



The

BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume L—No. 4

April 2019



President's Message

by Sigrid Stewart

April is a great time to be on the road in Texas! Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush are blooming, and sunny days beckon. We got a start on the new travel season by visiting Llano with former HGMS member Martha McRae, for the Earth Arts Festival showcasing competitive rock stackers. Really! There were some fascinating sculptures in the park area of the Llano riverbed—just below the dam. Plenty of rocks to be had there!



We had many interesting conversations about the flooding in the Llano area last October. That flood scoured the Llano River from Junction to Kingsland, raised the level of Lake LBJ—a “constant level” lake—and then washed out the bridge at Kingsland before filling up Lake Travis. We expressed our sympathies, having some flood stories of our own.

After the festival, we visited a ranch on the Mason/Llano county line, with numerous granite outcrops to explore. Then on to the little town of Castell, a river crossing popular with kayakers and car and motorcycle rallies.

We have an April 13 HGMS Trade Show to look forward to at a new location—Bill Moore's warehouse in East Downtown. Hope everyone can come out!

President's Message continued on Page 4

Upcoming Program

by Michael Sommers, 1st Vice President

General Meeting Program—April 23, 2019: Third time's the charm! At long last, we will hear about the little-known areas of the Moon that in some locations have a different surface feature—one that may be unique to it—lunar swirls. Lunar swirls are bright, like fresh impact ejecta rays, yet unlike the very linear shape of ejecta rays, swirls typically have a curvy, swirly shape. What lunar swirls are or how they formed has been a

Upcoming Program continued on Page 4

Contents

President's Message	1
Upcoming Program	1
HGMS Purpose	3
HGMS 2019 Officers, Section Chairs, and Appointed Positions	3
Pyrite Pete and the Trade Show	4
Archaeology Section	5
HGMS Africa Outreach	7
General Meeting Minutes—02/26/2019	9
Board Meeting Minutes—03/05/2019	12
SCFMS President's Message	16
Bench Tips	17
Five Strange Rocks of New England	18
Geologists Discover Bacteria That Turns Gold Fragments Into Solid Nuggets	20
Web Resources for Rockhounding	21
Dolomite	22
I Am a Bounder	23
How to Cut Obsidian	24
Communication—Are We Losing the Art?	24
Digging for Gems (Cartoon)	25
Show Time 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.

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Copy is due for the May 2019 issue by Monday, April 15, 2019.

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

Purpose of HGMS

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

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

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

2019 HGMS Officers

President	Sigrid Stewart	President@HGMS.org
First Vice-President	Mike Sommers	Programs@HGMS.org
Second Vice-President	Beverly Mace	Membership@HGMS.org
Secretary	Nancy English	Secretary@HGMS.org
Treasurer	Rodney Linehan	(Temporary) Treasurer@HGMS.org
Past President	Paul Brandes	
Archeology Section Board Member	Nancy Engelhardt-Moore	Archeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Board Member	Kim Fuselier	Beading@HGMS.org
Day Light Section Board Member	Fred Brueckner	
Faceting Section Board Member	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary Section Board Member	Phyllis George	Editor@HGMS.org
Mineral Section Board Member	Steve Blyskal	Mineral@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

Assistant Show Chair		
Assistant Show Chair	Clyde McMeans	
Backbender's Gazette Editor	Phyllis George	Editor@HGMS.org
Clubhouse Chair	Neal Immega	ClubhouseChair@HGMS.org
Day Light Contact Person	Mary Ann Mitscherling ...	DayLight@HGMS.org
Donations	Neal Immega	Donations@HGMS.org
HGMS Education Chair	Quentin Boyer	Classes@HGMS.org
Lapidary Templates	Mary Ann Mitscherling ...	Templates@HGMS.org
Librarian for Main Library	Quentin Boyer	Librarian@HGMS.org
Publicity Chair	Sara Metsa	Publicity@HGMS.org
Scholarships	Mike Sommers	Scholarships@HGMS.org
Show Chair	Scott Singleton	ShowChair@HGMS.org
Trade Show	Scott Singleton	Tradeshow@HGMS.org
Trade Show	Sigrid Stewart	Tradeshow@HGMS.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Nancy English	VolunteerCoordinator@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 (except December) at 7:30. The HGMS Web site address is <https://hgms.org>.

President's Message continues

Alpine's Gem & Mineral Show is April 19–21.

For the last weekend of the month, there is a new mineral show in Conroe, the Texas Gem & Mineral Show, and we will have a table there. Maybe these shows will inspire your spring travels!

Upcoming Program continues

mystery since their discovery about 50 years ago. However, new measurements from recent lunar missions have begun to shed new light on the lunar swirls. And despite the swirls only being a lunar feature, unlocking their secret is proving to be more than just understanding a lunar phenomenon. The swirls provide a laboratory to study the solar wind, space weathering, and complex electromagnetic interactions in the solar system.

Georgiana Kramer is a planetary geologist who studies the history and evolution of the Moon, planets, and asteroids, and applies her knowledge toward developing strategies for human and robotic exploration of the Solar System.

Dr. Kramer graduated from the University of Hawaii in 2000 with a B.S. in Geology and Geophysics. Her passion for planetary geology began early during her undergraduate studies, ultimately becoming the focus of her graduate work at the University of Notre Dame from where she received her Ph.D. in 2007.

Dr. Kramer studies the composition, structure, and evolution of the Moon, asteroids, and other planetary bodies. Her background in petrology and geochemistry is rooted in laboratory analysis of terrestrial, lunar, and meteoritic samples, and she uses these analyses to model their origin and evolution.

She is also a spectroscopist and geomorphologist, and for the last 12 years, her research has focused on interpretation of data from spacecraft missions. She was a member of the Moon Mineralogy Mapper Science Team, which was the first instrument to unambiguously detect water on the Moon and map its global variations. She also spent a few years on the Dawn and Rosetta Science Teams.



Pyrite Pete says,

Put April 13 on your calendar! The next **HGMS Trade Show** will be held at **Bill Moore's warehouse in east downtown.** The address is **1004 Roberts, Houston, Texas from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Y'all come!

Archaeology Section

by Jay Roussel and Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

March 7, 2019: Bob Moore called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. There was no Old Business. Bob announced the April speaker, Dub Crook, who will speak about archaeological excavations in Jericho. In May, Bob said that he will present "**Megalithic Structures in Neolithic Europe**". There was no other new business. Then, Bob introduced Jack Farrell who came to speak on composite bows of Asia. Following the talk, there was a drawing for a door prize, a UV flashlight generously donated by Clyde McMeans. Dirk Sierag won it and the meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Program: Jack mentioned that the arrow is 30,000 years older than the bow. The oldest bows found are from Europe, but that may be because of the amount of archaeology done in this area versus areas of Asia. English archers used longbows. Many of the bows that we see in art are composite bows. Some Native Americans made bows out of Elk antler.

One of the people who made composite bows famous are the Scythians. They were herders, excellent horseman, and were famous for archery. Today at sites throughout Asia, you can find evidence of pressure from the Scythians. The space they inhabited was over 6000 miles wide. The Eastern Scythians buried people in salt deposits and they were almost perfectly preserved. Luckily, they were buried with their bows so that we have great examples of how those bows were made. Jack showed a bow that he created based on those excavated bows. These bows shot 120 pounds. An authentic Scythians bow sold at auction for \$14,000.

Moving to the Common Era, the Huns of Central Asia started making recurve bows that curved into a "C" shape when unstrung. To the casual observer, the bow was strung in the opposite way that you would guess. As an example, using a similar design, Jack strung a Korean bow. Only until after it was strung does the shape make sense. These techniques were used due to the limited bow making woods that other regions may have had. Remains of these bows have been found from Korea to Europe. Composite bow parts can even be found in Britain due to soldiers who were conscripted from the Caspian area and fought for the Romans in Britain.

The Mongolians and later, Manchurians, made bows more similar to the Hun type.



Jack showing his handmade Scythian bow



Jack holding an unstrung Korean bow

Around 1500, Manchurians invaded China. The Manchurian bow design lasted 500 years. Jack presented an authentic Manchurian bow and compared it to an Egyptian bow, which he created based on designs from authentic bows.

Mughal bows from India are very unique. Often people don't believe they are bows, because of their extreme shape. All of the workshops were destroyed once the Mughal Empire fell in 1857.

Some of the most impressive archery competitions today are in Korea. Bhutanese archers have bows made of two pieces of bamboo. The arrows are also made of bamboo. The targets are at 145 meters and yet, they hit their targets. At end of his talk, Jack mentioned that he is part of an archery club called "Texas Traditional Archery" that meets every Sunday at 9 a.m. at the YMCA at 1234 W 34th St, Houston, TX.



Jack holding his custom-made arrows

Program Editor: Jack Farrell

Upcoming Programs: April 4, 2019: Houston Archeological Society member and long-time Texas archaeologist, Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, will give a presentation on his recent research on Ancient Jericho (Tell Es-Sultan) entitled ***"The Conquest of Canaan: Who Were Those Guys at Jericho?"*** Ancient Jericho is one of the most excavated sites in the Middle East, and yet it remains one of the most controversial. Dub will discuss the history of all the previous work conducted at Ancient Jericho, and then he will conclude with his own interpretation as to the date of the destruction of the city. As part of this work, Dub will talk about the two artifacts he recently uncovered at Jericho and their implications regarding a final occupation in the early part of the Late Bronze Age. Please join us for this fascinating talk! There will be refreshments and a door prize drawing.

May 2, 2019: Bob Moore will speak on ***"Megalithic Structures in Neolithic Europe."*** He will talk about the oldest manmade structures in the world including those in Turkey, Malta, England, Croatia, and Cyprus. Bob will enhance his talk by showing photos taken by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore during their visits to many ancient archaeological sites. Don't miss this spectacular presentation!

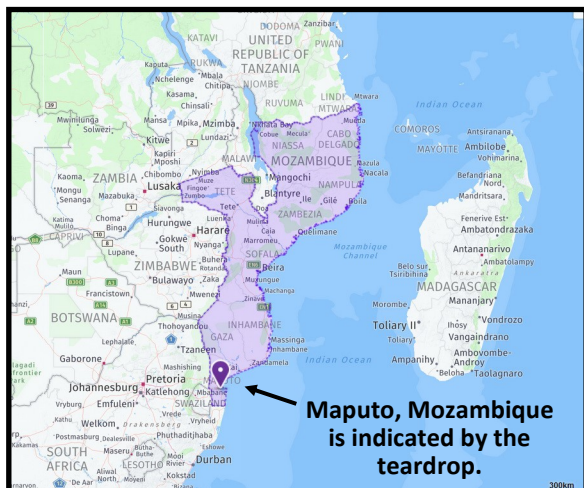


Bob and Nancy by Neolithic Maltese temple
Photos: N. Engelhardt-Moore

HGMS Africa Outreach by Neal Immega

Usually, the outreach activities of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society involve school programs, educational booths at various events, or helping teachers find resources for their classes. Recently though, we have had a request that is a little more unusual. The Paleontology Section is preparing a collection of fossils for the Mozambique Natural History Museum, located in the capital city of Maputo.

The museum, founded in 1911, is located in a restored Portuguese mansion with extensive gardens. One of our members, Al Robb, has been posted to that country by Exxon and will see to the creation of the exhibit. Apparently their Geology Section could use some new materials, and we are going to move a little bit of Texas to Mozambique.



The Natural History Museum is located in an elaborate Portuguese mansion.

The Section has organized a nice collection of petrified wood. Specimens have been donated by our members and identified by Scott Singleton. Mozambique, at about 19 degrees south latitude, is tropical. Therefore, we made a particular effort to include specimens from the Eocene of Texas at Bryan when its climate was tropical as well. We were happy, for example, to be able to include

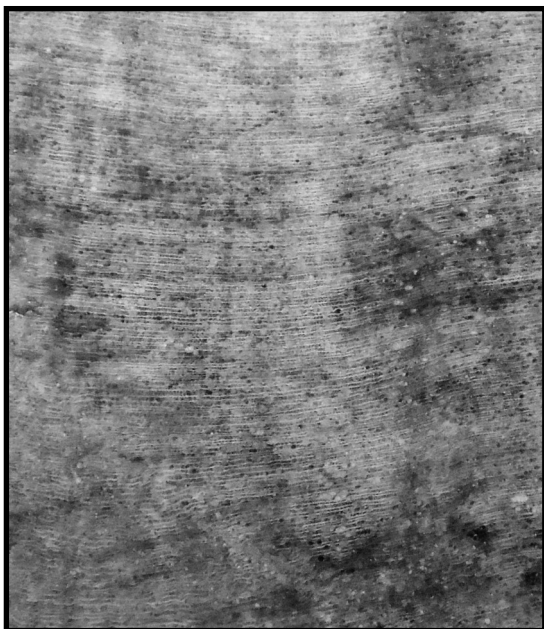


Plumeria tree in Hawaii

a specimen from the Dogbane family, possibly *Plumeria*. That is about as tropical as you can get. The picture above is the biggest *Plumeria* tree I encountered in Hawaii, and the fossil piece is from a trunk much bigger than that.

Our fossil *Plumeria* was found by the late HGMS member and petrified wood hoarder, Carolyn Thompson. It was passed on to Foster Kneeland by Tony Lucci. We had no idea what this was until Scott identified it for us. Just in case you want to find more, this is the cell structure. Note that there are no annual growth rings because the plant did not experience a winter to force it to stop growing.

We are also including some of our other favorite Texas fossils, like urchins and clams, oysters and brachiopods. So, heads up! Don't be too startled if on your next visit to Mozambique, you run head-on into a Texas fossil assemblage.



**Cell structure of fossil plumeria
from Bryan, TX**

General Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2019

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

President **Sigrid Stewart** called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. She thanked everyone for boldly braving the weather to come to the February General Meeting. Twenty-two people attended. Delia Bell was a guest. New member Martin Cassidy joined the club after meeting us at the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society (CLGMS) Show.

President Stewart announced that the speaker, Georgiana Kramer, Ph.D. was unable to get through the storm. Dr. Kramer will make her presentation during the March 26, 2019 General Meeting. President Stewart pointed out that the silent auction started at 7:00. Bids ended after the meeting, and members paid by cash.

Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 General Meeting as posted in the February 24, 2019 e-blast. Tom English seconded it, and the motion passed.

President's Announcements:

Clear Lake Show: Thanks to the volunteers who visited with countless families. They distributed flyers for **HGMS' 66TH Annual Show** as well as post cards for the **Texas Mineral & Fossil Show to be held in Conroe April 26–28**. Steve Blyskal complimented Scott Singleton on getting the HGMS Show flyers done in time for the CLGMS Show.

Sigrid explained that as usual, seeing someone else's show has given us ideas for possible use in our own show—like three large folding signs that read “Tickets Here” with arrows, plus magnetic signs for members' cars that will be in place for the week preceding shows. The Show Committee will consider these options.

Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Stewart asked members to look for reports of Section news in the BBG, on the Web site <https://hgms.org>, or by reading the weekly e-blast from Jim Kendall for future Section meetings and presentations. If you are a member and not on Jim Kendall's e-mail list, please contact him at kendallja@att.net. President Stewart invited other Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

Neal Immega said another large donation has been made to HGMS. He sold bags of slabs for \$1.00 each.

Old Business

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

Trade Show update: **President Stewart and Nancy English** attended the Dunn Southwest quarterly Board meeting. The Board outlined their expectations for our Trade Show in January 2020. A month or two before the Show, HGMS should ask for permission in writing from DSW to have the Trade Show, and we should notify the neighbors that the event is taking place. HGMS needs to maintain insurance to hold the neighbors harmless for any accidents that may happen on their properties: HGMS must provide Liability Insurance holding DSW harmless for any accidents on the property. Parking issues will need to be resolved. The Board was comforted that

the next Trade Show will be in January of 2020.

President Stewart and Steve Blyskal met with Bill Moore and finalized plans for the April 13 Trade Show at his location. The Trade Show committee will meet Saturday, March 2. Steve said there is no overhead lighting in Bill's warehouse. Dealers will need to provide their own lighting or have a table outside.

At the DSW meeting, Audrey Kelly, representative of Coir Property, reminded Sigrid and Nancy that a letter was sent last year to tenants stating that they must clean up their front door areas. HGMS has to clean up the porch area soon to avoid formal citation and fines. Wednesday and Saturday will be good days to work on it. Volunteers are welcome.

Post of Treasurer: Previously, Tatyana Kuhne presented references to President Stewart that are being checked out. At the General Meeting, Tatyana explained that she is creating a spreadsheet describing every monthly payment, and random payments: no account numbers or passwords, just schedules with companies. She committed to giving it to the club even if she is not installed as Treasurer.

Library: Lost in the Stacks -Neal has found marvelous and overlooked books. Email him to get on the waiting list.

1. *Crystal Growth and Development* -Boris Kantor, 2003 - 130 pages, full color. First Rate. Determine why your specimen looks the ways it does.
2. *Ontogeny of Minerals*—D.P. Grigorev—1961, b&w copy—more scholarly than the previous book. Full of new insights—at least to me.
3. *Reminiscences of a Mineralogist*—Arthur Montgomery 1997—Stories about famous localities that he personally dug—like Pala, Green Monster Mine, Utah topaz... First Rate

Library: The milk crates in front of the library contain Neal's discards. Please look through them and put anything you want returned to the stacks on the bottom shelf of the rack. Neal says you will have one week to review each pile of discards. Help is always welcome. Wednesdays and Saturdays are best.

Education Classes: President Stewart is attempting to jump-start class registration efforts. The current idea is to line up a few instructors, schedule some classes, and get people to register for a particular date and pay a deposit. Quentin Boyer and David Hawkins will work together on this. Mary Ann Mitscherling suggested that a plan to attract instructors would be a good idea. She agreed to work on it with the Education Committee.

Web site Committee: The Committee is working on online Dealer registration and on a better place to store our archived BBGs. These large files slow down the Web site back-ups. The Web site has a new banner.

In a related effort, members of the Web Site committee will meet Saturday, March 2, to discuss storing files on Drop Box.

Building: HVAC repair: Sigrid Stewart, Randy Carlson, and Fred Brueckner met and reviewed bids. Since each company has given us a different set of repair and replacement priorities, Fred is collating the information to prepare a standard request for service for the top three companies who have given us bids. Replacing the heating unit will be part of the project.

Office Clean up—Ongoing

Paint Projects: Jack Opatrany agreed to coordinate the painting projects in the main hall and restriping the parking lot. Tatyana Kuhne offered to be on the painting team. The projection wall will continue to be white. The other walls will be a different color.

New Business

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Georgiana Kramer, Ph.D., will present **Lunar Swirls**. We all know the surface of the Moon is covered by many bright (reflective) impact craters and large, darker “seas” of ancient lava flows. However, less well known is that in some locations, the Moon has another surface feature—one that may be unique to it—lunar swirls.

Silent Auction items will be available for viewing and bidding before the meeting. Payment for the silent Auction items will follow the program.

President Stewart asked if there was any further **New Business**. There was none.

Show ‘n Tell: **Clyde McMeans** displayed his newly purchased large piece of tourmaline infused with lepidolite and mica.

Steve Blyskal brought two flats of Texas minerals. Some were collected over thirty years ago.

Scott Singleton enthusiastically described the petrified wood he traded with an Australian collector. He had two pieces of Osmunda—a small piece from Austria, and a slab from Australia, referred to as Wandoan. Two other slabs were conifers. One with copper came from Sidi Rahal, Morocco in the Atlas Mountains. The other conifer is from Germany. Finally, he displayed a slab of shrink wood from Winnweiler, Germany, from the Permian period.

Drawing: Dirk Sieray won the geode half.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Richard Good seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Refreshments were served by Jack Opatrany. Members were reminded to **FEED THE KITTY!** No one offered to bring refreshments to the next General Meeting March 26, 2019.

Payment for the Silent Auction items followed the program.



RMGM Promotions
Presents
The NEW
Texas Mineral & Fossil Show
Conroe, Texas
April 26–28th, 2019
For more information visit the show website:
www.rmgmpromotions.com
You can find us on Facebook too!
Just search for
RMGM Texas Mineral and Fossil Show

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019
by Nancy English

Vice President Mike Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Non-voting members in attendance were Scott Singleton—Show Chairman and Trade Show Chairman; Tony Lucci—Shop Foreman; and Foster Kneeland.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 5, 2019 BOD meeting were sent to the Directors on March 4, 2019 for prior approval. Beverly Mace moved to approve the minutes of the February 5 meeting of the Board of Directors. Nancy Engelhardt-Moore seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Report: Interim Treasurer Rodney Linehan emailed the February 28, 2019 Financials to the Board on March 1. Steve Blyskal reminded the Board that he should be on the Treasurer's email list.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2019 Trade Show Committee: The Committee met on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Minutes of the meeting were attached to the Agenda. Bill Moore, longtime member of HGMS, offered his warehouse for the April 13, 2019 Trade Show.

Steve Blyskal is in charge of the floor plans. The warehouse is huge—plenty of space exists inside with additional space outside. Steve brought a rough draft showing all booth spaces inside Bill Moore's warehouse. Dealers may choose from two sizes of booth spaces: 10X10 and 10X15.

Dealers should plan to bring their own tables, chairs, and lighting. However, dealers can rent one or two tables for \$10.00 per table until the club's inventory of thirty-two tables is gone.

Rick Rexroad is handling Security. Bill Moore has a police officer he uses for the show. The cost of an off-duty police officer is \$40.00 per hour.

Only one restroom exists at the location. Nancy English presented a bid from National Construction Rentals of \$200.00 for two portable toilets—tax waived for non-profit. To pay for these additional expenses, the Trade Show Committee will increase the booth rentals by \$10.00 per booth space.

Nancy English moved to have the next Trade Show at Bill Moore's warehouse, 1004 Roberts, Houston, Texas on April 13, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will include two portable toilets for \$200.00 and one off-duty police officer for \$40.00 per hour. Mike Dawkins seconded the motion, and it passed.

The Committee will announce the Trade Show in the Sunday eblast on March 3. The next eblast on March 10 will announce the opening of online registration. Registration will close on Friday, March 29, with the dealer selection happening on Saturday morning, March 30.

BBG Editor: Phyllis George is recuperating from gall bladder surgery. She went home from the hospital on March 4. She will be out for two weeks. Articles for the April BBG are due March 15, 2019. Get Well Soon, Phyllis.

Education Committee: Classes—President Stewart was home ill. She emailed a report and an outline for Setting Up Classes. "I have been looking at a couple of different approaches to handling classes (speaking with Fred Brueckner, Dave Hawkins, Mary Ann Mitscherling, and others) and I think we should move forward on class scheduling.

"As part of revamping classes, I suggest we clean up and move furniture around in the Jewelry

Fabrication lab and possibly in the main shop area. Also, remove two jewelry benches, and put a narrow table across the back for the tumblers currently located on benches. Buy eight new adjustable-height chairs (or more if we can find somewhere to put the other two benches). We could relocate the locker to make the whiteboard accessible. And finally, check all the class red boxes to see if new equipment is needed."

Tony Lucci explained that the metal shop will need refurbishing in order to hold classes.

Mike Sommers moved to clean up the classrooms and determine a budget for refurbishing and replacing equipment. Kim Fuselier seconded the motion, and it passed. Tony will make a list of what needs to be purchased and of the work needed to upgrade the Silversmithing Shop.

Further discussion about setting up classes was postponed.

Library Committee: Neal Immega is making progress in the Library. It will reopen soon.

Publicity Committee: Sarah Metsa will be advertising our April 13, 2019 Trade Show after the Board approves the date and location. Sarah plans to remove the MailChimp account non-readers from our lists before the April Trade Show advertisement mailing. Based on marketing firm and legal guidance, she has begun researching the best way to handle that.

Scholarship Committee: Jean-Hugh emailed Mike Sommers his half of the contact info records for the past two years. Mike is compiling it for storage on the Drop Box account. The current plan is to email information to the colleges at the end of March. The Scholarship form needs to be on the Web site before that happens. Mike Sommers will work with Sigrid Stewart (a member of the Web Site Committee) to get the Scholarship form uploaded to the HGMS Web site. Scott Singleton agreed that the form needs to be on the Web site.

Show Committee: Scott Singleton reported that The Scout Fair happens the first weekend in April. The Education Committee will be presenting Earth Science information to the Scouts. Volunteers are welcome to help present information to the Scouts. Contact Scott Singleton.

Scott thanked the volunteers for their work at the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Show. Theresa Phillips showed people how to test metal. Matt Phillips demonstrated faceting and engaged people in conversation about the Club. Other friendly volunteers promoting the Club and the Show were Nancy Fischer, Jo Ann Knight, Sandy Cline, Beverly Mace, Calla and Kayden Mace, Douglas Dodds, Clyde McMeans, and Nancy English. Forty-four new email addresses were collected for the door prize. There will be an HGMS table at the Texas Gem & Mineral Show in Conroe, April 26–28. The promoters of that show are giving HGMS a table to promote the Club and our Annual Show in November. Volunteers will be needed to man the table.

Web site Committee: Charlie Holden resigned from the Web site committee due to ill health. She hopes to recover in time to support the Annual Show. Charlie was posting the monthly Sections' program schedules. A new person needs to take over this task. Sigrid is working on the past BBG storage.

SECTION REPORTS

Archaeology Section: Thursday, 7:30 p.m., March 7, 2019 Jack Farrell will present "*A Brief History of Asian Archery: The Story of the Composite Bow.*"

April 4, 2019: Houston Archeological Society member and long-time Texas archaeologist, Wilson W. "Dub" Crook will give a presentation on his recent research on Ancient Jericho (Tell Es-Sultan) entitled "*The Conquest of Canaan: Who Were Those Guys at Jericho?*"

May 2, 2019: Bob Moore will speak on "*Megalithic Structures in Neolithic Europe.*"

Beading Section: Saturday, 1:30 p.m., March 16, 2019—NO MEETING.

On April 20, 2019, Kathy Jolly as Guest Instructor will teach how to make a Ladder Bracelet. Supplies needed can be found on the HGMS Web site.

Day Light Section: Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., March 5, 2019 Debbie Kirkpatrick will demonstrate fusing fine silver.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., April 3, 2019, Mary Ann Mitscherling will teach how to make a foxtail pattern from jump rings.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., March 13, 2019 The featured stone is feldspar. There will be examples of concave faceting. Last month, fourteen visitors attended the meeting!

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Monday, 7:30 p.m., March 18, 2019 Anthony Lucci will teach how to incorporate the Dino Bone pendant cabochon into a pendant. This is a hands-on session. A new cabochon project will be announced and material provided.

Mineral Section: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., March 20, 2019. The Clear Lake Show experiences will be the subject. The Mineral Section will begin the project of repacking the fluorescent display used at the Annual Show.

Paleo Section: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., March 19, 2019. The Burpee Museum of Natural History: The Little Museum That Could! Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, who is a geologist/paleontologist, will speak about the amazing discoveries of the Burpee Museum of Natural History located in Rockford, IL.

Youth Section: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, March 16: Making cabochons

April 6, April 20: Making cabochons

Old Business

Building Issues: Air Conditioning—Fred Brueckner prepared a comparison of all the bids for the BOD members. A standardized bid request for the work we decide we want done will be prepared from those bids. President Stewart will send the new request form to the top three HVAC companies.

Shop Rules: Tony Lucci explained that it is hard to keep the Silversmithing Shop in working order because the users do not clean up after themselves, and they misuse the equipment. The Board recognizes that abuses have been made. Members who use the Silversmithing Shop **MUST** sign-in on the daily log in the Rock Shop and **pay \$2.00 an hour** to use it. **Abusers will not be able to use the Silversmithing Shop equipment.** Tony is working on the Shop Rules and Guidelines. He is concerned that they will not be enforced.

Club Records: Sarah Metsa met with Nancy English and Sigrid Stewart on March 2, 2019 to teach them how to use Drop Box.

New Business

Restroom Odors: Dealers at the January 12, 2019 Trade Show who were close to the restrooms reported unpleasant odors. The Trade Show Committee asked the BOD to correct the problem. After examination, it was verified that the exhaust fans do not work. Vice President Mike Sommers suggested the Club purchase Broan fans and find someone to install them. They are quiet.

Club Tablet: Now that the Membership table is using tablets to collect email addresses for Door

Prizes, it might be time for the club to purchase one. The BOD agreed this should be part of the Show Budget. Scott Singleton had already left, but he will be contacted about purchasing a tablet.

DUNN SOUTHWEST MEETING RESULTS: President Sigrid Stewart and Secretary Nancy English went to the quarterly meeting of Dunn Southwest's Board of Directors on February 21, 2019.

The DSW Board asked HGMS to do five things before a January 2020 Trade Show can be approved.

1. **Permission:** One to two months before the planned date of the show, write an official request to the DSW BOD asking to have the Trade Show.
2. **Insurance:** Provide Liability Insurance holding DSW harmless for any accidents on the property.
3. **Parking:** ask neighbors for permission to park in their areas. Make sure patrons only park on one side of the street so large trucks can still maneuver.
4. **Occupancy permit:** get one.
5. **Hire off-duty police officer for event.**

The Trade Show Committee will address all of these issues.

Audrey Kelly from Coir Property Company LLC was also at the meeting. She told Nancy English and Sigrid Stewart that last year a letter had been sent to HGMS requesting that the front porch of clubhouse be cleaned up. She asked that it be done soon to avoid a formal complaint and fines.

On March 2, Scott Singleton, Rick Rexroad, Steve Blyskal, and Sigrid Stewart loaded the buckets of sand into Rick's and Scott's trucks to be moved to Scott's house. They will move the other buckets of petrified wood later. The petrified wood in buckets will remain on the porch until it is decided where to put it. **Later:** The front porch to the clubhouse has been cleaned off and pressure washed, including the walkway leading up to the front porch.

Signage: Nancy Engelhardt-Moore asked if an Entrance sign can be placed on the parking lot door. In addition, can Meeting Room signs with arrows be posted in the garage to direct people to the Meeting Hall? Nancy English agreed to make the signs and to post them before the next Archeology Section Meeting.

Steve Blyskal was asked by Sandra Gonzales, promotor of the **Texas Mineral and Fossil Show**, if HGMS would mail postcard ads for the Conroe show to HGMS members. Sandra will provide the postage. Beverly Mace agreed to do that mailing, as she has done before. Sandra also asked if HGMS would mail the Texas Mineral and Fossil Show postcards to the HGMS Annual show mailing list. Besides the postage, she would donate \$1,000 to HGMS. The BOD asked Steve to explain to her that the list has 6000 addresses on it. It takes twenty-five people three hours to label them. So, HGMS declined her offer, but agreed to send postcards to the members.

AT&T called the club the morning of March 4 at 10:50 to renew or upgrade the HGMS Business Phone and Local Internet billing agreement for account 0942. The current plan was due to expire when the bill cycled March 4. By renewing the agreement March 4, Nancy English kept the bill at \$81.06. If it had not been renewed March 4, the monthly cost would have gone up to \$117.00. It has been renewed for the current price of \$60.00 per line (we have one line) plus tax and fees for one year until March 5, 2020. There may be a prorated charge on the bill, but there should be a prorated credit to offset it. The callback number is 800-288-2020. Nancy spoke with Jmaiya and Yaketha. (She had them spell their names.)

Armand Bayou Montessori School's annual Spring Festival and Fundraiser Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 10 am-2 pm. Ms. Jade Garcia invited HGMS to Armand Bayou Montessori

School's annual Spring Festival and Fundraiser. Last year there were representatives from HGMS at the festival, and the children LOVED it. The school would like to schedule another experience/demonstration. Please let Ms. Garcia know how she can schedule to have the Gem and Mineral Society participate in the festival again this year.

Ms. Jade Garcia
Armand Bayou Montessori School
281-480-1648
832-221-7502

Midlothian Field Trip: Mike Sommers has scheduled another field trip to Midlothian on March 23, 2019. Check the e-blast for details.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. April 2, 2019.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. March 26, 2019. Program: Lunar Swirls, by Georgiana Kramer, Ph.D. We all know the surface of the Moon is covered by many bright (reflective) impact craters and large, darker "seas" of ancient lava flows. But less well known is that in some locations, the Moon has another surface feature—one that may be unique to it—lunar swirls.

Adjourn: Nancy Engelhardt-Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Dawkins seconded it, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

SCFMS President's Message

by Roger Burford

from SCFMS Newsletter 03-04/2019

Another year has passed, and South Central Federation is going strong. Before our meeting this year, we requested updates of the officers for each member club and delegate forms from each club president, designating who would be representing their club at the meeting. This ran into some resistance from some of our clubs, and I would like to resolve this issue.

The request for officers is not just for updating the club directory and a nice thing to have, it is a requirement by law for us to maintain an up-to-date listing of our clubs' officers for our Federation Charter and to maintain our non-profit status 501(c)3. This is also a requirement for each member club that holds a 501(c)3 status of their own. The information that is gathered is not made public, and only authorized members are given the password to unlock the directory. We also use this information to contact member clubs when there is a question or if some other information is requested. We receive requests from time to time from members of the public that may require us to contact someone in your club for assistance. At no time will your information be given out to anyone without first obtaining your permission.

With all of this being said, please submit your updated officer lists to Kimberly Brannon and Lisa Simpson so we can update our directory.

Thank you, Roger Burford

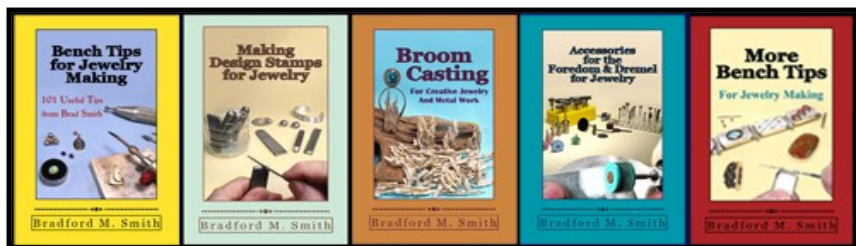


Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Be More Productive With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

<https://www.Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 10 mm cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel), and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.

SUPER PICKLE

We all have made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I have found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store.

Throw your pieces in, and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

Many people think when some steel gets into the pickle that the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true—as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

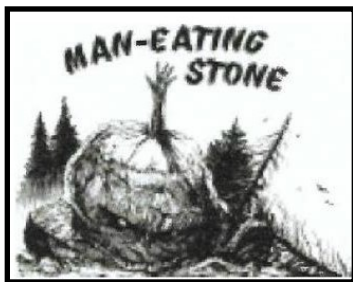
Five Strange Rocks of New England

from *The Rockpile* 04/2019

Man-Eating Stone of Glastonbery

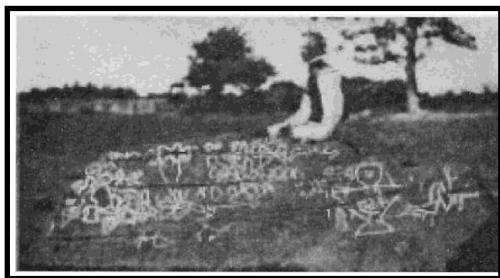
Between 1945 and 1950, five people disappeared on Glastonbery Mountain—four without a trace: Middie Rivers (1945), Paula Jean Weldon (1946), James Tedford (1949), Paul Jephson (1950), and Frieda Langer (1950). Rivers was an experienced hunter who knew the area. Weldon was a Bennington College sophomore who disappeared while hiking the Long Trail.

James Tedford was a veteran who vanished on a bus exactly three years after Paula Weldon disappeared. Jephson was an eight-year-old boy who disappeared from the family truck while his mother fed some pigs. Langer disappeared on a hike near the Somerset Reservoir—her body was found seven months later in an area that had been carefully searched. In 2009, a writer named Joseph Citro suggested in his book, *The Vermont Monster Guide, an explanation: The man-eating stone of Glastonbery Mountain*. In it, he wrote, "No one alive has seen this dangerous anomaly on Glastonbury Mountain. Native Americans knew of it, and warned people away. We can only imagine it as a sizable rock, large enough to stand on. But when someone stands upon it, the rock becomes less solid, and, like a living thing, swallows the unfortunate trespasser. A number of disappearances have been reported on Glastonbury Mountain. Could all these vanished folks have stepped inadvertently on this hungry stone?" Citro dubbed the area, part of the Green Mountains, the Bennington Triangle.



Dighton Rock

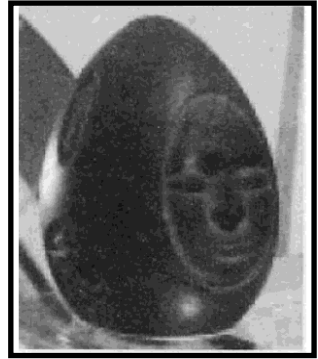
Dighton Rock has been mystifying people since before America was colonized. The rock is an 11-foot-high boulder covered with ancient petroglyphs of an unknown origin. Originally, it was on the shore of the Taunton River. But now it's been given its own museum (operated by appointment only) in



Berkley, Mass., which was once part of Dighton, Mass. Visitors to the strange rock will be in good company as Cotton Mather, George Washington, and dozens of scientists have attempted to decode the meaning behind the writing on it. Some theories: A message left by Norse explorers, Native American symbols, and a message from God. So far, there is no consensus as to the rock's significance, and its meaning remains a mystery.

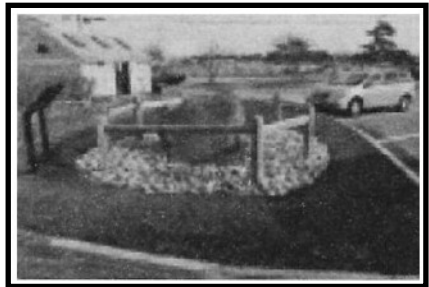
Lake Winnepesaukee Mystery Stone

Seneca Ladd was many things: Piano maker, carriage maker, mill owner, banker (he was one of the founders of the Meredith Village Savings Bank), amateur meteorologist, and geologist. His legacy is well remembered in New Hampshire's Lakes Region. However, his most unusual accomplishment remains a mystery. One day while workers were digging on his property in Meredith sometime in 1872 or earlier, they uncovered an egg-shaped object buried at a depth of two feet and encased in clay. The object, by far the smallest of our mystery stones, is a carved stone bearing markings that remain unidentified. Ladd himself thought his "egg" was Native American in its origins, and he displayed it for the curious for much of his life. The egg still baffles scientists as to what exactly it is. Ladd's daughter gave the object to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1927, which displays it in its Museum of New Hampshire History in Concord.



Quidnesett Rock

Quidnesett Rock, also known as the Narragansett Runestone, is a strange rock in North Kingstown, R.I., with a somewhat shaky pedigree. The 2.5-ton rock was first called to the attention of Rhode Island historians around 1984. The rock bears a series of unusual markings that some claim are reminiscent of markings made by the religious sect known as The Knights Templar. This faction claims the stone is a marker, probably documenting a land claim that dates to before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. However, Edward Brown of Providence has come forward to clarify that he and his brother made the markings on the rock as young boys in 1964, though not as a hoax. They did it just for fun, he says. To others, the rock is a nuisance. A resident of Pojac Point in North Kingstown caused a kerfuffle when he lifted the rock and dropped it farther out to sea to slow the onslaught of visitors who were making pilgrimages to the stone. When he was caught, he retrieved the stone, which is now on permanent display in Updike Park in the Village of Wickford. It makes as good an excuse as any for a trip to the charming village.



Devil's Footprint

from Rock Trails 01-02/2019

Next to the meeting house in North Manchester, Maine, lies a cemetery surrounded by a wall with a strange rock in it. The rock, in the corner of the wall, has three imprints said to

be the devil's footprints. One looks like a cloven hoof, the other two look human. Someone conveniently spray-painted them red. There is a story that goes with the rock, which may or may not be true (probably not). Years ago, a crew of construction workers was clearing a path for Scribner Hill Road when they came upon a boulder that could not be moved. One of the workers exclaimed he would sell his



soul to the devil to move the rock. The next day, the rock was moved, and the construction worker gone. The devil left his footprints on the rock as a reminder of the deal. The North Manchester Meeting House, built in 1793, is still used as a church.

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/six-strange-rocks-new-england-eubrontes-man-eating-stone-glastonbery/>

Geologists Discover Bacteria That Turns Small Bits of Gold Into Solid Nuggets

taken from the Internet GeologyIn, via The Rockpile 04/2019

Geologists have discovered bacteria on a patch of earth in regional Queensland that takes natural traces of gold and turns them into nuggets. University of Adelaide research has shown that special “nugget-producing” bacteria may hold the key to more efficient processing of gold ore, mine tailings, and recycled electronics, as well as aid in exploration for new deposits. For more than 10 years, University of Adelaide researchers have been investigating the role of microorganisms in gold transformation. In the Earth's surface, gold can be dissolved, dispersed, and reconcentrated into nuggets. This epic “journey” is called the *biogeochemical cycle* of gold. Now for the first time they have shown just how long this biogeochemical cycle takes, and they hope to make it even faster in the future.

"Primary gold is produced under high pressures and temperatures deep below the Earth's surface, and nowadays is mined from very large primary deposits such as at the Superpit in Kalgoorlie," says Dr Frank Reith, Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the University of Adelaide's School of Biological Sciences, and Visiting Fellow at CSIRO Land and Water at Waite.

"In the natural environment, primary gold makes its way into soils, sediments, and waterways through biogeochemical weathering, and eventually ends up in the ocean. On the way, bacteria can dissolve and re-concentrate gold. This process removes most of the silver and forms gold nuggets. We have known that this process takes place, but for the first time we have been able to show that this transformation takes place in just years to decades—that's a blink of an eye in terms of geological time. These results have surprised us, and lead the way for many interesting applications such as optimizing the processes for gold extraction from ore and reprocessing old tailings or recycled electronics, which isn't currently economically viable." Working with John and Johno Parsons (Prophet Gold Mine, Queensland), Professor Gordon Southam (University of Queensland) and Dr Geert Cornelis (formerly of the CSIRO), Dr Reith and postdoctoral researcher

Dr Jeremiah Shuster analyzed numerous gold grains collected from West Coast Creek using high-resolution electron-microscopy. Published in the journal *Chemical Geology*, they showed that five "episodes" of gold biogeochemical cycling had occurred on each gold grain. Each episode was estimated to take between 3.5 and 11.7 years—a total of under 18 to almost 60 years to form the secondary gold. "Understanding this gold biogeochemical cycle could help mineral exploration by finding undiscovered gold deposits or developing innovative processing techniques," says Dr Shuster, University of Adelaide. "If we can make this process faster, then the potential for reprocessing tailings and improving ore-processing would be game-changing. Initial attempts to speed up these reactions are looking promising." The researchers say that this new understanding of the gold biogeochemical process and transformation may also help verify the authenticity of archaeological gold artefacts and distinguish them from fraudulent copies."

The above story is based on materials provided by The University of Adelaide. Read more at

<http://www.geologyin.com/2018/04/geologists-discover-bacteria-that-turns.html#gkl5vDDJ44TjF5yT.99>

WEB RESOURCES FOR ROCKHOUNDING

*by Dave Fanger, Webmaster, Minnesota Mineral Club
from MWF News, 11/2018, via MMC Rock Rustler's News, 04/2018,
via The Conglomerate 12/2018, via The Rockpile 02/2019*

Several people have asked about Web resources to help them prepare for successful rockhounding trips. Here are some examples:

The Rock and Mineral Shows Web site tells about rock shows, clubs, mineral/mining museums, geo sites, and rock shops with an interactive map. It doesn't have all the info you want, but it could be a good starting point.

The Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS) is a U.S. Geological Survey collection of reports describing mineral resources throughout the world. Included are deposit name, location, commodity, deposit description, geologic characteristics, production, reserves, resources, and references. Follow the instructions on the site to pull mine data into Google Earth, and start exploring. First, select what counties (or state) from which to pull the data. Files are big, so don't pull too many.

Using **Google Earth**, you can see if a mine is active or inactive and what minerals were mined there. As an example, you can look up old mines near the Prineville, Oregon annual rock show. By clicking on the mine, you will find out if it was exploratory vs. working, and what type of minerals were mined. In general, you would do more research on the mines that interest you, probably at MINDAT.

Flyover Country is a mobile app developed by the University of Minnesota with National Science Foundation funding. "Learn about the world along the path of your flight, hike, or road trip with GPS tracking. Offline geologic maps and interactive points of interest reveal the locations of fossils and georeferenced Wikipedia articles visible from your airplane window seat, vehicle, or hiking trail vista." While its first intended use was for travelers looking out their airplane windows, the app can be used on long car trips. Do not forget to utilize the vast resources at **MINDAT with Google Search** before your trip.

Find mine locations near where you are going, and see images of minerals that others found at a given site. Sometimes it is best to use Google to find the pages on MINDAT once you know the area where you are. Example—Google the words "Keokuk geode Iowa MINDAT," and it takes you to a summary page.

Dolomite

*by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
from Chips and Chatter 03/2019*

Dolomite is Calcium Magnesium Carbonate. $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$. Dolomite forms in the trigonal crystal system generally forming rhombohedral shaped crystals. It has a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4.0. The color of dolomite is white, tan, gray, and pink. From the chemical



Dolomite Quarry, Black Rock, Lawrence County

Zinc District, Lawrence County, Arkansas

composition and physical properties, one can see that dolomite is similar to Calcite. Calcite is Calcium Carbonate, CaCO_3 forms in the trigonal crystal system, can form rhombohedral crystals, and is clear or white in color. One major difference is that calcite will fizz and dissolve in cold hydrochloric acid, but dolomite, unless ground into a fine powder, will not fizz, and only slowly dissolves in cold hydrochloric acid.

Dolomite is also one of the names used for rock beds containing a high concentration of dolomite mineral; they are also known as dolostone. The corresponding rock bed with high concentrates

of calcite is limestone. Dolostone and limestone are often interchangeable in commercial applications, but dolostone is preferred for some applications as dolostone generally has fewer impurities than limestone. Dolomite is used as a construction material, aggregate for cement and road beds, as a buffering agent for conditioning soil, as a flux material in manufacturing glass and bricks, and as a source of magnesia (magnesium oxide) and magnesium.

Dolomite crystals are also a favorite for mineral collectors. I was fortunate to have one of our dolomite specimens displayed in the staff and volunteer case in the Lyda Hill Mineral Hall at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Crystalline dolomite is found throughout the world. Some of the best specimens come from Europe (Spain and Italy), Africa (Namibia), and North America (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania).

References: Dolomite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Dolomite, Geology.com, <https://geology.com>

The Mineral Dolomite, Mineral.Net, <https://www.minerals.net>

Picture: (Legend) Dolomite Quarry, Black Rock, Lawrence County

Zinc District, Lawrence County, Arkansas

Dolomite specimen photographed by Don Shurtz

I AM A BOULDER

by Ruth Rolston

from *The Rock Prattle* 03/2019

I am a boulder. I am very, very old and weather worn. I may not look like much, but I hold a secret put there by the earth that spawned me. You have now come along with your tools, curiosity, and wonder and are looking at my surface. You try to move me and see that I am much larger than one person can handle. You ask for assistance from some other hunter. Together you pry me from my resting place and manage to load me aboard your small travel conveyance, and my future is now unknown to me. In a few weeks, I find myself inside a small building among several machines and whirring noises. I am placed inside one of these machines and sliced into smaller pieces to reveal that I am, in fact, a beautiful marvel called Mozarkite. Now my true features begin to appear. I have patterns of pinks, blues, orange, grays, and white. The part picked for further enhancement was my white and gray cut.

I am a slab. I am now a smaller piece of stone that will be turned into an even more refined section to be placed into a work of art. Now, with the use of a different saw, I am cut into a workable small piece of stone—and the transformation begins.

I am a cabochon. The hours of grinding, polishing, grinding and polishing have paid off, and I am a nice, freeform stone. I am ready for placement into some type of setting and worn by a person who will admire my beauty.

I am a pendant. Now I join with other hand-made, wonderful jewelry. Although I started out somewhere on the side of a road being prepared to pave the right-of-way and was saved for a different purpose, I am no longer just a “boulder,” but someone’s prized possession. What a journey!

Obsidian pendant photographed by Phyllis George



How to Cut Obsidian.

from the Living Stone 03/2016, via The Rock Pile 01/2019

Gold Sheen: To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to unstack them. Watch for "fire spots" in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

Iridescent: There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded, and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian, the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get the effect. To get the rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximate 15-degree angle across the bands.

Midnight lace: Cut lace-patterned obsidian across the surface pattern that you wish to reproduce.

Though obsidian is comparatively soft, it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise performing wet sanding since obsidian is heat-sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian, try cerium oxide on Lucite, but keep it wet.

Rainbow Obsidian: Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an overhead single lamp bulb. As these are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle is obtained.

Safety Tip: After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) gets into your eye, it is hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass. The edges may cut your eye severely before it can be removed.

Grinding Obsidian Cabs: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience, as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

Communication: Are We Losing the Art?

*by Ruth Rolston
from The Rock Prattle 09/2018*

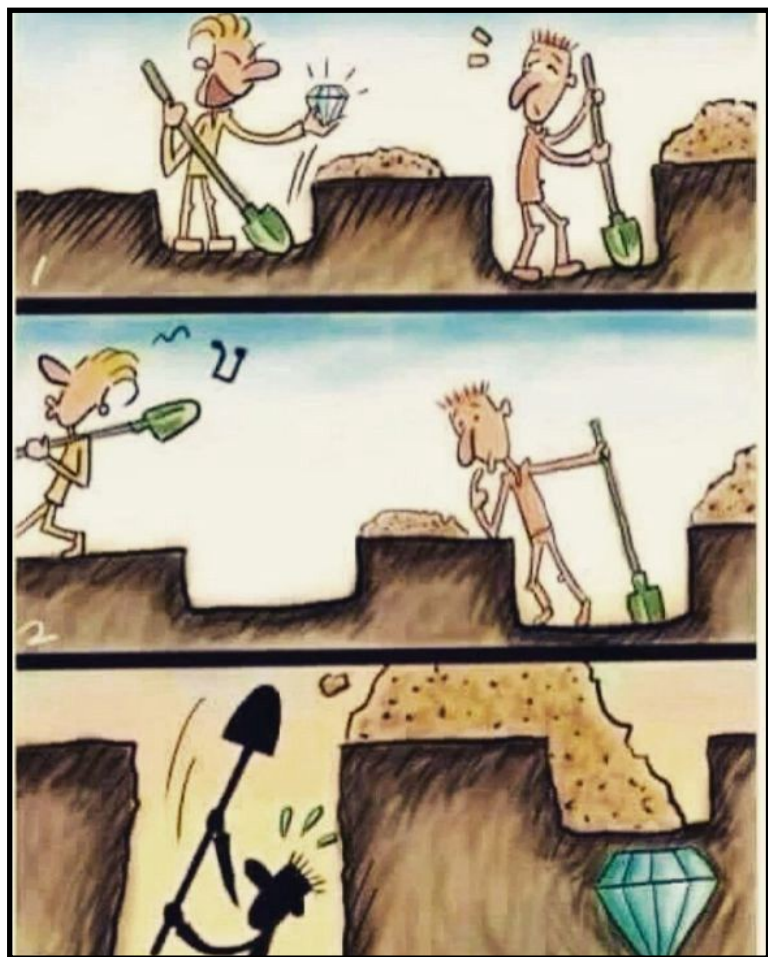
The Oxford Dictionaries define communication as "the imparting of or exchanging of information or news by speaking, writing, or using some other medium." I suspect we are well on our way to forgetting this very important skill. We no longer teach cursive writing in many schools—and when was the last time you even wrote a letter to someone?

Do you even read the Newsletters we create each and every month to provide reminders of the activities and events of your Club? I am often asked about this or that time or how are we doing this or that? How is it that a few of us seem to know what is going on, and no one else does? Have you heard of the newspaper, television, Internet, calling someone and asking, going to the

meetings, and keeping up? How about volunteering to do some of the work—you would know what is happening because you are making it happen.

Did anyone go by the Harker Heights Library to see the beautiful display? It was there for two whole months. We placed it because we wanted to do it, but we represented the Club. Has anyone said they would do a program for the Club? Why not? I am sure you have some good knowledge. I did not learn about rock hounding by dreaming about rocks. There are books and Rock Shows out there, and people who will share with you. Have you seen or heard about the statistics of our future generation and social media? Our next generation is not going to know how to do practical things because of the “wonderful” cell phones. How often do you go anywhere without your phone? Do you go to dinner, and that phone ends up on the table beside you? Point made!

We do not talk any more. We text, use cell phones, and computers. Yes, they are good tools, but we need to get together and just share with each other. The world will be better for the effort. Many of you never go to the Shop to just sit and talk about a wide range of subjects with other members. You miss the best part of being in the Society—the art of communicating with others.



Show Time 2019

Apr. 13-14 Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Convention Center, 1100 N 6th kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net http://www.new.calichetimes.com/page13.html
Apr. 19-21 Alpine, TX	Chihuahuan Desert Gem and Mineral Club Alpine Civic Center, 901 West Holland Avenue ocoent895@gmail.com
Apr. 26-28 Conroe, TX	NEW Texas Mineral & Fossil Show Lone Star Convention Center & Expo 9055 Airport Road https://www.rmgrpromotions.com
May 4-5 Waco, TX	Waco Gem And Mineral Club Extraco Events Center (General Exhibits Building) 4601 Bosque Blvd; Alison.redding@ctxwifi.net ; https://www.wacogemandmineral.org
May 25-26 Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster fwgmc.info@gmail.com www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org
June 1-2 Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln. walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org ; www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
June 1-2 Monroe, NY	EFMLS hosted by Monroe Gem & Mineral Society
June 29-30 Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem and Mineral Club Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St agmcadvertising@gmail.com ; www.agemclub.org
Aug 2-4 Prescott, AZ	RMFMS hosted by Prescott Gem & Mineral Club Prescott Valley Event Center at Glassford Hill & Florentine
Oct 11-12 Mount Ida, AR	Annual Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. director@mtidachamber.com ; www.mtidachamber.com
Oct. 18-20 Lewiston, ID	NFMS hosted by Lewiston Gem & Mineral Society
Nov. 8-10 Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 HGMS.org , Showchair@hgms.org

2019		April				2019
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 April Fool's Day	2 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 BOD Meeting	3 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	4 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Archaeology Section Meeting	5	6 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
7 10-4 Shop Open	8	9 11-3 Shop Open	10 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	11 10-3 Shop Open	12	13 10-4 Shop Open
14 10-4 Shop Open Palm Sunday	15 7:30 Lapidary Section	16 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	17 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	18 10-3 Shop Open	19 Good Friday Passover (begins at sunset)	20 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
21 10-4 Shop Open Easter	22	23 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	24 10-3 Shop Open	25 10-3 Shop Open	26	27 10-4 Shop Open
28 10-4 Shop Open	29	30 11-3 Shop Open				

2019		May				2019
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	2 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Archaeology Section Meeting	3	4 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
5 10-4 Shop Open	6	7 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	8 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	9 10-3 Shop Open	10	11 10-4 Shop Open
12 10-4 Shop Open Mother's Day	13	14 11-3 Shop Open	15 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	16 10-3 Shop Open	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 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-3 Shop Open	23 10-3 Shop Open	24	25 10-4 Shop Open
26 10-4 Shop Open	27 Memorial Day	28 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	29 10-3 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



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1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2016- 1st (Large)
2017—1st (Large)
2018—1st Large
2019—1st Large

AFMS



AFMS

1998 - 2nd (Large)
2000 - 3rd (Large)
2007 - 1st (Large)
2010 - 2nd (Large)
2012 - 3rd (Large)
2013 - 3rd (Large)
2014 - 2nd (Large)
2017—3rd (Large)

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