



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 42	SEPTEMBER 2016	NUMBER 9
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Fall Into
AUTUMN

NEXT MEETING: September 19, 2016
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 Nasa Parkway
 Seabrook, Texas

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AUGUST BIRTHSTONE

OPAL



In ancient times, the Opal was known as the Queen of Gems because it encompassed the colors of all other gems. Each Opal is truly one-of-a-kind; as unique as our fingerprints. Some prefer the calming flashes of blues and greens; others love the bright reds and yellows. With its rainbow of colors, as you turn and move the Opal the color plays and shifts, giving you a gem that can be worn with a plethora of ensembles.

Australia's Lightning Ridge is known for its rare and stunning black Opals. The ideal Opal is one that displays broad patterns covering the surface, with all the colors of the rainbow, including red. Opals are the most individual gemstone with its range of colors.

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

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING



The August meeting was called to order on August 15th. We started off with the presentation.

The business meeting covered the following items.

- Our new computer is in! We have moved into the 2000's! This will be a great upgrade for our club.
- We had a sample vest. The board meeting came up with quantities to order.
- Sara showed our business card layout. It was approved. Sara was given the direction to make the decision as to how many to purchase based on online prices.
- HASSB Elementary in Alvin requested to have rocks on display for their opening. David is coordinating and already has quite a few rocks from club members along with nice labels.
- Charlie and Bernice will be on the look out for florescent light ideas when they are at the Denver show.
- Sandy won't be available next meeting, we need someone to bring refreshments. Doug will bring snacks.
- The next board meeting is on a holiday, we will have to change the date this is held.

- We need to get the constitution published so that we can vote on it. Per the bylaws it must be published 30 days prior to a vote. We agreed to publish this on the website and email members so we can vote in October.
- We got a new cart for books. The suggestion is to get a label on it.
- Charlie and Bernice suggest going to Johnson's Rock shop in Livingston Texas. They have 10 small buildings with displays and rocks. It would make a good club outing some Saturday.

Respectfully submitted:
Trina Willoughby, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The August board meeting was held on Tuesday the 6th of September.

Show items

- The fliers for the upcoming show will be 8 ½ x 11. It is time to start working on them.
 - We need a main attraction
 - We would like to see the results from last year's tickets to decide if it is worth advertising on the digital road signs this year.
- Meeting presentations
 - September
 - Show and tell
 - No-cash swap
 - October – Trina is working with someone for October
 - November – Presentation is needed. Will any member volunteer to present or find a presenter?
 - Workshops
 - October 19th – Charlie will teach a workshop
 - November 19th – Sara will teach a workshop on beading.

Respectfully submitted:
Trina Willoughby, Secretary

Lightning Ridge, New South Wales

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Lightning Ridge is a town in north-western New South Wales, Australia, in Walgett Shire, near the southern border of Queensland, about six kilometers east of the Castlereagh Highway, and is served in commercial activities by the town of Walgett, some 75 km to the south. Lightning Ridge is a flourishing tourist town with numerous caravan (camper-trailer) and camping parks, the previously very rustic Diggers' Rest pub (which has burned down for the third time and a well-appointed bowling club with its eight artificial-grass bowling greens. Temperatures in summer can reach into the high 40s Celsius, but below ground the temperature remains continually at around 22 degrees, year round. The Lightning Ridge area is a world-renowned centre of the mining of black opals and other opal gemstones. Lightning Ridge has the largest known deposits of black opals in the world. The name Lightning Ridge is said to have originated when in the 1870s some passersby found the bodies of a farmer, his dog and 200 sheep which had been struck by lightning for.



Lightning Ridge is an important paleontological site, with fossils dating back to the Cretaceous period, 110 million years ago. The sandstone rock once formed the bottom of a shallow inland sea where the remains of aquatic plants and animals were preserved. The site is especially important as a source of fossils of ancient mammals which, at that time, were small creatures living in a world dominated by dinosaurs. The fossils are sometimes opalized and discovered by opal miners. Important discoveries at Lightning Ridge include the ancestral monotremes *Kollikodon ritchiei* and *Steropodon galmani*.

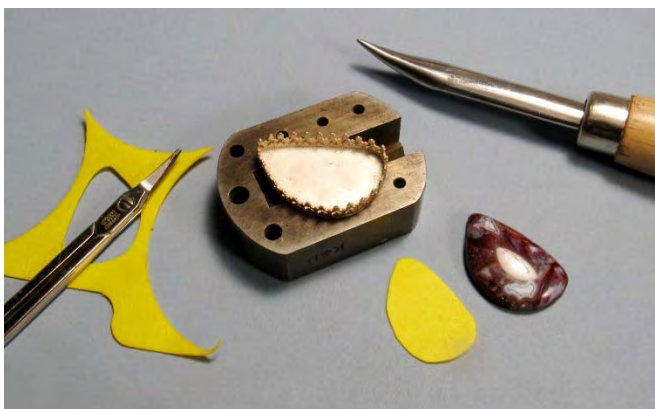
BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

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 it's 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

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COPROLITE FOSSILS

Coprolites form in much the same way as any other fossil - the original organic material is infused with water containing dissolved minerals, and as the minerals crystallize, the original material is slowly replaced by stone.

Most people, when handed a coprolite for the first time, go and sniff it as their first impulse. But it smells of nothing but stone, because that's all it is now, technically speaking.

Coprolites are at a disadvantage from the start in the fossil-forming process. Generally speaking, the quicker to decay an object is, the less likely it is to successfully fossilize. Fossilization takes time, and if the whole thing rots before it can finished, well, no fossil [1]. That's why hard and durable objects, such as bones and teeth, are much more common fossils than soft tissues, or coprolites.



Coprolites were first identified as what they actually are, by a woman named Mary Anning (21 May 1799 – 9 March 1847). Mary Anning was a fossil collector and paleontologist from southern England, and noticed these odd stones inside the abdominal areas of the ichthyosaur fossils she was collecting. When she broke them open, she noticed they had fragments of fossilized fish bones and scales.

In 1829, Anning's observations led a geologist named William Buckland to propose that these stones were the digested remnants of the dinosaurs' last meals, and he gave them the name of coprolites.

Those fossil fragments inside coprolites contain a wealth of scientific information, for anyone who really wants to look closely. The kinds of fossils contained in the coprolite can tell us a lot about the environment the creature was living in, by what it found in the area to eat. It also reveals the creatures preferred food sources, such as whether it was an herbivore or a carnivore, and sometimes it will even reveal what parasites plagued its creator. And, yes, we learn a lot about its intestinal systems. That's pretty much a given.

The challenge, of course, is in determining exactly which species of creature left a particular coprolite behind. In some cases, when there are a lot of fossilized remains of a particular animal around, it's easy to make a good guess. And in some cases, as with Mary Anning's fossils, the coprolites were petrified while still within the animal's body.

But with a more isolated coprolite specimen, it can be very difficult. Early human settlements left the occasional coprolite as well, so they have archaeological value as well as geological value. As it turns out, we can learn about our own history from them. A human coprolite found in a cave in Oregon revealed the existence of a long-lost 13,000-year-old society [2].

And a research team from the University of Colorado, studying an ancient Anansi settlement in Colorado known as Cowboy Wash, uncovered human remains showing what they believed to be evidence of cannibalism. They tested a coprolite found nearby, and discovered it contained a protein only found in human muscle tissue, confirming their theory [3].

Oddly enough, coprolites from dinosaurs and other prehistoric beasts are often used in jewelry. Due to the mineralization, many of them have bright and beautiful coloration. And, well, you get a great answer to give when someone says, "Ooh, what a pretty necklace! What stone is that?"

Some people may think coprolites are disgusting, but like any other fossil, they're also windows into a lost and wondrous past on this planet.

Sources:

- [1] <http://discovermagazine.com/1996/jun/whattthedinosaurs786>
- [2] <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2012/07/12/fossilized-human-feces-hints-at-long-lost-13500-year-old-west-coast-culture/>
- [3] <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/anasazi.html?c=y&story=fullstory>
via Rockhound Times article at <http://www.rockhoundtimes.com/coprolites.html>; via The Rockhounder Aug. 2016; via the Glacial Drifter, Aug. 2016



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 Pkwy	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
March 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 Pkwy		

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
	Vice President	David Tjiok
	Secretary	Trina Willoughby
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan
	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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