



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NUMBER 7



**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024

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

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| June Meeting                                                    | 1   | <p><b><u>July MONTHLY MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The June meeting was canceled due to a possible Tropical Storm. Our June speaker, Steve Blyskal, has been kind enough to reschedule the presentation for July. He will be presenting the Agate Rock Hunts in Alpine, Tx.</p> <p>The Club is also going to present the 2024 Scholarship winners.</p> <p>Please come and join us for a good educational event.</p> <p><a href="http://www.clgms.org/">http://www.clgms.org/</a></p> |
| Board/General Meeting Minutes<br>Upcoming events<br>Field Trips | 2-3 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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MINUTES OF THE June CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

There was no June General meeting due to a possible tropical storm. We would like all members and guests to be safe by not driving in the bad weather.

MINUTES OF THE July CLGMS BOARD MEETING.

Mike needs a picture of our Grand Prize for our next year show.

Lapel pins - we are in the planning of getting them made.

We only have one of our scholarship finalists who are coming to accept their check during our July meeting.

David will handle our refreshments for the July meeting.

Christina will start being the club's Program Coordinator we wish her best of luck.

The club is looking for a new newsletter editor – let us know if anyone is willing to this.

Our board meetings will be moving to Tuesday again in September.

We will start offering Zoom meetings to paid club members and a QR code on our homepage. Members will be able to join on our homepage soon.

We will discuss a three day show and two shows per year during our meeting.

Fall Picnic later in the year.

Arkansas Fieldtrip to Avante Mining to dig up Quartz in October. We need at least six members to go, and it will be around \$200 for the day in their private mining areas.

Show admission pricing for the next year's show might change.

Field Trips Announcement

**CANCELED** – The Johnson's Rock shop field trip to Livingston is canceled. Currently the rock shop does not have power and water due to Hurricane Beryl. Will be rescheduled for future date.

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 programs.**



Steve Blyskal, head of the Mineral Section of HGMS and a long-time collector, will give a presentation at our next meeting in June. His topic will be the new agate collecting locality in West Texas, the Kokernot o6 Ranch, which has been open for agate rock hunts since 2021. Steve will give us a presentation on the regional and local geology of the Davis Mountains and specifically on the Kokernot o6 Ranch, a 105,000-acre spread that covers parts of two counties in the Alpine/Fort Davis area. Steve has just returned from his 6th weekend hunting agates on the ranch and he and his wife Sigrid have visited many of the documented localities where various types of agate are found. He will bring with him 4 flats of his polished agate collection from the ranch, as well as slabs and nodules and seam agate pieces from their finds, some of which will be for sale.

You may recognize Steve and his wife Sigrid from our annual Gem Show at the Pasadena Convention Center as they are one of our annual vendors. Truscon Minerals specializes in providing mineral specimens to collectors from beginning to intermediate levels. They carry specimens from thumbnail to large cabinet size. They are known for having a great variety of affordable specimens from localities all over the world. In addition, they carry a good selection of quartz minerals and geodes from many localities. They have been in business for 20 years and do local shows in the Houston Metropolitan Area.

Steve Blyskal has been collecting minerals as a hobby for over 50 years. He has been a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society since 1977 and currently holds the positions of Mineral Section Chairman, School Collections Chairman and Show Dealer Chairman. He holds two degrees in geology and worked in the petroleum industry for over 30 years. He started Truscon Minerals in 2000 as an online mineral business and recently shifted focus to doing local shows in the Houston area.

Truscon Minerals can be reached at: Facebook: - <https://www.facebook.com/Truscon.Minerals.48/>

Instagram: [trusconminerals](https://www.instagram.com/trusconminerals) Website: [www.trusconminerals.com](http://www.trusconminerals.com)

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

**Our next show will be February 22-23, 2025.**

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## **July birthstone: The ruby, rare and precious**

Posted by Editors of EarthSky

### **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.

## Charoite

A purple mineral, gem material and ornamental stone

Article by: Hobart M. King, PhD, RPG

### What is Charoite?

Charoite is the name of a purple to violet silicate mineral with a striking appearance. Its vibrant purple color grabs a person's attention. Then, upon closer examination, the viewer discovers interesting banding, swirls, scales, or radial and parallel habits.

Many rocks that contain abundant charoite will accept a beautiful polish. As a result, high-quality pieces of charoite can be cut into spectacular purple cabochons, or used as an ornamental stone to veneer a delightful jewelry box. A pearly luster or chatoyance often increases the beauty of this gem.

Charoite is a rare mineral, found in commercial quantities only in a few small and closely spaced deposits in the Sakha Republic of eastern Russia. It received its name from the Chara River, which drains that geographic area.

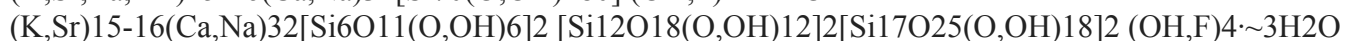
### Geologic Occurrence

The charoitite of the Sirenevsky Kamen ("purple stone") deposit of eastern Siberia is thought to have formed when an alkali syenite intrusion encountered a dolomite containing a significant amount of terrigenous clastic sediment. The result was a complex geochemical environment of hydrothermal metasomatism.

Mineral-rich fluids permeated the dolomite and surrounding rocks, forming charoite and a variety of other rare minerals with complex chemical compositions. The charoite in these rocks is impure and intimately mixed with microscopic particles of other rare minerals (see accompanying photomicrograph).

### Charoite's Chemical Composition

Charoite is a complex silicate mineral. Published chemical compositions are in disagreement. We checked numerous references, and each one presented a different composition. The compositions reported below are from the Glossary of Geology, Mineralogical Magazine [4], and Mindat.org.



Determining a composition for this mineral might be difficult for two reasons: 1) well-formed crystals and specimens of pure charoite have not been found; and, 2) charoite is always intimately associated with and intergrown with numerous other minerals.

### Charoitite

Charoite is only known from rocks that are either charoite-rich or charoite-dominated. The name used for these rocks is "charoitite". [5] Most people in the gem and lapidary trades simply refer to them as "charoite" and may not suspect that they are a rock which contains a variety of rare minerals.

Charoitite is a contact metamorphic rock that usually contains a variety of alkaline calcium silicate accessory minerals. These can include miserite, benstonite, canasite, tinaksite, pectolite, and fedorite. These are often associated with textural varieties of charoite and include: massive (miserite), parallel fibers (benstonite), and radially fibrous (canasite and tinaksite).

### Uses of Charoite

Rocks containing abundant charoite with a pleasing color and interesting pattern are often cut into gems or used as an ornamental stone. Charoite cabochons, beads, tumbled stones and other items made of high-quality material can sell for high prices. Charoite is also used to make small sculptures and small utilitarian items that include vases, spheres, goblets, desk sets, small boxes, and decorative tiles.

High-quality charoite rough and items made from charoite are not abundant in the marketplace because the material is rare, costly, not regularly mined, and much of what is produced is consumed in Russia.



**Charoitite Rough:** A sawn piece of rock containing abundant charoite along with other minerals. These charoite-dominated rocks are known as charoitite. This specimen shows the typical color and interesting pattern of gem-grade material. It would be suitable for cutting cabochons and possibly for use in making a small sculpture. Image copyright iStockphoto / Gala\_Kan.



**Polished Charoitite:** A tumble-polished specimen of charoite exhibiting a wavy banded structure. This is a gem-grade piece that could be used to make an attractive pendant or other item. Image copyright iStockphoto / KrimKate.



**Charoite Cabochons:** Two cabochons of charoite. The oval cab measures 24 mm x 43 mm, and the teardrop-shaped cab measures 34 mm x 41 mm.



| SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 17-18 – Arlington G&amp;MS</b><br><b>Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051;</b><br><a href="https://www.therockninja.com/event-details/arlington-gem-mineral-show">https://www.therockninja.com/event-details/arlington-gem-mineral-show</a> | <b>Sarasota Fall Gem Show</b><br><b>8/02/2024 - 8/04/2024</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b><br><b>Sarasota Municipal Auditorium</b><br><b>901 N Tamiami Tr</b><br><b>Sarasota, FL 34236</b><br><a href="https://hrgemshows.com/">https://hrgemshows.com/</a>                          | <b>St Petersburg Gem Show</b><br><b>8/30/2024 - 9/01/2024</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 5:00 PM</b><br><b>The Coliseum Ballroom</b><br><b>535 4th Ave N</b><br><b>St Petersburg, FL 33701</b><br><a href="https://hrgemshows.com/">https://hrgemshows.com/</a> | <b>Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show</b><br><b>9/06/2024 - 9/14/2024</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 6:00 PM</b><br><b>Crowne Plaza DIA</b><br><b>15500 E 40th Ave</b><br><b>Denver, CO 80239</b><br><a href="http://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com">http://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com</a> |
| <b>Houston Gem, Mineral, Jewelry &amp; Fossil Show</b><br><b>December 10-12, 2024</b><br><b>Humble Civic Center</b><br><a href="http://www.hgms.org">http://www.hgms.org</a>                                                                                                    | <b>51st Annual Gem &amp; Mineral Show. – Hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana.</b><br><b>December 21- 23, 2024</b><br><b>Alario Center</b><br><b>2000 Segnette Blvd.</b><br><b>Westwego,</b><br><b>LA 70094.</b><br><a href="http://www.gmsola.org">www.gmsola.org</a> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>STONEY STATEMENTS</b><br>Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc<br><br>PO BOX 891533<br>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****February 22-23, 2025**

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.

|                |                     |                     |              |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2024 OFFICERS: | President           | Cynthia McGowan     | 281-546-2662 |
|                | Vice President      | David Tjiok         | 832-423-4802 |
|                | Secretary           | Christina Rankin    | 281-723-5408 |
|                | Treasurer           | Monica Duran        | 281-705-7875 |
|                | Program Director    | Christina Rankin    |              |
|                | Board of Directors: | Sandra Christiansen | Jim Hawkins  |
|                |                     | Jeff Mills          | John Caldyne |
|                |                     | Donna Nelson        |              |
|                | Newsletter Editor   | David Tjiok         |              |

|                            |                     |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Show 2024 .....     | Sandra Christiansen | Membership.....            | Mike Flannigan     |
| Constitution & Bylaws..... | Jim Hawkins         | WWW System Admin..         | Mike Flannigan     |
| Community Benefits.....    | Charlie Timme       | Refreshments.....          | Lori Westerman     |
| Historian.....             | David Tjiok         | Education/Field Trips..... | Annabel Brownfield |
| Publicity.....             | Annabel Brownfield  |                            | Casey Renner       |
| Facebook.....              | Cynthia McGowan     |                            |                    |

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2024: Adult \$15:00, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289