



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society
Houston, TX

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June 2005

President's Message

May, 2005

by Norm Lenz

HGMS President



Fellow HGMS Members,

In the next General Meeting, May 24, we will vote to accept or decline the Bylaw changes proposed by the Board. So far there have been no objections expressed to me, so I am hopeful that the discussion and voting on the changes will not dominate the May General Meeting.

Thanks to Tom Wright and Dave Hawkins, the Clubhouse carpets and tiled floor have been cleaned. Help keep them clean by disposing of your soda cans and trash after each meeting, class, or workshop. We will soon be working to clean the office also.

Please remember that the HGMS is a strictly volunteer organization. The pay is the same for everyone including officers, committee chairs, and volunteers. It is the

Continued on page 4



May and June Programs

by Scott Singleton

May Presentation: In April we were introduced to Todd Kent and the Explorer Multimedia Group from Dallas (see separate write up). In May we get the opportunity to see the creation Todd has named "Rockhounds: The Movie." We will receive a DVD of the movie that Todd is donating to the club. It will be added to our library.

The movie is actually a documentary. It runs about 55 minutes and is split into 4 segments. The segments include the annual world-class quartz dig in Mt. Ida, Arkansas, fossil hunting with



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Copy is due for the July issue by Wednesday, June 8, 2005. (When the 8th falls on Saturday, I create the BBG that same weekend. When the 8th fall on Sunday, I create the BBG the following weekend.)

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 \$30 for an adult membership, \$40 for a couple, \$50 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), and \$8 for a youth membership (ages 5-18).

Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months, ¼ page; \$150 for 6 months, ¼ page.

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse 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 Internet address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

President's Message continued from page 1

satisfaction of doing a good job for our members and the community that is the only motivation for many of us. On the other hand, the primary deterrent for volunteerism is lack of appreciation or criticism by other members. The natural reaction when others criticize your work is to resign. Many of us have turned over our responsibilities to others. It is understandable when you need relief from criticism. However, seldom if ever does this solve a problem and often leads to yet another job that doesn't get done. There would be no show, no youth group, no school sets, and no people to help at the museum and schools without your willingness to volunteer. So I suggest you offer to help. If your help is not needed where you have been working, volunteer for another activity. Our Show Committee always needs volunteers. The reason our show has become so successful is due to the dedicated work of many volunteers. So keep up the good work and always feel free to ask what you can do to help.

The Board often hears suggestions about how the HGMS should spend its money. The statement is sometimes made that "The Club has plenty of money, so, let's spend it." True, our finances are in good condition right now. This has been particularly true since the Clubhouse loan has been retired and several expensive repairs have been completed. It is not our goal to hoard money at the expense of Club activities. It is our goal to be prepared for an unexpected disaster such as a hurricane that could either damage our Clubhouse or diminish the success of our show.

Many organizations similar to ours have an endowment fund for such emergencies. Endowments can also contribute significant earnings for operating expenses. We are not currently contemplating an endowment but would welcome the opportunity if a large donation were received.

If you have a question, ask it! If you have a suggestion, make it! If you have a talent, share it!

Norman Lenz
HGMS President, 2004-2005

April General Meeting Program continued from page 1

Dinosaur George Blasing, hunting barite roses in Oklahoma, and the nationally acclaimed Rock Food Table that was created and maintained by Bill and Lois Pattillo and was on display at the 2004 Houston Gem and Mineral Show.

Be sure not to miss this viewing. Those who have seen the movie or the promo clips at the April meeting told me they think it is a wonderfully produced film. And even better—our show is in the film!!

June Presentation: Dinosaur-modeler John Fishner (Dreamstar Productions) will give us a presentation entitled "Sea-Changes in the Modern Paleontology Museum." His talk will be centered on remodeling done at the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Chicago Field Museum. These museums have modernized their paleontology exhibits, for instance by using more computerization. But have these renova-

tions resulted in a better and more stimulating exhibit hall? For the answer to this and other thought-provoking questions, come to the June General Meeting. John will illustrate his claims with before and after comparisons of each of these halls and possibly others.

Chrysanthemum Stone

by Art Smith

Houston Gem & Mineral Society Member

A couple of months ago a fellow member of the Society asked what I knew about chrysanthemum stone from China. I replied, "Not much, but I found an article a couple of years ago when I bought a chrysanthemum stone frog for my lapidary stone frog collection."

For those who are not sure what I am writing about, the chrysanthemum flower stone (or just chrysanthemum stone) consists of a two-dimensional radiating mineral "frozen" in matrix that looks like a flower, in particular, a chrysanthemum.

The stone may naturally expose the "flower," or more frequently it is carved or sand blasted to expose the "flowers" and to form the rock into irregular but somewhat artistic shapes. The rock with the "flowers" may be smoothed or polished to give it a finished look. Such products are very popular in the Far East. In recent years, small rocks with chrysanthemums have been fairly common in mineral shows in other countries. In China many of the chrysanthemum stones are found in Hunan Province, Kiuyan County along the Yung River (Li 1990). Here the matrix is Permian age Quixia Limestone. The chrysanthemum petals are blades of white to pale bluish gray, rarely transparent, bladed celestine crystals that radiate from a small chert nodule center (Li 1990). In some specimens the blades of celestine have been replaced by white calcite, and the matrix may be dyed a dark color to give a nice contrast between matrix and "flower." When radiating celestine blades have a diameter of one inch or less, they can be more equal in width and length. Frequently in the larger radiations, the blades of celestine may be variable in width and length. Some blades dominate, being much longer and wider than the others, and so the radiation has less of a chrysanthemum appearance.

The Fun Stone, a shop in the Hong Kong Mall on Bellaire Boulevard has a large polished stone with a very large chrysanthemum dominating it. The larger blades are 6 or 7 inches long and almost 2 inches wide. My own small frog has a white chrysanthemum on its back. The blades are unequal, and a little acid tells me the celestine has been replaced by calcite—and the black color of the limestone indicates it has prob-



Photo by Jack Lowell,
www.ColoradoGem.com
Specimen is from Lai Mine (Quarry),
Hunan Province, China

ably been dyed.

Li (1990) also mentions similar stones from Hunan but in Luxi County. Also he mentions andalusite chrysanthemums that probably occur in a metamorphic rock from near Beijing.

Chrysanthemum stone called “Kiku-ishi” comes from a Hill called Maru-Yama just north of Mount Funabas in Gifu Prefecture Japan (Webster and Anderson 1983). The chrysanthemum petals are phenocrysts of zircon and xenotime in basalt, an igneous rock. A similar rock occurs on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. Zeitner (1996) mentions white phenocrysts forming chrysanthemums in a gray-green basaltic matrix and green flowers in a charcoal gray basalt matrix also from British Columbia.

It is obvious that the matrix rock is not important. It can be igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary. It is the overall aesthetics of the flowers and the appearance of the finished product that is important to the Oriental buyer.

References:

Li, J. 1990 Chrysanthemums. *Lapidary Journal* 44(4):41.

Webster, R. and B. W. Anderson 1983 *Gems, Descriptions and Identification*. 4th. Butterworths, London, 1006p.

Zeitner, J. C. 1996 *Gem and Lapidary Materials for Cutters, Collectors, and Jewelers*. Geoscience Press, Tucson, AZ. 347p.



Day Light Section

by Frances Arrighi



Eleven members attended the 14 March, 2005, meeting of the Day Light Section. We worked on our inlay pieces. A new member finished a pendent to the point of putting in the stones.

The April meeting was canceled because of an extremely bad weather forecast. It turned out to be a beautiful afternoon. Some members did not receive my message that the meeting was canceled, so they showed up at the clubhouse. Tom Wright was there, so they had a meeting and did some silver fusion work.

The Day Light Section is again fortunate. Professor Val Link of the University of Houston will conduct our summer programs.

At our June meeting we will prepare silver for reticulation—either melt 80 or 82% silver with 20 or 18% of a special manufactured copper. The silver is melted first, and the copper added to that melt. When the copper is melted, the melt is poured into an ingot. After cooling, the pellet will be rolled to the desired gauge and then reticulated. The design for fabrication will be determined by each individual and will not be done during meeting time.

The projects for July and August will appear in the next issue of the BBG.



Mineral Section



by Steve Blyskal, Chairperson & Dean Lagerwall, Assistant Chairperson

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

June 1, SWAP-NIGHT: As our final meeting before our summer hiatus, we will have a Swap Night where excess material from our collections can be bought/sold/swapped. This will be an informal event and will be held inside. All are invited to participate and swap. Setup is from 7:00 to 7:30, and the formal meeting will be kept to a minimum to allow ample time for specimen exchange. Refreshments will be provided.



Paleontology Section

by Rick Rexroad, Chairperson



Ann Molineaux of the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin presented a discussion of reefs in Texas during the Paleontology Section's April 19, 2005 meeting. Although many of us automatically think of coral reefs when we hear the word "reef," there are many other reef-forming organisms, including oysters, sponges, bryozoans, algae, and (formerly) stromatolites and rudists. Reefs are defined (Wood; 1999) as discrete carbonate structures of organic components that develop topography on the sea floor. Factors favoring the growth of reefs include normal salinity, water temperature of 18°C to 30°C, a solid substrate, low turbidity and low rates of clastic sedimentation, and presence of light (most reefs develop in water depths of less than 40 meters); reef development typically occurs at latitudes between 30°N and 30°S. Corals support the most productive and biologically diverse environments in the sea. The form of corals within a reef environment varies from laminar to robust to delicate, depending on water depth and wave energy, as corals compete with one another for light and nutrients.

Reefs have developed at many locations in Texas throughout geologic history, and include the following occurrences and locations:

Paleozoic:

- White's Crossing (Cambrian Age)
- Junction
- Capitan Complex (Permian Age) of West Texas.

Mesozoic:

- The Narrows (Blanco River)
- Pipe Creek and Red Bluff Creek (caprinid rudists that grew on mud in shallow water, surrounded by dinosaur footprints)
- Pilot Knob in Austin (formed as an atoll-like ring structure around a magma-fed volcano during the Cretaceous Age)

Cenozoic:

- Damon Mound (Paula Rutledge's stomping grounds) southwest of Houston
- Flower Gardens (an active deep reef in the Gulf of Mexico that formed atop a Jurassic salt dome and is now a protected marine sanctuary)

Other reefs currently are developing on abandoned oil platforms and ships that are dropped intentionally to the sea floor to facilitate development of underwater ecosystems.

Those interested in learning a great deal more about reefs (specifically rudist reefs) should consider attending the International Congress on Rudists which is being held in Austin on June 5–11, 2005 and includes a 3-day field trip (<http://www.tmm.utexas.edu/npl/Rudist2005/>).

AFMS Scholarship Donation

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) has requested assistance of member organizations in re-funding its scholarship program. The Paleontology Section voted during its April 2005 Meeting to donate \$500 to AFMS for this worthy endeavor. (This donation is in addition to the Section's annual \$500 scholarship donation to a local geological program at San Jacinto College, University of Houston, etc.). The Paleontology Section urges other HGMS Sections to also consider donating to the AFMS Scholarship Program to encourage geosciences education.

Upcoming Paleontology Section Presentations**May 17, 2005: Pleistocene Fossils near Corpus Christi**

Paul Combs, a graduate student at Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, will discuss a significant discovery of Pleistocene fossils at a gravel pit near Robbstown, Texas, which is the basis for his Master's Degree study. Mr. Combs served 21 years as a former Army Intelligence officer followed by seven more years as a Department of Defense civilian, all of which included 19 years of overseas work. Paul is proficient in seven languages, so will likely be able to communicate with any foreign visitors who may choose to attend. He will be bringing 40 pounds of 13,500-year old fossils (including teeth, bones, tusk fragments, and petrified wood) as audience giveaways. Everyone is invited to attend.

June 21, 2005: Dinosaur Tracks

HGMS member **Glen Kuban** will share with us his interest in dinosaur and predinosaur tracks of Texas and other states in a presentation entitled "On the Heels of Dinosaurs: An Update on Dinosaur Track Finds and Other Trace Fossils." Glen is one of our most gifted speakers, and his lectures are always accompanied by his spectacular photos of often multiple sets of dinosaur tracks. Members and visitors are especially invited to bring kids to what promises to be a most entertaining and enlightening presentation.

July 19, 2005: Preservation and Color of Petrified Wood

Scott Singleton will be giving a presentation entitled "Preservation and the Color in Petrified Wood." This presentation will first define the various terms involved in pet-

rification, then it will illustrate the process by which wood becomes stone. What conditions are necessary for wood preservation? Is the wood replaced by minerals or encased by minerals? Does the process stop after it becomes a fossil?

The second part of the presentation deals with the color present in fossils, including petrified wood and bone. Why is color present? What do the different colors mean? Handouts will be given describing the color key for different minerals so that the audience can go home ready to identify different mineral constituents based on fossil colors.

Finally, the audience will be given an opportunity to practice their newly found knowledge of fossil color identification by random sampling of specimens from the Zuhl Collection at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, courtesy of the Zuhl CD, published by the HGMS Paleontology Section.



2005 Faceting Section Meeting Calendar

by Wayne Barnett and Paula Rutledge



The HGMS Faceting Section meets every second Wednesday at the HGMS club house. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. We would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to our meetings! We do not have a formal chairperson for the Faceting Section, so each month the chairperson will be the individual who presents the program. The programs listed below are the topics that we plan to present on any given month. However, if a better or more timely program presents itself, we may substitute it for a given subject for that month.

- **May 11:** Orienting Gemstones presented by Stan Perkins
- **June 8:** Gemstone Inclusions, (it can be a flaw, it can be an enhancement!) presented by Norm Lenz.
- **July 13:** Gemstone Sale! We will be selling faceting gemstone rough. This material has been donated to the Section over the last year; there is both synthetic and natural material. This is a great time to add to your stash and a good way for beginners to get rough for faceting. Meeting chaired by Wayne Barnett.
- **August 10:** Hot Dog Party! Open session on faceting machines. We will be serving hotdogs and will have the faceting machines set up and running. This is an excellent opportunity to come try your hand at faceting or to get help on those problems you may be having with a stone.
- **September 14:** Display Techniques (gemstone and other specimens) presented by Wayne Barnett, Norm Lenz, and Karen Burns. Wayne will serve as the chairperson.
- **October 12:** Value of Color in Gemstones (Is it natural? Is it enhanced? Does it add value?) presented by Norm Lenz.
- **November 9:** Facet vs Cabochon Use of Gemstone Material, presented by Stan Perkins
- **December meeting:** Annual social get-together. Date and location to be determined.

Coming Attractions: Lapidary Programs

June 20 Practice **Riveting** and other cold attachments

Photographs below taken by Matthew Phillips at the April Meeting.



Charlie
Fredregill
demonstrating
the proper
method for
drilling a hole in
a stone. He is
assisted by
Gary Anderson.



**Sale—Auction of Sister Clements' Collection at the Clubhouse
10 a.m. Saturday June 4, 2005**

by Art Smith

Sister Clements' collection and the former Dominican College collection for sale. Many rocks of all types, some specimens, gem rough, small beads, cabochons, slabs, lapidary rough, findings, shells, cabinets, small equipment, a few books, and a little of everything for everybody. (*At four truck-loads, Neal Immega says there's lots of everything for everybody.*)

The Youth Group will be using the shop, so the auction will be set up in the Meeting Room. The proceeds will be split evenly between Dominican College and HGMS.

April General Meeting Program Summary

Scott Singleton

1st Vice President

Todd Kent from the Explorer Multimedia Group in Dallas and the producer of "Rockhounds: The Movie," presented our program in April. He described the process of putting together such a film and told us that Explorer Multimedia already has an educational television series called "GeoAmerica TV." Its focus is to fuse the world of geoscience and history with travel, fun, and social context.

During the program, Todd showed three short video segments. The first was the movie trailer that has several amusing one-liners from the movie and outtakes. The second was a clip showing the behind-the-scenes realities of producing an outdoor movie. Problems included raining on Dinosaur George's fossil hunt and water levels being too high in all the prime barite rose localities. The third video clip was a promo extolling the need for earth science education. It included comments from Texas governmental officials, higher education officials in Oklahoma, and a range of oil company senior executives.

Todd announced that Explorer Multimedia is looking for funding to produce a TV series on earth science from a popular perspective. This sounds like a very worthy and needed goal, one that I'm sure anybody reading this newsletter will surely agree with. We hope to have a future report from Todd announcing the start of this series. We also hope that he considers HGMS a worthy place to do some of his shooting.

Communications (Or the Lack Thereof)

by Neal Immega

Are you getting the feeling that no one knows you? Maybe this is because you changed your e-mail address and did not spread the word. The following people are not getting club e-mail for various reasons.

'Kevin Keys' <KKCM69@aol.com> ;
'Doug Vanderford' <wormwood43@aol.com>;
'James Abbott' <jabbott@falconbarcode.com>;
'Kelly Adams' <tangible_dreams@evl.net>;

'Matt Broussard' <houston3@trinitycfs.org>;
 'Bill Gassaway' <wgassaway@houston.rr.com>;
 'Ed Gerber' <Rest383@Pilotcorp.com >;
 'Phil and Janet Heppard' <ben.jess.john@aol.com>;
 'Bridget Langdale' <blangdale@silverfox.org>;
 'Pat McCall' <seamantaz@aol.com>;
 'Conrad and Brenda Murphy' <cmurphy7@uh.edu>;
 'Bruce and Annie Neill' <bneil@pdq.net>;
 'Jerry Pote' <jerrypote@hotmail.com>;
 'Lisa and Abeejet Purkayastha' <plan@houston.rr.com>;
 'Bob Quitzau' <quitzau@Flex.net>;
 'Terry and Ken Sanders' <ksanders@r.r.hot.com>;
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 'Glynn Rogers' <gr020254@juno.com>;
 'John & Pat Goyen' <johng99@concentric.net>;
 'M.J. Robinson' <chinapjet@earthlink.net>;
 'Bob and Dorothy Swinney' <swinneyb@totalzone.com>;

Please communicate with n_immega@swbell.net if you want to receive club notices or if you want off the club mailing list.

In Our Library

by Art Smith, Librarian

Two subscriptions for the library are for two new journals: *Elements* and *Art Jewelry*. The second issue of *Elements* has several short articles on diamonds and diamond formation. *Art Jewelry* has several articles on jewelry making and techniques. Journals and magazines are in the second room and in alphabetical order by title. They are not available to be checked out, but articles of interest may be copied in the office at 5 cents a page.

Tom Wright has donated to the library some gemstone books. Some will be added to the shelves, and others that are duplicates will be sold. We had a successful spring sale of duplicate books and journals and made over \$500.

Our *Backbender's Gazette* can always use original articles, and if you would like to write one, the library is the best place to obtain or check your data to make sure it is correct. If you need help, just ask. I will not do your research for you, but hopefully I can point you in the right direction for sources of information. The Internet is also a good source, but you should always check it with published material unless you know that the Internet source is completely reliable.

Brent Lockhart has donated a copy of *Mineralogy of the English Lake District*:

Caldbeck Fells by M.P. Cooper and C.J. Stanley. This English district was noted for its colorful secondary minerals and through the years has produced many mineral specimens for the collector. Now however, unless it comes from an old collection, specimens from this district are rare even in microspecimens.

Show Committee Update

by Carol Thompson

HGMS Show Chairman

The Show Committee is beginning a large number of activities because we are within the final six-month window leading up to the Annual Show in September. This month, I would like to let you know about some fun things we do as well as some work that is ongoing.

Let me start with the fun things because that's what people are usually interested in. As advertised in the last BBG, the Show Committee held a retreat in South Texas on the weekend of April 23–24. The purpose of this retreat was to attract new members to the Show Committee and to get to know each other. We had some new members attend as well as some regular members. The assembled crew had a great time collecting petrified wood in the late Eocene Jackson Group of McMullen County (see photos). The locality consisted of layered sandy ash deposits that the county was digging up to use on their roads. In this sandy ash were upright, in-situ trees varying in diameter from a few inches to about 2 feet. Palm was there in abundance. Needless to say, we were sorely tempted to behave worse than kids in a candy factory.

Stay tuned for more field trips hosted by the Show Committee. We are always interested in new members. And don't forget that after the show we always host a field trip for all volunteers at the show to show appreciation for the time you put into making our show one of the best in the SCFMS.

The next fun event hosted by the Show Committee is our annual party. Although we haven't set a firm date for this event, we usually host it in late June. It is a potluck dinner at someone's house and is another great opportunity to get to know others who share common interests. Last year we even had rock gift door prizes. We will post the date of this event in the next BBG. Please feel free to come.

Now on to things that are ongoing. If you haven't checked out the HGMS Web site lately, there are a couple of new things relating to our show. First, the 2004 show pictures are loaded onto the show page:

http://www.hgms.org/client_show/2004Photos/2004ShowPhotos.html

Second, the main page of the Web site (<http://www.hgms.org/>) has two items about the show. The first is on the upper right-hand side and is a summary of the 2004 show. The second is on the lower left hand side and is about vacancies on the Show Committee. It includes a link to a description of those positions:

http://www.hgms.org/client_show/ShowCommitteeJobOpenings--05.htmlinally, the

Show Committee would like to remind everyone that we take our mission of outreach into the community seriously. Not only do we host the show, but we are also present at a number of other shows and conventions. In addition to the Clear Lake Show in February, we also staff an HGMS table at two of the four Houston Intergems (the spring and summer shows), two homeschool conventions, and one or two teacher conventions. The purpose for this presence is to make our community aware of the service our club provides with our classes, shop, and show.

All of these activities take volunteer resources. Please consider becoming a member of the Show Committee or helping out at our Annual Show. You can contact me at carolynthompson@landam.com or 281-328-7025. And please remember that all Show Committee meetings (held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse) are open to all club members. If you have a request, complaint, or question, please come to one of our meetings so we can hear what you have to say.



In-Situ Petrified Wood Trunk



Palm Frond Imprint



Petrified Wood Debris Field



Section of Whole-Round Log

Photos on this page by Carol Thompson



Joan Riley and Our Host



**Our Other Host and a
Resident of the Pit**



Scott Singleton and Maps



**Carol Thompson Photographing
Palm Frond Imprints**

Photos on this page by Matthew Phillips

Interesting Details from the Show Committee Retreat

by Matthew Phillips

Scott sent out information about the hunt, but he was unsure of the actual date so the time for people to reserve rooms was short. Everyone reserved rooms at the Super 8 Motel in Pleasanton, TX. Carol and Beverly managed to reserve single rooms, but I reserved a double. Scott reserved a room for himself and daughter Lorraine. Joan Riley and I must have arrived last at 10:30 p.m., and we shared my room.

Next morning the whole group managed to join us, and we learned that we were to drive to the small town of Fowlerton, TX 78021. We waited for members from Corpus Christie who would give us location information. After their arrival options were discussed. Yes, Scott wanted a sample of Yegua material but gave in to what was offered. (The experts discussed this but I was unable to follow the discussion).

An interesting side note is that Scott and Lorraine worked on a school assignment of placing Flat Stanley in various locations and taking pictures.

We soon went south down a dirt road that was in very good condition. The leaders drove so fast that it was an effort to keep up. We arrived at what looked like a gravel pit, and everyone prepared to search. We did not have to look very far to find large amounts of petrified wood.

Someone sighted a jackrabbit and suggested that I take a picture, which I did. Sorry I did not take more pictures, but the task of rock hunting was more important.

I did find a round section of petrified wood roughly 12 to 18 inches in diameter and 11 to 12 inches high. It will support flowerpots in my yard for a long time.

Carol Thompson was very happy and took pictures of items that were too large to dig up, and later she collected various large chunks—20, 30, 40-pound sizes.



While we were busy, Joan and other people left to see another site 1/8 mile away. Soon word came that she needed help in bringing out what she found. We moved all the cars to the site, but due to a difficult spot, only Scott with his Jeep could drive close to where Joan collected her material. The rest of us commuted back and forth lugging dollies transporting material. It seems that the whole area is sprinkled with material, and the only benefit of the gravel pits is that the brush is cleared away.

After various picnic lunches and during the progression of the afternoon, finally my pickup reached its weight limit. Joan and I came back via San Antonio to Hwy 10, arriving around 7:30 p.m. We wondered what else was found Saturday p.m. and Sunday. I'm sure some people must have dumped material already collected to make room for more. What a great fieldtrip!

General Meeting
March 22, 2005
by Sunday Bennett, Secretary

Volunteer to supply refreshments for April meeting: Susan Lenz
The March volunteer was Nancy Fisher.

Guests: No guests or visitors.

Announcements:

The 2005 dues reminders were on your April BBG. If you got a note on the BBG, then it is your last notice.

Reports:

Day Light Section: Tom Wright

The April program was on silver fusion. Silver fusion involves joining together scraps of silver without solder. Tom Wright will be the instructor.

Lapidary Section: David Hawkins

- Last month's meeting involved using the buffing machines to polish metal.
- The April meeting was on "Putting Holes in Stone."
- A call is going out to all holders of "Wire Artist Jeweller" magazine Oct. 1999 and January 2001 back issues. We need these two back issues to make our collection complete. Contact David Hawkins if you have either or both of these issues.
- May 16 meeting will demonstrate "Making Doublets."

Mineral Section: Art Smith

Meeting topics for April include:

- **April 6:** Opals
- **April 20:** Titanium Oxides (the ninth most abundant element)
- **May 4:** **AUCTION** (refreshments will be provided) Everyone come for a great night of stones, stories, and spending money.
- **May 18:** Fakes, Frauds and Alterations. Come and find out if you *really* got a good deal.
- The last meeting before the summer break will be **June 1**, and it will feature our annual Swap and Sale.

Paleo Section: Rick Rexroad, the Paleo Chair, gave a report on the Easter Weekend field trip that went to Brownwood, TX. Rick also gave a quick review of the April Paleo Speaker, Dr. Ann Molineaux from the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin. Dr. Molineaux spoke on Fossil Reefs in Texas. To visit the site on fossil reefs in Texas, please go to: <http://www.tmm.utexas.edu/index.html>

Also, please note that the May Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. so that we can do away with the business portion early and get to the "good" stuff at 7:30 p.m. If you come late, then you'll have missed all the fun of listening to business details and seconding motions.

Youth Section: Beverly Mace

The Youth Section is busy grinding rocks and turning out beautiful cabochons.

Education Committee Report: Mary Ann Mitscherling

All classes are on schedule, and their descriptions are posted on the backs of the doors throughout the clubhouse. Please remember to pre-register at least seven days before the class begins in order to reserve a space. This is especially important in very small classes.

We would also like to tell everyone that if they enroll in a class, that they are considered a member of the HGMS. In the past some participants in classes did not know they were considered members of the HGMS.

Program for next month: Scott Singleton

The April program will feature a preview of the movie, "Rockhounds: The Movie," by Todd Kent. Part of this film includes shots taken at our show in 2004. It is bound to be an interesting evening.

Standing Committees Reports:

Clubhouse Committee: Dave Hawkins

- Ceiling tiles have all been put into place.
- A Genie® was donated by Hugh Parker along with a 10" trim saw and eight buckets of rocks. The rocks include some beautiful samples of palm wood.
- Conoco Phillips has donated \$2,500 to our school sets, and we are always looking for people to help put the sets together.
- Expect the clubhouse's garage area to look more cluttered than usual as items will be moved about to begin a reorganization effort. The garage area in particular will be shifted around to make way for show items to be set up.

Field Trip Committee: Neal Immega

- The March field trip to Mineral Wells, Texas was great. Pictures of the trip are posted at the HGMS Web site.
- By all accounts, the Easter weekend trip also got on well for the limited amount of time the group had to collect. It seems that someone, namely Lexy, told the rain gods that it was a Neal Immega trip, and of course it rained buckets for several days in Brownwood.
- A midweek field trip is scheduled the last week in April.
- Talk of other trips, while the weather remains somewhat cool, are up for discussion. Please contact Neal Immega, at n_immega@swbell.net and give him your trip ideas.

Special Committee Reports:

Bylaw Review Committee: Scott Singleton / John Moffitt

The Bylaw review is done, and suggested changes have been made. Copies of these changes will be distributed to the membership through the BBG. No changes will be made by the Board alone. This is a membership decision.

HGMS Internet Site Review Committee: Paula Rutledge

The Web site is doing well. With the excellent work of Phyllis George, many things are getting done. We invite you to have a look at the Web site and see the number of new links and added information. Most things are now up to date.

Show & Tell:

- Ingrid Stewart showed off a lovely uncut sunstone she purchased from Creative Gems at the Clear Lake Show.
- Mary Ann Mitscherling brought a mounted stone she worked on as part of the hands-on education program with the Lapidary Section. She used only tools found in the clubhouse, and the results were beautiful.
- Don Laird brought a well-made snake carved from serpentine. The snake, he was told, took 35 days to make. It was made in China and purchased in Tucson.

Old Business:

The Clubhouse has been exterminated throughout for bugs.

New Business:

- Beverly Mace posted several letters from different people wanting to sell their rock collections and equipment. These letters are posted on the bulletin board on the kitchen wall.
- Recently a GPS locator was donated to the club. If you wish to learn how to use it and want to borrow it, please contact Neal Immega.
- A spool polisher is missing. If found, please notify the Lapidary Section chair, Margaret Hardman-Muye.

Door Prize: A knapped flint angel donated by Joan Riley was won by Fred Brueckner.

Program Introduction:

Karen Jensen, GG, ISA, was introduced by Scott Singleton. Her program detailed the work done by a professional gemologist and appraiser. Ms. Jensen outlined the highlights of what she does and doesn't do in her profession, then she opened the floor to questions. Our group of avid rockhounds had many questions, and Ms. Jensen was gracious enough to answer them all.

Adjourn: 10:10 p.m.

HGMS Board Meeting

April 5, 2005

by Sunday Bennett

HGMS Secretary

Present: President, Norm Lenz; 1st Vice President, Scott Singleton; 2nd Vice President, Beverly Mace; Treasurer, Paul McGarry; Secretary, Sunday Bennett; Lapidary Rep., David Hawkins; Mineral Rep., Art Smith; Faceting Rep., Paula Rutledge; Paleontology Rep., John Moffitt; Day Lighters Rep., Tom Wright; Past President, Norm Lenz

Approval of Minutes from last month. It was moved and seconded to accept the March 2005 Board Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Backbender's Gazette: Phyllis George

Publishing the May BBG will be delayed two or three days as Phyllis is taking a brief vacation.

Bylaw Committee: Scott Singleton

The Board discussed at length each change to the bylaws and approved each change. A discussion followed on how best to present these changes to the membership for a vote. It was agreed to present the changes at the General Meeting and to post the bylaws around the clubhouse for all to read at their leisure.

Shop and Clubhouse: David Hawkins/Tom Wright

- David, on behalf of Mary Ann Mitscherling, asked if anything could be done about the doors on the case holding auction items. The doors do not close all the way. After a short discussion it was decided that nothing feasible could be done to solve the problem except to remind people to be careful. The doors therefore will remain as they are.
- Neal Immega received a donated saw from the Clear Lake Club. The donated saw is in much better condition than ours, thus our old machine will be going up for auction. David relayed Neal's request that the proceeds from the old saw be split 50-50 with the Clear Lake Club in recognition of their generosity. It was moved and seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Neal sent a list of budget items he felt were needed for the shop. Norm read the list of items and a tally was made of the total cost. The amount came to \$1,700. This figure is within the budgeted allowance and was approved by unanimous vote.
- Tom Wright said he would be obtaining an estimate for work to clean and polish the main club house floors. He will present the estimate at a future meeting.
- A concern over the pricing of big-ticket auction items was expressed by Wayne Barnett. This suggestion had already been addressed by placing a minimum bid on all large sale items.
- A request that handicap bars be installed in the women's bathroom was met with approval. No name was announced as to who should do the work.

Membership: Beverly Mace

The last BBG mailed to members had a reminder attached that this would be their last issue if they did not pay their dues. So far most of the overall membership has complied.

Treasurers Report: Paul McGarry

- A copy of the "March 2005 HGMS Comparison of Actual to Budget Report" was handed out. There were no unexpected expenditures.
- ConocoPhillips donated \$2,500 in support of the school collections kits.
- A more detailed report is due in May.

Library: Art Smith**Show Committee:** Carol Thompson (not in attendance)

Education Committee Report: Mary Ann Mitscherling (not in attendance)

David Hawkins spoke on behalf of Mary Ann. He gave a brief description of the Carving Class Mary Ann wishes to start. Several members of the Board expressed concern over the extended use of selected pieces of shop equipment. Other members were not sure about the financing of such a class. A discussion followed. It was decided that Mary Ann should create a written financial plan and make a formal proposal to the Board before permission could be considered.

Special Committee Reports

- **Nominating Committee:** Art Smith, Tom Wright, Matt Dillon
- **HGMS Web Site Committee:** Paula Rutledge
- **Bylaw Committee:** Scott Singleton, John Moffitt

Section Board Representatives

- **Faceting:** Paula Rutledge
- **Lapidary:** David Hawkins
- **Paleontology:** John Moffitt
- **Mineral:** Art Smith
- **Daylight:** Tom Wright
- **Youth:** Beverly Mace

Programs for Next Month: Scott Singleton

Todd Kent will be previewing his movie "Rockhounds." Part of the film includes shots taken at our Show in 2004.

Old Business

- Tom Lammers was contacted about modifying the men's bathroom. He took measurements, but no work on building a partition wall has commenced.
- The entire clubhouse was exterminated against pests after a sighting of a brown recluse spider in March.
- Matt Dillon and Ed Tindell were given approval for their April 10 swap meet, but they were asked to please notify the Board in advance for any future requests.
- The follow up on an exchange of names list with the HMNS was done. The HMNS did not reply. The process is now considered over.
- Lilli Arnoni was contacted about her tsunami relief donation. The Board discussed the idea and chose not to act. The matter is done.
- Karen Burns had asked about having special event parties at the clubhouse, but because of concerns over liability and cleanup of the clubhouse, the matter was voted down.
- Karen Burns also requested that the Board consider having a Summer Camp for children which she would run. The Board has requested that she submit a proposal for further discussion on the matter.
- John Moffitt questioned what the \$2 per person membership dues to the SCFMS covered. He was given to understand this amount covered insurance for all events taking place outside of the clubhouse, i.e., field trips, special events. In examining the SCFMS rules it turned out that an additional amount would need to be

paid per person in order for SCFMS insurance. We have not paid that extra amount and therefore have no coverage under a SCFMS policy.

New Business

- Norm proposed that we do not enroll in the SCFMS insurance policy because a half year is already gone. Ohio Casualty Insurance currently covers activities within the clubhouse.
- Paula volunteered to contact Steve Wilkerson to get an understanding on what our current insurance policy covers and what it doesn't cover.

The standing committees shall be as follows:

- Clubhouse Committee: David Hawkins/Tom Wright
- Field Trip Committee: Neal Immega
- History Committee: Art Smith
- Library Committee: Art Smith
- Membership Committee: Beverly Mace
- Newsletter Committee: Phyllis George
- Program Committee: Scott Singleton
- Refreshments Committee: By volunteers

Special committees:

- Nominating Committee: Art Smith, Tom Wright, Matt Dillon
- Show Committee: Carol Thompson
- Bylaw Committee: Scott Singleton, John Moffitt
- Web Site Committee: Paula Rutledge

Safely Showing Your Material

*by Bill Smith, AFMS President
from AFMS Newsletter 5/2005*

This is the time of year when clubs are hosting their local shows, and we have an opportunity to show the public what our hobby is all about. It is also a time when we need to take precautions to ensure that we return home with all our display material.

I thought I would pass along some of the ideas that Janet and I use. We first go in and check to see where we will be setting up our cases. Then we bring in ALL our display items. Janet watches over these while I bring in and set up the display cases.

If someone comes along and wants to talk or look at what we are doing, we ask them to come back when we are through setting up. Try to keep the area in front of your case clear of people.

If you have more than one case, set up one at a time. During the show, we keep our cases locked. We used to keep duplicate material under the table below our cases, but



after a valuable lesson, we now take the material back with us.

Breakdown seems to be the most confusing time of any show as we all want to get our material removed and be on our way. The host club usually wants to break down as soon as possible so they can go home for some needed rest. This means that we have people and broken-down cases going in all directions, and that is when it is easy for material to come up missing.

Again, if you have more than one case, open and empty only one case at a time. Make sure that **two** people are present at all times so one can watch as the other breaks down. I completely remove the first case and take it to the pickup while Janet watches the case contents, and we continue to break down in this manner until I have the last case loaded.

We then take the contents of **ALL** the cases on the **LAST** trip. This way we never leave any case material unattended in the vehicle.

I will never forget the gentleman who removed a beautiful case of jasper, took it to the car, opened the trunk where he placed the material, left the trunk open and went back in to break down his case. Janet and I have an RV and didn't know how unsafe they were until the door was unlocked and a stranger entered. It was about one in the morning. That was when we found out a single set of keys will open most RVs of the same make. If yours is that way, you may want to also have your locks changed.

If **TWO** of you set up and breakdown, keep the area in front of the cases **CLEAR** and **ALWAYS** keep your items in sight, you should have a safe and fun time displaying at the shows. Until next time. *Bill*

Meet Us in St. Louis for the AFMS/MWF Convention and Field Trips!

*by Willis Smith
from AFMS Newsletter 5/05*

In addition to coming to the St. Louis area for the 2005 combined AFMS and MWF convention and its requisite meetings, there are other things for you to do as well. We have arranged a series of field trips for those who wish to go collecting during their St. Louis experience. All trips outlined below will take place on Friday, August 19. You'll need to register to participate, and you can obtain a registration form by visiting the show Web site <www.stleearthsci.org>. Some of the field trips are limited, so get your request in early. A brief description of each trip follows:



1. Field Trip to Washington County, MO. This trip will be a collecting trip to Washington County Missouri to collect barite (tiff), drusy quartz, and Washington County agate.
2. Underground Trip to a Doe Run Company Lead Mine. This Trip will be a collecting trip to one of Doe Runs underground lead mines in Southeast Missouri to

collect galena, calcite, chalcopryite, etc. In addition to the collecting trip, there maybe a trip through the concentrating plant where they crush and concentrate the lead ore. Because this is an underground trip, the Doe Run company is limiting the number of people it will allow on this trip to 30. Therefore it is strongly suggested that you get your request form in as soon as possible. This trip is on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. Graniteville / Missouri Mines State Historic Mines field trip. This trip will be combination field of collecting, a geological information trip, and a visit to a superb mineral museum. The collecting part of the trip will be for the collecting of various igneous rocks found in and around the Saint Francois Mountains and to an active granite quarry. The geological information part of the trip will be an explanation of the Saint Francois Mountains and the surrounding area. The museum visit part of the trip will be to the updated and refurbished Missouri Historical Mines Museum at Park Hills.
4. Fossil collecting field trip. This will be a fossil collecting field trip to Jefferson County Missouri for the collecting of Ordovician and Mississippian marine fossils plus a few geodes. This will be an approximately five-hour collecting trip.
5. Fossil collecting trip by vehicle and by pontoon boat. This will be a fossil collecting field trip to Lincoln County Missouri and to Mark Twain Lake for the collecting of Mississippian marine fossils. This will be an approximately 8-hour collecting trip.

All trips at present will leave at 7:00 a.m. from Queeny Park in St. Louis County on Friday August 19, 2005; however, you should be aware that times might change. A limited number of self-guided field trips are also planned. If you have questions or don't have access to the Web site, direct your inquiries to Field Trip Chairman Carl Campbell at (636) 207-0572 or <corycamp@aol.com>.

If you wish other information about the show, contact Show Chairman Bob Morse at <rrcode@nothnbut.net>

A reminder: the deadline for sending in exhibitor forms for noncompetitive and special exhibits is June 1. The deadline for competitive exhibits, hotel, show, banquet, and Editor's Breakfast is July 15. We're looking forward to meeting you in St. Louis.

How Can They Keep On Doing It?

*by Joy Bourne, Endowment Fund Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 5/05*

If you thought we had a fabulous array of prizes last month, well, my friends, we have some news for you. The latest additions to the array should really make you open your eyes (and wallets) and get into the drawing for this year's Endowment Fund Raffle.

Prize #10: Jim Robinson, AFMS President-Elect, and member of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (FL) created this beautiful intarsia shield, which is set in a

custom sterling silver pendant created by Ann C. Monroe of the Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society of Hayesville, NC. The overall dimensions of the pendant are 3.25" x 1.75", and the intarsia inlay measures 32mm x 27mm. The materials Jim used in the intarsia include opal in the center surrounded by black jade, blue lapis, and green malachite bands. Jim says he is not sure what the white material is—it was purchased several years ago at a show in Franklin NC, where the dealer called it "pristine." He thinks it might be thenardite. A gorgeous piece of outstanding workmanship, this prize is valued at \$150–\$200.



Prize #11. Mike Hawkins, Geology Chairman for the NY State Museum Institute sent us a spectacular suite of three New York State mineral specimens. The first is a beautiful pyrite specimen from the Zinc Corporation of America Pierrepont Mine, St. Lawrence County, NY. This piece measures 3.5" x 4.5" x 4" and weighs 3 lb.12 oz. A real stunner! The mine has been filled and closed completely in the past two years, so there will be no more, ever! The second mineral in the suite is an incredible 2.5" x 2" x 1.5" Herkimer "Diamond" from Middletown, NY. The multiple crystal is even more beautiful than its picture—a real beauty, indeed. Rounding out the suite is this black uvite (magnesium tourmaline) cluster from the Bower Power location near Pierrepont, NY. This beautiful specimen measures about 62 x 3" and was collected in the old days when really good specimens were readily available. Total value for the suite is \$75–\$100. Pictures by George and Barbara Gearhardt of the Capital District Mineral Club of Albany, NY.



How can you possibly resist? Contact your region's AFMS Endowment Fund representative now and purchase your winning tickets. If he/she runs out of tickets, we will be happy to send more! Or, send your ticket request together with your check payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" directly to me:

Joy Bourne, Chair
AFMS Endowment Fund
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848-9739

Tickets are priced at \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00. You do not need to be present at the drawing in St Louis to win, either. We will gladly ship your prize(s) to you immediately after the drawing.

Regional Endowment Fund Representatives' names and contact information, as well as color pictures and full descriptions of all prizes can be found on the AFMS Web site at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2005.htm>.

We'll be looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Truth and Some Consequences—2

*by John Spunaugle
AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 5/05*

New Fossil Bill in Congress

As expected, a new fossil collecting Bill “Paleontological Resources Preservation Act” has been introduced into the U. S. Senate. It is listed in the 109th Congress as Senate Bill S 236. Senators introducing this Bill were **Mr. Akaka** (for himself, **Mr. Baucus**, **Mrs. Feinstein**, **Mr. Durbin**, **Mr. Roberts**, and **Mr. Inouye**. A quick review of the Bill as introduced suggests that it is very similar to a Bill that the U.S. Senate passed by unanimous voice vote in the 108th Congress in 2003 (S 546/HR 2416).

Some definitions used in this Bill are:

- 1) **Casual Collecting:** The term “casual collecting” means the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for noncommercial personal use, either by surface collection or with the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface and other resources. As used in this paragraph, the terms “reasonable amount,” “common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources,” and “negligible disturbance” shall be determined by the Secretary.
- (6) **Paleontological Resource** - The term “paleontological resource” means any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth’s crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, except that the term does not include—
 - (A) any materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in section 3(1) of the “Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979” (16 U.S.C. 470bb(1)); or
 - (B) any cultural item (as defined in section 2 of the “Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act” (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

Section 5, “**Collection of Paleontological Resources**” requires a permit to collect with a few exceptions.

- (a) Permit Requirement-
 - (1) **In General** - Except as provided in this Act, a paleontological resource may not be collected from Federal lands without a permit issued under this Act by the Secretary.
 - (2) **Casual Collecting Exception** - The Secretary may allow casual collecting without a permit on Federal lands controlled or administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service, where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those Federal lands and this Act.
 - (3) **Previous Permit Exception** - Nothing in this section shall affect a valid permit issued prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

Section 6, “**Curation of Resources**” requires paleontological resources to be depos-

ited in an approved repository.

“Any paleontological resource, and any data and records associated with the resource, collected under a permit, shall be deposited in an approved repository. The Secretary may enter into agreements with non-Federal repositories regarding the curation of these resources , data, and records.”

Penalties: The Bill provides for penalties, both criminal and civil for violation of the act. Criminal penalties can go up to 10 years in prison and/or fines as determined in Title 18 of the penal code. Civil penalty amounts are to be determined by regulations issued by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(a) In General- A person may not—

- (1) excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any paleontological resources located on Federal lands unless such activity is conducted in accordance with this Act;
- (2) exchange, transport, export, receive, or offer to exchange, transport, export, or receive any paleontological resource if, in the exercise of due care, the person knew or should have known such resource to have been excavated or removed from Federal lands in violation of any provisions, rule, regulation, law, ordinance, or permit in effect under Federal law, including this Act ; or
- (3) sell or purchase or offer to sell or purchase any paleontological resource if, in the exercise of due care, the person knew or should have known such resource to have been excavated, removed, sold, purchased, exchanged, transported, or received from Federal lands.

(b) False Labeling Offenses- A person may not make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of, any paleontological resource excavated or removed from Federal lands.

Rewards for persons providing information used in connection with a conviction of a violation of the Bill are also provided for.

The previous Bill introduced in the 108th Congress was called a “Bad Bill” by many, and I would expect this version to get an equally “cold” reception.

Permits Required To Visit Public Lands

There has been some discussion lately about permits being required to use or visit public lands. Some of the reports are accurate and some not. I thought it might be time to talk about the facts around this issue.

It is true that Congress, in late 2004, passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act by adding this legislation to a general appropriations Bill (HR 4818). It was signed into law as Public Law 118-447 in November, 2004. The new law authorizes the land management agencies (National Park Service, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S Forest Service) to charge (1) a standard amenity fee, (2) an expanded amenity fee, and (3) a special recreation permit fee. An

entrance fee for lands managed by the National Park Service is also authorized.

Amenity fees may be charged in National Conservation Areas, A National Volcanic Monument and a destination visitor or interpretive center as well as an area that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation that has substantial Federal investments, where fees can be effectively collected, and that contain all of the following amenities: Designated developed parking; a permanent toilet facility; a permanent trash receptacle; an interpretive sign; an exhibit or kiosk; picnic tables; and security services.

Under the heading of Special Recreation Permit, fees may be charged for group activities, recreation events, and motorized recreational vehicle use.

The Federal Land managers must publish a public participation opportunities in the Federal Register when establishing any new permit requirements under this new Law. Special Permit Advisory Committees are also authorized.

The current law authorizing fees/passes/permits is an outgrowth of a 1996 law that authorized demonstration pilot fee programs in several parts of the country.

To facilitate the issuing of passes, one pass has been introduced which may cover them all, The America the Beautiful Pass. The agencies involved have only just begun to provide information about this and other "passes" authorized under the new law. Some information is already found on the Internet, but it is sketchy.

We will try to keep you informed as information is available. We'll talk again.

Hint:

To remove a cab that is stuck in its finding, heat the finding in boiling water, then gently tap it with a pencil. This works because metal expands faster than stone when exposed to heat. *From Roamin Rams 1/96 via Stoney Statements 5/05 and others*

Vibratory Lapping

by Ray Killian

from Lapidary Digest 8/97, via Huntin' & Diggin' and others

Some of you are having some problems with the flat vibratory lap. Here are some things that can go wrong:

Everything stays on one side:

- The machine may not be level: Check the pan for being level. Use a bubble level to read it four ways at the same time.
- If the machine has rubber balls for the pan to ride on, sometimes those balls are not the same size or those machines that have cables could be off. So when you level the unit, put the level in the pan.

Splashing:

- What you are trying to polish is too light; add more weight. (I use up to six pounds

of weight on some 6-inch slabs).

- Grinding grit or polishing compounds are too wet. (I keep my slurry just a little thinner than cream, just so slabs will move freely.) You know you are polishing when you see all the slabs or bookends rotating counterclockwise and moving clockwise around the pan.

(Editor's Note: Check our Web site to see a photo of a like-new vibratory lap that will be sold in the June 4 auction at the clubhouse. It can be yours. The site is <www.hgms.org>.)

Kanifers--Ever heard of them?

Taken from an article entitled "Hardness" by Edward D. Conner, M.D. in High Country Gleamings 11/96, via Breccia 3/05 and others

Hardness is dependent on the crystal structure of the mineral. The more compact the atoms, the greater the binding force between the atoms, and therefore the greater the amount of force needed to separate the atoms.

Hardness varies, sometimes in spectacular fashion, when measured in several different directions on the same crystal.

Diamond: Diamond cutters orient the stone to be cut so that the "soft" directions will come in contact with the randomly-arranged diamond crystals on the cutting wheel. Some of these crystals will be in the "hard" orientation—these are the ones that will be able to cut the diamond.

"Kanifers" (means "cannot do") are twinned diamond crystals that have no "soft" directions, hence cannot be cut.

Regional Federation Conventions

by Mary Trammell

Show Coordinator

from AFMS Newsletter 5/05

California Federation June 10–12, 2005 Roseville, CA

Eastern Federation November 17–19, 2006 WestPalm Beach, FL

Midwest / AFMS Federations August 16–21, 2005 St. Louis, MO

Missouri Northwest Federation August 5–7, 2005 Albany, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation June, 17–19, 2005 Colorado Springs, CO

South Central Federation December 2–4, 2005 Austin, TX

Southeast Federation November 12–14, 2005 Melbourne, FL

ShowTime 2005

May 21	Austin, TX	Swap Meet 2005, Austin Gem & Mineral Soc. 6719 Burnet Lane Bob Freymuller 512-443-8053
May 28-29	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Society Will Rogers Memorial Center
June 4-5	Birmingham, AL	Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park I-20/59 S Ext 100 rickkittinger@bellsouth.com
July 15-17	Houston, TX	International Gem & Jewelry Show Reliant Center, Reliant Park www.intergem.net
August 13-14	Baton Rouge, LA	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Frat. Order of Police, BR Lodge number 1 10777 Greenwell Springs Rd. Clara Broussard (225) 687-3864
August 19-21	Bossier City, LA	Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd. Charlie Johns (318) 687-4929
August 27-28	Arlington, TX	Texas School of Earth Sciences (formerly Arlington Gem & Mineral Club) University of Texas, Arlington
September 3-4	Jasper, TX	Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society VFW Building 7 miles west of Jasper
September 17-18	Farmers Branch, TX	Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute 3939 Valley View Lane
September 23-25	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway
September 24-25	Denison, TX	Texoma Rockhounds Denison Senior Center, 531 Chestnut St.
October 1-2	Jacksonville, AK	Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Soc Jacksonville Community Center Main Street, Hwy. 67/167 Exit 9

2005		JUNE				2005
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Mineral Section	2	3	4 10-12 Youth Section 10:00 AUCTION!
5	6	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 7:30 Faceting Section	9	10	11 11-3 Shop Open
12	13 1:00 Day Light Section	14 7:30 Show Comm	15	16	17	18 10-12 Youth Section 11-3 Shop Open
19	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 7:30 Paleo Section	22	23	24	25 11-3 Shop Open
26	27	28 7:30 General Meeting	29	30		

2005		JULY				2005
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-12 Youth Section 11-3 Shop Open
3	4 Independence Day	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6	7	8	9 11-3 Shop Open
10	11 1:00 Day Light Section	12 7:30 Show Comm	13 7:30 Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-12 Youth Section 11-3 Shop Open
17	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20	21	22	23 11-3 Shop Open
24 31	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27	28	29	30 11-3 Shop Open

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

***The Newsletter of the Houston
Gem & Mineral Society***

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099
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2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)



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