

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



## FEATURED MEMBER: JOHN MOFFITT

see more on page 7

### JOHN AND TRILOBITE ASSEMBLAGE EXHIBIT

VOLUME LXXIII

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MINERAL SOCIETY

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### **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

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

*Copy is due for the next issue by the 15th of this month. Email content to [editor@hgms.org](mailto:editor@hgms.org)*



# *The* BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Sigrid Stewart*

As I write this, Steve and I have just finished unloading the Jeep after a trip to Alpine, Texas. For those who are not familiar with the Alpine area, it is the center of a large volcanic province, and many of the basalt flows which form the mountains and mesas are agate-bearing. It has been 30 million years since this spate of vulcanism built the Davis Mountains surrounding Alpine, and erosion and weathering have released many treasures from their rocky beds.

At various times in the past I had been to the Woodward, Walker and Anderson Ranches, and Steve and I have collected on the Ritchie, the Singleton, Stillwell and Larremore Ranches, and the areas around Wild Rose Pass and Balmorra. Recently, we had been hearing about arranged field trips to a new ranch in the Alpine area and were eager to get in on the action. The pictures posted on the Texas Rockhounds group on Facebook were intriguing and suggested that a large variety of high quality agates could be found. We signed up!

Steve began communication with Aaron Frank Thomas, who would be guiding us on three field trips. Aaron is a geophysicist, who moved to Alpine after exiting the Oil business in 2016. Since then he has been operating a food truck, catering for various functions and running a rock shop. In 2020, he began working with James Winn VI, one of the owners of the Kokernot 06 Ranch, to help him evaluate his ranch for collectible agates. News got out and rockhounds began calling!

On Friday morning before the first field trip, we met Aaron and James, and a friend, Roy, who would be guiding us on the ranch that day. Guides are very necessary! First of all, the site is a private ranch, and fees are collected for entry and for poundage of rock collected. Second, the place is huge, 110,000 acres. Third, really good agates are found in limited areas! Aaron has identified 76 prospective areas so far. Some have been named, and our first destination was Happy Hill.

After a year of no field trips, we were very happy to be out on the ranch collecting and quickly found some great stuff. No details yet! We haven't even washed and sorted rocks yet or had a chance to cut any. Tired, happy and dusty, we went back to our rooms to prepare for the next day.

Saturday we went to the Larremore Ranch, which just happens to be on Calamity Creek, downstream of the famous Woodward and Walker Ranches. This area has been hunted for years but we still made some finds.

Sunday, back at the Kokernot 06 at a site called Sagenite Hill, was the jackpot! We found some really nice biscuits – amygdules of agate in place or newly released from the basalt, many containing sagenite inclusions. Again, no details! You will just have to wait for our articles, photos and talks! In the meantime, visit Texas Rockhounds for photos and information on how you could go on a field trip in this area.

For 2021, President Sigrid Stewart is bringing back monthly auctions. We will have 5-6 items for auction at each General Meeting. We will send out a preview of auction items in the Sunday E-Blast right before each General Meeting. And Door Prizes are back too! Hope you can join us.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Steve Blyskal*

The presentation for the next General Meeting on April 27th, 2021, will be given by Peter Magaw, noted collector of Mexican minerals. Peter, who manages exhibits for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show – the club show for the most prestigious group of annual shows in the world - will present a program about Electric Opal, focusing on daylight luminescent hyalite opal from Zacatecas, New Mexico, which glows in daylight and shade. He developed the deposit himself. Lapidarists and mineral fans both will want to see this program. The natural uncut pieces can be wire wrapped, or set in gold and silver, creating stunning jewelry. Paul Brandes said it was an excellent talk, that he had seen previously at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium.

## SHOWS

Texas Mineral and Fossil Conroe Spring Show April 23-25, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4  
The Texas Lonestar Convention Center & Expo, 9055 Airport Rd. Free admission. Dealers offering minerals, fossils, gemstones, meteorites and jewelry, geode cracking.  
Contact Sandra Gonzales, 3435 S Birch St; Email: info@rmgmpromotions.com;  
Website: www.rmgmpromotions.com Warning: shows may be cancelled.

## SECTION REPORTS

### MINERAL SECTION

The Mineral Section held a virtual meeting March 17, 2021, featuring a program on Arizona Wulfenite given by Steve Steinke. He showed many great photographs of self-collected specimens.

As always, please see the [Upcoming Programs](#) section on the HGMS website to learn more about planned future meetings. Several good programs are lined up. All mineral lovers are welcome!

*Wulfenite with druzy Vanadinite*



## BEADING SECTION

The Beading Group met on Saturday, March 20th at 1:30 PM via Zoom. Maggie Manley demonstrated learning to make a Beaded Bead using even-count Peyote Stitch to cover a large wooden bead in seed beads. The bead(s) can be used to create a pendant, necklace, and/or earrings, key chain, etc.

All interested persons are welcome to join future calls.

RSVP: [Maggiem2@windstream.net](mailto:Maggiem2@windstream.net) and she will send you the Zoom link and project photos.

## JEWELRY REPAIR WITH A TIG WELDER

*by Neal Immega, Paleontologist*

During the COVID virus seclusion, I moved the Sunstone micro TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) welder to my workroom at home to continue my experimentation. This welder is designed for small things like jewelry, and I wanted to show you one of the great advantages it has over a torch. This machine is called an adjustable electric welder because the duration and intensity of the arc is controlled. You use a tungsten electrode, and the arc is shielded by argon. I could not transport the argon gas bottle because they must be moved in a vehicle like a pickup truck, but I found that I did not need it since I am using stainless steel.

I received a gift of 50 pounds of agate from Alpine, Texas. It was not very good material, and I could not find any plumes or fortification patterns. But there were many bubbly botryoidal pieces that looked pretty. This is one of them and I made the simplest mounting for it.

This was certainly simple and fast since the wire around the stone was just crimped, and a double loop for the chain was welded on the top. But—there was a problem. My wife brought it back saying the crimp had come off. Oops.

The indentation was not deep enough to keep it in place. I fixed that by vertically drilling 1/8 inch deep into the top of the stone, and welded a pin into place WHILE THE STONE ITSELF WAS STILL IN PLACE.

Yes, you can weld right next to a stone without damage—a typical weld uses only 10 watt/seconds over a duration of 8 milliseconds. The heat is delivered to the metal mount because that is the only conductive material. The mounting was repaired in minutes. All this is done under a microscope with an automatic shutter that comes down when the arc is on.



Botryoidal Chalcedony

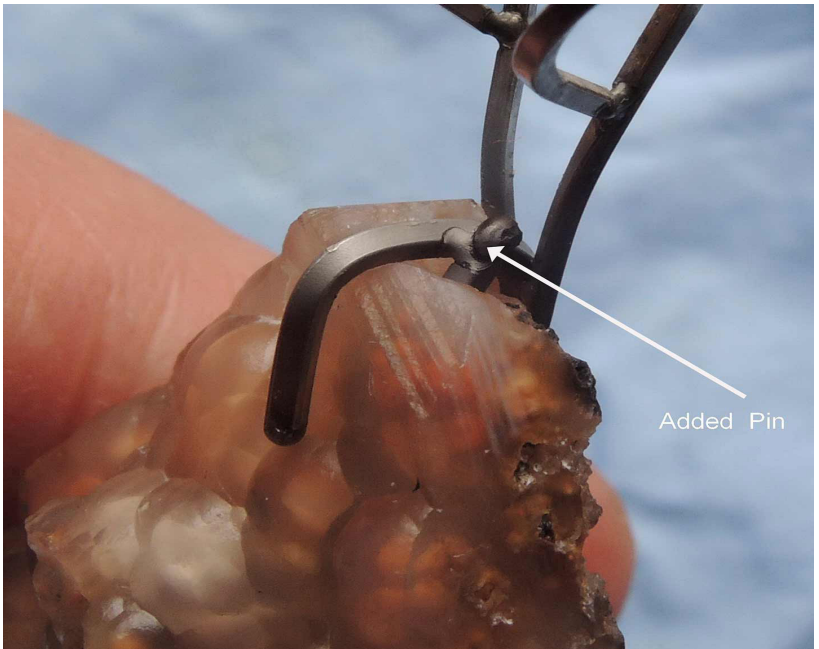


I like using stainless steel because it is so much stronger and harder than silver.

A polished mounting looks much like platinum. It is definitely grayer than silver, but it never tarnishes. I also can electro polish the steel in just minutes. I will report on that process in another article.

You WANT this technology! Classes will be scheduled as soon as we can all get back to the shop.

Back of Piece



Showing added pin

## FEATURED MEMBER: JOHN MOFFITT

by Sigrid Stewart

The first thing that comes to mind looking over John Moffitt's many achievements is that he just might be a bit of an over-achiever! A theoretical astrophysicist by education with an MS from Texas A&M, he worked in the oil business from 1963 to 2016. His first job title was "summer computer", back when "computers" were people. He served as a geologist, geophysicist, paleontologist, petrophysicist, exploration manager and finally as an engineering project manager, designing and building next generation drilling machines.

But that's just his working life. What John really is, is a collector and volunteer.

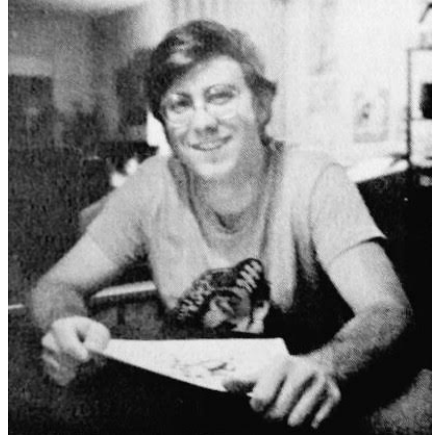
Back in 1972, he joined the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. Back then, Irene Offeman was the chair of the Paleo Section. He began teaching the Paleo classes with Irene, and later worked with Dr. Richard "Dick" Zingula, who was employed by Exxon Research, and who was a mentor for Paleo and taught the Advanced Paleo class. He learned a lot about field trips from him. In his years as an active member of the Paleo Section, John was Paleo Chair 3 times and Field Trip leader 6 times.

### Field Trips

He went to many Utah localities, to collect trilobites and eat cheeseburgers. He loved cheeseburgers and could eat as many as 3 a day when he was young. He even created a T-shirt for the Paleo Section, "Trilobites and Cheeseburgers". In Utah they had 3 big expeditions a year that were called Trilobite Jams – you could collect trilobites all day long, then go out at night with UV lights to collect scorpions – you can pick them up by the tail, something that delighted the kids!

From 1974 to 1984 he developed an elaborate binder of maps and contacts for Paleo Section collectors and gave it to the club for future trips. He also helped build the Paleo Library and contributed over a hundred reference volumes to it.

John 'Shackleford' Moffitt has put together some big field trips. They would go out to localities in the Arbuckle Mountains and begin before sunrise; he would instruct



*Cheeseburgers and Trilobites T-Shirt*

everyone on procedures, and they would start collecting. By 11 am, working on the Silurian and Devonian limestones would become unbearably hot. At that point the group would break for lunch, then go to Turner Falls to go swimming.

## MUSEUMS, SOCIETIES AND MORE FIELD TRIPS

In 1973, he first began volunteering at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, something he has continued to the present day. At first he curated fossils for the Museum. In 1993-1996 he began organizing his trilobites and put together an exhibit, "Ancient Creatures, Ancient Seas". For the opening night of the exhibit, John built a robot trilobite which his daughter operated and drove around the dinosaur. He also made a mold of a Phacops Rona (a trilobite of course) and used it to make chocolates to decorate a cake. All the kids (and some grown-ups) lined up to pick trilobites off the cake. Partly because



of that exhibit, he got to lead an HMNS field trip to the Sahara desert in 1997. Later, he co-lead another field trip to the Sahara with Dr. Riccardo Levi-Setti of the University of Chicago (Enrico Fermi Chair). Another opportunity was to work with the Czech National Museum in Prague, to help determine correct stratigraphy for his favorite beasts and publish a reference book on trilobites. In 1983, he started leading more field trips to the



Sahara to collect trilobites. He collected and led or participated in field trips in Great Britain and the Czech Republic as well.

Now he is a “Mentor Docent”. His badge says “John Moffitt, Volunteer and Trilobiologist”, and he volunteers mainly in the Paleo and Energy Halls. His current project at the museum is working on the problem of preserving pyritized fossils, so they can be exhibited and will not deteriorate further. (Pyrite and rocks and fossils containing pyrite are subject to decomposition due to “pyrite disease”).

John was a member of the Balalaika Society for many years and played at a number of concerts, including at the Texas Renaissance Festival as a gypsy musician from 1974 to 1994.

From 1981 to the present he was a member of the Mid-America Paleontology Society, one of the few clubs in the country devoted strictly to fossils. Members trade fossils and talks, sponsor field trips and put on the National Fossil Exposition. The EXPO is held in early spring (in non-Covid years) with fossil enthusiasts converging from around the world. In this organization he met Fred Wassman, another big trilobite collector. When he passed away in 2018, some of his collection went to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and some of that can be seen today at the Sugar Land branch of HMNS.

John is a past member of AAPG, SEG, and SEPM and the Houston Geological Society. He is a member and supporter of AAPS - the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences - an organization primarily of fossil dealers and goes to meetings and answers questions.

As a member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo organization (HLSR), John was very sad when they cancelled last year's Rodeo, and also when it was cancelled this year. Covid-19 again.

## WORKING WITH KIDS

Around 1989, he started running an annual field trip for kids, with the School of the Woods, a trip called “Going Back in Time across Texas to the Eocene and the Paleo-



zoic". He began taking kids on the field trips during the period when Earth Science was removed from the educational curriculum by the Texas School Board; that was John's way of fighting the creeping threat of creationism to scientific education. They would visit a trilobite locality and finish up at Enchanted Rock (no fossils to be found there but it is a good place to blow off energy). At the top they would ask science questions and give out trilobite prizes. Apparently, the kids he takes on field trips are 4-graders, and the new 5th graders would always tip them off that old guys grunt when they climb up Enchanted Rock - #OldManNoises!

Not that he couldn't be friendly with creationists. In 2009 he was invited to speak at a Central Texas university that teaches the 6000-Year-Old Universe – Southwest Adventist University in Keene, Texas. The topic was the "13.8 Billion Year-Old Universe". He spoke to an audience of around 400 professors and students. The talk was well received and afterwards they took him out to dinner.



In 1984, he first began going to Tucson and plans to continue attending the shows. Covid cancelled the 2021 Show, of course.

In December 1999 he started in Toastmasters, where he met HGMS member Jill Rowlands, and served in several offices, up to international Director. Toastmasters experience was invaluable to him as he presented talks and lectures for many organizations.

In 2001 John was nominated and in 2002 was inducted into the Rockhound Hall of Fame (Paleontology Category) for his work with Paleontology. (Art Smith of the Mineral Sections was also inducted into the Rockhound Hall of Fame, in the Mineral Category). The American Federation of Mineral Societies named him Rockhound of the Year in 2002.

## MORE CLUB HISTORY

In 2001 he became show chairman on two conditions: one, that the show would be moved from the George R. Brown Convention Center, and that he become 1st Vice-President. Subsequently, a lot of effort went into finding a new location, the Humble Convention Center, which helped the show become profitable again. In 2008 HGMS hosted a national show (AFMS) there.

In 2002 he was elected President; part of the reason why he agreed to run for president was that he wanted to install a fossil preparation station, so he got it budgeted, then



designed the layout of equipment and installed it.

In 2003 John became a lifetime member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. He was also Vice-President of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

In 2006 he married fellow Past President of HGMS, Jill Rowlands. Jill says that proves what a smart guy he is.

He retired in 2016 but continues to lecture often and writes articles on many subjects, including paleontology, paleogeography, astronomy, astrophysics, and peak oil. He draws cartoons too.

*John in a shirt that Jill made for him, and lockdown beard*

*John and Jill in simulated Mars landscape*



*April 2021*

John is currently in Beard Exit – gradually trimming his beard back, about to go back to the old John Moffitt and preparing to re-enter society after the long lockdown. Next year in April will be his 50th anniversary with the HGMS. John says he has gotten persnickity in his old age – he still loves cheeseburgers but doesn't eat them as often. When he does, he wants them to be cooked right - medium rare with melted cheese and a crispy bun!

## EARTH DAY APRIL 22ND

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, and has since become a world-wide holiday. This date was chosen in the hopes students would participate, as it fell between Spring Break and Finals.

Celebrate the Earth! Plant a tree! Clean up a site! Recycle!

### BENCH TIPS

*by Brad Smith*

*BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com*

### BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It is a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the



tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first.

No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult.

Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides.

In this way, the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

## CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online (<http://amzn.to/2HkNTro>) or from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It is sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

## SMART SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR JEWELRY MAKING PROBLEMS



## FROM THE DESK OF AFMS PRESIDENT JUDY BECK AFMS PRESIDENT 2020-2021 FROM THE MARCH AFMS NEWSLETTER

### GREETINGS FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS!

Well, March is on its way, and by the time you are reading this, we'll be starting to have some warm days that promise spring is on its way! By the end of the month, we'll be able to get our camper out and enjoy some days out in nature. Even with COVID, it is possible to do some "socially" distanced field trips and explore new areas.

Our club, McPherson Gem & Mineral, has a newsletter, Facebook Group Page, and we have done a few "social" Zoom meetings to stay connected. What has your club been doing to maintain that connection to its members? Shoot me an email, and I'll share some of your ideas in my next newsletter article.



Plans are proceeding for the convention, June 17- 20 at Big Piney, WY. I've been told that there will be field trips on the 15th & 16th and also on the 21st & 22nd. I can't wait to see what treasures we can find on this trip! So, while the winter wind is blowing, I sit back and dream about Wyoming and petrified wood and fossil fish....well, you get the picture! Immediately after the Big Piney Show, we're planning to head out to catch the California Federation Show the following weekend. It is fun to start thinking about some travel plans again!

We continue to have Zoom meetings with the groups that are looking at how we can increase the visibility and usability of our website platforms. Thanks to all that participated in the survey that was sent out;- the committee received some GREAT feedback! One of the nice things about our "virtual" meetings is that we are able to bring people together all across the United States to share ideas. I'm in awe of the wonderful volunteers and their expertise as we tackle these projects! We'll look forward to bringing you all a progress report in June at Big Piney!

Have a wonderful spring and may all your finds be keepers!

## **SCFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Jerrold Simpson, SCFMS President, 2021*

Thank you to all the officers that continued in their previous positions  
Thank you to those who stayed as officers but changed positions. The SCFMS operates with volunteers filling all positions, just as other organizations do. All the member societies operate the same way.

As we all know, sometimes it is difficult to find people to fill all the available positions. As with most organizations of this nature, we do have some spots that need filling. Later in this newsletter, we will list those jobs that need filling. If you would like to volunteer, just contact any of the current officers.

Speaking of officers and officer duties, I recommend that each of you review the SCFMS Bylaws and Operating Procedures—refresh your memory about what it is that you volunteered to do. Most of the duties are outlined in those two documents; however, some duties are not.

For instance, the Executive VP of the Federation reports to the AFMS about any members who have passed. Where does he get that information? From the district VPs. This is not outlined in the operation procedures for the District VP.

The Bylaws/Constitution committee will be working on that this year. They will be reviewing the documents to determine whether some changes are needed. We will be checking to make sure all positions are outlined in the operation procedures. We will be checking to see if any positions or committees need to be consolidated or removed. If any members have suggestions regarding changing the Constitution/By-laws/Operation Procedures, please contact me at [jsimpsonclaims@live.com](mailto:jsimpsonclaims@live.com). If you need a copy of the Constitution/Bylaws, contact either the Federation Secretary, Liz Buford, or me.

All of the member societies either should already have or will soon elect and install new officers. This is a reminder to ensure that you get the new list of officers to the Directory

Chair, Linda Simpson, as soon as you can. She has a deadline when the directory has to be completed so it can be distributed to the member societies. You may contact her at rockcamp\_speaker@outlook.com.

Please complete the officer's form with information that will allow the Federation to contact the proper officers when needed. Please do not list a phone number or give an address for your clubhouse if no one is there except during meetings. Please provide the actual contact information of at least one of the elected officers.

Access to the directory is protected, and you must have the proper information to be able to review it. If you need that access information, contact Linda Simpson or Kimberly Brannon, ACFMS Executive Secretary.

Our dealers are all anxiously awaiting information regarding the shows for 2021. It may be early for those with shows in the last 6 months of the year. For those with shows coming up in January, February, and March, now is the time to notify your dealers. Please contact Suzan Burch, Editor of this newsletter, so she can list whether you will be having a show. The newsletter deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. This edition's deadline was 12/20/2020. The next deadline will be 02/20/2021.

I am asking those of you who cannot or did not make the 12/20/2020 deadline to contact your dealers by email or by letter about whether you are having a show. Please contact me or any of the other SCFMS officers if you have any questions or suggestions about how we can improve the Federation or how we can better serve the members and member Societies.

Open Positions:

District III VP – Covers, Corpus Christi, Victoria, Fredericksburg, and two San Antonio Societies.

District VI VP – Rolling Rock Club

AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle – (temporary chair) Jerrold Simpson

Auditing Committee - Chair & one member – (Liz Buford is a current member, but we need one more)

Budget Committee members – We need two members (SCFMS VP is chair)

Endowment Fund Committee - Treasurer

Golden Spark Plug Award – Chair & members

Historian – To me this is a very important job and will tell the story of the Federation to future generations.

Nominating Committee – We need a Chair and one member, (Ron Carmen is the only member at this time)

Thank you, Jerrold Simpson,  
SCFMS President

## **PANAMINT ANNIE**

*By Jim Brace-Thompson, Historian/Archivist,  
from Rockhound Rambling, 07/2020*

What would you do if the "sawbones" said you had just a year to live? For an independent-minded lass with a rebellious streak, the decision was easy: Go West! Thus, diagnosed with tuberculosis, Mary Elizabeth White, daughter of a full-blooded Iroquois

mother and a U.S. Army surgeon from Washington, D.C., lit out for parts unknown. That last year of life stretched into 45 years more. Mary had already escaped death once. At age 12, she took a joyride on a motorcycle through an Army base. Her punishment? Her father grounded her and forbade her from joining her mother and sister in a fun ride on an airplane. The plane crashed and killed all on board.

Just when was Mary born? Hard to say. Some articles put her birth at June 22, 1912, but her tombstone beneath a Joshua tree in the desert reads "1910- 1979." Personally, I believe she wasn't truly born until she hit the West and morphed from prim-and-proper, middle-class, East Coast Mary Elizabeth White into the profane, cigar-chomping, hard-drinking, toothless gambler called "Panamint Annie", the unconventional female miner with a heart of gold and "language that would blister the ears of a drill sergeant." Convinced she would soon die and seeking one last adventure, she said, "I high-tailed it into the Panamints to see a bit of God's country".



*Panamint Annie with her beloved Mary Ann and Doris; Doris recounted many of the tales told here.*

*(Doris Riemersma photo, as shown in Zanjani's A Mine of Her Own, page 280.)*

Like Mary herself, the route from D.C. to the Panamints was anything but straightforward. According to various stories (and there are many, all with contradictory details and dates), she had married in Boston at age 15 and had two children, but one promptly died. Not content with conventional domestic life, Mary divorced and took up life as a bootlegging rumrunner across the Canadian border. By 1931, after receiving her TB diagnosis, she found her way to the region of the Amargosa Range and Shoshone, California, a desert oasis with therapeutic mineral springs at nearby Tecopa. Mary immediately fell in love with the desert but her initial stay in the Death Valley region was short. She ventured to Colorado in 1936 to marry a cowboy named Bryant, who died shortly afterward and left Mary seven months pregnant in the midst of the Great Depression. There's also a story



of her being a truck driver on the New York City-to-Chicago run around 1935. And yet another story of her making her way to California via Texas and New Mexico, working as a cook at a Colorado dude ranch long the way. These twists and turns- all vaguely intertwined- lead me to believe that, in telling her tales, Mary followed the advice of Mark Twain, who famously said, "Never let the truth interfere with a good story".

Mary ended up back near Death Valley in 1938, this time for good, and she set forth on prospecting adventures. Miners in those days stood by Cornish superstition that a woman in a mine is bad luck. But what did Mary care of superstition? After all, she was supposed to have been long dead- twice! All she cared about was the old prospector's saying: "Listen and the mountains will talk to you; they will tell you where the gold is if you listen." Listen she did. And it colored the rest of her life. Along with a series of husbands and live-ins, Mary eventually had eight children, four of whom died in infancy. One was her beloved Mary Ann, who died from a fall at age 2. The only time Mary was ever seen to shed a tear was at the funeral. Everyone was forbidden to speak Mary Ann's name again. It seemed that death perpetually stalked those whom Mary loved most. Although she skipped from one lover to another ("It's no big deal", Mary said. "Men do it all the time"), she apparently did have one great love: Bill Skogli. When Bill left to prospect gold in Arizona, he never wrote back, so Mary took matters into her own hands. To find him, she filed a false police report that he had stolen her car. Find him, they did. Six feet under! No sooner had Skogli arrived in Arizona than he died of a heart attack. Said Mary, "I really cared for him but he just goes off and dies on me".

Mary always put her children first and paid her debts secondly, even if it meant she went to bed hungry after serving up a hearty stew of freshly shot rattlesnake or wild jackrabbit. She would move "down the mountain" to give her kids access to school or would send them off to relatives for the school year. In one instance, she strapped a baby to her back and continued working the mine. When she didn't have the money to repay one grubstake, she made the payment by fixing the grubstaker's transmission. Those days as a long-haul trucker paid off! Mary, a gifted mechanic, was never afraid to take on what many considered "man's work" because she knew men were unreliable. "Don't wait for a man to do something for you", she said, "or you'll be waiting for an eternity".

This unique lady was truly ahead of her times, a woman of the 1960s back in the '30s and '40s. The future leaders of the Women's Lib movement had nothing on Mary, who was known to say, "I do whatever I want to do when the mood is upon me." After living out of a 1929 Model A truck outfitted with a canvas tent and a cot and then moving into an old Army ambulance, she lived for a while in a communal situation up in the hills with eight to 10 other miners, including the likes of One-Eyed Jack and Old Man Black. They always refrained from swearing when her kids were around and were even known to give up their coffee water so her kids could take a sponge bath. Mary was said to have reminded these Death Valley old-timers of a previous woman of independent spirit who went by "Panamint Annie." The story of this original Panamint Annie has been lost to the ages, but she hailed from "back East", had kids whom she sent off to school, and was independent, strong-willed and rough, just like Mary. Thus did Mary Elizabeth White morph into Panamint Annie.

At age 45, the newly crowned Panamint Annie began drinking heavily after breaking her back in a fall. While still dragging herself to her mines, she engaged in three-day benders and gambling sprees that became the stuff of Death Valley legend. One day, she arrived all excited in town for supplies to head back to "the best gold strike I ever made". Instead of heading straight back, though, she went off on another of her benders, only to awaken

to the groggy realization that she had washed away all memory of the strike's location. She merely said, "I know it's up there. I'll find it. You wait."



*Panamint Annie late in life, exuding joy, independence and optimism. (Tom Murray photo, The Desert Magazine, 1974)*

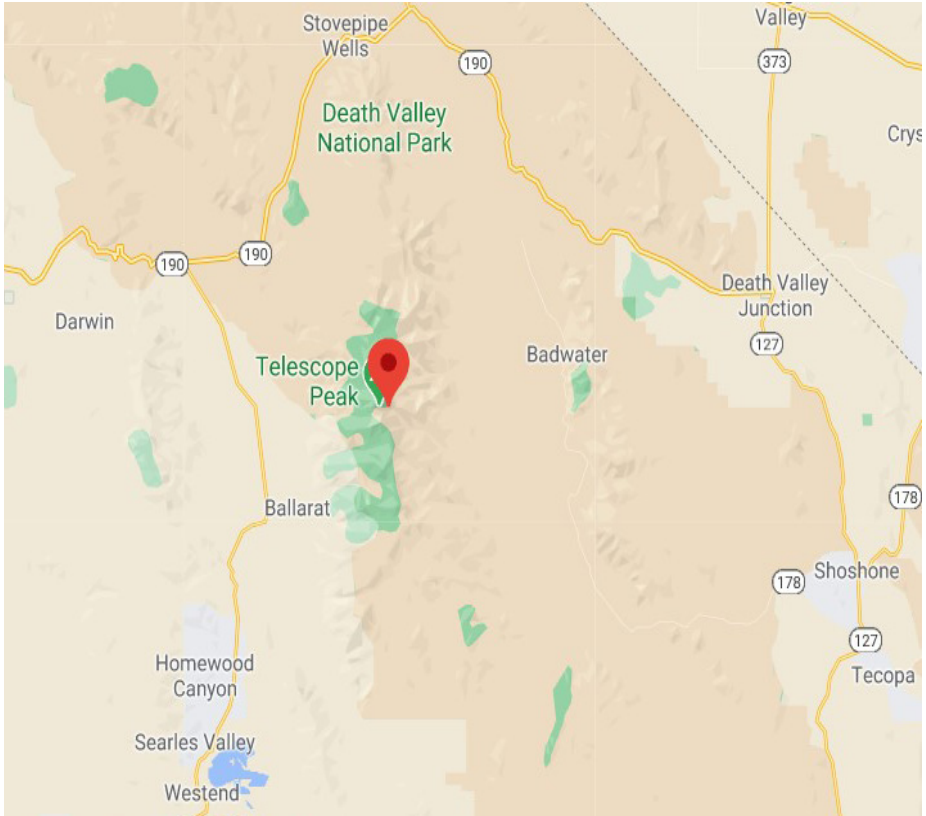
Unfortunately, Father Time would not wait. Later in life, the hard labor of independent mining and her drinking caught up with her. Wracked by arthritis and cancer, which stole half her body weight, and lacking the strength to mine, Panamint Annie sold homemade jewelry, jams, and crocheted hats to Death Valley tourists from her car. But she refused to wallow in self-pity, proclaiming to the end that she would one day make it back into the hills to stake that big claim. "I'll find it. You wait." Said one admirer of her independent spirit and true grit, "Annie and John Wayne are the last immortals in the West." Her rough edges included a blunt honesty that some interpreted as brutal, but others saw as accurate and unvarnished. She lived life on her own terms, with a full cup of truth tartly spiced with a measure of gruff grace. Panamint Annie was a woman whose actions you could ultimately rely upon, even if what she said wasn't necessarily what you wanted to hear in the way you wanted to hear it.

Tom Murray met Panamint Annie five years before her death. He published an article about her in the January 1974 issue of *The Desert Magazine*. At that time, she was living in Beatty, Nevada, on a place piled high like a junkyard. A creature of the Great Depression, Annie merely noted, "When you live in the middle of nowhere, you can't afford to throw anything away." Per Tom, she said this "between drags on a cigar that looks like it might have been second-hand, too." As for her mining claims, which were staked all over the rugged Panamints, she observed, "When I find the right sucker, I got it made." Panamint Annie was married at the time, with 13 grandchildren, but as for her latest husband ... well, she hadn't seen him in over a decade. "He's in the Merchant Marine", she said with a shrug.

"I can't find him:' She quickly added, "Not looking for him. I'm happy the way I am."

To learn more about Panamint Annie, check out our club archives, online sources, and one interesting book:

- Sally Zanjani, *A Mine of Her Own: Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950* (University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln & London, 1997)
- Tom Murray, "A Desert Character: Panamint Annie;" *The Desert Magazine*, January 1974
- [www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/desert-gold-part-i](http://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/desert-gold-part-i)



*The Panamints Range, Inyo County, California  
Death Valley National Park From Google Maps*

## **HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 2, 2021**

*by Nancy English*

President Sigrid Stewart called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. A quorum was present.

X	President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Beading— Maggie Manley
X	1st Vice President— Steve Blyskal	X	Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	X	Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
X	Treasurer—Michele Marsel	X	Lapidary & Silversmithing—Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy Englis	X	Mineral—Steve Blyskal
	Archaeology—Vacant	X	Paleontology—Mike Dawkins

## PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

The HGMS clubhouse remains closed for member use in order to minimize the danger of Coronavirus spread. The Board of Directors will determine when it is safe to reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The March and April General Meeting programs can be experienced virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Clubhouse reopens.

Approval of Minutes: The February 2, 2021 Board of Directors minutes were sent to the Board on March 1, 2021. Beverly Mace pointed out an error in the February 2, 2021 BOD minutes, Old Business, 2021 Budget. Steve Blyskal moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 BOD Meeting as corrected. Phyllis George seconded the motion and it passed.

## TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Michele Marsel emailed the February 28, 2021 Financial Report to Board members on March 2, 2021.

- Treasurer Marsel told the BOD that the Chase CD is maturing on March 30, 2021. It is only earning .05%. She explained that The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. pays .5% on their money market savings accounts (MMS). HGMS would make a significantly larger amount of earnings at Goldman Sachs than on the Chase CD and the Chase high yield savings account (paying .01%). There are no penalties for moving money out of the Goldman Sachs MMS. It is not an investment account, so is not tied to the stock market. It will be insured by the FDIC for \$250,000. The same people will be authorized to negotiate funds for the Goldman Sachs account as are authorized for the Chase accounts. Steve Blyskal moved to withdraw 80% of the balance in the Chase high yield savings account to open a Goldman Sachs money market savings account. When the Chase CD matures, HGMS officers will close it and put the money in the Goldman Sachs account. That will leave a sufficient balance in the Chase high yield savings account to avoid a service charge. Maggie Manley seconded the motion and it passed.
- The monthly transfer of \$100.00 from the Chase Operating account to the Prosperity Building account was interrupted with the change of Treasurers. Treasurer Marsel will set it up for auto debit transfers in the future and transfer money for the January and February missed deposits.
- President Stewart would like to move the account at Prosperity Bank to Chase. That will be investigated at a later time.
- Nancy English remembered that royalties from the book Mineralogy of Texas by Art Smith Jr. are being automatically deposited to HGMS for a scholarship. Before tonight’s BOD meeting Treasurer Marsel investigated Lulu Press deposits over the last few years. She found \$2107.17 deposited from Lulu Press since May 2016. Nancy will review

previous minutes to find the original decision on how to use the money. Maggie Manley suggested that a link to Lulu Press be added to the HGMS website to promote sales of the book. Sigrid Stewart will put the link in the Mineral Section page since Art Smith was a member of that Section.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: Beverly Mace will notify members when the online version of the March 2021 BBG is available on the HGMS Web site. The paper copy of the BBG will be mailed after it is printed.

Scholarship Committee: Refer to the Treasurer's section for information on a new source of scholarship funds.

Shop News: The Shop is still open ONLY by appointment. Appointments may be made by contacting Neal Immega [nealimmega@gmail.com](mailto:nealimmega@gmail.com) or Sharon Halton, Michele Marsel, or Steve Blyskal.

- Saturday Shop — The Shop will be open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the first five people who email [SaturdayShop@hgms.org](mailto:SaturdayShop@hgms.org). Michele Marsel and Steve Blyskal will alternate Saturdays as Shop Foreman.
- Friday Shop — Sharon Halton continues to open the Shop on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the first four people who call or text her at (504) 352-0666.
- Mask use will be strictly enforced.
- Reopen the Clubhouse — The Board will revisit the subject of reopening the Clubhouse for meetings, classes, and unrestricted use of the shop at each board meeting. As of March 2, every known variant of Covid-19 has been reported in Harris County. HGMS will be following the City of Houston and Harris County guidelines until conditions reach Level 4, as described on [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org).

Level 4 signifies a minimal and controlled level of COVID-19 in Harris County, meaning new chains of transmission are limited and quickly broken or a vaccine and/or treatment has been developed and widely deployed. At this level, residents may resume normal contact with others unless sick.

Donations and Auction Committee vs Trade Show Committee:

Nancy English and Michele Marsel explained the difference between the Donations and Auction Committee and the Trade Show Committee.

- Donations and Auction Committee will list, categorize, label, weigh, measure, and photograph donated minerals, rocks, and equipment. Then they will create an online auction to sell the items. Michele Marsel had originally suggested an online auction at the end of March. Due to the weather setbacks and increased donations, the auction is postponed until late spring. In order for the auction to move forward, additional volunteers are needed to prepare recent large donations. Nancy English, Steve Blyskal, Sigrid Stewart, and Maggie Manley offered to help during the week. The committee needs to test the auction software.

- The Trade Show Committee will invite dealers to pay HGMS to be promoted and advertised on [HGMS.org](http://HGMS.org), Facebook, and Instagram for the day of the publicized Trade Show. All dealer sales will be made directly with the dealer. Essentially, it is a mini virtual show event which may include online demos, speakers, classes, and maybe an auction.

Building Committee: Neal Immega is ready to replace the hot water heater in the attic. The hot water heater is twenty years old. Michele Marsel reminded the BOD that the hot water heater has been approved in the budget. Neal does not need permission to go

forward. No further discussion is needed by the Board.

## SECTION REPORTS

All In-Person Section Meetings are canceled until further notice.

Some Sections conduct virtual meetings.

Beading Section: third Saturday, 1:30 p.m., March 20, 2021. The Beading Section will meet via Zoom on March 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Members are invited to show off any work done recently. Maggie Manley will have a simple project to work on. Check HGMS.org and the Sunday E-blast for a list of materials and the Zoom invitation.

Day Light Section: first Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., March 3, 2021. No program planned.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: second Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., March 10, 2021. Randy Carlson reported that the previously scheduled program about North Carolina rubies and emeralds is postponed until the April 14 meeting. This month's meeting will be an open dialog meeting. He showed the Board a yogo sapphire on a dop and a set of sapphires in a film holder that he will be recutting for a friend. Randy Carlson will add names to his virtual meeting email list as requested. Contact him at [faceting@hgms.org](mailto:faceting@hgms.org).

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: third Monday, 7:30 p.m., March 15, 2021. No program planned.

Mineral Section: third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., March 17, 2021. Steve Steinke will talk about collecting Wulfenite in Arizona mines. The February meeting was cancelled due to the freezing weather and lack of electricity. Steve Blyskal sends announcements directly to members of the Mineral Section. If anyone wants to be on that list, please, contact him at [mineral@hgms.org](mailto:mineral@hgms.org).

Paleo Section: third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., March 16, 2021. Thursday March 4 Neal Immega will give a Zoom presentation to the Kansas Geological Society. Zoom makes it so easy to go everywhere.

Youth Section: first and third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to Noon., March 6 and March 20, 2021. No programs planned.

Archaeology Section: no programs planned.

## OLD BUSINESS

Theft of Trailer Containing Display Cases:

President Stewart called Hanover Ins. to check on the progress of the claim. Hanover had not realized that they had received the correct VIN numbers for the trailers, the pictures of the cases, and the videos on how to assemble the cases. Once the agent found Sigrid Stewart's email the agent assured Sigrid it would be expedited.

Rekey the building: Michele Marsel reported that she, Neal Immega, and Fred Brueckner are investigating code access systems to replace our key access system. Neal is strongly in favor of a different, more easily monitored/managed access system than standard keys. They are looking for companies to come out and give bids for the system. Each person would have their own code. Maggie Manley offered to provide some locksmith

contacts from her work at U of H. Michele Marsel will contact her.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Member Collection Purchase Request: One of our senior members wishes to sell his collection of higher end lapidary materials and equipment, which includes a Titan cabbing machine that Neal Immega would like for our shop. The BOD agreed to the purchase.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be the first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. April 6, 2021.

The next General Meeting will be fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. March 23, 2021. Jennifer (Jenny) King will present a program on Life in Jurassic Seas: Focus on Kimmeridgian Fossils from the Dorset Coast, UK.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

## **HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 23, 2021 by Nancy English**

President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. She welcomed twenty-three members to the meeting.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Sigrid Stewart announced that photographs of the silent auction items were posted in the March 22, 2021 E-blast. The Door Prize drawing and the auction are scheduled after New Business.

Approval of Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 General Meeting as posted in the March 21, 2021 E-blast. Michael Cox seconded the motion and it passed.

### **COMMITTEE/SECTION REPORTS**

In the interest of time, President Stewart asked members to look for reports of future Section meetings and presentations in the BBG, on the Web site <https://hgms.org>, or by reading the weekly e-blast from Jim Kendall. If you are a member and not on Jim Kendall's e mail list, please contact him at [kendallja@att.net](mailto:kendallja@att.net) to be added.

President Stewart invited other Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

Mineral Section: third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., April 21, 2021:

Steve Blyskal announced that he will review the fluorite localities of Europe on the Zoom meeting including pictures.

Donations and Auction Committee: Michele Marsel reported that the Donations and Auction Committee has been busy finishing the inventory of two large, recently received do-

nations of nice lapidary materials, mineral specimens, and lapidary tools and equipment. The items will be featured in the online silent auction tentatively scheduled for early May.

**Nominating Committee:** President Stewart encouraged members to consider themselves or other members to become officers on the Board of Directors for 2022. Replacements for the President and 1st Vice President are necessary for 2022. A Nominations Committee needs to be organized now so candidates can be found and begin to see how the Board works.

**Show Committee:** Steve Blyskal said he and Scott Singleton will meet on March 24 to discuss plans to determine how many dealers are still in business, doing in-person shows, and are available for the HGMS Annual Show November 12-14, 2021. Steve will propose a questionnaire to the dealers.

After a discussion of the replacement of the Fluorescent Display booth it was determined that it will be handled by the Show Committee. Contact [showchair@hgms.org](mailto:showchair@hgms.org) to share ideas.

Nancy Fischer invited everyone to the 2021 Sublette County (Wyoming) Rockhounds Annual Gem & Mineral Show on June 17, 18, 19, & 20, 2021. This year they are hosting both the annual AMFMS and RMFMS Conventions. The social distancing was successful in 2020. It is a beautiful time of the year in Wyoming.

**Web Site Committee:** Migration to the new host is complete. The committee is now making maintenance changes on the website.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

President Stewart asked members to look for the progress of Old Business items in the BOD Meeting Minutes in the latest BBG.

**Membership Dues:** The membership dues deadline is March 31, 2021.

### **Building Issues:**

**Reopening the Clubhouse:** At each board meeting the Board will revisit the subject of reopening the Clubhouse for meetings, classes, and unrestricted use of the shop. As of March 2, every known variant of Covid-19 has been reported in Harris County. HGMS will be following the City of Houston and Harris County guidelines until conditions reach Level 4, as described on [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org).

Level 4 signifies a minimal and controlled level of COVID-19 in Harris County, meaning new chains of transmission are limited and quickly broken or a vaccine and/or treatment has been developed and widely deployed. At this level, residents may resume normal contact with others unless sick.

**Shop News:** The Shop is open ONLY by appointment. Appointments may be made by contacting Neal Immega [nealimmega@gmail.com](mailto:nealimmega@gmail.com) or Sharon Halton, Michele Marsel, or Steve Blyskal. (See contact information below).

- **Saturday Shop** — The Shop will be open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the first five people who email [SaturdayShop@hgms.org](mailto:SaturdayShop@hgms.org). Michele Marsel and Steve Blyskal will alternate Saturdays as Shop Foreman.
- **Friday Shop** — Sharon Halton continues to open the Shop on Fridays from 10:00



a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the first four people who call or text her at (504) 352-0666.

- Mask use will be strictly enforced.

**Trailer and Display Cases Replacement:**

HGMS needs a committee to determine how to replace the display cases. The committee would research whether to purchase new premade display cases or pay to have them custom built. Please consider volunteering for this committee! Clyde McMeans answered more questions from the insurance company this week. Last week President Stewart sent the insurance company a video of the one case we had in the attic, showing how to set it up and break it back down it. The insurance company is still evaluating the trailer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Steve Blyskal described the program. Peter McGaw, who manages exhibits for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show— the club show for the most prestigious group of annual shows in the world— is a renowned expert on Mexican minerals. His program about Electric Opal focuses on daylight luminescent hyalite opal from Zacatecas, New Mexico, which glows in daylight and shade. He developed the deposit. Lapidarists and mineral fans both will want to see this program. The natural uncut pieces can be wire wrapped. Paul Brandes praised the program, saying that he had seen this talk at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium.

**Drawing:** Elsa Kapitan-White won the two tumble-polished jasper-agates.

**Auction:** Four items were auctioned: pyrite specimens, a large agate slab, a 132-gram parcel of opals, and a bagged variety of small to medium pieces of lace agate.

**Show-n-Tell:**

- Steve Blyskal showed more of his purchase from Europe that took 112 days to arrive at his front door: amethyst cactus quartz, an Arkansas quartz, a pair of agates from the Richardson Ranch in Oregon and an agate from the Juchem Quarry, Birkenfeld District, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, with calcite and aragonite pseudomorphs in it.
- Michael Cox presented a four or five pound agate or chalcedony that Michael described as “a piece of ugly blue rock”. Sigrid Stewart identified botryoidal bumps on it. It was actually pretty.
- Jim and Pat Johnson showed a 40 lb. polished red jasper they scored at the Swap show.
- Nancy Fischer showed items bought at the Sublet County silent auction: Tiger chert from Farson, Wyoming and a geode found in Dugway, Utah.

**Adjourn:** Phyllis George moved to adjourn. Nancy English seconded the motion and it passed. Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Vice President Blyskal introduced the Program: Jennifer (Jenny) King presented a program on Life in Jurassic Seas focusing on Kimmeridgian Fossils from the Dorset Coast, UK.

## 2020 HGMS OFFICERS

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President	Sigrid Stewart	President @HGMS.org
First Vice President	Steve Blyskal	Programs@HGMS.org
Second Vice President	Beverly Mace	Membership@HGMS.org
Secretary	Nancy English	Secretary@HGMS.org
Treasurer	Michele Marsel	Treasurer@HGMS.org
Archaeology Section Board Member		Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Board Member	Maggie Manley	Beading@HGMS.org
Daylight Section Board Member	Fred Brueckner	
Faceting Section Board Member	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary Section Board Member	Phyllis George	
Mineral Section Board Member	Steve Blyskal	Mineral@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Board Member	Mike Dawkins	Field_trips@HGMS.org

## HGMS SECTION CHAIRS

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Archaeology Section Chair	Robert Moore	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Chair	Kim Fuselier	Beading@HGMS.org
Day Light Section Chair	Nancy Searle	Daylight@HGMS.org
Gemstone & Faceting Section Chair	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary & Silversmith Section Chair	Anthony Lucci	Lapidary@HGMS.org
Mineral Section Chair	Stephen Blyskal	Mineral@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Chair	Neal Immega	Paleo@HGMS.org
Youth Section Chair	Beverly Mace	Youth@HGMS.org

## HGMS APPOINTED POSITIONS

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Assistant Show Chair	Clyde McMeans	
Assistant Show Chair	Sigrid Stewart	
Backbender's Gazette Editor	Sigrid Stewart	Editor@HGMS.org
Clubhouse Chair	Neal Immega	ClubhouseChair@HGMS.org
Day Light Contact Person	Nancy Searle	Daylight@HGMS.org
Donations	Neal Immega	Donations@HGMS.org
HGMS Education Chair	Maggie Manley	Classes@HGMS.org
Lapidary Templates	Mary Ann Mitscherling	Templates@HGMS.org
Librarian for Main Library	Neal Immega	Librarian@HGMS.org
Publicity Chair	Sarah Metsa	Publicity@HGMS.org
Scholarships	Mike Sommers	Scholarship@HGMS.org
Show Chair	Scott Singleton	ShowChair@HGMS.org
Trade Show	Scott Singleton	Tradeshow@HGMS.org
Trade Show	Sigrid Stewart	Tradeshow@HGMS.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Nancy English	VolunteerCoordinator@HGMS.org
Webmaster	Lauren Blyskal	Webmaster@HGMS.org
Youth Section Assistant	Elizabeth Guynn	Youth2@HGMS.org

# APRIL 2021

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Apr 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
● 10am Shop by appt		● 11am Shop by appt	● 10am Shop by appt	● 10am Shop by appt		● 12pm Shop by appt
4 <b>Easter Sunday</b> ● 10am Shop by appt	5 <b>Easter Monday</b>	6 ● 11am Shop by appt	7 ● 10am Shop by appt ● 1pm DayLight:canc	8 ● 10am Shop by appt	9	10 ● 10am Shop by appt
11 ● 10am Shop by appt	12	13 ● 11am Shop by appt	14 ● 10am Shop by appt ● 6:30pm Faceting	15 <b>Tax Day</b> ● 10am Shop by appt	16	17 ● 10am Youth:cancel ● 12:15pm Shop by a ● 1:30pm Beading
18 ● 10am Shop by appt	19 ● 7:30pm Lapidary:cc	20 ● 11am Shop by appt ● 7:30pm Paleo:canc	21 ● 10am Shop by appt ● 7:30pm Mineral	22 ● 10am Shop by appt	23	24 ● 10am Shop by appt
25 ● 10am Shop by appt	26	27 ● 11am Shop by appt ● 7:30pm General Mt	28 ● 10am Shop by appt	29 ● 10am Shop by appt	30	May 1 ● 10am Youth:cancel ● 12pm Shop by appt

# MAY 2021

SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT May 1
● 10am Shop by aj		● 11am Shop by aj ● 7:30pm General	● 10am Shop by aj	● 10am Shop by aj		● 10am Youth:canc ● 12pm Shop by aj
2 ● 10am Shop by aj	3	4 ● 11am Shop by aj	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> ● 10am Shop by aj ● 1pm DayLight:ca	6 ● 10am Shop by aj	7	8 ● 10am Shop by aj
9 <b>Mother's Day</b> ● 10am Shop by aj	10	11 ● 11am Shop by aj	12 ● 10am Shop by aj ● 6:30pm Faceting	13 ● 10am Shop by aj	14	15 ● 10am Youth:canc ● 12:15pm Shop by ● 1:30pm Beading
16 ● 10am Shop by aj	17 ● 7:30pm Lapidary	18 ● 11am Shop by aj ● 7:30pm Paleo:ca	19 ● 10am Shop by aj ● 7:30pm Mineral	20 ● 10am Shop by aj	21	22 ● 10am Shop by aj
23 ● 10am Shop by aj	24	25 ● 11am Shop by aj ● 7:30pm General	26 ● 10am Shop by aj	27 ● 10am Shop by aj	28	29
30 ● 10am Shop by aj	31 <b>Memorial Day</b>	Jun 1 ● 11am Shop by aj	2 ● 10am Shop by aj ● 1pm DayLight:ca	3 ● 10am Shop by aj	4	5 ● 10am Youth:canc ● 12pm Shop by aj

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE

**HGMS** | 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
- 2019 - 1st Large

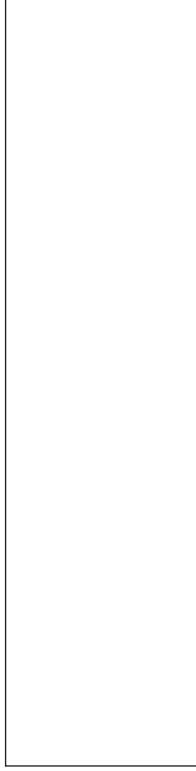


PUBLICATION

- ## 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)
  - 2019 - 2nd (Large)



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