

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, November 16, 2009

President Ed Tindell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of last month's meeting were approved. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved. A motion was made to purchase a club laptop for use in program presentations. The motion was seconded and approved. Club programs were discussed. Possible programs and speakers were reviewed.

President Ed Tindell reviewed committee reports:

Historian: Nothing to report

Library: Chairpersons absent

Community Service: A Pasadena school has been contacted

Education: Five minute presentations by members. B-Rex was discussed, a program on 60 Minutes.

Auditing: Ben Duggar volunteered to audit the books

Nominating Committee: Candidates were discussed

Publicity: Nothing to report

Equipment: New machine has not yet been received

Membership: Approximately 80 members

Show Committee: Contracts were sent out, but some dealers are calling for another contract. Checks are coming in.

The contract for the building was discussed. Clear Lake Park Building phone number is 281-326-6539. Dick Rathjen handled in August.

The Christmas dinner was discussed along with the menu.

Unfinished Business:

Al Pennington reported that the plastic boxes will be ordered within the next week.

Printing and publicity for the show was discussed.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

SCFMS certificates supporting the Endowment Fund were passed to the Historian.

An announcement was made that Art Smith passed away. He was a HGMS member and well known in the gem and mineral area.

There was a break prior to the program. Door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served.

Program – Latest Dinomania in the News by Al Pennington

In Montana in 1997, a husband and wife team found a skull in the hillside surface which was armored like a tank with body plates and skin plates, i.e. like turtle shells. It was 15-20 feet in length with two stubby horns and a standard swinging club tail. This was an important find giving a clearer view of the evolution of armored dinosaurs. A giant sea monster skull was found in England. The fossil head was 8 feet long and 54 inches in length, the largest ever found. It was spotted protruding from an unstable patch of a cliff. The exact spot is being kept secret as they hope to find the body. Fearsome carnivorous dinosaurs were unearthed in the Sahara Desert. One was a pro-predator and another one a scavenger. Their teeth are different. They lived side by side and weighed 3 to 4 tons. A tiny pterodactyl fossil was discovered in China. The sparrow sized dinosaur lived in trees and had unexpectedly curved toes. The smallest meat-eating dinosaur was found in western Colorado and was chicken sized at 4-5 pounds. A Jurassic treasure trove was found in India, a dozen dinosaur eggs. They were found in a sandy nest under ash from a volcanic eruption.

President Ed Tindell adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Annabel Williams Secretary

Wichita Mountain Myths - Sunset

The Sunset Peak area of the Wichita Mountains is some of the most picturesque landscapes to some of us especially if we had a wet spring. But it also holds many treacherous boulder valleys, always a few reptiles and maybe some lost gold. At age 14 and well before the advent of metal detectors, my group of friends mainly relied on the old stories grandfather told for adventure.

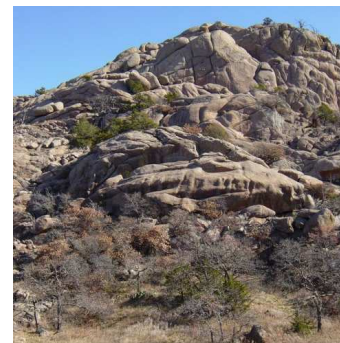


Well one day we set off for a spot that grandfather was convinced was the cache of gold from another unlucky Spanish Burro train. The story went that if we found the boulder that looked like a buffalo, went southwest as the crow flies for a quarter mile we should find a small valley. Now there is a boulder that looks somewhat like a buffalo on the west face of Sunset mountain and using this as a marker we headed southwest.

It was the next part that was tough. This was also what had stymied many a hunter over the years in early Oklahoma since the landmark for the next part was two boulders, one twice as high as the other with an oak tree in between. Well, there were boulders everywhere and post oaks sprinkled over the entire area. Finally we found what would be a reasonable spot and started up the boulder, tall grass and tree choked valley.

We went on measuring our steps as progress. It was almost impossible to tell where we were except for the compass so we climbed the valley wall to get a bearing. From this point we could see several other small valleys nearing twins to this one running basically parallel. Were we even in the correct one?

It was late afternoon by this time and we had been out nearly 4 hours. We decided to go on looking for the next marker – a square boulder lying against the valley wall. Soon, we came upon just such a boulder – well maybe. It was now getting late. We all had our flashlights but it was not a time to get lost in the boulder fields. For some reason the compass was acting up, periodically twirling around and not settling at all. At the time, I did not get the implication and instead it worried me that we might lose our bearings. There is little magnetite in the Wichita but enough that it can affect compasses in some locations. We had this happen before but also, it just may have been we were close to the cache. We will never know?



It may also have been the ghost stories the scout master had told around the campfire last night with tales of vanishing old Indian medicine men, age old Indian burial grounds that should not be disturbed or the ghost warriors would exact vengeance or the cry of the loon that added a spooky atmosphere but we did not like to get caught out at night in the Wichita's.

Editor's Note: The Spaniards were well up into Oklahoma from the ill fated Coronado expedition of 1540 until the 1700s. The Wichita Mountains have lots of quartz veins running through them and no doubt there was gold. There are some artifacts south of Sunset toward the south. But rock outcrops are found all over. To make it even more fun, the James and Dalton gangs also frequented the area leaving behind several robberies worth of gold and silver to find.

A December HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ron Kosler	4
Ruth King	13
Cheryl Tindell	17
Mulloy King	19
Trina Willoughby	22

Turquoise, also

Zircon (prosperity).
Hindu mystics believed that one could achieve great wealth by holding a turquoise and gazing at a new moon.

December Anniversary includes:

Dan Harry	11
Ed and Cheryl Tindell	18
Bill & Bettie Robinett	30



Now is not too early about thinking about paying you 2010 dues.

GOODIE GETTERS...For December

Main Goodies provided by club. Bring your offering according to the chart on page 1.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**Tips & Tidbits**

More Comfortable Cab Cutting—Is the edge of your cab machine water trough sharp? When you're cutting a cab, does the edge dig into your wrist or arm? Here's an easy and inexpensive solution to end your discomfort. Get a piece of foam pipe insulation from the hardware store and place a piece of it over the edge of the trough. Voila, no more discomfort! And, you can easily remove the foam when you go to empty or clean the trough (from Gem Cutters News 6/08 via The Rockhounder 11/09).

Working with Dark Colored Moss Agate—like the black Montana variety, small pits may sometimes appear on the finished, polished surface. The light colored polishing powders, such as tin oxide or cerium oxide, often pack into these small pits, making removal difficult and white spots surely distract from the stone's appearance. Try rubbing a small bit of black India ink into the spotted area, and then try to rob off the ink. The white spots will disappear (from Rockhound Rambling 9/08 via Quarry Quips 8/09).

Keeping Ivory in Light—Don't put ivory in the dark! It is one substance that needs light. If it has started to yellow, take half a lemon and rub it in some salt. Then rub it over the ivory object. The lemon will work on the yellow discoloration. After it is dry, dampen a soft cloth with lukewarm water, and rub the ivory.

All via 12/09 The RockCollector via Pick & Pack

How Geologic Time Periods Got Those Crazy Names

The three geologic eras are the **Paleozoic**, **Mesozoic**, and **Cenozoic** - from the Greek for Ancient, Middle and Recent Life. They are divided into 11 periods, most of them named for the places where rocks from that period were first discovered.

The **Cambrian** Period (50 - 500 million years ago) is named for Cambria or Wales. The next two periods also received Welsh names: **Ordovician** and **Silurian** for two Welsh tribes, the Ordovicians and Silurians.

The **Devonian** is named for Devonshire, England and the **Cretaceous** comes from "creta" Latin for Chalk, referring to the White Cliffs of Dover, England. The **Jurassic** is named for the Jura Mountains in Germany, and the **Permian** for the Perm in Russia's Ural Mountains.

The **Triassic** got its name because it was easily divisible into three parts and the **Carboniferous** is named for carbon, because most coal deposits date from that. In North America, the Carboniferous is subdivided into the **Mississippian**, named for the Mississippi River and the **Pennsylvanian**, named for the coal deposits first discovered in Pennsylvania.

The most recent periods are the **Tertiary** and the **Quaternary**, named for types of rock dated to those eras. They are divided into epochs, whose names all end in "cene" a Greek root meaning recent. **Pleistocene** is from the Greek for most recent. Preceding it are the **Pliocene**, **Miocene**, **Oligocene**, **Eocene** and **Paleocene**, meaning most recent, less recent, little recent, early recent and oldest recent. Got it all now?

Author unknown

From The RockCollector 12/09

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell**Hi All – Field Trip Anyone?
Spring Maybe??**

Come on folks, where do you want to go in the spring?

Arkansas

To many in the gemstone industry, Arkansas and rock crystal quartz are synonymous. Mount Ida, Fisher Mountain, Hot Springs, and Jessieville names mean quartz crystals to many people, but in fact, they are towns or places in the Arkansas quartz belt. Not only is Arkansas the major producer of gemstone and decorative rock crystal but it is the only producer of “lascas” the feed material used to make synthetic quartz. The rock crystals are produced from quartz veins in sandstones and shales of the central part of the Ouachita Mountains. The quartz belt is about 240 kilometers long and 24 kilometers wide, extending southwest from near Little Rock all the way to northern Oklahoma. The crystals are beautifully formed with lustrous faces, many have water clear, colorless terminations. Commonly, they are milky in appearance because of inclusions. On large plates of crystals the crystals are often short and stubby, but in smaller crystals it is not unusual for them to have a length that are at least 6 times their diameter. Many of these slender points are used as “gem points” in making earrings and pendants. Historically, the demand for crystals was from tourists, collectors, interior decorators, carvers, sphere makers, and certain industrial and military applications. However, in recent years the increased use of quartz crystals in the metaphysical field has greatly impacted the demand and price for Arkansas quartz. Another market for the crystals is as feed material to be irradiated to produce smoky quartz. Most smoky quartz from Arkansas is not natural, but is irradiated rock crystal. Although its not the only U.S. producer of rock crystals, Arkansas is by far the largest, its quartz crystal mining industry is measured in millions of dollars per year.

Texas

Some of the best agate, jasper, chert, and petrified wood (particularly petrified palm wood) found in the nation comes from Texas. Blue banded, moss, and red and black plume agates are found near Alpine in

Brewster County. Similar agates are found in Jeff Davis, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Presidio, Reeves, San Patricio, and Starr Counties. Petrified wood can be found in Amarillo, Bastrop, Brazo, Comal, Duval, Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Uvalde Counties, with fine-quality palm wood coming from Live Oak and Webb Counties. Good-quality chert can be found in limestone formations in McCulloch, Moore, and San Saba Counties. The material from Moore County also is called Alibates flint and was used by prehistoric and modern-day Indians to make weapons and tools. The quarry from which the Indians obtained their flint is now Alibates State Park.



Thanks,
Ed Tindell
2008 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Picking Good Jasper - author unknown

Jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are “earthy” and porous, and others contain hematite, which is itself difficult to polish.

If you are on a field trip, a good way to test jasper is to wet it. (Do not lick it.) If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, keep it. It contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish. Most Jaspers polish well on leather with Linde-A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

When tumbling softer, hard to polish material, don't start with the coarse grit. Start with the second grit and go one grit finer than the #3 grit used on agates. In polishing, fill the tumbler $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ full (if not using pellets) so the stones will roll and not fall. This way you do not have the stones beating the polish off the ends. Also, cerium oxide will polish better than regular tumbler polishing agents. It does not take very much cerium to do this job, about $\frac{1}{2}$ as much as the regular tumble polish. The RockCollector 12/09

Cameos

During the time of Shakespeare, the agate cameo was very popular in England and went by the name of "agatestones." Agate cameos of exquisite workmanship were worn by the nobility and were in the crown jewels.

Cameo is a subject about which comparatively little has been written and much deal with cameos of years past. Practically nothing has been written regarding the techniques of cutting shell cameos.



The old Italian cameo cutters spent their lives in the work, and the "secrets" of the art were handed down from father to son for generations. Usually the apprentice would start work as a young boy so it's to be expected that a number of highly skilled cutters could be developed.

Cameo is a gem carved with figures that are raised in relief. The term often refers to a gem that has layers of different colors. The figures are cut from one layer against a background of another color.

Stones commonly used for cameos include onyx, sardonyx, agate and tiger's-eye. Shell and coral are also used, but the agate and tiger's-eye have long retained their popularity. This is due to the fact that a well executed portrait on one of these hard gemstones lasts for a lifetime.

Beautiful artificial cameos are made from various kinds of shell and fine glass. Shell yields very delicate cameos. Both the Romans and Greeks produced excellent cameos.

Cameos were introduced for decorative purposes about 300 BC as a contrast to the older forms called intaglios, which were incised below the surface and also served as seals. Cameos and intaglios present the highest form of carving, since the cutter is truly a sculptor as well as a cutter. The Farnese Tazza (a cup) is the oldest major Hellenistic piece surviving. They were very popular in Ancient Rome, especially in the family circle of Augustus. The most famous stone "state cameos" from this period are the Gemma Augustea, the Gemma Claudia made for the Emperor Claudius, and the largest flat engraved gem known from antiquity, the Great Cameo of France.



Classically the designs carved onto cameo stones were either scenes of Greek or Roman mythology or portraits of rulers or important dignitaries. In history, agate portrait cameos were often gifts from royalty to their subjects. These antique cameos, some more than 2000 years old, are either displayed in museums or are in private collections.

The cutting is done by means of a small lathe fixed to a table on a bench. The stone to be worked is held in the fingers and freely manipulated against the revolving tool on the lathe. In the 16th Century, cameos were carved from a single stone of five layers, each a different color. Cameos are much in demand today by collectors and are one of the latest fashion accessories. Since the late 19th century, the Shell species most used in good quality cameos has been *Cypræacassis rufa*, the bullmouth helmet, the shell of which can be up to 6 inches long. In this species, the upper shell layer is whitish, and the lower shell layer is a rich orange-brown. Modern sources for this shell are Madagascar and South Africa. The finest hand-carving of these shells takes place in Italy. From *The Petrified Digest* (Mar. '98), Via Fire and Ice, 12/03

President's Message

As 2009 comes to a close I want to stop and take a moment to thank all the wonderful members of the CLGMS who have stepped forward to provide volunteer support, who attended meetings, who gave presentations, who responded to emails, who read the newsletter or just shared the love they have for their fellow rockhounds and the hobby. Many of the volunteer positions that were empty at the start of the year are now filled. Much work has been done towards reorganizing the club locker in order to provide space for growth in the future. The purchase of a club computer is underway. The club now has a large amount of lapidary equipment and supplies for use in the demonstration area at our show and for classes, door prizes, etc. We still need volunteers to step forward and pick up the responsibilities in these areas. Our membership has increased over the year and we had four good field trips. The next field trip will be my 50th field trip as Field Trip Coordinator for the club. I'm doing all I can to make it a good one. We will be having our annual Christmas party at the December meeting. I hope all of you can make it.

In closing I must ask for your help once again. On the evening of Tuesday, December 1st, I was struck by a car while crossing a street in downtown Houston on my way out of the office in which I work. It was dark, raining, cold and windy. I was trying to keep dry underneath a black umbrella when I was struck. The driver stopped and helped me; he said he didn't see me. I had the right of way. The vehicle was a van with a flat broad front end which made full body contact from hip to shoulder. I was knocked into the air and landed about fifteen feet away on my head, left elbow and knee. My glasses were destroyed. Miraculously no bones were broken and I do not have a concussion. But I have a large bump on my head, stitches in my left elbow and I am sore from head to toe even though I am on heavy pain killers. My mind keeps replaying the moment of impact trying to remember what happened. For once in my life I don't want to know. I could use your prayers and support folks.

God Bless You All,

Ed Tindell
2009 CLGMS President

Variscite, Older Than I Thought

By Dr. Timothy Baker



Many of you will have worked with this beautiful green phosphate gemstone, sometimes known as green turquoise. It has a long and interesting history. There were articles in the magazine Rocks and Minerals in the 1950s about the gun battles fought over the variscite nodule mines near Fairfield, Utah. (Skiers take note, Fairfield is south of the famous Alta Gold mines now converted to a ski resort).

It wasn't until I was visiting my daughter in Catalonia, Spain however, that I found out how old variscite mining really was. In the development of a suburb 10 miles south of Barcelona the excavators discovered a series of tunnels. These tunnels dated back to the Neolithic period and are the oldest gallery mines discovered in Europe up to this time. It has been established that the mines were worked for

variscite for several centuries. The mines were 6,000 years old (a thousand years before the pyramids). There are many openings. Some of the tunnels were 100 feet in length. There is evidence that the variscite was traded throughout Spain.

The next time you cut a specimen of variscite, realize that you are following an ancient tradition. AGMS Newsletter 12/09 via Gem Cutters News 9/08 via The Hound's Howl 11/08]

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
DECEMBER 05-06 ROUND ROCK, TX PALEONTOLOGICAL SOC. OF AUSTIN "Fossil Fest" Old Settlers Park next to Dell Diamond	DECEMBER 12-13 DeRIDDER, LA DeRIDDER G & M S DeRidder La. Fairgrounds	Clear Lake, February 27 & 28, 2010 Pasadena Convention Center	

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.
 December 21, 2009, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 27 & 28, 2010
 Pasadena Convention Center



CLGMS is on the Web: (new location)
<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

2009 OFFICERS:	President	Ed Tindell	281-930-0698
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	Lesley Gary
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Troy Nordyke
		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2010.....	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. 2010: 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 2009 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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