



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 June 2009 NUMBER 6

Father's Day



NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2009
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS


The PROGRAM FOR June...

The program will be "Volcano – Nature's Inferno". A National Geographic film. Travel around the world for a firsthand look at volcanoes - perhaps the most dazzling but destructive natural force on earth.



SHOW and TELL

Share a report of our latest field trip or your own special dig. Bring in your prize specimens and educate us. Bring us your rockhounding finds and let us see how you did.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Stoney Statements Spotlight	Editorial
May Minutes	2	<p>Reposted at request</p> <p>2009 CLGMS Scholarships Award</p> <p>By Al Pennington, Scholarship Chairman</p> <p>This year's CLGMS Scholarships for the Earth Sciences are now open. We are looking for two selected students for the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Scholarships of \$1000 each. Criteria and entry conditions are specified on our web site.</p> <p>The CLGMS is continuously giving back to the local community and this is one of the ways we can help the most. As those of us in all clubs know, the young are the future and it is important to help those interested in pursuing a career in the earth sciences.</p>
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 <p>Weather is warming and its time to take a Club Officer to Lunch! *Laughs* Pictured are Al Pennington, Editor and Loyce Pennington, Treasurer</p>		

"Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you. Put them on the defensive. And don't ever apologize for anything." Harry S Truman

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, May 18, 2009

President Ed Tindell called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was then opened as a Corporate Meeting. Dick Rathjen moved that the CLGMS Officers be made Officers of the Corporation. Al Pennington seconded the motion and it was passed by all attending voting affirmative. There were no changes or corrections to the April Meeting Minutes as published in the May Stoney Statements. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as presented.

President Ed Tindell reviewed committee reports:

Programs – Upcoming programs were discussed.

Historian – David Tjiok agreed to serve as Historian.

Librarian – Discussed getting approval for a cabinet in the Clear Lake Park Building.

Community Benefits – Nancy Dugger agreed to begin serving in October,

Education – Need a chairperson to schedule members to make five minute presentations at the meetings.

Equipment – Need a lapidary expert to server as chairperson.

Membership – Chairperson was absent.

Scholarships – Scholarships are open for applications.

Unfinished Business: Organization of storage locker was discussed. President Ed Tindell to notify Al Pennington of the number of storage boxes needed.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Door prizes were presented during the break and refreshments were served.

The program was presented by President Ed Tindell on a past club field trip to Alpine, Texas. Many photos of the area were displayed. Ed discussed the site of an old mercury mine where cinnabar was found, in addition to green calcite and six or seven other minerals. He discussed the findings at East Needle Peak and the Ritchie Ranch where agate, jasper and geodes can be found. He presented photos of his recent trip to New Mexico which included the first guided steering rocket which was made in the 1930's. He also visited Roswell, New Mexico and shared information regarding the artifacts of the UFO Museum and Research Center and the history they present. He also displayed photos of Pecos diamonds. He had photos of the Wilson Clay Pit near Brownwood, Texas, in addition to the largest blue topaz located in Mason, Texas, on Lindsay Ranch.

The meeting was adjourned by President Ed Tindell.



Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams, Secretary

ANIMALS AND MAGNIFICENT MAGNETITE

MINERALS IN OUR LIVES

No other mineral can attract a steel pin to their surface, help a compass determine directions, or induce a steelmaker to create parts for an automobile. Magnetite does all such things.

In addition to those things that magnetite does for humans, it also may be a critical mineral in the lives of some animals. Consider, for example, the role magnetite may play in the lives of migratory birds and butterflies.

Birds have an exceptionally large eye in relation to the rest of their bodies. Within this eye is an unusual, large structure called a pecten gland. How does this organ function and how is it related to magnetite? Recently scientists have discovered that migrant birds have a larger, more elaborate pecten gland than non-migrants. They still speculate why.

One group of scientists believes that this organ, that we now know contains flakes of magnetite, may assist migratory birds in their travels. After all, the earth itself is a giant magnet, with magnetic force lines occurring from each pole. Is it too much to assume that birds, with the assistance of magnetite, use these force lines to find their way?

Recently, too, it has been discovered that our only migratory butterfly, the monarch, has minute particles of magnetite within its antennae. The question is why. Again, some scientists speculate that these particles in some way help these migrants find their way 2000 miles to the central mountains of Mexico where they over winter.

Magnetite, this marvelous mineral, may play a much larger role than just helping humans. Perhaps it also assists in animal survival.

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- Ackery, P.R. and R.I. Vance-Write. 1984. Milkweed Butterflies: Their Cladistics and Biology. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.
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All of these articles have been researched and written by Dr. Hal Mahan, President of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society. He can be reached at halmahan@bellsouth.net and welcomes comments.

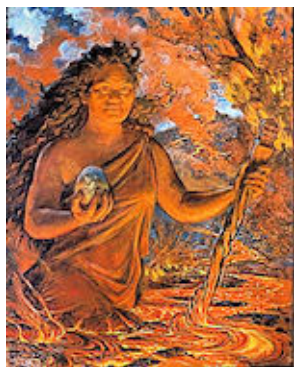
Volcanic Activity Report 27 May-2 June 2009

New Activity/Unrest: | Karangetang [Api Siau], Siau I | Makian, Halmahera | Slamet, Central Java (Indonesia)

Ongoing Activity: | Bagana, Bougainville | Batu Tara, Komba Island (Indonesia) | Chaitén, Southern Chile | Dukono, Halmahera | Etna, Sicily (Italy) | Kilauea, Hawaii (USA) | Llaima, Central Chile | Nevado del Huila, Colombia | Popocatepetl, México | Rabaul, New Britain | Redoubt, Southwestern Alaska | Sakura-jima, Kyushu | Shiveluch, Central Kamchatka (Russia) | Soufrière Hills, Montserrat | Tungurahua, Ecuador | Ubinas, Perú

How many active volcanoes are there in the world?

The answer to this common question depends upon use of the word "active." At least 20 volcanoes will probably be erupting as you read these words (Italy's Stromboli, for example, has been erupting for more than a thousand years); roughly 60 erupted each year through the 1990s; 154 in the full decade 1990-1999; about 550 have had historically documented eruptions; about 1300 (and perhaps more than 1500) have erupted in the Holocene (past 10,000 years); and some estimates of young seafloor volcanoes exceed a million. Because dormant intervals between major eruptions at a single volcano may last hundreds to thousands of years, dwarfing the relatively short historical record in many regions, it is misleading to restrict usage of "active volcano" to recorded human memories: we prefer to add another identifying word (e.g. "historically active" or "Holocene volcano").



The definition of "volcano" is as important in answering the number question as the definition of "active." Usage has varied widely, with "volcano" applied to individual vents, measured in meters, through volcanic edifices measured in tens of kilometers, to volcanic fields measured in hundreds of kilometers. We have tended toward the broader definition in our compilations, allowing the record of a single large plumbing system to be viewed as a whole, but this approach often requires careful work in field and laboratory to establish the integrity of a group's common magmatic link. The problem is particularly difficult in Iceland, where eruptions separated by many tens of kilometers along a single rift may share the same magmatic system. A "volcanic field," such as Mexico's Michoacán-Guanajuato field (comprising nearly 1,400 cinder cones, maars, and shield volcanoes derived from a single magmatic system, dotting a 200 x 250 km area) may be counted the same as a single volcanic edifice. Perhaps the most honest answer to the number question is that we do not really have an accurate count of the world's volcanoes, but that there are at least a thousand identified magma systems--on land alone--likely to erupt in the future.

From <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/> and <http://www.volcano.si.edu/reports/usgs/>

A June HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jones, Ray	06/01
Schuler, Chuck	06/06
Schuler, Vicki	06/07
Lagerwall, Dean	06/18
Tjiok, David	06/26
Robinett, Bettie	06/27

Moonstone: Gives inspiration and helps obtain love and romance. Also claimed to promote long life, happiness and loyalty towards the wearer.

June Anniversary includes:

Ruth and Mulloy King	6/1
Sharon Choens	6/26
Vicki and Chuck Schuler	6/26

"Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair." George Burns

GOODIE GETTERS...For June

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**Growth Habits of Single Crystals**

Barrel-Shaped: Self descriptive term applied to such crystals as vanadinite and mimetite.

Bladed: This describes the appearance of crystals that are almost equal dimension in all directions and look like children' toy blocks. Some of the feldspars, galena and fluorite can be so described.

Columnar: These crystals are thick and fairly elongated, shaped in miniature like the columns of a building. Examples include beryl, quartz and tourmaline. Sometimes the word prismatic is used to describe the same crystals, because the dominant faces on columnar crystals are usually called prisms.

Capillary: From a Latin word meaning hair, capillary is often used interchangeable with filiform, also from Latin, meaning threadshaped. The terms describe minerals such as silver, which is sometimes found as thin wires, or millerite, which is found in long, very thin, stiff wires.

Pyramidal: This expression is used when the ends, or even the entire crystal, look vaguely like three-, four-, or six-sided pyramids. Examples include wulfenite and anatase.

Stubby: Such crystals are also sometimes described as stout or equant. All these terms try to draw an image of crystals that are neither flattened nor elongate, but are nearly the same dimensions in all directions. Tourmaline, apatite and beryl can be columnar or prismatic, but they may also be of shorter lengths and stubby.

Tabular: This means that the crystal growth has been flat, with only minor thickness. Wulfenite is often tabular. Torbernte is almost always tabular.

From STAR-O-LITE 6/09 via Michigan Gem News date unknown via Cutting Remarks, 6/09

HALITE

Halite is sodium chloride. It is in the Halide group of minerals. These are soft minerals. Most of them are water soluble (dissolve in water) and form cubes. You know Halite by another name: table SALT.

Physical description:

Hardness: 2.5. This means halite is softer than calcite and harder than talc. It should be about the same as gypsum.

Color: Colorless, white, sometimes reddish or blue.

Specific gravity: 2.1-2.6. Since the average specific gravity is 2.5-5, a piece of halite will seem lighter than a piece of quartz about the same size.

Crystal form: Cubic, sometimes massive. Often the crystals will have hopper-shaped sides.

Luster: Glassy.

Cleavage: perfect cubic. This means that if you hit a crystal of halite, it will break into smaller perfect cubes. Look at table salt with a magnifying glass! From STAR-O-LITE 6/09

The Many Colors of Rouge

Black rouge is for gold, silver, and German silver. Gives a high polish.

Green rouge is for platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and hard materials.

Red rouge is for gold, silver, and soft metals and materials.

White rouge is for the harder metals such as platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and some of the harder material.

Yellow rouge is for roughing in, as it cuts faster. It usually has a base of beeswax to hold the polish in. It is for hard materials such as chrome and stainless steel.

[Homer's Corner, date unk., via RockCollector, June 2009]

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell

Field Trips in Big Bend

Field Trip Locations:

Saturday - The Ritchie Ranch is just Southeast of Alpine. The terrain is gentle hills and the roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. You can find many patterns & colors of agate, jasper, and quartz crystals. Much of the agate and jasper is suitable for jewelry. The cost is \$5 per person, and 75¢ per lb. for collectible rocks. This is a great ranch for both beginners and advanced collectors. It's also very "kid friendly".

Sunday - East Needle Peak is 95 miles South of Alpine in very rough country. A 4wd vehicle is recommended, and a high-clearance vehicle is absolutely required. This is a specimen hunter's paradise! You can find fossil shells, shark teeth, agate, petrified wood, jasper, chalcedony, flint, quartz crystals, calcite, aragonite, and selenite. Pseudomorphs of agate after aragonite and saginite have also been found, including the "pom-pom" agate for which the area is famous. The cost is \$35 per person per day.



Thanks,
Ed Tindell
2009 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

12th Annual Missouri Mines Rock

Swap will be held on June 12-14th, 2009.

From 9AM - 6PM Friday & Saturday and 9AM-4PM Sunday. Held at the Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Park Hills, MO. South side of Highway 32, 1.5 miles west of US Highway 67. Swap, sell, buy rocks, minerals, fossils, Rock jewelry and rock crafts. Fun for the entire family.

Visit the State Historic Site and Mining-Mineral Museum FREE!

Auctions of rocks, Minerals and Rock Jewelry, to benefit Museum. We have over 80 vendors present. This is probably one of the largest Rock & Mineral shows in Missouri! There are near by Motels and campgrounds. So come and enjoy the fun! Free admission and Free Parking as always! For more information: Missouri Mines State Historic Site P.O. Box 492, Park Hills Missouri 63601 or call Missouri Mines SHS 573-431-6226, Lloyd & Betty Marler at 573-431-2951, Mark & Boneta Hensley 573-756-7403 or Willis Smith at 314-521-8896.

Sponsored by the Mineral Area Gem And Mineral Society, Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs and the Department of Natural Resources.



When small insignificant pits are present in your nearly finished cab, and you go to the final polish, these insignificant pits will collect the polishing compound and show up like a sore thumb. Of

course we don't want our material to have pits in the first place, but unfortunately we are not in a perfect world.

Prior to starting the final polish take a little super glue and coat the area of the small pits. After allowing the super glue to cure, a very light sanding will remove the excess super glue, which sands quite nicely.

To complete the stone, go to your final polish. The pits, being filled with the clear super glue, will no longer trap the polishing compound. This tip came to me from Bill Meyers.

~Les Connally, via the Rock Prattle 2/09, Rock-n-Rose 2/09

Are You Sure It's Jade?

- If a chip is knocked off the freshly broken surface should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.
- If you can scratch it with a knifepoint, it isn't jade.
- It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.
- Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.
- If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look



Still Think its Jade?

Lapidaries and jewelers should constantly attempt to call gemstones and rough materials by their correct names. The term jade is applied to many non jade stones, such as:



- **Korean Jade** is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine;
- **Transvaal Jade** is a massive variety of green, grossular garnet;
- "**Amazon jade**" and "**Colorado Jade**" is really Amazonite (green feldspar)
- **American Jade** is a rock - a mixture of idocrase and grossular called Californite (green variety of idocrase)
- **Australian Jade** is chrysoprase; Colorado jade is green microcline;
- **Jasper Jade** is green jasper;
- **Flukien, Manchurian and Honan Jades** are all soapstone;
- **Mexican Jade** is green-dyed marble or calcite;
- **Oregon Jade** is dark green jasper;
- **Silver Peak Jade** is malachite.
- **Indian jade** is really aventurine.

It would be clearer to beginners if jade were called jade, malachite called malachite, aventurine called aventurine. From The RockCollector 6/09 via Carmel Valley Prospector via Calgary Lapidary Journal, June 2009

Where Jade is Found

Jadeite is from Myanmar, Japan, and USA (Alaska and California).

Nephrite Jade is primarily found in British Columbia, Canada. There are smaller mines in China and the US (Wyoming) but not of the same quality.

“Lift Carefully” - Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chair

One thing that we rockhounds do a whole bunch - pick up rocks - little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks - all are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often.

The classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately. Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy tools and rocks into a vehicle - or take them out. - often by swinging things. And - the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn - AND PRACTICE - the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually - light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves. To lift and move something, several steps should be followed. We’ll pretend we’re picking up a rock, but the rules are the same for ANYTHING we pick up - even our dirty socks.

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).
2. Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.
3. SLOWLY lift the rock by straightening up your knees pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. Do NOT twist sideways.
4. Once standing, DO NOT TWIST your back. To move the rock sideways, turn with your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.
5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you used to lift the rock. Remember – KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!!
6. If the rock must go into a trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in - a sure way to get a bad back!
7. You aren’t SUPERMAN OR WOMAN! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way! Get help. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. Use your ingenuity!

From the RockCollector 6/09 via April, 1998 AFMS Newsletter via Calgary Lapidary Journal, June 2009

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
AUGUST 08-09 BATON ROUGE, LA BATON ROUGE G & M S Fraternal Order of Police	AUGUST 15-16 BOSSIER CITY, LA ARK-LA-TEX G & M S Bossier City Civic Center	AUGUST 22-23 JASPER, TX PINE COUNTRY G & M S VFW Hall,	SEPTEMBER 05-06 ARLINGTON, TX ARLINGTON G & M S Arlington Con. Center
SEPTEMBER 26-27 DENISON, TX TEXOMA ROCKHOUNDS Denison Senior Center	OCTOBER 10-11 - SCFMS TEMPLE, TX TRI-CITY G & M S Mayborn Civic Center 3303 N. 3rd. Street	OCTOBER 16-18 VICTORIA, TX VICTORIA G & M S Community Center	OCTOBER 23-25 AUSTIN, TX AUSTIN GEM & M S Palmer Events Center

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.
 June 15, 2009, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 27 & 28, 2010
 Pasadena Convention Center



CLGMS is on the Web: (new location)
<http://www.clgms.org>

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

2009 OFFICERS:	President	Ed Tindell	281-930-0698
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	Lesley Gary
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Troy Nordyke
		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2010.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Open	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2009: Adult \$10:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$2.50 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

Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2009 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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