



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 SEPTEMBER 2009 NUMBER 9




NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2009
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR September...

The program will be "To Be Determined". Trina Willoughby and Lesley Gary, our Program Directors are having a bit of trouble getting Programs with new material but are trying hard at this time. As soon as the Program is determined, we will post it on the website. This has been a tough year to find presenters.

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
August Minutes	2	 <p>Stoney Statements spotlights -The First cool winds of fall remind us of Field Trips! This appears to be somewhere near Enchanted Rock.</p>	<p>The reader of this newsletter is advised that he or she may be subject to an illusion generated by an evil genius, and that his or her "sensory fibers" may be falsely manipulated at any time with neither advance warning nor any possible legal remedy. The reader may suddenly grab a hammer, throw on old clothes and drive their car to the nearest rock outcrop or road cut and dig uncontrollably. - The Editor</p> <p>NEW ADDRESS, phone number, e-mail address, etc? Contact Al Pennington and Mike Flannigan, at the Newsletter address (see last page).</p>
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"This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer." - Will Rogers

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, August 17, 2009

President Ed Tindell called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no changes or corrections to the July Meeting Minutes as published in the August Stoney Statements.

President Ed Tindell asked for a volunteer to fill an open Board of Directors position and Dan Harry volunteered to fill the open position.

President Ed Tindell reviewed committee reports:

Historian: Nothing to report.

Library: Cataloguing is almost complete. A list of books available for members' use will be published on our web site. Ning.com was discussed as a possible web group.

Publicity: Posters and pamphlets to be printed soon.

Membership: New member, Gay Weigelt, was introduced.

Show Committee: Initial down payment for the 2011 Show has been made. Need Show Publicity Chairperson for 2010 Show.

Field Trips: Announced August 23, trip to Damon Mound from 11:00 to 3:00.

Unfinished Business: Dick Rathjen announced that \$240 of jewelry was sold at the Square Dance function and \$120 was given to each club.

New Business: Lesley Gary received an email from two individuals who are legally blind and reside in the Alvin area. They are looking for someone to bring them to our meetings.

Announcements: The new contract for the meeting location building for 2010 was discussed.

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

Program – An Age of Bronze, presented by Al Pennington

The Bronze Age was a time when prehistoric societies had advanced to making bronze more advanced than the Stone Age. This period of time was 3500 BC to 1200 BC. It began in what are now Turkey, Iran and Iraq. This age was important since it allowed mankind to create more durable tools and artifacts. Skilled smelters could extract copper from sulfide ores. The copper had a lot of impurities and was a combination of copper and arsenic. Bronze is 85-95% copper with 5-15% mainly tin and arsenic. Arsenic ores are more common than tin ores. The Bronze Age was a major innovative period in human history. Al discussed the history of tin and bronze, how it was made, sold and traded. He discussed the places that were mined and the smelting centers. He explained how artifacts were made from casting and hammering. He explained how mining and smelting advanced through the years. He explained how wood was used for fuel in the smelters which depleted the forest and wood supply. Deforestation and fuel shortages curtailed the production of bronze.

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



Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams, Secretary



The Specter in the Field

An original article by Al Pennington – Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society

Many was the time my grandfather, Oscar Thurman, told my brother and I stories about the Wichita Mountains area of Oklahoma. He came into the southwest region in 1901 when it was still wild and woolly and he tramped over many a valley and mountain looking for traces of the past. There had been Spaniards there - mining gold, Indian massacres, and later outlaws like Jesse James and the Daltons from the post-Civil War era. This area had its share of tragedy, one such place was a place called Cutthroat Gap – a rather infamous area where Indians ambushed some unwary settlers. There were strange happenings in the Gap long afterward but then that is another story. But while the Gap was in the edge of the mountains, there were equally unusual things about the creek bottoms in and around the area.

My grandfather had a farm out on Blue Beaver Creek west of the town of Lawton, Oklahoma in the Wichita Mountain foothills. It had been passed down thru several people all the way back to the land rush times.

One evening in the 1950s, he was walking out away from the house into the adjoining field and he was startled by what appeared to be a glowing ghostly visage hanging above the plowed ground several hundred yards to the south. It was a foggy evening and the seeing was not too good so he walked down a deep swale, turned south and walked parallel to the spot he thought he had seen the strange thing. Mounting the rise, he looked into the field but there was nothing there. Tendrils of fog swirled about and a half-moon cast a half light on the field. Obviously he had seen something, he told us, but it was gone.



This was not the only time he saw it and for several months afterward, it would periodically appear. Now grandfather was not one to believe in ghosts and such things so he began talking guardedly to a few friends, some of which were old miners from Colorado. One man told him that tales were told that old gold bars or coins, going through some form of oxidation process, sometimes formed a phosphorescent gas.

Excited by this, grandfather tried to triangulate the position of the specter one evening when it was especially visible. But the night was as dark as squids ink not suitable for an old man to go digging and so he marked the positions intent on returning in the morning.



Early the next day after sunrise, he walked out toward the field and immediately saw what was sure to be the signs of digging near the area he had seen the apparition.

Running over to the spot, he was confronted with a hole about four feet deep. In the bottom of the hole was the impression of what must have been an old iron kettle – like those swung over open fireplaces in the early days. You could see clearly where the metal feet had punctured the ground on its bottom and the ground was red and rusty. A glint of metal caught his eye and he knelt down and grubbed in the dirt until he extracted a small gold coin. Near the coin was what might have been the skeletal hand of a person but it was so decayed as to be barely noticeable. Grandfather rose up immediately, ran for a shovel and covered in the spot as soon as possible.

In any case, the specter never appeared again and grandfather was certain someone had robbed him of a treasure. I have never checked his hypothesis of old buried gold being able to produce a phosphorescent gas but anything is possible. Then again maybe it was some ghostly presence hovering above its horde of gold! ©September 2009

An September HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary-Ruth Rathjen	4
Janet Rathjen	9
Sharon Choens	17
Marianne Luther,	23

(**Sapphire** (symbolizes sincerity and faithfulness). gem of the heavens, the divine gemstone, anniversary gem for the 5th and 45th years of marriage

September Anniversary includes:

None



"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure." **Benjamin Franklin**

GOODIE GETTERS...For September

Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**The Trivia Vug**

by RJ Harris

- In the 1600s, German miners referred to shiny minerals that contained no valuable metals as "Hornblende," a name thought to have stemmed from the color of horn and blenden, the latter meaning "to dazzle."
- The term "geode" comes from the Greek geodes, meaning "earthlike," a reference to its generally spherical shape.
- It takes 4-million tons of coal per year to run a 1 gigawatt electricity plant.
- Most people are familiar with garnet as a gemstone, but have no idea that, mineralogically speaking, "garnet" refers to a group of 15 closely related, isomorphic (same form) minerals, all of which are nesosilicates.
- Silicosis is a condition of massive fibrosis of the lungs marked by shortness of breath and resulting from prolonged inhalation of silica dusts by those such as stonecutters, asbestos workers, miners regularly exposed to such dusts.
- The Bingham Canyon copper mine in Utah is the biggest manmade hole on Earth. It is more than half a mile deep and 2.5 miles across. An astronaut can see this hole from the space shuttle with his bare eyes.
- The largest gold nugget ever found weighed 172 lbs., 13 oz.
- Montana is the 6th largest coal producer in the USA. 95% of their coal is used to generate electricity. = Pegmatite dykes in the granite are responsible for the white streaks in the foreheads of Presidents Washington and Lincoln on Mt. Rushmore.
- On average, Old Faithful gushes 8,400 gallons of boiling water per eruption.
- Bryce Canyon's colorful hoodoos are sculpted by snow over thousands of years.
- A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbox can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court.
- Colored diamonds are caused by impurities such as nitrogen (yellow), boron (blue). With red diamonds being due to deformities in the structure of the stone, and green ones being the result of irradiation.
- Natural gas has no odor. The smell is added artificially so that leaks can be detected.
- The Chinese were using aluminum to make things as early as 300 AD Western civilization didn't rediscover aluminum until 1827.
- The most abundant metal in the Earth's crust is aluminum.
- The three most common elements in the universe are 1) hydrogen; 2) helium; 3) oxygen.

Sources:

Mineral of the Month Club, Fun Trivia, Infomine, Yellowstone.net, Nature and Science, Mineral of the Month Club, Montana Oil & Gas.from The RockCollector 9/09 via RockBuster News, June 09 via Gem Cutter News, 6/09

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell

Field Trips

field trip update:

I am working on a field trip to Arkansas for 10/15-19/9. No confirmed new sites yet but here is a rough schedule:

1. Thursday, 10/15/9: Drive up, visit Crater Of Diamonds 12-6PM.
2. Friday, 10/16/9: Open
3. Saturday: 10/17/9: Open
4. Sunday: 10/18/9: Open
5. Monday: visit Crater Of Diamonds, 8-12PM, drive home.

I always visit the Crater on my way up/back from Arkansas. I am hoping to fill in Friday-Sunday with many interesting sites we haven't been to yet. No promises. Hope to finalize details soon. I am restricting this trip to CLGMS only and only <=10 people, including myself. Small groups get to do more and I'm hoping to be able to do a lot on this trip!



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

Finding Fossil Oysters in Georgia

Here's a field trip you can take on your own with one or two friends. There isn't enough room for a large group. Sixty million years ago oysters lived in the Eocene Sea that covered this part of the southeast. You can find these oysters in the banks of the Savannah R. in Georgia near Shell Point. The tools you will need to take are: hand spade, rock hammer, bucket, small step ladder and screw driver. The

oysters are fragile so take newspaper or rags to wrap your finds. Oysters can be 6 to 18 inches in length. Good luck, Alan Gibbs Directions using I 20: Take I 20 to Augusta and the 520 Bypass to Exit 9 onto 56 (Mike Padgett Highway) for 18 miles toward McBean. Before McBean you will cross RRTracks, a bridge over McBean Creek and enter Burke County. Take the first left, 56 Spur, River Road. Continue for 6 to 8 miles to 80, Shell Bluff Landing Road and the Shell Bluff Country Store. Cross 80 and continue for 5 miles on 56 Spur, River Road. You will see C & J's Convenience Store on the left at Hancock Landing. Five miles later you will pass the Nuclear Power Plant. The road will become a dirt road for about 1 to 1.5 miles. Cochran Church will be on the left and the road will be paved again. The first intersection is Griffin Landing and River Road. Turn left and go on River Road for about ¾ miles. Turn left and go about .5 miles. Stop and park at the gate on the right. It's about ¼ miles to the river. Oysters are to the right and left of the riverbank but mostly on the right.

Directions from Girard, Georgia: Girard is the meeting place for DMC Savannah River Agate field trips. From Girard take 23 toward Shell Bluff, McBean and Augusta. Turn right on Griffin Landing Road. You will pass Claxton Road and Chance Road on your left. On your right you will pass Earl Dixon Road. You will cross River Road. Go about ½ miles. Stop and park at the gate on the right. It's about ¼ miles to the river. Oysters are to the right and left of the road but mostly on the right.

---from Hound's Howl 9/09 via Rocky Trails, April 2009



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.

Words of Caution

by John Wright, RPG,

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

There is currently more legislation pending that could affect our hobby and their sponsors are working hard to bring them to the floor of the House and on to the Senate for a vote prior to the 2010 midterm election cycle. There are three in particular that I think we need to be aware of:

1. Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009 (HR699, S140, & S796)

These are massive bills that would be devastating to many rural areas and small communities that depend on mining for their livelihood. Most of the problems for activities like rockhounding are going to be the result of collateral damage. (This means we are going to get zapped even though the bill does provide for recreational activities like rockhounding.) This "Act" is going to affect both "public and private" lands. Not only is this going to limit a lot of desirable materials, it is also going to limit a lot of prime areas for outings. We need to write our Representatives and Senators now, and stop this insane legislation.

2. Clean Water Restoration Act (S787) (Wetlands).

This bill is still in committee as I write this article [*it still is, as of 9/1/09*] In my opinion this bill is one of the largest power-based and massive land grabs in decades. The sheer scope of this proposed legislation is mind-boggling. Every body of water from little streams to the Great Lakes and boundary lands "public and private" are going to be placed under government control. Millions of acres considered to be seepage areas that replenish subsurface aquifers are going to be severely restricted. "Wetlands" are going to be significantly expanded to include massive areas considered marginal under previous criteria. Even mountain, high plains, and desert runoff areas are going to be controlled and protected. The few things I've mentioned here are just the tip of the iceberg so to speak.

3. Antiquities Act of 1906: Major Acts of Congress and Act 58 of 1967.

Effort to up-date this law is in the very early stages of committee work. This situation could change quickly as it has a lot of bi-partisan support. Don't pick up any arrowheads, pottery shards, or anything else that looks old and man made, particularly on any state or federal lands. If this law is updated, it will more than likely include private property also.

- Transcribed from AFMS Newsletter, 9/09 via Fredericksburg Rockhounds 9/09

Interesting things about Honeycomb Calcite

Honeycomb Calcite is a beautiful and impressive form of transparent, translucent, luminous calcite mined exclusively in the State of Utah. Comparable to onyx and marble. Honeycomb Calcite can provide a colorful replacement or dramatic accent stone for architectural and artistic application.

HISTORY



The discovery of the stone came about completely by accident while individuals in eastern Utah were removing topsoil. At the end of their workday, while preparing to leave the site, they turned to notice the pile of overburden glowing in the afternoon sun. Even though each stone has a chalky "white skin" covering the exterior of the stone, the afternoon sunlight refracted through the crystals caused the stone to "glow". The group, quite taken with the phenomenal happening, removed samples of the stone to have it tested and classified. The stone tested to be a new form of calcite, differing from other calcite as a result of its strength, stability, luminous qualities and color. We find the color and consistency of the stone remaining reliable after having been mined for two seasons. The stone is removed from the site in boulders ranging

from fist size to an average boulder size, approximately five feet by four feet by three feet. The largest boulder removed to date measures at seven feet by six feet by five feet. We feel we should have a good idea as to the potential to quarry the stone after the next mining season.

STONE QUALIFICATIONS

First impression of the stone in its natural form is of just another rock. Even to the trained eye, rockhound or collector, it appears as a chalky, irregular shaped stone or just another rock they've seen many times before. Only upon further examination, and then again when the rock is cut, does one notice the "honeycomb like" cellular pattern of the stone. The "honeycomb look" is formed by the growth of long fibrous or tubular crystal cells of honey yellow calcite outlined by white membranes surrounding each cell. The name "Honeycomb Calcite" originates from the remarkable honeycomb appearance when viewing a polished surface.

DESCRIPTION

Characteristics that set this stone apart are the color, varying patterns, translucency, transparency and its ability to accept a high polish. Other characteristics include accessibility to significantly large pieces and the fact it does not fade as readily in intense direct sunlight as other forms of calcite.

The color ranges from a soft, pale sunshine lemon yellow to a deep rich honey golden amber depending upon the thickness of the stone. The color of the stone is attributed to sulfur deposits at the time of formation. The color remains consistent with the thickness of the stone-the thinner stone produces a sunshine lemon yellow hue while the thicker stone yields a rich honey golden amber color.



The stone pattern varies according to the point of origin of each cell. The cells grow in V shaped structures and are individually bundled into groups where beginning cells appear as small closed hexagon shaped cells grouped close together. This pattern is similar to honey turning to sugar. As the cell matures, the pattern changes in accordance with the individual cell growth. When the cells reach their maximum growth the membrane widens showing a much larger surface area with minimum cell walls. This creates a much larger surface area with minimum cell walls. This creates an impression comparable to petrified honey. The stone is transparent and translucent offering a luminous glow when accented by artificial, direct, or indirect lighting. The transparency and translucency are apparent in thick sections as well a thin cut. The translucency is less in pieces with mostly beginning cell structure due to the tight cell formation.

Honeycomb Calcite weighs approximately 192 lbs. per cubic foot. Concrete weighs -145 lbs. per cubic foot; granite -180 lbs. approximately. Honeycomb Calcite has four distinct cuts to the stone.

- *fleur cut -horizontal cut across the cell bundles ~ the honeycomb look.
- *vein cut - vertical cut 90 degrees to the fleur cut -shows the sediment/layer.
- *pineapple - 90 degree perpendicular cut - shows a layered cell look.
- *cross cut ~ 45 degree angle cut ~ produces layered cell pattern or a scale effect.

THE ROCKHOUND GAZETTE June 2003, No author given; from News & Views 6/02

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS			
SEPTEMBER 05-06 ARLINGTON, TX ARLINGTON G & M S Arlington Con. Center	SEPTEMBER 26-27 DENISON, TX TEXOMA ROCKHOUNDS Denison Senior Center	OCTOBER 10-11 - SCFMS TEMPLE, TX TRI-CITY G & M S Mayborn Civic Center 3303 N. 3rd. Street	OCTOBER 16-18 VICTORIA, TX VICTORIA G & M S Community Center
OCTOBER 23-25 AUSTIN, TX AUSTIN GEM & M S Palmer Events Center	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

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.
 September 21, 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
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