



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

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May 2007



President's Message

*by Matt Dillon
HGMS President*



The weather is heating up just in time for “Global Warming,” and some of us are coming back from great Spring Break vacations with stories to tell of the rocks we found and the rashes we are scratching! For me, the rock-collecting season usually ends about this time of the year and does not begin again until about the middle of October. However, I know some of you don’t have much choice about when to take your vacations, with the kids and work-related problems to figure into the plans. However, I hope you all enjoy the trips you take and can bring back some new information on collecting locations that the rest of us will be delighted to hear about.

I want to remind you that all the snakes are out in evidence in south and west Texas. And remember that the next rock you turn over can be the next snake you discover. In my fifty-plus years of agate and petrified wood collecting, I have only seen about six or seven snakes while out in the field or at the site where I was collecting. Most of my sightings have involved snakes on the road, but that does not diminish my concern for the danger they represent. It is more likely, however, that you will see spiders, lizards, or scorpions around and under rocks, and even those can pose some risk. Read all you can find on how to protect yourself while out in the field. Follow those suggestions

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April 24 General Meeting Program

The Cascades – Fire Mountains of the West

by Matt Phillips

HGMS 2nd Vice-President

Farrar Stockton will present the program for the April 24 General Meeting. He will show pictures of the Oregon Cascade mountains (including Mount Saint Helens) taken during one of his vacations to the area. He is interested in how the mountains interact with the environment (weather, landscape, foliage, etc.) The Cas-

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Every article submitted to the BBG is edited for grammar and content prior to publication. Any flaming is removed.

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Purpose of HGMS

The objectives of this Society are to promote the advancement of the knowledge and practice of the arts and sciences associated with the collecting of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, and their identification and classification; the general lapidary art; the collecting and identification of gemstones; the designing and execution of jewelry or metalcraft; and to provide the opportunity to obtain, exchange, and exhibit specimens and rough or finished materials.

Membership dues are \$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>.

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that apply, and you will have mostly pleasant tales to relate when you return.

Our club has made significant progress in attracting new members, and I want to remind each of our older and more experienced members that the examples you set and the help you offer to the new members will be paid back many times over in the future.

I recently put out a notice about the parking situation on the north side of our building. We do not own that area nor do we have the right to park there. If you park there, you do so at your own risk. A representative of the company renting that space has made it clear that he does not want us parking in that area. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to call me at 713-682-8043, or you can send me an e-mail at dillon8043@sbcglobal.net.

I have heard from Sigrid Stewart, our Show Chair, that we still need volunteers to help with the various areas needed to put on our annual show. Even though the show does not take place until September, it is never too soon to let a committee member know you are willing to help. It will make their job a little easier and help to make our show a great success!

Thanks again for the efforts of all who have volunteered in the past, and please keep up the good work!

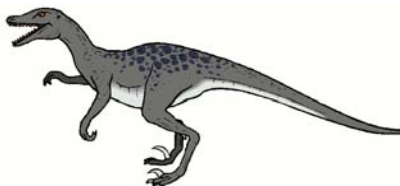
General Meeting Program continued from page 1

Cascades Mountains extend from Lassen Peak in northern California to Fraser River in southern British Columbia. The range is 700 miles long and lies approximately 100 to 150 miles from the Pacific Coast. The Cascades were renowned for their beauty and recreational resorts until 1980. On May 18 of that year, Mount Saint Helens exploded. The eruption devastated 200 square miles, killed 57 people, and released an immense ash cloud 15 miles into the stratosphere.

Farrar will talk about the Cascades' geology and volcanoes—Mt. Saint Helens, Crater Lake, and Lassen Peak. He will also discuss the environmental impact of the Cascades.

Farrar retired after 27 years at JPMorgan/TCB. He spends time as an intern at The Museum of National Science helping out with the butterfly collection, volunteering for financial duties with several nature clubs, and just being a grandfather.

I'll be taking photographs during my rockhounding honeymoon vacation in Arizona and New Mexico around the end of this month. I expect to show those at the May 22 General Meeting.



Building a Mineral Collection in Houston

Part 4: Rock Shops in Colorado's San Juan Mountains

by Art Smith

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

From 1966 through 1982 I took many vacations and trips to Colorado and generally managed to visit any rock shops in the area. The San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado were my favorite place to visit, and with several mines active there were always plenty of specimens to examine.

Silverton with an elevation of about 10,000 feet was the terminus of the narrow gauge Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, and it attracted many tourists. Hispanic kids, usually the sons and daughters of miners, would flash a big smile and show you what they had to offer from their pockets or the boxes they carried. I never got any “killer” specimens from them but got some very nice small specimens cheap. Most of them were rhodochrosite, gypsum, sphalerite, quartz, or calcite from the American Tunnel at Gladstone a few miles north of Silverton. The American Tunnel was a relatively new portal into what was the old Sunnyside mine higher in the mountains under Lake Emma that use to be accessed by aerial tram from the now-ghost town of Eureka. During my visits, the mine was producing some gold along with the zinc, lead, and silver ore. I tried to get some “high grade” gold ore from the kids and even took several trips to their homes to see if Mama would sell any, but generally had no luck. I have been told that the best time to buy high grade gold ore was close to the Christmas Holidays or when the miners had been out on strike for a while. It was sort of the miner's wife's emergency bank account. Tom Rosemeyer, who was then living in Ouray, eventually got the high-grade gold ore for me by waiting until Christmas.

There were quite a few mineral shops in the main streets of town and one on a side street run by a man named Watson. His stuff was so high priced I never could make a deal for anything. His wife or ex-wife, an Hispanic woman, also had a shop in different sites during my visits in the main part of town. She was much easier to deal with, and I picked up several nice pieces though the years. Her shop and others in town had some good specimens, but I seldom saw any really fantastic specimens—probably because there were enough local collectors who snapped them up pretty quickly. There was another mineral dealer—I believe his name was Wylie Pogue or something like that. He usually had the best assortment of good specimens, but eventually he got into hiking and camping equipment, and during my last trip there he was gone.

Durango on the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains had several shops at different times. Prices were usually not as good and were disappointingly high after seeing specimens in the other shops at Ouray or Silverton.

Ouray, on the north side of the Mountains, has had several mineral shops, but the one with the longest continuous operation is the Columbine Mineral Shop run by Benjy Khuling. Benjy always had at least one case of Colorado minerals, and at one time he took me across the street and down into a basement where his reserves were, and I was allowed to pick a limited number of Colorado specimens from them. At that time,

among others, I picked a large group of small white quartz crystals showing open casts. They had been epimorphs of large crystals of anhydrite that had been completely removed. Some say it was barite but I feel that the shape of the epimorphs is more like anhydrite than barite. Also anhydrite tends to be more likely to have been redissolved than barite. This specimen was from the Silver Point mine in Ouray and is still in my collection. It sat on my lap wrapped in newspapers when we later flew back to Houston from Denver. Through the years I bought numerous specimens from the Columbine shop, and it is still run by Benjy today. Robert Stouffer, the Sand Man, once had a shop in Ouray but now he sells books in the restored Beaumont Hotel.

My favorite San Juan town is Creede on the eastern edge of the mountains. In the 1960s and into the early 1980s, mining was still ongoing. So there were plenty of specimens available, but you really had to search for good ones or had to contact the miners who collected them. In the early years of my trips to Creede, there was a shop on the west side of the main drag. It was called "Rock-a-Bye" or a similar name. The man operating it went by the name of "Pug," probably because he had a face that looked like a pug or bull dog. He had a variety of minerals from all over and lots of lapidary material. I don't remember ever buying anything from him because if he had any decent local material, it seemed to be priced sky-high for the quality (or probably the lack of quality) of the material. So in those early years almost everything I got I collected from the dumps, or bought from collectors, or was given specimens by the miners. Many miners were quite generous and would not take money for something they just picked up, but usually I could get them to take a few bucks for a beer or something.

Going north out of town toward the mines was the house of an ex-miner who often had a sign out front indicating he had minerals for sale. Al Birdsey was an interesting character, and if you had the time to talk with him, you learned much about mining life and dealing in minerals which he bought from active miners. I bought quite a few specimens from him particularly after the Commodore Number 5 mine shut down in the middle 1970s and the dumps no longer were a good place to collect. He had specimens from both the Commodore mine and also the Bulldog Mountain mine operated by the Homestake Mining Company. He showed me a letter from them threatening prosecution if he did not stop buying and selling highgrade silver ore from their mine. He had some interesting specimens, but getting him to show you the silver specimens from the Bulldog Mountain mine took some talking. He said there were two reasons for this: a lot of the good stuff was saved for specific dealers or collectors, and he never was sure I was not a spy for Homestake even though I had Texas plates on the car.

With the shutdown of the Commodore no. 5 mine in 1976, mineral specimens became scarce in Creede. In 1978 I did find three Bulldog Mountain mine barite specimens hidden in the lower display case of a tourist shop. One was partly covered with sooty acanthite. All three were cabinet to large cabinet size, and due to the fact that I took all three, I got them cheap—a bit over \$60 for all of them (which I still have), and any one is worth at least double that today.

In July 1981 when my wife and I stopped in Creede, things were really bleak for

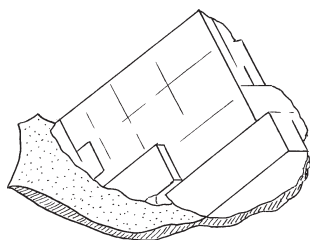
obtaining minerals. Al Birdsey's sign was down, and he obviously was not there anymore. I could find no minerals for sale in town or find anyone who knew a miner with minerals. I drove up to the Bulldog Mountain mine to take a picture. I had never been there before and noticed they were adding waste rock to the edge of the parking area which was built up quite a few feet. I parked the rental car inconspicuously off to one side and climbed down the waste rock and had a great time picking through it for about 45 minutes. The dump was loaded with massive pale pink rhodochrosite. Not much in specimen material, but it was loaded with small vugs which contained microscopic specimens of sphalerite, acanthite, and native silver. Then a face with hardhat appeared over the top of the dump area. "What are you doing down there?" "I'm a geologist, and I am picking up some samples". "You are not allowed to be there so you have to leave." "OK, that is my wife in the car over there", "Yes, I know, that is how I found you, better leave, now!"

I worked my way slowly back to where the car was but I had already picked up enough material to take back to Houston. The space was limited, and I would have to high-grade what I already had although I had no really good show case specimens. I did get some rhodochrosite from Creede which up to that time was limited to some microscopic, very pale pink, rhombohedrons from the Commodore no. 5 mine.

I only went to Lake City a couple of times which is over Slumgilion pass, northwest of Creede. I remember seeing some specimens in the window of a shop there, but it was never open when I was there. Some of the best specimens from Creede I got from a rockshop along the highway at Alamosa, but my luck there seemed to be according to how new the material was and how much it already had been highgraded by previous collectors.

Telluride on the west side of the San Juan Mountains contained the I dorado mill which took the ore from a large number of consolidated mines under the I dorado name. However, aside from quartz crystals, I never found any other minerals of interest there. Most I dorado specimens I purchased were from Ouray. The I dorado miners entered the mine at Red Mountain and passed through Ouray to get there. So most of the specimens ended up in Ouray. Telluride eventually developed into a major ski resort.

The San Juans are one of Colorado's treasures, and although there is no more mining going on, it is still worth a visit. You never know what may turn up in shops when you are going through. There are some active collectors, and sometimes they still do find some good specimens, but certainly the best times of the buying and collecting minerals in the San Juans is past.



Blue Calcite
Drawing by Diamond Dan
from the 2006 SCRIBE CD

Russell Milton Kemp, Jr.—In Memoriam*July 11, 1920 - April 14, 2007**Information provided by Cypress Fairbanks Funeral Home**<http://www.cyfairfunerals.com/Obits/Obit.html?id=101351>*

Russell Milton Kemp, Jr., 86, passed away Saturday, April 14, 2007. He was born July 11, 1920 to the late Jessie L. (Kirtley) and Russell Milton Kemp, Sr. in Quincy, Illinois. He was predeceased in 2006 by Doris, his loving wife of more than 60 years.

Russ served as a medic in the Army in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Upon returning to Chicago in 1946, he worked as a pharmaceutical chemical salesman until his retirement in 1983. Russ held numerous leadership positions in the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies as well as several Chicago-area rock clubs. He was inducted into the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in Murdo, South Dakota for recognition of his leadership efforts. Russ enjoyed his affiliation with the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst, IL from 1962–2002 and was the editor of the museum's magazine and a long time member of its Board of Directors.



Russ is survived by his three sons, Wayne Kemp and wife Nancy Plant, Craig Kemp and wife Beverly, and Roy Kemp, and by three grandchildren—Wayne and Nancy's children Cora and Ryan and Craig, and Beverly's son Steven. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather and will be dearly missed by both family and friends.

The family will greet friends for a Memorial Service of Remembrance and Celebration of Life, Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Cypress-Fairbanks Funeral Home with Officiant, Reverend Mike Gammill of The Foundry United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in the name of Russell M. Kemp, Jr. to the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) Scholarship Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 or to the Veterans of Foreign Wars at 406 West 34th St, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Special Instructions/Comments: If you would like to send a floral tribute without incurring any delivery charges, you may do so by calling the funeral home directly at 281-897-9823.

Russell Kemp Passing

***Editor's Note:** This e-mail arrived from Dee Holland Tuesday morning, April 17 while I was still editing articles for the May BBG. His obituary is available at the link shown below. Dr. Carlson is the current AFMS President.*

Many of you will remember that Russ Kemp donated much of his and Doris's collection of lapidary, mineral, and faceting material to the HGMS to be auctioned off in October 2006 and March 2007. He will be greatly missed.

Dear Dr. Carlson,

It is with sadness I have to tell you that our Dad, Russ Kemp, passed way unexpectedly this past Saturday (4/14) of a ruptured aneurism in his abdominal aorta. Speaking for my brothers, Wayne and Roy, I wanted you to know that Dad (& Mom) cherished the years that they devoted to the AFMS and the rockhounding hobby. Dad was looking forward to attending the upcoming show in Roswell and seeing old friends. There will be an obituary posted on the Cypress Fairbanks Funeral home's Web site (www.cyfairfunerals.com) a little later in the week. Please pass on the news of Russ Kemp's passing to others in the AFMS and the Mid-West Federation who would be interested.

Sincerely,
Craig Kemp
(CKemp28@aol.com)

Clements High School Teams Express Thanks for Help in Preparing for Science Olympiad Competition

Dear Mr. Blyskal, Mr. Immega, and Mr. Singleton,
How are you? We would like to thank you again for helping us find the samples and teaching us about rocks and minerals! At the Science Olympiad regional competition, the Clements High School teams placed second and fourth in the "Rocks and Minerals" event. We placed first and third overall and will advance to the state competition at A&M in April. We will definitely study more and try to win first in "Rocks and Minerals" and overall at state! =)

Mr. Singleton asked me to summarize the help your club gave me. Mr. Blyskal and Mr. Immega met us at the HGMS clubhouse and spent several hours helping us find more than 90 samples of rocks and minerals. They also taught us many techniques on how to identify the specimens. We would like to thank Mr. Blyskal, Mr. Immega, and HGMS for teaching us about earth science, providing the samples, and helping us prepare for the Science Olympiad competition.

"Rocks and Minerals" is one of the 23 Science Olympiad events, and our first-place finish at the Blinn College Regional qualifies Clements High School for the state competition at Texas A&M University on April 27-28. We will work hard toward

winning state, and we will keep you updated on our progress. Please let us know if we can answer any other questions.

Texas Science Olympiad Web site:

<http://outreach.science.tamu.edu/scienceolympiad.asp>

We greatly appreciate HGMS's help and will keep you updated on our progress. Thank you so much for your time and generosity! =>

Sincerely, Julia Wong

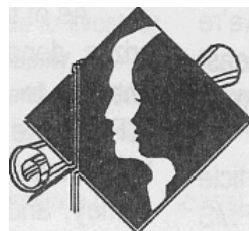
2007 AFMS Scholarship Foundation Honorary Award Winner

by Ike House

SCFMS Scholarship Committee Chair

Lexy Bieniek, University of Houston

Lexy Bieniek was chosen as the recipient of the 2007 AFMS Scholarship Foundation Honorary Award from the SCFMS. Lexy is a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and has been very active in the club. She has served as the chairman of the Paleontology Section, led field trips to Brownwood, Texas, and helped staff HGMS booths at other regional shows.



She has used her own time to travel to Austin whenever necessary to speak at the State Board of Education proceedings on the unwise proposals to eliminate earth science from the high school curriculum in Texas. She has developed an earth science program for the HGMS annual show named "School Daze" for local students when they come to the show on Friday for a field trip. The program has grown to 2700 students, and attendance has had to be restricted due to the program's popularity!

Lexy has an AA degree from Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, a BA degree from Texas A&M, Kingsville, and an MS degree in Science Education from the University of Houston. She is certified in elementary education and secondary science composite education. She has received her Master Naturalist Certification from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is presently studying neuroscience education at MD Anderson. Lexy is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Houston and has held numerous teaching positions.

You wouldn't believe all the Teacher of the Year and Outstanding Achievement awards she has received. Lexy also has served as President of the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association and Editor of the Journal of the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association.

Congratulations, Lexy, on receiving this award—and it is well deserved!

SCFMS—House Special*by Ike House**SCFMS Executive Vice President**from SCFMS Newsletter 3–4/2007*

As I write this on the first day of spring, I am shaking my head wondering what I was thinking by getting my truck washed when all the pollen was in the air! It looked like yellow sawdust flying off the hood! Oh well, it could be worse. I could be allergic to the stuff! In any case, now is the time to “dust” off those rockhounding implements and get out there and hunt. Don’t forget to start planning for the AFMS show in Roswell in early June and for our own SCFMS show in Arlington September 1–2. It will be here before you know it.

This year’s recipient of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from the SCFMS has been chosen by the committee. It’s not too early to submit your entry for 2008. The scholarships are greatly appreciated by the students (I know, I have three in college right now). As we continue the functions of our clubs, please take time to consider making a continuing contribution to the scholarship fund. All the funds donated are invested and are protected permanently so that only the interest is used each year. It is a great way to ensure a perpetual legacy for earth science students. You never know—your great, great, great-grandchild might benefit someday. See you soon at a show near you!

Susan Lenz Update*March 27, 2007**by Norm Lenz*

Dear HGMS Friends,
The second and third weeks of March were not good to Susan. Her medical team uses terms like “disconnected” and “flat.” She was reluctant to communicate with us verbally or by body language and showed very little emotion. I have not been able to correlate these downturns to food, medication, exercise, sleep, verbal stimulation, or anything else. It is very puzzling to me how her condition can fluctuate so quickly—even within the same day. This week is starting off much better. She is doing more for herself and is more responsive. For example, pulling a tissue from the box, folding it and blowing her own nose is something she could not do last week but did this morning.

Adding to these difficulties, I was transferring Susan and sprained a muscle in my left hip, sending my sciatic nerve into a fit. I could hardly walk for several days. Tanya and Heather have picked up the slack. Steroids, anti-inflammatory medication, painkillers, doctors, and chiropractors are helping me back to normal. I resumed working with Susan again yesterday.

We met with her doctor on February 20. She has a cognitive exam scheduled for tomorrow. She has had several occupational and physical therapy sessions over the last two weeks. I didn’t see much progress until the last two sessions. With much time,

encouragement, and patience, she was able to use a walker to traverse a distance of about 25 feet and back to her starting point.

Guided by a friend who is a nurse and brain cancer survivor, we have started adding a few supplements to Susan's diet hoping to speed the repair of the injury to her brain caused by surgery and radiation.

Positives:

- There is still no evidence of tumor regrowth.
- Her blood counts, protein, and electrolyte levels are good.
- Heather has proven to be a wonderful home health aide and an encouragement to Susan. She has worked several 11-hour days while I recovered from the sciatic nerve problem.
- Susan is feeling better the last two days than she did the previous week—not sure why.
- We have traveled to our Hill Country property twice since my last update.
- Susan is feeding herself most of what she eats but relies more on us when she has bad days.
- She eats well, sleeps well, and does not seem to have any pain.
- The tremors are tolerable.
- We have enjoyed going to the movies a few days when Susan was feeling well enough to stay alert.
- Susan has been seizure free since my last update.
- We plan to visit Susan's mother in Indiana for Mother's Day and Tanya's birthday.

Negatives:

- She is communicating less than she was at my last update.
- Susan needs more assistance with dressing, walking, bathing and eating than at my last update.
- She needs a wheelchair for distances longer than a few feet.
- Susan's memory, reasoning, and communication are not reliable when she is tired.

Photo: Susan and her caregiver, Heather.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers while we continue our war. Don't forget to check Tanya's website for another viewpoint of Susan's condition: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanlenz>





Day Light Section

by Frances Arrighi



Twenty-two members in addition to the instructor attended the 12 March, 2007 meeting of the Day Light Section. Joyce Dwight gave the program which was our second program on glass fusion. She had everyone use one piece of white and one piece of dark glass. These pieces were about 1 inch square. On them we placed slivers of different colored glass. We then placed various slivers of dichroic glass on top of the first slivers. One can use glue to hold these pieces in place, however the use of too much glue is undesirable. It looks smeared after firing. Tom Wright fired the pieces, and we thank Tom very much for this.

In April we are going to do broom casting. We have not done this for several years. Some of our members have not used this technique. Everyone needs to bring their scrap silver. This is a good way to use up your otherwise unusable pieces of silver left from projects.

Our summer project with Professor Link will be learning the technique of Keum Boo, so we plan to begin the project in May by fabricating the piece to be used for the gold. This piece can be a piece of future jewelry such as a broach, pendent, or bola or something else. It must be of fine silver. There will be a book on Keum Boo in the library in the near future. I suggest everyone read it.



Lapidary Section

by Kathy Konkell



The next meeting is scheduled Monday, May 21 at 7:29 p.m. (we always start a little early).

Boyce Gahagan will show us how to wire wrap a faceted stone.

The shop will continue to be available for your use prior to the Lapidary Section meetings beginning at 5:00 p.m. until we close it at 7:15 p.m. The usual shop fees apply. Come early to the meeting and socialize, bring your current projects to show off, or complete a piece that you've been too busy to finish on Saturdays. We'd love to have you join us!

Keep saving your scraps of gold-filled sheet and wire for our November meeting. We will be processing it to recover the gold.

HGMS Shop Now Open Before General Meeting

by Mary Ann Mitscherling

I will be opening up the clubhouse for shop use at 5:00 p.m. on every fourth Tuesday of the month starting April 24 for the rest of the calendar year. So now there are two meeting days we can use the shop—Lapidary Section meeting day and General Meeting day.



Paleo Section

March 20, 2007
by Stan Perkins



The meeting started with a short business meeting. The new abrasives room was approved. Thanks to Tom Wright *et al* for the great job!

We approved the new budget with no discussion, and Chris Peek reports that we are still solvent.

Wayne Barnett reports that all books are cataloged (3,100 total). He is planning to create both manual and computer lists in the near future.

The Brownwood trip was a great success. Lots of echinoids were recovered from the dam. More echinoids (Cretaceous) were found at a new location.

The next field trip will be to Whiskey Bridge on April 14 led by Terry Proctor. We will be there between 8:30 and 9:00. BBQ will follow at Terry Stiles ranch (Chicken and beans). Bring some side dishes. The Whiskey Bridge site is located on State Highway 21 between Bryan and Caldwell. As you pass over the Brazos River, turn into the parking area on the north side of the highway. Follow the group down the bank. Dress for insects and snakes. Bring screens and shovels along with buckets to hold the goodies. This is the Stone City Formation of the Claibourne Group—a middle Eocene formation with lots of small marine mollusks. Help with identifications will be available. Show and tell was very impressive, from Peru to Brownwood, members brought in one of the largest displays I've seen at show and tell. Thanks, and let's try and double it next month.

Items of note:

- Proctor Museum has added Peter Lawson to its board of directors.
- Next month's speaker will be Neal Immega on echinoids.
- Wayne Barnett announced that the revision of the echinoid book will be his and Neal's personal project and not an undertaking of the Paleo group.
- MAPPS conference will be the last weekend of this month in Macomb, Illinois.
- This was the final auction of Irene Offman's fossil collection. The next material will be a collection of fish.
- Our program by Nancy Moore was great! She presented all the microscopic invertebrates normally used by petroleum geologists. In the process of her talk, we were introduced to life on an offshore rig. Microscopes and slides were available after the talk for those wanting to get a closer look.
- Neal is on vacation and will be gone about a month. If you need help in the shop, contact Tom.





Mineral Section



by Steve Blyskal, Chairperson & Dean Lagerwall, Assistant Chairperson

The Mineral Section meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 in the HGMS Clubhouse. All are welcome.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

May 2: AUCTION: Specimens from HGMS members will be auctioned with a portion of the proceeds going to the Mineral Section. This is the same auction format practiced the past few years, please read the accompanying announcement for further details. Refreshments will be provided.

May 16: The Elmwood Mine: Presented by Steve Blyskal. Additional details to follow.

June 6: SWAP-NIGHT: Back by popular demand, 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 Sections 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 and socializing. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have any topics or ideas you wish to have presented or would be willing to present at our Mineral Section meetings, please contact Dean at dean_lagerwall@yahoo.com or (979) 480-9373.

HGMS General Meeting

February 27, 2007

by Phyllis George substituting for Denise Bicknell, HGMS Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Matt Dillon, President

Show Committee: Sigrid Stewart reported that the Intergem show is scheduled for April 14–16, and HGMS will have a table there to advertise our Club and our Show. A Show Committee field trip to College Station is planned for April 28.

Section Reports:

Day Light Section: Charlie Fredregill reported that broom straw casting will be the featured activity at the April meeting.

Lapidary Section: Kathy Konkell reported that Tom Wright demonstrated tumbler use during the March Lapidary meeting.

She also reported that the Lapidary Section Auction the previous Saturday was very successful. She singled out the kitchen crew as doing a phenomenal job in having the meeting room ready for dining and the lunch ready to eat at precisely the scheduled time between the silent auctions (which had taken up all the table space) and the live

auction. The biggest item sold at auction was the turquoise collection donated by Russell Kemp. Margo Bedman won it for \$1100. As previously arranged, Mr. Kemp received a check for half of the proceeds (\$550). The remaining items at the live auction were donated by Glenna Valigura, and she received a check for half the proceeds brought in by her donated items. The total amount brought in by the auction was \$4167. The amount the Lapidary Section received from the auction was \$2474, and the amount the Faceting Section received from the faceting material donated by Mrs. Valigura was \$351.

Mineral Section: Dean Lagerwall announced that the topic for Wednesday, April 18 is the 3M quarry located in Sweet Home, Pulaski County, Arkansas. This quarry, located near Little Rock, has produced syenite rock for roofing granules for many years. Though most of the minerals are microminerals, some larger specimens have been found. There are seven flats of this material left from Al Kidwell's garage that will be available for "take all that you want" the night of this program.

Dean also announced that May 2 is the Mineral auction. Specimens from HGMS members will be auctioned with a portion of the proceeds going to the Mineral Section.

Library Half-Price sale: Art Smith announced that during the month of April he is offering a half-price sale on a large number of books and magazines that are overstocking the library.

Mini Tailgate swap: Matt Dillon announced that on Saturday, March 31, two ladies from Bandera, TX are driving down with a portion of their father's lifetime collection of rocks, and they will be selling them in our parking lot. They will arrive around 10 a.m. The sale will be brought inside in the event of rain.

Show 'n Tell: Mary Ann Mitscherling displayed examples of the fused glass she created at the March Day Light meeting.

Matt Dillon showed agate nodules he brought back from his recent trip to Mexico.

Phyllis George passed around the labradorite necklace she purchased on a recent trip to Sedona, Arizona.

Vote on authorization of funds to construct new "Clean Room": The HGMS By-laws decree that the General Membership must vote on expenditures that exceed \$2000. The new Clean Room is estimated to cost \$2200. The vote to authorize its construction was unanimous.

Door Prize: Sigrid Stewart won an agate donated by Matt Dillon.

Program: Matt Phillips played a recording of a TV program—Texas County Reporter. Bob Phillips, the Texas County Reporter, reported on the Rock Food Table that has been a labor of love for many years for Bill and Lois Pattillo of Corpus Christi. They take their Rock Food Table to gem and mineral shows all over the U.S. Much of the footage was shot at our September 2006 show, and we even saw a close-up of Charlie Fredregill!

The Pattillos are always on the lookout for more food-like rocks to add to their table, and the ones they find, they cut and polish to make more realistic. One item on the table is actually food and not a rock—but most people are unable to identify it. Bill and Lois now want to add celery to their table, but so far no one has found anything that looks like it.

HGMS Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2007

By Denise Bicknell, HGMS Secretary

X	President	Matt Dillon	X	Faceting Rep.	Phyllis George
	1 st Vice President	Matt Phillips		Lapidary Rep.	Karen Burns
X	2 nd Vice President	Beverly Mace	X	Mineral Rep.	Art Smith
	Treasurer	Lowell Stouder	X	Paleontology Rep.	Terry Brawner
X	Secretary	Denise Bicknell	X	Day Light Rep.	Sunday Bennett
X	Past President	Scott Singleton			

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Matt Dillon, President.

Approval of March Minutes was done via e-mail.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Lowell Stouder was absent; no report was given.
2. Work began on the 2007 Budget but was tabled until further information can be gathered concerning the Show Budget, the Conoco Grant, and the Instructor and Class Supplies costs. Matt Dillon will get the information for the next meeting.

Committee and Section Reports:

Membership: Beverly Mace and Phyllis George reworded the Membership Application/Renewal form definitions for clarity. The new wording was added to the Web site.

Shop and Clubhouse: Wayne Barnett reported that the stovetop has two nonfunctioning burners. Matt Dillon will ask Tom Wright to determine whether the burners need replacing or the stovetop needs replacing.

Sunday Bennett reported that one of the commodes in the women's restroom runs continually. Matt Dillon will ask David Hawkins to check on it.

Beading Group: Sunday Bennett and Phyllis George reported that the Beading Group is growing and attendance is good.

Old and New Business:

1. Matt Dillon reported that research into ownership of the north side parking lot revealed that it does indeed belong to the other building owner. All HGMS members are asked not to park on that lot and to respect the rights of our neighbors.
2. A vote at the March General Meeting approved the expenditure for the new Air-Abrasives Classroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

In Our Library

by Art Smith, Librarian

April is the month of our library sale with duplicate and extra books going for half the marked price. As you can tell by the number of books on the table, our surplus book supply is quite large. I am going to reduce our stock by at least 2/3 so we will not be lugging so many books around to the show. This will be done by the sale, by the donation of books to the Hudson Institute in Peekskill, New York, and by discarding books that we have had for a considerable time and have not sold. So look them over carefully. There are some real bargains there that you may not get another chance at.

Yes, space is becoming a problem in the library, and so we will become more selective of the books we keep on our shelves. However, we will start a storage system, and books that may have some research value will be kept in storage and the library catalog will reflect this. If you need one of these books, it can be obtained, and I will mark all storage boxes so these books may be retrieved.

It is time to do your research for that summer vacation that also has some collecting possibilities. No sense trying to collect if you do not know where to collect and what there may be available to collect. We have books that have data on most states, but some are a bit out of date. You need to have alternate locations in mind in case the one you want to go to is for some reason now unavailable. Throwing a bunch of books in the car to read when you get there seldom cuts it. You need to know before you get there. No sense collecting in the California desert during July or trying to collect in the Colorado high country before July. Learn about the area you are going to and what to expect and what equipment you may need. A sledge hammer is necessary for most granite quarries, a small geological pick is generally worthless. Some places may require a box screen or shovel. What about a squirt water bottle for hunting agates in the dry country? The list goes on and on. Including a first aid kit or maybe even a snake bite kit may be wise. Be prepared. If you do not use it on one trip, save it for the next. Topographic maps may be good if you are going off the beaten track. Seldom have I said, "I should not have brought that." Usually it is, "Why did I not think to bring a chisel and a canvas carrying bag?" The ideal time for collecting in much of Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma is NOW. It is the best time to beat the hot sun and many bugs. You are probably too late already for much of New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California. If the library does not have the publication you need, we will sure try and get it for you.

More AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing Prizes

From the Frigid Northeast, Some Hot New Prizes to Warm Your Hearts

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

from AFMS Newsletter 04/2007

We are delighted to report that the Endowment Fund has received four more fantastic prize donations for the 2007 Drawing! Thanks to the efforts of our stalwart committee representatives, we now have ten fabulous prizes just

waiting for June 9 when Dr. Bob will draw the tickets to name their new owners. Here is what has been added to the list since we last wrote in the March newsletter:

Prize #7: A beautiful and rare 7½" x 4½" x 2½" cabinet specimen of sphalerite crowned with barite clusters, one of which is a 2½" ball, and showing the corner of a 1" clear fluorite crystal peeking out at the base of the cluster. This outstanding beauty was retrieved from the famous Elmwood Mine in Smith County, Tennessee, which is currently closed. The prize was donated by AFMS Past President, Lewis Elrod, who values the piece at \$225. (SFMS)



Prize #8: An authentic and unique Native American knife. The blade is knapped from a piece of opal, and the handle is fashioned from a deer horn. The butt of the handle is adorned with a carved American Eagle head with open beak in which a small (quartz?) crystal



serves as the eagle's tongue. Pictured are the knife and an enlarged photo of the carved eagle. This 6½-inch masterpiece was crafted by Bill Metcalf who specializes in Native American replicas. Purchased and donated by Joyce Speed, Endowment Fund SCFMS Committee member, especially for the 2007 prize drawing. Valued at \$100. (SCFMS)

Prize #9: A gorgeous hand-crafted sterling silver bracelet, measuring 7¼" long and set with Capri Blue Swarovski crystal beads. This stunning piece of jewelry was created and donated for the 2007 Drawing by Lois Allman, CFMS Past President, accomplished silversmith and long-time instructor at the CFMS earth science camps. The bracelet is conservatively valued at \$100. (CFMS)



Prize #10: Suite of thirty-two (32) Jade Cabochons from the estate of master lapidarist Carl Childers, late member of the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society. No two of these exquisite cabs are exactly alike; each was cut and shaped along the natural form of the rough material, and each is impeccably polished to a perfectly reflective brilliance. Carl's widow Mary Childers has graciously donated this spectacular set of jade, displayed in a Riker mount case, to the Endowment Fund Drawing, continuing her generous support again this year. The prize is valued at \$150-\$200. (SCFMS)



These beautiful new prizes can be seen (as can all the earlier prizes) on the AFMS Web site in full color along with complete descriptions of each. Marty has done a

super job of posting our listings, and he will be adding more new prizes as soon as he is informed of their receipt. You can see all the prizes and read the details about each one at www.amfed.org.

But, we aren't finished yet! We are expecting at least four more great prizes in the next month or two—and remember, no matter when or where your tickets are purchased, everyone who buys a ticket will be eligible for any and all prizes we have in the case when we leave for Roswell in late May. All our Regional Representatives are ready and willing to serve you. Get your tickets now and then get some more later, if you wish. See you next month with more.

Greetings from Your AFMS President-Elect

*by Shirley Leeson
AFMS President-Elect
from AFMS Newsletter 2/2007*

This month I'd like to tell you about a program that began in 1967. June Zeitner thought the bulletin editors throughout the country should get some kind of recognition for all the work they do each month to get their club bulletin out. She devised a score sheet that has only been slightly changed since the contest began. Over the years we have had a number of AFMS Publication Chairmen. The most recent is Kitty Starbuck, who has served in that capacity since 1998. Kitty took over a very successful program from Gaila Ries.

This is no small job. It begins in October by setting dates for the following year. The time of year for the AFMS show and convention determines all deadlines for both regional and AFMS entries. Lining up judges is an important part of the program. Kitty often asks people who have won at the AFMS level to judge the various categories, and there are a lot of them—from Mini, to Small, to Large, and also New Editor. And there are articles: Original Articles which has both adult and Junior entries and Adult Advanced Articles which is for adults only.

Regional Bulletin Aids Chairs get their work done first, and then the top qualifying bulletins from the regional contests are sent on to the AFMS for the final judging. But the most important job is compiling the data from each judge and making sure there are no errors. Sometimes it comes down to a quarter of a point between first and second place, and this is



Shirley Leeson



Kitty Starbuck

Kitty's biggest, most important job—besides giving out the awards at the annual AFMS Editor's Breakfast—something Kitty relishes. It's special when an editor has traveled a long way and finds out the trip was worth it because of an award. But no one goes home empty handed because they have shared an experience with other editors and can finally put faces with the names of editors with whom they have exchanged newsletters. Think about attending the Bulletin Editors Breakfast in Roswell, New Mexico on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 8:30 am.

Unfortunately in recent years, the Bulletin Editor's Breakfast, once a "must attend" event, hasn't had as many editors attending. Back in the '70s and '80s it wasn't uncommon to have several hundred editors at this annual event. Perhaps in recent years it hasn't been made known that "everyone is welcome." You don't have to be an editor to attend. Past editors are a welcome sight. Current editors, whether they are involved in the bulletin contest or not, are especially encouraged to attend. This is a gathering of old friends. It's a place to exchange ideas. A place to work out problems, and to find answers and solutions. You have people gathered here to talk shop. When you leave the breakfast, you discover you have a whole new collection of friends, and now they are just an e-mail away.

Kitty implemented something special when she took over as Publications Chair. She published a booklet of winning articles each year. Many of these articles have been used by other editors as items of interest in their bulletins. This popular booklet can be found in many club libraries across the country, thanks to Kitty's foresight.

In earlier years the awards were more like bowling trophies. Then when Diane Dare became Publications Chair, she changed it to smaller plaques with the lamp of knowledge on them. Kitty took it one step further, and the plaque base now is material from the area where that year's AFMS convention is held. As an example, in 1998 at Houghton, Michigan Kitty used a striking base of beautiful copper conglomerate. In Ventura in 2003 she used silver onyx from a well known location in the Southern California desert. These bases have made the awards really special. I'd like to see a collection of all the different bases used over the years since 1998. It would be spectacular!

This position as AFMS Publications Chair is time consuming. But Kitty has kept her sense of humor throughout and has done a very professional job. Thanks Kitty, for your many years of service, and I hope there will be many more. By the way, if Kitty asks you to judge a bulletin category, please say "yes." It's an uplifting experience.

In closing I only wish that all editors would take the time to enter the contest. Having been involved in the contest since 1975 first as a contestant and then as a judge, I have seen the improvement in bulletins across the country. I hope this has been because of the high standards the contest asks the editor to achieve. Many editors have gained "star quality," and their bulletins are highly sought by other editors. Having exchanged with editors myself over a twenty year span, there were bulletins that came each month and you sat down and read them from cover to cover. And others you wished had taken the advice on the score sheet... or entered the contest so they could improve their bulletins.

Always remember, bulletins are the life blood of the club. Without one, the club shrivels and dies eventually. Encourage your editors; that's what Kitty has done. And when you see Kitty at the AFMS show and convention in Roswell, tell her "Thanks."

photo: C. Weinberger

AFMS Rockhound of the Year

What a Mystery!

*by Cathy Gaber, ACROY Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 04/2007*

Over the last few years, I have had many occasions to wonder about the mystery of the low participation in the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year (ACROY) program. Many clubs regularly send in an annual submission for their ACROY, but most unfortunately do not.

I have never known of a club that could survive without the efforts of the members. It is not a job a single person can do. Many people need to take responsibility for the meetings, speakers, field trips, refreshments, library, show, and whatever other activities are sponsored by the club. Some of these people are exceptional and should be recognized.

Each year, each club can and should submit a candidate for ACROY. The submitter can be ANY club member, so anyone can make this his or her responsibility. Just send me (for Eastern Federation) or your own federation representative (Edith Guenther for South Central Federation) the name of the person to be honored, the name of the club (and state), a few sentences about the honoree, your name and your title (if any). For just a little effort, you can make a fellow club member feel really appreciated for service to the club.

Don't let it be a mystery anymore!!! Tell us all about one of your most deserving members! All ACROYs are printed in the AFMS Newsletter, and they may also be printed in the regional newsletter and club newsletter.

Be Safe—Be Well

*by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 04/06*

In previous months I have submitted original articles usually dealing with issues that were current and filled a need. This month I am using material that I found in one of my old files. I do not know the author. I really wish I did so that I could give proper credit. I like the article and hope some of you will also appreciate the content.



SAFETY RULES

Jewelry making can be a most enjoyable hobby, but there are certain hazards which must be avoided, and they can be by following a few simple rules.

- **Work Safely.** You can't get by on luck.
- **Don't** polish a wire or chain on a rotary tool without nailing the wire or chain to a board. This might wrap around the arbor and pull your hand with it.
- **Don't** set fire to your clothing with the torch. Fuzzy sweaters are dangerous.
- **Don't** drop the torch or fail to turn it off. An explosion might follow.
- **Don't** pour water into acid when making pickle; pour acid into water.
- **Don't** turn over the pickle pot or the boil pot. Keep handles to the rear.
- **Don't** put a large piece of very hot metal in pickle. It might splash.
- **Don't** pick up the charcoal block or hot metal until you are sure it is cool.
- **Don't** hold a piece being drilled with your hand; the drill might slip or break, or the piece might spin when the drill breaks through. Use pliers.
- **Don't** put your fingers inside any item being polished: for example, a belt-buckle, a ring, a bracelet, etc. Hold the work being polished between finger-tips and thumb.
- **Don't** wear rubber gloves or fingerstalls when polishing; these might wrap around the arbor.
- **Don't** work without some protection for the eyes such as plastic goggles or a magnifying eye piece, particularly when using a rotating wire brush.
- **Don't** let your tie or hair get caught by the rotating arbor. This could be fatal.
- **Don't** come into contact with electricity or moving belts.
- **Don't** work on a wet or damp floor.
- **Don't** fail to report any apparent hazard immediately.

We repeat: "Work safely. You can't get by on luck!" Fail to observe these rules, and you will find your situation comparable to that of the fellow whose wife had the stonecutter carve on his tombstone, "I told you to go to the doctor."

AFMS Junior Activities—Having Fun

Rockhounding Books for Kids

by Jim Brace-Thompson

AFMS Junior Activities Chair

from The AFMS Newsletter 2/2007

Despite the Internet where the answer to every question supposedly resides at the click of a button (or so the folks at Google or Microsoft would have us believe), good old-fashioned books still are a valuable and primary source of information, and they likely will be for a long time to come. A large number of books directed specifically to children and youth have been published on our hobby, but the problem is getting information on the variety of books available at one place to glean good titles to recommend to kids in your club.

A first stop ought to be your local library. (*Editor's note: In our club, the first stop would be to talk with Art Smith, the HGMS Librarian. Our library is quite extensive! The second stop would be the local library.*) Talk with the librarian at the reference

desk to see what books, videos, and DVDs are on the shelves and available to borrow for free. You might work with the librarian to compile an annotated list that you could distribute to kids in your club and their parents, a list broken down by topics such as rocks and minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, field guides, lapidary arts and gemstones, etc. In addition to what's on their own shelves, most libraries have cooperative arrangements with other nearby libraries and, via online catalogs, can tell you about still more books you might be able to see through interlibrary loan. In promoting my own club's annual show last year, we set up a display in a lobby window case of the Ventura library and one of its branches, and the librarian on her own initiative set up a shelf and table of relevant books from their collection, and I was greatly impressed by the range.

You can also visit local bookstores and check out the kids section, science and nature guidebooks, and crafts sections. Bookstore managers might be willing to help you compile a list of available books in hopes of seeing some sales. In addition to general bookstores, check your yellow pages for specialty stores that cater to teachers. Such teacher supply stores are especially helpful in that the books they stock are usually activity-based and are labeled to indicate specific age and grade levels. Other good stops are the gift shops at natural history and science museums.

Finally, there are distributors who specialize in particular subjects and books just for kids. For instance, check out the Web site of the Gem Guides Book Company (www.gemguidebooks.com/). They have a section labeled "Junior Rockhound" that groups nearly 30 titles from a variety of publishers of kids' books with topics ranging from rock and mineral identification to gold rush history, dinosaurs and fossils, volcanoes, gem stones, and more.

The best things about such kids' books are that they're written in clear language that even I can understand, and they nearly always are filled with large, colorful diagrams and suggestions for activities that make learning interesting, and of course, fun!

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Mary Trammell

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2007	June 15-17 Lancaster, CA	Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY	Aug. 11-12 Houghton, MI	Aug. 3- 5 Butte, MT	AFMS June 5 - 10 Roswell, NM	Sept. 1 - 2 Arlington, TX	Nov. 9 - 11 Location TBA
2008		Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS	June 20-22 Lincoln, NE		Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK	AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX	
2009			May 16-17 Berea, OH	AFMS			
2010	AFMS						

AFMS Affiliated Members Invited to Attend Workshops

by Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair
from The AFMS Newsletter 04/2007

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies will offer five week-long workshops during 2007 at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia and at the Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina. The following schedule has been announced:

Session 1, Wildacres Friday, April 13 to Thursday, April 19, 2007
Session 2, William Holland Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 16, 2007
Session 3, Wildacres Monday August 20 to Sunday, Aug. 26, 2007
Session 4, Wildacres Monday, Sept. 17 to Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007
Session 5, William Holland Sunday, October 14 Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007

The total number of available bedrooms has been expanded significantly during recent seasons, and the Southeast Federation is pleased to invite members of other Federations to attend the workshops. Southeast Federation registration will start on February 15, 2007 and members of other federations may submit registration forms on or after March 15th. The postmark date determines priority in classes with limited enrollment. Of course, out-of-federation AFMS members who are also SFMS club members may register in February.

The SFMS Workshops offer a wide variety of classes in both lapidary and jewelry-making crafts. In general, students will spend four-and-a-half days in class with an optional half-day off in midweek. Registration is the afternoon before classes start, and departure is after breakfast on the day following the last class. Workshops are open from 9 to 5 each day with a break for lunch. Evenings and the free afternoon are devoted to extra-curricular activities that may include guest speakers, demonstrations, field trips, and an auction. The week concludes with show-and-tell. Anyone may tail gate when classes are not in session during the last half of the week.

The 2007 Workshop curriculum includes Chainmaking, Fused Glass, Jewelry and Closeup Photography, Precious Metal Clay, Beginning and Advanced Silversmithing, Southwest Silversmithing, Advanced Metalsmithing, Gem Appreciation/Identification, Beginning and Advanced Wirecraft, Wirecraft Sculpture, Wire Weaving, Scrimshaw, Opal Cutting, Cabochon Cutting, Lost-wax Casting, Seed Beading, Mineral Identification, Raku Pottery, Beginning Stained Glass, Stained Glass using slabs, and Origami.

Lodge accommodations including meals are \$310 per person, double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for \$470. There will be lab fees and charges for supplies and materials. Details regarding the SFMS Workshop curriculum are published in the Lodestar, the official SFMS newsletter. Electronic copies of the Lodestar, as well as a four-page brochure containing registration forms and class details, are available on the Internet at the following URL: <www.amfed.org/sfms>.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is a friendly federation. We look

forward to having members of other federations join us at Wildacres or William Holland for a week immersed in our hobby or craft.

AFMS Newsletter Editor's Note:

Several other regional federations also hold workshops that you're invited to attend. Here's a brief rundown....

Eastern Federation Session I at Wildacres April 20 - 26, 2007

Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine is the guest speaker in residence for the week. Class offerings include cabbing, crystallography, fused glass, ivory identification, micromounting, silversmithing, wax modeling, exhibiting and judging, and faceting. This session will host the AFMS Judges Training Seminar with participants representing each of our Regional Federations.

Session 2 at Wildacres September 10 - 16, 2007

Dr. Steven Chamberlain, retired professor at Syracuse University and Chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium will be the speaker in residence. Classes include cabbing, gem identification, faceting, chain making, fused glass, geology, intarsia, mineral, gemstone and jewelry photography, and soapstone carving.

The cost for either session is a modest \$330 per person which includes room and board. Photographs and more information may be obtained at the EFMLS Web site <www.amfed.org/efmls>.

California Federation: The CFMS sponsors two workshops each year. The first was March 18–25 and was held at Zzyzx, a rustic camp near Soda Springs. Cost for the week was \$300 per person with a variety of classes being offered.

The second workshop is held at Camp Paradise in September. Check the CFMS website for complete information, costs and registration materials <www.cfmsinc.org/>.

Northwest Federation: September 3–9, 2007 at Hancock Field Station, west of Fossil, Oregon. Cost per person is \$320 which includes the workshop fee and a guided trip to the Fossil Beds. Classes to be offered include lapidary, faceting, silversmithing, intarsia, beading, wire wrapping, and judges training.

Complete information can be obtained by visiting the NFMS Web site <www.amfed.org/nfms/newslet2.htm>. Click on February, 2007 to download the newsletter containing the information.

Murphy's First Law — If Anything Can Go Wrong, It Will (as applied to Rocks & Minerals) Laws of Field Collecting

Via Rock Chips, 11/2006, via *The Rockpile* 3/2007

Sandy's Law — The need to go to the bathroom increases with the distance away from the facilities.

Doug's Theory Black flies do not live in the woods until you start to dig, at which

time and place they instantaneously appear to hold their annual convention.

Jack's Law #1 The mine owner will always point out a hole from which someone "pulled out a fantastic bunch of azurite last week!"

Jack's Law #2 No azurite will be found in said hole.

Jack's Law #3 It will take you all day to discover the truth of Jack's Law #2.

Gillete's Observation The distance to crystal groups in narrow vugs always equals the length of your arm, plus six inches.

John's Theory In apparent defiance of Mohs, when trimming matrix, beryl will break before feldspar.

Rick's Rule The attractiveness and desirability of a crystal pocket is in inverse proportion to its accessibility in the wall.

SCFMS President's Message

"The Prez Sez"

by Chuck Schuler

from SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/2007

Do you like the training that is available at Wildacres but don't have the kind of time that their classes require? I was approached with what I think is a very good idea. Like some of the other Federations, we are proposing a Judges and Exhibitors seminar. Unlike Wildacres, which is a week long, ours would be two days—Saturday and Sunday. Let me say at this time, I still encourage participation in Wildacres. It is a wonderful experience and well worth the time and effort. But we have been blessed with an individual who is willing to organize this specific training for us without participants having to travel to the East Coast or invest a week of time. Ron Carmen has graciously volunteered to put this all together. We will need your feedback if you are interested so that we can start the planning stages. Club Officers, please poll your members and contact either Ron or me. At least 10 attendees will be needed. If there is sufficient interest to warrant Ron's commitment to this project, we will proceed. This will be open to all Federations.

We have lost a dear friend recently and the Federation now has a vacancy that needs to be filled. George Browne held many positions over the years and currently was the Chair of Safety. While we will miss George immensely, we still need to fill this position. Please consider volunteering to finish his term. Contact me if you are willing to help.

Those of you who are starting a Youth Program in your club should consider investigating what the American Federation has to offer. Future Rockhounds of America has an in-place merit badge program for you to tap into. Jim Brace-Thompson is the Junior Activities guy and is there to help you in any way he can. Look at the Web site: www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm

I am putting together my report for the AFMS meeting in Roswell, N.M. If anyone has

anything for my report, please forward it to my e-mail: shurocks@aol.com. Don't forget, attend as many shows that you can. It's great fun for the entire family and a wonderful way to support the other clubs in our Federation.

Soda in the Field

Author unknown

from The Agatizer, January, 2004

via Golden Spike News, 8/2006, via The SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/2007

- H**ere are a few reasons you will be glad you took that box of soda along.
1. Insect bites, minor bums and poison oak—add water to make a paste and apply to affected area.
 2. Sunburn, wind burn, and prickly heat—add 1/4 cup to a basin of water and bathe or sponge on.
 3. Acid indigestion—add ¼ teaspoon to ½ glass of water and drink slowly.
 4. Tired feet—three tablespoons to a basin of warm water and soak.
 5. Tooth cleanser and breath freshener—use as much as needed on moist toothbrush.
 6. Hand and fingernail cleaner—rub dry on moistened hands to remove pine pitch, odors, and grease.
 7. Fire extinguisher—for grease fire, throw a box full at the base of the fire.
 8. Freshening camp coolers and jugs—add 2 teaspoons and partly fill with water. Shake and rinse.
 9. Deodorant—sprinkle inside boots and shoes.
 10. Natural cleaner for camp dishes and pans—add three tablespoons to a pan of warm water and soak.
 11. Cleaning a dirty, bug-spattered windshield, chrome, and camper frames—rub damp sponge sprinkled with soda on area.
 12. Freshening RV water tanks—flush with a solution of ¼ cup of soda and 1 gallon of water. Rinse with clear water.

Web Sites for Kids

by Patricia Hartman

from The Lithosphere 01/2007

via The Pegmatite 02/2007, via Arrowhead News 04/2007

The San Diego Natural History Museum presents a double-header for kids....

First up is “*Mineral Matters*” at <http://www.sdnhm.org/kids/minerals/index.html>, where you will find How to Identify Minerals, Build a Collection, Mineral FAQs, Grow your Own Crystals and Mine Games. There are True-False and 10 question quizzes, and a word search.

Second up is “*Dinosaur Dig*” at <http://sdnhm.org/kids/dinosaur/index.html>, which has Finding Fossils, Dinosaur Bytes, Mystery of the Ankylosaur, Jurassic Jumbler, and Explore Fossil Mysteries. Educational as well as fun, it has games a slide show, and a word search.

Editor's Note: The links on this and the previous page also are available on the Just for Kids page on the club Web site: <http://www.hgms.org>.

Interactive Fossilization Web Site

via the Rockfinder 03/07, via Arrowhead News 04/2007

Walking with Beasts - Games: <http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/fossilfun/>

Race against the clock to build a skeleton that fleshes out and walks off the game board. Can you get past the super challenge level? Bury dead animals in different locations and see what happens to their bodies. Can they ever become a fossil? Study fossil footprints to learn about an animal's behavior. Can you beat the predators in a footrace?

Salt Casting

by Callie & Dennis Chapman

Tooele Gem & Mineral

from The Pineywoods Rooter 3/2007

Permission to reprint for nonprofit proposes

Direct casting is an easy, low-tech method of making beautiful freeform jewelry. In this article I will focus on using sterling silver and coarse rock salt. This salt casting gives you a great spiky, nugget effect (if you can set faceted stones, you have natural prongs). The disadvantage is you practically need to Bright Burnish it to get a polish, and that is the most costly part, but I think it is money well spent, and the Bright Burnish can be used in other projects.

Supplies

- **Silver:** I use silver scraps, or get a 1 oz. fine silver coin (.999) and add 2.5 grams of copper (I pay 35-50 cents over spot at a local refinery or coin store), or finally you can buy sterling casting shot (about \$2+ over spot).
- **Crucible:** A block of wood (6-inch long piece of 2x4), or a magnesia block, or a well-used charcoal block. Make a little indention near one side to melt your silver in the wood or magnesia block.
- **Empty Soup Can**
- **Extra Coarse Rock Salt:** Like you use for homemade ice-cream or water softeners.
- **Casting Flux:** Borax works fine for the 2x4, but it is too messy for the magnesia block or charcoal block. There I use regular casting flux (it only uses a few granules to clean the molten metal).
- **Torch:** Hand-held propane torch will work fine, or an acetylene and air torch. Magnesia blocks melt at 2000 degrees, and an acetylene and air torch flame is also around 2000 degrees, so it will eventually melt the block.
- **Coffee Can with Water:** To drench the 2x4 after use and to soak the salt off the piece.
- **Soldering Flux:** To clean the metal and for soldering
- **Copper Tongs:** A flattened copper tube will work. Flatten and bend in half like

tongs.

- **Baking Soda:** To neutralize the pickling acid.

Polishing Supplies

- **Polishing Cloth**
- **Bright Burnishing Supplies**
- **Small Rock Tumbler:** Flat sides inside preferable.
- **Steel or Stainless Steel Shot Mix:** Enough to fill tumbling drum 1/3 to 2/3 full. Seasoned with a little extra pin shot (stainless shot costs three times more, but it doesn't rust).
- **Lapidary Soap or Burnishing Compound** (or both)
- **Abrasive Plastic Media Pyramids: Medium and Fine** (optional, but will reduce bright burnishing time).
- **Extras:** Solder, Bails, Chains, Stones, etc... Wait until you are finished, and you have let your imagination loose.

Let's Make Some Sterling Silver

Preparing crucible: If you use a 2x4, chisel or grind a small cup in which to melt your sterling. A screwdriver or key will work on the magnesia block.

Get Some Fine Silver (shot or 1 oz. coin). Divide the weight of the silver by 12.5 to determine how much copper to use (1 troy oz., 31 grams/12.5 = 2.48 grams of copper). Put it in your crucible and start melting. The silver will start melting before the copper, so give it a quick stir with a pick (my pick is an old bicycle spoke glued into a dowel) to make sure the copper is melted. Then pour the liquid metal into a coffee can full of water. Drain the water and look for interesting pieces to save for future jewelry. Now you have nearly .25 sterling silver (pickling will remove the discoloration, but we will take care of that later).

Time for the Salt Casting: This is done like making the sterling shot.

Almost Fill Soup Can with Salt

Melt and Pour Silver:

1. Put some of your sterling shot into the bowl in the crucible (I like to use no more than 1/3 oz. on each piece, and I do several in a sitting).
2. Light torch and begin melting. When melted together, remove the torch, add casting flux (a pinch of Borax or a few grains of casting flux), then reheat.
3. When it starts getting fluid, lift the crucible to the edge of the can of salt. While keeping the torch on the metal, you will see the spin. Quickly tip and let the metal roll off the crucible.

Important: you have three visual stages of the metal.

- **1st** Crusty ball.
- **2nd** Spinning, it is actually the copper and silver separating. This is when you pour.

- **3rd Boiling, TOO HOT,** it jumps around and looks like tiny fireworks coming off the metal. The metal is actually vaporizing. If it gets this hot, you will have air bubbles in the silver that you won't see till you're done.

Note: I don't like to do this on direct casting, but stirring with a carbon rod will reduce air bubbles.

Getting Salt off Silver and Pickle: While hot, pick the piece out of the salt with the tongs and drop it into water. Then let the salt soak off, or pull it out and scrape it off. Now it is multicolored with black spots on the black (I only seem to get it with the salt casting). The best way to remove that black spot is to put soldering flux on the whole piece. Then reheat the piece (the flux will boil or foam, turn to syrup, then the piece will turn white. **REMOVE THE TORCH NOW!** The next thing that would happen is that the silver will start melting, but I've never had one collapse yet).

Throw your pieces in warm or cold pickle and let it soak any oxidation that is left (warm pickle works faster). The copper tongs are a **MUST** to add or remove pieces from the pickle!!! After removing, drop it into a baking soda and water mixture, then rinse.

Bright Burnishing:

- **Steel Shot only:** Add ½ teaspoon to 1 tablespoon of burnishing compound, your steel shot, and your pieces to the tumbling drum. Add enough water to cover the shot. Tumble for 16 hours or more.
- **Abrasive Pyramids and Steel Shot:** Mix it same as above (except use lapidary soap for the pyramids), but tumble for one hour with medium pyramids, one hour with fine, one to three hours with steel shot. For a smoother texture, double the time with pyramids. For more texture, use only steel shot.
- **Drying Steel Shot:** If you use plain steel, rinse the shot, put it on a cookie sheet, and pop it into a 250 degree oven until dry. It will rust if stored damp!!!

Note: Vibrating tumblers are faster, but finding one that can handle the weight of the shot is hard.

Now Is the Time for Your Imagination: Look at your pieces. Decide what you want for the top, determine where and if a stone can be placed, and look for where you can put a chain or hook it to something

- **1st** Look for natural holes for a chain.
- **2nd** Where can you drill a hole for a chain?
- **3rd** Where can you solder a bail for the chain? Solder or drill now, and run it though the steel shot again for a couple of hours. You can do this before bright burnishing, but sometimes it is easier to see what you want after a shine is put on.
- **Polishing:** It is almost useless to polish with a buffer, so just wipe well with a polishing cloth.
- **Finishing:** Set or glue in any stones, and wipe with polishing cloth again.
- Go out and buy the ingredients for homemade ice cream to use up the extra salt. Invite some friends over, and enjoy the friendship and ice cream.

TIPS:

It is always best to learn from several people and to do what works for you. Here are a couple of good Web sites.

Bean Casting: <http://www.frii.com/~dnorris/beancasting.html>

My suggestion to add: Use the beans dry. After 2–3 castings, the beans start to swell, and the casts start looking great. After 10 castings, the beans are too swollen and they should be allowed to dry. Take out only the big pieces. As you cast more, the metal will fuse to the smaller pieces, giving a great effect. They may need just a spot of solder for the ones that don't fuse together. I prefer to bright burnish as described above.

Pine Needle Casting: <http://pineneedlecasting.homestead.com/Main.html> I prefer using soft, decorative, broom straw. It only has a few thick straws, and the softer ones leave a nice pattern. Remember to soak straw for about 20 minutes before casting. To bright burnish, you can just use a steel or brass wheel or a hand-held rotary power tool and some white diamond prepolish.

References: Don Norris at <http://www.frii.com/~dnorris> And many other good people.

Shop Tips--Flat Lap Instructions

from Beacon Engineering Co.

via Quarry Quips 06/06 and Huntin' & Diggin' 7/2006

Prepare the stone by grinding all edges smooth or rounded. A single stone, no more than 2/3 of the lap in size, needs no further attention. Smaller stones or slabs can be prepared as follows:

Wrap the edges with four layers of masking tape, or drop a rubber tube ring over the stone, or cement the stone to the underside of a round piece of plywood. Thin slabs or small stones **MUST** be weighted.* The ideal weight is ½ lb per inch. Too much or too little weight retards proper grinding. A lead weight can easily be made with a hole in the middle to fit over a peg in the plywood. Machine should be level.

Step One — If stones are rough or hard, do the following while the machine is running. According to the diameter of the lap, put one tablespoon of silicon carbide #80 grit in the lap pan for every five inches of diameter. If the weather is hot or dry, add 1 tablespoon of glycerine** and add enough water to make a slurry the consistency of cream. Stop the motor and add the rocks, then start the motor. After each hour of running time, add 1 tablespoon of #80 grit. After five or six hours, check the flatness of the material by drawing a series of lines on the rock with an aluminum pencil. Run for 15 minutes and if the lines disappear, the rock is ready for the next step. **NEVER let stones stand still on the lap.** As you take stones off the lap, place them in a bucket of warm water and detergent and wash thoroughly. Use a brush on the sides of the rock too as this is the danger area for contamination.

Step Two — Soft stones and smooth ones should be started in a pure graded #220 silicon carbide grit. Run for four hours and wash thoroughly.

Step Three — Same procedure as **Step Two**, but using #400 silicon carbide grit. Run time four hours.

Step Four — Same procedure as Step Two using #600 silicon carbide grit. Time: five hours.

Step Five — After cleaning the stone and lap, place nylon pad in pan and add three tablespoons of tin or cerium oxide. (A 20" lap, four tablespoons, etc.) Add enough water to make a slurry, and run for four hours or until polished.

Quick Method

Step One — Start with #80 silicon carbide grit and add one tablespoon of grit for each of five hours, then allow grit to break down until eight hours has passed.

Step Two — Wash rocks thoroughly and add #400 grit, and run four hours.

Step Three — Wash thoroughly and add #600 grit and run for five hours.

Step Four — Wash thoroughly. Use the nylon pad, add tin oxide, and polish until shiny.

* Weights can also be glued on the stones.

** Dishwashing soap works well

Diamonds, coal, and carbon: With all the coalfields in North America, why aren't more diamonds found here?

by Andrew A. Sicree

from *Popular Mineralogy*

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Both diamonds and coal are carbon, right?

Diamonds are pure carbon. *Coal*, however, is a complex mixture of carbon and large organic molecules consisting mainly of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen with some nitrogen, sulfur and other elements. Coal beds formed from thick layers of plant matter that were buried, compacted, and *lithified* (turned to rock). Diamonds and coal are quite different.

Can we find diamonds in coal mines?

In nature, diamonds form in the Earth's mantle under very high pressures (54,000 times atmospheric pressure). In order to be turned into diamond, coal would have to be pushed down to depths of at least 100 miles. None of our coals were ever buried anywhere that deep! Even the *anthracite*, or hard coal, from eastern Pennsylvania was never buried any deeper than about three to six miles. So don't go looking in the coalfields for diamonds.

You may hear the term "black diamond" used for shiny black anthracite coal; this is a miner's nickname for coal, not a geological term. Dark or black diamonds are called

bort or carbonado, but they have no relationship to coal. Most bort is from the Congo, and most carbonados are from Brazil or the Central African Republic.

Formation of diamonds

Diamonds are as interesting to the mineralogist as they are to the jeweler. They are important to earth scientists because they carry information about the nature of the Earth's *mantle* where they formed. [The mantle is that layer of the Earth's structure which lies between the Earth's crust and its core: under most continents it lies about 20 miles down and continues to 1800 miles in depth.] The most common way diamonds can be carried out of the mantle is during a volcanic eruption of a very unusual igneous rock called *kimberlite*.

Diamond host-rocks

Kimberlite is typically a gray or bluish rock with large crystals of a dark brown mica, the mineral *phlogopite*, visible in it. The fine-grained matrix is mostly *peridotite*, a blue- or green-gray rock made up mostly of the minerals *olivine* and *pyroxene*. Kimberlites may also contain small crystals of bright green *diopside*, blood-red *pyrope garnets*, and glossy black *ilmenite*, as well as other minerals. Fragments of other rocks from the Earth's mantle and crust in the form of *xenoliths* (i.e., "strange rocks") may also be trapped in the kimberlite matrix.

Of course, the included mineral that really interests everyone is *diamond*. Sometimes, diamonds occur as crystals with octahedral shapes, reflecting their underlying cubic crystal structure. More often, diamonds are odd-shaped because they were fragmented or redissolved before the kimberlite host-rock formed.

Diamonds are also found in another unusual mantle-derived igneous rock called *lamproite*. They also occur in meteorites and in rocks that have been shocked by the impact of large meteorites. Meteoritic diamonds are quite small and often imperfect, rather than large gem-grade, specimens. Carbonado diamonds are thought to have been formed in inter-stellar space and have been carried to Earth in meteorites.

Stability of diamond and graphite

Diamonds, with a cubic crystal structure, are crystals of pure carbon formed under high pressure. Temperature is also important: typically, diamonds form only in those parts of the mantle where the pressures are greater than about 54,000 atmospheres and the temperatures are less than 1300°C (2370°F).

The only truly stable form of pure carbon at the *surface* of the Earth is the mineral *graphite*. Like diamond, graphite is pure carbon, but graphite has a planar hexagonal crystal structure. Between the hexagonal layers of carbon, weak bonds make graphite soft and slippery-feeling. Writing pencil "lead" is really graphite – used because it is so soft that it rubs off on paper and makes a black mark. Thus, the hardest mineral and one of the softest of minerals share the same chemical composition: crystal structure is what matters!

Because diamonds form in the mantle, the fact that we find them on the surface im-

plies that rocks can escape from the Earth's mantle to its surface. The magma that solidifies to form kimberlite must move rapidly from the Earth's mantle to the surface, and cool quickly, if diamonds are to avoid conversion into graphite. It has been calculated that a kimberlite eruption may occur at twice the speed of sound! You wouldn't want to be nearby when one blew, but there have been no kimberlite eruptions during historic times.

Pseudomorphs after diamond

One of the most interesting, if not also among the most disappointing, of the *pseudomorphs* (pseudomorph = "false-form") is that of graphite after diamond. Small octahedrons of graphite have been reported in rocks in North Africa. Because graphite is hexagonal and diamond is isometric (cubic), these are thought to have been diamonds, formed at great depths, but converted into graphite as they were carried upward slowly out of the Earth's mantle by the process of *obduction*. Although they are now graphite, they retain the shape of the original octahedral diamond crystals—disappointing to the would-be miner, but interesting to the mineral collector.

Where are the kimberlites?

We all know of the great diamond mining districts in Africa and the more recent diamond discoveries in northern Canada. Diamonds always seem to be exotic and far away. But kimberlites are more common in North America than many might suspect. Kimberlites and related rocks have been found in Arkansas, Kentucky, Wyoming, Colorado, New York, and elsewhere. Colorado and Arkansas have even produced some diamonds, but efforts to mine diamonds in those states have proven to be uneconomical.

Kimberlites even occur at three locations in Pennsylvania. Interestingly enough, two of these kimberlites were actually encountered in coal mines in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. They haven't yet been detected on the surface. But the third kimberlite can be seen on the surface near Masontown in Fayette and Greene Counties. These kimberlites have been determined by Professor Michael Bikerman of the University of Pittsburgh to have been formed about 147 million years ago during the Late Jurassic Period.

While in theory any kimberlite could carry diamonds, only one kimberlite in a hundred is diamondiferous. No diamonds have yet been found in any kimberlite in the eastern United States, but we keep looking!

- A. A. Sicree

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA.. Popular Mineralogy provides technical answers to your general mineral questions. If you have a question you'd like to have answered, please send e-mail to sicree@verizon.net ©2007, Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D.

Pithy sayings:

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

March 24 Lapidary Auction Photos
John Mitschner, photographer

Silent Auction:





**Live Auction: Wayne Barnett
auctioneer and Kathy Konkell
assisting**



ShowTime 2007

April 28-29	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Heart of Texas Fair Complex 4601 Bosque Blvd., Kay Langston 254-863-0206, jdodson@aenbb.net
April 28-29	Memphis, TN	Memphis Archaeological & Geological Soc. Pipkin Bldg, Fairgrounds, Central & E. Pkwy. James Butchko (901) 743-4839 rockclub@earthlink.net www.memphisgeology.org
May 26-27	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club Amon Carter Exhibits Bldg.; Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W. Lancaster Steve Hilliard (817) 925-5760 Kay Anderson (817) 597-8912 wkanderson@sbcglobal.net .
June 5-10	Roswell, NM	Chaparral Rockhounds -- AFMS & RMF Roswell Convention and Civic Center 912 North Main Street
September 1-2	Arlington, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club -- SCFMS Arlington Convention Center 1200 Ballpark Way; Karen Cessna, (817) 860-5232, Rick Kupke (817) 465-5270 erickkupke@nwiis.com ; http://tses.org .
September 21-23	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 sigrid.stewart@chevrontexaco.com
October 11-13	Mt. Ida, AR	World Champ. Quartz Crystals Digging Contest; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$90, preregistration \$75; dig in working crystal mines, keep all you dig, maybe even win a prize. Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957 (870)867-2723; director@mtidachamber.com www.mtidachamber.com .
November 17-18	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Resistol Arena Exhibition Hall I-635 & Military Pkwy (Exit 4) www.dallasgemandmineral.org/index.html

2007		MAY				2007
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 Board Meeting	2 7:30 Mineral Section	3	4	5 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open
6	7	8 7:30 Show Committee	9 7:30 Faceting Section	10	11	12 10-5 Shop Open
13	14 1:00 Day Light Section	15 7:30 Paleo Section	16 7:30 Mineral Section	17	18	19 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open
20	21 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	23 7:00 Beading Group	24	25	26 10-5 Shop Open
27	28	29	30	31		

2007		JUNE				2007
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-12 Youth Section 10-5 Shop Open
3	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 7:30 Mineral Section	7	8	9 10-5 Shop Open
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24	25	26 5:00-7:15 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	27 7:00 Beading Group	28	29	30

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

*The Newsletter of the Houston
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