



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

Volume XLII - No. 4

April 2011



President's Message

by Steve Blyskal

It's March as I write this, and spring is coming to Houston and to Texas after a colder than usual winter. While some people's thoughts turn to romance or flowers in the spring, Texas rockhounds are itching to get in the field and do some collecting before the weather gets too hot. The club has had one good Paleo field trip and another is scheduled for mid-March to Brownwood. Several members have been on the Walker Ranch trips being scheduled out of Alpine, TX, and there are two more on tap for March and April. I know people who have been to South Texas for petrified wood and agate. If you were here for the February General Meeting, you heard about topaz collecting trips set up for Mason, TX for this month. I'm sure there have been lots of individual trips also. So get out and collect some rocks, minerals, or fossils, and enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful spring weather.



If you have been to the clubhouse this month, you have seen some of the dramatic changes we've made. The kitchen has been completely reorganized, and old, broken items thrown out or recycled. Many thanks go to Sarah Metsa, our Secretary and new Quartermaster, for spearheading this effort. With the assistance of Sigrid Stewart and others, they made more improvement to the kitchen than I've seen since we moved into the building so many years ago. The cleanup Sunday also focused on the attic, and with lots of effort and the direction of Beverly Mace, many things were moved around,

Continued on page 4

Upcoming Programs



April 26, 2011: To be announced.



May 24, 2011: To be announced.

Contents

President’s Message 1

Upcoming Programs 1

Purpose of HGMS 3

Old Geezer—More Miscellaneous Memories 5

Education Report for 2010 7

BenchTips 7

Helpful Hints! (they never hurt) 8

A Safety Note on KITS for Emergency Preparedness 9

Upcoming Mineral Section Programs 10

General Meeting Minutes 11

Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes 13

Photos taken during the February 22, 2011 General Meeting 16

Show Time 2011 18

Calendars 19

Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source. Articles without a byline are considered to have been written by the editor.

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

*Copy is due for the May 2011 issue by
Wednesday, April 6, 2011.*

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

*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>.

President's Message continued from page 1

thrown out, or re-purposed. The Youth Section now has their show materials near the stairs, which will save lots of time and backaches in November for sure. The Info booth also had their things shifted closer to the stairs. The Mineral Section redid their space and made even better use of it. All in all, it was a very productive day, and you should see the attic now!

Through our member Bill Moore we got a contractor to replace the ceiling in the metal fabrication classroom, and it's now all back in and looking good. The contractor even helped us by reusing the insulation and part of the frame and acoustic panels, which reduced our cost considerably. Look for classes to be scheduled in the near future, if not already.

I've been redoing my "Rock Room" for the second time, since I already need more space. Thinking about storage of mineral collections and the cutting rough and slabs in the garage has lead me to wonder what the rest of HGMS does with their "stuff." Do you store agates and petrified wood in milk crates on the back side of the house? Do you have boxes of rocks for cutting rough in your garage in every possible corner? Do you have slabs and crystals and fossils out on every possible surface in your home? Do you have a display case for your best stuff? I answered "yes" to all of the above; how about you? The key thing is—do you know what you have? I was very lucky in that Art Smith got to me early when my collection was "only" 500 specimens. He got me started on cataloguing them with information on locality, what show I got them at, and how much I paid. That early collection has grown to over 3000 specimens, and it's still a struggle to get all the new specimens documented. Why is this important? You can say "I know every rock, where I found it or bought it, and how much I paid." That's great, but knowledge in your head can be lost, and then what happens? Let me give you an example. Last year the club was approached by a person whose father had passed away and left a small collection (350 specimens) that needed disposition. It was made easier for them that the collector had kept accurate records of what he paid for most specimens. They knew when someone was offering a fair price and when they weren't. Often I see collections where there are no labels with the specimens and sometimes it's impossible to know for sure where they came from. The same thing is true for other specimens. If you have a collection of fine agates, does anyone other than you have knowledge of them? Why is this important you say? Because we only "own" these specimens for a short time, and when our time taking care of them is done, where will they go? Do you want them to go to the dump or be redistributed to your friends and other collectors? As custodians of these stones, we are responsible for them continuing to be enjoyed and appreciated after we're gone. If we don't care, why should our heirs? How many of you have family that will love and admire your rocks the same as you do? You are lucky if you do. If not, you might consider leaving your collection to the HGMS! Many members have already done that over the years. Club members will surely enjoy them. Okay, that's enough lecturing for this month. Get out there and enjoy the spring and find some rocks to bring home!

Old Geezer—More Miscellaneous Memories

by John Emerson

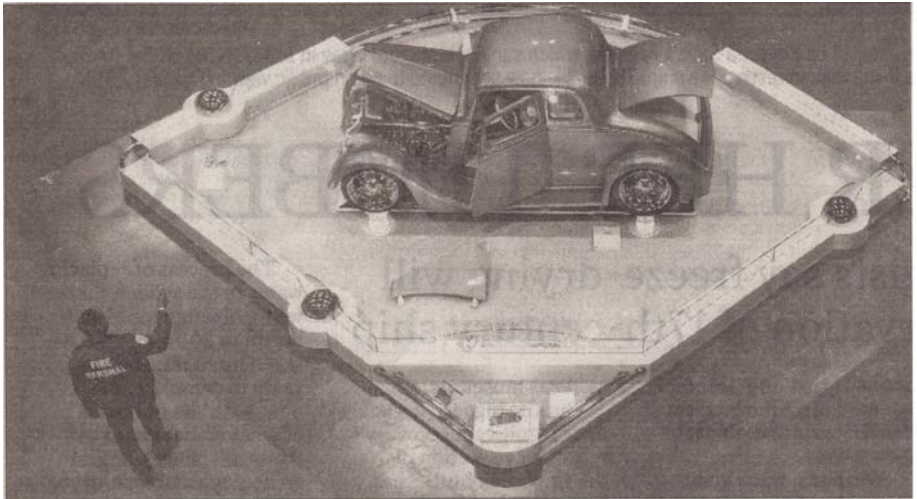
Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

While deer hunting with my Dad about 1940, I was hiding in a “deer stand” in a tree. I shot a buck deer and before I climbed down from the tree, a bobcat came to check on the deer. I shot him before he got a bite. I will bring head and hide to show & tell at the next Paleo and General Meetings.

Bobbie was president of the American wives’ club in Teheran in 1970/71. There were several American companies with families, American wives of Iranians, as well as the dependants of the American embassy and of the US Air Force personnel who were training Iranian Air Force pilots—big mistake!

I believe there were several hundred American wives in Tehran at that time. Their main project was to promote education of Iranian children in some of the remote villages—particularly girls. It was an uphill struggle.

In the 1930s, when we lived in Freer, my mother’s car had front doors that opened from the front. Best not open when in motion! In the November 29, 2010, Chronicle there was a photo of a 1933 Willys Coupe with front opening doors very much like hers, except Mom’s was a four door sedan and, I believe, a Chevy.



PICTURE PERFECT: A spectator sneaks a peek at a 1933 Willys Coupe on Sunday in Houston at the 51st Annual AutoRama, one of the nation's longest-running indoor car shows.

One of Dad’s employees in Freer had a coupe very much like the above picture but with a “rumble seat.” To those too young to remember, it was a seat in the trunk of a coupe that was used by opening the trunk lid that folded back so that the seat faced forward—open to the air with no cover. The employee’s son was a good friend of mine, and I would sometimes sleep over at his house. His name was Billy Dale Young. One day

Billy Dale and I were in the rumble seat, standing up while his father drove over some dirt roads. He hit a bump, and I fell out. I was not badly hurt. He swore me to secrecy so Dad would not fire him for being so reckless. To explain my bruises, I told Mom and Dad that I fell out of a tree house. Probably the last lie I ever told—and got away with it!

In previous columns I mentioned that I had a maternal grandmother in Smithville, Texas, who owned a Funeral Home and Flower Shop—the only ones in town. She had all funerals and weddings covered. She hired a young mortician just out of school to help her. One day a deceased man was brought in to be embalmed who was still in rigor with one arm raised in the air when he was placed on his back. The young mortician started the embalming process by opening an artery to start the blood draining and, at the same time, started the machine to inject embalming fluid in a different point to push the blood out. It took quite a time to finish. While this was going on, he began to read the newspaper. As the process continued, the rigor relaxed, and the arm dropped down and tore the paper from the man's hands. He screamed, ran out the door, and was about a block down the street before he realized what had happened and came back, sheepishly, to endure the laughter of the rest of the funeral home personnel.

After a terrible auto wreck, as a 6 or 7 year old, I saw what was brought in to be embalmed. They told me later that, when I saw the carnage, I said "Good grief—three bodies and a bucket of blood." The bucket of blood was that cleaned out of the ambulance.

Ghoulish as it may seem, the mortician's slogan is "A sad face and a glad heart."

As I have mentioned before, I spent 41 days in the Alice, Texas, hospital in 1949 after a car wreck. I was "sandbagged" in bed so as not to disturb my broken neck. One morning when a nurse came in to give me a bath, she seemed very upset. I asked her what the problem was. She replied that a young woman had entered into the hospital to give birth, and when she (the nurse) was trying to shave her pubic hair, the patient kept crossing her legs in embarrassment. The nurse then said "I told her that if she had crossed her legs 9 months ago, she would not be here now!"

Another hospital story—One day a new nurse came in to give me a bath. She left the sheet on me and carefully lowered the top down in order to wash my face, arms, and upper body. She then pulled the sheet up so she could wash my legs. At that point she gave me the wash cloth and said, "Here, wash your secrets." Wise a@@ me, I said "Hell, woman, I got no secrets!" After that, I didn't! But I was very clean.

The movie "The Wizard of Oz" was shown on TV the night of December 18, 2010. I remember seeing it when it first came out in 1939. My Dad took me and my mother to see it at the Tower Theater in Corpus Christi. It was a long 40-mile drive from our home in Alice—72 years ago! I enjoyed seeing it again.

Dad also took us to see the movie "Gone with the Wind" when it first came out at the same theater. I remember that there were gasps and muttering when Clark Gable said "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." That was quite risqué in those days!

Education Report for 2010

by *Brian Honsinger*

All the accounting for 2010 is now in, and Education took in an astounding \$21,089.50. It was a very challenging year but produced many firsts for us. We had two jewelry classes under way at one time, so we were training 16 students in two levels of jewelry making at the same time. That is \$6000.00 in a five-week time frame in fees! That mounts up fast when you get it in like that.

Charlie Fredregill taught almost 40 students to wire wrap. David Hawkins taught a class of 12 at one time to make his style of solder-less jewelry. Carolyn Promisel and Kathy Konkell taught their first of what we hope will be many classes for us.

One third of that sum or about \$7,000.00 went to our six teachers who all taught two or more classes last year. They are Wayne Barnett, Val Link, Charlie Fredregill, Kathy Konkell, David Hawkins, and Carolyn Promisel. None of this would have been possible without their skills. One third of that sum goes for supplies and new equipment, and the final third goes to the club.

We acquired several new toys for our jewelry room. All of our now three separate stainless steel shot-filled polishing drums are seen through Lexan or plastic, so we can see our projects getting shined up. A new turbo torch was purchased, and we will begin a casting class very soon.

Let me tell you about one of my many wishes for our club. I would like to see us get a large enough group interested in casting so that at least one Saturday a month we would have a group turning out new items in sterling silver. It may get too hot for some of the months, but we could warm the building on some fine winter mornings!

Come on in and let me know what class you need. I have Charlie Fredregill lined up to teach our first Beginning Jewelry Class starting March 26 or 27. We still have 5 openings in this class, so get in soon. That class will wrap around Easter, so we will extend that class for a week to give everyone that holiday off. Val Link wants to teach a Metal Folding Class and another Beginning Jewelry Class when I can get it going.

BenchTips

by *Brad Smith*

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

IF you're interested in filigree jewelry, take a look at some of the pieces students finished up in our last class in Santa Monica. Pics are at <http://www.facebook.com/SMjewelry>

Emery Boards: The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local drug store.

Dental Floss: When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

Helpful Hints! (they never hurt)

*from the Ft. Collins' Lodestone (official RMFMS newsletter), 2/2011,
via Rocky Mountain News 3/2011*

Many lapidarists now heat nodule and thunder egg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200° F oven until they are warm to the touch or putting specimens in hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.

To repair a spread-apart link in a small broken chain, insert a toothpick in the two adjacent links. The faulty link is thus held in place for pliers to pinch it together again.

To break a cavity filled with fragile crystals away from a large matrix specimen: fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the piece with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of the hammer blow from loosening the crystals.

Dinosaur bone is handled much like agate—sanded to 600 grit on silicon carbide and polished on hard felt with tin oxide. The stone is finished with black rouge on a muslin buff. The muslin buff can clean out the tin oxide that remains between the bone cells, and the black rouge applies a stain to the tin oxide that remains behind. What color rouge you use might depend on the color of your bone.

To spot cracks and vugs before sawing, first soak it in a tub of water for at least an hour. Remove the rock and place it in a sunny spot. The surface will dry quickly, but the fractures and vugs will not. Use a soft pencil to mark the rock for guidance in sawing.

Take lint from your clothes dryer lint catcher and add it to the polishing compound for tumbling. It will speed up the polishing and prevent chipping.

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation.

A Safety Note on KITS for Emergency Preparedness

by Owen Martin

AFMS/SCFMS Safety Chairman

from SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/2011

As we seem to be winding down from a rough winter, it looks like our spring storms are ready to continue bringing the punches. Although I've written a lot in the past couple of years about keeping you and your family safe while "in the field," I thought I'd take this opportunity to write about doing it at home.

In the past month I've seen incidents of flooding, freezes, tornadoes, nor'easters, and now fires.

So my question to the reading audience is, "do you have an Emergency Action Plan for your own family?"

For as long as I can remember, our local fire departments and news stations have made recommendations that every family do at least one annual fire drill in their homes so that everyone knows what to do.

Similarly, I'm asking each of you to consider building a list and a kit AHEAD of time for a few different circumstances.

First, a list for what you will need if you are stranded at home and lacking utilities.

This list should allow you enough food and supplies to comfortably make it through at least three days and include a week's worth of water for each person in your house.

Second, a list for what you will need in the case of a short-term evacuation. Assume time away from home for less than a week.

Third, a list for what you will need in a situation where you could be displaced from your home for a greater than one week term.

A couple of years ago we got hit by hurricane Ike in Houston. My family and I were prepared and evacuated according to plan. Unfortunately several of my neighbors assumed it wasn't going to be a bad storm and stayed. A couple of things that they didn't count on were the total loss of utilities and the tornado that chewed up the roofs of all our houses.

I'm sad to say that the only people that were prepared for these other contingencies were me and the older lady across the street. That left 14 families on our street with no clue what they were going to do and lacking a PLAN. They flailed around inefficiently for days.

The results included a "second wave" of evacuations for the families, especially those with kids, who didn't realize they couldn't "live" without utilities. Also, several houses had significant ceiling collapses due to the water damage that followed from rain after

the tornado tore up a lot of the roofs. This left their houses unlivable for several weeks in some cases.

So enough about Hurricane Ike. My company has offices in Rayne, LA, where there was an F-0 tornado last week. Just a little tornado. It only left 1500 people homeless.

And did I mention the ice storm? My pipe froze and burst in my neighbor's house, causing the collapse of part of the ceiling and forcing them to be without water for three days. Unfortunately the plumbers were busy with lots of those problems.

Oh, and I can add... lots more stories... but should get back to the point!

I titled part of this article with the word "KITS," and thus I strongly encourage you to buy what you need well in advance of your time of need, and build your KITS. You'll find that most of your lists include many of the same things: cash, kids, pets, pillows, flash lights, cell phone chargers, batteries, tents, first aid kits, etc., etc., etc.

A cavalier attitude toward your own preparedness and safety is unfortunately common, however. Take the time to EXERCISE SOME COMMON SENSE and get prepared.

BE SAFE!!!

Upcoming Mineral Section Programs

by Paul Brandes, Mineral Section Vice-Chair



April 6: To be announced

April 20, 2011 To be announced

May 4, 2011—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. - Also, on May 5, The Houston Fine Minerals Show (April 30–May 2) will be discussed. Bring in your recent acquisitions and let us drool over them.

May 18 2011: To be announced

June 1, 2011—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.

General Meeting Minutes

February 22 , 2011

by Sarah Metsa

HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

Auction: A saw was sold for \$490. There was a sandblaster, without bids, so it will be held for another auction.

Visitors and New Members: Gloria Jean Carroll was a first-time visitor and attended the meeting with Past President Terry Proctor. Tiffany Knight and Joyce Arnold attended from Mason, TX, with the program presenter B. Diane Eames. Ruth Ann Metsa was visiting Houston from Moline, Illinois and attended the meeting with her daughter Sarah Metsa, a current member.

Prior Month General Meeting Minutes: The HGMS minutes for the January 25, 2011 meeting were published in the March 2011 BBG. Wayne Barnett moved that the minutes be accepted as published. Terry Proctor seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership: Dues are now due. Please turn in to the office or Beverly Mace.

Treasurer Report: Rodney Linehan was not in attendance, but Steve Blyskal reported that the club is solvent and in good condition.

Officer, Committees, and Section Reports:

Daylight Section: The February 14 program was a lecture-demo by John Zanders, entitled "CARVING A JADE RING." John shared how he carves finger rings out of jade and provided a number of example rings he has produced from various stone materials. He also gave a live demo of some of the procedures he follows in carving a stone ring.

Lapidary Section: Margaret Hardman-Muye and Ed Clay presented a program on picking good material for lapidary work. They had samples of good and bad options as well as finished projects.

Paleo Section: Neal Immega recommended a really good introduction to a paleo book and video series. It is by David Attenborough and is titled "Live on Earth."

Mineral Section: At the March 2 meeting, Robert Thacker and others will have some acquisitions to share from the Tucson show—items that were unavailable at previous meetings. Also this will be an opportunity to share items from the recent Clear Lake show.

Youth Section: 14 children attended the February 19th meeting. All were new to cutting.

Faceting Section: Wayne Barnett announced that due to potential bad weather and

ice, the February meeting was canceled. The March meeting will be the replacement meeting. Transfers and doping with wax will be practiced. Bring your own tools if you have them.

Archeology Group: It was reported that there were five people at the February meeting. Also, they are still working on a March or April fieldtrip to McFaddin Beach.

Show Committee: Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that a Show Publicity Chair is still needed. Steve Blyskal provided the times and dates of the Clearlake show in Pasadena. It is February 26 and 27, and volunteers are needed.

Shop Master Report: Neal Immega reported that the shop is stinky due to rust cleanup. Also, a contractor has been contacted about repairing the ceiling of the metal-working class room.

Education: Charlie Fredregill is teaching a wire wrapping class on February 27.

Communications Director Report: Phyllis George reported that a backup BBG Editor is needed. Anyone familiar with the PageMaker program who is interested in helping should please contact Phyllis or Steve Blyskal in order to arrange backup. Neal Immega is Phyllis' backup for the HGMS Web site. It was also mentioned that a backup is needed for Neal as Shop Master and Beverly Mace as Membership Coordinator.

Old Business:

Mineral Sets for Schools: Volunteers are needed to help put together more boxes. There are 50 minerals in each box. The minerals require numbering, and boxes need folding. New members Jim Kendall and Pete Stassi helped put together many of these items recently which has been a big help.

New Business:

Reminder of Shop fees: Using the slab saw is 20 cents per inch in addition to the \$2.00/hour shop fee. Using the 6" trim saw is part of the \$2.00/hour shop fee, but the largest piece of rock that should be cut on this saw is 2 inches maximum or the saw can be damaged.

Drawing: New member LaVon Westfall won the drawing. The prize was a large piece of hexagonal shaped and polished Mexican onyx.

Show and Tell: In the March 2011 BBG, John Emerson wrote about several brass rubbings he and Bobbie made in 1981. He brought the brass rubbings for display during the meeting.

Wayne Barnett shared several stones he has faceted.

Mike Dawkins had a giant fossilized urchin to show that he found during a recent fieldtrip.

Program:

B. Diane Eames, a GIA Graduate Gemologist and Texas faceter and lapidary, has an accomplished 27 years working in the fine jewelry field, both wholesale and retail. She is the current spokesperson and President for the Texas Faceter’s Guild and is the lead faceter and owner of “Gems of the Hill Country” in Mason TX. She presented a wonderful program titled “Mason County Topaz” featuring interesting facts on our state gem along with faceted examples she has designed and cut. She gave us the lowdown on the upcoming Texas Topaz Day celebration which will be held March 26 in Mason TX with a faceting seminar presented on March 27.

Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2011
by Sarah Metsa
HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum of seven members present.

X	President – Steve Blyskal		Beading Rep – Jillynn Hailes
X	1 st Vice President – Ray Kizer	X	Faceting Rep – Gary Tober
X	2 nd Vice President – Beverly Mace		Lapidary Rep – Phyllis George
X	Treasurer – Rodney Linehan	X	Mineral Rep – Sigrid Stewart
X	Secretary – Sarah Metsa	X	Paleontology Rep – Terry Brawner
X	Past President – Terry Proctor	X	Day Light Rep – Nancy Fischer

Previous Month Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the February 1, 2011 Board Meeting were published in the March 2011 BBG. Terry Proctor moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as published. Gary Tober seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Rodney Linehan reported that there is around \$78,000 in the checking accounts. The Board was satisfied that HGMS is in good financial condition.

Officer, Committees and Section Reports:

Daylight Section: The February 14 program was a lecture-demo by John Zanders entitled “Carving a Jade Ring.” John shared how he carves finger rings out of jade and provided a number of example rings he has produced from various stone materials. He also gave a live demo of some of the procedures he follows in carving a stone ring.

Faceting Section: The February meeting was iced out. The program for the February meeting will be presented during the March meeting. Transfers and dopping with wax will be practiced, and attendees should bring their own tools if they have them.

Lapidary Section: The Section has purchased ten new Naugahyde aprons for shop work. The February Lapidary Meeting featured a program by Margaret Hardman-Muye in which she and Ed Clay provided information and examples about the properties that make a stone a good candidate for lapidary work.

Mineral Section: At the March 2 meeting, Robert Thacker and others will have some acquisitions to share from the Tucson show, items that were unavailable at previous meetings. Also this will be an opportunity to share items from the recent Clear Lake show. The March 16 meeting will be a program by Farrar Stockton about New Zealand and its varied topography.

Paleo Section: They had a Whiskey Bridge field trip in February, and are planning a Brownswood Texas trip for March 17.

Youth Section: 14 children attended the February 19th meeting. All were new to cutting.

Archeology Group: The group is working to have a program about knapping and also a program about arrowheads.

Show Committee: Theresa Peek provided a proposed show budget of \$44,800 for review. After discussion and review, the Board determined it was a well-planned budget. Terry Brawner moved to approve the budget as provided. Terry Proctor seconded, and it carried unanimously. Theresa also asked to be provided with a copy of the venue contract with the Humble Civic Center and she reported that the Show Committee is still in need of a Ticket Chair, a Security Co-Chair, and an Assistant Co-Chair. Sarah Metsa has agreed to be the Publicity Co-Chair.

Quartermaster Report: Clubhouse Cleanup Day is a good starting point for determining what sundry kitchen, bathroom, and clubhouse items are needed.

Old Business:

Stepstools: Matt Dillon purchased a stepstool for the library.

Key Holder instruction and signoff sheet: Terry Proctor provided the instruction sheet and checklist to Ray Kizer. Ray will bind the instructions. These will be made available to the responsible key holder to review/complete before closing up the clubhouse.

Coffeemaker: The new coffee maker is in place and ready to use. The old coffee maker is going to be removed as part of Clubhouse Clean Up day on March 6.

Metal Working Classroom Ceiling: A contractor has been contacted, and the ceiling should be repaired soon.

Front Door Emergency Lock: A contractor has been contacted about a push lock for the front door. It should be installed as soon as estimates are reviewed and voted on.

Clubhouse Cleanup Day: This is still planned for March 6. Sarah Metsa will ask Neal Immega to send a reminder e-mail out to his distribution list.

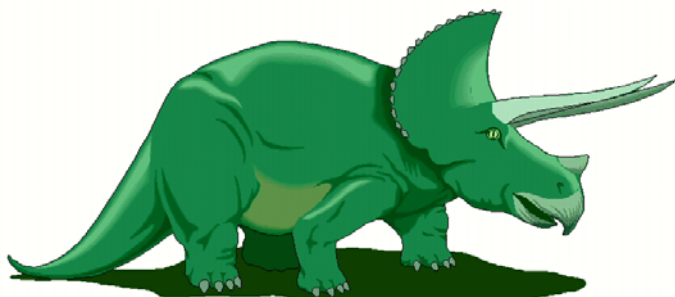
New Business:

BBG and Web Site Backup: While Phyllis George is recovering from knee surgery, Neal Immega will be helping with Web site updates. The BBG April edition will be delayed due to the surgery.

Action Items:

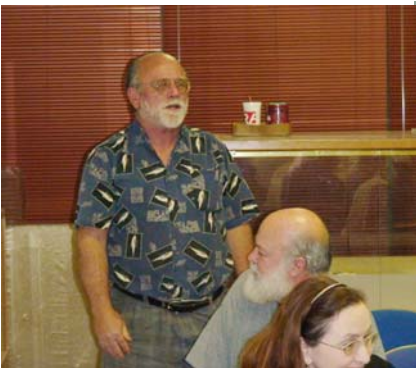
Assigned to:	Item:
Sarah	Hang the supply request envelopes and the emergency contact sheet
Sarah	Contact carpenter to see what it would cost to have drawers installed/repaired in kitchen. Member Andy Anderson is a potential contact.
Sarah	Bring a drill and metal drilling bit to install new lock on the women's restroom stalls.
Steve	Contact an independent auditor/adjuster to have the roof reviewed and a final recommendation made
Steve	Contact the business park board and determine what paint color is required to repaint the door.
Steve	Ask Wayne about the status of the kiln repair
Steve	Arrange for an emergency push bar to be installed on clubhouse front door
Steve	Arrange a safety audit review with Owen Martin
Ray	Bind the key holder instruction manual and checklist and bring to clubhouse.
Ray	Check with Neal to ensure the acetylene tank has a check valve. Use the Rio Grande catalog, page 463, as reference

Adjourn: Terry Proctor moved that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Brawner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



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

Photos taken during the February 22, 2011 General Meeting
Terry Proctor, Photographer





Mason County Topaz

Show Time 2011

April 1-3	Macomb, Illinois	National Fossil Exposition XXXIII Western Hall, Western Illinois University Tom Williams, Paleotom234@dishmail.net Steve Holley, Ifossil@hotmail.com www.midamericapaleo.org
April 15-17	Alpine, TX	SCFMS/Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Min. Club Alpine Civic Center, Hwy. 90 W & 13th St. N Mary Brogan, (432) 386-2340 marybrogan@rocketmail.com; www.cdgmc.org
April 9-10	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine
April 16-17	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Texas State Technical College Industrial Tech. Bldg., 101 Campus Dr. off I-35, North of Waco
April 30-May 1	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Civic Center
May 28-29	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Society Will Rogers Memorial Center
July 7-10	Syracuse, NY	AFMS/EFMLS Federation Show Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse New York State Fairgrounds Center of Progress Bldg. cathypatterson@verizon.net; www.gmss.us
August 13-14	Baton Rouge, LA	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Fraternal Order of Police
August 20-21	Bossier City, LA	Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center
August 27-28	Jasper, TX	Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Events Center
October 13-15	Mount Ida, AR	25th Annual Quartz Crystal Digging Contest Montgomery County Fairgrounds Maureen Walther, Mt. Ida Ch. of Commerce 870 867-2723; www.mountidachamber.com director@mountidachamber.com
November 11-13	Humble, TX	Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59; www.hgms.org Chris&Theresa Peek; ladyt682@hotmail.com

2011		April				2011
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
3	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 7:30 Mineral Section 10-5 Shop Open	7 7:30 Archaeology Group	8	9 10-5 Shop Open
10	11 1:00 Day Light Section	12 7:30 Show Committee	13 7:30 Faceting Section 10-5 Shop Open	14	15	16 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
17	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20 7:30 Mineral Section 10-5 Shop Open	21	22	23 10-5 Shop Open
24	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-5 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-5 Shop Open

2011		May				2011
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 7:30 Board Meeting	4 7:30 Mineral Section 10-5 Shop Open	5 7:30 Archaeology Group	6	7 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
8	9 1:00 Day Light Section	10 7:30 Show Committee	11 7:30 Faceting Section 10-5 Shop Open	12	13	14 10-5 Shop Open
15	16 7:30 Lapidary Section	17 7:30 Paleo Section	18 7:30 Mineral 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 Memorial Day	31				

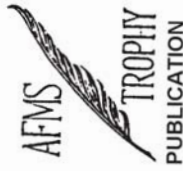
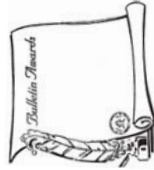
The **BACKBENDER'S** **GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 BROOKLET

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006 - 1st (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2008 - 1st (Large)
2009 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 1st (Large)

AFMS

1998 - 2nd (Large)
2004 - 3rd (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 2nd (Large)

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
PERMIT NO. 303

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED²