



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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April 2025

NUMBER 4



NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

TIME:
LOCATION:

7:00 p.m.
Helen Hall Library
100 W Walker St.
League City, Tx 77573

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

April Meeting	1
Board/General Meeting Minutes,	2
Scholarship Information Upcoming events	3
Green Obsidian	3-5
Upcoming shows	6

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Learn How to Display Your Rock, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Specimens!

Tuesday, April 15th @ 7 pm

Helen Hall Library
100 W. Walker St.
League City, TX 77573



There are many ways to display our treasures. Sigrid Blyskal will talk about commercially available stands and bases and talk about a method for making your own stands for individual specimens using materials readily available in craft stores.



Monthly Meetings
3rd Tuesay of the Month
www.clgms.org



MINUTES OF THE March 2025 CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting at League City Library 3/18/2025.
20 members attended this meeting.

A quick overview of the club was given the president, Cindy, for our new visitors who came after going to our Gem and Mineral Show.

Zoom meetings will be saved to our website, so that if you miss one, you can still see it.

We will have different speakers for the month and different topics to discuss.

Good things about the show:

New signs and tools helped to bring in more visitors to the show.

Lunch for vendors and volunteers for both days.

Wristbands helped remind visitors to come back on Sunday.

Dino Gal was a big hit, and she will come back next year.

Bad things about the show:

We need more volunteers to sign up early for the show.

Parking could have been better, because we did not have enough spaces, since the construction of the new additions to the Pasadena Civic Center.

Attendance was about the same as last year.

Newsletter was approved by the members.

MINUTES OF THE March CLGMS BOARD MEETING.

There was no April board meeting.

Scholarship Application now available

Purpose: To fund courses in Geology, Mineralogy, Geophysics or Paleontology at any accredited university or college as part of a course of studies in Earth Sciences. Amount: \$2,000 each (Subject to change).

In 2024 we had 6 applicants and the 4 winners received \$2,000 each. In 2023 we had 11 applicants and the 5 winners received \$2,000 each. In 2022 we had 11 applicants and the 6 winners received \$2,000 each. In 2021 we had 3 applicants and the 3 winners received \$2,000 each. We had 2 years where nobody applied.

The application is now available on the website. <https://www.clgms.org/page6.html>

Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following programs.

More information coming soon.

Field Trips Announcement

Currently – no field trips are scheduled.

Crater of Diamonds State Park Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Taken from <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds-state-park>



Crater of Diamonds State Park History

Of all the Arkansas state parks, the Crater of Diamonds has had arguably the most colorful history, with stories of treasure hunters and the diamonds found in Arkansas through the decades. People first began to suspect that diamonds might occur just outside of the quiet town of Murfreesboro, Arkansas when the precious stones were found in the peridotite soil of Kimberly, South Africa. State Geologist John Branner knew there was an area of peridotite soil just west of Murfreesboro, so he gave the place a thorough surface search in 1889. Unfortunately, he didn't find any [Arkansas diamonds](#).

The history of diamonds in Arkansas began when the first diamonds were found in Pike County, Arkansas in August 1906 by John Wesley Huddleston. These stones were sent to Charles S. Stiff, a Little Rock jeweler who confirmed them to be genuine diamonds. Stiff described them as blue-white diamonds, one weighing 2-5/8 carats, and the other 1-3/8 carats. To verify his opinion, Stiff sent them to New York and states that " ... after subjecting them to every test they were pronounced diamonds of fine grade."

Early in 1906, Huddleston, a farmer, purchased the 160-acre McBrayer farm to make a home for his family, a decision that would etch him into history. Huddleston recounted the first diamonds found in Arkansas to Tom Shiras of the Arkansas Gazette: "I was crawling on my hands and knees ... when my eyes fell on another glittering pebble ... I knew it was different from any I had ever seen before. It had a fiery eye that blazed up at me every way I turned it. I hurried to the house with the pebble, saddled my mule and started for Murfreesboro ... riding through the lane, my eye caught another glitter, and I dismounted and picked it up out of the dust."



Huddleston sold his diamond-bearing land for \$36,000. According to a book by Howard Millar, it was *Finders Keepers at America's Only Diamond Mine*, 1976, Huddleston became "... nationally famous, and had acquired the nickname 'Diamond John.'" Although he was also known as the "Diamond King," he later met with some misfortunes and died a pauper, but was said to have had no regrets. He is buried in Japany Cemetery, about three miles east of the diamond mine.

The approximate location of the first diamonds found in Arkansas by Huddleston is designated on the diamond field by a historical marker on the south-central mine boundary. Huddleston is a unique character in Arkansas history, and his story is perpetuated as a part of the history of diamonds here at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. For a complete timeline, view our [full park history](#).

What you need to know

The only place in the world where the public can search for real diamonds in their original volcanic source, Crater of Diamonds is a one-of-a-kind experience that brings people from all over the world to Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Visitors to the park search a 37-acre field, the eroded surface of a volcanic crater, for a variety of rocks, minerals, and gemstones – and any rock or mineral you find is yours to keep. You may bring your own mining equipment to search with (no battery-operated or motor-driven mining tools allowed), or rent tools from the park.

Your diamond search begins here, where you can prepare for your visit by learning about diamonds and how to search for them. At the park's visitor center, you can view real, uncut diamonds and interact with exhibits illustrating the area's unique history and geology. At the Diamond Discovery Center, you can learn more about rocks and minerals found at the park and how to search for diamonds using various techniques. Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow: the three colors found here at the park are white, brown, and yellow. Amethyst, garnet, jasper, agate, quartz, and other rocks and minerals naturally occur here. Park staff provide complimentary identification of rocks and minerals found at the park, as well as diamond mining demonstrations and other interpretive programs.

More than 35,000 diamonds have been found by park visitors since the Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas state park in 1972. Notable diamonds found at the Crater include the 40.23-carat Uncle Sam, the largest diamond ever unearthed in the U.S.; the 16.37-carat Amarillo Starlight; the 15.33-carat Star of Arkansas; and the 8.52-carat Esperanza.

Other amenities include walking trails, picnic sites, 47 Class AAA campsites (50 Amp/30 Amp/Water/Sewer), 5 walk-in tent sites, a gift shop, and Diamond Springs Water Park (seasonal), which is a great place to cool off after a summer day of digging for diamonds.

Digging for Diamonds

Where can diamonds be found? The answer might surprise you. Arkansas's Crater of Diamonds State Park is one of the only diamond-producing sites in the world where the public can search for diamonds in their original volcanic source. The policy here is "finders, keepers," meaning the diamonds you find are yours to keep.

Visitors search for diamonds atop a 37 1/2-acre plowed field, the eroded surface of an ancient, diamond-bearing volcanic crater. Visitors access the diamond search area through the Diamond Discovery Center, an engaging interpretive center featuring exhibits and a pushbutton video kiosk that illustrates the three most popular methods of searching for diamonds. The park staff provides complimentary identification and registration of diamonds found at the park.

A few facts about diamonds in Arkansas: The first diamond was found here in 1906 by John Huddleston, a farmer who owned a portion of the diamond-bearing crater at that time. The Crater of Diamonds has changed hands several times over the years and several companies made unsuccessful attempts at commercial diamond mining. Lawsuits, lack of profit, and fires are among the reasons suspected for these failures. From 1952 to 1972, this site was operated privately, as a tourist attraction. In 1972, the State of Arkansas purchased the Crater of Diamonds for development as a state park.

Pets are allowed in all park facilities, with the exception of the park gift shop and [Diamond Springs Water Park](#) as long as they remain on a leash under the owner's control at all times.

The diamond search area is plowed periodically when the weather allows to help loosen the surface soil and promote diamond finds. Plowing is unscheduled but generally takes place once a month during spring, summer, and fall. Historical structures and mining equipment, washing pavilions, and sun shelters are located in the search area. Diamond mining tools are available for rent or purchase at the park.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

<p>Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club Show; 4/18/2025 - 4/20/2025 Fri/Sat: 9:00 – 6:00 Sun: 10:00 – 4:00 Alpine Civic Center, 801 W Holland Ave; Alpine, TX https://www.facebook.com/Chihuahuan-Desert-Gem-Mineral-Club-300125913343720/</p>	<p>Lone Star Convention Center & Expo 4/25/2025 - 4/27/2025 Lone Star Convention Center & Expo, 9055 Airport Rd; Conroe, TX https://www.rmgmprootions.com/</p>	<p>Mount Ida Gem, Mineral & Craft Show; 5/9/2025 No venue given, 1210 Hwy 270 E, Mount Ida, AR; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; https://m.facebook.com/groups/547163697692749/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBT</p>	<p>Texas Mineral and Fossil Dallas/Plano, 5/16/2025 - 5/18/2025, Plano Event Center; 2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX https://www.rmgmprootions.com/</p>
<p>Fort Worth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead & Jewelry Show - 5/24/2025 - 5/25/2025 Sat 9:00am - 5:00 pm; Sun 10:00am-4:00pm Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 West Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, TX http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/</p>	<p>JOGS Tucson Fall Gem & Jewelry Show; 8/28/2025 - 8/31/2025; 10:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun: 10:00am 4:00pm, Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E Irvington Rd, Tucson, AZ; https://jogsshow.com/</p>	<p>Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show; Delta Hotels Denver, 10 E 120th Ave, Northglenn, CO; 9/5/2025 - 9/13/2025; http://www.coloradomineralandfossilshows.com</p>	<p>Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society Show; 10/24/2025 - 10/26/2025, Fri/Sat 9:00am - 6:00pm, Sun 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, State Fair Park - Modern Living Bldg, 608 Kiamichi Place, Oklahoma City , OK, http://omgs-minerals.org/</p>

Member of

Next Annual Show
TBA, February 2026
Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:
<http://www.clgms.org>
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/clgms>



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.

2025 OFFICERS:	President	Cynthia McGowan	281-546-2662
	Vice President	David Tjiok	832-423-4802
	Secretary	Christina Rankin	281-723-5408
	Treasurer	Monica Duran	
	Program Director	Christina Rankin	281-723-5408
	Board of Directors:	Sandra Christiansen	Jim Hawkins
		Spencer Pearson	John Caldyne
		Donna Nelson	Vacant
	Newsletter Editor	Heather Althoff	

Annual Show 2021	Sandra Christiansen	
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Jim Hawkins	Membership.....Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Christina Rankin	WWW System Admin.. ..Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....Vacant
Publicity.....	Annabel Brownfield	Education/Field Trips.....Annabel Brownfield
Social Media.....	Cynthia McGowan	Field Trip Coordinator.....Cassie Renner

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2025: Adult \$15:00, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address.
 Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289