



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

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

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February 2013



## President's Message

*by John Caldyne*

### A Thought at the Desk

I'd like to thank everyone for helping me out on my first HGMS Board meeting. It was exciting and fun. Among the things brought up during the meeting were questions about where we should purchase our food for the Show, and should we use cash or a Visa prepaid card. Our other show-related subject was how to further expand our show advertising and marketing. I'm a networker—I'm out every day networking with business people, so that is one way to get the word out. The other is through purchased media. We all can do a little networking. A number of Board members had good ideas, so we do have a couple of fresh minds, and they are ready to go.



I ask everyone to give Theresa and Chris Peek applause for the fine job they did near the end of the Show, and applause also goes to Clyde McMeans and Karen Burns for a job well done. Terry Proctor helped me out with the proper language to use in calling for a vote.

We had so much to talk about that I really didn't get a chance to ask a lot of questions or tell the Board what some of the member had suggested, so I will bring that up in the next Board meeting. I will be doing many things this coming spring and fall, so hold on to your hat—**HERE WE GO!**

## General Meeting Date

**February 26, 2013**

It's been many months since the Editor was last sent information about upcoming programs, so going forward, only the date of the upcoming General Meeting will be shown here.

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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>.

## Another Story of the Miner

11-26-2012

by John Anderson

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

I mentioned in my first article of "The Miner" that my family had always had a mining claim somewhere. The ores on our prospecting and mining claims were varied. Usually they were metal elements that ran from lead as galena (PbS), silver-bearing complex ore (TsAg), native gold (Au), tungsten as in the ore of scheelite (CaWO<sub>4</sub>), thorium rare earth (Th-232), native iron (Fe), and uranium as carnotite (for which I omitted the chemical composition due to its length). As you can tell, the search patterns for these different ores do not have much in common in their locality and their mineralization in the areas where the ore is found. Before any mining operation is ever started, there has to be extensive prospecting to find a deposit. I wish to tell you a story that starts with prospecting for the radioactive ore of carnotite that ends with finding a deposit that is rich enough to begin mining operation.



This story begins while I was on summer vacation from college. My father John, my Uncle Walter, a friend called Little Joe, and I came together one evening to try to get in on the uranium boom that was going on in 1956. We assembled one evening to determine what type instrument we would purchase to detect radioactivity. In those days there were three different types of instruments used to detect radioactivity. A single-tube Geiger Muller that measures radiation, a Scintillation Counter, and a Nucleometer. We settled on the nucleometer because it had a bank of 20 Geiger Muller tubes that offered extreme sensitivity plus other bonus characteristics like being able to make a direct percentage evaluation of the ore sample. The way these instruments work is the nucleus of an atom that has too much mass to be stable disintegrates emitting radioactive energy and is measured on a meter in Curie or Becquerel (BQ).

At that time, the state of Colorado had a large number of mining claims being registered in the finding of radioactive minerals. My Uncle Walter had a shirt-tail relative living in Meeker, Colorado. There were big opportunities to find uranium in the Meeker, Colorado area, and having someone living in the area who knew the area was a big advantage. After purchasing the nucleometer and I was on summer break from my college, I drove to Meeker. I met my shirt-tail relative, Dave, and he showed me the area where there was much activity in finding high-content radioactive ore. As we traveled around the area, he was always looking over his shoulder while driving. I asked, "What is the problem," and so he told me the following story.

He had found a really “hot” petrified log with pitchblende—an oxide of uranium (UO<sub>2</sub>) and (UO<sub>3</sub>) that has the common name of uraninite because of its dark color. Dave staked a mining claim on the big Petrified tree area. He sold the claim, but he did not own the property—which the buyer knew. The owner of the property said if he ever caught Dave on his property again, he would shoot him. At that very moment in the story, Dave thought that he saw the owner’s pickup truck on the next hill, about one mile away. Needless to say, he floored the old Kaiser Frazer auto, and we made a hasty retreat from that area.

The next day I went to another area that I thought would be safe where I climbed over hill and dale. I finally found a wash. I followed any trace background reading that was higher than normal with my nucleometer. The farther I climbed up the wash, the higher the reading went until I came to a very brushy area. I pushed my way through the brush and sat down in the wash. I rested a bit and had a snack. As I sat there, my leg began to cramp, but it was not like any leg cramp that I have ever had. I finally turned on my radiation measuring instrument, and the meter went wild. I had hit a deposit of carnotite! While sitting there, I noticed that there were planes flying over the area like they were running a radioactive grid over the area, but I thought nothing of it.

I immediately set up my mining claim markers since I had brought all of the wood posts and whitewash to mark the site, which was 600 feet by 1200 feet. I then headed to Craig a few miles away to register my claim. When I got to the county records office, I learned that the area I had claimed had just been released for mining that day because it had been withheld as a potential dam site.

I had a very sleepless night because I saw other people in the area, and I was all by myself. I did have an old 22 rifle which I kept with me. During the next day I heard some noise from a truck near the center of my central claim marker. I saw three guys pulling out my center post and putting in their post with a mining claim document. By the way, this was called mining claim jumping. I let the men see me, then I raised my 22 rifle and fired in their general direction about 50 yards to the right. They were so scared that they jumped into their truck and tore off in another direction.

I stayed on my mining claim deposit doing my location and assessment work for the year. I went to the recorder’s office and registered the name of the person who tried to jump my claim, then I placed the document on my claim. It mentioned the name of the person who tried to jump my claim, and it stated that the claim was duly recorded. The Anderson Clan now had a good Uranium Mining Claim. I would like to tell you more concerning this story, but that is another story.

The Miner

John A. Anderson

## Organic Jewelry

by Mark Villanueva, G.G.,A.J.P., C.S.P.

Contact him at [Gemologist@hgms.org](mailto:Gemologist@hgms.org)

**B**efore the discovery of precious and semiprecious gemstones, humans have worn jewelry in order to look appealing and attractive. For the past 90,000 to 100,000 years, organic materials that were once growing, living, walking, crawling, or swimming have been used for personal adornment. Today there are several organic materials that are frequently used in jewelry. Among them are ivory, coral, amber, jet, ammolite, abalone, nacre (mother of pearl), pearls, bamboo, wood, bone, and horn. Besides these few, it is surprising how many other organic materials have been used for bodily decoration.

### Ivory

Ivory originally referred to the tusks of an elephant. The substance contained in an elephant tusk is calcium phosphate. Today, ivory includes teeth from fossilized mammoths, hippopotami, wild boars, walruses and narwhals (a medium-sized, toothed whale). Since ancient times, ivory has been used to make items that range from false teeth, jewelry, carvings, and piano keys to billiard balls. The 7<sup>th</sup> conference of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITIES)** approved a worldwide ban on the ivory from elephant's tusks in September of 1989. In 2007, there was a temporary lift that allowed 60 tons of stockpiled ivory to be sold.



Ivory bracelet  
(Photo courtesy of Linda Parsons Chochrek)



**Left:** Ivory-handled revolvers (Photo courtesy of Bert Sherwood)

### Coral

Corals are marine animals with branching skeleton-like appendages that live in compact colonies. Coral colonies have identical individual polyps that, when grouped together, form reefs. Coral secretes calcium carbonate which forms a hard skeleton used for jewelry. Two-thirds of the jewelry industry's coral is harvested south of Naples, Italy. Coral can live and grow in waters as shallow as 3 feet and as deep as 9,800 feet. When coral is harvested, it is dull and needs to be polished with fine-grained sandstone or emery. The process is completed by using felt wheels. After polishing, a vitreous luster is revealed. There are different types of coral, but the most desirable is Nobel Coral. It is usually light-colored, but can vary from salmon and ox-

**Below:** Medium-red coral necklace (Photo courtesy of Charlene Richards)



blood red to medium red to light pink, with red or white spots.

## Amber



Honey amber with an insect inclusion

Amber is the hardened resin that is fossilized from a pine tree. *Pinus succinifera* formed approximately 2.6 to 65 million years ago, during the Tertiary period. Amber primarily occurs in either a drop-shaped or a shell-like formation. Amber exists in an assortment of colors, with descriptive names such as honey, butterscotch, caramel, cherry and gravel pit. Yellow and brown are typically desirable for fashion jewelry. Collectors search for amber with creatures encased inside.

When the resin flows down the tree bark, insects and other small animals sometimes become trapped. This entrapment preserves the specimen to the extent that you can see the wings on a mosquito or the small hairs on a fly. In 2007, National Geographic did an article about the discovery of an amber specimen containing a Mexican tree frog. In Mexico, there have been other uncommon finds such as green amber, which occurs naturally, but is quite rare.

“Pretty! In amber to observe the forms of hairs, or straws, or dirt, or grubs, or worms! These things, we know, are neither rich nor rare, but wonder—how the devil they got there?” British poet, Alexander Pope — 21 May 1688–30 May 1744.

## Jet (Lignite)

Jet formed millions of years ago from the high-pressure decomposition of wood in either salt or fresh water. There are two forms of jet—hard and soft. Hard jet is the result of the compression of carbon in salt water, whereas soft jet is formed in fresh water. The Whitby Museum, located in the United Kingdom, holds one of the world’s most important and vast collections (containing over 500 pieces) of jet. According to the Whitby Museum, jet jewelry can be traced back as far as 10,000 BC. Jet was particularly fashionable during the reign of Queen Victoria, who wore Whitby jet as part of her mourning dress. Jet has a somber black color and reserved appearance. Most jet jewelry is worked or fashioned on a lathe. During the “Roaring 20s,” flappers wore multiple strands of jet necklaces that extended to their waistlines. Today, jet is used for rosaries, cameos, and ornamental objects.



Left: Jet necklace, brooch, earrings and bracelet

## Ammolite

Ammolite is rare and comes from fossilized, mineralized shells. Since it was not until 1981 that the World Jewellery Confederation gave ammolite its gem status, ammolite does not have a long history as a gem. Subsequently, ammolite began to have economic

value when the decision was made to recognize it as an organic gemstone. Having a kaleidoscope of colors, ammolite is similar in appearance to opals. However, in order to be used in jewelry, ammolite requires polishing and a supportive backing. Ammolite measures 0.1 to 0.3 mm thick and is usually fashioned into earrings or pendants. Rare and valuable, ammolite commands a higher price than many other organic materials. In the late 1990s, Feng Shui practitioners believed this stone had the power to promote well-being and to detoxify the body through its flow of energy. In addition, ammolite's combination of red, green, and yellow colors are said to enhance wisdom, growth, and wealth.



Ammolite  
and Peridot  
Pendant

## Abalone



Abalone necklace  
(Photo courtesy of  
Linda Parsons  
Chochrek)

Abalone is comprised of a group of small to large mollusks, sea snails, and marine gastropods. The shells of abalones have open spiral structures. Composed of mother-of-pearl, or nacre, the thick inner layer of this shell is highly iridescent and has a strong changeable color when rotated. The outer layer is made of hexagonal platelets of aragonite (a form of calcium carbonate). Nacre is secreted by the epithelial cells of the mantle tissue of various mollusks and is continuously deposited onto the inner surface of the shell. The layers of nacre smooth the shell's surface and help defend it against parasites and damaging debris by entombing them in successive layers of nacre. The nacre sometimes forms either a blister pearl (attached to the interior of the shell) or a free pearl (within the mantle tissues). The process is called encystation, and the release of nacre continues as long as the mollusk lives.

## Bamboo

Bamboo is from the Poaceae grass family, and its stems are hollow. Bamboos are some of the fastest growing plants in the world, with reported growth of 100 cm in a 24-hour period. Unlike trees, individual bamboo stems (or culms) emerge from the ground at their full diameter and grow to their full height in a single season. Bamboo has many uses ranging from scaffolding, textiles, paper, medicines, musical instruments, martial arts weapons, writing instruments and food to jewelry. Soft bamboo leaves, shoots, and stems are the major food source of the giant panda of China and the bamboo lemurs of Madagascar.



Bamboo bracelet (Photos  
courtesy of Linda Parsons  
Chochrek)

## Wood

Mango wood, teakwood, sandal wood, cedar, hickory, walnut, and cherry are among the types of trees that are used in wooden jewelry today. With deforestation, there is an

economic concern regarding boycotts of forest products. After the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio failed to produce an agreement to stop deforestation, the Forest Stewardship Council was formed (FSC). The mission of the FSC is to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically

prosperous management of the world's forests. One of the principles of the FSC is that forest plantations shall be planned and managed to provide an array of social and economic benefits and to contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests. Some jewelry artisans, who work with wood, use wood that has been cultivated specifically for this purpose.



Wooden Necklace with carved African animals  
(Photos courtesy of Charlene Richards)

### Horn and Bone



Yak Bone Bracelet  
(Photo from an anonymous donor)

Buffalo, cow, yak, and bull are just a few types of bones and horns that are used for bracelets, rings, beads, necklaces, earrings, and bangles. With most bone and horn jewelry, the variation in color is very dramatic and adds to the beauty of this organic jewelry. Horn is incredibly light in weight, so it displays a large visual appearance without being inordinately heavy to wear. Since horn has often been exposed to the elements for a period of time before being used as jewelry, it holds ups very well in the sun and sand.

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## Bugs in the Houston Museum of Natural Science

### New Paleo Hall—Best in the World

by Neal Immega, Ph.D. Paleontologist

written 1/3/13

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

When the new paleo hall opened, the Museum put up a billboard warning the public that the hall is infested with BUGS! It really is, but they are not the kind you step on. We have a display that is the “Best In the World.” I will be writing a number of articles on our “Best” displays.

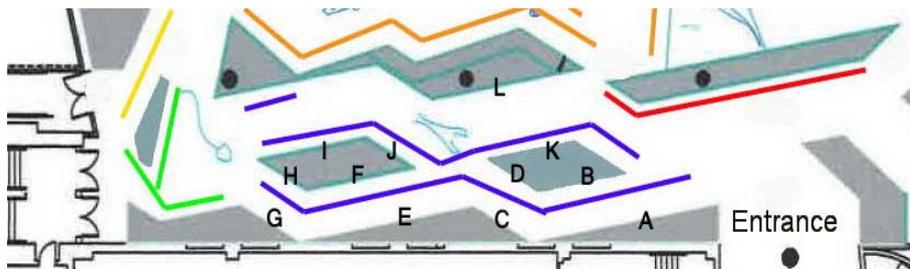
Well, trilobites do look a lot like the common pill bugs in your lawn. They are part of the huge family called arthropods, which have hard external skeletons that must be periodically replaced (molted) for the animals to grow. The Museum is fortunate that a trilobite fanatic, Sam Stubbs, lives in our town and has donated about 100 of the most fantastic trilobites you have ever seen. He collects only the most perfect specimens available.

Trilobites were marine (lived in the ocean) and were mostly bottom dwellers. I suspect they were as tasty as shrimp because they started to decline when fish began to populate the oceans. Through time, they grew ever more elaborate defensive spines and eyes. There are two ‘bites on display that apparently occupy the unusual evolutionary niche of the surface swimmer.

Let’s go look at them. Here is a map of the trilobite section of the hall that you need because the cases are not numbered.



Seen on Hwy 59 in Houston

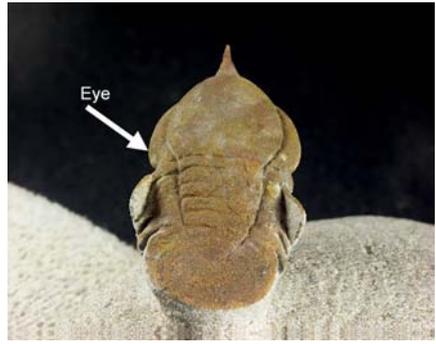


Trilobite-Filled Cases at the Entrance of the New Paleo Hall

Look at Wall D, and you will find a case with a *Cyclopyge* (say “cyclo-pij” not “cyclo-piggy”!) It has a huge pair of eyes that are mostly on the underside of the head. This suggests that the animal was looking for threats from below.



Cyclopyge in Wall D – a surface swimming trilobite.



Symphysops in Wall K. This 'bite may be a FAST surface swimmer.

We have an even better swimmer, *Symphysops*, in a case on Wall K. This animal also has huge eyes pointing mostly down, and it is streamlined as well, suggesting that it is a FAST surface swimmer.

This is just a taste of what we have in the hall. YOU GOTTA SEE THIS. There is no excuse for not visiting—the Houston Museum of Natural Science has a FREE afternoon (3–6 p.m.) on Thursdays. Thank you, Sam Stubbs, for infesting our hall with such great 'bites.

### My Way by Ed Clay

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

I may not  
often  
go to church,  
Or attend services there.  
I may not often fall  
on my knees to pray.  
But I pray none the less.

For I cut stones,  
I take raw rocks,  
use the skills I've been given,  
skills that I have spent years  
practicing,  
To produce beauty  
breathtaking in its impact.  
To bring from the stone  
the beauty put there,  
this is my Prayer.  
My reverence to the creator.

The beauty trapped in the rock is real  
the ability to bring it forth is also real,  
both gifts.

That never to forget  
at times  
I say a silent thank you  
Because I am thankful  
To be able to see  
small or subtle glints  
of color or pattern,  
bring them to brilliant life,  
to be the first one  
to see  
the beauty placed there.

## Help! Where are Mark Villanueva's Awards?

by Phyllis George

Several years back, Mark Villanueva won four certificates and three plaques in the 2008 and 2009 Bulletin Editors' Contest at both the SCFMS and AFMS levels. The plaques and certificates were held at the club because by the time they were awarded, Mark had joined the Army (unknown by us) and was already serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We had no idea how to contact him about the awards.

Mark is now in the U.S., is in the process of being discharged from the Army, and he would like to have his plaques and certificates—but they are nowhere to be found in the club office.

2012 HGMS President Charlie Fredregill said that he's sure someone told him that when the office was about to be cleaned up and organized during the past year or two, someone else took Mark's awards home for safekeeping. However no one seems to know who that might be.

So if you happen to have those items, or you know who does, PLEASE contact me either by phone or e-mail so we can get those items back and send them to Mark.

As a side note, last year Mark mailed to the club an America flag that had flown with him in battle and a certificate explaining the significance of the flag. Both have been framed, and the flag is now on display. The certificate should join it soon to complete the display.

## Paleo Winter Party and Auction Coming in February

by Mike Dawkins

Since there was so much going on after the HGMS Annual Show in November, the Paleo Section decided to celebrate the holidays in February with a Winter Party and Auction on the regular Paleo meeting night, February 19.

**6 p.m.:** View the auction materials.

**7 p.m.:** **Dinner**—the Section will provide meat. Please bring your own dish such as vegetables, salads, and starches (lets go lighter on the desserts—we have all had our just desserts during the holiday season).

**7:45 p.m.:** **Auction**—Neal will bring lots of things he has been squirreling away—cutting material, huge geode, minerals collected in his youth (1000s of years ago), and best of all, paleo stuff that includes Eurypterid parts from New York. Lots of free stuff also like blastoids (also from his youth).

Please bring your own stuff to sell too.

Images will be posted on the Web site of some of the materials.

## General Meeting Refreshment Volunteer List

The Board voted last year to set up a system to provide refreshments at each General Meeting. Terry Proctor volunteered to provide them for January and February, 2013. Donations to the Sabre Tooth Kitty will offset the expense of providing refreshments. At the January General Meeting, John will ask for volunteers to provide refreshments for two months at a time, starting with March and April, 2013. The refreshment volunteer schedule will be published in the BBG, and the Club Secretary will send reminders before each General Meeting.

<b>Terry Proctor</b>	January and February, 2013
???	March and April, 2013
???	May and June, 2013
???	July and August, 2013
???	September and October, 2013
???	November, 2013 (December—no meeting)

## Mineral Section Programs

*by Paul Brandes*

**February 6, 2013: DVD of attendees' choice:** Due to the plans of many Mineral Section members to be in Tucson, those not able to attend can chose a DVD from the Library to view (the tentative choice is to continue with another part of the 2012 "What's Hot in Tucson"), or attendees can discuss their possible collecting plans for the spring/summer. Refreshments will be provided.

**February 20, 2013: Tucson Show & Tell:** For those who were lucky enough to attend the most famous mineral gathering in the world, bring in your recent acquisitions from the many Tucson Shows. Give us your impressions and regale us with your experiences. For those who could not make it, come and see what you are missing. Refreshments will be provided.

## Day Light Programs

*by Mary Ann Mitscherling*

**February 11:** We will make jumprings on the HGMS Pepe Jumpring Maker, and use them in making a Byzantine chain bracelet or earrings. The jumprings will be made from 18 ga. 3.5 mm round wire.

**March 11:** An alternative jump ring project, such as foxtail, triangle necklace, etc., will be decided on during the February meeting.

**April 8:** We will engage in metal sheet forming using 4" x 4" soft copper or soft brass. Practice in class will first be on 4" x4" sheets of paper. Our goal will be to produce art objects.

## Archeology Section Minutes

January 3, 2013

by Terry Proctor

Cold weather curtailed the usual turnout of members of the Archeology Section for the January 3, 2013 meeting. However, this meeting turned out to be one of the most interesting meetings so far. Those attending were Carole Cell, Garth Clark, M.D., Robert and Nancy Moore, Terry Proctor, and Rod Underwood.



Dr. Garth Clark presented a Peruvian Coastal Culture Chimu four-chamber fermentation pot or vessel (see left). These were used to ferment chocolate and cocaine, and some of the residue remains in the vessel. When one breathes into it, the smell of the exhaust breath identifies. This was a culture of people who were later taken over by the Mayan Culture.

Robert Moore and wife, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, presented two very interesting items which they turned over to the Archeology Section

to be held at a General Meeting in the next month or so. One is a 3rd or 4th Century A.D. Roman tear vial (see photo on right). These were used by the wife of a Roman warrior to collect her tears while the warrior was off to the war or battle. She would add some perfume to it and a cork and present it as proof to her husband when he returned of the tears she shed for him while he was at war. It has a beautiful rainbow patina from being buried in the Earth for close to 2,000 years.



Robert Moore also presented three brass statues from Egypt from about 1,000 B.C. One is Osiris (God of the Dead) shown at right as you look at the photo of Bob Moore (on left). One is Isis holding her son Horus (in the middle). The third was Apis, a brass bull, which a member was looking at as it does not appear in the photo at the left. Isis is believed to have been sitting on a wooden chair, but over the past 3,000+ years, her seat has deteriorated—but she has not as she was fashioned in brass.

The Moores do extensive collecting of prehistoric relics and always have interesting things to show members of the Archeology Section at the monthly meetings.

The other items the Moores presented were three Persian carnelian beads (see right) from the Achaemenid Dynasty, about 600 B.C. Nancy was wearing a necklace of all of the carnelian beads which they had purchased, except for these three which did not match all the others. She showed the ones she was wearing in addition to the three donated to the Archeology Section for auction.

Carnelian is a form of agate and one of the hardest substances other than sapphires and diamonds. The beads took a very long time to fashion, including putting a hole through the bead so it could be strung on a necklace. The problem is that the hole is put through the carnelian using a bone needle dipped in animal glue, then in sand, dried and then hand ground into the beads.



Obviously this had to be done over and over, and half the length of the hole was worn in from each end. Sometimes the alignment of the holes from each end did not meet perfectly in the middle, making stringing the beads somewhat difficult. Some of the carnelian beads acquire a white patina also from mineral substances in the Earth where they were buried for centuries.

The field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) to see the Mayan Culture exhibit will not be made at a “group reduced price,” as fewer than 20 people signed up to go, the number required to get the reduced price. However, the field trip is still on, and HGMS Archeology Section members and others will meet near the ticket area of the Houston Museum of Natural Science main floor. This field trip is on Sunday, January 13, at 2 p.m. Robert and Nancy Moore will be our guides for this field trip of the Mayan Exhibit. The Moores are volunteer docents with the HMNS and put in a considerable time as volunteers for the Museum.

Other field trips are being planned for 2013. They will include another trip or two to dig at McFaddin Beach and another fall trip to the Stone City Formation (Whiskey Bridge) in the fall—complete with the barbecue at Terry Stiles Ranch. This Stone City field trip will be a joint effort with the Paleontology Section and the Proctor Museum of Natural Science, Inc. The Archeology Section also plans for one or more AmerIndian artifact trips this year.

For HGMS members who have not yet attended a meeting of the new Archeology Section, you are missing a real learning experience to learn about human life on this planet and how this ties in with jewelry making, mineralogy, lapidary, bead making, faceting, and paleontology.

Archeology Section members and others interested who want to donate anything for the upcoming Archeology Section auction should contact Vice-Chairman Terry Proctor at [auraman@swbell.net](mailto:auraman@swbell.net) or call him at his law office 713 453-8338 day or evening.

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

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2013

by Michele Marsel

2013 HGMS Secretary

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. with a quorum of 10 members present.

**Previous Month Board Minutes:** Terry Proctor moved to approve the minutes of the December Board meeting as published in the January 2012 BBG. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rodney Linehan reported current balances including preliminary show profit of approximately \$17,000. Without income from the Show, club profit for the year would not cover the expense of running the club house. We received a \$500 in-kind donation from Chevron. After general discussion on the HGMS Building Fund, Terry Proctor moved to set up or designate a specific bank account to hold the building fund separate from general funds. The motion was seconded by Jillynn Hailes, and it was approved unanimously.

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archaeology Section:** Terry Proctor reported that all HGMS members are encouraged to attend the Archaeology Section meetings. Every meeting includes interesting show and tell items. The next scheduled field trip will be Sunday, January 13, to the Mayan exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Robert and Nancy Moore will act as guides for the visit. The May General Meeting will feature an auction that includes unusual and valuable items such as a 3rd or 4th Century A.D. Roman Tear Vial, three 600 B.C. Carnelian beads, some place mats, several Safari dinosaur models, and three books of value.

**Beading Section:** A field trip is planned for Saturday, January 12. This is the week before the usual meeting. The members will meet for lunch at The Bijan Persian Grill on Hillcroft, then they will shop for beads and other project items on Harwin. The project for the next meeting will be earrings (see Web site).

**Day Light Section:** Neal Immega demonstrated how to create a soldered cabochon mounting at the last meeting, and he will complete the project at the January meeting. Karen Burns will teach a simple wire ring at the February meeting.

**Education Committee:** No report.

**Faceting Section:** No report.

**Lapidary Section:** No December meeting. The January meeting will include discussion on possible new template shapes, the Lapidary Section scholarship program, and upcoming Section auction plans.

**Mineral Section:** No report.

**Outreach Committee:** There was a Harvard Elementary presentation in December. The Committee is putting together an information package to request grants from Petro-Chemical Companies and others, showing the educational outreach of HGMS to schools.

**Paleo Section:** 2012 business will be wrapped up at the January meeting. The February meeting is the new date for the annual Section party and auction. A Brownwood trip is planned for March. The Section agreed to update the Paleo scholarship information on the club Web site.

**Show Committee:** Theresa and Chris Peek will co-chair the show for 2013. Show dates are dealer setup on November 7, and the show runs from November 8 through November 10, 2013 at the Humble Civic Center. Chase Jennings will serve as the Publicity Chair. Currently there is no Assistant Show Chair. Theresa and Chris are hoping to fill this position. After discussion of rising show costs, Terry Proctor moved to raise the full adult ticket by \$1 dollar to \$8 per adult and to reduce the age of kids receiving free admission to 10 years and under. Charlie Fredregill seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**Youth Section:** Beverly Mace reported that the Youth meetings have had a small turnout recently due to the weather.

**BBG Editor and Web site:** The due date for the February BBG is officially January 9, 2013. Trophies from the 2012 SCFMS Contest will be awarded at the January 22, 2013 General Meeting. Phyllis George announced that she has agreed to act as the SCFMS Web Site Contest Coordinator, so the HGMS Web site cannot enter that contest while she holds that position.

### Old Business

- The Board voted last year to set up a system to provide refreshments at each General Meeting. Terry Proctor volunteered to provide them for January and February, 2013, and John Caldyne will focus membership attention on the sabre tooth tiger money holder to promote donations to the kitty at the General Meetings. These donations will offset the expense of providing refreshments. At the January General Meeting, John will ask for volunteers to provide refreshments for two months at a time, starting with March and April, 2013. The refreshment volunteer schedule will be published in the BBG, and the Club Secretary will send reminders before each General Meeting.

- Terry Proctor is working on updating the Bylaws to incorporate previously approved changes made by the Board. The target date for completion is the end of April. In the interim, Phyllis George will put critical updates on the Web site that will serve until the Board can review and approve the final version with all the updates.
- No progress has been made on obtaining permission to park in the next door tenant's lot. Terry Proctor plans to address the problem by initiating direct contact with the adjoining owner to negotiate use of his parking in the evenings for HGMS.

### New Business

- Terry Proctor moved that HGMS provide a \$2500 scholarship in 2013, and Phyllis George seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. May 1 was suggested as the deadline to apply for the scholarship in order for it to be awarded in time for the fall semester.
- Terry Proctor, the HGMS representative to the Dunn SW Business Park Association Board, notified the HGMS Board of his intent to vote for Dunn SW to contract with COIR Property Company, Inc. as the future management company to manage Dunn SW. There were no objections.
- Terry Proctor moved to pay the American Land Access Association 2013 renewal dues. Charlie Fredregill seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Terry also moved to approve renewal in TANO (a non-profit organization that has extensive information on organizations that give out grants) when due in 2013. Jillynn Hailes seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- Terry will send our annual report and approved amended Bylaws to the Texas Secretary of State as required.
- There was discussion regarding the need for a club-level publicity chairperson to handle year-around club promotion and to handle the staffing and publicizing of HGMS at Intergem shows so the Show Publicity Committee can turn its attention completely to the show. This will be added to the February agenda for further discussion.

**Adjourn:** Terry Proctor moved and Jillynn Hailes seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

## GEMS & TREASURES

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Email: [gemsandtreasures12@aol.com](mailto:gemsandtreasures12@aol.com)

## 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)

**Bench Shears:** When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13–\$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store—some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07. I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes.

They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup, and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

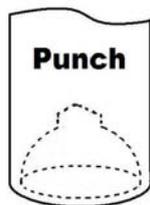


**Bezel Closer:** A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5-inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center-punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball burr a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start



bending over the stone. Now inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next, you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

**Regional Federation Conventions**

*by Bob Livingston*

*AFMS Show Coordinator*

*from AFMS Newsletter 12/2012-01/2013*



Please be certain to inform me of your upcoming regional federation convention so that we can avoid conflicting events that make it difficult for your AFMS President and competitive exhibit judges to make a choice as to which of the conventions to attend.

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain	South Central	Southeast Federation
2013	May 31-June 2 Ventura, CA	June 1-2 Plainview, NY	April 6 - 7 Lincoln, NE	August 16-18 Butte, MT	May 17-19 Sandy, UT	August 17- 18 Bossier City, LA	AFMS Sept 20-22 Jacksonville, FL
2014		March 29-30 Plymouth Mtg, PA	Oct. 18 - 19 Des Moines, IA	August 15-17 Hermiston, OR	AFMS July 9 - 13 Tulsa, OK		
2015						AFMS Austin, TX	

**South Central Federation Convention News**

*from SCFMS Newsletter 11-12/2012*

**Annual Show**

The 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.

## Lapidary Corner Shop Hints

*from Stoney Statements 9/2012*

1. **To get a high polish on onyx and other difficult to polish stones**, go through the complete process of making the cab from grinding to polish in your normal manner. Then to the high polish: mix in a baby food jar or in any wide-mouthed glass, 3 tablespoons water with 9½ teaspoons oxalic acid, and dip your cab in this mixture. Go back to your polishing wheel for another run. You will be pleased with the results.
2. **Instead of dumping used acid** (oxalic, muriatic, etc.) down the drain where it can cause pollution and might damage the plumbing, try the following: put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware (do not use metal) with a piece of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can be safely dumped almost anywhere.
3. **Candle Your Montana Agate**: “Candle” your Montana agate just as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two-pound coffee can, turn it upside down, and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light will show the dendrites. This saves cutting time.
4. **Rubber should not come in contact with silver**. Never put a rubber band around any silver items or you will get a permanent stain.
5. **Fluorescent labels** can be read in the dark by using ink made by mixing quinine and water. It glows bright blue under black light.
6. **The Orangewood Stick**: One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough to not mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and reaches into impossible places.
7. **For the Silversmiths**: The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing-wheel threads, not on the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not give the same results as a quality one. Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily. Bon Ami applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.
8. **Uses for Graphite**: On many occasions black epoxy is appropriate instead of the customary gray. Make your own. Use black ground graphite shavings from pencils for your pigment. By thoroughly mixing with your epoxy, you will get a good black color.
9. **Richter Scale**: We hear a lot about the Richter scale which denotes the strength of an earthquake. This scale was developed by seismologist Charles Richter in 1935. Each number is 10 times more powerful than the previous one. Humans can feel a shock of two on the Richter scale.

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

## Does the Bible Mention Dinosaurs?

*from SCRIBE CD December 2010*

*via The Pinewoods Rooter 12/2012*

If people saw dinosaurs, you would think that ancient historical writings, such as the Bible, should mention them. The King James Version was first translated in 1611. “Some people think that because the word “dinosaur” is not found in this, or other translations, the Bible does not mention dinosaurs. It was not until 1841, however, that the word “dinosaur” was invented. Sir Richard Owen, a famous British anatomist and first superintendent of the British Museum (and a staunch anti-Darwinist), on viewing the bones of Iquandon and Megalosaurus, realized these represented a unique group of reptiles that had not yet been classified. He coined the term “dinosaur” from the Greek words meaning “terrible lizard.”

Thus, one can't expect to find the word “dinosaur” in the King James Bible—the word did not exist when the translation was done. Is there another word for “dinosaur”? There are dragon legends from around the world. Many “dragon” descriptions fit the characteristics of specific dinosaurs. Could these accounts be of encounters with what are called dinosaurs?

The Hebrew word commonly translated as “dragon” in the KJV (Hebrew: tan, tannin, tannim, tannoth) appears in the Old Testament some 30 times. There are passages in the Bible about “dragons” that lived on the land: “he [Nebuchadnezzar] has swallowed me like a dragon” (Jeremiah 51:34), “the dragons of the wilderness” (Malachi 1:3). Many biblical creationists believe that in many contexts, these could refer to what we now call “dinosaurs.” Indeed, Strong's Concordance lists “dinosaur” as one of the meanings of tannin/m.

In Genesis 1:21, the Bible says, “And God created the great sea monsters and every living thing that moves, which the waters swarmed, after their kind.” The Hebrew word here for “sea monsters” (“whales” in KJV) is the word translated elsewhere as “dragon” (Hebrew: tannin). So, in the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, God may be describing the great sea dragons (sea-dwelling, dinosaur-type animals) that He created.

There are other Bible passages about dragons that lived in the sea: “the dragons in the waters” (Psalm 74:13), “and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea” (Isaiah 27:1). Though the word “dinosaur” strictly refers to animals that lived on the land, the sea reptiles and flying reptiles are often grouped with dinosaurs. The sea dragons could have included dinosaur-type animals such as the Mosasaurus.



Plesiosaur

All Photos taken in HMNS Paleo Hall  
by John Mitscherling

Job 41 describes a great animal in the sea, Leviathan, that even breathed fire. This “dragon” may have been something like a mighty 55 ft. (17 m) Kronasarus, or the 82 ft. Liopleuron.

There is also mention of a flying serpent in the Bible: “the fiery flying serpent” (Isaiah 30:6). This could be a reference to one of the pterodactyls, which are popularly thought of as flying dinosaurs, such as the Pteranodon, Rhamphorhynchus, or Ornithocheirus.

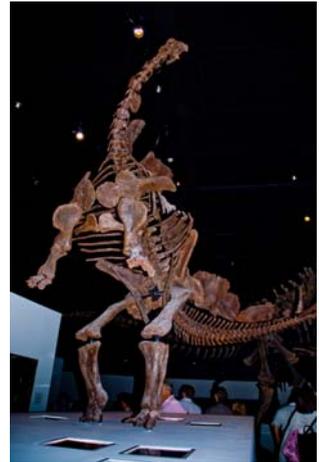
Not long after the Flood, God showed a man called Job how great He was as Creator by reminding Job of the largest land animal He had made: Behold now behemoth, which I made with you: he eats grass like an ox. See now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the muscles of his belly. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. His bones are like tubes of bronze; his limbs are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: his maker brings near his sword (Job 40: 15-19).



Triceratops at HMNS

The phrase “chief of the ways of God” suggests this was the largest land animal God had made. So what kind of animal was “behe-moth”? Bible translators, not being sure what this beast was, often transliterated the Hebrew, and thus the word behemoth (e.g. KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV).

However, in many Bible commentaries and Bible footnotes, “behe-moth” is said to be “possibly the hippopotamus or elephant.” Some Bible versions actually translate “behe-moth” this way. Besides the fact that the elephant and hippo were not the largest land animals God made (some of the dinosaurs far eclipsed these), this description does not make sense, since the tail of behemoth is compared to the large cedar tree (verse 17). Now an elephant’s tiny tail (or a hippo’s tail that looks like a flap of skin!) is quite unlike a cedar tree! Clearly the elephant and the hippo could not possibly be “behe-moth.” No living creature comes close to this description. However, behemoth is very much like Brachiosaurus, one of the large dinosaurs.



Are there other ancient records of dinosaurs? In the film *The Great Dinosaur Mystery*, a number of dragon accounts are presented: A Sumerian story dating back to 2000 BC or more tells of a hero named Gilgamesh, who, when he went to fell cedars in a remote forest, encountered a huge vicious dragon that he slew cutting off its head as a trophy. When Alexander the Great (c.330 BC) and his soldiers marched into India, they found that the Indians worshipped huge hissing reptiles that they kept in caves.

China is renowned for its dragon stories, and dragons are prominent on Chinese pottery, embroidery, and carvings. England has its story of St. George, who slew a dragon that lived in a cave.

There is the story of a tenth century Irishman who wrote of his encounter with what appears to be a Stegosaurus. In the 1500s a European scientific book, *Historia Animalium*, listed several animals that we would call dinosaurs as still alive. A well known naturalist of the time, Ulysses Aldrovandus, recorded an encounter between a peasant named Baptista and a dragon whose description fits that of the small dinosaur *Tanystropheus*. The encounter was on May 13, 1572, near Bologna in Italy, and the peasant killed the dragon. Petroglyphs (drawings carved or painted on rock) of dinosaur-like creatures have been found.



Stegosaurus at HMNS

In summary, people down through the ages have been familiar with dragons. The descriptions of these animals fit with what we know about dinosaurs. The Bible mentions such creatures, even ones that lived in the sea and flew in the air. There also is a tremendous amount of other historical evidence that such creatures have lived.

### **Volunteers Needed!**

*by Frank Mullaney  
SCVGMS 2013 President  
from Breccia 1/2013*

**T**his is not the first time I have been President of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, but it is the first time in recent years. I have been a member of this society for nearly forty years, and things have changed a bit in that time. As president I will be writing an article each month for the *Breccia*. This month's article is about volunteerism.

When I was president the first time for this organization, it was not difficult to find people to volunteer for all of the various positions in our club. People were eager to be a part of a larger group. They understood that taking on a job within this organization came with a certain amount of pride in contributing to a larger goal. In the past few years, I have watched our club presidents struggle to find people to contribute to our society by taking on the various small and large jobs that make this organization run well. I'm not sure what happened to the pride that used to follow making a contribution of time and effort, but our society needs everyone to contribute in some small way at the very least.

Taking on a job at our General Meetings, providing help with study groups, or helping at our annual show, every job is important. It is a small commitment of your time to make a better organization for everyone. There are a wide variety of jobs available. More than likely there is a job that would be a perfect fit for any member. Mentoring through the first year is available for anyone who would like to try on a job.

Let's try to bring back the pride of volunteerism and to lighten the load for everyone involved. If you would like to know more about the various jobs that need YOUR attention, contact me and we can talk about what your special skills are and where you will fit well.

*(HGMS Editor's Note: The name of the organization may not be the same, but Frank is describing OUR club and OUR need for volunteers. This is the beginning of the year and a good time to volunteer. Contact HGMS President John Caldyne and let him know what you would like to do.)*



From 2012 SCRIBE DVD

## Hints & Tips

**T**hese Hints & Tips are reprinted from various newsletters. They have not been evaluated by the editor for safety or reliability. Please use caution and safety when trying out any new idea.

*via Breccia 7/2012, via The Glacial Drifter 2/2010; via Gem Cutters News 02/2009*

**Using elk or moose hide** instead of felt will allow you to use more pressure with less friction, thus preventing the stone from getting too hot during the polishing stage.

*via Breccia 7/2012, via The Glacial Drifter, 2/2010; via Stony Statements, 03/2009*

**Plain steel blades or blades that have had the diamonds worn off** can be used to saw softer materials such as malachite, turquoise, azurite, and others.

### Show Time 2013

Jan. 31-Feb. 17	Tucson, AZ	Wholesale and retail shows.
February 1-28	Quartzite, AZ	Wholesale and retail shows.
February 2-3	Panama City, FL	Panama City Gem & Mineral Society Bay County Fairgrounds, Am. Legion Bldg. Joseph Schings, <a href="mailto:mojo3002@comcast.net">mojo3002@comcast.net</a>
February 16-17	Plainview, TX	Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society Ollie Liner Cntr, 2000 S. Columbia Josephine Macha, <a href="mailto:josefcmacha@aol.com">josefcmacha@aol.com</a>
February 16-17	Georgetown, TX	Williams County Gem & Mineral Society Community Center, San Gabriel Park <a href="mailto:dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com">dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.wcgms.org">www.wcgms.org</a>
February 23-24	Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Pasadena Convention Center 7902 Fairmont Parkway; Al Pennington <a href="mailto:gapenning@earthlink.net">gapenning@earthlink.net</a> <a href="http://www.clgms.org">http://www.clgms.org</a>
March 2-3	Big Spring, TX	Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard County Fair Barn
March 2-3	Robstown, TX	Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds <a href="mailto:jsimpson1@stx.rr.com">jsimpson1@stx.rr.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.gcgms.org">www.gcgms.org</a>
March 16-17	Live Oak, TX (San Antonio)	Southwest Gem & Mineral Society San Antonio Event Center Near NW Loop 410 & Marbach
April 13-14	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine Linda Walker; 325-537-4557; <a href="mailto:linewalk@juno.com">linewalk@juno.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org">walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org</a>
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> <a href="mailto:ladyt682@yahoo.com">ladyt682@yahoo.com</a>

2013		February					2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
3	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-5 Shop Open	
10	11 1:00 Day Light Section	12	13 7:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15	1610-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	21	22	23 10-5 Shop Open	
24	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop open	28			

2013		March					2013
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
3	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-5 Shop Open	
10 <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b>	11 1:00 Day Light Section	12	13 7:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	14	15	1610-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring</b>	21	22	23 10-5 Shop Open	
24 31 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop open	28	29	30	

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

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

10805 BROOKLET

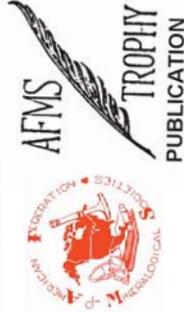
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(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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