



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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**NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY**, April 20, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Helen Hall Library  
 100 W. Walker St.  
 League City, Tx 77573

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April Meeting	1	<p><u><a href="#">April MONTHLY MEETING</a></u></p> <p>We will HAVE an in-person general meeting this month.</p> <p>We will be having our 2021 Annual show in August. PCC had given us 2 dates in August and we picked out the earlier dates than offered previously so we will not have a conflict with Baton Rouge show. The new dates will be August 7-8, 2021. Please try to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Reminder – 2021 membership dues.</p> <p><a href="http://www.clgms.org/">http://www.clgms.org/</a></p>
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## MINUTES OF THE March CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society at League City Library 3/16

19 people showed for the meeting at the library.

Sandy spoke about the show being canceled and gave the members our August dates from 6th to the 8th. She then went on to explain why we were given these dates on then a vote was given for the members to vote on if they wanted to hold a show in August on these dates or to have the show in February. She also polled the vendors to see if they were interested in having a August show 32 vendors and 22 said yes for a show in August. The members at the meeting 17 said yes, they would want the show in August.

Trina will see if the Scouts and the Dino Guy will be able to come too.

The members voted on 3 scholarships totaling \$2,000.00 each and the deadline to turn in their paperwork will be April 30th.

Charlie spoke about his letter and he gave it to all that were at the meeting. Targeting Elementary and Middle schools for the Advancement of Sciences for their libraries. It would be three \$500.00 checks that the schools would get for books and equipment for their libraries.

John spoke about getting a place where we could call home instead of having meetings in different places. The idea was asked on how we can attract new members to our meetings some ideas were:

Getting Field Trips set up for the few months.

Lining up presenters to speak during the meetings.

Having more children actives during the meetings.

Doing demos on our machines that we have.

## MINUTES OF THE April CLGMS BOARD MEETING

We will have our 2021 Annual Show on August 7-8, 2021.

Almost all vendors that were scheduled for our February show will still be joining us in August since there will be no conflict with the Baton Rouge show.

We will be sending out the postcards again with the new dates and this time we will mail them much earlier so hopefully will be received on time.

We are planning to advertise the show on several community magazines to attract more attendances.

Charlie Timme is having a hard time receiving commitment from schools to receive the three (3) \$500 grants. They might be assuming that these were scams, so he is asking all members to contact their Elementary or Middle School in their area. See the letter from Charlie below.

**REMINDER:** April General meeting will be in-person at the Helen Hall Library in League City.

100 W Walker St, League City, TX 77573

[Click Here for map of League City Library](#)

**Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following programs.**

Show and tell

### **Field Trips Announcement**

Currently we do not have any field trips on the schedule.  
If you have suggestion for places and dates please contact:

[annabel.brownfield@gmail.com](mailto:annabel.brownfield@gmail.com) or call/text: 281-486-1866.

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### **Announcement from our Community Benefit Chairman – Charlie Timme.**

To: Members CLGMS,

Our Society has \$1500 set aside for distribution to schools in the area. We give three \$500.00 grants each year for schools to use for the advancement of Earth Sciences, without restrictions. I have trouble communicating with the schools because of all the other money scam offers available now.

Last meeting, I passed out letters to members asking their help locating schools that would accept our grants, received one school interested.

I am again asking for help communicate with an Elementary or Middle school in our area. If they are interested, have the principal send me an e-mail so stating. May 2021 will be distributing event.

Applications will be considered in sequence received.

Thanks for your help,  
Charlie Timme  
[charlie.timme@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.timme@gmail.com)

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## **North Carolina Gemstone Mining**

From Geology.com - Author: Hobart M. King, PhD, GIA Graduate Gemologist

### **Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and More!**

Most people are surprised to hear that rubies, sapphires, and emeralds have been found in North Carolina. They are even more surprised when they learn that there are about a dozen locations in North Carolina where anyone can look for gemstones and keep anything that they find.

### **Finding Gems in North Carolina**

Recent reports on the Huffington Post and ABC News websites describe how some visitors have found emeralds worth over \$10,000 in-the-rough. If you want to read a great summary of North Carolina gemstones, see Joseph Hyde Pratt's classic article titled: Gems and Gem Minerals of North Carolina in the 1933 edition of American Mineralogist. That article was written when some mines were in their peak of production.

Some of the mines and other gem-producing localities are still open, but instead of being mined by a company, they are now mined by people like you. If you want to look for gems yourself, here is a directory of pay-to-dig mines in North Carolina and other states. The mines are very popular and attract thousands of visitors during the summer months. There are more pay-to-dig mines in North Carolina than in any other state in the nation.

Gem materials found in North Carolina include aquamarine, beryl, citrine, emerald, garnet, moonstone, rose quartz, ruby, sapphire, smoky quartz, staurolite, topaz, tourmaline, and many others. Members of the North Carolina Legislature declared emerald the state's official gemstone.

Some local businesses have skilled gem cutters and bench jewelers who can turn a nice piece of rough that you find into a beautiful piece of jewelry. Imagine what it would be like to own a great ring or other piece of jewelry and be able to say that you found the beautiful stone?

Being totally honest, the odds are against you finding something like that on your first visit, but many people have made spectacular finds. So, plan your gem-hunting vacation to North Carolina!

### **The Crabtree Emerald Mine**

The Crabtree Emerald Mine in western North Carolina was the first commercial source of emeralds in the United States. There, a pegmatite dike about five to six feet in width cuts the country rock. Bright green emerald crystals are found on the edges of the dike where it encounters the country rock. In the center of the dike, the beryl crystals are yellow heliodor.

Mining began there in 1895 and continued until the early 1990s. The mine was operated by Tiffany and Company and a succession of other owners. Numerous clear emerald crystals were produced, but most of the production was called "emerald matrix." That was a white pegmatite that could be slabbed and cut into cabochons that display green and black prism cross-sections of emerald and schorl tourmaline. Mining followed the dike along the surface and then followed the dike underground to a depth of a few hundred feet. Eventually, depth and groundwater intrusion made mining too difficult for common sense and profitability.

Today, the deep mine is closed and flooded, but you can still visit the Crabtree Emerald Mine, and for a small fee you can prospect the rock rubble that was brought up out of the mine. Lots of people do it, and two of the photos on this page show a piece of black and white pegmatite, with prismatic emerald and tourmaline crystals, which was picked from the Crabtree dump. The dump still produces occasional nice specimens of emerald, black tourmaline, garnet, aquamarine, and yellow beryl. The people who find them are willing to do hard work, risking a few blisters and brush burns.

### **North American Emerald Mines**

North American Emerald Mines operates a mine near Hiddenite, North Carolina. Since 1995 they have produced thousands of carats of gem quality emerald, including a 1,869-carat crystal that is now in the Houston Museum of Natural History and valued at about \$3.5 million. The emeralds have been found in hydrothermal veins and pockets within limestone. A crushed stone quarry on the same property is

operated carefully, with an eye open for signs of the veins and pockets. The company boasts that they are one of the only gem mines in the world that sells their country rock.

### **North Carolina Garnet**

Garnets have been found at many locations in North Carolina. The garnets are small crystals liberated by weathering from garnetiferous schist. These crystals are found scattered through soil above the schist or in the sediment of nearby streams.

Almandite and rhodolite garnets have been found in the state. They are often so dark that faceted stones of one carat or more appear nearly black without strong illumination. Today there are several fee mining sites where anyone can pay a small fee, look for garnets and keep any that are found.

### **Gold Too!**

The first gold discovery in the United States was made in North Carolina in 1799 by Conrad Reed. He found an interesting - and very heavy - yellow rock in Little Meadow Creek, which flowed across the farm owned by his parents in Cabarrus County. The rock weighed seventeen pounds, but young Reed didn't know that its extreme weight was caused by its gold content. He took the rock home, where his family thought that it was an interesting rock and used it as a door stop for the next few years.

They speculated that the rock might contain gold but did not know how to confirm that. In 1802 John Reed, who was the property owner and Conrad's father, showed it to a Fayetteville jeweler who purchased it from him for \$3.50 - a very tiny fraction of what the rock was worth at that time!





The following year John Reed determined that Meadow Creek on his property contained an abundance of gold nuggets. They could be produced by digging the creek's sediments, washing them, and separating the nuggets out by hand. He formed a partnership with a few of his neighbors, who agreed to provide slave labor to mine the gold during times of the year when the slaves were not needed to tend crops. Thus the first gold mine in the United States opened with slave labor in 1803. By 1924 they had recovered over \$100,000 worth of gold.

Word spread that Reed's Gold Mine was producing a lot of gold, and people all over the state began searching their streams for gold. Many of them bought gold pans, and went to work in the streams to find gold. A few of them found gold veins along the streams, and underground mining began on several properties. Gold-bearing quartz veins were found on Reed's property, and underground mining began in 1831.

North Carolina was the leading gold-producing state until 1848 when the California Gold Rush began. Production in North Carolina gradually decreased until the early 1900s, when almost all of the mines had closed. Today lots of people still look for gold in North Carolina - and find some of them find it. They mostly work with metal detectors and gold pans.

Most of the land in North Carolina is owned by individuals, companies, or governments and is closed to gold prospecting. If you are caught removing gold from one of their properties you could be faced with civil or criminal liability ([learn more here](#)). However, several property owners have opened their land for pay-to-dig mining. There you can pay a small fee, look for gold, abiding by their rules, and keep anything that you find.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
<b>Jan:</b>  <b>Fredericksburg</b> <b>(Fredericksburg, TX)</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>  <b>East TX (Tyler, TX)</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>Feb:</b>  <b>Williamson County</b> <b>(Georgetown, TX)</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>  <b>Clear Lake (Houston,</b> <b>TX) CANCELLED</b>  <b>High Plains</b> <b>(Plainview, TX) ??</b>	<b>March:</b> <b>Gulf Coast (Corpus</b> <b>Christi, TX)</b> <b>CANCELLED</b> <b>Big Spring (Big Spring,</b> <b>TX) 03/6-7/21</b> <b>Southwest (San</b> <b>Antonio, TX)</b> <b>CANCELLED</b> <b>AFMS Meeting– Sandy,</b> <b>UT. CANCELLED</b>	<b>April:</b> <b>Central TX (Abilene, TX)</b> <b>04/10/11</b>  <b>Chihuahuan Desert</b> <b>(Alpine, TX) CANCELLED</b>
<b>May:</b> <b>Waco (Waco, TX) 05/01-</b> <b>02/21.</b>  <b>*Tyler Gem &amp; Mineral</b> <b>(replace East TX this</b> <b>year) 05/22-23/21</b>  <b>Ft. Worth (Ft Worth,</b> <b>TX) 05/29-30/21</b>	<b>June:</b>  <b>Arlington (Arlington,</b> <b>TX) 06/19-20/21??</b>	<b>July:</b>  <b>None.</b>	<b>Aug:</b> <b>Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge,</b> <b>LA) 08/14-15/21</b>  <b>Ark-La-Tex (Bossier City, LA)</b> <b>08/21-22/21</b>  <b>Pine Country (Jasper, TX)</b>
<b>Sept:</b>  <b>Lubbock (Lubbock, TX)</b> <b>10/9-10/21</b>	<b>Oct:</b> <b>Tri-City (Temple, TX)</b> <b>10/02-23/21</b>  <b>G&amp;MS of LA (New</b> <b>Orleans, LA) 10/9-</b> <b>10/21</b>  <b>Austin (Austin, TX)</b> <b>10/22-24/21</b>  <b>Cowtown-CERA (Ft</b> <b>Worth, TX)</b>	<b>Nov</b> <b>Golden Spread</b> <b>(Amarillo, TX)</b>  <b>Paleontological</b> <b>Society(Austin, TX)</b> <b>11/06-07/21</b>  <b>Midland (Midland, TX)</b>  <b>Houston (Houston, TX)</b> <b>11/12-14/21</b>  <b>Dallas (Dallas, TX)</b> <b>11/20-21/21</b>	<b>Dec:</b>  <b>DeRidder (Leeville, LA)</b>
<b>STONEY STATEMENTS</b> <b>Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc</b>  <b>PO BOX 891533</b> <b>Houston, Texas 77289</b>			
<b>Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the Month</b> <b>7:00 P.M.</b> <b>League City Library - Helen Hall Library</b> <b>100 W Walker St, League City, TX 77573</b>			

				
		Member of		
<b>Next Annual Show</b> February 26-27, 2022 Pasadena Convention Center				
CLGMS is on the Web: <a href="http://www.clgms.org">http://www.clgms.org</a> 8/7-8, 2021			American Federation of Mineral Societies	South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
<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.				
2021 OFFICERS:	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Program Director Board of Directors:  Newsletter Editor	John Caldyne Cynthia McGowan Christina Rankin Morgan Davies VACANT Sandra Christiansen Jim Edwards Donna Nelson Sara Tanner David Tjiok	832-282-4270 281-546-2662 281-723-5408 281-224-2444  Jerry Newberry Jim Hawkins	
Annual Show 2021 ..... Sandra Christiansen Constitution & Bylaws.....Sara Tanner Community Benefits.....Charlie Timme Historian.....David Tjiok Publicity.....Annabel Brownfield Facebook.....Cynthia McGowan Membership.....David Tjiok WWW System Admin.. .....Mike Flannigan Refreshments.....John Caldyne Education/Field Trips.....Annabel Brownfield				
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2021: 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				