



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 37 MARCH 2011 NUMBER 3


	<p>NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2011 TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA ROAD ONE SEABROOK, TEXAS</p>
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The PROGRAM FOR March...

Field trip reminiscent - Bring treasures that you have collected along with your tips and hints for hunting rocks. This month's program will be ran by you, the members. We had a number of new members sign up during the show. Hopefully we will see some new faces in March; let's show them some of the great things we have found over the years. Program Chair-Trina Willoughby

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
February Minutes 2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights Hands-On – The Fossil Dig and jewelry making activity was a big success. Thanks to, Sharon Choens and her students.</p>	<p>At the show, we are often asked to identify "rocks". As anyone that has been in the hobby knows, that can be a daunting task unless one has some basic information. Nancy Dugger several meetings back has asked that each of us come to a meeting with ten "rocks" from our various Field trips and personal rock hunting outings. Then we tell what we know about the samples such as location of the find, postulated identification, geological history layer (if known), any actual tests you may have run on them such as Sp gr, hardness, streak, etc. The idea is to get us thinking about identification.</p>
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**** Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember. ** Oscar Levant**

**Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral
February 21, 2011**

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the chance for us to get ahead on the new setup procedure that will be used by the convention center. It appears we will save some money this year by using the new group. A motion was made by Jim Wines to approve the Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Al Pennington and was passed unanimously. The Treasurer's Report was not made this meeting as Loyce was getting the books ready for review. The minutes from the January Meeting were printed in the Stoney Statements. There were no corrections.

Program

Al Pennington presented the status on the 2011 Show. Al reviewed the various volunteer duties. Set up/Tear down – 9:00 a.m. Friday before the show, preload Thursday night.

Current status – all dealers contacted. Payment is being received. The Convention Center is paid. The Rock Table will be at the show. Scott Singleton, HGMS member, will have petrified wood identification. Printing is being done. Program is laid out. Need to contract police for guards. Thirty Dealers are on the list.

Other Business

A short break was held and refreshments were served.

Ed Tindell made a presentation on the Walker Ranch field trip scheduled for March. Then Al Pennington played a DVD of Rock Formation.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Librarian – Chairperson Lester Gary will obtain the library from storage in March.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar explained her committee and her contacts with school librarians to give them money for books.

Education – Chairperson Ed Tindell had no report

Club Publicity – Chairperson Anna Williams was not present at the meeting

Show Publicity – Chairperson Ben Duggar reported that the radio stations have been contacted and a few will publicize the show. Announcements have been sent to local newspapers.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Al Pennington, Substituting for the Secretary

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.

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

2011 Show Report

Al Pennington, Show Chairman

Well, even with the economy, we managed to get a few customers for this year's 2011 Show. Attendance is below to our normal average in 1600-1800 range. We had to compete with Mardi Gras and the Houston Rodeo parades and this produced the worst attendance in 10 years. We have a lot of lessons learned to take into next year.

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. With the loss of our dealer chairman, I got crossed up on who had received contracts and that was also frantic making sure we had the right material. At least we now have a good Dealer Chair – Jim Wines who will get us off to a better start for 2012. We are going to move printing back into the summer to get way ahead and provide our dealers with material for publicity.

We definitely want to thank Ben and Nancy Duggar who did a great job on Show Publicity – we got a lot of our mailouts back also. And, hats off to Lester Gary, who ran Swap single handed. We do plan to have a discussion about whether we continue Rock Swap for 2012.

Trina Willoughby did great at the scout presentation [thank you] and this is an action we need to take for next year to get that area better materials. I wish to thank all of the club members who gave of their time to help us get through the show

Secrets of Mineral Identification

One of the great thrills of having advanced knowledge of the mineral kingdom is being called upon by other less skilled and knowledgeable folks to help them identify their specimens. While this is usually a pleasant experience, quite frequently because of the poor quality of the specimen or the lack of information as to its origin, one must be creative when hypothesizing its identity. This article will assist you, the aspiring mineral expert, in obtaining your status as omnipotent. Yes, by using my simple, self-taught technique, your advice will soon be sought after by huge throngs of [rockhound](#) disciples who will be astounded by your vast knowledge and insight. Soon you [will](#) even be able to tell folks which fork to use first at dinner, and even the correct spark plug gap for a 1976 [Chevette](#).

The [first](#) step in identifying minerals is to know the proper scientific name for the specimen at hand. For instance, any rock that is rough, ugly, useless and extremely weathered is known as [leaverite](#).

Keeping in mind that there are more than 3000 species of minerals, not to mention all the different types of rock, we sometimes have to proceed to Step 2. You should always render an answer, correct or not, in a reasonably short period of time. While remembering that any word ending in "ite" will do, a short, generic glossary of names committed to memory will help avoid the indiscretion of allowing yourself to be stumped.

To give an example of how you would use these names, let us say, for instance, that you are brought a beautiful chunk of gneiss and the following conversation occurs: "What is this?" "It is gneiss." "Yes, I think it is very nice, but what is it?" "See the banding and these bends where it was folded? It is gneiss." "Yes, I agree, but what is it?" It is "[swiriite](#)." "Oh yes, now that you mention it, it looks exactly like swiriite. Thank you." Other names you should bear to memory, for just such occasions, are listed in the glossary on page 5.

An 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

2011 DUES ARE DUE**GOODIE GETTERS...For March**

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner ((Rerun from last year by request))**A Bit More Victoria Stone**

Victoria Stone is one of my favorite lapidary materials. It is actually a manmade jade created from natural materials by Dr. S. Iimori in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

To cut Victoria Stone, cut it first lengthwise, then let it set for 24 hours; then you can go ahead and slice it using normal cutting procedures, using plenty of water to keep it cool so it won't shatter.

First sand on sharp 220 grit sanding cloth, then sharp 320 cloth, with a final sanding on a worn 320 cloth. A quick and easy polish can then be obtained finishing on a dry leather buff with tin oxide.

The transparent Victoria Stone that is used for faceting is composed of di or trisilicates of earth elements and alkali metals. The hardness is 5.5 to 6, specific gravity of 3.02 and a refractive index of 1.12. It was quickly cooled down in one day so that it wouldn't crystallize into patterns.

The faceted Victoria Stone came in 8 colors, including sapphire blue, emerald green, amethyst purple, ruby red, topaz, aquamarine, garnet and peridot green.



["The Story of Victoria Stone" by Yvonne Mack, McPherson Rock Club Bulletin Kansas via The RockCollector – 11/10]via Star-O-Lite 3/11

Bench Tips by Brad Smith**Burnishing Bezels**

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 8 x 10 cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough to hit the top of the bezel at the right angle to burnish it down onto the stone.

Super Pickle

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with the pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store. Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

MODIFY TOOLS FOR PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, avoid slipping by grinding a groove in the face of your prong pusher, or one jaw of your flat-nose pliers. Easiest way to cut the slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to cut the slot on your pliers is with a cutoff wheel in the Foredom or Dremel. <http://facebook.com/BenchTips> [Brad Smith's Bench Tips published with his permission]

An End of Dreams

The rock that holds the essence of my whole life's Rockhound dreams lies out there now among the rubble of primeval holocaust, mandated out of reach in government wilderness designate nor ever dreamed about again by future generations. The jewel within of course will fade, out there, by metamorphic law, then disappear forever in that eroding march of nature's time. [Jack Terwilliger, via SCRIBE v35-1]

Field Trips (2011) by Ed Tindell

Hi All -

Name your Field trip

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.

We will meet up at 8 a.m. on Friday 3/18 in the lobby of the Antelope Lodge. At that time, I'll collect the rest of the fee, have you all sign the waiver forms, and lead the group out there. When we get there, I'll give you the gate combination and instruct you in how to make sure we don't lock out the rancher, and then those who have been on the ranch before can scatter and those who haven't can stay with me so I can give them an idea of good places to hunt for the red plume, and perhaps an idea of what to look for.

If you are hunting all 3 days, after Friday morning you're on your own as to when you go out to the ranch and how long you stay.

On Sunday evening, there will be a barbecue at the Antelope Lodge for all rockhunters & their significant others. The barbecue is free.

Right now I don't have anyone signed up for the trips to East Needle Peak which are scheduled before (Thursday 3/17) and after (Monday 3/21) the Walker Ranch trip. I can still do the trips if even one person is interested, so email me if you want to go.

March: Friday, March 18; Saturday, March 19; and Sunday, March 20. This hunt is concurrent with Spring Break week in much of Texas.

April: Friday, April 15, Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17. This hunt is concurrent with the Alpine Gem and Mineral Show and the SCFMS meeting.

To get on the list for either of these hunts, email me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net.

The total cost for all 3 days of rockhunting is \$150 per person. A deposit for each person of \$75 is required. Please make the check out to Bryan Crumpton, and mail it to me at 509 N. 8th Street, Alpine, TX 79830.

Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2011
CLGMS Field
Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The
Official Cat
Herder"

**Secrets of Mineral Identification (CONT)**

- Ambivalite - use this to describe any specimen whose exact identity eludes you.
- Astrologite - use this term to identify those odd chunks of non-magnetic objects which are presented to you as meteorites. ("No, that's not a meteorite, that's **astrologite**." "Really? Wow, gee thanks!")
- Barberite - an easy to remember term for those really hairy minerals when you can't remember how to pronounce **boulangerite**.
- Casserolite - any rock that looks like a food item.
- Garageite - a specimen that was clearly collected years ago and is covered with dust.
- Infrequentite - describe anything you haven't seen before as this rare mineral and instruct the owner to keep it out of direct sunlight at all cost.
- Jerkite - this common term is used to describe specimens whose real identity is known by the owner but presented to you as something else.
- Mammothite - when you go outside to see a specimen that is too large to bring in, spread a smile of recognition across your face as soon as the trunk of the car is opened and declare, "Oh, that's **mammothite**! I have a ton of those in the yard at my house, no need to bring it in and test it."
- Screwballite - commonly used to describe a piece of chert found in **Precambrian** sediments after the owner insists, for the third time, that it looks too much like a dinosaur bone not to be one.

From The Pegmatite April 2001 (Excerpted from article by [Jana Haege](#) in Cobb-L-Stones 9/99, via CFMS Newsletter, 5/01

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.

Incredible Shrinking Places to Rock Hunt

By Jan Woodward

We've all noticed it...fewer and fewer places to follow our passion of rock hunting. Family ranches/farms selling out to developers, more and more public lands being usurped by governmental entities, and privately owned rock hunting grounds being forced to close their doors. From a family owned rock hunting ranch of five generations, here are a few tips that may help keep your favorite rock hunting place from closing their doors.

1. Stay in touch **REGULARLY** with your elected officials and voice your concerns.
2. **ALWAYS** abide by the Rock hunters' Code of Ethics.
3. **SHARE** your rock knowledge with the younger generation...inspire their wonderment.
4. **PARTICIPATE** in your nearest rock club.
5. **FOLLOW** private landowners' rules. Rock hunting locations that are privately owned depend on the fees they charge in order to "keep their doors open." Even remote and isolated places have to pay taxes! Help the owners keep their lands open for all rock hunters. Always know whose land you are on, and contact the owner before going onto the land. Don't depend on information from a rock & gem book for total accuracy. Many times rates are given that are so out of date as to be laughable. Sometimes, you find rock hunting places that are no longer open to the public. Check the date of publication for the book you are using. If it is older than a couple of years, you can be sure the information is not totally accurate. One more word of caution. The American Southwest is one of the best places in the world to hunt for rocks. But the southern border in our great southwest is changing and has some definite drawbacks. If you are hunting in some of these remote and rugged areas without the landowners' knowledge, you may be incurring more risk than you are aware of. Usually there is no cell phone service in such areas. If you are hurt and no one knows you're there, you're on your own. As we all know, some areas of our isolated southern border are attractive as illegal ports of entry. You may very well encounter Border Patrol officers, DEA officers, and U.S. military units, as well as the people they're looking for! We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto! Following a few simple rules, and treating landowners the way you would like to be treated, insures a good hunt, and, hopefully, for a good long time.

~From Rock-N-Rose 2/11 via SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/08, via Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 7/09; via Stone Chipper 08/09



YOU CAN WIN.....IN 2011
Chihuahua Desert Gem & Mineral Club, City of Alpine and THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION MINERAL SOCIETIES invites you to: "ALPINE AGATE FESTIVAL", 22nd Annual BIG BEND

GEM & MINERAL SHOW awaits you AT THE ALPINE CIVIC CENTER, Hwy 90 W. & 13th St. N. in Alpine, Texas
 FREE ADMISSION, Grand Prize ~ Door Prizes, Kid's Corner ~ Silent Auctions, Demo Dealers ~ Field Trips, Rollin' Rock Club Meeting!

COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT SHOW! April 15-17, 2011

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
MARCH 05-06 ROBSTOWN, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	MARCH 19-20 LIVE OAK, TX Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8201 Pat Booker Rd.	APRIL 09-10 ABILENE, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th and Pine	APRIL 15-17 ALPINE, TX "Alpine Agate Festival" SCFMS AND CHIHUAHUAN DESERT G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr. Hwy. 90W & 13th. St.

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 21, 2011, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 25-26, 2012
 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			
2011 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. 2011: 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 2011 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418			
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Deadline for April Issue is March 28, 2011			