



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

December Meeting	1	<p><u>DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING</u></p> <p>Greetings and Happy Holidays to all,</p> <p>We will NOT have our regular Christmas Dinner in December general meeting. However, we WILL HAVE a VIRTUAL meeting for our December 2020 general meeting. This virtual meeting will be on MONDAY – 12/21 at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>We will have an excellent presentation by Dr. Scott Braley. "Red Cloud Mines of Lincoln Co., New Mexico"</p> <p>Here is the Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5290961584?pwd=cjFIM1Q0T2JKTHNmNURsMG9lbHF0Zz09 http://www.clgms.org/ </p>
Board/General Meeting Minutes. Field Trip Upcoming programs	2-3	
Himalayan Salt	3-5	
Planet Alignment AK Landslide	6	

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

We did not have an in person general meeting.

Online meeting minutes:

We will have a program at League City Library for children – mainly the Gem Mine, it is a very popular activity for children. Date will be determined later.

Pasadena Convention Center (PCC) has been open for events – of course with safety procedures.

***** CLGMS WILL **HAVE** OUR ANNUAL SHOW IN 2021 *****

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER CLGMS BOARD MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting was held at Panera Bread on 12/07/2020, at El Dorado Blvd at 7:00 pm.

10 applications have already come back in the mail.

We discussed where would we be able to hold regular meetings. John will see when League City Library on Hwy 3 can host the meetings and we will try on the third week in January again if possible - assuming the Harris County Park Office still decides to not open the building in the coming year - 2021.

David will see about getting all the Covid protective items that we need for the show.

Trina will see if the Dino Guy can come and we will limit the Scouts to two shows this year due to space. The Gem Mine will be moved to the large room.

The Post Office was sending some of the postcards to PCC? We'll determine why so it does not happen again.

New flyers will be coming soon, and show advertising starts now.

John/Annabel will let local community papers know about the show dates and times.

Cindy will get Facebook coupon for \$1 off and gift if they “like us” on Facebook.

QR code (possibility) will be added to the flyer and “Please wear your mask” will also be added.

David will see about getting the postcards and fliers for the show.

We will have a virtual Zoom meeting in December - notification and reminder will be sent out by email.

Here is the Zoom link for our December 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5290961584?pwd=cjFIM1Q0T2JKTHNmNURsMG9lbHF0Zz09>

If it does not work – you can use these to join:

Meeting ID: 529 096 1584

Passcode: 431083

In 2020 we will not be collecting money for dues. If you already paid for this year, it will go to 2021 Club dues.

Field trip report:

We do not have any field trips planned yet.

Upcoming Program:

We will have an excellent presentation by Dr. Scott Braley

Topic: “Red Cloud Mines of Lincoln Co., New Mexico”

Red Cloud Mines is 800 miles west from Houston - 13.5 hr drive.

Please stay safe and have a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all.

Himalayan Salt (Wikipedia- Please go to the website for all references):

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayan_salt

Himalayan salt is rock salt (halite) mined from the Punjab region of Pakistan. The salt, which often has a pinkish tint due to mineral impurities, is primarily used as a food additive to replace refined table salt, but is also used for cooking and food presentation, decorative lamps and spa treatments. The product is often promoted with groundless claims that it has health benefits compared to regular table salt.

Geology

Himalayan salt is mined from the Salt Range mountains,[1] the southern edge of a fold-and-thrust belt that underlies the Pothohar Plateau south of the Himalayas. Himalayan salt comes from a thick layer of Ediacaran to early Cambrian evaporites of the Salt Range Formation. This geological formation consists of crystalline halite intercalated with potash salts, overlain by gypsiferous marl and interlayered with beds of gypsum and dolomite with infrequent seams of oil shale that accumulated between 600 and 540 million years ago. These strata and the overlying Cambrian to Eocene sedimentary rocks were thrust southward over younger sedimentary rocks, and eroded to create the Salt Range.[2][3][4]

History

Local legend traces the discovery of the Himalayan salt deposits to the army of Alexander the Great.[5] However, the first records of mining are from the Janjua people in the 1200s.[6] Salt is mostly mined at the Khewra Salt Mine in Khewra, Jhelum District, Punjab, Pakistan, which is situated in the foothills of the Salt Range hill system in the Punjab province of the Pakistan to the Indo-Gangetic Plain.[1][7] It is primarily exported in bulk, and processed in other countries for the consumer market.[5]

Mineral Composition

Himalayan salt is chemically similar to table salt. Analysis of a range of Khewra salt samples showed them to be between 96% and 99% sodium chloride, with varying amounts of trace minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, chromium, magnesium and sulfate, all at safe levels below 1%.[1][8][9][10] Some salts mined in Pakistan are not suitable for food or industrial use without purification due to impurities.[1] Some salt crystals from this region have an off-white to transparent color, while impurities in some veins of salt give it a pink, reddish, or beet-red color.[11][12]

Nutritionally, Himalayan salt is also similar to common table salt,[10][13] though it lacks the beneficial iodine that is added to commercial iodised table salt.[14][15]

Uses

Himalayan salt is used to flavor food. Due mainly to marketing costs, pink Himalayan salt is up to 20 times more expensive than table salt or sea salt. The impurities giving it its distinctive pink hue, as well as its unprocessed state and lack of anti-caking agents, have given rise to the belief that it is healthier than common table salt.[13][15][17] There is no scientific basis for such claimed health benefits.[14][10][17][18] In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration warned a manufacturer of dietary supplements, including one consisting of Himalayan salt, to discontinue marketing the products using unproven claims of health benefits.[19]

Slabs of salt are used as serving dishes, baking stones, and griddles,[20] and it is also used to make tequila shot glasses.[21] In such uses, small amounts of salt transfer to the food or drink and alter its flavor profile.[22]

It is also used to make "salt lamps" that radiate a pinkish or orangish hue, manufactured by placing a light source within the hollowed-out interior of a block of Himalayan salt. [23] Claims that their use results in the release of ions that benefit health are without foundation.[13][24] Similar scientifically-unsupported claims underlie use of Himalayan salt to line the walls of spas, along with its use for salt-inhalation spa treatments.[13]



Salt Crystals

On Dec. 21, humans can witness something not seen in nearly 800 years.

That's right, during the upcoming winter solstice, Jupiter and Saturn will line up to create what is known as the "Christmas Star" or "Star of Bethlehem."

These two planets haven't appeared this (relatively) close together from Earth's vantage point since the Middle Ages.

"Alignments between these two planets are rather rare, occurring once every 20 years or so, but this conjunction is exceptionally rare because of how close the planets will appear to be to one another," Patrick Hartigan, astronomer at Rice University, told Forbes. "You'd have to go all the way back to just before dawn on March 4, 1226, to see a closer alignment between these objects visible in the night sky."

Stargazers in the northern hemisphere should turn their heads and telescopes to the southwest portion of the sky about 45 minutes after sunset to see the planets align Dec. 21. However, reportedly sightings can be seen throughout that entire week.

According to Forbes, a star-sighting of this magnitude won't occur again until 2080.

Land Slide near Haines, Alaska in December 2020


Possible 2 fatalities. Read more about this at:




<https://blogs.agu.org/landslideblog/2020/12/04/haines-1/>



Upcoming Shows:

Currently all shows have been suspended or cancelled, so there is no list of the upcoming show except our own.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS						
Feb. 2021 – The Annual International Tucson Gem and Minerals. Tucson, Arizona CANCELLED	Feb. 20-21, 2021 Annual Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Show. Pasadena Convention Center. http://www.clgms.org					
STONEY STATEMENTS Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc PO BOX 891533 Houston, Texas 77289						
Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month 7:30 P.M. Clear Lake Park Building 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas						
						

Next Annual Show February 20-21, 2021 Pasadena Convention Center		Member of		
CLGMS is on the Web: http://www.clgms.org 2/20-21/2021				
		American Federation of Mineral Societies		South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
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.				
2020 OFFICERS:	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Program Director Board of Directors: Newsletter Editor	John Caldyne Cynthia McGowan Christina Rankin Morgan Davies VACANT Sandra Christiansen Jerry Newberry Jim Edwards Donna Nelson David Tjiok	832-282-4270 281-546-2662 281-224-2444 Jim Hawkins Sara Tanner	
Annual Show 2021Sandra Christiansen Constitution & Bylaws.....Sara Chelette Community Benefits.....Charlie Timme Historian.....David Tjiok Publicity.....VACANT Facebook.....Cynthia McGowan Membership.....David Tjiok WWW System Admin..Mike Flannigan Refreshments.....John Caldyne Education/Field Trips.....Annabel Brownfield				
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2020: 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				