



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 36 SEPTEMBER 2010 NUMBER 09




NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2010
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING
 5001 NASA ROAD ONE
 SEABROOK, TEXAS

The PROGRAM FOR September...

The program will be given by “Al Pennington”. Rocks and Minerals – third in the Eyewitness series for geology narrated by Martin Scheen. This program examines the characteristics of common rocks and minerals and teaches identification procedures. You’ll learn about the physical properties of minerals including hardness, luster and color as well as the chemical compositions of important rock-forming minerals.

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 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> |
| Tote That Rock ----- Lift That Toolbag | 3 | | |
| | 3 | | |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries | 4 | | |
| Lapidary Corner HINTS & TIPS... | 4 | | |
| FIELD TRIPS 2010 How to Cut Obsidian | 5 | | |
| Peridot | 6 | | |
| More Obsidian/Show Dates | 7 | | |

“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 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral

August 16, 2010

President Bob Brock called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He also presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Treasurer Loyce Pennington. There were no changes to the last month's meeting minutes. Ten members were present.

Committee Reports

Historian – Nothing to report.

Librarian – The library books are still in the storage unit.

Community Service – Chairperson Nancy Duggar will return in September.

Education – Shannon Oliver made a presentation on fossils. He shared various locations where he has found such fossils as ammonites, sand dollars, sea urchins. He found a bone at Buffalo Lakes in Lubbock that was identified by the museum as a camel toe bone. He highly recommends a visit to the Mount Blanco Museum in Crosbyton, 40 miles east of Lubbock, www.mtblanco.com. Shannon Oliver volunteered to make the presentation again next month.

Publicity – Chairperson Anna Williams announced that nine newspapers were contacted to announce the August meeting in their calendar of events.

Show Committee – Chairperson Al Pennington reported that contracts are being signed and mailed back to us from the dealers.

Refreshments were provided by David Tjiok. President Bob Brock thanked him for his service.

Field Trips – Field Trip Leader Ed Tindell made a report on an upcoming field trip to Midlothian.

New Business – There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business – The storage boxes for the storage unit still need to be purchased. Al Pennington is addressing an order for name tags and ID cards.

Program – Getting your rocks out where you see them!

The program was presented by Trina Willoughby. Where are your specimens, closets, boxes? Where do you want them? What can you use to display them? Trina demonstrated using clear plastic containers, shelves, drawers, boxes with glass placed on the top. She explained to us how she added lighting and glass to drawers and boxes. The lighting can be placed at the top or in the middle for translucent specimens. She presented pictures of her displays where she added lighting and labeling.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Annabell Williams

Secretary

Jet

by Mary Sue Bucher

In the year 1861, Prince Albert, husband to Her Royal Majesty Queen Victoria of England, died of typhoid fever. For the remainder of her life, which numbered forty years, she remained in mourning and dressed only in black. Back then, mourning attire included beads fashioned from jet – a strange but beautiful gemstone which is a form of Lignite coal.



Jet is a fossil mineraloid, sometimes called Black Amber, Agstein, Scorpion Stone, and Witch's Amber. Most jet originated in the Jurassic period, approximately 182 million years ago from the remains of Araucaria conifer trees whose living relatives we call Monkey Puzzle trees. It's lightweight, has a distinctive "coal" smell to it, is known to be flammable, and like amber, it takes on a static charge when rubbed. It is soft, with a Mohs hardness of 2-4 and is known to polish to a luster

resembling black velvet.

Victorian mourning jewelry has a distinct "look" to it; the beads are, of course, black and are usually faceted. Long ropes of these faceted jet beads were common, and they remained popular well into the 1920s when they were adopted by young "Flappers" to wear with their short, straight dresses. After jet beads became popular, there were, of course, imitators such as Ebonite, also called Vulcanite (hardened rubber). Unlike jet, Vulcanite was molded rather than cut and if heated, smelled like rubber instead of coal. It also bleached out with age to an olive-brown color. "French Jet, Paris Jet, or Faux Jet," is glass, and is the most common imitator of jet; it's easy to distinguish from real jet as it's heavy and has a cold feel to it. Bakelite is a type of vintage plastic that was sometimes tinted black to resemble jet. Bakelite, in its own right, has become valuable. About ten years ago, a friend asked me to pick up a Bakelite bracelet for her at an antique show. Turns out most of the good ones that I saw were being offered for around five hundred dollars and needless to say, she didn't get her bracelet. Jet has been imitated by Bog Oak, a type of black wood found in Irish peat bogs, and jewelry makers have also used Cannel Coal, Shale, Horn, and a few things that aren't around anymore. Then, of course, there's onyx, or black chalcedony, obsidian, schorl, (a type of tourmaline), coral, and any stone that's been dyed or enhanced with dye. Naturally, Queen Victoria could afford the real thing, and the only jewelry that was allowed at court during the mourning period was real jet - preferably, mined from Whitby England, a town on the



Yorkshire coast that was and still is known to have the finest jet in the world. Interestingly enough, Whitby is also a source of Ammonite fossils. An old legend tells of St. Hilda of Whitby who hundreds of years ago was credited with turning a plague of snakes into stone. They do some beautiful jet carvings in Whitby and that's not all they've carved. As proof of St. Hilda's miracle, local artisans would carve snake's heads on the ammonite fossils and sell them as a cottage industry. The coat of arms of Whitby is adorned with three of these "Snake Stones. from SFGMS

Mineralog, 8/10 via Gem Cutter News 9/10

An September HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Mary-Ruth Rathjen | 4 |
| Janet Rathjen | 9 |
| Sharon Choens | 17 |

(**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 ((Rerun from last year by request))**HINT & TIPS FROM ALL OVER**

All reprinted in May, 2010 Carny Hound via 11/62 Carny Hound

Editors Note: I thought this was an interesting collection of hints that are almost 50 years old. I've added notes to a few updating the info.

Floor Sanding Paper: Floor sanding paper will give amazing results in removing saw marks from slabs or specimens. Even if the sandpaper has been used it will still do a good job.

Editor's note: This was actually the basis for one of the best dry lap polishers I've seen, Rockhounder's Paradise. It used an 18 inch steel disk with a floor sanding disk glued on with white glue that only cost a few dollars at rental stores last I knew. As the disk wore down, it did the polishing step too and produced a dead flat surface with a mirror finish. The polisher is no longer available new and tends to be expensive used, since it is an excellent polisher. It should be possible to make a home version. The hard part would be in making the counter-rotating chambers the stones sit in.

Rock Bags: To make a good rock bag, take a pair of old jeans. Cut off one of the legs (about 24" is a good length) and sew one end closed. Of course, you can cut off more or less, depending on how much you think you can carry. Put in a draw string.

Cutting the Last Slab: To cut that last slab from your favorite piece, use waterglass. Apply a thin coating to a board small enough to fit your vise. Then put the rock on the board, moving it around until it has a firm seating. Let dry for at least 24 hours. To remove the piece remaining on the board, soak in hot water until it slips off.

Editor's Note: Waterglass used to be available at pretty much any drug store. Not so anymore. In fact, I haven't seen a source in quite a few years. It was used to fill cracks in stones more than about any other lapidary purpose. Current replacements would be Opticon for filling cracks and regular white glue to glue the slab to a block of wood that can go in the vise on your saw. As with waterglass, just soak the block of wood for a few days after cutting to soften the glue and remove the slab.

Another option is a special rock grabber vise. These have the advantage of being much quicker than glue but are frequently hard to get softer materials to lock in without chipping out the edge. They come in multiple sizes.



Capping Stones: When capping stones, set them in a shallow dish of salt while the cement is drying. Salt packs better than sand and is easier to wash off.

via Australian Lapidary Magazine

Field Trips (2010) by Ed Tindell**Hi All -**

Hi y'all! The cooler weather is just about here, and with it will come the start of the 2010-2011 rockhunting season. We have had much more than our usual amount of rainfall throughout the area this summer, so the hunting should be spectacular, if we can find the rocks through the high grass!

There are three ranches I can take you to:

1. A wonderful 10-section ranch south of Marfa which is, in places, just littered with agate. There's the famous Marfa Bouquet agate, black plume, a bright green agate that I haven't seen anywhere else in the Big Bend, and probably a bunch of things I haven't found yet! There have been very few rock hunters on this ranch, and it's very scenic and rough, so be sure to bring a camera!

2. East Needle Peak, near Terlingua and Big Bend National Park, is open again for the same \$35 per day fee as last year. The owner will accept cash or check. There's a little pompom agate there, but mostly there's patterned and moss agate, fortification agate, petrified wood, calcite, selenite, goethite after pyrite, and lots of fossils! The access to this ranch is extremely rough and a 4wd vehicle is required. If you don't have one, you can drive fairly close to the area and then hitch a ride with someone who does have the 4wd.

3. The Ritchie Ranch will again be open. This ranch is close to Alpine and has very gentle, rolling terrain. There's moss agate and jasper in a number of colors, but no plume agate to speak of. There are geodes and some fairly large (up to 3") quartz crystals, too. It's a great ranch for people with kids or physical disabilities, or those who are just beginning rock hunting and don't want to stay out all day. The cost is \$5 per person entrance fee, and 75¢ per lb. for the good agate you take. The owner will accept cash or check. The Ritchie Ranch is accessible by most vehicles, although high ground clearance is still a plus!

I hope to see y'all out here this fall!
More later,



Thanks,
Ed Tindell 2010 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

Land Access

If you go to the "savethetrails" website suggested below, you find that there are no specific rockhounding land use suggestions to vote for. However, if you go to the government website set up for the America's Great Outdoors program at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> you can comment, vote for and create your own suggestions. On the very first page, I found rockhounding as a recent September 10th suggestion. With only a few votes registered, rockhounding is being demoted and criticized.

We need to spread the word and let our voices be heard by not only voting in favor of rockhounding land use, but explaining how it benefits all in society, not just rockhounds. Rockhounds find, extract and preserve mineral specimens for future generations to enjoy for their beauty, to use as teaching tools for the next generation of earth scientists, and to inspire the very desire to appreciate, study, and both utilize and conserve our natural world among the general public. Beautiful sunsets, panoramic vistas with mountains, lakes and meadows, etc. can be enjoyed by all that have sight, and that can drive or hike to see them, but often the beauty of agates, jaspers, and mineral specimens cannot be enjoyed unless they are first found, then saved from the destructive forces of nature at or near the Earth's surface.

Only after they are then cut, polished or cleaned is their stunning beauty revealed. If not for rockhounds, the beauty of the hard rock and mineral world would rarely be revealed, staying trapped forever within matrix rock or eventually being destroyed by erosional forces, never to be appreciated by anyone, not now and not in the future. We all should take a minute to visit the government site and have our voices heard by voting.

Tom Strohl
San Diego Rockhound

Minerals – Hematite

A primary ore of [iron](#). Hematite is processed to produce iron, which is used to make steel which, in turn, is used in everything from automobiles to flatware to the machinery used to make almost everything else we use. Many different minerals can be combined with iron in producing steel. Each provides a different set of valuable properties to the finished product. A familiar example is stainless steel.

Steel is used in the manufacture of such things as kitchen appliances, furniture, tools, bridges, buildings, automobiles, construction equipment, manufacturing machinery, highway construction, shipbuilding, trains, railroads etc. Picture what life would be like without steel! Powdered iron is used in magnets, high-frequency cores, auto parts, and as a catalyst. Radioactive iron (iron 59) is used in medicine and as a tracer element in biochemical and metallurgical research. Iron blue is used in paints, printing inks, plastics, cosmetics, paper dyeing. Black iron oxide is used as a pigment and in polishing compounds, medicines and magnetic inks. The other primary ore of iron is magnetite.



Fake Hematite Jewelry

By Dave Millis, RCCK DCC

It has come to my attention through a friend's disappointment that there is a new variety of fake hematite jewelry on sale. As a reminder, here are a couple of old techniques. Most common fake uses magnetite which is magnetic and easily detected: The process is to grind up the minerals, mix them with some kind of plastic or epoxy binder, and extrude them into finished shapes. The shapes quickly harden; beads already have holes and no drilling is required! If molds are used you can sometimes spot beads with incomplete areas where the mold did not fill completely. In general, the finished jewelry looks great and is often less than a dollar per necklace; sadly some dealers buy them for 50 cents and resell for over \$10 with the implication that they are not fake. It is virtually impossible to find true hematite necklaces nowadays. The first test should be the magnet test; hematite is not magnetic.



The earlier fakes used hematite without magnetite, so in a sense, it was real hematite jewelry, but the hematite was never cut to shape and/or drilled to make beads. You can check this with a 10X magnifier. Drilled beads will always have small imperfections around the edge of the hole.

The new fake uses no hematite at all! The bead in question is actually molded copper. The surface is some kind of anodized coating which looks like the steel-gray hematite color. The coating is however quite thin and can wear away. My friend and I also suspect that salt in ocean breezes speeds up the process.

[From Star-O-Lite 9/2010 Via The Mountain Gem 8/2010]

Sapphire By John Zentz for Star-O-Lite

A maiden born when autumn leaves Are rustling in September's breeze, A sapphire on her brow should bind; To bring her joy and peace of mind.. [Author unknown]

The traditional birthstones for September are sapphire and peridot. The modern birthstone is sapphire. Last month's article was dedicated to peridot so I will touch mainly on sapphire this month.

Much has already appeared already in this series about sapphires. In April we had a short article on sapphires in general, and in July we had a longer article on rubies, which are beautiful red sapphires. Rather than cover the same ground again, I will try to concentrate on some of the more unusual types of sapphires.

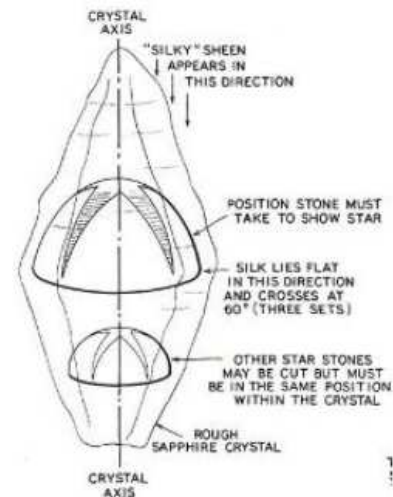
Most people are aware of the star phenomenon that sometimes occurs in sapphires. This unusual condition, called asterism, can occur in most

sapphire colors. However, blue, red (star rubies) or black star sapphires are the most common. Sapphire asterism most often occurs in black sapphires, and in only about 3% of the blue crystals mined.

The star actually becomes visible when needles of rutile called silk _contaminate_ the sapphire and the crystal is cut in a high dome cabochon. The base of the cabochon must also be cut perpendicular to the c-axis of the corundum crystal as shown in the diagram.

As we know, a ruby has basically the same composition as other sapphires but has a distinguishing name because of its color. I only recently learned that ruby is not alone in this distinction. Rare pink-orange corundum with low to medium saturation has the name padparadscha which means *lotus blossom* in Singhalese, one of the official languages of Sri

Lanka. This beautiful stone is found in Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Africa. An untreated natural padparadscha may sell for as much as \$5,000 per carat, if you can find one. Much more common are pink or orange sapphires treated to look like padparadschas.



Another rare variety of sapphire is known as color change sapphire. Some are blue outdoors and purple under incandescent light. Some are pink in sunlight and greenish under fluorescent light. Tanzania is the main source of these interesting stones.

While these rare varieties are very expensive, even more expensive are the finest blue sapphires. Some of these large sapphires have never been auctioned but one 22.66 carat blue Kashmir sapphire was sold in 2007 at auction for \$3,064,000, or \$135,216 per carat. Another 62.02 carat blue sapphire was sold in 2001 for \$3,031,000.



Perhaps the most expensive of all sapphires, the Black Star of Queensland has an interesting history. In 1938 a young Australian boy found a black crystal at his father's claim which he immediately took home to his father. His father studied the stone and was not impressed, so the family used the stone as a doorstep for the next 10 years or so. By then the boy's father realized sapphires could be black and decided to test the stone which weighed 1,156 carats. The stone was sold, cut into a star sapphire, and changed hands several times. In 2002 it sold for an undisclosed amount, but the estimated value was \$100 million dollars.

While sapphires come in many colors, most people desire the rich blues from Ceylon. Perhaps this has something to do with the old belief that the firmament was a large blue sapphire in which the earth was embedded. What better stone could have been chosen to symbolize our universe and our beautiful blue earth, and what better stone to grace September's child?

[Photographs from Internet]

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| SEPTEMBER 25-26 DENISON, TX Texoma Rockhounds Denison Senior Center | OCTOBER 9-10 TEMPLE, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Center | OCTOBER 15-17 VICTORIA, TX Victoria G&MS Community Center 2905 East North St. | OCTOBER 22-24 AUSTIN, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Event Center |
|--|---|---|---|

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 20, 2010, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February Feb 26-27, 2011
 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

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2010 OFFICERS: | President | Bob Brock | 281-338-2252 |
| | Vice President | Ed Tindell | 281-930-0698 |
| | Secretary | Annabel Williams | |
| | Treasurer | Loyce Pennington | 281 481-1591 |
| | Program Director | Trina Willoughby | |
| | Board of Directors: | Trina Willoughby | Lester Gary |
| | | Cheryl Tindell | David Tjiok |
| | Newsletter Editor | Al Pennington | 281 481-1591 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Annual Show 2011..... | 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. 2010: 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 2010 – 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 October Issue is September 28, 2010