



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

The Newsletter of the  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLVI - No. 5

May 2015



## **President's Message**

*by Raymond Kizer*

**B**y this point in the year, several of our spring field trips have taken place. Those who were lucky enough to go were reported to have had a great time. The Paleo field trip was a success—for the most part, even with Neal along. He was reported to have taken out his rain gear, shaken it at the graying skies, and say, “Don’t make me use this!” This worked for Friday and most of Saturday. Club members were able to collect in several locations, but Sunday was rained out. Two out of three days to crawl around looking for fossils isn’t all bad.



Beverly Mace led the Youth Section on a field trip to Carol Thompson’s property in Crosby TX. I heard that kids collected many pieces of petrified wood

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*Continued on page 4*

## **Upcoming General Meeting Programs**

*by Paul Brandes*

**T**uesday April 28: **Scott Singleton—There and Back Again – A Journey to Middle Earth.** Over the Christmas break, the Singleton family went on an extended vacation to New Zealand, and they also spent some time on the east coast of Australia diving the Great Barrier Reef. The purpose of the NZ trip was as a self-guided “discovery” to visit locations for the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* movies. We traveled the length of the North and South Islands and experienced a ton of actual movie sites. NZ is absolutely beautiful, and having a spine of mountains (known as the Southern Alps) down the length of South Island adds to the beauty. I, of course, enjoyed the abundant wineries as much as anything.

As a means of showing this trip in a fresh and interesting manner, I photo-processed all the pictures in Adobe Lightroom, and my wife created an

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*Continued on page 4*

**2015 HGMS Gem & Jewelry Show—This Year ONLY**  
**September 25–27, 2015**  
**Y'all come!**

**(In 2016 our show will be held in November—As Usual.)**

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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's Message continued from page 1*

during the trip—along with a little bit of poison ivy. It wasn't too bad, only one child got the itch—oh, and Beverly.

If you were not able to make it out to collect, there was still plenty of rough rock for you to hunt through in Neal's Cafeteria-style garage sale, thanks to our recent really large donation. It was so big, it took three strong men to load and unload it all. Thanks Clyde, David, and Neal.

You know Neal really loves these types of donations because the club can make twice the dinero—cash when you buy the rough and Shop Fees when you cut it. Either way you get your rough, on a field trip or rummaging through Neal's sorted donation, you can look forward to many hours of fun turning it into something beautiful. Come use the shop and enjoy!

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*Upcoming Programs continued from page 1*

iSlideshow complete with an audio track consisting of five songs appropriately picked according to theme and lyrics. The iSlideshow is 17 minutes long and includes actual scenes from the movies, so appropriate connections to the locations can be made. It is preceded by a short PowerPoint presentation consisting of a route map to introduce the audience to the photos they are about to see. If you are a Hobbit or LOTR fan (like we are), this is a presentation you will not want to miss!

**May 26, 2015: Nathalie Brandes – The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway:** Attend any larger gem and mineral show, and you're sure to see one of the famous Kongsberg, Norway wire silvers. They are perhaps the most aesthetic and exquisite silvers in the world. What most people don't realize is that there is a lot more to the Kongsberg area than just pretty silvers. Our speaker, Dr. Nathalie Brandes, will take us on a tour that features such places as the King's Mine, The Norwegian Mining Museum, and the "Silver Vault," and walking around the town taking in the sights. As always, there will be a description of the geology, mining history, and plenty of pretty photos from around the Kongsberg area--and of course, lots of photos of wire silver specimens! Anyone who has seen Nathalie talk in the past knows this promises to be a very lively and entertaining presentation.

**June 23, 2015: To be announced**

**July 28, 2015: To be announced**

**Editor's Note:** *Is there a program topic you would LOVE to hear about at an upcoming General Meeting program? Don't just sit there and wish—TELL Paul Brandes about it. Do you have an appropriate topic that is near and dear to your heart that you would be willing to share by presenting at a General Meeting program? Paul Brandes needs to know NOW. Help him obtain great programs for you.*

## Show Committee Happenings

by Scott Singleton

HGMS 2015 Show Chair

This note is to keep everyone up-to-date about what is going on with this year's Show Committee. Since the beginning of the year, the two committees that need to be active—Dealer and Publicity—have indeed been busy. The **Dealer Committee** prepared contracts for the show this year and sent them out to all dealers at last year's show. Most of those contracts have now been returned. However with the change of date for this year's show, several dealers have conflicts and will not be with us. Thus, we have been actively building a reserve list of dealers who have asked to be considered for our show. With this list, we are confident that we will have a full complement of dealers

The **Publicity Committee** has been focusing not only on the standard media outlets we normally use, but also are devoting some energy to developing social media outlets. Facebook is a typical example, although there are others. Another avenue for personal outreach is our email address list. We have steadily been building such an email list of non-HGMS members that we will attempt to leverage closer to the show. These efforts are critical because of the change of date for the show. It is well known that any change in a regularly occurring event—such as our show—typically results in a substantial portion of our normal clientele being lost because they don't know or may forget that the show is earlier than it has been for a number of years. We are attempting to circumvent that by getting the word out as much as possible and in more personal ways than we have done previously. However, despite these efforts, we are still preparing for less than normal attendance numbers.

The **Show Education Committee**, consisting of the School Daze and Scout programs, is also active. They are preparing to have a table at the annual Scout Fair held at the NRG Arena on April 18 (which will have already happen by the time you read this). This is the ultimate in Scout events, and we are hoping to increase the visibility of our program by exhibiting at this fair. Also on the Education Committee's list is the annual THSC homeschool convention at the Woodlands Marriott July 23–25. As last year, we will be looking for volunteers to help staff our table at this event, which has been very successful in attracting homeschool parents and co-ops to the show for over a decade. **Also, please note that this committee is looking for a person to act as the Homeschool Registrar, whose responsibility is to keep track of those registering for the homeschool program. If anyone would like to help with this effort, please email fossilwood@comcast.net.** I know there are several people in the club who have associations with the homeschool community, and I fully expect these contacts will help in getting the word out as well as keeping track of those registering.

I would like to share with everyone two examples of people stepping up to help the club and show with their devotion and energy. The Show Volunteer Committee consists of Nancy English. This is in addition to being the Board Secretary last year and this year. She has stepped up to help the show by coordinating all the volunteer sign-ups as well as by recruitment efforts for the Show Committee. This is an important task, given the number of shows and events we have already done and will continue to do for the remainder of the year. Nancy has done a great job, and I extend my thanks to her for stepping up. Another example is Tamara Richie, who in addition to being the Publicity Chair for the Board, also stepped up to be the graphics design person for the Show Publicity Committee. This is also a very important task given that most of our publicity efforts involve some sort of graphic design and layout. The quarter-page show flier that has been circulating is an example of the work she has performed. Other examples are some of the events we have been attending—these came from her looking for opportunities for promoting the club and show. I thank her for carrying this workload for the club.

So the Show Committee is moving forward to prepare for this year's show. This month (May) we will reinstitute regular Show Committee meetings which were temporarily halted while the new Show Committee formed and the various committees described above became active. We are now to the point where those committees are fully functioning, and it's time for everyone to start meeting together to coordinate our activities. One reason for this is we have several events we host over the summer in preparation for the show. These need to be planned and executed. Next month I will list those events and the preliminary dates we have selected for them.

As a final word, I'd like to note that we still have three single-person committees that are not filled. Those committees are Tickets, Security, and Hospitality. Please contact me if you are interested, and I can describe what each entails. We hope we can fill these positions, but if we can't, we'll need to look at what is the best use of our available resources and what things we can no longer do.

Until next month!



## The Joy of Rockhounding

by Charles Snider

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

I read an article in the *New York Times*, and I have seen this story played out in commercials for modern-day sitcoms. We are becoming so dependent on our phones, or on our laptops and the social media sites that they contain, that we cannot watch a television program with another person in the room without engaging an electronic device. The experience of watching TV or a movie, or reading, or being with someone else is not enough these days. The story I read talked about the generation upon us now being born and taught to utilize a tiny screen at all times, even while a person—a teacher—is standing before them speaking. According to the article, we crave as many distractions as possible, and they are not human, nor are they natural.

This started me thinking about last year's rockhounding trips. Leaving my phone in the car felt awkward, but if I fell into a hole or something happened to me, someone always knew approximately where I was going. I didn't need my phone on me to dial 911 or to call someone because I was in trouble. I had two fellow rockhounds with me. I felt a little awkward at giving up that "distraction," but when I did and started marching into the woods, listening to my steps, and to nature, it felt like another world—as it always does when I go rockhounding.

Rockhounding, or amateur geology as it's sometimes called, for me is a great retreat from all the distractions of modern life. The tools I carry, the provisions I bring, the clothing I wear, while modern, are not very different from what was carried to go rockhounding 50 years ago. Back then, we did not have these personal distractions on us. These days, turning off your phone, having your phone disable because there's no signal, however you can get off the grid these days—rockhounding is one way to do it.

I believe we are losing the art of conversation—certainly of negotiation, and possibly sense of humor with our reliance on electronic devices. Rockhounding on the other hand, requires all three of those parts of life. Conversation is a natural part of rockhounding with your crew. Negotiation is required at the end of the day to figure out how to divide up the loot, and laughter and humor and fun is a common theme throughout a rockhounding trip. No devices required.

The last time I went to hunt for Herkimer Diamonds for instance, there were three of us lugging a jackhammer in a dolly and towing all the other supplies like a trio of pack-mules. We met some lively characters along the way on their respective claims. One gentleman goes by the name "Diamond Jim." As we each anticipated, he told stories about how he found the largest Herkimer

Diamonds ever and always finds the largest pockets. Then there was a dude named Montana at another claim. We learned later that he was living out of his van and peddling Herkimer Diamonds to fund his gas, lodging (the van), meals, and I am not sure what the bathroom, laundry, or shower situation was. We ended up hanging out with him for 30 minutes and helped him mine Herkimer Diamonds for gas money. Going back to the theme of this article, did I exchange numbers or anything from my phone with either gentleman? No, I did not. We met along the rockhound journey, shared some banter and laughs, heard some laughable quips and tall-tales, and we engaged with each other without distraction.

So by design, rockhounding is one of the most social activities in which one can participate, and no phone or distraction can make it any better. Popular TV shows these days encourage you to watch for different content on your laptop while you are also watching the show. Tweeting and other Social Media is encouraged and rewarded. Your multi-tasking is purely solo, and does not involve or include your friends, loved ones, or good mates even if they are in the same room. Compare and contrast that to a rockhounding trip with your club, with loved ones and family, good buddies, and friends. Recognize that any distraction on your phone would not enhance your experience but take away from it. You need all your senses ready to lay your eyes on a giant Herkimer Diamond pocket. You don't want to be distracted when a large garnet pops out of Connecticut schist. Walking the dried creek beds in Indiana, seeking a rare geode covered with growth or concealed underground, is not enhanced if your eyes are reading the screen on your phone—as we see commonly on the streets of Manhattan for instance.

To conclude, for me the Joy of Rockhounding is that it forces me to put down my phone, expect no emails from the office, to be away from Social Media “friends,” and to be among “real friends.” These days, multi-tasking for work and entertainment is commonplace, and that keeps us from cooperating and working together. Rockhounding demands cooperating and working together, and demands that we be more human and involved and engaged with each other.

Charles Snider lived in Houston for ten years, and he remains a long-distance member of HGMS. He joined the New York Mineralogical Club upon moving to New York City. He is also Co-Founder of [www.americangeode.com](http://www.americangeode.com) and can be reached at [Charles@americangeode.com](mailto:Charles@americangeode.com). (*Editor's Note: Charles's Web site is listed on the HGMS Web site's **Useful Links** page under **HGMS Members' Sites**.*)





## Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

**A**pril 2, 2015: Section Chair Garth Clark called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. (usually starts at 7:30) due to an AV problem. Attendance was taken, and visitors introduced themselves. Garth moved to approve the March 5 minutes published in the April issue of the BBG. Jon Hart seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved. There was a brief discussion on upcoming events. In June the Section is planning a field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) to visit two exhibits: *"Samurai: The Way of the Warrior"* and *"China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of the Sanxingdui."* Dirk Van Tuerenhout will lead this special tour. The exact date of the field trip will be announced in April. Garth and Nancy gave short presentations that were followed by a "Show & Tell." Garth adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

**Program:** Garth then reviewed the **Treasure Act 1996** and his personal experience as an ancient coin consultant for the Vale of York Hoard. He stated that The Act deals with treasure found in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Anyone who finds objects that are legally defined as treasure must report their find to the local coroner within 14 days. Next, the coroner leads an inquest to determine whether the find constitutes treasure. If a find is declared treasure, then the owner must offer the item(s) for sale to a museum at a price set by an independent board of antiquities experts (Treasure Valuation Committee). Only if a museum expresses no interest in the item(s), or is unable to purchase it, can the owner retain it. Garth then went over the events that led to the discovery and declaration of the Vale of York Hoard as treasure. In 2007, David Whelan and his son Andrew discovered the hoard using metal detectors in a non-ploughed empty field in North Yorkshire. They excavated a chest and found a silver bowl full of coins and silver. They reported the find of 617 silver coins and 65 other items, which was identified as a 10<sup>th</sup>-century Viking hoard and later declared treasure. It was valued at £1,082,000 and purchased jointly by the York Museums Trust, the British Museum, The Art Fund, and The British Museum Friends. Garth said that he was a friend of David, but to his disappointment, he was not eligible for any part of the treasure.

Nancy gave a brief preview of the new exhibit *"China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of the Sanxingdui"* that opens April 10 and runs through September 7 at HMNS. Her talk briefly covered the discovery and excavation of Sanxingdui, objects found in the two sacrificial pits, and a few of the unique items uncovered at this ancient site dating back to 1600 BC. After the talks, John Hurt let attendees touch his beautiful arrow/point collection, which was collected near Barksdale, Texas. He also brought some of his stunning Anasazi pottery collection. The Moores brought a variety of antiquities from around the world for viewing that dated back to the time of Sanxingdui.

**May 7, 2015: Bob Moore will give a talk that includes personal photos on “Avebury: Britain’s Neolithic Monument” at the HGMS Clubhouse on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.** This henge site located in southwest England contains the largest stone circle in Europe! The outer circle contains two other smaller circles and the Village of Avebury, Wiltshire inside of it. The original purpose of this monument is debated, but it was most likely used for some form of ritual or ceremony. This unique, World Heritage Neolithic site was constructed about 4600 years ago, and it is part of the wider prehistoric landscape that includes Stonehenge. Don’t miss this fascinating talk!

### **Mineral Section**

#### *Upcoming Programs*

*by Paul Brandes, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

**A**pril 15, 2015: **Section Auction:** The Mineral Section will be hosting its annual auction to help raise money for the Section. Once again, we invite all HGMS members to bring specimens to the auction. This is how it works: all of the proceeds (100%) of at least one (1) specimen of your choice must be donated to the Section. Five (5) additional specimens are allowed for each donor with a portion of those specimens (10%) going to the Section and the rest going to the donor (i.e.: if a specimen sells for \$50, \$5 goes to the Section, the remaining \$45 to the donor). This is a great way for all HGMS members to thin out their duplicate specimens and to benefit both yourself and the Mineral Section. You can put a minimum reserve bid on the more expensive pieces if you desire. Since this event will draw from all Sections, expect a variety of items to be auctioned as this promises to be a very interesting and entertaining evening. Setup will begin at 6:30 p.m. with viewing from 7:00 to 7:30. After a short business meeting, bidding will begin and last until the final item is sold.

**May 6, 2015: Houston Fine Mineral Show Wrap-up:** Bring in your recent acquisitions from the Houston Fine Mineral Show (April 24–26). Let other Section members gaze at your shiny new specimens while telling us how you came about it and from which dealer. Also, please share your experience of the show—good or bad—with the rest of the Section. What did they do correctly or poorly in your mind? What did they do that could benefit our show in November, etc.? Refreshments will be provided.

**May 20, 2015: To be announced.**

**June 3, 2015: Swap Night:** Back by popular demand, we will have a Swap Night where excess material from our collections can be bought/sold/swapped. This will be an informal event and will be held inside. All Sections are invited to participate and swap. Setup begins at 7:00 p.m., and the formal business meeting will be kept to a minimum to allow ample time for specimen exchange and socializing. This is also our last regularly scheduled meeting before the summer hiatus. Refreshments will be provided.

June 3 is the last regularly scheduled meeting before the summer hiatus. We haven't decided yet as to the topics for summer workshops or if we are going to have any. If we do, I'll let you know.

Editor's Confession

This is where the minutes of the March 24, 2015 General Meeting Minutes were supposed to be. I did start taking notes, but as the meeting progressed, I became so interested in what was happening, I forgot to continue taking notes. So they turned out to be useless. And THAT is why there is not an official record of that meeting. :o(

Board of Directors Meeting

April 7, 2015

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

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

**Call to Order:** President Ray Kizer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. There were two other non-voting members at the meeting: Scott Singleton—the Show Committee Chair and Web Site Committee Chair, and Carrie Hart, Education.

**President's Comments.** Patricia Quarles Behrens and Richard Behrens donated the rock collection of Miller Quarles from Austin. There is a variety of stones: cutting rough, slabs, and tumbled stones. Neal Immega is sorting, assigning prices, and putting them for sale in the garage as he sorts. We now have lots of door prizes for future meetings and good pieces for door prizes at shows.

**Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes:** Phyllis George moved and Jillynn Hailes seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2015 Board Meeting as published in the April 2015 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Show Committee:** Two upcoming shows needing volunteers: **Intergem April**

**17, 18, 19 and Fine Minerals April 24, 25, 26.** The Show Committee is hosting a Club wide field trip to Tony Lucci's petrified wood collection in Crosby, TX, on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The committee's first social is scheduled for Saturday, May 2. Chase Jennings is planning a Show Committee field trip on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archeology Section:** Garth Clark reported that the next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, May 7, 7:30 pm. The program will be **Bob Moore: Avebury: Britain's Neolithic Monument.** This henge site located in south-west England contains the largest stone circle in Europe! The outer circle contains two other smaller circles with the Village of Avebury, Wiltshire inside of it. The original purpose of this unique monument is debated, but it was most likely used for some form of ritual or ceremony. This unique Neolithic site was constructed about 4600 years ago. It is a World Heritage Site and is part of the wider prehistoric landscape that includes Stonehenge.

At the last meeting, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore gave a preview of the Houston Museum of Natural Science's new exhibit "**China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of the Sanxingdui.**" The Sanxingdui is believed to be the site of a major Bronze Age, ancient city, which is now located in Sichuan, China. The site was discovered in 1987. A field trip tour of the exhibit is being planned exclusively for Club members sometime in June or July.

**Beading Section:** Jillynn Hailes reported that the next regular Beading Section meeting will be on Saturday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m. They will continue the project of making the Russian Spiral bracelet that was started in March. There is also a strong possibility that the S-loop clasp will be taught. The instructions for the S-loop clasp are on the Web site.

**Day Light Section:** Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that at the April meeting, the group listed the projects members would like to make with possible instructors. At the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday May 6 at 1:00 p.m., the group will inventory and catalog the supplies to more efficiently prepare for classes.

**Education Committee:** Ray Kizer reported that the Lost Wax Casting class by Charlie Fredregill is finished. Students were able to complete at least one good flask. An ad hoc casting class is being arranged for the students to finish a second flask.

Carrie Hart reported that Carolyn Promisel is teaching a Woven Pendant class on Sunday, April 12, 2015. There is room for one more student.

**Gemstones & Faceting Section:** The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be **Essential Hints and Tips on all aspects of faceting:** buying rough, measuring stones for a particular design, gluing stones

to a dop, cutting, polishing, removing stones from the dop, and cleaning glue or wax from your stone.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next regular meeting is on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be announced. Ed Clay assured Phyllis George that he will provide a list of programs for April, May, and June this week.

**Mineral Section:** The Section will have their annual **Gem and Mineral Auction** at the next meeting on Wednesday April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

At the May 6, 2015 meeting, the Mineral Section will review the Fine Mineral Show.

**Paleo Section:** Mike Dawson reported that the March 17 speaker was unable to come, so the group reviewed pictures of the last Lake Jacksboro Spillway field trip. Then on Friday March 20, the 2015 field trip to Lake Jacksboro Spillway, Lake Bridgeport, and Mineral Wells Fossil Park began. The rain was very light Friday and Saturday, and people found some good fossils. The rain worsened on Saturday night, so the trip was rained out on Sunday.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21 at 7:30. The program will be presented by Scott Singleton – **Living Fossils – Two Trees from the South Pacific**.

**Publicity Committee:** Tamara Ritchie sent word that she is continuing to look for viable events to advertise the Club and The Show in May and June. She will also reach out to the organizer of the Bead Market to request a table at the June 6-7, 2015 Bead Market at The Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX.

**Youth Section:** The next meeting is on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. They will continue to work on cabochons. On Saturday March 28, the Youth Section took a field trip to Tony Lucci's petrified wood collection. They had fun and brought home plenty of rocks—and a little poison ivy.

**BBG Editor and Webmaster:** Phyllis George reported that the deadline to receive articles for the May BBG is April 8, 2015.

### Old Business

1. **Club House Repairs / upgrades:** The counterweight arrangement was not strong enough to close the back door. Neal Immega is considering an industrial pneumatic closer.

The large saw has been moved into the shop.

Some caulking needs to be done outside the building.

2. **Security System:** Garth Clark reported that more cameras have been installed. The outside cameras will be installed after the caulking is done.

Garth is working on the remote notification and viewing system. The smoke detectors will be installed next.

3. **Member Badges** have been ordered. Fifty-six badges were ordered. Beverly will notify purchasers when the badges are available.
4. **Results of Morton Ranch High School Event:** Thirty-three (33) people signed up for the email door prize. The winner, Victoria Shipman of Dickenson, TX, should have received the lovely fossilized coral cabochon in the mail this week. Autumn Breese donated the delicately wire wrapped piece.

### New Business

1. **The Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported on the progress of the Show Committee. All the major subcommittees are active: Dealer, Publicity, Strategic Initiatives, Education, Volunteer, and Website. These committees have been meeting on their own. Full Show Committee meetings have not been held, but they will begin in May. Chairpersons are still needed for the following subcommittees: Hospitality, Tickets, and Security. Scott says that Hospitality and Security will cease to exist if there is no interest in running those committees.
2. **Website Committee:** Scott Singleton, Website Committee Chair, explained the planning and building of the new HGMS Webpage. Many compliments and thanks were given to Phyllis George for her work on our current Website over the last 10 years. The WebWebsite Committee is a recently formed committee whose main mission is to create a new look and feel for our Website consistent with current design trends and the that incorporates functions lacking in our current Website. Specifically, the new Website will have the following characteristics:
  - a. Have an attractive, graphically-oriented home page showing images of club functions and activities, each of which will link to those pages.
  - b. Have a consistent theme and menu layout across all sub-pages of the Website.
  - c. Be "responsive," which means automatically resizing for smaller devices.
  - d. Have bulk mailing capabilities built into the site.
  - e. Have editable, interactive forms built into any portion of the site that needs them. These forms are then executed (sent) directly from the host page to the appropriate contact person. Examples are member-

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

ship, field trips, classes, volunteer sign-ups, paleo books, Show dealer sign-ups or requests for vendors to exhibit in our show, Show School Daze teacher registration, etc.

- f. Be able to update pages containing dynamic (changeable) content via text editor built into the page. This will require login and password and will be restricted to designated individuals.
- g. Have photo galleries linked to any page (or Section) that wants them. The actual gallery will be offsite but will be linked from the Web page either by thumbnail or text hyperlink. The redirection will be transparent to the user.
- h. Have the ability to conduct transactional business. This means exchanging money via the Website. Anything the club sells or receives funds for can be transacted on the Website. This is very common today and becoming an expected function of all businesses.

The Website is being programmed from scratch by HGMS member Autumn Breese who does this for a living and has donated her time. A beta site has been established and is being formatted and provided with content. The current Website will stay online until the committee has finished with the beta site and the Board, including Section representatives, approves the new site.

- 3. **Field trips:** Jewett Lignite Mine on Friday, April 17. The focus of the field trip will be collecting petrified wood. Large pieces are reportedly available. As of the Board meeting, the maximum number of people have signed up.
- 4. **Cabochon Class for an evening:** Nancy English reported that one of the interested people at the Morton Ranch HS asked if we could do a cabochon class for her group. They have outings to wine making, pottery classes, etc. Nancy gave the woman her cell phone, email address, and the HGMS business card. The Board discussed the possibilities of having each participant pay membership fees. Then instructors would give an evening class in cabochon making. We would not allow alcohol in the club. As of the Board meeting, Nancy has not received a call expressing continued interest in such a class.
- 5. **Scholarships:** The Scholarship letters were mailed to the same contacts as last year on March 26, 2015. Receipt deadline for applications is changed to May 31, 2015.
- 6. **New business cards:** Nancy English and Carrie Hart pointed out errors in dates and times of meetings for two Sections on the back of the business card. Ray Kizer said he is hesitant to toss out our 3,000 remaining business cards. When reminded that the expense may be worth it, he agreed



to consider changing them by the time of the Show.

7. **Open Shop:** Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that she will continue to provide Open Shop nights on Lapidary Section nights and General meeting nights for two more months. She currently opens the shop from 5:00 to 7:15 on those evenings. Mary Ann asked Jim Kendall to include a statement about the Open Shop prior to the Lapidary and General Meetings so potential attendees would be more confident the shop will be open if they come early to work in the Shop. She will ask Ed Clay to include the Open Shop note with program notices he might write. If these steps increase usage of the shop on those nights, she will continue Open Shop night beyond May.
8. **The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**
9. **Upcoming General Meeting Programs:** Paul Brandes has asked the Board and General membership for program Ideas. After May, no presentations currently are scheduled. He has not received any input from Society members. He would like to know what people might like to see. He also invites people from the different Sections to present a topic about their expertise. Please let Paul know of any ideas you would like him to pursue.
10. **The next General Meeting is April 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be Scott Singleton – There and Back Again – A Journey to Middle Earth.**
11. **General Meeting Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 7:30: Nathalie Brandes— The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway**

**Adjourn:** Jillynn Hailes moved to adjourn the meeting, and Beverly Mace seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.







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MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PRINTED IN THE SCFMS NEWSLETTER IN FUTURE ISSUES

## Native Element—Silver

by Al Pribula

from *The Conglomerate* 3/2015

If gold is the “king” of metals, then silver is the “queen.” While not as important (or as valuable) down through history as gold, it nonetheless shares many of its important qualities such as durability and workability (but obviously not gold’s unique color). It is of fairly low chemical reactivity, but is more reactive than gold and will tarnish, especially when exposed to sulfur-containing gases. It has been known and used since ancient times for many of the same purposes as gold (coinage, decoration, jewelry, displays of wealth, etc.). It is probably almost as universal a currency as gold. It is mentioned about 600 times in the Bible—more often than gold. It has been mined for at least 5000 years, and used in coins for almost 3000. The rise of ancient Athens largely was due to the silver mines at Laurium, Greece, which operated from about 600 BCE. It was probably second only to gold as a driving force for the exploration (and exploitation) of this hemisphere, especially by the Spanish. The alchemical symbol for silver (☾) was the same as that for the moon, considered the second-most-important object in the sky. The connection with the moon was found in the common names given to some silver-containing compounds such as silver nitrate (called “lunar caustic” in the old days).

Its name derives from the Anglo-Saxon word *siolfur*. Its chemical symbol is Ag, from the Latin name *argentum*. Its name in other languages is often either similar to the English name (such as *silber* (German), *silfver* or *silver* (Swedish), *sølv* (Danish, Norwegian), *zilver* (Dutch), *silfur* (Icelandic) or the Latin name [*argent* (French), *argint* (Romanian), *argento* (Italian)], but is *plata* in Spanish, *prata* in Portuguese, and *striebro* in Slovak. (The country Argentina was given its name due to the silver found there, and the La Plata River was named that because it was the main route for shipping the silver plundered from the South American natives back to Spain.)

Like gold, silver crystallizes in the isometric system, hexoctahedral class, with the atoms packed in the cubic closest-packed (face-centered cubic) arrangement. It forms crystals very similar to those formed by gold, but these are relatively rare. Most commonly, the crystals are elongated, often in dendritic (“herringbone”) groups. It also can be found in the form of wires, which can range from thread-size up to “ropes” almost 1 cm in diameter and to 30 cm in length. Tangled groups of thin wires can lead to spongy-looking samples. Most commonly, though, it is found in crudely-shaped masses or sheets. It can also be found as an alteration pseudomorph of silver minerals like *dyscrasite* and *proustite*. Unlike gold, it is rarely found in placer deposits. Chemically, it is element 47 in the periodic table, and is found in the same group as gold and copper (“the coinage metals”), sharing chemical similarities (including low reactivity) with them. It is soft (hardness 2½-3), of fairly



*Himmelfürst Mine  
Freiberg District, Erzgebirge  
Saxony, Germany*



*Batopilas  
Andres del Rio District  
Mun. de Batopilas  
Chihuahua, Mexico*

high specific gravity (10.5 when pure; can range from 10-12 due to impurities), fairly low-melting (962°C; 1735°F), very malleable and ductile (a 1-g piece can be pulled into a wire nearly 2 km (1.25 mi) long), has the highest heat and electrical conductivity of any metal, and is also the most reflective (i.e., the shiniest). In the crust of the earth, it is about 70 times as abundant as gold (but still pretty low at about 70 parts per billion), but is of about the same abundance as gold in seawater (about 1 part per trillion).

In its “native” form, it is often fairly pure, but can contain gold (electrum) or mercury (amalgams such as moschellandsbergite ( $\text{Ag}_2\text{Hg}_3$ ), arquerite, and kongsbergite), as well as small amounts of copper, arsenic, antimony, platinum, and bismuth. It is often found with silver minerals such as acanthite or argentite (both  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$ ), chlorargyrite, ( $\text{AgCl}$ ) stephanite, ( $\text{Ag}_5\text{SbS}_4$ ) and the “ruby silver” minerals proustite ( $\text{Ag}_3\text{AsS}_3$ ) and pyrargyrite ( $\text{Ag}_3\text{SbS}_3$ ), and also with other sulfide minerals containing cobalt, nickel, and/or lead. (For example, the deposits at the Pequea Silver Mine in PA contain no free silver, but the silver is found as a “contaminant” in galena ( $\text{PbS}$ , the primary ore of lead)). The vast majority of silver is not mined from silver ores per se, but rather is a by-product of copper

and lead refining. (Indeed, in some places, the silver and gold by-products are valuable enough to make the lead or copper produced essentially pure profit.) It can also be associated with cerussite, calcite, barite, fluorite, quartz, calcite, and zeolites. Current world production is about 19,000 tons annually, but only about 25% of that is produced from “silver” mines, and only a small fraction of that is from “native” silver.

With one major exception, the cultural/commercial uses of silver have been essentially the same as for its sister element (or is it brother? Are elements male or female? Hmmm....) gold: coinage, decoration and jewelry, vessels, awards (think silver medals), and dental implants. It is less desirable than gold because it doesn't have the same color, rarity, or durability (it tarnishes much more readily than gold), but its workability (malleability and relatively low melting point) make it suitable for many of the same applications, and at a much lower cost. (But lower desirability—a silver medal at the Olympics

isn't anywhere near as coveted as the gold medal.) Like gold, pure silver is too soft for most applications and is hardened by alloying with other metals (usually copper). For tableware and jewelry, the most common alloy is sterling silver, which must contain a minimum of 95% silver by US law or 92.5% in England ("British Sterling"), but 900- and 800-fine (i.e., 90% or 80%) silver are also widely used for jewelry. The major difference in their uses is silver's use in photography. Silver salts are photo-sensitive; they darken when exposed to light. For about 150 years, silver's use in photographic film was one of its primary uses. (In 1982, Kodak consumed about 25% of the silver used in the US.) With the advent of digital photography, however, silver's importance and use for this purpose has declined significantly, but it is still widely used in photography, in applications where digital photography is not useful for some reason. It is also used in cutlery, in silvering glass for mirrors, as an electrical contact, and in solders. It is toxic to lower organisms, so is used in anti-bacterial applications.

Native silver has been found in many localities worldwide (I have specimens from over 150 localities [almost all micros!] in my collection), but not normally in huge quantities. In the US, it has been found in NV (the largest discovery, the Comstock Lode, was made in 1859), AZ, CO, ID, MI (either alone or in "half-breeds" with copper) and many other states in small quantities, primarily in the secondary oxidized zones of the mines. The mines in Mexico (such as at Batopilas) historically were large producers (yielding much of the silver shipped back to Spain by the early colonizers), and they are still commercial producers and yield many beautiful specimens for collectors. Other relatively large deposits are found in Canada (Cobalt, ON; Great Bear Lake, NWT, and many others) South America (especially Peru, Bolivia, and Chile), Australia (Broken Hill), Namibia (Tsumeb), and Russia. Historically, the mines at Freiberg and Schneeberg, Germany; Kongsberg, Norway; Joachimsthal, Czech Republic; and Laurium, Greece (and other locations around the Aegean Sea) were large producers, but these are now largely played out. (However, the ancient slags at Laurium continue to produce many fine specimens of secondary silver, copper, and lead minerals.)

***Editor's Note: I hope this article has whetted your interest in wire silver. Be sure to attend the May 26 General Meeting. Professor Nathalie Brandes will entrance us with a tour of the fantastic wire silver from the famous mines of Kongsberg, Norway.***

Wire silver drawing by Diamond Dan  
from the 2013 SCRIBE DVD



## Silent Orphans

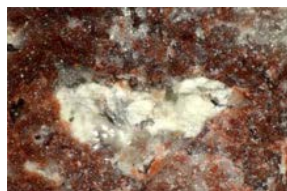
*text and photos by Mike Seeds  
from The Conglomerate 3/2015*

It is really stressful when the neighborhood kids choose up sides for baseball and you are the last one chosen. Minerals must feel the same stress in silent auctions; there are always a few items that get no bids. They are the silent orphans that no one wants even for the minimum bid. What happens to them? Do they go on next year's giveaway table? Do they go into the trash? Some of those silent orphans are well worth adoption.

Each item in an auction was given space on the table by the Auction Master, a person who knows minerals well. If bidders ignore a specimen entirely, they must be missing something. Look carefully. You can take a few of these silent orphans home for the minimum bid. That gives the host club a few dollars and it might get you some nice specimens.

The Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium in October always features a silent auction before lunch. It starts slow, but it gets tense as the end draws near and collectors crowd around the tables bidding and rebidding, eyeing each other, trying to be nonchalant while watching their target items and jockeying for position, reaching between other bidders to scribble a higher bid, and most of all trying to anticipate the bell that ends bidding. I'm in there with the rest, but I also look at the orphans. Last October, no one would bid on a pair of two specimens. The minerals were uncommon, Preisingerite and Vladimirite, and they were contributed by Hall of Fame member Jim Hurlbut. They went home in my shoebox for the minimum bid of \$3.

Preisingerite is an arsenate mineral with a composition of  $\text{Bi}_3(\text{AsO}_4)_2\text{O}(\text{OH})$ . The specimen from the silent auction consists of white massive material in two small vugs with some crystals just visible in part of the larger vug. The specimen is labeled "San Francisco X Argentina," and a little research reveals that the San Francisco Mine, San Juan, Argentina is the type location. Some Web sites refer to the mineral as "rare," and Mindat.org lists only 20 photos of it with none at all from its type location! This was a nice find—a rare mineral from its type location contributed by a Hall of Fame member.



*White preisingerite fills this vug only 3 mm in length.*



*Like an icy chrysanthemum, sprays of vladimirite form a complex group. (Field of view 3 mm.)*



The other mineral of the pair is Vladimirite, also an arsenate with the formula  $\text{Ca}_4(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{AsO}_3\text{OH})\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Vladimirite forms sprays of clear crystals, and this specimen contains two such sprays. They look like the lovely clusters of ice crystals you find inside ice cream cartons. Vladimirite is a rare mineral discovered in Russia in 1953, but the specimen from the silent auction comes from Bou Azzer District in Morocco.

These two rare minerals were a single lot in the silent auction, and no one bid on them. They are silent orphans. Perhaps the unfamiliar names put some people off, or perhaps no one bothered to look closely at the vugs and crystal sprays. I bought the pair for only \$3.

Another orphan from that silent auction was a small box with two plates of calcite crystals. No one wanted them even though the minimum bid was only \$2. They rode home in my shoebox, and when they went under my 'scope, they revealed their secret. Many of the calcite crystals are encrusted with a scattering of small pyrite crystals, but the pyrite isn't distributed randomly. The tiny pyrites form lines that outline the terminations of the crystals not along the edges but rather across the faces. Tipping the crystals carefully under the 'scope catches the light and you can see a change in the surface of the crystals along the line of pyrites. What looks like one face on the calcite is actually two faces that differ by a very small angle, and the pyrites have formed along the intersection of the two faces. A few scattered pyrites are attached to rough imperfections in the crystal faces. Evidently the pyrite molecules found these spots especially attractive.



*Tiny pyrites decorate a calcite crystal. Note the complex of faces around the termination. Also note the absence of pyrites on the upper face. (Field of view 10 mm.)*

Mysteriously, one out of the three faces on the calcite crystal is free of pyrite. What did that face do wrong to make it so unattractive? Whatever it did, other calcite crystals on the plates did the same thing, because many of the crystals have pyrites in the same pattern.

We might suspect that the pyrites grew epitaxially on the calcite, but under high power, you can see that the pyrites are tiny blebs and squares. Those that are square are not aligned with each other. If they were epitaxial, they would all be aligned at the same angle. That suggests that it was not the exposed atomic lattice of the calcite that attracted the pyrite, but rather the irregularities in the crystal faces.

Next time you are at a silent auction, bid high and often to support the host club, but look closely at the silent orphans. There must be a reason why each one is in the auction. Let everyone else try to be ultra-cool while bidding like maniacs on some bright, gaudy specimen. You can quietly adopt some interesting silent orphans to ride home with you.

### Trilobite Trouble

by Bob Farra

*from The Rostrum 3/2013, via Rocky Mountain Federation News, 4/2013-  
SCRIBE 2014 CD, via from The Franklin County Rockhoulder- 4/2015*

Could it be? Morocco is running out of trilobites? Say it ain't so! But, yes, as hard as it may seem to believe, the great flood of trilobites coming out of Morocco is finally starting to dry up. Most MGS members know that I have been traveling to Morocco for a number of years to visit some of their many famous mineral and fossil localities. I was there again last October, and learned from the people involved with the trade in trilobites that all is no longer rosy.

Anyone who is familiar with fossils will know that Morocco has been a source of an amazing variety of trilobites for many years. There are many localities in Morocco where trilobites are found, but the greatest variety and most bizarre forms come from the Devonian formations near Alnif, in the south-eastern part of the country. The diversity of trilobites found there is amazing, and includes such genera as Reedops, Dicranurus, Ceratarges, Harpes, Paralejurus, and many others. Most of these trilobites come from a locality near Alnif known as Issoumour Mountain, or Jbel Issoumour (also spelled Jissoumour). Within Issoumour Mountain, most of the interesting trilobites are found in one layer of limestone near the top of the mountain.

Collecting is very simple. Chunks of limestone are pried out and cracked open with a hammer. The digger then looks for a squiggly black line. That line represents the cross section of a trilobite. The rock usually breaks through the trilobites rather than around them as it does at some other localities.

The two halves of the rock are then taken to one of many preparers' shops in Alnif, Rissani, or Erfoud. There, the two pieces are glued back together and the specimen is prepped out. The better preppers use small pneumatic hammers and micro sand blasters to prep their pieces, while others use hammers and small chisels or nails.

Issoumour Mountain is not a small hill. It is a ridge that runs for many miles through the desert. There would seem to be enough rock there to supply trilobites practically forever. So why are they running out? Part of the answer has to do with how the material is mined. All of the work is done with simple hand tools. There are no extensive underground mines. As the dig-

gers dig back into the trilobite layer, they can only go so far before there is a danger of cave-ins. At that point, they have to move to another spot. The problem is that most of the accessible spots have been dug to the point where it would be dangerous to dig any further. Diggers now must often go many miles to find an accessible spot.

Another part of the problem is economics. The fossil business in Morocco is hurting. Much of their trade has long been with Europe, and as most people are aware, the economy in Europe is in pretty bad shape. There is less economic incentive to walk the long distances to accessible fossil digging spots. Many of the diggers have left the business and gone to work mining industrial minerals such as barite. They don't exactly get rich mining industrial minerals. Industrial barite, for example, sells for about 22 cents per pound, of which the mine owner gets a cut. But they can apparently still make more this way than they can digging fossils.

So are there really no more Moroccan trilobites? Not quite—there are still some specimens coming out. Many of the preppers have old stocks of unprepped material that they are still working on. Many dealers also still have extensive stocks. And, some digging is still going on.

But, when I was there last October, I did not see the vast numbers of trilobites that I had seen on previous trips. (I did, however, see lots of other fossils, such as dinosaur and shark teeth.) Of course, there are still a lot of fake trilobites around, as there have long been. This will always be a problem, it seems.

Thus, if you happen to own authentic Moroccan trilobites, consider yourself lucky. If you think trilobites offered for sale by reputable dealers are on the expensive side, now you know one reason why. Maybe now that they might not be so abundant as to leave us all a little jaded, we can come to appreciate Moroccan trilobites for the beautiful and bizarre creatures that they really are.



Comura sp. Devonian trilobite from Morocco

*(Photograph taken by Jim Stedman of a specimen on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.)*



**AFMS Code of Ethics**  
from the American Federation

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere

## Show Time 2015

May 2-3	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Extraco Events Center 4601 Bosque Blvd., Creative Arts Bldg. babydocmac@aol.com <a href="http://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub?ref=hl">www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub?ref=hl</a>
May 2-3	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Contact Walter Beneze walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org
May 23-24	Wheaton, IL	Midwest Federation (MWF) Show
June 12-15	Lodi, CA	California Federation (CFMS) Show
June 13-14	Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main anastasi.chaparro@att.net; <a href="http://www.agemclub.org">www.agemclub.org</a>
July 16-18	Cody, WY	Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS) Show
August 15-16	Bossier City, LA	ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd. larockclub@gmail.com; <a href="http://larockclub.com">larockclub.com</a>
September 25-27	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 <a href="http://www.hgms.org">www.hgms.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:showchair@hgms.org">showchair@hgms.org</a>
October 9-11	Mount Ida, AR	Annual Quartz Crystal Digging Contest <a href="mailto:director@mtidachamber.com">director@mtidachamber.com</a> <a href="http://www.mtidachamber.com">www.mtidachamber.com</a>
October 23-25	Austin, TX	AFMS/South Central Fed. (SCFMS) Shows Palmer Events Center Exhibit Hall 900 Barton Springs Road <a href="mailto:susanp@austingemandmineral.org">susanp@austingemandmineral.org</a> <a href="http://www.austingemandmineral.org/">http://www.austingemandmineral.org/</a>
November 21-22	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall 1800 Rodeo Dr.; <a href="mailto:bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net">bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/">http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/</a>
December 4-6	El Paso, TX	El Paso Mineral & Gem Society El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama e-mail: <a href="mailto:gemcenter@aol.com">gemcenter@aol.com</a>

2015		May					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
3 10-4 Shop Open	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-5 Shop Open	
10 10-4 Shop Open  Mother's Day	11	12 7:30 Show Committee Meetings Resume	13 10-3 Shop Open 7:00 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	21	22	23 10-5 Shop Open	
24 10-4 Shop Open  Shop Open 31	25 Memorial Day	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-5 Shop Open	

2015		June					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 7:30 Board Meeting	3 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	4 7:30 Archeology Section	5	6 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
7 10-4 Shop Open	8	9 7:30 Show Committee	10 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	11	12	13 10-5 Shop Open	
14 10-4 Shop Open	15 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 7:30 Paleo Section	17 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section ???	18	19	20 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
21 10-4 Shop Open Father's Day	22	23 7:30 General Meeting	24 10-3 Shop Open	25	26	27 10-5 Shop Open	
28 10-4 Shop Open	29	30					

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*The Newsletter of the  
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