



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

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

**Volume XLVIII—No. 11**

**November 2017**



### **President's Message**

*by Paul Brandes*

**T**his month's President's Message promises to be very short. First, I am attending the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Seattle, Washington on October 21–28. Early November, I have a meeting with the Directors of the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, followed by our Annual Show November 10–12, and then meeting with students on pending geology research for the rest of November and early December. I am certainly a busy person these days.



If you haven't signed up already, please do consider volunteering for our Annual Show. The Show is a great opportunity to see what goes into pulling off a top-notch Show. In addition, we are hosting the Annual Meeting of the SCFMS, so it is also a wonderful time to meet other like-minded people in the hobby and bounce ideas off each other. For more information about volunteering or to sign up, please contact Nancy English, and she will fill you in. Otherwise, the Show is looking good with everything coming together very nicely.

As promised, this is a short Message. Now it is time for me to catch my breath before the very busy next eight or so weeks ahead!

### **Upcoming Program**

*by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President*

**N**ovember 28, 2017: Sarah Metza will present a talk entitled "Jewelry Design through Advertising: Getting It Created and Sold."



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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 December 2017 issue by Friday, November 15, 2017.*

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### Purpose of HGMS

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

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

**MEMBER:** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies 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>.



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

Houston Gem & Mineral Society,  
South Central Federation  
of Mineral Societies

November 10-12, 2017  
Humble Civic Center

[www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)  
[www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)  
[www.facebook.com/hgms.org](https://www.facebook.com/hgms.org)  
[www.facebook.com/SCFMS4U](https://www.facebook.com/SCFMS4U)

Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine, Colorado  
Photo by Holly Smith

A large, vibrant red rhodochrosite mineral specimen with a dark, crystalline base, set against a blue background.

Front of HGMS/SCFMS 2017 Show flyer



See and hear Steve & Sigrid's new song: <https://youtu.be/RteTsQeltp4>

### Harvey Comes to Houston ©2017

*A song by Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart  
Members of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

A tropical wave off the African shore,  
Swirled the Atlantic for a week or more.  
Crossed the Yucatan without much fuss,  
Didn't get much attention from us.

But it settled down in Campeche Bay,  
Getting stronger every day.  
By landfall a Cat 4 hurricane,  
Rockport may never be the same,  
Port Aransas never be the same.

Weathermen could not believe their eyes,  
What their models show they must advise.  
Boxed in, it would move real slow,  
Harvey had no place to go.

It would stall and drift, keep pulling rain,  
Pummeling Texas and inflicting pain.  
Harvey would cause widespread affliction,  
40 inches was their prediction.

Oh God, the rain is pouring down!  
People, get out before you drown!  
Everyone crying, when will this stop?  
When will these water levels start to drop?  
Hope these water levels start to drop!

Alerts popping up all over town,  
Tornados spinning up and down.  
Alarms all night about the flash flood threat,  
No chance of getting any rest just yet.

You grab the son, I'll take the daughter.  
Hide from the wind, but run from the water!  
Head for the roof or the second story,  
This evacuation is mandatory!

When the storm is raging through the night,  
There's no rich or poor or black or white.  
Reach out your hand to your fellow man  
Be ready to help however you can,  
Ready to help however you can.

Bring your boats and bring your trucks,  
There's people running out of luck.  
Volunteers came from everywhere,  
Willing to help and ready to share.

They were tracking disaster with their phones,  
With social media, you're not alone,  
They were organizing when things got crazy  
Thank God for the Cajun Navy!

The National Guard came to supervise,  
Coast Guard helicopters filled the skies.  
Doctors and nurses all stayed on call,  
The police and firemen gave their all,  
Police and firemen gave their all.

Those dams we've been worrying about  
Have really flooded people out.  
The Army Corp was dictatorial  
Decision made to soak Memorial.

Now the water is starting to go down,  
It may reveal a whole new town.  
We'll recover from this terrible weather,  
And work to put Houston back together!

To Rockhound Newbies  
Everywhere

## WHEN IS A ROCK NOT A ROCK

by Terrell William Proctor, J.D.

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

When is a Rock, not a Rock?  
I know it must come, as a shock.  
It's when it is a treasure.  
You can find one, beyond measure!  
You can find a rock just to pitch,  
or one special, to make you rich.

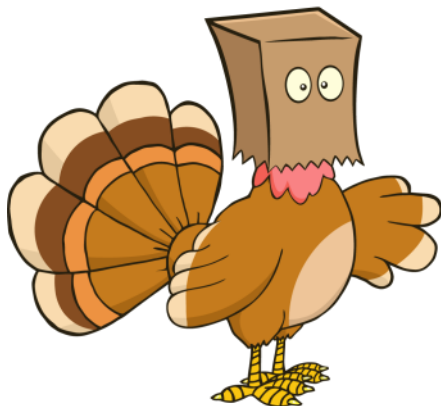
How will you know, which one to choose?  
Go rock clubbing, what can you lose.  
If not a diamond, you'll find a friend.  
Some treasure, you'll find at the end.  
Rock clubs have many a favor,  
To find a gemstone of your flavor.

Maybe it's a fossil that you seek,  
or an artifact you want a peek.  
Want a great mineral which you covet.  
We know you will simply love it  
You won't find such things at the mall.  
At your Rock Club, you'll find them all.

© 2017 TERRELL WILLIAM PROCTOR, J.D.  
1 October 2017 12:35 P.M.  
Houston, Texas

**WOOF!**

**WOOF!**



## Archaeology Section

by Nancy L. Engelhardt-Moore

**October 5, 2017:** Garth Clark (Section Vice-chair) called the meeting to order. There were 15 attendees. Meeting notes and photos were taken by Melissa Sambrooks at my request, since I was unable to attend. Please note that at the next meeting on November 2, the Section will be accepting nominations for 2018 officers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at [nengelhardt\\_moore@yahoo.com](mailto:nengelhardt_moore@yahoo.com). Also, please remember to check the HGMS Facebook Group page to learn more about upcoming programs and events. It includes postings for the Archaeology Section. The evening's guest speaker was Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout (Curator of Anthropology—Houston Museum of Natural Science).

**Program:** Dirk spoke about the new HMNS special exhibit "**Knights in Shining Armor**" that will officially open to the public on November 20 with a members-only night on November 17. He said that the exhibit was organized by Contemporanea Progetti in collaboration with the Stibbert Museum, Florence, Italy. Dirk talked about the efforts behind the acquisition, design, and building of the exhibit. He said that it will cover the time period from 1400–1900 and have about 100 objects, including over 80 pieces of armor and 12 paintings. He noted that the floor plan will be reminiscent of a castle with knights standing guard and that there will be a jousting corner showing video demonstrations of jousting taken by the museum staff in Austin using GoPro cameras. Dirk said that the displays will include helmets, swords, offensive weapons, and defensive armor. The unusual Natura Morta Arrangement by Fredrick Stibbert will be part of the exhibit (see photo). He stated that there will also be an interactive portion of the exhibit that will include a 1) sword and stone pulling area, 2) cathedral game, 3) build your own coat of arms, 4) high-definition touch-screen, and 5) section of music with living artists playing instruments on loan from Rice University. Dirk noted that there will be outside activities with knights, horses, tents, etc. This entertaining exhibit is not to be missed!

### Upcoming Programs:

**November 2, 2017:** Dr. Gail Larsen Peterkin (Master Docent and works on Anthropology Collections – HMNS) received her Ph.D. from Tulane University. Currently, she is a board member of the Archaeological Institute of America—Houston Society. Gail will give a talk entitled "**New Innovations from the Upper Palaeolithic: Late Old Stone Age.**" Traditionally, the Upper Palaeolithic in Eurasia roughly coincides with the arrival of fully modern *Homo sapiens* and the appearance of "behavioral modernity." Changes include new technologies and technological innovations, changes in subsistence and settlement, the elaboration of non-utilitarian objects (including art), long-distance movement of raw materials, and the elaboration of ritual (burials, etc.). Although new research has pushed back the appearance of some of these innovations to Neanderthal times, there nevertheless remains a qualitative and quantitative difference in their preliminary appearance in the Middle Palaeolithic and their dramatic proliferation in the Upper Palaeolithic. Gail's presentation will summarize the traditional archaeological interpretation of the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition, as well as introduce the most recent research—which may or may not change the traditional archaeological theoretical framework. She will conclude by talking about the newly opened facility "Lascaux IV: The International Centre of Cave Art" in Montignac, France located near the Lascaux site, which displays exact replicas of the original cave art. Mark your calendar for this informative talk!

**December 7, 2017:** Bob Moore (Chairman) will give a presentation entitled

**"Splendid Roman Treasure Hoards."** Everyone knows about Roman craftsmanship through their marble statues, bronze utensils and weapons, glassware, and amazing architecture. This talk will focus on rare Roman silver treasures and continue the theme of the importance of archaeological hoards. Bob will first talk about the amazing treasure hoard from Augusta Raurica in Switzerland found in 1961, and then he will cover the Berthouville Treasure hoard from Normandy, France that was found in 1830. Learn about spectacular rare artifacts and watch a video showing how the Romans crafted a magnificent silver cup. Don't miss this program! You will be dazzled by Roman treasures, and the Section will be having a Holiday Party.



**Natura Morta Arrangement by Fredrick Stibbert**  
(Image Credit: Stibbert Museum Archive Photo)



**Garth Clark with Dirk Van Tuerenhout**

## General Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2017

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

**P**resident Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the September 26, 2017 General Meeting. Twenty-four members attended. Two of them were new members: Joy Lester and Rebecca Brune. Leslie Racine and Giles Debenport have been members of HGMS for months, but this was their first General Meeting. In addition, there were two guests: David Karraker and Dustin Villareal, the speaker for this evening's program.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 22, 2017 General Meeting had not been published as of this meeting. Therefore, approval of the minutes was postponed until the October 24, 2017 General Meeting.

### President's Announcements:

**The Phyllis George Material Auction** was very successful. Nineteen bidders spent just under \$2100.00 on "the good stuff": jades, parrot wing, geodes, charoite, malachite, amethyst, aventurine, lapis, tiger eye, Amazonite, palm wood, chrysocolla, agate, dino bone, obsidian, quartz, sodalite, and more. So far, her donation has resulted in \$10,000 for the Club. Thank you, Neal and Fred for organizing the auction, and thanks Neal for running it. Thank you, Phyllis!! for your generous donations.

**Advertising:** President Brandes shared the HGMS half page ad placed in the *Outcropping*, a magazine published by The Rice University Department of Earth & Environmental & Planetary Services. Another ad will be in the magazine next spring. The ad was created by Lauren Blyskal, who developed the new Web site.

### Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Paul Brandes asked members to look for reports of Section news in the BBG, on the Web site (**HGMS.org**), 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 kendalja@att.net.

President Paul Brandes invited Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional special announcements. No additional announcements were made.

### Old Business

**Web site progress:** Scott Singleton reported via email that the new Web site is live. Please report any changes needed to a committee member: Sigrid Stewart, Scott Singleton, Phyllis George, or Nancy Fischer. Errors should be reported directly to a committee member. Requests to change the Section site information should be reviewed with the Section Leader first. Thank you to the committee and Lauren Blyskal for the excellent work you have done.

**Show Committee:** The first meeting of the entire Show Committee was held last Saturday, September 16, at Nancy English's home. Plans are coming together nicely. A new subcommittee was formed to design a polo shirt for this year's Show Committee and to design a similar t-shirt

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

for volunteers and for sale to the public.

**HGMS Holiday Party, December 9, 2017:** Just a reminder, the Holiday Dinner and Auction will be held at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Rd. at Westview, north of I-10. We will be able to set up the tables and auction in the sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. There is a full kitchen and plenty of space for setting up the buffet. Volunteers will be needed for setup and takedown. Please contact Nancy English, nancyjodi@aol.com, or 832-722-5441.

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

### New Business

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee was announced: Randy Carlson, Karen Burns, Paula Smith, Phyllis George. A fifth person will be added shortly to fill the Committee. *Editor's note: Michael Sommers is the fifth Committee member.*

**The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday October 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** Nancy English will be on vacation.

**The Next General Meeting is October 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.:** Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart will present a travelogue, geology of the area, and a mineral collection from their trip to Colorado.

**Show 'n Tell:** Steven Blyskal brought examples of some recent purchases: a smoky quartz crystal, Brazilian agate, Laguna agate, pyrite crystals embedded in a quartz crystal, and rhodochrosite.

**Drawing:** Foster Kneeland won the 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 8:00 p.m.

**Refreshments:** There were no refreshments. Nancy English asked for a volunteer to bring refreshments for next month's meeting. No one volunteered.

**Vice President Stewart introduced Dustin Villareal.** He presented a talk titled "The Pre-Cenozoic Tectonic History of the Pamir." Dustin is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Houston and will be graduating in December of 2018. His geologic interest is understanding the tectonic evolution of orogenic systems (mountain building) in both an intercontinental and continental-oceanic boundary setting.



## Board of Directors' Meeting

### *October 3, 2017 Minutes*

#### *by Nancy English*

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

**P**resident Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

### President's Comments:

**Auction of Donation material** from Phyllis George, Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 1:00 to 5:00 was a big success. Nineteen bidders spent \$2090. Thank you to Neal Immega, Fred Brueckner, and Nancy English, and of course Phyllis George.

**Approval of Previous Month's Board Minutes:** Approval of the August minutes was postponed until the October Board Meeting. Phyllis George moved and Sigrid Stewart seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August Board Meeting. The motion passed. Sigrid Stewart moved to approve the September 5, 2017 BOD minutes. Phyllis George seconded. The motion passed.

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

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archaeology Section:** The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday October 5, 2017. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology—Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS), will give a Sneak Peek of the New HMNS Exhibit, Knights in Shining Armor.

For the November 2, 2017 program, Gail Larsen Peterkin, Master Docent—HMNS will present New Innovations from the Upper Palaeolithic: Late Old Stone Age

**Beading Section:** The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Members will be sewing beads on fabric. For November 18, they will make a bracelet.

**Day Light Section:** The next meeting will be at 1:00–3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Members will make a Circle pendant of copper wire and seven graduated beads: The charge will be \$1.00.

**Education Committee:** no report

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. The program will be Understanding GIA Color Grading. **No meeting is scheduled for November.**

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2017. Attendees will apply Viking Knit as a unique border on a cabochon. They will finish the Viking Knit project during the November 20 meeting. No December meeting.

**Library:** The library@hgms designation will be forwarded to Nathalie Brandes.

**Mineral Section:** The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on October 18, 2017. Program: Preparing the Fluorescent Display and sale materials for the Annual Show.

**Paleo Section:** The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. Program: Chase Jennings will be giving a presentation on Amber from Chiapas, Mexico, based on the mine he is leasing there. The presentation will be at the regular Paleo Meeting and will cover rare inclusions found so far, mining operations, and a plethora of items made of Chiapas amber. There will be many museum-quality specimens, including Butterflies, Flowers, Leaves, Mantises, a feather, water, a centipede, spiders, and other rare inclusions in amber. Don't miss this exciting presentation where you will also see Glowing amber and other cool UV light tricks!

**Security Report:** None

**Shop Report:** None

**Youth Section:** Both scheduled meetings in October and the November 4 meeting will be used to finish cabochons for the Annual Show: Saturday, October 7; Saturday October 21, at 10:00 a.m. until noon. On November 18, the Show will be reviewed. December 2 will be the Holiday Party. December 16, 2017, NO MEETING! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year!

**BBG Editor and Web site committee member:** The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the November 2017 BBG is October 15, 2017.

### Old Business

**New Web Site:** The committee continues to work on the reported corrections and additions to the Web Site.

**Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported via email that the Show Party went well, a good kickoff. A new ad hoc committee has formed to design and produce T-shirts for the Show.

**The Postcard Labeling party** will be on Saturday, October 14, 10:00 to 12:00. Pizza and salad will be served after the postcards are finished. The postcards advertising the show will be mailed on October 18, 2017.

**The Show Auction and Dinner** is scheduled for October 14, 2017. Dinner at 6:00, Auction at 7:00. This is a Pot Luck Dinner. The Show Committee will provide the meat, and members can bring side dishes and desserts. Members may also bring their own beer and wine. (No hard liquor, please.)

**The Volunteer Appreciation Party** is scheduled for November 18, 2017, 6:00 to 10:00 at Nancy English's home. Volunteers may bring their own beer and wine. HGMS is an all-volunteer organization. Any member who volunteers throughout the year is welcome to attend. That includes Section Leaders, Shop Foremen, Board of Directors.

**Preservation of Documents:** no report, no volunteers yet,

**Security:** Garth Clark. No report.

**Creating "How-To" videos:** How-To Video Meeting: Sigrid Stewart said the committee will start again after the show.

**The Club needs a new projector system.** Paul reported that projectors from B&H run \$750 to \$1200. Larger ceiling-mounted systems might be too expensive.

**Christmas Holiday party, dinner, and auction**—December 9, 2017: The Unitarian Church has been secured for the 2017 HGMS Holiday party. This is also a Pot Luck dinner. HGMS will provide turkey, brisket, and ham. Setup will begin at 3:30. Dinner will be served at 6:00, and the Auction will start at 7:30. Members can bring side dishes and desserts. They also can bring their own beer and wine. (No hard liquor, please.)

**The Nominating Committee** Introduced Karen Burns, Phyllis George, and Paula Smith at General Meeting. Randy Carlson may join. Nancy English is willing to continue to be secretary. Rodney Linehan is resigning. He is proposing that his daughter consider the post of secretary; she is a club member.

### New Business

**Next Board of Directors meeting:** Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

**Past Presidents Plaque:** The Past Presidents plaque needs to be updated. The Board requests a volunteer to update the list and to produce the new, updated plaque.

**The Next General Meeting** is October 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.: Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart will present a travel log, geology, and mineral collection from the Highway of Legends Area west of Trinidad, Colorado.

**Adjourn:** Mike Sommers moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mike Dawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

### Bear Family Surprises HGMS Member

*by Marcus Schneck  
mschneck@pennlive.com  
Received by email*

**T**he American Geode team's search for great rocks on Saturday, October 7, was unexpectedly interrupted when a mother black bear and her three cubs appeared out of the forest on the opposite side of Route 15, near Cogan Station.

New York-based American Geode is a supplier of geodes, minerals, gems, and fossils to collectors, academics, museums, and interior design professionals. The American Geode Web site is [www.americangeode.com](http://www.americangeode.com).

Charles Snider of American Geode (he also is an HGMS member) and a friend were stopped along Route 15 at about 7:30 a.m., when the mother bear, followed by two of the cubs, bounded onto the roadway, staring at the two humans and their vehicle for several seconds and sniffing the air for clues about what they had encountered.

When the third cub emerged at a trot from the forest, the mother bruin turned and jogged back into the forest, followed by her triplets.

Snider shot video throughout the encounter.

Based on their sizes, the bears appeared to be a relatively small, adult female and three half-grown cubs she birthed in her hibernation den last winter.

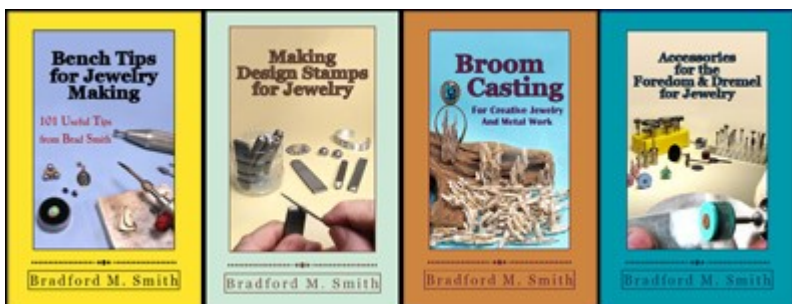
The cubs likely will overwinter with their mother before dispersing on their own next spring.

According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, female bears give birth to cubs during early January while in the winter den. Litter sizes range from one to five, with three most frequent in Pennsylvania.

View video of the encounter at

[http://www.pennlive.com/wildaboutpa/2017/10/bear\\_family\\_surprises\\_rock\\_hou.html](http://www.pennlive.com/wildaboutpa/2017/10/bear_family_surprises_rock_hou.html)

## 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](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

## MANDRELS



Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common



sources for different-sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels, and clothes hangers. Metal rods also are found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain maille designs, you must have exactly the right-size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to



1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.

### UST SAY "NO" TO OPTIVISORS

I was having my annual vision-check, and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary Strickland).

### Un-endangered Species

*by John Mastin*

*Editor, Chaparral Chatter 12/1994*

**T**here is an un-endangered species thriving in this country. It is well known by its trail of soft drink and beer cans and bottles along with cigarette packs, fast food containers, and general debris deposited along our streets and highways, in our parks and recreation areas, and even in the remotest corners of our Wilderness areas. It is well-known, or certainly should be, by its Latin name, "SLOBBUS AMERICANUS." It is being aided and abetted by well-meaning young parents who, believing the erroneous contention that disposable diapers will soon overwhelm all of our sanitary landfills, are desperately trying to avoid that catastrophe by spreading their soiled diapers along the paths of "SLOBBUS." Wouldn't it be great if science figured out how to inject conscience into the former and wisdom into the latter?

### OLDIES NEVER DIE

*from workinghumor.com*

**Old lawyers never die,** they just lose their briefs.

**Old programmers never die,** they just lose their memory.

**Old salesmen never die,** they just go out of commission.



**Sunset Picture Jasper—from S.C.R.I.B.E. 2013 DVD**

## Is it Vug, Nodule, Geode, or Egg?

by Kat Koch  
from The Tumbler 9/2017

**A** vug is a small- to medium-sized cavity inside rock. It may be formed through a variety of processes. Most commonly, cracks and fissures opened by tectonic activity (folding and faulting), and are partially filled by quartz, calcite, and other secondary minerals. Open spaces within ancient, collapsed breccias are another important source of vugs. Vugs may also form when mineral crystals or fossils inside a rock matrix are later removed through erosion or dissolution processes, leaving behind irregular voids. The inner surfaces of such vugs are often coated with a crystal druse.

Fine crystals are often found in vugs where the open space allows the free development of external crystal forms. The term vug is not applied to veins and fissures that have become completely filled, but may be applied to any small cavities within such veins.

Geodes are a common vug-formed rock, although that term is usually reserved for more rounded crystal-lined cavities in sedimentary rocks and ancient lava.



Nodules are a mass of mineral matter that has formed around the nodule nucleus. A nodule is a small, irregularly rounded knot, mass, or lump of a mineral or mineral aggregate that typically has a contrasting composition, such as a pyrite nodule in coal, a chert nodule in limestone, or a phosphorite nodule in marine shale, taken from the enclosing sediment or sedimentary rock.

Normally, a nodule has a warty or knobby surface and exists as a discrete mass within the host strata. In general, they lack any internal structure except for the preserved remnants of original bedding or fossils. Nodules are closely related to concretions (includes clay babies or mud babies) and sometimes these terms are used interchangeably. Minerals that typically form nodules include calcite, chert, apatite (phosphorite), anhydrite, and pyrite. The only difference between a geode and a nodule is that a geode has a hollow cavity, and a nodule is solid.



Geodes are gifts of the geology world because under the hard exterior lies a surprise center. Geodes are secondary structures that occur in certain sedimentary, limestone, and volcanic rocks. Geodes are hollow, round-to oval masses of mineral matter commonly having a chalcedony shell lined internally by various minerals, often as crystals such as calcite, kaolinite, sphalerite, millerite, barite, celestite, dolomite, limonite, smithsonite, opal, chalcedony, and quartz. Quartz and calcite are by far the most common minerals found in geodes.

Thundereggs or Thunder Eggs are a globular concretion of quartz, opal, agate, or chalcedony. It's a nodule-like rock—a filled geode, that is formed within rhyolitic volcanic ash layers. Thundereggs are rough spheres, most about the size of a baseball—though they can range from less than an inch to over a meter across. They have a drab brown to gray knobby outer surface and are round to oval in shape.

### The Geologist's Lament

by R. L. Prism 1940

**T**his poem was mailed to the editor of the *Gravel Gazette* 10/01 by Ruth Yerkes. She had cut it out of the *Lodestar*. *Lodestar* got it from *Lodestone*, the publication of the Fort Collins Rockhound Club in Colorado, March 2001 edition; Via; SCRIBE CD

Gather 'round me, hear my story,  
I'm a rockhound in distress.  
I'm a rockhound bathed in troubles,  
I'm an outcast, more or less.

I have fossils in the kitchen,  
I have crystals in the hall.  
I have minerals in the bathtub,  
I have relics on the wall.

I have oxides on the carpet,  
I have oil upon the floor.  
I have a black light in the parlor,  
I have bones behind each door.

Attic rooms are fairly sagging.  
Rocks pave the cellar floor.  
Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,  
All of this and millions more.

Wifey thinks that I am goofy,  
I don't know, she may be right.  
She insists I have silicosis,  
Or some contagious form of "ite."

Says my head is lined with agate,  
(A freak displacement of the bone).  
Says my brain is just a nodule.  
Says my heart is turned to stone

Threatens me with separation.  
Storms about our rockhound home.  
Says life for me is just a geode,  
Or a hunk of mammal bone.

Are you rated as a fossil?  
Are you obliged to live alone?  
How do you maintain a hobby,  
And still maintain a happy home?



## The Eyes of Africa

by Don Shurtz,

*Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
from Chips and Chatter 09/2017*

**T**he Eyes of Africa is the newest addition to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. It resides in the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals. This is a spectacular piece. It is about 2 feet tall, features a quartz spire growing from a quartz cluster base, and it is clad with a layer of Alien Eye Fluorites.

Alien Eye fluorites are dark fluorites with a green square or diamond-shaped center. When lit from the back or side, the green looks like a pair of alien eyes staring at you. Alien Eye fluorites are found only in a few pockets in one mine in the Erongo Mountains of Namibia.

Herold Gariseb, a Namibian miner, found the Eyes of Africa along with other Alien Eye fluorites in 2007. Many of the specimens were sold, but Mr. Gariseb retained the Eyes of Africa, described as the "largest and finest specimen of Alien Eyes fluorite." As he was fearful that the specimen would be stolen from his house, he stored it in the trunk of his white Mercedes. Years later, Mark Kielbasa and Jurgen Tron heard rumors of the find and eventually tracked down the specimen, still in the trunk of the Mercedes. A deal was closed, but it still had to be shipped to the United States without damage. To that end, the specimen was wrapped in 400 diapers and placed inside a 50-gallon barrel. The method of shipping was described as unconventional, but it worked.

Shipping of the specimen took about three months. Then it was another two years for the specimen to be cleaned and prepared. Passing through a number of hands, Lyda Hill eventually acquired the Eyes of Africa from Fine Minerals International. Lyda has loaned the Eyes of Africa to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. If you get a chance, you should visit the museum.

### References:

- <https://www.dmagazine.com/frontburner/2017/07/the-perot-museums-latest-acquisition-makes-its-debut-after-a-wild-ride/>
- <https://www.dallasnews.com/arts/visual-arts/2017/07/12/lyda-hills-rare-alien-eye-mineral-unveiled-perot-museum-dallas/>
- <http://www.dallasobserver.com/arts/perot-museum-acquires-rare-mineral-with-cult-like-following-9659819>

Visit our Web page, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org), to see the pictures in color.



Photo by Don Shurtz

## JAPAN'S CHERRY BLOSSOM STONE

Source: <http://www.kiseki-jp.com/english/e-index.html>  
via *El Gambrisino* 11/16; via *WGMS Rockhounder* 05/2017; via *The Glacial Drifter* 05/2017; via *Stoney Statements* 09/2017

**A**n intriguing geological peculiarity was found in the Japanese city of Kameoka, which lies just over the western mountains of Kyoto city. It's a small sub-hexagonal-shaped stone of very fine-grained muscovite mica hosted on a type of metamorphic rock called "Hornfels." Interestingly when cracked and opened, their internal cross-sections appear just like tiny, golden-pink flowers. They're exclusively called "Cherry Blossom Stones" after the revered flower of Japan, and they are one of the most renowned icons of the country.



The **Science Alert** explains that the pattern of these flowers weren't always made of mica. They began their existence as a multifaceted matrix of six prism-shaped crystal deposits of a magnesium-iron-aluminum composite called cordierite, radiating out from a solitary dumbbell-shaped crystal made from a magnesium-aluminum-silicate composite called indialite in the center. Moreover; cherry blossom stones are hosted in a matrix of hornfels, a very fine-grained, contact metamorphic rock shaped underground about 100 million years ago by the intense heat of molten lava. The sub-hexagonal formed masses of cordieriteindialite in the hornfels contain seven individual crystals. At the center of each mass is a dumbbell shaped indialite crystal—very narrow at the center, and fairly wide at the ends. Adjacent to the indialite crystal are six prism-shaped cordierite crystals. They're widest at the center of each cherry blossom stone and narrowest at the ends.

The cordierite-indialite masses underwent a second metamorphic event when they were uncovered to a type of hot water called hydrothermal fluids. These fluids altered the chemical composition of minerals inside the cherry blossom stones, producing mica to change the original

cordierite-indialite inclusion.

Since they have to undergo two penetrating and very specific types of metamorphosis in order to shape, cherry blossom stones are extremely rare, and found only in central Japan. Therefore; cherry blossom stones that underwent a whole replacement of their internal minerals during their geological lifetime are so subtle inside that they can without difficulty be snapped in half or crushed between one's fingers. In order to preserve the prettiness of their subtle mica patterns, the Japanese locals coat them in a diluted solution of wood glue mixed with water to keep everything in place.



#### Sources:

- ◆ [www.Charismaticplanet.com](http://www.Charismaticplanet.com)
- ◆ [www.AmusingPlanet.com](http://www.AmusingPlanet.com)
- ◆ *Rocks & Minerals*
- ◆ *Science Alert*

#### **Additional from the Japanese Kiseki Museum of World Stone:**

Mineral called cordierite turns into mica when hydrothermally altered. The altered mineral is called cerasite (cherry blossom stone). Normally cordierite has amethyst color, but cordierite from Sakura Tenmanguu has rose-pink color by the action of iron oxide, and it looks just like cherry blossom. Today ceriste from Sakura Tenmanguu is designated as natural monument.

*From MWFMS Bulletin Editor News 1/84  
via Golden Spike News 9/00*



## Wulfenite

*by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas*

**M**any lead based minerals are colorful and pleasing to look at. They include the fascinating cubes of Galena [PbS] with their high metallic luster, the clear orthorhombic crystals of Anglesite [PbSO<sub>4</sub>], the clear, fan-shaped crystals of Cerussite [PbCO<sub>3</sub>], the tiny orange and yellow tiny flowery buttons of Mimetite [Pb<sub>5</sub>(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Cl], and the bright yellow and green straw shaped (sometimes hollow) crystals of Pyromorphite [Pb<sub>5</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Cl]. One of the most colorful lead based crystals is Wulfenite (PbMoO<sub>4</sub>). Wulfenite crystallizes in the tetragonal system (think of a solid rectangle with a square base). Some of the most beautiful crystals of wulfenite are blades, much like the blades of a barite or gypsum rose. The blades are often bright orange or golden yellow in color. The pictured specimen has bright orange blades and comes from Jianshan Mine, Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China. Some of the wulfenite crystals from Mexico and Arizona are almost cubic in shape sitting on a white limestone matrix; they look amazingly like caramel cubes waiting to be eaten. Other wulfenite specimens from the Red Cloud mine in Arizona are bright, translucent shape red crystals.



**Photo by Don Shurtz,  
Wulfenite specimen on display at the  
Perot Museum of Nature and Science.**

Wulfenite is also found in massive (non-crystallized) form. The massive wulfenite and the poorly developed crystal pieces can be used as ores for both lead (Pb) and Molybdenum (Mo). One yellow variety of wulfenite is often called yellow lead ore.

Wulfenite is found in a number of locations. The majority of the wulfenite specimens are found in Arizona and northern Mexico. Other areas producing specimens are China, Australia, Slovenia, Iran, Morocco, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Namibia.

As might be expected, the thin blades of wulfenite are brittle and easily broken. Other shaped specimens are not as fragile.

Reference:

- ♦ Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- ♦ Minerals.net, <http://www.minerals.net/>

**WHY MEN ARE SELDOM DEPRESSED***via The Roadrunner 09/2017***Men Are Just Happier People—What do you expect from such simple creatures?**

- Your last name stays put.
- The garage is all yours.
- Wedding plans take care of themselves.
- Chocolate is just another snack.
- You can be President.
- You can never be pregnant.
- You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.
- You can wear NO shirt to a water park.
- Car mechanics tell you the truth.
- The world is your urinal.
- You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.
- You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
- Same work, more pay. -1. wrinkles add character.
- Wedding dress \$5000.
- Tux rental-\$100.
- People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.
- New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.
- One mood all the time.
- Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
- You know stuff about tanks.
- A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.
- You can open all your own jars,
- You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.
- Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- You almost never have strap problems in public.
- You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.
- Everything on your face stays its original color.
- The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.
- You only have to shave your face and neck.
- You can play with toys all your life.
- One wallet and one pair of shoes—one color for all seasons.
- You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.
- You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife.
- You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache.
- You can do Christmas shopping for relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.
- No Wonder Men Are Happier!

## Mimetolith

*by Steve Mulqueen, Rockhound Rambling, Ventura GMS  
First Place (Tie) CFMS Original Article Advanced  
Fourth Place AFMS Original Article Advanced  
via The Conglomerate 10/2017*

**M**imetolith—A word in the English language derived from the Greek words *mimetes* (an imitator) and *lithos* (stone). Mimetolith refers to a naturally occurring feature, shape, design or pattern found in a rock formation, distinctive topographic exposure, rock outcrop, landform, rock specimen, mineral specimen, fossil, or weathered rock that resembles a plant, animal, human figure, manufactured product, natural scenery, or any common items visually observed in everyday life. At times, our visual input, coupled with our mind's interpretation of a pattern, can force a link between the pattern and a memory of a known object. The split-second pattern that the brain visualizes when viewing a mimetolith is a psychological phenomenon known as *pareidolia*. It involves a stimulus, in this specific example a natural physical pattern in stone (as detailed above), which the mind perceives as a familiar object.

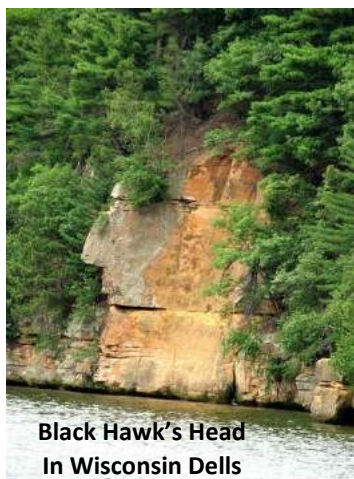
The term mimetolith is limited to naturally occurring features in stone. The only exception is when a rock is cut, broken, or polished to reveal its unique natural pattern within the specimen. Natural bridges and natural arches are technically not categorized as mimetoliths. Shaping a rock into an identifiable form is a “carving” and not a mimetolith.

### Examples of mimetoliths:

1. A natural stream-rounded rock that has a general shape of a heart or other shapes.
2. An exposed rock outcrop that has eroded into a form that resembles a full human face or a profile of a human figure or animal.
3. A nodule that has been cut to expose its beautiful banded agate that is shaped like a commonly recognized animal or other distinguishable object.
4. A geode that has been broken open to reveal a crystalline mass resembling a human figure or other known shape.
5. Fossil crinoids that exhibit the general form of a flowering plant.
6. “The Golden Bear Nugget,” a crystalline gold specimen of the CFMS that resembles a bear.
7. Crystal clusters that exhibit an overall distinguishable shape such as a heart.
8. Opals that reveal unusual identifiable patterns.
9. Dendrites that resemble ferns or other plant-like forms.
10. Shiprock, a natural volcanic feature that resembles a ship. The Navajo people refer to this landform in their native language as “rock with wings.”
11. Barite rose and selenite rose, mineral clusters that look like a flower.
12. Tektites that resemble common objects of various shapes.
13. Chrysanthemum “flower,” metamorphic minerals composed of calcite, dolomite or aragonite.
14. Snow or ice, in natural forms, which resemble commonly identifiable shapes. (Naturally occurring water, in solid form, is defined as a mineral.)
15. “The Face on Mars,” a Martian landform that resembles a human-like face.

16. Speleotherms, stalactites, stalagmites, cave shields, and cave pearls that exhibit commonly recognizable shapes.
17. The "Rabbit on the Moon," a lunar mare feature that resembles a giant rabbit.
18. The "Old Woman Statue," a natural erosional feature found in the Old Woman Mountains in the Mojave Desert.
19. Graphic granite, a rock that exhibits quartz crystals within feldspar, forming graphic patterns that resemble ancient writings or hieroglyphics.
20. Concretions that exhibit unusually odd shapes, some which resemble known objects such as an ice cream cone.
21. "Mexican Hat Rock," a landform in southeastern Utah that resembles a sombrero.
22. "The Teapot Dome," a landform located in Wyoming.

**Source of Information:** Refer to the article titled "Mimetoliths" written by R. V. Dietrich of the Central Michigan University at Mt. Pleasant. Also refer to the term pareidolia and other key words included in this article. Written by Steve Mulqueen for the VGMS, September 2016. The "Definition of the Month" features words related to geology, paleontology, mining, and desert history. Refer to other definitions featured in past VGMS bulletins under the heading of Educational Corner dating back to June 2001 available on the VGMS Web site at [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)



**Black Hawk's Head  
In Wisconsin Dells**



**California Golden Bear**



**Old Woman Statue**



**Chrysanthemum**

## AFMS-SAFETY MATTERS – WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

*by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair  
from The Franklin County Rockhouser 09/2017*

**T**he brain has a remarkable ability to forget things. I've often thought such an ability to be very useful for quite a number of reasons. One of those reasons is to clear out the clutter that accumulates, and in so doing makes room for new stuff.

So, what do you know?

What new information are you stuffing into the places where information has been forgotten? Are you filling the newfound storage in your head with good and useful information?

May I offer the following quote: "Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right," by Laurens VanDerPost. Over the years, I have heard many variations of those words such as, "It's not what one knows, but what one doesn't know—that's the problem." and "It's not what one knows, it's what one knows that isn't so."

Please permit me to mention some examples of rockhound safety information that may be less often known:

**Oxalic acid**—there is a common understanding that oxalic acid is relatively safe. Here are some facts—compared to many acids, oxalic is relatively weak. An acid's strength is measured by how readily hydrogen is given up in water—its Ka value of 0.0054 (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary), so when compared with hydrochloric acid's Ka of 1.0 or nitric's Ka of 27.79, oxalic is comparatively weak. **One large issue that is often omitted in the rockhound community is that there is no correlation between an acid's strength and its toxicity.**

One understands that oxalic acid may be relatively weak. What is not well known is that, gram for gram, oxalic acid is highly toxic. Its toxic potential can be inhaled or be readily absorbed through the skin. Very strict safety measures must be followed to address oxalic's toxicity.

**Grindstone safety.** I can't tell you how many times I have seen lapidary workers standing or sitting in front of rapidly rotating grind stones while doing their work. Each time I see such a body position, chills run up and down my spine. One should not sit or stand directly in front of a grindstone while one is starting the machine or shutting it down. Nor is it wise to position oneself in front of it while it is running. The reason is that grindstones have the potential to break apart. Equipment guards do mitigate some of the risk potential, but according to machine instructions, not all the risk. I have personally seen the evidence of a self-destructed grindstone and been in the shop when one was self-destructing. Admittedly, the risk is small, but never the less, it exists.

Needless to say, a great deal of damage can be done by such an event. So, I highly recommend not standing in the path of anything that can injure you. Diamond and belted wheels are considerably less problematic.

**Eye protective goggles** are great—but there is more to the story. Have you ever noticed that when one is digging for minerals, hammering on big boulders, or doing some extensive lapidary work that a good measure of dust accumulates on the inside of one's goggles? I have noticed that effect quite often. Most goggles are ventilated to prevent fogging and that venting, in addition to some mysterious force, permits the accumulation of dust on the inside surfaces of the goggles. Here's the thing—we have protected our eyes with the goggles, and those goggles have provided notice that there is a large amount of dust present which is most likely not being addressed by the wearing of a dust mask. In these less-than-obvious instances, dust protection is advisable.

So now you know. When one is filling their head with new information, please make sure safety issues are considered. Let us put the new-found memory space to its highest and best use. Please be safe out there!

## Show Time 2017–2018

Nov. 4-5	Amarillo, TX	Golden spread Gem and Mineral Society Amarillo Civic Center; 400 Buchanan Street, Regency Room (806)-944-5464; <a href="mailto:finfran@midplains.coop">finfran@midplains.coop</a>
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. 4-5	Midland, TX	Midland Gem & Mineral show Midland Center
Nov. 10-12	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society <b>hosting SCFMS Federation Show</b> Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 <a href="http://www.hgms.org">www.hgms.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:showchair@hgms.org">showchair@hgms.org</a>
Nov. 18-19	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society 1800 Rodeo Dr. <a href="mailto:case53d@yahoo.com">case53d@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/">http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/</a>
Dec. 9-10	Leesville, LA	DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society West LA. Forestry Assoc. Bldg.; 276 H. M. Stevens Blvd <a href="mailto:deridder.rockngem@gmail.com">deridder.rockngem@gmail.com</a> ; Web site: <a href="http://rockngemswla.com">rockngemswla.com</a>

## Show Time—2018

Jan. 20-21	Fredericksburg, TX	Fredericksburg Rockhounds Pioneer Pavillion, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Hwy. 16 South <a href="mailto:gideonjim!@gmail.com">gideonjim!@gmail.com</a>
Jan. 26-28	Tyler, TX	East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Tyler Rose Garden Center
Jan. 27-Feb. 10	Tucson, AZ	MANY, many different shows running simultaneously <a href="http://www.mzexpos.com">www.mzexpos.com</a> is one
Feb. 2-5	Tucson, AZ	Fine Mineral Show <a href="http://www.FineMineralShow.com">www.FineMineralShow.com</a>
Feb. 24-25	Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Pasadena Convention Center
Mar 3-4	Robstown, TX	Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds
April 27-29	The Woodlands, TX	Texas Fine Mineral Show Holiday Inn and Suites

2017		November				2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	2 7:30 Archaeology Section	3	4 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
5 10-4 Shop Open Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	8 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	9 HGMS Annual Show— Setup Day	10 HGMS Show— Kidz Day	11 HGMS Annual Show NO Shop Open Veteran's Day	
12 HGMS Show—Last Day NO Shop Open	13	14 11-3 Shop Open	15 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	16	17	18 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
19 10-4 Shop Open	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-3 Shop Open	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 10-4 Shop Open	
26 10-4 Shop Open	27	28 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	29 10-3 Shop Open	30			

2017		December				2017	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
3 10-4 Shop Open	4	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 Archaeology Section Pearl Harbor Day	8	9 10-4 Shop Open  HGMS Christmas/Holiday Party	
10 10-4 Shop Open	11	12 11-3 Shop Open  Hanukkah	13 10-3 Shop Open NO Gemstone & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon NO Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 NO Lapidary Section	19 10-3 Shop Open NO Paleo Section	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 NO Mineral Section	21 First Day of Winter	22	23 NO Shop Open	
24 Christmas Eve NO Shop Open	25 Christmas Day New Year's Eve NO Shop Open	26 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 NO General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29	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

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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)  
2017 - 3rd (Large)



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