



The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLIX—No. 9

September 2018



President's Message *by Paul Brandes*

Hello all,

After a 7,700 mile round trip to the Great Lakes, I have returned from my “summer sabbatical” just in time to bake in the infamous Houston heat. I looked at my outdoor thermometer a couple minutes ago and it read 96 degrees. I have not seen anything near that in a month! I believe our hottest day was 82, with most being in the 60s–low 70s and mornings in the 50s. What a change, that is for sure. In the month that we were gone, we completed much of our work. I finished the photos part of my project; Nathalie presented at two functions; and we visited three separate rock shows. I also had an opportunity to speak with many folks in the mineral community while there (more on that later). In between all this “work,” we also had plenty of time to relax and enjoy everything Upper Michigan has to offer. Now that we are back, Nathalie and I have to begin preparing for the school year and to gather our thoughts once again.



Speaking of the school year, this also begins the push to make final preparations for our Annual Show to be held November 9–11. Now is a great time to consider how you can help your Society during this time. Many tasks are available, and each offers its own, unique opportunity to see the Show from a different angle. If interested, please contact our

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Upcoming Program

by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President

September 25, 2018 General Meeting Program:- Chris Flis of the Whiteside Natural History Museum will present “Recent Permian Age Excavations.” They will be talking about all the current fieldwork as well as the history and future of the museum.

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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.

Editor: Phyllis B. George

22407 Park Point Drive

Katy, TX 77450-5852

Phone: (281) 395-3087

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E-mail the Editor 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://hgms.org>.

Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy English, for more information. Remember, our Show is the major yearly event for HGMS, and it cannot succeed without the help of members who are willing to volunteer their time and effort.

As I mentioned earlier, I chatted with many rockhounds over the course of the week about the state of their clubs and the hobby in general—both good and bad. One evening, I had the opportunity to share dinner with two museum curators and the presidents of six other clubs across the continent, including from the largest mineral society in Canada. These societies range in size from about 25 to over 800, so it was nice to get perspectives from each. One item they each mentioned was the difficulty motivating members—especially for large events such as shows or auctions. Another concern is the dramatic loss of collecting areas in which to dig, as well as the state of the hobby when it comes to a perceived loss of interest in the mineral sciences—especially among younger individuals. Many ideas were discussed and shared amongst all during the evening. I hope to share these topics with our own members for the future.

That's all for now. See you next time...

Photos from Last Year's 2017 Show *Taken by John Mitcherling*



Karen Burns—In Memoriam

by Nancy Fischer

Karen Burns was a caring, giving friend. I feel her loss. We spent many hours talking about all kinds of things. We often volunteered together at shows and conventions, representing the HGMS. She wanted everyone to know how much the club had to offer. She attracted people to the booth by creating jewelry, mostly chain maille, while she talked about what she was doing and all of the benefits of joining HGMS. I learned so much just by listening to her interact with all kinds of people.

She was so generous with her time and knowledge. I loved taking her classes. She was such a clear and patient instructor. She took over the Daylight Section from Francis Arrighi and kept us busy with new and thoughtful projects. She designed and created many project kits for us.

She was a sympathetic and empathetic listener. I always looked forward to thoughtful conversations with her. I loved the way her face lit up with delight when she saw a friend. I think a lot of us experienced that special "Karen" look when she saw us.

I miss her. Her passing is a great loss for HGMS.

Flash Fried Flask

by Reinhard F. Brueckner



Just like any recipe can be over-cooked, a bakeout oven needs a good chef. A kitchen can have all the best and newest equipment. I was taking a class in casting, and the instructor knew how to operate the equipment but did not quite understand the recipe. The bakeout oven was well used and functioning correctly. The controller was a brand new unit. What could go wrong? Insert flasks, set temperature, set the time, and walk away until morning. Well to everyone's surprise in the morning, the door was opened to find blackened, charred, blistered flasks. Not one or two but all of them. Even the investment was burned. Upon

inspection the coil of the oven had burned open as well.

The controller was checked, and it was working properly. Everyone was in a quandary about what had happened. A replacement oven was available, and it was checked—it functions correctly. So after losing a day, we were able to once again make new sprue trees, investing, cooking out the wax, and reloading the oven. Everything worked well after that. Still the question remained. WHAT HAPPENED?

Doing some research and putting a few things together, there was an answer. The steel flasks reached a temperature at which it basically went into high temperature oxidation. This is oxidation corrosion (scale) which occurs when the steel reaches around 1200 degrees Fahrenheit and higher.

The flash fried flasks were a result of two key mistakes. The oven was completely filled with two rows of tightly-packed flasks, and the thermocouple was placed deep into the center of the flasks. With the thermocouple completely surrounded by the barrier of steel flasks, the controller could not correctly sense the the heat from the oven coils. So the oven ran full blast all night. Two lessons to be learned. First; do not overpack the flasks. Make sure there is space around each flask. Second; the thermocouple normally is not placed in the dead center of the oven space. Most ovens have the thermocouple in the back top or center top just inside the oven.

Live and learn. Happy baking.

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound

*by Cindy Lind
from SCRIBE 07-08/2018*

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both,
Went out to hunt one day.

The Rockhound wanted specimens,
The 'Skeeter wanted prey!

The Rockhound found a likely spot,
and settled with his gear.
He'd dug a short time when he heard,
A buzzing in his ear.

The Rockhound swatted at the noise,
And stood to look around.
He missed the Skeeter, but he saw,
A great stone on the ground!

The Rockhound bent to lift the stone,
His backside in the air.
The 'Skeeter took advantage then,
And bit the Rockhound there.

The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug,
His bottom to defend.
The Rockhound and the 'Skeeter had,
Both got it in THE END!

Junior Precious Metal Recycling

by James Wark

Kids go crazy when you put obsolete computer components in front of them to tear apart. What a unique opportunity that presents—combining kids' energy directed to separating computer parts. Just supply them with the correct tools. That helps. Four-point and flat screwdrivers, sixteen torque drive bits, drills for the older ones, and electronic pliers. No hammers allowed. Wear your safety glasses at all times. Excitement central. It is undoubtedly the busiest set of tables at our annual show every November in Humble TX.



I started in 2006 with one table, and within a few hours, the fire marshal threatened to shut it down. There were so many kids around the table that they were blocking the fire exit. Oops. Shifts of 10 at a time. Problem solved. Last year's table count was up to six, serving 2575 young people. Busy is an understatement. Initially, a member of HGMS opposed the recycling at the show. She had concerns that it didn't fit in at the show. Months later, she called me with a large warehouse full of computer junk. Five loads later, I emptied the warehouse. She came by the tables at the next show, wondering what computers came from her. Smiling on that one. Come check me out at the show—I'm permanently located in the swap area.

It really comes down to how do we separate computers safely and still maximize the return on any commodity value. Precious metals extracted from computers are as follows. Gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and tantalum. Non-ferris metals include copper, aluminum, and stainless steel. You see, I ensure that a greater percentage of material is diverted from landfills.

I provide an expanded platform for electronics reclamation. The key is education and outreach at the same time, making an impact on the environment and teaching thousands along the way. These kids grow up fast. Now is the time to let them know that if you do not recycle now, you will not have anything to recycle in the future.

Mining capacity has been diminishing greatly. Those mines remaining are not producing nearly enough metal to meet the normal yearly demand. Usher in electronic recycling. Unlimited metal mine. No more digging holes in the fragile earth. Problem solved.

Mining material is acquired from government and hospital computer auctions. If I pay more than ONE dollar for a large truck load, I'm paying too much. People also bring to the show their obsolete electronic devices to find out where gold is located. I tell them, "Grab a screw driver, and I'll show you."

In closing, I would like to dedicate this article to Mr. Butch Clarty, who taught me the ins and outs of computer recycling years ago. Can't thank you enough. I know you're up there in heaven, looking down, just a-smiling like no one else can, watching all the commotion at the tables. What a legacy you left the world. You are truly missed. 'Til We Meet Again, Sir.

General Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2018

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

Vice President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming to the July General Meeting. Twenty-five members attended. Five of them were new members: Michelle and Bill Harger, Michael Li, Jermaine Gomez, and Sarah Good. Two guests, Joe White and his daughter Kate also attended.

Minutes: Charlie Holden moved to approve minutes of June 26, 2018 General Meeting. Susan Burch seconded the motion, and it passed.

Vice President's Announcements: President Paul Brandes is in Michigan completing research, visiting several mineral shows, and attending a couple of collecting workshops, including Keweenaw Week in Houghton. Dr. Nathalie Brandes is the keynote speaker at two of those functions. Paul will not be here for the August Board Meeting.

Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, 1st VP Stewart asked members to look for reports of Section news in the BBG, on the Web site <http://hgms.org>, or by reading the weekly e-blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. If you are a member, but are not on Jim Kendall's e-mail list, please contact him at kendallja@att.net. Jim also includes weekly shop status updates from Neal Immega.

1st Vice President Stewart invited Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

Because of the the passing of **Karen Burns**, Vice-President Sigrid Stewart announced that the Day Light Section meeting will be held on August 1, 2018 from 1:00 to 3:00. The group will have a session commemorating Karen Burns, and they will discuss future activities. Margo Bedman will present a program on lighting for jewelry display and appraisal.

Old Business

Show Committee Education Chairperson: Scott Singleton reported via email that **Charlie (Charlotte) Holden** has accepted the position of **Show Committee Education Chairperson**.

Thursday tours of the Natural History Museum: **Neal Immega** explained that he and Inda Immega will be offering tours of Egypt, Gem and Minerals, Faberge, Weiss energy, and the Paleo Hall over the summer on Free Thursdays beginning at 6:00 p.m. Just let Neal know you are coming. Email him at nealimmega@gmail.com. The last date for free evening entry is August 9.

Susan Burch reported that her wire-wrap class was well-received, and she would like to plan another one.

Additional Old Business can be followed in the BBG and on the Web Site.

New Business

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, August 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting is August 27, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting presentation will be given by Andy Xu and Ryan Anselm on "Fieldwork at the United States Earth Science Olympiad and International Earth Science Olympiad".

Show 'n Tell: Steve Blyskal showed rocks from Colorado and Jack Opatrani displayed a huge calcite crystal from the Elmwood district.

Drawing: Foster Kneeland won a thunder egg.

Refreshments: Susan Burch provided the refreshments. Members were reminded to FEED THE KITTY!

Neal Immega volunteered to bring refreshments to the August General Meeting.

Adjourn: John Cooper moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Joy Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Vice President Stewart introduced Neal Immega. He presented an informative talk on **Thunder Eggs**. A sale was held both before and after the meeting.



Name the
Backbender's Mascot
created by HGMS Member Kim Fuselier

Board of Directors' Minutes

August 7, 2018

by Nancy English

	President—Paul Brandes	X	Beading Rep—Kim Fuselier
X	1st Vice President—Sigrid Stewart		Day Light Rep—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace		Gemstones & Faceting Rep— Randy Carlson
X	Treasurer—Liane Linehan	X	Lapidary & Metal Smithing Rep— Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Mineral Rep—Mike Sommers
	Archeology Rep—Garth Clark	X	Paleontology Rep—Mike Dawkins

1st Vice President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. A quorum was present. Two non-voting members attended: Scott Singleton—Show Committee Chairman, and Chase Jennings—HGMS Publicity Chair.

1st Vice President Sigrid Stewart asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2018, BOD meeting. Beverly Mace moved for approval, and Phyllis George seconded the motion to approve last month's minutes. The motion passed.

Vice-President's Comments: Karen Burns: Karen will be dearly missed—she made many contributions to HGMS. She taught wire wrapping, chain making, and chain maille making. As the Day Light Section Chair, she planned projects that could be completed in two hours, always willing to stay later if needed or to resume on other days she was at the Club. For five years, she has signed-in the dealers at the Annual Show on Thursday, then demonstrated wire projects during the rest of the Show. Karen encouraged people to join HGMS as a volunteer at the HGMS Trade Shows, The Fine Mineral Shows, the Pop Up Rock Shows, and the Annual Clear Lake Shows.

Her daughter Valerie Emerson told Nancy English that the family wanted to donate all things lapidary to HGMS. Eight HGMS members went to Karen's home in Rosenberg on Monday, July 30, 2018, to accept the donations of all her equipment, supplies, Lapidary books, tools, rocks, slabs, cabochons, and jewelry. Thank you, Margo Bedman, Steve Blyskal, Nancy English, Margaret Hardman-Muye, Neal Immega, Debbie Kirkpatrick, Clyde McMeans, and Sigrid Stewart. Special thanks to Clyde McMeans who made many trips to Rosenberg to help Valerie dispose of furniture. Valerie also donated Karen's extensive collection of novels to the Houston Heights Rotary Club for their Annual Heights Library Book Fair, this year on October 13, 2018.

Treasurer's Report: Liane Linehan emailed the July 31, 2018 financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Show Committee: Scott Singleton announced the new **Show Committee Education Chairperson is Charlie (Charlotte) Holden.**

Scott presented the 2018 Show Budget for approval. Phyllis George moved to accept the 2018 Show budget. Kim Fuselier seconded the motion, and it passed.

Scott met with the Dealer Committee and Publicity Committee on Saturday, July 28. Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart are moving forward with those plans. The Publicity Committee includes the Web site. The Web site committee met at Sigrid's on Saturday, August 4. Charlie Holden was there to work with the committee.

Chase Jennings has given Scott possession of his Dinosaur, but Scott needs a place to store it. The dinosaur is used for advertising at the Trade Shows, and for entertainment at both the Scout Fair and the HGMS Annual Show. The BOD discussed storing it on location or renting a space for it. Options will be pursued for discussion at the next Board meeting.

The following Calendar of Show Events will be announced to the Show Committee and HGMS members next week with more details.

- September 8, 2018, 6:00 Show Committee Dinner and meeting: The best news is Scott's house will be mostly finished in time for the Show Committee Dinner and meeting of all Show Committee members, key volunteers, and Board of Directors. Invitations to the Pot Luck Dinner will be sent next week.
- September 29, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Postcard Labeling and Pizza Party
- As in past years our intrepid volunteer crew will put address labels on 5,000 postcards. Please support our show by helping. We usually finish by 11:00 or 11:30, then we dive into lunch. This year, Nancy promises to have Gluten-free pizza, meat-lovers pizza, as well as others. Suggestions are welcome. There will be salad, too.
- October 6, 13, 20, OR 27 Show Committee Dinner and Auction.
- The Show Committee will pick the Saturday in October for the Show Committee Dinner and Auction. Meats will be provided. Beer and wine are permitted. We are asking for suitable material to auction. Let Scott, Sigrid or Nancy know if you have a donation. If we don't have sufficient auction items, the Show Committee may cancel this event.
- November 8, for set up, November 9-11 Annual Show

More details will be sent out in the month prior to the show.

November 17, 2018 7:00 to 10:00-ish The Volunteer Appreciation Party : This is NOT a Pot Luck, but it is BYOB. The Show Committee will provide the meal because we want to show our appreciation to all the volunteers who collectively make this show happen. Without volunteers, we could not put on such a fantastic show. The party will be at Nancy English's home.

Archaeology Section: No programs this summer. Look for future program announcements in the fall.

Beading Section: Saturday August 18, 2018 1:30 p.m. Ice Drop Earrings. Supplies are listed on the Web site.

Day Light Section: The August 1 meeting was held in honor of **Karen Burns**. Attendees shared stories about Karen and talked about her extensive contributions to the club, including her time and expertise. The group planned meetings for the rest of the year.

- **Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. a sale of Karen's donation.** This will be a sale, not an auction. Any items not sold will be given to the Lapidary Section to sell. Leftovers from that sale will be available for the Show Dinner and Auction or the Show

Information Booth.

- **October 3, 2018, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Debbie Kirkpatrick will demonstrate silver fusion. She will give all attendees some cupric acetate for their own projects.
- **November 7, 2018, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Margaret Hardman-Muye will teach how to make a heart bracelet. Wire will be supplied. Some tools will be available. Bring your own pliers if you have them.
- **December 5, 2018 Wednesday, 12:00** Members are still discussing the possibility of having the Day Light Holiday Pot Luck. Any feedback would be helpful

Education: No report.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Program: Cutting for Competition vs Cutting Sloppy. The featured supplier will be Lightning Laps, because "It's all about the polish." The featured stone will be spinel. Don't forget to bring your show and tells, and to report progress on your show stones!! Randy Carlson will assume the role of representative to the Board until another volunteer can be found. The Board looks forward to working with him.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Monday, August 20, 2018, 7:30 Program: Steve Wilkerson: Use of the spool polisher: Demo and practice on our shop polishers.

Library: Quentin Boyer No report.

Mineral Section: The Mineral Section will not have regularly scheduled meetings during the summer hiatus. Meetings resume in September.

Paleo Section: Tuesday, August 21, 2018. 7:30 p.m. The program on Tuesday, August 21, at 7:30 by Rick Rexroad will be on Rudists—common but weird oysters. see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudists> for more info. Everyone will get to take one home.

Shop Report: The Dr. Rocks slab saw is down because a link broke in the chain that turns the feed screw. **Thursday, August 9, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., last day for a free evening tour of the Paleo Hall at HMNS.**

Youth Section: The next meetings will be August 4 and August 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Next month's meetings will be held September 1 and 15.

BBG Editor: The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the September 2018 BBG is Wednesday, August 15, 2018. NOTE: **The September issue is the last issue that can be a part of the SCFMS 2019 Bulletin Editor's Contest. The 2018 October, November, and December issues will be entered in the 2020 contest.**

Assistant Editor: Susan Burch, Assistant BBG Editor, is now running the SCFMS Annual Bulletin Editors' Contest (BEAC) in addition to producing the SCFMS Newsletter. The position of BEAC is an extremely time-consuming position—announcing the contest throughout the federation, finding non-SCFMS experts to agree to judge articles, sending the entries to the appropriate judges, sorting the results, printing certificates for each entry, obtaining trophies for the top three entries in each category, etc., etc.

Phyllis George has relieved Susan of the Assistant Editor position to allow her plenty of time for

her SCFMS responsibilities. Phyllis said, "I will be very pleased to have her back as my Assistant Editor when she has time available again—if she is still interested. Until then, I thank her VERY MUCH for all the great ideas she brought to the BBG."

Kim Fuselier showed the BOD two other sketches of young rock hound caricatures to be used periodically in the BBG. The contest to name the new mascot starts in September. The following message will be posted on the E-blast soon.

Join the contest in September to name the new BBG Mascot!! Submit one name for the BBG Mascot. Please, send your suggested name along with your name, email, address, and phone number to Kim Fuselier at calmgirl@att.net. The winner will receive a photo, a framed picture of painting, with the winning name inscribed at the bottom of picture, and a bound color copy of the July 2018 BBG introducing the Mascot. The deadline for the contest entries is October 31, 2018. The winner will be announced at the HGMS Holiday party on December 15.

Old Business

Building Safety: President Brandes is out of town. No information is available.

Scholarship Program: Mike Sommers announced the Scholarships winners: \$2500 is awarded to Loren Marissa Walker and \$500 is awarded to Matthew Elias Tsegaye. Liane has been given the school addresses where the money must be sent. Nancy English has notified Douglas Dodds. Nancy will write cover letters for Mike Sommers' signature to send with the checks to the colleges.

Security System: No report.

Creating "How-To" videos: Sigrid Stewart reported that some research has been done. Another member has shown interest in joining the committee.

Dunn Southwest: The letter designating Gary Tober as the HGMS representative to Dunn Southwest was mailed to Dunn Southwest after the July BOD meeting. Nancy English received the confirmation that she is now the HGMS Registered Agent with the State of Texas to replace Michele Marsel.

Dr. Gary Tober represented HGMS at the DSWBPA Annual Meeting on Wednesday July 18, 2018. Gary reported via email: The association is stable financially, with good reserves. Recently, the storm drainage system was searched and found to be clear. It is thought that the drainage piping is larger than Houston's system, which may have caused the backup and flooding in Dunn Southwest. The DS Board has allocated about \$5100 for a study to explore any possible actions to improve the drainage situation. The previous board was re-elected during the meeting. There is still some concern about prostitution in the area. It is not close to HGMS.

Nancy English was asked to visit our neighbor and discuss any concerns he has about HGMS using his parking lot when his business is closed. There was discussion regarding how best to prevent illegal parking. Dunn Southwest Board members suggested signs indicating that violators would be towed. Also, owners may wish to contact a well-known towing concern to perform the towing.

Nancy and Tom English attended the 38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show of the Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society on July 22, 2018. Nancy returned with business cards, some new rocks, and pics of unusual wire wrap.

New Business

Words for our treasured members and friends. It has become painfully obvious that the people we enjoy, call friends, and depend upon at HGMS also have families and lives outside of HGMS. And when something happens to them, we all wonder, worry, grieve, and want to know about hospitals, recoveries, services. Ask each other and give each other family contacts. It will be a gift to the dear friends you have made at Section meetings, classes, and during shop hours. Your family may appreciate a call from an HGMS member if something happens to you. Your HGMS Family will appreciate a call. Maybe put a card in your wallet that asks that we be notified if you go into the hospital or have an accident.

Parking Lot Posts: Semi-trucks are driving over the parking barriers, crushing them, exposing bolts, and adding unnecessary weight to the drain depression. Nancy English will contact Dunn Southwest to let them know Neal will put cement-filled steel posts at the center of each space to deter and impede the traffic. The same type of posts identify the driveway entrances.

The 2018 HGMS Rosters have been mailed. In the future, Beverly Mace will create separate entries of different names at the same address if the members ask for it. It complicates the mailings lists for her, but if asked, she will do it.

Next Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting is August 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Andy Xu and Ryan Anselm will present U.S. and International Earth Science Olympian fieldwork.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the meeting. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

For more tips or to learn new jewelry skills, see
<http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>
www.BradSmithJewelry.com

SETTING A RIVET

Riveting is usually done with a cross peen hammer, but I have found it is a lot easier for me to hit the rivet wire when using a small ball peen—and the smaller the better. Shown here is one I typically use. It is about 3/8 inch diameter on the back of a chasing hammer, but I have been thinking that a 3/16 inch ball might be even better. Look for a yard sale hammer you can modify to work.



SHEET WAX WITH ADHESIVE

While shopping in the Los Angeles jewelry district for supplies for our class, I found a new product that may interest some of you. Often before casting, I want to increase the thickness of a model by adding a layer of wax on the backside. For instance, models like a leaf or a flower petal do not cast well unless you add a little extra thickness. The problem is trying to apply a coating of wax that is smooth and even.

The new product I found is an easily moldable sheet wax with an adhesive coating. This lets me easily add thickness to a very thin model. With a leaf, just press it onto the wax, trim excess wax around the outer edges, and then gently bend the sandwich to the contour you would like. The wax is available in a number of different thicknesses from about 26 ga to 14 ga.

If interested, my supplier is:

Jewelry Tools & Supplies

412 W. 6th Street #1011

Los Angeles, CA 90014

213 624-8224

jtstech@sbcglobal.net

Discover and Master New Jewelry Skills with Brad's Books

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



Another Photo from Last Year's 2017 Show

Taken by John Mitcherling



AMFS President's Message
by Sandy Fuller, AFMS President
from the September 2018 AFMS Newsletter
via Chips & Chatter 09/2018

During my year as president, I get the privilege and opportunity to travel to each of the seven regions and meet with local leaders and club representatives.

(Unfortunately for me, I can't make the California Regional Convention, but I know President-elect Doug True will be a great substitute.)

So far, I have journeyed to Raleigh, NC; Yakima, WA; Lubbock, TX; and Rapid City, SD. I have met wonderful people and enjoyed great shows as well as some wonderful collecting, and visited local museums. Congratulations to all who helped to organize and produce these conventions. As a former show chair, I am well aware of the many hours it takes to make an idea a reality. Thank you so much, show chairs and regional leaders, for the work you have done.



In each region, I am again struck by the passion and giving of our club and regional volunteers. People from all walks of life and political views are working together to create successful associations.

As a friend of mine often says, "We came for the rocks, minerals, fossils, and lapidary arts, but we stayed for the people." (Thanks, Dennis Westman.) Regardless of our level of participation, we are about relationships, whether we are mentoring newbies, developing long-lasting friendships, or providing support and care of our old-timers. Our clubs are really about people working together around a common passion.

Our leaders, whether local, regional, or national, give so much to make all of these things happen. Let's give them our hearty thanks for all their hard work.

Let's also try to understand and keep tempers in check when things might not go as well as they might.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming conventions in Springfield, IL and Jacksonville, FL. See you there.

Sandy

SCFMS President's Message

A NOTE FROM ROGER

by Roger Burford

from the SCFMS Newsletter- 07-08/2018

Greetings Rockhounds! Well, we are getting into the hottest part of the year here in the south. I hope if any of you are out in the sun digging in the dirt or searching on the surface looking for those rocks, that you are remembering to BE SAFE!!! Keep hydrated. Watch for snakes! Dress comfortably. Use the buddy system. Know what the weather forecast is for the day.

Have you ever wondered what our clubs are supposed to be doing or why they exist? I bring this up because at times we lose sight of what the overall reason is for us to get together each month. When our clubs are founded, they file an Act of Organization or some such document with the government which states the purpose of the club. This document then allows the club to file for a nonprofit [501(C)3] status Charitable Organization. Our clubs are organized as non-profit educational and scientific organizations. As clubs, we then organize into a bigger organization which, in our case, is the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies. Our purpose and goal is to learn about and teach interested people about the earth sciences and the lapidary arts. We aid the public by assisting teachers in their class rooms as well as other organizations like the Boy or Girl Scouts. Also, we hold our annual shows to teach the public in general and to make money to help us perform our objectives. We are not just social organizations that meet once a month, we are organized to help our communities. Let's remember this as we gather together each month. Let's get out there and get more young people interested in rocks and fossils. Let's teach other people how much fun it is to know all about the things we can do with rocks.

If anyone has any questions about our clubs and our non-profit status, please send an email to: scfmsinformation@gmail.com.



One other item needs to be brought to everyone's attention once again—a considerable amount of spam is being sent out right now in the name of SCFMS or in my name as the President of the region asking for money. SCFMS would NEVER do things this way, nor would I. If you receive such an email, please let an EXECUTIVE OFFICER of SCFMS know and forward them the email. This has gotten to the serious level.

I sincerely hope everyone has a safe and happy summer! Find lots of beautiful rocks, and make lots of beautiful things with them!

Roger

WHAT TO DO IN THE CASE OF BAD PUBLICITY

*by DeLane Cox, RMFMS Public Relations Chair
via Rocky Mountain Federation News 06/2018,
via SCFMS Newsletter 07-08/2018*

Yes, it does happen. Bad publicity. There is nothing quite like two people getting together and putting nasty, or wrong, or harmful information about your Club on Facebook.

Who will see it, you wonder? Everybody! Especially anyone you do not want to see it.

This is a crisis. And Crisis Management is needed. Quickly.

But the first thing you want to do is...wait. Isn't that contradictory to what I just said, to get to it quick? Well, there is "quick," and there is "quick and better."

When I said, "Wait," did you imagine not doing anything? Wrong. Did you imagine putting off a response for a few hours, then firing with all guns at the perpetrator of the Bad Image Post? Also Wrong.

First of all, you need information. You need to know just who was saying what and why. Was this a misunderstanding between two people not in your club? Or IN your club? Was this someone who heard something then decided to expand on the information, even though it was wrong? Or was this willful and meaningful hatred of somebody or something?

Just for the record: This last one is probably the hardest to handle. And requires the most delicate of handling. So I will start with this one. Again, do not jump up and start shouting bad words or making statements before you have full facts. You must have more information. Try to find the root cause, because without knowing that, anything you do or say or print will be useless. Get help in trying to find out the reason for the bad publicity. See who might know the person, who might know something about the situation, someone who might be able to get to the actual cause for the nastiness.

But you need to do it quickly. Social Media has made it possible to get anything put online heard around the world in less than a minute! (That's scary!)

This is an instance where the key leadership in your club must get together, preferably in person, and come to an agreement on how to handle the problem. This IS something to do quickly. You can agree to publish a short statement as close as possible to the site of the original foulness that says the Club is aware of the statement and is looking with due care into the problem, but will make no further comments until we know the cause for the problem. Period. NEVER strike back. Keep calm and look for causes.

And do not go threatening lawsuits: They are expensive, and usually not appropriate.

Depending on the severity of the problem, all of your membership might need to be informed and told what you know. That way if they hear or see something about the problem, they can counter it—or get the evidence and give it to the president or publicity chair to add to the history of the problem.

Once the problem is solved, and not a minute before, you can put out information about the problem, its source, why it has happened and, most importantly, what the Club is going to do about it. Simple and Calm. Then, chances are, and with a little luck, there will not be any other responses. The problem will just fade away and cease to exist.

So much for the nastiness. Let us look at other reasons for bad publicity.

Some things you can counter, some things you leave alone. Sometimes a simple apology will suffice. This will probably work in the case of a misunderstanding between people.

Sometimes it takes a bit more work. If erroneous information has been published or put on social media, you need to get the correct information out as soon as possible. But be sure you have that correct information first.

But what if something actually happens that gets disastrous press coverage? Again, as quickly as you possibly can, first offer an apology or offer condolences on behalf of the club. Put out a brief press release or Facebook post or a note on your website (or all of these) that this is what happened and the Club is looking into the problem and will report back as soon as information has been gathered. Then get the correct information, and get that out where it will be seen as soon as it is known. Things happen, and it helps if the club and the club's publicity chair have some good thoughts that can be pulled in and published to help polish up the Club's image. This might be one of those times when your RMFMS insurance really pays for itself.

But someone will have to make the decision about what you and the club are going to do to improve your public image. And you really, really DO want to shine that up. Especially if you want to keep members, or get new members. Good image IS important to your club. The fate of a 501 (c)(3) could hang on good images. It is not a good idea to overlook problems that shed a bad image on the club's good name or reputation.

Face problems with clear vision, good intentions, and all of the help you can get. Think problems through thoroughly before jumping onto them. But do not let a smear on your reputation go without some acknowledgement—even if it is just that apology. That BIG apology will go a long way to help create a better public image than doing nothing at all.

How well does your club shine?

Quartz with Color—Amethyst and Citrine

*by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
from Chips and Chatter 09/2018*

This month's topic will be purple and yellow-colored quartz, generally called amethyst and citrine. Both amethyst and citrine have the same physical characteristics as quartz, including formation in the trigonal crystal system, the typical quartz six-sided crystals terminated in a six-sided pyramid, Moh's hardness of 7, and conchoidal fracture.

Most amethyst derives its color from inclusion of trace quantities of



iron with a plus three valence (Fe+3) replacing some of the silicon (Si) atoms in the crystal matrix. The ratio of the number of iron atoms to the number of silicon atoms is about ten to one hundred parts per million—less than 0.01 per cent of the silicon atoms are replaced by iron. Color intensity depends on concentration of the trace iron, and is generally variable throughout the stone. If the concentration is near the crystal faces, the color will be deeper. In many cases, the color is banded with alternating dark and light bands.

Amethyst is the birthstone for February. The word amethyst comes from Greek language word *amethystos* meaning not drunk. The Greek and the Romans believed that wine served in a goblet fashioned from amethyst, would not cause drunkenness. It would keep the one consuming the wine clear-headed and witty. Amethyst can be found in the Bible as one of the twelve stones on the Breastplate of Aaron, representing one of the twelve tribes of Israel.



Citrine's source of color is still being studied with a number of possible answers. One type of citrine derives its color from trace amounts of aluminum replacing some of the silicon atoms, then being subjected to natural radiation. Smoky quartz also gets its color from trace amounts of irradiated aluminum.

Some citrine actually has phantom crystals of lightly colored smoky quartz inclusions. A study of Brazilian citrine indicates that the color of fine Brazilian citrine comes from trace amounts of aluminum and lithium, and the ratio of aluminum to lithium determines the color. When the ratio is near 1 to 1, the material is very dark or black. When the ratio is near 0.5, the stone is the color of honey. When the ratio is less than 0.3, the color is yellow. The concentration of aluminum and lithium determines the depth of the color. Yet another cause of the yellow color in citrine can be trace amounts of iron plus being heat-treated. This can and does occur naturally, but most citrine on the market today is actually heat-treated amethyst; natural citrine is quite rare.

Citrine is one of two the birthstones for November; the other birthstone is topaz. The word citrine is derived from the Latin word *citrina* that means yellow. Citrine is sometimes known as "the healing quartz" for the belief that it can cause a person to become calm. Citrine is also known as "the merchant's stone" for the belief that it can attract prosperity and wealth. One interesting note on The Quartz Page (see references) is that it is permissible for jewelry traders to describe heat-treated amethyst as citrine. Other sources indicate that any treatments, including heating, should be divulged. With citrine, the correct answer is "buyer beware." Deal with a trusted source.

References

- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

- Amethyst, mindat.org, <https://mindat.org>
- American Gem Society, <https://www.americangemsociety.org>
- Citrine, The Quartz Page, <http://www.quartzpage.de>
- What Were the Gemstones of the Breastplate of Aaron, International Gem Society, <https://www.gemsociety.org>

Pictures

- Amethyst, released to public domain, <https://pixabay.com>
- Citrine, released to public domain, <https://pixabay.com>

Make Sugar Crystals at Home

via The Tumbler 08/2018

Rock candy is another name for sugar crystals. Making your own rock candy is a fun and tasty way to grow crystals and see the structure of sugar on a big scale. Sugar crystals in granulated sugar display a monoclinic form, but you can see the shape much better in homegrown large crystals. This recipe is for rock candy that you can eat. You can color and flavor the candy, too. Basically, all you need to make rock candy or sugar crystals is sugar and hot water. The color of your crystals will depend on the type of sugar you use (raw sugar is more golden than refined granulated sugar) and whether or not you add coloring. Any food-grade colorant will work.



Ingredients:

- 3 cups granulated sugar (The same sugar you bake with or put on your cereal.)
- 1 cup water
- clean glass jar
- cotton string
- Popsicle stick or bamboo stick, pencil, stick, or knife
- food coloring (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. to 1 tsp. flavoring oil or extract (optional)
- Lifesaver candy (optional)
- pan
- stove or microwave

How to Make:

1. Pour the sugar and water into the pan.
2. Heat the mixture to a boil, stirring constantly. You want the sugar solution to hit boiling, but not get hotter or cook too long. If you overheat the sugar solution, you'll make hard candy—which is nice—but not what we're going for here.
3. Stir the solution until all the sugar has dissolved. The liquid will be clear or straw-colored,

without any sparkly sugar. If you can get even more sugar to dissolve, that's good, too.

4. If desired, you can add food coloring and flavoring to the solution. Mint, cinnamon, or lemon extract are good flavorings to try. Squeezing the juice from a lemon, orange, or lime is a way to give the crystals natural flavor, but the acid and other sugars in the juice may slow your crystal formation.

5. Set the pot of sugar syrup in the refrigerator to cool. You want the liquid to be about 50°F (slightly cooler than room temperature). Sugar becomes less soluble as it cools, so chilling the mixture will make it so there is less chance of accidentally dissolving sugar you are about to coat on your string or stick.

6. While the sugar solution is cooling, prepare your string or stick. Use a stick or string that is rough and non-toxic. Tie the string or stick to a pencil, knife, or another object that can rest across the top of the jar. You want the string or stick to hang into the jar, but not to touch the sides or bottom.

7. If you use string, you want to weight your string down with anything that is nontoxic, so rather than use a metal object, you can tie a Lifesaver to the bottom of the string.

8. You want to "seed" the string or stick with crystals so that the rock candy will form on the string or stick rather than on the sides and bottom of the jar. There are two easy ways to do this. One is to dampen the string or stick with a little of the syrup you just made, and dip the string in sugar. Another option is to soak the string or stick in the syrup and then hang it to dry, which will cause crystals to form naturally (this method produces 'chunkier' rock candy crystals).

9. Once your sugar and water solution has cooled, pour it into the clean jar. Suspend the seeded string or stick in the liquid. Set the jar somewhere quiet. You can cover the jar with a paper towel or coffee filter to keep the solution clean.

10. Check on your crystals, but do not disturb them. You can remove them to dry and eat when you are satisfied with the size of your rock candy. Ideally, you want to allow the crystals to grow for 3–7 days.

11. You can help your crystals grow by removing (and eating) any sugar "crust" that forms on top of the liquid. If you notice many crystals forming on the sides and bottom of the container and not on your string or stick, remove your string or stick and set it aside. Pour the crystallized solution into a saucepan and boil/cool it (just like when you made the solution). Add it to a clean jar, and suspend your growing rock candy crystals.

12. Once the crystals are finished growing, remove them and let them dry. The crystals will be sticky, so the best way to dry them is to hang them. If you plan to store the rock candy any length of time, you will need to protect the outer surface from humid air. You can seal the candy in a dry container, dust the candy with a thin coating of cornstarch or confectioner's sugar to reduce sticking, or lightly spritz the crystals with non-stick cooking spray.

If you make sugar crystals, bring a sample to the meeting. Tell us how you made the crystals.

History of Rockhounding

Jose Sancamaría



Tip & Trips
The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.

via Beehive Buzzer 1/99 & others

GEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

Reports spotted by Jim Brace-Thompson in recent newspapers from Rockhound Rambling 08/2018

Indonesia Rocked by Back-to-Back Quakes. In the wee morning hours of July 29, 2018, a shallow but strong magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Indonesia with immediate reports of 16 killed and 162 injured on Lombok Island. 1,000 houses were damaged or totally destroyed, and the days immediately following the quake saw aftershocks measuring between 4.8 and 5.3 on the Richter scale. But those were nothing compared to what was to come. On August 5, a magnitude 6.9 quake struck the same island, killing 82 and triggering a tsunami warning. On top of the damage from the previous week, still more debris piled up on streets and sidewalks, panicking residents and visitors to this popular tourist destination near Bali. As with the earlier quake, large aftershocks have followed, one as powerful as 5.9. Using satellite imaging, NASA scientists say the quakes have lifted the island by 10 inches!

Gigantic Iceberg Threatens Greenland Village. The island village of Innarsuit, Greenland, may be tiny, housing 169 people, but above it looms something gigantic: an iceberg 330 feet high weighing 11 million tons! The berg cut loose from Greenland's inland glaciers and has floated to the village harbor entrance, where it has been calving slabs that push big waves, spawning fears of a killer tsunami. Already, residents have fled low-lying areas as pieces of the iceberg drift into a harbor that serves to funnel and magnify wave action. Why the panic? Last year, four died and 11 were injured by iceberg-induced tsunami-like waves in another Greenland village.

The Stuff Earth Is Made of...An article in the journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" reports on the discovery of interstellar dust that may have formed Earth and our solar system. Scientists collected the dust from our upper atmosphere, where it was likely left by the tails of comets, and they believe it to be the "surviving interstellar dust that formed the very building blocks of planets and stars" billions of years ago.

Mud Volcano Continues Belching. Last month we reported on how the volume of lava belched by the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii would fill 100,000 Olympic swimming pools. "Earth" magazine reports that a "mud volcano" nicknamed Lusi in East Java, Indonesia, spewed 180,000 cubic meters of hot muddy debris per day when it first awoke in 2006. Per earth scientists, that equaled 72 Olympic swimming pools each day. (It seems earth scientists are unusually obsessed by Olympic swimming pools!) 12 years later, Lusi continues to produce more than 80,000 cubic meters of mud a day. No one knows how it all started—or how to stop it. Meanwhile, only rooftops and lampposts rise above the resulting mud fields in what were once nearby villages.

A New Geological Age Named: Welcome to the Meghalayan! Scientists have been debating a new name for our current geological epoch, namely the "Anthropocene," to reflect human influence on our planet since 1950. While that name continues to be debated, one new name was officially announced in July by the International Commission on Stratigraphy: the Meghalayan age. To earn a name, a proposed geological age must have a marker in the rock record. This one's marker comes from oxygen isotopes in a stalagmite from India. The Holocene Epoch is now officially divided into three ages: Greenlandian (starting 11,700 years ago as massive continental glaciers retreated), Northgrippian (starting 8,300 years ago at the start of a renewed cooling trend), and Meghalayan (starting 4,200 years ago with a drought that saw the decline of several ancient civilizations).

Crossing the Threshold to Multicellular Life. Life crossed a crucial threshold when it moved from formless, unicellular critters to the many forms of multicellular life we see today—an evolutionary task once seen as supremely complex and complicated. But, per Ben Kerr (an evolutionary biologist at the University of Washington) “We are beginning to get a sense of how it might have occurred” some 2.5 to 3 billion years ago when coil-shaped fossils of blue-green algae dubbed *Grypania spiralis* left their trace in the fossil record. Scientists are finally unraveling the mysteries involved in moving from single-celled organisms to the vast array of multi-celled critters all around us today, from 4-celled algae to humans with some 37 trillion cells, and it does not seem as difficult as once imagined. Researchers have recently gotten single-celled yeast to evolve multicellularity in the lab in just five simple steps—steps that may have led to the diversity of life we see today.

The Snake that Preceded Adam & Eve. While it is said that a mythical snake tempted Eve with an apple and thus expelled us all from the Garden of Eden, two snakes of a very real variety have been discovered in Myanmar, peering out from Cretaceous amber. It is speculated that the wee babies may be the oldest snake fossils yet discovered. Per an article in the July 20, 2018, issue of the journal *Science*, the amber that entombed the snakes also contains insect and plant fossils suggestive of a forested environment perhaps not too different from that Garden of Eden!

A Set of Deadly Pearly Whites Surfaces Down Under. A casual stroll on the beach resulted in the find of a lifetime for Australian Philip Mullaly. Searching the shore near Melbourne for ordinary fossils, he saw a glint in a boulder. That glint proved to be anything but ordinary! The boulder concealed an associated grouping of 40 teeth, each one nearly 3-inches long. While single shark teeth are common finds among fossil hunters, associated groupings are rare. Rarer still are associated groupings of this particular species from 25 million years ago: the Great Jagged Narrow-Toothed Shark, *Carcharocles angustidens*. At an estimated 30 feet in length, this fossil shark was half the size of its relative named “Meg” (*Carcharocles megalodon*) but still twice as big as today’s Great White Shark. What does a shark 30-feet long with 3-inch teeth eat? Anything it wants! But, scientists speculate, dinner most often consisted of whales. Mullaly donated the teeth to Australia’s Museums Victoria for public display.

Enjoying Flashy Visitors from Space. Earth is not alone in this galaxy of ours. Now and again spectacular meteor showers provide us with flashy reminders, as did the Perseids during a darkened period of a crescent moon. An article in USA Today called it “the best summertime meteor shower...coming to a sky near you.” This year, the Perseids peaked August 11–13 with as many as 70 meteors visible per hour for those in prime viewing locations. Nancy and I spotted a few terrific fireballs from our backyard. If you missed it, you can don a jacket or coat and brave the more frigid appearances of the Leonids in November and the Geminids in December.

Seeking New Earths. Earlier this year, NASA launched the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), and we will soon see its first results as it scans the stars in search of planets and reports back approximately every two weeks. While the search for new planets is all the rage among astronomers nowadays, TESS could set a completely new standard, with excitement building that it may yield literally thousands of planets as it monitors stars nearest to Earth. Says Paul Hertz of NASA, “I look forward to the strange, fantastic worlds we’re bound to discover.”

Show Time—2018–2019

- Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL Midwest Federation hosted by Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Soc.
Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave.
<http://www.loess.org/>
- Oct 12–13 Mount Ida, AR Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
31st Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Crystal
Digging Contest against other miners—maybe win cash & a trophy
director@mountidachamber.com; mountidachamber.com
- Oct 13-14 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society
Amarillo Civic Center Complex, 401 S. Buchanan St.
patfoster2@hotmail.com; amarillotreasure.com
- Oct 13-14 Temple, TX Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society
Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3303 N. Third St.
lrolston@hotmail.com
- Oct. 19-21 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society;
Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd
showchariman@austingemandmineral.org;
www.agms-tx.org
- Oct. 20-21 Sedona, AZ Sedona Gem & Mineral Club
Sedona Gem and Mineral Club
Sedona Red Rock High School; 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd
webstuff1954@hotmail.com; www.sedonagemandmineral.org
- Oct. 26-28, Glen Rose, TX Dallas Paleontological Society; Somervell County Expo Center
202 Bo Biggs Blvd., Apt. 10208
markrandall00@sbcglobal.net; dallaspaleo.org
- Nov 3-4, Odessa, TX Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Building D
mgmstx@gmail.com
- Nov. 9-11 Humble, TX Houston Gem & Mineral Society
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.
5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport
1 mile east of Hwy. 59
hgms.org; showchair@hgms.org
- Nov. 17-18 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
Rodeo Center Exhibition Hall, 1800 Rodeo Dr.
dgmscontracts@yahoo.com; www.dallasgemandmineral.org
- Jan.5-27 2019 Tyler, TX East Texas Gem and Mineral Show
Tyler, Texas, 420 Rose Park Dr
keithharmon19@yahoo.com; etgms.com

2018		September					2018
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open	3 Labor Day	4 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	5 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light 7:30 Mineral Section	6 NO Archae- ology Section Meetings until further notice	7	8 10-4 Shop Open	
9 10-4 Shop Open Rosh Hashanah begins	10	11 11-3 Shop Open Rosh Hashanah ends	12 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 p.m. Gemstone & Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	20	21 POW/MIA Recognition Day	22 10-4 Shop Open 1 st Day of Autumn	
23 10-4 Shop Open	24	25 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29 10-4 Shop Open	
30 10-4 Shop Open							

2018		October					2018
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 NO shop 7:30 BOD Meeting	3 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light 7:30 Mineral Section	4 NO Archaeology Section Meetings until further notice	5	6 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
7 10-4 Shop Open	8 Colum- bus Day	9 NO shop	10 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 p.m. Gemstone & Faceting Section	11	12	13 10-4 Shop Open	
14 10-4 Shop Open	15 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 NO shop 7:30 Paleo Section	17 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	18	19	20 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
21 10-4 Shop Open	22	23 NO shop 7:30 General Meeting	24 10-3 Shop Open	25	26	27 10-4 Shop Open	
28 10-4 Shop Open	29	30 NO shop	31 10-3 Shop Open Halloween				

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 Brooklet
Houston, Texas 77099
(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2016 - 1st (Large)
2017 - 1st (Large)
2018 - 1st Large



AFMS

1998 - 2nd (Large)
2004 - 3rd (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 2nd (Large)
2012 - 3rd (Large)
2013 - 3rd (Large)
2014 - 2nd (Large)
2017 - 3rd (Large)

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