



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 42

JULY 2016

NUMBER 7



NEXT MEETING: July 18, 2016
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 Nasa Parkway
 Seabrook, Texas

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July Program July Birthstone	1-2	<p><u>JULY MONTHLY MEETING</u> <u>How to make a Beaded Bracelet</u></p> <p>Note meeting time of 7:00 p.m. instead of 7: 30.</p> <p>Karen Burns will teach those attending how to make a beaded bracelet. The cost for materials (wire and beads) is \$3. If you provide your own beads, the cost is 50 cents for the wire. The bracelet uses 15-17 8mm beads. If you have a pair of round nose pliers and wire cutters, please bring them to the meeting. Since we need a headcount for supplies, please RSVP Trina Willoughby, trinawilloughby@yahoo.com. See picture of bracelets on next page.</p>
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JULY BIRTHSTONE



RUBY

The Ruby represents love, passion, courage and emotion. For centuries this gem has been considered the king of all gems. It was believed that wearing a fine red Ruby bestowed good fortune on its owner. Rubies have been the prized possession of emperors and kings throughout the ages. To this day the Ruby is the most valued gemstone.

The color of a Ruby is the most important feature of the gemstone. Rubies are available in a range of red hues from purplish and bluish red to orange-red. The brightest and most valuable color of Ruby is often “a Burmese Ruby” – an indication that it is a rich, passionate, hot, full red color with a slight blue hue. This color is often referred to as “pigeon blood” red, a Ruby color only associated with the Mogok Valley mines in Myanmar. The color Pigeon Blood Ruby red, is not associated with the color of a pigeon’s blood but rather the color of a white pigeon’s eye.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING



The June business meeting was very short as we had a great presentation and the auction for machines.

15 people are expected for the project next month.

The updates to the constitution will be posted in the July newsletter and voted on in August.

The minutes in the Stony Statement were approved.

The auction was held for the machines. Bud won the auctions for all three machines.

Respectfully submitted:

Trina Willoughby, Secretary

ROCKS
make me
Smile!

MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2016, BOARD MEETING



The July 5 board meeting was officially opened at 7:30pm, attendees for this meeting were President Raul Montelongo, VP David Tjock, Treasurer Mike Flanagan, Board members, Jim Edwards, Gary, and John Varzelli. Board member Sara Chelette was unable to attend but did provide a report prior to the meeting, which included:

1. New computer has been purchased at a sale price of \$318.26. It should be here later this week.
2. On the proposed constitution changes, do you want to email it to all members, or post it on the website and link to it from the newsletter?
3. Business cards sample maybe by the July general meeting."

As for the second topic in the report, the board decided to post the proposed constitution to the website.

It was noted again that someone needs to contact Kelly Pennington to come up with ideas and instructions on how to fix, build, and improve our current Gem Mine. Raul said he would email Kelly.

The winners of the yearly scholarship also need to be contacted to have them pick up their checks at the July general meeting.

John Varzelli mentioned he could put together a presentation for the August general meeting. This of course is not yet set in stone.

Officers and board members were asked if they had anything else to report. None did. Meeting was closed at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted
Raul Montelongo, President

Mogok Valley mines in Myanmar

Country	 Burma
<u>Region</u>	Mandalay Region
<u>District</u>	Pyin Oo Lwin
Township	Mogok

Mogok and other villages nearby have been famous since ancient times for its gemstones, especially ruby and sapphire, but semi-precious stones such as lapis lazuli, garnet, moonstone, peridot and chrysoberyl are also found. The gems are found in alluvial marble gravels by means of panning, tunneling and digging pits by hand. There is little mechanization of the mining. The gravels derive from the metamorphosed limestones (marbles) of the Mogok metamorphic belt.^{[3][4]}

Gems are sold in markets in Mogok; however, foreigners require special permits to visit the town, and purchase/export of gems from Myanmar at non-government licensed dealers is illegal.

90% of the world's rubies come from Myanmar. The red stones from there are prized for their purity and hue. Thailand buys the majority of Myanmar's gems. The "*Valley of Rubies*", the mountainous Mogok area, 200 km (120 mi) north of Mandalay, is noted as the original source of ruby including the world's finest "pigeon's blood" rubies as well as the most world's most beautiful sapphires in "royal" blue.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mogok>



Mogok, Myanmar, is also known as the "Valley of Rubies." Photo by Andy Lucas, ©GIA.

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

STRAIGHTENING WIRE



Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

How do you say that? “Psilomelane”



Silo-melane? Pasi-lomelane? Who knows?

However you say it, psilomelane is manganese oxide containing barium and potassium. It looks similar to hematite and polishes up beautifully.

Unlike when working with hematite it is a good idea to be careful (gloves and dust mask), especially if grinding, because its barium content can make it slightly toxic.

Its name is from the greek meaning “smooth” and “black”. It is an important ore of manganese with large deposits in England, and in Vermont, Virginia, and Arkansas.

(Source: OMGS The Sooner Rockologist May2016, via The Glacial Drifter, June 2016)





Members are always encouraged to bring a report of their latest field trip or of your own special dig. Bring in your prize specimens and educate us. Show us you rockhounding finds.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
July 2-3, 2016 Arlington G&MS Grapevine Convention Center Grapevine, TX	July 30-31, 2016 Cowtown Gem & Min. Glass Society 3939 Bryant Irvin RD Fort Worth, Texas	Aug 13-14 2016 Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge GMS Lamar Dixon Expo Cen. Gonzales, LA	August 20-21, 2016 Bossier City, LA Ark-La-Tex G&MS Bossier City Civic Center
August 27-28, 2016 Pine Country G&MS Events Center Jasper, TX	October 8-9, 2016 Temple, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Center	October 21-23, 2016 Austin, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Events Center	October 29-30, 2016 Glen Rose, TX Paleo. Soc. Of Austin Somervell Expo Center Hwy 67
November 5-6, 2016 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Center Exhibition Hall	November 6-7, 2016 Midland, TX Midland G&MS Midland Center	November 11-13, 2016 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkway	November 29-30, 2016, Paleontological Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park Hwy 29 E Round Rock, TX
January 14-15, 2017 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rock hounds Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park	January 27-29, 2017 Tyler, TX East TEXAS G&M Show Rose Garden Center	February 18-19, 2017 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	February 25-26, 2017 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Center
Feb 25-26, 2017 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Center	March 04-05, 2017 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn	March 4-5, 2017 Robstown, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	March 11-12, 2017 Southwest G&MS San Antonio Event Cen. 811 Meadow Leaf Dr. San Antonio, Texas
April 08-09, 2017 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Center North 6th & Pine	April 15-16, 2017 Alpine, TX Chihuahua G&MS Alpine Civic Center	SCFMS November 10-12, 2017 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy	

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.
 Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 27-28, 2016
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>



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.

2015 OFFICERS:	President	Raul Montelongo	
	Vice President	David Tjiok	
	Secretary	Trina Willoughby	
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan	
	Program Director	vacant	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Sara Chelette
		Bob Brock	Jim Edwards
Sandra Christiansen		vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield		

Annual Show 2016	Sara Chelette	Library.....	Vacant
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Victoria Faulkner
Community Benefits.....	Vacant	WWW System Admin..	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2016: 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

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