



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 DECEMBER 2012 NUMBER 12

MERRY CHRISTMAS

NEXT MEETING: December 17, 2012
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR December...

DECEMBER - CLGMS ANNUAL DINNER AND ELECTIONS –

The Club will provide a Honey-Baked Ham as the main dish but feel free to add your favorite for some variety!! Also with ham, baked beans and potato salad are in order as veggies and salads.

A - M bring vegetables or bread and butter **N - Z** bring dessert or salad (with dressing)

Don't forget to bring your own serving spoons since there are none at the Park Building. Put your name on these, too. The December meeting starts with dinner at 6:30 PM so COME EARLY (5:45) to set up tables, chairs and decorations. Bring your special centerpiece for your table. There is an oven in the kitchen, so keeping your food warm will let you help with the table set-up. Bring your family and friends to this enjoyable dinner.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		Stoney Statements Spotlight	Fm Program Chair
NOVEMBER Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights a time for remembering the true meaning of Christmas! Celebrate with tolerance, love and compassion toward your fellow man.</p>	2013 Officer Candidates
	2		The vote on club officers will be conducted at the December general meeting. The list of candidates will be discussed at the business meeting following dinner. Help your club by serving as an officer or Board Member.
BRONZE	3		Last years officers will continue until we get nominations
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4		President – Ben Duggar
Lapidary Corner Chatoyant stone By Rick Martin	4		Vice President – Bob Brock
FIELD TRIPS	5		Secretary – Annabel Brownfield
Space Rocks	6		Treasurer – Loyce Pennington
Flaked Out/Show Dates	7		Program Director – Trina Willoughby Board of Directors – Ed Tindell – David Tjiok - Trina Willoughby Jim Wines Newsletter Editor – Al Pennington

"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*

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2012

Vice President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer's report was given and approved through October. Vice President Bob Brock presented the October Meeting Minutes. They were approved. .

Visitors were introduced and welcomed.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Library – Current Librarian Lester Gary reported we need a new Librarian. There are four boxes of books and tapes.

Community Service – At the request of Nancy Duggar, Al Pennington brought up the subject of moving money into the account due to shortage of funds to support the School program. Al explained that after review we had only made a little over \$5000 from the show and somehow we are over subscribed. Scholarships take \$2000 and we provide San Jac another \$1000 at the show which would leave only \$2000 for other projects. Al Pennington suggested we review the minutes of the last year to determine if we over allocated funding to Nancy early in the year. Al then made a motion to move funding from a CD to the active account and there were numerous objections. It was finally decided to allocate Nancy \$1000 and table the discussion until we had a full officer quorum at the next meeting or the general meeting in January.

Editor's Note; It should be noted that we do need to use some of the money we moved out of the account previously to insure we are in compliance with the non-profit club status.

Show report – Al Pennington reported that to his knowledge, Jim Wines not being present, we had contacted all dealers but two. We have paid the fees for the Convention Center and have begun preliminary printing. There was some confusion over who might have the contracts coming back into the Club PO box and Al also remarked that he had some dealers call and ask if we received their contracts. It appears that the e-mail method of processing show contracts is not working and next year we will revert to snail mail and make sure that we returned signed contracts to dealers.

Education – No Report

Club Publicity – Chairperson Anna Brownfield was not present.

Membership – No Report

Program – Trina Willoughby - since the substitute secretary had to leave early, being brought low with the flu, no subject was available for the minutes.

New Business – There will be a business meeting after the supper in December. We will need an officer's quorum so everyone please plan to attend.

Al Pennington, Substituting for the Secretary.

ANCIENT CHINESE METHOD OF SOLDERING WIRE PRONGS by Alice Davis

My stone was a piece of botryoidal malachite with a lot of indentations where the bezel should be, so I elected to use wire prongs. My reticulated silver mounting was uneven, so I used masking tape to temporarily stick the stone to the mounting. Then I marked where I wanted the prong holes to be, removed the stone, and drilled the holes. I cut my prong wires so that they were a little longer than I thought I needed, using wire that fit the holes snugly. Then I lined up the pieces of wire and melted a snippet of easy flow solder on one end of each prong. I turned my mounting face down on the firebrick, pushed the wire pieces into the holes and into the firebrick, leaving maybe 1/16 to 1/8 inch of wire on the backside, then soldered and pickled. Previously, I had tried to solder prongs onto silver. I would get two or three then the whole thing would collapse. From SCFMS Jan Newsletter, via Gem Carver Guild of America, 5/00, The Southwest Gem

SHOP HINT

Frost silver by roasting in an oven for 20 minutes at 300 degrees Fahrenheit, and then drop in sulfuric acid. The heating changes the surface copper in the alloy to copper oxide, and the acid dissolves that away to leave pure matted silver.

(From the Trilobite 02/02 Via Leaverite News, The Rockpile and The Gemrock)

BRONZE By Cheri Rodger

The term Bronze refers to any of the various alloys of Copper and Tin or Copper and Zinc, varying in proportions. This alloy is a metal that is tougher than either of its components. Bronze may also refer to a work of art made from one of the alloys or may refer to a color or pigment. The term Bronze is from the Italian word for Brass. To distinguish Brass from Bronze, dissolve a small sample of 50/50 Nitric Acid and water. Tin will be indicated by a white precipitate: Metastannic Acid. These two terms are used interchangeably. Archeologists theorize that the early Brasses were the result of accidents. Brass, 70% Copper & 30% Zinc, has a melting point of 1,750 F and a specific gravity of 8.5.

Going back in history, we find the Sumerians in Mesopotamia in the Tigris-Euphrates River Valley using clay tablets with pictographs to keep records some time after 4000 B.C. A cuneiform or wedge-shaped form of writing was evolved by about 3000 B.C. Sumerian life consisted of large cities, such as Eridu, Kish, Lagash, Nippur, Ur, and Uruk. Their civilization was organized around temples headed by the priests and surrounded by plains watered by vast irrigation and worked with plows. Sailboats, potter's wheels and kilns were in use. Copper was being smelted, and Bronze was starting to be alloyed. Some of their ores were being obtained through long-distance shipping and overland caravan trading. Iron was still being used beginning around 2000 B.C. Iron working was further developed by the Hittites and became widespread by 1200 B.C.

In India an urban civilization with a so-far-undeciphered writing system stretched across the Indus Valley and along the Arabian Sea around 3000-1500 B.C. Their major cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in Pakistan. These cities were well planned geometrically with underground sewers and vast granaries. Bronze was used, and arts and crafts were highly developed. Religious life took the form of fertility cults. This life was destroyed by Aryan invaders from the northwest.

In Europe, on Crete, the Bronze Age Minoan civilization emerged around 2500 B.C. They had a prosperous economy with decorative art, all supported with seaborne commerce. Bronze was used for many of their monuments and statues. By Medieval times, Brass was formulated to specific proportions for desired uses.

Bronze is more easily melted and cast than Copper and is less susceptible to corrosion. By varying the proportions several alloys are possible.

Alpha Brasses contain more than 62% Copper and are known for their malleability and cold working properties and are commonly used for screws, pins, and bolts. Red Brass is 90% Copper. At this 90% Copper level there is less malleability, and a richer color is produced. Addition of still more Copper enriches the color further to a rich gold color that is often used in fashion jewelry. Pinchbeck, NuGold and Jewelers Bronze are alloys of 88% Copper and 12% Zinc. Bell metal, so named because of the tone when it is struck, is 14 to 25% Tin. Statuary Bronze, used for bearings and weapons, can be as little as 10% Tin with a little as 1% Phosphor added for strength. Manganese is also added to increase strength and machinability.

The most common system for measuring the thickness of Brass is in thousandths of an inch.

The Complete Metalsmith by Tim McCreight, Davis Publications, Inc.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language by the Houghton Mifflin Company

World Almanac and Book of Facts, Funk & Wagnalls Corporation

From Rok-Tok, 04/99

Things I've Always Wondered About...

Why do they put Braille on the 'drive through' bank machines?

From The Rockcollector Dec 2001 The Pick & Pack (Cob. Springs) via Strata Gem, 11/01.

A November HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ron Kosler	4
Cheryl Tindell	17
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.

November Anniversary includes:

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



Now is not too early about thinking about paying you 2013 dues.

GOODIE GETTERS...For December



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

Chatoyant stone By Rick Martin

I agree with your definitions, but you are forgetting the *original* chatoyant stone: chrysoberyl. When the term "cat's-eye" is used in the jewelry trade, it means only one thing: cat's-eye chrysoberyl.

(Attached is a jpeg of a large, fine stone now in my possession: 14.49 carats of pure beauty! Shadows make the stone seem asymmetrical in the pic but it's perfectly cut.) Chrysoberyl has been synonymous with cat's-eye for hundreds of years. Lately I've been cutting some very nice cat's-eye stones from another form of chrysoberyl,

. Alexandrite, the rarest of the rare -- I have some small rough available if anyone is interested. (A jpeg also attached: this stone is .83 ct. and has a decent color change). I've cut lots of star garnets (usually almandine but I've seen rhodolite stars, too). Color play in opals is considered "phenomenal." I have also cut stars and cat's-eyes from Spencer, Idaho opal (triplets). Liddicoat offers additional stones that can exhibit phenomena in his "Handbook of Gem Identification."

Stars or cat's-eye effect: beryl, demantoid, nephrite, enstatite, diopside, scapolite, kornerupine, feldspars, apatite, zircon, sillimanite, as well as chrysoberyl, corundum, quartz and tourmaline. "Orient" in pearls is also considered phenomenal, so I imagine abalone shell and abalone pearls would also fall into the same category, along with mother of pearl, etc.

How about sheen and rainbow colors in obsidian? Fire agate? I'm getting tired. Time to go have a cold one and think on it. *Lapidary Digest 10/99*

SELECTING A CHAIN

With many years of repairing chains, we would like to pass along to you some important tips for choosing a chain.

1. Decide if you will be wearing a pendant on your chain. This alone will help determine the type of chain that will give you the best service. Many flat link Italian chains cannot support even the lightest weight pendant.
 2. A chain should be smooth. If it has sharp bites when you run it through your fingers, it will be uncomfortable to wear. In time it will wear out whatever you hang on it.
 3. A chain should be flexible, especially if you wear pendants. If a chain will not bend, it will kink and often break. You can tell if a chain is flexible by letting it coil in the palm of your hand.
 4. A chain should have soldered links for strength. Most flat link chains and Italian style chains are soldered and then run through a rolling mill, which may break or weaken the solder joints.
 5. Avoid hollow chains. Gold is an expensive metal. Consumers should be aware that to cut cost, many imported chains are made with hollow links. If you could see a cross section of one of these, it would look like gold foil. How do these chains hold up? They don't. Worst of all, they are impossible to repair. In our shop, we will not repair hollow chains. They are a nightmare.
- From The Olson Company of Seattle, Washington, via The Rock Collector, 4/98, via Hound's Howl 6/98

More on Chatoyant

Add Binghamite and Silkstone to the list of chatoyant stones. Locality closed (due to flooding?) If we are including man-made stones, add Victoria Stone; a chatoyant glass mineralogically similar to nephrite. Hardness 5.5-6.0, colored azure blue, deep indigo, lemon

yellow, brownish pink, chocolate brown etc. Invented by Dr S. Iimori and made by himself and his family- Flint
Oct 2001 Lapidary Digest

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Hi All –

Think about Field trips for next year



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2012 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Tip for a Transparent Cab

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color & pattern. So I take 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. This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at
facebook.com/BenchTips or
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips

Fall rock hunts & the Woodward Ranch

FYI – I will be setting up at least one fell field trip to East Needle Peak. I'll keep you informed.

I've been getting requests for information about Fall Big Bend Rockhunts, so I thought I'd send out an update, even though the news isn't very good. Right now it looks like neither the Walker Ranch nor the ranch south of Marfa will be open this fall. There hasn't been enough rain south of Marfa to make the rancher comfortable with us being out there, and

the owner of the Walker Ranch will be unavailable until January at the earliest.

Although that's bad news, it still leaves us with two lovely places to rockhunt: The Ritchie Ranch, and East Needle Peak. The Ritchie Ranch is still \$5 per person per day admission, and the fee per pound will probably be \$1. East Needle Peak will be \$40 per person per day. There's been lots of rain in Alpine and Terlingua, so there ought to be lots of freshly uncovered agate that's easy to find!

I am also looking into a couple of other places, but they're not all that likely to come through yet, so I don't want to mention them.

As for the Woodward Ranch, it's still open to rockhunting on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. And, it's on the market if you have a few million dollars hanging around that you'd like to invest. It's about 2200 acres at \$2500/acre, including all the improvements. That's about \$5.5 million. If you buy it, I'll be glad to run the rockhunts for you! Here's the link to the listing:

<http://www.jwcarpenter.com/R122.htm>. I can recommend the realtor as being honest and conscientious, in case you're interested.

I'll let y'all know when I have some more information about Fall rockhunts.

Space Rocks - How to find and identify meteorites. By Pat Pfeiffer

Space rocks keep falling on your head - and if they do not you'll have to go look for them. However, will you know one if you see it?

What is a Meteorite?

Meteorites are the only tangible source of knowledge we have regarding the universe. They are portions of extraterrestrial bodies, with parts of asteroids, planets or debris from comets that come either from our own galaxy or from deep space. The bits from planets are: achondrites (from the crust, stony-iron meteorites (from the mantle), or iron meteorites (from the core). You see shooting stars (meteorites) when one comes into the earth's atmosphere. They enter at different speeds and from different directions, and may come singly or in showers.

Before 1807 meteorites were considered a myth and the few that were found were revered. It is only in the last 200 years that meteorites were treated with scientific respect. Belief has grown from the idea they fell from thunderstorms to the tracking and analysis done by scientists today.

Most meteorites hit the earth unheralded and unfound, but there are multitudes of them on earth. Science is just now discovering that our earth has been cratered thousands of times, but the dynamics of our ever churning planet, combined with weather have erased all but the more recent evidence.

How do Meteorites Get Here?

Over 100,000 tons hit the earth every year, mostly as dust from outer space. A meteorite comes with light and sound. Anyone within 25 to 30 miles can see it as a shooting star. However, it cannot be seen until within 60-90 miles of the earth. Most of it melts into gases as it bums through. Meteorites also produce sound/shock waves that are not only heard, but which change the construction of the crystals in terrestrial rock upon impact.

How to find a Meteorite

Most people know that any stone that is heavy for its size may be a meteorite. They also believe it should have an iron or nickel appearance. Not necessarily so. Many are found around the edges of craters, but don't be fooled. Some of what you think might be a meteor may be earth stones changed by the impact. Most meteors explode before hitting the earth, but the explosion blasts a crater. Search has revealed that most craters larger than 12 feet will not contain a buried meteorite. Meteorites can be anywhere and are. Estimates say there should be one for every 100 square miles. That is one piece for every 10 X 10 miles and 10 percent can be found.

The best places to search are around craters, in deserts and in Antarctica and Greenland because they show up easily, and also at the ends of glacier melt. You may even find a piece of lunar rock blasted from the moon by an impact there.

How to Identify a Meteorite

Most will be small with a crust or partial crust. They may be smooth, but are usually pitted from parts which disintegrated as they burned through the atmosphere. Meteorites may be black, gray, brown, tan, glossy black, reddish, or purplish. They may be one color or impregnated with stains caused by oxidation. The longer the meteorite has laid there, the more oxidation. You may find crystals of olivine in green or yellow, bronzite or pyroxene. They may contain inclusions of black magnetite, white calcium, aluminum, hypersthene, troilite, graphite, or silicates. They will be heavy. You may find tektites around the edges of craters. They are molten quartz in glassy beads in the shape of teardrops, flattened spheres, and dumbbells. There's a meteorite out there for you, so get cracking.

TRILOBITE FEB 2002 via the Northwest Federation Newsletter)

Flaked Out

An introduction to flint-knapping By Bob Miller a.k.a. White Arrow Member of the Deming (New Mexico) Gem & Mineral Society

Somewhere, lost in the sands of antiquity, the first flint tool lies buried and forgotten. My guess is that it sleeps somewhere east of Eden in Mesopotamia, likely fashioned by the hands of Adam. Of course, I don't really know and neither does any other living human. The bond between mankind and flint are very old and deep indeed. Likely, it is some vestige of this friendship that reappears today as the urge to rock hound. (continued)

Flaked Out (cont)

Flint-knapping (from the German (“Knappen” meaning “to nibble”) is doubtless one of the most basic and ancient of industries. Without the very sharp and durable edges produced by fracturing flint even the working of wood becomes next to impossible. If you doubt this, go into the woods without knife, ax, or saw and try to fell a useable sapling. Catching a cooperative beaver is about your only option here. Along with fire, flint was survival for millennia, and many of those fires were kindled using a flint spark.



In everyone’s genealogy there were flint-knappers. It may be many generations ago for some or only a few as in this writer’s own Cherokee and Choctaw ancestors. Their skills were undoubtedly adequate or we would not be here today. Until the recent development of fused diamond plating on a tungsten matrix blade, obsidian (as in “Apache Tears”) produced the sharpest known edges, far superior even to the best surgical steel scalpels. Obsidian fractures at the molecular level producing edges that may be only a molecule or two thick. The Maya Indians of southern Mexico were in fact successfully performing brain

surgery (trepanning) centuries before Columbus landed, using obsidian tools. The knap-ability of flint owes to its krypto-crystalline structure (it’s crystals are microscopic or non-existent). It is much like glass, being about 95% quartz (silicon). When struck a sharp blow with a hard object it will fracture into a “Hertzian cone” (conchoidally). Perhaps the easiest illustration of this phenomenon is to shoot a piece of thick glass with a B-B-gun. The characteristic product of this collision is a smoothly-rippled Hertzian cone. This is the basis of flint working by percussion. Flint-knapping is the art of vectoring blows from a “billet” to remove flakes from the core in a manner predictable enough to eventually shape a blade. This process is called “core reduction.” Once a blow is struck it cannot be recalled. For better or worse, the record of that blow is “written in stone.” Knapping is a lot like playing billiards. Due to inconsistency or defects (inclusions) in the flint it can more resemble playing pool on a wavy table with a tree limb and glass eggs. There are times I feel that I am actually matching wits with a piece of flint, as in three-dimensional chess! Many Indians believed that everything, even inanimate objects like rocks had a spirit and were somehow “alive.” Perhaps they were right. There is, of course, a lot more to knapping, like pressure flaking, heat-treating flint to improve its “lithic” qualities, “hands on” experiencing of just how sharp flint really is, weeping over the halves of an exceptional, almost complete blade, and of course losing one’s mind.

One thing is certain, if you pursue knapping with any degree of persistence, you will recognize that its ancient practitioners were not a bunch of dumb savages banging rocks together. Instead, that is what we modern hobbyists are! They did it to survive— we do it . . . For fun????! !

The Rollin Rock April 2004, via Star-O-Lite Dec 2012

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you’ll need to sand or polish an area that’s impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flex shaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I’ve found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45-degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of Vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

.SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			

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 17, 2012, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 23-24, 2013
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<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

2012 OFFICERS:	President	Ben Duggar	
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Brownfield	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Jim Wines
		Ed 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 Duggar	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2012: 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 2012 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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Deadline for January Issue is December 28, 2012