



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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**NEXT MEETING:** Nov. 16, 2020  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** VIRTUAL meeting.

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## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

We did not have an in person general meeting.

The virtual meeting was held about 13 members and officers were attending. We hope more members will attend this month Virtual meeting.

We have new members to our club – The Kaemer family (Michael and Emerson) – Welcome.

As mentioned before – HGMS is having a Virtual Auction.

Charlie Timmie has a 16” saw that can cut quite a large slab – so if anybody has a large specimen and needs to cut into slabs please contact him.

Nick Roe – showed some more pictures of his micro collection – Awesome pictures.

Pasadena Convention Center (PCC) has been open for events – of course with safety procedures.

\*\*\*\*\* **CLGMS WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL SHOW IN 2021** \*\*\*\*\*

We received a great response from our members on volunteering during the 2021 Annual Show.

The Show Chairwoman (Sandy Christiansen) will start sending applications to vendors and also will submit the floor plan and a written safety procedure to PCC. In person meeting with PCC personnel will be scheduled once PCC receives our written safety procedure.

We will not have a Dino Guy for this upcoming show.

The Scout presentation will also be discussed in the near future.

The Gem Mine will still be on and we will discuss the safety procedure on sanitizing the equipment.

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER CLGMS BOARD MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting was held at Panera Bread on 11/02/2020, at Eldorado Blvd at 7:00 pm.

Meeting attending: Sandy Christiansen, Morgan Davies, John Caldyne, David Tjiok, Cyndi McGowan, and Christina Rankin.

There will be 42 vendors (last year's) due to the spacing needs for the vendors. Applications for the vendors will be finalized soon. Sandy will send out a survey to the

vendors to see if they are willing to commit to the show dates. Show dates are still February 20-21. We will need to supply the hand sanitizer, floor disks, and count-keepers to track how many people come in and out. Everyone will be wearing a mask while they are in the building. We spoke about seeing if NASA can bring some items to show and we are looking to who we need to ask for these items. Next year we would like to have meetings to be held at League City public library and we are waiting to get approval for it. John will have a lecture about Gem Mining and the date will be after the show. Christina Rankin will have a Beading Class in the summer - dates will be worked out later.

Note: We are NOT going to meet at The League City Library because the Monday nights are booked. We are still waiting from the Harris County Park and Recreation office for the opening dates.

We will have a virtual Zoom meeting - notification and reminder will be sent out by email.

**In 2020 we will not be collecting money for dues. If you already paid for this year, it will go to 2021 Club dues.**

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### **Field trip report:**

On November 8th the weather was beautiful for a rock hunting trip at the Texas City Dike. 7 members met up to scour the sand at Surfers beach for shark's teeth. Over 2 hours 10 teeth were found ranging from tiny to bigger than a nickel.

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### **Upcoming Programs: for December virtual general meeting.**

Nick Roe will show some of his Micromount photographs.

James Brittenham will tell more on his new hobby – faceting.

Everybody is welcome to do a show and tell.

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## **Micromount Collecting** - Baltimore Mineral Society

### **TINY MINERALS – PLEASANT SURPRISES**

#### **What is Micromounting?**

By Carolyn Weinberger.

"Micromounting is the same as a field trip without the travel." A Micromount is any single or group of crystals that requires some degree of magnification in order to view it properly and has been securely mounted in a box for protection.

Why collect microminerals? There are several reasons that people collect micromounts -- space, cost, variety of minerals available, etc.

Consider:

- You can store about 100 mounted specimens in a box measuring approx. 8 1/2 x 11 inches x 1 inch.
- Micro crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more often than larger sized specimens. Often protected in vugs, they survive!
- You can purchase prepared micromounts from dealers for far less cost than larger specimens
- Micromount collectors are always willing to give away extra specimens or trade extra specimens to increase their collection
- Almost all the newly identified minerals today are found only as microscopic crystals. Pity the larger specimen collector - only a few hundred of the now 4100+ specimens survive in larger sizes!
- Micro crystals often exhibit unusual forms such as twisted rods or crystals growing within other crystals.

#### **An Invitation to Micromounting**

By Michael Seeds

Micromounting is the study and collection of mineral specimens that require magnification to be appreciated. The typical micromount is a group of crystals only a few millimeters in diameter, mounted in a small box and properly labeled with species and location. Collectors study and enjoy their minerals under low-power stereo microscopes.

Micromounters are famous for being friendly and generous, and that's because the best way to find micromounts is to trade raw rock, unmounted specimens or finished micromounts with other micromounters. All around the world, micromounters hold conferences to swap stories, give away extra material, and have a good time. The best way to start micromounting, it find a conference near you and attend. See the list of conferences below. You will be welcome.

Why would you want to collect micromounts?

**Space:** You can store 3,000 micromounts in one cubic foot of space. Your equipment would fit on a card table. If you are pressed for space, micromounting will allow you to enjoy the beauty of minerals and the fun of collecting without a workshop or hobby room.

**Beauty:** Larger crystals are often cracked and dinged, but microscopic crystals are often perfect. Small minerals often form in vugs where they are protected from damage, and mounting a specimen in a micro box protects it and makes it easy to view. Micromounters are accustomed to seeing flawless crystals and undamaged formations.

**Variety:** Most minerals do not form large crystals. If you collect larger specimens, only a few hundred are available. Of the 4000+ minerals known, the vast majority form only microscopic crystals. Add to that, nearly all newly discovered minerals are available only as microscopic crystals. It is not unusual for a micromounter to have over 1000 different species, and at least one micromounter has 80% of all known minerals in his micromount collection.

**Activity:** Micromounting is a way of working on your minerals instead of merely admiring them. On cold winter nights and rainy days, micromounters study their rocks, find the best specimens, trim them down to size, glue them on cork supports, put them in boxes, and write labels. Some micromounters explore quarries and mines and others never leave their chairs. Micromounting has been described as a craft and an art. However you pursue it, it is an active way to enjoy mineralogy.

**Cost:** Nearly all micromounters are anxious to swap minerals, and micromount conferences traditionally have "Giveaway" tables where collectors put their extra rock free for the taking. Fantastic specimens come routinely from giveaway tables. Dealers sell micromounts for a few dollars with rare or unusually beautiful specimens going for tens of dollars. The value of one good cabinet specimen would buy an entire micromount collection.

**How do you get started? The Book:** The best source of information about micromounting is the book *The Complete Book of Micromounting* by Quintin Wight, Mineralogical Record, 1993.

**Your Scope:** You need a stereo microscope with magnification between 10 and 20 times. A zoom scope is best and many go up to 40 times. Higher magnification is not necessary but can be useful. You can find used microscopes by asking other mineral collectors, and a few companies sell both new and used scopes. Scan the ads in mineral magazines for dealers.

**Light Source:** Micromounts must be illuminated from above, so you need a light source. Many micromounters use bright light sources with fiber optic arms that pipe the light directly to the mineral, but others use desk lamps, home made illuminators with LEDs, and so on. All you need is a bright light on the mineral. Most companies that sell microscopes also sell light sources.

**Tools and Supplies:** You probably have hobby knives and forceps, but you may want to buy a small rock trimmer to crack specimens down to size. You also need the microboxes (23x23x19 mm) and corks used to mount specimens. Boxes, tools, and supplies are available from a number of dealers.

**Rocks:** Many micromounters are avid field collectors, and you can find micromount material in surprisingly mundane places. Almost any rocky place is a possibility. Nevertheless, one of the best places to find rocks is other micromounters, so don't hesitate to locate someone near you and introduce yourself. The International Directory of Micromounters is available from editor Carolyn Weinberger ([escrystals2@verizon.net](mailto:escrystals2@verizon.net)). If possible attend a micromount conference. See the list below. You will come home with lots of specimens.

A list of sources and references is available from Mike Seeds ([mseeds@fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu)).

### The Rules of Micromounting

Rule number one is, - There are no rules. Most micromounters try to produce neat, clean specimens carefully mounted so that the cork and glue underneath do not show, but some collectors stick their specimens in boxes with stickum or even hot glue. Some collectors use various size boxes and some use only one size. Some collectors photograph every specimen and catalog it carefully in a data base and double entry card catalog. Others hardly keep records at all. It just fun. Do it your way.

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Taken from:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-54608836>

The small Canadian town of Asbestos that decided it needed a rebrand has done away with the name derived from its mining heritage.

The Quebec town, home to some 7,000 people, voted for "Val-des-Sources" as its new moniker. The town was once the location of the world's largest asbestos mine. It was given the English name for the mineral - rather than the French amiante - in the late 19th Century. But the town's council said the connotation hindered its ability to attract foreign investment, and announced last November that the hunt was on for a new name.

The town, about 150 km (95 miles) east of Montreal, finally announced the winning title with some fanfare on Monday evening. It was picked after a lengthy consultation and a vote by town residents, including those as young as 14. About half the town residents eligible to cast ballots did so. Val-des-Sources won with just over 51% of the vote in the third round of voting.

The name is "above all, inspiring for the future", Mayor Hugues Grimard said. Other possibilities on the shortlist were L'Azur-des-Cantons, Jeffrey-sur-le-Lac, Larochelle, Phénix and Trois-Lacs, which came in second place.


Asbestos won't be changing its town signs immediately, said Mr Grimard, who suggested it could be the end of the year before the formal, legal switch. "It'll be a nice Christmas present," he said.




The town of Asbestos thrived for over a century on the chrysotile asbestos manufactured at its open-pit mine. The mine suspended operations in 2011. Once considered a miracle mineral, asbestos was used in construction industries for strengthening cement, in insulation, roofing, fireproofing and sound absorption. But by the mid-20th Century, concerns about its use were growing as more and more studies linked asbestos to deadly illnesses. Breathing in asbestos fibres has been linked to cancer and other diseases.

Global demand for the product plummeted as countries around the world began banning it. Canada was a latecomer, only banning its manufacture, import, use and export in 2018.

**Upcoming Shows:**

Currently all shows have been suspended or cancelled, so there is no list of the upcoming shows except our own.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
Feb. 2021 – The Annual International Tucson Gem and Minerals. Tucson, Arizona <b>CANCELLED</b>	Feb. 20-21, 2021 Annual Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Show. Pasadena Convention Center. <a href="http://www.clgms.org">http://www.clgms.org</a>		
STONEY STATEMENTS Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc  PO BOX 891533 Houston, Texas 77289			
Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month 7:30 P.M. Clear Lake Park Building 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas			
			

<b>Next Annual Show</b> February 20-21, 2021 Pasadena Convention Center		Member of		
CLGMS is on the Web: <a href="http://www.clgms.org">http://www.clgms.org</a> 2/20-21/2021				
		American Federation of Mineral Societies		South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
<b>Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc</b>				
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.				
2020 OFFICERS:	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Program Director Board of Directors:  Newsletter Editor	John Caldyne Cynthia McGowan Christina Rankin Morgan Davies VACANT Sandra Christiansen Jerry Newberry Jim Edwards Donna Nelson David Tjiok	832-282-4270 281-546-2662  281-224-2444  Jim Hawkins Sara Tanner	
Annual Show 2018 .....Sandra Christiansen Constitution & Bylaws.....Sara Chelette Community Benefits.....Charlie Timme Historian.....David Tjiok Publicity.....VACANT Facebook.....Cynthia McGowan Membership.....David Tjiok WWW System Admin.. .....Mike Flannigan Refreshments.....John Caldyne Education/Field Trips.....Annabel Brownfield				
Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2020: 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				