



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 NOVEMBER 2009 NUMBER 11



**NEXT MEETING:** November 16, 2009  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING  
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE  
 SEABROOK, TEXAS



**The PROGRAM FOR November...**

**The program will be Mystery Subject:** Presented by a mystery guest speaker. Since it is such a mystery, no one tells me what it is. Any way at Press time the speaker was still not revealed. Also, there will be a report from the officer selection committee. I will post the Program on the website when I get it form the program directors.



**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
October Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements Salutes some of the hard working members of the SCFMS. An the winning question is – who can guess when this was taken??</p>	<p>The Officers Team will be out looking for candidates for officers for next year. WE will need a full slate, so everyone determine if you can serve in this role. Help your club by serving as an officer or Board Member.</p>  <p><b>Veterans Day</b></p> <p>+++++  <b>NEW ADDRESS, phone number, e-mail address, etc?</b> Contact Al Pennington and Mike Flannigan, at the Newsletter address</p>
	2		
Wichita Mountain Myths – #4	3		
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4		
Lapidary Corner- Top 10 Reasons to Collect Minerals	4		
FIELD TRIPS – Report from Arkansas	5		
Rugosa, Horn Corals	6		
President’s Message/Regional Show Dates	7		

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president." *Theodore Roosevelt*

**Minutes of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral  
October 19, 2009**

President Ed Tindell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of last month's meeting were approved.

President Ed Tindell reviewed committee reports:

Historian: President Ed Tindell has photos from the Arkansas field trip

Library: Nothing to report

Community Service: The purpose of the committee was reviewed.

Education: Need a chairperson

Auditing: Ben Duggar to review books

Nominating Committee: Need chairperson

Publicity: Posters and pamphlets have been mailed to local libraries and chambers of commerce.

Membership: We have one new member

Show Committee: Ben and Nancy Duggar agreed to help with the publicity for the show. Flyers will be distributed to dealers at the Houston Gem & Mineral Show to be held November 13-15, 2009.

Unfinished Business:

Al Pennington has ordered the plastic boxes and they will be shipped to Ed Tindell.

Lesley Gary has the check and will purchase a Gem-Tec for the club. The tools and machinery in the club locker was discussed. We need an Equipment Manager trained in lapidary. College of the Mainland has lapidary classes.

New Business:

Jensen Elementary is in need of books for their library and for their gem and mineral display. They requested a speaker to make a presentation regarding digging for crystals, etc.

President Ed Tindell attended the 2009 South Central Federation Convention at the Tri-City Gem & Mineral Show in Temple, Texas. He discussed the liability insurance issue and that programs are being converted to DVD.

Al Pennington was awarded 4th Place for Web Page design and he also was recognized for judging 35 web sites for the South Central Federation.

Field Trip Coordinator Ed Tindell reviewed the events of the Arkansas Field Trip. Next trip is planned for the TXI Quarry in Midlothian.

Announcements: Annabel Williams announced that she had Houston Gem & Mineral Show tickets for \$5.00, \$7.00 at the door.

There was a break prior to the program and refreshments were served.

Program – More than Rust – Corrosion Products and Failure Analysis

Presented by Mike Burns

Mike is a metallurgic engineer and his presentation explained why there is rust and corrosion. Extract metallurgy is taking minerals out. It takes iron compounds to make steel. Corrosion is the metal that is left. Product Analyses – what corrodes and the methods to analyze it. He discussed chemical analyses and x-ray diffraction. Both are beneficial for failure analysis. Most people say rust is iron oxide. There are three types of iron oxide; hematite, magnetite, and wustite (forms only at high temperatures). Hydrated ferric oxides (rust) are goethite, akaganeite and lepidocrocite. Mike reviewed case studies. He explained how siderite is formed and that it is common in oilfield corrosion. Sulfides such as pyrite and marcasite break down in water and air. Iron chlorides are ferric chloride and ferrous chloride. Iron sulfates form in sulphuric acid. There is caution in identifying minerals by eyesight as this is rarely sufficient. The use of chemical analysis is needed. Some corrosion products are unstable or soluble.

Door prizes were awarded and President Ed Tindell adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Annabel Williams  
Secretary

## Wichita Mountain Myths

Stephens County, Oklahoma near the town of Comanche lies a large cache of Spanish Gold and silver bars. For those of you that have read Oklahoma Treasures and Treasure Tales by Steve Wilson this won't be new but for those of you that haven't.....

Near the town of Comanche in Oklahoma is Mud Creek. Somewhere on Mud Creek there is said to be buried "14 jack loads" of Spanish gold and silver bars. I think we established several months ago that a jack load is somewhere between 135 and 150 pounds. That would mean that on the low side, you are talking about over 1800 pounds of precious metal languishing in the ground somewhere. With gold at over \$900 per ounce, you're talking about one hell of a retirement party!

Back in the early 1900's there were signs to the treasure that could still be seen. These signs included carvings of a snake, a half moon and a turtle. We all know what a turtle means when you're hunting Spanish treasure right? It means TREASURE is near! Other markings in the area were the carved letters of MINA, EMA and VWC. There was also a carved cross found.

These symbols and others were carved into trees and rocks in the area around Mud Creek. I'm sure that most of the trees the carvings were on are gone now but I would think (or hope) that some of the rock carvings would still be around. The letters and the cross were all carved into rock but they were well worn back in the 1970's.

In 1905 there were two "Mexicans" that showed up in Comanche who said they were looking for the "14 jack loads of gold" but they apparently didn't find anything and left empty handed.

Stories from "old Indians" in the area say that the Spanish had a settlement near Comanche and soldiers from the settlement would leave on occasion with several empty wagons and return with the wagons full, leaving deep ruts in the ground when they returned. A normal person could attribute some of these trips to bringing ordinary supplies to the settlement however, there could probably be one or more of these wagon trains that had something else in them. Something that required a smelter.



A previous treasure hunter searching this area is said to have found an arrastra about five miles south and east of Comanche. Why would the Spanish need a rock crusher if they weren't processing ore?

Mud Creek is more east than south of Comanche (about 9 miles east) but nothing says the Spanish would have hidden their treasure close to the settlement or even close to where the arrastra was. Oh, I might mention that there is an East and West Mud Creek along with just Mud Creek. A little more research on this story just might bring a big smile to your face. After a lot of digging of course! **From the Okie Treasure Hunter** <http://okietreasurehunter.blogspot.com/>

**Editor's Note:** The Spaniards were well up into Oklahoma from the ill fated Coronado expedition of 1540 until the 1700s. The Wichita Mountains have lots of quartz veins running through them and no doubt there was gold. Arrastra's were found all over the mountains and south into other areas (probably where gold flakes ran off into the vast number of creeks. But rock outcrops are found all over.

**An November HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Helen Kosler	9
Mike Bessemer	15
Charles Buddenhagen	30

**Topaz** - Believed to protect and heal the wearer, help with weight loss, and bring money & love. (light blue).

**November Anniversary includes:**

Michael Vanderbles	24
Al & Loyce Pennington	25



Now is not too early about thinking about paying you 2010 dues.

**GOODIE GETTERS...For November**

Main Goodies provided by club.

**Lapidary Corner** (Special request from a new member)**Top 10 Reasons to Collect Minerals**

10. Large specimens can double as ballast for the car in winter.
  9. Didn't know what to do with that empty space in the garage anyway.
  8. Always preferred vacationing in abandoned quarries to white-sand beaches.
  7. Collecting only copralites is just too specialized.
  6. In-Laws might not visit as much after hearing rock tumbler in guest bedroom.
  5. Field collecting may help you improve your aim with a hammer.
  4. Mounting micro specimens is an excellent way to teach the virtue of patience.
  3. Baseball cards don't look as nice lining the flower garden.
  2. Elvis may have his own stamp, but he'll never have his own mineral.
- And the number one reason to collect minerals . . .
1. It's still legal!!!

Reprinted from *The RockCollector* 11/09 via *Pesa Rock News*, via *Rockhound Record* 11/09

**Shop Tips**

(From Ted Wojalik's silversmithing class)

1. Use the least amount of solder needed to make a good solder joint. Do not flood the joint with solder.
2. Pieces to be soldered should fit tightly with no air space between.
3. The joint and solder must be clean. Flux joints well.
4. All pieces being soldered should reach soldering temperatures simultaneously.
5. To harden sterling silver, simply heat to 600 degrees for 30-50 minutes in a kiln or furnace. Air cool the sterling silver before pickling it.
6. Sterling silver findings and other items will not tarnish if kept in a sealed container with a cake of camphor.
7. Have your chains and buckles lost their bright new look? By spraying them with Fantastic cleaner and rinsing, they'll regain their showroom shine.
8. Save the water from boiled potatoes to shine up tarnished silver or jewelry.

(From *Hound's Howl March 2003* via *Pebble Prattle*, 11/2000 *Chats and Chips*, 12/2003)

**HELP! We Still Need a Show Publicity Person**

Hello to all members. We are in need of a show publicity person. Duties include sending out our publicity material to magazines', newspapers and such things.

We are getting close to the time for some of the early work and need a volunteer.

## Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell

### Arkansas Field Trip Report

Only three of the seven who signed up actually showed up Friday morning for the Arkansas field trip. I have discovered a natural law, called "Ed's Law Of Field Trip Attendance", that states that "Approximately 38% of the total people who sign up for a field trip will actually show up for it."  $3/7 = 42.9\%$ , pretty close!

I arrived in Murfreesboro about 1PM on Thursday and checked into my hotel, the American Heritage Inn. They have a rock display in their lobby and I noticed something different about it. It turns out that the museum at the Crater is closed due to renovation and the state has loaned the American Heritage Inn some of their displays for the duration. The clerk removed the display from a case and let me look at it up close for awhile. Afterwards I went and dug at the Crater of Diamonds from 2-6. The price has gone up from \$6 to \$7 to dig all day. From one 5 gal bucket of dirt I got a bucket of ~4 gal of gravel from the far south end of the East ditch. I had found a small waterfall plunge pool and dug it out as it was a good spot for heavy minerals to concentrate.

Friday morning I met Ed and Lila Griswald for breakfast at Buddy's and then we drove over to a local landfill. There we met the operators who took us down to the southern end and pointed out all the area we could search, about 18 acres total. I found two buckets full of large thick pieces of satin spar gypsum, orange gypsum crystal masses and turetella. Ed even found some pyrite. The smell wasn't too bad at all; We finished up at the landfill at 2PM and drove over to the Crater again. I got a bucket (~2 gal) of gravel from the area just east of the west ditch. [I got an email from the Crater today saying that someone had found a big ~3 carat brown diamond in that area. Maybe I will too!] While I was there screening my bucket of dirt to get the gravel another digger slowly walked up to the wash area. He looked like an old time prospector right out of the pages of National Geographic! He had a full head of white hair standing out every which way and a full white beard. He had an old worn wooden yoke across his shoulders with a rope at each end leading down to two buckets of dirt which he was carrying. He had a backpack on and it had a square rack mounted on it. On the rack were stored four screens made from old bicycle wheel rims with 1/2", 1/4", 1/8" and 1/16" screens. My hands were covered with mud and I couldn't get my camera out to take a picture of him. What a photo op I missed! When I got done I managed to speak with him briefly before having to leaving. He'd been digging at the Crater for 40 years and hadn't had any luck in a week. He asked me what kind of dirt I had screened. He didn't care which part of the field I had got my dirt from just what kind of dirt had it been? When I told him he agreed.

some of the refineries here put out much worse at times! Good specimens were to be had most anywhere we looked and in any size. Saturday I drove up to Malvern and met Ed and Lila at a McDonalds. We drove into Magnet Cove and looked for Brookite crystals in the dirt in the west side road cut at the old Baroid turnoff. After about an hour I had found several from 1/4-1/16" and had sifted about ~1 gal of gravel to take back with me and go thru for more. I found about 100 last time in less gravel. After that we drove up to the old Baroid site and looked at all the new fences and signs. I spoke with the security guard there and he said that if I contacted the plant manager during the week (they don't work weekends) that we could probably get in to collect. They still let in lots of college classes he said.

We drove down to the Magnet Cove Bridge and I showed Ed and Lila the Carbonatite and Eudyalite boulders. I showed them the Acmite crystals on the Eudyalite boulders and gave them a Roscoelite crystal (green mica) that I found. We didn't have permission to collect in the creek there so we moved on.

We drove up to the pyrite locality on Gourneck Valley Road next and looked for pyrite. There was too much icy cold water still running in the creek to look for it in the gravel or wade to the other side and dig so we looked around the bank along the parking area. We quickly discovered that the water had been much higher and that it had washed lots of pyrite onto the bank. We found one area with a small dome covered with large gravel that had naturally trapped and concentrated a large number of small pyrite crystals as the water flowed over it and slowed down. We also found spots where a lot of the albite feldspar with pyrite had been washed up. I collected some nice hand sized pieces with lots of good crystals on them and they are very clean. Ed found some pretty big pieces; he was looking for rocks to adorn a fire place he is building. I had brought a big 6" donut magnet and 50' of rope so we could fish for Magnetite. After about 50 throws all we found was lots of magnetic black sand. No crystals large enough to see stuck to the magnet.

(Continued next month)



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

## Rugosa, Horn Corals

Middle Ordovician to Late Permian

Article from [www.palaeos.com](http://www.palaeos.com)

The Rugosa or “rugose corals” (referring to their wrinkled appearance), also known as “horn corals” were an important group of Paleozoic organisms. Both solitary and colonial forms are known, but the former are more common. Solitary rugosans usually have a horn shaped (hence the alternative term, “horn corals”), while the colonial types commonly have hexagonal corallites. The skeleton is made of calcite and is generally quite massive. Solitary rugose corals range in size from a few millimeters in diameter and in length to 14 centimeters in diameter and a height of close to one meter. Some colonies may be 4 meters in diameter. Like modern corals (e.g. sea anemones, which can be observed in intertidal rock pools), the coral animal (or *polyp*) fed by using tentacles to capture and sweep organisms into their mouths



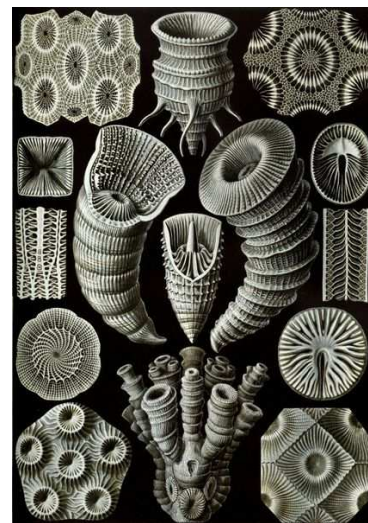
As a very general rule, rugose corals have stronger radial septa than they do transverse platforms. The septa radiate out from the center. Rugose corals have both major and minor septa. Rugose corals differ from other corals by the pattern by which they add septa through their ontogeny (development and growth). Both solitary and colonial rugosans have this distinctive septal insertion pattern, which gives most rugose corals bilateral symmetry. The six *prosepta* are added first, including the *cardinal septum* and *counter septum*, which are at 180 degrees from one another. . After this the major septa (*metasepta*) are inserted serially in four positions; minor septa

short and inserted between major septa, probably serially also. It is this fourfold developmental pattern that gives rugose corals their alternative name of tetracorals (tetra meaning four).

New corallites may bud asexually, although they also reproduced sexually. The buds have four septa. As the corallite grows, the septa begin to spread further apart, and new septa are added, generally, four septa at a time are added to maintain a rigid structure.

The growth lines on the coral span its length from the calice (top) to the base. Rugose corals generally added a new layer of growth each day (a new wrinkle), and the days in the Paleozoic year have been determined through counting growth rings on rugose corals. It is now known for example that the Devonian period had a year of 400 days (in the past the Earth rotated more quickly around its axis; this rotation is being gradually but continually slowed by the tidal “brake” exerted by the moon’s gravity). It is not known whether rugose corals had symbiotic photosymbiotic zooxanthellae (algae) as modern corals do. Some have suggested not, but personally I see no reason why they would not have. They were rarely reef-builders as modern corals are. The reason being they were not able to attach themselves to the bottom the way modern scleractinian corals can.

[**Star-O-Lite** 11/09 via The Ammonite 1/09 via The Rock Collector 2/09]



**Editor’s Note:** By the way – Let’s all give our great CLGMS Secretary **Annabel Williams** several hoorahs. She has been super on the minutes and has even taken over some of the publicity- **Hip Hip Hoorah!**

### President's Message

Hi All -

I have some club business to discuss with you all. Please read the following:

- 1) Al Pennington has been using his company laptop in conjunction with the club projector for presentations. He has informed me that it is time for the club to get a laptop of their own. I need the club officers approval for this so please email me your consent or denial. If we have a unanimous consent I would like approval for Al to spend up to but no more than \$1,000 for a club laptop. Al works with software for the NASA so he is well informed and will know just what we need in the way of a laptop. (I don't have my copy of the ByLaws handy but I think this is correct. Can someone verify?)
- 2) I need two (2) volunteers for the Election Committee. Your job is simple: ask other club members to run for office for 2010. Our current club officers are President: Ed Tindell, Vice-President: Bob Brock, Treasurer: Loyce Pennington and Secretary: Annabel Williams.

Here are the job duties:

President - preside at all meetings, represent club to public and at SCFMS convention, carry the gavel

Vice President - backup for the president

Treasurer - maintain the clubs finances (books, bank deposits, write checks)

Secretary - takes meeting minutes, handle other minor club business

These are easy jobs folks and without people to fill them we can't survive as a club. I have been a club member since 1998 and have worn a lot of hats in the club in that time. I have enjoyed being president for 2009. However, I would like to see someone else be president for 2010 so that I can serve in other ways. I haven't asked the other officers if they plan to run as incumbents for 2010 or not so some of the other officers may be open as well. Please consider running for office in 2010. I ask all those who desire to run for office to come forward with your candidacy by the November meeting. Nominees will be elected and take office at the December Christmas party.

We still need a trained lapidary(s) to step forward and be equipment manager as well. We now have a fair amount of good/new lapidary equipment, supplies and lots of rough for holding classes and demos at the show. What we don't have we will get to support whatever lapidary activities the membership expresses a desire to pursue. You won't have to use your own materials/shop/equipment. We just need someone(s) to share their expertise with us so that we learn how to get the most out of the equipment without harming it, ourselves or the stones we are trying to cut. This is a voluntary position so you don't even have to be elected to it.

Thanks,

Ed Tindell  
2009 CLGMS President

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
NOVEMBER 07-08 MIDLAND, TX MIDLAND G & M S Midland Center	NOVEMBER 13-15 HUMBLE, TX HOUSTON G & M S Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy	NOVEMBER 21-22 MESQUITE, TX DALLAS G & M S Resistol Arena Ex. Hall	
DECEMBER 12-13 DeRIDDER, LA DeRIDDER G & M S DeRidder La. Fairgrounds	DECEMBER 05-06 ROUND ROCK, TX PALEONTOLOGICAL SOC. OF AUSTIN "Fossil Fest" Old Settlers Park next to Dell Diamond		

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.  
 November 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.....	Nancy Dugger	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**  
**Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is freely given providing credit is given author and Stoney Statements except if the article requires authorization (©RA). Permission may be obtained by E-mailing Editor.**  
**Deadline for December Issue is November 28, 2009**