



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

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October 2012



President's Message *by Charlie Fredregill*

I can't believe that this year is almost over. I have only a little over two months to go as your President. When I took the job, I had no idea what to expect. I had no great agenda. Our club was running smoothly, the facilities were in relatively good order, and the roof didn't leak too badly. Our workshop was in good repair and very productive. (Thanks, Neal).

And thanks to a lot of very hard working people, and that is still the case. I can't take credit for this, but I can take credit for the fact that I didn't get in anyone's way.



Most of us talk about our club house with a certain sense of pride. We do have a wonderful facility. Our workshop and class rooms are the best in Houston. But that is not what makes HGMS so great. It was, and is, and will always be (I hope) the HGMS membership. This is a social community of artists and craftsmen. We have a spectrum of talents ranging from beginners to professionals. There is a common ground of helpfulness and generosity throughout our organization. I am very proud to be among such people.

When you read this, the major activity of our organization will be in full swing. The

Continued on page 4

General Meeting Programs *by Bill Moore*

September 25, 2012: Garth Clark will present a program on how humans and metal correspond to each other.

October 23, 2012: To be announced

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

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Purpose of HGMS

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

Membership dues are \$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

annual show is upon us. This is our major effort to support HGMS. It takes a lot of money to support our non-profit organization, and the show is one of the main sources of that support. This is a volunteer organization—so volunteer! Each Section has a particular area of interest that needs helping hands. We have general areas such as the Information Booth and Tickets that can always use help. This is a community—if you have gotten something from your community, support it with a few hours of your time

Old Geezer Reports—More on the Article in Mid-America

by John Emerson

This is a follow up for the September start for our 2005 article in M.A.P.S. The third and final chapter will be in the November issue

Identification

Step 1. Members of OSTREACEA have the following characteristics in common. Be sure “it” really is an oyster!

1. Margins open except at point of valves fusion (no gape).
2. Left (lower) valve is cemented to a firm substratum (rare exceptions).
3. Shell shape may be very inequivalve to slightly inequivalve.
4. Shell does not have transverse partitions or sutures.
5. Shell is coiled with low spire and has two valves.
6. An attachment scar is on posterior side of left (lower) valve.
7. Only one adductor muscle impression is present.
8. Oysters are toothless.
9. The ligamental area is divided into three parts with resilifer in the middle.

Step 2. Learn to recognize a left valve from a right valve. No one infallible procedure for distinguishing between the left and right valve of an oyster exists. However, there are some general guidelines:

1. Left (lower) valve is rougher in texture and heavier than right (upper) valve.
2. Left valve has an attachment scar (with extremely rare exceptions).
3. Left valve is usually larger than right valve.

Identification descriptions often discuss both right and left valve characteristics. However, most identifications rely heavily on the features of the left valve and may include only a partial or no description of the right valve.

Step 3. Correct orientation, knowledge of measurement terminology, and familiarity with morphological terms are essential.

Orientation (Figure 3.)

1. Dorsal refers to the uppermost area in the region of the hinge.
2. Ventral is opposite the hinge where the valves open most widely.
3. Anterior side lies to the right when looking at the interior of a left valve with dorsal side uppermost.
4. Posterior side lays to the left side when looking at the interior of a left valve with dorsal side uppermost.

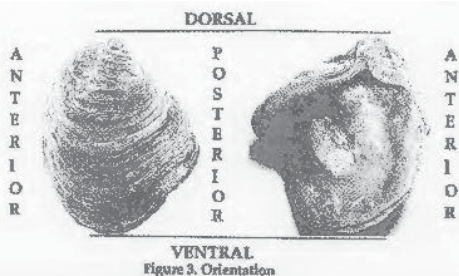


Figure 3. Orientation

Measurements (Figure 4.)

1. Height, H measures dorsal to ventral sides.
2. Length, L measures anterior to posterior sides.
3. Width or Convexity (W or C), taken from a lateral view is the largest measurement on a line that is at right angles to mid-axis.

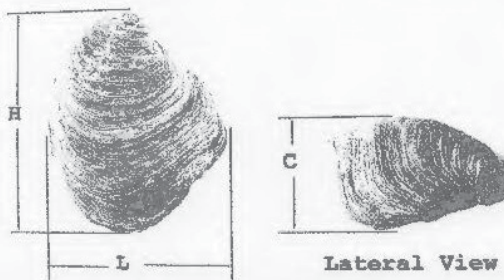


Fig. 4. Measurements

Selected Useful Terms and Definitions

Adductor muscle. Single posterior muscle.
Connects two valves.

Attachment scar. Marks place of attachment
of left valve to firm substratum.

Beak. Marks point where shell growth started.

Editor's Note: My apologies to John Emerson. Due to space limitations, I've had to leave out page 3 of his article. I hope I will have space to include it in the November issue.

Frances Arrighi—In Memoriam

Frances Arrighi passed away Sunday, August 19, 2012. She had fallen in her house about two months before and passed out. Some club members became quite concerned because they hadn't seen her for several days, so they went to her home where they and the fire department found her. She was rushed to the hospital, and for a while we thought she might recover. Many members visited her while she was there hoping that she would get well. Frances had been very active in the Houston Gem & Mineral Society for many years. She was especially active in the Lapidary Section, but when driving at night became challenging for her, she created the Day Light Section which met during the day. That Section is the only one that works on lapidary projects to their completion. The entire club membership will miss her.



I invited the club members to send me stories of their memories of Frances. They are below.

My First Encounter with Frances Arrighi

by Phyllis George

I started as Editor of The Backbender's Gazette in early 1996. I received a write-up about the previous Day Light Section meeting from Frances. Some minor corrections in punctuation and wording were necessary before I included it in the issue on which I was working. A few days after she received her copy, Frances called me—she was not at all happy and demanded to know why I had made changes to her article. I explained that I had corrected two punctuation errors and reworded two sentences in her text to make her meaning clearer.

"You don't know much about writing, do you?" she demanded. Startled, I was silent for a moment or two, and then I told her that I had taught high school-level English grammar and literature in the Katy school district for five years in the mid-1980s.

Frances was quiet, but then she said that maybe she had been a little hasty. We got along quite well after that. I and many other HGMS members will greatly miss her.

My Memories of My So-Very-Few Interactions with Frances.

by Patricia Gannon-Hildbold

Frances was exceptionally patient—at least with me. I was unable to come to Daylight Section where so many interesting things were going on. So I would talk to her before our Saturday Beading Section meetings. We would discuss what they had done, and she explained not only the theory of what they were doing but showed me how it was done as well. I'm grateful to her for that; I learn best when I see something demonstrated.

She also did some of the most beautiful beadwork I have ever seen. She had an artist's eye for color and form. Her patience working with the tiniest of beads was amazing—yet she was not too shy to ask for help when she needed it. She will be missed!

Francis Arrighi

by Mary Ann Mitscherling

September 3, 2012

We all have our strong points and our weak points. When I remember Frances Arrighi, I remember her strong points. Most of us remember Frances for her role in directing the Day Light Section of HGMS. Frances was always pushing us to try new things, to learn new techniques, to sample difficult skills. She was very animated when topics or activities she liked came up. She always seemed to collect more than she needed or could use. She loved beading. I attended more Beading Section meetings and learned some new (to me) cabochon mounting techniques with bead embellishments. And again this was because Frances expressed such enthusiasm for beading and its uses. Frances seemed to prefer staying active doing just what she wanted to do, and little else. She was always so patient with us. She really enjoyed the annual Day Light Christmas parties. I am glad she got to enjoy her new car for the short time she had it. I miss her.

Francis Arrighi—Dictator of the Day Light Section

by Neal Immega, a loyal subject.

Don't get me wrong, a Dictator is a highly efficient way to run a country [example: the Romans], and it lets the Dictator get nearly anything accomplished. When Francis wanted the Day Light Section to have a capability, she bought a tool and got it installed in the classroom without the pain of trying to convince the HGMS board of ANYTHING. These tools are available to everyone to use. There is no other Section that is so generous.

When Francis wanted a class taught on metal working, she got Val Link (jewelry fabrication professor at University of Houston) to give the class. It is nice to be able to get the best.

When the Day Light Section did a project, Francis had the metal in hand and sold it to the students at cost. No one else did that.

Francis was Dictator of the Day Light Section for life by acclimation of the members of the Section, and now that she is gone, we are going to miss her terribly.

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A New Day for Show Hospitality

by Michele Marsel

It is a gargantuan task, feeding all our hungry volunteers and dealers beginning on Thursday morning at show set up and continuing daily with breakfast and lunch service plus beverages throughout the day. Hospitality is the first area set up and the last to tear down.

Having personally coordinated this area for two years, I understand how much work it is. The Hospitality Chair and those who volunteer in this area provide a huge service to all our HGMS Show volunteers and dealer representatives, and many express great appreciation for the services provided. The Hospitality room is a haven away from the hectic show floor with food and drink to keep everyone going.

The 2012 Show Committee is sad to report that services in the Show Hospitality area will be greatly reduced this year. Despite repeated calls for help, no one has come forward to chair. The Show Committee is already spread thin, and cannot provide full meal services without a dedicated Hospitality Chair.

The Hospitality room will provide coffee/water and donuts on set up morning, and Friday through Sunday beginning approximately 1 hour before the show opens. Cold water will be provided throughout all four days, and there will be NO lunch service this year for volunteers. The Hospitality budget will be used primarily to provide vouchers to our dealers to use at the Civic Center concession area as they are not able to be away from their booths to go out and get lunch.

Of course, YOU can still change this story. We were the last of the clubs to provide such extensive hospitality services. Contact Paul Robles (pdrobles@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer as Hospitality Chair and keep the tradition alive!

Time to Volunteer

by Michele Marsel

Our 2012 HGMS Show is right around the corner. Time to step up and volunteer for a shift or two! Remember, the show can't happen without you! We have positions for those who like to work with kids, those who prefer to hide from kids, those who like to run around, and those who prefer to sit down.

Seriously, it takes a whole lot of us to cover Setup Day plus three full show days at the Info Booth, educational activities, the Dino Dig, ticket booth, etc. And we even need volunteers to be sure the Hospitality area has coffee and cold water for all our other volunteers and dealers too.

Check the Annual Show page on our Web site for a link to volunteer opportunities that still need to be filled. Please e-mail ShowVolunteer@hgms.org to tell us which slot(s) you want to sign up for. Everyone who volunteers and works at least one shift will be entered into a prize drawing. We're still working on the "goodie" list—look for an announcement of volunteer prizes soon in the club e-mail blasts from Neal.

Swap Area at the Show November 09–11, 2012

by Steve Blyskal

There will be a swap area at the show this year. It will be located as usual in the glass wall annex on the east side of the convention center, in the same room as the Youth Section booth and activity area. We plan to have our tables follow the curve of the wall across from where the Youth Section will be set up. There are plenty of floor outlets in this area, so swappers can have lights at their tables.

The swap area will operate on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this year—as it has for the past few years. We expect to have many children at the show on Friday, and many of the swappers have minerals suited for beginning collectors. The swap area will be open from 9–6 on Friday, 9–6 on Saturday, and 10–4 on Sunday.

As in past years, those who have minerals, fossils, or polished stones they would like to swap can bring them to the area and attempt to trade them with the swappers who have set up. Swap dollars will also be available for those who do not have an item to trade. Swap dollars work like this. One of the swappers has a piece of petrified wood that you want. You work out a price of \$15.00. Then you go to the booth where swap dollars are sold, give them the \$15.00 in cash, and get 15 swap dollars. The 15 swap dollars are given to the swapper and you get the petrified wood. So what does the swapper do with the swap dollars, you ask? He has until the end of the show to go around to the dealers and find items that he wants. Then he pays for the item with the swap dollars.

How does this benefit everyone? You, the customer, get a good deal—you might save some money buying in the swap area. The swapper gets rid of the material he has on hand—stuff he has found, or cut, or traded for, for example. The dealer gets the money that might not have been spent otherwise.

The swappers can use two tables, plus extra if available, at a charge of \$10.00 per table for the show. Material that can be put out at the swap area includes minerals, rocks, fossils, and equipment. Also cabochons, faceted stones, and jewelry made by the seller. No commercially made jewelry is permitted. Swappers can reserve a place at the swap by calling or e-mailing the Chairman, Steve Blyskal, at steve.blyskal@gmail.com. Table space is limited. There are rules for using the swap area, and violators may not be given table privileges. Swappers are expected to help man the booth selling the swap dollars, and volunteers from the Show Committee are also asked to help. This is one of the more popular volunteer activities since you get to sit down and talk to friendly people. Instructions are provided on how to handle the exchange of cash for swap dollars, and how to handle other situations that might arise.

Swap dollars are valid for purchases of merchandise from dealers at the show up until 6 p.m. Sunday 10/11/2012, at which time they become void. That is why the swap area closes early on Sunday, to allow the swappers time to go spend their swap “money.” Dealers redeem their swap dollars at the end of the show for cash. There-

fore, **all money** spent in the swap area eventually goes to the dealers in the show.

If you still have any questions about the swap area, want to participate and swap, or just want to help sell swap dollars during one of the 3-hour volunteer slots, you can call the swap area chairman, Steve Blyskal, at 832-264-1278 after 7 p.m. in the evening. Come help Steve and learn how the swap area operates! It's a great way to learn more about collecting, meet people, and to help the club!

Show Committee Needs Volunteers!

by Michele Marcel

The Show Committee is now lining up volunteers to work on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the 2012 show. They have determined the various jobs that need to be filled during the three show days, and the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday links now show time slots still needing volunteers as well as the slots that are filled. E-mail Mary Ann Mitscherling at ShowVolunteer@hgms.org to volunteer your time to work at the show.

Safety Note: Don't Hold Your Cat during an Electrical Storm

by Owen Martin

AFMS & SCFMS Safety Chairman

from SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2012

Okay, hopefully that headline caught your attention. I'm somewhat hardheaded and have unfortunately learned this lesson the hard way—twice!!!

Nothing like a lightning strike to turn a cat into all claws going vertical at mach 1. In the worst case, I ended up with my hand being used as the launch pad and was cut to the bone on one of my knuckles. Needless to say, not a lesson that I want to learn a third time.

The point of my note is simple—to encourage you to pay attention to what is going on around you. Look both ways before you cross the road, never look a dog in the eye from close range, don't pick up that stick with the rattle on the end (snake), etc. Common sense points, but we can take them a little farther.

There should not have been anything inherently dangerous about holding a cat in your lap, but add lightning to the mix and bad things happened.

Recently a hiker was killed when a dead tree fell on her. Lesson learned, don't walk under dead trees. Hiking alone was not that dangerous.

Driving down the road in front of my neighborhood, there is a spot that collects water when it rains. That spot is easy to navigate around; however, when a car adjacent to me failed to slow down, I hit the brakes. That car hydroplaned into my lane, but missed me and had road space to avoid completely losing control. Lesson learned: pay attention to those around you who might not be as familiar with the hazards as you are. Driving there should not have been dangerous.

A friend of mine pulled up at an outcrop. A pit bull came running up to his car. My friend stayed put, and the owner showed up a minute later. Ends up, the dog was well adjusted and liked my friend (my friend is now called “bacon”). Lesson learned: staying in the car kept him from a situation where he was not in control. That dog wasn’t dangerous, but my friend didn’t know for sure.

The same friend had an incident where he was walking his dogs on an outcrop. An adjacent landowner accosted him while armed with a shotgun and told him that he would shoot his dogs if they came on the property. My friend promptly left. Lesson learned: discretion is the better part of valor, or in this case—live to hunt fossils on another day. Walking your dogs is not typically a time where you get threatened by a guy with a shotgun!

Yesterday, two men were killed by a lightning strike near where I live. They were sheltering under a tree. Lesson learned: we’ve been told this since we were children, and it is true. These gentlemen could just as easily have sheltered in a car. A very sad thing for their friends and families.

In summary, keep an eye and ear alert to your surroundings. It will help you identify hazards and allow you to minimize your risks associated with those hazards.

Please do so and stay safe this summer! Informed is better than deformed!

Upcoming Mineral Section Programs

by Paul Brandes

October 3, 2012

Gem and Mineral Show Prep: This will be the first of two nights Section Members will gather to begin making preparations for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. This usually ends up being a fun evening of collecting stories and “tall-tale telling” in addition to getting some much needed work done before the Show. Some of the work involved will be putting together teacher kits, organizing the fluorescent exhibit, determining who will be available to help with the Mineral Section booth, and other pre-show activities. Come join us for a fun evening. Refreshments will be provided.

October 17, 2012: Gem and Mineral Show Prep: Finalizing those last-minute items before the Show.

November 7, 2012: To be announced

November 21, 2012: No Meeting (Happy Thanksgiving!)

December 5, 2012: Gem and Mineral Show Wrap-up: This is our opportunity to review the show while it is still somewhat fresh in our minds. Bring your comments on what we did right and where we can improve. Also, bring in your show purchases and be prepared to tell us why you purchased what you did. We will also discuss any specific topics that members would like to have presented for 2013. Refreshments

will be provided.

December 19, 2012: No “official” meeting (The Mineral Section Christmas Party will take the place of this meeting; details TBD).

Surviving in Afghanistan

by Mark Villanueva

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Back in July 2008, one of the worst attacks by the Taliban was carried out and nine US Soldiers were killed. I was angry, confused, mourning. I felt a huge void, and I had to do something for my country. I left the comfort of my gemological laboratory and am now a Pathfinder Team Leader in the US Army.

I returned from Afghanistan late last June. When I was in Afghanistan, at times time stopped, and other days I would wonder where the sun went. I lost friends there, and one of my friends—a young Soldier assigned to me, committed suicide when we returned. He was 21 years old. Talking to Justin’s mom was hard. She was looking to me for answers because the Army did not have one for her. I am adjusting / coping as best as possible. I will be fine—I am staying focused on the future and trying not to think about the bad situations of the past.



Mark Villanueva sitting on an MRAP vehicle

Our lost container finally arrived from Afghanistan. I carried five flags out on missions in my rucksack (backpack). I would rotate the flags flying from my FM antenna on my mine-resistant armored plated (MRAP) vehicle, so all the flags were flown in combat. I wanted to fly my American flags while out on missions—not just at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Kunduz where I was stationed. Kunduz, Afghanistan was a hot area with the Taliban. We worked with other forces as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), force protection team. My tuff box and these flags were in the shipping container that arrived.

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

During the 140 convoy missions, my team never hit an improvised explosive device (IED) or vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), but our company had eight IED and two VBIED attacks. I would rather be in a convoy (because you were in a MRAP vehicle) than be out on a dismounted patrol. I always thought when out on foot patrol that when I reached 100 patrols, I would step on a landmine or that a sniper would take me out. There was a Soldier who did step on a landmine and died. I was eight patrols short, but I saw it as 92 foot patrols too many.

The five guys on my team ranged from 18 to 25 years old. At the end of our tour, they told me they will remember that I always led from the front, and they will also remember “follow me,” the words that I said when we moved out. After our pre-mission brief, I always told them, “walk in my footsteps. If I blow up, walk there—it is now safe; and if I fall in a hole (at night) help me out. Anybody want to take point-man position? (No reply) Okay, let’s move out, follow me.” And off we went.

I carried these five flags out on patrols and during convoys, hoping to never have them stained with my blood or have a bullet hole through them. During the convoys where the Company had contact with IEDs, Soldiers were seriously hurt, but on the road we lost no one when the vehicles got hit.

I now have these flags that I carried out and flew on mission, and I wanted to send one to the Houston Gem and Mineral Society. I made a certificate, “The Certificate of the Combat Flag.” My company Executive Officer CW2, Mr. Brisco, and I both signed it. It accompanies the flag and reads as follows:

“Be it known by all: this displayed American Flag was carried on 92 foot patrols, 140 convoy missions, flown on this Nineteenth day of October Two-Thousand Ten, in the face of the enemy; illuminated in the dark, and bears witness to the removal of the terrorist forces threatening the United States of America. It was flown with pride by TTCS Pathfinder Team Leader Sandman1, Task Force Mustang, 4th Infantry Division, Foxtrot Company in the Northern Province of Kunduz, Afghanistan during “Operation Enduring Freedom 10–11.” This flag was flown in remembrance of all innocents who have lost their lives in terrorist attacks.”

I appreciate all the support that I received from people back here in the United States while deployed. There is a price for Freedom—the ultimate sacrifice that Soldiers have made. The terrorist picked a fight with the wrong country. I would rather kill terrorists on their soil than have them commit suicide on ours. I am only saddened that my military career is coming to an end, but I know I have, like so many brave men and women before, done a great service to our country.

This is the story of the Flag. Please feel free to share this e-mail with other HGMS members.

SSG Mark Villanueva, TTCS Pathfinder Team Leader, 4th Infantry Division

Editor’s Note: Mark's flag and certificate will be mounted on the wall in the meeting room soon. He is ready and eager to answer your gemology questions. E-mail him at gemologist@hgms.org.

Archeology Section Minutes

September 6, 2012

by Terry Proctor

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Dr. Garth Clark, M.D. Secretary Burton Dworsky was absent, so the minutes of this meeting were taken by Vice-Chairman Terry Proctor, J.D.

Nine members were in attendance (in alphabetical order) Denise Bicknell, Tim Bicknell, Dr. Garth Clark, Douglas Dodds, Chase Jennings, Bill Moore, Terry Proctor, Peter Ragusa, and Rod Underwood.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 2 meeting as published in the BBG was made by Terry Proctor, seconded by Bill Moore, and passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about raising a small amount of funds for the Archeology Section Treasury so that the Section can have funds on hand to do some things in the future. An auction was discussed, either as part of another auction in the Club or as our own Auction. It was commented that while there might not be a lot of artifacts for an auction, it could contain fossils, minerals, books, and other things that could be auctioned off. The Section at present has little need for funds, but does need to have some money on hand. Therefore members were asked to think about this. It will be brought up again at the October Section meeting.

Terry Proctor discussed the Archeology Section's three upcoming field trips and the dates for them. The three planned field trips are:

#1 Trip to McFaddin Beach for September 22, 2012 for Pleistocene fossils and artifacts in the Beaumont Clay;

#2 Trip to Chrisners Ranch, 17120 Moody Leon Road, Moody, Texas 76557 for a pay-to-dig trip for Amerindian artifacts; and

#3 Trip to Whiskey Bridge for middle Eocene marine fossils and the barbecue chicken by Terry Stiles at his Ranch afterwards.

Garth Clark announced that he is presenting the program for the HGMS General Membership Meeting on September 25, 2012. It will be on the relationship of metal and humans. This should prove to be a very interesting program on how humans and metal correspond to each other.

Terry Proctor brought to the meeting a certificate from the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies 2012 Bulletin Editors' Contest. The certificate was awarded to Deidre Prince for her adult article. Terry expressed concern as he had been unable to reach Diedre by phone for some time, and Burton was not here tonight either. However, they may be on vacation.

It was determined that in order to give members more research time on the topic of government and on the question of how long democracies last and why, that topic

will be deferred until the October 4, 2012 meeting. Then at the November 1, 2012 Archeology Section meeting, Dr. Garth Clark will bring some artifacts. Others are invited to do so also—artifacts related to governments and elections. This will be a very timely topic just before our National Election on November 6, 2012.

For Show & Tell, Chase Jennings presented some things he had collected. Garth Clark presented old coins he had purchased. Peter Ragusa presented some broken pieces of very old Mexican pottery, figures, and other items from the area where his wife's family lives in Mexico. Some had designs and some had inscriptions in them. Peter also left those items for members who wanted them to take home.

Terry Proctor brought some of the Yellow Rockhound stickers in two sizes and new Rockhound lapel pins which he had ordered for Houston Gem & Mineral Society. Several members purchased them this evening. The money goes into the HGMS General Fund. Stickers which sell at the HGMS Show in November are \$2.00 each for the large stickers for your car and \$2.00 for 10 of the smaller stickers to put on property, letters, or such. The lapel pins sell for \$3.00 at the Show. Members can purchase these at a Section meeting for \$1.00 for the stickers and \$2.00 for the lapel pins.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

General Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2012

by Terry Proctor

(Filling in for Sarah Metsa, HGMS Secretary)

The August General Meeting of HGMS was called to order by President Charlie Fredregill at 7:30 p.m. The evening's crowd was larger than usual probably because of the draw of our speaker for the evening.

Minutes: Terry Proctor moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2012 meeting as published in the Backbender's Gazette. The motion was seconded by Karen Burns, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer had made an earlier report at the August Board Meeting that HGMS is in good financial condition.

Visitors: Cody Meyer and his mother were in attendance. Cody is in high school, but he and his mother both stated that he wants to be a paleontologist and therefore wanted to visit HGMS. Barbara and Ben Staff had lived in Western Pennsylvania and now reside in Deming, New Mexico. They are and have been Rockhounds. They live in a motor home and are traveling around. Since they were in our area, they wanted to visit HGMS tonight. All of our visitors were welcomed and invited back when they can make another meeting.

Drawing: Bill Moore was the winner of the drawing, a lovely piece of quartz crystals.

Show and Tell: HGMS member Owen Martin presented a piece of petrified honey palm from the Jasper, Texas area. Petrified palm wood is the official Texas State Stone. Kevin Gavin displayed a petalotis shark's tooth he found.

Old Business

There will be a Lapidary Auction on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at the Clubhouse. Preview of the items is at 11:30. At 12 noon, lunch will be served. The Lapidary Section will provide the meat. Bring a covered dish and join the group. The auction begins sometime between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. The Clubhouse will be open Wednesday, September 5, for those who want to bid on auction items and give their written bid. Then on Saturday, September 8, there will be a live auction on items and a bid at that time will win over a written lower bid.

New Business

President Charlie Fredregill announced that long-time member and Day Light Section Chairman, **Dr. Frances Arrighi**, died on Sunday, August 19. In the discussion that followed, the BBG Editor suggested that for publication in the **Backbender's Gazette**, HGMS members who knew Frances well should write about their memories of Frances and e-mail it to **Phyllis George**, Editor of the BBG. Phyllis asked that the stories be sent to her on or before Wednesday, September 5 in order to get into the October BBG. Those which come in later will be in the November BBG. Phyllis' e-mail is pgeorge4@comcast.net.

Show Committee: Steve Blyskal spoke on the Show Committee. Steve said we are short leaders in three areas this year. Hospitality is one very important area, and at present there is no one to take charge of that vital function for this year's Show. Without a leader, only coffee and donuts and water will be available—and even that needs someone to be in charge. Our dealers and volunteers count on this, and to have to shut it down would be unfortunate. A second area that needs a leader is the Scouts. Scott Singleton, who has handled this for several years, is now President of the Geophysical Society of Houston—a demanding position. He and his family have also moved into a larger home, and cleaning, sorting, and storing his 4–5 tons of petrified wood has zapped his weekends for the foreseeable future, so he cannot handle it this year. It is very important that we not fail in our Scout Merit Badge Assistance program. The third area is the Dino Dig project where items are buried in concrete and the children are able to dig out fossils. Lexy Bieniek has been elected President of the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association (TSTA) and cannot oversee this project this year. TSTA's annual conference is the same weekend as our show. She will have set up the forms into which the concrete would be poured and “fossils” added, but she will have no time to facilitate the project beyond that.

Therefore, HGMS needs a number of new volunteers to help with the November 2012 show.

On September 29, 2012 there will be a labeling party at the HGMS clubhouse to put mailing labels on postcards announcing the Show. Volunteers are needed to help on

this chore. Then on October 20, 2012, there will be a Pizza Party at the Clubhouse for those who have been working on the Show Committee. Steve discussed other things about the Show Committee, but the main thing is that as usual, the Show Committee needs help NOW! Please volunteer to help with the Show.

Program: First Vice-President Bill Moore announced the program for the evening presented by Charles Finsley. Mr. Finsley was accompanied by this lovely wife, Rosa Finsley. The large turnout undoubtedly was because Mr. Finsley was putting on his program. He has presented programs before at the HGMS, and they are always very interesting.

Mr. Finsley has a B.S. degree from Wittenberg University and an M.S. degree in secondary education **and geology** from the University of North Texas. He participated in the preparation of the Trinity mammoth in North Texas and several large Cretaceous Epoch fish and the Heath mosasaur as well as preparation of the Wise County tenontosaur and the Fate, Texas giant sea turtle. He is a charter member of the Dallas Paleontological Society and an associate member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Mr. Finsley is author of several books, including *Discover Texas Dinosaurs*, *A Field Guide To Fossils of Texas* and *A Simple Comparison of Cow (BOS) & Buffalo (BISON) Bones*. In 1967 Mr. Finsley said a man who owned a sand pit which he had leased out to trucks to haul the sand, called and reported that the trucks were leaving with large bones in the load. Therefore Mr. Finsley and others went to the location and were able to excavate the Trinity Mammoth south of Loop 12 in Dallas. They recovered almost the entire mammoth, except for a few bones which were hauled off first. This mammoth remained stored and forgotten for 16 years until it was recovered and prepped for display in Dallas.

In 1969 Mr. Finsley said a lady called and said she found some bones where she had just landed her boat. This led to the recovery of the 32-foot mosasaur which died 75 MYBP (Million Years Before Present). Mr. Finsley had several stories about a number of other finds and interesting things found and prepared for display. He also spoke of talks he has given to church groups and scientific groups on religion and science. It was a very interesting evening, and as usual Mr. Finsley had a few of his publications that were promptly purchased by HGMS members at very good prices.

Adjourned: Terry Proctor moved to adjourn which was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.



Plesiosaur--seen in the new Paleo Hall in the
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Photo by John Mitscherling

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes*September 4, 2012**by Sarah Metsa**HGMS Secretary*

X	President – Charlie Fredregill	X	Beading Rep – Jillynn Hailes
X	1 st Vice President – Bill Moore	X	Faceting Rep – Gary Tober
X	2 nd Vice President – Beverly Mace	X	Lapidary Rep – Phyllis George
	Treasurer – Rodney Linehan		Mineral Rep – Sigrid Stewart
X	Secretary – Sarah Metsa		Paleontology Rep – Mike Dawkins
	Past President – Steve Blyskal	X	Day Light Rep – Nancy Fischer
		X	Archeology Rep – Terry Proctor

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. with a quorum of seven members present.

Previous Month Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the August 2012 Board Meeting were published in the September 2012 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 was not present. He did e-mail an update on each bank account to all the Board members, and HGMS is in good financial condition.

Officer, Committees, and Section Reports

Beading Section: There were more people than usual at the August meeting, and lots of jewelry items were started and some were finished. The September meeting will be meeting at the Club at noon, going out to eat lunch together, and a field trip to May's Jewelry, a bead store on Harwin.

Daylight Section: They are working on finishing up their olive spoons. They will also be determining new Section roles given the recent passing of Frances Arrighi.

Faceting Section: The August meeting was about orienting and cutting color-zoned stones. They also voted to move the meeting time to 7 p.m., given the difficulty some Section members are having getting to the club by 6:30 p.m.

Lapidary Section: The September 8 auction and potluck is scheduled to begin at noon. Ed Clay has been in touch with a woman whose father was a member in the past. He recently passed away, and she wishes to sell or donate some of his large collection.

Archaeology Section: Three field trips are planned: one on September 22 to McFaddin Beach; one on October 13 to Chrisners Ranch near Temple, Texas for Amerindian artifacts (arrowheads *et al*); and one on November 17 to Whiskey Bridge ending with a barbecue at the nearby Terry Styles Ranch.

Education Committee: A casting class begins September 9, and it is full. The fabrication class is full, but the instructor was recently in an accident and he requires a lot of recovery time, so he may be unable to teach the class. The Education Chair Sarah Metsa and President Charlie Fredregill will be working on a solution so that the class can be held.

Youth Section: Everyone is working on their stones for display at the show.

BBG Editor and Web site: Phyllis George advised that she is having surgery next week and so all submissions for the October BBG must be in to her by Wednesday, September 5. *Editor's Note: I have decided NOT to have the surgery at this time and want to try out a brace. Maybe that will stabilize my lower leg.*

She also reported that our Web site won First Place in the 2012 SCFMS annual Web site competition, and when our entry was forwarded to the AFMS contest, we received Third Place there. The SCFMS Bulletin Editor's contest is completed, and Phyllis advised that the SCFMS head of the Bulletin Editors' Contest is in the process of ordering plaques for the HGMS entries that scored in the top three of their various categories.

Show Committee: Currently there are no volunteers to head the running of the Hospitality Room. There was discussion of possibly paying someone to do that, but that may be unrealistic given the show's budget. Jillynn Hailes mentioned that her company will provide volunteers to not-for-profit organizations for helping with projects. She will investigate what would be needed to secure volunteers from her firm. There was also the mention that we really need to have volunteers in place for ongoing club needs and to take over when lead volunteers are unable to commit to a certain project. Nancy Fischer mentioned that this was one of the purposes of the New Member Welcome Committee that Steve Blyskal and Sarah Metsa want to organize, although both are currently involved in several other club functions. This committee is still in development.

Old Business

Display space in the club: The club has been gifted a US flag that was carried in combat in Afghanistan and an accompanying certificate as well as being the recipient of several different honors. These items are ready for display, and discussion about where to hang them for easy reading occurred. Nothing is finalized, but a few of the items will be hung on the pegboard over the Paleo Library.

Nominating Committee: Charlie Fredregill announced that Margo Bedman will be leading the nominating committee this year. It will meet in September so that nominees can be announced at the October General Meeting and voted on during the November General Meeting.

HCAD Requirements: Terry Proctor presented an e-mail from HCAD asking if the HGMS Articles had been amended so that a letter of final determination could be issued clearing HGMS with HCAD. Terry stated that he would prepare Amended Restated Articles to send in, making only the change voted on by the membership to

name the Houston Museum of Natural Science the recipient of the assets of HGMS should it cease to operate. He then moved to do this. The motion was seconded by Gary Tober, and it passed unanimously. Terry will handle completing this requirement.

Annual Scholarship: Terry Proctor brought to the Board's attention that HCAD had not voted on a 2012 Scholarship award. He stated that he would make two motions. First he moved to provide a 2012 Scholarship of \$2,500.00, the usual amount of our scholarship, seconded by Nancy Fischer and passed unanimously. Second, Terry moved to award the scholarship to Chase Jennings. Chase applied for it after an announcement of the scholarship was published on the Web site with a closing date of May 31, 2012. No other applicants applied. Nancy Fischer seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Florescent Display at Show: Beverly Mace reported that the crew that usually sets up our florescent display (at the direction of Paul McGarry) will not be doing it anymore. The display, which belongs to the club, is stored in two trailers that we can purchase for just the title transfer fees, but the transaction must be completed within the next few days. Terry Proctor moved that we accept the trailers and pay the title transfer fees so that we have some time to decide how to permanently store the trailers and the displays. Phyllis George seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Beverly Mace will get the dimensions of the trailer, and an e-mail will be sent out to the club to see if any member has space on their property to securely store the trailers.

Adjourn: Terry Proctor moved and Jillynn Hailes seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Solar for Emergency Lighting

Author: Unknown

from SCFMS Newsletter 7-8/2012

Editor's Note: I don't know who wrote this, but I thought it was a very good idea and I wanted to pass it along.

I have a friend who used her Solar Lights inside the house at night when the electric power went off during a hurricane. She stuck them in jars and bottles and said they gave off plenty of "free light" in each room. She put them outside in the daytime and brought them back inside at night for several days while the power was off. They are safe to use and cheaper than batteries. She recommended that we bring a Solar Light into our own house one night to test it for ourselves.

Due to a thunderstorm, we lost power for about 5 hours one night. We were scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, and flashlights. Then we looked outside and noticed our Solar Lights shining brightly all around the patio,

stairs and dock. My wife walked outside and brought several of the solar lights inside. We stuck the Solar Light pipes into plastic drink bottles, and they made the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could imagine. We put one in the bathroom, one in the kitchen, and one in the living room.

There are many types of Solar Lights available. We bought quite a few and put them all around our yard. They look nice and do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

The lights we have fit into 20-oz. water bottles and also fit into most larger 2-liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, put in a few of the colorful flat marbles they put in aquariums and vases. You can also use sand, aquarium gravel, or whatever you have available.

The Solar Lights we have are perfect inside our home. They burn all night, and next day we take them back outside where they recharge and are ready for use again when needed. Solar Lights are the perfect light solution for power outages. I had never thought of it before seeing what my friend did, and now you know about this idea too.

SCFMS Web Site Contest Results

Don Shurtz, Outgoing SCFMS Web Site Contest Chair

First, I would like to thank all the webmasters and clubs that entered this year's Web Site Contest. The entries from seven clubs were a vast improvement over the previous year's entries. The winners for the SCFMS 2012 Web Site Contest are:

- **First Place:** Phyllis George, Houston Gem and Mineral Society
- **Second Place:** Michael K. Smith, Paleontological Society of Austin
- **Third Place:** Tim Morrison, Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society
- **Fourth Place:** Torre Quinn, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
- **Fifth Place:** Diann Hill, Austin Gem and Mineral Society
- **Sixth Place:** Kim Whitton, Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society
- **Seventh Place:** Walter Beneze, Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society

At last year's convention I "theoretically" resigned as the SCFMS Web Site Contest Chair. However, the resignation was not to be effective until a replacement has been found. That replacement has now been found, and it will be a great replacement. Phyllis George from the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and the very first AFMS Web Site Contest Chair will be the new SCFMS Web Site Contest Chair. I know that next year's contest will be bigger and better thanks to Phyllis.

SCFMS 2012 Bulletin Editors' Contest—How We Did

by Phyllis George
HGMS Newsletter Editor

It's early September, and I was just e-mailed the results of the 2012 SCFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest. HGMS can be quite proud of itself! Those who ranked in the top three in their categories will receive a plaque. No small feat. The HGMS results are listed below along with their categories. The AFMS results were announced in the September 2012 issue of the BBG. The plaques for the SCFMS contest were not ordered in time to be distributed when the awards were announced the end of August during the SCFMS show in Jasper, TX. I'm told that they have now been ordered, and they will be sent to me when they arrive.

Name	Rank	Category	Title
Phyllis George	1	Large Bulletin	The Backbender's Gazette
Albert J. Robb III	1	Advanced Adult Article	Some Interesting Paleozoic Sharks of Texas
Kemp Maer, Ph.D.	2	Advanced Adult Article	Geologic Stories Told by a Texas Gully
Deidre D. Prince	3	Adult Article	Rock Stars Shine in Sugar Land
Chris & Theresa Peek	5	Adult Article	Johnson's Rock Shop, a Texas Legend
Aliza Giammateo	8	Adult Article	Life Lessons from Rock Hunting
Kemp Maer	1	Adult Poetry	The Arrow Point
LaVon Westfall	3	Adult Poetry	Rock Hound's Lament
Mary Ann Mitscherling	4	Adult Poetry	Field Trip
Noelle Skubal (10 years old)	1	Junior Article	Our Topaz Mining Adventure
Neal Immega	1	Written Features	Crusin' the Fossil Freeway
John Emerson	4	Written Features	Old Geezer—More Miscellaneous Memories
Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.	Honorable Mention	Written Features	Archeology Group Field Trip to McFaddin Beach
Karen Burns	Honorable Mention	Written Features	Word Magic

AFMS Web Site Contest Results

by Cheri George, AFMS Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 9/2012

The regional chairs for the AFMS Web Site Contest were delighted with the increased number of entries. EFMLS for example, had 17! Congratulations to every webmaster and club that entered this year.

The rankings of the finalists, as judged at the AFMS level, are as follows:



RANK	SCORE	REGION	WEBMASTER	CLUB NAME	CLUB LOCATION	WEBSITE
1	100.50	NFMS	Patti Rose	Mt Baker Rock & Gem Club	Bellingham, WA	http://mtbakerrockclub.org
2	100.40	SCFMS	Phyllis George	Houston Gem & Mineral Society	Houston, TX	http://hgms.org
3	100.00	CFMS	James Fosse	Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club	Victorville, CA	http://www.vvqms.org
4	99.00	SFMS	Jeff Ursillo	Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc	W. Palm Beach, FL	http://www.gemandmineral.cc
5	95.00	MWFMS	Lyle Laylin	Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society	East Lansing, MI	http://www.michrocks.org
6	91.00	EFMLS	Bob Davidson	So. Maryland Rock & Mineral Club	Clinton, MD	http://smrmc.org
7	85.40	RMFMS	Pat Clark	Littleton Gem & Mineral Club	Littleton, CO	http://littletongemandmineralclub.com

Participation in a Mineral Club Is Not a Spectator Sport

by Sheryl E. Sims
SCRIBE 7-9/2012

Membership in a mineral club is like being a member of any sporting organization. The similarities abound! A good team is made up of a number of people interested in a common objective. The same holds true for our mineral clubs. As with any team, participants may come from different backgrounds, but they contribute in many different ways to the success of that team. Each club member should support their club, even if it's only in a small way. It's important to remember that support leads to participation. Participation leads to increased membership and club activities.

Teams have managers. Mineral clubs call them officers/directors. They take the lead in planning and ensuring that the club operations are successfully carried out. If you will notice in sports, while managers are actively involved in the game, the success of the game does not rest solely on their shoulders. Everyone has a part to play, and it's the team who in fact contributes to its success.

Every team has its "starters." The starters in our clubs are that core group of members who regularly show up at meetings. How we count on them! There's nothing worse

than arranging for a speaker only to be met with poor attendance. Starters volunteer to help club officers find speakers, organize fieldtrips, and even bring refreshments. If there is a will, there is a way, with starters! Their “can do” spirit is to be commended, and they frequently agree to serve as officers. They are ready to serve on nominating committees when you need them as well. Starters are those committed members who refuse to watch their club fade away due to lack of interest. Their warm smiles and friendly personalities create the inviting atmosphere that we all enjoy.

Maybe you feel that you can't do the types of things that starters do. If you don't have time to fully take on such a role, why not agree to assist them with a particular task? It's a great way to learn and to connect with other members. This is especially true for new members. Jump right in, and let someone know that you'd like to help!

Pinch hitters are valuable. We all know the pinch hitters in our clubs. These individuals are great in emergencies, aren't they? They step in and give presentations when speakers can't be found. They give “so-and-so” a ride to the meeting when their car breaks down, and are pros at multi-tasking. You'll find them setting up at mineral shows and breaking displays down when others are long gone. Pinch hitters are quick to volunteer to take the club's minutes when the secretary is out. They put their heads together and get the audio visual equipment working when gremlins strike. Pinch hitters arrive at meetings early with an extra bottle of soda or plate of cookies “just in case.” Pinch hitters must have been scouts at one time or another, because they are always prepared. They are also quick to share club information with visitors when club officers are otherwise engaged. When it comes to veteran members, just like in sports, no one can do without them. If your club has such seasoned members, then your club is indeed fortunate. Their knowledge and experience allows them to share their expertise regarding that which we might not otherwise access. They seem to always have a bit of time for you. Veterans patiently explain things we don't understand about minerals, love to share their knowledge, and are able to answer historical questions. Veterans are great with young or new rock hounds, too! They are never too tired to answer just one more question or identify one more mineral.

- Do you think that you can't do anything for your club?
- Do you like to write or have suggestions to share?
- Can you provide presentation ideas or refreshments?
- How about providing minerals for discussion, study, or door prizes?
- Are you willing to serve as, or help a club officer?
- Perhaps you have organizational skills and are willing to organize your club's historical documents.
- Maybe you can take club pictures or create a club scrapbook!

As you can see, there are countless ways to be a team player and a good club member. Don't just sit back and watch! Volunteer, and help your club hit a home run!

Show Time 2012

September 29-30	Murfreesboro, AR	Crater of Diamonds State Park Diamond Discovery Cntr.; 209 State Park Rd. margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov; www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com
October 6-7	Arlington, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club 1010 N. Collins St., (Behind Walgreen's) Diagonally from Cowboys Stadium Collins & Randoll Mill Road jlspinks@sbcglobal.net; agemclub.com
October 6-7	Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Mayborn Civic Center
October 13-14	Fort Worth, TX	LMRA Rockhound Activity 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd. Donna Pelikan, liznmarie@yahoo.com
October 19-21	Victoria, TX	Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Community Center, 2905 E. North St. victoriagemandmineral@yahoo.com
October 19-21	Austin, TX	Austin Gem & Mineral Society Palmer Event Center 900 Barton Springs Rd. Susan Postlethwait, www.gemcapers.com showchariman@austingemandmineral.org
October 20-21	Denison, TX	Texoma Rockhounds Senior Center, 531 W. Chestnut ramblingrosetoo@yahoo.com
October 26-28	Glen Rose, TX	Paleo Society of Austin Fossilmania Somervell County Expo Center, N. side of Hwy 67 at Gibbs Blvd.
November 3-4	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society Amarillo Civic Center, Exhibition Hall
November 3-4	Midland, TX	Midland Gem & Mineral Society Midland Center
November 9-11	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

2012		October				2012
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 Board Meeting	3 7:30 Mineral Section	4 7:30 Archaeology Group	5	6 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
7	8 1:00 Day Light Section	9 7:30 Show Committee	10 6:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	11	12	13 10-5 Shop Open
14	15 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 7:30 Paleo Section	17 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	18	19	20 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
21	22	23 7:30 General Meeting	24 10-3 Shop Open	25	26	27 10-5 Shop Open
28	29	30	31 10-3 Shop Open Halloween			

2012		November				2012
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 Archaeology Group	2	3 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
4	5	6 7:30 Board Meeting	7 7:30 Mineral Section	8	9	10 10-5 Shop Open
11	12 1:00 Day Light Section	13 7:30 Show Committee	14 6:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	15	16	17 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
18	19 7:30 Lapidary Section	20 7:30 Paleo Section	21 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	22	23	24 10-5 Shop Open
25	26	27 7:30 General Meeting	28 10-3 Shop Open	29 Thanksgiving Day	30	

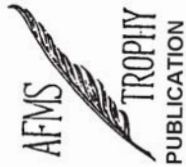
**The BACKBENDER'S
GAZETTE**
*The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

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)
- 2011 - 1st (Large)
- 2012 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

- 1998 - 2nd (Large)
- 2004 - 3rd (Large)
- 2007 - 1st (Large)
- 2010 - 2nd (Large)
- 2012 - 3rd (Large)

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