



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NUMBER 7



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 19, 2022

TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Helen Hall Library
100 W Walker St.
League City, Tx 77573

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MINUTES OF THE June CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Donna Nelson did a good job on the presentation about Wire Wrapping. She presented the history of wire wrapping that had been done for centuries and she also showed us her awesome creations.

Good information from Christina Rankin 5 minutes talk on Alexandrite and Pearl we will find out what is on the next one at the meeting.

Remember membership dues are needed if you have not paid.

We have four completed scholarships applications and a few more coming and winners will be picked during next board meeting and presented to in person at our July general meeting.

We will increase the amount and the number of scholarships since our show sales have increase.

The amount of money will increase for the library grants.

Show will be the second weekend in March.

Next month speakers; John McGowen Chain Maille and Christina Birthstone on the month Ruby.

MINUTES OF THE July CLGMS BOARD MEETING.

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting at Panera Bread on 7/5/2022.

The Board reviewed all the applicants for the 2022 Scholarships and picked the Award winners and they are:

Ms. Andie Price, Ms. Tahiry M. Andriamiharisoa, Ms. Raegan Duran

Mr. Evan Bowen, Mr. William Flynn Herrington, Mr. Jacob Copeland

Christina will email the applicants and congratulate them all and we will welcome them to our next General meeting, July 19th, 2022, to receive their awards.

Still searching for the vest – sent picture to Cyndi, maybe she can also help.

We still need to establish a “buddy” system for a few officers.

Our next show will be March 18-19, 2023.

Please check out our Facebook page: **Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society.**

Field Trips Announcement

Currently – no field trips are scheduled.

Several field trip sites are being considered in the fall.

Houston Club is planning for a field trip to West Texas. Details will follow as soon as they are available.

If you have a good location for our club field trip – please contact:
annabel.brownfield@gmail.com or call/text: 281-486-1866.

Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following program(s).

John McGowen will do a quick introduction to chain maille.

Please come and join us, this might be a good choice to start developing a good hobby.

July birthstone: The ruby, rare and precious

Posted by:
Editors of EarthSky



Image from Wikipedia.



Raw Tanzanian rubies embedded in a rock matrix. Image via Jarno.

July birthstone: A Ruby

The July birthstone, the ruby, is among the most highly prized of gemstones. Surprisingly, large rubies are harder to find than large diamonds, emeralds and sapphires. As a result, rubies' value increases with size more than any other gemstone.

Along with its close relative, the sapphire, the ruby is a form of the mineral corundum, which is normally drab and grey in color. Basically, the red gemstone corundum is called ruby. And all other gemstone corundum colors – orange, yellow, brown, green, blue, purple, violet, black, and colorless – are called sapphires.

The word ruby comes from the Latin “ruber,” meaning red. This name was once used to describe all red stones, including red spinel, red tourmaline, and red garnet.

Sources of the ruby

The Mogok valley of Upper Burma is famous as the source for the finest and rarest rubies of all, known as “pigeon's blood,” for the stones' intense red color. Another major source of rubies is Thailand, well-known for dark, brownish-red rubies. Both Thailand and Burma regard the ruby as their national stone.

Ruby lore

In much of Asia, people once believed that rubies contained the spark of life – “a deep drop of the heart's blood of Mother Earth,” according to ancient Eastern legends. Plus, ancient Asian stories say the ruby is self-luminous. They called it “glowing stone” or “lamp stone.” One story is that an emperor of China used a large ruby to light his chamber, where it glowed as bright as day. Brahmins – Hindu priests of the highest caste – believed that the homes of the gods were lit by enormous emeralds and rubies. Later, Greek legends told the story of a female stork, who repaid the kindness of Heraclea by bringing her a brilliant ruby – a ruby so bright that it illuminated Heraclea's room at night.

Ancient Hindus, Burmese, and Ceylonese regarded sapphires as unripe rubies. Thus, believing if they buried the sapphire in the ground, it would mature to a rich red ruby.

In the Middle Ages, rubies were thought to bring good health, as well as guard against wicked thoughts, amorous desires, and disputes. Rubies, along with other types of red stones, were said to cure bleeding. And it was believed that the ruby held the power to warn its owner of coming misfortunes, illness, or death, by turning darker in color. Also, it is said that Catherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII, predicted her downfall when seeing the darkening of her ruby.

Famous rubies?

Because of their rarity, there are very few famous large rubies. In his 13th-century books of his travels, Marco Polo relates the tale of a magnificent gemstone – believed to be a ruby nine inches long and as thick as a man’s arm – belonging to the king of Ceylon. Kublai Khan, the emperor of China, offered an entire city in exchange for the enormous stone, to which the king of Ceylon replied that he would never part with his prize for all the treasures of the world.

Many famous rubies in history turned out not to be rubies after all. For example, the famed Timur ruby – given to Queen Victoria in 1851 – was later found to be ruby spinel.



Faceted rubies. Photo via Shutterstock.

A few famous Rubies:

From The Natural Ruby Company

DeLong Star Ruby

Discovered in Burma in the 1930s, this oval-shaped cabochon star ruby weighs just over 100 carats, has a 6-rayed star effect, and was named after its owner, Edith Haggin DeLong. A collector of special gemstones and minerals, DeLong purchased the ruby in 1937 from famed collector Martin Leo Ehrmann who would travel the world searching for unique minerals.

Later, Edith Haggin DeLong donated the special orchid-red star ruby to the American Museum of Natural History where it was named for her in her memory. In 1964, the ruby was one of the items stolen in a scandalous heist by Jack Murphy and two accomplices. They notably also grabbed the Star of India and the Midnight Star, two more famed star-effect gemstones.

While other stolen gems were recovered in January of 1965, the DeLong Star Ruby was ransomed over the course of several months of negotiation. A wealthy Florida businessman, John D. MacArthur, paid the \$25,000 ransom and the ruby was recovered at an agreed upon drop-off site: a phone booth.



The DeLong star ruby has one of the most precise 6-ray stars in a 100 plus carat ruby.

Liberty Bell Ruby

Uncovered in the 1950s in East Africa, the Liberty Bell Ruby is a sculptural piece crafted from the world's largest mined ruby weighing four pounds and 8,500 carats. The massive ruby was sculpted into a miniature form of the Liberty Bell in 1976 to celebrate the United States Bicentennial. A Beverly Hills based jewelry company commissioned sculptor Alfonso de Vivanco to create the piece with an additional 50 diamonds set in it.

Shockingly, while secured at a jewelry store in Delaware in 2011 awaiting use by a foundation, the ruby was stolen. A reward was offered for any information about the culprits, and four men were arrested and indicted in 2014 for the heist. The Liberty Bell Ruby has never been recovered, and there is little hope by authorities to believe it will be seen again.



The exceptionally carved Liberty Bell ruby inlaid with diamonds.

Elizabeth Taylor's Rubies

No one else in Hollywood is as synonymous with exquisite jewelry as Elizabeth Taylor. Over her lifetime, she cultivated one of the most exceptional, expensive, rare, and beautiful personal jewelry collections not owned by a royal. Many of Taylor's jewelry pieces, including the ruby jewelry, were gifts from Richard Burton, the man who was married to Taylor twice consecutively.

The two were known for their torrid relationship, often marked by gifts of fabulous jewelry. It was remarked that Burton had told Taylor early in their relationship, "One day

I'm going to find you the most perfect ruby in the world," adding, "it's my favorite stone, red for Wales."

After years of searching, he found the right gemstone at Van Cleef & Arpels. During the acquisition and design process, Burton corresponded with Pierre Arpels in French, a language he spoke fluently. Finally, for Christmas in 1968, Burton surprised Taylor with the 8.24 carat Burmese ruby, diamond, and gold ring as a stocking stuffer. At the center of the ring is an oval, pigeon blood ruby of exceptional quality in a diamond surround. When the ruby ring sold for auction upon Taylor's death, it achieved a record price for a ruby, selling for over \$4 million, being recognized as one of the most perfect rubies in the world.

Before her marriage to Burton, Taylor had been married to Mike Todd who presented her with many fantastic pieces of jewelry including her famed diamond tiara. One stunning gift was a ruby and diamond Cartier suite of jewels featuring a big necklace, earrings, and a bracelet. When these pieces also came to the same auction, the necklace sold for \$3.77 million, the earrings for \$782,500, and the bracelet for \$842,500.

It is no wonder that with all of these incredible rubies, this fantastic gemstone also has a storied history in other parts of our cultural heritage.



Elizabeth Taylor's famed ruby and diamond ring and suite. Photo credit: Christie's.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
April: Central TX (Abilene, TX) Chihuahuan Desert (Alpine, TX)	May: Waco (Waco, TX) *Tyler Gem & Mineral Ft. Worth (Ft Worth, TX).	June: Arlington (Arlington, TX)	July: None.
Aug: Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge, LA) Ark-La-Tex (Bossier City, LA) Pine Country (Jasper, TX)	Sept: Lubbock (Lubbock, TX)	Oct: Tri-City (Temple, TX) G&MS of LA (New Orleans, LA) Austin (Austin, TX) 10/22-24/21 Cowtown-CERA (Ft Worth, TX)	Nov Golden Spread (Amarillo, TX) Paleontological Society(Austin, TX) Midland (Midland, TX) Houston (Houston, TX) Dallas (Dallas, TX)
Dec: DeRidder (Leeville, LA)			
STONEY STATEMENTS Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc PO BOX 891533 Houston, Texas 77289			

Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the Month

7:00 P.M.

League City Library

100 W Walker St, League City, TX 77573



Member of

Next Annual Show

March 18-19, 2023

Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:

<http://www.clgms.org>FACEBOOK: CLEAR LAKE GEM AND
MINERAL SOCIETY.American
Federation of
Mineral SocietiesSouth 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.

2022 OFFICERS:	President	Cynthia McGowan	281-546-2662
	Vice President	David Tjiok	832-423-4802
	Secretary	Christina Rankin	281-723-5408
	Treasurer	Morgan Davies	281-224-2444
	Program Director	VACANT	
	Board of Directors:	Sandra Christiansen	John Caldyne
		Jim Edwards	Jim Hawkins
	Newsletter Editor	Donna Nelson	
		David Tjiok	

Annual Show 2023	Sandra Christiansen	
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Community Benefits.....	Charlie Timme	WWW System Admin..Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....James Brittenham
Publicity.....	Annabel Brownfield	Education/Field Trips.....Annabel Brownfield/
Facebook.....	Cynthia McGowan	James Brittenham

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2022: Adult \$15:00, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289