



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 SEPTEMBER 2012 NUMBER 9



**NEXT MEETING:** September 17, 2012  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING  
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE  
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

**The PROGRAM FOR September...**

**The program will be:** For September, Beverly DeJarnett from the Bureau of Economic Geology is going to come talk to us about the BEG’s Houston Research Center and what they do.

**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	Fm Program Chair
August Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements Salutes the Show Dealers</p>	Wire Wrap Workshop – Saturday, October 13, 2012
	2		<p>A Wire Wrap Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Dean Lagerwall will lead the workshop and teach us the “Garcia” wrap, which uses two or three individual wires twisted together in a specific pattern to create a cage for the polished stone. All supplies will be provided.</p> <p>RSVP – Anna Brownfield, 281-486-1866, or <a href="mailto:annabel55@comcast.net">annabel55@comcast.net</a> as soon as possible as space is limited.</p>
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“Energy and persistence conquer all things.” Benjamin Franklin

**Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, August 22, 2012**

Vice President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington was out of town; so the Treasurer's Report was postponed. The July and August Meeting Minutes will be published in the next Stoney Statements Newsletter.

Don Halter and son, Aidan, were introduced as visitors and welcomed. Alisa Marshall was also introduced as a visitor and welcomed

**Committee Reports**

Historian – Chairperson was absent.

Library – We need a new chairperson and we need to get the books back from Lester Gary. Ed Tindell will contact Lester.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar was absent due to summer vacation.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell made a short presentation on a company he found that does custom paper work. He found the company in a magazine in a hotel room. He contacted them to make a special box for him to store his rock and mineral specimens.

Club Publicity – The Clear Lake Park Building has been reserved for 2013 monthly meetings in addition to three workshops. The workshops will be held on Saturday, March 16, Saturday, June 1, and Saturday, September 14. Charlie Timme is scheduled to present a cabochon wire wrap workshop on Saturday, March 16.

Anna Brownfield will represent the club at the SCFMS Annual Meeting in Jasper, TX.

Carole Henning brought up a discussion regarding program topics. We discussed programs regarding the earth sciences, rocks, minerals, tectonic plate movement, volcanoes, geology, and paleontology. Program chairperson Trina Willoughby welcomed suggestions for upcoming programs. Carole Henning also discussed climate change and global warming. Trina Willoughby announced two possible upcoming programs and after that she welcomed suggestions.

**Field Trips**

Chairperson Ed Tindell announced field trips led by Teri Smith in Alpine, TX, and the Llano, TX, gold panning weekend. He mentioned topaz in Mason County and possibly another trip to Midlothian, TX. He also discussed the limestone quarry in Ada, OK. He plans to be in Denver, CO, in October and could set up a field trip there.

Anna Brownfield has been in contact with George Wolf and will schedule a field trip to his home museum. It is field with fossils, prehistoric teeth, arrowheads, shells, and more.

Ed Tindell discussed what to look for when on a field trip and where to look. Basically, the field trip leader usually has examples and can guide you.

Door prizes were awarded.

A request was made to post meeting changes on the web site. A suggestion was made for a dedicated email list for the club.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

**Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, July, 16, 2012**

Vice President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington was out of town; so the Treasurer's Report was postponed. There were no corrections to the June Meeting Minutes.

Jennie Ferguson and Antonio Rios, geology students at San Jacinto Junior College, were introduced. They are our scholarship recipients this year. Their scholarship checks will be mailed to them.

### **Committee Reports**

Historian – Nothing to report.

Library – We need a new chairperson and we need to get the books back from Lester Gary. Ed Tindell will contact Lester.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar was absent due to summer vacation.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell made a short presentation on two rock hound tools.

Club Publicity – The wire wrap workshop to be held Saturday, October 13, 2012, was discussed. Ed Tindell made the motion to approve \$200 for supplies for the workshop. The motion was seconded by Jim Wines and passed unanimously. In addition, travel expenses for Anna Brownfield to attend the SCFMS Annual Meeting in Jasper, TX on August 25, 2012, was approved.

Vice President Bob Brock introduced the geology professor from San Jacinto Junior College and recognized the scholarship recipients.

### **Program**

Why is my house sinking? By Carole Henning

Last year during the drought, houses were sinking. She discussed clay and what it can give to the geologist and the oil industry. Clay is an impervious surface and oil pools under clay. Clay is the result of sedimentation. The finest sediment is clay. There are three kinds of clay. The kind of clay our homes are built on is the type of clay that swells when water is present. She discussed and demonstrated the periodic table of elements. The clay we have is aluminum silicate. If it had magnesium, we would have talc. Chemically, we have a very active soil. It goes up and down. She discussed using soaker hoses around our houses to build the house up. She found no literature to support this method. She also discussed placing piers under our houses. She explained cracks in clay and building houses using piers three feet deep for more stability. Adding gypsum to the soil can make it more useful on clay which is very responsive to water – which is why our houses are sinking. Carole then answered our questions.

Vice President Bob Brock asked members to help themselves to refreshments. He then discussed septarian nodules and shared a beautiful specimen. Carole Henning then discussed the Llano River rocks with holes in them. She suggested you hang them from a tree. When the rock is wet, it's raining. When the rock is moving, it is windy. When it is dry, the sun is shining. It is then a weather rock. Ed Tindell discussed how septarian nodules are formed. He also discussed gargoyles found in the Llano River. They look like mud balls.

### **Show Committee**

Contracts have been mailed and 70% of the contracts have been returned. One dealer dropped and we need a replacement.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

## **Field Trip to George Wolf's Home "Museum"**

Fabulous displays of fossils, shells, and arrowheads

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Pasadena, TX

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

RSVP – Anna Brownfield, 281-486-1866, or [annabel55@comcast.net](mailto:annabel55@comcast.net), for directions.

**An 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)

**SHOP HINTS:**

1. To get a high polish on onyx and other stones that are difficult to polish, go through the complete process of making the cab from grinding to polish in your normal manner. Then to the high polish: mix in a baby food jar or any wide-mouthed glass, 3 tablespoons water with 9 1/2 teaspoon oxalic acid, and dip your cab in this mixture. Go back to your polishing wheel for another run. You will be pleased with the results.

2. Instead of dumping used acid (oxalic, muriatic, etc.) down the drain, where it can cause pollution and might damage the plumbing, try the following: put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware (do not use metal) with a piece of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can be safely dumped almost anywhere.

3. Candle Your Montana Agate  
 "Candle" your Montana agate just as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two pound coffee can, turn it upsid down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light will show the dendrites This saves cutting time.

4. Rubber should not come in contact with silver. Never put a rubber band around any silver items or you will get a permanent stain.

1. 5. Fluorescent labels can be read in the dark by using ink made by mixing quinine and water. It glows bright blue under black light.e

6. The Orangewood Stick

One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough to not mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and reaches into impossible places.

7. FOR THE SILVERSMITHS

The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing-wheel theads, not the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not give the same results as a quality one. Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily. Bon Anii applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.

8. USES FOR GRAPHITE

On many occasions black epoxy is appropriate rather than the customary gray.

Make your own. Use black ground graphite shavings from pencils for your pigment. By thoroughly mixing with your epoxy you will get a good black color.

9. RICHTER SCALE

We hear a lot of the Richter Scale to denote the strength of an earthquake. This scale was developed by seismologist, Charles Richter, in 1935. Each number is 10 times more powerful than the previous one. Humans can feel shock of two.

## Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

There will be at least one multi-club field trip to the Ashgrove Quarry in Midlothian, TX on 10/27/12.

The quarry is actually sponsoring this trip and has reached out to all the field trip coordinators who have visited them in the past.

I have asked for inclusion of a group of thirty (30) CLGMS members + friends.

If the total group size is too large they will plan a second trip.

Ashgrove is SHARK TOOTH CENTRAL!

They have more fossils than the other two quarries by far along with some pyrite and lots of septarians.

You will have to wear personal protective equipment (hard hat, closed toed shoes, etc).

The trip will be FREE.

If you are interested please let me know a.s.a.p.

I still haven't heard back from the quarry so I don't have an answer yet if children are allowed or not.

So far we have 17 signed up – the trip is filling up fast!



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

### 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.

## CHRYSOBERYL by Cheri Rodger

Chrysoberyl is a gray to green to yellow or brown vitreous material, relatively rare gemstone. The word comes from Latin *chr sob e ryllus*, from Greek *khrusob e nullos*, meaning golden. That is, *chrysos* means golden and *beryllos* refers to its Beryllium content. Alexandrite, Spinel, and Cat's Eye are all three varieties of Chrysoberyl. When spotlighted, Cat's Eye exhibits a band of light that opens and closes as the stone is turned. Alexandrite changes from red (in incandescent light) to green (in daylight.) Ordinary Chrysoberyl is a "poor relative" when the two are put to a comparison.

Chrysoberyl is among the most brilliant of the gemstones, surpassed in hardness only by Diamonds and the Corundums., Chrysoberyl color changes from the greenish hues toward the yellowish or brownish tones when small amounts of Iron replace the Aluminum in its formula. If more of a true green color is observed, Chromium is the coloring agent. The Alexandrite displays pleochroism, when viewed from different perpendicular directions. The Cat's Eye effect is caused by fine needle inclusions of Rutile in one direction. Rectangular Chrysoberyl crystals are rare. Twins are more abundant, commonly found as "trillings" or "sixlings." The largest faceted Chrysoberyl weighs 66 carats, and is from Russia.

A. G. Werner, a famous German geologist, first identified Chrysoberyl in 1789. It was known in Rome by the end of the first century. In the late nineteenth century, the Duke of Connaught gave, as his betrothal ring, - a Cat's Eye to Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia. The gem's popularity and price rose immediately. Alexandrite was discovered in 1830 in an Emerald mine in the Ural Mountains, on the birthday of the then heir apparent Czar Alexander II, for whom the stone was subsequently named. The colors were also quite significant because its green and red colors were the same as those of the Russian Imperial Guard. Crisolita, the name given to the greenish-yellow form found in Sri Lanka and Brazil. This variety became popular in Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, where it was used in Spanish and Portuguese jewelry. It was in great demand during the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

The natives of Sri Lanka believed that Cat's Eye protected its wearer from evil spirits. According to Hindu lore, it preserved an owner's health and guarded from poverty. Oriental belief was that, if pressed against the forehead at a point between the eyes, it would endow foresight.

Chrysoberyl crystallizes in and around pegmatite rich in Beryllium, and is commonly found in alluvial deposits. Major source is Minas Gerias in Brazil. The world's largest amount of Alexandrite has been produced, up to 30 carats in less than three months. Other locations are Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Burma.

Fine stones exceeding five carats are rare. Alexandrite Cat's Eye is one of the rarest and most costly gems. Cat's Eye is the most valuable of chatoyant gems. Fine Stones over 20 carats are rare and expensive.

Synthetic Chrysoberyl, synthetic Alexandrite, and synthetic Corundum have all been produced to imitate Alexandrite's color change. *The Southwest Gem 10/04*

## Minerals of the Wrong Feather Don't Flock Together

by Dr. Bill Cordua, Univ. Wisconsin-River Falls

Most rockhounds know that certain minerals are often found together. For example, malachite often is found with copper and gold is often found embedded in quartz. What many don't realize is identification clue is that many together. For example, lazurite, sodalite, and corundum are never found associated with quartz. As another example, beryl does not occur with dolomite in our local limestones. Well, why not? Doesn't that seem a bit arbitrary? Isn't "never" sort of a strong term to be used by a scientist? It turns out that there are good chemical reasons why this is so.

In some cases, it is simply a matter of a particular rock type not having the needed chemicals to make the minerals. There is no chemical compatibility between dolomite and beryl in limestone. Why not? In order to make beryl, you need to have beryllium, a chemical present in, at best, trace amounts in most limestones. By analogy, you can't make a chocolate cake with no chocolate-no matter how hard you try. The fact that chemicals tend to segregate in certain places in our earth leads to the commonly observed mineral associations. Certain granites have a lot of beryllium in them-it's an element that tends to accumulate in such magmas. Thus beryl is found in granites, along with the typical quartz, feldspar, mica and tourmaline.

In other cases the mineral won't form because the proper temperature, pressure or other geochemical conditions (such as acidity) were not achieved in the rock. For example, diamond won't form in a rock, unless certain conditions are met.

In yet other cases there is a true chemical incompatibility. It is because of this that quartz is never found with olivine, corundum, sodalite or lazurite. These minerals are just not chemically stable together. Does this mean if you put a piece of corundum next to a piece of quartz that they'll explode? Of course not. The point is that the two minerals will simply not form together in the same environment. If corundum forms, quartz won't form and vice versa. This reason is that corundum forms only in a low silica environment, but quartz only in a high silica one.

Let's consider a hot magma. There are no minerals in the magma-only loose atoms darting around. As the magma cools these atoms begin to bond together to form minerals. Let's suppose this is a low silica magma. There are lots of other chemicals, such as aluminum, around. The aluminum likes to link to what silica there is around to form feldspars. But since this is low silica magma, there isn't enough to go around. The extra aluminum has to go somewhere, so, when it gets concentrated enough it forms corundum. Now, let's suppose this is high silica magma. All this aluminum finds silica and makes (feldspar. Now there is i.e. silica left over, so quartz eventually forms. In the first case, you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and corundum, in the second case you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and quartz. You can never get a rock with quartz and corundum forming together in it. There are similar relationships between quartz and sodalite, olivine and several other minerals. So if someone offers you a specimen of corundum crystals embedded in quartz, start looking for the glue! *Leaverite News, via The Rockcollector Feb 2003*

.SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
<b>Oct. 05 - 07</b> <b>ARLINGTON, TX</b> Arlington G&MS 1010 N. Collins St. Entertainment Ctr.	<b>Oct. 06 - 07</b> <b>TEMPLE, TX</b> Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Ctr.	<b>Oct. 19 - 21</b> <b>VICTORIA, TX</b> Victoria G&MS Community Ctr. 2905 E. North St.	<b>Oct. 19 - 21</b> <b>AUSTIN, TX</b> Austin G&MS Palmer Event Ctr.
<b>Oct. 27 - 28</b> <b>GLEN ROSE, TX</b> Paleo. Soc. of Austin Somervell Expo Ctr. Hwy 67	<b>Nov. 03 - 04</b> <b>AMARILLO, TX</b> Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Ctr. Exhibition Hall	<b>Nov. 03 - 04</b> <b>MIDLAND, TX</b> Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.	<b>Nov. 09 - 11</b> <b>HUMBLE, TX</b> 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.  
 September 17, 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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**Deadline for October Issue is Spetember 28, 2012**