



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

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

Volume XLIII - No. 9

September 2012



President's Message *Volunteers Needed!* by *Charlie Fredregill*

During the past several months, I have found myself spending a lot of time in our club house. My contributions to the building have been very slight, but I feel a great deal of pride in our facilities. Our lapidary shop provides members with superior equipment for cutting slabs and cutting cabs. We have an excellent group of people (headed up by, but not limited to) Neal Immega, who keeps the equipment in working order. Our classrooms are equipped to teach just about any type of jewelry making and fabrication. We probably have the best teaching facilities in Houston.



But the building and the equipment would be meaningless without our members who volunteer to keep everything going. These are the ones who quietly come in and add their efforts to make everything run as it should. These are the people who cheerfully drop their own activities to help a newcomer (or even some of us old-timers) with his or her project. We have the tools and the equipment to teach, but the tools and equipment would be worthless without the people (volunteers again) who are willing to teach.

Continued on page 4

General Meeting Programs by *Bill Moore*

August 28, 2012: Charles Finsley: "What's Chuck Finsley been doing?" is the title of this talk by the guy who for 34 yrs. was Curator of Earth Sciences at the old Dallas Museum of Natural History. The DMNH will soon move to a new downtown Dallas building, as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. All the many creatures Finsley dug up and prepared for exhibit will find a place in the new

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Every article published in the BBG is edited for grammar and content. No flaming is allowed.

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

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by Wednesday, September 5, 2012.*

*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 \$40 for an adult membership, \$60 for a couple, \$75 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), \$25 for a youth membership (ages 5-18), and \$500 for an adult life membership. Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months, ¼ page; \$150 for 6 months, ¼ page.

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

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse which is 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 Web site address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

President's Message continued from page 1

We need volunteers. One of our immediate needs is for a Wednesday shop volunteer. Mary Ann Mitcherling and I have been splitting the duty—I open up in the morning, and Mary Ann relieves me later in the day to close up. This position is not without a large reward: traditionally the shop foreman gets to use the saws and grinding equipment without paying shop fees. Yes, you will have to have some training—and be responsible and reliable. But if you have been using the shop, it's not that difficult to handle. (The reasons that we need a Wednesday volunteer are that I'm getting busier in my Presidential duties, and Mary Ann doesn't like to get caught in afternoon traffic for her 40 mile trip home).

General Meeting Programs continued from page 1

museum. The talk will show Finsley's Texas Mammoth, 32-ft. long Mosasaur, a dino-age Sea Turtle as big as a car, several huge Cretaceous fish, some very nice Texas invertebrate fossils, and a story about our state stone—fossil palm. Chuck is an equal opportunity collector—he likes it all!

None-the-less, he's been into some other things. Hear his take on Science and Religion spiced with some of Chuck's famous humor. Another part of the talk will contain some nostalgic looks back at several old-timers in rock, minerals, and fossils with some notes from their own memoirs. Blasts from the pasts!

Finsley talks are always a mixture of laughing and learning about Texas fossils. Rosa Finsley will accompany him. As many of you know, she is a well-known Texas landscape architect. The Finsleys thank Bill Moore for setting up this visit.

September 25, 2012: To be announced

**Old Geezer Reports—Article In
Mid-America Paleontology Society (M.A.P.S.)**

by John Emerson

My wife Bobbie and I had just finished work on the draft of our third book, *Cretaceous Oysters In Texas*, when she passed away in January 2009. Recently, Neal Irrnema graciously agreed to edit the book and publish it for HGMS. It is an ongoing project.

In April 2005 M.A.P.S. published the Introduction, the Fossil Identification, and some of the Study Sheets from the draft of our book in their Digest. I intend to put parts of that publication in this (September) and the next two issues of the BBG.

Page 5 shows the title page and the cover page of the publication, and pages 6 and 7 contain the introduction.

BIVALVIA (Pelecypoda)

M.A.P.S. DIGEST

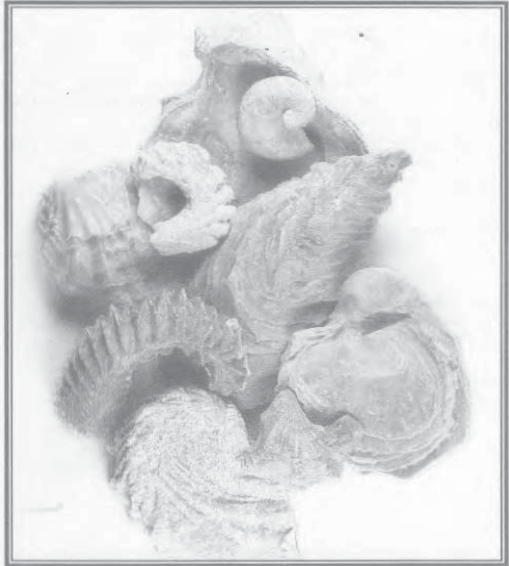
EXPO XXVII EDITION

MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGICALSOCIETY

A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER

Western Illinois University
Western Hall
Macomb, Illinois
April 8, 9, 10, 2005

Cretaceous Oysters In Texas



John and Barbara Emerson

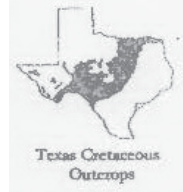
Cretaceous Oysters. A Texas Collector's Notebook

Introduction

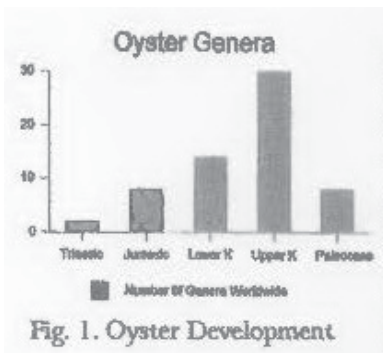
For paleontologists and amateurs with an interest in Cretaceous bivalve invertebrates, Texas is a “must visit” place. Variation in size and shape is greater in Family Ostreidae than in other molluscan genera, and that variation can present identification problems.

Ideally, fossil identification requires complete collection data, a large suite of specimens, reliable paleontological descriptions and illustrations, and access to identified collections. However, amateurs that we are, we still want to try to identify the oysters collected during several field trips and to learn more about Cretaceous oysters.

General information, descriptions, and illustrations were found during extensive library searches utilizing paleontology libraries of the Paleontology Section, Houston Gem and Mineral Society, and the local universities. The Internet occasionally provided interesting information. Photographs for the Notebook are of our oyster collection as well as of specimens borrowed from Irene Offeman, retired Curator of Paleontology, Houston Museum of Natural Science.



Cretaceous Texas



Although known to exist in the Upper Triassic Period, oysters “peaked” during the Cretaceous Period {141-65 MYA). See Figure 1. Oyster Development. Probably Cretaceous age rocks were deposited over almost all of present day Texas. In 1887, R.T. Hill described the Upper and Lower Cretaceous Series. These two well-marked divisions outcrop over approximately 28% (75,000 square miles) of the State with a combined maximum thickness of various formations reaching about 15,500 feet—but not in any one section! The two Series are characterized not only by stratigraphic break but also by an almost complete break in megafauna.

The Lower Cretaceous or Comanche Series is composed of three Groups: Trinity, Fredericksburg, and Washita. The Upper Cretaceous or Gulf Series is divided into five Groups: Woodbine, Eagle Ford, Austin, Taylor, and Navarro. See Figure 2. Age/Group, Formation Equivalents. So far this oyster study has identified eighty-one species plus two doubtful species that have been collected from Texas formations. That includes two Families (Gryphaeidae and Ostreidae) and one Doubtful Family

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SERIES	MVA	STAGES	TEXAS GROUPS	SP. COLORADO FORMS
GULF	65			
	74	Mazonian	Navarro	Fort Hills
	81	Compsian	Taylor	Platte
	87	Santonian		
	89	Concionian	Anaquin	Nicholls
	93	Turonian	Eagle Ford	Benton
COMAN- CHUR			Washita Fredericksburg Trinity	Purgatoire
	112	Albion		
127				

Fig. 2. Age/Group, Formation Equivalents

(Chondrodontidae), five Subfamilies Pycnodontinae, Exogyrinae, Oystreinae, Liostreinae and Lophinae, and eighteen Genera plus one Doubtful Genus.

Marine and brackish water environments combined with beneficial climate enabled members of Family Ostreidae to flourish and become one of the most widespread and abundantly represented fossil groups of the Mesozoic Period. In Central Texas oysters have been collected from various horizons throughout the strata that make up the thickness of the Cretaceous in that

area. Striking features in Central Texas Walnut Formation are massive oyster reefs scattered over large areas. In 1963, C.D. Flatt (Baylor Geological Studies Bulletin No. 30, p. 14) reported, “—a conservative count of 3600 individual *Texigryphaea* specimens per cubic foot in one oyster bank. A bank 100 feet long and six feet thick covering one acre will contain over 900 million per acre. The figure is more astonishing in banks that extend for miles (six hundred billion per square mile).”

In the published literature we have reviewed, sixty-seven percent of the Cretaceous oyster species we read about could be collected in the North-Central and Central area of Texas. Areas of west Texas have some very interesting and varied species that are definitely worth the time and effort to “get there” and to obtain landowner permission to collect. A caution to those not familiar with Texas, do not plan to collect (road cuts, etc.) or expect to gain permission to collect during bird or deer seasons.

Classification

Passage of time and studies by different recognized paleontologists have not produced unanimity in classification and description of oysters. Depositories and important museum and private collections have been expanded by increased collecting and improved communication. As a result of their careful study and review, paleontologists have published revisions with comments to Classification. More illustrations have become available to supplement early, original drawings. Significant contributions, historical review, and changes to the Systematic Classification of OSTREACEA have occurred. Except in a few noted entries, our Notebook follows classification from the 1971 Treatise volume on Oysters written by H.B. Stenzel. We look forward to learning more about recent research.

HGMS Members—What They're Doing

Congratulations to Dorothy Win-Hall on the publication of her new book!

Update on Frances Arrighi

by Phyllis George

A very nice note arrived from Carol Wells, Frances Arrighi's niece. She wrote:

I am writing to let you know that Frances Arrighi is now at
 Grace Care Center of Katy, Room 104
 23553 West Fernhurst Dr.
 Katy, TX 77494

I am her niece, Carol Wells—I live in Fulshear, and the drive to Vosswood was getting very tiresome. And I needed her closer so I could check on her more frequently. Thank you for the cards and notes you (*HGMS members*) have sent her—she enjoys receiving your letters.

Fondly, Carol Wells

Additionally, Beverly Mace called Carol and talked to her at length about Frances' condition. Beverly said the Grace Care center is a much nicer place than Voss Center, and Frances has a window where she can watch the birds—a calming influence. She can have visitors; she does not use the phone. Her condition has not improved at this time.

Made This Old Man's Day!

by George Wolf

In June I was asked if I would do a display in July at the Clear Lake Freeman Center Library by Bay Area in Houston. The display had 4x8x4-foot cases. It took me two weeks to get it ready and two days to put it in. The first case had fossil shells from Florida, the next two had shells from Florida and Texas, the last one had sea beans and things that washed ashore from the Gulf. This case was done by my very good friend Sidonia.

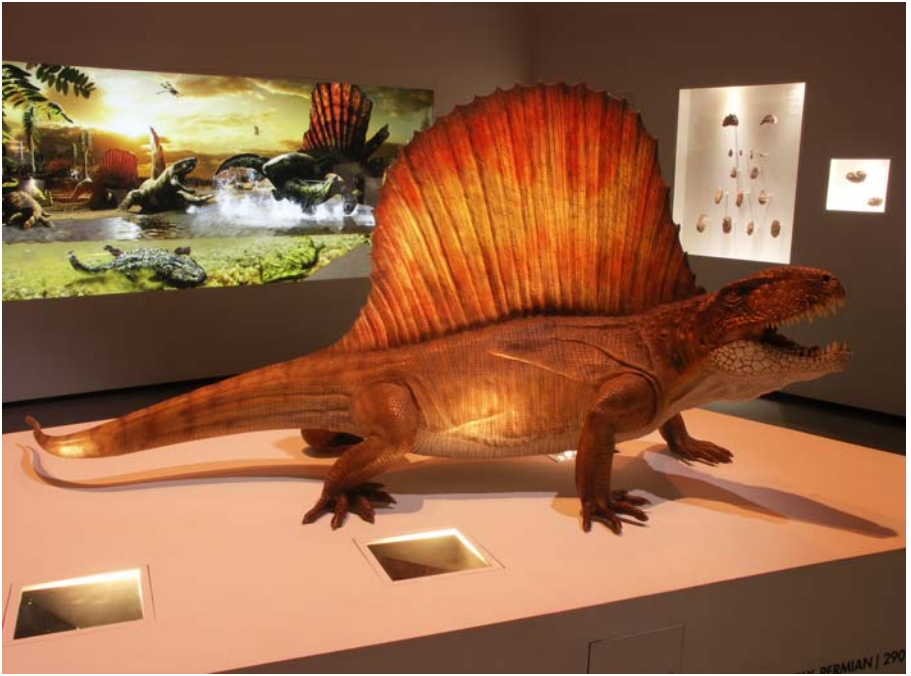
While putting it in, people would stop and ask all types of questions. The best one was from a dad with his 7-year old daughter who was blind. He asked if she could feel a sea shell. We did a lot more than one. Then I asked her dad to let her hear the sound of the sea in some bigger shells. After they left, it made my work a lot more fun, and I had a very good feeling inside to see her smile. She made my day.

The Seymour Blob

by Neal Immega

Member of Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Recall that the Houston Museum of Natural Science has been digging up wonderful Permian fossils in Seymour Texas. Dr. Bakker and his team of hot, tired, and pink (from the dirt) volunteers found such a nice Dimetrodon (sail-backed reptile) that it is currently being prepped for display in the wonderful new Paleontology Hall. Don't focus on just the big things—they are finding little amphibians like the boomerang-headed Diplocaulus and the snake-like Lysorophus.



The Rock Stars of the Seymour dig are people like Chris Flis who finds bone everywhere. There are also geologists on the team like Gretchen Sparks who is interested in sedimentology (how the dirt got there) and who pick up interesting bits and wonder what they are.

This is a warty blob that she found. It sort of looks like a bone or a burrow dug by something. I tested it and found that it is made of calcium carbonate.

To see more, I ground and polished the end. Now we can see that this is not a bone be-

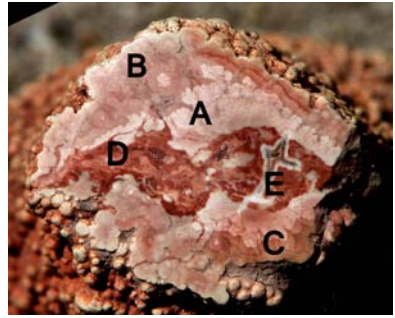


cause it does not have a marrow cavity or bone lamellae. Warty surfaces like this are frequently found on the outsides of arthropod burrows because the animal lines the burrow with spit and sediment balls—but the warty parts of these structures are inside and on the exterior, so this is not a shrimp burrow.

The flowery appearance of the growth indicates that this is caliche, one of those sedimentary features that often gets little attention.

Caliche is a hard water deposit on steroids. Caliche forms in dry areas like North Texas when more water evaporates from the surface of the ground than falls as rain. Ground water dissolves minerals like calcium carbonate and gypsum from the soil and rock. When the water evaporates at the surface, these minerals are deposited in flowery growths called “efflorescences.” The climate in Seymour is so dry that caliche is growing right now. During the Permian (about 250 mybp), the climate was even drier because we find bands of caliche in the soil. Each band represents an ancient soil layer.

We can even tell the history of the caliche deposition. The interpretation is based on what covers what.



- A. White layer was deposited in a nearly flat crack in the dirt. Note the white flowers.
- B. The pink layer covers the white, and it has the same shape of flowers but contains more iron.
- C. Layer B was partially covered by darker pink laminations. The laminations indicate that crystal growth was much slower.
- D. The blob fractured, and the dark red layer of sediment was deposited along with fragments of Layers A and B. This is a mini-sedimentary dike.
- E. Since Layer D is made of sediment and not hard caliche, it shrank and cracked in the process of drying. This crack was filled with a quickly-deposited rind of fine-grained white material followed by very slow growing clear crystals making the darker band inside the white. This looks like an agate filling but is still carbonate.

Were all these layers deposited 250 million years ago? That actually would be easy to tell because young carbonate has a carbon deltaC13 signature well within the 50,000 year sensitivity range for the method. It just costs money to have the analysis done, and there are probably better uses for the resources right now—like having more specimens mounted.

I conclude that the warty bone-looking thing is really an inorganic crystallization of carbonate and possibly gypsum. I wonder if Dr. Bakker would mount this in the display case in the hall full of small curiosities (coprolites and skulls of amphibians and sharks)? Doubt it.

HGMS at the AFMS 2012 Bulletin Editors' Contest—How We Did
by Phyllis George
 HGMS Newsletter Editor

It's August 15, and I was just e-mailed the results of the 2012 AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest. HGMS can be quite proud of itself! Every entry that was forwarded to the AFMS by the SCFMS contest judges ranked in the top ten of its category. Those who ranked in the top three in their categories will receive a plaque. No small feat. The HGMS results are listed below along with their categories. The SCFMS results will be announced soon—August 26 at the SCFMS Annual Show in Jasper, TX.

Name	Rank	Category	Title	Month
Phyllis George	3	Large Bulletin	The Backbender's Gazette	February & September 2011
Kemp Maer, Ph.D.	2	Advanced Adult Article	Geologic Stories Told by a Texas Gully	September
Albert J. Robb III	4	Advanced Adult Article	Some Interesting Paleozoic Sharks of Texas	November
Aliza Giammateo	3	Adult Article	Life Lessons from Rock Hunting	May
LaVon Westfall	4	Adult Poetry	Rock Hound's Lament	November
Kemp Maer	9	Adult Poetry	The Arrow Point	October
Noelle Skubal (10 years old)	1	Junior Article	Our Topaz Mining Adventure	January
Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.	2	Feature	Archeology Group Field Trip to McFaddin Beach	July

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The Bench

by Ed Clay

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I sit at the bench to create,
 Might be an opal
 or a tourmaline crystal,
 Or even a common carnelian
 as the core.

Then metal and fire
 rule
 as one is shaped,
 Then the other
 used to construct.
 The Goal to create
 some image,
 some setting
 for the core
 that presents,
 that embellishes
 the beauty of it.

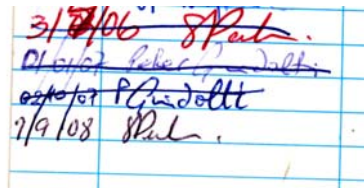
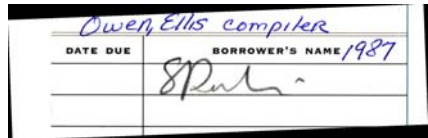
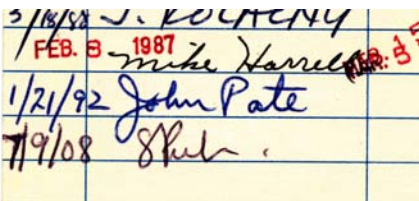
Hands
 skilled from experience
 manage the work.

I sit at the bench,
 My ability
 to envision beauty
 is exercised and enjoyed,
 The results,
 Some small bit of beauty
 is made
 from the whole cloth
 of my mind,
 I sit at the bench.

Lost Library Books

by Neal Immega

I need your help in tracking down some lost library books. One case is for three books taken out in 2008. My problem is that I cannot read the signature. Does anyone recognize it?



Lapidary Section Auction

by Ed Clay

The Lapidary Section is having its annual auction Saturday, September 8 at the clubhouse. Already we have plenty of good items—agates, jaspers, petrified woods, jewelry items, books, trim saw and tumblers, all items that might fill the needs of the learning lapidary hobbyist or the up-and-coming professional lapidary.

This is a once-in-a-year occurrence. Lapidary Section will furnish the meat dishes. If you wish to bring a covered dish, come join us for lunch (to start at 12:00 noon). Already coming are green bean almandine, a pasta dish, potato salad, and a dessert. The auction starts around 1 p.m. So please come and enjoy the event.

Archaeology Section

August 2, 2012

by Burton Dworsky

The Archaeology Section held its monthly meeting on August 2, 2012 at the HGMS clubhouse with six present. The meeting was called to order by Garth Clark at 7:30 p.m.

Old Business

The group was reminded that a trip to McFaddin Beach was discussed and tentatively set for either September 22 or 29. For details on these trips, please contact Terry Proctor at auraman@swbell.net.

The topic for the November meeting will be China and the amazing things found there.

Presentation: Dr. Clark presented information on Pre-Clovis people and how archeological finds are rewriting the history of the Americas and how they were populated. Until as recently as 2000, many believed the Clovis people, 13,500 to 13,000 years ago, were the original Americans. But now it is fairly well established that there were people on the American continents as early as 5000 years before the Clovis people, and they ranged all over the continents. The age has been verified by radiocarbon dates and DNA from human coprolites which predate Clovis from Paisley Cave in Oregon while artifacts from widely separated sites of the same age show remarkable similarities. What remains up for debate is how did these people get here?

Show and Tell: Douglas Dodds brought some American Civil war bullets from, among other places, the Battle of Charleston. While some were lost prior to being fired, several had been fired.

Jon Hart impressed us with several cases of Native American projectile points and several pieces of Caddoan pottery.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Finally, a reminder that the Archaeology Section meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the HGMS Clubhouse, and the next meeting will be September 6, 2012. So, if you have an interest in archaeology, would like to give a presentation, or have some artifacts to show, please come out, join us, and have some fun.

Mineral Section Programs

by Paul Brandes

September 5, 2012

Welcome back! Typically our first regularly scheduled meeting after the summer hiatus, this evening's presentation will be a synopsis of each member's summer mineral collecting adventures. Plenty of time will be available for short presentations, show and tell, and socializing with other members. Attendees are encouraged to bring in their summer finds (clean or not) to display. Refreshments will be available.

September 19, 2012

Arkansas Minerals: The second in a series of "locality" presentations, Section Members will gather to discuss the geology and minerals of Arkansas. The State of Arkansas contains many fantastic minerals—from the famous quartz crystals of Hot Springs, to the Crater of Diamonds, to the rutile and brookites from Magnet Cove. Arkansas was also a favorite of longtime HGMS member Art Smith, who was an expert on Arkansas geology and minerals and who over his life amassed an extensive collection of minerals from around the state. This evening's presentation will focus on the geology of Arkansas, why it has such a wide variety of minerals and how they got there, and the still accessible collecting areas for finding your own Arkansas treasures. All members are encouraged to bring and display Arkansas specimens from their collection. Refreshments will be provided.

Inda Immega, Tina
Wood, & John
Cooper at HMNS
Paleo tour
(07/29/2012)
Photo by
Terry Proctor



Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Neal Immega at
n_immega@swbell.net.

Remember Your Club in Your Will

by Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.

Many organizations provide to members a suggested clause to put into their Wills, so when they pass on, they can assist the organization which they belonged to, cherished, and which gave them so many happy memories. The HGMS Board asked the attorney who has been doing legal work for the Club for many years (Terry Proctor), to draft a clause that HGMS members can copy and provide to their attorney to begin the process of including Houston Gem & Mineral Society in their respective Wills. Here is that clause as a suggestion to aid your attorney.

Specific Bequest and Devise: I, the undersigned, in recognition of my many happy memories of, and in behalf of my fellowship with fellow members of, Houston Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (which is an IRS 501(c)3 organization and Texas "Not For Profit" Corporation), give, devise, and bequeath to Houston Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., from and out of my Estate, the following (then state a sum of money, or other asset(s) which you wish to leave to HGMS).

Note: The asset(s) you leave may be a sum of money; a percent of your net estate after taxes and debts; a specific collection of minerals, fossils, artifacts, or other tangible assets; certain stocks, bonds, or other specific assets; proceeds from something such as a patent or copyright; or other specific asset. Your attorney can help you state this bequest with specificity. It should be written in a manner that leaves no ambiguity as to what is being left. Without that preciseness, the bequest might otherwise possibly fail for lack of specificity.

This is called a specific bequest, and therefore, the residual bequest should state something to the effect:

Residual Estate: After having made the previous specific Bequest(s), I now make the following disposition of my residual estate as follows: (then the member will go into the distribution of all the remaining estate).

If you have any questions regarding this matter before contacting your attorney, you may call Terry Proctor at (713) 453-8338. Terry will not be able to give you legal advice, as that is what you have your own attorney for. However, he will try to assist you by answering questions about this suggested bequest for you to carry to your own attorney.

General Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2012

by Sarah Metsa

HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Visitors and New Members: Janelle Francis, a renewed member (she was a member for many years with her husband John Francis), visited with her cousin Susy Roberts. Susy and her husband Mark will be joining the club, and they are all interested in faceting and lapidary.

David and Susan Fitzhugh visited. They recently attended a Mineral Section meeting and are very interested in mineral specimens, but they are unable to join the club because they are moving out of the country next month.

Dee Young visited, and brought with her a large block of selenite that was given to her by a Saudi Arabian billionaire. Neal Immega commented that he has never seen such a large block of selenite. Dee is interested in obtaining an appraisal and possibly selling the specimen.

Prior Month General Meeting Minutes: Karen Burns moved that the May and June General Meeting minutes be accepted as published. Nancy Fischer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Show & Tell: Maryann Mitscherling passed around a variscite cabochon that will be added to the lapidary auction.

David Fitzhugh brought in a large number of mineral specimens from his time living in other countries. A mushroom tourmaline is his favorite specimen.

Drawing: Robert Thacker won the door prize, a specimen of Texas trilobite tracks from the Pennsylvanian era.

Program: The program, given by Neal Immega, was about the New Paleo Hall that just opened at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The hall, the best in North America according to Neal, is so big that there are three T. rex, a Triceratops with preserved skin samples, two Mosasaurs, and a truly giant sea turtle hanging in the sky. The Cenozoic Era is wonderfully represented and includes a gigantic shark attacking a four-tusk Gomphothere (a four-tusk pre-historic elephant). Also included from the Cenozoic Era is the largest sloth known to exist and a scene of a cliff with a *Mammoth* being chased over the edge by early Native Americans. The Paleozoic is populated by hundreds of trilobites and capped by a room of the best Permian fossils from the museum's own dig site in North Texas.

Officer, Committees and Section Reports

Education Committee: Sarah Metsa reported that a PMC class—making leaves and fossils—was held on Sunday August 22, and it was really a lot of fun. Currently being

scheduled are two lost-wax casting classes, a chain maille bracelet class, and an Intro PMC class. Contact classes@HGMS.org for dates and other information.

Gift to club: Diane Dare sent a small package of mineral specimens as a gift to the club. Diane serves as a judge for the regional and national Bulletin Writing Contests. Phyllis George presented the gift and gave it to Steve Blyskal for the Mineral Section.

Old Business

Door locks: The doors have been rekeyed. If you need a key, you may check one out from Charlie Fredregill. The keys are being tracked in order to maintain a current list of persons with clubhouse access.

501(c)3 Nonprofit Status Retention: In order to comply with the Harris County Appraisal District requirements to maintain our exempt status, it is necessary that our Articles of Incorporation be restated to provide for a new beneficiary of HGMS assets in case of dissolution. During the June General Meeting, Terry Proctor advised that the full description of the needed changes and discussion as to purpose was published in the July Backbender's Gazette. In line with this requirement, Nancy Fischer voted to amend the Articles of Incorporation by restating the portion defining HGMS beneficiaries, specifically that the Houston Museum of Natural Science is our sole beneficiary. Karen Burns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Casting Demo at Show: Casting demonstrations are performed during the annual show in November, and we are in need of 3–5 volunteers willing to learn how to demonstrate casting *and* who will be available to display that skill during the show now and at future shows. Please contact Charlie Fredregill at president@HGMS.org if you are interested.

New Business

Need a volunteer to represent our club at SCFMS Annual Meeting: The weekend of August 25 is the SCFMS Annual Show, and Saturday is the annual business meeting. A representative from HGMS is needed to attend the Saturday morning Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters (to accept certificates and plaques for HGMS winners) and to attend the SCFMS business meeting in the afternoon. This person will also be the official HGMS representative in any votes held during the meeting. *–Post General Meeting note:* Dr. Garth Clark volunteered to attend the breakfast and the SCFMS meeting and to report back to HGMS on society business.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved and John Mitscherling seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2012

by Sarah Metsa

HGMS Secretary

X	President – Charlie Fredregill	X	Beading Rep – Jillynn Hailes
X	1 st Vice President – Bill Moore		Faceting Rep – Gary Tober
X	2 nd Vice President – Beverly Mace	X	Lapidary Rep – Phyllis George
X	Treasurer – Rodney Linehan	X	Mineral Rep – Sigrid Stewart
X	Secretary – Sarah Metsa	X	Paleontology Rep – Mike Dawkins
X	Past President – Steve Blyskal	X	Day Light Rep – Nancy Fischer
		X	Archeology Rep – Terry Proctor

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. with a quorum of seven members present.

Previous Month Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the July 2012 Board Meeting were published in the August 2012 BBG. Terry Proctor moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as published. Nancy Fischer seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rodney Linehan was present. He provided an update on each bank account, and he reported that HGMS is in good financial condition.

Officer, Committees and Section Reports

Beading Section: Jillynn Hailes brought in a bracelet she completed during the most recent Beading Section meeting. The August project uses tila beads which are 5mm x 5mm square beads with two parallel holes.

Daylight Section: Val Link is teaching the Section how to make pewter olive spoons.

Faceting Section: The August meeting will be about faceting banded and multicolored stones including discussion of the best cuts to highlight patterns and inclusions. There will also be discussion about stones to include in the Faceting Section's display at the club's annual show and about changing the meeting time because the 6:30 meeting time is difficult for many to attend.

Lapidary Section: Ed Clay gave the July program describing how to do intarsia on cabochons. The auction is scheduled for September 8. All are invited to attend. The lunch begins at 12 noon, and the auction will start around 1 p.m.

Mineral Section: The August 15 meeting will be about methods and techniques for collecting minerals without damaging specimens. Starting in September, they will return to their regular two meetings per month format. The first September meeting will be a welcome back meeting to cover summer-time adventures. The second September program will be about the Minerals of Arkansas.

Paleo Section: They are “still talking about old dead things.” The July meeting was a preview to Neal Immega’s program for the July General Meeting. There was also a fieldtrip to the new Paleo hall at the HMNS. Sunday, August 29, Neal and Inda Immega took groups around the Paleo hall and provided in-depth explanations of the displays. John Mitscherling took excellent photos, and several are in this issue on pages 22 and 23.

Archaeology Section: Two fall fieldtrips are planned, one to dig points in Bell County and another to McFaddin Beach.

Education Committee: Two casting classes and a beginning wire wrap class have been scheduled. Also a beginning fabrication class will start the end of September. E-mail classes@hgms.org for information and to enroll.

School Days: Attended a home school convention the first weekend of August. There was very good reception of the club and its purpose and many attendees signed up to receive information about our annual show.

BBG & Web site: For a short time our Web address was misdirecting. This has been corrected. For submissions to the September issue of the BBG, the due date is August 8, 2012.

General Meeting: Charles Finsley, curator of the Earth Sciences Department at the Dallas Museum of Natural History for 34 years, will give the program. The DMNH will soon move to a new downtown Dallas building and will become the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. All the many creatures Finsley dug up and prepared for exhibit will find a place in the new museum. The General Meeting program will be about the Texas Mammoth, a 32-foot long Mosasaur, a dino-age Sea Turtle, several huge Cretaceous fish, some very nice Texas invertebrate fossils and a story about our state stone, fossil palm.

Show Committee: The show is only about 100 days away and so a show meeting was held on Tuesday July 31. The billboards are finalized, the show advertisement in The Chronicle’s Fall Bazaar insert is complete, and ads have been placed with all three mineral magazines. There was discussion about the need for a year-round publicity committee, not just to publicize the show, but to promote the club as a whole.

Old Business

Flag and Certificate: Former member Mark Villanueva gifted a US flag and accompanying certificate to the club. Both are framed and ready for hanging in the General Meeting room. The package that the flag and certificate came in had Mark’s return address, an APO, but the address was lost and we cannot write to Mark thanking him for his extraordinary gift. If anyone knows how to contact Mark, please send his information to Phyllis George (webmaster@hgms.org) or Sarah Metsa (classes@hgms.org). (*Editor’s Note: Mark contacted me, so all is well!*)

Building Fund funding considered: The Board had a preliminary discussion of this year’s Christmas Party and where it could be held, as we are outgrowing room in the

main meeting room for this event. A member offered a location, and it now is under consideration.

During this discussion, Terry Proctor stated that the Board needed to get serious about funding the Building Fund which was set up several years back, as HGMS needs more room for classes, shop, meeting area, and storage. He mentioned that Neal Immega, he, and a few others had given Outreach Program talks and presentations on Earth Science for several years. Terry stated that at Harvard Elementary School (a Houston Magnet School) after two talks there, one to 72 students and one to 100 students, he had received approximately 50 letters from students after each visit. Those hand-written letters, all containing hand-drawn pictures of dinosaurs and other natural history objects, plus references to parts of his talk, would be good to include in the planning for mailings to chemical and oil companies requesting a grant to HGMS for our Building Fund to be able to carry out more educational programs.

To this end, Terry suggested asking members to remember the organization in their Wills. He said that he could draw up a provision for HGMS members to take to their attorneys for inclusion in their Wills. The Board liked this idea and asked Terry to draw up a suggested clause for publication in the BBG so that HGMS members could consider this and take this suggested section to their own attorneys to discuss putting something along this line in their own Will.

New Business

Dunn-Southwest: Terry Proctor reported that he has been reelected to the Dunn-Southwest Board of Directors for 2012–2013. He stated that if the HGMS Board wished to substitute someone else in his place, he had no objection. The Board's stated consensus is that they wanted Terry to remain on the Dunn-Southwest Board as the delegate from HGMS.

American Land Access Association: Terry Proctor reminded the Board that both HGMS and he personally are paying dues to the American Land Access Association (ALAA). ALAA puts out a quarterly news bulletin for members, and Terry receives both copies. He will bring the HGMS copy of ALAA's quarterly publication to the club and put it in the Library for members who wish to read it.

BBG and Web Site Awards: Phyllis George has thirteen plaques (both SCFMS and AFMS) that she has been awarded so far for the BBG newsletter as well as some plaques for the Web site. She has been notified that she has won additional plaques for the 2012 contests, too. If the club has a suitable place to display them—probably the General Meeting room—she will donate them to the club. We will look for space to hang them so writing on the plaques can be read.

Annual Board Elections: A nominating committee must be announced in September which means that President Charlie Fredregill needs people to be on the nominating committee. This is an important, short-term committee that is required by club by-laws. Please contact Charlie at president@hgms.org for information.

Adjourn: Nancy Fischer moved and Terry Proctor seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

*More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at
facebook.com/BenchTips or
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/*

News Items of Interest

Intro to Faceting: Ron Gibbs has a nice presentation on faceting that is particularly well illustrated. It's from a seminar he gave at the Michigan Geology and Gemological Society.
<http://theimage.com/faceting/>

Freeform Gem Carving: Have you ever wondered how to carve and polish a freeform gemstone? Hans Meevis, a jeweler from Saint Martin, has a nicely done tutorial on his work with a 10 ct Aqua. It's definitely worth a read. Enjoy!
<http://www.ganoksin.com/borisat/nenam/freeform-gem-carving.htm>

BenchTips for the Month

Raising A Cabochon: When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or to boost up the stone. Question is, what do you use to elevate your cab?

I was taught to use fine sawdust, but now I think that there's a better solution, especially for use in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose. In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.



Brad Smith

Tip for a Transparent Cab: When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I worry that the silver will tarnish under the stone and will destroy the brilliance of its color and pattern. So I take one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish.

This Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

HMNS New Paleo Hall Residents--Living in Luxury
Photos by John Mitscherling
HGMS Tour Led by Neal and Inda Immega on 07/29/2012



Acrocanthosaurus



Plesiosaur



Neal (pointing)
with
Dimetrodon

More photos by John Mitscherling

Turtle
encounter
with
T-rex



Hapless Human tossed by marauding
Mammoth



Advertising and Promoting Gem & Mineral Clubs

by Keith Harmon

Show Chair of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Club in Tyler, TX
from Gritty Greetings 08/2012

The following is a synopsis of different methods of advertising and promoting the gem and mineral clubs. We thank Keith for his input.

The very best advertisement is to **mail a post card to the people who have attended the previous shows**. This entails registering attendees' mailing address, perhaps with the grand prize tickets, and keeping the addresses in a database for future mailings. After a couple of years of without attending the show, the names could be removed from the database. Have the attendees write on the cards for the grand prize drawing how they found out about the show, and that will give a good indication of how we should divide the advertising budget. The people are most likely to return the following year if they know when and where the show will be, so the post cards to the previous attendees is an absolute must for advertising.

Publicize all events of the club, such as field trips, work days, and meetings. (Most clubs have a calendar on the Web sites.) Newspapers, possibly TV and radio stations publish these as a public service. Always list when, where, and who to contact for more information. Do this with surrounding communities, as well as Waco. Do this monthly, and remember that some papers are published weekly, and have cutoff dates for information to be submitted.

If old members drop out for some reason, **drop them a note saying they are missed** and encourage them to return to the club. Their knowledge and expertise is always valued and needed.

Try to put up displays in the public library, bank foyers, office buildings, city buildings. These can be display cases of a general nature of lapidary arts, fossil or mineral displays, jewelry crafted by members, spheres, etc. Have...club contact information on the display. Display for a week, or a month, and rotate to another location.

Place newspaper advertisements from the Sunday before the show up until the Saturday of the show. Since we're spending money for the advertising, have them do an article in the Women's/Local Events section on Wednesday of the week of the show. The article could have pictures of club members preparing for the show and making spheres, cabochons, jewelry, and items for the Wheel of Fortune. State the times and dates, location, admission fee, grand prize, vendor materials for sale—jewelry, minerals, fossils, decorator items, geodes, anything having to do with rockhounding. Fun for the entire Family! **Be sure to include contact information for the club**, including the monthly meeting time and location.

Try to get them to send a photographer out on Friday (for HGMS—on Thursday) afternoon for photos of some vendor booths and interviews with vendors or club

members, to put in either Saturday or Sunday paper of “What’s happening this weekend!” instead of “what you missed this weekend.”

Take advantage of all radio and TV public service announcements. Call each one to get a contact name and what information they need to air it and WHEN it needs to be in their hands in order to get it on the air. Do the same for the monthly club meetings.

Also take advantage of early morning service spots on TV and radio to promote the show the week of the show. Most TV stations host a local event show and run your info for 2 to 3 minutes for free. For this you should have examples of what can be found at the show: jewelry, cut geodes, mineral specimens, fossils, etc. Contact the stations a month before the show, then follow up in two weeks. **Give free passes to the radio stations to give away on the air as prizes.** This will generate a mention of the show for free.

Ask the vendors to give away the 5 or 6 passes you provide to folks they meet at a restaurant, gas station, shopping center, or wherever. Ask that the vendor makes sure the person he gives it to is someone who doesn’t know about the show or wasn’t already planning to come. Send these passes out with the contracts (or later) to all vendors, with a note of how it works.

Invest a couple hundred dollars in yard signs (like political campaigns) that are reusable. Include no dates, and these will be reusable for years. Place these in members’ yards the week of the show. They should read:

Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show
Saturday and Sunday
Extraco Events Center

(Be sure to research city ordinances about sign sizes, etc., before placing any signs on public property.)

If city ordinance allows it, place some signs along roads that see a lot of traffic.

Hand out flyers to post on bulletin boards and in windows of gas stations, convenience stores, Doctor or Dentist Offices, and anywhere the public goes—restaurants, banks, hospitals (perhaps employee lounges)—anywhere you can place them. (*Editor’s Note: Remind the owners or managers that we are a nonprofit organization, dedicated to public education about the lapidary arts.*)

Talk to school science teachers. Encourage them to come and have the students bring a questionnaire for extra credit. Give the teachers free passes for his/her family as an incentive. The educational benefit for the students is that they will see things found only at gem and mineral shows. This is a fun event, and it is family oriented. This approach would also work with college professors and students, and could lead to future programs for the club meetings. Remember to give family passes to the teachers to encourage participation.

One publicity chairperson would have to have **help** in order to accomplish these things. A committee would work best.

Show Time 2012

September 29-30	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Resitol Expo Center M. Cutting: mollie_cutting@sbcglobal.net
September 29-30	Murfreesboro, AR	Crater of Diamonds State Park Diamond Discovery Cntr.;209 State Park.Rd. margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov; www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com
October 6-7	Arlington, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club 1010 N. Collins St., (Behind Walgreen's) Diagonally from Cowboys Stadium Collins & Randoll Mill Road jlspink@sbcglobal.net; agemclub.com
October 6-7	Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Mayborn Civic Center
October 13-14	Fort Worth, TX	LMRA Rockhound Activity 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd. Donna Pelikan, liznmarie@yahoo.com
October 19-21	Victoria, TX	Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Community Center, 2905 E. North St.
October 19-21	Austin, TX	Austin Gem & Mineral Society Palmer Event Center 900 Barton Springs Rd. Susan Postlethwait, www.gemcapers.com showchariman@austingemandmineral.org
October 26-28	Glen Rose, TX	Paleo Society of Austin Fossilmania Somervell County Expo Center, N. side of Hwy 67 at Gibbs Blvd.
November 3-4	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society Amarillo Civic Center, Exhibition Hall
November 3-4	Midland, TX	Midland Gem & Mineral Society Midland Center
November 9-11	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; www.hgms.org
November 17-18	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Resistol Arena

2012		September					2012
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
2	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting	5 7:30 Mineral Section	6 7:30 Archaeology Group	7	8 10-5 Shop Open 12-3 Lapidary Section Lunch/Auction	
9	10 1:00 Day Light Section	11 7:30 Show Committee	12 6:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	13	14	15 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 7:30 Paleo Section	19 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	20	21	22 10-5 Shop Open	
23 30	24	25 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29 10-5 Shop Open	

2012		October					2012
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 7:30 Board Meeting	3 7:30 Mineral Section	4 7:30 Archaeology Group	5	6 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
7	8 1:00 Day Light Section	9 7:30 Show Committee	10 6:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	11	12	13 10-5 Shop Open	
14	15 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 7:30 Paleo Section	17 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	18	19	20 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
21	22	23 7:30 General Meeting	24 10-3 Shop Open	25	26	27 10-5 Shop Open	
28	29	30	31 10-3 Shop Open				

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

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

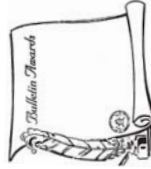
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- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005 - 1st (Large)
- 2006 - 1st (Large)
- 2007 - 1st (Large)
- 2008 - 1st (Large)
- 2009 - 1st (Large)
- 2010 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

- 1998 - 2nd (Large)
- 2004 - 3rd (Large)
- 2007 - 1st (Large)
- 2010 - 2nd (Large)
- 2012 - 3rd (Large)

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