



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 MARCH 2009 NUMBER 3

	<p>NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2009 TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA ROAD ONE SEABROOK, TEXAS</p>
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The PROGRAM FOR March...

The program will be by Will Heierman - AMERICAN CORUNDUM. The presentation, illustrated with pictures and specimens from the speaker's collection, will describe several of these localities in several states. See page 2 for a more detailed description

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
American Corundum	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights Hands-On – The Fossil Dig was a big success and Swap did well. Thanks to, Sharon Choens and her students.</p>	At the suggestion of the general membership, I have registered a new URL for the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral, Inc. and paid the registration fee for three years.
February Minutes	2		Our new web pages can be located at http://www.clgms.org .
The President's Column	3		Also added, is a new form for surfers to submit Dealer Information data directly to Mike Burns, our Dealer Chairman. Ed Tindell, current President of the CLGMS, has already suggested more forms. Any comments are welcome.
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4		It was a GOOD 2009 Show!
Lapidary Corner-	4		I wish to thank all of the club members who gave of their time to help us get through the show.
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** Predictions are difficult. Especially about the future. ** *Yogi Berra*

AMERICAN CORUNDUM – Presentation for March

When one thinks of corundum localities, the United States is usually not the first country of origin to come to mind. Perhaps more than any others, two dinky Asian countries share that unique position: Kashmir for sapphires and Burma for rubies.

A few historically important corundum localities, commercially mined for abrasives, instrument bearings, or gemstones, do exist in America. There are hundreds of minor localities, perhaps of the type that only a rockhound could love; but oh, what beautiful specimens occasionally come out of them!

Following an overview of the history of corundum mining, the discussion will turn to localities in California, Colorado, Montana, and the Carolinas which have produced outstanding specimens (some of which are still open for rockhounding or "screening" for gemstones). It is a sequel to one he presented in the past entitled "Corundum - A Visual Experience". His website, www.corunduminium.com, is another manifestation of the collection and research, and is worth a look.

Will Heierman is currently a Math Instructor on the Sugar Land campus of Wharton County Junior College. He has mined gold and sapphires seasonally (summerly) in Montana since 1982, and has both field and "silver pick" collected corundum since the early 1990's. His collection is the subject of a chapter in the Supplement to the January-February, 2009 Mineralogical Record, and has been extensively exhibited in periodicals, at shows, and in museums. Specimens are currently on display at The American Museum of Natural History in New York City and at Montana Tech in Butte.

Specimens from the collection will be exhibited next summer at the AFMS National Show in Billings, Montana, July 30 - August 2, 2009. He is "Special Exhibits Coordinator" for the show, and will have some remarks at the club business meeting about activities and displays (including a Lunar specimen from JSC). After the show, there will be field trips, so find an excuse to travel up north and join the party!

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, February 16, 2009

President Ed Tindell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no changes or corrections to the January Meeting Minutes as published in the February Stoney Statements. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as presented.

President Ed Tindell reviewed each committee:

- Programs – The program for the March Meeting was announced
- Historian – No report
- Constitution and By-Laws – No changes required
- Library – New books to be added
- Community Benefits – Chairperson not present
- Education – Need Chairperson
- Audit – Audit in progress.
- Publicity – For Annual Show and posters in libraries
- Equipment – Genie and Rock Saw
- Long Range Planning – Discussed group on internet
- Membership – Paper newsletters will no longer be mailed to non-members.
Annual dues are due.
- Show Committee – Report on upcoming Annual Show

Old Business – Discussed CLGMS.org.

New Business – Received thank you notes from the AFMS and SCFMS for donations to their Endowment Funds. Al Pennington is a judge for the AFMS Web Site Contest. Birthdays and Anniversaries were announced.

The program was presented by Al Pennington, Return to the Moon. Al discussed the minerals on the moon that can be used to support habitats, oxygen, water, shielding, growing media (hydroponics), and rocket fuel. He discussed the minerals found at the South Pole and Valley of Taurus Littrow. He further discussed converting dust to

oxygen, the silicon based dust found on the moon which is nearly half oxygen. A means to vaporize it and store it is being explored. He discussed the methods to extract the oxygen. The dust is finer than graphite and affects instrumentation which is a real issue on the moon. The leftover slag from the dust to oxygen process can be used for bricks, spare parts or even pavement. He further discussed other methods being tested to convert dust to oxygen. The spacecraft is scheduled to launch the end of April to the Moon's South Pole in search of water.

Door prizes were awarded, refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams, Secretary

The President's Column

Our 2009 show is now history. I want to thank all of the volunteers who showed up to help. We had many more than in years past. Even with the apparent damage from Hurricane Ike evident to all by the missing ceiling tiles in the Pasadena Convention Center and a depressed economy our show was a good one. Most of the dealers told me they did quite well despite lower attendance. Attendance is not necessarily a good indicator of how much people spend and that is a good thing.

While cleaning out the club locker in preparation for the show I found a box containing a brand new piece of lapidary equipment. As many of you know I don't do lapidary of any kind. In fact I often joke that lapidary is the "dark side of the hobby" and that lapidary shops are "rock torture chambers". I even invented the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Rocks" for a presentation once. It got a few laughs but all kidding aside - and remember I'm laughing with you, not at you - I was intrigued that no one in the club knew we had this brand new piece of equipment. I was cleaning out the club locker for the show to kill two birds with one stone. We desperately needed to reorganize the locker - it was getting really cluttered - and we needed to set up the show. Since I am responsible for maintaining the club locker and setting up the club show I had decided to bring everything in the locker to the show where it could be gone thru, identified, cleaned up or thrown out and re-organized by the various groups who staff the show before being put back in the locker. This plan worked really well, in fact better than I had hoped for. The locker is now clean and well organized, the show was a hit, and I have a story to tell about that new piece of equipment.

After many years of faithful service our Demonstration Chairman for the show, Bill Robinette, had stepped down and we did not have anyone to man the demonstration area for the show. I'd wanted to do a demonstration on how to prepare for a field trip or curate your collection for years. Neither could be considered lapidary activities but they are my passion so I decided I was going to share my passion and just demonstrate what I know best. What else could I do?

Saturday morning I arrived early at the show with a mineral flat full of 22 claystone geodes from Byars, Oklahoma. They come from an old Spanish silver prospect and contain copper and silver minerals. Most are thundereggs but some have small cavities filled at times with fluorescent minerals like barite. They are mineral specimens that I had cut in half some years ago with a small trim saw using a very thin diamond blade. I had flat lapped them by hand (!) using wet/dry sandpaper on a marble slab down to about 600 grit. They had no sheen to them but the faces were flat without saw marks and the mineral structures visible which is what I wanted to accomplish. The flat had been sitting in my collection untouched ever since. The new piece of equipment was a Hi-tech Diamond 6" flat lap! David Tjiok, who owns one himself, showed me how to operate it using a wet 1200 grit diamond pad. I quickly got the hang of it. On Saturday I talked to attendees passing by the Demo area about what I was doing. They were intrigued by the rocks which took on a nice pre-polish sheen at 1200 grit, even though they are fine grained sandstone, and by the machine itself, which is quite versatile, rugged and inexpensive at \$300. Many visitors even returned to the show on Sunday to watch me finish polishing the geode halves using a dry polish pad and 14,000 grit diamond compound on Sunday. The finished product turned out very well, the show attendees who stopped to watch were educated and entertained, and by doing a project from start to finish during the show I stayed productive and enhanced my personal collection thru my efforts. So whatever you have a passion for in this hobby I hope you will decide to share it. Passion you see is contagious. It is my hope you will be passionate enough about the hobby to regularly attend meetings and volunteer to lead or work on one of our committees. The show needs a new Demonstration Chairman. I already do too much so will one of you step forward? If everyone will pitch in just a little when asked no one will do too much, no one will get burned out and the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society will continue to grow and thrive. As your club president that is one of my goals for the club in 2009. I thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely, Ed Tindell

A March HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kelley Pennington 3
 Emyre Robinson 23

Aquamarine, also

Bloodstone (courage).
 Aquamarine takes its name from the Latin word for seawater. Its alternate, bloodstone, is also called heliotrope, meaning "sun-turning."

March Anniversary includes:

Running low on material – new members let us know your anniversary date



Thinking about paying you 2009 dues?
 March is the deadline.

GOODIE GETTERS...For March

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**Slabbing of Nodules** by Herb Luckert

While some small pieces of rough are very difficult to hold in a vise for even 1 cut, most can be held for that first cut. If you can hold it for one cut, you do not really need to set it in cement, Plaster of Paris, or anything else.

Once you have a flat surface (and assuming that your saw doesn't leave huge, rough gouges in the surface) you can glue each flat surfaced piece to a wooden block with water glass, sodium silicate. Just spread a little on the wooden block, plop your rock down on it and go to bed. Next day you can saw to your heart's content. If your wood block is square, the last slab you cut should be just as true as the rest of them.

The last slab can be removed from the wood by soaking in water for several days. 1 day to dry, 1 week to unglue is just about right for water glass. I bought my water glass at the Wal-Mart pharmacy for \$2.58 a pint. A pint should last me several years.

Incidentally, water glass is strong enough to hold very substantial sized rough that is difficult to put in a vise, as well as the small stuff. *Lapidary Digest July 97*

**Bezel Wrapping Tip**

By Dave Jacobson

Following is an easy way to wrap a bezel around a cabochon. Using super glue fasten a nail to the base of your stone. If the stone is still on the dop stick it will also work. Position the cab on top of a small vise by securely clamping

the vise on the nail or dop (not the stone) as shown in the following photograph. This holds the stone in place allowing you to accurately measure and cut the bezel. The vise I am using is a clamp on vise with rubberjaw protectors.



The cab in the left pix is secured in the vise with a piece of bezel partially wrapped around the stone. From Canaveral Moonstone 3/09.

Clean rubber rollers on your tumbler with lacquer thinner.

It will also prolong the life of windshield wiper blades: it keeps them pliable and eliminates drying.

Via Gems of the Rogue 3/99, via The Conglomerate 4/99

Cracking geodes: Soak a string in kerosene, tie it around the geode and burn the string, then plunge it into cold water. In many cases this will develop a crack, and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

CFMS Newsletter, via The Conglomerate 4/99

The best thread for beads depends on what the beads are. Use strong, not-abrasive resistant silk on non-abrasive beads such as pearls, turquoise, mother-of-pearl, and lapis. Use abrasive-resistant nylon on beads such as onyx, metals, and quartzes. Before using nylon, prestretch overnight with a weight. [From New & Views via AFMS Newsletter via T-Town Rockhound 7/98]

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell

**Teri Smith Rockhunting Field Trips
Spring 2009**

Field Trip Leader:

Teri Smith. You can contact me at *agatehunter@sbcglobal.net*, which is my preferred method, or by phone at (432) 837-2451 (Antelope Lodge); (432) 837-1026 (home); or (432) 386-3431 (cell).

Field Trip Locations:

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".

The Larremore Ranch is 34 miles south of Alpine. This ranch contains some spectacular buttes at the south end of Kokernot Mesa. The roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. The best rock and fossil hunting is in the flatter areas at the base of the buttes, which are covered with thorny brush and cactus. You can find agate, jasper, quartz crystals, calcite, and marine fossils. The cost is \$20 per person per day. You can also pick through their agate piles for 75¢ per lb.

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.

Fri., March 6	7 a.m.	East Needle Peak
Sat., March 7	9 a.m.	Ritchie Ranch
Sun., March 8	9 a.m.	Larremore Ranch

Fri., March 27	9 a.m.	Larremore Ranch
Sat., March 28	7 a.m.	East Needle Peak
Sun., March 29	9 a.m.	Ritchie Ranch

Reservations and trip cancellation:

Reservations are required. If no one has made a reservation for a particular field trip three days before the trip is to take place, it will be cancelled. Trips may also be cancelled if the weather is freezing or rainy, as roads

may become impassible. Field trips will be limited to 20 people unless special arrangements are made in advance.

Meet at:

The lobby of the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine, TX.

Bring:

Wear desert-smart clothing, a hat, boots, and gloves. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts will protect you from most of the stickers and thorns. Bring your lunch, lots of drinking water, and bags to put your finds in. Bring and use sunscreen, as our elevation is high enough that you burn quickly. Make sure your vehicle is appropriate for the terrain of the field trip location, and the gas tank is full. Ensure that you have a usable spare tire or at least a couple of cans of fix-a-flat, as we can be almost 100 miles away from the nearest tire shop.

Payment Methods:

Cash and personal checks are accepted.

Other Cost:

Rollin Rock Club membership required. You may join at the time of the field trip. Membership for 2009 is \$10/individual and \$16/dual. However, if the field trip you are attending has been declared an "official" field trip for your local gem club, AND your club has the insurance offered by the AFMS and its regional subgroups, you do not need to join the RRC.

Alpine Accommodations:

I recommend the Antelope Lodge in Alpine. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 880-8106, or by emailing *antelope.lodge@juno.com*.

Notes:

Hunts usually last all day, but it's often possible to leave early if you talk to the field trip leader before the trip starts. Some walking, climbing and carrying may be required, so these trips are not recommended for those in poor health, or for young children.

CLGMS will attend the last of April



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

Bloodstone: The Martyr's Gem

Color: Bloodstone is a green stone with red spots. It also occurs in shades of dark green with red, brown and multicolored spots. The iron minerals cause the deep red and brown colors.

Description: Bloodstone is dark-green variety of the silica mineral chalcedony that has nodules of bright-red jasper distributed throughout its mass. Polished sections therefore show red spots on a dark-green background, and from the resemblance of these to drops of blood it derives its name. Its physical properties are those of quartz.

The name's origin Bloodstone, green jasper dotted with bright red spots of iron oxide, was treasured in ancient times This attractive chalcedony quartz is also known as heliotrope because in ancient times polished stones were described as reflecting the sun: perhaps the appearance of the gem reminded the ancients of the red setting sun, mirrored in the ocean. *Heliotrope* derives its name from Greek words meaning sun and turning.

Birthstone: Bloodstone along with aquamarine are traditional birthstones of Pisces (Fish): Feb. 19 - March 20.

Care and treatment: Protect bloodstone from scratches, sharp blows, harsh chemicals and extreme temperatures. The polish will be removed if you get this type of stone wet.

From the stone history: Medieval Christians often used bloodstone to carve scenes of the crucifixion and martyrs, for which reason it was also dubbed the martyr's stone. According to the legend about the origin of bloodstone, it was first formed when drops of Christ's blood fell and stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. A beautiful example of carved bloodstone with the seal of the German Emperor Rudolf II can be seen at the Louvre in Paris.



Healing ability: In ancient times, bloodstone was thought to be able to stop hemorrhages with the merest touch. Bloodstone relieves stomach and bowel pain. It strengthens blood purifying organs and improves blood circulation. Bloodstone has a positive influence on a bladder. Even today, finely pulverized bloodstone is used as a medicine and aphrodisiac in India. Perhaps that explains why it is now rather difficult to find fine specimens of bloodstone on the market. Bloodstone is mined in India, Australia, and the United States.

Mystical power: Bloodstone is used to help one become more knowledgeable in the ways of the world. Bloodstone is also believed to be a very magical stone.

Deposits: Bloodstone is found in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Kathiawar Peninsula and the USA (Wyoming).

Chemistry:	SiO ₂ , Silicon Dioxide. Chalcedony, a variety of Quartz with nodules of red iron oxide distributed throughout its mass.
Class: Silicates.	Subclass: Tectosilicates.
Group: Quartz.	Luster: Glassy to waxy.
Crystal System: Hexagonal.	Crystal Habit: Cryptocrystalline. Forms in massive formations.
Cleavage: Absent.	Fracture: Conchoidal.
Hardness: 6.5 - 7	Specific Gravity: 2.58 - 2.64
Streak: White	Best Field Indicators: Crystal habit, color and hardness.

****You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there. ** - Yogi Berra**

Synthetic or Natural Gemstones - Some Definitions

Synthetic gemstones have the same properties as natural gems, but they are created in a laboratory. Lab gems are becoming more common and more popular throughout the jewelry industry. It's important to educate yourself about synthetic gemstones so that you understand what you are buying when you purchase jewelry.

What Are Natural Gemstones?

Natural gemstones are delivered to us courtesy of nature, with no interference from humans. By the time they appear in our jewelry they've been cut or polished, but they've not been treated or altered in other ways.

What Are Genuine Gemstones?

A genuine gemstones is the real thing, but isn't natural anymore if it was treated in some way to enhance its appearance.

What Are Treated Gemstones?

A large percentage of gemstones are treated to enhance their appearance. The enhancements allow jewelry manufacturers to improve the look of stones that consumers wouldn't otherwise purchase. Treated gemstones are genuine, but they are no longer considered natural. If naturally "perfect" stones were the only ones available, most of us couldn't afford them.

What Are Synthetic Gemstones?

Synthetic and Simulant are terminology used by the USBM for laboratory grown gemstones. Others in the gemstone industry may use different terms to refer to laboratory grown gemstones. Laboratory grown "synthetic" gemstones have essentially the same appearance and optical, physical, and chemical properties as the natural material that they represent. Laboratory grown "Simulant" gemstones have an appearance similar to that of a natural gemstone but have different optical, physical, and chemical properties. Additionally, certain colors of "synthetic" sapphire and spinel, used to represent other gemstones, would be classed as "Simulants." Colored and colorless varieties of cubic zirconia are the major "Simulants" produced.

Lab Created and **Lab Grown** and **Synthetic** are **synonymous** terms. To use any of these terms, according to the FTC, the gemstone must be identical to the natural in every way. Composition, Hardness, and Optically. There are a lot of sellers on the internet, who try and denote a difference in these terms, but according to the FTC they are identical terms. The Federal Trade Commission is very clear on the use of the term Lab or Laboratory Created. The stone must be identical to the natural in every way. Here's the quote from the FTC guidelines for gemstone sales for your reference

"(c) It is unfair or deceptive to use the word "laboratory-grown," "laboratory-created," "[manufacturer name]-created," or "synthetic" with the name of any natural stone to describe any industry product unless such industry product has essentially the same optical, physical, and chemical properties as the stone named."

From The Trilobite December 02

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
MARCH 07-08 BIG SPRING, TX BIG SPRING PROSPECTORS CLUB Howard Co. Fair Barn	MARCH 07-08 ROBSTOWN, TX GULF COAST GEM & MIN. SOC. Regional Fairgrounds	MARCH 21-22 SAN ANTONIO, TX SOUTHWEST GEM & MIN. SOC. Morris Activity Center	APRIL 11-12 ABILENE, TX CENTRAL TEXAS GEM & MIN. SOC. Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine
APRIL 17-19 ALPINE, TX CHIHUAHUAH DESERT GEM & MIN. CLUB Highland Events Center, Hwy. 90 East	APRIL 25-26 WACO, TX WACO GEM & MIN. SOC. Heart O' Texas Fair Grounds	MAY 16-17 LUBBOCK, TX LUBBOCK GEM & MIN. SOC. Lubbock Civic Center	MAY 23-24 FORT WORTH, TX FORT WORTH GEM & MIN. SOC. Will Rogers Memorial 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.
 March 16, 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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Deadline for April Issue is March 28, 2009			