



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 36 JUNE 2010 NUMBER 06

## Father's Day




**NEXT MEETING:** June 21, 2010  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING  
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE  
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

### The PROGRAM FOR June...

The program will be given by "Dean Eppler". Field geology is the principal source of geologic information on Earth, and will continue to be so as we move out into the Solar System. However, the actual conduct of field geology is something that is poorly understood outside the geologic community, and has led to many misconceptions as to how this can be done. This presentation is aimed at dispelling the myths surrounding this most basic of geologic skills, and will talk about how we can adapt field geology on Earth to activities on the terrestrial planets."

### 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>It is Summer time and time for a Rock Vacation - Good Hunting! Hey there is a road cut!</p>	<p>I have had several inputs from members for presentations on jewelry making and faceting. Now I need some volunteers for assembling a presentation for future club meetings. Volunteers? See Trina!</p> <p>Although it is hot here in Texas, there are still some places we can take field trips soon. Ed Tindell is assembling current and fall locations for trips so get in your inputs. Also, we can look forward to another good rock swap in October. See page 5 for more details</p>
Priceless advice: Know the value before you sell gold	3		
2010 CLGMS Scholarships Award	3		
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4		
Lapidary Corner HINTS & TIPS...	4		
FIELD TRIPS The Unsolved Mystery of Blue Amber	5		
TALE OF SHANNON COUNTY COPPER MINE	6		
BOILING WATER MAKES ROCKS/ Show Dates	7		

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin

## Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral

**May 17, 2010**

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no changes to the April Meeting Minutes as published in the May Stoney Statements. The Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month.

### **Committee Reports:**

Historian – Nothing to report.

Librarian – The library is in the storage locker for approximately one month. Ed Tindell to purchase storage bins soon.

Community Service – The schools have received the books we donated with the CLGMS bookplates. The rocks, minerals and fossils donated to the schools will be distributed in October.

Education – Ed Tindell volunteered as chairperson.

Publicity – Anna Williams will contact the newspapers to add our meeting to their calendar of events.

Membership – We have 64 members.

Show Committee – Assessments on power costs are being made. CLGMS has the lowest table cost of any of the other shows in the area. Trina Willoughby reported that she is looking into the scout requirements for earning badges at the show. Chuck Schuler makes all shows because he is a dealer. He reports there is a real push to make visiting another show a field trip. Al Pennington mentioned Fossilmania, presented by the Dallas Paleontological Society and the Paleontological Society of Austin in Glen Rose, TX. Chuck Schuler also discussed the display cases at the show and the need to have a club display case. Ed Tindell mentioned acquiring the rules and showing the display at a meeting.

We welcomed visitor, Lynn McDonald.

Field Trip Chairperson Ed Tindell discussed possible upcoming field trips.

There was a five minute break prior to the program and refreshments were served.

### **Program – Living Rock Video**

Presented by Al Pennington

Planet Earth is a Living Planet. Rocks live in geological time spanning billions of years. The video had gorgeous pictures of rocks, mountains and waterfalls. The Earth's crust provides minerals for plants and our water supply. All living matter depends on the Earth's crust. The surface was once molten rock. The continental crust is 35 miles thick and 9 miles thick under the ocean. The Earth is made up of the crust, mantle and core. The shell of an egg is like the crust, the mantle is like the white and the core is like the yolk. The crust provides all we need for life and to make life livable. Large drills drilling 30,000 to 40,000 feet have been used to analyze rock. The oceans are young, while the continents are 5 billion years old. Bear Tooth Mountain in Montana has ancient rocks made of granite that is 4 billion years of age. The oldest rocks on Earth are 4.5 billion years of age. The Earth is changing as the plates move due to heat. The heat rises up from the core causing the mantle to circulate. A rift is the crust spreading apart such as volcanic activity which moves molten materials up. Yellowstone National Park is the most famous for bizarre geysers and magma driven features. Lava will contain rock from the mantle which is a look at the bottom side of the Earth's crust. Moho is the boundary between the crust and the mantle. Underplating is when the magma of the moho becomes part of the crust.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Annabell Williams  
Secretary

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## Priceless advice: Know the value before you sell gold

By John Schneider

### Do the math Ready?

Ok, the **first thing** you'll need to know is the purity of your gold. If for example, your ring is stamped "10k" it's .417 pure, 14k gold is .585 pure, 18k gold is .750 pure; 24k gold is pure gold. This applies to white and yellow gold. If your item is not stamped, it can be tested by any reputable gold dealer.

The **second thing** you'll need to know is the "spot," or current price of gold, which is available 24/7 on the internet (at [www.coininfo.com](http://www.coininfo.com) for example).

The **third thing** you'll need to know is the weight of your jewelry in grams. Again, if you don't have a scale, any reputable dealer will weigh your item for you.

### Square Deal

Robert Sweet, owner of Premier Coins and Collectibles offered this example: "Let's say the gold spot is \$1,150 per (troy) ounce. There are 31.1 grams in an ounce. Simply divide the spot price, \$1,150 by 31.1 to get the gram value, which in this example is \$36.98." Then multiply the gram value by the gold purity to get melt value. For 10k gold, it's 36.98 times .417 which equals \$15.42, which is the per gram value."

Of course, you won't get the whole shot. The buyers want to cover their expenses and make a profit. But Sweet believes you should get something approaching 80% of the melt value, rather than the 40% some buyers pay. The RockPile APRIL, 2010 Via The Living Stones, March, 2010 Reported in the Lansing State Journal, January 7, 2010

### 2010 CLGMS Scholarships Award

By Al Pennington, Scholarship Chairman

This year's CLGMS Scholarships for the Earth Sciences have been awarded to two SJAC students. Randy Hoggard and Shameka Wolford will be awarded for the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Scholarships of \$1000 each at the June General Meeting. Entrants were submitted by Sharon Choens of SJAC Central.

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.

### Carnelian



A blood-red to reddish-orange translucent variety of chalcedony, carnelian is also occasionally called cornelian. Its coloration is due to the presence of iron oxide, and it can be uniformly colored or banded. Strongly banded material is known as carnelian agate. Scotland, Brazil and Washington State are among the localities that produce finer-quality carnelian. Freshly mined carnelian, especially Indian material, is often placed in the sun to change brown tints to red. Carnelian was once

thought to still the blood and calm the temper. Conversely, it was said to give the owner courage in battle, and help timid speakers to be eloquent. India produces the best examples of carnelian. *Via Cedar Valley Gems, February 2010.*

**An 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)**HINTS & TIPS...**

**ON USING BELL CAPS** by Honer C. Whiblock You should rough or grind where the bell caps will fit. Be sure to use a good cleanser (not rubbing alcohol). It is better to use denatured alcohol. If you pick up some children's play clay from your local store, you can successfully use it with the bell caps. Push your stone into the clay to hold it straight. Put the glue or epoxy on top of the stone and put the bell cap on it. That way it is easy to clean off and will not be so messy. By roughing the stone with emery cloth you will be able to make the epoxy hold a lot better. Be sure not to touch it with your fingers as they leave a film of fine oil on the material **GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 2/99**

**from the Roadrunner March 2003 Pegmatite 11/78, via Rockytier 2/03**

**SHOP HINT:** Try citric acid as a pickle instead of Sparex. Because citric acid is carbon-based instead of sulfate-based, the residues left on material being re-melted for casting are less troublesome. Sulfate residues may form sulfur dioxide, which is soluble in the re-melted metal and thus creates porosity, while the carbon residues from the citric acid bum off without causing porosity. Use several cups of citric acid powder to a crock-pot full of water. It is used hot. Obtain citric acid through bakery and food supply companies. By Phil Poirier, From Shawnee Slate. 10/98.

**SHOP HINT:** To make rock saws remain friction free, clean the saw blade perfectly clean and free from all oil and residue and then spray with PAM. It also works well on guides for the vise. From , via **Golden Spike News, 7/00**

**PROTECT YOURSELF**

We are learning that deafness can be attributed to the noise of our lapidary equipment, As we use facemasks and goggles to protect our lungs and eyes from dust, so we should use ear plugs to protect our ears from the noise of our grinders and saws. Ed. Note: We also need be aware of the dangers of buffing machines used in our jewelry making. If there is no fan directly connected to the buffer, be certain that the area is well ventilated and that you wear a face mask. Protect your eyes too from flying debris from the buffer and from that occasional "slip" and the metal being polished flies off.

Be certain to wash your hands after using buffers, grinders and polishers so that bits of the abrasive don't get into your eyes or mouth. Remember...it's always better to err on the side of caution. from The Glacier Drifter 8/01 via The Roamin' Rams 3/97 via GEM CUTTERS NEWS 5/01

**Is "Permanently Bonded" Really Forever?** By Rita O'Neal

Recently I purchased a beautiful Brazilian agate which was glued to a bola slide. When I asked the dealer how I could remove the agate, so I could display it rather than wear it, he replied that he glued it with epoxy, and it was on to stay. Later I happened to ask another dealer if he knew of a way I could remove the agate from the tie slide.

He said they do it all the time. Just put it in the freezer over night. The next morning use a knife with a thin blade and gently push or pry the blade under the edge of the fastener. The tie slide will just pop off. I followed his instructions, and sure enough, it popped right off. I cleaned off the remaining glue with nail polish remover, which was the dealers second suggestion if the freezer method didn't work. From The Post Rock 6/01

**Field Trips (2010)** by Ed Tindell**Hi All -****The first 2010 field trip of the CLGMS will be as follows:**

Day:	Saturday
Date:	July 10, 2010 (no rain date)
Time:	8-10AM
Place:	TXI Quarry
Location:	Midlothian, TX (about 4 hours N of Houston on I-45 between Dallas-Ft. Worth)
Trip Size:	25 or less people, including myself, 22 available slots at this writing
What to collect:	Fossils, Pyrite

**What to bring:**

- 1) PPE - hard hat, safety glasses, closed toed shoes (don't have to be steel toed) - **NO FLIP FLOPS OR SANDALS!**
- 2) Tools -geology pick, shovel, 5 gallon buckets, specimen wrapping supplies
- 3) Personal - hat, sunblock, water, snacks
- 4) Copies of the attached forms - filled out, signed and properly dated
- 5) No cameras - quarry rules. Sorry!

Weather: It will be HOT and dry. You will be at the bottom of a white limestone quarry possibly with little or no wind. The sun will be beating on you TWICE so protect yourself. I will have heat stress handouts for everyone.

Meeting Place: To be announced

This will be the seventh trip to this quarry by the club. Two hours may not seem like much time to collect but it is more than enough. As in the past the smaller our group and the fewer vehicles we take into the quarry the better our chances of getting to stay longer so expect to double up on cars, etc. Everyone will have to sign two (2) forms. See attached. CLGMS members will have preference. I am reserving two slots for some invited guests so the total available slots at this time is 22. First come, first served. If you have to drop out please notify me ASAP so I can offer your slot to someone else. If you need a ride or can take riders let me know and I'll put the word out.

I will be working to gain access to one of the other quarries for the afternoon and other places on Sunday for those who wish to make it a weekend trip instead of a day trip.

More details to follow. I have tons of info on this site!

Thanks,  
Ed Tindell 2010 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator  
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

**The Unsolved Mystery of Blue Amber**

by Hermann Dittrich

Blue Amber is only found in one country; in the Caribbean, in the Dominican Republic. There are several theories about the origin of the color and it is not fully understood what causes the blue color in amber. We



know that it is a result of fluorescence and no solid color. Ultra-violet or violet light is re-emitted as blue or green light attributed to the presence of poly-nuclear aromatic molecules. (Gemology, Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr., Robert C. Kammerling)

This makes a lot of sense, because the best way to test blue amber is holding it under an ultra violet lamp where even the darkest space blue amber changes its color to a radiant cobalt-blue. And, we have noticed that blue amber can be recognized by a very agreeable smell, which is different from regular amber when it is being cut and polished.

One theory links the color in Dominican blue amber to the occurrence of volcanic ash or dust which was present when the resin was first pressed out from hymenaea protera millions of years ago. Another suggests that due to volcanic activity hot lava must have flown over these areas where regular amber was buried under ground. Due to extreme heat, the amber changed its color first to green and then to blue. Experiments have shown that a change of color occurs when normal amber is heated up. Another detail seems to fit this theory: There are virtually no animal or plant inclusions to be found in blue amber. Dr. G. Bechly of the Naturkunde museum in Tubingen, Germany writes: —The large absence of inclusions could fit very well into the hypothesis, that the blue amber was secondarily warmed up and melted, since this way such inclusions were destroyed (cooked) (as is also in the case with Sarawak amber). □ G. Bechly,

bechly.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de

While the mystery around the origin of its color has not been cleared, one thing is sure; Blue Amber is beautiful and it is extremely rare. <http://www.ambarazul.com>. [Star-O-Lite 6/10 The Calgary Lapidary Journal 03/05 via The Golden Nugget 2/10]

## TALE OF SHANNON COUNTY COPPER MINE

By Joyce Smith, relating story told by JC Wright

I don't know how many of you know that, as legend has it, Shannon County, Missouri was once the location of the richest producing copper mine in the United States. Willis and I had been invited by friends J.C. and Maye Wright, who lived in the area, to spend a day hiking the hillside to seek the location of this mine. They first gave us this accounting of the "Legend of the Slater Copper Mine":

A man named Slater arrived in the area of present day Shannon County, Missouri around the early 1800s. He was reputed to be a very quiet man, and one that you wouldn't ask questions of. He stayed to himself and liked it that way. He let people know that he didn't care for government, its interference, laws, and taxes. At some point he discovered a hillside that contained a rich deposit of copper. He hired laborers to work the mine, swearing them all to secrecy and even, as legend has it, blindfolding them before taking them by wagon to the mine. He had a bunk house, a cookhouse, and a blacksmith shop at the mine site, thereby enabling them all to stay for months at a time. They mined the copper, smelted it and loaded it onto rafts at a nearby creek. He would select a few trusted men as a crew to float the copper down to the Jacks Fork River. Evidently he took the other laborers back to town blindfolded. From the Jacks Fork they floated to the Current River which took them all the way to the Mississippi. There he and the copper were loaded onto a riverboat that took them to New Orleans where he sold the copper. He would then return to Shannon County where he would start all over again; hire a crew and mine another load. It's said that when Missouri was about to become a state, he blew the mine up rather than become involved with government restrictions. Some say he dynamited it with the crew inside the mine, and erased as much of the buildings as possible. Before leaving, he planted a triangle of pine trees over the old mine site. According to the records of the copper sold in New Orleans, the copper only came in from the early 1800s until 1819; no shipments arriving after Missouri became a state in 1821.



Well that's the story. We were very excited at the privilege to take part in a search for a mine that had been lost for 200 years. This being January, the hillsides were barren of summer cover. Our guides had gotten permission from a neighbor to wander over his property, and that neighbor revealed where he thought the mine had existed. Several times we were misled by thinking we were standing in the triangle of pine trees Slater had supposedly planted over the mine. Imagine the tingling sensation when we saw a few old posts still standing in a shallow bed of water just ahead of us. Was this it? The air of discovery

around us said yes. Who knows? We gathered a few rock samples, but frankly they look like most of the rock in the area. We put them on a shelf in the shed to be scrutinized later. Maybe we just wanted to believe. Was this the Lost Slater Copper Mine? I don't know, but it was a fun adventure with people who love their legends, their forests, and their rivers. And as they commented: "Til 'they' pull us out screaming and kicking, there will always be clear water and forest here." Big money operations have wanted to do some sample mining for minerals in the Mark Twain National Forest. So far they've been unsuccessful in getting permits. God Bless Our Land! **From The Opal Apr 2010.**

**BOILING WATER MAKES ROCKS**

Water is a solvent if it is hot enough or acidic enough. In the acid scenario, rainwater meets carbon dioxide, seeps down, encounters sulfides and binggo, sulfuric acid. This liquid roams and dissolves minerals and puts in motion mineral substances to travel and interact with other substances. Malachite is formed this way. The bumps on turquoise indicate dissolved minerals flowing in cool water.

In the hot water scenario, rainwater seep into the ground and goes deep enough to be heated by magma or already boiling water. Now heated, this water moves back up by a process of steam and condensation—dissolving minerals and re-depositing their constituents along the way. Cooled, the water sinks, encounters again the heat source, moves upward, repeats the dissolving and depositing. This repetition gives agate its layered look. Amethyst crystals can form once the silica content of the water thins out sufficiently.

Perhaps the oldest, certainly for jewelers the most fortuitous, case of raindrop to rock is the formation of opal, in yet another scenario. In a dry desert area, the rainwater goes down through permeable rocks rich in silica. The down going water carries silica to the underground water table, raising it. Being raised, it spreads out to fill fissures and such. The rain stops, the dry desert eventually drops the water table down by evaporation, but the ledges and fissures are left high, and not completely dry. Within these fissures, the silica-rich water gets richer by evaporation.

When the silica-to water ratio is just right, spheres form (bubbles). These spheres are what make opal. With further evaporation, the spheres become gelatinous, eventually harden, and like adding ball bearings to a cup, they layer the cavity in an orderly fashion. Water is trapped between the spheres. The orderly arrangement of the spheres diffracts light (segments and moves it around). This light movement, in combination with the varying amount of water inclusions, gives the light play of precious opal. Water here sets as a sort of music to the spheres. Yes, water is a solvent. Find enough opal and many of your financial problems will be solved.

Ref.: ‘Gemstones and their Origins’, by peter C. Keller from the Southwest Gem 6/02 via The Opal Express 2/00, The Pegmatite 12/00 via The glacial Drifter, 65/602

**MOUNTING ODD-SHAPED STONES**

Here’s a neat way to make a chain mount for odd-shaped stones that we all seem to make from time to time that won’t fit ready made mountings.

First, measure and cut your chain. Bulk chain is convenient, or you may use any length you have on hand. Figure the length of neck chain you want and add the length you need to go around your gem.

Next, place your chain around the gem, lay it on a flat surface. Work the chain up around the edges of the stone until both parts meet at the top. Secure the chain at the top with a jump ring before you glue. Clean your cab with acetone or alcohol to remove any finger oil. Lay a piece of foil on the workplace to catch any drips. Then glue the chain on the cabochon. Smear the glue around the edges of the stone and arrange the chain as you want your pendant to look when it is finished.

Give the glue plenty of time to dry - about 24 hours. Then put a spring ring on one end of the chain and a split ring on the other. Barrel fasteners would work also. *Rock Buster News via many bulletins, via Owyhee Gem 9/99 via The Glacial Drifter 5-6/02*

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
AUGUST 14-15 BATON ROUGE, LA Baton Rouge G&MS Fraternal Order of Police	AUGUST 21-22 BOSSIER CITY, LA Ark-La-Tex G&MS Bossier City Civic Center	AUGUST 28-29 JASPER, TX Pine Country G&MS Events Center	SEPTEMBER 4-5 ARLINGTON, TX Arlington G&MS Arlington Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 25-26 DENISON, TX Texoma Rockhounds Denison Senior Center	OCTOBER 9-10 TEMPLE, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Center	OCTOBER 15-17 VICTORIA, TX Victoria G&MS Community Center 2905 East North St.	OCTOBER 22-24 AUSTIN, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Event 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 21, 2010, 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>

<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			
2010 OFFICERS:	President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
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		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591
Annual Show 2011.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
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Community Benefits.....	Nancy Dugger	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2010: 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			
<b>Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2010 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418</b>			
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