



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

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NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

		<u>SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING</u>
September Meeting	1	Member John Caldyne will be presenting.
Board/General Meeting Minutes,	2	
Upcoming events, Field Trips	2-3	
Soapstone	4-6	
Upcoming shows	7	

MINUTES OF THE JULY 2025 CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting at League City Library 8/19/2025.

Since Cindy, our president, could not attend our meeting David, our Vice President, did the honors. 35 members and guests attended our meeting.

North Pallion Walter Hall on Saturday 13, 2025 from 10am-1pm Lunch and drinks will be provided. Shirts and hats can be purchased for events. Rock Exchange will help so bring your rocks for this rock swap.

Our show dates are 2/28-3/1 for the CLGMS.

Bethany from BK Bones has already confirmed that she will be there.

We will have 5 scholarships of 2 thousand dollars for students in college getting any Earth Science degree.

Grants up to 5 hundred dollars for Elementary, Middle school, and libraries for their Earth Science areas.

Newsletter was approved.

CLGMS Christmas Dinner on 12/2 from 6pm-9pm
Kelly's Country Cooking 518 in League City.

Elections will be held in March for new board officers.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER CLGMS BOARD MEETING

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting took place at Panera Bread on El Dorado on 9/2/2025.

There were 8 members present.

Picnic RSVP's are coming in. Club will be providing food.
Apparel design will be coming soon. We are considering a light blue color for the shirt.

Livingston field trip 11/15/25

Storage clean out October 11, 8:30-10:30. We need to get rid of older items and buy some new totes to help reduce the weight of some of the boxes that are used for the show.

Christmas dinner will be December 9 at Kelly's Country Kitchen in League City. We will send out another form to get a head count for attendance. We need at least 30 people to attend.

Convention Center Update: Construction is still ongoing. We will still hold the show in the old facility. Parking may still be an issue, but the back lot is now open. We still need someone to make new signs for new vendors and the gam mine façade needs to be redone.

Food for thought: Where are we going with our money? We have amassed quite the amount in the account and we have had very few scholarship applicants. Thoughts... creating a mobile workshop, hosting some classes, and investing in some new equipment for members to borrow.

Upcoming Field Trip

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.

Additional field trip opportunities:

Alpine Area Fall 2025 Rock hunt Schedule

Posted on **June 1, 2025**

Hello, fellow rockhounds! Below is the schedule for my Fall 2025 rock hunts. This is a firm schedule for me, given that there are no political or environmental problems that make it impossible to get out to the ranches. I will be in Alpine, TX, leading these field trips in October and November just as I've done for almost the last 30 years. If one person (you) signs up for the trip, it will happen. And there is no maximum number of people allowed on my trips, so bring your family, friends, and gem club members with you. This schedule just includes my hunts, and there may be other Fall Big Bend area rock hunts announced by Aaron Thomas. I'm putting my schedule out as early as I can so y'all have time to make plans for the Fall and schedule vacation with plenty of lead time. If things work as they did in previous years, Aaron's hunts will be on the weekends, while mine are during the week, and Jean Larremore's hunts are only held by special arrangement and can happen only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when they will be out at their ranch to feed the cattle.

To sign up for a hunt, please text or email me your name, the date and location of the hunt, the number of adults and kids under 12 or so that will be hunting and provide me with a phone number that will work while you're out in the Big Bend. My cell number is (432) 386-3431, and my email address is agatehunter@sbcglobal.net. I'll send you a confirmation text or email at the time you book the hunt. I will try to send you a reminder about a week before your hunt, but even if I don't, the rock hunt will happen unless you hear from me cancelling it. In the past 30 or so years, I've only cancelled six or seven rock hunts, mostly due to extreme weather conditions.

Rollin' Rock Club membership required for all hunts. Cost is \$10 per year for a single membership, or \$16 for a dual membership. We meet in the morning at the following places:

Alpine: in the parking lot of Little Caesar's Pizza, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Holland Avenue and Highway 118 South.

Balmorhea: in the vacant lot across FM 2903 from the Alon Gas Station and Uncle's Convenience store on Highway 17 in the town of Balmorhea.

Study Butte: In the dirt lot south of the Alon Gas Station and restaurant/store at the junction of Highway 18 and Highway 170 in Study Butte.

See you on a rock hunt!

Regards,

Teri

Texas Big Bend Rockhunt Schedule for Fall, 2025						
To sign up for a rockhunt, text Teri Smith at (432) 386-3431, or email her at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net .						
Sun, 9/28	Mon, 9/29	Tues, 9/30	Wed, 10/1	Thur, 10/2	Fri, 10/3	Sat, 10/4
		Pigmon 8 a.m. Balmorhea	Pigmon 8 a.m. Balmorhea	Pigmon 8 a.m. Balmorhea	Pigmon 8 a.m. Balmorhea	
Sun, 10/5	Mon, 10/6	Tues, 10/7	Wed, 10/8	Thur, 10/9	Fri, 10/10	Sat, 10/11
	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine		Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	
Sun, 10/12	Mon, 10/13	Tues, 10/14	Wed, 10/15	Thur, 10/16	Fri, 10/17	Sat, 10/18
	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine		E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	
Sun, 10/19	Mon, 10/20	Tues, 10/21	Wed, 10/22	Thur, 10/23	Fri, 10/24	Sat, 10/25
	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte		S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	
Sun, 10/26	Mon, 10/27	Tues, 10/28	Wed, 10/29	Thur, 10/30	Fri, 10/31	Sat, 11/1
	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine		Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	
Sun, 11/2	Mon, 11/3	Tues, 11/4	Wed, 11/5	Thur, 11/6	Fri, 11/7	Sat, 11/8
	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine		Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	
Sun, 11/9	Mon, 11/10	Tues, 11/11	Wed, 11/12	Thur, 11/13	Fri, 11/14	Sat, 11/15
	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine		E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	
Sun, 11/16	Mon, 11/17	Tues, 11/18	Wed, 11/19	Thur, 11/20	Fri, 11/21	Sat, 11/22
	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte		S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine	Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	
Sun, 11/23	Mon, 11/24	Tues, 11/25	Wed, 11/26	Thur, 11/27	Fri, 11/28	Sat, 11/29
	E. Needle Peak 8 a.m. Alpine 9:15 a.m. Study Butte	S. Larremore 8 a.m. Alpine		Pigmon 8 a.m. Alpine	Ritchie 9 a.m. Alpine	
East Needle Peak Ranch is located in south Brewster County, about 100 miles from Alpine. You can find agate, including an occasional piece of the pompon agate for which the area is famous, jasper, petrified wood, flint, quartz crystals and fossils, such as ammonites and other shells, shark teeth, and bones. Cost is \$50 per adult, and kids are free.						
Pigmon Ranch is located between Balmorhea and Toyah, on rolling hills and flats, where you can find agate, jasper, petrified wood, flint, and chert. There is quite a bit of blue agate on the ranch, and some of it has black, grey, or white plumes in it. There's also lots of other types of agate, such as fortification agates, tube agates, water-level agates, seam agates, banded agates, and sagittic agates. And there is petrified wood, flint, and chert in great colors and patterns. Cost is \$60 per adult, and kids are free.						
Ritchie Ranch is located just outside of the city of Alpine. You can find agate of several different types, including fortification agates, moss agates in many colors, carnelian, yellow plume agates, "opalized" agates, many colors of jasper, and some unusually shaped quartz crystals. Admission cost is \$20 per adult, and kids are free. You also pay \$1 per pound for the agate you take.						
South Larremore Ranch is located in mid Brewster County about 40 miles from Alpine. You can find many different types of agate, including red and black plume agates, jasper, petrified wood, flint, quartz crystals and fossils. Cost is \$60 per adult, and kids are free. To go on a hunt with Jean Larremore, call or text her at (432) 294-0860, or email her at jeanlarremore@yahoo.com .						

Soapstone

Taken from the 11/2016 Bugle newsletter of Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club.

Soapstone from Wikipedia

Also known as steatite or soap rock is a talc-schist, which is a type of metamorphic rock. It is largely composed of the mineral talc and is thus rich in magnesium. It is produced by dynamo thermal metamorphism and metasomatism, which occurs in the zones where tectonic plates are subducted, changing rocks by heat and pressure, with influx of fluids, but without melting. It has been a medium for carving for thousands of years.

Soapstone is relatively soft because of its high talc content, talc having a definitional value of 1 on the Mohs hardness scale. Softer grades may feel soapy when touched, hence the name. There is no fixed hardness for soapstone because the amount of talc it contains varies widely, from as little as 30% for architectural grades such as those used on countertops, to as much as 80% for carving grades. Common, non-architectural grades of soapstone can just barely be scratched with a fingernail and are thus considered to have a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs scale. If a candidate rock cannot be scratched with a knife blade (hardness of 5.5), it is not soapstone.



Rough soapstone for carving

Some Soapstone History from geology.com

People have quarried soapstone for thousands of years. Native Americans in eastern North America used the soft rock to make bowls, cooking slabs, smoking pipes, and ornaments as early as the Late Archaic Period (3000 to 5000 years ago). Native Americans on the west coast traveled in canoes from the mainland to San Clemente Island (60 miles offshore!) to obtain soapstone for cooking bowls and effigy carving as early as 8000 years ago.

The people of Scandinavia began using soapstone during the Stone Age, and it helped them enter the Bronze Age when they discovered that it could be easily carved into molds for casting metal objects such as knife blades and spearheads. They were among the first to discover the ability of soapstone to absorb heat and radiate it slowly. That discovery inspired them to make soapstone cooking pots, bowls, cooking slabs, and hearth liners.

Throughout the world, in locations where the soapstone is exposed at the surface, it was one of the first rocks to be quarried. Soapstone's special properties continue to make it the "material of choice" for a wide variety of uses.

<http://geology.com/rocks/soapstone.shtml>

Carving Soapstone

by Kathleen McGiveron

Step 1 Create a work area by cleaning off a flat surface to use for your carving and covering it with newspapers. Put on your safety glasses. This is an important step for any type of carving that you do and will help you to protect your eyes. Decide on a design. When you look at your soapstone, you might "see" your design within the stone. Once you decide on the design you will carve, sketch it onto the soapstone with a pencil.

Step 2 Cut out all unneeded soapstone using a small wood saw. This should give you a rough estimate of what your sculpture will look like. Take off any damaged areas of soapstone with a wood rasp before you start carving. Use a hacksaw to remove large amounts of soapstone.

Step 3 Use a drill to make holes for areas that need to be cut out in the middle of the piece, such as around the legs of an animal sculpture. This is called pointing. Drill the holes 1/2 the depth of the stone and drill them very close together. You can then use a chisel to remove the exact amount of stone that you wish.

Step 4 Remove the broken stone so that you can see the area that you are working with. You can draw a center line on your sculpture so that your symmetry will be nice and even.

Step 5 Use files to shape your sculpture into the design you want. You should use your file tools to create detail in your design.

Step 6 Rub wet/dry sandpaper over your soapstone carving. Use fresh water with each new piece of sandpaper.

Step 7 Warm your sculpture in the oven at 200 degrees for 10 minutes. This will soften up the soapstone for polishing. Use furniture polish and a soft cloth to polish your sculpture.



More ways of polishing soapstone

Remove the file marks by sanding, using 220 or 240-wet/dry sandpaper. This sanding is done wet. Hold the carving in one hand, wet the carving and the sandpaper in a container of water and begin sanding the carving with the sandpaper. The white mud that develops should be rinsed off in the container of water regularly, as it slows down the sanding process. Hold on to your carving as wet, smooth soapstone can be very slippery.

Wet sanding is done until all the file marks have been removed. File marks show as white lines on your green stone.

For a high polish, additional sanding can be done using a 1000 or greater wet/dry sandpaper. The way to judge if you have missed an area is by feel, the missed areas will feel rough. After completion of the wet sanding, rinse the carving and allow drying. The carving will turn gray when it is dry.

Polishing Soapstone with wax

Place the carving in a oven and heat to 250 o F. Try not to heat over 300 o F. High temperatures will not hurt the stone, (Soapstone can take temperatures of 1700 o F without any ill effect) but the beeswax will evaporate at 300 o F.

Remove the carving from the oven using gloves. Melt the bee's wax onto the carving by holding it against the hot stone. Spread the wax over the carving with a small soft piece of cloth. When the carving has been fully waxed, allow the carving to cool.

As the carving cools, the surface of the carving will turn from shiny to dull. At this point, the wax has turned from liquid to a soft solid. This is the time to begin wiping down the carving and remove the excess wax on the surface of the stone.

After the excess wax has been wiped off, allow the carving to fully cool. You may now polish the carving with a soft cloth sprayed with Pledge; this will bring up a high shine on the carving.

Polishing Soapstone with oil

Using a soft cloth, wipe on a light coat of boiled linseed oil. Tung oil or Danish oil can also be used. Do not apply heavy coats or the oil will become gummy and hard to polish. Wipe off the excess oil and allow drying. A new product for polishing is Howard Feed-N-Wax (available at Home Depot).

When the oil has dried, buff with a cotton or flannel cloth to polish.

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

<p>Payson Rimstones Gem & Mineral Show - 9/19/2025 - 9/21/2025 Fri 1 - 6; Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10-4; Mazatal Hotel & Casino Mile Marker 251 AZ HWY 87; Payson, AZ 85541; Website: https://rimstonesrockclub.org</p>	<p>Mingus Gem & Mineral Show – 9/26/2025 - 9/28/2025 Fri/Sat 9 - 5 Sun 9 - 4 Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium 19th N Ninth St Clarkdale, AZ Website: https://www.mingusgmclub.com</p>	<p>Rock & Gem Show - 9/26/2025-9/28/2025 Joplin History & Mineral Museum 504 S. Schifferdecker Joplin , MO 64801 Website: https://www.joplin-museum.org</p>	<p>Flint Rock & Gem Show - 09/27/2025-9/28/2025 Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Crossroads Village 6140 N Bray Rd Flint, MI 48505 Website: https://flintrockandgem.org</p>
<p>Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Show - 9/27/2025 - 9/28/2025 Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Ocean Springs Civic Center; 3730 Bienville Blvd (Hwy 90); Ocean Springs, MS 39564 Website: https://www.mgcgms.org</p>	<p>Lubbock Gem & Mineral Show 9/27/2025-9/28/2025 Sat 10 – 6; Sun 11 - 4 Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Ln Lubbock, TX 79401 Website: http://lubbockgemandmineral.org</p>	<p>Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana Show – 10/03/2025 - 10/05/2025; Fri. 10-6, Sat 10-6; Sun 10:30-4 Alario Center 2000 Segnette Blvd Westwego, LA 70094 Website: https://www.gmsofla.org</p>	<p>Central Arkansas Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show 10/04/2025 - 10/05/2025 Sat 9 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Cabot Event Center 508 N Lincoln St Cabot, AR 72023 Website: http://www.centralarrockhound.org/</p>
<p>Body Mind Spirit Expo 10/10/2025-10/12/2025 Fri 1 - 9 Sat 10 – 7; Sun 10 - 6 Colorado Springs Event Center 3960 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO Website: https://www.bmse.net/</p>	<p>Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society Show; 10/24/2025-10/26/2025 Fri/Sat 9 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 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 9-6; Sun 10 - 5 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 77338; Website: https://hgms.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>

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
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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