



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLVIII—No. 08

August 2017



HGMS President's Message

by Paul Brandes

By the time most of you read this month's President's Message, I will once again be out of town. This time, Nathalie and I are off to Upper Michigan to participate in Keweenaw Week 2017, a week-long gathering of rockhounds and geologists from all corners of North America to Houghton, Michigan. The event is sponsored by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club based out of Houghton. For this year's event, four mine sites in the famous Copper Country are being excavated to allow collectors the opportunity to hunt for such items as native copper, silver, datolite, analcime, agates, Isle Royale greenstone, and many others. The highlight of the event (at least for us) is that Nathalie is the Keynote Speaker this year, something she is very excited about and feels very honored to participate. However, there is more than just the mineral collecting event. Bookended on the week are two fabulous mineral shows in Ishpeming and Houghton that are always a real treat to visit, as well as the Quincy Mine Swap in the middle of the week. All three offer plenty of goodies for the collector. This year, I plan to write an article for the BBG about our trip to show others what a magical place Upper Michigan is this time of year.



Speaking of shows, now is a great time to offer your services to our Volunteer Coordinator (Nancy English) in preparation for our Annual Show coming up November 10–12. This year we are also hosting the annual South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS) meeting, which means we will need lots of help to ensure that things run smoothly and to

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Upcoming Program

by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President



August 22: 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.

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Copy is due for the September 2017 issue by Tuesday, August 15, 2017.
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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 and 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>.

show off our own Society to others in the region. Whether you have volunteered in the past or are a newer member and not sure what you could possibly do, please get in contact with Nancy and let her know that you want to help in any capacity possible.

Donations keep rolling in which is great. Unfortunately, we simply cannot keep everything we receive and must make room. In an effort to clear up some space and benefit the Society, Neal Immega will have another one of his "world famous" auctions of donated items on Saturday, August 26 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. No additional donations are needed for this event—we have plenty to auction off this round.



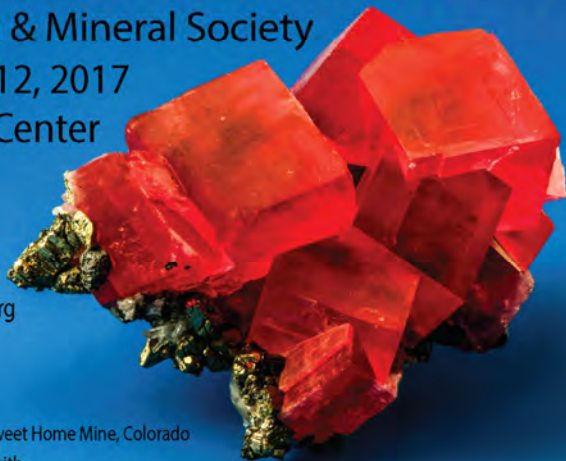
KAYSEROPS TRILOBITE
from 2013 SCRIBE DVD

64th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show & Annual SCFMS Convention

Houston Gem & Mineral Society
November 10-12, 2017
Humble Civic Center

www.hgms.org

www.facebook.com/hgms.org



Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Colorado
Photo by Holly Smith

Front of HGMS 2017 Show flyer

Archaeology Section

by Nancy L. Engelhardt-Moore

July 6, 2017: No business meeting was held due to the proximity of the 4th of July holiday.

Upcoming Program: August 3, 2017: Garth Clark (Vice-Chairman—Archaeology Section) will give a talk entitled **“War, Revolution, and Buried Treasure in Mexico.”** He will speak on a lesson in the importance of hoards to archaeology and the finding of a unique item—once thought lost forever! Mexico has had a violent history. In one century, from 1810–1910, the country underwent three revolutions, three civil wars, seventeen provincial separatist movements, twenty wars or rebellions, and five invasions. This extreme instability, combined with banditry, distrust of banks, and the Mexican class system, led to many Mexicans having a “backyard” bank where they secretly stored money or valued objects. One of these hoards, unearthed in Chihuahua in the late 1990s, yielded over 400 small denomination silver coins—including the only known example of the Mexico 1848-Mo, DG 1 real. All examples of this coin were thought to have perished in Mexico City during the Mexican-American War. Garth will review the events in Mexican history that led to the production, loss, and discovery of this coin—and then generalize into the importance of hoards to archaeology. Don’t miss this fascinating talk and the chance to see this rare coin in person!



General Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2017

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the June 27, 2017 General Meeting. Eighteen members attended; two of them were new members Foster Kneeland and Rebecca Elliott.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the May 23 General Meeting as posted in the July 2017 BBG and the weekly HGMS E-blast. Joan Riley seconded the motion, and it passed.

President's Announcements:

George Wolf is in the hospital. He is not doing well. HGMS wishes him well.

Neal Immega has relit the grinding and polishing wheels with LED lights. What a delight to use.

Our Librarian, Nathalie Brandes, is caring for her terminally ill mother. She will continue the work on the library when she can.

Sale Items: Karen Burns is selling donated items at the back of the room. See her at the break.

Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Paul Brandes asked 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 e-mail list, please contact him at kendal_ja@yahoo.com.

President Brandes invited Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional special announcements.

Day Light Section: Karen Burns apologized for not being able to have the June Day Light Section meeting. On **July 5**, the program will be to make the first phase of the Elf Bracelet. It will be finished at the **August 2** meeting.

Old Business

Web site progress: **Scott Singleton** reported that the new Web Site is under construction. He is encouraged by the progress, and he hopes it will be finished soon. He is eager to begin using it for the 2017 HGMS Annual Show online needs.

In the interest of time, President Paul Brandes asked the members to look for Old Business in the BOD Meeting Minutes in the monthly BBG.

New Business

Trade Show: At the June BOD Meeting, the BOD voted against having a Trade Show in July. The Board will consider a January 2018 Trade Show after the Annual Show in November.

How-To Video Meeting: The BOD proposed that the club create some how-to videos. Sigrid Stewart talked about this at the Board meetings, and in the weekly e-Blast, she asked for

volunteers to participate in a discussion and on a committee. Randy Carlson, Jeanean Slamen, Nathan Gandara, Paul Robles, and James Wark responded. President Brandes encouraged people to donate any five-minute (or shorter) videos. The Committee is researching how to make, produce, and post videos. Rather than just donating videos, HGMS can also feature links to videos on members' Web sites.

Sigrid Stewart brought Air Potato plant vines to give away.

The next **Board of Directors** meeting is **Thursday July 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**

The **General Meeting** is **Tuesday July 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** Fred Brueckner will share his experiences at the William Holland Lapidary School.

Show 'n Tell: Steve Blyskal showed a hand-held portable LW UV light with a rechargeable battery. He first saw it at the Fine Mineral Show demonstrated by the Arlington G&MS member who is putting these together—Paul Bordovsky. It is a very strong UV light. Its best use is in checking fluorescence quickly in normal light conditions. It can get very hot if left on too long—its one drawback.

Drawing: Glenn Parks won the polished geode half.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Joan Riley seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Refreshments: Nancy English provided the refreshments. Our new member, Foster Freeland, volunteered to bring the refreshments to the July General Meeting.

Vice President Sigrid Stewart introduced Nicole Ayoub, a new member who has been attending the Mineral Section meetings. She presented a talk entitled "**Facebook 101 for Rockhounds.**" It was very interesting to members who had lots of questions and comments. Nicole will gladly help members one-on-one learn more about setting up a Facebook account, using Facebook, and how to buy/sell rocks on Facebook.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

*July 6, 2017 (Thursday)
by Nancy English*

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

President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Non-voting HGMS member also in attendance: Steve Blyskal-Mineral Section Chairperson and Show Dealer Chair.

President's Comments: Welcome to Jeanne Barna, our new Board member. She is

representing The Gemstone and Faceting Section.

Nathalie Brandes' mother passed away on June 30, 2017. Nathalie is the HGMS Librarian. Because of her mother's protracted illness, Nathalie has not been able to accomplish all that she wished to have done in the library by now.

Approval of Previous Month's Board Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Board meeting. Mike Dawkins seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer's Report: Rodney Linehan emailed financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting. At Nancy English's request, Rodney changed the name of the Chase Savings Square Account to Chase Savings Pay Pal Account.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: August 3, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced.

Beading Section: Saturday July 15, 2017 at 1:30 members will make a Tila Diamonds Bracelet and Necklace. See the HGMS Web Site for supplies and instructions.

Day Light Section: Wednesday July 5, 2017, 1:00–3:00 p.m. Made an Elf bracelet from coated copper wire: Neal Immega provided the wire. There was no charge for materials.

On a Sunday later in July, when Karen's knee is better, she will teach an ad hoc class on how to make jump rings. Participants will see how inexpensive and easy it is to make their own. (Thanks to Douglas Dodd's generous gift, we have been able to replace the missing jump ring maker.)

August 2, 2017, 1:00 to 3:00: Embellish July's Elf chain with bicone crystal beads. Diane Sisson from the Beading Section will show us how to do this with beading wire and crimp beads. The charge will be \$1.00.

September 6, 2017, 1:00 to 3:00: Circle pendant of copper wire and seven graduated beads: The charge will be \$1.00.

Education Committee: Chase Jennings is in New Mexico working hard. Nothing to report, he said.

Gemstones & Faceting Section: The next meeting will be Wednesday July 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be "How to Glue Stones to the Dop with Epoxy," plus going over the use of the Graves machines in detail. Our featured stone will be sapphire.

On Saturday, June 10, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the HGMS clubhouse meeting room. Randy Carlson, from the Gemstones & Faceting Section, gave a hands-on class on faceting. Jeanne Barna reported that it was very interesting. Pat Cockrell had dopped the stones in advance for the class. Everyone faceted a stone. It was very successful.

Pat Cockrell, a member of the Faceting Section, had surgery for a brain tumor. He is recovering nicely with therapy.

Lapidary and Silversmithing July 17, 2017 Making intarsia cabochons: The finished product is a cabochon with inlaid metal or stones creating a picture.

August 21, 2017 Scrimshaw: Usually a pattern carved into bone. Color is rubbed over it to bring out the pattern in the finished piece.

Library: President Brandes reported that Nathalie will be finished teaching summer school on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. She will have more time available to come to HGMS and work on the Library on weekdays and weekends.

Mineral Section: Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m. The first meeting back from Summer vacation is "What did you do last summer? What did you buy? Where did you go?" Be sure to bring your new treasures for us to admire.

Results of Swap & Sale: Although the attendance was low, some very nice pieces were swapped.

Paleo Section: Tuesday July 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Xenocanth sharks from the Permian of Seymour: Chris Flis of the Whiteside museum has loaned Neal Immega the material.

George Wolf is a longtime member of HGMS and the Paleo Section. He is recovering from a broken hip and taking chemo and radiation treatments for cancer. He is residing at Regency Village. HGMS wishes him the best for his recovery;

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers was not present. Committee members are waiting for completed application packages to evaluate the students.

Shop Report—Neal Immega: Neal Immega continues to sell donated equipment. Watch the Weekly E-blast to take advantage of new sales.

Show Committee: Steve Blyskal, Dealer Chair, reported that ALL Dealer space is reserved for the upcoming show. In fact, he was able to fit in not only our existing dealers but two who could not make it last year due to the different date or other emergencies; they wanted to make sure they were on the list for this year. We have several new dealers as well. We are unable to accommodate two dealers who last year filled slots vacated at the last minute—unless something happens again at the last minute with any of our existing dealers.

Scott Singleton reported via email that work on other items in the show will be picking up toward the end of summer. The main thing we need to work on is graphics for our postcard.

Youth Section: The next meetings are July 15, 2017, August 5, 2017, and August 19, 2017 from 10:00 to 12:00. The July 1 meeting had only two members attending. Paul Robles taught one young man how to wire wrap. The other young man had Gary Anderson and the shop to himself.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the August 2017 BBG is July 15, 2017. Phyllis George wants all writers to know that her deadline to send 2017 articles off for inclusion in the 2018

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

contest is December 5. You only have four more months to have articles and poetry published.

New Web Site: Per **Scott Singleton:** Lauren has completed a draft of the Web site with some basic structure, using the text we had prepared for Autumn's Web site. The Web site committee—primarily composed of Phyllis George, Sigrid Stewart, and myself—has reviewed her work and has requested several changes as well as items to be added. I am impressed at her progress. My goal is to have the site online sometime in August so those of us on the Show Committee who need to interact with the public can do so via our new Web site. This would include information requests, registration for our educational programs, volunteer sign-ups, and possibly dealer committees although that mostly is done already. E-commerce is an essential component and one that is easy to implement. Club email forwards are already active.

Old Business

Donation Handling discussion results: Record Donations and Inventory on the Donation Form when it arrives. Copy it, and put one copy in the Section Chair "In slot" on the office door. Put the other in the President's "In slot" on the office door. Ideally, an email should also be sent to both Section Chair and President.

Add to the form a line for listing any conditions needing to be followed.

Section Chairs should treat the donation responsibly. If it is to be sold, notify the whole Section (or club) so all can bid on it. The whole club can be notified through the Sunday e-blast.

Preservation of Documents: We still need a coordinator for this project. Phyllis George said documents easily can be saved into a directory on the Web Site. They can be saved to a secure area. Nancy English will notify Jim Kendall to ask for a knowledgeable member of the club to volunteer for this project.

Building Safety: No report.

Security: Garth Clark was not in attendance, so there was no report.

Creating "How-To" videos: **How-To Video Meeting:** Sigrid Stewart reported that four members of the new committee met on June 24, 2017: Sigrid Stewart, Jeanean Slamen, (HGMS Webmaster prior to 2005) Nathan Gandara, and Paul Robles. Randy Carlson, and James Wark also responded to the e-blast request and offered to help. The Committee is researching how to make, produce, and post videos. HGMS may be able to feature links to videos on people's Web sites. At the June 2017 General Meeting, President Brandes encouraged people to donate any five-minute (or shorter) videos

The Club needs a new projector system. We are still looking for a way to project images of props on the wall during a presentation. Further discussion was postponed until September.

Update on Trifold brochure and business cards: The updated trifold is ready for print. No report was received on the progress in printing the business cards.

List of Experts: Nancy English reported that since she has been retrieving messages from the HGMS phone, she is limited to the people she knows when looking for different skilled or interested people to handle the many requests for someone to work on some material or on items the caller owns. A list of this nature would make it much easier to rotate the opportunities or send to all. Since there has been no response to the e-blast for this list, the BOD agreed to drop it. Nancy was advised to call the Section Chairpersons.

New Business

Bulk mail postage software: Beverly Mace reported that the label printing program used to mail the BBG, show post cards, and other club bulk mailings will—as of July 31, 2017—no longer support what we need. Beverly Mace's husband Eddie has been researching replacement software. So far, he has found one that may fit our needs and is affordable. They also offered a trial run. Beverly will do more research and report her (and Eddie's) findings to the BOD. We should have a new program in time for the next BBG mailing.

Patrick Kruezerberger recently passed away. He and his wife Betsy managed the Info booth at the show one or two years. He was a former Show Chairman and an active member in the Mineral Section until 2004.

Auction of Donation material: Neal Immega will have another Auction on August 26, 2017 from 1:00 to 5:00. No additional donations are needed.

New wheels for shop: Fred Brueckner moved to allow Neal Immega to buy new grinding and polishing wheels, spending up to \$2,000.00. Phyllis George seconded and the motion passed.

Winter Holiday party, December 9, 2017: President Brandes requested that the BOD investigate finding another venue for the Holiday party—a location that can accommodate more people than our meeting room. Steve Blyskal has an idea for a venue that he will pursue.

Pop Up Rock Shows: Steve Blyskal announced that a new entity called Pop Up Rock Shows is having a FREE one-day show on Saturday, August 12, 2017, from 10:00 to 5:00 at the Holiday Inn near HGMS on Standliff and the 59 Highway feeder road. He offered HGMS a free table to publicize HGMS and our Annual Show.

Next Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Paul Brandes will be out of town because Nathalie is giving the Key Note speech at Keweenaw Week 2017 in Houghton, Michigan. She will be presenting her talk titled "Mining in the Ancient World" during the Meet and Greet opening night.

Next General Meeting: July 25, 2017. General Meeting Presentation: **Fred Brueckner** will share his experiences at the William Holland Lapidary School. Vice President Sigrid Stewart will not be in town for the meeting.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn. Jeanne Barna seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

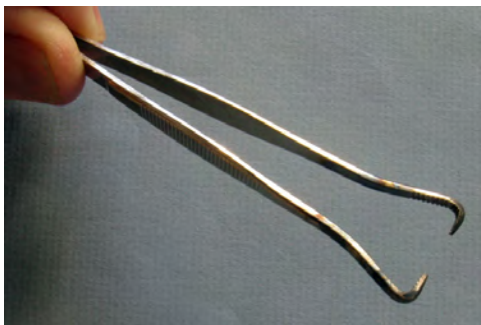
See all Brad's jewelry books at
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

www.BradSmithJewelry.com



FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings, it is often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way



to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point toward each other. To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between the two sharp points to see how it will hang.

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand-held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it is in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor-quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember, drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work—3-in-One®, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

AFMS President's Message
by Ron Carman, President
from AFMS Newsletter 06/2017

Debunking A Few Myths

As mentioned in the last newsletter, in May my wife and I visited the Midwest convention in Minnesota and the Northwest convention in Montana. Visiting the conventions and shows in the various federations remind me of some misconceptions regarding federation shows I heard years ago and, unfortunately, that some people still believe. Some of our federations have had trouble finding a society willing to host a federation show, and they may be scared off by some of these wrong ideas.

Some years ago, I heard the story that an AFMS show could only be held during the months of June, July, or August. Many shows are held during that time, but I have been to many regional and AFMS shows held during other months. There never has been any requirement for an AFMS show to be held only during certain months—and to the best of my knowledge, none of the regional federations have such a rule either.

Each federation is supposed to have an annual convention accompanied by a federation show, and the host club is the one that chooses the date and venue. The AFMS convention rotates among the seven regional federations. This year it will be in Ventura, California in June. Next year it will be in the Eastern federation, and the club that agrees to host it will choose the date and place. If we place too many restrictions on a show, it becomes more and more difficult to find a club willing to host it.

Shows are generally held annually—and they need to be held on weekends—and the fact is, there are only so many weekends in a year. Some of those are holiday weekends, and these are not practical for a show. Also, the winter months may not be usable—especially in northern states where snow and ice can make travel difficult. In the South, it may be easier to hold shows in the cooler months—look at Tucson in February. (This does not mean that I would have a show concurrent with the Tucson show!) And we must remember there are many more clubs than there are weekends in the year, so it is up to each club to determine when and where it can have its show. It is only fair to let the host club choose the date and place.

There are other myths about federation shows—you must always have a large venue, and you will need more dealers. Again, the host club decides on the venue and the number of dealers. You certainly don't want to have a great big exhibit hall that you can neither afford or fill, or have more dealers than the anticipated number of visitors will support.

Federation shows do involve a few more activities such as the convention and meal events. Usually a place for the meetings can be found in either the same building as the show proper or at a nearby host hotel. If the hotel can rent out a number of rooms to show attendees, it will often furnish a meeting place at little or no extra charge. Federation shows do involve at least two meal events—the Editors and Webmasters Breakfast and the evening Awards Banquet. AFMS conventions may have an Officers' Luncheon at the option of the host club. These events pay for



themselves by ticket sales; the attendees buy tickets to pay for their admission. The Show Committee can work with the host hotel or other organization catering these events. Over the past 35 years, I have seen federation shows in all kinds of places—from Houston's Astrohall to a high school auditorium, and in all kinds of fairgrounds buildings in various cities. In every instance, the committees worked with the venue management and host hotel to make the shows successful.

That's about enough of that rambling. By the time you read this, my wife and I will have travelled to the Midwest Federation show and then the Northwest Federation show, and have done some sightseeing and maybe collecting in between. We were pleased to visit Carlsbad Caverns last month and may try to go to Yellowstone Park this next month. The roads should be open by the time we go that way. We will try to get some pictures of bears and maybe Old Faithful. I will report more in Ventura. Hope to see you there!

Ron

SCFMS President's Message

Rock Talk
by Walter Beneze

I hope you are having a great summer.

The American Federation annual meeting was held in Ventura California on June 8 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The California Federation show, "Ventura Rocks the Nation," ran from June 9–11. At the meeting, someone suggested recognizing a day as "National Rockhound Day." An ad-hoc committee was formed to get that done in the near future. Sounds like a fun way of promoting our hobby.

Very few issues needed discussion, and the meeting went smoothly. A full report will be published in the next AFMS Newsletter that will be out in September.

The show was good with plenty of vendors, but the thing that blew me away was the number of competitive displays entered—about 70 of them—competing for attention with over a total of 150 displays. While the number of display cases was large, the quality of the displays left even more of an impression. If you want to see some pictures of the displays, go to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SCFMS4U) and scroll thru the posts. You do not need a Facebook account to see the posts, just access to a computer and the Internet.

On the return flight home, the TSA scanned my carry on and then called me aside to take a closer look. The agent says, "What the heck do you have in there, rocks?" I don't know about you, but how could I go to a show and not bring home some new material? Lucky for me, nothing I had was deemed dangerous, so I was allowed to board with my bag of rocks to take home and cut.

Make plans now to attend the SCFMS annual meeting and show in Houston in November. We will have plenty of business to attend to, and it should be a great show as well. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Walter Beneze, SCFMS President



Rockhound Soapbox—M-44: Who, What, When, and How

by John Martin

AFMS Conservation and Legislation

afmsclc@antelecom.net

Thanks to Keith Fackrell, 1st Vice President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and to Lauren Williams, Vice President of the American Lands Access Association for bringing this issue to my attention. While rockhounding on public lands, mostly in the Western States, and on private lands with the permission of the land owner, be aware that the M-44 is in use in areas where coyote, feral dogs, and other predator wildlife are a threat to grazing livestock and to domestic farm and ranch animals. If an M-44 device is found, "Let It Be!" Do not touch—consider it a "Live Bomb"—because it is, and it can kill people and domestic dogs!



The M-44 consists of a capsule holder, a cyanide capsule, a spring-activated ejector, and a stake. Bilingual signs warn about the device.

The M-44 cyanide device (also called a "cyanide gun" or a "cyanide trap") is used for the elimination of coyotes, feral dogs, and foxes. It is made from four parts: a capsule holder wrapped with cloth or other soft material, a small, plastic capsule containing 0.88 grams of sodium cyanide, a spring-powered ejector, and a 5–7 inch stake.

When the trap is triggered, the spring propels a dose of sodium cyanide into the animal's mouth, and the sodium cyanide combines with water in the mouth to produce poisonous cyanide

Safety tips for people to follow are talked about, discussed, and even published. Some people are trained to take care of most dangers that are encountered while hiking, camping, and yes, even rock hunting. One danger that I have never seen on a list of safety tips out there is the M-44. In some areas where Rockhounds go, there may be an M-44 "cyanide bomb," which is EXTREMELY LETHAL!



When the trap is set, only the capsule holder and capsule protrude above ground level.

gas. In addition to the cyanide, the capsule contains Day-Glo fluorescent particle marker (orange in capsules used by the Wildlife Service, and yellow in capsules prepared for other users). The M-44 device uses a cyanide capsule that is registered as a restricted-use pesticide by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and it can be used only by those who are trained and certified.

Wildlife Service Officers are authorized to use M-44 cyanide capsules to control coyotes, wild (feral) dogs, and red, gray, and arctic foxes that are suspected of preying upon livestock, poultry, or federally designated threatened and endangered species; or are vectors of communicable disease. The program's use of M-44 devices strictly conforms to EPA label instructions, directions, and use-restrictions; to applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and to agency and program directives and policies. Wildlife Service personnel do not use M-44s on any property unless it is requested by the land's owner or manager. A valid written cooperative agreement, agreement for control, Memoranda of Agreement, or other applicable document must be in place. USDA Fact Sheet—2010:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/fs-m44-device.pdf

Bottom Line: When Rockhounding, be aware of your surroundings, and if one of these M-44 devices is found, keep away. If you have your pets with you, be sure to keep a close eye on them. Pet dogs have been known to find and set off these devices, and in most cases it is fatal for your family pet. I have sent inquires to four state legislators and three federal legislators asking the status of the M-44 usage. I have not received any response as of this being published.



THE 2017 VENTURA COUNTY FAIR

*by Laura Driskell
from Rockhound Rambling 07/2017*

The Joy of Ribbons, or Winning Prizes at the County Fair

The first year that I entered anything in the Ventura County Fair, I got lucky. Really lucky. There were only two entries in the category, and one of them was Dick Weber... I can hear some of you chuckling. As it was, I happened to be entering a collection of items that I called "Favorite Stones around the World." I learned from the judge's comments that year that I should have been a bit more specific about the fact that these were MY favorite stones, not necessarily the favorites of EVERYONE. Dick Weber's collection was of large specimens of Rainforest Jasper, and it was fantastic, so I did not mind getting a second place ribbon.

Over the past two summers, I entered single items in the Fair in the Jewelry divisions. For one thing, I got lazy about putting a case together, and for another thing, I volunteered as a clerk at the Fair, so I wanted to gather some intelligence prior to entering anything else. Even so, I was lucky—again—to enter things that had very little competition. Last year, a 2nd and a 3rd place. This year, two 1st places. Things are looking up!

Even when you know how many entries there are, judging is subjective according to the individual taste and mood of the judge, so it's always an exciting moment when you see the ribbons awarded and find out you got one!

Here are a few things I've learned over the past couple of years:

1. Judges are human. Don't expect them to read your mind or your intentions. Be specific and clear when you label your entry.
2. The judge who is looking at your item probably wants to be as kind and generous as possible in judging your item or case. These aren't CFMS or AFMS judges, these are just nice folks who volunteered to come and pick their favorites from a bunch of cute stuff.
3. Make sure you put some of your best work in. This last summer, I had heard that there was a shortage of single entries, so I grabbed a couple of older things from my collection. I cleaned up the entries, polished up the silver, rubbed the copper to a nice glow, and even bleached the stand so it would be presentable.
4. Unfortunately, what you think looks pretty great, is only So-So in somebody else's eyes. It's all in the eyes of the beholder, so relax—take a deep breath, and don't allow some constructive criticism to get to you. So the judge thinks your stand is dirty. (You know you bleached it. For heaven's sake, the thing is ten years old, and it's been in the craft room with stuff on it for who knows how long!) You allow for the opinion, and you vow that next time, you will look at the details a little harder. No big deal.
5. Every year I say I'm going to start sooner on my display or entry. I think that's my perfectionist speaking. My procrastinator side thinks I can wing it and slap something together at the last minute. One day, I'm going to get those two together, have a cup of cocoa, and review the results of the past three years. Then, we'll have a stern conversation about dawdling...

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Safety and Health for Field Operations
Handbook 445-3-H, February 2014
(Excerpted by Jim Marburger)
from Pick & Shovel 05/2017

Rattlesnakes are the largest of the venomous snakes in the United States. They can accurately strike at up to one-third their body length. Rattlesnakes use their rattles or tails as a warning when they feel threatened. Rattlesnakes may be found sunning themselves near logs, boulders, or open areas. These snakes may be found in most work habitats including the mountains, prairies, deserts, and beaches.

Signs or symptoms associated with a snake bite may vary depending on the type of snake, but may include:

- A pair of puncture marks at the wound.
- Redness and swelling around the bite.
- Severe pain at the site of the bite.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Labored breathing (in extreme cases, breathing may stop altogether).
- Disturbed vision.
- Increased salivation and sweating.
- Numbness or tingling around your face and/or limbs.

Prevention.

- Do not try to handle any snake.
- Stay away from tall grass and piles of leaves when possible.
- Avoid climbing on rocks or piles of wood where a snake may be hiding.
- Be aware that snakes tend to be active at night and in warm weather.
- Wear boots and long pants when working outdoors.
- Wear leather gloves when handling brush and debris.

First Aid.

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services.
- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom. Apply first aid if you cannot get to the hospital right away.
- Lay down or sit with the bite below the level of the heart.
- Wash the bite with soap and water. Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

DO NOT

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten; immediately seek medical attention.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.

- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller.
- Do not drink caffeinated beverages.

Bugs.

Bees, wasps, and hornets are found throughout the United States and are most abundant in the warmer months. Nests and hives may be found in trees, under roof eaves, or on equipment such as ladders.

Stinging or biting insects, spiders, ticks, and other arthropods can be hazardous to you. Health effects range from mild discomfort or pain to a lethal reaction for those allergic to the venom. Anaphylactic shock is the body's severe allergic reaction to a bite or sting and requires immediate emergency care.

Prevention. Take the following steps to prevent insect stings:

- Wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothing.
- Avoid perfumed soaps, shampoos, and deodorants. Don't wear cologne or perfume.
- Avoid bananas and banana-scented toiletries.
- Wear clean clothing and bathe daily. (Sweat may anger bees.)
- Wear clothing to cover as much of the body as possible.
- Avoid flowering plants when possible.
- If you are attacked by several stinging insects at once, run to get away from them. A shaded area is better than an open area to get away from the insects.
- If a bee gets inside your vehicle, stop the car slowly and open all the windows.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should consider carrying an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen) and should wear a medical identification bracelet or necklace stating their allergy.

First aid.

- If a person is stung by a bee, wasp, or hornet, have someone stay with them to be sure that he or she does not have an allergic reaction.
- Wash the site with soap and water.
- Remove the stinger using gauze wiped over the area or by scraping a fingernail over the area. Never squeeze the stinger or use tweezers.
- Apply ice to reduce swelling.
- Scorpions usually hide during the day and are active at night. They may be hiding under rocks, wood, or anything else lying on the ground. Some species may also burrow into the ground. Most scorpions live in dry, desert areas. However, some species can be found in grasslands, forests, and inside caves. **Symptoms of a scorpion sting usually subside within 48 hours and may include:**
 - A stinging or burning sensation at the injection site (very little swelling or inflammation).
 - Positive "tap test" (i.e., extreme pain when the sting site is tapped with a finger).
 - Restlessness.
 - Convulsions.

- Roving eyes.
- Staggering gait.
- Thick tongue sensation, slurred speech, drooling.
- Muscle twitches.
- Abdominal pain and cramps.
- Respiratory depression.

Prevention.

- Wear long sleeves and pants.
- Wear leather gloves.
- Shake out clothing or shoes before putting them on.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should consider carrying an epinephrine auto injector (EpiPen) and should wear a medical identification bracelet.

First aid.

- Contact a qualified health care provider or poison control center for advice and medical instructions.
- Ice may be applied directly to the sting site (never submerge the affected limb in ice water).
- Remain relaxed and calm.
- Do not take any sedatives.
- Capture or take a picture of the scorpion for identification if it is possible to do so safely.

Venomous Spiders found in the United States include the black widow, brown recluse, and hobo spiders.

- Spiders are usually not aggressive. Most bites occur because a spider is trapped or unintentionally contacted.
- **Black widow spiders** are found throughout North America. They are identified by the pattern of red coloration on the underside of their abdomen. They are usually found in workplaces containing undisturbed areas such as woodpiles, under eaves, fences, and other areas where debris has accumulated.
- **Black widow spiders** build webs between objects, and bites usually occur when humans come into direct contact with these webs. A bite from a black widow can be distinguished from other insect bites by the two puncture marks it makes in the skin. The venom is a neurotoxin that produces pain at the bite area and then spreads to the chest, abdomen, or the entire body.
- **Brown recluse spiders**, known as the violin spider, is brown in color with a characteristic dark violin-shaped (or fiddle-shaped) marking on its head and has six equal-sized eyes (most spiders have eight eyes). Brown recluse spiders are usually found in workplaces with secluded, dry, sheltered areas such as underneath structures, logs, or in piles of rocks or leaves. The brown recluse spider cannot bite humans without some form of counter pressure; for example, through unintentional contact that traps the spider against the skin. Bites may cause a stinging sensation with localized pain. A small white blister usually develops at the site of the bite. The venom of a brown recluse can cause a severe lesion by destroying skin tissue (skin necrosis). This skin lesion will require professional medical attention.

Ticks.

- Tick-borne pathogens can be passed to humans by the bite of infected ticks. Ticks can be infected with bacteria, viruses, or parasites.
- Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States. Areas with woods, bushes, high grass, or leaf litter are likely to have more ticks. Ticks are usually more active in the months of April through October and peak in the summer months of June through August.

Symptoms. Some common symptoms of infection with tick-borne diseases include body/muscle aches, fever, headaches, fatigue, joint pain, rash, stiff neck, and facial paralysis.

Prevention.

- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing, including long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into boots or socks.
- Use insect repellents that provide protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors.
- Check your skin and clothes for ticks every day. Shower or bathe as soon as possible after working outdoors to wash off and check for ticks. Remember to check your hair, underarms, and groin for ticks. Immediately remove ticks from your body using fine-tipped tweezers. Clean the area with soap and water.
- Wash clothes and dry in a hot dryer to kill any ticks present.

ODE TO A ROCKHOUND

by Donna Shultz

Stone Chipper

5th place AFMS 2002 Adult Poetry

My lover is a rockhound,
And, strange as it may seem,
He's not out there alone,
But there's a whole darn team.

They're roaming in the morning
When the camp is still asleep;
When you step out of the camper
There's at least a 2-foot heap.

The scenery is quite lovely
The sky is real true blue,
But it's awfully hard to notice
When your eyeball's near your shoe.

"This one's for the tumbler,
This one's for the saw."
He's picking and a'lickin' 'til
His tongue and hands are raw.

They're in a hole or cavern,
If the pinning's good and tight,
And they're working an' a'slaving
From crack of dawn till dead of night.

If at home you'd dare to tempt them
To such effort, to no avail...
They'd say, "You must be crazy.
They do such things in jail."

But I'm not one to mutter and complain,
Because you see
If you look just down the hill a bit,
The one in red is me.

OPALS BAD LUCK? ONLY IF YOU DON'T OWN ONE!*by Doug Augustine-FCRMC member**from 05/2012 Franklin County Rockhounder, via The Franklin County Rockhounder 07-08/2017*

No other gemstone has attracted as much superstition as the opal. It seems that diamond merchants of the mid 19th and early 20th centuries saw the amazing attributes of opal and realized that it was going to be a serious threat to their livelihood. Opal, with its stunning play of color, was increasing in popularity and represented a threat to the lucrative diamond trade now that it was being mined commercially in Africa. Supposedly, diamond traders spread the belief that opals are bad luck to protect their market by giving opals a bad reputation. They had a misinterpreted popular book to bolster their efforts.

There can be little doubt that much of the modern superstition regarding the unlucky quality of opal owes its origin to a careless reading of Sir Walter Scott's 1829 novel, *Anne of Geierstein*. In the novel, the Baroness of Arnheim wears an opal talisman with supernatural powers. When a drop of holy water falls on the talisman, the opal turns into a colorless stone and the Baroness dies soon thereafter. Ironically, the tale actually contains nothing to indicate that Scott intended to characterize the opal as unlucky. This very popular book dramatically reduced the value of opals and caused the collapse of Europe's opal market for the next fifty years. Amazingly, this myth started by book critics so long ago persists today.

Queen Victoria's love of opal is well documented. Ignoring superstition, she and her daughters made opals fashionable. The queen often wore black opals and helped the gem regain its popularity following the release of Sir Walter Scott's book, giving opals as gifts to her female children and friends and often as wedding gifts.

There seem to be as many variations of the myth as there are people who believe in the superstition. Many believe that owning an opal is as bad as carrying a black cat under a ladder, certain death. Some say that buying an opal for yourself is only bad luck if it is not your birthstone (October is the modern opal month). Some believe that an opal is only unlucky if given by a lover or husband. Others believe that receiving an opal as a gift will cancel out any bad luck and replace it with good luck. Some say that white opals are bad luck (unless you're an October baby) but black opals are good luck. ???

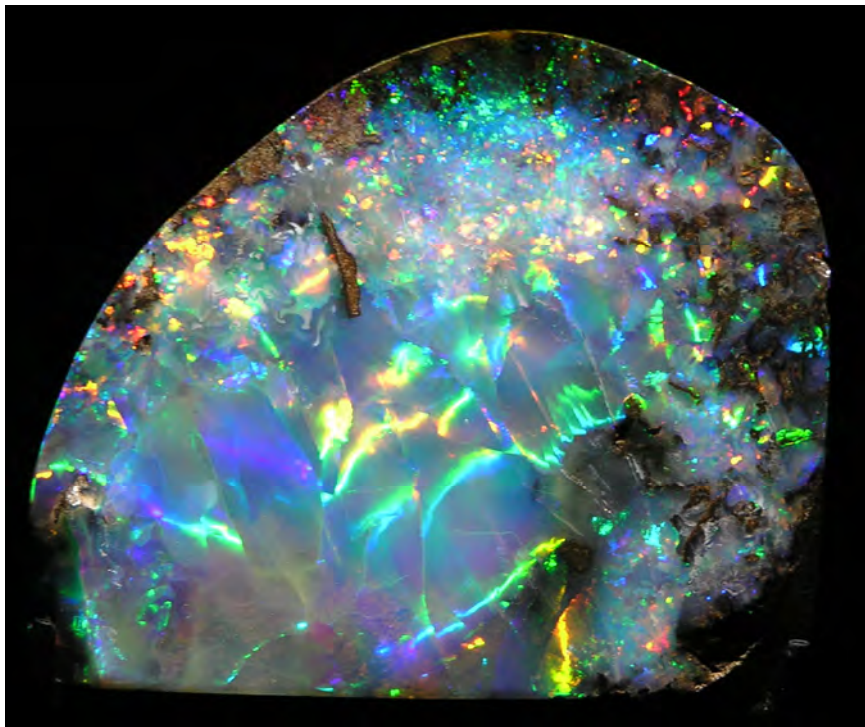
The Ancient Greeks believed opals fell from heaven during flashes of lightning and provided individuals with the ability to see into the future. Mythology tells how Zeus, king of the gods, wept with happiness after defeating the Titans. When his tears hit the ground, they turned into opals. The Romans thought that wearing opals made one more lucid in thought and spontaneous in action. The Caesars gave their wives opals for good luck. They ranked opal second only to emeralds. The gem was carried as a talisman, as it was believed that the gem, like the rainbow, brought its owner good fortune and would protect from disease. It was also referred to as "Cupid stone" because of the perfection of its beauty. The opal is the symbol of hope, purity, and fidelity. Another legend claims that Cleopatra wore opals to seduce Mark Anthony (it seems to have worked). Opals were mounted in the crown of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Crown Jewels of France.

The Arabs also believed that they fell from the sky in flashes of lightning that imparted their color, and the Orientals referred to them as "the anchor of hope," the stone of hope. Chinese put opal under their pillows to protect them when they enter the dream world during sleep. Opal is one of

the stones associated with the year of the dragon. 2024 is the next year of the dragon. Opals are popular in Japan where they are often used for engagement rings with no bad luck associated.

In the 7th century, it was believed that opals possessed magical properties, and centuries later Shakespeare was attributed with the description of opal as "that miracle and queen of gems." In the Middle Ages, opal was considered a stone that could provide great luck because it was believed to possess all the virtues of each gemstone whose color was represented in the color spectrum of the opal. It was also said to confer the power of invisibility if wrapped in a fresh bay leaf and held in the hand. The Bishop of Rennes in Normandy wrote that opal conferred invisibility on the wearer, who could then steal by daylight. That was not a ringing endorsement of opal-wearers especially coming from a medieval bishop. Before he designated opal as the Talisman of Thieves, only good things had been written about opal. During the Plague. People noticed that the stone's "fire" was brightest just before death. People saw it as an omen, that the stone was the cause rather than the symptom. Opal is very sensitive to heat, the high fever in the victim's final days caused the luster of the stone to glow stronger. As everyone in medieval Europe knew, cat's eyes glowing in the dark are a sure sign of evil. The similar glow of opal associates them with the evil eye, a belief brought to the new world by the Puritans.

Nothing is as persistent as a superstition. look at black cats, broken mirrors, spilled salt, or Friday's that fall on the 13th. The funny thing is that more cultures believe opals are lucky than believe that they're unlucky.



Opal in Jewelry Display at Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Photograph by Phyllis George, taken 12/17/2006

GEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

*reports spotted by Jim Brace-Thompson in recent newspapers
from Rockhound Rambling 07/2017*

Burmese Amber Provides Still More Windows into the Past

Amber windows continue to surprise. Earlier this year, we saw news reports of a snippet of dinosaur tail with feathers caught in Burmese amber. The latest is a baby bird! As reported in the journal "Science," an ancient bird has been found in Burmese amber in the form of a tiny hatchling some 99 million years old from the Cretaceous Period. Remains of the little critter included a skull and neck, part of a wing, a hind limb, and soft tissue surrounding the tail.



**Photograph by Ming Bai
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

Treasure Troves of Dino Footprints Turning up in China

35-year-old paleontologist Xing Lida (the same guy who reported a fossil bird in amber) is leading a dinosaur renaissance in China focused on dinosaur footprints and trackways. To date, he's mapped more than 100 sites in nearly every province. Per Canadian fossil footprint expert Richard McCrea, Xing "is essentially building the comprehensive framework for fossil track studies for China, where before there were only a few sporadic reports." And he's doing it fast, publishing papers at a rate of once a month or more. Why the hurry? In a country undergoing rapid industrialization, Xing often finds himself moving one step ahead of the bulldozers. When one developer learned of a trackway Xing intended to map and to study, work crews were sent in to break up the entire field to avoid delays in the building schedule. Recent books have come out about Chinese dinosaurs, Chinese fossil birds, and other Chinese fossil and mineral wonders. Watch for a book on Chinese fossil footprints to join the list!

Ready for a Moment of Darkness on August 21?

A total solar eclipse will sweep across the entire continental United States on Monday, August 21. The total eclipse will take place in a 70-mile-wide band from the Pacific coast of Oregon to the Atlantic Coast of South Carolina. The last total eclipse to be seen from the U.S. mainland was in 1979, and the last to sweep coast-to-coast was in 1918, so this is a rare event, indeed! Because it will only be seen in the U.S., it's being called "The Great American Eclipse." Unfortunately here in Ventura, we won't see the Full Monty. Instead about 62% of the face of the sun will be blocked—all but a crescent to the right at full totality around



10:20 AM. Note that severe eye damage (even blindness) can occur if staring directly into the sun. It's advised that you use welder's glass (shade #14), or observe the eclipse indirectly by poking a small hole in an index card with a pencil tip and holding it over white cardboard to project an image of the eclipse. The smaller the hole, the sharper the image. To learn more about eclipses in the month remaining before the big event, check out the recently published book "In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses" by Anthony Avneni.

**GEOLOGISTS:
DESPITE THEIR FAULTS,
THEY ARE GNEISS, TUFF, AND
A LITTLE BIT WACKE.**

CITRINE
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Show Time 2017–2018

- Aug. 12-13 Gonzales, LA Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society
Lamar Dixon Expo Center Trademart Building
9039 S St. Landry Ave
larockclub@gmail.com; larockclub.com
- Aug. 19-20 Bossier City, LA ArkLaTex Gem & Mineral Society
Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd.
larockclub@gmail.com; larockclub.com
- Aug 26-27 Jasper, TX Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society
The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West
jonetta.nash@yahoo.com; www.pinecountry-gms.org
- Oct. 13-15 Westwego, LA Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana
Alario Center; 2000 Segnette Blvd
gemshow2017@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/GemAndMineralSocietyOfLouisiana/>
- Oct. 13-15 Mount Ida, AR Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
30th Annual Quartz, Quiltz, and Craftz Festival
Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Fairgrounds Rd.
director@mtidachamber.com
www.mtidachamber.com
- Oct. 20-22 Knoxville, TN Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society hosting **SFMS Federation**
Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave
- Oct. 20-22 Austin, TX Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.
- Oct. 21-22 Bristol, CT Bristol Gem & Mineral Club hosting **EFMLS Federation Show**
Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave.
bristolgem@hotmail.com; www.bristolgem.org
- Nov. 4-5 Odessa, TX Midland Gem & Mineral Society
Ector Co. Coliseum
- Nov. 4-5 Round Rock, TX Paleontological Society of Austin
Old Settlers Heritage Association, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd.
- Nov. 10-12 Humble, TX Houston Gem & Mineral Society hosting **SCFMS Federation Show**
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
- Nov. 18-19 Mesquite, TX Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
1800 Rodeo Dr.
case53d@yahoo.com; <http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/>

Show Time 2018

- Feb. 24-25 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Pasadena Convention Center

2017		August			2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	2 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section	3 7:30 Archeology Section	4	5 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
6 10-4 Shop Open	7	8 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Show Committee	9 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	10	11	12 10-4 Shop Open
13 10-4 Shop Open	14	15 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	16 10-3 Shop Open	17	18	19 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
20 10-4 Shop Open	21 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop Open	24	25	26 10-4 Shop Open
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29 11-3 Shop Open	30 10-3 Shop Open	31		

2017		September			2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
3 10-4 Shop Open	4 Labor Day	5 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	6 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-4 Shop Open
10 10-4 Shop Open	11	12 11-3 Shop Open	13 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	21 Rosh Hashanah	22 1st Day of Autumn	23 10-4 Shop Open
24 10-4 Shop Open	25	26 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29 Yom Kippur	30 10-4 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)
2014 - 2nd (Large)



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