



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

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society
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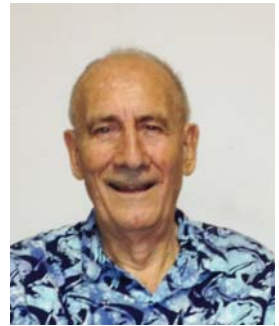
The Miner

by John Anderson

Member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society

I have been asked the question, what is a normal work day for a Hard Rock Miner? So here is my story. I first need to explain the experience I have in this subject.

From 1948 to 1975, the Miner worked with three different organizations, all of whom were involved in the mining industry where I worked as a mining mucker, miner, collector of ore samples for analysis, research technician, prospector, field geologist, and as a research chemist. With my family, I have also had mining claims for uranium, thorium gold, and a sagenite claim that was also a hard rock type of mining. I am telling you this because I feel qualified enough on this subject to tell you about the normal work day for a hard rock miner.



There are two basic types of mining operations that mine a variety of materials. The nearly endless list includes different items that are mined, such as a mineral composed of numerous different metals, or a mineral which has a certain chemical, or even sand and gravel. The most common mining is an open pit mine. Large amounts of material are mined from this open pit using a variety of very large equipment that is also used in

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General Meeting Dates

by Clyde McMeans

August 27, 2013: Inda Immega

September 24, 2013: Paul & Nathalie Brandes (tentative)

October 22: Garth Clark--Lunar and Martian Rocks

November 26, 2013: Biology professor from Sam Houston in Huntsville

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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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*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>.

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highway construction. When I say “large,” I mean LARGE. In an open pit, there are no tunnels or shoring. The second type is where a shaft or tunneling is done. This probably is the most common and the least expensive method for following a mineral vein.

I will base this story of a “hard rock miner” on myself working 2,700 feet underground.

The story begins at 6 a.m. Monday morning when I awakened at the Sunshine Mining Company Bunkhouse close to the town of Wallace and Kellogg, Idaho. I lived at the Sunshine Mining Company Bunkhouse because it was a very cheap place to stay during my summer vacation from my Geology classes in California. At that time, The Sunshine Mine was the largest producer of silver in the United States.



The Mining Bunkhouse was a good place to stay because you had a clean room and loads of good food for a very cheap price.

After freshening up some, I would stagger down to the chow hall that was on the same level and help myself to a variety of food for my breakfast, usually eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, or cereal. Being young, I usually ate almost everything in sight. During the breakfast meal, the cook would ask me how many sandwiches I wanted for lunch today which was usually three or four. Before leaving the chow hall, I always took a salt tablet because I learned in the beginning that when working in the high temperatures found deep in a mine, a salt tablet is a necessity.

Following breakfast, I walked to the Changing Room which was less than 100 feet from the Bunkhouse and where I kept my mining work clothes. When I entered the Changing Room, I would go to a marked and numbered spot to take off my street clothes and put on my mining clothes. My mining clothes consisted of steel-toed rubber boots, pants, shirt, helmet, and a battery-powered lamp that you fixed to your helmet. I would next walk to the mine entrance and join up with the mine foreman who told me on which level I would be working and who my mining partner would be for that day. It was almost a certainty that I would be working the same mining level with the same partner as I had the day before. And this day was no exception. It was the mining Timberman as before. I will use the Timberman as the person who is a step above a miner's pay scale in experience and who is paid more, and he was my mining partner for that day.

My partner and I walked less than 100 feet to a Mining Lift that looks just like a freight elevator. You would tell the Lift Operator which level you wanted to go to. We could not reach 2,700 feet down on this lift, so we were only taken to about 1,000 feet. When we exited the lift, we had to walk about a quarter mile to enter another lift for our final trip to 2,700 feet below ground.

This was a very old mine that had bought other mines and had connected them to different levels and to Lifts, so this mining operation now covered a huge area.

We exited the lift and walked about a quarter mile to the diggings where we had worked just a few days before. One of the first things I did was to remove my shirt for the rest of the day because of the high temperature and humidity. Then we sprayed the area with water trying to control the dust from our other day's work of drilling and blasting because breathing the dust can cause silicosis. We would then look to see if anything looked unsafe—like any overhanging, unstable-looking areas of the mining wall or ceiling where we had set our charges just a few days before. We had drilled multiple holes into the wall with a different fuse length for each hole. In this way, the first round of shots would loosen an area, and the other sticks would finish the job of blowing out the area that we wanted removed. We would count the explosions so we would know if all dynamite had exploded, but we still had to be watchful for any loose unexploded sticks that could be lying around. We would test the wall face and the overhead with a big pinch bar, trying to pull them down. The drilling of holes is done with a 90-pound pneumatic drill that had a drilling bit shaft that rotated by air pressure. Water also came out of the tip of the drill bit end to control the dust and to cool the drill, enabling it to last longer. This drilling operation is extremely noisy and will have an effect on your hearing years later.

We were using the stoaping method where we worked on something like a big mining table. The ore blasted loose by the previous day's work fell onto the stoaping table which can then be pushed through into a rail car that was directly below. The rail car, when full, is pulled by an electric motor car to a place where the miner is known as the "Candy Dancer" and whose job it was to use a sledge hammer to break the big rocks into small ones so they can be pushed through a steel grate. If the ore passes through the grate opening, it lands on a conveyer belt and is deposited in a dump truck for a trip to the smelter.

Back to my story. After finishing our preliminary work, we started our drilling operation for that day. That took most of the day with a short break for our noonday meal. I would try to find a comfortable rock to sit on to eat my lunch, but I never found one. After lunch we continued our drilling and packing the dynamite into the drilled holes, connecting the fuses to blasting caps, and prepared to leave for the day. Once we were ready to leave, we would light the fuses and walk down the mine shaft a safe distance and count the explosion as they went off. As I said earlier, we counted the explosions to know if all of the dynamite actually exploded. After the explosion went off, we walked back to our lift and reversed the process that had brought us to this level. When I left the mine that day, I was completely wet from head to toe due to my perspiration. I looked like I had just jumped into a swimming pool.

After leaving the mine entrance, I walked a short distance and entered the change room where I retrieved my street clothes, showered, washed my mining clothes, then I dressed in my street clothes and headed toward the Bunk House for additional cleaning and dinner. The dinner consisted of huge platters of steaks or chicken with tons of vegetables and desserts.

So concludes the day as a miner. But I feel I should try to answer the big question—Why does a person want to be a miner? I will try to answer that question to the best of my ability.

I wanted to increase my knowledge about mining since I was studying Geology in school, it was an opportunity that could happen during summer vacation, and I could make some extra money with some adventure.

Some people become miners because their father or some relative was a miner, or they live near a mining town. Without any special education, you could work within a variety of areas that support the mining industry, such as timbers, or any of the hundreds of things needed to operate a mine, but to some it would not be the same. Without any experience except the desire to work hard, a person can get a mining job as a Mucker helping a miner or as a Timberman.

I have been presenting mostly the negative and almost no positive reasons to being a miner, but when you work in mining, there is a feeling of satisfaction at being able to do a job that is almost impossible under many circumstances. That helps create a feeling of fulfillment.

I had Geology friends who would go underground on Friday after school and who would stay until Sunday, spelunking or cave exploration just for the feeling of adventure.

On occasion I have been talking to a miner as we walked down a mine tunnel when he said that is where his father was killed. Many things can be very dangerous—in addition to normal cave-ins, explosions from the buildup of flammable gas can occur.

This mine had the prestigious position as being the biggest producer of silver in the U.S. when I was working there, but looking at its record years later, I also read that it had the largest number of mining fatalities in U.S. History. The Sunshine Mine is now closed, so let me end with this sentence:

When the mine is completely silent and no drilling can be heard, sometimes there is the sound of shifting timbers that sounds somewhat like moaning. When that happens, it sounds like a living entity—and maybe it is—suffering the damage that man has done to Mother Earth's insides.

I Met an Angel

A Real Story for Today

by Paul Good

from the SCFMS Newsletter 7/8/2013

Margaret and I went walking one day at the hospital. We try to walk four or five days a week. Margaret had stopped to talk to one person, and I just kept walking. I met a man, who is an xray technician, and I asked him “how he was” and he said, “I’m Good.” Jokingly I said “Oh, your name is Good, so is mine, and I have been Good for 76 years.” He said, “Well, you have me beat, I haven’t been Good very long, but I have been an Angel for 28 years.” You guessed it. His last name was Angel.

2013 HGMS Show Update

by Theresa and Chris Peek

2013 HGMS Show Chairs

It's August in Houston which means it's HOT, it's almost back to school time, and the HGMS show is just around the corner! Have you been wondering what's been happening with your Show Committee? Well here is the latest and the greatest!

For our 60th show we will be doing something new! If you have been to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, you may have noticed all the artwork done by students. This year HGMS will be starting its very own art contest. All of the artwork will have an earth science focus. Since this is a new idea, the prize money was not budgeted for 2013, and we need \$500 to cover the prizes. We already have \$125 covered as the Show Chairs donated that amount, which was their donation from their April gemstone sale. Not wanting the prize money to come out of the show budget, the Peeks are going to host another gemstone sale on Saturday, September 7, and 10% of gross sales will be donated to the prize fund. More information about the sale will come out via e-mail as we get closer. If you are interested in being a judge for the art contest, please contact Theresa Peek for more information.

Many dealers are coming back, but a few have decided to leave us, mostly because of their relocation or that they are getting older. Although we will miss them, it has given us an opportunity to bring in some new dealers whom we are excited to have join the HGMS Show family. Stay tuned for an announcement in next month's BBG about these new dealers. We are also revamping the corridor area—demo is moving to the side hall by Hospitality so we can bring in more dealers!

Unfortunately there is one piece of bad news for the show this year—costs have gone up, which means that ticket prices are increasing. Tickets at the door will be \$8—seniors (65+), teachers, students, and anyone with a coupon will be \$7, and children 10 and under will be free. Coupons, which are good for up to four full-price tickets, are available on our Web site. But an even better idea is to purchase your tickets through the club ticket mailing; then you only pay \$6 a ticket!

Talking about the ticket mailing, mark your calendar: the post card labeling party is 9/28/2013. Come by at 10 a.m. to help us put address labels on post cards. You'll be helping out your club, plus you'll get a free lunch! Another date to remember is 10/19/2013. Gather up all the rocks, minerals, gems, jewelry, and fossils you want to donate and come to the clubhouse for our Pre-Show Pizza Party and Auction. Remember your checkbook since you might find some great things to buy! (More info about the party and auction to follow.)

Theresa and Chris Peek

2013 HGMS Show Chairs

ladyt682@hotmail.com; 281-685-7610

2013 HGMS Lapidary Section Cutting Competition

by Edward Clay

HGMS Lapidary Section Chair

The HGMS Lapidary Section is pleased to announce a new cutting competition that is open to all who wish to participate. This contest requires a solid effort in cutting skill and material choice since judging criteria will look at both severely. Again, let me state that all who are willing to enter and who feel up to the challenge are welcome, and I hope all have fun with this competition.

Cutters' Competition

*The Houston Gem and Mineral Society Lapidary Section
is offering a cutters' competition.*

Open to all cutters. It is a judged competition based on R.O.L.E. judging Guidelines. (R.O.L.E. guidelines are available on the <http://www.hgms.org/> Web site—scroll down on the home page to the Lapidary Section information; click on the <Lapidary> button, and then click on the <R.O.L.E. Program> button.)

First Prize will be \$200; Second Prize is \$100.

- The entries are due no later than September 15, 2013.
- **The materials to be cut** are Chrysoprase, Imperial Jasper (red or green), and Labradorite (or Spectralite).
- **The cuts will consist of:**
- **A pair of stones** cut to match the H.G.M.S. Lapidary Section's Template #4, the asymmetrical teardrop shape marked 15 MM in dimension (the two should be cut as mirror images of each other)
- **A single stone** to match the cushioned (pillowed) triangle 20 MM on Template #4
- **A single stone** cut to match the Marquise cut on Template #1 marked 30 MM
- The complete entry will consist of four (4) stones cut in three shapes as identified above.
- The templates can be ordered from the H.G.M.S. Web site <http://www.hgms.org>
- Send entries plus a \$15 entry fee and \$6 for return postage to

Phyllis George
22407 Park Point Dr.
Katy TX. 77450

Checks should be made out to the **HGMS Lapidary Section**.

The entries and awards will be on display during the HGMS show of 2013 and displayed November 8–10, 2013. They will be returned within three weeks following the show.

**THE FOLLOWING POINT FORMULA WILL BE USED FOR
EVALUATING ALL SUBMITTED STONES.**

MATERIAL CHOICE:

Quality of stone, proper orientation, placement of pattern 15 points

SANDING and GRINDING:

No flat spots or scratches, sufficient sanding was used, etc. ... 25 points

POLISH:

High luster, water-glass finish 30 points

SYMMETRY:

Dome, outline, curvature 15 points

Back bevel even and approximately 45 degrees 5 points

Bezel edge even (if present) 5 points

SIZE:

Accuracy of template size 5 points

A back bevel is required on all submitted stones. A bezel edge is allowed and not required, but it must be even and consistently cut if present.

The stones must fit the template used without being too large or too loose when finished and polished.

Judging will be done with the aid of a 10x jeweler’s loupe.

For questions, contact Edward Clay at edlapidary@Gmail.com

Beading Section

July 20, 2013

Photo and information Submitted by Nancy Fischer

The earrings in the picture were made by Dianne Sisson, Virginia Garza, Kathryn Kelly, Nancy Fischer. All use the same pattern, just different bead combinations.



Archeology Meeting Minutes

by Garth Clark

Archeology Section Chair

The meeting was called to order with about 10 members present. Originally we were to have a presentation by Dr. Garth Clark on several catastrophic floods which occurred as sea levels rose around 8,000–11,000 years ago and on their possible relation to archeologic finds as well as the mythology of several cultures. However, first came Show & Tell. The items proved so interesting and provoked so much discussion, there was no time for our planned talk.

First John Hart had brought several cases of arrowhead finds from Texas. These were grouped by type and represented one of the finest Texas collections I have seen.

Then Robert Moore talked about the items he brought for Show & Tell. The items were fascinating, and each could be a talk in itself. Included were several clay letters, one sealed in a clay envelope, written in the ancient Akkadian or Sumerian. Of note was the fact that one correspondence was between two female government officials, showing that in some ancient cultures women were literate and achieved positions of power. Also on the clay letter sealed in its clay envelope, there was an initially overlooked seal inscription, seen only when the light shone at the correct angle, which mentioned the previously unknown name of a suburb of Babylon.

The item which generated the most discussion was a foundation cone. A foundation cone was used by Sumerians and other Mesopotamian cultures beginning in the third millennium BC. These pegs were inscribed with cuneiform and embedded into walls or floors to serve as evidence that the temple or building was the divine property of the god to whom it was dedicated. This particular foundation cone was used in a temple dedicated to a war god Ningirsu by Gudea, governor of Lagash. He had just defeated a horde of barbarians threatening Sumeria and wanted to build a temple into the clouds so he could talk to the gods directly. Thousands of workers were imported, and work began around 2134 BC on a ziggurat which would tower 40 stories or 600 feet into the sky. Unfortunately, using heavy mud bricks led to a partial collapse before construction reached anywhere near that height. The resulting government investigation, all painstakingly documented on cuneiform tablets, laid the blame on all those foreign workers who spoke several different languages and didn't properly execute the building plan. Ur, where Abraham was born, was just eight miles downstream from Lagash.

After the discussion, there was just enough time to mention that the Archeology Section was to meet at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 11, for a field trip to view the "Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs" exhibit, and then head home before the sun rose. Oh, and now we have some money so we had our first-ever Treasurer's Report from Robert Moore. Thank you to everyone who supported the Archeology Section auction.

Mineral Section Programs

by Paul Brandes

September 4, 2013

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 & 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 18, 2013: To be announced (possibly a locality presentation)

October 2, 2013: Gem and Mineral Show Prep: This will be the first of two nights Section Members will gather to begin making preparations for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. This usually ends up being a fun evening of collecting stories and "tall-tale telling" in addition to getting some much-needed work done before the Show. Some of the work involved will be putting together teacher kits, organizing the fluorescent exhibit, determining who will be available to help with the Mineral Section booth, and other preshow activities. Come join us for a fun evening. Refreshments will be provided.

October 16, 2013: Gem and Mineral Show Prep: Continuing those last-minute preparations before the Show.

Refreshments Scheduled for the HGMS General Meetings in 2013

We have a donation jar—the "Sabre Tooth Kitty"—where members may make a contribution to help defray the cost of refreshments. So please remember to feed the "Kitty" while helping yourself to some sweet or savory snacks.

Name	Refreshment Months
John Caldyne	September - October 2013
Clyde McMeans	November 2013
Christmas/Holiday Party	December 14, 2013

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

Safety note: Keep Benadryl in your...*by Owen Martin**AFMS/SCFMS Safety Chairman**from SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2013*

Okay, first as a disclaimer I am not solely endorsing Benadryl—any similar generic or pharmacy brands with the same active ingredient (Diphenhydramine) are helpful.

But as to the point of the discussion...

As many of you know, I work as a safety manager for an oil field services company. Over the last few weeks we were lucky enough to have a good bit of rain at one of our facilities in south Texas, an area that is usually really dry this time of year. The result was the flowering of many types of plants that typically are in some state of dormancy during the dry times. And along with the flowers came the BEES! They weren't exactly swarming, but they still seemed to be everywhere.

To that point over the past week, we've had three employees stung by bees at the facility. Luckily none of these employees had strong allergic reactions to the stings, but it did make us reevaluate how we respond to such situations.

We do have an employee at the site who is allergic to bees and who as a result has an Epi pen in case he is stung. However Epi pens require a doctor's prescription, so I can't stock up any in our First Aid kits.

So as an alternative we stock Benadryl in our kits and offer it to employees if they are stung. Keep in mind that Diphenhydramine will not prevent or stop anaphylaxis (allergic shock) like an Epi pen; however it can delay the onset or otherwise mitigate symptoms of a bee sting. By delaying the onset of anaphylaxis, First Responders can be afforded more time to react to any shock symptoms. This extra time can save lives!

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. It typically causes a number of symptoms including an itchy rash, throat swelling, and low blood pressure. Common causes include insect bites/stings, foods, and medications.

My recommendation is that you all consider stocking liquid Diphenhydramine in your medicine cabinets and First Aid kits. This is especially important for those of us who like to spend a lot of time in the field.

Be safe!

General Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2013

by Michele Marsel, HGMS Secretary

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

Visitors and New Members:

- Maria Price is a member of the Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Club where she is active with their Junior Rock Club. She loved our display cases. Maria was in town visiting relatives and brought her Mother, Maria Villarreal, to the meeting with her.
- Other guests were Jade Mehaffie and her son Quentin, Ken and Andrea Bruneau, and Robbie Cassus.

Prior Month General Meeting Minutes: Karen Burns moved and Joan Riley seconded that the June 2013 General Meeting minutes be approved as published in the August 2013 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

Drawing: Nancy English won a fabulous slab of sodalite as the evening's door prize.

Show & Tell: Chase Jennings showed off his snakewood collection which he collected personally in College Station, TX. He also showed a number of arrowheads that he purchased that had been found in the Harper, TX area.

Announcements:

- Karen Burns announced that despite a recent and unexpected appendectomy, Mary Ann Mitschersling was still working on a new group metals order to take advantage of recent lower silver prices. The order will be placed after the August General Meeting with Hagstoz of Philadelphia. They offer good quantity pricing, and club members have been very satisfied with the quality of their materials. Any combination of silver, gold, or gold-filled wire, sheet, or casting grain will qualify towards quantity discount pricing. Contact Karen or Mary Ann to have your order included or if you have questions. Payment at the time of order is appreciated.
- David Hawkins also noted that Thunderbird Supply runs their Super Sale where any order of metals qualifies for the employee 500-ounce discount price during August and September, 2013. See their Web site for information: [Http://www.thunderbirdsupply.com/supersale.aspx](http://www.thunderbirdsupply.com/supersale.aspx)
- John Anderson let us know that Matt Dillon has now moved out to Beeville, Texas. John and Matt are planning a trip to the Nipomo, CA area—we all know Matt needs more agate!

Business: No business items were presented during the meeting.

Program: HGMS Member Jill Rowland Moffit presented a talk on Scarabs in conjunction with the new HMNS Egyptian exhibit. She talked about the history of scarabs,

their ancient uses, and materials from which scarabs were made. She showed pictures of many pieces from the HMNS exhibit. The dung beetle was the original model for scarabs, and Jill shared a very funny video from YouTube of live dung beetles gathering their dung with tongue-in-cheek narration.

Refreshments: Everyone was reminded to feed the Sabre Tooth Kitty with donations and thanked Michele Marsel for providing the evening's snacks.

Adjourn: Michele Marsel moved and Karen Burns seconded that the meeting be concluded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2013

by Michele Marsel

✓	President – John Caldlyne	✓	Beading Rep – Jillyn Hailes
✓	1 st Vice President – Clyde McMeans	✓	Faceting Rep – Gary Tober
✓	2 nd Vice President – Beverly Mace	✓	Lapidary Rep – Phyllis George
	Treasurer – Rodney Linehan	✓	Mineral Rep – Pete Stassi
✓	Secretary – Michele Marsel	✓	Paleontology Rep – Mike Dawkins
✓	Past President – Charlie Fredregill		Day Light Rep – Mary Ann Mitscherling
	Chris Peek, Show Chair	✓	Archeology Rep – Garth Clark

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. with a quorum of nine members present. Chase Jennings joined the meeting as a guest.

Previous Month Board Minutes: Pete Stassi moved and Garth Clark seconded that the minutes of the July 2013 Board Meeting be accepted as published in the August 2013 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Rodney Linehan sent July financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: Garth Clark reported that member Show&Tell was so interesting and extensive at the last meeting that it took the place of the program. Bob Moore brought a foundation cone (rare) and some rare coins and analysis on accompanying tablets, and Chase Jennings shared new additions to his collection. A field trip is planned for Sunday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m. to the new HMNS Egyptian exhibit.

Beading Section: Jillynn Hailes reported that new projects are on the club Web site. August features earrings that can be completed during the meeting.

Day Light Section: Tom Wright will demonstrate how to use the lathe at the August 12 meeting.

Education Committee: Charlie Fredregill reported that he, Val Link, and Nancy En-

glish have met as Education Committee members. We are still in need of a new Education Chair. The committee is working on assembling a list of all the classes that HGMS offers, what is being taught, and whom we have as teachers. More volunteers are needed, both as instructors and as participants in this Committee.

Faceting Section: Gary Tober reported that there was low attendance at the July meeting of the Section. The group discussed design of the Section case for this year's Show. One of the Section's faceting machines was sent out to be repaired, but no one knows who initiated the repair. The machine is back, and the repair bill has been paid.

Lapidary Section: Phyllis George relayed that the Section suggested to the Board that if the club mail slot is so hard to see (by postal carriers—thus leading to the mail not being delivered), perhaps we should highlight it on the outside with paint or tape plus a sign labeling the slot as a mail drop. It seems this contributed to mail not being received at the clubhouse for several weeks. Following the business meeting, Ed Clay taught intarsia at the July Lapidary meeting.

Mineral Section: Pete Stassi reported that no meeting was held in July. A field trip is planned for the weekend of August 16 to attend the Dallas Gem & Mineral Show and visit Fender's shop in the Dallas area. Next meeting will be August 21.

Outreach Committee: No activity until school starts.

Paleo Section: Mike Dawkins reported there was light attendance at the July meeting. Neal Immega showed pictures from his recent trip to Canada. No collecting was allowed, unfortunately, and the area had good Pennsylvania fossil exposure. Other Section members contributed to the meeting with good Show & Tell.

Show Committee: No report. Phyllis George asked that the Show Committee send her dates for the mailing label party, Show Auction, and other items needing to be published in the BBG.

Youth Section: Beverly Mace reported that attendance was light due to summer activities. Those that attended have begun working on their Show stones.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: Due date for the September BBG is Wednesday, August 7.

Old Business

- **Bylaws Update:** Michele Marsel stated that the goal is to send a draft of updates to Board members via e-mail for their review prior to the September Board Meeting.
- **HGMS Registered Agent:** Michele Marsel has completed the forms and will file them with the Texas Secretary of State to change the HGMS Registered Agent from Terry Proctor to herself.
- **2014 Dues:** No new discussion.
- **Club Renovations:** No action since last meeting. Michele Marsel will e-mail Dunn

SW to ask if they have a list of recommended contractors.

- **Education Chair:** We are still in need of a new Chair for this Committee. Committee members are meeting and active in the meantime.
- **Publicity Chair:** John Caldine announced his appointment of Chase Jennings as HGMS Publicity chair. Gary Tober moved and Phyllis George seconded to support the appointment. The motion passed unanimously. Chase Jennings reported he is already working on updating the Club trifold brochure.
- **Ceiling Tile Replacement:** Clyde McMeans has returned from vacation and will replace the stained ceiling tiles.
- **Safety:** Jim Kendall was assigned to pick out the security cameras and components and to purchase the new system. However, due to health issues, he has not been able to complete this yet. Gary Tober suggested that Jim put together an order online that could be paid for and picked up by someone else. Gary also suggested we check with Rodney Linehan about getting a debit card for the club checking account to facilitate the purchase. Michele Marsel will check with Rodney to see if he has any concerns regarding this. The process for using the HGMS Debit Card will be addressed at a future Board meeting.

New Business

- **2013 Dunn SW Board Meeting:** Terry Proctor and Michele Marsel attended the 2013 Annual Meeting on July 25, 2013. Terry requested that Michele be nominated to replace him on the Dunn SW Board, and the change was approved. The proposed monitored camera system was not approved as it was deemed too expensive, too cumbersome for member businesses, and too inadequate to meet surveillance needs. Dunn SW is now looking at replacing the existing private security service with nightly constable surveillance.
- Concrete repairs throughout the complex were approved along with a special assessment to cover this major work. One member company (a moving company) will be assessed at a higher rate due to extensive concrete damage caused by their trucks. All other members, including HGMS, will be assessed a one-time charge of \$2000 for concrete repairs. The HGMS Board will officially vote on the assessment when the bill is received.
- **HGMS Nominating Committee:** Michele Marsel reviewed the bylaws requirements for one volunteer from all seven sections. Section Representatives were asked to secure a volunteer by the September 3 Board Meeting to allow enough time for President John Caldine to officially form the Committee for announcement at the September 24 General Meeting. Phyllis George read aloud the Bylaws requirements for the Nominating Committee. Section Board representatives may serve on the Nominating Committee so long as they do not accept nomination for President, 1st or 2nd Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Phyllis volunteered to serve as Lapidary representative on the Nominating Committee.

- **New Show Venue:** Chase Jennings has been working with President John Caldyne to research locations to replace the Humble Center as our Show venue for 2014 and beyond. The Humble Civic Center communicated a huge price increase to John for 2014. Chase has done extensive research and reported on a comparison of the Humble Center, the Stafford Centre, and the Berry Center. Other locations were too expensive or not appropriately sized, so they were not fully researched.
- ◆ The Berry Center located in Cy-Fair has emerged as the frontrunner with 29,000 square feet (SF) of space overall (Humble has 22,000 SF and Stafford has about 25,000 SF). The Berry Center has a huge parking area compared to other locations, and preliminary negotiations indicate they are willing to waive the standard \$1.50 per car parking charge. The Berry Center does not allow outside food and beverage to be brought in, so Show hospitality would not be able to have their customary setup. All concessions will need to be purchased from the Berry Center, and they can provide space with tables and chairs where dealers and volunteers could relax away from the Show floor. The concession menu has different options and was reasonably priced compared to other catering options we have reviewed in the past. The Berry Center would assist our publicity by sending event announcements to their local list at no charge to us. Chase is looking into and has already received interest in monetary sponsorships from Cy-Fair neighborhoods and local businesses that could help offset the higher costs at this venue.
 - ◆ The proposed 2014 price increase by Humble Civic Center will make that space almost as expensive as the larger, more modern space at Berry Center—and Berry Center would allow us to expand dealer space. There is an issue (for 2014 only) with the Sunday date during our 2014 Show weekend. Chase will begin discussions with 2nd Baptist Church (who has booked the space that day) to see what can be worked out.

Adjourn: Charlie Fredregill moved to adjourn the meeting, and Phyllis George seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Oops!
Image from 2013
SCRIBE DVD

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

More Bench Tips are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) from The Rock Prattle 8/2013

Making Silver Solder from Scrap

Sometimes you need a lot of silver solder to complete a piece the way you want it to be. For me, it was when I was trying to join several castings. But I don't keep that much silver solder around, so I found a way to make my own from scrap with a little help from a penny.

First step is finding out what's in a solder. A search through the reference books (Tim McCreight or Erhard Brepohl) or a Google search will turn up recipes like:

- * Hard - AG 80% CU 13% ZN 7%
- * Medium - AG 70% CU 20% ZN 5%
- * Easy - AG 63% CU 30% ZN 7%

The silver (AG) and the copper (CU) are easy to come by, but finding some zinc (ZN) has always been my problem until I found out that our pennies are almost all zinc. According to Wikipedia, a US penny minted after 1982 weighs 2.5 grams and is 97.5% ZN and 2.5% CU. So all I had to do is add a penny to some copper and a pile of silver scrap.

I chose to use sterling scrap, so I adjusted for the amount of copper in it as well as the amount of copper from the penny. Get in touch if you want to see the math. Here's what I used for components of Medium solder:

- * Sterling: 36.90 grams
- * Copper: 9.35
- * Penny: 2.50

Note: you can always cut the recipe in half

Melt the silver and copper first in a melting dish, mix it well with a carbon rod or titanium solder pick, and add the zinc (penny) last; mix again, and pour into a small mold. I add the zinc last because melting it causes some to vaporize, **and the fumes are a safety problem.** (They're a gray-green color). Be sure to have good ventilation.

To check that the solder's melting temperature is correct (medium), I put a sample of the homemade solder on a piece of copper sheet along with a known sample of hard,



medium, and easy solders. I then heated the plate from the bottom and watched as the easy melted first, then the medium melted, the homemade melted, and finally, the hard melted.

Additional notes on converting the ingot to sheet, strip, or wire form: If you have access to a rolling mill, that will be the fastest way to proceed. Either roll out the ingot into a sheet and cut strips, or roll it out as wire if your mill has the grooves. If you don't have a mill, all you have to do is forge out the ingot into a rough sheet of the gauge you'd like and then cut thin strips with bench shears. Be sure to anneal the sheet every so often as you forge it.

Have Your Rock and Eat It Too?

*Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
from Chips and Chatter 7/2013*

At some point and time we all have probably seen the Rock Table by Bill and Lois Pattillo. That table is filled with food galore, except the food is really rock that just looks like food. About the only thing that is edible on the table is the Rock Candy. For a simple recipe for Rock Candy try <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/rock-candy/>. So what other Rocks, beside Rock Candy are there that are edible? How about Rock Fish? Try Grilled Alaskan Rockfish at

<http://www.askchefdennis.com/2013/04/grilled-alaskan-rockfish/>.

Then there is always Rock Cookies. For Lava Rock Cookies, try http://www.eatingwell.com/recipes/lava_rocks.html. If the cookies got your attention, how about Rock Cakes, also known as Rock Buns or Rock Rolls. For a fool-proof Rock Cake recipe, try <http://britishfood.about.com/od/recipeindex/r/rockckaes.htm>. I think everyone has, at one time or another, been told about Rock Soup. Does it really exist? Here is an answer and a recipe for Rock SOUP:

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20091005133143AAdiStF>. And finally, but perhaps not quite within the topic, how about Rock Ice Cream, or more common, Rocky Road Ice cream. I don't have a recipe, just some advice—visit your nearest grocery store. Trust me; they will have all you want!



Happy Prospector
via 2013 SCRIBE DVD

Field Trip Twelve Essentials

by Dean Norman

via *The CMS Tumbler* 6/2013, *The Hard Rock News* 4/2013,
and *Breccia* 7/2013

1. **Matches & Lighter:** Use “Strike-anywhere” matches. Whatever you do, don’t use “Strike-on-the-box” matches.” It is impossible to light “Strike-on-the-box” matches on anything other than the special striker strip on the box. Once you have the “Strike-anywhere” matches, place the matches in a waterproof case—small plastic waterproof match containers sold at sporting goods stores work fine—and include a striker. A piece of emery board makes a good striker. In very wet conditions, you’ll want to have a dry striker along with your matches. When you need a fire, you don’t want to mess around trying to light matches on wet rocks. Matches, which weigh nothing and easily fit in your pocket, are one of your most important survival tools. Not only does fire allow you to survive a cold, miserable night, but it is an important morale booster as well. Also, bring a Bic lighter. It can double as a fire starter to light the matches if the lighter flame gets low.
2. **Fire Starter Tinder:** Always include fire starter with matches. Always. There are times when even the best woodsman will not be able to make a fire without it. Fire starter assures that you can get the fire going quickly, no matter how bad the conditions. Place some fire starter in your pack, but also put a small chunk of fire starter along with your matches and a striker in a waterproof case. Toilet paper (dry) can also be a good fire starter. Another good fire starter is cotton balls dipped in petroleum jelly, then placed in a zip lock bag. They will light even when wet.
3. **Maps:** Many people who have been rescued could have easily gotten themselves out of trouble by simply having a good map along.
4. **Compass:** Even if you carry a GPS device, you still need a compass. Although GPS units provide a reasonably accurate fix of your location, they do not provide accurate bearings. If you know how to follow a compass bearing, you can guide yourself out of thickly forested areas, featureless winter landscapes, foggy sagebrush areas, etc.
5. **Flashlight, Extra Batteries, and Bulb:** A flashlight, or better yet a headlight, is another one of those tools, like a map, that is simple and cheap insurance. Should night overtake you, it gives you the ability to find your way back to the trailhead. The Glow-stick is another good light source. It is not good for finding trails in the dark, but it is a useful light for overnights.
6. **Extra food & water:** Having extra food and water is critical in emergency situations. It helps ward off hypothermia in cold, wet weather, and it keeps you thinking clearly in a crisis. Bring along a granola bar or energy bars—just a couple will help.

7. **Extra clothing:** Even if it's a sunny day and you're on a short day hike, you should carry at least a rain poncho. It keeps you dry and also serves as wind protection. A good hat (wool or pile) stocking hat is also high on the list of extra clothing since a large amount of body heat is lost through the head and neck area. When deciding what to take, stay away from cotton which is worthless when wet.
8. **First Aid Kit:** Be prepared for emergencies. Carry basic first aid supplies such as sterile gauze and pads, band aids, moleskin, etc.
9. **Pocket Knife:** With a pocket knife—a multipurpose Swiss Army knife is ideal—you can make field repairs, shave branches to make kindling, punch holes to repair a tarp, cut nylon cord, etc.
10. **Whistle:** Yelling doesn't go as far as a whistle. You can blow on a whistle all night long without getting tired, but if you yelled all night, you will most likely become hoarse and not be able to answer anyone calling who's looking for you.
11. **Hand-Held Radio:** A Talk-About, Midland, or similar hand-held radio, where everyone in the party is on the same channel and frequency code. People back at camp not going on the field trip should also have one and should know the channel and check-in times. Cell phones usually do not work well in the woods, and they do not always receive a tower.
12. **Shelter:** When all is considered, the best way of surviving wet snowy nights is to have some type of roof over your head and a dry floor under you. One of the best shelter options is a combination of a lightweight nylon poncho, nylon cord, and a lightweight space blanket. The poncho can be tied to trees or placed over a rudimentary snow shelter to keep out wind and weather—and in a pinch, it doubles as a rain jacket. Use a **nylon** poncho or tarp. **Avoid** plastic ponchos and tarps. They rip easily and become brittle in cold weather. For a dry floor underneath you, a lightweight space blanket is a good choice. They are inexpensive, light, and aren't much larger than the size of a bar of soap. Since such lightweight space blankets can tear easily, they are best used as a floor and not depended upon as a tarp over your head.

Polishing Argentium Silver

by Ronda Coryel

from The Rock Prattle 7/2013

I recently moved to Austin to start Jewelry Studies International where we focus on offering cutting-edge jewelry classes featuring Argentium Sterling Silver as the metal of choice. I have found that since moving here, my Argentium has tarnished more in six months than it did in six years in San Francisco.

The surface was starting to look dingy and slightly yellow or brownish. My theory is that there must be more sulfur compounds in the air here. I started experimenting with

things to try and remove it... vinegar, lemon juice, etc. Nothing seemed to help.

A couple of days ago, I received a call from Jeffrey Herman, founder of Society of American Silversmiths, regarding Argentium. He was the first person to try Argentium here in the United States. Peter Johns, the inventor of Argentium, sent some to Jeff to try. He fell in love with it and has been using it since then. In our conversation, the subject of tarnish removal came up. He told me to try **Windex or Hand Sanitizer**. I had Windex on hand and tried it immediately. Just spray it on, let it sit for about 15 seconds, then rinse. The tarnish was not bad to start with (it is Argentium of course). I was AMAZED at the results. Our thanks go out to Jeff for the information.

Lapidary Corner Shop Hints

from Stoney Statements 9/2012

1. **To get a high polish on onyx and other difficult to polish stones**, go through the complete process of making the cab from grinding to polishing in your normal manner. Then to the high polish: mix in a baby food jar or in any wide-mouthed glass, 3 tablespoons water with 9½ teaspoons oxalic acid, and dip your cab in this mixture. Go back to your polishing wheel for another run. You will be pleased with the results.
2. **Instead of dumping used acid** (oxalic, muriatic, etc.) down the drain where it can cause pollution and might damage the plumbing, try the following: put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware (do not use metal) with a piece of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can be safely dumped almost anywhere.
3. **Candle Your Montana Agate**: “Candle” your Montana agate just as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two-pound coffee can, turn it upside down, and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light will show the dendrites. This saves cutting time.
4. **Rubber should not come in contact with silver**. Never put a rubber band around any silver items or you will get a permanent stain.
5. **Fluorescent labels** can be read in the dark by using ink made by mixing quinine and water. It glows bright blue under black light.
6. **The Orangewood Stick**: One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough to not mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and reaches into impossible places.
7. **For the Silversmiths**: Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily. The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing-wheel threads, not on the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not

give the same results as a quality one. Bon Ami applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.

8. **Uses for Graphite:** On many occasions, black epoxy is appropriate instead of the customary gray. Make your own. Use black ground graphite shavings from pencils for your pigment. By thoroughly mixing with your epoxy, you will get a good black color.
9. **Richter Scale:** We hear a lot about the Richter scale which denotes the strength of an earthquake. This scale was developed by seismologist Charles Richter in 1935. Each number is 10 times more powerful than the previous one. Humans can feel a shock of two.

Notes from the President's Desk....February 2012

by Nancy Roberts
from *The Nugget* 2/2012

Editor's Note: This article was written last year by the president of the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Most of the information is readily transferrable to most other "rock clubs," including HGMS. So wherever appropriate, mentally replace the text with "HGMS."

Nothing like starting the year off with a "bang"! NMGMS's January meeting was very well attended, with an excellent presentation by Dr. Terry Panhorst and an abundance of very appetizing refreshments! There were several guests in attendance too, and we now have some new members. Welcome, David Hanes and Janice Watts! Speaking of members and membership, NMGMS has 42 out of our 133 total 2011 membership renewed so far.

So, let me spend a few minutes sharing with you what a membership in The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has to offer. First of all, not only are you becoming a member of one very outstanding organization, but since NMGMS is a member of both a regional and a national federation composed of other societies, you are also becoming a member of a whole family of rock and mineral clubs. So, what are the benefits of this membership? Well, on the local level, you have the opportunity to share your interest with a super group of very friendly, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and artistic fellow NMGMS members. You are also able to join in on the field trips and workshops sponsored by the club, not to mention all of the outstanding meetings, events, and programs offered throughout the year.

At the regional level, NMGMS participates in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' liability insurance program, whereby our members are covered at the club meetings and club-sponsored field trips. In having this insurance, NMGMS members can attend Dixie Mineral Council-sponsored field trips that provide us access to sites through other participating clubs. Also, we have access to a vast library of programs available for our use at club meetings, and we have the opportunity to partici-

pate in several scholarship programs for adult and junior members such as the stamp scholarship to the William Holland Lapidary School or the Junior Rockhound of the Year scholarship.

At the national level, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies helps with keeping us informed and up to date; whether it be in new land use regulations, safety issues, conservation, or any legislation concerning rock and mineral clubs, hobbyists, and collectors. Also, the American Federation sponsors a merit badge program that provides activities and badges to the junior members of NMGMS and to other participating clubs. Through the A.F.M.S. newsletter, members can stay abreast of the activities of the regional federations and other participating rock and mineral clubs. They also receive valuable information and advice covering such topics as managing a Web site or editing a newsletter. Too, when traveling around the country, NMGMS members can always contact a fellow rockhound or a gem and mineral club.

So you see, you really are joining more than just a rock and mineral club. It's like the commercial where there is a whole fleet of people standing behind the guy with the cell phone! For less than a dollar per month, you can become a part of all of this and much, much more. So, what are you waiting for? Come on and join in the fun!

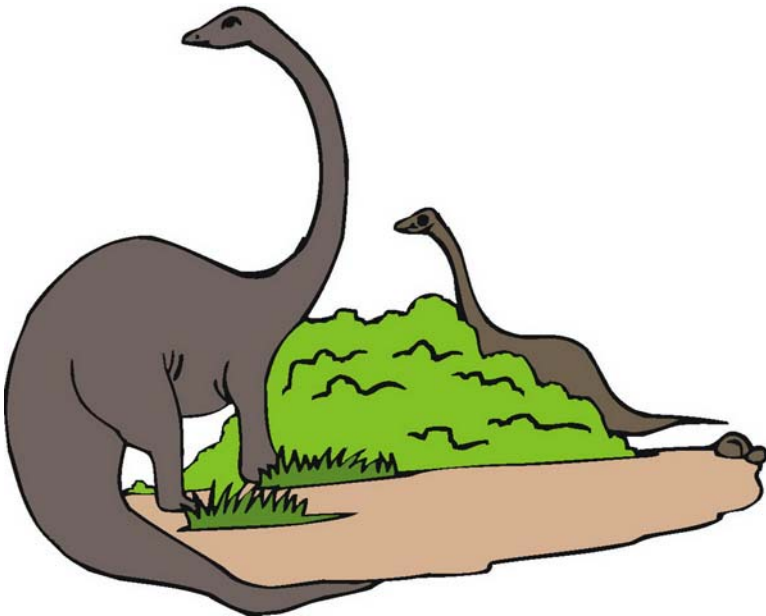


Image from 2013 SCRIBE DVD

SCFMS Annual
Convention and Show



AFMS/SFMS 2013 Annual Meeting
September 18th-22nd

Sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc
<http://www.iaxgemandmineral.org/> A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization



All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at the:

Marriott, Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786
(Mention AFMS meeting for \$82 room rate. Offer Expires
August 5, 2013.) (This rate is good from Sep 15th to 25th)

AFMS Uniform Rules - Wednesday 7pm
AFMS Annual Meeting - Thursday 9am
AFMS Scholarship foundation- After Annual Meeting

You are invited Thursday Night to Hanna Park at the
beach. Star Gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy
Society members and Telescopes (Saturn will be
spectacular!) Cook out provided by Host society JGMS.

Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society
gem, mineral, jewelry, fossil, bead
Show & Sale
Morocco Temple
3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, Florida 32224
September 20th, 21st & 22nd
Friday 1-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

Exhibits and Continuous
Lapidary and Jewelry
Demonstrations

\$3 each day or \$6 for all
three days. JGMS is a not
for Profit Organization
Children Under
12 free with
guardian

25th Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Sale

JGMS Annual Show and Sale Starts - Friday 1pm
SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting - Friday 7pm
SFMS Annual Meeting - Saturday 9am
ALAA Meeting - Saturday 2:30pm
Awards Banquet - Saturday 6pm
Editors and Webmasters Breakfast - Sunday 9am

40+ retail dealers, Fantastic exhibits and speakers from
around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, Lectures
on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations,
workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions and more.
Enjoy the Annual Jacksonville Gem Show!!!

Heavens and Earth

Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society,
25th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Sale
September 20-22, 2013 Morocco Temple



Show Time 2013

- September 14-15 Grapevine, TX Arlington Gem & Mineral Club
 Grapevine Convention Ctr., 1209 S. Main St.
 show@agemclub.org
 www.agemclub.org/events.php
- September 20-22 Jacksonville, FL Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society
 Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff R.
 E-mail: jason.b.hamilton@navy.mil
 Web site: www.jaxgemandmineral.org
- September 21-22 Denison, TX Texoma Rockhounds
 Denison Senior Center
- September 21-22 Austin, TX Austin Bead Society
 Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln.
 austinbeadsociety@yahoo.com
 http://austinbeadsociety.org
- September 28-29 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
 Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall
 1800 Rodeo Dr., I-635 at Military Pkwy.
 bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net
 www.DallasGemAndMineral.org
- October 12-13 Temple, TX Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society
 Mayborn Civic Center, 3303 N. 3rd
 ddunn2199@yahoo.com
 www.tricitygemmineral.org
- October 12-13 Fort Worth, TX Lockheed Martin RA Stone Steppers
 LMRA Picnic Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.
 steve.l.shearin@lmco.com
 www.facebook.com/#!/groups/132202050142082/
- October 18-20 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society
 Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.
 www.austingemandmineral.org
- October 19-20 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society
 Amarillo Civic Center
 400 S. Buchanan, Regency Room
 finfran@midplains.coop
- November 8-10 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; ladyt682@yahoo.com

2013		September					2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 Labor Day	3 7:30 Board Meeting	4 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	5 7:30 Archeology Section	6	7 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
8	9 1:00 Day Light Section	10 7:30 Show Committee	11 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	12	13	14 10-5 Shop Open	
15	16 7:30 Lapidary Section	17 7:30 Paleo Section	18 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	19	20	21 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24 7:30 General Meeting	25 10-3 Shop open	26	27	28 10-5 Shop Open	
29	30						

2013		October					2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 7:30 Board Meeting	2 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	3 7:30 Archeology Section	4	5 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
6	7	8 7:30 Show Committee	9 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	10	11	12 10-5 Shop Open	
13	14 1:00 Day Light Section	15 7:30 Paleo Section	16 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	17	18	19 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
20	21 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop open	24	25	26 10-5 Shop Open	
27	28	29	30 10-3 Shop open	31 Halloween			

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

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

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1998 - 1st (Large)
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2009 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 1st (Large)
2011 - 1st (Large)
2012 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

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

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