



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

*The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

Volume XLVIII—No. 09

September 2017



President's Message *by Paul Brandes*

Hello this month from the beautiful shores of Lake Superior! As I mentioned during last month's Message, Nathalie and I were heading to the Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan for Keweenaw Week 2017, a week-long event showcasing the mines and minerals of the Copper Country. While we arrived in Michigan much earlier, the rockhound activities do not start until August 4 with the 42nd annual Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Show near Marquette. While a relatively small show by our standards, the event has loads to offer.



Following this event, Keweenaw Week begins on August 8 with a collecting trip to the famous Cliff Mine, followed by three additional days of collecting at other mines in the area. In addition, there is a meet and greet and special lecture that was given by Nathalie titled "Mining in the Ancient World." The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and even hinted that they would like her to return next year.

In the middle of all this, there is the famous Quincy Swap held in the shadows of the historic No. 2 Shafthouse. Despite the rain, there were good crowds and even better treasures to be had. There is also a banquet and live auction of minerals and artifacts. This year there were several superb native copper specimens, two outstanding fluorites from the Cave-In-Rock, Illinois area, and a very colorful geologic map of Upper Michigan from 1872 among other items. The Week ends with the Houghton Gem and Mineral Show. Another small show (10 vendors total), this

Continued on Page 4

Upcoming Program *by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President*

September 26: To be announced

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Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source.

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 2017 issue by Friday, September 15, 2017.

*E-mail the Editor or 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 and 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>.

event is great and always draws large crowds. My hope is to put something together about our trip for the October BBG where I can describe the events in greater detail.

Personally, I love attending these smaller shows and collecting events as it gives me a chance to really talk with the show organizers and vendors to see what they do and how they prepare for these shows. It also gives me plenty of ideas for our own Show and things that we could do to enhance an already spectacular event. This is also a good time to remind everyone that we are looking for volunteers to help with our Show on November 10–12. Since we are also hosting the South Central Federation Show in addition to putting together our Show, we will need all the help we can get. If interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy English.

That is all for now. Oh, and in case you were wondering about my opening comment; on the right is a photo of where I am sitting writing this report. Can anyone think of a better office view than this?

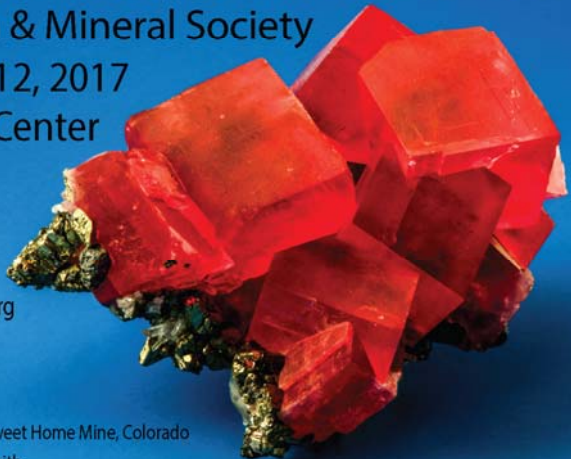


64th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show & Annual SCFMS Convention

Houston Gem & Mineral Society
November 10-12, 2017
Humble Civic Center

www.hgms.org

www.facebook.com/hgms.org



Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Colorado
Photo by Holly Smith

Front of HGMS 2017 Show flyer

Archaeology Section

by Nancy L. Engelhardt-Moore



August 3, 2017: the Section had a regular meeting, and there was a good turnout with 22 attendees. No new business was discussed. Garth Clark (Vice-Chairman—Archaeology Section) gave his talk entitled “**War, Revolution, and Buried Treasure in Mexico.**” The talk focused on the importance of hoards to archaeology. Garth reviewed Mexican history and how it led to a culture of hoarding due to the instability of the country. He talked about the discovery of the Chihuahua hoard and the recovery of the lost silver coin, the Mexico 1848-Mo, DG 1 real. It was thought to have disappeared forever during the Mexican-American War. Garth brought the actual rare coin for Show & Tell!

Upcoming Programs:

September 7, 2017: Our guest speaker will be Jay Roussel, who currently serves as Vice-President of the Ft. Bend Archeological Society. He is a member of the Texas Archeological Society and the Ft. Bend County Historical Commission. Staying with a Mexican theme, Jay will speak on “**The gods of Teotihuacan and a tradition of Mesoamerican cultural sharing.**”

Teotihuacan is one of the most visited archeological sites in the Americas. The monumental structures we see when we visit the site today were predominantly built in the first two centuries AD, and Teotihuacan was once one of the largest cities in the world. Yet there is still so much we don't know—and much of what we do know is due to cultures that followed hundreds of years after the fall of this one. Even the name of the site is an Aztec name, and the two largest pyramids are named to align with the Aztec's religious beliefs. Though there is no direct link between the Aztecs and the Teotihuacanos, many cultural and religious aspects of Teotihuacan were adopted by the Aztecs. This practice is hardly unique to the Aztecs and Teotihuacanos. In fact, even post-colonial Christian churches in Mexico contain pre-Columbian Mesoamerican symbols from those earlier religious beliefs. Don't miss this look at ancient Mesoamerica and its influence on later cultures and religions!

October 5, 2017: To be announced.

November 2, 2017: Gail Larsen Peterkin will give a talk tentatively entitled “**New Innovations from the Upper Palaeolithic: Late Old Stone Age**”. Watch for more details on this fascinating topic.

Question of the Month—More About Karat

from *Huntin' & Diggin' 03/2017*

Why do we not use karat to define silver content in silver alloys? Silver, just as is gold, is a soft metal. Too soft, in fact, for use in jewelry and coins. So additional metal alloys are added. For this reason, silver is referenced by purity rating. This system of measurement is known as Millesimal Fineness. For example, sterling silver is often hallmarked as 925 meaning that it is 92.5% pure silver. The remaining balance are additional metal alloys for hardness, usually copper.

General Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2017

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the July 25, 2017 General Meeting. Seventeen members attended. No new members or guests were present.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the June 27 General Meeting as posted in the August 2017 BBG and in the weekly HGMS E-blast. Richard Good seconded the motion, and it passed.

President's Announcements:

Tomorrow, Wednesday, July 26, is the last day of Neal's most recent sale and give-away of donated items. Members looked at rocks being sold by the pound and were encouraged to come back tomorrow, Wednesday. Unsold items will be boxed and stored for the next Trade Show.

Nathalie Brandes' mother passed away on June 30. Nathalie sends her thanks to everyone for their kind notes and cards.

The Brandes will be in Houghton, Michigan the first week of August. Nathalie is giving the Key Note speech at Keweenaw Week 2017. She will be presenting her talk titled "Mining in the Ancient World" during the Meet and Greet opening night.

Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Paul Brandes asked members to look for Section Reports in the BBG, on the Web site, or by reading the weekly email blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. If you are not on Jim Kendall's e-mail list, please contact him at kendal_ja@yahoo.com.

President Brandes invited Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional special announcements.

Day Light Section: Karen Burns announced: On **August 2**, tomorrow, Attendees will complete the second phase of the Elf Bracelet by adding the Swarovski crystals to the bracelet.

Old Business

Scholarship Winner: After detailed analysis of the applicants for the 2017 HGMS Scholarship, a winner has been chosen. The name of the winner will be announced after the person has been notified. Thank you to the Scholarship Committee, Mike Sommers, and to Jean Hugh Fillacier.

Web site progress: Phyllis George reported that the primary pieces are in place. The committee is doing a cursory review of it.

SCFMS deadline: Phyllis George reminded members that the deadline for BBG articles to be submitted for the SCFMS 2018 Editors and Authors contest is December 5, 2017. Please submit your articles for the September, October, or November issues as soon as possible.

Show Committee: The School Days committee of the Show Committee attended the Texas Home School Coalition in The Woodlands the weekend of July 20–22. Nancy Fischer said the HGMS table had a good response. Home Schooled families were grateful that HGMS was there

and glad for the time set aside for them at the HGMS Annual Gem and Mineral Show.

In the interest of time, President Paul Brandes asked the members to look for Old Business in the BOD Meeting Minutes in the monthly BBG.

New Business

Ed Clay resigned as Lapidary Section Leader, effective July 17, 2017. Richard Good reported that Ed cites personal and family reasons for the resignation and hopes to continue supporting HGMS but is unsure of his participation now. Ed has many years as a professional Lapidary Artisan and we all owe Ed a debt of gratitude for serving and selflessly sharing his vast knowledge and skills. He dedicated himself to demonstrating and teaching many different lapidary techniques. He will be missed. Anyone wishing to share their leadership and lapidary skills will be welcome to apply for the Section Leader position at the next Lapidary Section meeting on August 21, 2017.

President Brandes will post the information in the weekly e-blast.

New Treasurer needed for 2018: After many years of being HGMS Treasurer, Rodney Linehan is retiring. If you know of a CPA member of the club, or someone outside who would donate their time, one whom you would recommend, please contact President Brandes or any member of the Board of Directors.

HGMS Holiday Party, December 9, 2017: At the July Board meeting, the BOD discussed an outside location for the Holiday Dinner and Auction. Details are being worked out.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday August 1, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

The Next General Meeting is August 22, 2017, 7:30 p.m.: The program will be presented by **Holly and Tim Smith—Trip to China**. Holly and Tim will share their adventures from their recent China trip, including Beijing Xian, Shanghai, and Zhangjiagie Park in China where *Avatar* was filmed. Highlights will also include visits to a carving showroom, two private mineral collections, and the Arkenstone Gallery in Shanghai.

Show 'n Tell: James Wark displayed a computer circuit board with 24-carat gold connectors on it.

Drawing: Paul Brandes won the geode half.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Richard Good seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Refreshments: Foster Freeland provided delicious refreshments. President Brandes reminded members to "feed the kitty."

President Brandes introduced Fred Brueckner. Fred shared his experiences at the William Holland Lapidary School with a Power Point presentation and examples of his jewelry. He provided contact information and curriculum examples.



Board of Directors' Meeting

August 1, 2017 Minutes

by Nancy English

Second Vice President Beverly Mace called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Scott Singleton, Show Chairman and New Web Site Committee Chairperson, also was present.

Second Vice President's Comments: Paul Brandes is in Houghton, Michigan with wife Nathalie. She is giving the Key Note speech at Keweenaw Week 2017. She will be presenting her talk titled "Mining in the Ancient World" during the Meet and Greet opening night.

Pop-Up Rock Shows: The first FREE one-day show will be on August 12, 2017, 9:30 to 5:00 at the local Holiday Inn Express on the HWY 59 feeder at Stancliff Road. Nancy English and Beverly Mace will be manning the HGMS Info Table. More volunteers are needed throughout the day to publicize HGMS and the HGMS 2017 Annual Show.

Approval of Previous Month's Board Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2017 Board meeting. Garth Clark 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

Archaeology Section: August 3, 2017, 7:30 p.m. War, Revolution, and Buried Treasure in Mexico: Garth Clark will speak on the importance to archaeology and the finding of a unique item—the Mexico 1848-Mo, DG 1 real coin—once thought lost forever! All examples of this coin were thought to have perished in Mexico City during the Mexican-American War. Garth will review the events in Mexican history that led to the production, loss, and rediscovery of this coin. Then, he will address the importance of hoards to archaeology. Don't miss this fascinating talk and the chance to see this rare coin in person. We hope you can join us!

September 7, 2017, 7:30: Program to be announced.

Beading Section: Saturday August 19, 2017 at 1:30 members will make a Secret Clutch—Peyote Purse. See the HGMS Web Site, <http://www.hgms.org> for supplies and instructions.

Day Light Section: Wednesday August 2, 2017, 1:00 to 3:00: Embellish July's Elf chain with bicone crystal beads. Diane Sisson from the Beading Section will show us how with beading wire and crimp beads. The charge will be \$1.00.

September 6, 2017, 1:00 to 3:00: Circle pendant of copper wire and seven graduated beads: The charge will be \$1.00.

Education Committee: no report

Gemstone & Faceting Section: Wednesday August 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The program to be announced.

Lapidary and Silversmithing August 21, 2017 Scrimshaw: Usually a pattern carved into bone. Color is rubbed over it to bring out the pattern in the finished piece. The Section will be choosing a new Section Leader. Ed Clay has resigned due to family and personal matters.

Library: The Brandes are out of town.

Mineral Section: Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m. The first meeting back from Summer vacation is "What did you do last summer? What did you buy? Where did you go?" Be

sure to bring your new treasures.

Paleo Section: Tuesday August 15, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers reported the HGMS 2017 Scholarship winner is Evan Snyder. He has been notified.

Shop Report—Neal Immega: Al Tarr 50/50 sale is closed, and the remainder of the donation is in the storage area for sale later. Neal has sent checks for the proceeds to Al Tarr and to Rodney Linehan, HGMS Treasurer.

Auction of Donation material Saturday, August 26, 2017, 1 PM to 5:00: Selling the good stuff from the Phyllis George donation in the lecture hall.

Youth Section: The next meetings are August 5, 2017, and August 19, 2017 from 10:00 to 12:00.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the August 2017 BBG is August 15, 2017.

Old Business

New Web Site: Scott Singleton reported that the new Web site (www.dev.hgms.org) construction is nearly finished. He requested to transition dev.hgms.org from Lauren Blyskal to HGMS in August. Mike Dawkins moved to allow the committee to take the new site live when the committee recognizes that the construction and development are complete. Mike Sommers seconded the motion, and it passed.

Phyllis George sent a detailed list of corrections needed to the BOD, Section Leaders, other key members, and the Committee on July 28. In the future, after the system is up and running, Section Leaders will forward corrections for their own areas of the Web site to Sigrid Stewart, Scott Singleton, and Phyllis George. One of these three will make the corrections to the site.

Show Committee: Scott Singleton reported:

The School Daze Leaders manned an HGMS table at the 2017 Texas Home School Coalition Convention in The Woodlands July 20, 21, 22. The Home School community recognizes HGMS as a great opportunity to introduce students to science. Scott got seven pages of Home Schoolers requesting postcard notifications. The School Daze postcards will be mailed at the end of August.

The Publicity Committee will meet Friday, August 4, to approve the postcard. **The Postcard Labeling party will be on Saturday, September 23.** Postcards advertising the show will be mailed October 15, 2017.

Shira Trumble has organized the SCFMS events. She will need at least one volunteer per shift.

The Show Auction and Dinner is scheduled for October 14, 2017. Dinner at 6:00, Auction at 7:00.

The Volunteer Appreciation Party is scheduled for November 18, 2017.

Preservation of Documents: Nancy English notified Jim Kendall to ask for a knowledgeable member of the club to volunteer for this project. The request will be in the August 6 e-blast.

Security: Garth Clark ordered two SDC-5340bc cameras. They have been shipped.

Creating "How-To" videos: How-To Video Meeting: no report.

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

The Club needs a new projector system. We are still looking for a way to project images of props onto the wall during a presentation. Further discussion was postponed until September.

Update Trifold brochure and business cards: Garth Clark reported on the progress of printing the business cards. Garth gave Chris Peek updated meeting days/times to be applied to the Vistaprint template. Garth asked Chris to order 2000 cards. Garth will check with Chris. He will bill the club. The updated trifold is ready for print. Nancy English will have more trifolds printed before the Pop-Up Rock Show on August 12, 2017.

Bulk mail postage software: Beverly Mace reported that the mailing program test was a success. HGMS has signed a two-year contract with the new company. She has already used it to send the August BBG and the 2017 Roster.

Winter Holiday party, December 9, 2017: The Board voted via email to approve the Unitarian Church as the location for the 2017 HGMS Holiday party. The church has a large kitchen we can use. The large sanctuary space can be made into a dining room.

New Business

Dunn SW Annual meeting: Gary Tober missed the Dunn SW meeting because they emailed the notification to Michele Marsel instead of to him. He did not see Nancy English's email notification because it went to his spam file. Nancy English has called the Dunn SW management company, Coir, and asked them for meeting results and to change the contact to Gary Tober. Coir has not returned Nancy's call.

Next Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Next General Meeting August 22, 2017, 7:30: The program will be presented by **Holly and Tim Smith—Trip to China.** Holly and Tim will share their adventures from their recent China trip, including Beijing Xian, Shanghai, and Zhangjiajie Park in China where *Avatar* was filmed. Highlights will also include visits to a carving showroom, two private mineral collections, and the Arkenstone Gallery in Shanghai.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn. Diane Sisson seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

THE LEGEND OF LEAVERITE

Author unknown

*from STONEY STATEMENTS 05/2012, via SCFMS Newsletter 5-6/2017,
via The Franklin County Rockhouser 07/08/2017*

Leaverite is the most common of all stones. Some are older than others and many moons old. It generally cannot be used for much because of its ugly nature. These stones are said to be so ugly that only mother earth could love them. They are truly the loneliest stones in the world.

As legend would have it, one day long, long ago, a little boy and his Grandpa were diggin' for gold. Each time the little boy chipped out a stone, he would show it to his Grandpa and ask, "Is this gold?" His Grandpa would reply, "Na' that's just an ugly stone. Leave'er right there." Later that day when the boy showed his Grandpa the stones he had found, he asked, "Is this gold or is this one of them leaverite there's?"

The Fukang Meteorite...and Pallasites

www.amusingplanet.com/2013/05/the-beautiful-fukang-meteorite.html
 from Franklin County Rockhounder 07-08/2016
 via Rocky Trails 08/2017

The Fukang meteorite, believed to be some 4.5 billion years old, which is as ancient as Earth itself, was unearthed near a town of the same name in China, in 2000. It is a pallasite, a type of meteorite with translucent golden crystals of a mineral called olivine embedded in a silvery honeycomb of nickel-iron. It's a gorgeous meteorite, and possibly the most stunning extraterrestrial piece of rock man has ever seen.

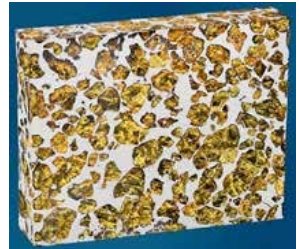


The Fukang meteorite was found by a hiker. The man had often stopped and had lunch on this giant rock, and he always wondered what the metal and crystals were. He finally took a hammer and chisel and broke some pieces off, which he sent to the USA to confirm that it was a meteorite.

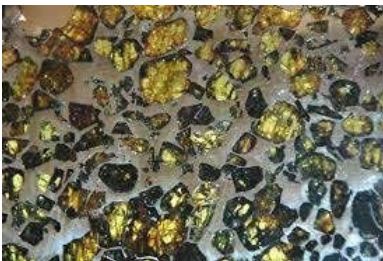
The original meteorite weighed just over a thousand kilograms, but the rock was so brilliant that everybody wanted a piece of it. Since then it has been divided into dozens of thin slices and auctioned or distributed around the world.

A total of thirty-one kilograms of specimen is on deposit at University of Arizona.

Marvin Killgore of the University of Arizona's Southwest Meteorite Centre holds the largest portion weighing at 420 kg. In 2008, this piece was expected to fetch \$2 million at an auction at Bonham's in New York but unfortunately, the prospective bidders were more impressed with a couple of pieces of 130-million-year-old fossilized dinosaur's dung that day, which sold at more than twice the estimate.



Pallasites



Pallasites are a rare type of stony-iron meteorite. They consist of centimeter-sized olivine crystals of peridot quality in an iron-nickel matrix. Coarser metal areas develop Widmanstätten patterns upon etching. Only 61 are known to date, including 10 from Antarctica, with four being observed falls.

Pallasites were once thought to originate at the core-mantle boundary of differentiated asteroids that were subsequently shattered through

impacts. An alternative recent hypothesis is that they are impact-generated mixtures of core and mantle materials.

A common error is to associate their name with the asteroid 2 Pallas, but their actual name is after the German naturalist Peter Pallas (1741–1811), who in 1772 studied a specimen found earlier near Krasnoyarsk in the mountains of Siberia that had a mass of 680 kilograms (1,500 lb.)

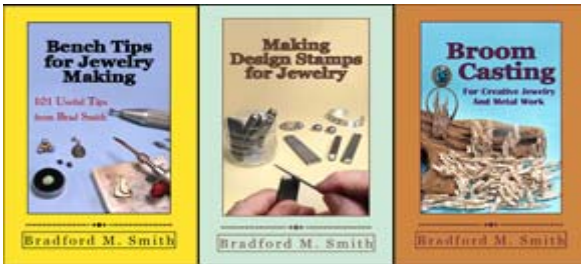
The Krasnoyarsk mass described by Pallas in 1776 was one of the examples used by E.F.F. Chladni in the 1790s to demonstrate the reality of meteorite falls on the Earth—which were at his time considered by most scientists as fairytales. This rock mass was dissimilar to all rocks or ores found in this area (and the large piece could not have been accidentally transported to the find site), but its content of native metal was similar to other finds known from completely different areas.

Wikipedia

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)
www.BradSmithJewelry.com



JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.



I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast-drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



New Book on Freedom Tool Bits

Confused by all the tool bits available for your flexible shaft or hand-held motor tool? "Accessories for the Freedom and Dremel" explains what each is good for, which ones save the most time, and the tool bits that improve the quality of your work the most. Also included are bench tips for getting good results and cautions for safe use.

The book is available on Amazon at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/)

FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it is running properly. But, how to do that? You have probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do almost anything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and hand piece maintenance. Few, if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx particularly under "Foredom Basics" or the "Foredom Shafting..." categories. Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs.

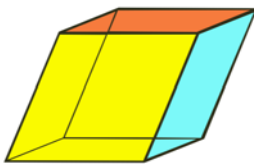


Increase Your Knowledge—A Column of New Words, Rocks, and Minerals

by Ruth Rolston

from *The Rock Prattle* 02/2017, via *Stoney Statements* 03/2017

Cinnabar: Found in shallow veins and rock impregnations. Bright red to brick-red. Chief ore of mercury. Main source of the brilliant red or scarlet pigment termed vermilion. The mineral resembles quartz in symmetry. Found in Yugoslavia, Spain, and Italy. Good crystals of rhombohedron type are found in Hunan, China and Pike County, Arkansas. Small nuggets are found in Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas.



Rhombohedron: a solid figure whose faces are six equal rhombuses. These are three-dimensional figures like a cube, except its faces are not square but rhomboidal. (Image from Wikipedia.)

Antlerite: a greenish hydrated copper sulfate mineral. It occurs in tabular, acicular, or fibrous crystals with a vitreous luster. Originally believed to be a rare mineral, antlerite was found to be the primary ore of the oxidized zones in several copper mines across the world including the Chuquicamata Mine in Chile. Its greater abundance and more widespread distribution is recognized. It is often confused with malachite and brochantite from which it is nearly indistinguishable by simple tests, and it is far more common than thought (Pough, Federick, 1955, p. 196).



Pom Pom: a pattern in agate and jasper that consists of small, fluffy-looking balls composed of radiating sagenite needles.

Sagenite: sprays of needles—hair-like, or fan-like inclusions.



Justifying Text—An Editor's Tool

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 06/2017

Pick up your latest copy of *Rock & Gem* magazine, or any respectable publication, and you will notice (or should I say—won't notice) something about the paragraphs of text. They will be just that—unnoticeable!

One sure way of improving the appearance of your articles is to employ full justification in your text. Fully justifying text flushes text to both the left and right sides of the text frame, creating a uniform block of text that visually fills the frame completely.

As bulletin editors, we can take a tip from the professionals. These professional typesetters and layout designers are expert at making paragraphs appear imperceptibly good. The paragraphs interact seamlessly with the rest of the layout, making the margins and graphics look fantastic, and helping the chosen typeface to shine! One reason that these typeset paragraphs look so good is that they do not have exaggerated ragged edges. A ragged paragraph has lines of text that finish seemingly randomly at different points along the vertical right edge, creating an uneven block of text that looks a bit messy.

Getting rid of ragged paragraphs may be a subtle tool in a bulletin editor's collecting bag of publishing skills, but it can make a huge impact on the presentation of your layouts! Justified type, when done well, can look neat and crisp, and gives your work a more professional, symmetrical appearance. You will also find that it allows for more copy in an allotted space, as the characters are used to fill the full length of the typed line.

I know that there are differences of opinion regarding justified paragraphs versus ragged edge paragraphs. This may be because in the not-so-long-ago days of setting paragraphs, the typing or software sometimes resulted in spotty type with rivers of white space (gaps between words that create vertical patterns) and too many hyphens, both of which can reduce readability as well as distract from other design elements. This is still the case when justification is applied to a very narrow column, or to one with too few words per line to allow the text to flow without undue stretching or squeezing.

Today, the common computer word processing programs have conquered this problem. Microsoft Word, Corel Word Perfect, and Microsoft Publisher all have the ability to highlight your text and, with the click of a button, fully justify your text. I still like to avoid hyphenated ends to my sentences and will go back to move the hyphenated word to the next line. Do this by putting the cursor at the start of the hyphenated word and press the space bar until the word slides to the right and moves down to the next line. The justification will evenly space the remaining words on the line as well as the remaining text in your story.

Give it a try, and see what feedback you receive from your readers!

Sources: www.fonts.com, wikipedia, kaiwe-ber.wordpress.com, <https://design.tutsplus.com>

Rock Show?—WHAT IN THE HECK IS A ROCK SHOW?

by Ray Tyler: CLUBCOLUMNISTEXTRAORDINAIRE
from THE ROCKYTIER 02/2006, via The Roadrunner 02/2017

That's right! What is a rock show? We of the silvery hair, a walking cane, a device sticking out of the ear and still can't hear, walking behind a "walker" or in a motorized wheel chair can remember that a GREAT rock show was the efforts of a cult known as "rockhounds" putting on a show that exhibited our rocks and what they looked like after our craftsmen turned it in to a gorgeous necklace, brooch, belt buckle, or an ornament. (This might be the longest sentence ever.)

I didn't witness this, but I believe it happened—a group of rock n' rollers came into one of our rock shows and asked: "Where is the music?" That to me is a fallacy, as I can't ever remember hearing what they call "music." But, as is said, to each his own. This humble (?) writer has long advocated that we drop the word "rock" and say: GEM & MINERAL SHOW or GEM, JEWELRY, AND FOSSIL SHOW, or just a plain ol' GEM & JEWELRY SHOW. There will be no music—unless by a show of hands, and I would be asked to bring my fiddle and strike up a few ol' hillbilly tunes, which I doubt will come about.

Of course, we do face our problems in the attendance that we feel we should have. Other events in town, football games, a scrabble tournament, basketball games, knife and gun shows, and our worst enemy—APATHY. Some years, we spend a gob of money trying to lure folks our way, to no avail.

And, dear members, over the years, we have tried everything—once a radio station mobile unit hawking our show from the floor, TV, radio spots, newspaper spots, card mail-outs, OCE put out thousands of fliers in our home gas bills, put fliers in hotel, motel counters, and I'm sorry to say—TO LITTLE AVAIL. LUBBOCK AND AREA JUST AIN'T GEM SHOW-ORIENTED TOWNS.

I see another fault, and it's our own...we tend to group up and talk to each other. It's acceptable to walk up to a visitor and start a conversation—sell our show and vendors (I like "vendors" over "dealers," but both are acceptable). If you can't mix, watch Bill Ott. After a show closes, I dare say he has talked to most of the vendors and visitors. Learn to say "Howdy, we're glad you're here. Enjoy the show." We have harvested a few visitors into members—but retention is something else.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of visitation with other neighboring clubs. We take up to 10 displays to each city, but looking around on their floor, see maybe a half dozen LGMS folks and some without our vests on. The same folks of our club visit. I see some of our folks with canes, or in wheelchairs, but they're there. All should be wearing vests, have a club "business" card handy to pass out, or—just say, "**Howdy!**" IT'S NOT AN OBSCENE WORD! Remember, many of the displays are of "Museum" quality—from the Smithsonian Museum on down to local museums. They are there because the often-criticized "rockhound" donations made them possible.

If you have any suggestion for the betterment of our shows, tell the Show Chairman or the Exhibit Chairman. YOU may see something we have never thought of. We originally had a "set-up dinner" only for those who worked setting up the show. But in recent years, it spread to any and all members. That's okay. Make your reservations, pay up, and eat and have fun and

fellowship with our vendors and each other. We used to furnish a good lunch for our members and vendors during the show, but a shortage of willing workers closed that down. It was a novelty not done by any other club we knew, and our goodwill reputation spread. Too bad it had to die.

Support your various chairmen with your availability to give a few hours work. They, too, would like to see the show and visit around. Now is the time to start planning YOUR part of the show—everyone needs a BLUE VEST. If you do not have one, contact the Club President. If you do not have a nametag, see me (*Editor's note: See Beverly Mace about getting name tags*). And a big also, if you don't have a real reason to leave town during our show, PLEASE DON'T. WE NEED YOU. Our club officers work for you and many even serve in the same office for several years. The various chairmen are appointed officers, and they, too, deserve a pat on the back every now and then. GIVE YOUR BEST—THAT'S ALL A MULE CAN DO TOO. C U at all club meetings and certainly at the April (*HGMS Editor's Note: November*) Show. We can't spell "YOU" without "U." Bye now.....Ray

RHODOCHROSITE

*by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
from Chips and Chatter 08/2017*

Think of Colorado and minerals, and you probably think about silver. One of the minerals that is sometimes associated with silver mining is rhodochrosite. In the early days of the Sweet Home Mine (opened 1873) near Alma, CO the miners would find red crystals.

They did not know what the red crystal was, but they knew it was not silver based. The miners were allowed to bring out the red crystals, and many used them for payment in saloons and inns. Eventually the material made its way back east where it was identified as rhodochrosite. A lot of the red crystals ended up in the slag heaps outside the mine. A rumor has it that many years ago, the streets of Alma were made with gravel from the residue of the Sweet Home Mine; and a lot of small crystals of rhodochrosite were found in the streets.



The Sweet Home Mine was shut down in 1967 due to the paucity of silver in the ore, but it was reopened in 1991 as a rhodochrosite mine with financial investment and working agreements with the Collector's Edge. It has produced some spectacular specimens. The Alma King, discovered in 1992, is the largest known rhodochrosite crystal and is displayed at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Also on display at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science is a pocket that was extracted from the Sweet Home Mine and reconstructed in the Museum. You walk through the pocket to enter the mineral exhibit. The pocket will be as close as you can get to the Sweet Home Mine, as it was again shut down at the end of 2004. The area has been environmentally restored, and only one building remains.

A similar story can be told of the Wutong Mine in China. It was opened in 1958 as a silver, zinc, and lead mine. Around 2000 there were rumors of rhodochrosite being found at the mine. In

2006 the Collector's Edge formulated an agreement with the mine owners to start collecting the rhodochrosite specimens. In 2010 they opened a pocket with several large pieces, including the world's largest rhodochrosite specimen which became known as the Emperor of China. The Empress of China specimen was collected from the same Emperor Pocket. It is my understanding that the Emperor and Empress specimens are displayed in the China National Museum. Several other very nice specimens came out of the same pocket and were nicknamed the Princesses of China or the Wutong Princesses. One of these specimens made it to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. The Wutong Mine was closed in the summer of 2011 and remains closed.



Rhodochrosite is composed of manganese with a carbonate radical, $MnCO_3$. It has a Mohs hardness from 3.5 to 4.0. Because it is so soft it is not frequently fashioned into jewelry, but some cabochons and faceted stones have been produced. Rhodochrosite is found in many locations including the United States (Colorado), China, Bulgaria, Romania, South Africa, and Argentina. Stalactites and stalagmites composed of rhodochrosite come from Argentina. As you can see from the picture, when cut as a cross section they produce a slab that is nothing short of amazing.



Rhodochrosite from South Africa, like the specimens from Colorado, exhibit transparent crystals. Some of the specimens look like they could be from the Sweet Home Mine, but one huge difference is the cost—the Sweet Home Mine crystals



cost significantly more for similarly-sized pieces, primarily because specimens are actively being mined in South Africa, while the Sweet Home Mine is closed.

References:

- ◆ Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- ◆ The Collector's Edge, <https://collectorsedge.com/>
- ◆ Rhodochrosite from Sweet Home Mine
- ◆ Rhodochrosite from Wutong Mine
- ◆ Rhodochrosite slab from Argentina
- ◆ Rhodochrosite from South Africa

All pictures of specimens displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science were taken by Don Shurtz.

Chips & Chatter Editor's comments: I took the pictures used in this article with a cell phone, and although the camera is good, it is not great. Focus seems to be one of my issues as evidenced by some of the pictures with this article. For some really great photos and more information on the Sweet Home Mine and the Wutong Mine, I would encourage you to look at "The Collector's Edge" Web site.

The link to the Sweet Home mine:

<https://collectorsedge.com/pages/sweet-home-mine-park-county-colorado-usa>.

The link to the Wutong Mine:

<https://collectorsedge.com/pages/the-wutong-rhodochrosite-mine-guangxi-zhuang-autonomous-region-china/>

Both of these links will show some amazing photographs. I would have loved to include some of the photographs, but as you know, copyright laws must be observed.

FROM THE INTERNET!!!!

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "an ambulance."

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "Theirs."

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way.

I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Ah! Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

May you always have Love to Share, Cash to Spare, and Friends Who Care.

Increase Your Knowledge—A Column of New Words, Rocks, and Minerals

*by Ruth Rolston
from The Rock Prattle 08/2017*

Fordite: also known as Detroit agate or Motor agate is old automobile paint which has hardened sufficiently to be cut and polished. It was formed from the build-up of layers of enamel paint slag on tracks and skids on which cars were hand spray-painted (now an automated process), which have been baked numerous times. In recent times, the material has been recycled into eco-friendly jewelry.

As word got around about the material, rock hounds began to show up at car factories offering to remove the problematic paint. Since the process which produced this material is no longer used, the material is becoming harder and harder to find. If you wish to have samples, you need to obtain them when you see them. Some of the colors are very pretty and make nice cabochons.

Ulexite: sometimes known as TV rock. It is a mineral occurring in silky, white, rounded crystalline masses or in parallel fibers. The natural fibers of ulexite conduct light along their long axes by internal reflection. It is a structurally complex mineral with a basic structure containing chains of sodium, water, and hydroxide octahedral.

It is known as TV rock for its unusual optical characteristics. When cut with flat polished faces perpendicular to the orientation of the fibers, a good-quality specimen will display an image of whatever surface is adjacent to its other side. It is very soft with a Mohs of 2.5. It dissolves in hot water. It is found in Chile.

Schalenblende: a botryoidal aggregate composed primarily of Sphalerite and Wurtzite found in zinc rich hydrothermal veins and as concretions in sedimentary rock. Sphalerite is a zinc iron sulphide mineral and a major ore of zinc. Wurtzite is a zinc iron sulphide and a minor ore of zinc. Schalenblende may also contain quantities of Pyrite and Galena. It is also known as Banded Blende.

Schalenblende may be found in colors of black, brown, yellow, and silver. It has a Mohs of 3.5-4. It can be found in the USA, Australia, Europe, Burma, and Peru. When cut and polished, it displays nice concentric bands of cream, brown, and silver.

Botryoidal: refers to structures that look like grapes.

Who Owns Your Domain?

by Barbara Florio Graham
from S.C.R.I.B.E. 01-02/2017

In the past few months, I have received several different notices warning me that my domain name was in danger. Three were titled "Expiration Notice," suggesting that my Web site could be shut down if I didn't send payment "immediately."

Reading more closely, two of these stated that what was about to expire was their proposal to provide SEO services! The fine print at the bottom indicated one company had offices in Los Angeles and China. The other company suggested I phone their New York office.

One detailed the costs: "1 year: \$75.00, 2 years: \$119.00, 5 years: \$199.00, 10 years (Most Recommended) \$295.00 and Lifetime (NEW!) Limited time offer - Best value! Lifetime \$499.00."

They warned: "Failure to complete your Domain name search engine registration by the expiration date may result in cancellation of this offer making it difficult for your customers to locate you on the Web."

A third warning notice was from "the register of Universal Companies" in the Netherlands, saying that my inclusion in their "World- Business List" was about to expire.

The fourth email was different. It was very polite, beginning, "Dear CEO, (If you are not the person who is in charge of this, please forward this to your CEO, because this is urgent. If this email affects you, we are very sorry, please ignore this email. Thanks."

The email goes on to say: "We are a Network Service Company which is the domain name registration center in China. We received an application from Hualong Ltd on August 1, 2016. They want to register simonteakettle as their Internet Keyword and simonteakettle.cn, simonteakettle.com.cn, simonteakettle.net.cn, simonteakettle.org.cn, simonteakettle.asia domain names, they are in China and Asia domain names. But after checking it, we find simonteakettle conflicts with your company. In order to deal with this matter better, so we send you email and confirm whether this company is your distributor or business partner in China or not?"

So, should I be concerned about registering my domain in every country in the world (including all the various iterations, including .org, .net, etc.) then paying to be included on a World Business List, and then pay for SEO services from a company I have never heard of?

I hope you all realize that you should never reply to this kind of message, or open their attachments.

You should know who handles your domain registration, and when it actually expires. And if you have any doubts about this (or any suspicious email that appears to come from your ISP, your domain registrar, or any bank), email them at the address you know to be valid and ask.

This reminds me of a scam that surfaces occasionally in the freelance world. A writer, artist, or small company receives an invitation to have their profile included in some kind of registry of The World's Best... at no charge. I have known many who were flattered by this, filling out a long and detailed questionnaire, only to be told that they would have to purchase one or more copies of a very expensive hard-cover book, in order to "defray expenses." Many refused to believe this was just a publishing scam, that the books would never be circulated beyond the participants who bought copies (many for family members as well), and never be purchased by libraries or made available online.

The key thing about your domain is to ensure that it is as broad as possible. It is always wise to opt for a .com extension instead of .ca, .org, or .net. But regardless, the best way to make sure your domain is not “stolen” by someone else is to broadcast it everywhere. Add it to your email signature, use it on social media, and put it on all your publications and promotional materials.

A story I have told many times is that if you search for Barbara Graham, one of the hits that will come up is a notorious American murderer! That's only one of the reasons why I always use my full name, Barbara Florio Graham, but also why I used my registered company name, Simon Teakettle, for my domain. There is only one Simon Teakettle, and the company is all over the Web, thanks to my efforts to keep my Web site updated.

It is a good idea to check the Web to see what turns up when you put your name, the name of your organization, or your publication into a search engine.

I always warn authors who are working on a book to search for their working title, to make sure it hasn't already been used by someone else. There has been much confusion over the years with book titles that have either the same or very similar names.

If you have a domain name that you do not feel is good enough, you can always drop that registration and pay for a new one. Ottawa Independent Writers recently did that. If you put their old URL (OIW.ca) into a search engine, the page will redirect you to the new site, OttawaIndependentWriters.com.

It is important to work on your Web site to make it as professional as possible. It is much easier if you can do this yourself, so if you are using a “webmaster,” you need to learn how to take over this function. It will save you money and allow for much more flexibility. Every year or so, I change the landing page on my site, emphasizing different aspects of my business and featuring a different one of my books. I also update the Site Map frequently.

You do not have a Site Map? That's a big mistake. Much better than that strange set of horizontal lines at the top of many sites that provide a “Menu,” a Site Map allows you to group things in logical order, and link to every page on your site so visitors can find what they're looking for quickly.

The problem with Menus is that visitors sometimes do not realize that what they are looking for might be under a sub-menu or even a sub-sub-menu. On a Site Map, everything is clearly visible, and you can even add descriptions if you wish.

Even if you have a menu bar across the top of your home page, with sub-menus, it is wise to include Site Map and Contact to the far right of that line. Don't take the chance that visitors will give up and go elsewhere if they do not find what they are looking for right away.

Pay attention to your Web site. It is one of the most valuable things you own.

Barbara Florio Graham has won awards for fiction, non-fiction, humor, and poetry, and has written for magazines and newspapers across North America. The author of three books, *Five Fast Steps to Better Writing* (20th anniversary edition), *Five Fast Steps to Low-Cost Publicity*, and the award-winning *Mewsings/Musings*, she was the Managing Editor and one of 18 contributors to *Prose to Go: Tales from a Private List*. Bobbi is a publishing consultant and marketing strategist who offers mentoring, contract review, and online courses. Her popular Web site, <http://SimonTeakettle.com> contains a wealth of free information on writing and publishing.

Show Time 2017–2018

- Oct. 13-15 Westwego, LA Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana
Alario Center; 2000 Segnette Blvd
gemshow2017@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/GemAndMineralSocietyOfLouisiana/>
- Oct. 13-15 Mount Ida, AR Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
30th Annual Quartz, Quiltz, and Craftz Festival
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Fairgrounds Rd.
director@mtidachamber.com
www.mtidachamber.com
- Oct. 14-15 Temple, TX Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society
Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St.
burnette@aceweb.com; lrolston@hotmail.com
- Oct. 20-22 Knoxville, TN Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society hosting **SFMS Federation**
Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave
- Oct. 20-22 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.
showchairman@austingemandmineral.org; www.agms-tx.org
- Oct. 21-22 Bristol, CT Bristol Gem & Mineral Club hosting **EFMLS Federation Show**
Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave.
bristolgem@hotmail.com; www.bristolgem.org
- Oct. 27-29 Glen Rose, TX Dallas Paleontological Society—35th Annual FOSSILMANIA
Somervell County Expo Center—largest fossil show in Texas
Mark Randall, 469-371-5309; DALLASPALEO.ORG
- Nov. 4-5 Amarillo, TX Golden spread Gem and Mineral Society
Amarillo Civic Center; 400 Buchanan Street, Regency Room
(806)-944-5464; finfran@midplains.coop
- Nov. 4-5 Odessa, TX Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Ector Co. Coliseum
- Nov. 4-5 Round Rock, TX Paleontological Society of Austin
Old Settlers Heritage Association, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd.
- Nov. 10-12 Humble, TX Houston Gem & Mineral Society **hosting SCFMS Federation Show**
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
- Nov. 18-19 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
1800 Rodeo Dr.
case53d@yahoo.com; <http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/>

Show Time 2018

- Feb. 24-25 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

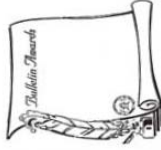
2017		September					2017
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
3 10-4 Shop Open	4 Labor Day	5 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	6 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-4 Shop Open	
10 10-4 Shop Open	11	12 11-3 Shop Open	13 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	21 Rosh Hashanah	22 1st Day of Autumn	23 10-4 Shop Open	
24 10-4 Shop Open	25	26 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29 Yom Kippur	30 10-4 Shop Open	

2017		October					2017
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 10-4 Shop Open	2	3 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	4 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	5 7:30 Archaeology Section	6	7 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
8 10-4 Shop Open	9 Columbus Day	10 11-3 Shop Open	11 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	12	13	14 10-4 Shop Open	
15 10-4 Shop Open	16 7:30 Lapidary Section	17 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	18 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	19	20	21 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
22 10-4 Shop Open	23	24 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	25 10-3 Shop Open	26	27	28 10-4 Shop Open	
29 10-4 Shop Open	30	31 10-3 Shop Open Halloween					

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
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2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2012 - 1st (Large)
2013 - 1st (Large)
2014 - 1st (Large)
2015 - 1st (Large)
2016 - 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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