



# The **BACKBENDER'S** **GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
Houston, TX

Volume XXXVIII - No. 9

September 2007



## President's Message

by Matt Dillon  
2007 HGMS President

**T**he heat is on! As I previously pointed out, June and July were cooler and wetter than normal, and it seemed as if summer would never arrive. August is here, and along with it came the real summer and probably a lot of mosquitoes to avoid if you are doing anything outside in the morning or night time. While I do not recommend rock-collecting during the hottest months, if you must try it, I do suggest that you take plenty of water and clothe yourself to protect your head and skin from sunburn. A good rule of thumb is a gallon a day for each person, and I usually take a little more just in case I want to share some. You may also want to use a good sun screen lotion with a rating of 15 or higher, particularly if you have light skin.



While the work on our new air-abrasives room is slowly advancing, other issues at the clubhouse are surfacing. One of those is the painting of the concrete parking blocks and the ramp at our overhead door to make both more visible. Club members gave me lots of good ideas on that topic, and I am now in the process of doing the job. I painted those blocks with a white spray paint, and I will also paint the perimeter of the ramp as well as the small step at our door where you enter the club from the parking lot.

I hope these efforts help ensure that no one trips and falls and that no one is injured in our parking area. However my efforts will be useless unless you also help. **Please remember to watch where you are walking—especially at night**—as people frequently leave items just outside the garage and shop doors for a variety of reasons.

---

*Continued on page 4*

## General Meeting Program

**August 28:** Demonstration of camera-ready digital microscope: Matt Phillips will demonstrate use of the microscope and show photos he has taken with the unit.

**September 25:** To be announced

## Contents

President's Message .....	1
General Meeting Program .....	1
Purpose of HGMS .....	3
Russian Orletz: Comments and Historical Data .....	4
Jasper, Texas—on Petrified Wood and Leadership .....	7
A Geological Investigation in East Texas .....	9
Of Gold and Grass: Nomads of Kazakhstan .....	17
Flea Market Madness .....	19
In Our Library .....	20
Susan Lenz Update .....	21
HGMS Winners! To Be Announced at SCFMS Bulletin Editors' Breakfast .....	23
Hey, Kids, Let's Put On a SHOW! .....	24
Special Exhibitor: The Fiendish Dr. Phil! .....	25
Volunteer Incentives .....	27
Swap Area at the Show .....	27
Information Booth Needs .....	28
Day Light Section .....	28
Lapidary Section .....	29
HGMS Board Meeting Minutes .....	29
HGMS General Meeting Minutes .....	31
HGMS Board Meeting Minutes .....	32
AFMS—Having Fun - Junior Activities...Dinosaurs! .....	35
Mineral Names (excerpt from August 2007 <i>Mini Miners Monthly</i> ) .....	37
ShowTime 2007 .....	38
Calendar .....	39

*Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source. Articles without a byline are considered to have been written by the editor.*

*Every article published in the BBG is edited for grammar and content. Any flaming is removed. **NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS***

*Editor: Phyllis B. George  
22407 Park Point Drive  
Katy, TX 77450-5852  
Phone: (281) 395-3087*

*Copy is due for the October 2007 issue by Wednesday, September 5, 2007.*

*E-mail the Editor and Webmaster at  
>>>> pgeorge4@comcast.net*

## Purpose of HGMS

The objectives of this Society are to promote the advancement of the knowledge and practice of the arts and sciences associated with the collecting of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, and their identification and classification; the general lapidary art; the collecting and identification of gemstones; the designing and execution of jewelry or metalcraft; and to provide the opportunity to obtain, exchange, and exhibit specimens and rough or finished materials.

Membership dues are \$30 for an adult membership, \$40 for a couple, \$50 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), and \$8 for a youth membership (ages 5-18).

Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page; \$150 for 6 months,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page.

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse located at 10805 Brooklet near the intersection of Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) and Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8). See the calendar inside the back page for when the different Sections meet. The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. The HGMS Internet address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

---

*President's Message continued from page 1*

---

The lights in our parking area are a help, but they can go out. I suggest to anyone who has a night-vision problem that they carry a flashlight just in case the parking area is too dark for them to navigate around whatever might be in their way.

Another issue related to working around the clubhouse has to do with the saw and grinding room. Our ceiling near or at the rear of the room is beginning to sag because the area above it is used for storage. Our volunteers will be working on that problem in the near future. When they begin work to fix the problem, shop equipment in the immediate area will be unavailable for use by members while these repairs are being made. Please be patient and cooperate with us while the problem areas are being fixed.

I notice also that some of you are still leaving personal items in the meeting room and in other places in our clubhouse. This is not a good idea, and you may find those things missing if you leave them there for any length of time. Do not assume that we will be responsible for your property if you leave it in an open area. Please check with the person in charge of any locked area before you leave something in another room or locker to make sure that they are aware of what you are doing. If you are not sure who is in charge, check with me or with another Board-member, and we will find out for you.

Sigrid Stewart, our intrepid Show Chairperson, has informed us that the volunteer incentive program is well underway, and it appears to be producing good results. Sigrid and her assistant, Michele Marsel, need all the help they can get, so please don't hesitate to contact them if you are willing to do anything whatsoever to help with the show.

### **Russian Orletz: Comments and Historical Data**

*by Art Smith*

*artsmithite@msn.com*

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

The following article was written in response to Bill Shelton's article on Russian orletz in the *Mineral News* (Shelton 2007). There was a question about orletz and whether the Russian material was actually the mineral rhodonite or a similar mineral pyroxmangite. Actually, pyroxmangite is a manganese silicate as is rhodonite which also has magnesium, calcium, and iron. Since they are both present in the orletz along with some other minerals, it is actually a rock much like lapis lazuli is also a rock. Visually the minerals cannot be distinguished from each other, but analyses show that rhodonite is more abundant in the rock than the pyroxmangite. So the rock should be called rhodonite if you do not want to call it orletz.

I read and had an interest in Bill Shelton's article for two reasons. First, in the 1960s and 1970s I collected in Colorado what was then called rhodonite from Eureka, a ghost town in the Animas River valley, and from the twisting and winding road along the Cement Creek valley from Gladstone in San Juan County. This pink lapidary ma-

terial, though from two different valleys, is from the Sunnyside mine located high up in the San Juan Mountains between the valleys. The Eureka material was collected from the east slope of the mountains—situated to the west of the ghost town where “droppings” from the location of a former aerial tramway that delivered the ore to a mill at its base were picked up at the bottom of the slope and along its steep descent into the valley. Even bigger pieces were collected in and under the defunct mill foundation built on a waste pile, and since it was hard and tough, much was incorporated into the foundation because at that time it was too ore mineral-poor to be considered ore. This large mill operated from about 1917 to 1938 (Pearl 1972), and old photos show it as a dominating presence in the area. Nothing remained during the 1960s and early 1970s when I was there except the remnants of the foundation.

The Cement creek valley material was from later operations, 1960 into the 1980s, when Standard Metals reopened the Sunnyside mine through the American Tunnel at Gladstone to the southwest of the mine. Here the “droppings” were from ore trucks that carried the ore south along the road that twisted and turned along the valley. The sharp curves provided a collecting reward for those with sharp eyes. At that time evidently the “rhodonite” was considered an ore and was trucked to the mill just north of Silverton near the junction of the Cement Creek valley with the Animas river valley. It might be noted that the rock with the manganese silicates turns black on the outside in a short time, but it is so dense that the inside is not affected.

Burbank (1933) recognized other manganese silicates, alleghanyite, friedelite, and tephroite in the “rhodonite” during his study of the ore deposits. Although the alleghanyite and tephroite were rare, it is fairly easy to recognize probable friedelite masses to over a centimeter because of their darker red brown color against the pale pink matrix. Burbank’s identifications were by optical means (indexes of refraction), and his optical constants of rhodonite fit within the optical constant ranges of both rhodonite and pyroxmangite from Anthony *et al.* (1995). So what he described probably could be either. However statistically they are slightly closer to the optical constant ranges of pyroxmangite than rhodonite—which probably really does not prove anything but is interesting.

It was not until Casadevall (1976) identified the pale pink mineral to be pyroxmangite and not rhodonite that collectors changed the name. I wonder if the pale pink color of much of the Colorado material was the clue that it might be pyromangite and not rhodonite. Or is rhodonite also present? Most of the Colorado material that I have seen and collected is a mottled pink color with impurities of quartz and sulfide minerals in tiny veinlets. Other probable manganese minerals often are quite evident on polished surfaces.

Burbank (1933) wrote that there were no quartz veins or ore minerals in the “rhodonite” he examined. The opposite is true in the specimens I collected and observed. He does mention yellow helvite in the specimens he observed. Tom Rosemeyer told me of collecting microscopic helvite crystals in cavities at the mine site. However even with the impurities and color variations, it makes a striking polished rock for book-ends, jewelry, or other objects even if it is pyroxmangite or a mixture with rhodonite..

The second reason for the interest in the article is that I am attempting to compile a computer index of lapidary materials and locations. One of the fields is the mineral composition of the rocks or the actual mineral species present in the material which in some cases can be erroneous—particularly if it is just left to tradition and does not include some modern analyses.

Getting back to the Russian orletz, Bukanov (2006) gives some additional information on the history and occurrence. In some places the translation is a bit confusing so that information, if possible, has been clarified or not included.

Orletz, now known from Shelton (2007) to be rhodonite with lesser amounts of pyroxmanganite, was found in Russia in the 1790s before rhodonite was described as a mineral. The first deposit was the Malosedel'nikovskoye deposit at the village of Sedel'nikovo in the Middle Urals and 20 km south of Yekaterinburg. The orletz was also known as bakan, hornstone, and ruby spar. At this deposit it was mostly extracted in blocks of up to 48 tons, but it is now considered depleted after 200 years of quarrying. The Kurganovskoye deposit, 32 km south of Yekaterinburg, is also worked out, but only after 20 years of working. Both deposits produced more than 1000 tons of orletz. However, in the same area there are more than 10 other rhodonite deposits. The largest of these are the Borodulinskoye and Oktyabr'skoye deposits. In all of these deposits the best, brightest rose rhodonite occurs in the central part of the orletz bodies, and it becomes more grayish because of admixtures of quartz, bustamite, tephroite, and spessartine near the rhodonite borders. The Borodulinskoye deposit is the largest in Russia with reserves of high-quality material of at least 1500 tons. Here the rhodonite is in contact with quartzite. The Oktyabr'skoye deposit in Polevskoe, in a built-up area, has less high quality material and smaller reserves than the Borodulinskoye deposit.

Bukanov (2006) never mentions pyroxmanganite from this area but may imply that it could be present. "If in the Middle Urals base of orletz is rhodonite, at the South-Faizulinskoye deposit, in the region of Sibay in the South Urals, pyroxmanganite, rhodochrosite, and quartz with (an) admixture of gausmanite, tephronite, riggeite, and cariopilit(e) are dominating. Rhodonite is a secondary mineral there." Here it also is secondary but is not given in the preceding list. Other Russian rhodonite deposits are listed, but little information is given on each one.

## References

- Anthony, J. W., R. A. Bideaux, K. W. Bladh, and M. C. Nichols 1995. *Handbook of mineralogy*, Volume II, silica, silicates, part 2.
- Burkanov, V. V. 2006. *Russian gemstones encyclopedia*. St. Petersburg, Russia. (in English)
- Burbank, W. S. 1933. The manganese minerals of the Sunnyside veins, Eureka Gulch, Colorado. *American Mineralogist* 18:513-37.
- Casadevall, T. 1976. *Sunnyside Mine, Eureka mining district, San Juan County, Colorado—Geochemistry of gold and base metal ore formation in the volcanic environ-*

ment. Pennsylvania State University Ph.D. dissertation.

Pearl, R. M. 1972. *Colorado gem trails and mineral guide*. Swallow Press, Chicago.

Shelton, Bill 2007. Orletz. *Mineral News* 23(6):4-5.

## Jasper, Texas—on Petrified Wood and Leadership

by Neal Immega

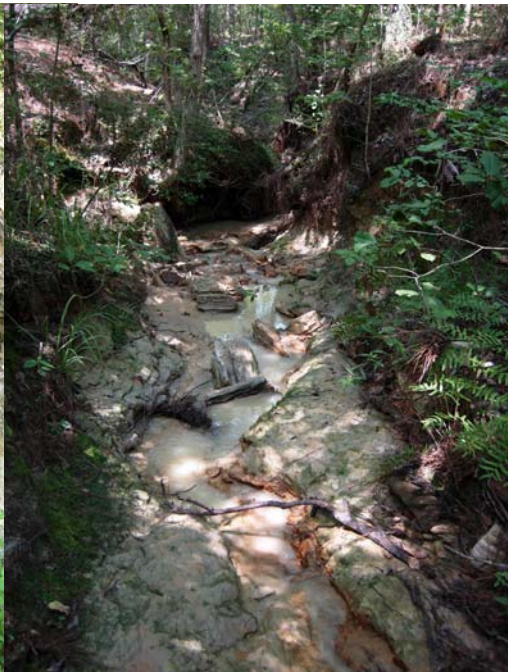
*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**Y**ou have to be able to tell the real wood from the petrified wood. Don't sneer; it is not as easy as you think. We went to the Jasper area to do research on the petrified wood-containing formations. Our leader was Scott Singleton, a self-professed woodhead, and you needed to be one to survive the summer there. Scott must be a hypnotist, because he convinced five people to go on a trip where the objective is "science, not collecting." I do not know how he does this.

Our goal was to measure two sections of the Miocene wood-containing formation and to answer questions about the origin of the petrified wood. I did the surveying, and everyone else did the hard work of scraping the outcrops clean so I could see the contacts.



Scott standing in the gully.



The creek

To no one's surprise, we found wood. The creeks are full of it. Some of it is even petrified. Hurricane Rita knocked down many trees in this area, and pieces are everywhere. The bottom of the creek is soft sand, and we found that we needed to walk on

the wood to avoid sinking.

Remember, we are not collecting, and huge logs are not our target. Besides, we could not get them out if we wanted to. We want to find a place where petrified wood is "in place" so we can answer the question about where it came from. Logs in the bottom of the creek are obviously "out of place" and can be safely ignored. Scott found a gully that cuts a sand [sic] (not a sandstone) filled with petrified wood, and his crew manfully dug into the walls to see if the wood could be found in place. Yes, a river channel filled with sand and up to man-sized pieces of petrified wood. This is the source of the wood in the bottom of the creek, but this wood did not originate in the river channel. Almost all of it is fragments of larger logs that were petrified before being broken up. You would see different shapes if the wood had broken up before mineralization. I have not seen many places except lignite mines with full trees that have petrified in place. Our conclusion is that the petrified wood came from somewhere older, possibly still in the Miocene, and that as it eroded, it was broken up by frost action into these smaller pieces. Maybe Scott can look at the fauna and tell if it is Miocene.

Now— the last picture is of me sitting in a sled. I was going to spin you a yarn about the crew showing proper respect for the field trip leader and transporting him to the outcrop by acting like a 20-mule team. Well, it is not true. By the end of the day, everyone is doing really well to get themselves, their tools, and rocks back from the digging area. The real use for the sled is in transporting rock, and it works quite well. It is like the picture of Rick Rexroad paddling out a load of Lake Texoma ammonites, only in Jasper there are many gullies that need to be crossed. Next time I am thinking more on the lines of a personal helicopter.





## A Geological Investigation in East Texas

by Scott Singleton

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**D**ay 1: At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, July 21, an intrepid band of six people met at The Stump restaurant on the south shore of Sam Rayburn Reservoir. This band consisted of Owen Martin, Mike Dawkins, Robert Stevens, Bill Moore (a non-club member), Neal Immega, and me. We were soon joined by Ron and Donna Ducote, our hosts from the Jasper Gem and Mineral Society. Ron is a retired Temple Inland employee and has access to the property where we were going to do our investigation.

By 7:15 after plenty of breakfast, coffee, and story-swapping, we all left for the site. The objective of the weekend's mission was simple but potentially elusive:

- 1 Find the contact between the Oligocene Catahoula Formation and the Miocene Fleming Formation, and
- 2 Find petrified wood in situ in order to document the source of the material we've been collecting at this locality for a decade. In the process of doing this, we would map the stratigraphy of the upper Catahoula, Fleming, and lower Pliocene Willis Formation in as much detail as possible (which admittedly wouldn't be very much).

We would achieve this by a two-pronged attack: Most members of the group were



Figure 1: Cross-bedded sandstone from the Oligocene Catahoula Formation. The top of a bed set lies diagonally across the middle of the photo containing rip-up clasts of previously deposited sandstone. Blue portion of pick handle is 16 inches long.

"diggers" whose mission was to expose formation and search for wood in situ. Neal Immega was the second "prong." His mission was to measure vertical relief of the stratigraphic section so that we could have some hard data to use for mapping our results. He did this with a combination of Jacob's Staff and a GPS receiver.

**The Search:** Our first target was the locality for the June 30 HGMS field trip. Some had reported seeing what they thought was wood in place, so I thought it

might be worth a try. Unfortunately, when we went down to the main stream, it was soon obvious that we were very low in the Catahoula section and that the top of the



Figure 2: Neal Immega (with staff) and “rod-man” Bill Moore fighting their way through the trees to take transect elevation readings.

Catahoula was considerably up-dip of the main stream. How did we know this? Well, to start with, the Catahoula is essentially a fining-upward sequence. This means that the bottom of the section is a coarse sandstone, and the grain size progressively gets smaller as one

goes up the section. The localities we visited in the lower portions of the main stream consisted of cross-bedded, relatively coarse sandstone (Figure 1), thus indicating we were low in the section.

We then walked up the stream to see if we could find the Oligocene/Miocene contact. Instead, all we found was a thick section of hard, finely layered and sometimes cross-bedded siltstone. There was enough clay in this sediment to make it slippery when wet. Of course, there was an abundance of petrified wood laying about, but this was not of any consequence to the investigation be-



Figure 3: The digging crew taking stock of the situation prior to starting excavation at the petrified wood-containing formation exposure. Owen Martin is in left foreground, Bill Moore in right foreground, Scott Singleton in center, and Robert Stephens in back.

cause it was all "lag," meaning that it had washed in from somewhere else up-dip.

When we had gone far enough up-stream and still found nothing, I decided that we needed to traverse back to the parking area because our elusive contact must lie somewhere between the parking area and the main stream. We picked a large

feeder stream and walked back up to the top of its banks. We found a strip of topsoil that contained petrified wood, and then as we went further up-dip, the wood completely disappeared. Armed with this evidence, I knew the contact must be there somewhere underneath the thick topsoil cover in this immediate area.



Figure 5: Robert Stephens taking a break at his excavation hole. Petrified wood was not in short supply here.



Figure 4: Owen Martin either inspecting his excavation or the empty condition of his water bottles.

**Discovery:** After a break back at the cars, we revisited this feeder stream, walking down the stream bed from the road. We found nothing for a long time and almost gave up. But we decided to continue further down this tributary stream. As we neared the main stream at the bottom of the hill, the stream seemed to cut further into the banks (making walking difficult), and almost as if a veil had been lifted, there soon was petrified wood everywhere on the banks and in the stream. Interestingly enough, a short way downstream from the wood occurrence lay hard siltstone indicating that we had reached the top of the Catahoula.

Needless to say, we spent the rest of the day at this locality. Neal shot elevations



Figure 6: Neal Immega pointing to the contact between the Catahoula and the Fleming. He is standing on hard siltstone of the Catahoula. The rock face in front of him contains rip-up clasts of Catahoula siltstone embedded in a matrix of the same siltstone.



Figure 7: The results of my hole. A piece of petrified wood has been exposed. It seemingly lies floating in a matrix of sand, silt, and clay. Occasional rounded pebbles and other pieces of petrified wood also occur in this matrix. Pick axe is 26" long.

from the main stream all the way up the tributary stream (Figure 2) while the digging crew set about exposing the stream banks where the wood was occurring (Figures 3-5). I might note that this was not easy. High humidity and temperatures in the mid-90s under full sun make for a difficult time. Our local safety expert, Owen Martin, continually reminded everyone to take breaks and drink plenty of water. It seemed as if all we could do was work for a minute before having to take a 10 minute break. It was obvious that we were on the verge of heat exhaustion the entire time.

But the effort was worth it (for me, at least). Neal found the location of the Catahoula contact with the overlying Fleming Formation (Figure 6) and deter-

mined that our wood exposure lay about six feet vertically above this contact. The wood was encased in a very soft mixture of fluvial sand, silt, clay, and rounded pebbles (Figure 7). The digging crew exposed several in situ examples of wood that were duly photographed. In the process, nice pieces of wood were found by all, but the biggest were far too big to think of moving (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Owen Martin's hole. A smaller piece of petrified wood (probably 20 lbs) was sitting beside the larger log in the back left where he was excavating the wall. Both of these specimens remained where they have lain for the past 20 million years.

### A Remarkable Find:

In addition to the main wood occurrence, Neal's Catahoula contact provided some very interesting information. I spent a bit of effort exposing this contact so I could photograph it. I knew it would be important, but I didn't expect what I ended up finding. Neal and Bill Moore were originally alerted to the location of the contact because a nice-sized piece of petrified wood was sticking out of the bank in a bed of dark

sediment. When exposed for photography, I discovered that the dark sediment was a lenticular lag deposit at the very base of the Miocene Fleming Formation (Figure 9). It was in this lag that the piece of wood lay. But that wasn't all—also in this lag was what I consider to be an incredibly remarkable find, a piece of partially charred “actual” wood (Figure 10). What was this wood doing here? Why was it still “woody” (in other words, containing cellulose instead of silica)?

Figure 9: Lenticular lag deposit (dark colored sediment) containing wood sitting directly on top of the Catahoula (light colored sediment). Grey sediment is the Miocene, brown soil at top of photo is soil zone. Neal's level (red scale) is 2 feet long. Partially burned un-petrified wood fragment is sitting directly to the left of the petrified wood piece.

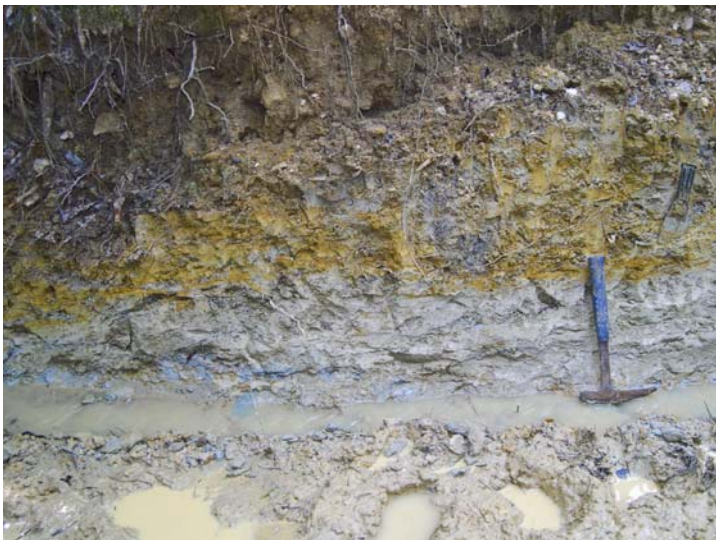




Figure 10 (above): Close up of partially burned un-petrified wood in lag deposit. Brown material is original cellulose wood, black is burned portion. Piece of petrified wood can be seen at right. Light colored sediment is Catahoula, grey at top of photo is normal Miocene sediment.

This incredible find, plus the obvious evidence from our digging locality in the sediments just above this contact, led us to an inescapable conclusion—this petrified wood did not fossilize in this stratigraphic layer. The main evidence for this is the fact that wood occurring in situ had only slightly rounded edges and contained smaller pieces all the way up to whole (or mostly whole) logs. Since the pieces are in situ, this means they were broken up in the Miocene rather than in the present, which had previously been our assumption. The sharpness of the edges indicates that transport distances were very small, possibly negligible.

Figure 11 (below): Catahoula/Fleming contact. The hard Catahoula siltstone is actually a bluish color, but the clays in the siltstone weather rapidly to grey. The soft Fleming silts and clays are a mottled orange-brown because of oxidation. Rock pick is 13 inches long.



Exactly when these logs were originally fossilized will probably never be known for sure. Neal believes that the entire process occurred in the early Miocene (fossilization, erosion, and redeposition). I agree with him that the evidence points to this conclusion. This evidence includes a dissimilarity with known fossil woods in the early Oligocene (both in mineralization style as well as species mix) and the complete lack of any fossils in the late Oligocene sediments.

**Day 2:** Once again the intrepid and a bit tired band of explorers met at The Stump restaurant at 6:30 a.m. The group was minus Owen Martin and Mike Dawkins who went back to Houston on Saturday evening, but we were joined by Rick Rexroad. We spent the morning at Saturday's site taking more measurements, which was good because we made more discoveries. We then went to our second locality which was the same place where we went on my field trip on June 2. However, instead of going downstream from where the pipeline crossing intersects the stream, we went upstream. I knew that our target lay there.

We didn't have to look long. Those who were on the June 2 field trip might be interested to know that I actually found the Oligocene/Miocene contact at the very place where the pipeline crosses the stream. I exposed an 8-foot section of this contact and photographed it (Figure 11). Further, Neal found that there was little vertical relief for several hundred yards upstream. All along this stretch there was abundant wood. In fact, we found an area that not only contained large quantities of wood but also contained large logs (Figure 12). Based on our experience the previous day, I knew that we were indeed in the exact area where this wood was being eroded out of the Miocene sediments.



Figure 12: One of the large logs exposed in the "source" area for the petrified wood. Pick axe is 26 inches long. This log flares at the base (toward left) indicating that this may be the base of a tree. Diameter of top is about 12–14 inches.

Through the remainder of the day, we exposed various sections of sediments along the stream banks and I photographed them. In the process of this, I discovered some very interesting facts about the Oligocene/Miocene contact. This contact is not level. It undulates with significant relief. I found this contact at four different places up the stream, the last of which was 10 feet higher than at the pipeline crossing. In addition, the elevation of this contact is much dif-

ferent than at the first locality we investigated on Saturday.

I discovered three separate locations with wood in situ. Two of these are lenticular lag deposits similar to that at the first locality (Figure 13). Interestingly, the wood occurs with rounded pebbles as well as with 4-inch to 6-inch pieces of coarse red sandstone. This kind of sandstone does not occur anywhere in this vicinity. The closest occurrence I am aware of is the Wilcox sandstones that lie about 30 miles to the north. All three of these in situ wood occurrences lie very close to the contact with the underlying Catahoula Formation.



Figure 13: Lenticular lag deposit in lower Fleming. Catahoula contact is indicated by red pen in lower center of photo. Large wood pieces form center of lag along with many other smaller pieces. Dark object at far left of lag is a piece of coarse red sandstone that has oxidized to black on its exterior. Rock pick is 13" high, paint scraper is 7.5" high.

**Pliocene Willis Formation:** Separate from the Catahoula/Fleming investigation was an attempt to map and describe fossil wood occurring in

the coarse red sandstone of the lower Pliocene Willis Formation. This unit occurs at the top of the hill where we park our cars. Neal performed three different transects from the parking area and determined that the coarse red sandstone unit was about 20 feet thick. He also found that the unconsolidated Pliocene sediments above the red sandstone consisted of a white sand akin to beach sand (but from a fluvial environment, not a shoreline environment).

I collected a bucket of wood from the formation to study. A preliminary inspection of the specimens under 30-power microscope indicates that most of the specimens are live oak, which of course is one of the main constituents of the Miocene Fleming Formation. Of the approximately 50 specimens collected, two poorly preserved pieces appear to be elm. Therefore, the plant megafossil assemblage does appear to be similar to the Fleming. Further thin section analysis will be necessary to determine if the species are the same.

One distinguishing factor is that the mineralization is different than in the Fleming. The Willis wood tends to be less silicified (although some specimens are very nicely



preserved) and most pieces lack color. Nobody would consider it lapidary-grade wood. The pieces are also extremely weathered, even when they come directly out of the red Willis sandstone, meaning that they were redeposited from somewhere else in early Pliocene time and heavily weathered during transport. Therefore, the source beds for these woods might be some distance away.

**Epilog:** I wish to thank this intrepid band of explorers. To spend one or two days in the field, near heat exhaustion much of the time, and slaving for some crazed guy wanting to see exposed dirt, requires a special type of person. But these guys came through, and I appreciate their efforts. Neal and I believe that we have gathered some very interesting data—enough so that it would be publishable in a peer-reviewed journal given proper work-up and analysis. Neal is working on a grain-size analysis, and I am going through the Pliocene wood for an evaluation and selection of specimens for thin sectioning. Still to do are strat section work-ups and geological background searches of past studies in this area. If anyone cares to help with any of this, please contact me at fossilwood@comcast.com.

### **Of Gold and Grass: Nomads of Kazakhstan**

*Exhibit at Houston Museum of Natural Science*

*(Recap of program presented at July General Meeting)*

*by Neal Immega, Master Docent*

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**A** new exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science is on ancient artifacts in a remote part of the world—Kazakhstan. At four times the size of the state of Texas, Kazakhstan is an enormous country, the ninth largest in the world. However, this vast and beautiful nation is virtually unknown to most Americans. This special exhibition is on display June 15–September 9, 2007 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

"Exhibits such as this clearly illustrate the importance of archaeology," said Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Ph.D., curator of anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "It provides us with tangible evidence of past human behavior with which we can reconstruct the lives of the nomadic peoples who once roamed this land in much greater detail."

This exhibition's tour, organized by the Foundation for International Arts and Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mingei International Museum, is the first time these artifacts have been seen in the United States.

"When city people hear the word 'nomad,' we associate it with words like 'primitive' and 'harsh life,'" said Van Tuerenhout. "Though they did have a harder life than most of us, their culture also displays a high degree of sophistication."

This was evident in the tomb of the Golden Warrior, discovered in 1969 by Kazakh archaeologists. The tomb is among the country's most famous archaeological finds, and the Golden Warrior himself became the national symbol of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1991.

As a 16–17 year-old youth, the Golden Warrior was clothed in gold decorations, including a spectacular headdress made of tiny gold sculptures of winged horses with horns, panthers, mountain goats, sheep, and birds. A replica of the Golden Warrior is on display in the exhibit as well as some of the actual gold decorations found that make up his suit of gold.

The Golden Warrior belonged to the Scytho-Sakian culture of Kazakhstan which developed a synthesis of foreign and indigenous design now known as the “Wild Animal Style.” Examples of this intricate style which portrays horses, tigers, snow leopards, deer, ibexes (a species of mountain goat), and panthers as intricate, stylized, sculptural ornaments of gold can be seen. One of the marvels is a pair of winged horses, facing in opposite directions, with horns that make up the front piece of the Golden Warrior’s headdress. There is also a gold belt plaque depicting a recumbent deer, and a belt fastener made of heavy cast gold with a wolf with large teeth and exaggerated claws, curled into a ball. An unusual piece is a gold signet ring with a figure that looks very like a Sioux head dress.



Horse earring



Snow Leopard

The archaeological research conducted in this area represents an ongoing effort to uncover the cultures that lived there about 2,300 years ago. The combination of well-preserved remains and the application of modern science allows archaeologists to reconstruct what life was like at that time.

For example in 1997 and 1998 an international team of archaeologists uncovered a sarcophagus of a man and woman, found in a 4th to 3rd century B.C. grave. DNA testing suggests that these individuals were related to each other. Given the apparent difference in age, with the male being considerably younger than the female, it may be the burial of a mother with her son. Outside the preserved wooden coffin there were the frozen corpses of 13 sacrificed horses, complete with saddles, felt saddle blankets, horse trappings, and masks.

In addition, spectacular gold finds of eagle-headed griffins, predator felines, antlered deer, and sphinxes carved in wood and delicately plated in gold foil were also uncovered. One of my favorites is a gold brooch set with garnet cabochons and decorated with tiny gold balls. I am humbled by the workmanship in 1000+ year old jewelry that is better than I can do with all my technology.

## Flea Market Madness

*by Matt Dillon*

For the last couple of weekends, John Anderson and I have set up in space #614 to sell rocks and some used lapidary equipment at Traders Village, a large and well-operated flea-market on Eldridge Road just south of West Road, not too far off Highway US 290, and just outside the city limits of Houston.

The experiences we have been having so far have been illuminating and fun—meeting family members of those who shop there and are usually not familiar with the rocks and items we sell. Many of our customers and those who just stop to gaze or ask questions are from Mexico or other Latin-American countries. Often they are very interested to learn that some of our geodes and agates came from their country of origin, and sometimes they tell us of rocks they have seen around their native lands.

So far the fun has outweighed the profit, but it appears we are developing a nice group of return customers made up mostly of other people who are also selling there and some of the Traders Village employees.

One such customer, a lady selling beads and necklaces two spaces down, has been to see us several times (usually when her business is slow), and she really enjoys buying little “Oco” type geodes (from Brazil) and watching me cut them open using my “Little Wizard” diamond saw. She gets really excited whenever one turns out to have amethyst crystals, and I imagine lots of folks can hear her holler every time that happens.

Naturally, other customers are also interested in the amethyst variety of quartz, and I have sold a number of the coconut type geodes as well as some smaller crystal clusters from Guerro, Mexico.

The questions most frequently asked so far are “where do these come from?” and “did you find these yourself?” The children who walk up by themselves usually just gaze at or touch the agates and geodes, with that look of interest. Some of them ask how much it costs and then run off. Later, they return with the money their parents have given to them to make their purchases and all leave with big smiles on their faces.

One particular little girl who was about four or five years old was with her parents and an older brother. As I took back a small amethyst geode from her mother, she looked up at me with her big blue eyes and exclaimed, “I just wanted to pet it!”

You can imagine how quickly I told her she could do that and handed it to her to examine. She was quite happy just to hold it for a moment, then she handed it back to me. She never said one word to her parents about wanting to keep it or wanting them to buy it for her. I was almost disappointed, but realized many children just want to have the experience of touching things and learning what they are all about.

In some cases, I have given some of the small geode halves to children who said they could not get money from their parents to buy anything. It is a small price to pay to see the joy in their eyes and the smiles they all immediately offer.

There are plenty of food items and drinks for sale in different areas of the flea market which is very well laid out, and there is no problem renting a covered space. I usually take my own sandwich and drinks for convenience sake, but I tried one cheeseburger and a sausage-on-a-stick. Both were about the same quality you would get at fairs and other similar venues.

Our space is near the restroom facilities and not too far from the south walk-in entrance. This makes it very easy to find us and convenient for us to make trips back and forth to our vehicles.

This coming weekend may tell the story as to whether John and I will continue with the flea market experience. It is a lot of work and the weather forces us to use a fan or two, but we are in a covered space, and it is tolerable if you don't mind sweating a little. If you are considering making the effort to sell at a flea-market, it is much better if you can get someone to share a space with you. Often your space-mate will watch your stuff while you get or park your vehicle. You can drive in and out only before 11:00 a.m. in the morning and after 5:00 p.m. in the evening. Only people renting spaces and holding a receipt or permission slip are allowed to drive into the selling areas.

The flea market's hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday only. The business office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

If you just want to look around or shop, it costs three dollars to park. If you want more information about Traders Village, you can call the office at 281-890-5500.

### **In Our Library**

*by Art Smith*

*HGMS Librarian*

**B**ooks recently added to the library shelves may interest you. In the Lapidary Section under Gemstones, now located in the other room and to the left as you enter it, is a book on Thailand rubies. Thai rubies are usually not as desirable as Myanmar rubies because many have a purplish cast to them. However, looking at some of the pictures and reading this book may change your mind. Russian gypsum, usually the variety called satin spar is the subject of a Russian book in English. We do not usually consider satin spar a lapidary material because it is so soft (hardness 2). In Russia there are large deposits of it, and it is sold as carvings that are pale brown or orange and are chatoyant. I bought some birds perched on a gray-to-white alabaster base over 20 years ago. I gave one of these to my wife's mother, and she put it on a table. By chance the table was under the heating/air conditioning vent. Gypsum is a hydrated calcium sulfate which means it contains water. The dry air from the vent eventually dehydrated the gypsum, turning it into anhydrite. So the birds eventually lost their pleasing pale tan chatoyancy to a white powdery over coating of anhydrite.

The final book I will mention is about Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, the source of most of the Brazilian agates and amethyst cathedrals. Unfortunately the book is in German, but I think you will enjoy the beautiful pictures of the area and materials. This area

gained prominence when the Germans in Idar Oberstein, Germany ran out of native agates. So a few Germans moved and settled in this area in the mid- to late 1800s and started the mining and processing of agates in Brazil, still going strong today. The imprint of the German settlers on the countryside there is obvious from the photographs.

The library is bulging at the seams, so I continually am moving and shifting things to accommodate new books and magazines. I have found a new binder and so far have been very pleased with his work. So in a short time we should be caught up with the binding of our journals and books.

I have been working with our library index—removing duplicate entries and making typo and spelling corrections. The total entries in the index are approaching 27,000 articles and books. It is a valuable resource that is available in the library. If you want a disc with it to use on your own computer, just ask. It runs on Microsoft works which was common on most computers a few years ago but now has to be purchased in a package or a separate program.

### Susan Lenz Update

*August 6, 2007*

*by Norman Lenz*

**D**ear HGMS Friends,

Susan has had one seizure since my last update, but most changes have been positive. Progress is painfully slow and not at all continuous. Susan's next MRI is scheduled for August 19, 2007. We will meet with her oncologist the next day for the results. Susan's mom plans to travel down from Indiana to help us celebrate Susan's birthday (August 30th).

#### Positives:

- Susan is more alert now and can sit without leaning. There were times in the past when she ate with her face in her plate or was leaning so strongly to the left or right that I feared she could fall out of her chair.
- Her short-term memory has improved. This gives us hope that more brain functionality can be recovered.
- She eats well, sleeps better, and does not seem to have any pain.
- Her tremors are less than they have been for several months. This has allowed her to feed herself more of what she eats than at my last update.



**Susan with the Talhelms**

- We were able to visit the InterGem show for the first time in two years. That was always a favorite thing for her to do. We spent several hours at the show pushing her wheelchair up and down the aisles. She seemed to enjoy looking at all the merchandise and seeing some of the HGMS club members we encountered there. It took her two days to recover from the outing, but I think it was worth the stress. We are hopeful that she will be able to attend the Houston Gem and Mineral Society show next month.
- We took her to see the movie "No Reservations." She stayed alert through the whole movie and ate plenty of popcorn. Matinee movies are definitely the way to go after retirement.



**Susan with the Smiths**

#### **Negatives:**

- She is still very weak. In addition to Heather, her full-time caregiver, we are also using a part-time caregiver so two people will be present to help with moving her to and from the bed, couch, table, etc.
- She has not been strong enough to travel to our Hill Country property. I visit the property every second week to coordinate the construction of our gate entrance and am investigating the feasibility of a stair lift for our apartment there.

#### **Photos:**

- Susan at the InterGem show with HGMS members Ron Talhelm and Angela Fowler
- Susan at the InterGem show with HGMS members Tim and Holly Smith

I am using my new e-mail address: [normlenz@gmail.com](mailto:normlenz@gmail.com) I soon will discontinue use of the old address. Please let me know if you would like to be removed from this distribution list and rely on Tanya's site, [www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanlenz](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanlenz) for update information on Susan's condition. Tanya reads all posts from this site aloud to Susan.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers while we continue our war against cancer. We have won some battles, but the war rages on. It has been good to have the support of our friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family.

#### **Late-Breaking Club News**

Are you getting e-mails about HGMS activities? If not, contact [n\\_immega@swbell.net](mailto:n_immega@swbell.net) and let him know that you want to be on the list.

**HGMS Winners!**  
**To Be Announced at SCFMS Bulletin Editors' Breakfast**  
*by Phyllis George*

I received the following letter by e-mail from Don Shurtz, SCFMS Bulletin Editor Aids Chair, notifying me that many of our contest entries did well in the SCFMS contest. We will learn just how well when we attend the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast in Arlington, TX September 1. It is being held in the Arlington Gem & Mineral Club's clubhouse, so those of us who attend the Breakfast will have a great opportunity to see their facility too.

The Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
 The Backbender's Gazette  
 Phyllis George, Editor  
 22407 Park Point Dr  
 Katy, TX 77450



Phyllis:

The following members of your club have earned trophies (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place) in the 2007 Bulletin Editors Contest:

Art Smith	Sunday Bennett
Denise Bicknell	Phyllis George
Scott Singleton	Terry Proctor
John Culberson	Albert J. Robb III
Jerdahn Campbell	

Also, the following have earned certificates (4<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> or Honorable mention):

Neal Inmega	Sam Norwood
Mary Ann Mitscherling	Samantha Roquemore
Terry Proctor	Lorraine Singleton
Stanley Perkins	Lexy Bieniek
Dean Lagerwall	Sunday Bennett
Matt Dillon	Kathy Konkel
James Wark	

We look forward to seeing you all at the Editor's Breakfast, September 1 in Arlington, TX. The Editor's Breakfast will be at 8:00 a.m. at the Arlington Gem & Mineral Society's Club House, 1408 Gibbons, Arlington, TX. I am enclosing a modified version of the show flyer which has a map to the club house {I-30 to the Cooper Street exit, go south 1 block, turn left (east) on The Road to Six Flags, then in about another block turn right (south) on Gibbons}. I am also enclosing a Show Registration form for your convenience.

Don Shurtz  
 SCFMS BEAC

## Hey, Kids, Let's Put On a SHOW!

by Sigrid Stewart

HGMS SHOW Chairman

**T**hat title is from an old Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland movie. The kids get together and hang a sheet in the back of the barn, put some planks over bales of hay for a stage, and put on a play for their friends. Well, they may have been better singers and dancers than most of us, but WE'RE going to put on a GREAT SHOW this year!

**Annual Postcard Labeling Party:** Saturday, August 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the clubhouse. We hope the usual suspects SHOW up to help sort and label postcards for the mass mailing. This year's postcard by Steve Blyskal features pretty pink rhodochrosite. We had to have something cute to follow up last year's tourmaline crystals. We'll have some lunch and maybe some door prizes after the labeling is finished.

**Mini-classes and call-athons?** What are those? Every year we do a lot of calling to sign up volunteers to work SHOW shifts. This year we are going to party while we do it. Watch your e-mails. Think opal cutting, wire-wrapping, and enameling.

**FLASH:** For Mary Ann Mitscherling—we just had our first mini-class. Ten of us went to the club on Sunday, August 12, called about 25 people each in our never-ending search for volunteers, and then we looked over various samples of opal. Shaira Trumble worked with us on our cutting techniques. Nothing like combining work with fun.

**Pre-SHOW Pizza Party and Auction:** Saturday, September 8, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the clubhouse. This is our big pre-SHOW event and the kick off to the SHOW. Pizza and salad, provided by the SHOW Committee, will be served beginning at 6:30, and the auction will begin about 7 p.m. **You** can help this year's Pizza Party be successful by bringing **desserts** and **items for the auction**. Don't have a garage sale—donate some rocks. Your duplicates and leaverites are someone else's new treasures. SHOW off your chocolate cake recipe—mine is a killer.

**Load Up:** Wednesday, September 19, 3 p.m.–6 p.m., at the clubhouse. On the Wednesday night before the SHOW, we will load the U-Haul and volunteer vehicles with items to be transported to the Humble Civic Center. Many hands make for light work.

**Setup Day, Thursday:** September 20, 8 a.m.–12 p.m., at the Humble Civic Center. We will need volunteers beginning at about 8 a.m. to unload the U-Haul truck and cases. Members of each Section must be prepared to set up their own booths. We also need to drape about half of the dealer tables. At 11 a.m. the dealers start arriving to do their own setup, but work on the Section booths will continue.

**Volunteer and Dealer Appreciation Dinner:** Thursday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m., at the Humble Civic Center. We host this dinner every year to SHOW our appreciation for all our volunteers and dealers. This year our new exhibitor, the Fiendish Dr. Phil who is a paleoartist and monster modeler extraordinaire, will say a few words.



Please join us for all these events and plan to attend the SHOW. I can hear the applause now!

### Special Exhibitor: The Fiendish Dr. Phil!

by Sigrid Stewart

HGMS SHOW Chairman

Remember the glory days, when you were a just little kid watching scary movies at the drive-in and *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* was swimming underneath his next victim and you wanted to scream out, "Get out of the water!" And you loved those creature features, right? We all did!

Years later, *Jurassic Park* brought it all back with dinosaurs that were as scientifically fascinating as they were terrifying. Everyone loves dinosaurs, and the Fiendish Dr. Phil serves them up in fine style. This paleoartist and monster modeler extraordinaire is even now preparing a diorama for our special exhibit.



*THE LOST WORLD OF PANGAEA GARDEN* display will take us back to the Cretaceous Era of Texas. A Chasmosaurus is being stalked by a Deinonychus pack as a Pteranodon flies overhead and a Deinosuchus swims nearby. Dr. Phil will be attending a display table featuring fictional Hollywood prehistoric animals including *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, and the *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. And shivers will run down your back in the heat of a Houston summer.

### So—"The Fiendish Dr." Phil—Just Who Is He?

Who is this man? Who is this headliner exhibitor who brings the entertaining and

exciting Lost World of Pangea Garden display to the 2007 HGMS show? We learn a little more about him from the Web site <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0629696/bio>

"The fiendish Dr." Phil Nichols founded Nichols Studios in 1985. In 1989 Nichols Studios became the Façades FX Makeup Lab, and it now celebrates over twenty years of excellence in Design and Fabrication. Phil Nichols was trained by Academy Award-winning veteran makeup artist Dick Smith, and Phil has 20+ years of practical experience on the set and in the design studio. He is a master of dark illusions who practices his artistry from a lab in Houston, Texas. He is a member of the makeup artists and hair stylists union Local #706 and has more than 30 feature length productions and over 100 industrial, commercial, music videos, and shorts to his credit.



Growing up a fan of Fantasy, Science Fiction, Horror, Vampires, Mythology, and Anything Halloween, the Fiendish Dr. Phil lives and works in the worlds he has created. In addition to being a skilled FX artist, Dr. Phil is a talented photographer, designer, and studio artist with a lifetime of experience in both areas. In 2005 he formed Fiendish DRP Productions to produce his original horror scripts that feature his FX creations and showcase his acting and writing abilities.

Come see The Lost World of Pangea Garden display and lose yourself in the realistic world of the Fiendish Dr. Phil.

## Volunteer Incentives

by *Sigrid Stewart*  
*HGMS Show Chair*

**E**arn one *Show Buck* for every shift worked plus extra for set-up and tear-down. Redeem your *Show Bucks* for cool stuff

3 *Show Bucks* gets you a 2007 Show Shirt

5 *Show Bucks* gets you a photo session for several of your prized minerals with Steve Blyskal/Matt Phillips, or

One of our special mini-classes

- Dichroic glass cabochons with Michele Marsel
- Opal Cutting with Shiara Trumble
- Wirewrapping with Karen Burns

You can also use them for time on the cabbing stations (grinding machines only, NOT the big saws) in our shop--\$1 shop credit for every 1 *Show Buck*

You must sign in at the Information Booth at the Show. Our volunteer co-ordinators this year are:

Mary Ann Mitscherling	713-957-2001	<a href="mailto:maryann@hal-pc.org">maryann@hal-pc.org</a>
Cheryl Lucas	281-257-0047	<a href="mailto:pmctexas@sbcglobal.net">pmctexas@sbcglobal.net</a>

Remember to turn in your ticket proceeds or unsold tickets for a chance at our special raffle--the prize will be a gift card.

Shifts are defined by the volunteer spreadsheet and are 3-hour shifts on Friday and Saturday, and 2 1/2--hour shifts on Sunday. There are 3 shifts in a day.

## Swap Area at the Show

by *Steve Blyskal*

**T**here will be a swap area at the show this year. It will be located as usual in the glass wall annex on the east side of the convention center in the same room as the Youth Section booth and activity area. We plan to have our tables follow the curve of the wall across from where the Youth Section will be set up. There are plenty of floor outlets in this area, so swappers can have lights at their tables.

The swap area will operate on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this year, as it has in the past few years. We expect to have many children at the show on Friday, and many of the swappers have minerals suited for beginning collectors. The swap area will be open from 9–6 on Friday, 9–6 on Saturday, and 10–4 on Sunday.

As in past years, those who have minerals, fossils, or polished stones they would like to swap can bring them to the area and attempt to trade them with the swappers who have set up. Swap dollars will also be available for those who do not have an item to trade. Swap dollars work like this: one of the swappers has a piece of petrified wood that you want. You work out a price of \$15.00. Then you go to the booth where swap dollars are sold, give them the \$15.00 in cash, and get 15 swap dollars. The 15 swap dollars are given to the swapper and you get the petrified wood. So what does the

swapper do with the swap dollars, you ask? He has until the end of the show to go around to the dealers and find items that he wants. Then he pays for the item with the swap dollars.

How does this benefit everyone? You, the customer, get a good deal—you might save some money buying in the swap area. The swapper gets rid of the material he has on hand—stuff he has found, or cut, or traded for, for example. The dealer gets the money that might not have been spent otherwise.

The swappers can use up to two tables, if available, at a charge of \$6.00 per table for the show. Material that can be put out at the swap area includes minerals, rocks, fossils, equipment, cabachons, faceted stones, and jewelry made by the seller. No commercially made jewelry is permitted. Swappers are expected to help sell the swap dollars, and other volunteers also are requested from the Show Committee.

Swap dollars are valid for merchandise at the show until 6 p.m. Sunday 9/23/07, at which time they become void. That is why the swap area closes early on Sunday, to allow the sellers time to go spend their money. Dealers redeem their swap dollars at the end of the show for cash.

If you still have any questions about the swap area, want to participate and swap, or just want to help sell swap dollars for an hour or two, you can call the swap area chairman, Steve Blyskal, at 832-264-1278 after 7 p.m. in the evening.

### Information Booth Needs

*by Shiara Trumble*

**Y**ou know how much fun the silent auctions are at the Show. You've had your eye on something and snuck back right before the bell to make sure your bid is still good. And gnashed your teeth when it wasn't! Well, the Information Booth needs your help!

We depend largely upon your donations for what we offer in the Silent Auction, so it's time to look through your lapidary and faceting rough, your fossils and yard rocks, and even that jewelry that doesn't go with your current outfits. Out with the old and in with the new! You're going to get some new stuff at the Show, so donate that old stuff!

If everybody comes up with a few pieces, we'll have plenty of variety to offer. Clean out that garage!



### Day Light Section

*by Frances Arrighi*



**S**ixteen Members and one guest attended the 9 July, 2007 meeting of the Day Light Section. Val Link conducted the program which was using the technique Keum Boo. Several members made pieces of jewelry using this technique. Either in the next issue of the Backbender's Gazette (BBG) or the following issue, we hope to have some pictures of pieces of jewelry made by the members using this technique. This is a wonderful technique for putting gold designs on pieces of fine silver.

Allcraft Jewelry Supply plans to have a Web site devoted to Keum Boo. This site should be operational by the first of September. When I have the correct address, I will put it in the BBG. Of course, they will display the pertinent sale items that they carry.

At present it is planned to have another meeting on broom casting. This will be our September program. In October it is planned to have Nancy Fischer give a travelogue on Russia. She went to Russia last year. In November we will have our birthday luncheon. We do not meet in December. As yet there are no plans for next year.



## Lapidary Section

by Kathy Konkel



The Lapidary Section meeting will be held on **Monday, September 17 at 7:29 p.m.** An interesting time will be in store as Steve Wilkerson is rumored to be coming in full medieval costume, and he will demonstrate medieval lapidary techniques. He won an award at the local Renaissance Festival in the past for his popular demonstration.

Members are encouraged to enter one or more stones in the lapidary stone cutting competition at the annual HGMS Show this month. You still have a Saturday or two to work in the shop, but if you really like to wait until the last minute, you can work in the shop starting at 5:00 p.m. on September 17 prior to the Lapidary meeting (usual shop fees apply). If you have never entered a stone previously, your Novice competition stone must be a 30 x 40 agate cut to R.O.L.E. specifications. If you have entered before and received a Blue Ribbon, then you have graduated to the Intermediate/Master level and the stone to be entered must be a freeform moonstone of a size between 12 mm and 30 mm. For Novice through Master level, all faces of the stone must be polished.

The annual Lapidary Auction will be held on Saturday, October 27. We'll have lunch at 1:00 p.m. just prior to the live auction which commences at 2:00 p.m. A silent auction will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. if tools and equipment are donated for the event.

## HGMS Board Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2007

by Denise Bicknell

HGMS Secretary

X	President	Matt Dillon	X	Faceting Rep.	Phyllis George
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Matt Phillips	X	Lapidary Rep.	Karen Burns
X	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Beverly Mace	X	Mineral Rep.	Art Smith
	Treasurer	Lowell Stouder	X	Paleontology Rep.	Terry Brawner
X	Secretary	Denise Bicknell	X	Day Light Rep.	Sunday Bennett
	Past President	Scott Singleton			

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Matt Dillon, President.

### **Approval of June Minutes was done via e-mail.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Matt Dillon reported that Lowell Stouder is leaving and that Rod Linehan will be taking over his duties.
- Karen Burns moved that Rod Linehan be authorized to sign checks, and the motion was seconded by Sunday Bennett. The motion passed.
- Matt Dillon will investigate what is required by the Bylaws to make Rod the official Treasurer.

#### **Committee and Section Reports:**

**Faceting:** Phyllis George reported that a representative of the Texas Facetors' Guild drove from Austin to attend our June Faceting Section meeting. He requested more participation from HGMS members. If you would like more information, contact Phyllis or Wayne Barnett.

**Lapidary Section:** Karen Burns reported that Tom Wright has expressed a willingness to donate electroplating equipment to the Lapidary Section. She requested permission for the Lapidary Section to vent it through the roof if it can be done without compromising the roof's integrity and subject to the Section's approval of costs. Karen moved that the Lapidary Section, at their cost and with approval of the Clubhouse Chairman, be allowed to vent the equipment through the roof. The motion was seconded by Art Smith; it passed.

**Mineral Section:** Art Smith reported the Section will have a work session on July 18 to prepare the fluorescent display for the show.

**Day Light Section:** Sunday Bennett reported they are working on the Keum Boo process.

**Youth Section:** Beverly Mace reported the Youth field trip was cancelled due to rain.

**Programs:** Matt Phillips was absent. Phyllis George reported that she saw a newspaper article stating that the Lucy exhibit would be coming to HMNS. She contacted Neal Immega and asked him to do a "Lucy" program for us. He agreed; the date will be announced later.

The July General Meeting will feature another HMNS exhibit—Metalworking in Kazakhstan—and Neal Immega will be presenting.

**Shop/Clubhouse:** Matt Dillon reports that construction on the new room is ongoing. The next step is to install insulation and A/C vents.

Matt Dillon reported that there is a need to make repairs to our ceiling due to sagging caused by the weight of all that we store upstairs.

**Newsletter/Web site:** Phyllis George reports that 2007 Show updates are now being made to the Web site. She also reports she is updating some of the counters

on the Web site with the hope that the new ones will not cease working after 8–12 months.

**Membership:** Beverly Mace reports that we are continually getting new members.

**Library:** Art Smith reports that he obtained a copy of Sir Howard's agate book for the Library.

### Old and New Business:

- 1 Denise Bicknell reported that Steve Blyskal has been in contact with ConocoPhillips, and there is money available for a \$2500 grant for this year. A request letter is being formulated at this time.
- 2 Sunday Bennett reported that she and Matt Phillips are still getting quotes on large letters (around 2 feet tall) for placement on the building front. They have checked with several establishments with unsatisfactory results.
- 3 The stovetop has not yet been installed in the kitchen.
- 4 The parking lot was restriped. Matt Dillon reports the parking blocks, doorstep, and driveway into the building will be painted with fluorescent paint to help make them more visible in the dark.
- 5 Phyllis George presented receipts from her trip to the AMFS meeting in New Mexico. Terry Brawner moved they be accepted. The motion was seconded by Karen Burns, it passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

## HGMS General Meeting Minutes

*July 24, 2007*

*by Denise Bicknell, HGMS Secretary*

**T**he meeting was called to order at 7:32 p. m. by Matt Dillon, President

**New Room Update:** David Hawkins reported that insulation will be installed in the new room on Saturday.

**Show Committee:** Sigrid Stewart thanked all who helped at the last InterGem Show, and she reported that we gained several new members from the show. The next event where we will have an HGMS booth is the Homeschool Conference. Contact Sigrid if you are able to help man the booth.

The Show Committee Post Card Labeling work day and lunch will be Saturday, August 25. The Pizza party and Auction will be September 8 from 5:30 to 9:30.

Sigrid said that all the dealers are lined up, and the floor plan is set. This year's special exhibit will feature the Fiendish Dr. Phil and his dinosaurs!

Sigrid announced the Show Committee's new Volunteer Incentive Program that rewards all those who work in the show with special Show Bucks. These may be redeemed on a preset series of items. (See complete list in the Show Committee announcement.)

**Day Light Section:** The group is continuing work on their Keum Boo.

**Lapidary Section:** The topic at the last meeting was on the use of rivets in jewelry and was presented by Tom Wright.

**Mineral Section:** Dean Lagerwall announced two upcoming workdays: the third Wednesday in August and the first Wednesday in September.

**Youth Section:** Beverly Mace reported that they had made 60 sets of earrings that will be used for prizes at the section booth at the Show.

**Web site/Newsletter:** Phyllis George reported that she will be updating the Mini Miners Monthly pages on the Web site.

**Library:** Art Smith announced that free books will be on the tables outside the Library door.

**Show and Tell:** Matt Dillon brought some of his latest agates from George West, Texas; Zapata, Mexico; and Brazil.

**Door Prize:** Mike Dawkins won a Sikhote-Alin meteorite and a tektite from Morocco.

**Program:** *Of Gold and Grass: Nomads of Kazakhstan* presented by Neal Immega. (See companion article on page 17.) Neal presented a series of slides featuring items on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. These items, or reproductions, were the possessions of nomads who lived on the Steppes of Kazakhstan. These nomadic people were sheep herders and mound builders. They were known to have been early domesticators of horses. Featured items include gold jewelry, beads, bone carvings, pottery, clothing, bronze casts, carpets, gold and silver castings, and wood carvings that had been covered in gold. The pieces feature stylized horses, people, moose, cats, griffins, mountain sheep, snow leopards, deer, and donkeys. We thank Neal for a fascinating program.

## HGMS Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2007

by Phyllis George, filling in for Denise Bicknell, HGMS Secretary

X	President	Matt Dillon	X	Faceting Rep.	Phyllis George
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Matt Phillips	X	Lapidary Rep.	Karen Burns
X	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Beverly Mace	X	Mineral Rep.	Art Smith
	Treasurer	Rodney Linehan	X	Paleontology Rep.	Terry Brawner
	Secretary	Denise Bicknell	X	Day Light Rep.	Sunday Bennett
X	Past President	Scott Singleton			

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Matt Dillon, President.

Approval of July Minutes was done via e-mail.



**Rodney Linehan is new HGMS Treasurer:**

- 1 Matt Dillon investigated what the Bylaws require following the resignation of an elected officer and learned that the Board needs to vote in a replacement. In June the Board appointed Rodney Linehan as Assistant Treasurer due to the likelihood that Lowell Stouder would be assigned to China by his employer. Therefore Rodney automatically moves up to the position of Treasurer with Lowell Stouder's recent resignation.
- 2 Rodney Linehan is officially the new HGMS Treasurer.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- 1 Rodney Linehan is out of town and could not be present for the Board meeting, but he gave Matt Dillon a report to be passed out to the Board members. The report listed a number of discrepancies he found in his early examination of the financial records turned over to him. He plans to examine the records in depth after his return in an effort to clear up the problem areas.
- 2 Before he left for China, Lowell Stouder wrote Matt Dillon a check for \$485 to cover Matt's lodging and travel expenses while he attended the June AFMS show in Roswell, New Mexico. This expense was not presented to the Board and had not been approved. Matt asked the Board for approval of that expense. Terry Brawner moved that the expense be approved, and Karen Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 3 It is possible that funds from the most recent silent auction are missing from the lock box. It is also possible that Rodney deposited the funds before he went out of town. This will be cleared up upon his return August 8.

**Committee and Section Reports:**

**Lapidary Section:** Karen Burns reported that the Section is sponsoring a cabochon competition at the show. The guidelines are as follows: if the contestant has never entered a stone previously, their Novice competition stone must be a 30 x 40 agate cut to R.O.L.E. specifications. If he or she has entered before and received a Blue Ribbon, then the contestant must enter at the Intermediate/Master level, and the stone to be entered must be a freeform moonstone of a size between 12 mm and 30 mm. For Novice through Master level, all faces of the stone must be polished.

**Mineral Section:** Art Smith reported that the Section will have a work session on August 15 to finalize plans for the fluorescent display for the show and to get the fluorescent stones packed so they're ready to be transported to the show.

**Programs:** Matt Phillips was absent. Matt Dillon said he thought that for the August 28 General Meeting, Matt Phillips is planning to talk about his new digital microscope and show some photos taken with it.

**2007 Show:**

1. Sigrid Stewart discussed Show Bucks and explained what they are—and what they are not. They are awarded ONLY to people who volunteer to work at the show by **signing up through the Show Volunteer Coordinator**. People in charge of booths that are outside the Show Committee's control should contact Sigrid or Michele Marsel about putting their booths under the Show "umbrella" so that

people volunteering to man those booths may also earn Show bucks.

2. Sigrid reported that she has applied to Chevron for a grant to be used for the HGMS show, and Chevron might also decide to provide volunteer workers for the show.
3. A number of preshow activities are scheduled—annual postcard labeling party, preshow pizza party, loading day, setup day, and an appreciation dinner for dealers and volunteers.
4. Scott Singleton reported that one or two questions are needed from the various sections for use during the scavenger hunt held on Kids Day (Friday at the show). If two questions are provided, one needs to be for ages 6 or 7 and the other for 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If there's only one, it should be for the younger age. Several questions were turned in to him during the meeting.

**Shop/Clubhouse:** Matt Dillon reports that insulation for the new room has been purchased and is in the room ready to be put up on the walls. Volunteers will do the work Saturday, August 11.

**Newsletter/Web site:**

1. Phyllis George reports that articles for the September newsletter need to be submitted by Thursday, August 9.
2. She also submitted a request to be repaid for the 2-year subscription she had just paid for to Mini Miners Monthly newsletter. She will reproduce it in part on the Web site and also in the BBG. The Board agreed to reimburse her for it.
3. She will be attending the SCFMS annual convention September 1–2 in Arlington, TX, and asked for authorization to be reimbursed for travel and lodging. Matt Dillon also requested reimbursement to attend. Terry Brawner moved that they be reimbursed up to \$225 each for travel and lodging. Karen Burns seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Old and New Business:**

1. Matt Dillon bought spray cans of paint for painting the parking blocks. This is to make the blocks more visible at night so people won't trip over them.
2. Matt will also paint the sides of the ramp that leads into the storage room to make the rise obvious. This will help a driver in backing up the ramp accurately without running into the sides of the door opening.
3. Terry Brawner reported that he attended a meeting of the central owners of the industrial park where our building is located. Several months ago a sinkhole was identified toward the east end of the park, and efforts to halt its enlargement were unsuccessful. A contractor has been hired by the central owners to use sound wave technology to isolate where the sinkhole is and to develop a plan to cure it. The group is on track to have all the buildings repainted in 2008 if the bid comes in for less than \$50,000. HGMS might end up paying up to \$500 for having our building painted.
4. Sunday Bennett reported that she is still getting quotes from three different companies on large letters (around 2 feet tall) for placement on the building front. An action item for Sunday is to ask Neal Immega if he will consider making them.
5. The stovetop has not yet been installed in the kitchen. An action item for Matt

Dillon is to check the status of getting that installed.

6. Karen Burns reported that we need to get in touch with Val Link regarding his recommendation for a worthy recipient of an HGMS scholarship.
7. Art Smith reported that there is a problem with Irene Offeman's fossil collection which has been auctioned over the past months. She presented the collection to the club with the stipulation that it be sold at auction to individuals. She was told that it was all sold, but that may not be the case. There probably is no record of what was present in the collection when it was given to the club. We do have a photo record of most (if not all) of what has been sold. An action item for Matt Dillon and Scott Singleton is to talk to Irene and verify her wishes for the disposal of the collection. An action item for Matt Dillon is to talk to Neal Immega and ascertain just what the disposition of the fossils is at this point in time.
8. Beverly Mace presented a bill of \$195 for the software that she uses to create all the mailing labels the club puts on newsletters, postcards, and other mail outs. Scott Singleton moved that she be reimbursed for the expense, and Terry Brawner seconded the motion. The motion passed.
9. Beverly Mace announced that the roster is being printed. It will be mailed at the same time as The Backbender's Gazette (around August 17) so she only needs to make one trip to the Bellaire post office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

### **AFMS—Having Fun - Junior Activities....Dinosaurs!**

*by Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair  
from the AFMS Newsletter 3/2007*

**A**s noted in earlier columns, I'm attempting to expand our activities for the FRA badge program. So far, I've come up with ideas for as many as 15 possible new badges. I described some in these pages last year, for instance, Rocks from Space, Thumbnail Collecting, Organizing a Club Library, or Rocking on the Computer. This year, I'll describe several more, some thanks to suggestions from youth leaders at local clubs.

This month, I thank Mitty Scarpato, a youth leader of the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club in Thousand Oaks, California. Mitty suggests a badge on dinosaurs or adding dino activities to our existing Fossils badge. Mitty's group had a fun evening coloring and cutting out paper models of dinosaurs she found on the Internet. They also did a quiz game about dino facts and myths. Dinosaurs are a big draw for kids, and Mitty got me thinking about what other activities might revolve around dinosaurs to capitalize on that fascination. Here are a few that came to mind:

- Test dinosaur identification skills with flashcard games or plastic models. Dinosaur cards are commercially available, or you can make your own by cutting pictures of dinosaurs from books, magazines, or Web sites.
- Make dinosaur footprint molds and casts with clay and plaster.
- Create dinosaur dioramas with models in shoe boxes.
- Draw and color dinosaur murals or time lines on a long sheet of paper, incorporating dinosaur stickers. Sheets of dino stickers can be found in party or gift-

wrapping sections of stores, in craft stores, bookstores, etc.

- Make dino masks on cardboard sheets using templates available from Web sites or from books such as Shaffer's *Cut & Make Dinosaur Masks* or Smith's *Dinosaur Punch-Out Masks*. You can also make 3-D masks by coating large inflated balloons with papier-mâché or using paper grocery bags, cardboard, glue, colorful markers, and other readily available materials. A nice Web site showing how to convert grocery bags into dinosaur masks is at: <http://www.miamisci.org/avacado/projects/dinos/masks.html>
- Assemble dinosaur skeletons from chicken bones (see Chris McGowan's books, *Make Your Own Dinosaur out of Chicken Bones* and *T-Rex To Go: Build Your Own from Chicken Bones*). Commercial kits are available from places like Edmund Scientifics for "excavating" bones and/or building skeleton models with wooden or plastic bones. My daughter's kindergarten librarian, Bev Paxton (of the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society) introduced me to a fun group activity for assembling a 6-foot dinosaur skeleton: cut large bones out of cardboard and hide them around a room. Then hold a scavenger hunt and once all bones have been located, assemble them with brass fasteners (the kind with the button-like heads and wing clips).
- Discuss theories of dinosaur extinction. Then have kids research and report on it.
- Hold a dinosaur facts and myths quiz. A site devoted to "Dinosaurs: Facts & Fiction" is on the USGS Web site: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dinosaurs/>
- Make collections of fossils from the age of dinosaurs. Some parts of the country, like Texas, the Dakotas, the Rocky Mountain states, and the West in general, abound in marine and land fossils from the Mesozoic Era, and localities with Cretaceous marine fossils are common on the East Coast and in the Southeast.

In addition to these activities, there's no end of dino activity books geared to every age level (just one example: Janice VanCleave's *Dinosaurs for Every Kid*). Check Amazon.com or B&N.com, the kids' sections of bookstores, teacher supply stores, and the Web. Just type "dinosaurs" into a search engine like Google, and thousands of possibilities spring up!

My thanks to Mitty for her suggestion to include a unit on dinosaurs in our badge program. E-mail me at <[jbraceth@adelphia.net](mailto:jbraceth@adelphia.net)> or call (805) 659-3577 to provide still more activity suggestions that will help us spread our love of the earth to kids while—as always—having fun!

**[AFMS Newsletter Editor's Note:** Adelphia has been purchased by Comcast and in some markets, e-mail addresses are being changed by Comcast. If Jim's does bounce, try substituting "comcast" for "Adelphia," and it should work.]



# MINERAL NAMES

**Where do they come from? What do they mean?**

By Darryl Powell

Many minerals were named after a **person**. Some were named in honor of a famous person or someone important in the history of mineral science. Others were named after the person who first discovered the mineral.

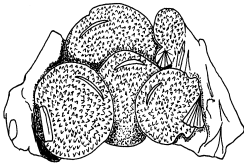
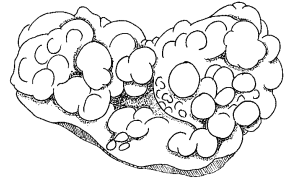


**Smithsonite** was named in honor of James Smithson (1765-1829).

He was a British chemist and mineralogist, and founder of the Smithsonian Institution which is the national museum of the United States in Washington, D.C.

*Right:* Pink smithsonite from Mexico.

*Left:* James Smithson, public domain, Smithsonian Institute.



**Adamite** was named in

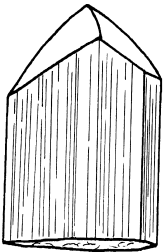
honor of the French mineralogist, Gilbert Joseph Adam (1795-1881) who provided the first pieces of this mineral for scientific study.

*Left:* Apple-green adamite from Mapimi, Durango, Mexico.



**Goethite** was named in honor of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). He was German and was a poet, a naturalist and an amateur mineralogist.

*Right:* Brown and tan goethite from Australia.



**Kunzite** was named after George F. Kunz (1856-

1932). He was a famous mineralogist, gemologist and Vice-President of Tiffany's of New York City (Tiffany's is a very famous jewelry store). Dr. Kunz was one of the first people to find out that this new gem is a Clear variety of the mineral called *spodumene*.

*Left:* A large, light purple (lilac) colored crystal of kunzite from Brazil.

*Right:* Dr. Kunz's actual signature.

(From the collection of Darryl Powell)

Yours very truly,



©2007 Diamond Dan Publications. All pictures and articles in this newsletter are property of Diamond Dan Publications and cannot be copied or reused in any format (printed or electronic) without written permission of Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, New York 14504 or diamonddan@rochester.rr.com.

**Editor's Note:** I subscribe to the Mini Miners Monthly magazine and have received permission to include a few pages each month in the BBG and also on our Web site at [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org). This page is from the August 2007 issue.

**ShowTime 2007**

- August 25-26 Jasper, TX Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society  
VFW Bldg., FM 2799 and FM 1747, 9 miles west of Jasper; Sharon Kerr, (409) 384-3441 or (409) 489-0487; seadigest@aol.com
- September 1-2 Arlington, TX Arlington Gem & Mineral Club -- SCFMS  
Arlington Convention Center  
1200 Ballpark Way; Karen Cessna, (817) 860-5232, Rick Kupke (817) 465-5270  
rickkupke@nwiis.com; <http://tses.org>.
- September 21-23 Humble, TX Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.  
5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport  
1 mile east of Hwy. 59  
sigrid.stewart@chevrontexaco.com
- September 21-23 Jacksonville, FL Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society  
Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd.  
Mary Chambliss, (904) 269-4046  
IvoryTowers@msn.com
- October 6-7 Austin, TX Texas Faceters' Guild Symposium  
6719 Burnet Lane, Bob Lucas 210-558-4547  
blucas@world-net.neto
- October 11-13 Mt. Ida, AR World Champ. Quartz Crystals Digging Contest; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$90, preregistration \$75; dig in working crystal mines, keep all you dig, maybe even win a prize. Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957 (870)867-2723; director@mtidachamber.com [www.mtidachamber.com](http://www.mtidachamber.com).
- October 13-14 Dallas, TX North Texas Earth Science Association  
Brookhaven College, EMGI Center  
3939 Valley View Ln.; Nick Theis  
(972) 242-2634; n2theis@gmail.com.
- October 13-14 Temple, TX Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society  
Mayborn Civic & Convention Center  
3303 N. 3rd St.; Les Connally (254) 939-7015

2007		SEPTEMBER					2007
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open	
2	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting	5 7:30 Mineral Section	6	7	8 10-5 Shop Open 5:30-9:30 Preshow Pizza Party!	
9	10 1:00 Day Light Section	11 7:30 Show Committee	12 7:30 Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open	
16	17 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 7:30 Paleo Section	19 Show Loading Day 7:30 Mineral Section	20 HGMS Show Setup Day Dealer Dinner	21 HGMS Show- Kids' Day	22 HGMS Show	
23 HGMS Show 30	24	25 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	26 7:00 Beading Group	27	28	29 10-5 Shop Open	

2007		OCTOBER					2007
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 7:30 Board Meeting	3 7:30 Mineral Section	4	5	6 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open	
7	8 1:00 Day Light Section	9 7:30 Show Committee	10 7:30 Faceting Section	11	12	13 10-5 Shop Open	
14	15 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 7:30 Paleo Section	17 7:30 Mineral Section	18	19	20 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open	
21	22	23 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	24 7:00 Beading Group	25	26	27 10-5 Shop Open	
28	29	30	31 Halloween				

# The **BACKBENDER'S** **GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the Houston  
Gem & Mineral Society

10805 BROOKLET

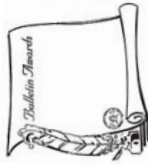
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(281) 530-0942



## SCFMS

- 1998 - 1st (Large)
- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005 - 1st (Large)
- 2006 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

AFMS

- 1998 - 2nd (Large)
- 2004 - 3rd (Large)
- 2007 - 1st (Large)



TROPHY

PUBLICATION

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
PERMIT NO. 303

**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !**