



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

*The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

Volume XLVII—No. 09

September 2016



President's Message

by Paul Brandes

Hello this month from the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan! I am writing this President's Message from Hancock, Michigan in the heart of the famed Copper Country. I'm currently overlooking the Quincy No. 2 Shafthouse. When I was younger, I used to work at this mine—first as a guide for both the underground and surface tours (the surface included the world's largest steam hoist), then in the Gift Shop, and finally as an Assistant Manager. Because I could do everything at the mine, I was given the honorary title of "Mine Captain," a title that has stuck to this day.



This trip to the Keweenaw has been extra special because I have managed to catch two mineral shows in Ishpeming and Houghton, as well as participate in the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club's annual Keweenaw Week festivities. This year's "Week" featured a presentation on diamond exploration in the Great Lakes region, four prepared mine piles for collectors to search for treasures, a mineral swap meet at Quincy Mine, a banquet and live auction, and an open house at a local gift shop that specializes in Copper Country minerals and historic items.

In addition to the activities, the Week is also a great time to catch up with the many mineral collectors from around the country who return year

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Upcoming General Meeting Program

by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President

September 27, 2016: Dr. Inda Immega will take us on a virtual journey to the **Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho** to have a brief look at the geology, the volcanic features that are preserved there, and the strangely delicate ecology fostered among those rocks.

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

Articles now are due on the 15th day of the month before the date on the BBG issue.

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Copy is due for the October 2016 issue by Thursday, September 15, 2016.

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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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after year to this magical place. I was very happy to talk with my extended family (of sorts) to discuss current issues in the mineral collecting world. Some very good points were made, not only on the future of collecting, but also at the shows I attended. Since these shows are quite small, it gave me a chance to discuss with the organizers what makes these smaller shows happen each year. The ideas I got might be very useful for our shows over time.

Unfortunately, this will be a short President's Message this month as Nathalie and I have to start packing for our return trip to Houston. While I'm looking forward to seeing my "four-legged children," I'm not looking forward to that infamous heat that Houston is known for. After all, I woke up this morning in Calumet, Michigan to 49 degrees; I'm sure most of you wouldn't mind a morning like that to wake up to in August!



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Katy Rock Shop

Worldwide Inventory of
Rocks, Minerals and Fossils

Fluorescent Room, Kid's Corner, Books,
Rock Hounding Tools, Artisan Jewelry,
Designer Showroom, Gemstone Decor



Sign up in-store or register at
www.fivestars.com to start earning points
to get rewards – which means store credits!

**HGMS Members receive
Double Points!**



535 Pin Oak Road

Katy, Texas 77494

One Block North of I-10

832-437-4733

Store Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-5:00

Katyrockshop.com



facebook.com/KatyRockShop

You Can Trust Your Rock to the Saw That Wears the Texaco Star or



Another New Old Saw for the Houston Gem & Mineral Society by Neal "shop foreman" Immega

Our shop's fairy godmother has waved her wand again. One of our members, John Kimbrough—who haunts junk yards, found a (really) heavy-duty 24" hydraulic feed diamond saw in need of work and gifted it to us. Its previous owner was Texaco. At one point, the saw was largely disassembled, possibly to clean it. Someone tried to get it working again with unsuitable parts, which could explain why it was sitting in a junk yard and valued at \$200 just for the steel and motor. We fixed all that and upgraded the hydraulic oil return line from 1/4 inch to 5/8". Iron Man John Cooper (who does our welding) moved the hinge for the lid from the inside, where it would interfere with cutting large rocks, to the outside. Why did the manufacturer not think of this? I also put in an automatic motor shutoff which is necessary to prevent blade damage.

The saw is a real workhorse because the hydraulic feed never stalls, even on big rocks. It cuts fast on small or soft rocks and slowly on large or hard rocks. I think that the throughput exceeds our other seven screwfeed slab saws combined. It cut the substantial piece of petrified wood shown in less than 20 minutes.



The saw took 20 minutes to cut a 10"x20" slice of petrified wood.

If anyone from Texaco recognizes this machine, please tell us something about where it was used.

Texaco Part Number on the saw



This is a wonderful saw, thanks to all the people who worked on this project—and thanks to Texaco for junking it.



Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore



August 4, 2016: Bob Moore (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A short discussion followed on future talk topics. Nancy asked the attendees to send ideas to her and also to consider volunteering for an office position in 2017. Nominations were being accepted. Bob then introduced the guest speaker, Douglas Mangum, who is a Principal Investigator with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. He and his colleagues have spent over 10 years excavating the San Jacinto battlefield.

Program: Douglas Mangum gave a talk entitled *"Canister and Grape: Artillery-related artifacts from the San Jacinto Battleground."* He first thanked Dr. Roger Moore and all the volunteers for their dedicated effort. Also, he acknowledged the Texas Park & Wildlife Dept. for allowing his team to excavate the historic site. Douglas stated that the Henderson Yoakum accurate battlefield map was critical in understanding the two-day battle. He pointed out that Santa Anna's Mexican army was comprised of professional soldiers with military weapons and training. They faced a bunch of "greenhorn" Texans with a few well-trained soldiers. The Mexicans used bayonets, but the Texans had two very accurate cannons called the "Twin Sisters," while the Mexicans had one cannon.

Douglas noted that only 5% of the battlefield south of the San Jacinto Monument has been excavated. The first day of the battle was a standoff, and the excavations have yielded the positions of the cannons and troops! On the second day, the Texas cavalry acted as a diversion, which allowed the infantry to flank the Mexican left wing. The Mexicans shot their canon at the cavalry, which was about 900 yards away. To do this, they had to tilt the barrel up. But, their main purpose was to harass the cavalry.

Douglas said that the Texans wanted the Mexicans to fire at the cavalry. This allowed the infantry to move in, and by the time the Mexicans adjusted their cannon to shoot at the Texans, they had moved in close—so only 40 Texans were killed. The Mexican cannon barrel was aimed too high and shot over the troops. So even though they could shoot fast (6-rounds per minute), little damage was done, and the battle ended quickly.

About 1400–1500 artifacts, including lots of munitions, musket balls, gun packs, bayonets and tools, ram rods, cavalry spurs, horse shoes, tackle and saddles, buckles, uniform threads, seven canister plates, and lead ingots have been recovered. In addition, almost 100,000 pieces of trash including coins and pull-tabs have been found! Investigations have determined that the Texan cannons were probably 6-pounders that used French-style canisters with clay plates that shot 1.15"-diameter lead balls called "grapes" along with lead ingots. This is called "double-shotting."

The Texans chopped up lead ingots which came from the Mississippi Valley, and they put them in the canisters with the balls. But, the ingots tended to fuse into masses due to heat and pressure. When the lead masses were excavated, it took time to determine what they were. There is no evidence that chopped-up horse shoes were used as reported. So, the Texan cannons acted like "shot-guns" and sent "clouds of doom" at the enemy. They shot a distance of about 100 yards and 30 foot wide, and were very effective up close. In contrast, the Mexican cannon was probably an 8-pounder that used

canisters without plates, but had rods to arrange the copper balls. It was an old-style Spanish cannon that became a "trophy" of the battle and was used on a Texan schooner during later conflicts. Douglas concluded by stating that archaeology is separating reality from legend. Q&A followed the talk, and the meeting was adjourned a 9:10 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, future expeditions will welcome volunteers.



Two canisters, plates, and large cannon ball



Bob Moore (left) with Douglas Mangu (right)

September 1, 2016: Italian archaeologist, Claudia Penati, will give a talk on *"The Etruscans and the Magnificence of their Aristocracy."* You will learn about the most important and powerful population of Italy before the rise of the Roman Empire. Come see the splendor and luxury of the culture from archaeological evidence found in their tombs, grave goods, and palaces that have survived. Don't miss this outstanding talk.

Show Postcard Labeling Party
Saturday, September 24, 10:00–1:00
by Scott Singleton
2016 HGMS Show Chair

It's that time of year again! The Annual Show is in November, and it's time to send out our lovely postcards to all those on our distribution list. We have a little over 5,000 of these to label, and we do this at the clubhouse on a Saturday about two months before the show. We need everyone's help to get through the list quickly. Beverly Mace will have everything sorted into stacks of labels and will instruct everyone on the proper technique. All we need is able bodies who would like to help the show effort. So, please come out on **Saturday, September 24!** After we finish, the Show Committee will treat everyone to a lunch for your volunteer effort!

Keep an eye on the weekly HGMS email blasts. The second event the Show Committee is putting on is the Show Dinner and Auction. It will be held in early October. Details coming soon!

LEAVERITE

by Kinney Polve
from Rock-n-Rose 05/2016, via The Cowtown Cutter 04/2016,
via The Rockhouser 6/2016

I think we all know, what I'm talking about,
 The rocks we brought home, but we should have thrown out.
 What was the cause, was it maybe the light,
 Was it some distraction, or just poor eyesight?

Sometimes we don't know, how they get to our house,
 I really don't know, but I blame my spouse.
 It must be her fault, that we brought them all home,
 Because I won't pick them up, I'd leave them alone.

What is it about them, what did we see,
 Was it the color, or a pattern maybe?
 When I'm there collecting, I pick up the best,
 Because rocks are so heavy, I leave all the rest.

It had to be someone else, it couldn't be me,
 I wouldn't pick them up; I wouldn't, you see.
 When you get back home, does this happen to you,
 The rocks you brought back, don't have the same view?

Where did the nice ones go, you picked up on the trail,
 Where did they go, I never can tell.
 Did something happen, what could it be,
 Is somebody playing a trick on me?

It isn't a trick, it's just Leaverite,
 You need to know, how to identify it right.
 I know there's a reason, it changes this way,
 It depends on the light, and the weather that day.

There are many factors, which come into play,
 There may be more, I really can't say.
 If this doesn't help you, I will beg your pardon,
 Just throw them all out, into your rock garden.

General Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2016

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Brandes at 7:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the July 26, 2016 General meeting.

The meeting was attended by twenty-six regular members. Travis Thurber was Diane Sisson's guest. Two new members attended: Chelsea Pederson and Shirley Smalley.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2016 General Meeting as published in the August 2016 BBG and in the weekly email blast. Joan Riley seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

President's Announcements:

Library: Nathalie says: "I am slowly working on things, but summer field work must come first. After I get back, I will be ordering labels and continuing my work."

Trade Show: The Trade Show on Saturday, July 23, 2016 appears to be a huge success. Attendance was most certainly over a thousand, perhaps 1100–1500. Over 600 people signed up for our door prize, around 400 new emails were added to the list, and over 300 new people were added to the HGMS Facebook page. People were also taking postcards for the November Show. Twenty-two people became members: one Youth, five Singles, two Couples, two Families (2 kids each family), one late single 2016 renewal and three single renewals from previous members who had dropped out for a while due to health reasons.

Web Site: The old Web site is now back up and usable. The new Web site will be coming back once the bugs are worked out. The old one has been up and running since the morning after the last Board meeting. All the emails have been running since the Web site returned—the previous email information never went away. Phyllis George asked that Sections supply three months of upcoming program information for their upcoming meetings, She would like everyone to send her such information for September, October, and November—and to keep her updated in the future as they know what their programming will be.

Scholarship: The winners were invited to the July General Meeting, but both had other commitments and could not make it. Presly Carr from U of H received the HGMS scholarship. Presly has agreed to give a presentation in October/November describing her work in the geologic sciences and how the Scholarship will help. Tyler Skelton is starting his Junior year at Texas A & M. He received the Richard Baker Scholarship.

Section Reports

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to look for Section Reports in the BBG, on the Web site, or to read the weekly email blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. President Brandes invited Section Chairs at this time to make any additional special announcements.

Steve Blyskal announced a field trip to Dallas this weekend—July 31 and August 1. Contact Steve for details.

Karen Burns will be teaching how to make textured copper earrings for the Day-Light meeting on August 3.

Old Business

Also in the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items from the July 5, 2016 Board meeting minutes and the June 28, 2016 General Meeting minutes as published in the August 2016 edition of the BBG.

New Business

Show Committee: All of the dealer booths have been filled.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, August 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting is August 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Steve Blyskal will talk about the recent Agate Expo in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, which he and wife Sigrid Stewart attended.

Drawing: Mary Ann Mitscherling won the drawing for the red agate. Joan Riley won the drawing for the yellow moss agate.

Show 'n Tell: Steve Blyskal brought several teaser agates like condor agate and grape agate to whet our interest for next month's program.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Joan Riley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Refreshments: Provided by Nancy English.

General meeting program: Sigrid Stewart introduced **Neal Immega's** program: **Rock Madness - A visit to the Deming Rock Roundup.** Neal will provide the door prizes - A polished red edged agate hand specimen and a moss agate lump ready for slabbing he dug up at the Deming Big Diggins. He will also be showing a new geology/jewelry sensation that he has named Baker Ranch Pearls.

Gary Tober moved to adjourn. Mike Sommers seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Board of Director's Meeting

*August 2, 2016
by Nancy English*

	President—Paul Brandes	X	Archeology Rep—Garth Clark
X	1st Vice President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Beading Rep—Jillynn Hailes
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace		Day Light Rep—Fred Brueckner
X	Treasurer—Rodney Linehan	X	Faceting Rep—Gary Tober
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Lapidary Rep—Phyllis George
	Former President—Ray Kizer	X	Mineral Rep—Mike Sommers
		X	Paleontology Rep—Mike Dawkins

Vice President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There was a quorum. Two other non-voting members attended: Carrie Hart—Education, and Chase Jennings—Trade Show and Publicity.

Vice President's Comments:

New Board Member: Fred Brueckner is replacing Mary Ann Mitscherling as representative from the Day Light Section. Mary Ann has been a long-time member of the Board. She is tenacious when examining Board issues. She has worked very hard for HGMS in many roles. She will be missed.

Trade Show: As reported at the General Meeting: The Trade Show on Saturday, July 23, 2016 appears to be a huge success. Attendance was most certainly at least 1100 people. Over 600 people signed up for our door prize; we added around 400 new emails to Chase's list; and we added over 300 new people to the HGMS Facebook page. Attendees were also taking postcards for the November Show. Twenty-two new people became members: 1 Youth, 5 Single, 2 Couple, 2 Family (2 kids each family), 1 late single 2016 renewal, and 3 single renewals from previous members who had dropped out for a while due to health reasons.

Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes: Voting on the June BOD minutes as published in the July 2016 BBG was postponed until the August 2, 2016, meeting because there was no quorum. Phyllis George moved to accept the minutes of the June BOD meeting. Gary Tober seconded the motion, and it passed. Nancy English moved to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2016 BOD meeting as published in the August BBG. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is **Thursday, August 4, 2016, 7:30 p.m.** Douglas Mangum, Principal Investigator with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. will speak on artifacts from the San Jacinto Battleground.

Beading Section: The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on **Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.** Program to be announced.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** The program will be on use of the small rolling mill to fashion copper sheets into jewelry items that will then be chased with various designs. The September 7 program will be chasing and punching segments of copper sheet that will be connected with copper wire into a segmented copper bracelet.

Education Committee: Karen Burns has set up two more classes to make the Byzantine bracelet. The classes are scheduled for August 20 and September 10. Due to the enthusiastic interest for the class, she may have two more classes on August 21 and September 11. There is

room for six students in each class. The classes cost \$45.00 with all supplies provided.

Contact Carrie Hart to enroll. Karen will provide all tools and supplies. carriehart2000@yahoo.com.

Gemstones & Faceting Section: The next meeting is on **Wednesday, August 10, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Members will learn aspects of cosmetic altering of gem stones.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: The next regular meeting is **August 15, 2016 at 7:30.** **Margaret Hardman-Muye** will demonstrate Torch-firing of enamel.

Library Committee: Nathalie Brandes' summer fieldwork is nearly over. Then she will be back in the library.

Mineral Section: Mineral Section - Wednesday July 6 - NO MEETING
(Summer Hiatus)

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.** Neal Immega will give a PowerPoint presentation of the **Burma amber exhibit** currently at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Chase will speak on **Amber from Around the World: Formation, History, Authentication.**

Publicity Committee: Chase Jennings reported the purchase of 365 Days, and Internet advertising membership. It already has provided 200 new followers. There were 4000 views on the events page before the Trade Show.

Shop News: The Titan is back in operation after a bearing replacement. The Dr. Rock grinder is out for bearing repairs. Thanks to John Cooper for the new drive screws that use the Acme thread.

Youth Section: The next two meetings are on **August 6, 2016** and **August 20, 2016.** **Next month's meetings will be on September 3, 2016** and **September 17, 2016,** from **10:00 a.m. to noon.** Gary Anderson is off to Wyoming/Idaho for two months for vacation, so he will not be available to help kids on their mornings in the shop.

BBG Editor: Phyllis George reported that the deadline to send in articles is August 15, 2016.

Old Business

1. Trade Show July 23:

- a. Chase Jennings reported that the July Trade Show netted \$1270 for the table fees.
- b. Thanks to Nancy English and the **Trade Show Security** team for counting and corralling the crowds. The final estimate is 1200 attendees.
- c. **Trade Show committee:** Discussion of several improvements that need to be considered produced these topics.

- i. Large crowds and control,
 - ii. unresolved email list issues,
 - iii. clean-up after the show,
 - iv. some irregularities with dealers,
 - v. demonstrations of various lapidary skills (i.e.) use of the Genie, wire wrapping, use of the Paleo room,
 - vi. security.
 - d. The BOD agreed it is time to put guidelines for the Trade Shows in writing. Before the next Trade Show, which tentatively is scheduled in January 2017, a committee needs to form to resolve the concerns and complaints presented to the BOD. Further discussion of some of these points was tabled until a future BOD meeting.
 - e. Jillynn Hailes moved for the BOD to consider pursuing disciplinary measures for members who display threatening behavior at HGMS events. Mike Sommers seconded. The motion passed. Beverly Mace moved to take Tom Lammers up on his offer to paint the access ramp to the garage to increase the visibility of the change in grade. Jillynn Hailes seconded. The motion passed.
2. **Web Site:** Phyllis George reported she is currently revising the home page and getting rid of the frames put in place during the Web site's original creation. The modified page will be uploaded after all the links are accurate and in place. Other modifications are also planned for the home page.
3. **Security System:** Garth Clark report on remote viewing, the smoke detector connections to the new security system, and the outdoor cameras. No report was available.
4. **The Show Committee: Scott Singleton** emailed his report.
- Some meetings are scheduled with committees during the first two weeks of August. No general Show Committee meeting is scheduled until September. The Publicity Committee meeting is scheduled on the normal general show committee meeting night in August.
- Nancy English is looking for a new caterer. She will start recruiting Show volunteers in September.
5. **Dunn Southwest Business Park:** Gary Tober volunteered to represent HGMS at the next Dunn SW annual meeting to replace Michele Marsel. He will attend future quarterly meetings. He has reviewed the Annual Report. The company looks sound.
6. **Display Case:** The large display case at the back of the meeting room held a substantial arrangement at the July 23 Trade Show. Neal Immega has assured the Board that dismantling the case will leave it unusable. The BOD agreed to let Neal do whatever he wants to do with it.

7. **Copier/Printer** After extensive email discussions with Neal Immega, he asked that the used copier be removed. We do not need it. He would like it to be removed as soon as possible.
8. **Scholarship Committee:** Nancy English has not started the process of finding a committee. Please contact her if you are interested in this valuable process: nancyjodi@aol.com.

New Business

1. Gary Tober moved to renew the HGMS membership to the ALAA (American Lands Access Association). The annual membership cost for the club is \$50. Phyllis George seconded the motion. It passed.
2. **Next Board of Director's meeting: September 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m.**
3. **General Meeting: August 23, 2016. Steve Blyskal** will talk about the recent Agate Expo in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, which he and wife Sigrid Stewart attended. This expo, held every four years, was hosted by Cedarburgs' The Gem Shop, which for years has been involved in digging agates in Mexico. Agates, pictures of the displays at the expo, and pictures of the area including the Door Peninsula north of Milwaukee will also be shown.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

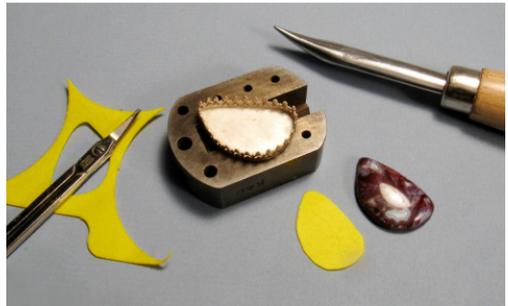
See all Brad's jewelry books at
Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith
www.BradSmithJewelry.co

R AISING 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. If you're going to raise it up, the question is, what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust, but I now think that might be a problem when used 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.

TRANSPARENT CAB

When bezel-setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the

silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

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

Memories

by Virgil G Richards

Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

via TRMS T-Town Rockhound 07/2016, via The Rockhouser 09/2016

We all have them, some good, and some bad. They creep into our consciousness and manifest without warning. They make us laugh; they make us cry, sometimes both at once. They can be about anything, life, family, or friends. Certain moments in time that give us pause for thought. They can play on the emotions like a world-class pianist plays a grand piano.

So what does this have to do with rocks? If you are anything at all like me, some of your favorite memories revolve around them. That time you went on a field trip and got skunked, or that time you skunked everyone else. That time you went to Arkansas and found your first quartz cluster. How about that time you were looking for trilobites and found a big rattlesnake? Or almost got stung by a scorpion in Texas?

I can remember so many times I was out looking for rocks and feeling so at one with my surroundings that time didn't matter, distance didn't matter, nothing mattered but finding that next rock or crystal, or piece of petrified wood. I don't think I have a single bad memory about rockhounding. I can look at the rocks I have collected and it seems every one of them has a good memory attached.

There is so much to be gained by this hobby of ours. Consider this; whenever you are out collecting rocks, aren't you really collecting memories as well? You will take these little treasures you find and put them on a shelf, or in a box, or you might enhance them in some way, but every time you see this little stone, it will bring back a memory. A memory of where it was found, who you were with, how you felt when you found it, your thoughts about it when you picked it up, or when you cut it open and found it to be beautiful inside, even your disappointment when it didn't turn out to be what you thought.

I remember taking a friend on his first rockhounding trip. How excited he was to be experiencing this newfound hobby and the look on his face when he discovered his first piece of petrified wood in the wild. I remember taking another friend on his first trip out to The Great Salt Plain at Jet, OK and how he misinterpreted instructions on how to dig a hole to let the water seep in so he could wash the crystals out of the sides. Before I realized it, he had a hole dug four feet deep and six feet around! He got excited when he found his first Hourglass Selenite crystal, even though it was only an inch long. I moved him to a new digging spot and showed him the correct method to find the crystals. By the end of the day, he had ten pounds of nice crystals and clusters.

get the moniker "Dances-with-snakes" without a backstory!

So keep this in mind next time you are out; take a moment every once in a while to take in your surroundings, listen to the sounds, observe the wildlife, smell the smells, and feel the sun on your face, the breeze on your skin. Remember the excitement of finding a great specimen, a good conversation with an old friend, or a new one, and the happiness in your heart. Enjoy this wonderful hobby and take home as many memories as you do rocks.

I can look at just about any rock in my collection and associate it with good memories of people, places, and other things. Memories that make me take pause, make me laugh; give me a good feeling inside, memories of beautiful places, wonderful surroundings, and even a few harrowing moments. I didn't get the moniker "Dances-with-snakes" without a backstory!

So keep this in mind next time you are out. Take a moment every once in a while to take in your surroundings, listen to the sounds, observe the wildlife, smell the smells, and feel the sun on your face, the breeze on your skin. Remember the excitement of finding a great specimen, a good conversation with an old friend, or a new one, and the happiness in your heart. Enjoy this wonderful hobby and take home as many memories as you do rocks.

Tiger Eye History and Facts

Article Provided by Top Gems, via The Palomar Gem 02/2005 with additions from the Internet, via Chips 'N Splinters 05/2016, via The Rockhouser 06/2016

First of all, tiger's eye, tiger eye, tigereye, and tiger-eye are all accepted ways to write this name.

Tiger's Eye is a durable quartz composite with the usual quartz hardness of 7. It begins as the fibrous blue mineral called crocidolite, which is comprised of iron and sodium. Most of us know crocidolite as asbestos. The transformation begins when quartz becomes imbedded between the fibers of crocidolite. This process will result in one of two gemstones. A blue stone is called Hawk's Eye or the golden brown stone called Tiger's Eye.

During the process, the asbestos is completely dissolved. But the quartz takes on the fibrous formations and the blue color of crocidolite. This creates the parallel lines within the gem which gives it that ever shifting play of light and movement the stone is so loved for. This is also known as chatoyancy, the gleam that rolls across its surface, much like the eyes of a cat.

Even though the iron and sodium dissolve, traces of the hydrated oxide of iron deposit between the crocidolite and quartz, creating the golden color that is common to Tiger's Eye. How much of this hydrated mineral is deposited will determine how golden brown, red, green, or blue Tiger's Eye and



Hawk's Eye will be. The rarer blue Hawk's Eye will have only the slightest amounts. The varying amounts of hydrated oxide of iron actually cause several colors and mixes of color. When the color is a greenish gray, it is called cat's-eye quartz. A golden yellow reflection on a brown stone is called Tiger's Eye. If the stone is blue gray or bluish, it's known as Hawk's Eye. Reddish brown, or mahogany colored stones, are known as bull's-eye or ox-eye.

Up until recently tiger eye has been considered to be a pseudomorph, but new evidence proves otherwise. It has long been thought that the crocidolite fibers were replaced with quartz, much like the replacement that happens in petrified wood. New evidence proves this may not be the case and that quartz and the crocidolite co-exist.

Tiger eye has a fibrous structure, and in the lapidary shop must be oriented properly to get the chatoyancy and/or the "cats eye" effect. Cuts must be exactly parallel to the length of the fibers to get the full chatoyancy. If the saw cut is perpendicular, or 90% to the fibers, you end up with a lifeless, dark brown to black stone with no chatoyancy or light play at all. **Orientation of cutting is critical to getting good chatoyancy and color out of tiger eye.**

These fibers in tiger eye may be up to about two inches long and very thin. Most are only 0.001 millimeters, or 0.000039 inches in diameter and are not always straight, making it even harder at times to cut good chatoyant stones.



TREATMENTS:

In most cases, but not always, red tiger eye is not a natural occurrence. It is usually the result of heating and can be done using the kitchen oven. Here's a basic recipe for heat treating tiger eye.

To protect the tiger-eye from thermal shock during heating, cover slabs of ordinary, gold tiger eye in fine, clean silica sand, at least 3" all around the slab.



Place the metal container in a cold oven and increase the temperature by 50 degrees every hour until it reaches 400 degrees. Then turn the oven off and DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. Allow plenty of time for the container to cool all the way through. (If you heat treat tiger eye to sell, BE SURE you let it be known it has been treated. It's only right, and it's the law.)

There are natural occurrences that tiger eye can be found with red color. And other known ways have been from brush fires where the deposits are found, and also when miners would build fires next to the seams to help crack it up into smaller pieces; remember, most of these miners had nothing but hand tools to work with.

Not long after tiger eye was first discovered for lapidary, the world famous Idar-Oberstein lapidaries discovered by using hydrochloric or oxalic acid, they could bleach tiger eye to an evenly colored light, translucent yellow. When cut properly, they produced "cats eye" stones that look much like the rare variety of chrysoberyl, but gemologists can very easily distinguish between the two.

Other treatments, but not usually done—never by me—but some do it,

especially in pietersite and bighamite stones, it is very common to run into pits, cracks, or voids called vugs. These are sometimes filled with wax, super glue, or Opticon in the last steps of sanding and polishing the stone. I never do any of these treatments, but as I said, it is and has been done by others.

There are many other types of stones that display a "cats eye" or shimmering chatoyancy. The word "Chatoyant" comes from the French word for "cat" or to glow like a cat's eye.

Tiger eye is the anniversary gemstone for the 9th year of marriage

Editor's Note: Remember that tiger eye has asbestos, so always use a face mask and/or keep tiger eye under water when sanding and polishing.

Pyrite

by John Bennett

from *Gritty Greetings* 06/2016

Pyrnite, or "Fool's Gold," that being the name that most of us first learned for it, can be found in lots of different locations. It is often found as tiny gold-colored sparkles that are gleaming from a rock that we just picked up. Sometimes a little nugget of pyrite will be dug up or fished out of a stream in a pan, and the heart will speed up until we realize what we have really found. This is because pyrite looks a lot like gold at first glance, as it has a metallic luster and the golden color. Pyrite is commonly mistaken for real gold by casual rockhounds and even some prospectors. Disreputable miners have sometimes carried pieces of pyrite in order to mislead others into thinking that mining claims are really producing gold. However, pyrite is lighter colored than gold. It is harder, tends to break easier than real gold, and pyrite can't be scratched with a fingernail or knife (Moh's 6 – 6.5).

The word "pyrite" is derived from the Greek word for fire, "*pyros*." This is because pyrite is triboluminescent, which means that it will emit sparks if you hit one piece against another or against a hard surface. In ancient Rome, this name was applied to several types of stone that would create sparks when struck against steel.

Pyrite is normally found with other sulfides and oxides in quartz veins, sedimentary and metamorphic rock, and in coal beds. Pyrite is often seen as replacement pseudomorphs after fossils in black shale and other sedimentary rocks. *Pyrite dollars* or *pyrite suns*, which look a lot like sand dollars, are really pseudo-fossils. Even though pyrite is called fool's gold, it is sometimes found with small quantities of actual gold. Pyrite is also the mineral that is responsible for the gold striations found in Lapis Lazuli.

A lot of the pyrite sold today comes from Peru. That is also where most of the pyrite found in amateur collections comes from. In the Ampliación, a Victoria Mine in Navajún, La Rioja, Spain, they mine cubic pyrite crystals. Pyritohedral crystals occur in Rio Marina on the island of Elba, Italy. Tanzania is another area where pyrite crystals in unusual shapes have been mined. Here in the United States, Utah and Colorado are good states to find a lot of pyrite. From the large cubes found in the French Creek Mine in Pennsylvania to the pyrite "dollars" of Sparta, Illinois, pyrite is common all across the USA though.

Pyrite 'Dollar'

Some pyrite contains a quarter-percent or more of gold. Although this doesn't seem like much, the price of gold is enough to make pyrite mining worthwhile. Calculating it out, pyrite with 0.25% gold, with today's gold price being a little over \$1,264 per ounce, means a ton of pyrite will have about 73 ounces of gold that would be worth over \$92,272. Depending on the cost of mining the pyrite and extracting the gold, a lot of money could potentially be made.



Pyrite

Pyrite is predominately used as an ornamental stone now. It is sometimes used as a gemstone by being faceted and polished for use as an inexpensive stone in some rings, necklaces, and bracelets. Pyrite is used to make marcasite jewelry. Marcasite jewelry has been worn since ancient times and was very popular during the last half of the 19th century in Great Britain. The term, "Marcasite," was used to refer to all iron sulfides, including pyrite, but strangely enough, not to actual marcasite. Marcasite jewelry doesn't actually contain marcasite because it is too brittle to be used with settings or beads.



Pyrite Chalcopyrite Sphalerite

And, of course, pyrite is always a welcome addition to any amateur's mineral collection.

Chalcopyrite, chemically the same as pyrite with the addition of copper, is a brighter yellow than pyrite and has a greenish hue when it is wet. Chalcopyrite is also softer than pyrite (3.5–4 on Mohs' scale). Arsenopyrite is similar to pyrite, but as it does contain arsenic, is poisonous. It is a silvery-white color that doesn't change to yellow when it is wet. Arsenopyrite has the odor of garlic, as do most minerals that contain arsenic. Marcasite is chemically the same as pyrite, but it crystallizes in a different system, which classifies it as a separate mineral species. Aggregates of iron sulfide where the crystal structure is undetermined may be wrongly labeled by dealers. Some pyrite specimens are labeled as marcasite and vice versa.



Arsenopyrite

Pyrite in History

The Incas and the Aztecs were known to polish large slabs and sizable crystals of pyrite *into scrying mirrors*. One side was usually polished flat while the other side was convex and carved with symbols. Pyrite crystals were considered powerful stones of great magic that were used by North American Indians in amulets, for scrying unknown places and events, and as decorations for their



ceremonial garb and items.

Pyrite has been used to make *copperas*, or iron sulfate. Iron pyrite was piled up and left out in the open air to weather (an early type of heap leaching). The runoff was then boiled with iron to make iron sulfate. During the 1400s, leaching started replacing burning sulfur as a way to make sulfuric acid and, by the 1800s, it was the primary method to acquire sulfuric acid. Pyrite is still used commercially in the production of sulfur dioxide.

Cubic Pyrite

Pyrite was popular during the 1500s and the 1600s as the ignitor in early firearms, principally the wheellock. Before the 1800s, it was used as a decorative carved stone. Pyrite shoe buckles, rings, snuff boxes, and other ornamental pieces were highly valued.



Pyrite's use escalated during World War II when it was the major source of the sulfur that went into the manufacture of sulfuric acid used in many industries of the time.

Iron pyrite exposed to air and water decomposes into iron oxides and sulfate. These reactions will happen quicker when pyrite is just tiny crystals and dust. Stone walls that are made up of rocks that contain pyrite will develop streaky brown stains as the pyrite oxidizes. Pieces of pyrite contained in the aggregate used to make concrete can cause deterioration as the pyrite oxidizes. Chinese drywall that had been imported into the United States after Hurricane Katrina developed problems that were attributed to the oxidation of pyrite.



Pyrite is the cathode material in Energizer brand non-rechargeable lithium batteries. In the early 20th century, pyrite was used in radio receivers and is still in use by "crystal radio" hobbyists. Some have suggested that pyrite should even be used in the manufacture of inexpensive solar panels.

Mystical Properties of Pyrite

Pyrite is used to achieve perfect health and well-being. It is reported to get fast results. It also shields the body from contagious diseases, possibly even the common cold and influenza. It has been used to drop a fever and reduce swelling. Pyrite is a positive energy crystal that is helpful in removing feelings of melancholy. It is supposed to relieve anxiety and frustration.

Gold-colored crystals will bring you success, enthusiasm, happiness, and power.

Pyrite's "frequency" stimulates the creative flow of ideas and concepts, and helps one embrace their innate abilities and potential. Holding a piece of pyrite in each hand while you are meditating can bring an instantly refreshing burst of energy. It is also useful for ending a meditation while bringing that energy into the physical realm.



Pyrite is the natural birthstone for those born during midsummer (July 23—August 21, Leo).

Pyrite is also the talisman stone of the fire trades: bakers, blacksmiths, and firemen. It is also used to protect those in the building trades (carpentry, plumbing, painting, etc.).

Worn in a talisman, Pyrite is a unique protector. It draws energy from the Earth, through your physical body and into your aura creating a defensive shield against negative energies. It will also support you with a spirit of boldness and assertive action when protecting others, the planet, or standing up for important issues of your community. It stimulates the Second and Third Chakras, enhancing your will power.



Pyrite guards against control, criticism, and manipulation by a partner, parent, or employer, and lends the power to resist without becoming angry or upset. A piece of pyrite in the home or workplace will energize the area around it, imparting an immediate increase in vitality. It helps to overcome mental fatigue due to overwork. Pyrite helps to inspire creativity in the arts, mathematics, sciences, and architecture. It is an ideal stone for students.

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Dad Came to Visit His Rocks Tonight

by Maria Thomas (2016)

from The Pineywoods Rooter, 7/2016,

via The Cowtown Cutter 8/2016

Dad came to visit his rocks tonight,
 as I was just dropping off to sleep,
 but my kenneled dog started barking,
 and wouldn't shut up,
 It was more urgent than his bird bark,
 or the warning about possums poking around,
 Barks more insistent like when a stranger invades the yard.

But it was past two, with gates locked.
 Who's he barking at I wondered?
 Then it struck me that Dad wanted
 to see his rocks again,
 before the thundering horde of bargain hunters
 pawed his piles of pyrites, sugilites, and malachites.
 Before they sorted through slabs of silicate
 bickering over his rocky treasure trove,
 of agates and azurites, snowflake obsidians,
 or jaspers he'd marked ready
 for cutting into cabochons.

So he'd come tonight to run his hands
 over smooth cut stones,
 lonely for the play of colors;
 jades green as olives,
 dark blue oceans of lapis lazuli,

gold chatoyance of tigers-eye,
 ruby gleam of garnet,
 and hematite dark as night.
 Decades of love's labor to be lost
 early tomorrow morning,
 to people he likely never met.

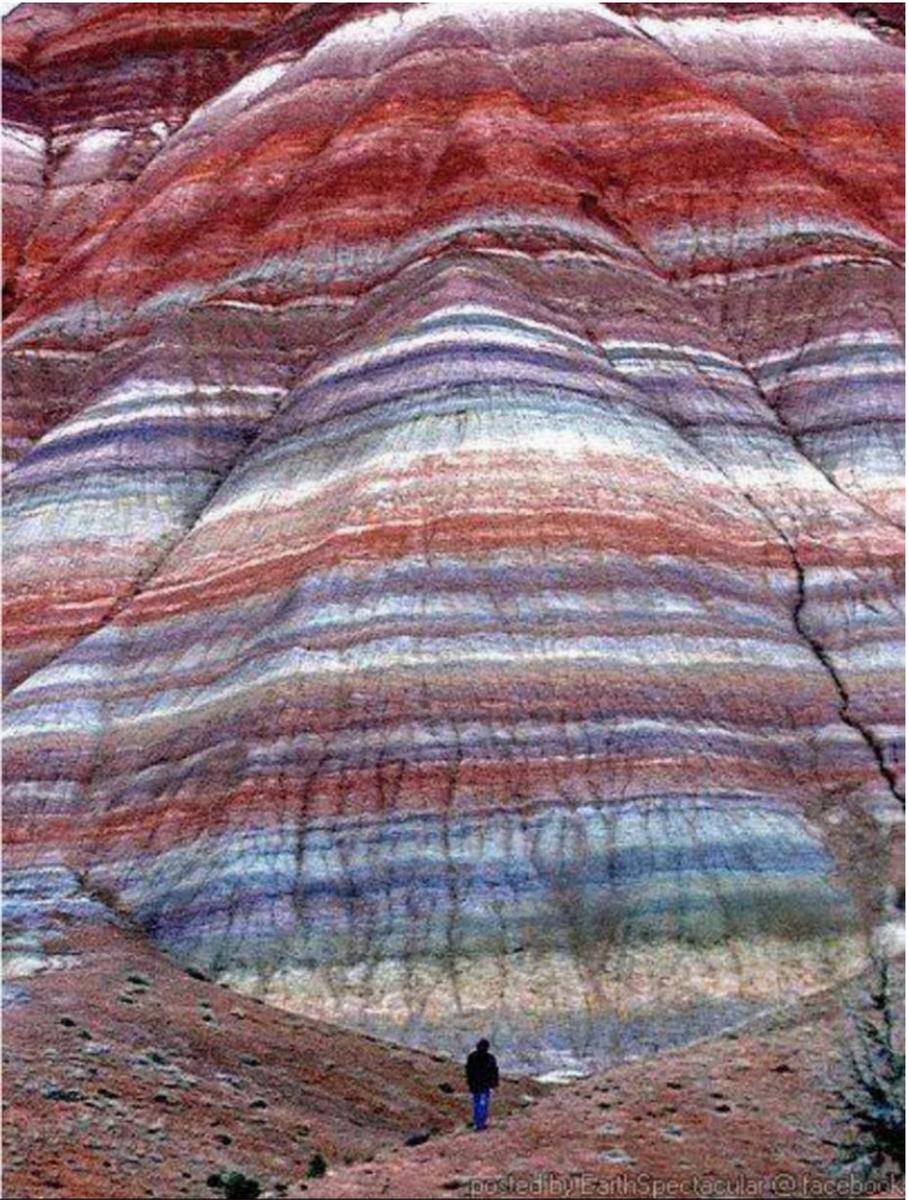
No, he had to see his baubles one more time,
 admire the deep fire of that precious opal,
 He ripped out of a rocky field in far off Australia
 and hauled home in jars.
 Maybe Dad was reliving rock hounding
 the hills of every state
 In search of the perfect gem,
 like in those golden summers
 when I was a girl.
 But greedy like Gollum, he'd given little away,
 and instead collected, saved, and hoarded
 for some unknown posterity.

Tomorrow I was to be that posterity,
 disposing of all that he'd had no time to finish,
 shiny jewels yet unborn,
 lapidary masterpieces never to be.
 "Let someone else have their turn now, Dad,"
 I said to no one in particular.

The Ten Rockmandments

*Author unknown
 via Rockhound Rambling 5/2016*

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he or she placeth them into thy hand.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by punching, squeezing, or biting.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens into thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently; sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
6. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
7. Thou shalt not climb over thy neighbor when on a field trip unless thou art willing to spend the remainder of the day digging him or her out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands, and feet so thou canst enjoy many more field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's digging, lest his or her hammer be dropped upon thy hand or toe.
10. Thou shalt not complain about nor denounce thy club officers—under penalty of being elected one thyself.



Paria Mountains, Utah

from Gritty Greetings, 7/2016, via Stoney Statements 8/2016

The Paria Mountains, 18 miles from Kanab, Utah in Hwy 89. Paria Wilderness, Utah, USA. These mountains are found beside a dirt road that connects to Highway 89 just before the Paria River. Hwy 89 takes you from Kanab Utah to Page, Arizona. The side of the mountains have spectacular colors (better than the Grand Canyon, Bryce, the Painted Dessert, the slot canyons, and even White Pocket) due to their encrusted minerals like iron oxides, manganese, cobalt, and others that geologists describe. Visit [Amazing Geologist](#) for more.

Summer Weather Safety and Survival

from *The Slate* 06/2015

Summer Safety Rules

Your National Weather Service Forecast Office in Norman, OK will usually initiate alert procedures when the daytime heat index is expected to exceed 105°F and the nighttime temperature remains at 80°F or more for at least two consecutive days. This will typically result in a Heat Advisory being issued for parts of the area.

What to Look for and Actions to Take

You can help yourself and others avoid experiencing the HEAT DISORDERS (above) by following these safety rules.

The Symptoms of Heat Disorders...		
Sunburn	Skin redness and pain, possible swelling, blisters, fever, headaches.	Take a shower, using soap, to remove oils that may block pores and prevent the body from cooling naturally. If blisters occur, apply dry, sterile dressings and get medical attention.
Heat Cramps	Painful spasms usually in leg and abdominal muscles. Heavy sweating.	Firm pressure on cramping muscles or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue.
Heat Exhaustion	Heavy sweating, weakness, skin cold, pale, and clammy. Weak pulse. Normal temperature possible. Fainting, vomiting.	Get victim to lie down in a cool place. Loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan or move victim to air-conditioned place. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue. If vomiting occurs, seek immediate medical attention.
Heat Stroke (Sun Stroke)	High body temperature (106+). Hot, dry skin. Rapid, strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness. Victim will likely not sweat.	Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency. Call 9-1-1 or emergency medical services or get the victim to a hospital immediately. Delay can be fatal. Move victim to a cooler environment. Try a cool bath or sponging to reduce body temperature. Use extreme caution. Remove clothing. Use fans and/or air conditioners. DO NOT GIVE FLUIDS.

Thinking About Yourself

- **Avoid the Heat.** Stay out of the heat and indoors as much as possible. Spend time in an air-conditioned space. Only two hours a day in an air-conditioned space can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related illness. Shopping malls offer relief if your home is not air-conditioned. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine. Remember, electric fans do not cool, they just blow hot air around.
- **Dress for the heat.** Wear loose-fitting clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Lightweight, light-colored clothing that reflects heat and sunlight and helps maintain normal body temperature. Protect your face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Avoid too much sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin's ability to cool itself. Use a sunscreen lotion with a high SPF (sun protection factor) rating.
- **Drink FOR the Heat.** Drink plenty of water and natural juices, even if

Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Jim Kendall at kendal_ja@yahoo.com

you don't feel thirsty. Even under moderately strenuous outdoor activity, the rate your body can absorb fluids is **less** than the rate it **loses** water due to perspiration. However, if you have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restrictive diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.

- **Do not drink IN the Heat.** Avoid alcoholic beverages and beverages with caffeine, such as coffee, tea, and cola. Alcohol and caffeine **constrict blood vessels** near the skin reducing the amount of heat the body can release. Although beer and alcohol beverages appear to satisfy thirst, they actually cause further body dehydration.
- **Eat for the Heat.** Eat small meals more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein because they increase metabolic heat. Avoid using salt tablets, unless directed to do so by a physician.
- **Living in the Heat.** Slow down. Reduce, eliminate, or reschedule strenuous activities such as running, biking and lawn care work when it heats up. The best times for such activities are during early morning and late evening hours. Take cool baths or showers and use cool, wet towels.
- **Learn the symptoms** of heat disorders and know how to give first aid.

Thinking About Others

- **Do not leave children in a closed vehicle**, even for a few minutes. This is a "No-Brainer." Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach 140°F–190°F degrees within 30 minutes on a hot, sunny day. However, despite this common-sense rule, deaths from heat occur almost every Summer when someone leaves their child in a closed vehicle.
- When outdoors, **protect small children** from the sun. Their skin is sensitive.
- **Help your pets keep their cool.** It will "feel" as hot for them as it will for you. As with children, do not leave your pets in a closed vehicle. Be sure your animals have access to shade and a water bowl full of cold, clean water. Dogs don't tolerate heat well because they don't sweat. Their bodies get hot and stay hot. During summer heat, avoid outdoor games or jogging with your pet. If you would not walk across hot, sunbaked asphalt barefoot, don't make your dog walk on it either. (Dogs can also get blisters on their paws from hot pavement.)
- **Learn the symptoms** of heat disorders and know how to give first aid.

Thinking About Your Environment

- **Protect windows.** Hang shades, draperies, awnings, or louvers on windows that receive morning or afternoon sun. Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat entering the house by as much as 80%.
- **Conserve electricity.** During periods of extreme heat, people tend to use a lot more power for air conditioning which can lead to a power shortage or outage. Vacuum air conditioner filters weekly during periods of high use.
- **Keep lights turned down** or turned off.
- **Avoid using the oven.**
- **Learn the symptoms** of heat disorders and know how to give first aid.

Show Time 2016-2017

- September 10-18 Denver, CO Multiple shows and locations
Eons Expos, Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St
250 dealers in Denver Coliseum plus 100 tents
<http://www.ColiseumShow.com>
- October 7-8 Mount Ida, AR Quartz Crystal Digging Contest;
Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Fairgrounds Rd.
director@mountidachamber.com;
www.mountidachamer.com
- October 8-9 Temple, TX Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society
Mayborn Center; 3303 North 3rd
trinity4112@me.com
- October 14-16 Westwego, LA Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana
The Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd.
gemshow2016@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/GemAndMineralSocietyOfLouisiana
- October 21-23 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd
showchairman@austingemandmineral.org
www.gemcapers.com
- October 29-30 Glen Rose, TX Paleological Society of Austin
Somervell Expo Center; Hwy 67
- October 29-30 Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society
Modern Living Building;
3001 General Pershing Blvd
Oklahoma State Fairgrounds
- November 6-7 Midland, TX Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Midland Center
- November 5-6 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society
Amarillo Civic Center, 400 S. Buchanan St.
kendrick@amaonline.com
- November 11-13 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; showchair@hgms.org
- November 19-20 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall; I-635&Military Pkwy
dallasgemandmineral.org
- December 2-4 El Paso, TX El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.
El Maida Shriners Hall, 6331 Alabama
L1155@yahoo.com, www.epmgs.com

Show Time 2017

- January 21-22 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds
Lady Bird Johnson Park; The Pavilion
gideonjim1@gmail.com
tgabrish@gmail.com ; www.OMGS.org

2016		September					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 7:30 Archeology Section	2	3 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
4 10-4 Shop Open	5 Labor Day	6 7:30 Board Meeting	7 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	8	9	10 10-5 Shop Open	
11 10-4 Shop Open	12	13 7:30 Show Committee	14 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	15	16	17 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
18 10-4 Shop Open	19 7:30 Lapidary Section	20 7:30 Paleo Section	21 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section	22 First day of Autumn	23	24 10-5 Shop Open 10-1 Show Postcard Labeling Party	
25 10-4 Shop Open	26	27 7:30 General Meeting	28 10-3 Shop Open	29	30		

2016		October					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting	5 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	6 7:30 Archeology Section	7	8 10-5 Shop Open	
9 10-4 Shop Open	10	11 7:30 Show Committee	12 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section	20	21	22 10-5 Shop Open	
23 10-4 Shop Open	24 Halloween	25 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29	
10-4 Shop Open 30	31						

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 Brooklet

Houston, Texas 77099

(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2012 - 1st (Large)
2013 - 1st (Large)
2014 - 1st (Large)
2015 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

1998 - 2nd (Large)
2004 - 3rd (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 2nd (Large)
2012 - 3rd (Large)
2013 - 3rd (Large)
2014 - 2nd (Large)

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