

A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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AUGUST 2025

NUMBER 8



NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

**TIME:
LOCATION:**

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

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AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

HENRY MAREK PRESENTS
Rock Saws and Cutting Rocks
 AUGUST 19 - 7 PM
 Monthly Meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7 pm
 Helen Hall Library
 100 W. Walker
 League City, TX 77573

MINUTES OF THE JULY 2025 CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society at Helen Hall Library in League City on 7/16/2025.

23 members attended our monthly meeting.

Cindy went over the club information for new members.

Membership is due: \$10 for single members

\$20 for family members to include children under 18

For are members over 70 FREE

Upcoming dates:

Sep. 13th Second Annual CLGMS Picnic and Rock Exchange. Please bring any unwanted that you want to exchange.

OCT 11th Warehouse Clean-up from 8:30-10:30 Lunch at 11:30.

Nov 15th Livingston Rock Shop and Brunch times will be announced at a later meeting.

Dec 9th Christmas Dinner at 7pm

Feb. 28-Mar1st CLGMS Show

We need a volunteer to help make signs for the show and Gem Mine

Hats and shirts will be offered for a small price for our picnic and field trips.

Newsletter was approved.

Our scholarship winners attended this meeting and received their awards.

MINUTES OF THE JULY CLGMS BOARD MEETING

There was no board meeting in August. The next meeting will be held on September 2, 2025 at Panera Bread on El Camino in Webster.

Field Trips Announcement

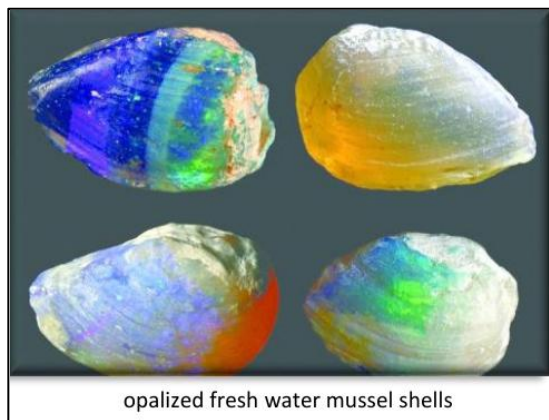
November 15: We will travel individually to Livingston to visit Johnson's Rock Shop. The plan is to eat an early lunch/brunch and then visit the shop before heading home. We will offer carpool for those that may want to travel together.

Borrowed from the 11/2016 Cedar Valley Gems newsletter.

Opalized Dinosaur Bones and Pine Cones from Lightning Ridge

Only one place on Earth produces black opal fossils, Lightning Ridge in northern New South Wales, Australia. Lightning Ridge is the only opal field in Australia with fossils of diverse land-living Cretaceous organisms - pinecones and platypuses, microscopic protozoans and gigantic dinosaurs. The fossils are usually exact replicas of plant, shell or bone material, and at times they are comprised of gem quality black opal, which is as valuable as diamonds and more beautiful

Black opal fossils which may be found at Lightning Ridge include remnants of ancient plants, mussels, snails, crustaceans, fish, turtles, plesiosaurs, crocodiles, pterosaurs, dinosaurs, birds, and mammals. 110 million years ago the supercontinent

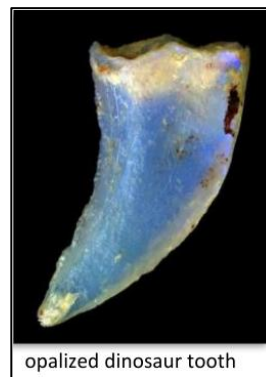


opalized fresh water mussel shells

Gondwana was a wilderness of forests of pines, ferns and palms separated by tracts of shallow sea. Dinosaurs and their relatives dominated this landscape, as well as our rare and tiny mammal ancestors.

Near the edge of this ancient continent, fragments of the remains of these animals accumulated in the sands of the inland sea. Opalized pine cone Lightning Ridge fossils are three-dimensional replicas of ancient organic objects, transposed into non-precious potch (colorless opal) or precious opalized dinosaur tooth opal. In those that are pseudomorphs, the silica has filled a simple cavity or void, like jelly in a mold, so that only the basic shape and perhaps the surface texture is preserved. However, many specimens are replacement fossils, in which intricate internal structures have been preserved by chemical alteration before the cavity was filled by the silica solution.

Most specimens at the Ridge are a combination of pseudomorphs and replacement fossils. Although the transformation to silica has destroyed bio-molecular evidence, marrow tissue, blood vessels, capillaries opalized fresh water mussel shells and nerve channels may be perfectly preserved. If the potch is transparent, these features are clearly visible below the surface in opalized bones. A surprising aspect is the opalization of delicate materials like leaves and even dinosaur skin. Many pieces resemble coprolites, reptilian armor scutes or heavy scales; very occasionally, bone specimens seem to show remnants of tendons or cartilage.



opalized dinosaur tooth



opalized ammonite

This outstanding quality of preservation is partly because the opal-dirt is extremely fine-grained and an ideal casting medium. Kaolinite, smectite, and illite clays produce the putty-like properties of the opal clay, the smectite making it plastic and malleable. Most opal fossils found at the Ridge consist of potch, therefore any fossils with color are rare and valuable. Many fossils are damaged by machinery during excavation, as pick and shovel based operations are giving way to machine-driven excavations. Removing fossil specimens can be a delicate operation, and colorless fossil specimens are largely ignored by miners searching for color.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <u>Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Show</u> <u>08/16/2025-</u> <u>08/17/2025</u> <u>Sat 9:00-6:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00-4:00</u> <u>Bossier Civic Center</u> <u>620 Benton Rd</u> <u>Bossier City, LA</u> <u>71171</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>http://larockclub.com/</u> | <u>H & R Gem Shows</u> <u>St Petersburg Gem</u> <u>Show – 8/29/2025 -</u> <u>8/31/2025</u> <u>10:00 - 5:00</u> <u>The Coliseum</u> <u>Ballroom</u> <u>535 4th Ave N</u> <u>St Petersburg, FL</u> <u>33701; Website:</u> <u>https://hrgemshows.com</u> | <u>JOGS Tucson Fall</u> <u>Gem & Jewelry</u> <u>Show; 8/28/2025 -</u> <u>8/31/2025;</u> <u>10:00 am – 6:00 pm;</u> <u>Sun: 10:00am</u> <u>4:00pm, Tucson</u> <u>Expo Center, 3750 E</u> <u>Irvington Rd,</u> <u>Tucson, AZ;</u> <u>https://jogsshow.com</u> | <u>Panther City Expo</u> <u>8/30/2025 - 8/31/2025</u> <u>Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4</u> <u>CERA; 3300 Bryant</u> <u>Irvin Rd</u> <u>Fort Worth, TX 76109</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/CowtownG MG</u> |
| <u>Denver Gem & Mineral Show</u> <u>9/04/2025 - 9/07/2025</u> <u>Westin Hotel</u> <u>10600 Westminster</u> <u>Blvd; Westin Hotel</u> <u>Westminster, CO</u> <u>80020; Website:</u> <u>https://www.denvermineralshow.com/member-clubs</u> | <u>Reno Gem & Mineral Show</u> <u>9/13/2025-</u> <u>9/14/2025</u> <u>Sat 10:00 - 5:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00 - 4:00</u> <u>Grand Sierra Resort</u> <u>- Silver State</u> <u>Pavilion</u> <u>2500 E Second St</u> <u>Reno, NV</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>http://renogms.org</u> | <u>Lubbock Gem & Mineral Show</u> <u>9/27/2025-9/28/2025</u> <u>Sat 10:00 - 6:00</u> <u>Sun 11:00 - 4:00</u> <u>Lubbock Memorial</u> <u>Civic Center</u> <u>1501 Mac Davis Ln</u> <u>Lubbock, TX 79401</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>http://lubbockgemandmineral.org</u> | <u>Central Arkansas Gem</u> <u>Mineral & Jewelry</u> <u>Show</u> <u>10/04/2025 - 10/05/2025</u> <u>Sat 9:00-6:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00-5:00</u> <u>Cabot Event Center</u> <u>508 N Lincoln St</u> <u>Cabot, AR 72023</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>http://www.centralarkgemandjewelry.com/</u> |
| <u>Body Mind Spirit</u> <u>Expo</u> <u>10/10/2025-</u> <u>10/12/2025</u> <u>Fri 1:00 - 9:00</u> <u>Sat 10:00 - 7:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00 - 6:00</u> <u>Colorado Springs</u> <u>Event Center</u> <u>3960 Palmer Park Blvd</u> <u>Colorado Springs, CO</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>https://www.bmse.net/</u> | <u>Oklahoma Mineral</u> <u>and Gem Society</u> <u>Show; 10/24/2025-</u> <u>10/26/2025</u> <u>Fri/Sat 9:00 - 6:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00 - 5:00</u> <u>State Fair Park -</u> <u>Modern Living Bldg</u> <u>608 Kiamichi Place,</u> <u>Oklahoma City, OK</u> <u>http://omgs-minerals.org</u> | <u>Houston Gem & Mineral Society</u> <u>Show; 11/07/2025 -</u> <u>11/09/2025</u> <u>Fri/Sat 9:00-6:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00-5:00</u> <u>Humble Civic Center</u> <u>8233 Will Clayton</u> <u>Parkway</u> <u>Humble, TX 77338;</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>https://hgms.org</u> | <u>Dallas Gem & Mineral</u> <u>Show</u> <u>11/22/2025-11/23/2025</u> <u>Sat 10:00-6:00</u> <u>Sun 10:00-5:00</u> <u>Mesquite Convention</u> <u>Center</u> <u>1700 Rodeo Drive</u> <u>Mesquite, TX 75149</u> <u>Website:</u> <u>http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/</u> |

Member of

Next Annual Show

February 28 - March 1, 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.

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

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