



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

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

**Volume XLVII—No. 10**

**October 2016**



### **President's Message** *by Paul Brandes*

**S**itting here this evening watching college football, I am reminded of just how important a good team is. Without a good quarterback, the team cannot move the ball. However, the quarterback cannot move the team without a good line in front to protect him. A strong defense is required to stop the opposing team from scoring. Of course, none of this would be possible without good coaches and their assistants. I feel like the HGMS is much the same. We have a great group of coaches, quarterbacks, receivers, defenders, and the like, all working in unison to ensure our Society will succeed and grow.



The evidence of this team can be directly seen in the preparations for our Annual Show in November. The Show Committee had their kickoff meeting on September 3, and by the end of the evening, the groundwork was laid and assignments delegated to make sure the Show will happen without a hitch. This is also the time—whether you are a seasoned member or just joined the Society—to think about volunteering for the Show. Lending your talents at the Show is a great opportunity to learn the inner workings of the Show while working with a wonderful group of people who make up the Show Committee. If interested, please contact Nancy English at [NancyJodiATaol.com](mailto:NancyJodiATaol.com) (replacing the AT with @).

Your President will also be busy during the next couple of months. At the end of September, I will be in Denver for the Annual Meeting of the

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### **Upcoming General Meeting Program**

*by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President*



**October 25, 2016: To be announced**

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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.**

*Editor: Phyllis B. George  
22407 Park Point Drive  
Katy, TX 77450-5852*

*Phone: (281) 395-3087*

*Copy is due for the November 2016 issue by Saturday, October 15, 2016.*

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

### **Purpose of HGMS**

**T**he 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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Geological Society of America attending sessions on the latest research in minerals and the earth sciences. In October, I am leading a student field trip to the Hill Country to learn about the geologic history of the Llano Uplift. Then in November, I will be at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium participating in the presentation of a paper I co-authored on the ore deposits and mining history of Falun, Sweden. Unfortunately, this falls on the same weekend as our Annual Show so I will not be in town for our Show this year. However, I am confident that our "team" will succeed even without their head coach on the sideline.

See you all next month.



## Katy Rock Shop

Worldwide Inventory of  
Rocks, Minerals and Fossils

Fluorescent Room, Kid's Corner, Books,  
Rock Hounding Tools, Artisan Jewelry,  
Designer Showroom, Gemstone Decor



Sign up in-store or register at  
[www.fivestars.com](http://www.fivestars.com) to start earning points  
to get rewards – which means store credits!

**HGMS Members receive  
Double Points!**



535 Pin Oak Road

Katy, Texas 77494

One Block North of I-10

832-437-4733

Store Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-5:00

[Katyrockshop.com](http://Katyrockshop.com)



[facebook.com/KatyRockShop](https://facebook.com/KatyRockShop)

## Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

**September 1, 2016:** Bob Moore, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The talk was delayed due to IT issues. A decision was made to ensure this would not happen again! Bob announced that Dr. Garth Clark would be giving a follow-up talk on “Celtic history” on October 6. A field trip to tour the *“Mummies of the World”* exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science is planned for November, and the Section will have a Christmas party in December.

**Program:** Bob introduced the guest speaker, Italian Archaeologist Claudia Penati who recently moved to Houston. Claudia received her MA in Archaeology and after two additional years of study, she was granted a Specialization in Etruscan and Classical Archaeology at the University of Milan, Italy. She has personally been involved in the excavations of several Etruscan and Pre-Roman sites in Tuscany and Lombardy.

Claudia gave a talk entitled *“The Etruscans and the Magnificence of their Aristocracy.”* She discussed the history of the Etruscans from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC when it was absorbed by Rome. The Etruscan Civilization is a modern name for this ancient Italian civilization that was focused in the area of Tuscany. At their height, they spread to France, Spain, and central Europe. She noted that their language is unique, and only written inscriptions survive. The three Pyrgi Tablets are inscribed with Etruscan and Phoenician. These tablets have helped researchers to interpret Etruscan scripts. Claudia then talked about the origin of the Etruscans. Two theories prevail; either they are from Asia Minor or are an indigenous population. The latter is more accepted, suggesting they evolved from the native earlier Villanovan Culture. But, DNA has not been able to establish their origin.

Next, she showed tombs, amazing artifacts, and aristocratic banquet vessels. Prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Etruscans sat on chairs, but by the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, they reclined to dine like the Romans. Claudia showed several beautifully painted tombs including their grave goods and the magnificent “Sarcophagus of the Spouses” from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (see below). She wrapped up by talking about the “Time of Crisis” (4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC) when the Celts, Romans, and Samnites from the Apennines overran the Etruscans. By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, the Etruscans and their language disappear. Q&A followed the talk. It focused on the tracing of Mitochondrial DNA back 5,000 years! The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

**October 6, 2016:** Dr. Garth Clark, Vice-chair, will present the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of his talk entitled *“The Decline of the Celtic Empire and the Rise of a Celtic Identity.”* Garth



*“Sarcophagus of the Spouses”*

Photo by N. Engelhardt-Moore

gave the first part on April 7, and this talk will complete the story. In the middle of the 2nd century BC, the majority of Europe was controlled by Celtic tribes. Garth previously discussed how the Celtic culture rose from its source in southern Germany and Austria to control much of Europe. During this talk, he will explore how the great migrations of German tribes from the north and the expansion of the Roman Empire either conquered, absorbed, or pushed Celtic power to the fringes of their territory. Garth will show how the culture continued to survive and change in the remaining strongholds—leading to today's Celtic identity. Don't miss this fascinating talk!

### Show Party and Auction

*Saturday, October 8, 6:00-9:00*

*by Scott Singleton*

*HGMS Show Chair*

**I**t's that time of year again! We just had the Show Postcard Labeling Party, and now we're following up with our traditional pre-show party and auction. The schedule is below. Note that this year we are changing to a potluck style. The Show Committee will provide the main dish; we request those attending to bring other dishes, including sides of all sorts and desserts. Note that the Board has approved (**FOR THIS SINGLE EVENT ONLY**) this being a BYOB event (beer or wine ONLY) in hopes of stimulating some bidding.

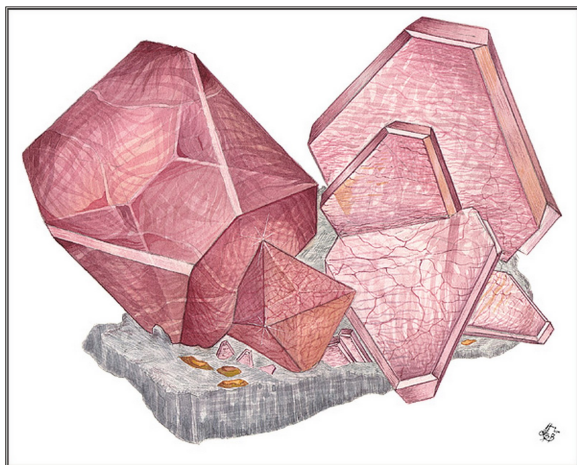
Please also note that we need donations for the auction. Please contact Neal Immega (n\_immega@swbell.ne) or Clyde McMeans (cemcme@outdrs.ne) if you have any donations that need to be picked up. PLEASE DONATE!

#### Schedule—October 8, 6:00–9:00

**5:00** – if you are bringing donations to the auction, bring them early so we can label them!

**6:00** – dinner

**7:00** – auction



from 2013  
SCRIBE DVD

## General Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2016

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Brandes at 7:35 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the August 23, 2016 General meeting.

The meeting was attended by thirty-seven members and two guests. The guests were Daniel Castellanos and Kimberly Thomen.

**Minutes:** Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2016 General Meeting as published in the September 2016 BBG and in the HGMS weekly email blast. Phyllis George seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

### President's Announcements:

**Trade Show:** The 2016 Trade Shows are behind us. Changes for future Trade Shows are in front of us for 2017. The Board will be addressing improvement during the next few meetings. If you want to be on Chase Jennings' email list, please contact him at his email address on the chalk board. [chase\\_j\\_jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:chase_j_jennings@yahoo.com). Chase is the Trade Show Coordinator.

**Web Site:** Phyllis George reported that the old Web site is up and running. She is redesigning the Home Page.

**Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported that the Show Committee Members' contact list and 2016 Timeline are complete. We will also have a full show committee meeting on our usual date in October to go over final preparations. We are still looking for an Information Booth Chairperson. Scott showed the 2016 postcard. The Postcard labeling party is scheduled for September 24 at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers should contact Nancy English—[nancyjodi@aol.com](mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com)

### Section Reports

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to look for Section Reports in the BBG, on the Web site, or by reading the weekly email blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. If you are not on Jim Kendall's email list, please contact him at [kendal\\_ja@yahoo.com](mailto:kendal_ja@yahoo.com).

President Brandes invited Section Chairs at this time to make any additional special announcements.

Karen Burns reported that the Day Light Section will be making a hammered copper cuff bracelet or panel bracelet. Supplies and tools will be provided, but you may bring your own hammers.

### Old Business

Also in the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items from the August 2, 2016 Board meeting minutes and the July 26, 2016 General Meeting minutes as published in the September 2016 edition of the BBG.

### New Business

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m.

**The next General Meeting is September 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** Dr. Inda Immega will take us on a virtual journey to the Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho. We will have a brief look at the geology, the volcanic features that are preserved there, and the strangely delicate ecology fostered among those rocks.

**Drawing:** Jill Cooper won the drawing for a Montana Agate donated by Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart.

**Show 'n Tell:** Steve Blyskal brought many agate samples to augment his presentation. Members were encouraged to look at them at the break.

**Adjourn:** Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Kathryn Kelly seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Refreshments:** Provided by Nancy English.

**Sigrid Stewart** introduced our **Steve Blyskal**. He spoke about the recent Agate Expo in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, which he and wife Sigrid Stewart attended. This expo, held every four years, was hosted by Cedarburg's The Gem Shop, which for years has been involved in digging agates in Mexico. Agates, pictures of the displays at the expo, and pictures of the area, including the Door Peninsula, were shown.

## Board of Director's Meeting

*September 6, 2016*

*by Nancy English*

X	President—Paul Brandes		Archeology Rep—Garth Clark
X	1st Vice President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Beading Rep—Diane Sisson
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	X	Day Light Rep—Fred Brueckner
	Treasurer—Rodney Linehan	X	Faceting Rep—Gary Tober
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Lapidary Rep—Phyllis George
	Former President—Ray Kizer		Mineral Rep—Mike Sommers
		X	Paleontology Rep—Mike Dawkins

**P**resident Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Two non-voting members also attended: Scott Singleton—The Show, and Chase Jennings—Trade Show and Publicity.

### President's Comments:

**New Board Member:** Welcome to Fred Brueckner, representative from the Day Light Section.

**Painted garage ramp:** To Tom Lammers, a big THANK YOU for painting the edges of the garage ramp to make it safer. This is the beginning; see New Business below.

**Lightning connector:** Nancy Fisher donated a lightning connector to convert VGA, HDMI, and DVI plugs for use with the projectors. Thank you, Nancy.



**Keweenaw Week 2016:** On their recent trip to Upper Michigan, Paul and Nathalie Brandes attended three mineral shows, a presentation on diamond exploration in the Great Lakes, and a short course on the Scanning Electron Microscope. They gathered many useful tips and suggestions to improve our Shows and to improve the Society in general.

**Absence** from the September General Meeting. President Brandes will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Denver Geological Society of America.

**Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes:** Sigrid Stewart moved to accept the minutes of the August BOD meeting. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and it passed.

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

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archeology Section: Thursday, October 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m.** Program to be announced.

**Beading Section: Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.** Members will learn to make a **Tree of Life pendant**.

**Day Light Section: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** The program will be a demo of **Fold Forming and Texturing**, which involves chasing and punching segments of copper sheet that will be connected with copper wire into a segmented copper bracelet.

**Education Committee:** Karen Burns' Byzantine bracelet class for September 10 has been rescheduled to September 24. The PayPal link could not be set up for payment, so an email blast about the class has not been sent. There is room for six students in the class. The classes cost \$45.00 with all supplies provided.

Contact Carrie Hart to enroll. Karen will provide all tools and supplies.  
[carriehart2000@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehart2000@yahoo.com).

**Gemstones & Faceting Section: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The program will be about standards for gems. (Spoiler alert—there are no standards).

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: September 19, 2016 at 7:30** – The program will be **Hands-On—Cutting a Cabochon**. Ed Clay will bring preformed lapidary material to the meeting. Everyone who has signed up to participate in the cabochon-cutting training will receive a preform and will be coached on how to make it into a cabochon by one of the following: Edward Clay, Margaret Hardman-Muye, or Stephen Wilkerson. If necessary, this project will be carried over as the program for October.

**Library Committee:** Nothing new to report.

**Mineral Section: Wednesday September 7 at 7:30 p.m.** The program will be a welcome back from the summer hiatus for Section members to share their summer travels and collecting stories.

**September 21** - Program to be announced.

**Paleo Section: Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.** The program will

be on **Palmwood jewelry**. George Wolf gave Neal a bucket of wonderful palmwood chips which Neal will show attendees how to make into jewelry. You can do a traditional cab or leave it a rough chip. The palmwood is \$1 per chip (no limit), and Neal will show how to finish it. You can mount it by drilling or with a slitter saw. Easy stuff. Remember that the holidays are coming. Proceeds are for the Paleo Scholarship fund.) The shop will be open at 6:30 p.m. if you want to get started early.

**Publicity Committee:** Chase Jennings reported that he is setting up online ticket sales for The Show, November 11, 12, 13. He is also posting ads for The Show on more Web sites and, of course, on Facebook.

**Shop News:** Neal will be replacing the swing arm lamps attached to the grinders, saws, and buffs with LED lighting; he has nearly all the parts in hand. He was inspired by the LED lighting dealers used at the last Trade Show.

**Youth Section:** The next meetings are on **September 17, 2016, October 1, and October 15 at 10:00 a.m.** Gary Anderson returns from his trip to Wyoming and Idaho in October.

**BBG Editor:** Phyllis George reported that the deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the October BBG is September 12, 2016.

### Old Business

1. **Future Trade Shows:** The Board discussed the parameters of a Trade Show Committee. The committee will have representatives from the HGMS Board, a dealer from the Trade Show, an HGMS club member who has attended the shows, and Chase Jennings. Sigrid Stewart and Steve Blyskal volunteered to represent the dealers from the Trade Show. Fred Brueckner will represent the HGMS Board. Nancy English will be recruiting an active HGMS member who has attended the Trade Show. Interested readers should contact Nancy English at [nancyjodi@aol.com](mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com).
2. **Web Site:** Phyllis George reports that the Web site links are working. She has redesigned the home page. Each Section's name is a link to that Section's page that was part of the former new Web site.
3. **Security System:** Garth Clark report on remote viewing, the smoke detector connections to the new security system, and the outdoor cameras. No report available.
4. **Show Committee:** The Show Committee met at Scott's house on September 3. Dates for preshow events were set. Some Show operations were discussed at the Show Committee meeting.
  - a. The Committee decided to change Dino Dig from concrete hammering to sand box sifting. This change will provide a safer environment for diggers, plus easier setup and clean up for volunteers.

- b. Publicity Committee meeting – Tuesday, Sept 13.
  - c. The Show Postcard Labeling Party – Saturday, September 24 10:00 a.m. After volunteers are finished, Pizza will be provided. Volunteers are also asked to please bring salad and dessert for everyone to enjoy. .
  - d. The Show Committee Dinner and Auction – Saturday, October 8 at the Clubhouse. The main course will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring potluck dishes of salads, side dishes, and desserts. This year (and for this occasion ONLY) we will allow members to BYO beer and wine. All leftover food and drink must be removed after the party. Late donations for the auction should be brought to the Clubhouse no later than 5:00 p.m.. Dinner will start at 6:00, and the Auction will start promptly at 7:00.
  - e. Show Committee General Meeting – Tuesday, October 11. All the committee members will be present to wrap up the key area plans.
  - f. Nancy English will be attending all the Section meetings in September to recruit volunteers for The Show.
5. **Copier/Printer Status:** The large, very heavy, office-sized nonworking copier (a [Konica Minolta BizHub C351 color printer/copier/scanner](#)) is available to anyone who will carry it off the premises. A \$600 part could make it functional again.
6. **Display Case Status:** The display case has been advertised in the weekly HGMS email blast. Make us an offer.
7. **Scholarship Committee:** Nancy English has not started the process of finding a committee. Please contact her if you are interested in this valuable process, [nancyjodi@aol.com](mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com). We would like a member educator and two other club members. While Nancy English is attending the Section meetings to recruit Show volunteers, she will ask for Scholarship Committee Volunteers as well.

### New Business

1. **Arizona China Travel & Tours:** Email flyers were sent to the BOD for review. The flyers are at the club in case anyone is interested.
- Tour Dates:** October 24—November 3, 2016; November 7–17, 2016. \*10 people minimum needed for each tour.
3. **Sullivan Steakhouse Inquiry:** Rebecca Morris contacted President Brandes regarding HGMS holding a BOD meeting

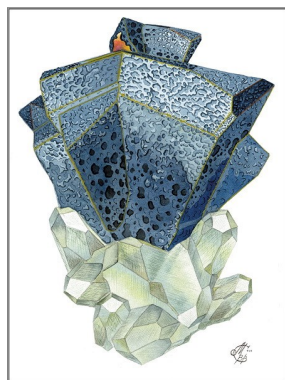
(or other events) at their restaurant. He has not replied, but thought it might be time to start looking for a larger venue to have our Holiday Party. Mike Dawkins agreed to “snoop around.”

4. **Building Safety:** Thanks again to Tom Lammers for painting the ramp. The President would like to start exploring how to make the Clubhouse more ADA-compliant and the associated costs. He would like volunteers to assist in researching the regulations to see what we're up against. From there, we can determine costs and necessity. In addition, he would like to begin looking at potential fire hazards in the Clubhouse.
5. **Code of Conduct:** The BOD considered adopting a code of ethics. Discussion was tabled until October.
6. **Additional New Business:** Steve Blyskal asked for the Club's assistance to continue the donation of \$1000 a year to the Rocks and Minerals magazine. For many years, Art Smith made the donation out of his own pocket so that color photographs could be printed by the magazine. When he died, the Mineral Section had an auction and raised \$4,400 to continue the generous gift. They have not been able to have the auction this year and asked the BOD to take it out of the General Fund. Phyllis George moved to approve the \$1000 gift, for this year only, to continue the good works of the past. Fred Brueckner seconded the motion, and it passed. President Brandes will inform the Treasurer to issue a check as Steve Blyskal directs. Steve will also give Rodney Linehan, the Treasurer, the subscription renewal information for Rock and Mineral Magazine to be sent to the Club as the Mineral Section's magazine choice.

**Next Board of Director's meeting:**  
**October 4, 2016, 7:30 p.m.**

**General Meeting: September 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** Dr. Inda Immega will take us on a virtual journey to the Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho to have a brief look at the geology, the volcanic features that are preserved there, and the strangely delicate ecology fostered among those rocks.

**Adjourn:** Gary Tober moved to adjourn. Phyllis George seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



**Chalkopyrite**

**from 2013 SCRIBE DVD**

## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](http://Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)  
[www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

### REMOVING SOLDER FROM A BEZEL

Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate, you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flexshaft. It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there is less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. I find the 2-mm size useful for almost any bezel.



### TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution, you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple—as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out-of-the-way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silver .....	Red/Orange
Sterling silver .....	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper .....	Dark red changing to gray
Brass.....	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel .....	Gray-green
Copper .....	Yellow changing to blue
Steel .....	Black
Stainless Steel .....	No color change

Caution—If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Continued on page 14

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.  
Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.  
Wash and clean up well when you're done.

## Lost and Found Archives

*by Dave Hennessey  
from Mineral Minutes 09/2016*

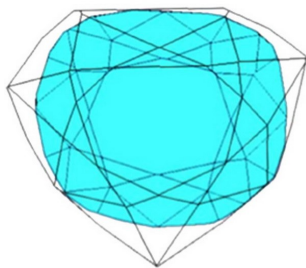
**L**ost (September, 1792): One large deep blue diamond, known as the "French Blue." Original uncut stone weighed 112 carats and was acquired in India by French merchant traveler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier. Sold to King Louis XIV of France in 1668 and recut to a 67-carat stone. Lost during the French Revolution from the French Royal Treasury during the looting of the crown jewels. If you have information on this missing diamond, please contact the French government immediately. Reward offered. Finding the stone is urgent since Napoleon's government has issued a law providing for a 20-year statute of limitations on crimes committed during the revolution. Criminal liability for the theft will end in 1812.



**Found** (in 1812, 20 years and 2 days after the French Blue was stolen): A large deep blue 45.5 carat diamond. Acquired from a London diamond merchant by King George IV of the United Kingdom. Sold at his death (1830) through private channels to Henry Phillip Hope, passing through many hands thereafter including Cartiers, Evelyn Walsh McLean (owner of the Washington Post), and Harry Winston Inc., which donated the stone in 1958 to the Smithsonian Institution where it remains a premier attraction to this day.



Speculation that the Hope Diamond is the French Blue, recut to hide its origins, began soon after the diamond made its first appearance. Drawings of the French Blue survive, and the Hope Diamond shape fits nicely (but tightly) within the shape of the French Blue.



In 2007, an inventory update of the mineral and gem collection of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris turned up a lead cast of the French Blue. The cast allowed precise calculation of the stone's shape and dimensions through laser scanning, and for the creation of three-dimensional computer models and replicas of the missing stone. The detailed geometric modeling and studies confirmed that the Hope Diamond could have been cut from the French Blue.

Confirming the validity of the analysis, the Smithsonian Institution Web site recounts the origins and history of this remarkable stone and affirms—Mineral Minutes, Vol. 75, no. 7, September 2016 Page 4—that the Hope Diamond is in fact the former French Blue that disappeared 324 years ago.

## The American Golden Topaz

by Don Shurtz

*Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
from The SCFMS Newsletter 09–10/2016*

**A**re there any out there who remember seeing the American Golden Topaz at an AFMS Show? The American Golden Topaz is a 22,892.5 carats (cut weight) gem from Brazil. In 1987 Mr. John White, curator of the gems and mineral collection at the Smithsonian, approached the AFMS with plans to acquire a topaz that was bigger than the 21,327 carat Brazilian Princess Topaz, but needed \$40,000 to procure the rough stone. The AFMS originally balked at the idea, but did form a committee which supported the concept and rapidly raised the funds to procure the stone. The stone was owned by Drs. Marie and Edgar Bogatta of Seattle, WA and was cut by Mr. Leon Agee of Walla Walla, WA. The stone was then presented to the Smithsonian and displayed with a plaque that read "Gift of the Rockhound Hobbyist of America through the efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Drs. Marie and Ed Bogatta, 1988." One of the inducements for the AFMS to help in the acquisition of the American Golden Topaz was that the gem would be made available for display at the Federation Show. However, in 1997 the American Golden Topaz was placed on permanent display at the Smithsonian and was no longer available to the Federation.



Now fast forward to today. The American Golden Topaz is one of about 24 Smithsonian "Giant Gems" which go on temporary display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas! Here is some information I received from the Perot Museum:

**Giant Gems of the Smithsonian** (September 9, 2016–January 17, 2017). Never before seen together, approximately two dozen magnificent, Texas-sized gems from the Smithsonian's world-renowned National Gem Collection will be on display in the Lyda Hill Gems and Minerals Hall on Level 3. The mineral masterpieces, many weighing over 1,000-plus carats, include the "American Golden" topaz that tips the scales at almost 23,000 carats (more than 10 pounds), a blue topaz "football" of nearly 7,000 carats, a kunzite Tiffany necklace, the Mogul emerald diamond necklace, and more. This temporary installation will mark the first time such a large collection of Smithsonian gems—some of which have never been displayed in any museum—will be on exhibit outside the famed Washington museum complex.

**Special AFMS connection:** The "American Golden Topaz" was presented to the Smithsonian in 1988 by the Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). AFMS members had rallied to help raise the money to purchase the American Golden Topaz, and the plaque indicated that the gem was donated "in the name of the rockhound hobbyists of America and its six regional federations."



If clubs are interested in seeing the American Golden Topaz and the rest of this collection, they may contact the Perot museum at 214-428-5555 or [reserve@perotmuseum.org](mailto:reserve@perotmuseum.org) for a Group Ticket discount rate (group must be at least 10 individuals).

For the record, I am not an employee of the Perot Museum, but I am an active volunteer at the museum. This article is not intended to be an advertisement, but rather to point out an opportunity to see the American Golden Topaz—a stone that we all helped the Smithsonian Museum to acquire.

## Mineral Cleaning

*Bridget Joubert / Jim Marler*

*Cenla Rock Hounds*

*from SCFMS Newsletter 09–10/2016*

**A**t a past rock show (Clearlake show, Pasadena, TX) , we stopped by the Fender's mineral specimen booth to chat about their very fine minerals. Jim asked him how he got such beautiful pyrite and galena specimens. He said it was all in the cleaning he did prior to displaying. Here is what he said:

**Galena:** Soak the specimen in warm "Iron-Out™" to remove surface iron and lead oxides. This may take an entire day of soaking if very dirty. Rinse well and scrub lightly with a bristle brush, NOT a wire brush; it scratches! Spray well with Scrubbing Bubbles™ (non-bleach type), and give it a good scrubbing with the brush. Rinse well, and let the specimen air dry completely (a fan helps speed this up) before putting it away. By the way, are you wearing kitchen dish gloves? Some people are sensitive to the aggressive chemicals in these cleaners, so put on those gloves and safety glasses!



**Pyrite:** One of the problems with many Pyrite (FeS) specimens is that they may be in a mixture with Marcasite. Marcasite (HFeS<sub>2</sub>) is an unstable Pyrite and will slowly deteriorate as it is stored, especially in the damp air of Louisiana. If you find your nice pyrite specimen sitting on a pile of sulfur-smelling grey ash, it is a mixture specimen! The Marcasite slowly converts to sulfuric acid and iron, eating away at the whole specimen—cardboard box and all!

To clean up specimens with **Marcasite**, use that wire brush that was forbidden above! Get rid of all the visible Marcasite with a good soap scrubbing. As always, be sure to wear safety goggles when scrubbing any specimen, fine particles will fly all about, and they love to land in eyes! Rinse well and let dry for a while.





Okay, now spray the specimen with Scrubbing Bubbles™, and use the brush with vigor. The pyrite part will brighten up very nicely. For specimens that have pyrite on another mineral (i.e. dogtooth calcite), adjust your scrubbing to prevent damage to the other mineral. Always dry completely before storage.

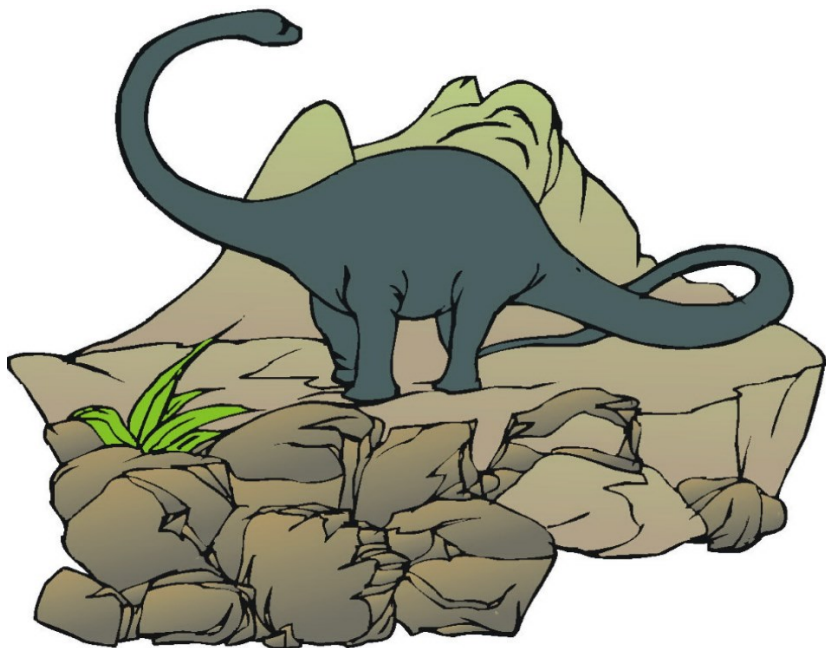
**Chalcopyrite:** This iron sulfide mineral containing copper is often misidentified as pyrite. Look carefully at the “pyrite” crystals and see if there are multi-colors showing, besides the plain “gold” of pyrite. If so, this is probably chalcopyrite (peacock ore). Again, spray the specimen with Scrubbing Bubbles™, and brush scrub it. Though it will not be as bright as pyrite, it will shine up quite a bit, making your specimen come alive!



**Other minerals:** so far, our experience with cleaning other minerals has been that Scrubbing Bubbles™ works on all minerals, but not as dramatically as it does on Pyrite and Galena. What it has done, however, is show us the presence of pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, and other crystals where we did not see them before due to oxidation and/or dirt. Yes, plain ole’ soap will clean minerals, but the “Bubbles” seems to put that shine on them that other cleaning agents do not!

No, we do not have a financial interest in Johnson’s Company and their Scrubbing Bubbles™—but we wish we did since we have gone thru CANS of it, and it works so well on our specimens!

Photos chosen from the Internet collection of the Smithsonian.



## Missing State Filing Requirements:

### The Easy Way to Lose Your Charter

by Vanessa L. Johnson, Texas C-BAR Staff Attorney

Legal Minute; Winter 2008

Texas C-Bar

[www.texasctbar.org](http://www.texasctbar.org)

via the SCFMS Newsletter 09–10/2016



Any entity transacting business in Texas has to file reports with the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Many nonprofit organizations think that simply notifying the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) takes care of notification requirements to these Texas regulatory agencies, but that is not true. A nonprofit that **fails to notify all necessary state and federal agencies** will face extra work trying to straighten out the problems that could have easily been avoided.

#### 1. Keep a current registered agent.

The most common reason for a corporation's failure to file required forms is that the nonprofit did not receive the reporting requests from the SOS or the Comptroller because it did not have a current address or registered agent on file. To update this information, a nonprofit should file Form 401—General Information (Change of Registered Agent/Office). The report is available on the Secretary of State's Web site at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/forms.shtm> and online filing is available via SOSDirect at <https://direct.sos.state.tx.us/acct/acct-login.as>. The corporation should also notify the Comptroller's Office separately at (800) 252-5555 if it would like to change the master mailing address.

#### 2. Stay in good standing.

A corporation is "in existence" with the SOS and "in good standing" with the Comptroller as long as it files all the forms and documents required by the state agencies. When an organization does not respond to correspondence from the SOS or Comptroller, the organization may lose its corporate privileges. The organization's status with the SOS then changes from being "in existence" to "forfeited" or "involuntarily dissolved." Its status with the Comptroller changes from being "in good standing" to "not in good standing." The most common reasons that organizations lose their good standing are:

- failure to file Secretary of State Form 802; or

- failure to file a franchise tax return, request an exemption, or pay a state franchise tax to the Comptroller.

### **3. “Not in good standing” is not good.**

If a nonprofit forfeits its good standing, it can still operate; however, the organization will lose some of its legal rights. A nonprofit that is “not in good standing,” cannot sue another individual or organization but other corporations or individuals can sue the nonprofit. If sued, the directors of the corporation that has lost its good standing may be personally liable for the debts of the organization. The organization may also find it difficult to enter into contracts or open bank accounts.

### **4. How does a director find out whether or not a corporation is “in good standing”?**

If a nonprofit forfeits its good standing, the SOS will mail a “notice of forfeiture” to the registered agent and/or principal place of business on file with the SOS. However, the best way to verify a corporation’s current status is to contact the Texas Secretary of State at (512) 463-5555 or [Corpinfo@sos.state.tx.us](mailto:Corpinfo@sos.state.tx.us). To check an organization’s Franchise Tax Account Status, perform a corporation search online at <http://ecpa.cpa.state.tx.us/coa/Index.htm>.

### **5. Secretary of State filing requirements**

A nonprofit must file Form 802 whenever the SOS mails it to the organization. By law, the SOS can only request a report once every four years. The SOS sends the form to the corporation’s registered agent, so if the name and address of the registered agent are not current, the organization might not receive the required report or notice that the nonprofit will be involuntarily terminated or dissolved. Form 802 is a simple report that updates the organization’s address and officers and directors. The report is available on the Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/forms/802.pd>. If an organization fails to file Form 802 within 30 days after the SOS mails the form, the corporation will forfeit its corporate privileges as discussed above. If an organization does not file Form 802 within one hundred and twenty days (120) after the forfeiture, the SOS will **involuntarily dissolve** a domestic corporation and revoke the certificate of authority of a foreign corporation.

### **6. How can a nonprofit fix the problem after failure to file Form 802?**

An organization can revive its right to conduct business:

If less than 120 days have passed since forfeiture, by filing Form 802, along with the \$5.00 revival fee . A late fee of \$1 per month (or part of a month) after the original filing deadline will also apply. The late fee will be capped at \$25.

If more than 120 days have passed and the organization has been involuntarily dissolved by the SOS, by filing an Application for Reinstatement (Form 801), filing Form 802, and paying the \$5.00 fee.

If more than three years after have passed since dissolution or revocation, an organization that is governed by the Texas Business Organizations Code will be reinstated with an "interruption" noted in the corporation's existence.

## **7. Comptroller filing requirements**

All corporations in Texas must file state franchise/margin tax reports and pay applicable taxes unless they qualify for an exemption. Most nonprofit organizations that have received their 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS qualify for an exemption from state franchise/margin tax payments and reporting requirements, but the exemption is not automatic. Nonprofits must complete and submit Form AP-204, and include a copy of their IRS determination letter. Even without an exemption, many nonprofit corporations may not owe any tax but will still be required to file Form 05-141, Franchise No Tax Due Information Report, which is available at <http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/05-141.pd>. This form also provides the form and instructions to request an extension to file a Texas Corporation Franchise Tax Report.

If an organization does not file appropriate forms, the Comptroller will mail a notice of forfeiture to the organization. If the organization does not respond within 45 days, the Comptroller may terminate the organization's right to conduct business. The Comptroller may also revoke an organization's charter if the corporation does not permit the Comptroller to investigate or examine the records of the corporation to determine the franchise tax liability. But the Comptroller will not automatically dissolve a corporation for failing to pay taxes or file tax reports. During franchise tax forfeiture, a corporation not only loses its rights to sue **and** defend in Texas courts, but its directors or officers are also held personally liable for debts of the corporation that are created or incurred in Texas after the tax, penalty, or report was due and before the corporate privileges are revived. See Texas Tax Code, Chapter 171.

## 8. How can a nonprofit fix the problem after forfeiture for tax reasons?

If an organization falls out of good standing for tax reasons, it can revive its corporate privileges by:

- bringing its franchise tax account into current status;
- obtaining a Certificate of Tax Clearance from the Comptroller's office;
- filing an Application for reinstatement and Certificate of Tax Clearance with the SOS;
- obtaining SOS approval for reinstatement; and
- obtaining a Certificate of Account Status (certificate of good standing) from the Comptroller.

*Because losing a charter is more trouble than doing it right in the first place, a nonprofit should **create a checklist of reporting requirement for the organization that will be reviewed by the board and staff on an annual basis. Additionally, a corporation should assign someone the responsibility of both updating any changes with the IRS, the Secretary of State, and the Texas Comptroller and monitoring the periodic and annual reporting periods.***

*This Legal Minute is not intended to be legal advice or a legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. The contents are intended for general information only. Application of the information reported herein to particular facts or circumstances should be analyzed by legal counsel.*

## Amazing Rock Trivia

*from The Rock Prattle 09/2016*

- Tourmalines and Quartz will develop an electrical charge when heated, and tourmaline jewelry will attract dust when displayed under hot lights.
- There is no such thing as "Jade" – green "jade" is one of two different minerals, Jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is the more valuable of the two.
- The second most valuable color of jadeite is lavender.
- You can dig and pan for colored gemstones such as emerald, aquamarine, moonstones, garnet, citrine, amethyst, ruby, and sapphire at Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine, NC.
- There is a manmade brilliant white stone called moissanite, which can fool a jewelry store diamond tester. (Depending on what type tester they have).
- The big "ruby" in the royal crown of England is actually a red spinel.

- Ivory imitations are carved from corozo nuts, tagua nuts, and duom palm nuts.
- If allowed to sit in moist or humid conditions too long, hematite jewelry has such a high iron content it will rust.
- Jet, made popular for use in jewelry by Queen Victoria in the 19th century, is actually a type of fossilized coal formed 180 million years ago from trees.
- It takes one to three years to grow a cultured pearl (or more).
- Goldstone is not a stone—it is a glass containing copper powder that gives it aventurescence (quick bright flashes of light).
- “Black Onyx” is actually orange and brown sardonyx that has been dyed black, and it should be cleaned carefully to avoid removing the dye and dulling this porous quartz.
- Cultured pearls are made by inserting a small shell bead into an oyster or clam as an irritant, and waiting years for the shellfish to cover the bead with its luscious nacre.
- Amethysts can fade if exposed to too much sun.
- Historically, before science could tell minerals apart, all yellow stones were called “topaz.”
- Rubies were synthesized in the late 1800s and actually more was charged for the synthetics than for the natural rubies.
- Pearls, by law, must be called “cultured pearls” unless they are completely natural, and most pearls sold today are cultured.
- “Herkimer Diamonds” are actually double-terminated quartz.
- “Smokey Topaz” is not topaz—it is actually brown quartz.
- Radiation causes diamonds to turn green.
- Some diamonds are artificially (and safely) irradiated to achieve a green color—but early on, before the process was refined, some green diamonds were actually made radioactive. They are confiscated by the U.S. Government if found today.
- A new process has recently been developed to achieve a green color in diamonds using just pressure and heat.
- In ancient times, the term “sapphire” meant all blue stones, but usually it referred to lapis lazuli—which was considered the most expensive stone in the world.



## Coprolite Fossils

via *Rockhound Times* article at <http://www.rockhoundtimes.com/coprolites.htm>; via *The Rockhounder* 08/2016; via *the Glacial Drifter*, 08/2016, via *Stoney Statements* 09/2016

Coprolites form in much the same way as any other fossil—the original organic material is infused with water containing dissolved minerals, and as the minerals crystallize, the original material is slowly replaced by stone. Most people, when handed a coprolite for the first time, sniff it as their first impulse. But it smells of nothing but stone, because that's all it is now, technically speaking.



Coprolites are at a disadvantage from the start in the fossil-forming process. Generally speaking, the quicker to decay an object is, the less likely it is to successfully fossilize. Fossilization takes time, and if the whole thing rots before it can finish, well—no fossil.

[1]. That's why hard and durable objects, such as bones and teeth, are much more common fossils than soft tissues, or coprolites. Coprolites were first identified as what they actually are by a woman named Mary Anning (21 May 1799–9 March 1847). Mary Anning was a fossil collector and paleontologist from southern England, and she noticed these odd stones inside the abdominal areas of the ichthyosaur fossils she was collecting. When she broke them open, she noticed they had fragments of fossilized fish bones and scales.

In 1829, Anning's observations led a geologist named William Buckland to propose that these stones were the digested remnants of the dinosaurs' last meals, and he gave them the name of coprolites.

Those fossil fragments inside coprolites contain a wealth of scientific information, for anyone who really wants to look closely. The kinds of fossils contained in the coprolite can tell us a lot about the environment in which the creature was living by what it found in the area to eat. It also reveals the creature's preferred food sources, such as whether it was an herbivore or a carnivore; sometimes it will even reveal what parasites plagued its creator. And, yes, we learn a lot about its intestinal systems. That's pretty much a given. The challenge, of course, is

in determining exactly which species of creature left a particular coprolite behind. In some cases, when there are a lot of fossilized remains of a particular animal around, it's easy to make a good guess. And in some cases, as with Mary Anning's fossils, the coprolites were petrified while still within the animal's body.

But with a more isolated coprolite specimen, it can be very difficult. Early human settlements left the occasional coprolite as well, so they have archaeological value as well as geological value. As it turns out, we can learn about our own history from them. A human coprolite found in a cave in Oregon revealed the existence of a long-lost 13,000-year-old society [2].

And a research team from the University of Colorado, studying an ancient Anansi settlement in Colorado known as Cowboy Wash, uncovered human remains showing what they believed to be evidence of cannibalism. They tested a coprolite found nearby, and discovered it contained a protein only found in human muscle tissue, confirming their theory [3].

Oddly enough, coprolites from dinosaurs and other prehistoric beasts are often used in jewelry. Due to the mineralization, many of them have bright and beautiful coloration. And, well, you get a great answer to give when someone says, "Ooh, what a pretty necklace! What stone is that?"

Some people may think coprolites are disgusting, but like any other fossil, they're also windows into a lost and wondrous past on this planet.

### Sources:

[1]<http://discovermagazine.com/1996/jun/whattthedinosaurs78>

[2]<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2012/07/12/fossilized-human-feces-hints-at-long-lost-13500-yearold-west-coast-culture>

### Quartz Inclusions

*by Paul E. Desautels*

*from Agatizer, 8/1989 via The Rockytier 10/1989,  
via The SCMFS Newsletter 5-6/2015*

**W**hen the Seven Dwarfs placed Snow White in a crystal casket to preserve her, they were duplicating a long-established natural process. Almost every time nature grows a crystal, she encases in it a variety of objects

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



called inclusions. They are scientifically important because they are evidence of the temperatures, pressures, composition, and other characteristics of the environment in which the mineral is found.

Not only solids, but liquids and gases are often trapped during crystal growth. The difference between the white, opaque variety of quartz called "milky quartz" and the clear glassy variety called "rock crystal" is caused by multitudes of tiny bubbles of liquid trapped in milky quartz. Frequently, the inclusion will be more than one kind, each called a "phase."

One of the most amazing sights to see under a microscope is the two-phase inclusion of a tiny bit of carbon in Herkimer Co., New York. The carbon can be seen jittering around in an erratic dance, bombarded by the ever-moving liquid molecules. This is called the Brownian Motion after Robert Brown, the botanist, who first reported it in 1827.

**I have recently been diagnosed with AAADD—Age Activated  
Attention Deficit Disorder.**

*from Cyberspace. Anonymous, of course.  
via SCRIBE 2013 DVD*

**T**his is how it goes...

I decide to do work on the car, start to the garage and notice the mail on the table. OK, I'm going to work on the car...

BUT FIRST, I'm going to go through the mail. Lay car keys down on desk. After discarding the junk mail, I notice the trash can is full. OK, I'll just put the bills on my desk....

BUT FIRST I'll take the trash out, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox., I'll address a few bills.... Yes, Now where is the checkbook?

Oops... there's only one check left. Where did I put the extra checks? Oh, there is my empty plastic cup from last night on my desk. I'm going to look for those checks...

BUT FIRST I need to put the cup back in the kitchen. I head for the kitchen, look out the window, notice the flowers need a drink of water, I put the cup on the counter and there's my extra pair of glasses on the kitchen counter. What are they doing here? I'll just put them away...

BUT FIRST I need to water those plants. I head for the door and... Aaaagh! someone left the TV remote on the wrong spot. Okay, I'll put the remote away and water the plants...

BUT FIRST I need to find those checks.

END OF DAY: Oil in car not changed, bills still unpaid, cup still in the sink, checkbook still has only one check left, lost my car keys, And, when I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because...

I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY!

## Show Time 2016–2017

- 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
- October 14-16 Westwego, LA Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana  
The Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd.  
gemshow2016@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/GemAndMineralSocietyOfLouisiana
- October 21-23 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society  
Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd  
showchairman@austingemandmineral.org  
www.gemcapers.com
- October 29-30 Glen Rose, TX Paleological Society of Austin  
Somervell Expo Center; Hwy 67
- October 29-30 Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society  
Modern Living Building;  
3001 General Pershing Blvd  
Oklahoma State Fairgrounds
- November 6-7 Midland, TX Midland Gem & Mineral Society  
Midland Center
- November 5-6 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society  
Amarillo Civic Center, 400 S. Buchanan St.  
kendrick@amaonline.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
- November 19-20 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society  
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall; I-635&Military Pkwy  
dallasgemandmineral.org
- December 2-4 El Paso, TX El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.  
El Maida Shriners Hall, 6331 Alabama  
L1155@yahoo.com, www.epmgs.com
- December 3-4 Leesville, LA DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society  
West LA Forestry Fair Grounds  
276 H. M. Stevens Blvd.  
deridder.rockandgem@gmail.com

## Show Time 2017

- January 21-22 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds  
Lady Bird Johnson Park; The Pavilion  
gedeonjim1@gmail.com  
tgabrish@gmail.com ; www.OMGS.org

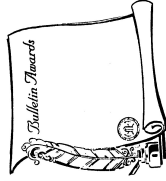
2016		October					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open	3	4 7:30 Board Meeting	5 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	6 7:30 Archeology Section	7	8 10-5 Shop Open Show Party and Auction 6:00-9:00	
9 10-4 Shop Open	10	11 7:30 Show Committee	12 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section	20	21	22 10-5 Shop Open	
23 10-4 Shop Open 10-4 Shop Open 30	24 Halloween 31	25 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29	

2016		November					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 7:30 Board Meeting	2 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	3 7:30 Archeology Section	4	5 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
6 10-4 Shop Open  Daylight Saving Ends	7	8 7:30 Show Committee	9 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	10	11	12 10-5 Shop Open	
13 10-4 Shop Open	14	15 7:30 Paleo Section	16 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section	17	18	19 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
20 10-4 Shop Open	21 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop Open	24 Thanksgiving	25	26 10-5 Shop Open	
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-3 Shop Open				

# The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 Brooklet  
Houston, Texas 77099  
(281) 530-0942



## 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)  
2016 - 1st (Large)

## AFMS

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



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