



VOLUME 46

July 2020



**NEXT  
MEETING:**  
TIME:  
LOCATION:

**Cancelled**  
**July 20, 2020**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
Clear Lake Park  
Building  
5001 Nasa Parkway  
Seabrook, Texas

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

July Meeting	1	<p><b><u><a href="#">JULY MONTHLY MEETING</a></u></b></p> <p>Greetings to all,</p> <p>Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Harris County Parks and Services Office decided to cancel all activities, that means, once again, we will not have our July general meeting. However, I have received a notification that the Office will resume all activities for next month, so as currently stand we will have our August general meeting. I will keep you all posted. BE SAFE.</p> <p><a href="http://www.clgms.org/">http://www.clgms.org/</a></p>
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### MINUTES OF THE June CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

No minutes are available – We did not have a general meeting.

### MINUTES OF THE July CLGMS BOARD MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> meeting - We discussed the upcoming 2021 CLGMS show whether the show will go on or not due to the current situation. – We will wait and see for the next couple months if the situation will improve and then we will discuss again in the near future.

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – We selected the 2020 scholarship winners. We received 8 applicants and 2 of them were past winners. The selection process were quite challenging as the applicants were very good and highly qualified. After reviewing all the information, the committee picked the 3 winners – Congratulations to: Emily Hencey, Erryl Pennington and Raegan Duran.

### Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following programs.

No special program for July since we do not have a meeting.

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### July's Birthstones:

**Ruby**-Article is collected from [www.withclarity.com](http://www.withclarity.com)

Ruby is a deep red colored gemstone only second in popularity for colored stones. Rubies, scientifically known as corundum, are a natural Gemstone mined from the Earth and derive their color from natural trace elements like Chromium. Rubies are typically mined from Madagascar, Nepal, Thailand and Australia. Rubies are most commonly used in jewelry, specifically in right hand rings and earrings. They are also very popular in the US as a July birthstone and for the 40th milestone anniversary. Rubies are best set in white and yellow gold because their color is brightened and accentuated. There are a variety of popular Ruby shapes, most notably round cut and oval cut. Rubies are unlike diamonds in that there is no grading standardization. The most important factors in determining the quality and price of a Ruby is its size, color and clarity, with color being the most critical factor in setting the grade.









**Ruby Shapes:** Rubies are available in almost all shapes, however some shapes are most popular because they bring out the red color more vibrantly. Round rubies are most popular. They are commonly used in solitaire rings, earrings and as accent stones in wedding / right hand bands. The second most popular shape is the Oval Ruby. Oval rubies reduce rough wastage and draw out the deep red color and so cutters prefer the Oval shape. Other popular shapes include

Emerald/Octagon and Heart shape (a red heart is of course a symbol of love and affection). In large sizes above 6mm or approximately 1.00ct, the cushion is more common and popular. In smaller sizes below 4mm or approximately 0.30ct, the Princess/Square shape is popular. Round rubies tend to have the most sparkle because their faceting allows light to reflect and bounce a red sparkle back to the eye. Because of the light reflection, it is important to have more color in the round Ruby. Other fancy shapes are dependant on cut and so the color is more relevant than the sparkle. Shape rarely affects the visibility of clarity inclusions in Rubies.



**Ruby Sizes:** Rubies are often calibrated and cut to specific millimeter measurement requirements, based on the Ruby shape. Rubies should not be compared to diamond as they tend to be deeper in all shapes and so a Ruby's carat weight will rarely ever match a diamond's carat weight, if the measurements are the same. A 1.00ct Round Ruby is closer to 6mm; whereas a 1.00ct Round Diamond is about 6.4mm. A Gemstone manufacturer's goal is to reduce rough wastage and to preserve carat weight. Therefore, Rubies are cut in different shapes and sizes. There is not standard uniform cutting practice in terms of the number of facets. It is imperative to understand the millimeter dimensions on the Ruby, rather than the carat weight. Like with all gemstones, the larger the Ruby, the rarer and more expensive. The prices change exponentially, not in a linear fashion.

Below are examples of each Ruby shape and the typical millimeter measurements and approximate corresponding carat weights.

Carat Weight:	0.15	0.33	0.50	0.60	0.85	1.15	1.40	1.65
								
	3x3 mm	4x4 mm	4.5x4.5 mm	5x5 mm	5.5x5.5 mm	6x6 mm	6.5x6.5 mm	7x7 mm

**Ruby Color:** The most important characteristic of a Ruby is its color. Color is judged by three main criteria: hue, tone and saturation. Hue is the physical color of the Ruby. Is it red, or pink or somewhere in between. Tone is the depth of color. Is it dark, light or again, in between. Saturation is the evenness and distribution of color. Is it an even color throughout or are there lighter or dark patches visible. Ruby color is ideally a rich, deep even and vivid red color. That doesn't mean a light or darker red Ruby is a bad thing - simply that the most valuable or expensive rubies have a "blood red" color. Rubies, and most other gemstones, are not graded with magnification. The reason is that the deep color is the priority and the color often masks

inclusions, therefore magnification is not required. When examining color, place the Ruby face up, between 2 fingers or on a white surface and rock and tilt the Ruby to examine color from several angles. Your eyes and innate instincts are very good at judging color so you'll very easily be able to determine the quality.

Rubies are graded on a scale unlike diamonds. The industry wide Ruby scale is below, along with the corresponding colors required to achieve that grade. Please note that the grading system for gemstones is quite arbitrary and laboratories do not assign a grade to the Ruby color. Because every Ruby is distinct and so different from one another, it is impossible to standardize the grading scale.

The pricing varies based on color. It is important to note that color (apart) from size, is the single biggest price factor. Additionally, because an A quality Ruby can be very dark or very light, the price may be similar. The tone isn't the only determining factor. All three, hue, tone and saturation, must be evaluated together when pricing a Ruby.

**Ruby Clarity:** The formation of rubies requires a lot of Earth's natural elements and many years of pressure and natural growth. This growth process incorporates many of the earth's elements, which can affect the clarity of the stone. During their growth process, rubies will develop fractures and inclusions that affect the color and visibility.

Many of the inclusions you see in diamonds can also be seen in rubies. Rubies possess clouds, needles, feathers, crystals, pinpoints, etc. All Rubies have inclusions and the severity of those inclusions affects the ruby color and visibility. Rubies with many inclusions will look, dull in color and sparkle. They will look, whitish or pinkish and opaque. As the number and severity of inclusions decreases the color looks brighter, deeper and more even. With Clarity selects rubies with minimally visible inclusions, hence our AAA quality.

Inclusions are graded face up without magnification. The inclusions are mostly measured by their impact on color so it isn't necessary to magnify and look for them. Additionally color can help mask inclusions as well. Therefore, they're not graded the same way as they are with diamonds. Their pricing is also similar to the way color is graded. The higher the clarity and color combination, the more exponentially valuable the ruby becomes.

**Ruby Sourcing:** Ruby is mined from a variety of countries rich in minerals and natural resources. Rubies do require special subterranean conditions, unlike diamonds which can be found almost anywhere. With Clarity rubies are sourced from Myanmar, Australia, Madagascar and Thailand. While rubies can be found in other countries as well, we work with suppliers and mines from these nations because of their commitment to supporting no conflict mining and community development practices.

Rubies are a rich mineral and Ruby mining creates many jobs, infrastructure and funds hospitals, schools and community centers. Our Rubies come from no conflict zones. We work closely with suppliers to ensure that best environmental practices are followed. We do this by verifying the Mine locations and have visited many of our sources.

Rubies are generally much more scarce than diamonds. Their scarcity makes it too difficult to deploy as a conflict mineral. Rubies are an optimal choice in engagement rings and other jewelry for anyone concerned about conflict minerals.

**Ruby Certification:** Colored gemstones are typically not certified. The reason is that there are no standardized grading scales or practices that make it consistent to grade. Ruby examination is more of an art than a science. The science purely lies in the identification of treatments and whether it is a natural corundum or lab created.

All With Clarity Rubies are 100% natural gemstones. We do not work with labs to create any of our gemstones and we independently test every ruby with tools in our gemologist offices. That's our promise. No matter which jeweler you choose, you need to be confident about how they examine their rubies and how they source them.

For large or rare rubies, there are labs that specialize in Ruby grading. This labs include GIA, AGS, and AGL, as far as well reputed go. We recommend certifying rubies above 2.00ct, as the value will prove it worth while. Often times, a more cost effective route will be to have a certified appraiser verify the gemstone. The appraiser will most likely identify the same things the lab will. The one thing though that the lab can tell you is the country of origin. For some, this is important and can actually affect the value of the ruby. Rubies for some countries, such as Myanmar, are more valuable because they are rarer and have more desirable color attributes.

In general, we always recommend natural gemstone as jewelry is a meaningful and emotionally driven purchase. Synthetic gemstones also never look visually as appealing as nature gemstones. Even inclusions, up to a certain extent, also add to the appeal of a ruby. Rubies are like art.

**Ruby Treatments:** Almost every gem quality ruby will undergo basic or standard treatments that will slightly improve it's quality. Such treatments include heating, oiling, glass filling. With Clarity will never use glass or lead filled rubies. We believe these are temporary treatments to mask inclusions and can create structural problems in the long term. Untreated natural rubies can be more than 10 times more expensive than treated rubies.

Heating is literally exposing the Ruby to high temperature, which can improve the depth of color. This is a permanent treatment that is required for many Rubies, otherwise the colors would look far too light.

Other treatments include oiling, dyeing, bleaching, waxing, irradiating and laser drilling. With Clarity does not source gemstones that undergo these treatments. Our gemologists examine every Ruby with a microscope and other testing equipment to check for treatments other than heating.

**Ruby Buying Guide:** Buying a Ruby can be a difficult task because there is no standard certification process, which makes price comparison rather difficult. Even photographs of gemstones don't always paint the correct picture. Consider these steps when choosing a Ruby.

1. Budget First: It's important to set a budget for your Ruby purchase and not to exceed it. Rubies are known for their color, not size. Therefore, focus on the quality aspect of the Ruby.

Also, keep in mind that Rubies are a premium precious gemstone. Be realistic about pricing expectations. While Rubies aren't diamonds, they're still rare and expensive.

2. Select a Shape: Choosing a Ruby starts with the shape. There are many popular shapes for ruby, including round, oval, princess/square and heart shapes. Rubies technically come in all shapes, but some shapes are more popular because of the sparkle or the way they bring out the deep red ruby color. Round rubies have the highest value/expense because they result in the most rough wastage and are the most popular/demanded shape.

3. Select a Size: Rubies are sized by millimeter measurements, not by carat. The carat weight is typically an approximation and is used to guide you. When rubies are cut, the manufacturer focuses on calibrating and cutting to dimensions. If you're looking to buy a ruby online, draw the dimensions out for a better understanding and if buying in store, use our millimeter charts as guidance for size. The price of rubies grows exponentially with each size up.

4. Quality Above all else: If given quality options, always consider a higher quality (AAA). Lower quality rubies will look flat, dull, too dark and/or opaque. The color is one of the largest factors in setting the Ruby price and value. By selecting AAA or at least AA, you are automatically getting better color and clarity, since the scale is a combination of both attributes.

5. Natural vs. Nonnatural: We recommend natural Ruby as the way to go. The difference between natural and synthetic ruby can be very visible and lab created rubies have treatments to which the gemstones don't always react well. Natural Ruby has an everlasting appeal and is a lifelong heirloom. Rubies are like artwork and even inclusions function as unique identifiers that make them one of a kind.

6. In store or Online?: You can purchase a Ruby online or in store. Be sure that both your online and in store jewelers have a great return policy. Online jewelers prefer to avoid returns as they typically may not hold all the inventory and so you can often expect higher quality. The perk about in store shopping is physically seeing the ruby first so there are no surprises. The compromise is often selection limitations for the in store jeweler. That is where your online jeweler may have extra selection or flexibility. When choosing a jeweler, make sure they have a reputation for gemstone jewelry. Be sure they have positive reviews from legitimate sources and review sites that cannot be manipulated. Ensure their return policy is flexible without restocking fees. Don't be afraid to ask questions about sourcing, color, treatments, origin, inclusions, and see pictures of the stones. If the jeweler is truly an expert in the space, they should have no problem providing all the information you require.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

No program is scheduled for July as we do not have the general meeting due to COVID-19 situation.

## **Texas Rockhounding**

**Both these localities have not been checked recently. Please confirm these locations are still available before going.**

If you like fossils you can go up I-35 to Waco. The "Waco Lake Research Pit" is an old excavation area behind the Lake Waco dam that allows collecting of a lot of small fossils. The Houston Gem & Mineral Society had a field trip there years ago. You're supposed to check in with the Corps of Engineers (if they're not furloughed). They have a nearby office. The address of the COE office is 3801 Zoo Park Dr., Waco, TX. You will drive by the Pit parking area first (which will be on your left) on the way to the COE office. Info from HGMS.org website: This Google map link will show you where to park and the location of the COE office. Turn on the satellite view to see the parking area by the pushpin. You can see the map if you copy and paste this into any browser, or highlight it, click right, and then click on "open link in new window" and then print the map.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4v8r433>

What will you find there?

The Waco Pit was excavated to provide material for the Waco Lake dam. The pit cuts into what most Texans call the "Del Rio Clay" (approximately 95-ish million years old), exposing a number of great fossils. Also known as the Grayson Formation, Grayson Marl, Del Rio Shale, etc., depending on what source you look at. In any case, it is Cretaceous, Cenomanian Stage, and is in the middle of the Washita Group sandwiched in between the underlying Georgetown Formation and the overlying Buda Limestone on the Texas geological map. A person can observe pyritized fossils of ammonites of various types, gastropods, bivalves, and a few other things that occasionally get pyritized. Most of the fossils you will see are small. Also found are other fossils (this list borrowed from Lance Hall), such as Ammonites: Adkinsia, Engonoceras, Mantelliceras, Scaphites (loose coiled); Heteromorph ammonites: Plesioturritities, Mariella; Baculites: (straight shelled ammonite); Nautiloids: Cymatoceras, rhyncholites (beaks); Echinoids: Coenoleptus, Goniophorus, Salenia, Cidaris? (spines, plates); Asteroids: starfish, brittle stars; Gastropods: Turritella; Shark teeth: Cretalamna, Leptostyrax, Ptychodus, others; Fish: Pycnodont teeth, loose vertebrae; Oysters: Gryphea, Ilymatogyra, Plicatula; Scallops: Neithea (Pecten); Brachiopods: Waconella (Kingena); Coral: solitary corals

## **I-10 Roadcut**

We found a great fossil collecting locality in a roadcut on I-10 west of Fort Stockton. First drive to the "town" of Kent (one house), then continue west on I-10 to the first roadcut with a rock outcrop at the top of a small hill (less than 3 miles). Pull off on the right-hand shoulder which is quite wide at this point. Look at the rock in the roadcut and on the hill. The ground is literally covered with fossils. If you go take a hammer to break them free of the rock. A few corals can be found but the fossilized shells are great. We found a scallop shell like the shell oil sign, lots of worm casts, and plenty of fossils that have not been identified.





This location appears to be near, or east of, this point:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2c76a65>

## SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

July 11-12, TRMS Gem Mineral and Jewelry Show, Tulsa Fairgrounds, 4145 E 21st St, Tulsa, OK 74114 <a href="http://www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/">www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/</a>	July 17-19, Conroe, TX Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Rd <a href="http://www.rmgmpromotions.com">www.rmgmpromotions.com</a>	Aug 8-9, Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Show, Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, 9039 S Saint Landry Ave, Gonzales, LA 70737 <a href="http://www.brgemandmineral.org/">www.brgemandmineral.org/</a>	Sept 11-20, Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil & Gem Show, Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St, Denver, CO 80216 <a href="http://www.coliseumshow.com">www.coliseumshow.com</a>
Oct 9-11, Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Macomb Community College Expo, (313) 255-7774 <a href="http://www.michmin.org/show">www.michmin.org/show</a>	Oct 9-11, Big Sur Jade Festival Los Padres National Forest, 69325 Highway 1, Big Sur, CA 93920 <a href="https://bigsurjadefestival.com">https://bigsurjadefestival.com</a>	Oct 24-25, Akron Mineral Society Show, Emidio & Sons Banquet Center, 48 E Bath Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223, <a href="http://www.gemboree.org/">www.gemboree.org/</a>	Oct 31-01, O K Mineral and Gem Society Show , State Fair Park, 608 Kiamichi Place, Oklahoma City, 73107, <a href="http://omgs-minerals.org/">http://omgs-minerals.org/</a>
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			



				
		Member of		
<b>Next Annual Show</b> February 20-21, 2021 Pasadena Convention Center			 American Federation of Mineral Societies	 South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
CLGMS is on the Web: <a href="http://www.clgms.org">http://www.clgms.org</a> 2/20-21/2021				
<b>Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc</b>				
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 (Interim) Treasurer Program Director Board of Directors:  Newsletter Editor	John Caldyne Cynthia McGowan Trina Willoughby Morgan Davies VACANT Sandra Christiansen Jerry Newberry Jim Edwards Donna Nelson David Tjiok	832-282-4270 281-546-2662 713-815-0275 281-224-2444  Jim Hawkins Sara Tanner	
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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				