal remedy. The reader may suddenly grab a hammer, throw on old clothes and drive their car to the nearest rock outcrop or road cut and dig uncontrollably. - The Editor</p> <p>IS YOR NAME NOT ON MY LIST? I am behind on Anniversaries and Birthdays of newer members. If you have not seen your name in the last few months on the right date let me know. Day of Month is fine.</p>
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"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government only when it deserves it." Mark Twain

Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral**August 15, 2011**

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report for July, 2011. Trina Willoughby made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by David Tijok and passed unanimously. There were no changes to the July Meeting Minutes.

Field Trips

Field Trip Chairperson Ed Tindell made a report on the field trip to Llano, TX, with the Texas Rockers Meetup Group. The group met at The Slab on the Llano River on Saturday, July 16. Ed reported he found some gold and a topaz. An arrowhead was found in Sandy Creek near the serpentine quarry. Ed found a peridot vein. Dinner was at Cooper's BBQ. On Saturday night, there was a hunt for fluorescent minerals using ultra violet lights. The Battery Hill pegmatite quarry was visited on Sunday. On September 10 in the Austin area, there will be a share rocks meet. Ed also announced a field trip to Graves Mountain in Georgia on October 29. The Walker Ranch field trips were also discussed.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Library – Chairperson was absent.

Community Service – Chairperson was absent.

Education – Nothing to report.

Publicity – The October 15 Workshop was discussed. Jim Wines will teach how to make a cabochon. Ads will be placed in the local newspapers two weeks prior to the workshop. The workshop will begin at 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Jim will begin the setup at 11:00 a.m. The equipment and needed supplies was discussed. Ed Tindell made the motion to allow Jim \$500 for supplies and to fix the equipment. The motion was seconded by David Tijok and passed unanimously. We further discussed conducting workshops on a regular basis.

Secretary Anna Williams reported she has been in contact with the county and has reserved the building for 2012. She is waiting for the contract. Treasurer Loyce Pennington reported she received a call from someone who would like to be a dealer at our show. Al Pennington reported Doug Wilson has passed and his family would like to donate his lapidary equipment to the club.

Membership – Chairperson Mike Flannigan reported we have 72 members.

Show – Jim Wines will be sending out the dealer contracts. He recommends the same price structure. Al Pennington will start some of the printing for the show.

Program**Laray Caverns in the Shenandoah Valley**

The mountains in the Shenandoah National Park are 500 million years old and were formed when the Blue Ridge Mountains were pushed up forming caverns. The park has 195,000 acres with 500 miles of hiking. There is a display of 100 antique cars at the park. The caverns are a registered national landmark and were discovered on August 18, 1878. They were formed 100 million years ago by an underground river. There was a tour of the caverns with stalactites and stalagmites. Those that are wet are still forming while those that are dry are inactive. One cubic inch is formed every 120 years. Human bones were found in the caverns embodied in calcite. The relative humidity in the caverns is 87%.

No door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Williams, Secretary

The Goldstone Story

Author unknown

For hundreds of years men everywhere have tried to turn base metals into gold. In Medieval Times monks of a northern Italian monastery were engaged in this task. For many years these monks labored to recover the precious metal in their retorts.

About 1590, after years of effort monks happened to make a very beautiful sparkling material with innumerable gold stars. They failed in making gold but they did succeed in producing a marvelous specimen which they properly named "Goldstone." (In reality it is a glass not a stone.) Goldstone was used for decorative purposes until, having been suitable for cutting and polishing for jewelry, it was imported into the United States in 1890. The monks called goldstone "adventuring stone," as it was impossible to foretell the success of a mixture for many weeks. To this day due to the lack of modern production methods, a batch can turn out unsuitable for use due to variations in the heating and cooling process. The production of goldstone has been a closely kept secret for the past three centuries. Many have tried to duplicate goldstone.



After the goldstone is removed from the retorts, the bathtub sized masses are broken into convenient sizes and shipped to the major stone cutting centers throughout the world, Germany, Holland, Austria and some to Mexico and Japan. Goldstone has a Mohs hardness of 5.5 (comparable to the hardness of turquoise). It is often carved into jewelry and ornaments such as spheres or sitting Buddhas.

Goldstone will not fade or discolor or lose its beauty over many years, so that it is most suitable for costume jewelry and for specially designed pieces. Variants of the original color have lately come on the market—a rich blue which is supposed to glow in the dark after exposure to bright sunlight; a green, made by a different process which cuts well into flat top gems but has given trouble in high cabochons, and also a black, called sometimes "Midnight Stone." The metallic flecks are copper, but the method of producing them is a secret of the process. The Japanese imitation uses copper fillings but the result is not the same as the Italian material. The aventurine quartz takes its name from the resemblance of the metallic flecks in it to the monks "Adventuring Stone."

From *The RockCollector* 9/11 Adapted from articles from *Michigan Gem News*

Unknotting Knotty Chains

A fine chain can be very frustrating when it knots. Put a drop or two of salad oil on a piece of waxed paper. Lay the knot in the puddle and work at it with two straight pins. The knot should come apart quickly.

Snoopy Gems, 7/2010; Canaveral Moonstone 9/2010

Remove Carbonates

One way to remove carbonates, such as calcite, from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow it to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing type ammonia for 8 to 12 hours. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry. Snoopy Gems, 7/2010; Canaveral Moonstone 9/2010

A September HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary-Ruth Rathjen 4
 Janet Rathjen 9
 Sharon Choens 17

(**Sapphire** (symbolizes sincerity and faithfulness). gem of the heavens, the divine gemstone, anniversary gem for the 5th and 45th years of marriage)

September Anniversary includes:

"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure." **Benjamin Franklin**

GOODIE GETTERS...For September



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**Helpful Hints! (they never hurt)**

- Many lapidarists now heat nodule and thunder egg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200° F oven until they are warm to the touch or putting specimens in hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.
- To repair a spread apart link in a small broken chain, insert a toothpick in the two adjacent links. The faulty link is thus held in place for pliers to pinch it together again. To break a cavity filled with fragile crystals away from a large matrix specimen: fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the piece with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of the hammer blow from loosening the crystals.
- Take lint from your clothes dryer lint catcher and add it to the polishing compound for tumbling. It will speed up the polishing and prevent chipping.

via Ft Collins' Lodestone 2/11, via Rockhound Gazetter 4/11, via Beehive Buzzer 4/11, via Quarry Quip July 2011 via Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Mineral Society, 9/11

Dinosaur bone is handled much like agate, sanded to 600 grit on silicon carbide, and polished on hard felt with tin oxide. The stone is finished with black rouge on muslin buff. The muslin buff can clean out the tin oxide that remains between the bone cells, and the black rouge applies a stain to the tin oxide that remains behind. What color rouge you use might depend on the color of your bone. To spot cracks and vugs before sawing, first soak it in a tub of water for at least an hour. Remove the rock 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.

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the Inhalation.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. Easiest way to harden it is to grip the end of the post with your flat-jaw pliers and twist it a couple half turns.

This works to harden the wire and at the same time tests your soldered joint

from *Brukner Rockette* 1/2011 via Greater **Cincinnati** Lapidary and Mineral Society, 9/11

Field Trips (2011) by Ed Tindell

a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Subject: Walker Ranch Rockhunt September 23, 24, 25, 2011

A 3-day Walker Ranch rockhunt has been scheduled for Friday, September 23; Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25. This will be the only weekend Walker Ranch rockhunt this fall.

The cost for the three days is still \$150 per person. A deposit of \$75 per person is required. If you wish to hunt for just one day, the cost will be \$75 per person. I'll have details about where to send your deposit at the end of this email.

There has been some rain so far this fall, but not much. However, there is agate all over the place! The roads have been worked on somewhat, and the weather should be great.

If you wish, you can dry camp on the ranch during the weekend. The weather for that weekend is historically great, with a high in the low 80s and a low in the mid 50s.

To reserve a place on the Walker field trip:

1. Reply to this email or email me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net that you wish to go. Include the number of people in your group.
2. Send me a deposit check for \$75 per person. The check should be made out to Bryan Crumpton, and mailed to Teri Smith at:
509 N. 8th Street
Alpine, TX 79830
Please have the check to me by September 16th.
3. Make your plans for lodging if you're not going to be camping at the Walker. Since I own the Antelope Lodge, I obviously think it's the best place in town, and the reservation number is (800) 880-8106.

Regards,
Teri



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2010 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 7, 2011

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 8, 2011

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 9, 2011

"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day.

All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about this great event!

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL. NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP!

Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

DIRECTIONS: From Washington Georgia, drive 11 miles on SR-378, or from the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for a sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the south side of the road.

TERTIARY AMBER

by Diana Nelson

The tertiary period was a time of luxuriant vegetation. Ginkgo, laurel, magnolia and cypress flourished deep into the Arctic, while the Antarctic was host to ferns as well as deciduous trees. All the continents were covered with a green carpet. The most common plant fossils come from an early Tertiary conifer (*Pinus succinifera*) which looked much like a present-day pine. This tree formed great forests in the North Sea region and especially along the coast of East Prussia. The forests were a curious mixture of tropical and temperate-zone plants. Along with the pines grew oaks, beeches, chestnuts, palms, ferns and cinnamon trees.



It is possible that the pines suffered from disease for their secretions of resin is estimated at between two and five million tons. Today they lie deep beneath the sea in a stratum called "blue earth." Year after year, the sea has washed small and large quantities of resin out of this layer and cast it upon the shore.

For thousands of years this amber (which had existed fifty to seventy million years before) was regarded as an ornament almost as precious as the most precious stone. Amber trade routes led from the Baltic and the North Seas to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Amber jewelry has been found in urns from the Bronze Age, Mycenaean, Greek and Roman ruins. The Phoenicians even carried the ancient amber trade to the Orient.

The fossil resin has played an enormous part in economic life. For centuries the amber monopoly was in the hands of the Teutonic Order. In the time of the Great Elector the monopoly passed to the state of Prussia. From 1811 to 1945 collecting amber became a matter of private enterprise. The collectors fished it out of the sea, dug it out of the ground, and extracted it with huge dredges. In this way some six hundred tons of raw amber was mined annually. Even so, this is only about two percent of the amber in the blue earth beneath the ocean bottom.

In antiquity, amber was fashioned into necklaces, rings, pendants and all sorts of carved figures. In the Middle Ages rosary beads, candleholders, bowls, small boxes, chess pieces and household altars were made of polished amber.

This resin has also provided some of the chief evidence of small animal life fifty to fifty-five million years ago. Insects and other such tiny animals were caught by amber resin and enclosed with it, so that they have been preserved exactly as they were at the moment of death. The fact that insects could be enclosed in amber was known to the ancient Greeks and Romans. Such pieces were sought after and fetched high prices.

Termites, ants, praying mantises, sap beetles and spiders were among the victims of the resin. These organisms were suddenly caught and killed in the midst of life. Thus amber provides us with a fine picture of ancient times. Predatory insects stinging and eating their prey, locust females laying eggs, butterflies emerging from the cocoon, spiders in their webs and with silk-wrapped flies are some of the scenes that have been found enclosed in amber, and birds would sometimes lose feathers in the sticky resin. This shows us that there were nuthatches, woodpeckers, and thrushes living in the Tertiary pine forests as well as sawbills and motmots which today inhabit only the tropics.

These amber pines which have left behind so full a record of the past became extinct in the Eocene Epoch. What has remained of them along with a few needles and seeds is their beautiful, shining golden resin.

PALEOZOIC LIFE

The Last of the Cambrian mass extinctions saw the elimination of many nautiloid and trilobite genera. This was a blow from which the trilobites would never recover. Other animal groups could now take advantage of these empty ecological niches. Among these were crinoids. These animals, also called sea lilies, were attached to the sea floor. They had a long stem that rose from the floor and was attached to a flower-like structure. This structure was used to filter nutrients from the sea water. Also appearing in the sea now were the first corals. Rugose, also called horn corals, were solitary filter feeders. Tabulate corals also appeared. However, these animals were not solitary; they lived together in colonies similar to coral of today. Bryozoans, or moss creatures, were colonial filter feeders as well. The corals and bryozoans helped produce spectacular reefs throughout the Paleozoic.

Brachiopods still flourished in the waters of middle and late Paleozoic time. New varieties of gastropods and bivalve mollusks began to flourish, occupying an increasingly large part of the ecosystem. The first echinoids also appeared during the early Paleozoic. An important animal which appeared, as far as correlation is concerned, is the graptolite. This creature looked like a saw blade. One side of the animal had tooth like structures.

The two most important predators of the early Paleozoic were the nautiloids and the starfish. Appearing in the middle Paleozoic were the ammonoids. These were very similar to nautiloids. They swam through the water preying on animals such as crinoids and perhaps some fishes. Another important predator was the eurypterid arthropod, a distant relative of scorpions. They swam along the bottom. Their fossils can also be found in some freshwater environments. Appearing on the scene also were fishes. The first fish had no jaw, but as the periods passed, fish developed a jaw. Perhaps one of the single most important adaptations until that time, the jaw allowed the fish to become the most feared predators in the oceans and freshwater lakes.

In the middle of the Paleozoic, an invasion of the land began, starting of course with plants. Spore bearing plants such as ferns were the first to take a good hold on land. They started near shore and marshes. An important adaptation for plants was the seed. No longer did plants need to depend on the moist near shore environments; they spread inland and diversified greatly. Forests appeared late in the Paleozoic. Most of these early trees were fern-like, although some produced seeds. Gymnosperms, cone bearing plants like today's conifers, appeared.

Animals too invaded the land. Arthropods moved out first. Early scorpions and some flightless insects appeared. Then amphibians left the sea, though not entirely, and appeared on land. In fact, the late Paleozoic can be called the age of the amphibians because of the animal's dominant role. They probably fed on the arthropod groups that had left the sea earlier in the Paleozoic. Late in the Paleozoic the first reptiles appeared. Unlike the amphibians, the reptiles did not need to live any of their life in the water. The more famous early reptiles such as the dimetrodon had large fins on their backs.

The Paleozoic ended in what may have been the planet's most horrific mass extinction ever. Its cause is not known for sure, but its devastation was felt worldwide.

Written by Christopher P. Pechal.

References taken from : Exploring Earth and Life Through Time, by Steven M. Stanley

From the Trilobite, 03/95

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Sep. 03 - 04 ARLINGTON, TX Arlington G&MS Arlington Conv. Ctr	Oct. 08 - 09 TEMPLE, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Ctr	Oct. 14 - 16 VICTORIA, TX Victoria G&MS Community Ctr. 2905 E. North St.	Oct. 21 - 23 AUSTIN, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Event Ctr.
Oct. 22 - 23 DENISON, TX Texoma Rockhounds Denison Senior Ctr.	Oct. 29 - 30 GLEN ROSE, TX Paleo. Soc. of Austin Somervell Expo Ctr. Hwy 67		

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.
 September 19, 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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Deadline for October Issue is September 28, 2011			