



The **BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLVIII—No. 06

June 2017



President's Message *by Paul Brandes*

This month's President's Message will be a short one, as I am getting ready to complete more fieldwork soon in New Mexico. I do want to mention that the Office cleanup has begun. While it likely doesn't look as though anything was done, great strides were made to at least straighten the place out. The Library is also coming along, albeit slower than I had anticipated. Nathalie is still looking for volunteers to assist her in cataloging the books, so if interested, please contact her.



I have also heard the question of when the next field trip will be. With the summer heat already in place, it is unlikely that any new trips will be occurring over the next few months. However, if you have an idea of a great field trip, please contact Mike Dawkins and let him know. Also if you have been to the Clubhouse recently, you may have seen what has become the "Saw Yard" in the garage area as Neal calls it. We have received quite a number of donations lately with most of it being shop equipment. While most have been repaired and sold, some have been used as replacements in our Shop as older equipment has been retired. Many thanks to Neal and friends for taking the time to repair and refurbish these machines for use in our Shop.

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Upcoming Program *by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President*

June 27, 2017: Nicole Ayoub, a new member who has been attending the Mineral Section meetings, will present a talk entitled "Facebook 101 for Rockhounds." This should be very interesting for older members, but even younger ones could pick up a trick or two! Info shared will include how to buy/sell rocks on Facebook, how to open an account, and much more.

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Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source.

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

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

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Copy is due for the July 2017 issue by Thursday, June 15, 2017.

E-mail the Editor or Webmaster at pgeorge4@comcast.net

Purpose of HGMS

The objectives of this Society are to promote the advancement of the knowledge and practice of the arts and sciences associated with the collecting of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, and their identification and classification; the general lapidary art; the collecting and identification of gemstones; the designing and execution of jewelry or metalcraft; and to provide the opportunity to obtain, exchange, and exhibit specimens and rough or finished materials.

Membership dues are \$40 for an adult membership, \$60 for a couple, \$75 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), \$25 for a youth membership (ages 5-18), and \$500 for an adult life membership. Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months, ¼ page; \$150 for 6 months, ¼ page.

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse which is located at 10805 Brooklet near the intersection of Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) and Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8). See the calendar inside the back page for when the different Sections meet. The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. The HGMS Web site address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

Thanks also to the great group of volunteers who "manned" the booth at the Fine Mineral Show held in The Woodlands a few weeks ago. I have heard from a number of non-members who attended the Show and stated they were warmly welcomed by HGMS staff when they entered. This same enthusiasm will be required for our Annual Show coming up in November since the SCFMS Annual Meeting will also be held in conjunction with our Show. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Scott Singleton (Show Chairman) or Nancy English (Volunteer Coordinator) and throw your name in the hat to help out.

That's all for right now. See you next month!

A WOMAN'S POEM

from The Roadrunner 04/2017

He didn't like the casserole,
And he didn't like my cake.
He said my biscuits were too hard...
Not like his mother used to make.

I didn't perk the coffee right,
He didn't like the stew,
I didn't mend his socks
The way his mother used to do

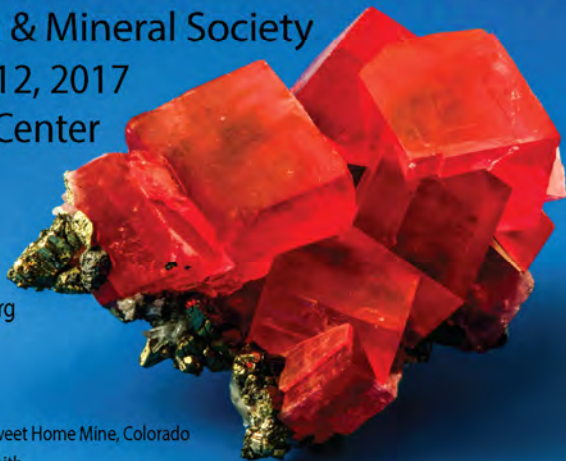
I pondered for an answer.
I was looking for a clue.
Then I turned around and smacked him,
Like his MOMMA USED TO DO.

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

All photos by N. Engelhardt-Moore

May 4, 2017: The meeting was called to order by Bob Moore, the Section Chair at 7:40 p.m. A good group attended. Bob announced that the next program would be a field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) on Sunday, June 4 instead of the regular meeting on Thursday, June 1 (see details below). In July, he said that there would be no meeting due to the holiday. Bob asked if there was any new business and no one responded. He then introduced the evening's speaker, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore (Secretary – Archaeology Section).

Nancy gave a fascinating talk on *"Amazing Ancient Burials: Neolithic and Qin Dynasty, Xi'an, China."* She and her husband Bob Moore traveled to Xi'an, China in 2012, which turned out to be an amazing place. Nancy first talked about the Neolithic Yangshao Culture at Banpo, located just east of Xi'an along the Yellow River. Banpo Village (4700–3750 BCE) was discovered in 1953 by workers digging to build a factory. Since then, almost 100 building foundations, over 10,000 artifacts, 200 storage pits, 6 kilns, and 250 tombs have been discovered. Nancy spoke about the diverse buildings and burials that included worship sites. In this matriarchal society, most graves



Banpo burial showing skeletons & artifacts for afterlife.

show that individuals and groups were separated by gender and buried with grave goods for the afterlife. Secondary burials may have been outcasts, criminals, or enemies since their occupants were buried without respect. Children were buried differently in covered pottery jars. Surprisingly, the Banpo inhabitants were mixed Asian and Caucasian based on architectural and skeletal evidence.

Nancy next talked about Yin Xu, the capital of the Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BCE). She showed photos of the tombs and artifacts including military leader / high priestess Lady Fu Hao's royal tomb that contained her 20 lb. battle-ax! Then, Nancy spoke about the Forest Cemetery of

Confucius located in Qufu. This cemetery was started over 2000 years ago during the Zhou Dynasty, and it is still in use today!

She finished her overview of Chinese burials through time by touching on Emperor Qin Shihuangdi's Mausoleum that was discovered in 1974. This famous Xi'an site contains the large burial pits that hold the Terracotta Warriors, chariots, horses, etc. from the Qin Dynasty (221–206 BCE). Over 50,000 artifacts and 8,000 warriors have been discovered!



Close-up Terracotta Warriors from Pit #1, Xi'an

General Meeting

April 25, 2017

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:30. He thanked everyone for coming to the April 25, 2017 General Meeting.

Twenty-three members attended. Sharon Halton became a member again after being in North Carolina for three years. Rick Marohn also renewed his membership after a few years. His guest Mirtha Marohn accompanied him.

President's Announcements:

A Rock Sale is happening in the back of the room. Karen Burns is selling some of the up-scale slab and cabochon donations before the meeting and at intermission.

On behalf of **The Shop Users**, Thank You to the Lapidary Section for the new aprons. Richard Good presented them to the club. They are labeled HGMS in hopes that the new aprons will not walk off.

The Trade Show April 22, 2017: Another Successful show! See Old Business for more

information.

Library Committee Chairman: Nathalie Brandes spoke. She has been sorting and weeding out items such as old travel guides. She is now ready for volunteers to help reshelve the books. Call her at 281-543-5494 (evenings) or email her at DrNat13@yahoo.ca (remember, “.ca” at the end, not “.com.”)

Thanks to Neal Immega for a clean garage door.

Volunteers: **Nancy English** is looking for volunteers at the Fine Mineral Show this weekend. She needs more people for each of the two half-day shifts. Please contact her at nancyjodi@aol.com or call 832 722-5441.

Nancy English reported that the vacuum cleaner has broken. HGMS would like a donation of a different one, new or used. *Secretary's Note: Larry Glover offered a vacuum cleaner that he delivered the next day, Wednesday, April 26.* Thank you, Larry!

Annual Dues are now past due! Canceled shop privileges for those who have not paid. No BBG, and no E-blast either. Many folks still have not renewed.

Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Paul 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 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.

Karen Burns announced that Neal Immega will be teaching **Day Light Section** members to do broom straw and rock salt casting. Bring your own silver, or buy some of Neal's.

Steve Blyskal announced that the **Mineral Section will be** planning the Auction that will be held as the program for the May 23 General Meeting.

Old Business

1. **Web site progress (Scott Singleton):** The New Web Site Committee is moving the existing Web site to a new host beginning Monday, May 1, 2017 and will be completed by the end of that week on May 6. Once site is on the new host, there may be one or two days before it becomes visible to users again, so please be patient.
2. **The Trade Show April 22, 2017.** Another Successful show! The attendance was lower (598 in April 1078 in January), but enthusiasm was high. Nancy English had some of the garage shelving to make a more attractive backdrop for the garage dealer. The six volunteers did a spectacular job managing the crowds and helping with the cleanup at show's end. The Lapidary Shop had greatly increased traffic compared to the last trade show because Neal offered basic grinding and polishing training to people who bought rough that day. Karen Burns sold some of the Club's donated slabs and cabochons. Like other dealers, those sales were down. Beverly Mace sold new memberships for one couple, four singles, and one

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

youth. Renewed memberships came from three couples and three singles.

New Business

1. **Neal Immega** has Lapidary equipment to sell. He said he would bring the items in this week when the shop is open. He has grinders, saws, vacuum pumps, and more.
2. **The National Faceters Guild** assembled for their annual seminar in the **HGMS hall on April 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.**
3. The next **Board of Directors** meeting is Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.
4. **Next General Meeting: May 23, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** The program is an Art Smith Memorial Auction to generate funds from HGMS to enable the *Rocks & Minerals* magazine to print the "Connoisseur's Choice" articles with color photos. **Donations are needed!!** Items such as cutting rough, slabs, cabochons, jewelry, minerals, fossils, beaded items, archeological items, and any other Earth Science-related items. Members of the Mineral Section will assist with the collection and numbering of items. Steve Blyskal (with help) will do the auctioneering.

Show 'n Tell: Clyde McMeans brought fluorescent rocks—carbonatite calcite—and the light to view them. He also showed framed fluorescent diamonds.

Drawing: Steve Blyskal won the crystal.

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 8:00 p.m.

Refreshments: Neal Immega provided the refreshments.

Sigrid Stewart introduced the evening's speaker. Presentation by Dr. Nathalie Brandes: "THERE ONCE WAS A GOAT NAMED KÅRE: OVER A MILLENIUM OF MINING AT FALU GRUVE, SWEDEN." Nathalie presented this program November 2016 at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium. She received high praise for this talk at the Symposium. She also wrote an article on the topic that was published in the February 2017 BBG. The talk was interesting, informative, and entertaining.

Board of Director's Meeting May 2, 2017

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

by Nancy English

President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was not present. Non-voting member also in attendance was Chase Jennings—Publicity Chair, Trade Show Chairman, and Temporary Education Chairman.

President's Comments:

Thank you, Clyde (and the rest of the volunteers) for all your hard work to ensure HGMS was well

represented at the Fine Mineral Show. If you see them, thank them—especially Clyde McMeans. Clyde set it all up, was there all weekend, and made trips to Office Depot to print more tri-folds and sign in sheets. In addition, he took down the advertising and entire display and returned it to the club.

Office Clean up: Starting this Saturday, May 6, I will be evaluating what needs to stay and what needs to go.

Librarian Nathalie Brandes will be here on Saturday May 6, reshelving. All help will be appreciated.

Approval of Previous Month's Board Minutes: Since we did not have a quorum, the minutes of the April 4, 2017 BOD meeting will need to be approved at the next BOD meeting on June 6, 2017.

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

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: May 4, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Amazing Ancient Burials: Neolithic & Qin Dynasty, Xi'an, China: Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, Archaeology Section Secretary, will talk about the Yangshao Culture at Banpo, a 6000-year-old Neolithic settlement just east of Xi'an that she and her husband, Bob Moore, visited in 2012. This archaeological site reveals a matriarchal society and evidence of mixed inhabitants through burials and architecture. Her observation of the gravesites made the news! Nancy will also show spectacular photos from the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. In Xi'an, she and Bob visited the three burial pits containing the Terracotta Army and other items including chariots, horses, and non-military figures. Come learn about the amazing wonders of Xi'an! Refreshments will be served to celebrate the Mexican Cinco de Mayo (May 5) Holiday.

No meeting June 1. Instead, on **Sunday June 4 Field Trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) "Gladiators: Heroes of the Colosseum."** Instead of the regular meeting on June 1, Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology, will give a personal tour of the exhibit on Sunday, June 4 at 2 p.m. He will explain how gladiator combat evolved into one of the defining symbols of ancient Roman culture. Dirk will talk about the history of the gladiators and the Colosseum by exploring the behind-the-scenes lives of the gladiators, including their world of specialized training, discipline, regulation, and combat. Learn how they hoped to gain fame, redemption, wealth, and freedom. See original armor and other related archaeological artifacts. If you would like to be part of this special event, please contact Nancy Engelhardt-Moore at nengelhardt_moore@yahoo.com. There will be a group discount available.

Beading Section: Saturday May 20, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. Members will make an Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly. See the HGMS Web Site for supplies and instructions.

June 17, 2017 at 1:30 members will make a Mimosa Necklace. See the HGMS Web Site for supplies and instructions.

Day Light Section: Wednesday May 3, 2017, 1:00 –3:00 p.m. Demonstrating broom straw and rock salt casting: If you have been collecting bits of sterling or copper, bring them and turn them into something to incorporate into a pendant, bracelet, or ring.

Education Committee: Chase Jennings reported that some people expressed interest in teaching classes.

Gemstones & Faceting Section: The next meeting will be Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Program to be announced. They are looking for a new Board Representative.

Lapidary and Silversmithing: May 15, 2017 Discuss best setting for stones that members bring to meeting; Hands-on cutting cabochons in shop for newcomers and experienced members. The shop users thank the Lapidary Section for the additional new aprons.

Mineral Section: Wednesday May 3, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Discuss the upcoming auction for the club donation to Rocks and Minerals (in memory of Art Smith) that will happen on the night of the General Meeting, May 23. We will also review the Fine Mineral Show at The Woodlands, which was held April 28–30, 2017. Members are urged to bring the specimens they acquired and be prepared to discuss what they thought about the venue, dealers, prices, and the overall feeling of this show.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 7:00 p.m. To be announced

Paleo Section: Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. "Cleaning Trilobites" In particular, bring the ones found at the last field trip to Black Cat Mountain in Clarita, Oklahoma.

Lake Sam Rayburn, the proposed field trip for May, is a no-go.

Publicity Committee: Chase Jennings reported that although he did a decent amount of publicity for the most recent Trade Show, due to a heavy work schedule, it was not as vigorous as previous endeavors. He spoke to other dealers and members that are tech-savvy and asked for future help with the advertising.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers reported that the applications have been sent to all colleges and universities on the list as of April 20, and we've received several "thank you" replies from them, and one application has already been received. The next step is to develop standardized criteria for ranking all applicants and producing an objective system for choosing the winning candidate. He already has one created and will discuss it with other committee members. Then the committee would like at least one and preferably three more (Board members or responsible others) to commit to judging the applicants with us. Chase Jennings will post the information on Facebook this week.

Shop Report—Neal Immega: Neal has machinery to sell. See him on days the Club is open. Paul Robles is back in Houston. As a new Shop Foreman, he is opening the Shop on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 3:00.

Show Committee—Scott Singleton reported that Scout Fair at Minute Maid Park is this weekend. Once again, Clyde McMeans will be hauling the HGMS advertising and displays for the volunteers to present to the public. There will be plenty of petrified rock to give away.

Trade Show Committee: See Old Business

Youth Section: The next meetings are on May 6 and May 20.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the June 2017 BBG is May 15, 2017.

Old Business

The National Faceter's Guild assembled for their annual seminar in the HGMS hall on April 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. The HGMS Gemstone and Faceting Section hosted the group. The meeting was well received. The Guild will provide a display at the HGMS Annual Gem and Mineral Show in November.

Trade Show April 22, 2017: Chase Jennings will be sending out the Dealer Surveys tonight. After receiving the feedback from those, he will propose the date of the next Trade Show. The Volunteers have already sent their suggestions for the next show. The number of people entering the main hall was lower than in January. January recorded 1078 attendees entering the main hall, as opposed to 598 in April. Again, Chase attributes this to low publicity. Other speculation for low attendance included a saturated market, conflicting events, and attendees not knowing there were more dealers inside. More signage directing people indoors may be needed. Trash removal following the show needs to be addressed for the future.

Beverly Mace reported new memberships of one couple, four singles, and one youth. Membership renewals consisted of three couples, and three singles.

New Web site: The New Web Site committee is moving the existing Web site to a new host. Monday, May 1 the process of moving it will start. It should be completed by the end of that week—May 6. BUT, after site is on the new host, there may be one or two days before it becomes visible to users again. Lauren Blyskal has completed the HGMS Web Site home page. Chase Jennings will forward it to the Board.

Preservation of Documents: We need a coordinator for this project. Phyllis George said documents easily can be saved into a directory on the Web Site.

Building Safety: President Brandes said no report was available.

Security: Garth Clark did not attend. No report was available.

Creating "How-To" videos: The Board would like a group to explore how this can be achieved. They may research how to broadcast the programs live. Creating a way to project images on the wall used during programs is also on the list. No progress on this idea.

Update Trifold brochure and business cards: Phyllis George and Nancy English reworked the tri-fold piece in time for the Fine Mineral Show. Nancy had 250 printed. Clyde McMeans had 200 more printed on Saturday afternoon. More will be printed for the Scout Fair at Minute Maid Park this weekend.

Member Services/List of Experts: Chase Jennings proposed creating a list of members with artisan skills, expertise in areas covered by our Sections, teachers, services, and experts within the Society. Possibly members might be willing to give other members a discount on their services. The list would be posted on the HGMAaS Web site. There would be a disclaimer saying HGMS does not endorse the people on the list. President Brandes will authorize Jim Kendall to post on the weekly E-blast the suggestion of making such a list available. It didn't show up on the April 30 E-blast. (Suspect email issues with President Brandes' computer.)

New Business

Rice University: President Brandes received an email from Rice University concerning the addition of HGMS into their new Geology Department magazine, "Outcroppings." The department recently decided that it would be beneficial for their audiences (alumni, prospective

faculty and students, the Earth Science community, and the public) to include a few initial advertisements from organizations that have interacted closely with them and that may be interested in reaching other Earth Science departments. The advertising rates for placement in the next two issues combined will be \$300 full page, \$200 for 1/2 page, and \$75 for a 1/4 page for the 2017–2018 academic year. Board Members agreed to purchase the ½ page ad. Lauren will be asked to create it.

A Sexual Harassment Policy from SCFMS and the HGMS Policy on Children were briefly discussed. SCFMS is creating a Sexual Harassment Policy. The first draft was sent to Phyllis George. The BOD will discuss this further when SCFMS finalizes their policy. When the SCFMS policy is complete, all clubs will be able to use whatever portions from it they need. Phyllis George had also sent the BOD the HGMS 2008 Policy on Children. The BOD will start the process of adding it to the Code of Conduct section of the By-Laws.

Next Board of Directors meeting: June 6, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Next General Meeting: May 23, 2017 General Meeting Presentation: The presentation for May will be an auction of donated and HGMS material to support the Connoisseur's Choice color supplement in *Rocks & Minerals* magazine. For years, Art Smith paid \$1,000 per year for this out of his own pocket. The Mineral Section sponsored an auction back in 2013 to provide four years' worth of donations, and now the Section is sponsoring another auction to raise funds for the same purpose. Because of this support, HGMS and Art are mentioned in the *Rocks & Minerals* magazine each month. The HGMS Board voted to pay for it in 2016.

The business meeting will be very short.

Adjourn: There was no quorum available for motions. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

AFMS Safety Matters—Going It Alone

*by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
from SCFMS Newsletter 05-06/2017*

Going it alone, getting away from it all, escaping the concrete canyons, taking a hike, or just goin' rockin', we are a traveling hobby. Unless one does a good deal of mail order, we go to the rocks instead of their traveling to us. A friend of mine enjoys going it alone while looking for the yellow metal. He enjoys using his metal detector in the remote high country of California. His preference is to go where no man has gone before—or at least no one has gone in a long, long time. When I ask him of his adventures he often mentions "incidents." Those "incidents" have raised the hair on the back of my neck on several occasions. I know it's none of my business, but as a safety-minded person, I feel obliged to express my concern about his desire to go it alone. "No problem," he assures me. While young men may think themselves indestructible, I have other thoughts on the matter—and this friend of mine is not young. So using that story as a lead-in, here are some thoughts on goin' rockin' alone:

1. Keep the folks or friends or relatives or someone you trust apprised of your travel plans—roads, trails, time tables, details. If one is going up-mountain, mention which trail. Many areas have several trails all going to the same place, yet offering different starting points. It is not a good idea to tell folks you are going one place and not bother to tell them that you have changed your mind and will instead, at the last minute, go some place different. Periodic contact with the folks back home is a good safety idea and will go a long way in reassuring them of your well being!

2. Have a fully-charged cell phone, and if possible, an extra battery or way of charging the phone in the wilds and woolies. Keep checking your bars (not the ones along the highway, but the ones on your phone) for reception, and be aware that there are many areas where there will be no bars (of either kind) to be found.
3. Bring sufficient water times two. It is often the case that, when working in a hot pit, one drinks more (or should drink more).
4. Have maps with you, the kinds that do not require a battery. Learn how to use the maps! There is a good deal of useful information on them.
5. Have a first aid kit and your meds with you—not back in the truck which is parked a good (or not so good) five miles away.
6. Have and utilize good clothing, footwear, and safety gear—including snake bite-proof boots, bug powder, sunscreen goggles, survival gear, flash light or whatever one thinks is appropriate to the conditions. And speaking of conditions...
7. Mind the weather as conditions can change rather suddenly.
8. Have a plan B (and C, D, and E) as the conditions and situations warrant.
9. Take rest breaks before you are tired, not after. the same goes for drinking water. Drink before you are thirsty, feeling thirsty means you are already dehydrating.
10. Have food with you. To save carrying weight, there are numerous energy foods and power bars available.

There are perhaps 11 million other safety rules, think OSHA and MSHA, so just keep in mind the ones most germane to the going-it-alone place you are heading. Numerous safety and survival guides are available. You might find a great many practical and useful ideas in them. Yes, I can hear eyes rolling loudly and comments of “Yes, dear,” and “Yes, Mother” with the above point, but my yellow metal digging friend is still with us, no more “incidents” have been mentioned to me—so maybe what I mentioned to him is working. Please be safe. Your being safe is, I suspect, important to more folks than you might realize.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

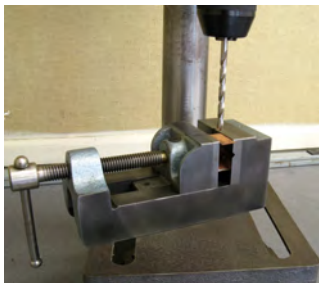
www.BradSmithJewelry.com

DRILL PRESS VISE



drill press vise is a versatile tool used to hold a work piece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high-power motors, using larger drill bits, and the higher heat generated in the operation.

The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.



You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontally. To find a supplier, search on “drill press vise” at sites like

micromark.com, mscdirect.com/, encosmallparts.com, grizzly.com, or sears.com

DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. It ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.

See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith



Edible Stained Glass

from The Slate 05/2017

Materials:

- Cookie cutters/canning lids (or do them free form)
- Hard candies
- Parchment paper
- Cooking spray
- Cookie sheet

Place parchment paper on your cookie sheet and spray with cooking spray. Place candies within the cookie cutters or make designs free form. Pop in the oven at 325°F for 5-6 minutes. Let cool a little bit. You can also make designs during this time or put holes in them to hang. Pop them out of the cookie cutters or canning lids while they are still warm to the touch. Let harden.

Gem Show Fakery

by Jack Curtin

from *Gem & Mineral Journal*, 01/2016, via *The Tumbler* 02/2017

I recently attended a gem show, and was somewhat appalled at the number of blatantly fake minerals for sale there. Dyed stones, heat-treated minerals, reconstituted amber, and turquoise being sold as the real thing—and in some cases, cheap minerals being sold as more expensive look-alikes.

Dying or altering of minerals is not necessarily wrong—up until the moment the dealer tries to scam the customer into believing that it is a natural stone, not a man-made object. In most cases, when I asked, the dealers assured me that these fakes were, of course, completely natural and unaltered. Some of them may have thought they were telling the truth, I don't know. But as a mineral collector, it is becoming more and more important to know exactly what you are buying, and how to identify the scams.

I thought I'd give a brief overview of some of the most common fakes I saw.

True citrine is almost never orange-tinted. It is lemon-yellow, or even a bit greenish. And I have never seen it in geode form. If it is in a geode or crystal vug, it is probably amethyst. Real citrine crystals tend to be longer and more slender than fake ones, which are usually short and stubby. And fake citrine is usually very colored at the tip, fading to white at the base. Another clue is price. True citrine is a valuable and rare gemstone, and it is very unlikely you're going to find it tossed around in the bargain bin at a rock show.

Tiger's eye is usually brown/gold in color. Sometimes you will find reddish pieces [in Tiger Iron, for example] but if it is natural, it'll likely only be a small reddish streak or patch in an otherwise normal-colored piece. Fully red specimens have been heat-treated to create the color. There's a variety of blue-gray tiger's eye, called hawk's eye, but it is rarer than the gold color. Beware when buying blue, because it is often dyed rather than natural. If it is a particularly bright blue rather than gray-blue, it is probably fake. Bright green tiger's eye is dyed. Do not ever believe green tiger's eye.

Most of the **agate jewelry and slabs** you will see have been dyed—brilliant greens, yellows, blues, or pinks. True agate is generally more muted in color. If the quartz crystals in the center of an agate slab are colored, it is probably dyed. And dyed agate bands usually appear more blurred than the naturally-colored pieces. If there's a whole bunch of completely different colors all being sold in the same case, they're probably all fakes.

Aurora Borealis Coating: This is a synthetic coating, the same stuff that gives rhinestones their glitter. It is used to make mineral specimens more sparkly and colorful. When asked, the dealer selling A.B.-coated aquamarines insisted that they were "totally untreated!" It was only when confronted with the little note of "AB" on the label that she finally "fessed up."

Turquoise is another popular fake. Much of what you'll see sold as turquoise is plastic, howlite coated in blue dye, or lumps of plaster. Sometimes it'll be real turquoise dust from scrap material, glued together into a lump. Always ask where the turquoise came from, and if the dealer cannot give a convincing answer, don't buy it. It should not be patchy white, although it may often have black lines running through it. It should also be opaque, not translucent.

"Peacock ore" is another name for the mineral Bornite, but most of what you'll see at rock shows is actually chalcopyrite which has been chemically treated to bring out the rainbow-

colored effect.

Fake amber is, fortunately, not too hard to identify once you know what to look for. Commonly what you'll see is reconstituted amber, where scraps have been melted down and reformed. This treatment is made obvious by circular, dish-shaped fractures within the material. Real amber rarely has any interior fractures, and certainly is not filled with them.

The other common scam is **fake insects within the amber**— if you see a piece that has a single, perfectly laid out dragonfly in dead center, assume it is fake— unless it is in a museum somewhere. Remember, the bugs in amber were stuck in tree sap, and you can see that they were trying to escape— they'll have broken wings, be twisted at odd angles, and generally LOOK like bugs trying to get out of tree sap. Also, there's usually a bunch of debris in any piece of amber. If there's one large bug and no smaller ones, no bits of leaves, broken off wings, or dirt, be suspicious.

Interesting, huh? I'm going to check on some of my "minerals" to see if they are indeed the real thing.

Facebook and the World of Rocks

*by: Kim Wallace
from Huntin' & Diggin' 03/2017*

Anyone who has a Facebook account and is into rocks and minerals surely knows about the thousands of groups, pages, and buying/selling opportunities that present themselves right at their fingertips. It seems that no matter which way your tastes swing, there is a group or page created specifically for the love of said mineral, rock, or craft.

Many a savvy individual has gone so far as to quit their day jobs and rely solely on their Facebook income to meet their families' needs. Make no mistake, however—this too requires much work and many hours of building relationships. Just as in any business, your reputation plays a very important role. Word-of-mouth via social media travels at light speed. One disgruntled individual can use their keyboard to make public (with screenshots) any transaction they feel is shady or unprofessional, resulting in thousands of lost customers. The worst part is that it doesn't even have to be true. So, there is risk involved just like with any self employment venture.

Let's take a look for a moment at one page in particular that I, as the author of this article, have followed and purchased from for nearly two years now. I've watched as this venture has grown and been quietly impressed as to the level of commitment it has taken this family to develop their customer base and to maintain a Web presence that is remarkable for even the most devoted of business owners. The group name is "Outwest Trade Auction House." They have created sister pages and groups, but this is the primary group that started the journey for this family. Owned and operated by the Ries family, this is a family-owned and operated small business with a physical location in Benson, Arizona. The main group currently stands at over 9,300 members strong.



This represents a pool of 9,300+ buyers and sellers. Many of the items offered are in auction format; however, direct or “Buy it Now” items are often listed. Many of the transactions are handled through PayPal, which offers insurance and reassurances for both the buyer and seller with regard to dispute mediation. One does not even need to have a PayPal account in order to utilize this feature. However, alternate payment methods are accepted.

Rather than just one family being online every day—24 hours a day—the format allows for additional sellers to list their items for 24 to 48 hour shows. This format also aids in keeping the variety of merchandise high. Items offered range in price from a single dollar up to thousands of dollars. They could be specimens or single crystals, or they could be large carvings or specific-use items such as bowls or book ends. Jewelry makers will find items they didn't even realize they needed. And collectors will find that their collection needs companionship. See below for links to the group. Make sure you take a look at the pinned post for a quick intro to how it all works as a buyer or as a seller.

If you are simply an enthusiast and want to grow your knowledge of rocks and minerals, then other groups exist. The largest of these is “Rock Hounds.” This page boasts more than 63,000 members and is primarily focused on furthering the hobby. Sales are allowed on weekends, but that is not the main function for this group. (Link provided below) You won't find any mention of metaphysical properties in this group. It is a science-based group, and it has much to offer to the rock pups among us. A word of caution if you choose to join this group: Your news feed will be consumed by rocks at first. You will find yourself staring at casserole recipes trying to identify what type of agate is pictured. By the time you realize that it's cobbler rather than jasper, you are already hooked. You have been warned!

Every group has its own distinct dynamic based upon the group or page rules, objectives, and members. Take some time and familiarize yourself with a few in order to enrich your newsfeed or to screen pages that may be more or less suitable for children. Facebook has become a vast marketplace for many items. And the rock and mineral world has exploded there. Happy shopping and/or selling to all of our Rock friends!

Outwest Trade Auction House <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OutwestTrade/>

Rock Hounds: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/125042174240817/?fref=nf>

Let's Discuss the SCFMS Directory and Why It Exists (and info new club officers MUST be given)

by Kimberly J Brannon, SCFMS Executive Secretary

This month we will be publishing the new directory. It is in the editing stages, and we have requested that outgoing officers forward newsletters and communications to new officers as we update our mailing lists. The SCFMS Directory is password protected; the password will be accessible to Federation members and officers, and any AFMS officers who submit a written request and display an appropriate need. The directory allows SCFMS officers to reach officers of your club to deliver Federation Newsletters, to collect payments for dues and insurance, and to alert officers to important deadlines. It also allows SCFMS to announce Web site and bulletin contests, announce changes in legislation that might affect filing requirements to maintain your tax exempt and nonprofit status, to share calendars of shows and events within our region, to deliver annual reports, and to give notice of proposed changes to standing bylaws and operating procedures. In addition, it allows the SCFMS to inform interested members of the public of who to contact and where to go to find a show or meeting in their areas, and a host of additional internal functions. We have detailed the

use of your information and put measures in place to protect the information you provide from misuse by outside sources. (See the SCFMS Privacy Policy at http://www.scfms.net/forms/SCFMS_PRIVACY_POLICY_final.pdf)

While attempting to update the directory, Linda Simpson (SCFMS Directory Chair) and I encountered hesitation—and in some cases—outright refusal to provide addresses or current contact information for officers serving Federation Member Clubs. **It is important that outgoing club presidents inform new officers that your club is a member of both the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.** There are record-keeping requirements demanded of all nonprofit organizations, but agreeing to service your club, which is a member of the SCFMS, also means you've agreed to become a part of the governing body for all member clubs regionally and nationwide.

From the SCFMS Bylaws posted at

<http://www.scfms.net/>

[SCFMS_Constitution_Bylaws_Operating_Procedures_7_May_2016_Revision.pdf](http://www.scfms.net/SCFMS_Constitution_Bylaws_Operating_Procedures_7_May_2016_Revision.pdf)

- [...] The Board of Directors of this Federation shall be the President, Executive Vice President, eight District Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and *the current Presidents of each member society.*
- [...] It shall be the responsibility of each member society to furnish the Executive Secretary and Directory Chairman with *a list of the names of its officers and their mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers,* together with the club meeting time and place.
- [...] From the Nonprofit Toolkit at Texas C Bar at
- <http://texasctbar.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Nonprofit-tool-kit-5.31.16.pdf>

Inspection of documents by member or governing person. Nonprofits must allow any member or governing person to examine and copy books and records. This includes the names and addresses of voting members. A member can make a written demand to examine the nonprofit's books and records. The purpose of the demand must be stated in writing. The member or a member's agent, attorney, or accountant may examine the books at any reasonable time and for any proper purpose. The cost of copying is the responsibility of the member.

Examination of books and records by Attorney General.

- "Nonprofits must allow the Texas Attorney General's office to examine books and records.
- * Examination and investigation. The Attorney General of Texas may inspect all the books and records of the nonprofit. The Attorney General may investigate an organization to determine if it is in violation of its governing documents §12.153
- * Penalties. Failure to allow the Attorney General to examine or copy records is a Class B misdemeanor under state law and may lead to penalties, forfeiture of property, and additional criminal charges §§3.152-.153; §§12.154-.156. "

By law a nonprofit organization, in addition to its accounting and meeting minutes, must maintain specific books, records, and a list of its directors. If your club is a nonprofit, check your bylaws—your board and officers very likely serve as directors or voting members within your own organization. **Importantly, your president has agreed to serve as a director and voting member in ours (SCFMS).** We too, by law, must be able to furnish a list of our voting members' names and addresses upon request.

I can understand new club members being unaware of SCFMS/AFMS membership, which is why we recommend incorporating SCFMS/AFMS news into your meetings and newsletters. It's a scored item in both our Web site contest and bulletin contest after all, but it's unsettling when new officers are installed without documentation or any guidelines for continuity, and without awareness of their SCFMS/AFMS membership. Work with your incoming officers to educate them of their responsibilities and requirements, and leave documentation of what you have learned when you exit. Someone in your club must be attentive to State and Federal filing requirements and annual information reports,

but they also must be able to furnish any member or governing person with the names and addresses of directors when requested.

We have requested. We request annually. Select an officer, either your president or secretary, and list "Completing SCFMS Officer Form Submission" as one of their yearly duties, then make certain they've submitted within 30 days of any change in officers. It will make our jobs easier and make it easier for new officers to receive information vital to your club's functioning.

As always, we are here to serve. Contact us if you need a helping hand.

Kimberly J Brannon

SCFMS BEAC / SCFMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

P.O. Box 836

Tenaha, TX 75974

225 620 5174

MAINTAINING CLUB NONPROFIT STATUS, PART 3: KEEPING A PERMANENT RECORD

*by Kimberly J Brannon, SCFMS Executive Secretary
from SCFMS Newsletter 05-06/2017*

Continuing with our mini series designed to help maintain your club's Nonprofit Status, I'd like to focus on the topic of record keeping. Some information must be distributed to the membership and to the public as part of maintaining a club's 501(c)3 status, but did you know meeting minutes, as accepted and printed in your newsletter, can be requested by the IRS as part of an audit? Your meeting minutes play a valuable role in documenting the efforts of your club to educate and inform your members and the public of your club's activities, your club's financial status, and decisions affecting finances and membership which have been made by your board. These are just a few of the items which should be part of your discussion at meetings which can also serve to demonstrate that the club acts in accordance with its bylaws and with its educational and charitable nonprofit purpose.

Your newsletter also is a means of communicating safety guidelines or excerpts from AFMS/SCFMS articles about safety in your shops, on field trips, and when participating in club-sponsored events and activities. Including these items in your newsletter throughout the year can demonstrate to our insurance company that you have taken necessary action to protect your members from harm and to protect your club against claims of negligence.

When we were addressing our concerns with the IRS, Walter Beneze published the result of a "special session" director's vote in the newsletter detailing the timeline of events, information discovered during our investigation, and the result of a vote of our core directors. I used his newsletter piece to verify the information I'd previously provided to the IRS concerning the steps we'd taken and what we were doing to correct the issue. Another source of confirmation to the IRS came from our detailed treasurer's reports and a history of saved documentation. We were successful, partly due to the conscientious effort of current officers to document our actions and the effort of previous officers to maintain a permanent record of annual reports and meeting minutes. How much more documentation will you have by meeting once per month!?

While there are many reports and records that should be permanently retained, the following section focuses exclusively on meeting minutes. Meeting minutes are the summary of every important decision and action taken by your club. Most may not find them as interesting as a flashy article, but they're one of the most underrated and important records you keep, especially knowing the weight it can carry during in an investigation. I hope some of the tips provided are useful for keeping your minutes "up to the minute."

Board Meeting Minutes – Part I

Published on: February 18, 2011 by Emily Chan

Board meeting minutes are an important but often undervalued form of recordkeeping for organizations. Minutes provide a memorialized chronology of key information such as board actions, elections of officers or directors, and certain reports from committees and staff. Additionally, meeting minutes can have important legal significance in an IRS examination and as evidence in courts if, for example, someone challenges the validity of certain actions or positions. Unfortunately, a variety of mistakes are commonly associated with the taking and keeping of minutes including:

- Failing to document that a quorum was present;
- Failing to document or provide a clear description about a board action taken;
- Drafting a transcript of everything said at the meeting, including information that might be harmful to the organization if read by someone with access to the minutes (e.g., employees or members) or by a court reviewing a board action;
- Drafting and distributing minutes to directors after a lengthy period of time has passed;
- Waiting to approve minutes from past meetings until a substantial period of time has passed, decreasing the likelihood that mistakes will be caught and corrected; and
- Failing to maintain a reasonable document management system, resulting in the loss of minutes from past meetings.
- What should minutes look like?—Anyone reading an organization's minutes should be able to easily understand, at a minimum, what actions were taken and how they were approved.

CONTENT—There is no hard and fast rule regarding the level of detail to be included in minutes. Organizations are not required to, nor should they, record every detail or statement said at the meeting. However, there should be enough information to make the minutes useful should they ever be used for reference or offered as evidence that an action was properly taken or that directors fulfilled their fiduciary duties. Boards and secretaries tasked with recording or approving the minutes should use their best judgment about the degree of specificity used in the minutes.

Board minutes should include basic information such as:

- Date and time of meeting;
- Whether the meeting is a special or regular meeting;
- Whether notice was given or a waiver of notice signed by all directors;
- Names of directors in attendance and directors not in attendance;
- Names of other guests in attendance (and their titles or associations, if relevant);
- Whether a quorum was established;
- Any departures and re-entries of attendees; and
- Any board actions (e.g., approvals, delegations of authority, directives).

Content Suggestions:

- Include alternatives considered for important decisions to show diligence and reasonable care;
- Attach and briefly summarize key points from any reports given to the board (so long as they may not be misconstrued to be prejudicial to the organization or to the board);
- Know what vote is required by your bylaws (e.g., majority, supermajority) for certain actions and clearly indicate if such a vote was reached;
- Record recusals from discussions and abstentions from voting;
- Include those votes that were against a motion (see Part II); and include action items, what people commit to do.

Boards should also be thoughtful with how they handle confidential or sensitive information. For example, organizations may choose to hold an executive session to discuss matters such as executive director reviews or pending litigation. According to [Blue Avocado](#), “The minutes of the meeting should indicate that the board met in executive session, and report on the topic of the discussion, although the specifics (such as the amount of a lawsuit settlement) may be confidential and appear only in a set of confidential-to-the-board minutes or other notes.” A separate recordkeeping system should be established for such confidential information, which is better not identified as “minutes” to prevent members and others from asserting the right to view such information.

FORMAT—Format is really a question about how to best organize the content. Again, there is no right answer. There are however a few guiding principles. Ideally, nonprofits should maintain consistency with the format of their minutes. This does not mean the format should not be improved over the years to be more readable, clear, and useful to the organizations and others; this does however mean that format should not simply change at whim or due to lack of institutionalized knowledge about appropriate ways to document meeting minutes. Unexplainable changes in format can make minutes more difficult to understand internally and can also raise suspicion for outsiders. For example, if the organization’s January minutes provide detailed accounts of board discussion over a minor issue, it can raise flags if the organization’s February minutes barely account for any discussion on a major issue such as increasing an executive’s compensation amount by a substantial amount. Additionally, the format used should be one that is user- and reader-friendly.

Format Suggestions:

- Adopt and use a meeting “minute template;”
- Use a format that clearly indicates when a board action has been taken (e.g., “Resolved,” “Action”);
- Set apart important information such as “action items” (actions that directors have committed to doing).

TIMING—The revised Form 990 asks in Part VI, Section A, Question 8 whether there is contemporaneous documentation of the board and board committee meeting minutes or written actions. The Form 990 instructions then go on to say that “contemporaneous” means “by the later of (1) the next meeting of the governing body or committee (such as approving the minutes of the prior meeting) or (2) 60 days after the date of the meeting or written action.” Organizations that do not conduct contemporaneous documentation must explain their practices or policies, if any, regarding documentation of board or board committee meetings or written actions. Although there is no outlined penalty for a failure to take contemporaneous minutes, the question’s presence on Form 990 indicates that documentation of meeting minutes is an area of concern for the IRS. Failure to adopt practices for better meeting minutes documentation may be a factor that weighs against the organization in the eyes of the IRS or courts. Additionally, a shallow explanation for poor practices may raise concern with funders, donors, and the public who have access to an organization’s Form 990.

RETENTION—While the duration of record retention can vary widely depending on the type of record, the IRS has indicated in its compliance guides that the board minutes of 501(c)3 public charities, private foundations, and other tax-exempt organizations should be kept permanently by the organization. Other documents that the IRS directs be kept permanently include an organization’s determination letter, articles of incorporation, and bylaws, again highlighting the importance of meeting minutes. Organizations should be aware of such a strong directive from the IRS that is supported by the opinion of many nonprofit lawyers.

Show Time 2017–2018

June 9-11	Ventura, CA	Ventura Gem & Mineral Society hosting AFMS/CFMS Shows Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 Harbor Blvd.
July 1-2	Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St. nadira.charaniya@gmail.com http://www.agemclub.org/html
July 8-9	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society Tulsa County Fairgrounds-Exchange Center; 4145 E. 21st Street m_rongey@sbcglobal.net
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	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. 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.dallasegemandmineral.org/

Show Time 2018

Feb. 24-25	Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Pasadena Convention Center
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2017		June				2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 7:30 Archeology Section	2	3 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
4 10-4 Shop Open	5	6 7:30 Board Meeting	7 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	8	9	10 10-4 Shop Open	
11 10-4 Shop Open	12	13 NO Show Committee	14 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section Flag Day	15	16	17 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
18 10-4 Shop Open Father's Day	19 7:30 Lapidary Section	20 7:30 Paleo Section	21 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section 1st Day of Summer	22	23	24 10-4 Shop Open	
25 10-4 Shop Open	26	27 7:30 General Meeting	28 10-3 Shop Open	29	30		

2017		July				2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open	3	4 NO Board Meeting Independence Day	5 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	6 7:30 Board Meeting NO Archeology Section	7	8 10-4 Shop Open	
9 10-4 Shop Open	10	11 11-3 Shop Open NO Show Committee	12 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open 7:30--Mineral Section	20	21	22 10-4 Shop Open	
23 10-4 Shop Open	24	25 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29 10-4 Shop Open	
30 10-4 Shop Open	31						

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)



DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !

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