A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 36 MARCH 2010 NUMBER 03

NEXT MEETING: **March 15, 2010**
TIME: **7:30 PM**
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
5001 NASA ROAD ONE
SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR March…

The program will be given by Leslye Gary: Houston Museum of Natural Science
Have you been lately? There is so much that has improved from a new gift shop that has minerals for sale to reorganization of the museum itself. Come see pictures and hear about how it has changed. Including pictures from the vault that is hardly ever open to the public.

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

Stoney Statements spotlights Hands-On – The Fossil Dig and jewelry making activity was a big success. Thanks to, Sharon Choens and her students.

Editorial

Show Report
Al Pennington, Show Chairman

Well, even with the economy, we managed to get in the customers for this year's 2010 Show. Attendance is back to our normal average in 2000-2200 range. Getting ready was a bit more hectic than normal with a lot of last minute printing and frantic, "Did you call back the Convention Center" type calls. We definitely want to thanks Ben and Nancy Duggar who stepped in and did a fantastic job on Show Publicity – the Houston newspaper even sent a photographer and is doing a story on the club. And, hats off to Lester Gary, who ran Swap single handed. A man from The Schuler's booth subbed at the scout presentation [thank you] and this is an action we need to take for next year to get that area better defined. Still -

It was a GOOD 2010 Show!

I wish to thank all of the club members who gave of their time to help us get through the show.

** Predictions are difficult. Especially about the future. ** *Yogi Berra*

Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral
February 15, 2010

President Bob Brock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report. Lester Gary made the motion to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Al Pennington and was unanimously approved by the membership. There were no corrections to the January Meeting Minutes as printed in the Stoney Statements. Lester Gary made the motion to approve which was seconded by Lesley Gary and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Historian – The chairperson was not present.
Library – Books are catalogued and pamphlets and videos will be catalogued by the March Meeting.
Education – Need a chairperson for this committee.
Audit – The Audit has been completed for this year.
Nominating – The committee will be formed in October, 2010.
Show Publicity – The newspapers have been contacted. An audio was sent to news stations, Rice University and Alvin Junior College to announce. A color ad was placed in the Houston Chronicle.
Membership – 20 members have renewed their membership for 2010. We discussed sending reminder notices.
Programs – Nothing to report.
Community Service – Blocker Middle School and Pasadena Middle School have empty shelves in the library. Keep them in mind for next year. Chairperson Nancy Duggar challenged the membership to bring ten rocks to the March Meeting to share with the school libraries. We discussed hands on rocks as well as kits with the rocks glued to the kit.

Old Business

The club laptop computer has been purchased. The storage boxes have not yet been ordered. They may be ordered later this week to be available for after the show.

New Business

Teri Smith with the Rolling Rock Club requested that we pass a resolution that membership in our club will waive the need for membership in the Rolling Rock Club for any field trips made with her.

We discussed the purchase of books to update our 30 year old library. Ed Tindell made the motion to allow the committee to spend up to $200 for the purchase of new books during the club show at the end of this month. Nancy Duggar seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Loyce Pennington reported that George King in Bacliff has equipment and rocks to sell. He can be reached at 281-559-1317. Loyce Pennington further reported that she has business size cards to be distributed to advertise the upcoming show.

Annual Show – The printing has been completed. The layout has been done and the mail out is also complete. Brochures, membership forms and swap dollars have all been printed. The vendors were discussed. We are in need of volunteers for admissions. Hands On and Gem Mine will be manned by college volunteers. Scott Singleton with the Houston Gem and Mineral Society will have the petrified wood display.

Program

The program was presented by Al Pennington regarding the Earth Sciences. Prior to the beginning of the program, he played a sound track of the sounds of Saturn, all planets put out sounds.

We had a short break prior to the beginning of the program and refreshments were served.

Al presented several videos regarding earth science, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and seismic waves.

Our planet quietly changes over time, creating landscapes, circulation of air and water. Understanding how our planet works is important to everyone. Geoscientists study our earth using modern technology to learn about our world. Our earth is 4.6 billion years old and is alive and still changing. All earth systems interact to maintain our delicate planet. Issues that we will have to be addressed are climate change, natural hazards, natural energy and clean water.

4.5 to 4.4 billion years ago the earth began to cool and started forming a crust. The lava began to build up vapor and gases and it began to rain. The liquid iron core created a magnetic shield which protects us from the sun. 1.5 billion years ago, continents arose separately and continents collided. The driving movement of the continents is the tectonic plates. If the earth were the size of a basketball, the earth's crust would like a sheet of paper over the basketball. Magnum rises to the surface, cools, reheats, and rises again.

A video was shown regarding earthquakes and how the ocean plates and land masses move. In southern California, the ocean plate is sliding down below the continent. The Pacific plate in California moves three inches each year. Nuclear power plants were abandoned and are closed due to the faults nearby.

There are two types of seismic waves, body waves that travel through the earth and surface waves that do not penetrate the earth, but flow on the surface. Check out www.iris.edu, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology. With the seismic monitor, you can see the number of earthquakes today, yesterday and for the past two weeks.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned by President Bob Brock.

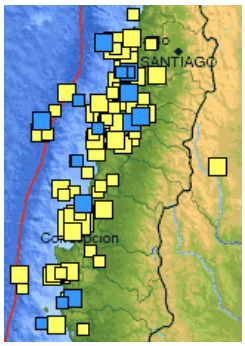
Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams
Secretary

Today's Planet

by Al Pennington

Significant Earthquake and News Headlines
Magnitude 5.9 EASTERN TURKEY March 08, 2010
Magnitude 6.5 SOUTHWEST OF SUMATRA, INDONESIA March 05, 2010
Magnitude 6.6 OFFSHORE BIO-BIO, CHILE March 05, 2010
Magnitude 8.8 OFFSHORE MAULE, CHILE February 27, 2010
Magnitude 7.0 RYUKYU ISLANDS, JAPAN February 26, 2010
Magnitude 6.9 CHINA-RUSSIA-NORTH KOREA BORDER REGION February 18, 2010
Magnitude 5.9 OFFSHORE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA February 04, 2010
Magnitude 7.0 HAITI REGION January 12, 2010

Chile this week after the 8.8



Magnitude 6.6
Date-Time Friday, March 05, 2010 at 11:47:10 UTC
Location 36.513°S, 73.116°W
Depth 35 km (21.7 miles) set by location program
Region OFFSHORE BIO-BIO, CHILE

Note: Turkey had a 6.1 Monday 8th that Killed 54 people.

A March HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kelley Pennington 3

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

2010 DUES ARE DUE

GOODIE GETTERS…For March

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

Changing Smokey Quartz into Citrine by Mark Liccini

SOME Smokey Quartz that has been irradiated in Nature can be heated to make a Canary yellow Citrine. SOME mines of clear Quartz can be irradiated at 60 megarads Cobalt 60, which turns it into an opaque or black Smokey Quartz, then heated to various colors of Citrine. The one that goes Canary Yellow is what is called Milk Quartz for the light silking. A relative of Rose Quartz, which also goes that same bright yellow. BUT not all Quartz will treat. Almost all will go to Smokey Quartz on a low dosage of irradiation 0.5-1.5 megarads Cobalt 60. The heating step is 650 F., which is above the stated limit of these toaster ovens with glass door. But if you leave the oven on for 2-3 hours, they rise up to that temperature. Since the color change is often quick, you need to use an oven with a glass door, preferably interior lighted, so you can see to remove the stones at the right time. What it sounds like is you have a natural Smokey Quartz or one that as been irradiated on low dosage to Smokey. If you heat it for a prolonged period, it reverts to white. The color, clear, color progression you are thinking of is to heat brownish Amethyst to yellow or orange Citrine. The progression is Amethyst, clear, then into Citrine, then into clear again, if you overheat.

Two methods of tumbling being discussed will be with the rotating tumbler. For both methods the grinding medium is silicon carbide.

This formula is 390C and typically done commercially in a casting oven. This is sometimes done simply by burying the Amethyst in sand out in the hot tropical sun. Another good way to do this kind of heating with control of observation, is to place the stones in a test tube, then heat it over a Bunsen burner, using a cotton ball as a stopper heat sink, air retardant. *Lapidary Digest 3/00*

Tumble Polishing Obsidian by Willa Kleymann

I, too, have never had luck tumble polishing obsidian. I finally got a vibrating polisher and found that, on the lowest setting possible (while still getting the proper swirling action of the stones), I could get a reasonable near-polish. I used 1200 grit as a prepolish and 50,000-grit diamonds impregnated walnut shell as a polish. This did not get a satisfactory high polish, but it was close, and had no scratches. It was a simple matter of a quick polish (and I mean quick!) on my flat lap polish pad at 100,000 grit diamond to get a beautiful high polish.

A devoted lover of obsidian, have dug some from Glass Butte in Oregon and at Davis Creek Ca. I can tumble needles, and pieces great, even some cabs, but am having really tough luck polishing flats, I have a vibratory tumbler, and it does not do as well as my old Lortone rotary I have talked to a lot of people about obsidian, and am learning more every day. I tried to polish some of a flat polisher, and could not come up with a nice polish, found out I was using too much pressure, it is a soft material, and I was really using a heavy hand. Now I am going to go back and see if a 'light' touch will help. . When I tumble I get to cerium, after that I go to Ivory snow (flakes worked better, but they don't make that anymore). Sometimes I add lots of sugar to the mixture, and someone told me
(after I had been using ceramic tiles for quite awhile) that the plastic pellets were better, they said the tiles scratched the polish, who knows maybe they did. I know I had scratches on the stones, but thought they had scratched each other in the tumbling process. I have no tried and positive method I just try anything that works. *Lapidary Digest 11/98*

Field Trips (2010) by Ed Tindell

Name your Field trip

Well we did not get to your needs due to the show. Thus, we will be discussing various destinations for our field trips this year at the next club meeting. I threw out several ideas and now we need to begin working toward some goals. Hope to see you there for ideas.

****

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

Enlightened Discourse

The tourist from the prairie states was marveling at New England's scenery and ask a local New Hampshire farmer, "Where did all those rocks come from?" The farmer replied, "The great glacier brought them here." Seeking more enlightenment, the tourist persisted, "Well, where is the glacier now?" The farmer drawled, It went back from more rocks!"

TIDBIT…..

The Port Headland Rock Shop in western Australia uses tires off large earthmovers as tumblers. These Tumblers use 600 pounds of gravel and the drive shaft and rear end of a small car. And we think everything is big in Texas?

From Chaparral Chatter 12/00 via Stone Chipper, the Rock Licker and Golden Spike News!

Hints For Dying Gemstones... To dye gemstones, mix a box of RIT dye with 3 or 4 ounces of wood alcohol and soak your stones in the solution. This could take from 30 minutes to overnight or longer. If the stone is over-dyed, the excess color can be removed by soaking in plain wood alcohol. After dyeing, wash in soap and water, apply a coat of wax (natural shoe polish) and polish with a soft cloth. Try dyeing honey onyx, banded agate or crazy lace agate. Slabbing can result in fantastic patterns.

From Petrograph 6/94, via The Rockcollector 12/99

Plastic bread wrappers make excellent sleeve guards when using the trim saw. It keeps the oil off your arms assuming there are no holes in the plastic. Use a filter mask over your nose to keep the oil out of your lungs.

Used by Mary-Ruth Rathjen, Ed.

If you are running into difficulty getting a good polish on turquoise use a piece of organdy on the wheel. It seems to be more effective than felt.

Via The Trilobite 12/99

MURPHY'S LAW NO. 3 ON FIELD COLLECTING

Sandy's Law: The need to go to the bathroom increases with the distance away from the facilities.

Doug's Theory: Black flies do not live in the woods until you start to dig, at which time and place they instantaneously appear to hold their annual convention.

Ollie's Observation: The distance to crystal groups in narrow vugs always equals your arms length, plus six inches.

John's Theory: In apparent defiance of Moh, when trimming matrix, beryl will break before feldspar.

Sally's Observation: The best crystal of the trip will be found lying on the surface by a ten year old who will be heard to exclaim, "Is this rock any good?"

Jack's Law No. 1 The mine owner will always point out a hole to dig in where "someone pulled out a fantastic bunch of azurite last week!"

Jack's Law No. 2 No azurite will be found in said hole.

Jack's Law No. 3 It will take you all day to discover the truth of Jack's Law No. 2.

Rick's Rule: The attractiveness and desirability of a crystal pocket is in inverse proportion to its accessibility in the wall.

Pattie's Premise: The enthusiasm of any one under the age of 18 on a field trip with their parents expires at the beginning of the sixth minute at the site.

Morry's Misery: The level of enthusiasm maintained while digging in old dumps is inversely proportional to the number of snakes encountered.

Irvin's Irritation: The person in the hole two feet to your left (substitute right, back, or front) will find a museum piece, while your hole will be barren. ***Via Canadian Rockhound, via Rock & Rose 9/97***

Alan's Law: All of the above wisdom will occur on your next field trip no matter where you go.

Neptune's Gem – Aquamarine

[from the internet]

If you can picture the cerulean blue waters of the Mediterranean, you will understand why the birthstone for March is named Aquamarine. Its first documented use was by the Greeks between 480-300 BC. They wore aquamarine amulets engraved with the god Poseidon on a chariot. Poseidon was the god of the sea and, as "Earth-Shaker," of earthquakes in Greek mythology

Derived from the Roman word "Aqua," meaning water, and "mare," meaning sea, this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater. The ancient Romans believed that the Aquamarine was sacred to Neptune, the god of the sea, having fallen from the jewel boxes of sirens and washed onto shore. Early sailors wore aquamarine talismans, engraved with the likeness of Neptune, as protection against dangers at sea and prevent seasickness.

The association with water led to the belief that the Aquamarine was particularly powerful when immersed. Water in which this gemstone had been submerged was used in ancient times to heal a variety of illnesses of the heart, liver, stomach, mouth and throat. Aquamarines were also used to reverse poisoning and to aid in fortune telling.

Aquamarines were thought to be the source of power for soothsayers, who called it the "magic mirror", and used it for telling fortunes and answering questions about the future. It is said that Emperor Nero used it as an eyeglass 2,000 years ago, and much later, aquamarines were used as glasses in Germany to correct shortsightedness. In fact, the German name for eyeglasses today is "brille", derived from the mineral beryl.

Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family and ranges in color from an almost colorless pale blue to blue-green or teal. The most prized color is a deep-blue aqua color. It is 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Aquamarines vary in color from deep blue to blue-green of different intensities, caused by traces of iron. Naturally occurring deep blue stones are the most prized because they are rare and expensive. However, yellow beryl stones can be heated to change them to blue aquamarines.

The bright blue of this noble beryl is making more and more friends. The various color nuances of aquamarine have melodious names: the rare, intense blue aquamarines from the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil, which make every gemstone lover's heart beat faster, are called 'Santa Maria'. Similar nuances come from a few gemstone mines in Africa, particularly Mozambique. To help distinguish them from the Brazilian ones, these aquamarines have been given the name 'Santa Maria Africana'. The 'Espirito Santo' colour of aquamarines from the Brazilian state of that name is of a blue that is not quite so intense. Yet other qualities are embodied in the stones from Fortaleza and Marambaia. One beautiful aquamarine color was named after the Brazilian beauty queen of 1954, and has the name 'Martha Rocha'.

The leading producer of aquamarines is the country of Brazil, which has many mines. Pakistan, as well as many U.S. localities, produce wonderful specimens as well. Recently, a new mine in China has produced large numbers of excellent flat (stubby) hexagonal crystals, for a fraction of the price of those beautiful Pakistan specimens.

AROUND AND AROUND WE GO

By Jill Rowlands HGMS

For several years I have been listening to experts wax and wane about lapidary. Yet from the wisdom I have gained, I also see an issue of which that is contrary. If, in fact, there is no such thing as a round object in nature, then could the Flat Earth Society gain momentum for the future? Am I just plain hallucinating when I see loose plump grapes, served at Lapidary-sponsored dinners roll off of the paper plates? As a youth was I not forced to eat 77,700 horrible round green peas that are much better dried and served as substitutes in slingshots for BBs?

In the garden, the pillbugs are more fun with preschoolers than pods of impatiens. They also get bumped, batted, and bowled incessantly from inquisitive infants. Who, when older with curious wide-eyed wonder stomp slimy domed mushrooms from down under. From the deepest, darkest caverns in the seas, elongated round tube worms come out to feed. To the highest mountain peaks of the world, round seeds and spores from plants are hurled.

On jaunts to once flooded streams as we try to avoid getting into trouble, we also collect many precious pisolites and discard the common pebble. Nature uses both to carve its own flowing, winding paths that are steep. While we carefully search for hidden beauties, we avoid falling in holes that are deep.

Round is the description of many an atomic particulate, the rings of Saturn are also described in that very same shape.

When we drive around the block we might say we are going in circles, and don't we prefer climbing a curved hill instead of jumping square hurdles?

Under microscopes the secrets of nature's beauty is revealed in particles of opal. The shape that is revealed is not square, octagonal, rectangular, or oval. It is as perfectly round as the finest of pearls and other minerals are at least spherical. Nature does form shapes that are colloidal and rounds the edge of almost any crystal.

For those who use the reason to not cut materials into shapes of round, because there is nothing like that in nature which they have ever found. I ask them to get their eyes checked and look for another excuse, quit ruining the reputation of rounded stones with so much abuse.

If you don't prefer the brilliant cut of a round or a cabbed curve over a square, at least admit your own finicky choice is not due to nature's shapes and be fair.

If you don't believe in the existence of natural round objects like bones leading to the hip, the Flat Earth Society is eagerly awaiting to receive your application for membership.

Don't tell me that grinding stones, sea shells, or lady bugs are a fiction of my imagination, and stop trying to make so much silly static on such a very weak position.

In nature, I emphatically assure that round is most definitely found!

But please tell me where are all of the unaltered objects that are supposed to be square?

From: Backbender's Gazette, 10/98.

AGMS Swap Meet

Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to invite you to this year's AGMS Swap Meet to be held on April 10, 2010 in the AGMS Clubhouse parking lot.
Set up starts at 7:00am. The booths open at 9:00am and will close around 4:00pm.
If you plan to set up a booth, please contact Kathleen Howard to reserve one or two tables. The AGMS will furnish the tables; depending upon the number of participants, you may be limited to one table.
Kathleen's email is khoward15@austin.rr.com

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
March 6-7 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn	March 6-7 Robstown, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairground	March 20-21 Live Oak, TX (San Antonio) Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Center 8101 Pat Booker Rd.	APRIL 10-11 ABILENE, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Center North 6th & Pine

A Monthly Publication of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society

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 15, 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

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

2010 OFFICERS:	President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Vice President	Ed Tindell	281-930-0698
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Lester Gary
		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…….….. 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

Granvil A. "Al" Pennington, Editor 2010 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418

Deadline for April Issue is March 28, 2010