



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

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

Volume XLVII - No. 06

June 2016



President's Message

by Paul Brandes

As I sit here and write this month's President's Message, my mind is definitely not into it. See, today (May 14) Nathalie and I celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary, and I keep daydreaming that in a couple weeks, we will be truly celebrating it on the volcanoes of the big island of Hawaii. Neither of us has ever been there, so it will be a new experience to share together. I keep thinking that with all the travelling I have done over the years, how could I have missed a place that is so unique, yet so relatively close, is mind boggling. What I am getting at is one doesn't have to travel across the world to see great places. We have plenty right here in our own country. An early television commercial jingle sung by the great Dinah Shore was "See the USA in your Chevrolet!" Of course, these days we have many more options in vehicles, but the idea of taking a road trip to a new and exciting place remains. So the next time the hustle and bustle of Houston gets you down and you need an escape, take a much deserved road trip! Who knows, maybe your travels will also include a little collecting along the way.



The second point I want to make is that I am also very lucky to have married a woman with interests very similar to mine when it comes to earth science. I'm sure the geologists can relate when I say I can't count the number of times we have conducted "roadside geology at 60 mph" or been late to our destination because something geologic caught our eye along the way. I also realize that many spouses do not share their mate's passion for rocks, which is unfortunate. If they only knew the stories that a rock could tell, the processes that mineral specimen has endured, the sights that bone now preserved as a fossil must have seen over the millennia—truly fascinating! These same stories are

Upcoming Programs

by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President

June 28, 2016: Sigrid Stewart will discuss **Minerals and History of Clear Creek County, Colorado.**

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

Articles now are due on the 15th day of the month before the date on the BBG issue.

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Copy is due for the July 2016 issue by Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

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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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what draw so many young people to the science of geology at an early age, but I believe that with the proper guidance, anyone from five to 95 can enjoy the wonders our Earth can teach us. This is why Society-sponsored classes and workshops are so very important and why we must continue to develop such courses in the future.

As far as Society happenings going on, I have a few things to pass along. The Library reorganization project is going strong. We have another Trade Show scheduled for Saturday, July 23 with additional details to follow very soon. Preparations for our Main Show in November will soon begin to take shape. If you have been to the Clubhouse recently, you should have noticed that the Main Hall is much brighter and cleaner thanks to new lighting installed by Neal Immega and Clyde McMeans, and a steam cleaning of the carpets by Building Management. As I'm sure most of you are aware, our Society's greatest assets are the many volunteers who devote their time and effort to improving the quality of the Society and our standing in the community as a whole. They do this without ever being compensated because they truly care about the future of HGMS. So, the next time you see one of these folks who set aside their personal time to help the Society, please thank them profusely for their efforts. Without them, our Society would not be as strong and great as it is today.

That is all for this month. See you next time, and Aloha!

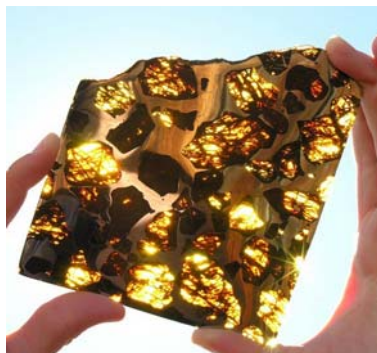
The Beautiful Fukang (Careful Now!) Meteorite

<http://www.amusingplanet.com/2013/05/the-beautiful-fukang-meteorite.html>

from Granite State Geologist 03/16, via The Rockhounder 05/2016

The Fukang meteorite, believed to be some 4.5 billion years old, which is as ancient as Earth itself, was unearthed near a town of the same name in China in 2000. It is a pallasite, a type of meteorite with translucent golden crystals of a mineral called olivine embedded in a silvery honeycomb of nickel-iron.

It's a gorgeous meteorite, and possibly the most stunning extraterrestrial piece of rock man has ever seen. The Fukang meteorite was found by a hiker. The man had often stopped and had lunch on this giant rock, and he always wondered what the metal and crystals were. He finally took a hammer and chisel and broke some pieces off, which he sent to the USA to confirm that it was a meteorite.



Fukang Meteorite

The original meteorite weighed just over a thousand kilograms, but the rock was so brilliant that everybody wanted a piece of it. Since then, it has been divided into dozens of thin slices and auctioned or distributed around the world.

Lapidary Section Photos

May 16, 2016

Taken by Jeanne Barna



Section Members watching Edward Clay carve a cabochon



Edward Clay carving a cabochon. Water runs continuously on the stone to keep it cool.

HGMS Results in the 2016 SCFMS Editors' Contest

by Phyllis George
HGMS Newsletter Editor

The SCFMS (South Central Federation of Mineral Societies) Annual Show was held in Lubbock, TX on May 7–8. I was unable to attend, but HGMS member Shiara Trumble, the SCFMS Secretary, and husband Sherman gathered up all the certificates and plaques handed out for our club and delivered it to me. **Thank you, Shiara and Sherman!!**

Our HGMS entries did quite well. On a side note, two of our **Written Features** entries scored in the top ten, and **THIRTY** entries were submitted to the SCFMS federation in the Written Features category alone—by far the greatest number entered in any of the categories. In fact, I have never seen that many entries in any category before. The HGMS entries are listed below, along with their rank and category.

The top three winners in each category were forwarded to the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) for judging in that contest. The AFMS contest results will be announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters in Albany, Oregon on August 1, 2016. Six HGMS entries are now being judged at the AFMS level—let's all keep our fingers crossed and do a little praying that they do well.

HGMS Results in the 2016 SCFMS Editors and Authors Contest			
Rank	Name	Title	Month, 2015
Large Bulletin			
1	Phyllis George	The Backbender's Gazette	June & November
Advanced Adult Article			
1	Neal Immega	Collecting Petrified Wood at the Lignite Mine Near Jewett, Texas	November
2	Terrell Wm. "Terry" Proctor, J.D.	Hematite Art by God	October
3	Nathalie Brandes.	Legendary Leadville, Colorado	February
4	John Anderson	Diving and Collecting Rocks	November
Adult Article			
3	Chase Jennings	Collecting Microfossil Matrix	March
5	Charles Snider	The Joy of Rockhounding	May
8	Judy Bennett	Glass Beach—Revisited!!	January
Adult Poetry			
4	Terrell William Proctor, J.D.	Serious Rockhounding	December
Feature			
1	Neal Immega	Extended Focus—Or How to Get More Depth of Field in Your Macro Photos Than the Laws of Optics allow	October
10	John Anderson	Victoria Gem and Mineral Society—No More Shows in the Future!	January
HM	Raymond Kizer	President's Message	October
HM	Scott Singleton	Show Committee Happenings, Etc.	July

Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

May 5, 2016: Bob Moore, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. There was a short delay until Garth Clark brought the key to unlock the projector. Bob asked for a motion to approve the April minutes as printed in the BBG. Veronica Murdoch so moved, seconded by Jeannie Barna, and the motion was unanimously approved. The talk immediately followed the approval of the minutes.

Program: Bob spoke on *“The Glories of the Byzantine Empire.”* Modern day Istanbul was once the capitol of the Byzantine Empire, also known as Eastern Roman Empire. The city was first known as Byzantium and later Constantinople. The first use of the term “Byzantine” to label the later years of the Roman Empire was in 1557, by German historian Hieronymus Wolf. The citizens always called themselves Romans. In 286, Emperor Diocletian appointed Maximian as co-emperor due to the large size of the Empire, and later he set up junior co-emperors. Under this “tetrarchy,” or “rule of four,” each emperor would rule over a quarter-division of the empire. Diocletian became the 1st Emperor to abdicate the position voluntarily in 303. He lived out his retirement in his palace, tending to his vegetable gardens. His palace eventually became the core of the modern-day city of Split in Croatia.

The 4th to 6th centuries mark the period of transition during which the Roman Empire’s Greek East and Latin West divided. In 330, Constantine I made Byzantium the new capital and renamed it Constantinople. Then in 476, Rome was sacked, but the Eastern Roman state continued. During the reign of Justinian I (527–565), the Byzantine Empire peaked and many great structures were completed such as the Hagia Sophia (translated Holy Wisdom) in 537. For 1000 years, it was the largest building in the world. During the 6th and 7th centuries, the Empire was struck by a series of epidemics, which weakened it.

Bob showed photos illustrating the glories of the Byzantine Empire like the Serpent Column, the Hippodrome that once seated 50,000 spectators, the Egyptian obelisk of Thutmose III (1490 BC), Great Basilica Cistern, beautiful Cora Church (300), Roumeli Hissar Castle, and Theodosian Walls (445), which allowed 7,000 defenders to hold off 200,000 Turks for 58 days before Constantinople finally fell to the Ottomans in 1453. Bob then showed magnificent photos of the Byzantine Monreale Cathedral built in 1182, which is still an active church located near Palermo, Sicily. This huge, perfectly preserved cathedral has a Norman-style exterior. It is 70,000 square feet, and the entire interior is covered in beautiful mosaics that tell stories of the Bible. Q&A followed the talk, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

June, 2 2016: Dr. Douglas Mangum, Principal Investigator with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. will give a talk on *“Canister and Grape: Artillery-related artifacts from the San Jacinto Battleground.”* Over the last decade, there have been numerous archeological investigations in and around the San Jacinto

Battleground State Historic Site. His company has recovered more than 1400 artifacts associated with the battle. Analysis of these artifacts and their distribution have suggested answers to some questions regarding The Battle. Dr. Mangum will address one of the major questions that has been answered, as well as discuss how this information was integrated into a chapter in the book *The Archeology of Engagement: Conflict and Revolutions in the United States*, which was recently published by Texas A&M University Press. Don't miss this opportunity to learn ore about one of the most famous battle sites in America!



Byzantine Monreale Cathedral, Sicily



Day Light Section's May 4 Tiger Eye copper bracelet project--Photo by Jeanne Barna

General Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2016

by Paul Brandes for Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Brandes at 7:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the April 26, 2016 General meeting.

The meeting was attended by thirty regular members and one guest. The guest was Ms. Mary Griffin, who heard of the HGMS through the Web site and is interested in both minerals and paleontology. Ms. Griffin is excited to be part of HGMS.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved and Phyllis George seconded a motion to accept the February 2016 General Meeting minutes as published in the April 2016 BBG. The motion passed.

The March General Meeting minutes had not yet been published in the May BBG, so no vote to approve could be held.

President's Announcements: President Brandes thanked Neal Immega for conducting the auction before the General Meeting.

He also thanked Clyde McMeans and Neal Immega for replacing every light in the lecture hall with premium bulbs on April 20. It looks so much better. Bruce and Neal washed every fixture in the grinding shop, and it too is much brighter. They also washed two fixtures in the metal shop.

Nancy English, Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator, thanks the nine volunteers who staffed the HGMS booth at the Fine Mineral Show last weekend. They promoted our show in November, the Trade Show this coming Saturday April 30, the Youth Section, and the many Sections HGMS has to offer. She writes: "You are the foundation of HGMS. Without you this weekend, we could not have presented our Club with the informed enthusiasm that engaged so many people coming and going from the Fine Mineral Show. I participated and observed the ease of our approach and how the public leaned into the information."

Giving away petrified wood is BRILLIANT. Having an unlimited supply is just one more level of the generosity of our members. What a great team of volunteers!!"

Fifteen people in attendance at the General Meeting also went to the Fine Mineral Show. Overall, everyone said it was a good show, although it was smaller (all vendors on one floor of the hotel). Prices also seemed to be a bit lower overall this year compared to past years.

Trade Show: April 30, 2016: Volunteers are welcome; see Chase Jennings. Chase stated that he would be watching the weather and planned to make adjustments if necessary. Chase also bought small tents in case of rain. In case of no-

shows because of weather, tables would be released at 9:00 a.m. to other paying people. Outside tables will have first pick for any inside vacant tables.

2016 Show: If you have not done so already, see Scott Singleton, Sigrid Stewart, Clyde McMeans, or Nancy English concerning volunteering. Regular Show Committee meetings will begin in summer, but no dates have been set. Show will be November 11–13.

New Web Site: Autumn Breese, Scott Singleton, and the Board are working on the new Web Site to bring all the expectations to fruition. Autumn recently had a bicycle accident, breaking her leg. When she is on her feet again, progress will resume. President Brandes talked with Autumn during the FMS, and she was to have surgery on April 25 to repair the broken leg. Members were asked to keep Autumn in their prayers during this difficult time. Autumn said that when she can, she will make updates to the Web site.

Section Reports

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to look at the BBG, the Web site, or to read the weekly email blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. President Brandes invited Section Chairs at this time to make any additional special announcements. The Mineral Section stated that its next meeting on May 4 would be a discussion of the Fine Mineral Show. The Paleo Section stated that a donation of display cases was made to the Society. Neal clarified that the cases are free to Sections only, not to individuals.

Old Business

Also in the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items from the March 2016 Board meeting and the February 2016 General Meeting minutes as published in the April 2016 edition of the BBG. Also, once the May BBG is received, please review the April BOD/March General Meeting minutes.

New Business

1. **Carpet cleaning project.** It was suggested that either the carpet be cleaned, or replaced. Phyllis George noted that the carpet currently in the meeting hall was a huge improvement over the broken tile hidden underneath and that it should be removed only as a last resort. President Brandes recommended that the carpet be steam cleaned first to see if it improves the look of the carpet. President Brandes stated that this topic would be discussed at the next BOD meeting on May 3.
2. **Scholarship letters going out this week.** 47 letters will be going out after President Brandes signed them, which occurred on April 26. Chase reported that two applications had already come in, and that at least two more would soon be coming in.

3. **Additional New Business Items from the Floor:** It was brought up that most of Nathalie's work in the Library had been pushed to one side of table, which will require her to rearrange the books for shelving, something that may take up to two hours to complete and thus taking away precious time to actually inventory books. This has to stop! It was reiterated to the Membership to please do not move books during this process. It was suggested that the lock on the door be replaced during the project to allow only certain people into the room. President Brandes stated that this topic would be discussed at the next BOD meeting on May 3.
4. **The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.**
5. **The next General Meeting is Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:30.** Vice President Sigrid Stewart stated that the next program will be on the "Minerals of the Karnes Uranium District." Alan Cherepon of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society will speak on the Karnes Uranium District and display specimens he has collected. This area in Karnes County, Texas is well known for uranium mines, but it also hosts an interesting assortment of minerals, many fluorescent, as well as petrified wood and concretions.

Show n' Tell

Mickey Wagoner displayed a Mosasaur jaw that was found near Midlothian in the Austin Chalk level of the quarry.

Mary Ann Mitscherling displayed some recently-cut plume agate.

Chase Jennings displayed a blue fluorescent "window quartz" he recently found.

Drawing: Andrea Bruneau won a polished Brazilian Agate slab.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Joan Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Refreshment Break

Refreshments: Provided by John Anderson.

General Meeting Program: President Paul Brandes called on Vice President Sigrid Stewart to introduce our speaker for the General meeting: **Steve Blyskal** presented "Minerals of the Southern Illinois Fluorspar District," The Southern Illinois Fluorspar District, along the Ohio River, was America's primary source of fluorspar for over 150 years. It was also the source of some of the finest fluorite specimens ever found in the USA. This talk will briefly describe the geology of these deposits, how it was discovered, and why it was so important during the Industrial Revolution in the late 19th and early 20th century. The mineral specimens found in the mines will be discussed and illustrated with photographs.

Board of Director's Meeting

May 3, 2016

by Nancy English

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

Call to Order: President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Two new club members came to observe the Board meeting: Jean-Charles (J.C.) Ginestra and Mary Griffin. One other non-voting member was at the meeting: Chase Jennings, Trade Shows and Publicity.

President's Comments:

Trade Show: Thanks to everyone who volunteered or participated in the April 30 Trade Show. Despite the forecast of a deluge, the rains seemed to hold off for the most part, and from what I am hearing, it was the most successful one yet. Eighteen new memberships were signed: one youth, nine singles, and four couples. Neal Immega and Gary Anderson gave almost constant tours of the shop and clubhouse in general.

Fine Mineral Show: Once again, Clyde McMeans did the lion's share of work representing HGMS at the Fine Mineral Show. Thanks also go to the other nine volunteers who assisted Clyde. Our booth seems to draw many folks who are very interested in the HGMS. Giving away petrified wood helps to get attention. This is a successful way to promote our club. We should plan to be there next year as well.

Library: On April 2, Nathalie spent approximately six hours in the Library continuing the project. When finished for the day, she left several stacks of books on the table—in order—so that when she returned, she could easily pick up the project again. When Paul returned to the clubhouse on April 26, all of the books had been moved to the side of the table, and many of the stacks were combined together. This will make Nathalie's job much harder as now she will spend over an hour just to re-separate the books so that she can continue the project. "This must stop immediately!!! " More discussion under New Business.

Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes: Beverly Mace moved and Diane Sisson seconded that the Minutes of the April BOD be approved as published in the May BBG. The motion passed.

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 next meeting is Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Section Chair Bob Moore will present **The Glories of the Byzantine Empire**. Bob will speak on the Byzantine Empire that lasted from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD until it was conquered in 1453 AD. During this time, it was the most powerful economic, cultural, and military force in Europe and the Near East. Come see the amazing “glories” left from that time. Many of the impressive Byzantine structures and artifacts will captivate you!

Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be Celtic Culture after First Century BC.

Beading Section: The next meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. has been cancelled. Both Jillynn Hailes and Diane Sisson will be out of town.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Karen Burns will teach members to make a beaded twisted wire bracelet.

At the Day Light meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Karen Burns will demonstrate air chasing.

Education Committee: No report available.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Program to be announced.

Lapidary Section: The next regular meeting is Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Edward Clay will be demonstrating how to carve a stone.

Next Month's meeting will be Monday, June 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Edward Clay will demonstrate how to work with grinding and lapidary machines.

Mineral Section: The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The subject will be the Houston Fine Mineral Show that occurred the previous weekend (April 22–24). We will be discussing our opinions of the show (attendance, what new and interesting materials we saw at the dealers, the pricing, etc.) as well as showing and discussing our acquisitions.

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The second meeting subject has not been finalized, but possibilities included a workshop/prep session for an upcoming auction or the summer workshop on rock/mineral identification, or a discussion led by Steve Blyskal on skarns. To be decided.

Paleontology Section: The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Neal Immega will present Cambrian Mud Mounds near Mason, TX.

A Field Trip to hunt for petrified wood near Jasper, TX is scheduled for May 14. The host has limited the number of rock hounds because of the recent heavy rains. The trip is full. An earlier Field Trip to Midlothian was taken April 23, 2016.

There is an upcoming field trip to Midlothian on May 21, 2016.

The Paleo Section announced that a donation of display cases was made to the Society. Neal Immega clarified that the cases are free to Sections only, not to individuals.

Publicity Committee: Chase Jennings mentioned that the lower attendance at the Trade Show could be from dire weather predictions (that did not happen), The Bayou City Art Festival, and upcoming college finals. Chase reported that publicity for the Trade Shows has expanded dramatically.

- a. For the April 30 Trade Show, we reached over 87,000 people, 1,500 were invited by friends, and 1700 said they were interested or planning to go.
- b. For the January show, we reached 28,000, 973 invited by friends, and 1400 said they were interested or going
- c. For the first trade show, we reached maybe 500 people, 295 invited by friends, and 255 interested or going.
- d. Since beginning the shows, we have gained over 700 page followers, adding up to 876 currently. In our insight statistics, we have seen a dramatic spike in followers equating to about 200 per show.

Youth Section: The next regular meetings are Saturdays, May 7 and May 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., June 4 and 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. until noon.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: Phyllis George was absent, but agreed to whatever decision the BOD makes to change the deadline to receive articles. See more discussion under New Business.

Old Business

1. **Web Site Progress: Scott Singleton, unable to attend, sent his report:**
 - a. All the email contact lists were passed to Autumn after the last Board meeting: the list of people who will have editing rights on the section pages if and when that capability is enabled, and the list of people who will receive the emails directed to their Sections.
 - b. The BOD discussed backups for our Webmaster, Autumn Breese. Several names were suggested. President Brandes will be approaching the candidates before the next BOD meeting.
 - c. Autumn Breese had a bad bicycle accident early in April. She has had to have two surgeries on her broken leg. She will work on the Web Site as soon as she is able. Scott Singleton will meet with her to create a plan going forward.
2. **Security System: Garth Clark** Will carve out more time to install the smoke

detectors, outdoor cameras, and set up the remote viewing.

3. **Door Bell:** Mike Dawkins has investigated the existing door bell ringer in the main hall. He will ask Neal to have it reconnected.
4. **Trade Show:**
 - a. What worked:
 - i.) Overall results were good. Beverly Mace reported that many people remarked how friendly everyone was.
 - ii.) Having the Shop door open facilitated better egress from the Main meeting room.
 - b. Eighteen new memberships were signed: one youth, nine singles, and four couples.
 - c. What didn't work:
 - i.) Parking issues: HPD came by because the patrons were parking on Rockley.
 - ii.) Doors to the Office and Paleo Library were left open during the Trade Show.
 - iii.) Vendor tables were moved from the marked-off spaces making aisles narrow, and compromising security between tables.
 - d. How can we improve?
 - i.) It was suggested that signs could be made pointing to free parking areas—cheap “Bandit sign” types. Maybe they could be purchased.
 - ii.) The Office door should be closed. Neal Immega gave Chase permission to have the Paleo Library door open.
 - iii.) Mary Ann Mitscherling and Garth Clark will work with Chase to develop a new table arrangement if someone will provide specific measurements of the main hall. The table floor plan will be changed again. There will be more scrutiny about the tables staying where they are set. The new floor plan will provide more scrutiny surrounding the vendors’ vulnerable table-sides. It would help if the large display case were dismantled for the show.
 - iv.) Better, larger Membership signage would help direct people to the membership table.
 - e. The next Trade Show is scheduled for July 23, 2016.
 - i.) In keeping with the tradition of dealer sign up in similar shows, the loyal dealers who have paid on time and come to previous shows will have the first opportunity to sign up. All previous dealers are members.
 - ii.) The table price will remain \$40.00 for this show.
 - iii.) Tables will not be sold until the BOD agrees on a new floor plan.
5. **The Show Committee:** The first Show Committee meeting will be in the summer. In the meantime, we have secured the caterer for the Show.
6. **Scholarships Status:** Forty-six letters were mailed April 28, 2016. Paul Brandes has already received two applications via email and two hard copy

applications through the U. S. Postal Service. Chase is expecting more online applications soon.

7. **Subscription to magazines:** Some Sections were prepared to give Nancy English the name of the magazine they wanted.
 - a. The Archeology Section wants *Archeology Magazine*.
 - b. Lapidary Section wants *Rock & Gem*.
 - c. Day Light Section wants *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*.
 - d. Nancy noticed a Beading magazine in the Beading Section slot on the office door.
 - e. Mineral Section wants *Rocks & Minerals*.
 - f. President Brandes asked all Sections to have their final subscription requests ready for the June 7 Board meeting.

New Business

1. **Carpet Cleaning:** The main hall carpet has been steam cleaned, and spots have been removed. It looks really nice. We will postpone replacing it for now. Bill Rogers cleans the public areas of the club. He has a carpet cleaning schedule and will clean more often as needed.
2. **Change in due date for BBG**
 - a. The current due date for articles to the BBG editor is the 15th of the month. This date makes it difficult for all the articles to be edited in time for the BBG to be published before the General Meeting, so the members do not have an opportunity to read the previous month's General meeting minutes.
 - b. Instead of changing the delivery date to the editor, the BOD decided to send the minutes to the membership in the weekly email blasts from Jim Kendall. Mary Ann Mitscherling moved to publish the General Meeting minutes in the email blast on the Sunday before the General Meeting. Mike Dawkins seconded the motion, and it passed.
3. **Library Security:** Because someone disrupted the Librarian's many hours of work, the BOD has decided to keep unauthorized people out of the Library so the Librarian can do her job. Nancy English moved that the lock on the Library door be changed until the Library project is finished. Gary Tober seconded the motion. The motion passed.
4. The next **Board of Directors** meeting is **Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:30.**
5. The next General Meeting will be Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 7:30: **Minerals of the Karnes Uranium District.** Alan Cherepon of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society will speak on the Karnes Uranium District and display specimens he has collected. This area in Karnes County, Texas is well known for uranium mines, but it also hosts an interesting assortment of minerals, many fluorescent, as well as petrified wood and concretions.

Adjourn: Gary Tober moved to adjourn the meeting, and Diane Sisson seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Lesedi La Rona

from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesedi_La_Rona

Lesedi La Rona



The Lesedi La Rona in 2015

Weight	1,111 carats (222.2 g; 7.84 oz)
Dimensions	65 mm × 56 mm × 40 mm (2.6 in × 2.2 in × 1.6 in)
<u>Colour</u>	Colourless/white, <u>type IIa</u>
<u>Cut</u>	Raw
Country of origin	Botswana
Mine of origin	Karowe Mine
Discovered	16 November 2015
Owner	<u>Lucara Diamond</u>



Lesedi La Rona, formerly known as **Karowe AK6**, is the second-largest gem-quality diamond ever found, after the Cullinan. It is the third-largest diamond ever found after the Cullinan and the larger, non-gem black Sergio. It was

found in the Karowe mine in Botswana on 16 November 2015. It weighs 1,111 carats (222.2 g; 7.84 oz) and is “nearly the size of a tennis ball.”

Description: The Lesedi La Rona is a colourless/white, type IIa diamond. It weighs 1,111 carats (222.2 g; 7.84 oz) and measures 65 mm × 56 mm × 40 mm (2.6 in × 2.2 in × 1.6 in). In size, it is second only to the Cullinan, discovered in 1905 in South Africa, which weighed 3,106.75 carats (621.350 g). The Lesedi La Rona was mined using Large Diamond Recovery (“LDR”) XRT machines, and is the largest diamond recovered using machines for automated diamond sorting.

It was found on 16 November 2015, and the find was announced on 18 November. A day later, two more diamonds weighing 813 and 374 carats (162.6 and 74.8 g) were also found in the mine. Since the AK6 pipe was opened 18 months earlier, it has yielded over 1,000,000 carats (200 kg) of diamonds.

The stone proved too big for the company’s own scanners, so it will probably

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

be sent to Antwerp, Belgium, for assessment.

Name: The diamond was first given a generic name after the mine (Karowe) and the pipe (AK6) where it was found. On 18 January 2016, Chief Executive Officer William Lamb of Lucara Diamond announced a competition, open to all Botswana citizens, to name the stone. In addition to naming the diamond, the winner would receive P25,000 (about \$2,170).

On 9 February 2016, Lucara Diamond announced that the stone had been named Lesedi La Rona which means “Our Light” in Tswana language. The winner of the competition who named the diamond was Themhani Moitlhobogi from Mmadikola. He stated that his reason for the name was that “the diamond is a pride, light, and hope of Batswana.” During the competition, Lucara Diamond Corporation received 11,000 emails and 1,000 SMSs with name suggestions.

Find location



Diamond mines and kimberlite fields in Botswana

It was found in the south lobe of Canadian company Lucara Diamond’s Karowe mine about 500 km (310 mi) north of Gaborone in Botswana. The mine is located in the Letlakhane region, where it shares the three diamond-producing kimberlites of Orapa, Letlakhane, and Damtshaa, with the Debswana Diamond Company Ltd. The first diamond from the mine was retrieved in 2012. Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia are the world’s three top producers of mined diamonds.

Technology: The diamond was recovered by a TOMRA large diamond recovery (LDR) machine utilizing X-ray transmission sensors. In May 2015, the operation at the Karowe Diamond Mine replaced their Dense Media Separation (DMS) technology with six TOMRA XRT sorters for sorting material in the -60+8mm size range. The X-ray transmission (XRT) sorting technology was selected following a suite of tests. Each sorter can sort up to 150 metric tons (330,000 lb) of material per hour; after that, the concentrate goes directly to hand sorting. Karowe Diamond Mine is the first mine using this automated diamond sorting solution.

Value: The exact value of the stone cannot be determined until it is decided how it will be cut and when more details about its color are known. Former diamond-mining geologist Phil Swinfen estimates, based on other similar sales, that the stone could be sold for \$40–60 million. The process of selling and cutting the diamond “will likely take years to complete.” In May 2016, Sotheby’s in London announced that the Lesedi La Rona diamond would be offered in a stand-alone auction on 29 June 2016. It was expected to sell for around \$70

million. After closer examination, the diamond was presented at the auction as weighing 1,109 carats.

See also: [List of largest rough diamonds](#)

References: See article at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesedi_La_Rona

External links: [Lucara Diamond Web site](#)

It's a Fossil – It's a Mineral—It's Ammolite!

by Shannon Phillips

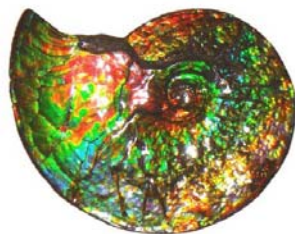
*from the Crack 'N Cab 03/2016, via Delvings 05/2016,
via The Rock Collector 05/2016, via Stoney Statements 05/2016*

Ammolite is my current obsession. I first learned about it less than a year ago and since then, I have been fascinated with the gorgeous iridescence and the textured surface of this fossil turned gemstone. Although ammolite is classified as a mineral by the province of Alberta to prevent export complications, it is not a mineral. It belongs to a family of materials called mineraloids, naturally formed or transformed substances that resemble minerals, but lack crystal structure. Some of the world's most beautiful and prized gems, including opal, amber, jet, pearl, obsidian, and of course ammolite, fall into this category. Each has an interesting story, but let's focus on the lively colors and unusual origins of ammolite.

Ammolite was welcomed into the gemstone family in 1981 by the World Jewellery Confederation and is one of only three stones given this designation in the past 50 years.

Commercial mining of ammolite began in Canada that same year and continues to this day. Ammolite was formed in marine shale on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. As ammonites inhabiting the shallow sea that covered the region died, their shells settled at the bottom of the seaway where they were covered with sediment, mostly layers of ash from the volcanic activity in the area.

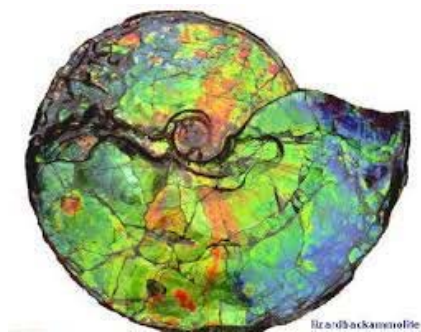
The primary distinction between these ammonite shells and others found worldwide is that the iridescent surface of the preserved Canadian varieties is thick enough to be cut and polished. While iridescent ammonite shells can be found at multiple locales, the fossilized shell commercially mined and marketed as ammolite is restricted to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. In this location and only a handful of others on a smaller scale, the ammonite shells were sealed in mineral-rich sediment, which prevented the outer layer (nacre) of the ammonite shell, composed primarily of aragonite, from converting to calcite. Gem quality ammolite is found in two stratigraphic zones, one thirty meters deep and the other 65 meters deep, which makes pit mining the most viable large-scale mining method. One company, Korite, produces most of the ammolite on the



market (around 90%). A handful of other claims exist in the area and are worked on a small scale. There are no commercial occurrences outside of Alberta.

Ammolite's value is based on several factors. One is its iridescence, which is caused by the diffraction of light from tightly packed plates of aragonite crystals. This diffraction means that every color of the spectrum is possible in ammolite, although the most common colors are red, green, and, to a lesser extent, gold. The most desirable pieces have vibrant colors that display changing colors as the angle of light changes. Chromatic shift and rotational range are the other two factors when considering the quality of a piece. Chromatic shift is the change from one color to another depending on the angle of light and the viewer's position. Dramatic changes of color are the most desirable. Rotational range indicates that strong colors can be seen throughout a 360-degree range of motion, which is not the case with many pieces of ammolite.

The nacreous layer is so thin, usually between .5 and .8 mm, that ammolite is often sold as a doublet, attached to a backing of shale, or as a triplet with a backing and a dome of quartz or synthetic spinel. The material is so fragile that in all but the most remarkable pieces, it must be stabilized with epoxy resin or another treatment in order to be worked. The gem is especially popular in Japan and with tourists to the Alberta province.



<http://www.canadianammolite.com/AmmoliteFacts.html>

Ammolite is fossil, mineral, and gemstone all in one which makes it special, a rare natural occurrence. With its range of rainbow colors and spectacular patterning, ammolite makes an interesting collector specimen and an alluring set stone. While it is widely available now, the supply won't last forever, which, for me, is as good a reason as any to stock up on as much ammolite as I can.

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Ancient Fossil Forest Unearthed in Arctic Norway

Source: Cardiff University

Date: November 19, 2015

Science Daily, 19 November 2015. Via MWF News 4/2016,

via The Rockpile 6/2016

United Kingdom researchers have unearthed ancient fossil forests, thought to be partly responsible for one of the most dramatic shifts in Earth's climate in the past 400 million years. The fossil forests, with tree stumps preserved in place, were found in Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago situated in the Arctic Ocean. They were identified and described by Dr. Chris Berry of Cardiff University's School of Earth and Ocean Science. Professor John Marshall, of Southampton University, has accurately dated the forests to 380 million years. The forests grew near the equator during the Devonian Period, and could provide an insight into the cause of a 15-fold reduction in levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere around that time.

Current theories suggest that during the Devonian period (420-360 million years ago) there was a huge drop in the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere, thought to be largely caused by a change in vegetation from diminutive plants to the first large forest trees. Forests pulled CO₂ out of the air through photosynthesis—the process by which plants create food and tissues—and the formation of soils.

Although initially the appearance of large trees absorbed more of the sun's radiation, eventually temperatures on Earth also dropped dramatically to levels very similar to those experienced today because of the reduction in atmospheric CO₂.

Because of the high temperatures and large amount of rainfall on the equator, it is likely that equatorial forests contributed most to the drawdown of CO₂. Svalbard was located on the equator around this time, before the tectonic plate drifted north by around 80° to its current position in the Arctic Ocean. "These fossil forests show us what the vegetation was like on the equator 380 million years ago, as the first trees were beginning to appear on Earth," said Dr. Berry.

The team found that the forests in Svalbard were formed mainly of lycopod trees, better known for growing millions of years later in coal swamps that eventually turned into coal deposits—such as those in South Wales. They also found that the forests were extremely dense, with very small gaps—around 20 cm—between each of the trees, which probably reached about 4m high.

Previously Dr. Berry had, with American colleagues, described another slightly older forest at Gilboa, in upstate New York. The Gilboa forest was located at least 30 degrees south of the equator at that time, and the tree stumps in place belonged to different types of plants. "This demonstrates that there was

already geographical diversity of forest plant types and ecology just as soon as they had evolved,” Dr. Berry continued.

During the Devonian Period, it is widely believed that there was a huge drop in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, from 15 times the present amount to something approaching current levels. The evolution of tree-sized vegetation is most likely cause of this dramatic drop in carbon dioxide because the plants were absorbing carbon dioxide through photosynthesis to build their tissues, and also the process of forming soils. Svalbard is currently one of the most northernmost inhabited areas in the world with a population of around 2500.

Svalbard now plays host to “Global Seed Vault,” a secure, underground frozen seed bank in which a large variety of plant seeds are preserved. The vault functions to provide a safety net against a loss of diversity in a global crisis. “It’s amazing that we’ve uncovered one of the very first forests in the very place that is now being used to preserve the Earth’s plant diversity,” continued Dr. Berry.

Story Source: The above post is reprinted from materials provided by Cardiff University. **Note:** Materials may be edited for content and length. Cardiff University. “Ancient fossil forest unearthed in Artie, Norway.”

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

*“Bench Tips for Jewelry Making” and “Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry” are available on Amazon
www.BradSmithJewelry.com*

QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time, try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.

LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We’ve all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half-horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I’m not going to harp on it. That’s not the point of this story.



I want to talk about the smaller motor-powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3-inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me, it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the hand piece, then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece so badly that it seemed the bone might be broken. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small, underpowered motor? I don't think so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines—the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it!

The buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so it was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friend's arm. **There was no way to get a hand on the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man.** Only when my friend could grab the gyrating power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even those little motors for granted.



Look Who We Found--Steve Blyskal!

Steve Blyskal, of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society, spoke on Fluorite at the Austin Gem & Mineral Society's April general meeting.

Reported in Stone Chipper 5/2016

photo by J. Perkins

Good photo, Steve!



Earth's (Really) Most Abundant Mineral

via The Conglomerate, 02/15, via the Rock-N-Rose, 04/16,

via Stoney Statements 05/2016

Quick: What is earth's most abundant mineral? Do you think it's calcite (i.e., limestone)? Maybe quartz? Perhaps something in the feldspar group? Hmmm...surely, it must be some sort of silicate. Wait a minute! I read my January Conglomerate! It's ice! Well...ice may be the most abundant mineral on the surface of the earth, but what about the earth itself? There's a lot more to the earth than just its surface (crust). Give up yet?

It's **bridgmanite**! Huh? Never heard of that mineral? Don't have a specimen of it in your collection? Haven't seen it on eBay, at a mineral show, on a mineral dealer's Web site, or even in a museum? Can't find it in the latest edition of Fleischer's Glossary? Well—don't feel too bad. Until a couple of years ago, no one else had seen it either, at least not as a natural sample. But (you ask) if it's the most abundant mineral, how could it have remained unseen for so long?

This mineral is believed to make up about 38% of the earth's total volume, representing about 93% of the mantle of the earth. That's right—the mantle, the layer between the crust and the core, which has never been directly sampled or observed. In 1962, it was hypothesized that the lower mantle at depths of 400—1800 miles consisted primarily of a high-density form of magnesium-iron silicate with the chemical formula $(\text{Mg,Fe})\text{SiO}_3$ crystallizing in the perovskite structure. (It would be dimorphous with akimotoite, another high-pressure mineral.) Knowing the properties of this "silicate perovskite" would add to our understanding of material and heat transfer within the earth. Its properties were studied indirectly by measuring changes in earthquake waves as they travel through the earth, and high-pressure studies had been performed on synthetic samples. However, since a natural (i.e., non-synthetic) sample of the material had never been observed or studied, it could not be submitted to the IMA Nomenclature Committee to give the mineral an "official" name.

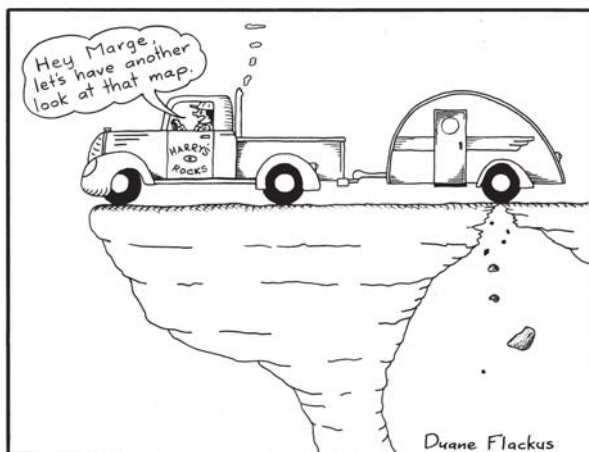
Enter a team of scientists headed by Oliver Tschauner from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and Chi Ma at CalTech. They reasoned that if this mineral phase was only stable under conditions of high pressure and temperature (it's believed that the pressure in the mantle is about 240,000 times the pressure at the surface of the earth, at a temperature of about 2000°C (3700°F)), then it could have formed at the earth's surface as a result of the high temperatures and pressures created by a meteorite impact and then "frozen" when the meteorite cooled suddenly. In 1969, a high-pressure form of olivine (the mineral ringwoodite) was discovered in the Tenham meteorite (an L6 chondrite which was the first meteorite fall confirmed in Australia (Queensland, 1879), and this meteorite is also the "type locality" for akimotoite (1997), so they reasoned that might be a good place to search for "silicate perovskite" as well. Previous studies on other meteorites had used high-energy electron beams, but these

were powerful enough that any of this substance which might have been present would have been decomposed. Therefore, to do their search, they used X-ray crystallography (which is less energetic than electron beams) to determine the structure, and electron microprobe analysis to determine the composition. Since the grains of “silicate perovskite” they found ended up being smaller than 1 micrometre (.00004 in), and are very sparsely scattered throughout the sample, a special micro-focusing apparatus had to be used. It took about five years of painstaking collection of data using these techniques to convince them that they had indeed confirmed the presence of this high-pressure mineral.

Once they were convinced, they submitted their evidence to the IMA Nomenclature Committee, which approved the name bridgmanite on June 2, 2014 (it's IMA 2014-017; type specimen is USNM 7703 in the Smithsonian collection), and their results were published in the November 28, 2014 issue of the journal *Science*. The name was chosen in honor of Percy Williams Bridgman, who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1946 for his pioneering studies of materials (especially minerals) under extremely high pressures. The natural sample had a slightly different composition than the synthetic ones (more iron in its +3 state, along with some sodium), giving them a better “model” to use in studies of the properties of the mantle. Some scientists believe that some inclusions in/on diamonds are marks left on them when bridgmanite from deep in the mantle changed to its low-pressure form during the diamond's trip from the mantle through the crust.

So...the earth's most abundant mineral now has an “official” name. (Unfortunately for Micromounter's Hall of Fame member John Ebner, who collects mounts of minerals prepared by the person for whom the mineral is named, he won't be able to add this one to his collection, since Bridgman passed away in 1961.)

(Note: even though you can't buy a specimen of bridgmanite per se on eBay, it is possible to purchase small bits of the Tenham meteorite from sellers there. Might one of these fragments contain some bridgmanite grains? Guess you'd just have to study them the same way Tschauner, et al. did to find out!)



From S.C.R.I.B.E. 2015 Best of the Best

Show Time 2016

May 28-29	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Amon G. Carter Exhibit Building Will Rogers Memorial Center 3401 W. Lancaster fwgmc@embarqmail.com fortworthgemandmineralclub.org
July 2-3	Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Grapevine Convention Center 1209 S. Main St show@agemclub.org; www.agemclub.org
July 25-30	Houghton, MI	Keweenaw Mineral Days A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum Michigan Technological University 1404 E. Sharon Avenue http://www.museum.mtu.edu/keweenaw_mineral_days/index.html www.museum.mtu.edu
Jul. 27-Aug. 1	Albany, OR	AFMS/NFMS/Willamette Agate & Min. Soc. Willamette Event Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd.
August 13-14	Gonzales, LA	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Lamar-Dixon Expo Center Trademart Bldg. 9039 S Saint Landry Ave mercymom3@gmail.com www.brgemandmineral.org
August 20-21	Bossier City, LA	Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center; Old Benton Rd. larockclub@gmail.com; larockclub.com
August 27-28	Jasper, TX	Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West jonetta.nash@yahoo.com www.pinecountry-gms.org
September 10-18	Denver, CO	Multiple shows and locations Eons Expos, Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St 250 dealers in Denver Coliseum plus 100 tents http://www.ColiseumShow.com
October 7-8	Mount Ida, AR	Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County Fairgrounds Fairgrounds Rd. director@mountidachamber.com ; www.mountidachamer.com
October 8-9	Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society Mayborn Center; 3303 North 3rd trinity4112@me.com
November 11-13	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 ; showchair@hgms.org

2016		June					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30-Mineral Section	2 7:30 Archeology Section	3	4 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
5 10-4 Shop Open	6	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	9	10	11 10-5 Shop Open	
12 10-4 Shop Open	13	14 NO Show Committee Flag Day	15 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	16	17	18 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
19 10-4 Shop Open Father's Day	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			

2016		July					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
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10 10-4 Shop Open	11	12 NO Show Committee	13 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon 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 10-4 Shop Open 31	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-5 Shop Open	

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

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

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SCFMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006 — 2012 - 1st (Large)
2013 - 1st (Large)
2014 - 1st (Large)
2015 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

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



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