



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 38 MARCH 2012 NUMBER 3

	<p>NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2012 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 a presentation from Trina Willoughby. Topic is not know at time of Newsletter mailout.:

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	Fm Program Chair
February Minutes 2		<p>It was a GOOD 2012 Show! I wish to thank all of the club members who gave of their time to help us get through the show. See the show report on page three for details.</p>
March Birthstone - Aquamarine 2		<p>+++++</p>
Post 2012 Gem Show Summary 3	<p>Stoney Statements Salutes Field Trip Time. Find and crack a Geode!</p>	<p>Every Club should look into nominating someone for Rock Hound of the Year with the SCFMS. Hopefully, we can get Chuck Schuler Past SCFMS President to speak a few minutes about all the great programs from the SCFMS that we "Should" be participating in.</p>
Birthdays/Anniversaries 4		
Lapidary Corner Common Myths About Diamonds 4		
FIELD TRIPS 5		
The Unsolved Mystery of Blue Amber 6		
Fire Obsidian//Show Dates 7		

**** Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember. **** Oscar Levant

MINUTES OF THE February 20, 2012 MEETING
OF THE CLEAR LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

President Ben Duggar called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no corrections to the January Meeting Minutes.

Committee Reports

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar reported she delivered donation checks to five of the ten schools the club chose to support this year.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report. Al Pennington made the motion to approve the report. It was seconded by Lester Gary and passed unanimously. Having the books audited was discussed and Bill Robinette agreed to audit the books for 2012.

Visitors were introduced and welcomed.

Field Trips – Chairperson Ed Tindell discussed the upcoming field trips to the TXI Quarry in March and April. Trips to Alpine were also discussed. Other possible 2012 field trips were discussed.

Membership – Nothing to report.

Library – Chairperson Lester Gary announced the show will be an opportunity to add literature to the library. Members can select a book and ask the vendor to set it aside for club purchase.

Publicity – Chairperson Anna Brownfield announce three workshops are scheduled for 2012, April 21, June 17 and October 13. The workshop in April will be a beginner beading class from 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. The workshop in June will be another cabochon class and the workshop in October will be basic wire wrap. The workshops are free.

Program

Show Chairperson Al Pennington reviewed the upcoming Annual Show. He reviewed the rules and procedures for tickets and information. He displayed the layout of the show. Membership procedures were reviewed. The Gem Mine manning was discussed. The club lapidary machines will be set up in the demonstration area. Hands On is administered by the teachers from San Jacinto College. The Scouts area is manned by Trina Willoughby and the Swap Area is manned by Lester Gary. Set up/Take down begins 9:00 a.m. Friday morning with truck loading Thursday evening at the club locker. The Show ends at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and loading will begin at 5:01 p.m. Display cases were also discussed.

Door prizes were awarded. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Brownfield, Secretary

March Birthstone - Aquamarine

Aquamarine is a very popular gemstone of the beryl family. (The same family as emerald.) It varies in color from a very pale, almost colorless blue, to a blue green or teal and usually lacks the inclusions frequently found in emerald. Most commercial aquamarine has been heat treated to obtain the true blue color. It is usually faceted, with the emerald cut being the most popular, but it may also be made into cabochons which often display an asterism or cat's eye effect.

Simulants or "Fakes": Glass: If you can see bubbles in the stone it is glass rather than aquamarine. Another way to spot glass vs. real aquamarine is to place the stone on your forehead. Glass will feel room temperature but aquamarine will feel cool. If in doubt have it checked by a professional. Synthetic: Lab aquamarine is rare since it cost more to make than the value of natural specimens.

Synthetic Blue Spinal: These are much less expensive to make. Blue Spinal, however, does not display the pleochroism effect. (Effect of more than one color showing depending on the angle of light through the stone.) The most valuable aquamarine comes from Brazil but is also mined in Kenya, Nigeria,

Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Russia. In the U.S. It is found in Colorado, Wyoming and North Carolina. The largest crystal was found in 1910 in Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil. It weighed over 110kg and was 19 in. long and 17 in. in diameter.

Many believe it endows the wearer with foresight, courage and happiness and that it arouses feelings of sympathy, trust, harmony, friendship and lasting relationships. For this reason it was often given as a gift by the groom to the bride after consummation of the marriage.



Legend says that sailors often wore it to keep safe, avoid seasickness and as a protection against storms. In the Middle Ages royalty often wore it as a protection against poisoning.

It is believed to strengthen bones and teeth and has been used in treating eyes and for anxiety. It is also believed it protects against swollen glands.

To clean aquamarines use mild liquid soapy water and an old toothbrush.

Rinse well in warm water. Not hot!! Hot water can cause thermal shock. Do not use enzyme cleaners or detergents or ultrasonic cleaners. Avoid sudden temperature changes.

From the RockCollector 3/12 via Rock Buster News, 3/12

Post 2012 Gem Show Summary by Al Pennington – Show Chairman

Took lots of notes on things we need to do at this weekend's show. But first, I would like to thank all the new members that stepped up to help man some of the positions. Roy Kelly worked like a Trojan Friday, doing most of the table covering – thanks Roy. Friday was pretty grim for a while. Because of the several dealers that were “no show”, Dean Lagerwall helped by graciously taking up a major 6 table spot that helped save us. Thanks Dean. Also, the Fender's helped by assuming more tables as did one of the new Dealers-Wiremashers. Still, the dealers help as always and we had a good Saturday. Show attendance was back to average, this year, in part due to Madi Graz being already past. The Convention Center did go up on table prices this year and we may have to bump or table costs \$5 dollars to offset the cost.

For Information table, we need reprints of all our handouts. I also plan to go to Home Depot and assemble a Club tool kit for setup and take down. We will need to reprint tickets next year, we are low. This did drop swap into a one day event. No one showed on Sunday so we need to address again whether Swap is viable? Again, the exhibit cases showed severe wear and we will have to do something. I have talked to the HGMS and hope that we may have an option to buy new cases and junk our bad ones. We will need a work day to upgrade/repair the Gem Mine façade. It is suffering. The Dealer signs are in need of repair, many are using the temporary printing David T. came up with but they will not survive the locker conditions. We also need to get a good attach system on the signs. One came loose while I was putting them out and severely hurt one of my fingers. We are down on table covering so we will need a purchase next year.

It is time to put on a major publicity push for more attendance. We will examine social media as well as traditional methods but I want to get show attendance up to 2500-3000 next year. Who would like to star in a YouTube Show Video for 2013?

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

Thinking about paying you 2012 dues., only one more month left

GOODIE GETTERS...For March



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)

Common Myths About

Diamonds by Fred Cuellar, author of the best-selling book "How to Buy a Diamond."

1. A DIAMOND IS FOREVER.

A diamond will only be forever if you take care of it. If you don't a diamond can chip, fracture, or break. Even a diamond should come with a care instruction tag.

2. DIAMONDS ARE VERY RARE.

Nope! There is more of a man-made shortage than a natural shortage. The distribution of the number of diamonds put on the market each year is highly regulated. There are really enough diamonds to give each man, woman and child in the United States a whole cupful

3. A FANCY SHAPED DIAMOND IS MORE DIFFICULT TO CUT THAN A ROUND DIAMOND.

All diamonds, to a certain degree, are difficult to cut, and some very large diamonds take more time and effort to cut than smaller diamonds do. But one diamond is not harder to cut than another just because of the shape.

4. DIAMONDS ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT.

Webster's dictionary defines investment as "an outlay of money for income or profit." Since most people purchase diamonds to be worn and not to be resold, diamonds are not a good investment. Only through proper education and training could diamonds become a good investment. For the average Joe, I would recommend buying a diamond for the enjoyment and prestige it brings and don't be too concerned about making a buck.

5. A DIAMOND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE GEMSTONE.

The truth is there are quite a few more expensive gemstones on the market. For example, a top quality ruby can be worth over thirty thousand dollars a carat.

6. A JEWELER WILL TEND TO MOUNT HIS BEST DIAMONDS IN READY TO GO SETTINGS

On the contrary, a jeweler will always premount his worst diamonds in settings. That way he can hide any chips under prongs and make it impossible for you to get an exact color and weight measurement. Always remember a jeweler's best diamonds are in his safe and the only way to see them is to ask for them to be brought out.

HINT — By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic; instead of the hard, round little plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polishing cycle.

from The Rockcollector 4/01 via Rock Rollers, 3/01

Field Trips (2012) by Ed Tindell

Subject: Midlothian Field Trips 03/24/12, 03/31/12, 04/07/12

Hi All –

I have set up field trips to the TXI quarry for 3/24, 3/31 and 4/7, 10 AM-12 Noon. We may get to stay longer.

Rain Dates: none

Since we are combining two groups on these trips and not all attendees belong to www.meetup.com the attendance shown in the Texas Rockers is not correct.

Below is the correct current attendance The people going on each trip are listed further below in this email.

3/24 – 16 going, 9 open spots! This trip is GO!

3/31 – 20 going, 5 open spots! This trip is GO!

4/7 - 9 attending, 16 open spots! The minimum is ten (10) so this trip is a NO GO until more people sign up.

PLEASE PRINT/SIGN the forms and bring them with you to the meeting place listed below.

MSHA rules apply: hard hat, safety glasses, closed toed shoes, long pants

What to bring: hammer, bucket, packing material for delicate specimens, drinks, snacks

What to look for: fossils, pyrite, calcite, etc.

No children, pets or cameras.

This trip is free and you can keep everything you find.

Each trip is **limited to 10 - 25 people** but if we go over a few I don't think they will notice.

Plan to double up in cars as they do count cars!

Meeting Place: Whataburger in town located at 1320 E Highway 287, Midlothian, TX 76065, 972-775-2323.

Meeting Time: 9AM



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2012 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Hi All –

There are two Walker Ranch field trip weekends coming up: March 23, 24, 25, and April 19, 20, 21, 22. The April trip is on the same weekend as the Alpine Agate Festival (gem show). Because of this we've expanded the April hunt to 4 days. Your \$150 fee will let you hunt any 3 of the 4 days. That way you can take a day off to see the show, or hunt for the first three days and go home on Sunday so you can be at work on Monday.

The fee is the usual \$75 per person per day, with the third day free. So \$150 per person gets you three days of hunting for red plume agate, black plume agate, flower garden agate, all colors of moss agates, quartz crystals including citrine, smoky quartz and amethyst, and the clear, yellow labradorite.

To register for this hunt, first reply to this email or email me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net. Then send half of the fee for your party, in a check made out to Bryan Crumpton, to me, Teri Smith, at 509 N. 8th Street, Alpine, TX. 79830.

The only other requirement is that you must be a member of the Rollin' Rock Club, which you can join while you're here, or you must get your local club to declare the field trip to be an "official" field trip. This is so that the insurance offered by the SCFMS which covers the landowner in case we damage something is in force. If your club doesn't have that insurance, then you need to join the RRC. It's \$10 single or \$16 dual membership per year, and it can be paid at the time of the first field trip.

In order to have these field trips, we need to have at least 20 people sign up. If you wish to go to the Walker Ranch but can't make these weekends, please email me and let me know when you can make it. We'll see what we can do about accommodating people.

After these trips, there might be one in May, and then there will be a break for the summer. People have been finding amazing plume nodules and other things. The weather should be great, so plan to come on out!

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]

Cabochon

A **cabochon** or **cabouchon** is a gemstone which has been shaped and polished as opposed to faceted. The resulting form is usually a convex top with a flat back, although the term is used to mean any deliberate shape that is not faceted. Cutting "en cabochon" is usually applied to opaque gems, while faceting is usually applied to transparent stones. Hardness is also taken into account as softer gemstones with a hardness lower than 7 on Mohs hardness scale are easily scratched, mainly by silicon dioxide in dust and grit. This would quickly make translucent gems unattractive, whereas polished as cabochons, the scratches would not be as easily apparent.

The one notable exception to this is the case of asteriated stones such as star sapphires and chatoyant stones such as cat's eye chrysoberyl, where a domed cabochon cut is used to show the star or eye, which would not be seen in a faceted cut.

The usual shape for cutting cabochons is a rounded oval. This is at least partly because the eye is less sensitive to small asymmetrical ties in an oval, as opposed to round shape, and because the rounded cross section fits well with the domed top.

The normal procedure is to cut a slab of the rough rock, then to stencil a shape from a template. Normally, an aluminum scribe is used to mark the rock, as it tends not to rub off in handling. The slab is then trimmed to near the marked line, followed by *nibbling* to the line. The purpose of nibbling is to speed the shaping of the material. It arises because the saws are diamond tipped blades, whilst most

grinding is done with silicon carbide grindwheels. The diamond cuts quicker and cleaner, and the saw does not wear as fast as the grind wheel.

Once the piece is trimmed and nibbled, it is usually mounted on a handle to assist manipulation. This procedure is called *dopping*: It is normally done by adhering the stone with wax onto a length of wooden dowel called a *dop stick*. The piece is then ground to the line, the edges are beveled, and finally the top is smoothed to a uniform dome.

Many lapidary type clubs offer classes on how to correctly make a cabochon and usually carry a variety of equipment at a club shop.

Fire Obsidian



Did you know that chunk of black obsidian you have just might have gold sheen, fire, or moon glow in it if you orient it correctly? Take it out into the sunshine and try to locate a good spot that shows something more than just black. If your piece has a rind or skin on it, take a small chip off here and there. Then wet the piece and turn it slowly in all directions so that the sun will reflect any unusual coloring.

If you are fortunate enough to find color, orient it by using the Sinkankas method (single light bulb over your head so the light just grazes your forehead). Mark your piece and saw it. Check before sawing each time to make sure that you are keeping the color on top. Fire obsidian can be so colorful that you will think you are looking at black opal.

- from G.L. Nugget Apr.2001 via Rocket City Rocks & Gems, Feb. 2012

The Trivia Vug by RJ Harris

- A meteor has only destroyed one satellite, which was the European Space Agency’s Olympus in 1993.
- American dentists use some 13 tons of gold each year for crowns, bridges, inlays and dentures.
- A dog was killed by a meteor in Nakhla, Egypt, in 1911. The unlucky canine is the only creature known to have been killed by a meteor.
- On November 17, 1959, synthetic diamonds were created for the very first time.
- The first blast furnace in the USA was built in 1622 in Falling Creek, Virginia. It was destroyed by hostile natives the following year.

Sources: Useless Information and Launch Radio

--from Hound’s Howl 3/12 via Rock Buster News, Dec. 2011

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Mar. 03 - 04 ROBSTOWN, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairground	Mar. 17 - 18 LIVE OAK, TX Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker Rd.	Apr. 14 - 15 ABILENE, TX Central TX G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th & Pine	Apr. 20 - 22 ALPINE, TX Chihuahuan Desert G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr. Hwy 90 W. & 13th St. N

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 19, 2012, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 23-24, 2013
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<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

2012 OFFICERS:	President	Ben Duggar	
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Brownfield	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	Trina Willoughby	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Jim Wines
		Ed Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591
Annual Show 2012.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Lester Gary
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Nancy Duggar	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2012: 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 2012 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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