



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

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

**Volume XLIV - No. 04**

**April 2013**



## **President's Message**

*by John Caldyne*

I'm sitting here looking over our club's insurance policy. I'm really frustrated because this policy was written by Ohio Insurance Co. (the underwriter who must pay in case our building is destroyed by fire or water), but I am unable to find the company on the Internet. I along with State Farm Insurance did a thorough search looking for this company, and we could not bring it up online.

At one time it seems to have had 3000 clients, but after that I could find no recent information about the company. Because they are out of state, they went through American Insurance which was expedited to an insurance agent located in the Town & Country shopping center. American Insurance only carries residential policies, so who are we paying our insurance money to for our commercial insurance? I will soon find out.

Ohio Insurance is not licensed in Texas. When I checked, the National Insurance Registry of Ohio only had 3000 clients—not much for an Insurance company. Most companies have as many as 30,000 to 100,000 to a million clients or more. Checking JD Powell's report, it did not look good. State Farm did research on them and came up with nothing.

I also checked with an insurance agent and broker in The Woodlands, Texas, and he told



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*Continued on page 4*

## **General Meeting Dates**

*by Clyde McMeans*

**March 26, 2013—Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada:** Steve Blyskal will present a program on his visit to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada. The Museum is a popular Canadian tourist attraction noted for its collection of more than 130,000 fossils. Steve is sure to have wonderful photos of the exhibits.

**April 23, 2013:** Fabergé—Presented by Inda Immega. More information will be forthcoming.

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

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*Copy is due for the May 2013 issue by  
Wednesday, April 10, 2013.*

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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>.

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me about things that would make your hair stand up on end about big-time fraud and scams in the insurance industry. I will most likely invite him out soon to speak on today's insurance scams and what to watch out for.

Meanwhile Mr. Linehan and I are checking another major insurance company. State Farm is a little high-priced, but so are the other insurance companies. Insurance goes up every so often like clockwork.

Our policy is really out of date as far as the valuation on HGMS contents in the building. When has HGMS inventoried the value of the books in the library? Books go up in value, we have bigger machines, is the "HGMS" sign on the building insured? It must be included and written into the policy (value \$2000). Not in the policy?

How much is your property valued at today? Do you know? What is the value of the equipment in the classrooms—do you know? The more your contents and equipment go up in value, the more your insurance cost goes up. You can't just assume or guess about the value. You must know it accurately, or you can lose a lot of money in your recovery. **Anyone** with a level head knows that it's better to have a little too much insurance than too little insurance.

The HGMS show fluorescent display trailers have now been moved outside of Bill Moore's fence, and they are exposed to the elements (and to possible vandalism or worse). I am working as fast as I can on insurance to cover the trailers and their contents so we can get them moved to Shell Chemical property. But even that move is just for a period of two months. We need a location where the trailers can be inside an enclosure on a long-term basis. Does anyone know of such a location that would charge HGMS only a minimum (or no) storage fee? Please let me know immediately.

Okay everyone, don't forget to invite your friends, family, and guests to the General Meeting on the March 26, 2013 Tuesday night. Dr. Neal said he was going to have a small auction. I've invited Ms. Zehra as a special guest. See you at Tuesday night's meeting.

The April 23 meeting is scheduled to have a program on Fabregé, and it will be presented by Inda Immega.

### Refreshments Scheduled for the General Meetings in 2013

**W**e have a donation jar—the "Sabre Tooth Kitty"—where members may make a contribution to help defray the cost of refreshments. So please remember to feed the "Kitty" while helping yourself to some sweet or savory snacks.

Name	Refreshment Months
Neal Immega	March - April 2013
Phyllis George	May - June 2013
Michele Marsel	July - August 2013
John Caldyne	September - October 2013
Clyde McMeans	November 2013

## The Miner

by John A. Anderson

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

This story of The Miner is a prospecting trip for the metal antimony in an area near Goffs, California. The reason I and a few friends went there is because it was private land. It had just been opened up for prospecting, so we would not be trespassing. There were no buildings or homes, only a very, very, small train station.



At that time I was working for a mining company called Petroleum Engineering. This company was actually unique in that it had interest in and worked both petroleum and mining properties. I wanted to go to Goffs to see if there were any metals available, but I was especially interested in antimony (Sb) because I had heard rumors that there was some antimony found there years ago. Antimony is used in many different ways—like alloying with lead, solders, and battery plates to name a few. It is rhombohedral and generally massive, and has a hardness of 3–3.5 with a specific gravity of 6–7. It usually contains some silver, iron, and sometimes arsenic that causes the specific gravity to fluctuate. We had a few other prospectors who made that trip to Goffs in their own automobile.

I need to tell you about a special prospector whose name was Harold Meals. I had made many prospecting trips with Harold in the past, and that is important to this story because the story is based on what he thought he found on this trip.

The first evening we all cooked our food on a wood campfire, and little-by-little ghost stories begin to surface.

After an hour or so we were getting tired and ready to get into our sleeping bags when one of our party members said that there is a story that he heard many years ago about the Goffs area.

It appears that an Indian had disgraced his tribe so much for some reason that they bound him and buried him alive in a cave with all of his earthly goods and treasures, and they covered the cave entrance with big rocks. Through the years there is a legend that people have seen an Indian on a horse on a hill far in the distance, poised like he was searching for something. This sighting has been made many times in the past years.

I prospected diligently for the next two days, picking up some ore samples that appeared to be of high quality and containing a very large amount of concentrated anti-

mony.

Our trip home in our truck was quiet; there was little conversation because we had been in the field for over two days, and we were dead tired, when Harold made a statement that brought me wide awake. He thought he had found the Indian cave down in a canyon. Harold said the cave entrance was covered with large rocks that looked as though men had placed the rocks to block its entrance. I asked if he tried to open the cave and he said, "Oh no, I don't do things like that." I asked why hadn't he shown it to me, and he said he could not find me then, and then he forgot about the cave. Harold did mention that he told one of the other prospectors, Fred Boss, about the cave when Fred and Harold were both loading our vehicles for the long trip home. After driving more than a 100 miles, Fred could not stand the curiosity about the cave and returned to the area near Goff's. He had to look for the cave the next day because it was then dark. With Harold's directions, he found the cave entrance. After digging and removing the rocks, the next day he was rewarded with a spectacle that few men have ever had the privilege to see. Fred found in the cave a dressed, mummified Indian who was bound, and all of his treasures from clothing, blankets, bowls, and weapons lay around him. It was a great treasure of Indian artifacts. This story is true because I saw the items that were removed later that same year when I heard "the rest of the story."

Since the Indian was released from that cave, I now wonder whether he will cease roaming the country because he is now free from the cave, and will he have eternal peace?

Returning home and going to work the next day, I presented my rock ore samples that I had found at Goff's to the Petroleum Engineering chief chemist for analysis. Based on his findings of the quality and quantity of these samples, Petroleum Engineering was ready to begin the first phase in developing a mining plan for the antimony metal, but that is another story of The Miner.



Lapidary Section members Margaret Hardman-Muye and Edward Clay inspect an unusual geode.

## Lapidary Section Minutes

March 18, 2013

by Karen Burns

**L**apidary Section donates \$3000 to the HGMS Building Fund: The first order of business at the March 18th meeting of the Lapidary Section of HGMS was a vote to contribute \$3,000 to the Building Fund. After much discussion, all 15 members in attendance voted to approve the motion made by Margaret Hardman-Muy and seconded by Karen Burns.

**Lapidary Section donates Grinder/Sanding Unit to HGMS Shop:** A large grinder/sanding unit, part of many donations to the Section from Vicky Boston, was discussed. Mr. Immega had asked if the shop could buy it. Members took some time to value it at around \$1,000. With that number in mind, it was moved that the Section purchase the unit and donate it to the shop. All members in attendance were in favor, and the motion passed. The Lapidary Section Treasurer, Phyllis George, will send Vicky Boston a check for \$500.

**April 13 Garage Sale:** The business meeting also finalized plans for a Garage Sale that will be held on Saturday, April 13 at the clubhouse from 10 a.m. until all of the many lots of agates, carnelian, and other minerals are sold. It was agreed that members would meet on the three preceding Saturdays to package and price all the items for sale.

**Lapidary Auction Will Be Program for May 28 General Meeting:** Additionally, members discussed the auction of items currently on display in the General Meeting room display case. This auction is scheduled for the General Meeting on May 28 in order to comply with HGMS Bylaws regarding the scheduling of auctions.

**Making Earrings from Copper Wire:** Following a short break, Karen Burns taught eight interested members how to convert jump rings into a pair of "flip-flop" earrings.

**Freeform Slabs Given Out:** Before the meeting ended, members were given a choice of green aventurine freeform slabs donated and cut by Mary Ann Mitscherling. The aventurine will be shaped and polished at the April meeting, to be used as center stones during a class in making a wire wrapped setting for a freeform stone later this summer.

## Lapidary Section Providing May General Meeting Program

by Edward Clay

Lapidary Section Chair

**T**he Lapidary Section will be sponsoring an auction during the May 28 General Meeting. Items in the display case will be identified and listed for the auction. To name a few examples, there is some statuary, some rough pieces of materials, and even some stands as well as a wheeled cabinet with felt-lined sliding drawers.

Please look over the items in the lighted display case at the back of the meeting room and come prepared to bid on what interests you.

## Archeology Section Minutes

March 7, 2013

*by Terry Proctor for Secretary Burton Dworsky at his request*

*Photos by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore*

Attending meetings of the Archeology Section are extremely interesting as the Section has a number of members who have been to various locations of ancient civilizations, studied them, and can talk first-hand about interesting Archeological matters. Archeology and Anthropology tie in with the Paleontology, Mineralogy, Lapidary, Faceting, and Beading Sections, so members of all Sections are invited to come to Archeology Section Meetings on the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Archeology Section of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society met at their regular meeting time of 7:30 p.m. at the HGMS Clubhouse. There were eleven members present. Chairman Garth Clark, M.D. called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the Minutes of the February 7, 2013 Archeology meeting as published in the BBG was made by Terry Proctor, seconded by Dawn Smith, and was passed unanimously.

There was some discussion of the auction to be held at a General Membership Meeting. Several more members said they would provide an item or items for the auction. Items from Archeology Section members will go 100% into the Archeology Section Treasury. Terry has items donated to HGMS on hand also, and those will be added to the auction. One hundred percent of those will go into the HGMS Building Fund at the same auction.

Terry Proctor announced he had resigned from the HGMS Board effective when the Archeology Section elects a new Representative. He asked that Chairman Clark call for nominations. There was some discussion and one member appeared interested, but had conflicts on HGMS Board meeting nights (1st Tuesday of the month). Therefore there was no nomination at this meeting, and Terry will send out an e-mail to Archeo Section members asking for interest in filling his spot on the HGMS Board.

The Field Trip schedule has been revised by the Archeo Section members. In order to allow any members wishing to attend the Paleo Section trip for March 15–17 to Brownwood, Texas to go on that trip, the Archeo Section trip to McFaddin Beach has been moved to Saturday, April 20, 2013. The Second Archeo Field Trip will be October 12 to Devil's River Ranch in Val Verde County to hunt for Indian artifacts. The Third Archeo Field Trip will be to Whiskey Bridge in November.

In the meantime, it was agreed that one or more "on call" Field Trips will be made by the group to McFaddin Beach and other locations. Notice will be given by e-mail to those on an e-mail list who have indicated that they want to be notified when one of the "on call" Field Trips is to be made. These trips may be scheduled on very short notice

Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Neal Immega at  
[n.imega@swbell.net](mailto:n.imega@swbell.net).



when conditions are right for a Field Trip (such as after a storm which may bring more things in to McFaddin Beach. Anyone on the present Archeo Section e-mail list may be put on this "on call" list, but the e-mails will not be sent to the entire list which has become very large. Some folks on the list attend meetings and Field Trips regularly and so may want to be on the "on call" list. Others who have attended or been on a Field Trip but have not been active for some time will not be put on the list unless they ask to be.

The evening's program, at the suggestion of Dr. Garth Clark, Archeo Section Chairman, was on weapons of war in history. March was named after Mars, the Roman God of War, and hence this seemed an appropriate subject for discussion for the March 7, 2013 meeting. As usual at our meetings, we have members who bring in great items for Show & Tell. New member Charles David Eberling brought items he had collected as a youth. These included some whole and some broken points (arrowheads), pre-forms (partially completed arrowheads), and matate and mono (Indian bottom and top grinding stones) from Millbrook, Alabama.

Jon Hart brought more of his fantastic collection of Amerindian points (arrowheads etc.). This included points he found and purchased at the site for the Archeo Section's Field Trip for April 20—the Devils River Ranch in Val Verde County. Jon had been ill for several months, and at this meeting he received back his beautiful case of points that he had loaned to the Archeo Section for the November HGMS Show in Humble.



Jon Hart Amerindian points from Nacho's Ranch on the Devils River, Val Verde County, Texas (early and middle archaic).



Bob Moore with War Axe (1000 BC)

Bob Moore and wife, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, brought in a number of weapons from various places in the World and various civilizations. They had many things to show which included a pre-Columbian Anasazi (ancient ones) quartzite skull cracker or Warhammer (400-1,300 AD); 2000 year old Chinese Tang Dynasty spear head; a worn down spearhead from the Greek City/State period; a Babylonian bronze leaf plate knife (900 BC); a short sword with bone handles; the symbolic "Master of Animals" (Gilgamesh) top of a Mesopotamian (2000 BC) standard, carried

on horseback by the leader of troops; and other great items for Archeo members to pick up and look at. The Moores almost always bring great things from history for members to see at Archeology Section meetings.

There was a good discussion of “*The Epic of Gilgamesh*,” an epic poem from Mesopotamia, which is among the earliest surviving works of literature in the World. The first, “Old Babylonian” version of the epic dates to the 18th century BC and is titled *Shk’tur eli sharr+* (“Surpassing All Other Kings”). Only a few fragments of it survived. The later, Standard Babylonian version dates from the 13th to the tenth centuries BC and bears the title *Sha naqba + ’mur* (“He who Saw the Deep”). Fragments of approximately two thirds of this longer, twelve-tablet version have been recovered. Some of the best copies were discovered in the library ruins of the 7th-century BC Assyrian king Ashurbanipal.

## Day Light Section

*by Nancy Fischer*

**T**he Day Light Section meeting on Monday, March 11 was well attended—despite one member who stayed home because of a cold and another who inadvertently scheduled a meeting with his tax attorney. Two new members, Shirley Smalley and Cindy Alcala, added greatly to the group.

We worked on a project we are calling “square beads” for lack of a better description. Karen Burns, Day Light Section Chair, had seen a similar pattern and tailored it for the group, and she instructed each person. It was successful in that each of us was able to complete the project at the meeting, and we were confident that we could duplicate the effort at home.

At our next meeting in April, David Hawkins will lead us in a metalwork project. We’ll be working with copper sheet. Should be very interesting. We’ll have more information posted on the Web site.

Photo on right by Nancy Fischer: Square Bead Project—Items displayed were produced by Mary Ann Mitscherling, Nancy Fischer, and Cindy Alcala.



## Beading Section

*Photo by Nancy Fischer*

**T**he February Beading Section project is pictured on the right. The bracelets featuring sections of chain interspersed with faceted beads were created during the meeting by Kathryn Kelly, Nancy Fischer, and Diane Sisson.



## Mineral Section Programs

*by Paul & Nathalie Brandes*

**A**pril 3, 2013: To be announced

### April 17, 2013 Section Auction:

The Mineral Section will be hosting its annual auction to help raise money for the Section. Once again, we invite all HGMS members to bring specimens to the auction. This is how it works: all of the proceeds (100%) of at least one (1) specimen of your choice must be donated to the Section. Five (5) additional specimens are allowed for each donor with a portion of those specimens (10%) going to the Section and the rest going to the donor (i.e.: if a specimen sells for \$50, \$5 goes to the Section, the remaining \$45 to the donor). This is a great way for all HGMS members to thin out their duplicate specimens and to benefit both yourself and the Mineral Section. You can put a minimum reserve bid on the more expensive pieces if you desire. Since this event will draw from all Sections, expect a variety of items to be auctioned as this promises to be a very interesting and entertaining evening. Setup will begin at 6:30 p.m. with viewing from 7:00 to 7:30. After a short business meeting, bidding will begin, and it will last until the final item is sold.

### May 1, 2013 Houston Fine Mineral Show Wrap-up:

Bring in your recent acquisitions from the Houston Fine Mineral Show (April 26–28). Let other Section members gaze at your shiny new specimens while telling us how you came about it and from what dealer. Also, please share your experience of the show—good or bad—with the rest of the Section; what did they do correctly or poorly in your mind? What did they do that could benefit our show in November, etc. Refreshments will be provided.

**May 15, 2013:** To be announced

## HGMS Show Trailers Need New Home

*by Michele Marsel*

**T**hanks to Paul McGarry's generous gift, HGMS now owns two enclosed trailers which have been used to store and transport the Show Fluorescent Display and our 80+ cases for many years. Bill Moore graciously stored the trailers in his warehouse at no cost to HGMS for some time. Unfortunately, the warehouse space is now needed for business, and we need to find an alternate storage location for the trailers. The Board has priced public storage, and the cost is quite high due to the width of the trailers. The trailers are 108" wide. One is 15' long and the other is 17' long including tongue.

We are calling on our members for assistance. Do you have a secure location where the trailers could be stored for minimal or no cost? If so, please contact Michele Marsel, the HGMS Board Secretary, at [mamarsell1@clear.net](mailto:mamarsell1@clear.net) or call (281) 777-0257 before the next Board Meeting on April 2, 2013.

## General Meeting Minutes

*February 26, 2013*

*by Michele Marsel*

*HGMS Secretary*

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Visitors and New Members:** Glen Parks, Nancy English, and Larry Mornhinbeg joined the group for the evening. Larry shared that his interests include just about everything except faceting.

**Prior Month General Meeting Minutes:** Karen Burns moved and Joan Riley seconded that the January 2013 General Meeting minutes be approved as published in the February 2013 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

**Show & Tell:** Several members displayed items they had made:

- John Mitscherling—jade knife
- Neal Immega—Peruvian pink opal hear
- Mary Ann Mitscherling—Byzantine chain necklace
- Debbie Kirkpatrick—cameo, hard stone carving (displayed by Neal Immega)

**Drawing:** Lucky new member, Glen Parks, won an already opened geode.

### Business:

Several members shared their opinions on whether the Trophy Board which had recently been removed from the clubhouse wall should be replaced or how trophies could be displayed.

- Karen Burns suggested that the shelf at the back of the room be extended around the sides to display trophies.
- David Hawkins suggested that trophies and the Presidents' plaques simply be attached to the wall in an organized fashion.

Karen Burns then moved and Joan Riley seconded that the Trophy Board itself not be replaced. This motion was amended by Terry Proctor who stated that replacement of the Trophy Board was an HGMS Board decision and should be addressed at the March 2013 Board Meeting. The amended motion called for tabling any further vote. The amended motion was defeated by a vote of 7 in favor and 14 opposed. Karen Burns' original motion was reintroduced and clarified as being membership guidance to the HGMS Board. The motion passed with a vote of 16 in favor and 3 opposed.

**Program:** HGMS member and HMNS docent, Inda Immega presented a program on the HMNS Gems of the Medici exhibit. Inda shared photos of different areas of the exhibit and gave a mini-tour.

During the mid-1400s in Florence, Italy the Medici family steered the course of art history. Artists, goldsmiths, silversmiths, and engravers all were drawn to the abundance of wealth in Florence, especially to workshops and commissions funded by the Medici family.

Gems of the Medici is a world-premiere exhibition, and it highlights some of the oldest and most unique pieces of the Medici family collections. The entire exhibit is well worth seeing and will be on display at the Museum through March 31, 2013.

**Adjourn:** David Hawkins moved and John Mitscherling seconded the meeting be concluded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2013

by Michele Marsel

✓	President – John Caldyne		Beading Rep – Jillynn Hailes
✓	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President – Clyde McMeans	✓	Faceting Rep – Gary Tober
✓	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Beverly Mace	✓	Lapidary Rep – Phyllis George
	Treasurer – Rodney Linehan		Mineral Rep – Pete Stassi
✓	Secretary – Michele Marsel	✓	Paleontology Rep – Mike Dawkins
✓	Past President – Charlie Fredregill	✓	Day Light Rep – Mary Ann Mitscherling
		✓	Archeology Rep – Terry Proctor

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. with a quorum of nine members present.

**Previous Month Board Minutes:** Michele Marsel moved and Charlie Fredregill seconded that the February 2013 Board Minutes be approved as published in the March 2013 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rodney Linehan provided reports of account balances by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

### Officer, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archaeology Section:** The planned field trip for March 16 may be postponed due to a conflict with the Paleontology Section trip to Brownwood scheduled for the same weekend. This will be brought up at the Archeology Section meeting Thursday, March 7.

**Beading Section:** No report

**Day Light Section:** David Hawkins will present a program on metal folding in April.

**Education Committee:** No committee report. Mary Ann Mitscherling noted that Karen Burns collected a sign up list at the Clear Lake show of 40 new people interested in classes. A brief discussion was held on the need to get classes lined up and to follow-up with those on the Clear Lake list. Some visitors to the HGMS table also took applications to join HGMS.

**Faceting Section:** The February program on transferring gems using a transfer block and a laser for correct line-up was well received.

**Lapidary Section:** Members indicated support for making a contribution to the HGMS

building fund from Lapidary Section's treasury in lieu of giving a section scholarship for 2013. The amount will be discussed at the March meeting.

**Mineral Section:** No report

**Outreach Committee:** No report

**Paleo Section:** The February holiday party and auction was successful and lots of fun. A field trip to Brownwood is scheduled for March 15–17.

**Show Committee:** 2013 quarter-page Show flyers were distributed to dealers at the Clear Lake Show and are available in the clubhouse for members to pick up and distribute.

**Youth Section:** Nothing new to report.

**BBG Editor and Webmaster:** Phyllis George noted that the March BBG was printed later than normal due to the printer not receiving the e-mail containing the download instructions. This was corrected as soon as Phyllis returned from her 4-day vacation.

### Old Business

**Bylaws Update:** Terry Proctor handed out a list of compiled changes voted on by the Board since the last ratified Bylaws copy in 2005. Terry will now incorporate the changes into the existing bylaws for final review by the Board. After the Board reviews the proposed updated Bylaws and approves them as correct, the updated Bylaws will then be presented to the Membership for a vote to adopt them as the updated Bylaws of 2013.

**Parking Next Door:** No update.

**Show Trailer storage:** Terry Proctor reported that Bill Moore repaired the leaking roof on one trailer and has moved the trailers to outside storage at his facility, but Bill says they are not really safe there. Rodney Linehan is working to add the trailers and contents to the HGMS Insurance Policy so they may be moved to a new storage location. Due to the high cost of public storage facilities for the large trailers, several alternatives to using or not using the trailers were discussed. One suggestion was to inquire of HGMS membership if anyone could safely store the trailers and contents—at little or no cost to HGMS—thereby saving large yearly fees. A request will be sent through the club e-mail list and published in the BBG to determine if any member has secure space to store the trailers in lieu of purchasing public storage.

**Club Publicity Chair:** Terry Proctor moved and Phyllis George seconded that discussion on duties for this new Board appointed position be deferred until the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously. All Board members are asked to bring input for this discussion so the position description can be finalized at the April 2, 2013 Board meeting.

**Club Charter update for HCAD:** Terry Proctor reported that this is still in progress. He will complete required updates and file the Charter as soon as possible.

**Trophy Board:** Suggestions for displaying trophies that had been mounted on the



board were discussed. Mary Ann Mitscherling moved and Clyde McMeans seconded that measurements and materials quotes be obtained for alternative options and reviewed at the next Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Safety Equipment:** Mary Ann Mitscherling provided an estimate for ear plugs. Charlie Fredregill noted the club has an existing dispenser which should work with the new ear plugs. Terry Proctor moved and Phyllis George seconded to purchase two boxes of 200 ear plugs, and the motion passed unanimously. After discussion, Terry Proctor moved and Clyde McMeans seconded that a donation container for member contributions to defray the cost of ear and eye protection be placed in the shop area. The motion passed unanimously.

### New Business

- Terry Proctor reported that he contacted Ace Awards, and it appears that the firm is unable to provide more engraved brass plates for the Presidents' Plaque at this time. Since the Board meeting Terry has learned that the owner of Ace Awards died in February, and there was a referral to another firm who can provide the brass plate for the President's plaque for Past Presidents Steve Blyskal (2011) and Charlie Fredregill (2012) for \$7.50 each if Terry takes the current plaque to his office. The plaque will be picked up there and the brass plates added by the new firm.
- Phyllis George noted that the framed explanatory sheet that accompanies the Flag display was not hung on the wall beneath the framed flag. Michele Marsel will e-mail Sarah Metsa to learn the location of the sheet so it can be hung with the flag.
- Phyllis George inquired about exterior lighting on the front street side of the building. It was noted that James Burrell had rewired the lighting and switches already. James will be contacted to confirm that the front exterior light is working, and he will be asked to check out the flickering lights in the parking lot.
- The HGMS insurance policy is up for renewal. Rodney Linehan communicated his concern about a substantial premium increase via e-mail prior to the meeting. President John Caldyne is seeking a competitive quote. He pointed out our current lack of flood insurance and the need to clarify that Dunn Southwest's insurable interest is limited to common property (such as the parking lot) only. Insurance for the Show trailers also needs to be added to the policy.
- Mary Ann Mitscherling purchased a solar security light to try out under the "roof" of the parking lot door. She provided cost information so HGMS may purchase additional fixtures if desired.
- Terry Proctor announced his resignation as Archeology Section Board Representative effective upon the election of his replacement by the Archeology Section at the upcoming March 7 meeting.

**Adjourn:** Terry Proctor moved to adjourn the meeting, and Charlie Fredregill seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

## AFMS/SFMS 2013 Annual Convention and Show

## AFMS/SFMS 2013 Annual Meeting

September 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

<http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/> A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at the:  
Marriott, Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786  
(Mention AFMS meeting for \$82 room rate. Offer Expires August 5, 2013.) (This rate is good from Sep 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>)

AFMS Uniform Rules - Wednesday 7pm

AFMS Annual Meeting - Thursday 9am

AFMS Scholarship foundation- After Annual Meeting

You are invited Thursday Night to Hanna Park at the beach. Star Gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy Society members and Telescopes (Saturn will be spectacular!) Cook out provided by Host society JGMS.

JGMS Annual Show and Sale Starts - Friday 1pm

SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting - Friday 7pm

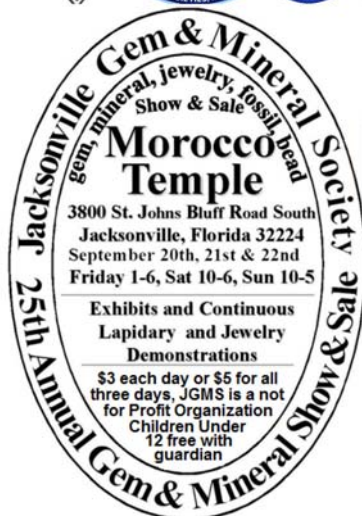
SFMS Annual Meeting - Saturday 9am

ALAA Meeting - Saturday 2:30pm

Awards Banquet - Saturday 6pm

Editors and Webmasters Breakfast - Sunday 9am

40+ retail dealers, Fantastic exhibits and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, Lectures on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations, workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions and more.  
Enjoy the Annual Jacksonville Gem Show!!!



## Heavens and Earth

Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society,  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Sale  
September 20-22, 2013 Morocco Temple





**AFMS Endowment Drawing for 2013**  
*American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies*  
 SCFMS-2013

**D**rawing to be held during the AFMS Convention and Show September 18–22, 2013, Jacksonville, Florida.

Interest from AFMS Endowment Fund investments is used to support numerous programs that benefit our affiliated member clubs. In the past several years, interest money has:

- Purchased badges for the juniors program which are given at no charge to clubs with organized junior activities programs.
- Digitized the old AFMS slide programs that have been distributed at no charge to the regional federations.
- Purchased new commercially produced programs for the regional federation libraries.
- Supported the Judges' Training Program.

Many door prizes have been collected, such as:

- Caveman Clothes Pin—estimated value: \$75 (NFMS)
- Float Copper Specimen—estimated value: \$75 (MWF)
- Agate and jasper channel inlay in the style of Scottish Victorian jewelry of the 1800s—estimated value of \$350 (AFMS),
- and many, many more.

August 2 is the deadline to have tickets returned to Catherine Rouchon of Baton Rouge G&M, your regional federation representative.

**South Central Federation Convention News**  
*Annual Show*

**T**he ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA, will host the SCFMS Show in 2013, to be held on August 17-18, 2013. So, mark your calendar and plan to be there for that show. We will be having more information about the festivities as time goes on, which are being planned at this moment.

**Annual Meeting:**

The Federation's next annual meeting will be held on August 17, 2013.

**Annual Silent Auction**

The annual silent auction will be held during the SCFMS Show and Convention, August 17-18, 2013. Donations are greatly welcomed and needed. Rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry and hobby related items are among the items needed. Bring or send these items to the show. Proceeds from the silent auction go into the South Central Federation Endowment Fund.

**Safety Note: Spring Cleaning!!!***by Owen Martin**AFMS/SCFMS Safety Chairman**from SCFMS Newsletter 3–4/2013*

**W**ell down here in the Houston area, the weather has started to warm up. Flowers are blooming and bees are buzzing. Similarly many of us have started to do some spring cleaning. Whether in our closets or garages or rock shops, keep in mind that there can be many hazards.

Some of the spring cleaning hazards I've encountered already this year include:

1. A spilled box of roofing nails. Luckily I saw the box before stepping on one of the nails. On a side note, I was barefooted in the garage so "finding" a nail the wrong way would have been quite painful.
2. Spilled pesticides in the garage. This wasn't much of a problem this time, but concentrated pesticide liquids can release toxic fumes into confined spaces like garages, closets, or cabinets.
3. Expired chemicals and deteriorated containers. I was prying the lid off a rusted paint can and the screw driver (wrong tool) went through the lid. Luckily it didn't go through my hand. My next door neighbor was opening a can of paint thinner, and when it opened suddenly, the liquid "sloshed" and splashed on her face. Missed her eyes though!
4. Filled up my old weed eater with gasoline and oil and fired it up. Well it wouldn't start, so I set it down in the garage and went out to mow the yard. When I came back to the garage, it was filled with gas fumes. Apparently the hose from the fuel tank had become brittle over the winter and broke. All the gas leaked out and filled the garage with stinky and potentially flammable fumes.
5. Moving winter clothes around in the closet—one of the hangers broke and snapped back, almost hitting me in the face.

Okay—that's just a few hazards I've encountered in the past few weeks. I encourage you to be careful in your spring cleanups. Have good lighting, use the "right" tool, use proper lifting techniques, use gloves, safety glasses, boots, etc. where needed. And don't forget to read the labels on your chemicals so that you know how to use them and store them.

Be safe and I'll talk to you all again soon! **Happy Spring!**

## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)*

### Bezel Setting Problems

**B**When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem, often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.



If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

### Cheaper & Better Pickle

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often-found floating on the top of a pickle pot.

### News Item—Trillions in Diamonds

Russia has just declassified news that will shake world gem markets to their core: the discovery of a vast new diamond field containing "trillions of carats," enough to supply global markets for another 3,000 years.

The Soviets discovered the bonanza back in the 1970s beneath a 35-million-year-old,



62-mile diameter asteroid crater in eastern Serbia known as Popigai Astrobleme.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2012/0917/Russia-reveals-shiny-state-secret-It-s-awash-in-diamonds>

## Calculating the Value of Scrap Gold

by Tony Orzano

via *Monongahela Rockhound News* 02/2010, *El Gambrisino* 02/2013,  
and *RMFMS Newsletter* 3/2013

I have been asked many times how do you calculate the value of scrap gold? The spot price for gold (price traded on the stock market) is a poor indicator of the real value of your scrap gold (the price quoted is for pure gold – 24 Karat). What is scrap gold? Any gold that is not wanted. You might have some jewelry pieces you have not worn for a long time and do not want anymore; these can be turned into cash.

Before you sell your gold, make sure you know how much actual gold you have and what it is worth. You must separate your gold into karat groups: 10k, 14k, 18k, 22k, and 24k. Make sure the items are stamped with only these marks—if there are any other marks after the k, like s or p, then you have gold plated—not real gold.

To find the value of each group, you must use the gram scale. Gold is measured in Troy ounces. One troy ounce equals 31.1 grams. First, get the updated price per ounce for gold; divide the price by 31.1 to get the rate for 1 gram of pure (24k) gold.

**Example:** \$1,000 per oz  $\div$  31.1 = \$32.15 per gram for pure gold. But what about for other purities? The 'k' value indicates the ratio of gold in the alloy, Divide this by 24 to get the ratio:

**10k:**  $10/24 = 0.4167$ —41.67% gold content

**14k:**  $14/24 = 0.5833$ —58.33% gold content

**18k:**  $18/24 = 0.7500$ —75.00% gold content

**22k:**  $22/24 = 0.9167$ —91.67% gold content

**24k**  $24/24 = 1.0000$ —100.00% gold content

**Example:** If today's gold rate was \$1,000 per ounce, the following would be the value of the gold in 10 grams of each of the five karat groups:

**10k:**  $0.4167 \times \$32.15 \times 10 = \$133.95$

**14k:**  $0.5833 \times \$32.15 \times 10 = \$187.53$

**18k:**  $0.7500 \times \$32.15 \times 10 = \$241.12$

**22k:**  $0.9167 \times \$32.15 \times 10 = \$294.49$

**24k:**  $1.0000 \times \$32.15 \times 10 = \$321.50$

Most people will use grams for calculating, but scrap dealers will use the pennyweight system to confuse you. There are 20 pennyweight in a troy ounce. Just substitute 20 for

the 31.1 to calculate pennyweight in the previous formulas. Keep in mind scrap dealers will not give you the full value. They usually will try to get you for 30–40% of the price. If you go in with your gold separated by karat weight and have already done the calculations, then you may get between 50–70% of price. You will never get more than that from anyone unless it is pure 24K gold, and then you will usually get 90–95% of price. They calculate the smelting and processing fees in the quote. Remember if you have an antique jewelry piece or coin, it might be worth more because of rarity, and the value would be more than the gold it contains.

**Always Remember:** Bring your gold to a reputable dealer. Avoid the-fly-by-night operations with ads such as, “We are here at so-and-so hotel for one week only. If you want the best price, we are the only ones that can give the best result for your gold.”

**BALONEY!** Seller beware.

### Why Gold Discolors

*from Thomas from the Orchid Digest  
via El Gambrisino, 11/2010, Gem Cutters News 11/2011,  
Breccia 5/2012, and Rocky Reader 6/2012.*

**T**he most common reason gold will turn different colors is due to chemical reactions with the alloyed metals that are mixed with the gold when it is exposed to a caustic element. Some of these chemicals are present in common household products. Swimming pool chlorides and Clorox®-based household cleaners will definitely cause gold to change to an ugly gray. Mercury from a broken thermometer can literally dissolve the gold right out of a ring leaving a burned black spot of hole.

Copier ribbons contain xylem which can cause yellow gold to turn white, and some ink stamp pads contain a medium which will do the same thing. Smog fumes, perspiration, saltwater, or even certain fruit juices all can cause a discoloring effect on gold.

Whenever you are going swimming in chlorinated water or will be working with solvents or cleaners, it is best to remove your jewelry. If you get any of these chemicals on your jewelry, clean it with a mild solution of baking soda and rinse well before wearing it again or take it to your local jeweler for a professional cleaning.

The most common reason gold will discolor your skin is metallic abrasion. Many cosmetics contain compounds harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds in the cosmetics will wear away microscopic particles of gold which will collect in the pores of your skin. Very fine metal particles always appear black, not metallic. When the particles stick to your skin in quantities, they will form a black smudge. To prevent this you should remove your jewelry when you apply cosmetics where the jewelry is to be worn. Changing cosmetic brand may also help.

Gold itself will not corrode, but the primarily alloys that are mixed with 10- and 14-karat gold will. They are copper and silver. Under moist conditions a person's perspiration, which contains fats and fatty acids, can cause corrosion in karat gold jewelry.

The level of corrosion will differ based upon each individual's unique body chemistry. Things that you can do to prevent your jewelry from tarnishing turning your fingers black are to remove all jewelry before using soaps, perfumes, or cosmetics, and to have your jewelry cleaned frequently. You will be amazed at how nice it will look when kept free of oils and dirt.

Eighteen karat gold jewelry is less likely to change because of the lower alloy content, and platinum jewelry is nearly impervious to chemical corrosion. Of all the different types of jewelry, platinum will wear the best and give the least amount of trouble, especially if you experience constant problems with discoloration and black smudges.

### **Silver Jewelry Making Tips**

*Article & Photos by Richard Slyker*

*from Rockhound Ramblings 7/2012; Via Strata Gem 10/2012*

Jewelry making can be fun and a nice way to use some of the rocks we keep picking up and winning at the monthly raffles. I have been playing with jewelry making at my work bench and would like to share some tried and untried tips. The following ideas are not mine but were found in old magazine articles and from viewing images on the Internet.

#### **Neat way to melt Dop wax and heat the Cabochons**

An interesting idea for melting dop wax, and more importantly, heating your stones, was found in the lapidary tips of an old *Gem and Minerals* magazine. I have found that if the cabochon stone is not close to the temperature of the melted wax, the stone will not stay attached to the dop stick during grinding and polishing. The tip was to find an old clothes iron and mount it upside down in a handmade wooden frame. A tuna or Vienna sausage container can be used to hold the dop wax. It is then placed on the iron's surface alongside your cabochons that need to be heated. The temperature can be set to melt the wax, and your stones will be nicely heated and ready for the dop sticks. I have not tried this yet, but it sounds a lot better than my current propane torch and aluminum block process. All I need to do is find an old iron. Sue said she threw one out a few months ago. Isn't that always the case? (*Note from Editor: Shop your local thrift store for an iron!*)

#### **Simple rings for the Granddaughters and (Oh my!) their Moms.**

Dave, a vendor at our gem and mineral show, was selling simple sterling silver wire rings. He braided the wire, wrapped it around a mandrel, cut it to size, soldered the wires back together, sized it on a ring mandrel, polished it, and it produced a nice little ring. I made a number of these with a three-wire (18-gauge) braid, and they were well received. You need to braid at least three or four rings-worth of braid each time. While looking at images one day on the



Internet, I noticed that if you flatten them, they are not as thick and produce a better-looking ring. Simply hammering the finished ring on a steel ring mandrel before sanding with 600 grit and polish did the trick. A loosely braided two-wire ring is very easy to make; the kids enjoy wearing them on multiple fingers. These are very inexpensive and fun gifts for the kids. They only take about 20 minutes to make when the jewelry equipment is ready.

### **A bail that does not need to be soldered**

I have been making pendant bails from scrap sheet metal, bezel wire, and old sterling silver knife handles. A strip is cut, looped with pliers, soldered, and finished.

The bail is attached to the pendant with a soldered split ring. A non-soldered bail was found in some online jewelry images. The bail simply has two loops, one for the necklace, and one for the split ring attachment to the pendant (Fig. 1). From the front, it looks like a soldered loop bail (Fig. 2).



These save a lot of time during fabrication and won't flip with the narrow end up when worn. Some of the soldered ones seem to want to flip.

### **Free Craft Patterns**

*by Charlie Christensen,*

*from The Voice 02/2013, via RMFMS Newsletter 3/2013*

**F**or those crafters in our club, I want to pass on some neat information about a Web site where you can get all sorts of "FREE" patterns/projects, etc. This Web site is [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com). When you get to the site, all you need to do is register (it's FREE) using an e-mail address and password. They will show you a list of different crafts/hobbies, and then you just pick those that interest you.

You will then become the recipient of informative e-mails from different sites. For instance, if you indicated you are interested in jewelry making, you will start seeing e-mails from [wire-sculpture.com](http://wire-sculpture.com), [beadingdaily.com](http://beadingdaily.com), etc.

Through Interweave, you can go in and get free patterns every once in a while; it links you to savings, and it gives links to sites for supplies and equipment. They also have great discounts on instructional DVDs, books, e-books, magazines, and e-mags. Some of our favorite magazines are available via digital means as well as hardcopy. Digital copies save paper and also make it easy to keep copies of your favorite issues. And if you move, you don't need to worry about change of address for your magazines.

Give it a try. Some of the information that you will be seeing in future issues of The Voice will come from the above source.



## Mind Games

via *SCRIBE* 1-2/2013

**W**ow! I've seen this with the letters out of order, but this is the first time I've seen it with numbers.

Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind.

And better than that, Alzheimer's is a long, long, way down the road before it ever gets anywhere near you.

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PR0V3 H0W 0UR M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG  
7H1NG5! 1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5! 1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG 17 W45 H4RD BU7 N0W,  
0N 7H15 L1N3 Y0UR M1ND 1S R34D1NG 17 4U70M471C4LLY W17H 0U7 3V3N  
7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17, B3 PROUD! ONLY C3R741N P30PL3 C4N R3AD 7H15.  
PL3453 F0RWARD 1F U C4N R34D 7H15.

### To my "selected" strange-minded friends:

If you can read the following paragraph, forward it on to your friends and the person that sent it to you with "yes" in the subject line. Only great minds can read this. This is weird, but interesting!

If you can raed this, you have a sgtrane mnid, too. Can you raed this? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdnig to a rschearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oedr the ltteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsit and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! If you can raed this forwrard it.

FORWARD and put "YES" in the Subject Line. Even if you are not old, you will find this interesting... This is NOT a joke. If you were able to pass these tests, you can cancel your annual visit to your neurologist. Your brain is great, and you're far from having a close relationship with Alzheimers.



2012 SCRIBE DVD



**Stuffed Dinosaur for Dinner**

*by Judy Washburn in Loess Bulletin*

*via Tumbler 11/12/1991*

*AFMS Poetry Contest First Place Winner 1993*

*via Breccia 11/99, PICK & PACK 12/00, and Beehive Buzzer 11/01*

I've often read about them  
in books and magazines,  
I've seen their bones and teeth displayed  
On wide-angle movie screens.

The dinosaurs I came to know  
Were lizards huge and mean;  
With pea-sized brains and loping gait,  
They weren't very keen.

These notions seem no more to be  
The latest things to know;  
Bob Bakker told it like it is,  
On the late night Leno show.

I popped out of my bed to hear,  
It's very rare, at best  
To see a noted scientist  
As a TV talk-show guest.

Old pictures melted in my mind  
With every word he'd utter,  
I didn't know just what to think,  
My brain was all a flutter.

"Think of the dinosaurs," he said,  
"More like the bird" - do tell!  
"Like two-ton lively roadrunners,  
Directly out of hell."

This on the night I'd polished off  
Thanksgiving treats galore,  
Never knowing the turkey on my plate  
Was cousin to the dinosaur!"  
Enjoy!

### Show Time 2013

April 13-14	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine Linda Walker; 325-537-4557; linewalk@juno.com
April 19-21	Alpine, TX	Chihuahua Gem & Mineral Society Alpine Civic Center
April 20-21	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Ln; 806-797-5832 walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org
April 20-21	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Society Extraco Events Ctr., Creative Arts Building 4601 Bosque Blvd.
April 26-28	Houston, TX	Houston Fine Mineral Show Embassy Suites Hotel near The Galleria 2911 Sage Road <a href="http://www.finemineralshow.com/">http://www.finemineralshow.com/</a>
May 25-26	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Society Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com Web site: <a href="http://fortworthgemandmineralclub.org">fortworthgemandmineralclub.org</a>
June 1-2	Stafford, TX	The Bead Market Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd.
August 10-11	Baton Rouge, LA	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society The Marriott
August 17-18	Bossier City, LA	SCFMS Convention & Show Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center larockclub@gmail.com; <a href="http://larockclub.com">larockclub.com</a>
August 24-25	Jasper, TX	Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society Events Center
September 14-15	Arlington, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Society 1010 Event Center, Rollins/Randoll Mill Rd.
November 8-10	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 <a href="http://www.hgms.org">www.hgms.org</a> ; ladyt682@yahoo.com

2013		April				2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 Board Meeting	3 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	4 7:30 Archeology Section	5	6 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
7	8 1:00 Day Light Section	9 7:30 Show Committee	10 7:30 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				

2013		May				2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	2 7:30 Archeology Section	3	4 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
5	6	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	9	10	11 10-5 Shop Open
12 Mother's Day	13 1:00 Day Light Section	14 7:30 Show Committee	15 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	16	17	18 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
19	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-3 Shop open	23	24	25 10-5 Shop Open
26	27 Memorial Day	28 7:30 General Meeting	29	30	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)  
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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