



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

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

Volume XLV - No. 10

October 2014



## **President's Message**

*by Ray Kizer*

I recently had the good fortune to attend two talks on mineral and lapidary photography. The first was a photography workshop lead by Gary A. Chelette, a professional and recreational photographer with over 30 years of experience. The workshop was hosted by the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society which graciously invited HGMS members to attend. The second was given at our August monthly meeting by speaker and mineral photographer extraordinaire Joe Budd. These were both excellent presentations, highly engaging, and filled with detailed information. Although the backgrounds of the speakers varied, both talks shared a common theme—light. Or more precisely, the effects of light as it is used to build depth, shadows, color, reflectivity, and emotion or “a story” in a mineral photograph.



Both photographers showed different approaches to lighting their subjects. Gary Chelette was teaching a group of beginning photographers the basics of mineral photography. His presentation showed how an average photographer can use an

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*Continued on page 4*

## **Upcoming Programs**

*by Paul Brandes*

**September 23, 2014: A Woman's Perspective on Mineral Collecting:** When Gail Copus Spann discovered the world of minerals a number of years ago, she found herself in a hobby dominated by men and very few women collectors. She also discovered along the way that women have a very different collecting style from men—a style that she explores in this presentation. Along with her husband Jim, they are actively involved in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX, and are avid fine mineral and gem stone collectors, with a collection rivaling many museums. Their mission in the hobby is to encourage more young people to learn the importance of minerals and to start collecting on their own. This will surely be an evening for the ladies of HGMS. (Oh, and the men can come too!)

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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>.

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*President continued from page 1*

inexpensive lighting setup using either natural light or daylight bulbs plus a single reflector to light a subject mineral in a light diffusing cube, giving it depth, character, and life. A good start for a beginner.

While Joe Budd, whose photographs are for high-end collectors and mineral magazines, prefers to light his minerals under more controlled studio conditions. He showed us some of his special tricks for getting the very best images of some truly fantastic minerals. He uses a professional strobe lighting system in a darkened room and from one to many different-shaped reflectors to fill the specimen with life and color. It really gives a beginner like myself something to strive for.

Many thanks to both of these great photographers for sharing another skill we can use to get even more enjoyment out of our hobby. So let's see what you can do. Take some pictures and share them with the club.

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*Upcoming Programs continued from page 1*

**October 28, 2014: Neal Immega – The Evils of Minerals:** Details to be announced.

**November 25, 2014: Adeene Denton – A Geology Student's Adventure in Nepal.** This evening's presentation will be presented by Adeene Denton, the 2014 HGMS Earth Science/Jewelry Arts Scholarship winner. Ms. Denton's presentation will be on her summer field geology class in Nepal and will address three different areas she studied: the metamorphism, general geomorphology, and glacial impacts in the Himalaya Mountains. Over the course of the evening, Ms. Denton will give an overview of the tectonics that formed the Himalayas, and using the knowledge she gained over the summer, extrapolate that concept to the geology on a regional scale. Ms. Denton will also talk about the unique culture of Nepal and describe her experiences during her trip. Please join us for what will be an exciting and very informative presentation!

## **Mineral Section Upcoming Programs**

*by Paul Brandes*

**October 1, 2014: Mineral Labels, Templates, and Examples:** This evening's meeting will focus on how to make clear and useful mineral specimen labels for your collection. Many of the Section members have developed their own labels and will show ones that not only describe what the specimen is and where it's from, but will show how to make them from different templates depending on the label's purpose. Refreshments will be provided.

**October 15, 2014: Gem and Mineral Show Prep:** This will be the first of two nights Section members will gather to begin making preparations for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. This usually ends up being a fun evening of collecting stories and "tall-tale telling" in addition to getting done some much-needed work before the Show. Some of the work involved will be putting together teacher kits, organizing the fluorescent exhibit, determining who will be available to help with the Mineral Section booth, and other show activities. Come join us for a fun evening. Refreshments will be provided.

**November 5, 2014: No Meeting** (Show load-up day)

**November 19, 2014: To be announced**

## The Miner's First Attempt at Golf

by John Anderson

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

I would like to tell you about an experience with opening day at a golf course. In my earlier years, I worked at Don's Garden and Nursery after school and on Saturdays. Don sold his nursery property that was just above the Arroyo Seco Stream (which means "Dry Stream") that leads to the famous Rose Bowl and then to the JPL Jet Propulsion Laboratory that is managed by NASA and is the leading center for robotic exploration of the solar system.



Don was a very good man, and I cherished his friendship for years. One day shortly after he sold his property—about 1949—he called me and asked if I would like to play opening day at a new golf course being built just below where he lived. I said, "Sure," and he said he would contact me later in the year when he knew the exact date of its opening. The golf course is an 18-hole 3-par course called Arroyo Seco Golf Course. Don's Nursery was so close to the golf course that he might have even owned some or maybe all of the property, and that is why he was able to play on opening day. About six months later, Don called me and said that next week was the course's opening, and for me to be there at 8:00 in the morning. Don said that he already had golf clubs and a golf bag, so all I had to do was be there that morning. When we both arrived, there were many people already there with photographers and throngs of people just watching. Don had a pass that let us into the area where we would play off on the number one hole.

Don showed me his golf bag—a ragged canvas bag with a broken leather strap. His golf clubs, drivers, and putters all had wooden shafts. The condition of the clubs and the golf bag was such that even Goodwill would not have accepted them as a donation. Don bought the bag and clubs sometime after World War I—which was 1918—which made them over 32 years old. These golf items were really cheesy, and that was being charitable to say the least. In order to update our appearance, we rented a classy golf bag two-wheel carrier that somewhat softened the image of the wood-shaft clubs and our canvas bag.

The Opening Day Arroyo Seco Golf Activity is what they called it, and the first group to start was the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, California and his entourage. The news media were snapping pictures everywhere—even of our group. Don's group was the second group to play, and that consisted of me, the Contractor of the course, and the golf course architect. I had never played golf before, and the closest I had ever been to a golf course is a golf ball driving range, in which you rent a bucket of balls and hit them out onto a field. Guess who was voted to lead off at hole number one? Yes, you guessed right, it was me, and maybe it was because the news media would be somewhat kinder to a younger person.

If you don't know the value of prayer, well it really came through for me that day. I said, "God, please help me with this first hole." Like a lightning bolt, I struck the golf ball, and it landed on the green right next to the cup. After we walked to the hole, I just nudged the ball a few feet, and it was in. The group all started shouting. We were glad there was no bet. Par was 3 per hole, but from then on, my score was 5 or 6 or sometimes higher. Who says that God does not answer prayers? I don't know if the news media paid any attention to my first shot with an Eagle, but if they had, they surely would have lost interest after my first hole.

### Beading Section August 16 Project

by Nancy Fischer, Jill Cooper, Kathryn Kelly,  
Grace Huang, Eileene Lee



### HGMS—How We Did in the 2014 SCFMS and AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contests

by Phyllis George  
HGMS Newsletter Editor

**I**t's all over now except for the shouting. I just returned from the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) show in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters was held August 9, and the SCFMS contest results were announced. The top three winners in each category had been forwarded to the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) judges, and the AFMS results were initially announced during the AFMS/RMFMS show (July 9–13) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I was unable to attend that show, so our AFMS trophies and certificates were then taken to the SCFMS show. The results are on the next page. HGMS rankings at the SCFMS contest and in the AFMS contest are in the two left columns. "HM" stands for Honorable Mention. The entries from HGMS are shown along with their category.

HGMS Results in the 2014 SCFMS and AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest				
SCFMS	AFMS	Name	Title	Month, 2013
Large Bulletin				
1	2	Phyllis George	The Backbender's Gazette	September
Advanced Adult Article				
1	HM	Neal Immega	The Best T. Rex in the World	October
2	HM	Albert J. Robb III	Some of the First American Fossils to be Figured in Scientific	October
3	8	John Anderson	The Miner and Jade	May
4		Terrell William Proctor, J.D.	Astronomy, Radioactive Minerals, and You	December
5		Dr. Garth Clark	The Surprising Richness of Texas	October
HM		Frank Dickson	Fun with Minerals at Papoose Flat	June
HM		Mark Villanueva	Organic Jewelry	February
Adult Article				
HM		Chase Jennings	Microfossil Collecting: The Most Fun You Can Have Indoors	August
Adult Poetry				
3	HM	Edward Clay	My Way	February
Junior Poetry				
1	3	Noelle Skubal	Hope	June
2	1	Jackson Skubal	Mining in the Rocks	December
Feature				
1	2	Garth Clark	Archeology Meeting Minutes	September
2	4	Chris Peek	60 <sup>th</sup> Annual HGMS Show	December
3	1	Neal Immega	Slab Happy	August
HM		John Anderson	The Miner—Memorable Dive	November
HM		Terry Proctor	Back to McFaddin Beach	June

The **SCFMS 2014 Business Meeting** was held later in the same room as the breakfast. Keeping my report brief and to the point, the SCFMS includes 33 clubs with a total of 3429 members. HGMS purchases insurance (for the show, I think) from the SCFMS, and the fee is based on the membership total (540) for a total of \$1620 for the year.

But to me, the highlight of the business meeting came when the 2015 Officer Candidates were announced. Our own Shira Trumble accepted the nomination as SCFMS Secretary. The entire slate was voted in by acclamation.

## Donation Made in Art Smith's Memory

*Mineral Section sends check for \$1000 to Rocks & Minerals*

Steve Blyskal forwarded this letter to the editor for inclusion in The Backbender's Gazette.

September 17, 2014

Members  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
10805 Brooklet  
Houston, TX 77099

Dear friends,

Once again, we were at the Denver Show with a subscription booth when your most welcome check for \$1,000 arrived at the editorial office.

As requested, the money will be deposited in the *Rocks & Minerals* Color Fund, ear-marked specifically to help underwrite color photography costs associated with the Connoisseur's Choice column in the coming year. As the 2015 issues come your way, please know how appreciative the editorial staff and subscribers are of your generosity.

The Houston Gem & Mineral Society will be acknowledged for its contribution in both the editor's column and in the Connoisseur's Choice column, as well as in our annual list of donors published in the March/April issue. We will also note that the donation is in memory of Arthur E. Smith.

For many years Art was a faithful supporter of *Rocks & Minerals* as a consulting editor, author, and donor. Your continuation of his tradition of giving back to the hobby that gave him so much pleasure is heartwarming.

Again, thank you so much,

Marie Huizing  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Rocks & Minerals*

c: Nancy J. Smith



## Homeschoolers at the HGMS Annual Show

*by Scott Singleton  
Show Education Chair*

I'd like to take a poll—how many of those reading the BBG know that we have an active and vibrant homeschool program here at the HGMS? You don't? Why am I not surprised? We all think of ourselves as secular gem and mineral hobbyists that would prefer to keep the rest of our lives separate from our fervent love of our chosen hobby. Most of the time that policy works—primarily because of the principles codified into the founding principles of this country—the separation of church and state. However, the Show Education Committee long ago put aside these artificial barriers (after all, we do live in the Deep South) and decided that *our* guiding principles were that we wanted to reach out to ALL children in our metropolitan area to teach them the beauty and glory of the earth we live on. The name for this subject is Earth Science, and we have chosen to do our part to fill in where the Texas Education Agency has decided not to go. Therefore, we created our School Daze Earth Science Scavenger Hunt back in 2003 and made it open to public, private, and home schools. It is only available one day per year—the Friday of our Annual Show.

At that time we started a publicity blitz that continues to this day in order to get the word out about this program. We have separate registrars that handle the public/private schools and home schools because of the different natures of the two populations of kids and the way they are taught. In the beginning, we faced lots of skepticism from the public schools about the quality of our program. But soon after that, we adopted the TEKS as our guiding principles and formed our scavenger hunt questions around those requirements. After teachers found that our show was a great place to have the kids enjoy themselves while at the same time learning about earth science, we had no problems getting them out to the show. (However, then the problem became having too many kids at the show, but that is a different topic).

With the home school population, we had to adopt different tactics. They are guided by the principle of individual (or small group) instruction with a curricula that is flexible and tailored to the progress of the child. In addition, often there are other overriding reasons why parents will choose home schooling over public or private schooling. One of those reasons might be religion and their insistence that religion NOT be separated from an otherwise secular curricula. In order to reach that segment of the population, we had to go out to venues that promote the combination of church and state. This has primarily been in the form of the annual home school conferences that take place. In the last decade, the Southeast Texas Home School Association (SETHSA) conference was located in Houston. However, late in the decade another association grew to prominence—the Texas Home School Coalition (THSC), originating in Lubbock but having their convention in the Woodlands and having a somewhat more conservative agenda. Within a few years, SETHSA ceased having an annual conference as the momentum was clearly in THSC's favor. Now the latter conference is going to two conferences with a second in Arlington.

That conference was at the end of July this year, and as is typically the case, was very positive for the HGMS. We have been exhibiting there since their beginning and are well known by most of the home school families that regularly attend. We have a steady stream of parents who come by the booth talking to us about earth science while the kids are enthralled by our specimens (the free giveaways don't hurt either). It is a joy to be discussing earth science with people who really want to know about it. Of course, we have strict self-imposed rules specifying that under no circumstances are we to discuss the age of the earth because many of these conservative home school parents do not believe the same things we do. As long as we stay away from that topic, the discussions are typically very positive and amicable.

These home school families then come to our show in large numbers to receive the free earth science lesson we offer. Over the years, we have altered our lesson plan to accommodate their method of learning. As a result, we have found that they are by far the most appreciative of any of the kids or adults who attend our program because this material is not typically available to them in the form we are presenting it. For this, we are grateful that we are filling a need in our community. And this is as it should be since we are a tax-exempt 501(c)3 educational organization.

We are very much looking forward to another great show with a large array of educational opportunities to the community in which we live.

### **General Meeting Minutes for 08-27-2014**

*by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary*

**T**he meeting was called to order by President Ray Kizer at 7:30 p.m.

He thanked everyone for coming to the August meeting, and spoke about the silent auction being conducted in the back of the room tonight.

The President announced a change in the usual order of events to allow the program to start after the approval of the minutes.

The meeting was attended by 43 regular members, one new member, and one visitor.

The president asked the visitors and new members to stand and be recognized. The visitor was Tom English. The new member was Glen Stone.

**Drawing:** John Anderson won the drawing for the polished agate slab.

**Minutes:** John Mitscherling moved to approve the minutes of the July General Meeting as published in the BBG. Phyllis George seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

Paul Brandes introduced the program for tonight: **An Evening with Joe Bud:** Joe Budd is a mineral and jewelry photographer whose work has been featured in such magazines as *Rocks & Minerals* and *The Mineralogical Record*. For tonight's presen-

**Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Jim Kendall at [kendall\\_ja@yahoo.com](mailto:kendall_ja@yahoo.com)**

tation, Joe talked about some recent projects which included a great deal of mineral “eye candy.” He shared some recently photographed high-end pieces and spoke about the latest major project he had just wrapped up—the Texas Collectors’ 2nd edition for *The Mineralogical Record*. Joe also shared a more artistic project he has been working on—hyper-close-up photos of minerals.

Budd presented his winning art photography and showed us how to photograph our minerals and jewelry by using the best lighting angles and positioning.

Following the program, Phyllis George presented **AFMS and SCFMS Contest certificates and trophies** won by HGMS members. Phyllis attended the recent Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Show where she represented HGMS during the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies business meeting. Tonight she announced the HGMS members who won 10 trophies at the SCFMS level and five trophies at the AFMS level. Everyone who was entered also received a certificate, score sheets, and the judges’ comments on their entries. Plaque winners included the BBG, John Anderson, Dr. Garth Clark, Neal Immega, Ed Clay, Al Robb, Chris Peek, Noelle Skubal, and Jackson Skubal.

The 33 SCFMS clubs have a total of 3,429 members. HGMS purchases insurance through the SCFMS. It covers our show (I think). Its cost is based on our membership (540), and HGMS paid \$1620 for the most recent year.

Shiara Trumble, our own HGMS member, was elected to be the new SCFMS Secretary.

At the SCFMS/Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Show, the dealers, presenters, meetings, and show were all housed in the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel on Hilton Avenue. Next year’s SCFMS show will be hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society and is scheduled for October 23–25, 2015. *Note to membership: NOW would be the time to create a competition display case. Usually a case has to win at a regional federation show first and then be entered into the next national federation show—possibly the following year. At the 2015 AFMS/SCFMS/Austin Gem & Mineral Society show, the SCFMS judges will immediately pass their case rankings on to the AFMS judges there for judging at the national level. ☺ So start planning those cases NOW.*

**Show-n-Tell:** Several members provided show-n-tell items.

### Section Reports

**Archeology Section:** The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature an excellent presentation by Robert Moore and wife Nancy Engelhardt-Moore about the Dendera Complex in Egypt.

**Beading Section:** The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on Saturday, September 20 at 1:30 p.m. The project will be a Lentil Spiral Necklace. A materials list and instructions are posted on the HGMS Web site.

**Day Light Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Members will be using liquid silver beads to create jewelry. In August, the group made jump ring, chainmaille-type bracelets.

**Education Committee:** Carrie Hart has posted the details for new class offerings on the HGMS Web site and is now making up class lists for those who are interested in learning a new skill or are just brushing up on a skill they haven't used in a while. See the Web site links for more details. Currently we are seeking members interested in forming class groups of 5 or more students interested in Cabochon Making and Jewelry Fabrication. These classes will teach the basic skills needed to complete one or more jewelry items. Intermediate classes will follow if there are interested students. All tools and materials will be covered by course fees, unless specifically noted. Course Fees must be paid in advance. Contact Carrie Hart for availability, course schedules, and fees. Please e-mail her at [classes@hgms.org](mailto:classes@hgms.org) or at [carriehart2000@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehart2000@yahoo.com).

On Sunday, August 24, Jim Paras taught 12 participants foil art. He provided all possible supply needs including small metal boxes (skinny cigars) to decorate with antiqued gold foil.

**Faceting Section:** The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m., the program is to be announced.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next regular meeting is Monday September 15 at 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced.

**Mineral Section:** Steve Blyskal reported that several Mineral Section members made a field trip to visit two Dallas dealers and returned on August 23 to attend the Dallas Fine Minerals Symposium. The next two Mineral Meetings will be on Wednesdays. On September 3 the evening's presentation will be a synopsis of each member's summer mineral collecting adventures. On September 17 at 7:30 p.m., the presentation will be Minerals of New Mexico.

**Paleo Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16 at 7:30. The program will be announced in an e-mail blast. Mike Dawkins announced an informal field trip to Whiskey Ridge on Labor Day.

**Show Committee Report:** Please continue to donate items for the October 11 Show Auction and the Info Booth Auction at The Show. Place them in the large purple container. The card labeling and pizza party will be held on September 27 at 10:00 a.m. More Show committee information can be found on the HGMS Web site.

**Youth Section:** The Youth Section met on August 2 and again on August 16. The kids were busy working on their competition stones for the November Gem & Mineral Show. The Section will meet Saturday, September 6 and again on September 20 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

**Shop Report:** Neal is working on recoating wheels in the shop.

**BBG Editor and Webmaster:** Phyllis George had no more to add to her earlier report.

**September General Meeting:** The September 23 General Meeting will feature a program on **A Woman's Perspective on Mineral Collecting:** When Gail Copus Spann discovered the world of minerals a number of years ago, she found herself in a hobby

dominated by men and very few women collectors. She also discovered along the way that women have a very different collecting style from men—a style that she explores in this presentation. Along with her husband Jim, they are actively involved in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX, and are avid fine mineral and gem stone collectors, with a collection rivaling many museums. Their mission in the hobby is to encourage more young people to learn the importance of minerals and to start collecting on their own. This will surely be an evening for the ladies of HGMS (oh, and the men can come too!)

### Old Business

In the interest of time, President Kizer asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items in the August 5 Board meeting minutes as published in the September edition of the BBG.

### New Business

**Water Meter Leak:** A city of Houston Public Utilities Division inspector made an evaluation of the active leak outside the HGMS parking lot. The inspector determined that the leak was not a city problem and was on the Dunn Southwest side of the meter. President Kizer contacted Dunn Southwest management who said they would handle the problem.

**Swap and Sale:** HGMS will be holding a parking lot Swap and Sale on Saturday, August 30 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Members are welcome to bring in jewelry or findings, cutting material, slabs, rocks, hobby magazines or books, used lapidary equipment, fossils or minerals which can be bought/sold/swapped. This will be an informal event and will be held outside the clubhouse. In the event of bad weather, the Swap will be moved inside or rescheduled. Setup in the parking lot begins at 7:00 a.m. The swap will begin at 9:00 a.m. **Contact Ray Kizer at [4ray.kizer2011@gmail.com](mailto:4ray.kizer2011@gmail.com) to reserve a table for \$15.00.**

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, September 2. The next General Meeting is Tuesday, September 23.

**Adjourn:** Joan Riley moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Phyllis George seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**Refreshments:** Provided by Nancy English.



Cartoon by Erston Barnhart  
From Rockbuster News 2/99  
via T-Town Rockhound 6/99

## Board of Director's Meeting

September 2, 2014

By Nancy English

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

**C**all to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. without a quorum present. President Ray Kizer presided over the meeting. Two non-voting members also attended the meeting: Carrie Hart, Education and Michel Marsel, Show Committee.

**Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes:** Because there was no quorum, the minutes of the August 2014 Board Meeting could not be accepted as published in the September 2014 BBG. A motion to approve the August and September BOD minutes will be presented at the October Board Meeting.

**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 August program was about the new discovery of a Pre-Clovis center in Big Bend, Texas. The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be about the Dendera Temple Complex of Ancient Egypt as presented by Bob and Nancy Engelhardt Moore.

**Beading Section:** The project in August was a necklace. The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on Saturday, September 20 at 1:30 p.m. The project this month is a Lentil Spiral Necklace which consists of alternating ribbons of oval pearls and fire-polished beads twisting around a core of two-hole lentil beads. The Section is also planning the display cases for the club's annual Show in November. Displays are also being planned for the cases in the club meeting room.

**Day Light Section:** At the August meeting, Karen Burns demonstrated the procedure for making a chain maille bracelet using jump rings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. The project will be made of liquid silver beads.

**Education Committee:** Carrie Hart reported that Ray Kizer is teaching a Cabochon Forming Class on Sunday, September 14. The one-day class will be from noon to 4 p.m., and will be open to up to seven students. Cost will be \$60.

**Faceting Section:** The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. The

program will be announced. The Faceting Section is planning to change its name to include the word Gem.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next regular meeting is September 15 at 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced. At the August meeting, the Section held a sale of donated rock and mineral specimens. Twenty people attended.

**Mineral Section:** The next Mineral meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3 at 7:30 p.m. Members will be discussing their summer mineral collecting adventures. Plenty of time will be available for short presentations, show and tell, and socializing. Attendees are encouraged to bring in their summer field finds (clean or not) as well as summer purchases to display.

**Paleo Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2014, at 7:30. The program will be announced. At the August meeting, Neal Immega shared a slide show on the Dangers of Being a Dinosaur in the Triassic, as seen through the skeletal bones of a T-Rex from the HMNS (Houston Museum of Natural Science).

Mike Dawkins reported that the weather cooperated for the Labor Day field trip to Whiskey Bridge. Twenty young adults and children searched for shells, sharks teeth, and one nice Conus shell.

**Publicity Committee:** Tamara Richie was absent, so no report.

**Show Committee:** Michele Marsel—The Postcard labeling and pizza party will be on September 27, 2014, 10:00 to noon. The Show Auction and supper are scheduled for October 11, 2014. One of the Show dealers, Amber Way, donated this year's grand prize. Steve Blyskal is photographing it for the postcards. Please, put your donations for the October 11 auction and the Show info booth into the large purple bin in the meeting room.

**Youth Section:** The next meeting is on Saturday, September 6, and again on September 20 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Youth members are working on showcase stones for the Show. They will be judged individually.

**BBG Editor and Webmaster:** The deadline to receive articles is September 10, 2014. Phyllis George reported that the SCFMS needs a club to host their 2016 annual show. A brief discussion resulted in plans to revisit the subject at the October BOD meeting. Phyllis George will look into what hosting a federation show involves.

### Old Business

- **Clubhouse Repairs and upgrades:** The solar door light was installed. The next item is the installation of an automatic pneumatic door-closing device on the side door.
- **Security System**—Garth Clark: Garth committed to select a system from sales during the Black Friday (Thanksgiving) season in the fall.
- **Swap and Sale:** The President reported that the Swap and Sale held August 30 was a success, despite the holiday weekend. Five members participated in the sale and brought lapidary and jewelry items for the rest of the members to choose from. Member table rentals brought in \$90 which will be divided equally between



the Building fund and General fund.

- **Donation Form:** A donation form was developed and is now hanging on a clipboard in the garage area. For all donations to HGMS, please fill in the form, and then share it with the President as soon as the donation is collected. The donation form includes the date, the donor's name and contact information, whether the donation was part of an estate and the name of the estate holder. The form also asks for the name of the person taking in the donation, a list of the major items in the donation, an approximate value—for used items—and any expectation for compensation by the donor from the sale of the items (up to 50%). Please put the completed form in the President's inbox on the office door.
- **Member Badges:** Last month, Beverly Mace announced that the company we order our badges from has been sold. We can no longer get them from there. Carrie Hart found an Oregon company that makes badges. They discussed a preliminary bid of \$12.00 per badge. She will find out more about minimum orders and other details for the October BOD meeting.
- **Sale Incomes for August:** A total of \$332.00 was made for the club at three sales in August. At the HGMS August General meeting, the Silent Auction yielded \$157.00; and the Donor Silent Auction resulted in \$85.50 for the club. Combining that with the \$90.00 from the Saturday sale, there is \$166.25 each for the General Fund and the Building Fund.
- **General Meeting Presentation:** The next General Meeting is on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at 7:30. **A Woman's Perspective on Mineral Collecting:** When Gail Copus Spann discovered the world of minerals a number of years ago, she found herself in a hobby dominated by men and very few women collectors. She also discovered along the way that women have a very different collecting style from men—a style that she explores in this presentation. Along with her husband Jim, they are actively involved in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX, and are avid fine mineral and gem stone collectors. Their collection rivals that of many museums. Their mission in the hobby is to encourage more young people to learn the importance of minerals and to start collecting on their own.

### New Business

- David Hawkins sent word that a Bead Market is scheduled at the Stafford Centre in Stafford, Texas, October 4–5, 2014. He suggested that HGMS try to have a presence there. Nancy English offered to contact the Publicity Chair, Tamara Ritchie.
- Phyllis George reminded the BOD that the nominating committee needs to be selected. The committee names will be announced at the September General meeting. Nominees for the 2015 officers will be announced at the October General Meeting by the nominating committee. The club will vote on the 2015 slate of officers at the November General Meeting.

Because of the lack of a forum, the President adjourned the meeting without a motion at 8:56 p.m.



## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

## Silver Discoloration

Working with jewelry involves an ever-increasing number of skills.

Chemistry comes into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of sterling silver, we typically encounter three discolorations—a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure, and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface due to a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically, these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it!

Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

**Preventing tarnish** involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal-colored film that forms on sterling or other copper alloy like copper or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid—generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it blocks the solder flow over the joint.

**Prevention** can be done two ways. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of

oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case, oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper-content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black-looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not.

The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle." This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration—firestain—for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface; it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy Bench Tip solution.

Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal coats of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but will not be as effective as preparations made specifically for the task.

## Solvent Dispenser

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes can't be too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing-bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip, I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers on Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com). The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL US\$ 5.35.



## Safety Report

*by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator  
from SCFMS Newsletter 9–10/2014*

**A** couple of summers ago I was enjoying a drive along the west side of Lake Semeca in New York's wine country. It is truly a beautiful area with the deep blue lake surrounded by rolling hills of farmland and vineyards. While I was driving, I encountered a fairly typical summer pop-up shower, but my leisurely drive was about to change. My rental car was struck by lightning! Luckily, the car and I were okay.

And then LAST WEEK... The light pole in front of our house was struck by lightning—which also took out our phone system, a cable box, a couple of light fixtures, the bulb above my oven, and the motor in my easy chair!

So this week when I read an article on Yahoo that was written by Ryan Wallace, a Senior Editor for Yahoo Health, I thought I would share it with you. I borrowed the following excerpts from his article. He cites information from his interview with John Jensenius, a meteorologist and lightning safety specialist for the National Weather Service. Hopefully this will help keep us safe—especially during the summer months when lightning strikes are at their peak. Be safe out there!

**Myth:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**Fact:** This one has been around so long it's been turned into a popular idiom. Too bad it's simply not true. Lightning can strike multiple times in the same place, especially if that place is really tall and pointy. (Case in point: The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year.)

**Myth:** If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you are safe from lightning.

**Fact:** The most important thing people should know is that if they hear thunder, they are within striking distance of lightning, according to Jensenius. And most people misjudge how far they are away from a storm. "You can hear thunder from a distance of about 10 miles, and lightning can strike outward from a storm as far as 10 miles," he added. "If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance."

**Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you by insulating you from the ground.

**Fact:** You are, in fact, protected in most cars, said Jensenius, but contrary to popular belief, it's the hard metal surrounding that's keeping you safe, not the rubber tires. Tires don't protect you at all, so remember that when you are on a motorcycle, bicycle, ATV (such as a fourwheeler), or lawnmower during a storm. Convertibles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection either. If in the car during a thunderstorm, don't lean on the doors as they contain parts that can draw in electricity from outside the vehicle.

**Myth:** If you are in a house, you are 100 percent safe from lightning.

**Fact:** A substantial building offers the best protections, said Jensenius, but there are still a few things to remember. The No. 1 way to avoid getting struck by lightning is to get inside as quickly as possible. But if lightning strikes a house, chances are it's going to find the wiring or plumbing and follow it to the ground, so you don't want to be touching or near anything connected to them. You shouldn't take a shower or be washing your hands or doing the dishes in a lightning storm either. And anything plugged into the wall can be electrified during a strike. Stay away from doors and windows too. Like car doors, they have metal parts that can attract electricity.

**Myth:** If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, you should lie flat on the ground.

**Fact:** If you're outside and unable to get indoors, there is nothing you can really do to be 100 percent safe, said Jensenius. So what can you do to lower your risk of being struck? Avoid open areas, and **DO NOT LIE DOWN**. Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. "Lightning doesn't strike the ground and disappear," said Jensenius. "After it hits, it spreads out along the surface. If you are lying down, you are in more danger." **Owen**

### **Business Cards—for Your Club???**

*by Kreigh Tomaszewski  
from SCRIBE 7–9/2014*

**B**usiness Cards are typically shared during formal introductions as a convenience and a memory aid when members of businesses meet to negotiate a deal or conduct a business collaboration. Less common is the social Calling Card that served a similar function and was in common use during the Victorian period. They are not uncommon in package deals of graduation announcement materials sold to high school seniors. In some cultures, there is a strict protocol surrounding Business Cards. When exchanged, they are carefully reviewed by the recipient before being placed on the conference room table. The Business Card was one of the driving inspirations behind the invention of the Credit Card. Even in today's digital age, Business Cards serve a useful function. And yes, there is a digital standard for Business Cards.

Does your Rock Club have a business card? Club name, logo, and website URL? Black on white works, but why not print on a variety of colors of card stock to make them stand out? During our annual Club Show, we hand out about 800 of them each year to the public. About 2% result in new members. That is pretty cheap advertising. Making sure every club member has a few club business cards in their wallet lets you cover those chance interactions where you uncover a closet rockhound. I had a home repair last week. The service person commented on the unusual rocks in my landscaping in a knowledgeable way. Now we have connected on a hobby level. He didn't know about the club, but was excited to discover there was one. Instant feedback—here is the club card. Our membership secretary confirmed that the shared club Business Card produced another club member. Your club is not a business, but you need to promote our hobby. **Business Cards can be an effective way to advertise your club.**

**SCFMS—The Nash Rambler**

*by John D. Nash, SCFMS President  
from SCFMS Newsletter 9-10/2014*

**T**he last two months have been eventful for the “Nash Rambler.” The AFMS Annual Meeting and Show, held July 9–13 and hosted by the RMFMS, was our first destination. The Tulsa group did a great job as hosts, and the Hilton Garden Inn made us all feel at home. Attendance at the AFMS meetings has given me a better understanding of how belonging to the AFMS Federation strengthens our individual Federation as well as our local society.

The SCFMS was well represented by our officers, and we garnered our fair share of awards. Be sure to look at the Web site ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)) for a full listing of those awards. On August 8, we made our way to Baton Rouge for the SCFMS Annual Meeting and Show. The Baton Rouge G&MS made the way easy for a great time. All of the meetings as well as the show, were held in the Marriott Hotel. The two-day event was packed with lots of business, information, and fun. The new officers were elected, chairmen appointed, reports and budget approved, and the stage set for a new year to begin November first for the South Central Federation.

The [www.SCFMS.net](http://www.SCFMS.net) Web site has information that will be helpful to each club in the SCFMS. If you are a computer troglodyte and have trouble with the Web sites, have your child or grandchild print the information you need.

The latest trip was to our own 20th Annual Show in Jasper August 23. We were very pleased with the Show this year and excited to see so many of our fellow SCFMS members from other clubs here to support us. We have a strong group of vendors that make our show a success. Jim Marler was with us at our first show, then Keith Harmon joined the group for the third show, and they have been a part of each one since then.

August 14 I had surgery in Houston for a detached retina in my right eye. The doctors tell me it will be four to six weeks before my vision is restored if everything progresses the way it should. I lost the vision in my left eye about thirty-four years ago because of a detached retina, so I am trying to follow the doctor's orders.

**How To Deconstruct and Rehabilitate an Opal Triplet**

*by James Marburger  
from Pick & Shovel 8/2014*

**A**n opal triplet is a composite stone of three different materials. The base of the triplet is usually made up of almost any black material: basalt, agate, jade, or onyx—even some hard plastic materials or ceramics have been used. This layer might even be opal patch, a non-fire opal with lamp black in the epoxy or glue to give a black background under the fire opal layer. The fire opal layer is a very thin section of that might have been salvaged from chips or layers of opal that would not cut a solid cabochon. On top of this, a cap is added to protect and magnify the opal's play of colors. This layer can be optical clear quartz, natural or man grown quartz, or even glass.

Opal triplets are fantastic for opal jewelry. The color play usually is bright and vivid. With a quartz cap on the opal, the hardness and durability is increased. However, triplets need some special handling. The play of colors in the opal actually is water within the spherical makeup of the opal. Therefore, the best advice is to avoid extreme heat or cold because the water contained in them will either convert to steam or freeze, thereby breaking the opal. Opals are like people; if one can stand the temperature, the opals can, too.

Submersion in water will pose problems for the glue used in an assembled triplet. If a triplet becomes cloudy or has bubbles under the clear cap, more than likely it is water damage. The glue probably has failed due to temperature change or to over-soaking in water, such as while washing dishes. To repair this damage, we now come to the **deconstruction of a triplet.**

### Using Solvents

Historically, many types of glue have been used in the making of triplets. How do we dissolve or loosen the glue? One way is to use a solvent such as mineral oil, paint thinner, alcohol, lacquer thinner, or acetone. All of these carry a fire danger, so use of a sealable glass jar and plenty of ventilation is needed, as well as a work area free of flame hazards. If this does not work, a commercial product called “Attack,” by Hughes Associates, might be used. This product is methylene chloride, and it is nasty stuff. **The use of a NIOSH-approved full-face respirator with organic vapor cartridges and major ventilation is needed when using “Attack.”**

The use of solvents poses another problem—both glue joints will be affected. If you are lucky, they will separate from one another. Clean off any remaining glue from all the pieces, and then carefully wash the pieces to remove any remaining solvent. Be careful! Breakage of the thin opal layer is possible. Once the layers are cleaned, reassembly can begin.

### Manual Deconstruction (when solvents are ineffective)

The safest deconstruction of a triplet is to start from the black side. Grind off the backing material, down to the opal layer. When grinding the material, the hardest part will be keeping the stone flat. Use of a horizontal flat lap or facet lap will be the safest way to control the flatness of the stone. Proceed slowly so the stone does not slip off of parallel to the opal layer. Use a 600-grit wheel to finish off the grinding. Once the opal layer is exposed, the new backing can be glued to the opal. Adding a small amount of “lamp black” to the epoxy when mixing will add color to the glue. “Lamp black” can be made by burning a candle and placing an old spoon just above the flame upside down. The soot will collect in the spoon. After it cools, the epoxy can be mixed in the spoon, thus turning the epoxy black. The back material is glued to the opal and dried for 24 hours.

Now start to grind the cap off in the same manner as the back. Once the cap is ground down to the opal, and you finished using a 600 grit wheel, a new cap can be added. You

can use quartz to make your own cap or a new, ready-made quartz cap can be used. Mix the epoxy slowly so air bubbles are not introduced to the mix. The most common epoxy used is 330 Epoxy by Hughes Associates because it dries water-clear and is a slow set (24 hour) for maximum strength. When gluing the cap, apply the epoxy to both surfaces. The cap is placed on the opal using a screwing twist motion of the cap to force out any air bubbles and excess glue. If air bubbles are trapped, separate and reapply glue. Once you are happy with it, a spring clothespin can be used to act as a glue clamp.

Now that you have the triplet back together, the backing material can be shaped to match the cap if a commercial cap was used. Otherwise, both the cap and backing material will need to be shaped and polished. Use super glue as a dop medium if a dop stick is used. Once the triplet is polished, you have a reconstructed, rehabilitated opal that will please someone for another bunch of years.

### **Baking Soda in the Field**

*via Delvings 8/2014; via Cowtown Cutter; via August Morok Newsletter;  
via The Tumbler 9/2014*

**H**ere are some reasons you will be glad you took a box of natural soda along on your field trip.

1. Insect bites, minor burns, poison oak—add water to make a paste and apply to affected area.
2. Sunburn, windburn, and prickly heat—add 1/4 cup to a basin of water and bathe or sponge on.
3. Acid indigestion—add 1/4 teaspoon to a glass of water and drink slowly.
4. Tired feet—add three tablespoons to a basin of water and soak.
5. Tooth cleanser and breath freshener—Use as much as needed on moist toothbrush.
6. Hand and fingernail cleaner—Rub dry on moistened hands to remove pine pitch, odors, or grease.
7. Fire extinguisher—for grease fire, throw a box-full at the base of the fire.
8. Freshening camp coolers and thermos jugs—add 2 teaspoons and partly fill with water, shake, and rinse.
9. Deodorant—sprinkle some inside your boots or hiking shoes.
10. Safe, natural cleaner for camp dishes and pans—add 3 tablespoons to a pan of warm water and soak.
11. Cleaning a dirty, bug-spattered windshield, chrome, and camper frames—rub damp sponge sprinkled with baking soda.
12. Freshening RV water tanks—flush with a solution of 1/4 cup of soda and 1 gallon of water. Rinse with clear water.



## 13 Things You Need To Know About Lyme Disease

by Katherine Dempsey, *Runner's World*

Published on Yahoo! Shine, Mon, June 30, 2014

Excerpted and edited by Sharon Marburger, via Pick & Shovel 7/2014

Sunburns and bug bites—two major pains of summertime fun. Whether you're out camping, at the beach, or working out in the sun this summer, it's important to spot the symptoms of one of the fastest growing infectious diseases in the U.S. Lyme disease is often misunderstood and when left untreated, can lead to some dangerous complications. Below we set the record straight on five Lyme disease myths, and instead offer up eight key ways to identify, treat, and cope with the dreaded tick bite.

**MYTH #1: Lyme always presents itself with a bull's-eye rash.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 30 percent of people infected with Lyme disease don't get a rash. Whether someone develops a rash likely depends on differences within individual immune systems, says Thomas Mather, Ph.D., Director of the University of Rhode Island's Center for Vector-Borne Disease and Tick Encounter Resource Center. And if a rash does appear, it doesn't always take a bull's-eye shape. Some research has shown that it more commonly appears as a red, raised region.

**MYTH #2: Trails are the only places where you are vulnerable to tick bites.** You could find a tick in your backyard, on suburban park paths, or on the side of a road. Ticks feed on deer, and a high white-tailed deer population in North America allows ticks to thrive and has resulted in more tick reproduction, Mather says, "And as suburban communities spread into deer and mice habitats, the risk increases."

**MYTH #3: If you've been bitten by a tick, you'll get Lyme.** Only blacklegged ticks and western blacklegged ticks transmit Lyme (lone star ticks and American dog ticks do not). And even if one bites you, it must first be infected with the bacteria, Mather says. Blacklegged ticks are more aggressive in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, upper Midwest, and on the Pacific coast. What's more, Mather estimates that the tick must be attached for one to two-and-a-half days to give you the disease. If you spot it and remove it promptly, you'll likely avoid infection.

**MYTH #4: If you get Lyme, you'll suffer from long-term, chronic symptoms.** Not necessarily. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 10 to 20 percent of Lyme patients deal with symptoms that persist beyond six months. Identifying symptoms and getting treatment quickly is the best way to lower the chance you'll experience chronic issues. Mather, a marathon runner, tested positive for Lyme in 2002, but soon after beginning antibiotic treatment, he finished a 10-mile race at 6:30-per-mile pace.

**MYTH #5: You can get Lyme from your four-legged running buddy.** Not exactly. If your dog contracts Lyme, you can't catch it from him, just like you can't catch it



from a spouse or a running partner. But your dog could carry a tick into your house, where it may roam on the floor or on a couch—and then attach to you.

### Here's what to do if you've been bitten by a tick.

**Remove It:** Use pointy tweezers to grasp the tick as close as possible to your skin's surface. Pull upward with steady pressure and avoid twisting or jerking it, which could cause some of the parts to break off in the skin.

**Keep It:** Tick expert Thomas Mather recommends placing the tick in a Ziploc bag and writing down the date of removal so you can show your doctor if you develop Lyme symptoms. You can also send your tick to a lab to get it tested. <http://tickencounter.org/lists> options.

**Sanitize:** After removal, disinfect the bite area and wash your hands with soap and water.

**Identify It:** Different kinds of ticks carry different pathogens, so you'll want to figure out the species that bit you. Mather's TickEncounter Resource Center supplies photos to help you determine the type of tick and how long it might have been attached. Ticks grow larger the longer they're attached. Mather encourages you to take a photo of the tick and submit it to his resource center which monitors tick activity.

**Seek Medical Attention:** If you remove an adult blacklegged tick that was attached to your skin for two days or more, you have a high risk of contracting Lyme disease, says Mather. He recommends asking your doctor for a dose of the antibiotic **doxycycline** as a proactive measure. If a blacklegged tick was attached for less than a day, your risk of being infected is lower. But Mather still recommends saving the tick in case you begin feeling ill later. And of course, if you start to develop Lyme symptoms, see your doctor.

### Tickled Off! Avoid the Bite

Tick expert Thomas Mather offers suggestions on how to protect yourself outdoors.

**Wear Repellent:** If you live in a high-risk area, Mather advises spraying your shoes and clothing with clothing-specific repellents containing **permethrin**. A coating of permethrin is effective for a month on your shoes and through 70 washings on your clothes. Mather prefers permethrin over DEET, which loses effectiveness after 30 minutes.

**Stay Centered:** If you're on trails or park paths, stick to the center and away from the edges, where ticks tend to lurk. Ticks lie low in tall grasses (they're not hanging out in trees waiting to hop onto you).

**Do Tick Checks:** Strip off your clothing and check your body for ticks as soon as you can after being outdoors. Ticks might land on your foot or ankle and migrate up. Pay particular attention to these areas: underarms, around the ears, inside the belly button, back of the knees, head, groin, and waistline. Look for any freckles (ticks are that small) that seem unusual.

**Show Time 2014**

October 3-5	Austin, TX	Austin Gem & Mineral Society Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. showchairman@austingemandmineral.org www.gemcapers.com
October 4-5	Stafford, TX	The Bead Market Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd. rebekah@thebeadmarket.net www.thebeadmarket.net
October 10-12	Metairie, LA	Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel 2610 Severn Ave.; gemshow2014@gmail.com
October 10-12	Mount Ida, AR	World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Montgomery County Fairgrounds Fairgrounds Rd. director@mtidachamber.com www.mtidachamber.com
October 11-12	Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Mayborn Civic and Convention Center 3303 N. 3rd St.; Chip Burnette burnette@aceweb.com www.tricitygemmineral.org
October 11-12	Fort Worth, TX	Cowtown Gem, Mineral and Glass Club BIRC Fitness Center, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road
October 17-19	Victoria, TX	Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Community Center, 2905 East North St.
November 1-2	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society Amarillo Civic Center, 400 S. Buchanan St. Wanda Finley, finfran@midplains.coop
November 1-2	Midland, TX	Midland Gem & Mineral Society Midland Center
November 7-9	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 www.hgms.org; show@hgms.org
November 15-16	Round Rock, TX	Paleontological Society of Austin Old Settlers Park, Hwy 29 E showchair@austinpaleo.org

2014 <span style="margin-left: 150px;">October</span> <span style="float: right;">2014</span>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	2 7:30 Archeology Section	3	4 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
5 10-4 Shop Open	6	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 6:30 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	9	10	11 10-5 Shop Open 6 p.m. Show Auction & Supper
12 10-4 Shop Open	13 1:00 Day Light Section	14 7:30 Show Committee	15 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	16	17	18 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
19 10-4 Shop Open	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-3 Shop open	23	24	25 10-5 Shop Open
26 10-4 Shop Open	27	28 7:30 General Meeting	29 10-3 Shop open	30	31 Halloween	

2014 <span style="margin-left: 150px;">November</span> <span style="float: right;">2014</span>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section
2 10-4 Shop Open Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting Election Day	5 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop open	6 7:30 Archeology Section Show Setup Day	7 HGMS SHOW Kids Day	8 HGMS SHOW
9 HGMS SHOW	10 1:00 Day Light Section	11 7:30 Show Committee Veterans Day	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	21	22 10-5 Shop Open
23 10-4 Shop Open 10-4 Shop Open 30	24	25 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop open	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 10-5 Shop Open

# **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 — 2012 - 1st (Large)  
2013 - 1st (Large)  
2014 - 1st (Large)



## **AFMS**

1998 - 2nd (Large)  
2004 - 3rd (Large)  
2007 - 1st (Large)  
2010 - 2nd (Large)  
2012 - 3rd (Large)  
2013 - 3rd (Large)  
2014 - 2nd (Large)



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

**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !**