



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

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President's Message

*by Terrell William Proctor, J.D.
2010 HGMS President*

In spite of (I believe) the fourth coldest winter on record in Houston, followed by one of the hottest May and June, it hasn't stopped the hardy folks at Houston Gem & Mineral Society. Thanks to our various Section Field Trip leaders and especially Neal Immega who plans and leads most of the field trips for both the main club and the Paleo Section, we continue to have interesting and productive field trips for minerals and fossils, and yes, sometimes even gem stones. Along the way we are able to legally collect some plants, including some cactus from private land with permission, some legally permissible artifacts, and other natural science items on these trips. This is not to mention the large number of great photographs taken.



If you are on one of the Field Trips, please provide me with copy and photos by e-mail if you would. Now that we can add photos to the BBG and color photos to the BBG online, photos are an important part of providing news about your trip to the members of HGMS.

There is a drive by some in government to lock up our national lands for critters only and not allow the public to go onto these lands. I am a lifelong conservationist, but I am also a realist and pragmatist as well. National lands should be accessible to the American public for reasonable use. I have no problem with restricting the use of off-road

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Upcoming Programs

July 27, 2010: James Wooten will present a program on meteorites.

August 24, 2010: To be announced

September 28, 2010: Nathalie Brandes, Professor of Geoscience at Lone Star College in Montgomery will speak

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Every article published in the BBG is edited for grammar and content. No flaming is allowed.

*Editor: Phyllis B. George
22407 Park Point Drive
Katy, TX 77450-5852
Phone: (281) 395-3087*

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*E-mail the Editor and Webmaster at
pgeorge4@comcast.net*

Purpose of HGMS

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

Membership dues are \$40 for an adult membership, \$60 for a couple, \$75 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), \$25 for a youth membership (ages 5-18), and \$500 for an adult life membership. Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months, ¼ page; \$150 for 6 months, ¼ page.

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

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse which is located at 10805 Brooklet near the intersection of Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) and Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8). See the calendar inside the back page for when the different Sections meet. The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. The HGMS Web site address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

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vehicles that race and tear up habitat. However, the American Public needs and has the right to use their public lands to enjoy for sightseeing, reasonable collection of mineral and fossil specimens at least in many areas (and especially common fossils which no PhD is going to want to collect for a museum anyhow, like shark's teeth).

Speaking of shark's teeth, one paleo book I am now reading says that on the average a shark during its lifetime sheds about 40,000 teeth. How is that possible you ask. Most sharks, unlike humans and many other animals, have several rows of teeth constantly moving forward. When a shark attacks prey, it may very well lose one or more teeth, and bingo, the next tooth in line, like a conveyor belt, moves forward and replaces it promptly. Under the new law passed last year by the current Congress (along partisan lines), the having of any vertebrate fossil on Federal land is a very serious offense. Sharks are vertebrates. A prehistoric shark's tooth is a fossil from a vertebrate. Therefore, each of us should understand that when considering picking up a fossil sharks' tooth on a beach and elsewhere, doing so puts you in violation of this law. Yes it makes no sense to forbid the collecting of relatively unimportant teeth and bones (which no museum or other institution would give a flip about anyone picking up), but to do so is now a violation of Federal Law.

That is why we are working now on a Congressional Bill to tweak the so-called "paleontological preservation act" from the last Congressional session, to provide a reasonable, practical, and sensible means to allow the collection of things. This would allow collecting of common fossils of no significant value, with a reporting system, and compensation for significant finds which the Federal Government wanted. Common sense should tell our elected representative that it only makes sense to allow collecting things, which would otherwise only be ground to dust by the surf, wind, freezing water, and other natural phenomenon. These fossils could continue to be used for education and enjoyment by rockhounds and be available for Shows and other displays, as they always have been. The American Lands Access Association (of which HGMS is a member) is working to make Federal lands accessible to Americans. You can personally join, if you wish, and add your support. Their Web site is <http://www.amlands.org>.

There is a lot of summer left to get out there and go on field trips. Just do so safely. This means, take water and drinks with electrolytes, but do not take stimulates or alcohol which can make matters worse in the heat. Wear long sleeves and pants to prevent damage to your skin from sun, poison ivy, mosquitoes, and other things that like to attack sun worshipers who spend time unprotected in the sun and around other elements and critters. Wearing proper footwear is important for what you are doing. Bring steel-toed boots if your toes could get crushed. Bring non-slip footwear for walking on slippery rocks in stream beds. Things which are always handy are plastic bags which lock, canvas bags, and other containers depending upon what you are collecting. **Always Use The Buddy System.** That is why Scouts, YMCA, and virtually every other organized group insists on everyone in a pool having someone who knows where you are all the time. The same applies when in the field. Safety is the most important thing

in the field. I know, I am preaching to the choir.

One other thing, while talking about safety. Please read the minutes from the General Membership Meeting of June 22, 2010. HGMS has had some dangerous practices, both to HGMS members and to equipment, so your Board has adopted some stringent requirements. A responsible person from now on will be required to sign in, in writing, to assume responsibility for the shop and for the Section activity and to sign out, when the clubhouse closes. That person is in charge and is to have authority to give directions and expect them to be followed. That person is also charged to see that when the clubhouse is closed, all lights are out, all doors that lock are locked, including the outside door, that all equipment is turned off, all water, flames, gas and oxygen are turned off or shut down and that the clubhouse is left in a safe secure condition.

This clubhouse is here for all HGMS members to enjoy, and when a few folks damage equipment, or leave things on and running, it endangers all of us either physically or with the loss of part or all of our clubhouse. Therefore, these steps aren't intended to reduce your use and enjoyment of your clubhouse, but to ensure that one or a few individuals don't destroy or damage things for the rest of the HGMS members.

Now go have some fun field trips and make a lot of pretty things in the Shop.

The Ogre in the Shop

by Chris Peek

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Beware the shop curmudgeon,
he's always lurking in there.
Oiling up the saw blades;
warning you of untucked hair.

Lord of his greasy dungeon,
unshowered, haggard, and rough.

But even after Youth day
he never shouts "enough!"

Would you rule this dungeon
of breakers and motors and stuff?
Look at all the people underfoot;
No wonder he seems a bit gruff.

Be kind to the shop curmudgeon,
offer treats, stay out of his hair.

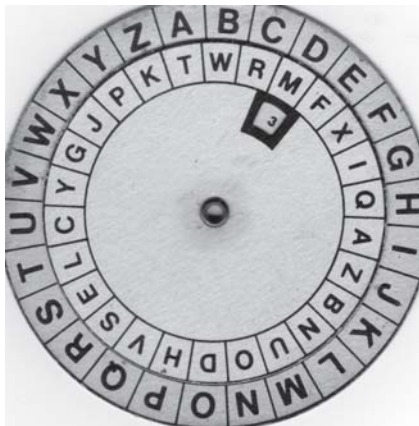
Always on top of a problem,
keeping machines in good repair.

Old Geezer Code Wheel

by John Emerson

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

When we lived in Teheran, Iran, I would sometimes receive a telephone call from the “government” that they had intercepted and tried to read a telex for me that made no sense and what did I want to do with it. I would reply for them to go ahead and send it to me to see if I could make any sense of it. If they tried to follow up, I would say that I could not make any sense of it either. That it must just be garbled. After several times, they gave up and sent them without question.



I had a “code wheel” (see photos) that could decipher the telexes. To encode a word, set the wheels to the “correct” number shown in the innermost circle (in this case 3) and use the outer circle as the correct letter and the middle circle as the coded letter. For example the word “Teheran” would be “Lfqfsto.” To decode, just set the number and reverse the operation. The number would be buried somewhere in the coded message. Most of the telex could be in the clear with a few coded words injected. There were thus 26 different possible combinations—unless you count the possibility of reversing the inner and outer wheels and then there were 26 other different combinations. Or maybe just say the “number” could be made one (or more) digits off—infinite combinations.



On the reverse side of the code wheel was my number: “00011” not “007”! I had no “license to kill.” Although sometimes when dealing with Iranians, it would have been handy! I still say that I was not a spy or in the CIA.

Old Geezer—Another Chapter of Adventures

by John Emerson

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I loved Bobbie not only for her physical beauty but also for her mental abilities. She was the smartest person I’ve ever known, and she was gracious enough not to rub it in. We were married for 57 years, 3 months, and 8 days with unquestioned love, faith, and trust.

Rob (older son) graduated from high school in Milan, Italy.

Younger son, Lee, was over six feet tall while still a sophomore in the American high school in Milan, Italy. He was recruited for an Italian high school's basketball team, and he was cheered on with calls of "MSN, MSN" (Emerson). He graduated from high school in London.

In Holland there were four separate lanes on the roads marked for pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, and cars. Not like Houston where there are only two lanes marked for bicycles and cars. Pedestrians and scooters, take your chances.

Bobbie and I went to Moscow on a tourist trip. When we lined up at the passport counter, Bobbie went first. While she was waiting for me, with no explanation I was pulled out and taken to another room! She was left in the waiting room, all alone in Moscow and worried sick. The problem was that my passport had visas from African countries, and the Russians wanted to be sure that my "shot record" was up to date and that I was covered for the plague. They were satisfied and passed me on through, much to the relief of Bobbie—and me!

In Moscow at the train station when Bobbie and I were going to Leningrad (now St Petersburg), it was -27 degrees. Coldest we had ever been—both born and raised in South Texas.

Bobbie, the boys, our driver, and I drove without air conditioning to Abadan from Teheran. It was +132 degrees by the Weather Bureau. Hottest we've ever been. I believe I read that it was the hottest ever recorded up to that time by an official weather station. It was so hot that the asphalt splashed as we drove through it.

Upon my return from Korea, Bobbie met me at the airport in Austin. When we left Austin to go to visit my mother in Kerrville, I drove. Bobbie waited awhile before asking why I was driving no faster than 30 mph. It was force of habit—the roads in Korea were so bad that 30 mph was about as fast as you dared to go.

While interviewing for a job after graduation from A&M in 1955, one of the company men interviewing told me I would be stationed at Venice, La., "which is about 60 miles south of New Orleans." I said, "There is nothing south of New Orleans!" and refused the offer.

Upon graduating (at last!) from A&M with a BS in Petroleum Engineering in 1955, I accepted a job offer from Seaboard Oil Co (now a part of Texaco which has joined Chevron). After reporting to their office in Dallas, there was an interview by the personnel department. One item was the explanation that I would be sent as a field engineer to Sweetwater, in West Texas. I would not get a company car right away, but they would pay mileage for my personal one until I did. They would pay 10 cents per mile for a Chevrolet or Ford and 12 cents for a Buick or Mercury (I believe gasoline was about 25 cents per gallon at that time). I asked how much for my Cadillac. He had to go ask—had not happened before. They finally decided on 15 cents. Then he said that if I was in the Army Reserve and had to go to summer camp, they would make up the difference between my Army pay and my Seaboard pay. I rattled him again when I asked if I would have to pay Seaboard the difference between their pay and my Army pay! My officer's pay was about \$25.00 per month more than that of Seaboard. I think

the personnel department was happy to see us leave for Sweetwater!

My maternal grandparents owned a Funeral Home and a Florist Shop in Smithville, TX. I used to visit during the summers when I was about 5 or 6 years old. My great-grandparents also lived there. Their home had an alley that ran behind their yard. Across the alley was a house whose owners had a parrot that they put in a cage on their back porch at times. Another neighbor had some cats that they allowed out and called back to feed them by calling "kitty, kitty, kitty." I know you know what happened! The parrot would call "kitty, kitty, kitty" and then laugh when the cats came!

I remember that when we ate at great grandmother's, I was set upon the giant family bible in my chair so I could reach the table.

My best friend in Smithville, when I visited my maternal grandmother, was Johnny Carter. He was born on September 26, 1928, in Smithville. I was born on September 26, 1928, in Lockhart. We were both born between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. There was always the argument as to who was the oldest. Same age, same first name, and born about 30 miles apart!

My mother insisted that I wear clean underwear every day, "in case you are hurt in an accident and have to go to a hospital." She insisted that I put on both socks before I put on a shoe—bad luck if I didn't. She also taught me to say "bread and butter" if I was walking with someone and we split to go around a post or a tree, one on each side. It

would keep us from fighting and fended off bad luck.

Dad taught me to turn my shoes or boots upside down and shake them to get scorpions or other bugs out before I put them on. This was necessary when we lived in Freer in the early 1930s.



Top photo: 1925
hunting trip



Right:: Oil field pulling
machine--1926

New Genus of Pterosaur from Texas

from a Southern Methodist University press release.

via Newsletter of the Kentucky Paleontological Society 5/2010

Submitted to the BBG by Terry Brawner, HGMS member



95 million-year-old fossilized jaw discovered in Texas has been identified as a new genus and species of flying reptile, *Aetodactylus halli*.

Aetodactylus halli is a pterosaur, a group of flying reptiles commonly referred to as pterodactyls. The rare pterosaur is also one of the youngest members in the world of the pterosaur family Ornithocheiridae, according to paleontologist Timothy S. Myers, who identified and named *Aetodactylus halli*.

The newly identified pterosaur is only the second ornithocheirid ever documented in North America, Myers says. He is a postdoctoral fellow in the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Aetodactylus halli would have soared over what is now the Dallas-Fort Worth area during the Cretaceous Period when much of the Lone Star state was under water, covered by a vast ancient sea.

While rare in North America, toothed pterosaurs belonging to the Ornithocheiridae are a major component of Cretaceous pterosaur faunas elsewhere in the world. The Texas specimen—a nearly complete mandible with most of its 54 teeth missing—is definitively younger than most other ornithocheirid specimens from Brazil, England, and China, he says. It is five million years younger than the only other known North American ornithocheirid.

Myers describes the new species in the latest issue of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Myers named the pterosaur *Aetodactylus halli* after Lance Hall, a member of the Dallas Paleontological Society who hunts fossils for a hobby. Hall found the specimen in 2006 in North Texas. It was embedded in a soft, powdery shale exposed by excavation of a hillside next to a highway. The site was near the city of Mansfield, southwest of Dallas and west of Joe Pool Lake. Hall donated the specimen to SMU.

Pterosaurs ruled the skies from the late Triassic, more than 200 million years ago, to the end of the Cretaceous, about 65 million years ago, when they went extinct. They represent the earliest vertebrates capable of full flight.

The *Aetodactylus halli* jaw was discovered in the geologic unit known as the Eagle Ford Group, which comprises sediments deposited in a shallow sea. Outcrops of the Eagle Ford Group extend northward from southwestern Texas into southern Oklahoma and southwestern Arkansas.

“I was scanning the exposure and noticed what at first I thought was a piece of oyster shell spanning across a small erosion valley,” Hall recalls of the discovery. “Only about an inch or two was exposed. I almost passed it up thinking it was oyster, but realized it

was more tan-colored like bone. I started uncovering it and realized it was the jaw to something—but I had no idea what. It was upside down, and when I turned over the snout portion, it was nothing but a long row of teeth sockets, which was very exciting.”

SMU vertebrate paleontologist Louis L Jacobs, a dinosaur expert internationally recognized for his fossil discoveries in Texas and Africa, and SMU paleontologist Michael J. Polcyn, recognized for his expertise on the extinct marine reptiles called mosasaurs, both told Hall it was a pterosaur and an important find.

The 38.4-centimeter *Aetodactylus* jaw originally contained 54 slender, pointed teeth, but only two remain in their sockets, Myers says. The lower teeth were evenly spaced and extended far back along the jaw, covering nearly three quarters of the length of the mandible. The upper and lower teeth interlaced when the jaws were closed.

In *Aetodactylus*, changes in tooth size along the jaw follow a similar pattern to those of other ornithocheirids. However, *Aetodactylus* differs from all other ornithocheirids in that its jaws were thin and delicate, with a maximum thickness not much greater than 1 centimeter. But the specimen does compare favorably with *Boreopterus*, a related pterosaur from the Early Cretaceous of China, in terms of the number of teeth present in the lower jaw, he says.

Myers has estimated the wingspan around roughly 3 meters, or about 9 feet, indicating *Aetodactylus* would have been a “medium-sized” pterosaur, he says. While it’s not known how *Aetodactylus* died, at the time of death the reptile was flying over the sea and fell into the water, perhaps while fishing, Jacobs says.

North American pterosaurs that date from the Cretaceous are all toothless, except for *Aetodactylus* and *Coloborhynchus*. The thinness of the jaws, upward angle of the back half of the mandible, and the lack of a pronounced expansion of the jaw tips indicate that *Aetodactylus* is different from other ornithocheirids and represents a new genus and species of pterosaur.

“Discovery of another ornithocheirid species in Texas hints at a diversity of pterosaurs in the Cretaceous of North America that wasn’t previously realized,” Myers says. “*Aetodactylus* also represents one of the final occurrences of ornithocheirids prior to the Late Cretaceous transition to pterosaur faunas that were dominated by the edentulous, or toothless, species.

Hall on April 14 was presented with the Dallas Paleontological Society’s highest honor, the Lloyd Hill award. The award is named for the late Lloyd Hill, an amateur fossil hunter and longtime member of the Dallas Paleontological Society.

Much of Texas was once submerged under the Western Interior Seaway. The massive sea split North America from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. On shore, the terrain was flat and flowering plants were already dominating flora communities in this part of North America, according to paleobotanist Bonnie Jacobs, associate professor of Earth Sciences at SMU.

“There were still conifers and ferns as well, but mostly of the sort that had tiny needle

leaves, like junipers,” says Bonnie Jacobs. “Sycamores and their relatives would have been among the flowering plants.”

The first ornithocheirid remains from North America, discovered in Fort Worth, were described by former SMU student Young-Nam Lee and donated by amateur collector Chris Wadleigh, says SMU’s Louis Jacobs.

“The ancient sea that covered Dallas provided the right conditions to preserve marine reptiles and other denizens of the deep, as well as the delicate bones of flying reptiles that fell from their flight to the water below,” says Louis Jacobs, a professor in SMU’s Huffington Department of Earth Sciences.

“The rocks and fossils here record a time not well represented elsewhere in North America,” says Louis Jacobs. “That’s why two species of ornithocheirids have been found here but nowhere else, and that’s why discoveries of other new fossils are sure to be made by Lance Hall and other fossil lovers.”

Myers’ article in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* is titled “A new ornithocheirid pterosaur from the Upper Cretaceous (Cenomanian-Turonian) Eagle Ford Group of Texas.”

Where Shiny Heart Cabs Come From

by Mary Ann Mitscherling, June 27, 2001

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

You sat on my shelf a very long time.
You were dull, so you got pushed to the back.
You gathered dust and became less than prime.
Ultimately you were tossed in the sack.

The sack contents was washed for the auction.
There in the water was color and shine!
At last the promise returned with caution.
Shapes coalesced into cabs over time.

Your rugged odd shape was carefully cut
To view the cabochon hidden inside.
Each edge was cut to avoid every rut.
So the end product had nothing to hide.

The cab thus formed and polished gave promise
To rocks on shelves reduced to a grimace.

FYI

by President Terry Proctor

Here is your second FYI column, in which we provide you with some Web sites that may be of interest to you. Enjoy, and I hope this will provide some valuable leads for you in the quest of your pursuit as a Rockhound in your hobby.

HGMS Disclaimer: There is no underline in the following links to prevent blocking underscore and tailed letters (like g & p). The following Web sites are selected to help guide you, but neither HGMS nor the President of HGMS claims any personal knowledge of the dealers, organizations, reputations, or credibility of any Web site listed. They are only picked and listed as they might be helpful to HGMS members.

General:

<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/clublist.shtml> is one of the many pages on the Web site called Bob's Rock Shop, and Bob Keller is the editor and webmaster. The <http://www.rockhounds.com> site was the first rockhound site on the Internet, and it began in March 1995. This is not a sales site, but it has links to sales sites. This Web page gives a list by states where you can find rock and gem organizations everywhere. It's a great source when you are traveling around the U.S. A list of all the clubs in Texas can be found under the link TEXAS. (HGMS is listed) Bob's own page is <http://www.rockhounds.com/bkeller>

On Dinosaurs and Paleontology:

<http://www.dinosaurgeorge.com> is the Web site for Dinosaur George Blasing. He has been the featured attraction at a number of our HGMS Shows, had a national TV Dinosaur show, builds great replicas, serves on the Board of the Proctor Museum of Natural Science and will be in Houston shortly for a visit.

http://www.fossildealers.com/fossil_dealers.html I am not familiar with this Web site and the home page says they do not sell fossils, but they do list a link to dealers, and this is the page it links to. Among those listed is Bob Carroll of Black Cat Mountain (trilobites) and the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research. Both Bob Carroll at Black Cat Mountain and Peter Larson at the Black Hills Institute are personal acquaintances and are outstanding paleontologists. So this could be a valuable link for HGMS Paleo members.

On Faceting:

<http://texasfacetersguild.org> is the Web site for the Texas Faceters Guild. Currently the club is relatively dormant and only maintains the Web site.

<http://www.usfacetersguild.org> is the Web site for the United States Faceters Guild

On Lapidary:

<http://www.lapidaryworld.com/societies.html> is a Web site with hundreds of links to

various lapidary organizations, nationally and internationally. Also listed are links to journals, magazines, on-line magazines, and links to other important resources. (HGMS is listed)

<http://www.opalsociety.org> is the Web site of the American Opal Society. Their site says it is a non-profit organization, it's educational in nature, and their primary purpose is to promote interest and knowledge of this precious gem.

On Minerals:

<http://www.minerant.org/dealersMIN.html> is a Web site which is a directory of a great many dealers of fine minerals.

<http://www.the-vug.com> is a Web site that lists retail mineral dealers, books, auctions, and other things that may be of interest to mineral collectors.

Equipment Suppliers:

<http://www.diamondpacific.com> is the Web site of a lapidary equipment supplier who is probably known to most HGMS members.

<http://www.inlandlapidary.com> is the Web site of a manufacturer of lapidary equipment.

<http://www.lortone.com> is the Web site of a manufacturer who is probably known to most HGMS members.

Since there is limited space in the BBG each month, this will suffice for this month's listing. Please let me know if you find this FYI column worthwhile, so I will know whether to continue writing it. Thank you.



What Your Fossils Can Tell You—Vertebrate Morphology, Pathology and Cultural Modification

by Robert W. Sinibaldi, PhD.

A book review by Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.

President of Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I have received and read a new book which I believe is of importance to those members of HGMS who are interested in vertebrate fossils. The author is Robert W. Sinibaldi, PhD, who is a professor in the Education Department of the University of South Florida in Tampa Bay, Florida." Bob is also Past President of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and has written several books on fossils before this book. One book which he wrote was on fossil diving, copies of which I brought to the HGMS Paleo Section, and a number of members purchased one of these soft cover books.

What Your Fossils Can Tell You (called Fossil Book herein) is a very important book for serious vertebrate fossil collectors. It isn't an entertaining quick read, but a very detailed book with great illustration of vertebrate morphology, pathology, and cultural modification. There are numerous photos of actual fossils, with letters and arrows pointing out the area of the fossil addressed by the text. There are normal vertebrate bones and teeth beside the bone or tooth with the abnormality and a great deal of text explaining, with scientific terms you will want to know, just what the problem or change with the bone or tooth may be. With each photo is a notation of whose collection the item photographed came from along with the size of the item in inches and centimeters; what the item is; where it is from; and the age of the fossil. This is great detail which is very valuable when you may compare some of these fossils to things in your own collection. The book is meticulously written.

Bob compares changes to bones, for instance, by occurrences while the animal was alive and the injury healed, with those which caused the death and those created after death. He points out injuries vs. health problems, causing the abnormality. If you collect fossils, chances are you may have in your collection some bone or tooth which has an abnormality that you never noticed. Some of these make your collected item more valuable.

There are numerous facts about bones and teeth, some of which I wasn't previously aware. On Page 113 Dr. Sinibaldi states, "individual sharks may produce up to 40,000 teeth in their lifetime that are very durable and leave an extensive fossil record. No wonder George Wolf brings so many shark's teeth to Paleo meetings and elsewhere. If you multiply the teeth lost by one shark by the millions or billions of sharks in the prehistoric past, why would the U.S. Government make it illegal for you to pick up one on Federal land? Ah, Government.

There is a very thorough glossary of terms, as well as use of scientific terms throughout the book in a manner which provides the reader with a grasp of almost medical terminology as you read along. The chapter on human modification of bones and teeth is very interesting and amazing about how the original Americans up to not too long ago used these durable animal parts for their use in agriculture, hunting, decoration, funerary,

and other uses. I recommend this book to every serious HGMS Paleo member interested in vertebrate paleontology.

This is a hardbound book with a beautiful cover (except for a blue deer cannon bone—Bob says that happened with the overlay of two colors in printing which weren't compatible with the true color). It sells retail for \$39.95 and has just been on the market a short time. However, you can order it on Amazon.com and some other Internet dealers for less than \$25.00 plus shipping.

If there are enough HGMS members who want to purchase this book together, we can make up a large enough order, to probably get the delivered price to about \$25 to \$28 each. Just let me know. Contact Terry Proctor by e-mail: auraman@swbell.net or phone (713) 453-8338.

Education Classes

by Brian Honsinger

HGMS Education Chair

Our first Viking Knit class was just concluded, and a lovely bracelet was made by all in Caroline Promisel's first of many classes (we hope) that she will teach.

Neal Immega had his last Saturday's shop orientation group so stirred up, five of them signed up for Charlie Fredregill's sixth Wire Wrapping class of this year. Before lunch we got two new members, one from our Web site and one from word of mouth. Both of them signed up for the class. Seven students in under two hours—now that is the way to get education going again.

I know there are a bunch of people out there who just learned how to solder with Neal this summer, and they are now ready to tackle the larger projects that our Jewelry Classes can teach you. So show up any Wednesday or Saturday with cash or check, and I will sign you up. There is not a better time to learn than now, so sign up early—months before Christmas—so you can get things made and make shiny things too for those special ones in your lives.

You know that special gal you married so many years ago would love a present made with your own hands, and Aunt Martha probably would as well. That new daughter-in-law could use something lovely in sterling silver also! You see the possibilities here, don't you? Heck, even we guys are wearing some silver these days, so come on by!

Soon as it begins to cool down again, we will (as promised) get the glass bead class going as we have figured out a torch to use. Casting is too hot to do in summer—our kilns produce so much heat that they cancel out our AC unit! All this and more will begin with cooler weather, so jump on in and bring a friend—its half-price membership time!

Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Neal Immega at
n_immega@swbell.net.

AFMS Results for HGMS Entries in 2010 Bulletin Editors' Contest

by Phyllis George

HGMS Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

The AFMS held its annual show in La Habra, California, and on Sunday, June 20, during the AFMS Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters, the national results were announced. HGMS did spectacularly well! The HGMS entries are listed below along with their particular category and rank.

To be forwarded to the AFMS level, everyone listed below must have been in the top three in their categories in the SCFMS (our regional federation) Bulletin Editors' Contest. The SCFMS annual show will be held December 11–12 in DeRidder, LA. The SCFMS ranking of our members will be revealed during the SCFMS Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters Saturday, December 12, 2010.

Name	Category	Title	AFMS Ranking
Sigrid Stewart	Adult Article	Rockhound Honeymoon	7
Terrell Wm. "Terry" Proctor, J.D.	Advanced Adult Article	Continents Moving Around—You Have To Be Kidding	1
Art Smith	Advanced Adult Article	An Early November 2008 Trip to Arkansas	9
John Emerson	Features	An Old Geezer Reminisces	2
Terry Proctor	Adult Poetry	The Excitement of a Dig	1
Noelle Skubal (9 years old)	Junior Articles	Lifting Up History with David Freeman	3
Phyllis George	Large Bulletin	The Backbender's Gazette	2



Rockhounding in west Texas (note Rockhound stickers). Robert Steven's truck on the left, Nancy Fischer's on the right.

Day Light Section

by Frances Arrighi

Fifteen members attended the 10 May, 2010 meeting of the Day Light Section.

The planned program was to make a bezel in the shape of Texas. We were going to solder this to a piece of silver. Then we would fill this with turquoise chips and glue them with colored glue. Vicky Finnerty brought some silver plated oval blanks. We used these instead of the bezel in the shape of Texas. They turned out well.

The June report will appear next month. I had a flare-up of arthritis and did not attend the June meeting.

General Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2010

by President Terry Proctor and 2009 Secretary Regina Gorman

The Meeting was called to order by President Terry Proctor at 7:30 p.m. with the silent auction ending at that time with sales of \$290 tonight.

New members recognized tonight were Ayse Tobey, Tim Taylor and wife Colleen Taylor.

The Minutes of the May 25, 2010 General Membership Meeting were published online. Since most members had not yet received their printed copies of the BBG, Karen Burns moved that we accept the minutes as printed in the online version of the BBG. The motion was seconded by Matt Dillon, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer Rodney Linehan had reported to the Board at their meeting that the HGMS financial condition is sound, and he provided documents to all Board members regarding our bank accounts and financial standing.

Show Committee: Rick Rexroad reported that he had been on vacation during the Intergem Show; however HGMS had been well represented with our table and members at that Show. Some of those who worked this show were Karen Burns, Ray Kizer, Tricia Rittaler, and Beverly and Dan ??.

Karen Burns reported on the Daylight Section. Former University of Houston professor & HGMS member Val Link will be showing members how to work with copper and doing simplistic and anticlastic process work.

Steve Blyskal reported that the Mineral Section had their last meeting June 16, and the Section will start meetings again in September, 2010.

Terry Proctor reported that the Paleo Section awarded their \$1,000.00 Paleo Section Scholarship to Kristine Finnerty, who is enrolled at the University of Houston in a program that includes geology.

Brian Honsinger is on vacation in Colorado, but education programs are continuing in his absence.

Shop and Clubhouse Report: President Terry Proctor reported on concerns expressed to the Board by Shop Supervisors and other members of HGMS. Recently an expensive saw was ruined. The person who had been using it did not report the damage, but just walked away from the saw without notifying anyone of the damage done. That is not acceptable behavior for HGMS members.

The HGMS Board voted to take action designed to ensure the safety of HGMS members and equipment in the Shop and Clubhouse. A procedure is being set up where Section leaders for a given meeting and Shop Supervisors (on the occasion where such Supervisor is in charge of the Shop), will be expected to assume full responsibility for the Shop and Clubhouse. Upon leaving the Clubhouse, that Shop Supervisor or Section leader is responsible for ensuring that all doors are closed; all lights turned off; and in the Shop that all gas, oxygen, water, and flames are turned off; that the trash is removed from the clubhouse; that everyone is out of the building, and the building is securely locked up. Anyone damaging any equipment is to promptly report it to the Supervisor so that the equipment doesn't receive additional damage and it can be placed in a state where it is not dangerous to others. This is not for discipline, but for protection. Anyone damaging equipment and not reporting it to the Supervisor or Section leader in charge will be suspended from use of club facilities. Upon an additional infraction, that person may be suspended permanently from using the shop. The HGMS clubhouse must be safe at all times. Leaving a piece of equipment without cleaning it and cleaning around it, or leaving trash and debris is unacceptable behavior. Failure to turn off gas, oxygen, water, or flames can be dangerous and destructive to equipment, the clubhouse, and HGMS members, so action is being taken to safeguard against these problems.

The new procedure spells out that when a Section leader or Supervisor arrives, that person signs in and becomes responsible for the Shop and Clubhouse. From then until that person leaves, that person is in charge and shall supervise those present to ensure safety and responsibility. When the Shop or Section session is over, that person is responsible to see that the building and all facilities are secured and the clubhouse locked up. That person will sign out that they have done so, and they should carry off or have someone carry off any accumulated trash and debris from that session. The Supervisor board is to be completed promptly with photos of the Supervisors, and a badge is to be worn by the Supervisor in charge of the Shop for that session.

Old Business:

Trips: Neal Immega reported on Trips. A trip is planned to the Blue Lagoon near Huntsville. Another trip is planned for Black Cat Mountain to dig for Oklahoma trilobites. Also discussed was a trip to for opal material from a perlite mine near Barstow? California. In the fall there will be a trip to Stone City (Whiskey Bridge) with barbecued chicken.

Outreach Program: Terry Proctor reported that a Tricia Rittaler had signed up to work on this program and encouraged others to do so as well. He explained that education is part of the Charter of HGMS, and we not only need to fulfill that, but in doing so we are showing potential grant givers that we are worthy of being awarded grants.

In order to improve our facilities and expand in time, we are seeking grants, member donations, and both direct and matching grants from member employers (we have received several of these in the past year).

Report on Clubhouse Improvements: Terry Proctor reported that the new plaque display board was installed, which could of course be seen by the members on the west wall of the Clubhouse, along with the new Presidents' plaque for the second 60 Presidents of HGMS. It is a plaque that is virtually identical to the present plaque that lists HGMS's first President in 1949, W.V. Vietti, and ran through 2008 with President Terry Proctor. The new Board will hold 60 Presidents starting with 2009. Terry mentioned that HGMS members have been well pleased with the new stop blocks in the parking lot. These were obtained by Matt Dillon and installed by Matt and Robert Stevens some months back. And everyone appreciates the new lighting in the parking lot and the library. We now have the time limiter switches in six rooms to turn lights off.

New Business:

Orientation: Terry Proctor reported that 18 new members attended the New Member Orientation on June 5. There will be two Shop Orientation sessions. The first is at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 10, and the second is at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 11. There is a limit to the size of each group (so there is room in the Shop to hear and see), and each is approximately filled.

Rockhound Stickers \$1: Several HGMS members purchased a Rockhound sticker for their vehicle. At the Show they will be \$2.

Upcoming Programs: First Vice-President James Wark has some upcoming programs for the General Membership Meetings. In the fall Patrick Lewis, PhD from Sam Houston State University, will present a program on what he is doing this summer (he has provided very interesting programs from his last three summers digging in foreign lands); HGMS member Nathalie Brandes will provide us with another of her great programs this fall also. She is a professor at Lone Star College in Conroe, Texas. Then in December we will have our annual Christmas/Holiday Season Party at the clubhouse.

Drawing: Tricia Rittaler was the winner of our June drawing. The gift, provided by John Anderson, was a geode which can be cut or split open.

HGMS Rosters: Beverly Mace reported that the Rosters are ready to go into the mail and should be received in a few days.

Show 'n Tell: Several members presented some show and tell. Owen Martin reported on the trip to Waco for pyrite and fossils. Terry Brawner reported that while many in the Paleo group went to the forest site near Jasper, Texas, he and Terry Proctor went to a ranch near Van Horn, Texas. There they dug up an Alamosaurus femur and a number of marine fossils from septurian nodules: ammonites, clams, oysters, and one gastropod. Also they collected a number of calcite crystals—black, white, and champagne colored. He had a photo of the dinosaur femur which was 58 inches long and weighed 192 pounds.

Break: No one signed up to furnish the refreshments for this month. Tim Taylor and wife Colleen have volunteered to furnish the refreshments for the July 27, 2010 Meeting. If you are willing to provide refreshments, please contact President Terry Proctor at (713) 453-8338.

Program: One of the favorite programs each year is the broom straw and pine needle silver casting program. This year, long-time HGMS member and teacher Charlie Fredregill presented the program. Charlie had everything set up outside so HGMS members would not have to breathe the noxious fumes from the molten silver scorching the broom straws or pine needles. HGMS members paid \$8.00 for about 1/3 ounce of silver that was melted and poured quickly over tied-together bundles of broom straws or pine needles, then doused with water. Most of the poured silver resulted in very interesting silver castings ready for one or more stones to be mounted onto the casting after it was cleaned and polished, b a piece of jewelry. Charlie poured many castings during the evening, and HGMS members went home with something unique that was their own. Thank you, Charlie.



Charlie Fredregill heating the silver and Regina Gorman in the foreground

The meeting was adjourned informally at the end of the casting session.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2010

by Terry Proctor and Sarah Metsa

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m., and a quorum was determined to be present. Pier Laird, Secretary is on vacation in South Dakota and elsewhere. Therefore the minutes of the Board Meeting were jointly taken by Terry Proctor and Sarah Metsa (a new active member). Thanks to Sarah for helping on the minutes for Pier.

X	President	Terry Proctor	X	Beading Rep.	Diane Sisson
X	1 st Vice President	James Wark		Faceting Rep.	Sunday Bennett
X	2 nd Vice President	Beverly Mace	X	Lapidary Rep.	Phyllis George
X	Treasurer	Rodney Linehan	X	Mineral Rep.	Sigrid Stewart
	Secretary	Pier Laird	X	Paleontology Rep.	Terry Brawner
	Past President	N/A	X	Day Light Rep.	Nancy Fischer

Board Minutes: Terry Brawner moved to approve the June Board Meeting Minutes as published in the July BBG; it was seconded by Nancy Fischer and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Rodney Linehan e-mailed all members of the Board a copy of the financials for May and June, 2010. The income vs. expenditures since last month showed a significant increase, with a sizeable amount coming in from dealers in paying for tables at the annual Show. However, even with the purchase of a fireproof legal size filing cabinet and the other recent sizeable expenditures for the Club (new Plaque Board and Plaque, printing of Roster, and other operating expenses), the Club showed a sizeable increase in its fund. Therefore, the Club's finances are in very good shape. The June 22, 2010 General Membership meeting auction however, brought in only \$290.00. The large auctions earlier in the year were from the sale of mineral and fossil collections donated to the Club by Irene Offeman and the Robert Cross Estate. Rodney will assemble the receipts for the stop blocks and lighting replacement so they can be submitted to the Association for reimbursement, if possible. Terry will ask whether the Association will trim the front hedge or if we are to do that.

Reports by Officers and Section Representatives:

Daylight Section: The Daylight Section won't meet on the second Monday this month, but on the third Monday instead. Neal Immega sent out an e-mail with this information.

Paleontology Section: Terry Brawner reported that the Paleo Section awarded its \$1,000 Scholarship to Kristine Finnerty. She has registered and will be attending the University of Houston with one major in Geology.

Show Committee: Neither Rick Rexroad nor Chris Peek were able to be at this Board meeting, so there was no report from the Show Committee.

Education Committee: Brian Honsinger is still in Colorado, so there was no report on this Committee this month.

Library Committee: Sigrid Stewart reported that a good bit has been done on the main club Library by her and husband, Steve Blyskal. Sigrid said that vents are needed over both Library doors like the one over the Paleo Library door which was put in by David Hawkins. Sigrid also brought up the possibility of merging the two libraries, i.e. the main club and paleo libraries. She has talked with Wayne Barnett, Librarian for the Paleo Library. Since there are some paleo books in the main library and possibly some duplication, it might be beneficial to both the main club and Paleo Section to merge the two libraries in the combined space,. Also discussed was the fact that books have been taken from the Paleo Library without the person signing the card to check it out. When Art Smith was in charge of the Main Club Library, books could be used there, but they could not be checked out. That policy still exists. Paleo may be moving to that same position to prevent the loss of books. Terry Proctor commented that for as many members as HGMS has, there is relatively little taking of things. But the problem in the Library isn't people checking books out and not returning them; people are just taking books out without checking them out. So now it is unknown who has a given book as no card was filled out. As previously discussed, a brief article will be put in the BBG

encouraging HGMS members to return books, tapes, and other items borrowed and not returned. This matter will be discussed further by the Librarians and membership for possible future action.

Old Business:

Building Maintenance: President Terry Proctor reported that Gary Anderson provided the name of a roofing contractor who can check out the need for some tar on the roof and give a bid. This will be done shortly, and the small problems with the roof will be taken care of.

Orientation: There were 18 new members who attended the New Member Orientation on June 5, 2010. Neal Immega will conduct a Shop Orientation at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 10 and a second one at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 11, 2010.

Upcoming Programs: First Vice-President, James Wark reported on upcoming programs. The June 22 program with Charlie Fredregill went over well with a number of HGMS members making broom straw silver castings. James has talked with James Wooten, who will present a program on meteorites July 27. Nathalie Brandes, an HGMS member and a professor at Lone Star College in Conroe, will present a program on the effect of climate on history for the September 28, 2010 program. Patrick Lewis, PhD from Sam Houston State University, will provide another program for HGMS, scheduled for November 23, 2010. It is expected to be on his summer expedition. The October 26 program is open, but may be tied in with the November 12-14 HGMS Show. The Christmas/Holiday Season Party will be on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The club will furnish the meat with members bringing side dishes, dessert, and other items, and an auction will follow.

Plaque Board and Section Displays: There was some discussion about the new framed pegboard for HGMS plaques and the Section displays which have been in our meeting room for many years. Terry Proctor suggested enlarging and slightly lowering the Section displays, in order to give the Sections more room to display what they wish. He also suggested making it where the Section displays could be opened other than removing the top board and pulling the glass up, in order to make it easier to change out the displays. Some Board Members preferred other suggestions, including raising the new Plaque Board and screwing it to the wall (which would do away with the present ability to remove the Board at any time by raising it up and lifting it off the secure hanger it is now on. This matter will be reviewed and considered later with various suggestions made.

The **2010 Directory** has been distributed at the same time as the July BBG was mailed. Beverly Mace and Phyllis George each worked on this. Also, Beverly showed the new HGMS tri-fold flyer which she and Phyllis also worked on. It has one small glitch on an information box which isn't perfectly centered, but this is a small item and work will be done to try to correct that before the next printing.

Clubhouse Supervision Rules: At the last Board Meeting, the Board discussed and came up with some general Rules on use of the Clubhouse. To this end, President Terry Proctor presented a Clubhouse Supervision Rules list for the Board to read and make

corrections. The rules list provides for security of HGMS members, equipment, and the Clubhouse. The form was discussed and a number of changes suggested. Terry will come up with a final version that will be e-mailed to the Board Members, and several copies will be printed, laminated, and posted on the inside of the side outside door, both sides of the Meeting Room/Storage Area door, and Shop areas. Shop Supervisors and Section leaders will start signing in to take charge of the Clubhouse, then signing out, after seeing that the Clubhouse and equipment are all secured and left in an orderly fashion. Nancy Fischer moved to approve the posting of the form Terry prepared, with the discussed revisions. The motion was seconded by James Wark and passed unanimously.

Monthly Prize Drawing: President Terry Proctor said he had talked with Neal Immega about the prize for the monthly drawing. Neal advised that he had plenty of good specimens on hand; therefore, we could award one or two drawing prize winners each month and dispense with the winners having to bring in a prize for the next month's drawing. However, Jerry Pote has brought in the prize for the July meeting, so this new policy would start with the August General Membership meeting. Sigrid Stewart moved to use HGMS specimen gifts in the future, starting in August, which was seconded by Terry Brawner and passed unanimously.

Monthly Meeting Refreshments: Along the same line, President Terry Proctor suggested that since it is difficult to get members to volunteer to provide the refreshments, that HGMS pay for the refreshments and have a donation jar for members to put in a donation to help cover the cost of refreshments. It was discussed that the problem is not just the money for the refreshments, but members having to take the time to get the refreshments. James Wark moved that HGMS pay for the refreshments and that a container be nearby for voluntary donations. This motion was seconded by Sigrid Stewart and passed unanimously. Terry Proctor volunteered to obtain refreshments for August; James Wark volunteered for September, and Diane Sisson volunteered for October. There was no other volunteer, so Terry Proctor will also take November and then our annual Christmas/Holiday Party will be in December, so that will finish out refreshments for the year.

Grants: Sarah Metsa, who has been an HGMS member but is just becoming active, volunteered to assist in studying for grants and grant writing for HGMS. Sarah's mother has done a good bit of grant writing, and she is assisting Sarah although the mother lives in another State. Sarah explained what she had already started doing and advised the Board that she needs help to understand the scope of HGMS so she can have that knowledge in approaching the grant seeking activity of HGMS. The Board was happy to have Sarah visit and invited her to come to Board Meetings and let the Board know what she is doing and how they can assist her.



Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Phyllis George, seconded by James Wark and approved unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

What Your Fossils Can Tell You—Vertebrate Morphology, Pathology and Cultural Modification

by Robert W. Sinibaldi, PhD.

A book review by Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.

President of Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I have received and read a new book which I believe is of importance to those members of HGMS who are interested in vertebrate fossils. The author is Robert W. Sinibaldi, PhD, who is a professor in the Education Department of the University of South Florida in Tampa Bay, Florida." Bob is also Past President of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and has written several books on fossils before this book. One book which he wrote was on fossil diving, copies of which I brought to the HGMS Paleo Section, and a number of members purchased one of these soft cover books.

What Your Fossils Can Tell You (called Fossil Book herein) is a very important book for serious vertebrate fossil collectors. It isn't an entertaining quick read, but a very detailed book with great illustration of vertebrate morphology, pathology, and cultural modification. There are numerous photos of actual fossils, with letters and arrows pointing out the area of the fossil addressed by the text. There are normal vertebrate bones and teeth beside the bone or tooth with the abnormality and a great deal of text explaining, with scientific terms you will want to know, just what the problem or change with the bone or tooth may be. With each photo is a notation of whose collection the item photographed came from along with the size of the item in inches and centimeters; what the item is; where it is from; and the age of the fossil. This is great detail which is very valuable when you may compare some of these fossils to things in your own collection. The book is meticulously written.

Bob compares changes to bones, for instance, by occurrences while the animal was alive and the injury healed, with those which caused the death and those created after death. He points out injuries vs. health problems, causing the abnormality. If you collect fossils, chances are you may have in your collection some bone or tooth which has an abnormality that you never noticed. Some of these make your collected item more valuable.

There are numerous facts about bones and teeth, some of which I wasn't previously aware. On Page 113 Dr. Sinibaldi states, "individual sharks may produce up to 40,000 teeth in their lifetime that are very durable and leave an extensive fossil record. No wonder George Wolf brings so many shark's teeth to Paleo meetings and elsewhere. If you multiply the teeth lost by one shark by the millions or billions of sharks in the prehistoric past, why would the U.S. Government make it illegal for you to pick up one on Federal land? Ah, Government.

There is a very thorough glossary of terms, as well as use of scientific terms throughout

the book in a manner which provides the reader with a grasp of almost medical terminology as you read along. The chapter on human modification of bones and teeth is very interesting and amazing about how the original Americans up to not too long ago used these durable animal parts for their use in agriculture, hunting, decoration, funerary, and other uses. I recommend this book to every serious HGMS Paleo member interested in vertebrate paleontology.

This is a hardbound book with a beautiful cover (except for a blue deer cannon bone—Bob says that happened with the overlay of two colors in printing which weren't compatible with the true color). It sells retail for \$39.95 and has just been on the market a short time. However, you can order it on Amazon.com and some other Internet dealers for less than \$25.00 plus shipping.

If there are enough HGMS members who want to purchase this book together, we can make up a large enough order, to probably get the delivered price to about \$25 to \$28 each. Just let me know. Contact Terry Proctor by e-mail: auraman@swbell.net or phone (713) 453-8338.

Libraries Announce Amnesty

by Terry Proctor

If you have checked out (or borrowed without checking it out) any book, tape, or other items from Houston Gem & Mineral Society, it is requested that you return the book(s) or other items as soon as possible. Both the Main Club Library and the Paleo Library are missing some books which need to be returned for use by other members. The Main Club Library allows books to be used on the premises but they cannot be checked out. The Paleo Library allows books to be checked out, but it also may have to adopt the no-check-out policy to prevent books needed by members from being missing because the person borrowing them never returned them.

There is no fine, no embarrassment, just please promptly return the book(s) or other items you borrowed from HGMS so other members can have the use of these items. You can deliver the books and other items to the Library, if open. If the Library is not open, then deliver such item to anyone who has access to the Office. If the Office is not open, then please place the book or other item on the tables near the Libraries for the Librarians to replace them to the Library. It would be helpful if you will call Terry Proctor at his law office (713) 453-8338 and let him know that you are leaving such item at the Clubhouse, so that he can notify the Librarian the item is being returned and where you are leaving such item. Thank you.

SCFMS President's Message

House Special

by Ike House, President

from SCFMS Newsletter 5-6/2010

Hey everybody! Everyone is busy making plans to go to the AFMS show/meeting June 17th–20th this year in La Habra, California which is in the Los Angeles basin. I'm really looking forward to it as I enjoy seeing the other folks in the

regional federations, and of course, I get to see you all as well when you can make it. If you think you can work it into your schedule, you might want to come on out. There are bound to be specimens at the show that are different than what we see around here, and there will be rockhounding trips as well. I plan to see the La Brea Tar Pits, which is very close to La Habra, and to do some general sightseeing as I've never been in the area for any length of time. I hope Arizona hasn't cut off LA's water and electricity by then (they are having a feud).

I'd also like to take a moment and relay a message from Danny Griffin about the workshops the Southeast Federation puts on each year. Besides being a great learning experience, they are real bargains as well. And in these economic times, we could all use a bargain. Consider what he has to say:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please let me introduce myself and describe our jewelry workshops to you. My name is Danny Griffin. I am the Education Chairman for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. **The SFMS has been offering hands-on workshops for almost 40 years. Although these workshops have always been available to all members of the AFMS, I did not know if they were ever formally offered. These workshops are available to each and every person in your federation. We offer four week-long workshops each year. Two are held at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia, and two are offered at Wildacres Retreat located in Little Switzerland, North Carolina.**

These workshops are available to your members at the member's rate of \$330. This cost includes the instruction, room and board, and all meals. Supply fees are extra and vary depending on the class taken. Please don't let this low cost fool you. These workshop classes are top notch and are taught by experienced teachers. Some have been teaching at the workshop since their inception. Some of our instructors are nationally known. Listed below are a few examples:

* Kim St Jean teaches cold connections at the Bead & Button Shows and has written several books and articles for the beading magazines.

* Barbara MaGuire teaches Polymer Clay and has written several books on the subject.

* Mary Ann Devos is a well-known Precious Metal Clay instructor who offers all levels of PMC certification. She has also written several books on the subject. More info can be obtained by visiting our Web site at: www.sfmsworkshops.com.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Danny Griffin
SFMS Education Chair
(865) 406-8802

Folks, if you've ever wanted to know or learn more about our hobby, this is a really great way to do it. Give Danny a call! Have a great summer! Ike

Something About Faceting

by Lola Lamb

from The Roadrunner 11/1988 via The Roadrunner 5/2010

I was at a local restaurant the other day and you know how you will look around at the surrounding tables while waiting for your food. A small group of people were at a nearby table and while I was not eavesdropping, I could not help overhearing their conversation in the crowded conditions. I must admit they seemed to be a very different type of people. They mentioned they were all FACETERS. I was not familiar with that word but guessed it must be a sorority or high society club.

They began talking about their patterns and cuts. That *was* right down my alley because I use a pattern every time I cut out my husband's shirts or my dresses when I sew.

The man at the end of the table mentioned having trouble getting a good POLISH on his TABLE. He should see the polish on my grandmother's old table. They just don't find wood like that anymore. His best bet is to get a good tablecloth, I guess.

One little old lady said she had good luck with the PAVILION but could not get the STARS on the CROWN to meet. She must be awful rich to have her own pavilion. We always have to use the one at the city park for our picnics. I sure didn't understand about trying to get the stars to meet the crown. I thought most of the Hollywood stars were pretty well received by the royal family. Of course, I don't move in those circles much.

One very pretty young lady mentioned she did some CHEATING recently. I was shocked as she looked to be a very honest type of person. Sometimes you just never know. I was raised and taught it always pays to be honest.

Well, I almost dropped my salad fork when they started talking about their GIRDLES. After all, it was mixed company and in a public place. That didn't seem to bother them any though. One said hers was too THICK, another said his was too THIN, and still another said hers was UNEVEN. Thick, thin, uneven—mighty strange talk, I'd say. Everyone knows a girdles' function is to smooth out the bulges and give a smooth line. One man said he even POLISHED HIS GIRDLE. Seemed odd to me that a man would be wearing one anyway, but I sure don't understand what he used on it—I use plain old soap and water to wash mine. I was a little relieved when they went on to another subject.

I'm not real sure where these people were from. They talked about ANGLES and DEGREES and MAINS. Guess their main street must have angled across town instead of straight north and south like it does in Big Spring. Wherever they were from, it must have been up north because they said it was usually 39 and 42 degrees.

One quite young lad said his stone FLEW OFF THE DOP. In my younger years I've thrown stones on the lake like all kids do, but mine never flew. I couldn't even get them to skip across the water very good. I've always heard the expression, "flying off the handle" but never heard of "flying off the dop."

This same young lad was also having trouble with his TRANSFER. Never did hear where he was transferring to.

By now they had received their meals so conversation slowed somewhat. They still sporadically spoke of their LAPS. They talked of CERAMIC, 3000 and LEAD TIN. They really lost me there. I only have one lap—the one where my napkin was laying. My grandkids enjoy sitting on it a lot. Maybe they were talking about relay races or sports car races. They did say something about running the lap at a slow speed or a high speed. Maybe they were joggers.

I'll say one thing—their conversation really covered a wide range of subjects. By now I had finished my meal and had to keep an appointment, but I'll never forget that group of strange talking people. They seemed friendly enough, as another man came by, talked briefly with them, they said they would mail him a set of PATTERNS and COMPETITION FORMS.

Maybe our paths will cross again, and I'll boldly walk over and ask "WHAT KIND OF CLUB DO YOU BELONG TO ANYWAY?"

We're head'n to "Agate Rendezvous 2010" (excerpts)

by Yonis Lone Eagle

RMFMS New Mexico / Texas State Director

The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all Rockhounds of all ages to "Agate Rendezvous 2010," our annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 28 to September 6, 2010. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California, and the South Central Federations (and all other Federation who wish to attend).

We have very adventurous and interesting fieldtrips every day from 50 to 200 miles roundtrip from our base camp. Each day we leave at 8:30 a.m. with a picnic lunch to different areas in the region to collect a very wide variety of rocks, minerals, and crystals that can include agate, banded agate, blood stone, chalcedony, crystalline, flat band agate, geodes, golden luna agate, hematite, jasper, lavas, luna blue agate, obsidian, plume agate, quartz crystals, red luna agate, snowflake agate and thunder eggs to name only a few. A couple of our fieldtrips might be into the eastern portion of Arizona along the state line. Several of the areas that we travel into will need a high-clearance or 4-wheel drive type vehicle. If you do not have this type of vehicle, don't worry, someone would be happy to carpool with a little "\$\$\$\$" help for gas.

The very small town of Apache Creek is located in the central-western part of the state about 117 miles west of Socorro, NM, on NM-12 southwest of the small town of Datil, NM. Apache Creek campground, used as our base camp, was once a CCC Camp back in the 1930s. It is a beautiful and tranquil camping area with tall majestic Ponderosa pine trees towering over the entire camp area for plenty of cool shade during the warm days of August. The area is large and spacious enough for the largest of RVs to the

smallest of pup tents and everything in between. Being a rustic camp area, there are no facilities, water, or electricity, just one coed chemical toilet, so you must come prepared. There is no cost or camping fees at Apache Creek campground. The town of Apache Creek has one main structure in town, a small country store where one can buy the “very basics,” and that is where we get our spring water for washing out rocks. The small town of Reserve is twelve miles to the southwest and has a grocery store, bank/ATM, garage/gas station and a small motel for anyone who does not want to campout. The majority of the time, Mother Nature cooperates. The weather in August has warm days in the upper 70s to 80s and cool nights in the 50s with some possible 40s and even 30s. Occasionally, late summer thundershowers may wander through the area to put a damper on things, so come prepared for the unexpected. The elevation of our base camp is about 6400 feet, with day outings that can be up to 8500 to 9000 feet.

Every afternoon about 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. after a day of collecting, most of the rockhounds get together and have a happy hour to socialize and talk about the day's findings. Then everyone has supper on their own around 6:00 p.m. Afterwards, we sit around the campfire and tell TALL stories of old mining, prospecting, and Rockhounding glory days. The nighttime skies at Apache Creek are breathtaking. With no light pollution, one can see millions of stars. So, if you have a good pair of binoculars or a telescope, be sure to bring them too for some spectacular stargazing. On both Saturday afternoons after returning from our outing, we all get together for our traditional “Apache Creek Group Photo” about 5:45 p.m. Afterwards, we all get ready for our traditional potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. Everyone makes their favorite camp dish, and we share them while telling more stories around the campfire. On each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m., we will have a Rollin' Rock Club meeting if we have enough folks interested.

Rockhounds that show up can camp-out anywhere from a couple of nights to the entire campout. Some just come for the last weekend to visit and see old friends. Some Rockhounds camp out for over two weeks. Everyone that comes always has a great time with all the camaraderie and collecting, and everyone **always** goes home several pounds heavier. Each year, it only gets better. We really hope that your club members can join us this year to make some new friends and really have some good old **“Rockhounding Fun and Adventure.”** For the last 11 years, we have averaged 40+ Rockhounds that have attended the campout from at least half a dozen states—just the right size for a Rockhound get-together. And folks, if you have any good unique swapping/trading material from your area, be sure to bring it. And in addition, if you have a CB Radio, be sure to bring it along. We use CB Channel 7 on all our fieldtrips. When you arrive at the campground, just look for the “White Framed Canopy,” that's our HQ. Please stop by and sign in.

The host for AGATE RENDEZVOUS is the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, NM. If you are planning on coming to AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please try to RSVP no later than the 23rd of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS New Mexico State Director at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: rockymountainrockhounds at yahoo dot com. All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies “Code of Conduct”.

Show Time 2010

August 7-8	Austin, TX	Austin Bead Society, Palmer Events Center 900 Barton Springs Rd. www.austinbeadsociety.org
August 21-22	Bossier City, LA	Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center; Charlie Johns (318)687-4929; cwsejohns@bellsouth.net www.larockclub.com
August 28-29	Jasper, TX	Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Events Center, 6258 Hwy. 190 W 5 miles west of Jasper; Contact Jonetta Nash (409)384-3974; jonetta.nash@yahoo.com
October 7-9	Mount Ida, AR	Annual Quartz Crystal Digging Contest Montgomery County Fairgrounds Fairgrounds Rd. www.mountidachamber.com
October 22-24	Austin, TX	Austin Gem & Mineral Society Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. www.gemcapers.com
November 6-7	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan Roy or Wanda finley (806) 944-5464 finfran@midplains.coop
November 12-14	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; www.hgms.org Rick Rexroad, rrexroad@brwnccald.com
December 3-5	El Paso, TX	El Paso Mineral & Gem Society El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama gemcenter@aol.com
December 6-7	Big Spring, TX	Big Spring Prospexctors Club Howard County Fair Barn, (432) 263-4662
December 11-12	DeRidder, LA	SCFMS/DGMFC Convention & Show Richard Borchard Fairgrounds

Show Time 2011

Jan. 1--Feb. 28	Quartzsite, AZ	Desert Gardens International G&M Show Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side) www.desertgardensrvpark.net
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2010		August				2010
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 7:30 Board Meeting	4 10-5 Shop Open	5	6	7 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
8	9 1:00 Day Light Section	10 7:30 Show Committee	11 10-5 Shop Open	12	13	14 10 a.m.- Shop Open to 5
15	16 7:30 Lapidary Section	17 7:30 Paleo Section	18 7:30 Faceting Section 10-5 Shop Open	19	20	21 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
22	23	24 7:30 General Meeting	25 10-5 Shop Open	26	27	28 10-5 Shop Open
29	30	31				

2010		September				2010
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Mineral Section 10-5 Shop Open	2	3	4 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
5	6 Labor Day	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 7:30 Faceting Section 10-5 Shop Open	9	10	11 10 a.m.- Shop Open to 5
12	13 1:00 Day Light Section	14 7:30 Show Committee	15 7:30 Mineral Section 10-5 Shop Open	16	17	18 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
19	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-5 Shop Open	23	24	25 10-5 Shop Open
26	27	28 7:30 General Meeting	29 10-5 Shop Open	30		

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

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

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