

A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 40

AUGUST 2013

NUMBER 8



NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2013
TIME: 7:30 PM
Location: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA PARKWAY
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please join me in applauding Sandi Hill for stepping up to the Newsletter Editor position.

I know that I am starting to sound like a broken record, but I will continue to ask for volunteers as long as vital positions within this organization are vacant. The positions still vacant are Secretary and Webmaster.

The responsibilities of the Secretary are to attend general meetings and board meetings, take the minutes, and occasionally provide official documentation and representation for club business such as banking. The Webmaster maintains the club web site and posts announcements. Both of these positions require only a few hours per month. If you have expertise in these areas and are willing to volunteer your time, please contact any officer or board member. Now is the time to volunteer for one of the vacant positions in the club leadership or sign up for one of the committees.

The August monthly meeting will be an ice cream social. Please bring your neighbors and friends who are interested in the earth sciences!

Many of you have great ideas that would make this club even better. If you have ideas for activities, field trips, programs or even procedure changes, then please share those ideas with us!

Sara Chelette
President, CLGMS



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Ice Cream

UPDATE FROM FIELD TRIP TO MASON!!!!

I was contacted today by a lady with the name Erin Balzrette. She is the Operations Manager to the field trip guide Robert Franklin who is turning his field trips into a business.

“ Erin Dana Balzrette

Frank Roberts has a new website up to make scheduling field trips easier, and to see what is coming up next. Groups can call for reservations still! Look forward to seeing you! Please share the link to those who would like to Pegmatite Hunt with him! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Erin Balzrette

Operations Manager”

www.baringerhill.com



Let's beat the heat with ice cream and enjoy good company with show and tell. More information on page 10.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2013 MEETING OF THE CLEAR LAKE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The meeting was called to order by club president Sara Chelette followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Sara asked to see a show of hands for guests attending the meeting; there were quite a few.



Sara discussed several openings for positions within the club. Secretary – an important position that is required and needed to make any significant banking changes including moving the upcoming CD to a savings account. Ed Tindell volunteered to take the meeting minutes for this meeting. Newsletter Editor - Sandi Hill volunteered for the editor job and was accepted. Webmaster is also open.

The May meeting minutes were moved for acceptance by Ed Tindell and seconded by Bob Brock. The June meeting minutes were moved for acceptance by Bob Brock and seconded by David Tjiok.

The following committee reports were shared:

Treasurer (Trina Willoughby) - the club is still making the move of its bank accounts to Chase. The club has \$6,687 in Chase checking, \$13,786.24 in Comerica checking and \$19,398.27 in a CD at Comerica, for a total of \$39,871.51.

Historian (David Tjiok) - no report.

Librarian (Shannon Oliver) - no report; not present.

Community Benefits (Nancy Duggar) - no report; not present.

Education (Ed Tindell) - the application for a "Rock, Fossil, and Mineral Deposit Non-Commercial Collection Permit", received from the Department Of The Army, for the Waco Shale Pit, was read aloud. Based on the limit of two (2) fossils per permit it was decided to look elsewhere for the club's next field trip.

Publicity (Bobby Lefebvre) – not present; previously reported at June meeting that demonstrations of the rock cycle, including an erupting model volcano and free rock samples, has been completed to 3,000+ area school children.

Equipment (Jim Wines) - no report; not present.

Membership (Mike Flannigan) - the club is up to 93 members!!

2014 Budget Committee - no report.

Constitution Committee - not met yet.

Show Committee (Sandy Christiansen) – still need contact info on a couple of dealers at this time.

There was no old or new business to discuss.

The July program was the presentation of two \$1,000 scholarships to Charles Campise and Hunter Berry, both San Jacinto Community College students. Both plan to attend A&M and work towards obtaining bachelor's degrees in geology and one student expects to continue with a master's degree in petroleum geology.

Door prizes were given away and the program for next month will be an ice cream social and show and tell.

A show and tell was held. Felix and Chris Dlouhy showed a 543 carat blue sapphire appraised at approximately \$19,000 and a 537 carat ruby appraised at approximately \$18,800. Both are for sale. If interested contact Felix Dlouhy at DLOUGHY@aol.com or call 713-553-6843. Travis Steigerwalt showed some fossils and arrowheads he had recently collected. Judy showed and requested identification of a small obelisk and some polished fossils. The obelisk is likely made of onyx and the polished fossils were identified as belemnites.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Tindell.

Officers Statements



ED TINDELL

FIELDTRIPS

AUGUST 3RD FIELD TRIP TO MASON

I drove up Friday afternoon and stayed at the Lone Star Inn. Jay and Bobby Lefebvre were already there when I arrived and we talked for a while before turning in for the night. It was a good time and good fellowship. The three of us had breakfast together at the Hungry Hunter the next morning then drove over to meet the rest of the group at Gems Of The Hill Country in Mason. About 20 people attended the field trip; six besides me were from our club and the rest were from other clubs. Trina Willoughby and Corrie drove up that morning and Dave Garland and Dean Lagerwall met us there in Mason. Our guide, Franklin Roberts, announced that he was turning his field trips into a business with a website and a business manager, a young lady who would lead many of the field trips in the future, and that there would probably be about one field trip a month from now on.

We caravanned out to the site at 10AM and got set up. The site consist of a number of trenched pegmatite's that were mined for topaz up until the late nineties (see photo). The red arrows point out some of the pits and the green arrow shows the top of the mineshaft. They have been idle for about the last 10-15 years. The main pit has a shaft in it going down into a large vein of dark green fluorite. Several universities have asked us not to dig into the vein so we had to leave it alone but there was plenty of the dark green fluorite to be found in the spoil piles around the pit. Jay found a large (~1 1/2") octahedral crystal of fluorite! Another pit nearby has abundant "freckled quartz" crystals (quartz crystals covered with spots of red hematite) in it and many people spent most of the day there digging them out. I led our group over there and after finding a few and letting everyone train their eyes on what to look for they started finding them right away.

It was hot but the humidity was low and there was a near constant breeze. We would have all perished without that breeze! Like most people I would collect for about an hour then sit in the car with the air conditioner on high and drink plenty of fluids to cool off. Several pieces of topaz were found at the main pit and about 1PM Frank found a piece surface collecting on a spoil pile at the back of the main pit (see photo). We ate lunch at the site and continued to collect until about 3PM. After five hours we were all ready to call it quits so we drove back to Mason as we wanted to stop at a couple of places there on our way out.

The Texas Arms Company, a large gun shop in town, had gone out of business, and everybody went over to the antique store next door (I can't remember its name?) to see the largest cut blue topaz ever found in Mason County, the Star Of Texas. We drove back to Llano and had dinner at Coopers BBQ (see photo) and then visited the Llano Uplift Rock Shop and bought some goodies there. After that we split up; some stayed to enjoy the rest of weekend in the area and the rest went home. It had been a good time had by all.

Thanks,

Ed

We can't wait to hear about the trip and see any possible specimens that our members have found.



SHANNON OLIVER

LIBRARIAN

Shannon still reports that another member needs to step up and volunteer to be the Librarian. He can no longer hold the position due to his job, the way that I understand it. So anyone interested in holding this position please let Sara Chelette and I know. Thank you so much for considering this position.



RECIPES

Mint Chip Ice Cream Pie

Serves 8 | Hands-On Time: 10m | Total Time: 2hr 25m

Ingredients:

8 ounces chopped semisweet chocolate, melted
 4 cups crisped rice cereal (such as Rice Krispies)
 2 pints mint chocolate-chip ice cream, slightly softened

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the chocolate and cereal until the cereal is completely coated. Transfer to a 9-inch springform pan. Press the mixture into the bottom and 1 inch up the sides of the pan. Freeze just until firm, 5 to 10 minutes.

Spread the ice cream in the prepared crust and freeze, covered, until firm, for at least 2 hours and up to 3 days.



PEACH AND RASPBERRY PARFAIT

Serves 4 | Hands-On Time: 05m | Total Time: 25m

Ingredients:

2 peaches, cut into 2 1/2-inch pieces
 1 1/2 cups raspberries
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
 1 pint vanilla ice cream

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the peaches, raspberries, sugar, and lemon juice and let sit, tossing once, for 20 minutes. Scoop the ice cream into bowls or glasses and top with the fruit mixture.

Upcoming Field Trip

FIELD TRIP TO 4M RANCH SONDRA TX OCT. 18-19-20, 2013

Ranch size 12,500 . Aprox. 15 miles south of Sonora Texas. Most of the ranch accessible by car.

What to do. Explore, take photo's, collect cactus, rocks, drift wood, Indian artifacts and for the star watchers, there is a chance the comet ISOM may be seen through binoculars, let's hope. Saturday after lunch the shooting range will be open, so bring your pistol. Of course there is no discharging of firearms on the ranch except on the range. I am going to try to remember how to fly fish in a small tank with bass and perch. Please do not cross large boundary fences.

SLEEPING QUARTERS: 11 rooms for 2 people and 3 rooms for 4 people (bunk style).

ITINERARY: Check in time is Friday, October 18th, 1PM or later. All meal times will be posted. Friday night is a BBQ chicken dinner.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST: Breakfast is cowboy style. LUNCH is make your own sandwich. SUPPER is BB steak cooked over misquite wood.

SUNDAY: Breakfast cowboy style...which means, coffee...eggs...bacon...etc.

COST: \$120/person. This includes a 2 night stay in a bunk house, 5 meals, and 3 days to hunt. Linens and towels Included. Just bring your own personal items and hunting equipment.

PAYMENT: \$60 deposit made out to 4m Ranch for each person attending and sent to Claude H Townsend, 5102 Village Green; San Antonio, TX 78218. The check must be accompanied with your phone number and email address. The remaining \$60 will be paid at the Club House at the ranch on arrival, where you will sign the release forms and get maps and plant release form, which you must have to show you have authorization to remove items from the ranch in case you are stopped by law enforcement.

Cancellation and return of deposit can be made up until Oct 11, 2013. After this time there will be **NO** return of deposit. The deposit will be returned into the ranch owner to purchase food in San Antonio, TX. A map on how to get there from Somora will be emailed to you.

ONE DAY HUNT WITHOUT FOOD SATURDAY, OCT 19, 2013; is \$20, to be paid at the club house upon arrival. You must follow the same rules as all the others.

ATV'S are welcome. **DOGS** only on a leash, and can not be in the bunkhouse. **RV'S**, contact 4m Ranch office at 210-822-2915

For more information, contact Claude H Townsend at ctownsend@satx.rr.com or 210-655-8959.

REMEMBER IT'S FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE. SO REGISTER NOW. DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

Dig Site



A productive agate field, often overlooked by collectors, surrounds the small almost ghostlike town of Toyah which is situated alongside Interstate Highway 20 about 19.5 miles west of Pecos. From the town, graveled roads branch out in all directions, each running trough an extensive field of low-lying agate-bearing hills. The most accessible region is along Ranch Road 2903 which heads south to Balmorhea. It is paved, and there are a number on convenient places to pull of and conduct a thorough search.

Most specimens tend to be pebble size, but boulders weighing many pounds have also been found. A variety of different agate types may be obtained in the Toyah hills, much of which is vividly colored and capable of producing good-looking polished pieces. The agate primarily renowned is the brilliantly colored plume material found in random spots throughout the region.

Since this is all privately owned ranch land, collecting is generally restricted to territory immediately adjacent to the roads; this agate field is so vast, even those stretches can be productive. Pay particularly close attention to areas of erosion, such as creek beds and washes, but do not be tempted to squeeze through a fence onto private property unless you first ask permission. Concentrations vary considerably, so if you don't have much luck at one place, simply move on a short distance and try again. Collecting extends at least 10 miles in any direction from Toyah.

Found in: Gem Trails of Texas by Brad L Cross



SEASHELLS (FL)

Sanibel & Captive Islands; State Hwy 876 off of U.S Hwy 41
OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND; DAY OR NIGHT (best finds at changing of the tides)
FREE OF CHARGE

Sanibel and Captiva Islands are renowned as the BEST shell hunting beaches in the world! And Turner Beach is Known for the best collecting. Keep in mind there are so many great shells to be found here, that you should not take live shells.

The best time to search is early in the morning when the tide is going out. Bring a flashlight for searching at night as well. Early risers are rewarded by having the days first pick of scattered shells.

Most of Florida's barrier islands have some fine shells, but Sanibel and Captiva are unique. Barrier islands lie parallel to the coast, but Sanibel is shaped like a fishhook. The portion of beach that sticks out into the gulf acts to catch shells.

Found in: Fee Mining & Mineral Adventures in the Eastern US
BY: James Martin Monaco & Jeannette Monaco

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
August 10-11 Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society, Bossier City Civic Center	August 17-18 Bossier City, LA SCFMS Convention & Show Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society, Bossier City Civic Center	August 24-25 Jasper, TX Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, Events Center	September 14-15 Arlington, TX Arlington Gem & Mineral Society, 1010 Event Center
November 8-10 Humble, TX Houston Gem & Mineral Society, Humble Civic Center	March 8-9, 2014 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Convention Center		

Peridot – symbolizes virtue



The Peridot is one of the few gemstones that come in only one color

The depth of green depends on how much iron is contained in the crystal structure. It is also often referred to as "poor man's emerald".

The Colors of Peridots

Peridots come in a wide range of natural green colors and shades. The favored color is sparkling pale green color but it also occurs in lime, yellowish green, olive green or medium dark green. Color is mainly caused by the gemstones's selective absorption of certain wavelengths of light called the body color. In gemstones, color consists of three components:

Symbolism, Significance and Properties of Peridots

The properties with which the Peridot, the birthstone of the Zodiac sign of Leo, is associated are as follows:

Love, truth, faithfulness and loyalty

Fame, dignity, and protection

The Peridot is also used to enhance prosperity, growth, and openness.

Healing Properties of the Peridot

The healing properties of the Leo birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to:

Lungs, lymph

Breast and sinuses

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uRrJp762zI>

Information from: <http://www.birthdaygems.org/jewels-gemstones/peridots.htm>



Birthdays

Victoria Cybulski	8/9
Jerry Lavergne	8/9
Mary Kate Ayers	8/23
Bill Robinett	8/23
Sandi Hill	8/30
Jill Moffit	8/30

Anniversaries

None this month. If we are missing your anniversary and you would like for us to know, please let me know. You can either let me know at the meeting, or call me at 713-538-5962 or email me at sb Stardust3@gmail.com Thank you . Sandi Hill



Hidden in the puzzle below are a few of the official state fossils, gemstones, and rocks of the various 11 states through which Lewis and Clark traveled.

Instructions: Look for the words **bolded and underlined** and circle the letters of these words. When you have found all the words, the remaining letters not circled form a hidden message.

--- --- --- --- --- ---

S D I O N I R C
 A U E T A G A A
 P T N G O L D N
 H N L E T D O L
 I R L U A O W A
 R A U L N E N G
 E G T B S G A E
 S R E T S N O M
 H A G E R M A N
 E T I R O U L F
 S S Z T R A U Q

MONTANA

Fossil: Dinosaur maisaura peeplesorum
 Gemstone: **Sapphire**, moss **Aggate**

OREGON

Gemstone: **Sunstone**
 Rock: Thunder Eggs

WASHINGTON

Gem: petrified wood
 Fossil: Columbian Mammoth

IDAHO

Fossil: **Hagerman** horse
 Gemstone: **Star Garnet**

MISSOURI

Mineral: **Galena**
 Rock: Mozarkite
 Fossil: Crinoid (delocrinus missouiensis)

IOWA

Fossil: Crinoid (proposed)
 Rock: **Geode**

KANSAS

(none)

ILLINOIS

Fossil: **Tully Monster**
 (found as separate words)
 Mineral: **Fluorite**
 NEBRASKA

Fossil: Mammoth
 Rock: **Blue** Chalcedony, Prairie Agate

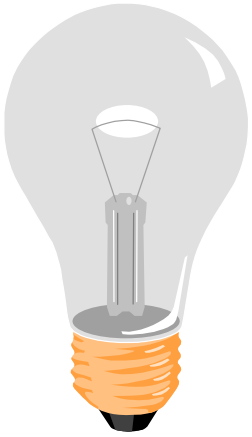
N DAKOTA

Fossil: Teredo petrified **wood**

S DAKOTA

Fossil: Triceratops
 Mineral: Rose **Quartz**
 Gemstone: Fairburn Agate
 Jewelry: Black Hill **Gold**

Fascinating Facts About Rocks And Minerals



Did you know that the diamond is the hardest natural substance found on earth?

Did you know that quartz is one of the most common minerals on Earth?

Did you know that marble forms from metamorphosed carbonate rock, most usually limestone?

Did you know that basalt is the most common rock on Earth?

Did you know that Breccia is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together?

Did you know feldspars make up more than 50% of the Earth's crust?

Did you know the first recorded use of Turquoise dates back to 5000 BC in Mesopotamia, where people used the gemstone to make beads?

Did you know lapis Lazuli is treasured for its rich blue color and is often used in jewelry? Did you also know that ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis Lazuli as eye shadow?

Did you know jade because of its toughness has been used for many cultural things like hammers, fishhooks, and stone axes.

Did you know that rubies are one of the most popular gemstones today?

Did you know that the first geologist on the moon was Harrison Schmitt who was part of the Apollo 17 mission? From the rock samples he collected, scientists have been able to learn many things about the moon.

Did you know that the Earth is approximately 4.8 billion years old?

Did you know that gold is so soft and easily worked that you could roll an ounce of it into a hair-thin wire 50 miles long?

Did you know that the biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds?

Did you know that platinum is so rare that two million pounds of ore may contain only one pound of metal?

Did you know that geodes are dull balls of igneous or sedimentary rock on the outside, but contain beautiful crystals on the inside?

Did you know that meteorites, rocks from space, help scientists learn about the solar system and are very valuable, too?

Did you know that the Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 in India is made entirely out of marble?

Information via: <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002289/fact.html>

Editors Note

Do you have particular interest, a recent or Memorable field trip or perhaps a favorite mineral or fossil that you would like to tell us about? Then please do so. The article does not have to be long. In fact, short, to the point articles are easier to include and usually to read. If you find an interesting article somewhere, write a summary, cite the source, and send it to me. Submissions as MS Word documents, attached to email are the easiest for me to handle. I will also include photos if you have them. Send articles and/or photos to sbstardust3@gmail.com Thanks Sandi

ALL ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING IF YOU

Pebble Pups



Corner

LINKS FOR SOME FUN GAMES

WWW.SCIENCEKIDS.CONZ/GAMESACTIVITIES/ROCKSSOILS.HTML

WWW.MINERALOGY4KIDS.ORG/GAMES.HTML

www.rockhoundkids.com

Rock & Minerals Scrambler

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1). Degoe | 6). Sbaoinid |
| 2). Laebmr | 7). Tpieode |
| 3). Hptnrenie | 8). Motdilio |
| 4). Cmia | 9). Theuaemt |
| 5). Adflesrp | 10). Bmkrtilei |

Some Instruments and Why We Use Them To Rockhound

Rock Pick ~ they are used to clean dirt and stuff out of the cracks of a sample.

Safety Glasses ~ to keep rock fragments from getting into your eyes.

Water ~ you are out in the sun all day digging, you get thirsty.

Chisel ~ used to break rocks apart to get to what you are looking for.

Hammer ~ used with a chisel or alone to bust rocks apart.

Shieve ~ this is used to break down clumps of dirt.

Shovel ~ to help you dig your specimen out of the ground.

Magnifying Glass ~ this is used to get a close up look of your rocks and minerals.

***AND ALWAYS WEAR SUNSCREEN WHEN YOU ARE OUT IN THE SUN!
DON'T WANT TO GET SUNBURNT!***

By: Sandi Hill

Activities



We will hold a Cabochon workshop on 9/14/2013 from 1pm to 5pm.

Please join instructor Jim Wines for a fun filled session of cutting and polishing stone cabochons. Cabochons are flat bottom stones that are often used as the focal point in a piece of jewelry. For a small workshop fee, the club will provide stones to cut, cutting/polishing machine stations, along with safety equipment and light snacks.

The workshop fee is \$30 for non-members and \$20 for members. Class size is limited to 20. To register, email your name and contact information to clgmsworkshops@hotmail.com

Beat the heat and enjoy the fellowship of other gem and mineral collectors! Join the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society for an Ice Cream Social on August 19, 2013, at 7:30 PM, in the Clear Lake park building on Nasa Road 1.

Bring along your friends and neighbors who are interested in the earth sciences, gems, fossils and minerals. Also bring out your best and/or most recent finds. We will hold a short business meeting and then share stories of our discoveries over bowls of ice cream.

See you there! The below link is how to get to our meeting place:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=29.56528,+95.06556+%28Coordinates%29&iwloc=A&hl=en>



Rock & Mineral Scrambler Answers: 1. Geode 2. Marble 3. Nephrite 4. Mica 5. Feldspar 6. Obsidian 7. Epidote 8. Dolomite 9. Hematite 10. Kimberlite

(postage)

STONE STATEMENTS

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
PO BOX 1533
Houston, Texas 77289



Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month
7:30 PM
Clear Lake Park Building 5
5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



NEXT ANNUAL SHOW
March 8-9, 2014
Pasadena Convention Center
Can't wait to SEE YOU
THERE!!

Member of:

JOIN US ON THE WEB!!!!!!

<http://www.clgms.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/ClearLake-Gem-Mineral-Society/612663482095512>



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 carious earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields.

2013 OFFICERS:	President	Sara Chelette	281-286-1195
	Vice President	Bobbie LeFebvre	409-998-3002
	Secretary	Ben Dugger (Pro Team)	281-316-6710
	Treasurer	Trina Willoughby	281-218-0976
	Program Director	Ed Tindell	281-415-7164
	Board of Directors	Ed Tindell	Jim Wined
		Shannon Oliver	Bob Brock
	Newsletter Editor	Sandi Hill	

Annual Show 2014 Vendor Coord.....	Sandy Christiansen	Library.....	Shannon Oliver
Const & By Laws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Duggar	Publisher.....	Sandi Hill
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Bobbie LeFebvre	Education/Field Trips.....	Ed Tindell

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2013: 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

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