



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 37 APRIL 2011 NUMBER 4



**NEXT MEETING:** April 18, 2011  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING  
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE  
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

**The PROGRAM FOR April...**

George Wolf will present our program this month. He is known throughout the gem and mineral community as the expert on fossil teeth. He was a charter member of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society back when it had its first 25 members. He is now a member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. He has been collecting fossil teeth for 40 years or more. It began when he took his children to the beach searching for sea shells. One found an arrow head and then heard of fossil collecting on the Texas City Dike. He and his boys found a half Mastodon tooth and five years later, they found the other half. Hence, the beginning of a life long hobby. He has 100,000 or more fossil teeth, including a saber tooth cat from Nebraska. His arrowhead collection is over 9,000 and he also collects sea shells. He has been a member of the Galveston Sea Shell Club and the Houston Bass Club. He resides in Pasadena.

**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
March Minutes 2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights Field trips – Weather is warming and its time to dig! Get your hammer and let's travel.</p>	<p><b>PAY YOUR CLUB DUES NOW!</b></p> <p>Club dues are listed on the back page of your newsletter. Dues are due for January through December 2011 <b>Last Call!</b></p> <p>+++++</p> <p>Every Club should look into nominating someone for Rock Hound of the Year with the SCFMS. Hopefully, we can get Chuck Schuler Past SCFMS President to speak a few minutes about all the great programs from the SCFMS that we “Should” be participating in.</p>
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"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?" - Will Rogers

**Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral  
March 21, 2011**

**CLGMS Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2011**

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month. The February Meeting Minutes were approved without any changes.

**Program**

The program was a Show and Tell by members. Lila and Ed Johnson reported on their recent field trip to Jasper and had samples of obsidian acquired there. Trina Willoughby presented her finds from previous field trips; pyrite from Midlothian, TX, and selenite crystals from OK. Steve Brownfield passed around his recent geode finds from a recent field trip to Walker Ranch in Alpine, TX. Anna Williams displayed various items purchased from Johnson's Rock Shop in Livingston, TX. Cheryl Tindell made a presentation on geology and the paranormal.

**Committee Reports**

Historian – Nothing to report.

Librarian – Chairperson Lester Gary reported 12 more books have been added to the library for a total of 242 books, cassettes, video tapes and illustration guides. In the near future, we will be able to view available books on line, email Lester with our requests and he will bring them to the next meeting.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar shared thank you notes from two of the schools we recently supported.

Items Needed for Schools we support. Nancy Duggar is preparing samples of rocks, minerals, and fossils for the schools we are supporting this year. She needs 22 items of 10 each. Currently, the following items have been donated:

- Horn Coral
- Selenite
- Petrified Wood
- White Quartz
- Lava
- Obsidium
- Mica
- Schiste Garnets
- Echnioids (sea urchins)

**12 more varieties of rock/fossils in quantities of ten each are needed. Please bring to April meeting.**

Show Publicity – Co-Chairperson Nancy Duggar presented a map where she had plotted the areas where show participants were from.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell made a short presentation on Rock Hound Park in NM. Collecting of rocks at this location may be banned. He also reported on the upcoming topaz field trip in Mason, TX.

Club Publicity – Chairperson Anna Williams requested suggestions from the membership to publicize the club. Sam Wines suggested presenting a lapidary course and advertising in Leisure Learning. He volunteered to demonstrate cutting slabs and cabachons. He also presented feedback from the show dealers.

A break was held and refreshments were served.

**Field Trips**

Chairperson Ed Tindell made a report on the Walker Ranch field trips in Alpine, TX., in addition to trips to East Needle Peak near Terlingua, TX.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Anna Williams, Secretary

## RAINBOW HEMATITE

Rainbow hematite is found in an iron mine near the city of Belo Horizonte in the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais. Scientifically it could be described as iridescent specular hematite. Specular simply means mirror-like and describes the sparkle that the mineral gives off as the light reflects from the myriad microscopic crystal faces of the hematite as the specimen is turned in the sun.



The material is completely natural, has not been altered in any way, and is believed to be color stable. It was found in a vertical five-foot wide vein running about thirty feet up a face in the iron mine. The exact cause of the iridescence is not known, but it is known that it is selectively oriented on hematite. Scanning electron microscope photos show that some faces of the microscopic hematite crystals, that comprise the specimens, contain a small but significant concentration of phosphorus and aluminum. Other faces of the hematite crystals are apparently unaltered, still highly reflective but without the rainbow colors. The material also has substantial magnetic components, probably caused by intermixed grains of magnetite. Further studies at the California Institute of Technology may eventually discover the cause of the iridescence.

*Author unknown, others, via The Glacial Drifter 1/2000*

## Telling Lapis Lazuli from Sodalite

If you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis or imitation lapis look for pyrite inclusions.

Lapis-Lazuli will have pyrite inclusions.

Sodalite does not have pyrite inclusions. In imitation Lapis the inclusions are golden flakes not pyrite crystals.

Lazurite is the mineral name of the gem and ornamental stone Lapis-Lazuli. Lapis Lazuli is a gemstone with a rich blue color. It has a hardness of 5-5-1/2, is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur. Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification.

Sodalite is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with chlorides. It is 5-1/2 to 6 on the hardness scale and the color is usually blue but may tend toward white, grey, yellow or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, so called because they resemble feldspars but are of a slightly different compositing.



When working Lapis to a polish it requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding. Leather may be used with chrome oxide for polishing. Sodalite, on the other hand polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding.

A drop of Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis-lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas of the stone it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.

**From The RockCollector 4/11 via Rolling Stones Beacon, 4/11**

**An April HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Roy Kelly	2
Dan Harry	25

**Diamond** (innocence).  
In an ancient ritual in  
India, the wealthy  
sprinkled tiny diamonds  
over the heads of infants  
to keep them pure and  
virtuous.

**April Anniversary includes:**

Dick & Mary-Ruth Rathjen	12
Verlin Fox	20

**2011 DUES ARE DUE****GOODIE GETTERS...For March**

Main Goodies provided by club.

**Lapidary Corner** ((Rerun from last year by request))**Manufacture and Use of Synthetic Diamonds**

Synthesis of diamond was first accomplished in the early '50s. A method using high pressure and high temperature was invented by Mr. Tracy Hall.

Tracy Hall finally succeeded on December 16, 1954. In his own words: I attempted many hundreds of indirect . . . approaches over a period of about a year but to no avail, and I was becoming discouraged.

Then, one wintry morning, I broke open the sample cell after removing it from the Belt. It cleaved near a tantalum disk used to bring in current for resistance heating. My hands began to tremble; my heart beat rapidly; my knees weakened and no longer gave support. My eyes had caught the flashing light from dozens of tiny triangular faces of octahedral crystals that were stuck to the tantalum and I knew that diamonds had finally been made by man.

After I had regained my composure, I examined the crystals under a microscope. The largest, about 150 microns across, contained triangular etch and growth pits such as I had observed on natural diamonds. The crystals scratched sapphire and other hard substances, burned in oxygen to give carbon dioxide, and had the density and refractive index of natural diamond. A few days later, an x-ray diffraction pattern unequivocally identified the crystals as diamond.

Reference: KURT NASSAU, "Gems Made by Man," Gemological Institute of America

**ABOUT TUMBLE POLISHING**

First of all, the condition of the stone in the beginning has a lot to do with the amount of work needed on it. If the stones are picked up on the beach where the water and sand have ground them so they look like jelly beans, a large part of your work is already done.

If they are broken fragments or scraps from the trim saw, then they must be ground in the first grind until they are rounded smooth with no holes or sharp edges. This is where you shape the stones, and to have a stone that is pleasing to the eye after it is polished, it must be pleasing to the eye before it is polished. This is very important.

I run two cans on my tumbler. One is on the rough grind all the time (180 or 100 grit). I open it about once a month and take out the stones that are ground smooth and have nice contours. The balance are put back in, the new ones added to take the place of the ones I took out, and the can is recharged with grit and will run another month. Fill the can about 2/3 full with enough water to just cover the stones. Leave some of the mud in from the previous grind. It suspends the grit, and they grind faster. Watch your cans if they are sealed. You may have to raise the lid to let the gas escape or the cans will blow up.

When I have accumulated enough stones from the first grind to get my second can about 2/3 full, I charge it with 600 grit and run two weeks. Be sure to wash the stones thoroughly between each size of grit or before advancing from one stage to another.

*From Supplement to Stonechat, Vol. III. #4, 08/71 - West of Scotland Mineral & Lapidary Society (no author given), via The Burro Express, 12/89, via The Rockhound Gazette, 02/97.*





**Field Trips (2011)** by Ed Tindell

Hi All -

Name your Field trip

We will be discussing various destinations for our field trips this year at the next club meeting. I threw out several ideas and now we need to begin working toward some goals. Hope to see you there for ideas.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi! Because the Walker Ranch rockhunt was the same days as the Alpine Gem and Mineral Show, people were going to have to take some time off from rock hunting to see the show. In order to make it easier for everyone, we've added two days to the hunt: one at the beginning and one at the end. So, for \$150 per person, you can hunt any 3 days out of the 5 that the ranch will be open. Each additional day will be \$75 per person.

So the Walker Ranch will be open for rockhunting from **Thursday, April 14, through Monday April 19.**

On both Thursday and Friday, I will meet folks at the Antelope Lodge which is on the west side of Alpine at 8 am. At that point, I'll collect the fee, have you sign a waiver, and give you the gate combination. I'll then take the group out to the ranch and show anyone who hasn't been there before what they should be looking for.

After this orientation, you will be on your own, and can come and go as you wish. This will be an honor system, to a point. I believe rockhounds are honest and won't be out on the ranch for more days than they've paid for. But if I find out that anyone's "cheating", we'll have to implement some changes (like different lock combinations each day, or a checkin/checkout procedure) to keep this from happening.

There's also a probability that I'll be leading a rockhunt to another location on Tuesday, April 19. The location of the hunt will depend on the weather and the desires of those who are going. If the weather is cool enough, we can go to East Needle Peak, which is near Big Bend National Park, but if it's warm we'll go to the Ritchie Ranch which is just outside of Alpine.

If you are interested in any of these hunts, please let me know. E-mail is best. Because of the Gem Show, the Antelope Lodge is full for Friday the 15th and Saturday

the 16th, but dry camping is allowed on the Walker Ranch, and there are lots of other hotels in Alpine. The Alpine chamber of commerce can help you find a room, if you wish. Their website is <http://www.alpinetexas.com>.

Thanks,  
Ed Tindell 2011  
CLGMS Field  
Trip Coordinator  
a.k.a. "The  
Official Cat  
Herder"



**The DIGGG site Sterlinghill 2011 - Free WI-FI and internet**

Hello Folks,  
Heres info on the up comming spring collect'n info sorry for not getting it out sooner, its being held at Sterlinghill Mine and also the first day of the Franklin mineral show these events are on the last weekend of the month 30th an the first of May. come Enjoy a great weekend of Fluorescent goodies an meet some interesting folks, Info attached, also the DVESS April news letter for the 2011 collecting Digg...!

Sign up soon an ill be see'n yas soon, a GREAT get toghter for Fluorescent collectors and folks with assorted minerals and Goodies..!  
Rock On Folks...! Think SPRING.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here are some beautys...!  
ps: here's a very nice website that shows some of the minerals found ONLY in the Franklin, NJ area -- <http://www.mindat.org/article.php/247/TGMS+2008+-+Franklin+and+Sterling+Hill>

## Someone's Junk is Another's Treasure ...as the saying goes

By Linda Behr for *The Mountain Gem*

While on a recent cruise, the ship's shopping guide talked about chocolate diamonds. Now I just love chocolate and this roused my curiosity. How did this "throw away" diamond become one of desire?

Before the year 2000, the "chocolate" diamond didn't exist except for the brown diamond. That was until the jewelry house of Le Vian changed the Fancy Diamond to Chocolate. The company gave Halle Berry one to flaunt. Here she was this chocolate diamond walking on Hollywood's red carpet. By changing the way people perceive diamonds, Le Vian made the brown diamond now something of a star-worthy chocolate diamond. Other well-known personalities who own the chocolate diamond are Oprah Winfrey and Jennifer Lopez thus making it no longer a low quality diamond.

Where before it was classified a low C4-C6 rating, the chocolate has found its well deserved place to the enterprising marketing effort of Le Vian.

Found mostly in Australia, South Africa and Russia, these diamonds can be found in many different colors such as blue, purple, green, black, yellow, red and orange and white and brown color. These colors come in different "shades" of: cognac, cinnamon, honey, clove and champagne.

Did you know that the brown diamonds come from about 80% of the mines? Earth makes diamonds at high pressures and temperatures at a depth of 100 to 300 miles. Diamonds are still the world's hardest known stone.

As Kyle Chapman says about purchasing a chocolate diamond:

Natural. These are more expensive because they come from diamond mines. The more intense the color, the more expensive they are. For example, Le Vian's Chocolatier Collection is often displayed with a notice that says "Price available upon request" which actually means you have to fork out wads of money to pay for it.

Cultured. Otherwise known as man-made gems and is often a combination of Chocolate Diamonds and pieces of quartz or crystals. The nice thing about going for cultured chocolate diamond is that you can have the freedom to have your design executed or custom-made without the exorbitant fees as when you have the real thing made to order.

However, I did a little researching online and found that even SAM'S Warehouse® sells chocolate diamond jewelry but not at the low price as one would think. How does \$1,000+ sound? Keep in mind the going rate for gold at this time. Already fake chocolate diamonds have hit the market. Be cautious when purchasing this diamond or any other gem.

Many pieces of chocolate diamond jewelry feature white diamonds as well. The contrast between light and dark sparkling gems can look very attractive.

There were some very interesting comments at <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-chocolate-diamond.htm>

1. I have chocolate diamonds and they sparkle just like white diamonds and I feel quite decadent because not everyone has them. - **anon63594**

2. Chocolate Diamonds are defective if not man-made. They get their color from carbon in the diamond. It is not smoky. You can get them from as low as 8 cents a carat from any industrial diamond seller. No, that was not a mistake. They are used in the concrete cutting blades available at Home De-pot. I am in this business and I laugh when I see them on TV. Good diamonds are clear. Anything else is contaminated. - **anon59661**

3. My side stones on my engagement ring are chocolate diamonds and I love them and get tons of compliments! They add some unique but subtle sparkle. I'm a "traditional with a twist" kind of girl and they're perfect for me! - **anon94921**

Sources: - What is a Chocolate Diamond? By Kyle Chapman

<http://www.howtothings.com/fashion-personal-care/what-is-a-chocolate-diamond> -

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-chocolate-diamond.htm> Written by Sheri Cyprus, Edited by Bronwyn Harris - <http://www.smellybrain.com/chocolate-diamonds/>

*Fm AGMS Newsletter 4/11 via [The Mountain Gem – 2/11]*

**Bench Tips**

by Brad Smith

If you're interested in filigree jewelry, take a look at some of the pieces students finished up in our last class in Santa Monica. Pics are at <http://www.facebook.com/SMjewelry> EMERY BOARDS: The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local dug store.

DENTAL FLOSS: When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

"More BenchTips by *Brad Smith* are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/ BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)" Fm The RockCollector 4/11 Via Cabber Gabber, 4/11



**YOU CAN WIN.....IN 2011**

**Chihuahua Desert Gem & Mineral Club, City of Alpine and THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION MINERAL SOCIETIES invites you to: "ALPINE AGATE FESTIVAL", 22nd Annual BIG BEND**

GEM & MINERAL SHOW awaits you AT THE ALPINE CIVIC CENTER, Hwy 90 W. & 13th St. N. in Alpine, Texas FREE ADMISSION, Grand Prize ~ Door Prizes, Kid's Corner ~ Silent Auctions, Demo Dealers ~ Field Trips, Rollin' Rock Club Meeting!

**COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT SHOW! April 15-17, 2011**

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
APRIL 09-10 ABILENE, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th and Pine	APRIL 15-17 ALPINE, TX "Alpine Agate Festival" SCFMS AND CHIHUAHUAN DESERT G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr. Hwy. 90W & 13th. St	Apr. 16 - 17 WACO, TX Waco G&MS TX. ST. Technical College ITC Building I-35 N.	. Apr. 30 - May 01 LUBBOCK, TX Lubbock G&MS Lubbock Civic Ctr.
May 28 - 29 FORT WORTH, TX Ft. Worth G&MS Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.			

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.  
 April 18, 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: (new location)  
<http://www.clgms.org>

<b>Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc</b>			
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			
<b>Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2011 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418</b>			
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