



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 43

MARCH 2017

NUMBER 3



NEXT MEETING: March 20, 2017
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 Nasa Parkway
 Seabrook, Texas

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Pay Dues

Membership dues are due at the beginning of each year and **delinquent March 31, 2017.**

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2017: Adult \$15:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$5.00 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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING



Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm. Sara gave an update on last minute things that needed to be done for the gem show. Everything is looking good, but still need more volunteers. She gave a quick rundown from packing the truck before the show, to breaking down and returning everything to the storage unit.

Next we had an interesting presentation from Dr. William Morgan. He wrote a book on Texas Cretaceous Echinoids. He had a slide show presentation with his talk. He answered questions afterwards and sold copies of his book. He even autographed your book if you wanted him to. He also gave us the location where he collected some of his specimens.

A very brief business meeting was held and the meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Dudley, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2017, BOARD MEETING



Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by David, our Vice President. Raul was unable to make it.

Sandy gave a report on the show's vendors. Overall the vendors were pleased with the show and did well. A few of the "regular" vendors complained there were too many vendors set up. We feel the show looked great and offered a nice variety of merchandise.

Our treasurer Jerry will give us totals on the show as soon as all the tickets have been accounted for. He will look at last year's numbers and compare them to this year's to see how we faired.

The grand prize has been secured for next year's show.

David informed us of an e-mail Mike received from Armand Bayou Montessori School. They are having a spring festival on April 1st and asked if we had a display we could share or a presentation. It was suggested we use the gem mine supplies for a hands on activity. Vince is going to contact the person who sent the e-mail to see if they would like that and to get the details for the festival. Help will be needed for this!

Vince gave a program update. He let us know Dr. Morgan made it back to his home in Tennessee safely. He thanked us for letting him share his book on echinoids with us. Our March program will be "Show and Tell" of all the goodies you purchased from our gem show. Hopefully everyone bought some cool stuff! We would also like to get critiques from members who attended the show.

Vince has a presentation on Mar's meteorites for April and a presentation on Gem Cylinder Seals in May. Vince is doing an awesome job lining up presenters for us!

Next we talked about making ticket selling less confusing next year. There were several suggestions. It was decided we need to do some training for the people who will handle that next year. We also talked about different advertising. It would be ideal to have a Marketing Chairman.

We need our members to step up and volunteer. Anything you can do would be a tremendous help! And "Thank You" to all who did pitch in!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Dudley, Secretary

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

BENCH SHEARS



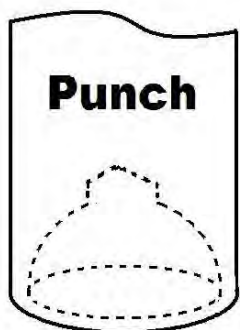
When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more

than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

BEZEL CLOSER



A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.



Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish

the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.



When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Increase Your Knowledge—A Column of New Words, Rocks, and Minerals By Ruth Rolston



Cinnabar: Found in shallow veins and rock impregnations. Bright red to brick-red. Chief ore of mercury. Main source of the brilliant red or scarlet pigment termed vermilion. The mineral resembles quartz in symmetry. Found in Yugoslavia, Spain, and Italy. Good crystals of rhombohedron type have been found in Hunan, China and Pike County, Arkansas. Small nuggets have been found in Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas.

Rhombohedron: a solid figure whose faces are six equal rhombuses. Three dimensional figures like a cube except its faces are not square, but rhomboidal.



Antlerite: a greenish hydrous copper sulfate mineral. It occurs in tabular, acicular, or fibrous crystals with a vitreous luster. Originally believed to be a rare mineral antlerite was found to be the primary ore of the oxidized zones in several copper mines across the world including the Chuquicamata Mine in Chile. Its greater abundance and more wide-spread distribution have been recognized. Often confused with malachite and brochantite from which it is nearly indistinguishable by simple tests and it is far more common than thought (Pough, Federick, 1955, p. 196).

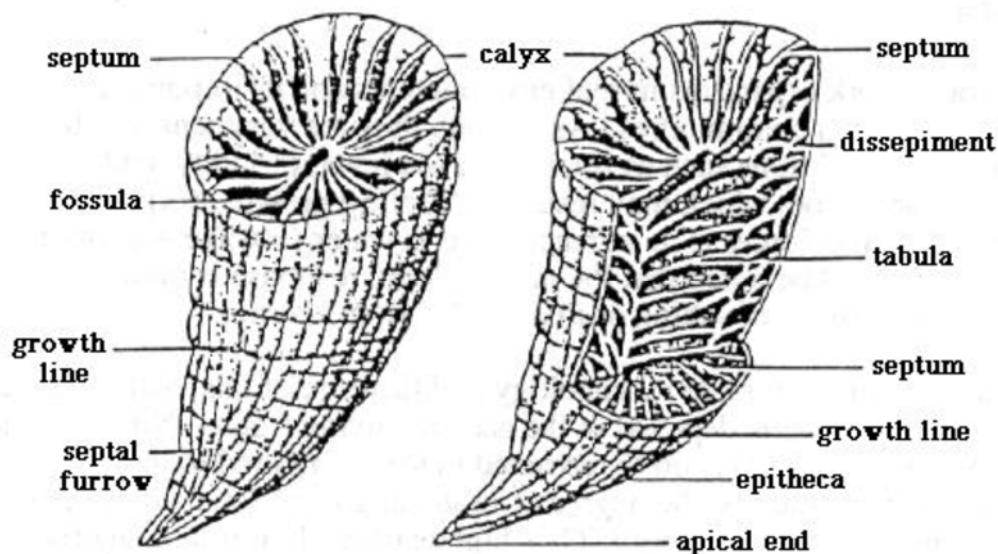


Pom Pom: a pattern in agate and jasper which consists of small, fluffy-looking balls composed of radiating sagenite needles.

Sagenite: sprays of needles, hair-like, or fan-like inclusions.

From The Rock Prattle, Feb 2017

[HORN CORAL](#)



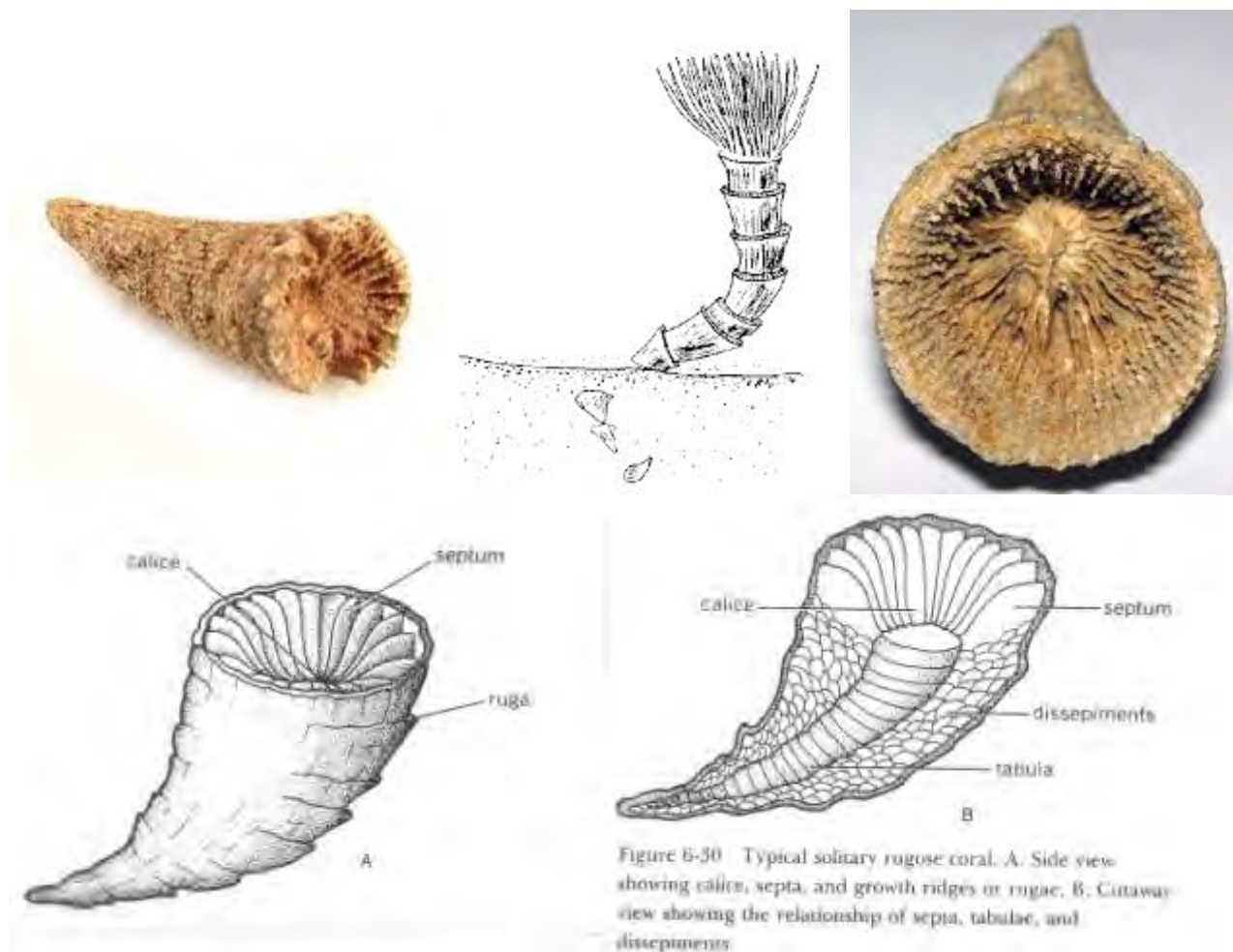
“**Horn coral**, any coral of the order Rugosa, which first appeared in the geologic record during the **Ordovician Period**, which began 488 million years ago; the Rugosa persisted through the **Permian Period**, which ended 251 million years ago. Horn corals, which are named for the hornlike shape of the individual structures built by the coral **animal**, were either solitary or colonial forms. Of the many forms known, some are important as index, or guide, fossils for specific spans of geologic time and serve to correlate sometimes widely separated rock units. Because of their mode of growth, some horn corals have

been employed as biological clocks to determine the length of the day and year in the distant geologic past. <https://www.britannica.com/animal/horn-coral>.”

“Horn Corals are from the extinct order of corals called Rugosa. Rugose means wrinkled. The outside of these corals have a wrinkled appearance. Horn Coral grows in a long cone shape like a bull’s horn. The fossil is the skeleton of the coral animal or polyp. They built these cone shaped structures from calcium carbonate that came from the ocean water. The animal lived at the top of the cone. As the animal got bigger it added more material to the cone. Each layer was a little bigger than the previous one. All corals belong to the phylum of animals called cnidaria. They are related to jellyfish which are also cnidaria. While modern corals are colonial the now extinct horn corals could be colonial or solitary animals. They had many tentacles sticking out to gather food. The tentacles gave them a flower like appearance. The oldest of the Rugosa corals are found in rocks from the Ordovician Period. Many species evolved during the Paleozoic Era. As a group they flourished until the Permian Period when they became extinct along with most living things during the Great Permian Extinction.

http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com/horn_corals.html”

from The Glacial Drifter, Feb 2017



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.
 Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 25-26, 2017
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>



American Federation of Mineral Societies

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

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.

2015 OFFICERS:	President	Raul Montelongo	832-341-0416
	Vice President	David Tjiok	281-423-4802
	Secretary	Pam Dudley	713-815-0275
	Treasurer	Jerry Newberry	281-286-6869
	Program Director	Vince Barrows	
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Jim Edwards
		Mary Wells	John Caldyne
	Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield	

Annual Show 2016	Sara Chelette	Library	Vacant
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Victoria Faulkner
Community Benefits.....	Vacant	WWW System Admin.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	Doug Dann
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

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