



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NUMBER 11



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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

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NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Chris from Chaos2Creations will be presenting at the November meeting.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2025 CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting at League City Library 10/21/2025.

15 members attended this meeting, and our Vice President and Secretary lead the meeting.

The Warehouse clean-up went well, and we have more space in the storage area.

Monica will send out a Jot form about our Lake Livingston Rock shop meet-up.

Location: Johnson's Rock Shop 238 N. Lincoln Wiggins St., Livingston, TX 77351.

Monica is looking to get more tubs to put our items in and to replace some broken ones.

We have two Genie's and after we get parts for them and Jim works on them, we will have a class on how to work them next year.

Christmas Dinner at Kelley's in League City on 12/9 at 6pm. We will have door prizes and a menu of five dinners you can pick from that the club will pay for to include dessert.

Location: Kelley's Country Cookin' 518 1502 W. Main FM518 League City, TX 77573.

6000 postcards will be ordered for our CLGMS Spring Show.

72nd Annual HGMS Show November 7-9, 2025, hours:

Friday: 9-6, Saturday: 9-6, Sunday: 10-5.

Location: Humble Civic Center

8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX 77338

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER CLGMS BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held on November 3, 2025 at Panera Bread on El Dorado at 7pm.

There were 9 members present.

Recap of October meeting:

Warehouse cleanout went well. We still need some tubs to help organize. We hope to get some PVC pipe to reframe and help with storage of the gam mine for the annual show.

We still need a speaker for November and March. We have a possible speaker for January, but it will be a short presentation. This will work well since we usually spend most of the meeting working on show details.

November 15th Field trip will be a bring your own lunch. Meet at shop, shop, and then eat lunch under the pavilion.

December meeting will be at Kelleys Country Kitchen.

Elections will be in April since we neglected to hold them this past March. We will begin announcing now to get interested people on board for filling positions. We will likely have all positions available.

Upcoming Field Trips

November 15, 2025 @ 10 AM
Johnson's Rock Shop Field Trip

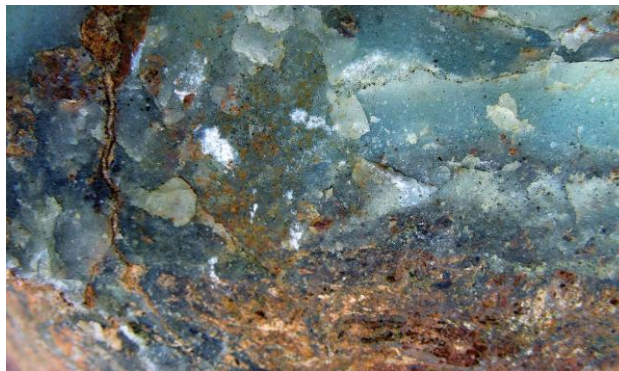
238 N Lincoln Wiggins St
Livingston, TX 77351
<https://www.johnsonrockshop.com/>
Phone: 936-563-4438

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=30.69131,+94.73992+%28Coordinates%29&iwloc=A&hl=en>

Our November Field Trip is Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 10 am.
The Rock Shop opens at 9 am if you want to arrive earlier.
There are several tables onsite to sit and eat or relax.
Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Please RSVP at this link:
<https://www.jotform.com/build/253112940239048>
There is less than 1.5 miles of dirt roads to get there.

A trip to Inner Space Caverns is being planned for April 18th.



Natural blue topaz | Courtesy Photographix/stock. adobe.com

Texas Topaz

Jewel of the Past, Treasure of the Present
Karl Schiller

When the Texas Legislature proclaimed blue topaz the official state gemstone in 1969, lawmakers were recognizing not just a beautiful mineral but a stone whose mystery stretches back to ancient times and extends far beyond the borders of the Lone Star State.

Ancient Egyptians believed the sun god produced its yellow hues. Ancient Greeks gave it the name *topazios*, believing it had magical powers, such as the ability to increase strength or make its wearer invisible in emergencies. Romans thought it could detect poisoned food. In Sanskrit it was called *topas* or *tapaz*, meaning “fire,” and in India wearers thought it assured long life, beauty and intelligence. During the Renaissance, people believed it could break magical spells.

But in Texas, the blue variety became prized not only for its color but also its rarity within the state. Deposits of naturally occurring blue topaz are found only in the Hill Country's Mason County.

What is topaz? And why was it prized, even in antiquity? The gem is hard, transparent, comes in many colors and resists abrasion. Colors vary – clear, yellow, brown, pink and blue – and that variability sometimes caused ancients to misidentify it. But from the earliest days, people have appreciated the aesthetics, recognizing its rarity.

Today, yellow topaz is one of two birthstones for November, and blue topaz is the birthstone for people born in December.

According to the Gemological Institute of America, topaz is an 8 on the Mohs hardness scale, harder than quartz but softer than sapphire. Like emerald, jade, garnet and others, it is an aluminum silicate mineral, but is distinguished by the presence of fluorine. Formed in fluorine-rich igneous rocks, it is one of the last minerals to crystallize as the rock cools. Topaz is found in many locations throughout the world, including the United States, Brazil, Madagascar, Myanmar, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mexico and China. Brazil is currently the world's largest producer.

Trace elements often give topaz its different colors, but the blue gemstone in particular can be formed by exposure to ionizing radiation – either from natural sources in its host rock or from artificial irradiation. No test exists to determine if a blue stone is natural or not, but there is hope. Gemologists are working on a method to quantify trace element content and verify geographic provenance.

The topaz crystals found in Texas were formed about 1.3 billion years ago, when the Hill Country was a tall mountain range as high as the Rockies. They crystallized miles deep in the granitic core in pegmatite, an igneous rock that forms when the last bit of deeply buried magma solidifies. The ancient mountains eroded over millions of years to form the center of the Hill Country, and one of those pegmatites was exposed in Mason County.

Because of its hardness, the Texas topaz crystals resisted erosion and could be found on the surface and in stream gravels. Colors vary from clear to yellow and light brown, but the most desirable is light blue, now dubbed the Texas topaz.



The largest blue topaz discovered in North America is on display in the Mason Square Museum. | Courtesy Mason Square Museum

The largest blue topaz discovered in North America, weighing in at 6,480 carats, was found in Mason in 1904. The stone is on loan to the Mason Square Museum from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Texas also has an official gemstone cut – the “Lone Star Cut” – making it the only state with such a designation. The special faceting causes a five-pointed Texas star to appear. The “Grand Azure,” a 587.15-carat blue topaz, is the largest faceted sample known and can be seen at Mason Country Collectibles, an antique shop two blocks south of the courthouse.



A Mason county blue topaz with a Lone Star cut.

Texas topaz was never mined commercially; it was always considered a hobbyist's gem. For years, Mason ranchers opened their properties to rockhounds, but as the discoveries dwindled over time and digging became more disruptive, the ranches were closed to the public. The last ranch allowing gem hunting discontinued access in 2023.

But the allure of this jewel lives on. Those fortunate enough to possess a Mason County blue topaz with verified provenance have a real treasure – a slice of Texas heritage, carrying the scientific wonder of its formation, and a mystery and mythology spanning cultures and time.

Borrowed from:

Schiller, K. (2025, April 21). *Texas topaz*. Authentic Texas. <https://authentic texas.com/texas-topaz/>

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

<p>Rock Gem & Jewelry Show 11/15/2025-11/16/2025 Sat 11:00-8:00 Sun 11:00-5:00 San Antonio Garden Center; 3310 N. New Braunfels Ave San Antonio, TX http://www.swgms.org/</p>	<p>40th Annual Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society Show 11/21/2025-11/23/2025 Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Cobb County Civic Center 548 South Marietta Parkway SE Marietta, GA 30060 https://www.ccgms.org</p>	<p>Dallas Gem & Mineral Show; 11/22/2025-11/23/2025 Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5 Mesquite Convention Center 1700 Rodeo Drive Mesquite, TX 75149 Website: http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/</p>	<p>Mobile Rock and Gem Show 11/28/2025 - 11/30/2025 Abba Shrine 7701 Hitt Road Mobile, AL 36695 Website: http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/</p>
<p>Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Show 11/29/2025-11/30/2025 Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00 Hassayampa School - Wrangler Event Center 251 S Tegner St Wickenburg, AZ Website: http://www.wickenburggms.org/</p>	<p>Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; 12/05/2025 - 12/07/2025 Fri/Sat 9:00 - 6:00 Sun 11:00 - 4:00 Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Dr Montgomery, AL 36107 Website: https://mgms.club/mgms/index.php</p>	<p>Rocks & Rails Mineral, Gem, & Model Train Show/Expo 12/12/2025-12/14/2025 Boulder County Fairgrounds 9595 Nelson Rd Longmont, CO 80501 Website: https://flatironsmineralclub.org/</p>	<p>Fredericksburg Rockhounds Show 1/17/2026-1/18/2026 Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00 Lady Bird Johnson Park - Pioneer Pavillion 1606 S State Hwy 16 Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Website: http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/</p>
<p>Gila County Gem and Mineral Show 1/16/2026 - 1/18/2026 Fri/Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00 Gila County Fairgrounds 900 E Fairgrounds Rd Globe, AZ 85501 Website: http://www.gilagem.org/</p>	<p>RMGM Wholesale Dealers Show 1/23/2026 - 2/07/2026 10:00 - 6:00 Metal Building 1920 N Oracle Rd Tucson, AZ 85705 Website: https://www.rmgmpro-motions.com/</p>	<p>Tucson Gem & Jam Festival 2/06/2026 - 2/08/2026 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pima County Fairgrounds 11300 S Houghton Rd Tucson, AZ 85747 Website: https://gemandjamfestival.com/</p>	<p>Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show 2/28/2026-3/01/2026 Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00 Pasadena Convention Center 7902 Fairmont Parkway Pasadena, TX 77507 Website: https://www.clgms.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
	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