



The

BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume L—No. 5

May 2019



President's Message *by Sigrid Stewart*

Super-bloom! South Texas has experienced a super-bloom—an unusually heavy wildflower bloom—this year. Indian paintbrush was just past peak, bluebonnets fading with Mexican Hats and Indian Blanket flowers coming on strong as we drove from Houston to Alpine, with the wind of a cold front in our teeth. It was 70 on a gray and rainy Houston morning, and we were headed to Alpine under clear and brilliant skies. My first father-in-law called it the Easter spell, and he was not talking about magic bunnies! That beats the heck out of the ice storm we drove into one February on our way to a rock hunt in the Davis Mountains.



The lime-green of new mesquite leaves contrasted with the greenish-black of cedars, with buttercups and yuccas blooming against limestone cliffs as we moved into higher and drier territory.

This was our first time to attend the Alpine Show, and we really enjoyed it. Dealers were there whom we don't see in Houston, like Virginia Brotherton, whom Steve first met hunting on the Larramore Ranch. Others we had seen in San Antonio, and a couple were very familiar—Rick Rexroad, and Matt and Leslie Dillon. After a day at the show, we went rock hunting on the Stilwell Ranch, new to both of us. The Jeep rode heavy on the way back!

President's Message continued on Page 4

Upcoming Program

by Michael Sommers, 1st Vice President

General Meeting Program—May 28, 2019: Sigrid Stewart and Steve Blyskal will be giving a presentation on their trip to the Alpine Show and Agate Collecting in the area—geology and samples of agates—plus show report.

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

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

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

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Copy is due for the June 2019 issue by Wednesday, May 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 ..	Archaeology@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.....	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

The next day we drove to Ft. Davis and Balmorhea, poking into outcrops and stopping at scenic areas. We visited the Balmorhea Rock Shop where a new assistant, Sheila, is helping Sue Franklin restage their Lapidary supplies and rough.

There is nothing like a road trip to emphasize the vastness and diversity of Texas!

**MARINE CORPS EXERCISE REGIMEN FOR PEOPLE OVER 70**

from the Internet, via The Rockpile 05/2019

For those of us over 70, this is a great exercise regimen. For you young'uns out there (under 70), just keep it in mind until you reach that magic 70 number!

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides. Hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags, and then eventually, try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm currently at this level)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



Pyrite Pete says,

Jack Opatrany will paint the main hall after the paint color is approved. He will need help. If you would like to join in the fun, contact Jack Opatrany (jackphoto@gmail.com) or Nancy English (nancyjody@aol.com) to volunteer.

Archaeology Section

by Jay Roussel



April 4, 2019: Section Vice-Chair Nancy Engelhardt-Moore called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. She announced that the May 2nd meeting would feature Bob Moore's talk on "*Megalithic Structures of Neolithic Europe*".

Nancy mentioned an opportunity to participate in a Burpee Museum dinosaur dig. Handouts were available about both opportunities. Also, she announced that **the Archaeology Section will not be meeting in June, July, or August.**

The door prize, which was donated by Clyde McMeans, was won by Loretta Pisegn.

Nancy introduced the speaker, Dub Crook. After Q&A, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Program: Wilson W. "Dub" Crook presented his recent research on Ancient Jericho (Tell Es-Sultan) entitled "*The*

Conquest of Canaan:

Who Were Those Guys at Jericho?". Jericho is

known by many people from the Bible's Old Testament, especially the book of Joshua. Based on the Biblical text (I Kings 6:1), the conquest on Canaan would have occurred around 1406 B.C. Some modern-day Biblical scholars tend to



Jay Roussel, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore & Dub Crook

disagree with the text. Scholars such as Israel Finkelstein of Tel Aviv University, Israel believe the conquest of Canaan never happened. Out of these debates has come two schools of thought: the Minimalists and the Maximalists. The minimalists believe that the conquest of Canaan never happened and was invented by later Jewish writers to give the Israelites a glorified past. Some even claim the Israelites were not a separate people but represent Canaanite agrarian peasants who revolted from their leaders. Then there are the maximalists who believe the conquest of Canaan did occur. Among the maximalists, there is disagreement over the timing of the conquest, some believing in an early date around 1400 B.C. and others believing in a later date of 1200–1230 B.C.

The Canaanites were a Semitic people who occupied Palestine some time prior to the onset of the Early Bronze Age (ca. 3000 B.C.). They lived in a loosely-knit collection of city-states, ruled by a king who would appear to us more like a mayor than a king. Canaanites invented phonetics, as well as other advancements, and certain diagnostic artifacts are unique to the Canaanites, such as the duckbill axe or plaques to Astarte, one of their fertility deities.

Tell es-Sultan is the modern Arabic name for Ancient Jericho. Jericho is the oldest known city in the world and it owes its beginning to a large fresh water spring, Eil es-Sultan, which pumps out nearly 3000 gallons of fresh water per minute. The region fed by the spring contrasts with the desolation of the surrounding Judean desert, making it an important location in ancient times. The Ancient Jericho archeological site covers roughly 13 acres. The site has been extensively

excavated going back to the mid-1800s. Kathleen Kenyon excavated the site in the 1950's and argued that Jericho had been destroyed around 1550 B.C. and therefore, the site of Jericho would not have been inhabited at the time of the conquest. However, there are concerns with Kenyon's methodology, and we now understand that Kenyon's most active excavations were in what would have been Ancient Jericho's poorest area of the city, thus limited diagnostic artifacts were recovered. Kenyon did find the Neolithic watchtower (ca. 10,000 years old), which stands today at what would have been the earliest city's wall



Neolithic Watch Tower

The excavations have uncovered an inner and outer wall structure at Jericho that aided the defense of the city. Originally, there would have been no habitation between the inner and outer wall, only as defensive glacis. However, due to eventual population pressures, the Canaanites built houses between the walls, and those buildings have been exposed through excavations. Additional watch towers have also been identified by recent Italian-Palestinian excavations of the site, as well as evidence of a large palace structure that was near the spring. Kenyon's conclusions were not challenged until after her death in the late 1970s. But recently, some of her former work foremen have come forward and stated that she intentionally discarded artifacts that would have shown a Canaanite occupation of the site after 1550 B.C. Recently, joint Italian/Palestinian teams have dated excavated carbon from the city's major destruction level to around 1550 B.C. However, due to concerns in the accuracy of calibration curves to convert radiocarbon years to calendar years in the 1550-1400 B.C. period, these dates remain uncertain.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Bryant Wood of the Associates for Biblical Research went through the notes of excavation materials of all the previous excavators of Jericho. As he is a recognized expert in Canaanite pottery, he reviewed all the pottery that had been excavated. He found imported Cypriot



Scarab 1 (left) and Scarab 2 (right)

pottery and other diagnostic artifacts from the destruction layer that would suggest that the city was not abandoned in 1550 B.C., but had been occupied during the Late Bronze Age and could have been destroyed by invading Israelites as given in the Bible. Subsequent reviews of Kenyon's artifact collections identified imported Cypriot pottery—a key Late Bronze Age marker—that she failed to record in

her notes.

Today, the site has been heavily looted. Even so, Dub found two scarabs in the backfill of one looter's pit. The first scarab he found is about 18 mm long and depicts the Canaanite fertility goddess, Astarte. The second scarab, also made of steatite (soapstone), contains a cartouche of what Dub believes is the throne name of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III. If this is a scarab of Tuthmosis III, then this would suggest that Kenyon's dates of the destruction of Jericho are inaccurate. Tuthmosis III ruled Egypt and claimed ownership of Canaan from 1506–1452 B. C. If Jericho was destroyed around 1550 B.C. as Kenyon claimed, then how can a scarab from a later Egyptian ruler be present at the site?

This, and the evidence of other Biblical sites of the same period, seem to challenge Kenyon's conclusions that the conquest did not happen. Archeological sites being discovered that would have been after the Canaanite conquest are clearly culturally different than the material culture of the Canaan's. Further, some of the sites are more consistent with Israeli traditions such as sites that uncover traditional Israelite four-room houses. The conclusion of Dub's research, based on the artifacts found, and the sites in the Judean highlands, is that the Jewish people were in fact unique from the Canaanites and the conquest of Canaan did in fact occur more or less along the lines as presented in the Bible.

Upcoming Program:

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 show photos taken by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore during their visits to many ancient European archaeological sites. Please join us for this presentation! There will be refreshments and a door prize drawing.



**Nancy Engelhardt-Moore standing before
Giant Moon Model**

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Photo by John Moffitt

HGMS Results from 2019 SCFMS and AFMS Contests

by Phyllis George

We now have the results from both the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) and the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS) contests. Most of the 2019 entries were published in 2018 in The Backbender's Gazette (BBG). Due to tight submission schedules for last year's contest, articles published in December 2017 could not be submitted to the 2018 contests. They were held over and submitted in the following year's contest—2019. Terry Proctor's article about gold's creation is such an article.

The HGMS entries are listed below along with their category and ranking by EACH of the two organizations. I think HGMS did quite well, both at the SCFMS level and at the AFMS level. The AFMS is at the NATIONAL level, so anyone who reaches that level for judging is among the best of the best nation-wide.

Kim Fuselier's drawn feature should have been judged at the AFMS level too. But for some reason it was not. I will try to get it entered directly into the next AFMS contest in 2020.

2019 HGMS Results in 2019 SCFMS and AFMS Bulletin Editor and Author Contests

Rank SCFMS	Rank AFMS	Name	Title	Date	Year
Large Bulletins					
1	2	Editor: Phyllis George	The Backbender's Gazette	Sept.	2018
Adult Articles Advanced					
2	7	Terrell Wm. "Terry" Proctor, J.D.	The Unlikely Story of Gold's Creation	Dec.	2017
3	HM	Paul T. Brandes	Hill Country Field Trip, 2018	June	2018
Adult Articles					
2	HM	James Wark	Junior Precious Metal Recycling	Sept.	2018
3	3	Chase Jennings	A Journey to the Amber Mines of Chiapas	Feb.	2018
Features—Drawn					
1		Kim Fuselier	Name the Backbender's Mascot	Oct.	2018
Poetry—Adult					
1	2	Stephen Wilkerson	A Craftsman's Eye	Mar.	2018

Congratulations
You did it!



**Black Opal
owned by
The Smithsonian Institution
from S.C.R.I.B.E. DVD**

From Stone

by Edward Clay

A simple worker
enamored by the secrets
the hidden beauties
of rock and stone.
Holding this piece of tiger eye
or that piece of Hawkseye
to see,

If parts of one and pieces
of the other cut well
polished bright
shaped to fit close
might create.
Something
unique and beautiful.

Or some moonstone's
orientation also important
to bring out
the subtitle play
of white moon
or blue beautiful moon.

Then there is opal,
the sometimes finest
of secret beauty holders
but when are brought forth
with care, precision, and experience,
fabulous.

A Simple worker
that does truly love His work
brings beauty out
from stone.

General Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2019

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

President **Sigrid Stewart** called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming to the March General Meeting. Thirty members attended.

Beverly Mace reminded everyone that 2019 dues are past due. The Shop Foremen have an up-to-date list of paid memberships. Past-due members will not be able to use the shop equipment.

Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 General Meeting as posted in the March 24, 2019 e-blast. Nancy Fischer seconded it, and the motion passed.

President's Announcements

The Silent Auction has been open since 7:00 p.m. Bids will end after the break. Payment for winning bids will be collected after the program—**cash or check only**.

Scott Singleton Recognition: The Geophysical Society of Houston newsletter recognized Scott Singleton for the Volunteer work he does for the GSH. HGMS is grateful for Scott's dedicated role as our Trade Show Chairperson, Web site Committee Chairperson, and Annual Show Chairperson. Scott guides multiple events throughout the year to promote the Show and HGMS.

Many exceptional volunteers work year around to provide the joy that is HOUSTON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY.

Phone: Nancy English answers the phone for the Houston Gem and Mineral Society land line. She handles eight to twelve calls a week. She refers all callers to the HGMS Web site. The Board has given her guidelines over the last year for how to forward questions and information. The Section Chairs are the first choice. Neal Immega is usually very accommodating in answering questions and picking up donations. Nancy directs people to bring rocks to the club for identification. Sometimes she contacts the Board of Directors for advice. Sometimes she contacts individuals that she knows are knowledgeable. For people who want to sell their collections, she sends posts to Jim Kendall for the weekly e-blast. She does not make commitments for other people or for the Club. These calls have resulted in many new memberships and donations. We are all ambassadors for HGMS. Steve and I refer people to HGMS when we are on the road. If you are contacted by Nancy, keep in mind that "NO" is always an acceptable answer, or referring her caller to someone else is helpful. Even better, offer to talk to the caller and ask all the questions Nancy does not know to ask to get the right help for the caller.

Because a member requested it, Nancy is trying to figure out how to let the phone ring twice before it rolls to her cell phone.

Section/Committee Reports

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

Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

Lapidary Section: Mary Ann Mitscherling announced that the Lapidary Section has many hands-on projects scheduled this year.

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 for April 13 at Bill Moore's warehouse: Registration will be open for 2 weeks, closing on Friday, March 29, at midnight. All dealers will have an equal chance to participate in this show regardless of when they register. Dealer booth selection will be carried out by random number lottery on Saturday morning, March 30, at 10 AM at the HGMS clubhouse. Anyone in the club may witness the selection process if they wish. Following selection, all dealers will receive emails with a link to a Web page containing a PayPal link to submit payment for their table space and for club tables if they rented any. Sales Tax Permits are required for dealers. There will be an off-duty policeman hired to protect the area. Two portable toilets will be available for shoppers. We need **volunteers** for both shifts: 10:00 to 2:00 and 2:00 to 6:00. \$20.00 of Swap dollars will be available for each volunteer. Contact Nancy English if you want to volunteer. <mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com>

Tony Lucci asked if the Trade Shows would dilute the attendance at the HGMS Annual Show. Since we only have two Trade Shows a year—in January and April—it is unlikely that the November Show will be impacted negatively. In fact, we promote the November Show with flyers at the Trade Show Membership Table. We also distribute trifold brochures and HGMS business cards to promote the Club.

John Mitscherling asked if there would be Wi-Fi access at Bill Moore's location for credit card payments. Wi-Fi access is available.

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show in Conroe, TX has given HGMS a table in the lobby of their show. Nancy English is looking for at least two **volunteers** per shift (two shifts per day) for all three days: April 26–28. 10:00 to 6:00. The Show will have 76 dealers at the Lone Star Convention Center. Beverly Mace has mailed the postcard ads for this show to all HGMS members. Post cards will also be distributed at the Trade Show. Contact Nancy English if you want to volunteer. <mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com>

Dunn Southwest, the property owner association, had sent a letter asking that we clean the Brooklet entrance porch. As of March 16, Scott Singleton, Rick Rexroad, Sigrid Stewart, and Steve Blyskal had moved the buckets of sand and petrified wood off the porch to off-site locations. Neal Immega and Nancy English reattached the black screen where it had pulled away from the door. Then Scott Singleton power-washed the porch and sidewalk. Thank you all for a fine job. Dunn SW is happy, too.

Post of Treasurer: The Board will confirm Tatyana Kuhne as the HGMS Treasurer at the April BOD meeting. HGMS will provide her the Quicken program needed to support the position. Congratulations to Tatyana for volunteering for the position of Treasurer. Thank you to Rodney Linehan for his tireless work as Treasurer for the last 10 years!

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

Wednesdays and Saturdays are best.

Education Classes: Class Instructors are needed. If you are interested in teaching a class, please contact Sigrid Stewart.

Web Site Committee: One person has dropped out of the committee due to illness. Phyllis George is posting Section Meeting programs on the Web site as well as listing them on the BBG Calendar. Please send your program schedules at least two months in advance, so the BBG calendar is relevant.

Paint Projects: Jack Opatrany plans to repaint the main hall in April or May. He will bring color samples to the BOD meeting for approval. The trim needs to be treated with Kilz primer so the latex paint will adhere.

New Business

Outcome of Birthday Party: Nancy English answered a call from a dad who wanted to give his little girl a "Rock Birthday Party." The party was for 20 six- and seven-year old girls. He was willing to buy \$25.00 memberships for all the attendees before the day of the party, scheduled to be on March 24, 2019. Nancy presented it to the Board and the Youth Section Team via email. The consensus of the Board and the Youth Section was that the project was too big for the Club and not scheduled when the Youth Section team would be available. In fact, the Youth Section does not do birthday parties because requests could easily get out of hand. They are volunteers who have limited time to commit to extra projects. When father and daughter came to see the Club on March 10, it was clear to the father that the shop was not appropriate for that many kids. President Stewart presented the father with an alternative. Dad bought geodes, minerals, and sand to create a backyard Dino Dig at their home. Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart attended and gave a presentation to the kids explaining how pretty rocks are formed. The father donated \$100.00 to HGMS.

Rock Sales:

Bill Hill in Port Neches continues to unpack and uncover more rocks and minerals in his parent's home/warehouse. He was concerned that the estate sale last Saturday would be too crowded for HGMS buyers. He would like to schedule a day for HGMS only, such as a field trip one and a half hours from Houston. Nancy English suggested Friday, March 29, 2019. If there is any interest in that day or for another weekday next week, Nancy will call him and set it up. Contact Nancy at nancyjodi@aol.com.

Mary Arrington in Conroe had us post some pictures of tourmaline, an amethyst cathedral, and a globe inset with gem-quality stones. This is only a small part of the collection she is trying to sell. She could do an open house-type sale if HGMS would provide people to help her. She cannot do it herself, and she does not have family to help. The cathedral has sold; the globe is only \$250. If someone is willing to help her (we could do it for a club donation), let Nancy English know, and she will put you in touch. nancyjodi@aol.com.

Section Chairmen should send their future program information to these people in order to get it posted on our multiple venues. Please schedule two months in advance, so it can go on Upcoming Events.

Phyllis George for the Web site Upcoming Program list and for the BBG calendar, PGeorge4@comcast.net.

Nancy English for the BOD meeting reports, nancyjodi@aol.com,

Jim Kendall for the e-blast, kendallja@att.net.

Field Trips: The next Midlothian field trip is scheduled for May 4, 2019. (Let's hope it will not be rained-out.) Mike Sommers has the details. tsigoloeg@sbcglobal.net. Also, check the weekly e-blast for details.

Check the weekly e-blast for some future petrified wood field trips near College Station.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Georgiana Kramer, Ph.D., who 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. She needed to cancel tonight and promises to be here on April 23.

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

Show 'n Tell: **Steve Blyskal** brought conglomerate and siltstone with trace fossils, both from the Cambrian Wilberns formation. He and Sigrid found Precambrian granite younger than the Town Mountain granite most people know about. It was near Valley Spring Gneiss outcrops and could be distinguished by the types of lichen growing on the granite. Also, small cacti were growing near the granite and not the gneiss. The barite roses from the Enchanted Rock Shop were found in Texas and are white, so they look different than the ones found in Oklahoma. Steve got some agate nodules from the Singleton Ranch in West Texas.

Clyde McMeans showed large Chrysocola and Amazonite specimens. Neal Immega presented an example of a pendent made by TIG welding stainless steel wire.

Ken and Andrea Bruneau celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary by going to the Nevada Desert. He picked up what they thought was calcite, but learned it was fossilized scleractinian coral from the Mid-Triassic period—thanks to Neal Immega and his mighty lens. They also brought in some chalcedony that fluoresces nicely from the same area.

Nicole Ayoub loves fluorite, and she brought three to share. One was a yellow fluorite from an unknown location, and another was from the Naica Mine with two-phase inclusions (enhydro with moving bubbles). The third was a Danglerosk fluorite. Wonderful pieces.

Nancy said that in the future, she wants members to give her a written description of their treasures to ensure an accurate write-up in the minutes.

Drawing: David Gardner won the agate geode.

President Stewart reminded the crowd to check the Silent Auction table and make their final bids. Payment will be taken by check or cash after the program.

Adjourn: Steve Blyskal moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Mary Ann Mitscherling seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Refreshments were provided by Nancy English. Members were reminded to **FEED THE KITTY!**

Foster Kneeland offered to bring refreshments to the next General Meeting April 23, 2019.

Program: Vice President Sommers introduced Neal Immega—The Chicxulub (phonetic is Chick Sue Lube) impact did NOT kill the dinosaurs, nor did it end the Cretaceous. Evidence from a Bryan, TX core drill site PROVES that Alvarez got it wrong. Neal will be discussing Gerta Keller's research over the past 18 years showing various discrepancies with the evidence for the "K/P" boundary, as they call it now.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

*April 2, 2019
by Nancy English*

X	President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Archaeology—Nancy Engelhardt-Moore
	Former President—Paul Brandes	X	Beading—Nancy Fischer
	1st Vice President—Mike Sommers	X	Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	X	Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
	Treasurer—Rodney Linehan (acting)	X	Lapidary & Metalsmithing—Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Mineral—Steve Blyskal
			Paleontology—Mike Dawkins

President **Sigrid Stewart** called the meeting to order at 7:35. A quorum was present. Non-voting members in attendance: Scott Singleton—Show Chairman and Trade Show Chairman, and Foster Kneeland. For the time being, the Beading Section will have a revolving Board Representative.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 5, 2019 BOD meeting were sent to the Directors for prior approval on March 20, 2019. Nancy Fischer moved to approve the minutes of the February 5 meeting of the Board of Directors. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Report: Interim Treasurer Rodney Linehan emailed the March 31, 2019 Financials to the Board on April 1. Nancy English moved to approve Tatyana Kuhne as the new Treasurer of HGMS. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion and it passed. President Stewart and the Board welcomed Tatyana to the Board. HGMS will purchase a new membership to Quicken in April for Tatyana's use. She will begin the Treasurer's duties in May, after she has familiarized herself with the program and worked with Rodney Linehan. Tatyana will make a list of questions about the By-Laws. She also plans to create a new email for herself that will be specifically for HGMS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: Phyllis George reported that the April BBG is printed and is online for Members to read. Beverly Mace said it had been mailed today, April 2, 2019. Articles for the May BBG are due April 15, 2019.

Education Committee: President Stewart presented a revamped Class Set-up document. Quinten has stepped down as Education Committee Chairperson. Hopefully, a New Chairperson can formalize the process of finding instructors and scheduling regular classes.

Three types of education are offered at HGMS.

1. Informal classes during the Section Meetings as part of the programs.
2. Short Ad-Hoc classes by Shop Foremen for making cabochons and basic soldering.
3. Major classes that take a whole day or several weekly instructions: silversmithing, faceting, cabochon making, wire wrapping.

More discussion is planned for the next BOD meeting on May 7, 2019.

Library Committee: The library is open for in-house check out. Neal purchased a book scanner for the library and will soon get it installed. It does OCR, copies two pages at a time, and corrects for the crease down the spine. This unit was the suggestion of Mike Sommers. Neal is continuing Art Smith's scheme of topic classifications rather than doing a Library of Congress numbering system. Library of Congress numbers are used in the Paleo Library, but too much information is compressed into a few catalog numbers. Art Smith's system is better for HGMS's use. The largest category is Mining History, and we have many marvelous old books. Debbie Kirkpatrick helps Neal sort the jewelry books. Jewelry books should be more accessible than before.

Publicity Committee: Sarah Metsa reported via email, "The MailChimp invite went out April 1 night along with the first FB post." If you want to be on the publicity list, contact Sarah Metsa at SarahForHGMS@yahoo.com.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers did not attend the meeting. The Web Site Committee has not completed the on-line scholarship application.

Show Committee—November 8–10, 2019: Steve Blyskal reported that dealer invitations and contracts will be emailed soon. Dealer registration will be mostly online this year.

Trade Show—April 13, 2019: Committee Chairman Scott Singleton reported that all the Dealer registrations were done online through the HGMS Web site. The random assignment of booths was completed March 30 in less than an hour. Twenty booths were assigned. Nancy English distributed the minutes of the March 30, 2019 Trade Show Committee Meeting. Next time, she will send them electronically.

Security: The outdoor camera is broken. Fred Brueckner has someone who will fix it.

Web Site Committee: Sigrid Stewart said HGMS Web site ticket sales for our 2019 Annual Show in November might be a possibility.

SECTION REPORTS

Archaeology Section: Thursday, 7:30 p.m., April 4, 2019 Wilson W. "Dub" Crook will give a presentation about 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."* The Section will be on hiatus for the summer months—June, July, and August.

Beading Section: Saturday, 1:30 p.m., April 20, 2019. Please greet Kathy Jolly as Guest Instructor. She will teach how to make a Ladder Bracelet. Supplies needed can be found on the HGMS Web site. Each Section member will plan a program for the coming months.

Day Light Section: Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., April 3, 2019, Mary Ann Mitscherling will teach how to make a foxtail pattern from jump rings. Supplies will cost \$4.00. There is still no Chair for this Section. Contact Nancy English if you are interested. nancyjodi@aol.com.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., John Lee will conduct the program about the featured stone, quartz. The upcoming project of cutting replicas of the world-famous diamonds will be discussed. Randy Carlson has been conducting Faceting Classes for Section members. Eight more people from the Section have signed up. When those classes are completed, he will open them to the Club membership.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Monday, 7:30 p.m., April 15, 2019. Ed Clay will conduct a

hands-on program to show people how to orient moonstone, sunstone, and Labradorite correctly. Attendees should bring a penlight if they have one, and stones they wish to use. If you do not have your own stone, moonstone rough will be available. The question came up about whether we can still park in the neighbors' parking spaces after hours. The *assumption* is yes.

Mineral Section: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., April 17, 2019 To be announced

Paleo Section: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., April 16, 2019 James Washington is the speaker, and he is from the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The topic will be the Paleo Hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Youth Section: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, April 6, April 20: Cabochon making continues.

Old Business

Building Issues: See new business also. Although we probably do not need to worry about the heating function of our HVAC system, we still need repair and replacement because air is not flowing into the libraries. A hole is in the return air plenum, and uninsulated holes exist for return vents in the ceiling. Fred Brueckner is making a generic request for the HVAC companies to compete with their bids. Sigrid will send him the HVAC company addresses.

Building—HVAC repair: Air Conditioning may not need to be replaced until spring. Fred Brueckner completed the spreadsheet showing all the companies' bids. However, the individual bids are not all for the same items. So, Fred is making a standard bidding form for the companies to complete so we can compare bids. The plenum needs to be repaired now.

Building Safety: Sigrid has contacted Paul Brandes to get his list of problems with the clubhouse. Nancy English will look for her copy. The issues need to be fixed so we can get an occupancy load permit.

Membership Dues: Beverly Mace posted **FINAL REMINDER** on Sunday's e-blast. This is the LAST chance for those members who have not renewed their 2019 HGMS memberships. Otherwise, their names will be deleted from the weekly eBlast notices and the shop roster. Your last BBG will be the April issue, which will be mailed out shortly. There are 96 single, 43 couples, 28 family and 19 youth memberships not renewed for 2019. Any questions, please email Beverly at beverly_mace@att.net (with an underscore).

Shop News: Tony Lucci has been cleaning up all the classrooms to prepare for classes. He will be selling some of the equipment under tables.

Texas Mineral and Fossil Show: Beverly Mace mailed postcard ads for the Conroe show to HGMS members. Sandra Garcia, promotor of the Show, will provide the postage. In addition to the postage, Sandra donated \$100 to the club.

New Business

BIRTHDAY PARTY REQUEST: Since the March 5, BOD meeting, a request for a Birthday Party came to the Board's attention. The request was emailed to the Board and the Youth Section Team. The Youth Section Team does not do Birthday Parties. Members of the Board were concerned about liability. Thanks to its corporate status, the nonprofit's directors, officers, and members are not personally responsible unless one of them personally and directly causes the injury. President Stewart met the father who made the request, gave him a tour of the Club, and offered another party idea. Sigrid Stewart and Steve Blyskal helped Dad create a Dino Dig

environment for the 7-year-old girls at the family's home. At the party, Sigrid and Steve gave a brief talk about rocks and how they are formed. The girls had a geode Easter egg hunt. Dad bought the geodes and donated \$100.00 to HGMS.

Building Issues: We need to hire someone to handle the small jobs that volunteers do not do. Sigrid has a repair person and an electrician in mind. The list follows:

- Replace the outdoor security camera outside. (This has been done since the meeting.)
- Put some insulation above the bathrooms too.
- Install a new doorbell, and to have ringers in the meeting area, shop and classrooms—or one loud one in the open area! Sigrid found doorbells with flashers.
- Install exhaust fans in the bathrooms.

Jack Opatrany intends to paint the interior of the main hall after the Board approves the paint color. Some members have volunteered to help him. The trim will be painted with Kilz so it can be painted with latex paint. Volunteer painters are welcomed. Contact Jack Opatrany or Nancy English.

Donations: Randy Carlson emailed questions about our donation process, specifically about any that include faceting equipment and accessories. I emailed him the following decisions made in 2017. Donation receivers have not been very good at following this plan.

From Minutes of June 7, 2017: Donation Handling discussion results:

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

Change the form to include a line for any conditions to be followed.

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

At the April 15, 2019 meeting, the BOD agreed that all people mentioned in the above paragraphs should be well informed again. The Shop Foremen need to be informed that all donations must be recorded when they come in. No donation can be sold without Board permission. They discussed the need for donation inventory control. Tatyana Kuhne proposed some ideas. The Board will discuss it more at the next meeting.

Phone: Members have asked to have the phone ring in the club at least 3 times before rolling to Nancy's phone so that callers have an opportunity to talk to someone at the club. Nancy English called AT&T April 2, 2019. She spoke to Sandra. Our just-renewed plan includes other services that we had not had before. For the same \$81.06, we also have: Regular call forwarding variable, 3-way calling, auto redial, call return, and we can add 30 numbers to the speed dial feature. Sandra set the system up for 3 rings before transfer, and she gave Nancy the codes to stop the current direct call forward that does not ring at HGMS. **Would anyone else like to be responsible for the phone calls?**

Complete instructions will be mailed to HGMS. If anyone—like the Treasurer—sees them, please give them to Nancy English.

Refreshments at the General Meeting: President Stewart asked, "Can we come up with a better

way of getting someone to bring snacks to the General Meeting?" Beverly Mace suggested a refund of monies spent on refreshments and doing away with the Kitty donation can. Limit the amount to \$25.00 or \$30.00. No action taken. But the BOD encourages volunteers to turn in receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement of money spent above the amount donated.

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

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. April 23, 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.

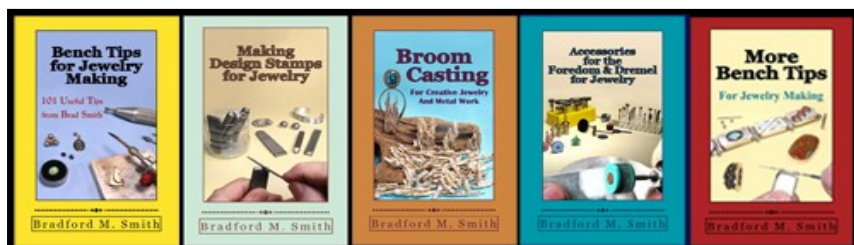
Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Engelhardt-Moore seconded it, and it passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:38.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

*Solve Problems and Be More Productive With Brad's
"How To Do It" Books*

<https://www.amazon.com/Bradford-M.-Smith/e/B009LYAE0C>



SANDING DISKS

One of my favorite flexshaft tools that saves a lot of time is the Snap-On sanding disk. I mainly use the medium and fine grits, but sometimes I like the very fine ones sold for working with platinum.

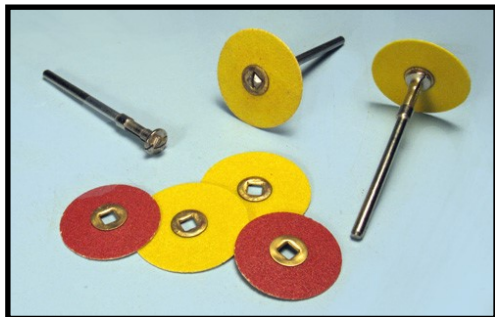
Ordinarily, you would think of placing the disk on the mandrel with the grit side facing away from your hand, but



notice that you end up with your elbow in the air. Instead, try

flipping the disk so that the grit side is toward your hand. It is a much more comfortable position because the elbow is down near your





side, and it lets me hold the work up close where I have a better view of what I am sanding.

I use these Snap-On disks so frequently that I keep multiple mandrels with different grits already mounted in the bur stand. Some mandrels have the grit facing out and some facing in.

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

Happy hammering,

- Brad



Internet Posting – You Need to Check the Facts First

by Don Shurtz

*Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
from Chips and Chatter 05/2019*

As I scrolled through my Facebook postings, I ran across something newsworthy. The link led me to a Post by *Geology In*, posted at 1:59 PM (time zone not specified)—“World's Second Largest Meteorite Discovered in Argentina.” Now that would be something to mention in the “Chips and Chatter.” The strange thing about the posting was that it had only the time—no date or year! The posting indicated the meteorite had been named “Gancedo,” so I typed that into my search engine (Google), and it led me to an article in Wikipedia. The article confirmed that “Grancedo” was a large meteorite found in Argentina. It was estimated to weigh 30,800 kilograms (about 67,900 lbs.) which would be the second largest meteorite found if the estimated weight was correct. A meteorite from Greenland weighing 30,700 kilograms named “Anighito” would be displaced to the third largest. The largest known meteorite, weighing in at about 60,000 kilograms, is the “Hoba Meteorite” found in 1920 in Namibia.

So was the Internet posting correct? Yes, but deceptive. The “Gancedo Meteorite” was found **September 10, 2016**. Give them a couple of months to dig the meteorite out of the ground (the picture in the posting shows the meteorite suspended by a crane), and you see that the posting is well over two years old. For what looked to be a current or new posting, it was deceptive! Unfortunately, it is not hard to find postings that were originally posted multiple years ago. Before you jump to conclusions from a posting, check the facts first. In two years, a lot can happen. In this case, it was interesting, but perhaps not so newsworthy.

Ref:

- ♦ Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/>
- ♦ Geology In, <http://www.geologyin.com/>
- ♦ Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

EDITOR LOLA LAMB IS ON HER SOAP BOX AGAIN

*by Lola Lamb
from The Roadrunner 04/2019*

This time it is about **the use and care of the wheels on the Genie**. At a cost of around \$585.00, this is a subject that should not be taken lightly. All of us have been told the ways of using the wheels—like use the entire surface, not just in one spot. Our last set of wheels had one spot worn completely down to BARE metal, thus indicating the entire surface was not used properly.

Another problem—going from the trim saw almost directly to the grinding wheels. **YOUR HANDS AND THE STONE SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY SCRUBBED WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE EVER SITTING DOWN AT THE WHEELS**. There are some old toothbrushes on the sink for this purpose. Not cleaning the slab and hands **THOROUGHLY** is one of the surest ways to contaminate the wheels.

ALSO—when you are grinding, stop every few minutes, look up, and take the stone off the wheel. When you **CONTINUALLY GRIND**, the tendency is to push a little harder the longer you grind. By stopping a second, you can correct this problem. The wheel can only grind so fast, and pushing the stone into the wheel harder and harder **DOES NOT MAKE IT CUT FASTER**.

Most of the work of a good cab is done on the **FIRST THREE WHEELS**. If you do not get all the scratches and flat spots out on these three wheels, you will not get them out on the sanding and polishing wheels.

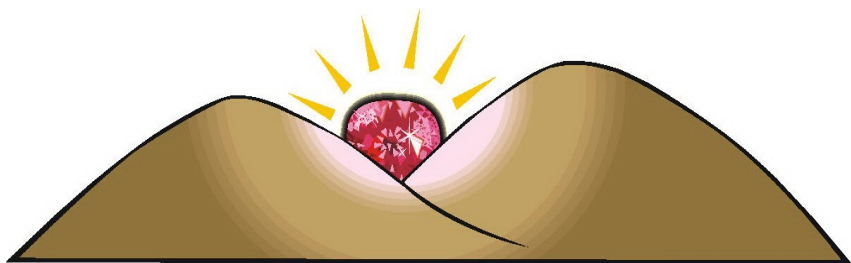
Please understand, I am not judging or pointing fingers at **ANYONE**, and I am only putting this in writing for easy reference. We have new students, and they will have many instructions thrown at them all at once, making it hard to remember everything. This equipment belongs to everyone and should be used with the same care you would give your own equipment at home. I want everyone to have a good experience, whether it be your first stone or one of many to follow.

Grind a little and look a lot is a good slogan that helps you wind up with a stone that has a mirror polish with no flat spots or scratches—one of which you can be proud. I am so happy to see an interest in working the rocks once more.

Please do not take this article as criticism, but as it is meant—a tool to help you have the best possible experience with your cabs.

HAPPY GRINDING!!!

Lola Lamb



Spotlighting Your Best & Brightest Kids in *Rock & Gem*

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Program Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 04-05/2019

As many of you know, I write articles for the Kids' Page of *Rock & Gem* magazine. Within this section, I have occasionally run articles about outstanding juniors in an informal series called "Spotlight on Juniors." For instance, watch for the May issue of *Rock & Gem* for the latest in this series with an article honoring junior rockhound Lucia Hetrick of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. In addition to Lucia, for the past few years I have spotlighted seven other kids. I and *Rock & Gem* Managing Editor, Toni Rahn, would like to spotlight many, many more. For this, **Toni and I need your help!**



The intent of our "Spotlight on Juniors" series is to highlight interests and accomplishments of especially outstanding kids, both to honor those who deserve special recognition and to provide role models for other kids. The junior rockhound of today goes on to be the professional of tomorrow. For instance, a young boy who called himself "Dino Bob" when I joined my very first rock club (the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society) some 28 years ago wrote a monthly dinosaur column for the society newsletter. Well, Dino Bob is now a full-fledged paleontologist whose work was featured in no less than the pages of the journal *Science* not so very long ago.

Do you have a pebble pup or junior member (up to age 18) in your society who is completely "rock crazy" and gung ho for our hobby and who may be primed to be the next Dino Bob? If so, please contact me with names and details about kids whom you believe deserve special recognition, along with a photo or two. **I'll be happy to do a write-up on them for "Rock & Gem Kids."**

I kindly ask all regional newsletter editors who receive the AFMS Newsletter—along with any local society officers who also receive this—to reprint this article and to **promote this within your regional and local society newsletters and during your monthly club meetings.**

As a start, you might consider kids that your society has nominated in the past for Junior Rockhound of the Year recognition. I know that many such kids have been honored in this way over the years. Please contact me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com, 805-659-3577) and we'll get the ball rolling on an article within the pages of our national hobby magazine, *Rock & Gem*, honoring and sharing the unique and individual perspective, fun, and joy that each and every child brings to our hobby!



Our Hobby's History: It started with a Passion and a Sharing of Ideas

by Jennifer Haley AFMS HISTORIAN
from AFMS Newsletter 04-05/2019

I've been hitting the books again, investigating the earliest AFMS Historian files to see what gems of information I could write about for you. 1928 is a year to remember. The first radio and telephone connection between the Netherlands and U.S.A. occurred, American aviator Amelia Earhart became the 1st woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, sliced bread was sold for the first time, and Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin while studying influenza.

And in 1928, an earth science teacher noticed the need to have the earth sciences taught at schools below the college level. Unfortunately, I do not have the gentleman's name, but what we do know is that he started a club for his students and community. The club was such a big hit, he hoped something similar could go national. Peter Zodac, founder and first editor of *Rocks & Minerals Magazine* was a big supporter of the idea, and began writing monthly articles which appeared in his magazine about forming earth science clubs. In those articles were ideas for programs and activities, and of course, information about minerals. Learning about minerals and collecting minerals was becoming extremely popular, and that was the main focus of our hobby in the beginning. Individuals and families were fascinated with what they could learn, and were enchanted by the adventures they were exploring.

Mineral societies slowly but in a big way began to spring up around the country. The first two in California in 1931, 1932, and the third in Oregon in 1933 which was called the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society.

The Oregon club got busy promoting themselves and started a bulletin. The club grew by leaps and bounds its first year, becoming what was believed to be the largest club of its kind in the world at that time. The monthly bulletin was called the *Oregon Mineralogist*. By its second year, a person you now know from a recent AFMS Historian article, Dr. Dake, became their editor and renamed the bulletin *The Mineralogist Magazine*.

Two other publications were born from the excitement of the hobby—*Earth Science Digest* and *Mineral News and Notes*. Advertisements for lapidary equipment became a popular aspect of the magazines. Clubs across the country were corresponding with one another, visiting each other's club meetings, and venturing out together to collecting sites for minerals.

With so many clubs forming, an idea was sparked to form a Federation. Those first visionaries of our hobby wanted to keep the spirit and the knowledge of the science and the hobby alive instead of seeing it dwindle over time. As a synergy, they felt their combined efforts would be far greater than the sum of what an individual club could do on its own.

Backed by the eagerness and the efforts of the clubs over a course of years, the seven federations one-by-one were formed. California Federation—1936; Northwest Federation—1938; Midwest Federation—1940; Rocky Mountain Federation—1941. During the time of WWII, efforts to advance the federations was suspended. In 1946 came the inspiration for forming a national federation, and by 1947, the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** was born. Two other federations followed with the formation of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogy and Lapidary—1950, and the Southwest Federation—1976.

When you hear society members asking why we have the federations and the AFMS, you now have a great story to tell them that they can take to heart.

AFMS—Early Native Americans Collected Fossils

by Jennifer Haley-AFMS Historian
from AFMS Newsletter 04-05/2019

Have you ever wondered if the early Native American Indians not only found but also treasured fossilized dinosaur bones before the early settlers arrived? I was curious and looked for information about that subject to add to what we know about early paleontology. I found a gem of a thick book called *FOSSIL LEGENDS of the FIRST AMERICANS*, by Adrienne Mayor. The information in the book is sourced from paleontologists, archaeologists, artifacts, pictographs, and oral histories. The book includes some photographs.

There is evidence the early Native Americans were familiar with finding large dinosaur fossil tracks. Often smaller fossils such as mammoth teeth and other types of bones were used in medicine pouches, and a range of various fossils was used by Medicine Men and Medicine Women.

There were great stories and myths about the creatures belonging to the larger fossils, which became legends in their culture—full of rich imagination and surprisingly close in some instances to what paleontologists now know about some of the “giant lizards” who long ago roamed our earth.

There is wonderful information in the book to share around the campfire and for articles in your newsletters. Juniors have great imaginations, and they would love to hear about this fascinating period in paleontology history. *FOSSIL LEGENDS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS* by Adrien Mayer would be a great addition to your society libraries, too.

Lapidary Hints

from the January 1964 *Pick & Shovel*, author unknown,
via *Pick & Shovel* 01/2019

To cut freeforms to make matching earrings and cuff links, glue the stones together with mounting glue, inserting paper between them. Shape them with one grinding. A light tap will separate them.

When using containers, be sure to remove all the old labels and relabel them as to their new contents, otherwise someone may think it still contains the original product. With some of the chemicals we use in our hobby, it's better that all be safe than sorry. We have ways of removing scratches from our lapidary work but we know of no way to remove them from our hearts. Someone could be injured by our own carelessness.

To keep polishing felts and leather free from scratching agents, slip them into a clean plastic bag when not in use. Watch damp felts for mildew if to be stored any length of time.

Use epoxy? To dissolve epoxy from your stones, soak or dip in household vinegar.

ON BEING A ROCKHOUND

*An original poem written by The Prospectors Club member,
Myrtle Griffith on 12/3/1991*

from The Roadrunner 03/1992, via The Roadrunner 04/2019

I met a group of rockhounds
One sunny summer's day;
They were busy searching
Through rocks and mounds of clay.

I stopped beside a fellow,
Just to pass the time of day;
I wondered was he working,
Or merely out to play.

His hair was white as silver,
His face all lined and tan,
But, yet his stature told me,
That he was a sturdy man.

His smile was warm and friendly,
His eyes were blue and bright;
I asked him, "What goes here?
And could you shed some light?"

"That is, if my asking
Is not too forward or too bold."
Here are the thoughts of wisdom
That, to me, the old man told.

"We are all ages, shapes and sizes,
We dig in the dirt and grime,
Each one seeking the beauty
Of nature's treasures sublime.

We hunt for brilliant crystals
Topaz and agate too,
Jasper, jade, or feldspar,
Or rocks of brightest hue.

While we are busy hunting,
We almost always find
Precious gems and jewels
Of quite another kind.

First is FAITH, for only God
Can create all these things,
For man to find and fashion
Into trinkets, pins, and rings.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP is very high
Upon this list of things,
And rockhounds all enjoy
Many blessings that it brings.

SHARING is yet another
Very rare and splendid jewel,
Which sometimes helps to ease the pain
In a world so often cruel;

I could go on and on, you see,
But you might not care to endure;
And would think that I had gone
Out of my mind for sure;

Now, why do we stand here wasting
This beautiful summer day?
Here, I will loan you a shovel,
Come, now, what do you say?

Follow me, we'll dig on this hill,
Just to see what we can find,
It's great for your health,
And a tonic for your peace of mind."

When he handed me that shovel,
And he made that last remark;
I had no way of knowing
That soon I would embark:

On a new kind of venture,
And a new kind of living;
Or that I would learn about faith
And a new kind of sharing and giving.

Gem hunting became exciting and fun;
As I sifted the soil and sand;
And I watched the little pebbles,
Slowly falling from my hand:

Worry and care slipped quietly down
Right into the hillside clay,
Just as though some mystical power
Had washed them all away.

Continued on page 25

Continued from page 24

T'was then I found a precious gift,
Of brightest spiritual splendor,
That the Creator must have intended
For He, alone, is the vendor.

Of all creations, great or small,
Of everything beautiful and good;
Be it man, beast, or gemstone,
Or even a chunk of petrified wood.

Now I look back once in a while,
And remember that wise old man;
Then on my lips there's a smile,
And I count my blessings again;

When you ponder on this story,
Then you can surely see
That a tried and true rockhound,
Is not a crazy thing to be:

Then you look at us so strangely;
I know that you may think
That we are merely inches
From that deep, dark brink.

That we are strange or peculiar,
Or perhaps a crazy-loon crew,
You could be a little bit right---
I grant this could almost be true.

But stop and think of this my friend,
Not one single day could you live
If the good Mother Earth had no rocks,
Or life-saving minerals to give.

Someday you may meet some rockhounds,
As you travel along life's way;
Open up your heart and your mind,
Pause, listen to what they say.

And in doing this very simple thing,
You may be inspired to explore,
And rejoice in the discovery,
Of things never imagined before.

The key to many gems and jewels
Are locked in the hearts of men,
Just waiting for a helping hand
To make them glow again.

AS I GET OLDER, I REALIZE

from the Internet, via The Rockpile 05/2019

1. I talk to myself because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pissing me off.
4. My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
- 5 The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write things down. I'll remember it."
6. When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini vacation.
7. The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about.
8. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
10. "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I'm here.

Show Time 2019

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 Orange County Mineral Society Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M rn33@optimum.net ; www.orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com
June 14-16	Big Piney, WY	Sublette County Rockhounds Club—3rd annual show Sublette County Fairgrounds rockandmineralshows@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/JLGrayRockShop
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 http://www.prescottgemmineral.org/
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 Hells Canyon Gem Club Nezperce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Avenue hcgemclub@yahoo.com ; http://www.hellscanyongemclub.com/
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
Nov. 23-24	Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem and Mineral Society Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibition Hall, 1800 Rodeo Dr lynnouvillion@gmail.com ; www.dallasgemandmineral.org

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	

2019		June				2019
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
2 10-4 Shop Open	3	4 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Meeting	5 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	6 10-3 Shop Open NO Archaeology Section Meeting	7	8 10-4 Shop Open
9 10-4 Shop Open	10	11 11-3 Shop Open	12 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstone & Faceting Section	13 10-3 Shop Open	14 Flag Day	15 10-4 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
16 10-4 Shop Open Father's Day	17 7:30 Lapidary Section	18 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	19 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	20 10-3 Shop Open	21 1 st day of summer	22 10-4 Shop Open
23 10-4 Shop Open 10-4 Shop Open 30	24	25 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	26 10-3 Shop Open	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29 10-4 Shop Open

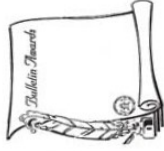
The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 Brooklet

Houston, Texas 77099

(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2016- 1st (Large)
2017—1st (Large)
2018—1st Large
2019—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)
2019—2nd (Large)

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