



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NUMBER 7



Happy
Independence Day

**NEXT
MEETING:**

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

**TIME:
LOCATION:**

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

		<u>JUNE MONTHLY MEETING</u>
July Meeting	1	<p>This month we will welcome Doug Walser from Angel's Rocks and Fossils. He will speak about Finding and Buying Rocks to Sell Them—Thorns, Thistles, and Satisfaction.</p> <p>Christina will speak on the birthstones of the month ruby and onyx.</p>
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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2025 CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting at Helen Hall Library on 6/17/2025

25 members attended this meeting, and we are still going to go to Livingston Rock Shop but have not set a date yet.

We are planning on going to Dallas for another fieldtrip more information will be coming.

Mineral Wells is another fieldtrip more information will be coming.

Newsletter was approved.

We would like a volunteer to help with food at are meetings, please let David know.

Treasury: A form will be emailed about the prices for hats and shirts for our 2nd annual picnic.

During the picnic there will be a rock exchange, please bring any rocks that you would like to exchange with other members.

Membership dues need to be paid.

Display boxes are available if anybody would like one.

We need a volunteer who knows how to use a router to make new signs for our vendors for our next show. Please see Trina and she will show you how it is done.

Our scholarship winners will be at our July meeting to pick up their checks.

Joyce Schultz would like a group of members who can help her sort through her late sister's rock collection to see if she can either donate some to the club and put some in an estate sale. Speak to Christina about date and time.

MINUTES OF THE JULY CLGMS BOARD MEETING

The board met at Panera Bread on July 1, 2025.

There were 7 members present.

- The CLGMS 2nd Annual Picnic: aiming for September 13th or 14th. Depending on the availability of the park, a vote may go back to the general membership.
- November 15 will be our next field trip. We will go to Johnstone Rock Shop in Livingston.
- Future trips: Cyndi is still working on a trip to Dallas to visit an exquisite private collection. If there is interest and someone available to lead a group, a trip to the Texas City Dike to look for sharks teeth may be put on the calendar. In April we will plan to take a trip to Inner Space Caverns.
- 2026 Show Update
 - The grand prize has been purchased. It will be photographed and sent so that postcards can be printed and distributed at the HGMS show in November.
 - We need a volunteer that can redo the façade of the Gem Mine. It need a major facelift. Possibly a project for an Eagle Scout.
- Warehouse cleanup: general membership will be asked at the next meeting what date would be good to work on a quick clean out.
 - We need to dispose of the remaining display cases because they are taking up needed room in the storage locker.
 - Rising cost of storage was discussed, but it is something happening in all places and therefore the decision was made to stay where we currently house our materials. Spencer will call to see if we can get a better rate as a non-profit.
- Apparel: still in the works. We will order shirts and hats with the club logo

- New envelopes will be ordered. A wagon has also been purchased to help with refreshments at the general meeting.
- Cyndi will get the large checks for the scholarship presentations at the next meeting.
- A question was presented about bylaws and the length of officer terms. Officers should be elected every two years.
- We will present monthly presenters with a \$150 Amazon gift card for their time and efforts.

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

More information soon.

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.

Onyx

Borrowed from <https://geologyscience.com/minerals/silicates-minerals/onyx/>

Modified date: 01/07/2024

Onyx is a type of chalcedony, which is a microcrystalline form of quartz. It is a banded variety of chalcedony that forms in concentric layers of different colors. Onyx typically has a black base with white or colored bands. The colored bands can range from shades of brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

Onyx is found in various parts of the world, including Brazil, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, and the United States. It has been used for thousands of years for decorative purposes, as well as for jewelry and other ornamental objects.

In ancient times, onyx was believed to have protective properties and was often used in talismans and amulets. It was also used in the creation of cameos and intaglios, which are engraved designs that are cut into the surface of the stone.

Today, onyx is still used for jewelry and decorative objects, and is valued for its unique beauty and distinctive banding. It is also used as a building material for floors, walls, and countertops, and is often used in high-end residential and commercial properties.



Physical characteristics of Onyx

Onyx has several physical characteristics that make it a distinctive and valuable mineral:

1. **Hardness:** Onyx has a hardness of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, which means it is a relatively hard mineral that can be polished to a high shine.
2. **Color and banding:** Onyx is typically black with white or colored banding that runs parallel to the layers of the mineral. The colors of the bands can vary widely and can include shades of brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.
3. **Transparency:** Onyx is generally translucent to opaque, which means that it allows some light to pass through, but not enough to see through the mineral.
4. **Luster:** Onyx has a waxy luster that can be polished to a high shine, making it a popular choice for decorative objects and jewelry.
5. **Density:** Onyx has a density of 2.6 to 2.7 g/cm³, which is slightly lower than the density of pure quartz.
6. **Fracture:** Onyx has a conchoidal fracture, which means that it breaks into smooth, curved surfaces that resemble the inside of a seashell.

Overall, the physical characteristics of onyx make it a beautiful and distinctive mineral that is valued for its unique banding and its ability to be polished to a high shine.



Red onyx (also called “Sardonyx”)

Chemical Composition

Onyx is a type of chalcedony, which is a mineral that has a chemical composition of SiO₂ (silicon dioxide). Like other varieties of chalcedony, onyx is composed of tiny crystals of quartz that have

formed together into a compact mass. However, onyx is distinguished from other types of chalcedony by its distinctive banding pattern.

Onyx can also contain small amounts of impurities, which can give it different colors and banding patterns. For example, onyx that is brown or red may contain iron oxide impurities, while onyx that is green may contain chromium or nickel impurities.

Overall, the chemical composition of onyx is relatively simple, consisting mainly of silicon and oxygen atoms arranged in a crystalline structure. However, its unique banding patterns and colors make it a highly prized mineral for decorative and ornamental uses.



Formation and occurrence of Onyx

Onyx forms as a result of the deposition of silica-rich solutions in cavities within rocks. Over time, these solutions slowly evaporate, causing the silica to crystallize and form layers of chalcedony. The banding pattern in onyx is thought to result from changes in the concentration or composition of the silica-rich solutions during the deposition process.

Onyx is commonly found in association with other minerals, such as calcite, aragonite, and travertine, which are often found in caves and other underground formations. It can also form as a result of the replacement of other minerals, such as limestone or dolomite, by silica-rich solutions.

Onyx is found in many parts of the world, including Brazil, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, and the United States. In the United States, onyx is found in California, Arizona, and Utah, among other places. It is often mined from underground deposits, although it can also be found on the surface in some locations. Once mined, onyx is usually cut and polished into decorative objects or used for jewelry and other ornamental purposes.



Types of Onyx

There are several different types of onyx, which are distinguished by their color and banding patterns. Some of the most common types of onyx include:

1. **Black Onyx:** This is the most common type of onyx and is characterized by its black base color and white or light-colored banding.
2. **Sardonyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its brown or reddish-brown base color and white or black banding. Sardonyx is often used in cameos and intaglios.
3. **Green Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its green base color and white or light-colored banding.
4. **Blue Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its blue base color and white or light-colored banding.
5. **Red Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its red base color and white or light-colored banding.
6. **Yellow Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its yellow base color and white or light-colored banding.
7. **Pink Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its pink base color and white or light-colored banding.
8. **White Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its white base color and black or dark-colored banding.
9. **Gray Onyx:** This type of onyx is characterized by its gray base color and white or light-colored banding.

Overall, the different types of onyx vary in their color and banding patterns, but they all share the distinctive layered structure that makes onyx such a unique and beautiful mineral.



1.

Mining and processing

The mining and processing of onyx involve several steps, including exploration, extraction, transportation, cutting, and polishing.

1. **Exploration:** The first step in mining onyx is to identify potential deposits. This typically involves conducting geological surveys and prospecting for areas where onyx is likely to be found.
2. **Extraction:** Once a deposit has been identified, the onyx is extracted from the ground using various mining methods, such as open-pit mining or underground mining. The extracted onyx is then transported to a processing plant.

3. **Cutting:** At the processing plant, the onyx is cut into blocks or slabs using saws and other cutting equipment. The size and thickness of the blocks or slabs will depend on the intended use of the onyx.
4. **Polishing:** After the onyx has been cut, it is polished to a high shine using a series of grinding and polishing wheels. This process can take several days to complete, depending on the size and complexity of the finished product.
5. **Finishing:** Once the onyx has been polished, it may undergo additional finishing processes, such as sandblasting, etching, or coating, to achieve the desired surface texture or color.
6. **Transport:** The finished onyx products are then transported to their final destination, such as a decorative object manufacturer, jewelry maker, or architectural firm.

Overall, the mining and processing of onyx require specialized equipment and expertise to ensure that the finished product meets the desired specifications for quality and appearance.



Cultural significance of Onyx

Onyx has been associated with various cultural and spiritual beliefs throughout history and continues to hold significance in many cultures today. Here are a few examples of the cultural significance of onyx:

1. **Ancient Egypt:** In ancient Egypt, onyx was believed to have protective properties and was often used to make amulets and other protective objects. Onyx was also used to make decorative objects such as vessels and figurines.
2. **Ancient Greece and Rome:** In ancient Greece and Rome, onyx was associated with courage and self-control and was often carved into cameos and intaglios depicting heroic figures and gods. Onyx was also used to make vases, bowls, and other decorative objects.
3. **Islamic culture:** Onyx has been highly valued in Islamic culture, where it is believed to have protective and healing properties. Onyx was often used to make decorative objects such as prayer beads, bowls, and vases.
4. **Modern culture:** Onyx continues to hold cultural significance in modern times and is often used in jewelry, decorative objects, and architectural features. In some cultures, onyx is believed to promote strength and balance, while in others, it is associated with wisdom and intuition.

Overall, the cultural significance of onyx has varied throughout history and across cultures, but it has consistently been valued for its beauty, durability, and supposed protective and healing properties. Today, onyx remains a popular material for decorative and ornamental uses, and its cultural significance continues to evolve and adapt to changing times and beliefs.

Interesting facts about Onyx

- The word “onyx” comes from the Greek word “onux,” which means “claw” or “fingernail.” This name is thought to refer to the translucency and color of onyx, which resemble human fingernails.
- Onyx is formed in caves or other areas where water collects and evaporates over time, leaving behind layers of minerals. The distinctive banding pattern in onyx is created by variations in the mineral content and water conditions during its formation.
- Onyx is a popular material for carving, and it has been used for this purpose for thousands of years. Onyx carvings have been found in ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman tombs, as well as in other cultures throughout history.
- Onyx is often confused with other minerals, such as marble and obsidian. However, onyx is a type of chalcedony, while marble is a metamorphic rock and obsidian is a volcanic glass.
- Onyx is a symbol of protection and grounding in many cultures, and it is believed to have healing properties for physical and emotional ailments.
- Onyx is a birthstone for the month of July, and it is associated with the zodiac sign Leo.
- In modern times, onyx is used for a variety of decorative and ornamental purposes, including jewelry, vases, lamps, and architectural features such as columns and fireplaces.

Overall, onyx is a fascinating and highly valued mineral that has played an important role in human history and culture for thousands of years. Its unique beauty, durability, and supposed healing properties continue to make it a popular material for decorative and ornamental uses today.

References

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4. “Onyx: Mineral information, data and localities” Handbook of Mineralogy. <http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/onyx.pdf>
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7. “Onyx Stone: Types, Properties, Benefits, and Uses” Geology Page. <https://geologypage.com/rocks/onyx-stone-types-properties-benefits-and-uses/>
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SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

<p>The Crystal Festival 7/19/2025 - 7/20/2025 10am - 8pm Colorado Springs Event Center 3960 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80909; Website: https://www.crystalfestival.org</p>	<p>G&LW Franklin Gem & Mineral Show 7/24/2025-7/27/2025 Watauga Festival Center; 6295 Sylva Rd Franklin, NC 28734</p>	<p>Prescott Gem & Mineral Show 8/01/2025-8/03/2025 Fri/Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 9:00-4:00 Findley Toyota Event Center 3201 N Main Prescott Valley, AZ 86314; Website: https://www.prescottgemmineral.org</p>	<p>H & R Gem Shows St Petersburg Gem Show – 8/29/2025-8/31/2025 10:00 - 5:00 The Coliseum Ballroom 535 4th Ave N St Petersburg, FL 33701; Website: https://hrgemshows.com</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>Reno Gem & Mineral Show 9/13/2025 - 9/14/2025 Sat 10:00 - 5:00 Sun 10:00 - 4:00 Grand Sierra Resort - Silver State Pavilion 2500 E Second St Reno, NV Website: http://renogms.org</p>	<p>Lubbock Gem & Mineral Show 9/27/2025-9/28/2025 Sat 10:00 - 6:00 Sun 11:00 - 4:00 Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Ln Lubbock, TX 79401 Website: http://lubbockgemandmineral.org</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>
<p>Houston Gem & Mineral Society Show 11/07/2025 -11/09/2025 Fri/Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 77338; Website: https://hgms.org</p>			

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.

2025 OFFICERS:	President	Cynthia McGowan	281-546-2662
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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