



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

Volume XLV - No. 3

March 2014



President's Message

by Ray Kizer

By the time you read this, it will almost be time for the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, the premier event of its kind in the world. Running for fifteen days from February 1–15, the city of Tucson plays host to literally hundreds of vendors spread out over multiple venues and exhibiting everything from fine mineral specimens to lapidary rough by the ton. (The Tucson Gem & Mineral Society also is putting on its 60th annual show on February 13–16 in the Tucson Convention Center, and the Smithsonian is bringing major displays of diamonds, gold, and gems.)



Several members of our club make this event an annual pilgrimage. Hopefully you were able to attend the recent Mineral Section presentation by Tim and Holly Smith on *The Tucson Experience* and that their pictures and stories ignited some anticipation and excitement in you. The minerals offered at this show are some of the most magnificent examples you will ever experience. Get fired up and check it out.

As we enter February, the Board is making progress on several projects to rejuvenate the look of our meeting space. Plans are being evaluated for the best way to display our members' various awards and trophies. We are planning to repaint the lecture hall and to add items from the Archeology and Beading Sections to our display cases. Our Clubhouse Chair has ideas for revamping the benches in the Lapidary shop, and we

Continued on page 4

General Meeting Dates

by Paul Brandes

February 25, 2014: Dr. Brad Sutter from the Johnson Space Center of NASA--Orbital and Surface Geological Analysis of the Gale Crater, Mars. This evening's presentation will be out of this world, literally! Dr. Sutter will focus on our present knowledge of the potential geologic processes on Mars, specifically on the Gale Crater. He will share their understanding of the Red Planet from remotely sensed data obtained from the many orbital assets. From this, Dr. Sutter will discuss some of the key findings from the MSL mission. Please plan to attend!

Contents

General Meeting Dates	1
President's Message	1
Purpose of HGMS	3
The Miner—Miscellaneous Stories	4
The Geology and Mining History of Røros, Norway	7
Mineral Section Upcoming Programs	10
Mind-Bending Minerals at 2014 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show	11
Most Might Understand	15
Paleontological Preservation Act	16
God's Fire	17
HGMS Entries in the SCFMS 2014 Bulletin Editors' Contest	18
HGMS General Meeting	19
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes	20
In Memoriam—Chris Anthony Wright	25
Show Time 2014	26

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

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

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

*Copy is due for the April 2014 issue by
Wednesday, March 5, 2014.*

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

Purpose of HGMS

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

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

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

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

Continued from page 1

plan to add a security camera system to guard our access points and belongings. Much more can be accomplished with a little volunteer help. See Neal Immega or me if you can help out.

In recent days I have been talking with several new and existing club members, and they have confided in me that they are very interested in going on more club-sponsored field trips. And you know what, so am I. In an effort to promote this idea, I have asked each Section Chair if they can organize at least three group events this year. They may be as simple as a visit to a new exhibit at one of Houston's museums or an actual collecting trip in the field. If you have any ideas for an outing, please share them with your chair person and we will see what fun we can get on the schedule.

The Miner—Miscellaneous Stories

by John Anderson

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Memory One

On this trip we drove about seventy miles from the City of Billings, Montana, and started asking many different people, "Where do you think that we might find or buy some Montana agate?" We had some success with a name that kept coming up—the "Walter Brothers." There was a tavern owner in the area who would give liquor in trade for Montana agate rocks. This was a big tavern with a full basement where the owner put the agate he received in trade for drinks. When the tavern owner died, his estate sold the contents of the basement—the Montana agate—to the Walter Brothers. They were two bachelor brothers who were about 70 years old and raised crops on their big ranch.



We reached the Walter Brothers after a big mule buck deer almost jumped into our car. When we arrived at their ranch, they were very hospitable, and we asked about the story about the Tavern and whether the story was true. They both said, "Oh yes, the story is true." When they said yes, we wondered where the big deposit of agate was now. We were standing on a somewhat grassy hillside, and the Walter Brothers kept telling us more and more of the story. We started to get antsy about where the agate was. Finally, in unison the Brothers said, "You are standing on the agate." The agate was what the hill was made of, so we decided to stay a while because the agate was 50 cents a pound. Needless to say we did buy a lot of good agate at a reasonable price. If you went and priced the agate sold in Yellowstone National Park, you would have to pay six times that amount or more.

Memory Two

The Miner made a trip back there a few years later by himself when coming back from his position as a Miner for the Sunshine Mining Company. The Miner went back to the

Walter Brother's home, but one of the brothers had died. I bought some agate and was thinking about leaving for the long drive to my home in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Walter went into his house and brought out two small boxes about six inches square. They contained nothing that I would have expected.

The first box held a round-shaped item that he said was his gall stone removed six months ago by an operation. The second box contained a piece of Montana agate about 3" x 3" that looked like any other good-quality Montana agate with some good dendrites showing everywhere. I wondered, "What is so special about this rock," until he turned the rock over. The rock was river polished only, but it had the most beautiful display of color that I ever had seen in the finest fire agate specimens. The colors were so intense that it was more like a great black and blue fire opal from Australia and not like fire agate. Needless to say, Mr. Walter was not interested in selling the fabulous Montana Fire Agate, but I still was able to purchase some good Montana agate at a good price.



Memory Three

On this trip I still was still not satisfied with the amount of agate that I was able to buy, and I wanted to be able to find some of my own. So I stopped at a gas station that had a garage and asked the attendant if he knew where we might find some agate. The owner's name was a gentlemen that I will call "David." David owned the gas station, and he knew everyone in the town and in the surrounding territory because his was the only gas station around. But he also was the town's mayor which was an honorary position—he received no money for holding that position. David knew everyone, and he was a big agate collector. He could go on any land because he knew everyone, and they allowed him to collect. Most of the farms and ranches in this area were very big, and he loved to go and collect agate. David told the gas station attendant that he was going to collect some agate, and that was it.

We collected in many places that day, and at the end of the day, he invited me in for dinner with his wife and daughter. After dinner, he offered me a house that he owned and that was vacant. Such hospitality was admirable anywhere—even in Texas. The next day he said that he thought that he knew where we might find some sapphires, so off we went the next day. We looked and looked but found none. **A side note:** David sent a package to my home about a month later. It held about 30 clear sapphire crystals and a note saying he went back to the exact place where we had tried to collect with no luck, but he talked to a collector at that spot who showed him how to find them. He immediately started to find the sapphires. He only found clear crystals and none with any color. Now back to my story.

That day when we returned to his house, I noticed that the drainage ditch in front of his house was filled with some kind of rock, and I asked him, "What is that for?" David

said that is where I dump all of the Montana agate that I don't like. I asked is there a possibility of me taking some of the agate out from there? He said, "Sure, and you can have all of the agate that you want." I had hit a bonanza; he had so much good agate anyway, and he did not have any difficulty in collecting more from so many different places. He was glad to get rid of his unwanted Montana agate because it was filling up his drainage-ditch.

I was driving a Plymouth four-door passenger car with five brand-new tires with warranties. I had picked up nephrite jade in Landers, Wyoming, some petrified wood which I can't remember where, and a lot of Montana agate. This brought my total weight package of rocks to 1,200 pounds. I had rocks on the floor of the passenger's seat, rocks on the back seat, rocks on the floor in the trunk, and rocks anyplace where I could find space. I had my tire iron and my tire jack, which I need if I had a flat tire—and did I have flat tires—even though they were new tires because of the weight of rocks that I was hauling. I had just passed Los Vegas, Nevada where I had to replace a blown out tire and was heading towards Los Angeles when I had another blowout with the tire that I had just replaced in Los Vegas. I had only driven about 50 miles on my new tire when I had a blowout with that tire. The gas station attendant said he didn't know if he could actually do anything concerning the warrantee because the paper was still attached to the blown tires tread. I said, "I am just going to take a nap, so wake me when you get it figured out," because it was about 3 a.m. in the morning. I made it home about 10 a.m. that morning, and weighed the rock load I had been hauling. I don't believe that automobiles have a personality that can talk, but when I finished unloading my car, I am sure I heard it or someone say, "Wow, what a load!"

Memory Four

The Miner made a trip back to that area a few years later to see the area and maybe to be able collect some agate with his wife Mikey, daughter Donna, Kenneth his son, his youngest daughter Karen, and his faithful dog Brandy. Brandy was a good dog, but she had some failings which I will tell you about. We were traveling in our large camper that sat in the bed of our GMC pickup. It allowed us to have enough room, and it had all of the comforts of home. My wife Micky said she was going to boil about 6 eggs for hard boiled eggs. She boiled them and left them in the pot to cool. We left our camper, leaving our dog Brandy to hold down the fort because dogs were not allowed where we were going. We returned about 40 minutes later and everything was fine, except my wife Mickey asked us did she not just boil some eggs? We all thought she had, but we thought maybe she didn't because the pot was clean without even any water in the pan. We knew the answer later that day and into the next day as to where our eggs had gone. Our dear Brandy started to have problems as she tried to relieve herself (which dogs and everyone else do daily). Brandy started to make all kinds of moaning sounds which she kept up until she had passed all six eggs and the egg shells. It appears that the egg shells were the cause for her discomfort. Brandy never tried eating eggs and their shells again, but I do not know if she ever had that opportunity again either.

**Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note
to Jim Kendall at kendal_ja@yahoo.com**

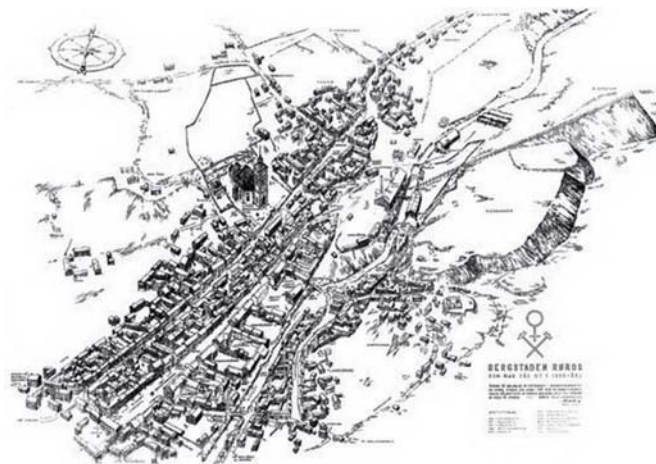
The Geology and Mining History of Røros, Norway

by Nathalie N. Brandes

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Declared a World Heritage Site in 1980, Røros is a well-preserved mining town. For 333 years, local mines extracted copper and zinc from sulfide deposits. This long history of mining can be seen in the colorful town, the smelter, and the many mine sites in the surrounding area.

Røros is located in the county of Sør-Trøndelag at the edge of a hilly plateau in the Norwegian Caledonides at an elevation of about 600 m (1970 ft) above sea level (Norway, 1978; Prøsch-Danielsen and Sørensen, 2010). It is situated near the confluence of the Glåma, Håelva, and Hitterelva Rivers.



Røros Mining Town about 1890. Drawing by Arne Berg.

The site was chosen in part because the Hitterelva River is large enough to operate the smelter's bellows. The mining district occupies a transition zone between the suboceanic and subcontinental climate regimes (Prøsch-Danielsen and Sørensen, 2010). The area is also the transition between the middle and northern boreal vegetation zones, which includes trees such as birch, conifer, and Scots pine (Moen, 1999).

Rocks in the Røros region formed on the floor of the Iapetus Ocean in Cambrian to Silurian time (Ramberg et al., 2008). These sedimentary and volcanic rocks were intruded by gabbro sills and during the Caledonian Orogeny were complexly deformed and metamorphosed to greenschist and amphibolite facies (Nilsen, 1988; Nilsen and Wolff, 1989; Segalstad et al., 2006; Grenne, 2008; Barrie et al., 2010). The ores of Røros are considered volcanigenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposits associated with black smoker hydrothermal vents on the seafloor (Oftedahl, 1958; Segalstad et al., 2006; Ramberg et al., 2008). The host rocks of these stratabound ores are metagreywacke and phyllite (Nilsen, 1988; Nilsen and Wolff, 1989; Grenne, 2008). Although black smoker deposits are generally viewed as seafloor precipitates, Grenne (2008) suggests most of the Røros ores were precipitated by ascending hydrothermal fluids preferentially filling sedimentary beds with favourable porosity, and true seafloor precipitates are rare in the district.

The ores at Røros can be divided into two basic types: pyrite and pyrrhotite deposits. Both include varying amounts of chalcopyrite, sphalerite, magnetite, limonite, rutile, galena, arsenopyrite, mackinawite, cubanite, argentite, and molybdenite (Bugge et al., 1975; Segalstad, 2000; Segalstad et al., 2006). Ore grades of the pyrite deposits are typically 1–2% copper and 1–6% zinc. Gangue minerals include quartz, chlorite, and muscovite. The pyrrhotite deposits have copper grade of at least 1%, but also include minerals such as magnetite and pyrite and fragments of hornblende and chlorite (Segalstad et al., 2006).



Old Storwartz Mine, founded in 1644.
Photo by P. Brandes.

The first humans in the Røros area were Stone Age hunters around 5000 B.C. (Daugstad et al., 1999; Norway, 2009). Permanent settlements appeared in the Völkerwanderung and existed through the Viking Age and early Medieval Period, but disappeared after the Black Death of 1349-1350 (Sandnes, 1971). Very few farms returned to the region prior to mining (Prøsch-Danielsen and Sørensen, 2010). Mining in Røros began in 1644 and lasted until 1977 (Nissen, 1976; Norway 1978; Jones, 1999). The original mining venture lasted only three months, but a project shortly thereafter was more successful (Segalstad, 2006). In 1646, Danish-Norwegian King Christian IV granted the Røros Copper Works mining privileges for a radius of 4 Norwegian miles (~40 km) from the first successful mine, the Old Storwartz (Bye, 2008; Norway 2009).

Røros experienced good times and bad over the years. Burned to the ground completely in 1768 and 1769 by the



Røros Church, completed in 1784. Photo by P. Brandes.

Swedish army, the town was completely rebuilt (Norway 1978). Production from the mines in Røros grew to an output of 600 tonnes/year in 1775. After a period of declining production, in 1888 the Bessemer process was adopted and production rose again, reaching a peak of about 1000 tonnes/ year in the late 1940s (Prøsch-Danielsen and Sørensen, 2010). In 1977, the Lergruvebakken Mine closed, ending an era of 333 years of continuous mining in the Røros area (Segalstad et al., 2006). Total production from the district is estimated to be 6,000,000 tonnes of raw ore producing 120,000 tonnes of copper (Norway 2009).

Recognition of the importance of Røros to Norwegian history and mining heritage began while it was still an active industrial center. The first efforts of preservation date to 1923 (Bye, 2008). As a result, the city and the mines present an excellent window into history.

References:

Barrie, C.D., Cook, N.J., and Boyle, A.P., 2010, Textural variation in the pyrite-rich ore deposits of the Røros district, Trondheim Region, Norway: implications for pyrite deformation mechanisms: *Mineralium Deposita*, v. 45, p. 51-68.

Bugge, J.A.W., Rui, I.J., and Segalstad, T.V., 1975, Field guide, ore geology graduate course excursion (G24/G48), east Trondheim District: Department of Geology, University of Oslo, 31p.

Bye, M., 2008, A Changing townscape: Røros throughout a century of heritage management: 16th ICOMUS General Assembly and International Symposium, Finding a Spirit of Place—Between the Tangible and Intangible, v. 29, p. 1-10.

Daugstad, K., Binns, K.S., Grytli, E.R., Liavik, K., Prøsch-Danielsen, L., and Vistad, O.I., 1999, Bergverksbyens omland om ressursbruk, vern, kultur og natur i Rørosområdet: NIKU Temahefte, v. 29, p. 1-511.

Grenne, T., 2008, Sulfide ores *in* Ramberg, I.B., Bryhni, I., Nøttvedt, A., and Rangnes, K., eds., 2008, *The Making of a Land—Geology of Norway: Trondheim*, Norsk Geologisk Forening, p. 227.

Jones, M., 1999, Røros as a world heritage site *in* Setten, G., Semb, T., and Torvik, R., eds., *Shaping the Land, Volume I The relevance of research for landscape management—tool or critique: Papers from the Department of Geography, University of Trondheim*, New Series A, v. 27, p.33-50.

Moen, A., 1999, National atlas of Norway: vegetation: Norwegian Mapping Authority.

Nilsen, O., 1988, The tectonostratigraphic setting of stratabound sulfide deposits in the southern Trondheim Region, Central Norwegian Caledonides: *Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse Bulletin*, v. 412, p. 55-66.

Nilsen, O. and Wolff, F.C., 1989, Geologisk kart over Norge, berggrunnskart Røros & Sveig: *Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse*, scale 1:250 000.

- Nissen, G.B., 1976, Røros kobberverk 1644-1974: Trondheim, Aktietrykkeriet, 146p.
- Norway, 1978, Røros: UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination Documentation, 18p.
- Norway, 2009, Røros mining town and the circumference, Norwegian nomination 2009 for extension of World Heritage Site Røros mining town: UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination Dossier, 96p.
- Oftedahl, C., 1958, A theory of exhalative sedimentary ores: Geologiska Föreningen i Stockholm Förhandlingar, v. 80, p. 1-19.
- Prøsch-Danielsen, L., and Sørensen, R., 2010, 333 years of copper mining in the Røros region of the Mid-Scandic highlands, written sources versus natural archives: Journal of Nordic Archaeological Science, v. 17, p. 37-51.
- Ramberg, I.B., Bryhni, I., Nøttvedt, A., and Rangnes, K., eds., 2008, The Making of a Land—Geology of Norway: Trondheim, Norsk Geologisk Forening, 624p.
- Sandnes, J., 1971, Ødetid og gjenreisning: Oslo Universitets forlaget, 385p.
- Segalstad, T.V., 2000, Mining in the Røros District, field guide for environmental geochemistry of ore deposits and mining activities, short course: Røros, Norway, June 2000: SARD Consulting Norge AS & Mineralogisk-Geologisk Museum, University of Oslo, 10p.
- Segalstad, T.V., Walder, I.F., and Nilssen, S., 2006, Mining mitigation in Norway and future improvement possibilities in Barnhisel, R.I., ed., 7th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage: Lexington, Kentucky, American Society of Mining and Reclamation, p. 1952-1960.

Mineral Section Upcoming Programs

by Paul Brandes

February 19, 2014: DVD of attendees' choice: Due to the participation of many Mineral Section members 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 2013 "What's Hot in Tucson") or attendees can discuss their possible collecting plans for the spring/summer. Refreshments will be provided.

March 5, 2014: Tucson Review: This evening's presentation will focus on the folks who attended this year's Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. As always, a number of Mineral Section members go to Tucson each year to look at minerals, reconnect with fellow mineral enthusiasts from around the world, and to take in all the sights that is Tucson. In addition to their stories, many members also return with fabulous mineral specimens to share and show everyone else who was not able to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Mind-Bending Minerals at 2014 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

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

Registered Guild Gemologist / Jewelry Appraiser

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

from an e-mail sent after the show to the Editor

I have returned from JCK, AGTA, GJX, JOGS, and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. I still did not accomplish everything on my wish / want list.

One of the first things I wanted to do was talk to Gary W. Bowersox. Gary is an internationally recognized gem hunter and gemologist. In 1991 he was the explorer that traveled the hills and mountains in Afghanistan along the Panjsher Valley. He has hands-on experience from the emerald, ruby, and lapis mines. The 7000 year old mine of the Pharaohs—he was there; he wrote the book and made a DVD movie. In 1995 he co-authored the first authoritative book on Afghanistan entitled “Gemstones of Afghanistan,” published by Geoscience Press. His love of adventure and his passion for precious gems have taken him to more than 80 countries, truly amazing. We sat and talked; he was telling me one of his many encounters with the Taliban. I could type for hours about our conversation. We also talked about how his war experience as a U.S. Army Major in Viet Nam has served as a foundation for his gem business. So on Tuesday, I sat with Gary the Gem Hunter and then bought my ammolites and aquamarine crystal, but more about that later.

I attended lecture after lecture on gemstones. For the first three days it was lectures starting Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, then one hour lunch. At the lunch you got to sit with any Ph. D who was assigned to a table. At 1 p.m. it was back to lectures until 5:30 p.m. The National Association of Jewelry Appraisers had three days of guest speakers. I never miss a NAJA conference. After the conference ended, it was a week of gem stone hunting and buying. There were dealers from all over the world.

After the three days of lectures that started on Saturday and ended on Monday, I went to the GJX and AGTA shows on Tuesday; they were next to each other. At the GJX Show, the ammolite specimens from Canada were amazing. When I was doing research on the new gems and cuts in the market, I ran across an ammolite miner from Canada who was a partner in an Alberta mine. As you know, large ammolite is extremely rare. When I walked up to his ammolite booth, there were different specimens on trays varying in price from \$10, \$50, \$100, and \$200.00 up. I examined different pieces, starting from the \$10 and working my way up. I picked up a \$10 specimen and examined it with my 10X loupe. Like I usually do when I am amused, I snickered slightly and said “nice triplet,” and set it down. I picked up the \$50 and said “fair doublet,” and set it down. Next I looked at the \$100 specimens. These specimens were “single-sided natural,” very nice. I set it down. I picked up and examined specimens from the next tray. I said “This is what I am looking for—double-sided natural” The vendor said “You know your ammolite.” I told him I was a member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. I am very fond of ammolite, and want to add a specimen to my collection. I told the gentlemen that I was familiar with the Santo

Carbone¹, Mugs Charbonneau², Rene Vandervelde Stories³, and Iniskim⁴. He smiled and said, "Let's not waste time, what exactly are you looking for?" I told him I was looking for a floral pattern, double-sided, natural large specimen in excess of a kilo for my office.

With ammolites there are patterns of ribbon, stained glass, dragon skin, cobble stone, and desert type. To me, the floral patterns in the stabilized form are most appealing. I was completely amazed at this gentleman's knowledge from the mining process to the dealer. Talking with this gentleman (he was a partner and miner), he explained the process from start to finish.

- Obtain permission from land owners for surface collecting of specimens on the land surface.
- After approval from the land owner, you must obtain a license from Alberta for surface collecting within Canada.
- With surface collecting, you are not allowed to dig.
- There is another license for hand tools if you dig.
- If you use machinery, this is yet another license for machinery, etc.

We continued talking, and he explained the process used to prepare the fine specimens for polishing and also how to polish a low-end quality triplet using lampblack. He also talked about how to glue the spinel transparent onto the matrix and putting it into the oven.

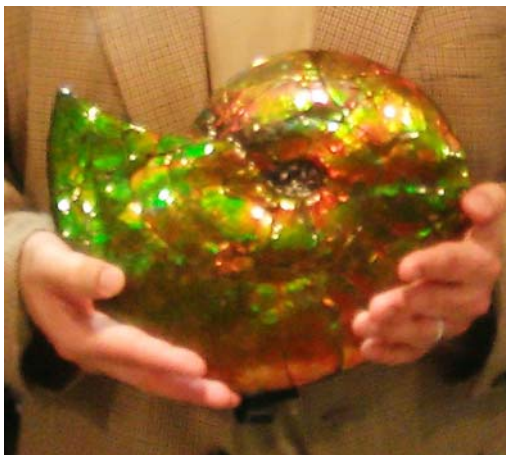
I had so many questions, and he had answers for them all. After I purchased a double-side natural approximately 4 inches in diameter, I was asked, "Do you want to see something very special to me?" To me, this was like Indiana Jones asking, "You want to see something really cool?" My answer was, "Yes!" The vendor / miner disappeared behind the curtains in the back of his booth; after several minutes he reappeared with a large double-sided stabilized ribbon pattern ammolite. When he turned the back side to me, it was a mirrored pattern of the front.

The ammolite had an even color spread, sharp, prismatic with color change and flash. I could feel myself lightly gasping for air as I breathed in, looking at this ammolite. This million-year old perfect specimen was in front of me, double sided. I could not believe my eyes. He placed it on the counter, and I put away my gemological 10X loupe and took out my Zeiss D 40 Aplanatic Achromatic loupe. As I examined it to see if it was assembled, I was thinking to myself, "This cannot be real—a double-sided specimen of this size."

I was looking for indications of separate matrix that possibly was glued into the shale and quartz, or spinal caps that were added as an enhancement to create an assembled piece. There was nothing except epoxy in the specimen to hold the layers together to prevent surface cleavage; it was a natural one-piece specimen, not assembled. I carefully turned the specimen over, and it was a mirrored matching finish on the opposite side. I kept turning it over and over. I could not believe what I was seeing. This was an aragonite orthorhombic vitreous specimen. I said, "I will give you 50 for it." He said,



"Fifty thousand?" I said, "Yes." I looked at him, hoping he would say yes. He looked at his ammolite, took a breath, then shook his head, and said, "No." I did not want to make a second offer—out of respect—and said, "This needs to be in a museum." I handed him my business card on which I had written my cell phone number and said, "If you ever change your mind, please call me. But I must take a picture—my gemological and geological colleagues will not believe me—a double-sided 18-inch ammolite." To me, this 16-pound specimen, approximately 7.2 kilo ammolite, is the Holy Grail of Ammolites.



This prehistoric shell I am holding in the photo was breath taking. If I were to purchase something like that, I would donate it to the Smithsonian with one request—that it go on a rotating mirrored display or have a mirror behind it to show its double-sidedness for all the world to see. You should only see a specimen of this quality behind glass.

Second on my list was to look for a beryl natural crystal—no heat. I wanted a large crystal specimen in its natural form. I located a 110-carat aquamarine crystal (see right). It is now in my collection; it is fine collection quality material. I am going to



have it cut; I estimate there will be an approximately 70% loss. The loss material will be faceted into smaller gemstones, but I estimate the crystal itself will yield a 30- to 35-carat emerald step-cut faceted no-heat aquamarine gemstone. There was still the rest of the week till Sunday. The experience was so overwhelming; I still not have recovered yet.

I did thoroughly review the “Diamond Pro” Web site last night; it took a couple of hours of reading. *(Editor’s Note: I had asked Mark to look at the site and see if he thought it should be included on our Useful Links page. After his glowing recommendation, it is now available there.)* There is a lot of good information. This gentleman pretty much tells it like it is. I enjoyed reading his EGL vs GIA, it made me chuckle. There was an independent study done on the comparison of the two labs. There were 300 diamonds given to NAJA for grading that were graded by EGL, 279....275 (I have to get with the NAJA Director to get the exact number, it was either 279 or 275) of the 300 diamonds that were off by 2 to 10 color or clarity grades. It was EGL Israel Labs. Ira is right on the money on his diamond education. The information in the reviews section is correct. I read the Tiffany & Co, Hearts on Fire, Brian Gavin Diamond, etc. As an appraiser I frequently have to stop in at Tiffany to get pricing; his reviews in this area are also correct. He is strongly opinionated, but his advice and the information on his site are correct. I would give him and his site two thumbs up.

Best Wishes,

Mark Villanueva C.S.P., A.J.P., Registered Guild Gemologist / Jewelry Appraiser

Footnotes

1 Santos Carbone Story aka Gino, from Ottawa to Calgary 1969 “Ammolite 2, A Guide for Gemmologist, Jewelers and Lapidaries, pp 6-9

2 The Mugs Charbonneau Story “Ammolite 2, A Guide for Gemmologist, Jewelers and Lapidaries, pp 10-11

3 The Rene Vandervelde Story beginning in 1958 “Ammolite 2, A Guide for Gemmologist, Jewelers and Lapidaries, pp 16-19. Also there is a Scholarship at <http://www.aaps.net/rene-m-vandervelde-research-grant.htm>

4 Inskim from the Black Feet Indian Nation / Buffalo Stone “The Chambered Nautilus Exquisite Living Fossil” National Geographic January 1976, Vol. 149, Issue No 1, pp 38-41.



Black Opal from the
Smithsonian

Most Might Understand*by Edward Clay**Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

The night has come,
Day bright has passed,
In the dark
I find quiet sometimes.
The moments to contemplate
Love and beauty,
Sadness and sorrow,
Worth or lack of it.
Other times I find
Effort and creation,
Design and mood,
In stone, wood, or words.

Yet still
There are times,
I fill the wells of my creative soul
With music or movies,
Conversation
Through the medium of the Internet,
Even games can allow
The perceptive spirit
To find value to itself,
To replenish what is used
To create.

Night has come,
I dread it not—fear it not,
For I am alone and not alone.
With me are:
An eye for beauty,
A soul that bleeds words on pages,
Hands grown wise in shaping,
Also a heart driven
By many things,
Most might understand—
Perception,
Caring,
Hope,
Desire,
Love.

Paleontological Preservation Act

Terrell William "Terry" Proctor

Texas Representative of the ALAA

from ALAA Newsletter 10-12/2013

There is a time for **contemplation** and a time for **action**. The ill-named *Paleontological Preservation Act*, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in his first term, as we know, is unbelievably contrary to the name it carries. This law is also totally contrary to the purpose it espouses. It assures the loss of vertebrate fossils which otherwise would be collected, many shown in museums and at fossil shows worldwide, and others used to educate the public on fossils.

Why? Because this law mandates by in essence saying "leave that vertebrate fossil on the beach for the sand and tide to destroy....Don't you dare pick it up and give it to a museum or take it to a Gem, Mineral and Fossil show so other people can see and learn from it". This was a stupid law and most people who have a 3rd grade education know that this doesn't make sense.

That was the time for contemplation—which I just shared with you. Now what about the time for action? The time for action is when we have a Congress with more than a third grade understanding (yes, we do have many who fit this definition, but unfortunately it is not the majority) and have a President who would sign a Bill for a more realistic approach to this matter. Right now, it appears that a Bill to change this status is not possible.

So we have the time to contemplate what we need to do, but apparently we do not have a Congress and a President who understand what needs to be done and how to do it.

Let's face it folks, this is small potatoes in the present atmosphere in this Country. Even our supporters in Congress are busy working on the question of securing our borders and on what to do with the millions of illegal immigrants in our Country; what to do with healthcare and why—after billions of your tax dollars—Obamacare today doesn't meet the promises made of what it would do, and what can be done about the mess, if anything. What can we do in the Middle East after our President has tried so hard to make the World and especially the Middle East love us—but now they don't.

You understand what I am saying. This is why I have counseled, and I still do, "Just keep your powder dry for now." We need to keep explaining to every person who has an interest in geology, paleontology, archeology, lapidary, faceting, and just plain old rock hounds, our heirs, and the pebble pups (young folks) that this is a matter needing to be fixed. We need a Congress of people who understand that there are millions of folks who like to go into the fields and canyons and beaches to find things to tender to science and/or to show off to friends, bring to Rock & Fossil Shows, and to join others in these groups so that our numbers and message are ready when the time comes and we can get something done. We will have the people power to demand that the ill-named "Paleontology Preservation Act" be struck down with some reasonable Bill passed—a Bill that will protect public places from those commercial diggers who don't

share our desires to put things found into public display, who instead are only interested in making a profit by selling valuable public property to collectors who only want it for their own aggrandizement or for speculation on future price.

There is a big difference in protecting public lands from commercial speculators and allowing mom and pop access to a government-owned beach to pick up a shark's tooth that just otherwise would be more sand on the beach in the future.

"Some individual sharks can produce as many as 40,000 teeth during their lifetimes" per **Robert W. Sinibaldi, PhD** (*What Your Fossils Can Tell You* ISBN 978-0-8130-3425-6 University Press of Florida).

Therefore, I think the position of ALAA should be to not lay down our muskets, but to keep our powder dry and seek reinforcements so that when the time is ripe, we can be prepared to hopefully get the ill-named Paleontology Preservation Act repealed or strongly amended in the way we all understand it needs to be.

God's Fire

by Edward Clay

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I am a cutter of stone—
Materials worked and polished to reflect light,
To show pattern,
To bring forth beauty or wonder.
Of recent time
I have worked opals from Ethiopia.
I say honestly now
Only a god could present such intense color.
Only the creator of all
Could create in rock such beauty,
Then give to me and some few others
The Patience to learn,
The Eye to see,
The Hand skills to master,
Bringing forth God's fire.
Even if
One did not believe in God—
Seeing the bits of beauty
I have found and worked on
Might begin to wonder.

HGMS Entries in the SCFMS 2014 Bulletin Editors' Contest

by Phyllis George
HGMS Newsletter Editor

It is that time of year again when rockhound newsletter editors throughout the U.S. scour through their previous year's newsletter issues to select articles and newsletters to submit to their regional 2014 Bulletin Editors' Contest. The entries from HGMS are listed below along with their category. The SCFMS (South Central Federation) results will be announced August 9 during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters at the SCFMS Annual Show in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The top three winners in each category will be forwarded to the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) judges, and the AFMS results will be announced during the AFMS/RMFMS annual show (July 9–13) in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

HGMS Entries in the SCFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest		
Name	Title	Month, 2013
Large Bulletin		
Phyllis George	The Backbender's Gazette	April, September
Advanced Adult Article		
John Anderson	The Miner and Jade	May
Dr. Garth Clark	The Surprising Richness of Texas Archeology	October
Frank Dickson	Fun with Minerals at Papoose Flat	June
Neal Immega	The Best T. Rex in the World	October
Terrell William Proctor, J.D.	Astronomy, Radioactive Minerals, and You	December
Albert J. Robb III	Some of the First American Fossils to be Figured in <u>Scientific Literature</u>	October
Mark Villanueva	Organic Jewelry	February
Adult Article		
Chase Jennings	Microfossil Collecting: The Most Fun You Can Have Indoors	August
Adult Poetry		
Edward Clay	My Way	February
Junior Poetry		
Noelle Skubal	Hope	June
Jackson Skubal	Mining in the Rocks	December
Feature		
John Anderson	The Miner—Memorable Dive	November
Garth Clark	Archeology Meeting Minutes	September
Neal Immega	Slab Happy	August
Chris Peek	60 th Annual HGMS Show	December
Terry Proctor	Back to McFaddin Beach	June

HGMS General Meeting

01/30/2014

by Nancy Jo English

HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. The scheduled date for this meeting (Tuesday, January 28, 2014) was cancelled due to anticipated icy roads. It was rescheduled for two days later—Thursday, January 30, 2014.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the December General Meeting. Matt Dillon seconded, and the motion passed.

Section Reports

Archeology Section: No report

Beading Section: The next meeting is February 15, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., **Kay Maddox** will teach how to make crocheted and braided necklaces. Class fee for this project is \$10 per person (does not include supplies).

Day Light Section: Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Neal Immega will demonstrate finishing patinas using household chemicals.

Education Committee: Carrie Hart has volunteered to head the Education Committee. James Burrell's Fabrication class started last Sunday.

Faceting Section: No Report

Lapidary Section: The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The subject of the meeting will be **Lapidary 101:** Basic "How To" in selecting cutting material and deciding what to do with it. Phyllis George reported the March meeting will be **Lapidary 202:** How to turn a slab into a cabochon.

Mineral Section: The next Section meeting is February 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. during which the Section will view a DVD on "**What's Hot in Tucson 2013.**" Since many of the Mineral Section members will not have returned from the Tucson Show yet, the February 19, 2014 meeting at 7:30 p.m., will be either the second half of "**What's Hot in Tucson 2013**" or a DVD of attendees' choice. Refreshments will be provided.

Outreach Committee: Gary Tober will reach out to the Veteran's Administration to see if Veterans would like to learn to learn about Lapidary and jewelry making, or attend one of our several other Sections.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The Paleo Section will be holding their annual holiday (potluck) party. Club members and visitors are welcome. (BTW It is also Neal Immega's birthday.) They will be serving spaghetti and sauce.

Youth Section: They had a full house at the January meetings. The kids seemed glad to get back to work.

Old Business:

President Ray Kizer reported on **Club House improvements**. Neal Immega and Clyde McMeans installed a new grinder bench top which Clyde painted. The Art Smith mineral display cabinets have been cleaned and reorganized to allow the Archeology and Beading Sections space to create their own displays. Jonathan Woolley has cleaned the carpets.

Beverly Mace reminded everyone that the **annual dues are due**.

Mary Ann Mitscherling reminded all that the **Lapidary Parking Lot Sale** will be held at the HGMS Club House on Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have permission to park in the adjacent lot to the south—but ONLY during this event.

HGMS Annual Scholarship availability letters were completed by Ray Kizer. They will be mailed in early February and followed up with e-mails. They will be sent out to twenty-four universities and two-year colleges to announce HGMS's scholarship program to college professors, department heads, and registration offices.

New Business: None

Clyde McMeans won the drawing. He had donated the item so he insisted that another name be drawn. Karen Burns won.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 5. The next General Meeting is February 25.

Geology Professor Nathalie Brandes was the speaker, and her topic was Volcanos—Beautiful Killers.

The meeting was adjourned following the presentation.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2014

by Nancy English

X	President - Ray Kizer	X	Archeology Rep - Garth Clark
X	1st Vice President - Paul Brandes	X	Beading Rep - Jillynn Hales
X	2nd Vice President - Beverly Mace	X	DayLight Rep - Mary Ann Mitscherling
X	Treasurer - Rodney Linehan		Faceting Rep - Gary Tober
X	Secretary - Nancy English	X	Lapidary Rep - Phyllis George
	Past President - John Caldyne	X	Mineral Rep - Sigrid Stewart
		X	Paleontology Rep - Mike Dawkins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. with a quorum of nine members present. President Ray Kizer presided over the meeting.

Guests: Education Chair Carrie Hart and Show Committee Chair Michele Marsel

President's Comments: Ray Kizer

Previous Month Board Minutes: Jillynn Hales moved and Phyllis George seconded that the minutes of the January 2014 Board Meeting be accepted as published in the February 2014 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Rodney Linehan e-mailed financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: The Archeology Section's upcoming meeting will be held February 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The scheduled speakers are Robert Moore and Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, who will give a PowerPoint presentation with pictures on the "Valley of Kilmartin, Ancient Neolithic Religious Center." Their trip to Scotland included a visit to one of the British Isles greatest Neolithic centers that includes Kilmartin and Fort Dunadd (7000 BC–550 AD). The talk will cover many prehistoric sites in the valley as well as many of the artifacts recovered over the years including items in the National Museum of Scotland and the British Museum. Garth Clark added—the Archeology Field trip to The Museum of Natural Science will be on Thursday, February 13, 2014. Participants should meet at the Museum about 2:00 p.m. Let Garth Clark or Carrie Hart know if you wish to attend.

Beading Section: The next meeting is February 15, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. **Kay Maddox** will teach us how to make crocheted and braided necklaces. Class fee for this project is \$10 per person (does not include supplies). Jillynn Hailes reported that they are in the process of purchasing a new storage cabinet.

Day Light Section: Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Neal Immega's Patination program will include demonstrating finishing patinas from household chemicals.

Education Committee: Carrie Hart has volunteered to head the Education Committee. She reported that Val Link will help with the education committee. The Jewelry Fabrication class has begun. Repoussé and Chasing will be the next class to be held sometime during the spring quarter.

Faceting Section: Ray Kizer reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Ed Katz will present a program on using GemCAD and/or a gem microscope—covering focus and viewing.

Lapidary Section: The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The subject of the meeting will be **Lapidary 101:** Basic "How To" in selecting material and deciding what to do with it. Phyllis George reported that the March meeting will be Lapidary 202: How to transform a slab into a cabochon.

Lapidary Parking Lot Sale: The sale will be held at the HGMS Club House on Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Section is selling LARGE quantities of rough including carnelian, West Texas agate, amethyst, jade, lapis, jaspers, a large display case, miscellaneous jewelry, and more! We intend to vacate the storage space we rented to store this large collection donated by Vickie Boston and a second collection donated by Frances Arrighi. So prices are lower than you will see anywhere. Come

and stock up for the decade ahead. Questions—Contact Mary Ann Mitscherling at maryann@hal-pc.org

Mineral Section: The next Section meeting is February 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. during which the Section will be viewing a DVD on “**What’s Hot in Tucson 2013.**” Come get in the mood for the Tucson shows by viewing the DVD summary of last year’s show. Narrated by Dave Wilber and Bob Jones, this DVD brings you the Tucson experience without the travel or expenses. For those who saw last year’s DVD, you know the quality of this program is quite impressive. Refreshments will be provided,

Paul Brandes added that on February 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., the program will be a **DVD of attendees’ choice:** Due to the participation of many Mineral Section members in the international show in Tucson, those not able to go to Tucson can chose a DVD from the Library to view (the tentative choice is to continue with another part of the 2013 “What’s Hot in Tucson”) or attendees can discuss their possible collecting plans for the spring and summer. Refreshments will be provided.

Outreach Committee: No Report.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The Paleo Section will be holding their annual holiday (potluck) party; club members and visitors are welcome. BTW, It is also Neal Immega’s birthday.

Mike Dawkins added that the January 21, 2014 program was a presentation by Jim Fliss regarding the Seymour, TX area. Troy Bell brought some fossils from the dig to show us, and talked about “Wet Willy,” the new Dimetrodon that currently is being prepared at the Black Hills Institute. Chris Fliss, Jim’s son, will be the curator at the new museum opening in the Seymour area.

Paleo is planning a field trip to Brownwood, March 13–16. There will be Pennsylvanian and Permian fossils to be found. Contact fieldtrips@hgms.org. All members are invited.

Publicity Committee: No report. We do not have a Publicity Chair at this time. Volunteers would be welcome. Mary Ann suggested that someone contact former Publicity volunteers to ask for help. She is not able to provide support for the search at this time.

Show Committee: Michele Marsel announced that the first 2014 Show Committee meeting is February 11. Volunteers from last year’s Show Committee are invited. Please bring suggestions to the meeting.

Youth Section: The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2014. Beverly Mace reported that Neal Immega found some slabs of red slate for the kids to turn into hearts at the next meeting while working in the shop.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: Phyllis George mentioned that the BBG is expecting an article from Nathalie Brandes. Mrs. Brandes periodically gives greatly enjoyed programs during the General Meetings.

Paul Brandes reviewed the Web site looking for broken links—and he found some. He will generate a list so Phyllis can update them or remove them. He also suggested that some Sections need to update their pictures and news.

General Meeting Presentation: January 28, 2014 7:30 p.m.—Ray Kizer reported that Nathalie Brandes provided another educational and humorous talk on “Volcanoes—Beautiful Killers.” Twenty-nine members and six visitors attended despite the meeting date being changed from Tuesday to Thursday due to Tuesday’s icy road conditions. Everyone was enthralled by the presentation.

The club gained two new members at the meeting. Welcome to Jeff Tippin and to Bert G. Ris. Ray asked Beverly to give Jim Kendall the new member names and e-mails for the blasts.

Old Business

Bank Change: Rodney Linehan reported that he has picked Chase Bank as a replacement for the two different banks where HGMS has been banking. Those two branches were in the process of being closed due to new ownership. A \$1,500 minimum balance is required to maintain a no-fee account at Chase.

Mary Ann Mitscherling moved and Beverly Mace seconded a motion to appoint Rodney Linehan as temporary Acting Secretary for purposes of opening the bank account at Chase. The three signers will remain the same: Beverly Mace, Rodney Linehan, and the HGMS President.

2014 Bylaws Update: Michele Marsel announced that the final document is still outstanding. Michele will focus on it after the Show Committee meeting. Her goal is to have them completed and ready for a vote by the next meeting.

Club Data Backups: Michele Marsel showed us the two new drives, 1 terabyte each. They came with USB ports and cables.

Michele will document a backup plan that will be e-mailed to Board Members for input. She will designate a place to store the CDs.

Club Renovations: Ray Kizer noted that a new grinder bench top was recently installed by Neal Immega and Clyde McMeans, and that the Art Smith Mineral display cabinets have been cleaned and reorganized to allow the Archeology and Beading Sections to create their own displays. We plan to repaint the entrance door with an oil base paint. Dunn Southwest will have to approve the color. Michele will contact them to see if they have an approved color chart. We are in the process of repairing the parking lot doorbell.

The next project will be to repaint the meeting room. Pete Stassi has prepared an estimate for the paint and materials required of ~\$200.00. \$500.00 was approved last year for the improvements. It was suggested that Behr paint (sold at Home Depot) is the best for coverage and endurance. We are searching for volunteers willing to help with the work. Please contact Ray Kizer if you can help.

Dunn Southwest Board: Director’s Report – Michelle Marsel reported that the Dunn Southwest Board approved their bylaw changes, pending membership approval. The HGMS President will sign the approval document after a final review is completed by February 7, 2014. There are 33 members; 75% must approve. The new bylaws remove outdated restrictions and ancient covenants.

HGMS Annual Scholarship: Scholarship availability letters were completed by Ray Kizer in late January. Nancy English mailed twenty-four out to universities and two-year colleges in early February. They announce the club's scholarship program to college professors, department heads, and registration offices. This was done in an effort to solicit multiple potential candidates for the annual scholarship. The letters will be followed up with e-mails next week.

Outreach to Returned Servicemen: Contact is to be made through Houston Veterans Administration offices. Gary Tober—Due to knee surgery on Monday, February 3, Gary was unable to attend the Board meeting. He has made an initial contact and is waiting for a response. Clyde McMeans offered an additional potential contact, Retired A.F. Colonel Al Tarr, HGMS member. Action Item: Gary Tober will contact Al to determine his interest in participation. Gary is recuperating from surgery. He will pick this up when he can.

Security System – Garth Clark reported that no viable specials have come up. Costco has a new system advertised, but there are only a few online comments about it. Garth is looking for an IP system with PUSH Notification for fire and break-in. An IP system is cable-free, and cameras could be placed anywhere. The cost right now is \$200.00 per channel. No good offers on the others, so may hold out for good IP price.

General Meetings: Upcoming presentations—Paul Brandes—The next General Meeting presentation will be by NASA scientist Dr. Brad Sutton on the recent developments on Mars. He is a soil scientist and does gas chromatography analysis. What is the mineralogy of Mars? If Dr. Sutton cannot present, Paul Brandes has another candidate. No programs have been selected for March and April. In May, Gail Span will speak on “Women's Prospective on Mineral Collecting.”

New Business

Division of Sale Proceeds: Mary Ann Mitscherling moved and Jillynn Hales seconded a motion to continue previous allocation percentages of proceeds from the sale of donations from Francis Arrighi's estate and from Vickie Boston.

Motion: (1) The proceeds of the **sale of any of the material** from the Frances Arrighi collection will be divided the same way the Arrighi auction proceeds were divided, i.e., 50 % to the Day Light section and 50% to the Club Accounts. (2) The Vickie Boston donation is divided in accordance with the agreement we have with her, i.e., 50% to her and 50% to Lapidary. The motion passed.

Lapidary voted to split their 50% giving half to the General Fund (only) during sales sponsored by HGMS.

2014 Show Committee Budget: Michele Marsel presented a preliminary copy of the Show Budget for board member approval. Nancy English moved and Mary Ann Mitscherling seconded a motion to approve the Show Committee Budget with adjustments made to expenses to offset the increase in facilities expenses. Michele will talk with the Humble Civic Center about making such an adjustment.

American Lands Access Association (ALAA): The 2014 Annual Dues of \$50.00 for

clubs has been paid, renewing HGMS membership for 2014.

Insurance Premium Increase: Rodney Linehan announced that the HGMS insurance renewal is due Monday, February 4. Full cost is \$8,835.00. Last year it was \$7,377. Agent indicates agent rates have gone up with all insurers. Also insurers increase coverage each year (New – Old) \$448k–\$432k building, \$297k–\$292k personal property. Further investigation proved that the rates are comparable to other carriers. Rodney suggested a video inventory of the contents with a verbal description should be made.

Adjourn: Jillynn Hales moved to adjourn the meeting, and Phyllis George seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55p.m.

In Memoriam—Chris Anthony Wright

April 25-1946–January 8, 2014

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Provided by Gross Funeral Home

Hot Springs, AR 71913

http://gross.tributes.com/our_obituaries/Chris-Anthony-Wright-97934632

Chris Anthony Wright, 67, of Lubbock, TX passed away January 8 at his home in Hot Springs, AR. He is survived by his partner Christopher, of Hot Springs, his daughter Shara, and her husband Vladimir of Portland, Oregon, his nephew Mark and his wife Casey of Hot Springs, his sister LeNoira and brother Mickey of Hot Springs, his beloved nieces and nephews, and his countless friends from all around the world.

Chris was the owner and operator of **Wright's Rock Shop**, which has been a fixture in Hot Springs since 1971. He was a legend in the world of mineralogy, and his expert guidance helped many individuals and museums in the building of world-class collections. His love of minerals began at an early age, and he sought to nurture that same fascination in the young people he encountered at the hundreds of gem and mineral shows he attended all across the nation. (*Editor's Note: Chris was a highly respected dealer at the HGMS Show for many, many years.*)



A memorial service was held Wednesday, January 15 at Gross Funeral Home at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the SFMS Chris Wright Workshop Scholarship Program for Juniors (please contact sfms@amfed.org).

HGMS members who knew Chris and would like to sign the guestbook and leave a message for his family can do so at:

http://gross.tributes.com/our_obituaries/Chris-Anthony-Wright-97934632.

Show Time 2014

March 1-2	Robstown, TX	Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd. www.gcgms.org
March 8-9	Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Pasadena Convention Center 7902 Fairmont Pkwy sara_chelette@sbcglobalnet.com www.clgms.org
March 15-16	San Antonio, TX	Southwest Gem & Mineral Society San Antonio Events Center 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr., Loop 410 & Marbach krbotx@gvtc.com www.swgemandmineral.org
April 12-13	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center, N. 6th & Pine St. kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net ; rockclub.txol.net
April 18-20	Alpine, TX	Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club 801 W. Holland, Ave, between 12th & 13th Sts. paulgraybeal@moonlightgemstones.com
April 25-27	Houston, TX	Fine Mineral Shows--Annual Show Embassy Suites Hotel, 2911 Sage Rd. Near The Galleria-Houston. dave@finemineralshow.com www.FineMineralShow.com
April 26-27	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
May 24-25	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club Will Rogers Memorial Center Amon G. Carter Exhibit Bldg 3401 W. Lancaster fwgmc@embarqmail.com ; www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org
June 7-8	Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineal Club Grapevine Convention Center 1209 S. Main St. Krisk@kirstnerphotogrhy.com

2014		March					2014
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting	5 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	6 7:30 Archeology Section	7	8 10-5 Shop Open	
9 10-4 Shop Open Daylight Savings time begins	10 1:00 Day Light Section	11 7:30 Show Committee	12 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	13	14	15 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 7:30 Paleo Section	19 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	20 First day of Spring	21	22 10-5 Shop Open	
23 10-4 Shop Open / 10-4 Shop Open 30	24 31	25 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop open	27	28	29 10-5 Shop Open	

2014		April					2014
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 7:30 Board Meeting	2 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	3 7:30 Archeology Section	4	5 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
6 10-4 Shop Open	7	8 7:30 Show Committee	9 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	10	11	12 10-5 Shop Open	
13 10-4 Shop Open Palm Sunday	14 1:00 Day Light Section Passover begins	15 7:30 Paleo Section Income taxes due	16 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	17	18 Good Friday	19 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
20 10-4 Shop Open Easter Sunday	21 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop open	24	25	26 10-5 Shop Open	
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-3 Shop open				

***The* BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

10805 BROOKLET

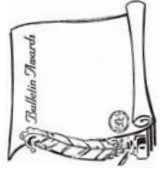
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(281) 530-0942



SCEMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006 – 2012 - 1st (Large)
2013 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

1998 - 2nd (Large)
2004 - 3rd (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 2nd (Large)
2012 - 3rd (Large)
2013 - 3rd (Large)



DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !

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