



# The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**Volume XLIX—No. 12**

**December 2018**



## **President's Message**

*by Paul Brandes*

**A**s an outdoor and off-road enthusiast, one of the things we are always told when exploring new areas is "leave the area better than when you found it." I almost feel the same could be said of HGMS. As President the past three years, I have taken some time to look back and see if I have left HGMS as good as or better than when I took the President position. Over the past three years, HGMS has increased its membership, thanks in large part to a series of very successful Trade Shows at the Clubhouse. We have had three positive Annual Shows, including hosting the SCFMS Annual Meeting in 2017. In moving the Holiday Party to an outside location in 2017, we have increased the number of members who now can attend and enjoy the camaraderie and extra room provided by the new location. HGMS also has a new, updated Web site that is much more user friendly, thus generating far more inquiries to the club. Now, before anyone believes I am tooting my own horn over the above accomplishments, remember that one person alone cannot make change happen. As I have stated many times, it takes an entire club of individuals willing to work together to bring change forward. Many members answered the call when the time came, and for that I say, "THANK YOU."



**Continued on Page 4**

## **Upcoming Program**

*by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President*



**December 15, Holiday Party:**  
**Unitarian Fellowship of Houston**  
**1504 Wirt Rd, Houston 77055**

**December 25: General Meeting** **NO MEETING**

## Contents

President's Message.....	1
Upcoming Program .....	1
HGMS Purpose .....	3
HGMS 2018 Officers, Section Chairs, and Appointed Positions .....	3
Grand Door Prize Presentation—2018 HGMS Show .....	4
Archaeology Section.....	5
HGMS Annual Holiday Party and Auction .....	8
Don't Take Me for Granite (puzzle) .....	9
October General Meeting Minutes .....	10
November Board of Directors Minutes .....	12
AFMS President's Message .....	17
REMEMBERING THE MAYFLOWER .....	18
HGMS 2018 Show Photos—Taken by John Mitscherling.....	20
Tourmaline, A Mineral for Christmas? .....	24
The Night Before Christmas .....	25
Show Time 2018–2019 .....	26
Calendars .....	27

*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.***

*Editor: Phyllis B. George*

*22407 Park Point Drive*

*Katy, TX 77450-5852*

*Phone: (281) 395-3087*

***Copy is due for the January 2019 issue by Saturday, December 15, 2018.***

*E-mail the Editor at [pgeorge4@comcast.net](mailto: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 and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

### 2018 HGMS Officers

President .....	Paul Brandes .....	President@HGMS.org
First Vice-President .....	Sigrid Stewart .....	Programs@HGMS.org
Second Vice-President .....	Beverly Mace .....	Membership@HGMS.org
Secretary .....	Nancy English .....	Secretary@HGMS.org
Treasurer .....	Liane Linehan .....	Treasurer@HGMS.org
Past President.....	Vacant	
Archeology Section Board Member ....	Nancy Engelhardt-Moore ....	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Board Member .....	Kim Fuselier .....	Beading@HGMS.org
Day Light Section Board Member .....	Position open.....	DayLight@HGMS.org
Faceting Section Board Member .....	Position open.....	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary Section Board Member .....	Phyllis George.....	Editor@HGMS.org
Mineral Section Board Member .....	Mike Sommers.....	Scholarships@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Board Member .....	Mike Dawkins .....	Field_trips@HGMS.org

### HGMS Section Chairs

Archaeology Section Chair .....	Bob Moore.....	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Chair.....	Kim Fuselier .....	Beading@HGMS.org
Day Light Section Chair .....	Position Open.....	DayLight@HGMS.org
Gemstone & Faceting Section Chair ....	Randy Carlson.....	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary & Silversmith.....	Margaret Hardman-Muye ....	Lapidary@HGMS.org
Mineral Section Chair .....	Stephen Blyskal .....	Mineral@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Chair .....	Neal Immega .....	Paleo@HGMS.org
Youth Section Chair.....	Beverly Mace.....	Youth@HGMS.org

### HGMS Appointed Positions

Clubhouse Chair .....	Neal Immega.....	ClubhouseChair@HGMS.org
Donations .....	Neal Immega.....	Donations@HGMS.org
Show Chair .....	Scott Singleton.....	ShowChair@HGMS.org
Assistant Show Chair.....	Sigrid Stewart.....	Webmaster@HGMS.org
Assistant Show Chair.....	Clyde McMeans.....	
Volunteer Coordinator.....	Nancy English.....	VolunteerCoordinator@HGMS.org
HGMS Education Chair .....	Quentin Boyer .....	Classes@HGMS.org
Librarian for Main Library.....	Quentin Boyer .....	Librarian@HGMS.org
HGMS Publicity Chair.....	Chase Jennings .....	Publicity@HGMS.org
Backbender's Gazette Editor .....	Phyllis George .....	Editor@HGMS.org
Webmaster .....	Sigrid Stewart.....	Webmaster@HGMS.org
Youth Section Assistant .....	Elizabeth Guynn.....	Youth2@HGMS.org

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://hgms.org>.

**Presidents's Message continued** I want to thank three people in particular who made my job as President quite easy. **Nancy English**, for always being there to keep me well informed on the business aspects of the club each month, stepping up to organize various activities, and tirelessly taking minutes for every meeting. **Beverly Mace**, for making sure I was up-to date on the day-to-day happenings around the Clubhouse. And lastly, to our fearless BBG Editor **Phyllis George** for being patient with me while waiting for my President's Messages until the midnight hour (like this one) and then reworking them into a thing of beauty for the BBG.

Looking back at my time as President, I ask myself whether I am leaving the Society in as good or better condition than when I began. I personally would like to think that I have succeeded as President, but I know I could have done better. As with all things in life, one must take the good with the bad and move on. So, with this—my last President's Message—I bid farewell, and I wish for the continued success of HGMS in the future.



**Lee Brock of League City is the winner of the Grand Door Prize being presented by Scott Singleton, 2018 HGMS Show Chair.**

### **Grand Door Prize Presentation—2018 HGMS Show** *by Scott Singleton, 2018 Show Chair*

**T**he final official event of the 2018 HGMS Annual Show was the drawing for the Grand Door Prize. Lee Brock of League City was the winner, and she was incredibly excited when she found out. Turns out that Lee and Bob are long-time members of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society. Bob is a past president of the club. Both are retired now with their five dogs. However, she and Bob still have many rocks spread throughout the house. (Sound familiar?) Lee said that she and Bob will attend the next Clear Lake club meeting and show off their prize to everyone. Now, that is promoting interclub relationships!



## Archaeology Section

by Nancy L. Engelhardt-Moore

Photos by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

**October 4, 2018:** The Section Chair, Bob Moore, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. After introductions, Bob gave an overview of the upcoming talks to 16 attendees. He then reported that Garth Clark was resigning as Vice Chair and Section Board Representative due to other business commitments. Bob said that Nancy would be replacing Garth as the Board Representative and running for the position of Vice Chair in the upcoming November election. As a result, the Section was looking for nominations for Secretary. For 2019, the Secretary would be primarily responsible for attending the monthly programs, taking attendance, and minutes. The Vice Chair would be handling promotion of events, which had been handled by the Secretary. Bob then called for nominations for Secretary. Bob said he was willing to continue as Chair and Treasurer. He then announced that the Section would again be taking a summer hiatus and introduced the speaker, Garth Clark. After the talk, there were Q & A and time to view Garth's Roman denarius coins. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Program:** Garth gave an excellent talk entitled "*Coin Hoards Reveal Third Century Roman Crisis.*" He spoke about the reasons for hoarding and noted the main types of hoards: foundry, merchant, personal, loot from raids, and votive. He talked about how technology such as ground-penetrating radar and sophisticated metal detectors can locate hoards. Garth spoke briefly about coin restoration techniques and detailed how Roman hoards can be dated accurately, based on their coins. He gave several historical examples and noted that due to the rapid turnover of emperors and the changing content of silver in coins for political and economic reasons, hoards can be accurately dated to a particular emperor's reign. Each new emperor had the previous emperors' coins melted down and recycled, which meant that coin hoards reflect the reigning emperor at the time of burial. Garth concluded by noting that after the assassination of Maximinus in 238 AD, coins were only minted to pay the military and fund battles. Denarius coins were no longer minted and Rome went into a period of turmoil due to invasions, revolts, plagues and finally hyperinflation until it's fall in 476 AD



**Bob Moore and Garth Clark displaying coins**

**November 1, 2018:** Bob Moore called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. He then presented the 2019 officer nominations and asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Toni Lucci moved to approve the nominations, Garth Clark

seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**For 2019, the following Archaeology Section Officers were approved:**

**Chair & Treasurer:**..... Bob Moore  
**Vice Chair & Board Representative:** ..... Nancy Engelhardt-Moore  
**Secretary:** ..... Jay Roussel

Bob reviewed the upcoming programs and asked if there is any other business. There was none. Following the talk and discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Program:** Bob Moore spoke on the ***“Golden Age of the Knights of Saint John”*** while Nancy Engelhardt-Moore assisted. Bob reviewed the history of the Knights and showed photos from the Moores’ 2017 trip to Malta.

After his appointment as the rector of the hospice of Jerusalem in 1080, the Blessed Gerard founded the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Knights Hospitaller) in 1088. During the great siege of Jerusalem by the Sultan of Egypt in 1099, Gerard cared for the sick and wounded, and later he built many hospitals.

Pope Paschal II recognized the Order as a new Religious Order in 1113. After Gerard’s death, Raymond du Puy of France militarized the Order that were involved in 13 major actions and gained many riches. In 1291, Jerusalem fell and the Knights took their riches to Rhodes and built the fortified Palace of the Grand Master.

Bob talked about the Ottoman Siege of 1480 and the attack of Suleiman the Magnificent in 1522, where the Knights held against an army of 100,000 for six months. Broke after defending Rhodes, they were allowed to withdraw to Sicily and later to Malta. Legend states that they paid their Maltese lease by giving one falcon to the King each year.

Bob then talked about the extensive fortifications built by the Knights around Malta and showed photos of amazing forts, the Palace Armoury, and St. John’s Co-Cathedral. In 1565, Suleiman initiated the Ottoman Siege with 40,000 men. Although heavily



**Nancy and Bob with a Maltese Falcon**

outnumbered, the Knights defeated the Ottomans. But in 1798 when Napoleon attacked, the Knights were unpopular with the Maltese and one of the French Knights betrayed the Order and they fled. Unlike the more famous Knights Templar, they still survive today. Bob noted that the "Knights of Malta" are now known as the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta. They are based in Rome, and he revealed that the Southwest Headquarters of the Knights and Dames is in Houston.



Examples of Knight Shoulder Armor

**December 6, 2018:** The Section will hold its annual **Holiday Party Potluck and Show & Tell!** So please bring a favorite dish. This will be an interactive educational program with lots of good food. We encourage you to bring artifacts to show the group.



Is it real or is it a fake?

The Moores will be bringing some authentic artifacts and realistic fakes for discussion. Come and learn more about how technology unmasks modern replicas. Please join us for the festivities and see if you can tell the fakes from the real artifacts. You may win a prize!

**January 3, 2019:** No meeting due to the Holiday.

**February 7, 2019:** Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology will present **"The Ancient Maya in Belize"**. Hidden in the sugarcane fields, swamps, jungle, and pine forests of Belize are the remnants of many Maya sites. Occasionally, archaeologists uncover portions of these millennia-old cities and find wonderful things. This talk will deal with some of these discoveries. Mark your calendar for this fascinating talk.



## HGMS Annual Holiday Party and Auction

**Saturday, December 15, 2018**

*by Paul Brandes—HGMS President*

**T**he Houston Gem & Mineral Society will be holding its Annual Holiday Party and Auction on Saturday, December 15, 2018, at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Rd. just north of I-10. As in previous years, the Society will provide all the meats for the dinner. Members attending are asked to bring a side dish, dessert, and/or drinks to the party. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., to be followed by the auction at 7:00 p.m.

Kim Fuselier, artist, will announce the contest-winning BBG mascot name (see image on right) and the name of the person who submitted it.

Just as last year, beginning at 4:30 p.m. we need volunteers to assist with the setup of tables for the dinner and auction. If you would like to donate items to the auction, they need to be in the Fellowship Hall no later than 5:30 p.m. so they can be logged into the system. **Also, please deliver all food items to the Fellowship Hall by 5:30 p.m.**



Following the auction, helpers will be needed to assist with the movement of pews and the cleanup of the Sanctuary area. Volunteers are asked to contact Nancy English at [nancyjodi@aol.com](mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com) for further information on how they can help.

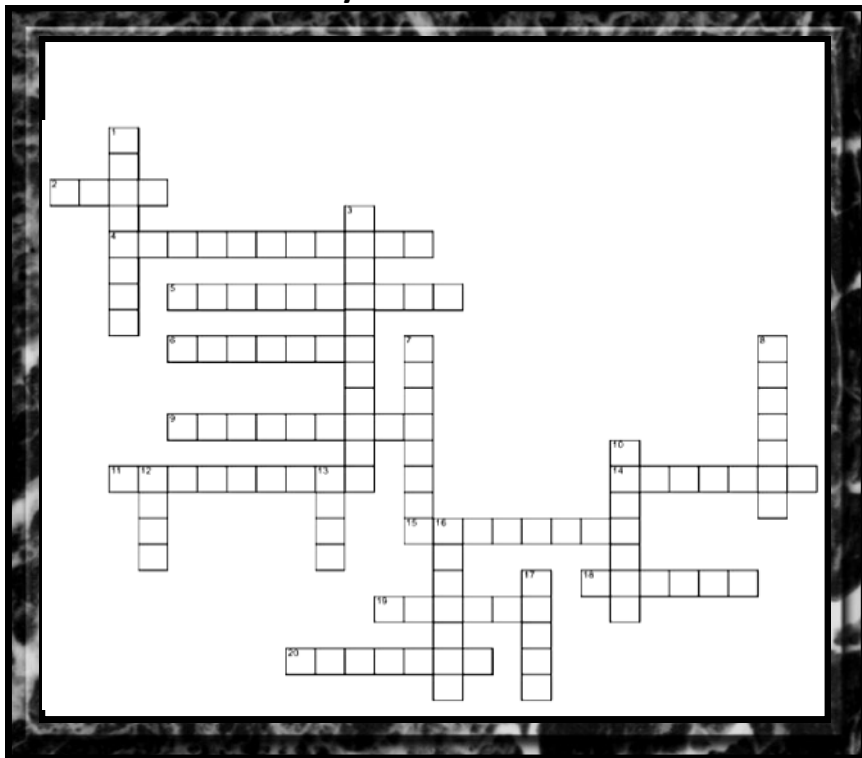
We look forward to seeing you on December 15!

Paul Brandes – President  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

# DON'T TAKE ME FOR GRANITE

## Rock and Mineral Puzzle

by Susan Burch

**ACROSS:**

2. Precious metal.
4. Layered rock formed at the bottom of oceans and lakes.
5. Green form of quartz.
6. Solid crystal form of carbon.
9. Green striped stone.
11. Fossilized dinosaur dung.
14. Igneous rock with grains large enough to be visible with the unaided eye.
15. The traditional birthstone of November.
18. The second most abundant mineral in Earth's continental crust, behind feldspar.
19. Fool's gold.
20. An altered granite composed of pink orthoclase, green epidote, and colorless quartz.

**DOWN:**

1. Rock group which crystallizes from magma as veins.
3. A greyish base color stone paired with a colorful iridescence, it can flash blue, green, and yellow, among other colors.
7. All rocks contain one or more of these.
8. Often dyed blue to resemble turquoise.
10. In Latin, it means "of fire."
12. This is classed as a mineraloid and is a hydrated amorphous form of silica.
13. Clay mineral most widely used as baby powder.
16. Pseudomorph of number 10 across.
17. Emerald and aquamarine are forms of this.

**Answers on page 16**



## General Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2018

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

**P**resident Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the October 2018 General Meeting. Thirty-seven people attended to see Inda Immega's program about the famous carver **Gerd Dreher**. Katyana Kuhne attended her first General Meeting since joining HGMS last week. Two guests came: Joshua Ross and Ken Drew.

**Minutes:** Nancy Fischer moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 General Meeting as posted in the e-blast on Sunday, October 21, 2018. Sigrid Stewart seconded it, and the motion passed.

**President's Announcements: Holiday Party on December 15, 2018:** Just a reminder, the Holiday Dinner and Auction will be held at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Rd., just north of I-10. HGMS will provide the meats. Members are asked to bring a side dish, desserts, or drinks. We will be able to set up the tables and auction in the sanctuary at 4:30 p.m. Like last year, we will need helpers for setup and breakdown of the sanctuary area.

**The new Trade Show Committee met last week** to choose a date and discuss new registration processes. **Saturday, January 12, 2019** was chosen for the next Trade Show. More news will come as the committee decides on the registration process.

### Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked members to look for reports of Section news in the BBG, on the Web site <http://hgms.org>, or by reading the weekly e-blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. If you are not on Jim Kendall's e-mail list and you are a member, please contact him at [kendallja@att.net](mailto:kendallja@att.net).

**Day Light Section:** Although there is not a Section Chair yet, programs are already scheduled through April 2019. The next meeting is **Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.** Margaret Hardman-Muye will teach us how to make a heart bracelet.

**Archaeology Section** will meet on **Thursday, November 1, 2018**. The program is **Golden Age of the Knights of Saint John**.

**Show Committee:** **Scott Singleton** reported that the Show Education Committee participated in the Earth Science Day activities two weeks ago. Last week they worked at Energy Day Downtown. The **Show Auction and Dinner, October 27, 2018**, will open at 5:00 p.m. to allow folks to see the auction items and to bring side dishes or desserts for the Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Brisket will be provided. You may bring your own beer or wine. He also presented several of the items for auction: a three-foot tall crystal cluster, a couple of the nine frames of arrowheads, the Genie from the estate of Karen Burns, and the Mexican coconut geode.

**Scott** thanked the volunteers who have already signed up, and he encouraged more people to participate. Volunteers are the only source of personnel the Club has to put on this important Annual Event. **Nancy English** listed the areas still needing help, which basically is all of them.

**Mary Ann Mitscherling** has done a great job of getting Lapidary Demonstration volunteers. She still needs a few more. She provided a sign-up chart.



**Beverly Mace** reminded everyone that the truck will be loaded at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2018. All the equipment and material must be labeled by then and ready to load. On Thursday morning, November 8, at 8:00 a.m., each Section must have one person at the loading dock to be certain that their Section's property goes to the right place in the Humble Civic Center.

**Steve Blyskal** announced that all the Mineral Kits and Paleo Kits are ready for the Education Committee School Daze program.

President Brandes invited other Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements. There were none, and he proceeded to Old Business.

### Old Business

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked members to look for the progress of Old Business items and the BOD Meeting Minutes in the latest BBG.

A member reminded the Club that the backdoor bell needs to be repaired.

**Nominating Committee: Clyde McMeans** presented the 2019 slate of officer nominees. The nominees are:

**President:** .....Sigrid Stewart  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** .....Mike Sommers  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** .....Beverly Mace  
**Treasurer (temporarily):**.....Rodney Linehan  
**Secretary:**.....Nancy English.

No additional nominations came from the floor. The election of officers will occur during the November 27 General Meeting.

**HGMS Officers** will be elected during the November General Meeting on November 27, 2018.

### New Business

**Nancy English** asked for help with a Cleanup Day on Wednesday, October 24, to prepare the club for the Show Dinner and Auction. Melinda Schmidt volunteered to help.

**The next Board meeting is Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.**

**The next General Meeting (last for 2018) will be Tuesday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m.** Nancy Engelhardt-Moore will present "Antarctica: The Final Frontier," based on her 1979–1980 visit to the continent.

**Show 'n Tell: Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart** stayed with Martha McKay on Lake Travis. They shopped in Llano and brought back a pair of turkey agates; porcelain jasper (sometimes called Si Fi jasper); a naturally etched calcite crystal; calcites from Georgetown, Texas; calcite from Bulgaria; and unusual Montana Agate. **David Hawkins** spent two weeks in Colorado with former longtime member Brian Honsinger. David came home through Utah where he dug for trilobites that he showed us. He also visited Meteor Crater in Arizona and the Petrified Forest where he saw antelope, deer, elk, buffalo, and wild turkey. **James Wark** brought some old, maybe ancient coins that he found in an old house that he was tearing down. He was directed to the Archeology Section to find out about them. **Jack Opatrany** displayed a Brazilian quartz with inclusions of schorl and clay.

**Drawing:** James Wark won the agate slice.

**Refreshments:** Foster Kneeland provided the refreshments. **Jack Opatrany** will bring refreshments to the November 27, 2018, General Meeting. Members were reminded to **FEED THE KITTY!**

**Adjourn:** Phyllis George moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Debbie Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Sigrid Stewart** introduced Inda Immega, who presented, "A Life in Stone, the Gem Carvings of Gerd Dreher."

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

*November 6, 2018*

*by Nancy English*

X	President—Paul Brandes	X	Beading Rep—Kim Fuselier
X	1st Vice President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Day Light Rep—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace		Gemstones & Faceting Rep— Randy Carlson
	Treasurer—Liane Linehan	X	Lapidary & Metalsmithing Rep— Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Mineral Rep—Mike Sommers
X	Archaeology Rep—Nancy Engelhardt-Moore	X	Paleontology Rep—Mike Dawkins

**Vice President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:31p.m.** A quorum was present.

Non-voting members in attendance: Scott Singleton—Show Committee Chairman, and Foster Kneeland—HGMS member.

**Vice President Sigrid Stewart's Comments:** Great Auction! Sales of Karen Burns' donation will be split with her family, so a final number is not yet available. The Show Committee would like to thank the roomful of people who came out to the Show Dinner and Auction. It was a huge success, thanks to the great donations we received for this event. The numbers are still being tallied, but we are very encouraged by the initial results of over \$2,000. Special thanks go out to Clyde McMeans who got the excellent BBQ beef, Nancy English who tallied the bids and took the money at the end, and our auctioneers Neal Immega, Steve Blyskal, and Paul Robles who stepped in to finish the auction. Beverly Mace was at the Club all day organizing tables, setting up the areas to serve food. Kim Fuselier and Melinda Schmidt decorated the tables. The food—as always—was great. Lots of laughing and bidding. A great time was had by all! Thanks!

**Volunteers for the Show** is a serious situation. Please contact people you know and convince them to volunteer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Nancy English sent the BOD the final minutes for October 2, 2018.

Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018, BOD meeting. Mike Dawkins seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rodney Linehan emailed the October 31, 2018 financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting. Thankfully, Rodney will handle the Show Treasurer duties. The insurance bill shows a 12.9% increase. \$5,106.00 is the amount due by 11/01/2018.

Last year the amount was \$4,522.00.

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Section Reports:** Nancy English announced that since the Sunday E-blasts and the HGMS Web site have detailed descriptions of upcoming meetings, she will be using abbreviated information in the Agenda and Minutes.

**Archaeology Section: Meeting Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.** The program is "Golden Age of the Knights of Malta." On Thursday, December 6, 2018, a Holiday Party Potluck and Show & Tell will be held. An informative discussion will follow on how technology can be used to unmask modern replicas.

**Beading Section: Saturday, November 17, 2018 1:30 p.m.** To be announced.

**Day Light Section:** On Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Margaret Muye-Hardman will teach how to make a heart bracelet. Wire will be supplied. Some tools will be available. Bring your own pliers, if you have them.

**Education:** See **Old Business** for discussion

**Gemstones and Faceting Section: Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** We will be moving some equipment to facilitate operations. Featured Stone: Zircon.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Monday, November 19, 2018, 7:30 Program:** Margaret Hardman-Muye will demonstrate and explain how to use Precious Metal Clay.

**Library:** No report

**Mineral Section:** **NO Meeting Wednesday, November 7. Meeting on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, 7:30 p.m. is moved to November 28. Program:** Discussing the annual show and any acquisitions.

**Paleo Section: Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 7:30 p.m.** Program to be announced. Since Neal will be gone, Mike Dawkins will present the program.

### Show Committee Reports:

**Scott Singleton** promoted the Country Inn and Suites offer of special rates for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show! Located at 20166 Hwy 59, Humble, TX 77338, guests can call 281-446-7499 and ask for the Gem and Mineral Rate! Choose from a King Suite with 1 king bed and pull out couch or a Queen Suite with 2 queen beds and pull out couch for **\$80.00 per room, per night (+ tax)**. Check out the Web site for more info: [www.countryinns.com/humble-hotel-tx-77338/txhoaire](http://www.countryinns.com/humble-hotel-tx-77338/txhoaire)

**Publicity: Scott Singleton** received an email from someone who works with Deborah Duncan of KHOU. They will present information about our show on the Show's Weekend segment.

There also is info about the HGMS Show on "Houston 365."

**School Daze:** School registration is down, probably because Chris Peek moved, and we had no luck with new contacts. Private and home school registrations are still good. It is also hard to get

school buses. Scott will add eblast Show Comments to Show Committee reports

**Youth Section:** The next meeting will be **Saturday, November 17**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday, December 1, 2018** they will have a **Christmas party** with pizza and salad. Families are asked to bring a dessert. Awards from the Show will be presented. This is our last meeting for 2018. **NO meeting** on Saturday, December 15.

**BBG Editor:** The deadline to send in articles and other pertinent information for inclusion in the December 2018 BBG is **Thursday, November 15, 2018**.

**Old Business**

**Education: Quentin cannot be at BOD meeting.** The Board discussed Quentin's write up, "Setting Up Classes the Easy Way." Sigrid Stewart and Fred Brueckner will meet with Quentin after the Show to determine the easiest way to set up classes.

**Security System is functional. AC improvements:** Lee Thompson A/C came out to do an A/C inspection and provide a bid for repair. VP Sigrid Stewart is looking at two companies for more bids.

**Nominating Committee:** Clyde McMeans represented the Nominating Committee. He reported the 2019 slate of officers to be nominated at the November 27, 2018 General Meeting.

**President:** ..... Sigrid Stewart  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** ..... Mike Sommers  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** ..... Beverly Mace  
The position of **Treasurer** is pending  
**Secretary:** ..... Nancy English

Thanks go to Clyde and the other members of the Committee for their work on this.

Treasurer Rodney Linehan will do the HGMS 2018 taxes. He also will perform the Treasurer duties at the 2018 Show. A new Treasurer must know how to use Quicken software, be able to pay bills online, and be computer literate.

**Updated Shop Rules:** Tony Lucci had no report. Neal will discuss duties with Tony.

**The Field Trip to Midlothian, TX**—scheduled for **Saturday, October 13**—was rained out again. It may be rescheduled in January.

**Building Safety:** No report

**Creating "How-To" videos:** No report

**2019 Trade Show:** Nancy English reported that the new Trade Show Committee—Steve Blyskal, Rick Rexroad, Mike Sommers, and Nancy English—met on October 17, before the Mineral meeting. They chose January 12 and April 13 for upcoming Trade Shows. Chase Jennings did not attend. Chase did call during the meeting. He intends to continue as the Trade Show Chairperson. He has a conflict with January 12 for the Trade Show.

**The Committee** discussed a **Random Generator** process for registration: Rick Rexroad put together a brief description of how the random generator will work. Nancy suggested a deadline of **December 12** for dealers to sign up for the drawing. That will give us plenty of time to draw and assign locations.

**Advertising:** We expect Chase to advertise the Trade Show as he always has. Sigrid Stewart and Nathan Gandara have offered to help with the Social Media advertising.

**Signs:** Maggie Morgan will look into the signs she has in mind. I will let Jim Kendall know we want to collect campaign signs to use as bases for the direction signs.

**Table rearrangement:** Fred Brueckner has agreed to make updated table arrangement maps for the Trade Show Committee to review at the next meeting.

**Food Truck:** Chase has agreed to notify the Food Truck of our proposed dates.

The Trade Show Registration will be done through the HGMS Web site.

**Future Meetings:** We need to meet at least once—maybe twice—before the January Trade Show. Nancy suggested 5:30 p.m. before the Mineral Section meeting on **Wednesday, November 21** or 6:00 p.m. before the General Meeting on **Tuesday, November 27**.

**Mascot Naming Contest:** Kim Fuselier provided the Board with a list of the Mascot name entries. Foster Kneeland counted the votes of the Board members. The new mascot name and the winner of the naming contest will be announced at the Holiday Party on December 15.

### New Business

**Web Site online version of BBG vs Mailed BBG:** The BOD discussed ways to provide identical BBGs online and in hard copy. The phone numbers for HGMS Officers, HGMS Section Chairs, and HGMS Appointed Positions are printed on page 3 of the hard copy version. To avoid sharing that information online, much of the third page has been left blank. Nancy English moved to make a single BBG for hard copy and online postings. Page 3, with HGMS Officers, HGMS Section Chairs, and HGMS Appointed Positions will have the Position, person's name, and the appropriate HGMS.org email address instead of the phone number. The HGMS Web site forwards HGMS.org email addresses to the recipient's personal email. To thwart "Web crawlers," that portion of the page will be inserted as an image—not text. Kim Fuselier seconded the motion, and it passed.

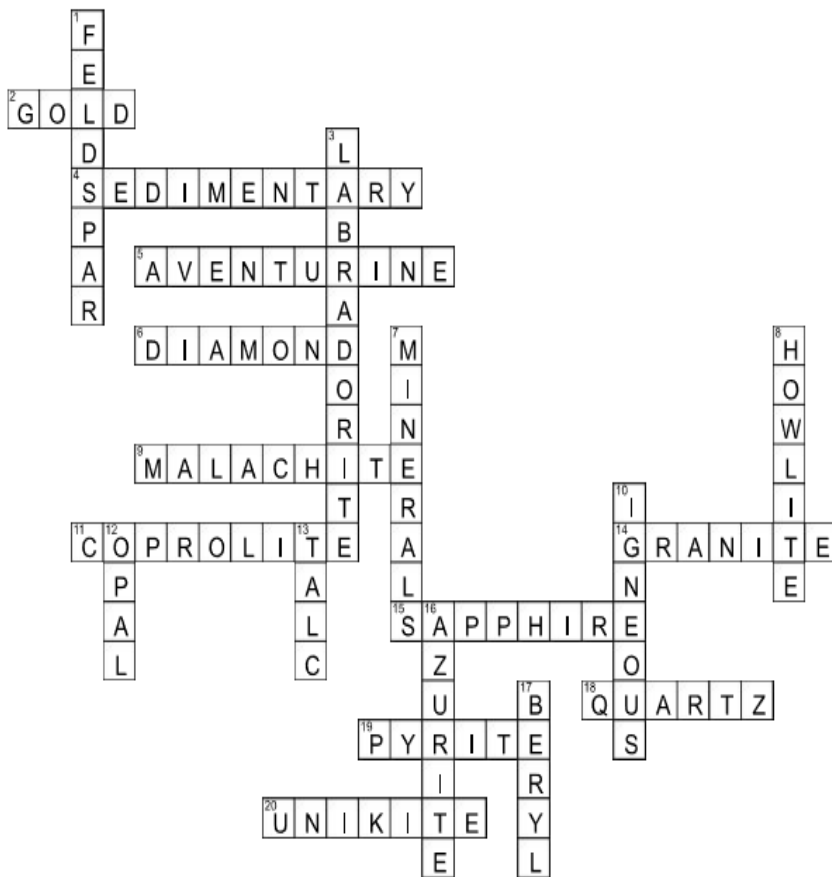
**Next Board of Directors meeting:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The next **General Meeting is Tuesday, November 27, 2018 7:30 p.m.** Nancy Engelhardt-Moore will present "Antarctica: The Final Frontier," based on her 1979–1980 visit to the continent.

**Adjourn:** Mike Dawson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Sommers seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.



## Don't Take Me for Granite Puzzle Solution



## Don't Take Me for Granite Puzzle Solution

**ACROSS:** 2. Gold; 4. Sedimentary; 5. Aventurine; 6. Diamond;  
9. Malachite; 11. Coprolite; 14. Granite; 15. Sapphire; 18. Quartz;  
19. Pyrite; 20. Unikite.

**DOWN:** 1. Feldspar; 3. Labradorite; 7. Minerals; 8. Howlite;  
10. Igneous; 12. Opal; 13. Talc; 16. Azurite; 17. Beryl.

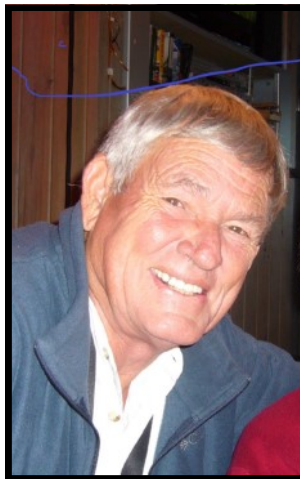


## AFMS President's Message

*by Doug True, President  
from AFMS Newsletter-11/2018*

I have been a resident of Billings, Montana for 47 years. I lived in southern California as a child through age 21, and then six years as a medic in the Air Force during the Viet Nam Conflict. After that, we moved to Montana. What a great place for a young rock hound to live. I have always liked collecting rocks and minerals. I love to hunt Montana agate on the Yellowstone River and Bear Canyon agate from the Pryor Mountains.

I joined a local Gem club in the 1970s, and that was the beginning of 50 years of promoting this great hobby. I have been President of the Billings Gem and Mineral Club for five years, President of the Montana Council for two years, President of the NFMS 2000–2001, President of the Old Timers Club, ALAA President for two years, and President of Prinville Rock Hound Pow Wow in Oregon for five years. Along with this, my wife Jeanette and I have been dealers selling Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, and Fossils on and off almost fifty years. I was Show Chair for a NFMS show in Billings 1998 and AFMS Show in Billings 2009 and Club Dealer Chair for many years. We also have a shop in Quartzsite, Arizona that we opened 15 years ago. I am fieldtrip chair for NFMS and have organized several multi-federation trips over the years, and I have trained at Wildacres as an AFMS Judge. You can see that I am a supporter of clubs, federations, and dealers. Promoting the hobby is our love and always will be.



It is an honor to be able to serve you, and I hope to meet more of you as this year goes forward. My goal is to continue the work that Sandy started. Her goal was to strengthen our committees and to work more on Long-Range Planning. We need to work together as a group to accomplish these goals—that means we need input from everyone. Shows are the lifeblood of every club—they are that one big moneymaker that you need to continue to fund your projects.

Many clubs struggle to make ends meet. Some of the problems are the rising cost of a facility, advertising costs, and finding quality vendors. We also need to remember that the show is designed to raise funds to support your club activities, so you must draw in the public to buy the vendors' products. Remember—the public is there to see the dealers and to find that decorator item, jewelry, or that choice rock to cut—plus the many special things that dealers have for sale. The public is looking for quality. That means the show is not the place for club members to dump their extras or seconds.

I cannot count the number of clubs who no longer are having shows because of poor attendance—often due to little or no advertising. The day of printing up 1000 flyers is gone. Spending money brings in money; you get what you pay for. Utilize every avenue you have—Facebook, all free notices with Radio and TV—and look for special exhibits and then advertise them.

We also need to remember that we are a Not-for-Profit

**Continued on page 18.**

**AFMS President' Message continued**

organization to promote the hobby and not to see how much money you can build up in your bank account. That money is to promote the hobby. A good show, fieldtrips, and programs will bring in new members. We have spent too many years building within. Reaching out is what makes our clubs grow.

Donations are another situation with which clubs need to deal. Many club Boards receive donations of collections to be used for promoting the hobby. Those items are to be sold to the public through special sales and auctions. They are not to be divided up among the members of the club first. (THAT is Fraud or stealing from your own club members and their hobby.) A few spoil it for everyone.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Doug

**REMEMBERING THE MAYFLOWER**

*by Henry N. Ferguson, Boulder Buster Geology Study Club  
from Granite Chips, Glory Hole, via MINERAL MATTER 12/1992,  
via The Roadrunner 11/2018*

**O**n December 21, 1620, a little ship of 180 tons made landfall in the New World after a rough and stormy nine-week voyage from England. The Mayflower, with 102 persons aboard, including 33 children, carried the Pilgrims to their new home and laid the cornerstone of a nation.

Captain Christopher Jones obligingly stood by in Cape Cod Bay throughout that dreadful first winter. But by spring, with more than half the Pilgrims and a large number of his crew dead from the hardships of the New England winter, Jones set sail for England. Few paid any attention to Mayflower's return. She was, perhaps, the least conspicuous of the 40 to 50 vessels that sailed for America every year with settlers or to fish. In 1624, the Mayflower was declared "in ruins," and sold. With that, the ship passed into oblivion, not to be noticed again for three centuries.

Few Americans are aware that the Mayflower, one of the most famous ships in this nation's history, still lives—as part of a barn in the tiny English village of Jordans, Buckinghamshire. There it stands in the midst of the pristine beechwoods of the Chilterns, about an hour's journey from London.

For more than 300 years, she has lain upside down on a brick floor, her hull serving as the roof of a barn owned by the Society of Friends (Quakers). The original coat of red paint has long since disappeared, but the sturdy oak timbers are still solid. The curved beams of her hull are bleached white and stand out like the skeletal ribs of an enormous whale.

But how did the remains of the Mayflower end up as a barn in this rolling countryside? And how do we know—for sure—that these remains are of the Pilgrims' ship? The tradition that this barn was fashioned from the Mayflower is generations old in the neighborhood. Just to make sure, a group of experts launched an exhaustive historical detective hunt that dug up enough evidence to convince everyone of its authenticity.

First, they discovered a 350-year-old bill of sale stating the vessel was sold to a Buckinghamshire farmer named William Russell. It brought only \$384 in the transaction, at current rates of exchange. Its five great anchors went for less than \$100. The set of sails brought \$45, and "ye pitch pot and kettle" were knocked down for \$1.90. The spars were donated to the nearby town

of Abington, and they were used in the construction of their Congregational Church, which is still in use.

Russell reassembled the Mayflower as a livestock shelter, then proceeded to sell it—along with the adjoining farmhouse—to the Quakers.

The old farm kitchen and barn were built a year or so after. On one of the beams in the barn, one can easily decipher the letters "R HAR I", which experts conclude is all that remains of the words, "MAYFLOWER HARWICH." Possibly the most conclusive bit of evidence is found in the diary of William Russell Bradford, who recorded every detail of the ship's voyage to America. Bradford described a terrible storm that, at its height, cracked one of the beams amid-ship. A great iron screw of a printing press stored in the ship's hold was set in position to bolster the sagging beam, enabling the vessel to continue on her journey to the New World.

In the Mayflower barn, there is a 15-foot crack in one of the beams supporting the roof. It corresponds exactly to the precise description given in Bradford's diary. American promoters have attempted several times to purchase the historical monument from the Quakers and move it to the United States. Each offer is refused.

Perhaps it is just as well. There are far worse places where the Mayflower might have ended her days. In fact, looking at the English countryside falling away in all directions from the barn, one thinks the Pilgrims could hardly have wished for a more fitting "harbor" for the brave little vessel that carried them safely to America more than 350 years ago.

A door crosspiece retains an embossed floral carving of the "May" flowers.



**from Wikipedia, Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor.  
Painting by William Halsall.**

## HGMS 2018 Show Photos

*Taken by John Mitscherling*

*Taken by John Mitscherling*













## Tourmaline, a Mineral for Christmas?

by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
from Chips and Chatter 12/2018

What colors do you think of for Christmas? I think of White, Red, and Green. White for snow, green for the traditional Christmas tree, and Red for the suit Santa Claus wears. An Internet search for a stone or mineral for Christmas, much like a birthstone, yielded no results. Therefore, I nominate Tourmaline variety Elbaite, specifically the type called Watermelon Tourmaline as the Christmas Mineral. It is red and green like watermelon, and often sits on a base (matrix) of white albite, quartz, or Cleavelandite. If it is cut into a gemstone, you retain only the tourmaline portion of the specimen; you lose the white color, but close enough!



Tourmaline is actually a family with 33 recognized members that span the color spectrum. Elbaite is the variety of tourmaline most people encounter in gemstones. It has the chemical composition of  $\text{Na}(\text{Li}_{1.5}\text{Al}_{1.5})\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}(\text{BO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_3\text{OH}$ ; you have to wonder how all those chemicals get together in one solution to create the mineral! It has a Mohs hardness of 7.5—slightly harder than quartz. Brazil is the world's largest producer of Tourmaline variety Elbaite, but that title once belonged to the mines in San Diego, California.

If you would rather have a Christmas Rock rather than a Mineral, and if you are willing to give up the white color, then I would nominate Bloodstone as the Christmas Rock. Bloodstone is also the birthstone for March, but then tourmaline (unspecified variety) is also the birthstone for October. Bloodstone, also known as heliotrope, is a green chalcedony with red spots or blobs. It is a member of the Quartz family with a chemical composition of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7.0.

The majority of the Bloodstone on the market comes from Indonesia. It is also found in many other parts of the world, including here in the United States. Locations in the US include California and other states—including Texas.



### References:

- ② Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- ② Birthstones, <https://www.americangemsociety.org>
- ② Mindat, <https://www.mindat.org/>

**Pictures** from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>:

**Bloodstone:** Picture by Ra'ike, licensed under CCA-SA 3.0

**Tourmaline:** Picture by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com—CC-BY-SA-3.0

## The Night before Christmas

by Edna F. Pauli

*Originally published in the Golden Spike News, December 1954,*

*via Rock Buster News 12/2017,*

*via The Franklin County Rockhounder 12/2017*

**T**'was the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring; there wasn't room for a mouse. With geodes and nodules under table and chair, a wee little mouse can't squeeze in anywhere. The children were nestled all snug in their beds as visions of fossil fish swam through their heads, and Mother dreams of opals, and me of a lap, we had just settled down for a long winter's nap. When out in the street there 'rose such a clatter, I jumped out of bed as mad as a hatter. I stumbled downstairs, two at a time, just as our clock tolled its 3 a.m. chime. I opened the door and took a long look. The sight that I saw there would make quite a book. For parking in front with a roar and a squeak, was dear old St. Nick in a well-loaded jeep. He paused just a moment to check his long list and made doubly certain no one would be missed.

There's agate, onyx, turquoise, and rhodonite, Carnelian, crystal, sapphire, and malachite. He names every stone I ever had heard, and my heart was so happy it sang like a bird. For rocks to a rockhound are really a must—right next to that stuff labeled, "In God We Trust." It took quite a while to do this little chore, but as soon as he'd finished, he came straight for the door. And I can't understand, though I've honestly tried, but before I could turn, he was right there inside.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work, and I stood there and watched though I felt like a "jerk." For he knew what I wanted more than I did myself—and was wise beyond reason, this right jolly old elf. The gifts he had brought were trips for the next year, and the making of new friends from far and near, the singing of old songs around campfires bright, and being with the gang every rock meeting night.

He picked up his pack and prepared to depart, and I gave him my thanks from the bottom of my heart. For friendship we know is a wonderful gem, and the principal key to Peace among Men. He sprang to his jeep, and stepped on the gas, and left 'mid the snowflakes which sparkled like glass. But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas Rockhounds, and to all, a good night."



## Showtime 2018

Dec. 8-9 Leesville, LA DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society  
Leesville Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 276 HM Stevens Blvd  
[bmjoubert@aol.com](mailto:bmjoubert@aol.com); <https://rockngemswla.com>

## Show Time 2019

Jan. 19-20 Fredericksburg, TX SCFMS hosted by Fredericksburg Rockhounds.  
Jan. 25-27 2019 Tyler, TX East Texas Gem and Mineral Show  
Tyler, Texas, 420 Rose Park Dr  
[keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com); [etgms.com](http://etgms.com)  
Jan 24-Feb. 11 Tucson, AZ Tucson Show—multiple venues  
Feb. 16-17 Georgetown, TX Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society  
Georgetown Community Center @ San Gabriel Park  
445 East Morrow Street  
Email: [sparksaustin@outlook.com](mailto:sparksaustin@outlook.com)  
Mar. 8-10 Pomona, CA CFMS hosted by Pasadena Lapidary Society  
Mar 23-24 Cedar Rapids, IA MWF-AFMS hosted by Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society  
June 1-2 Monroe, NY EFMLS hosted by Monroe Gem & Mineral Society  
Aug 2-4 Prescott, AZ RMFMS hosted by Prescott Gem & Mineral Club  
Prescott Valley Event Center at Glassford Hill & Florentine  
Oct. 18-20 Lewiston, ID NFMS hosted by Lewiston Gem & Mineral Society



2018		December				2018	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
2 10-4 Shop Open  1 <sup>st</sup> Night of Hanukkah	3	4 11-3 Shop Open  7:30 BOD Meeting	5 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light 7:30 Mineral Section	6 7:30 Archaeology Section Meeting	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 10-4 Shop Open	
9 10-4 Shop Open	10	11 11-3 Shop Open	12 10-3 Shop Open NO Gemstone & Faceting Section	13	14	15 10-4 Shop Open NO Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section HGMS Christmas Party	
16 10-4 Shop Open	17 NO Lapidary Section	18 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open NO Mineral Section	20	21 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Winter	22 10-4 Shop Open	
23 10-4 Shop Open	24	25 NO Shop Open	26 10-3 Shop Open	27	28	29 10-4 Shop Open	
30 NO Shop Open	31 New Year's Eve	Christmas Day					

2019		January				2019	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 New Year's Day	2 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	3 NO Archaeology Section Meeting	4	5 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
6 10-4 Shop Open	7	8 11-3 Shop Open  7:30 BOD Meeting	9 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	10	11	12 10-4 Shop Open	
13 10-4 Shop Open	14	15 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	16 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	17	18	19 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
20 10-4 Shop Open	21 7:30 Lapidary Section Martin Luther King Day	22 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop Open	24	25	26 10-4 Shop Open	
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29 11-3 Shop Open	30 10-3 Shop Open	31			

# 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)  
2006-2016 - 1st (Large)  
2017 - 1st (Large)  
2018 - 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)

PUBLICATION

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**

BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
PERMIT NO. 303

**DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY !**