



The

# BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**Volume L—No. 10**

**October 2019**



## **President's Message**

*by Sigrid Stewart*

**I**t's late September, almost October. From here on out, folks, it is all about the upcoming Show! The Show Committee has had its first meeting, and our first major activity—the Postcard Labeling & Pizza Party—will be held September 28. This is one of our most successful programs to remind people about the show. We have carefully collected addresses for show attendees over the years, and we like to pique our customers' interest by sending them a gorgeous mineral specimen postcard with all the upcoming show information. I like to imagine them on refrigerators all over town!



Other activities coming up:

- ♦ **Earth Science Week at Houston Museum of Natural Science October 12, beginning at 8:00–10:00 a.m.** for members, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for the public
- ♦ **Energy Day at Sam Houston Park Saturday, October 19 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** For more information, please see <https://energydayfestival.org/>
- ♦ **Pre-show Dinner and Auction—October 26, 6:00–9:00 p.m.** at the HGMS club house. The Show Committee pays for the entrée, and everyone brings side dishes, salads, or desserts. BYO beer and wine. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Auction at 7:00. Come early to put your food out and look over the auction items.

**President's Message continued on Page 4**

## **Upcoming Program**

*by Michael Sommers, 1st Vice President*

**General Meeting Program—October 22, 2019:** Mike Dawkins will visit highlights of his trip to the Beijing Museum of Natural History and The Geological Museum of China along with a few touristy pics of various parts of China.

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

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

*Editor: Phyllis B. George*  
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**Copy is due for the November 2019 issue by Tuesday, October 15, 2019.**

*E-mail the Editor at [pgeorge4@comcast.net](mailto:pgeorge4@comcast.net).*

## Purpose of HGMS

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

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

### 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.....	Tatyana Kuhn .....	Treasurer@HGMS.org
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.....	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 .....	Maggie Manley .....	Classes@HGMS.org
Lapidary Templates.....	Mary Ann Mitscherling .....	Templates@HGMS.org
Librarian for Main Library .....	Neal Immega.....	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>.

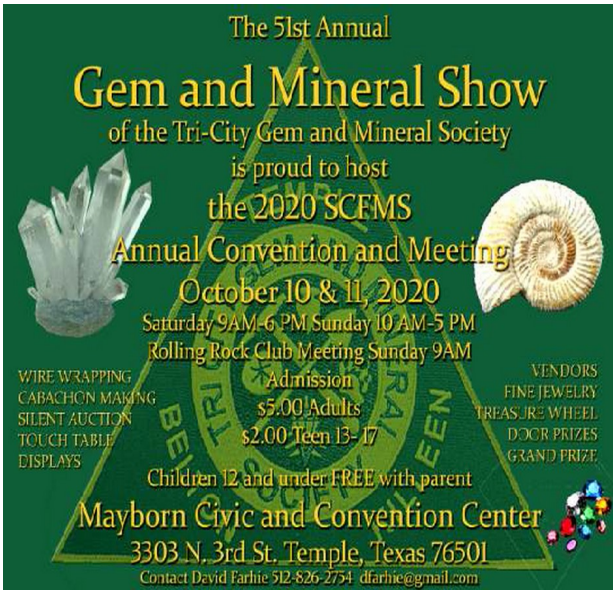
### President's Message continues

Your current crew on the Show Committee has been together several years now, and it is time to get some new blood into the mix. If you are a new member, new to town, or perhaps a new retiree, think about becoming more involved with your Society—join the Show Committee! Putting together an operation like the Show is challenging and interesting.

If all you have is a little extra time, be sure to volunteer for a shift at the show. Nancy English, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be happy to sign you up. Work for a few hours, and then visit our exhibits and our excellent dealers. I hope you all realize that our show has a very good reputation nationally, and that new dealers may be wait-listed for years before they get in.

At the end of the day, we are a volunteer organization, and our club is only as good as our members make it—working together. We need your help!

### 2020 SCFMS Annual Show— in Temple, TX



The 51st Annual  
**Gem and Mineral Show**  
of the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society  
is proud to host  
the 2020 SCFMS  
Annual Convention and Meeting  
October 10 & 11, 2020  
Saturday 9AM-6 PM Sunday 10 AM-5 PM  
Rolling Rock Club Meeting Sunday 9AM

Admission  
\$5.00 Adults  
\$2.00 Teen 13-17  
Children 12 and under FREE with parent

WIRE WRAPPING  
CABACHON MAKING  
SILENT AUCTION  
TOUCH TABLE  
DISPLAYS

VENDORS  
FINE JEWELRY  
TREASURE WHEEL  
DOOR PRIZES  
GRAND PRIZE

**Mayborn Civic and Convention Center**  
3303 N. 3rd St. Temple, Texas 76501  
Contact David Farhie 512-826-2734 dfarhie@gmail.com



**Pyrite Pete says,**

**Have you volunteered to help with the Show yet? If not, you don't know what you are missing!**

**Make great friends, help make a great show, and have a great time doing it.**

**Sign up on the [HGMS.org](http://HGMS.org) Web site,  
or email  
[VolunteerCoordinator@HGMS.org](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@HGMS.org).**



## Archaeology Section

by Jay Roussel

**S**eptember 5, 2019: The meeting was called to order by Section Chair Bob Moore at 7:32 pm. Bob welcomed everyone back from the summer break and reminded members that there would be a call for officer nominations in October. Anyone who is willing to serve as an officer is encouraged to volunteer.

Bob brought up future speakers including **October's meeting** which will feature Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout on indigenous arctic cultures and **November's meeting**, which features Egyptologist, Dr. Michelle Marlar on the Osiris Temple at Abydos. **December** is reserved for the holiday party. Nancy Engelhardt-Moore introduced Bryan McAuley who is the site director of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. After Q&A, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

**Program:** Bryan McAuley presented "*San Felipe—It's Not Just a Street in Houston; Surprising Stories of Settling in Mexican Texas.*" Bryan, who works with the San Felipe Site, shared a few details about how central San Felipe was to early Texas. Unknown to many, beyond the Texas Historical Commission, the town once played a central role in Texas' independence. San Felipe was the only place where Stephen Austin owned a home. It is where the famous Travis letter from the Alamo was sent asking for reinforcements. The town once hosted the most famous print shop in early Texas, though it only operated for six months. It was from this print shop that the Texas Declaration of Independence was printed. San Felipe is the location where Sam Houston took command of a non-existent Texian army of 1835.



Photo by John Rich: Nancy, Bryan and Jay

For background, Stephen F. Austin arrived in Texas in 1821 as manager of his father's land grant. Austin spent 1822 in Mexico City, and then finally moved to the site on the Brazos River where San Felipe was eventually founded. Austin thought he was founding an urban core that would become bigger than San Antonio. However, most colonists were not interested in urban living. They arrived at San Felipe, received their land grants, and moved to their land. Austin adopted Mexican culture, but within 10 years, he was in a prison in Mexico City, losing faith in the Mexican political system. That prison cell, researchers believe, is still in existence.

During the brief life of San Felipe, many of the town's inhabitants abbreviated San Felipe de Austin's name to simply "Austin." The town was destroyed by Texans to deny resources to the incoming Mexican army. Since 1938, the site was known only because of the obelisk and centennial statue, still visible today. In April of 2018, a new museum was opened to tell a big part of the story of a town that was platted with big ambitions.

Bryan said that archaeology plays a major component in the site, since the town was destroyed during the revolution. At the museum, you will see the archaeological finds next to documentary

evidence. A temporary exhibit space that featured "The Sea of Mud" Exhibit just closed. It had artifacts recovered from the Mexican army's retreat after San Jacinto.

Even though a lot of archaeology has been done, Bryan said that probably only 20% of the site has really been explored. Finding the footprint of the Travis' office or the location of the tavern are goals. The museum includes Austin's original field desk. Other artifacts tell the story, such as a piece of coin that was originally minted in Mexico City. The fact that the coin was cut into eighths demonstrates how the cash-strapped Austin Colony was materially poor. Bryan concluded by saying that archaeology will continue at the site in the fall, and interested volunteers should reach out to Linda Gorski with the Houston Archeological Society.

### Upcoming Programs

**October 3, 2019:** Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology, will present "*Indigenous Arctic Cultures—from Earliest Settlers to Today's Inuit.*" Come learn how the modern outside world has intruded forcefully on the Inuit. Dirk will provide a fascinating look using archaeology to illustrate how people lived for millennia unchanged until recently. Don't miss this informative talk!

**November 7, 2019:** Dr. Michelle Marlar, Egyptologist, who teaches at the Center of Excellence for Visual and Performing Arts at Houston Community College, will present "*The Osiris Temple at Abydos: An Offering Which the King Gives.*" Dr. Marlar earned her bachelor's degree in Archaeology from Baylor University, a master's in Ancient Egyptian Art & Archaeology from Memphis State University, and a PhD in Ancient Egyptian Archaeology and Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She is Field Director of the Osiris Temple Project located in Abydos, Egypt. Until her excavations in 2002, the location of this temple was unknown. Come hear about her latest excavation and amazing discoveries!



Dr. Michelle Marlar

**December 5, 2019:** The Section will hold its annual *Holiday Party Potluck and Show & Tell!* Please join us for the festivities!



## A New (Old) Lizard Is on the Paleo Wall

*by Neal Immega, Paleontologist  
Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

If you have been to the clubhouse recently, you may have noticed a black display case on the wall of the Paleo Air Tools Room. It is a recent donation from Dennis Caputo of Quest Consulting. Many years ago he did a project in Brazil where they were retorting oil shale to produce gas, and the diggers would occasionally find a Mesosaurus. It is from the Irati Formation—a Permian-age shale. The significance of this fossil is that it is one of the first reptiles to return to the water and become aquatic. The black bones on black shale do not photograph well, so this is what the critter looks like (from Wikipedia).



**The aquatic lizard Mesosaurus**

Note that it does not look like any modern lizard with those broad ribs.

by Kevmin—Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8280762>

### From Neal Immega

**T**oday, Clyde McMeans and I visited with a hard-rock mining geologist who was packing up his treasures in preparation for a move to an assisted living area in the Woodlands. It was hard for him to downsize his books and rock collection, and he told us stories of his travels and work. On Page 8 is a poem his father wrote (also a mining geologist) and it hangs on the wall beside his desk. I think it is profound, and I wish I had written it.

**I Have a Rock***by Dick Wagner**Submitted by Neal Immega (see Page 7)*

I have a rock,  
Square-cornered  
with lichen-stained keel.  
It lies on my table beside my chair,  
and its presence pleasures me.  
Ages ago  
it was a part of a molten mass,  
violent,  
flaming and incandescent,  
retched from the bowels of the earth,  
spreading over the face of the earth,  
layer upon layer,  
Of such was the face of the earth constructed.

Frozen into place  
by the coldness of the sky.  
All the violence frozen into place,  
the swirling pigments,  
the tortured crystal showers, struggling to grow in the raging melt,  
and brilliant ashes sifting from the glowing sky,  
captured in the raging melt,  
all frozen into place,  
captured in the fabric of the rock  
for the eternity of the rock.

Sun and wind,  
frost and ice,  
water and acid  
the sculptors of the universe,  
carved in the face of the earth,  
and there became mountains and valley,  
and canyons and cliffs.  
and the debris of the carvings piled up on the landscape,  
scattered on the glades and piled at the foot of the cliffs,  
and rolled down the beds of streams at the foot of the cliffs.  
Of such is my rock.

And though the sculptors of the universe are quietly and unobtrusively  
carving away at the face of the land today,  
in my mortal lifetime I shall not notice it.

To me the mountain is eternal, and I have a pit of eternity  
on the table by my chair.  
It is a rock,  
square-cornered,  
with a lichen-stained keel.  
And its presence pleasures me.

## General Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2019

by Nancy English

**P**resident Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:40pm. She welcomed twenty-one members. Rhett Boren and Thelia Dunham are new members.

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

**Thanks to Mike Sommers** for officiating at last month's meeting. I was delayed a day in returning from Colorado when my father fell and had to be transported to the emergency room. We were actually leaving town at the time.

**Silent Auction:** Tonight's items are part of the larger auction we will be holding. Steve Blyskal will be talking about the purpose of the auction.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of July 23, 2019 minutes was deferred until next month.

### Section/Committee Reports

In the interest of time, President Stewart asked members to look for reports of 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](mailto:kendallja@att.net).

President Stewart invited other Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

**Day Light Section** has an exciting two-month Mosaic Project for outdoor pieces beginning Wednesday, September 4 and ending Wednesday, October 2. Program time is 1:00 to 3:00-ish. Please check last Sunday's eblast for details.

**Education Classes: Exciting news.** New Classes are now posted on the HGMS Web site <https://hgms.org/education/classes/> Class details and registration are through the Web site. Space is limited, so if interested, act NOW.

Thank you to our new Education Chairman, Maggie Manley, for the recent scheduled classes and upcoming classes. Joy Lester conducted a Beginning Wire Wrap class in August. See the Sunday eblast for September and October classes in Jewelry Fabrication basics by Tony Lucci and Beading Basics by Maggie Manley.

**Show Committee:** Preshow event dates to put on your 2019 calendars.

- Show Committee meeting September 21, 6:00–9:00 p.m. Interested in being on the Show Committee? Email [showchair@hgms.org](mailto:showchair@hgms.org).
- Postcard Labeling & Pizza Party September 28 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at HGMS club house. Volunteers will label 6,000 postcards with addresses. Contact [nancyjodi@aol.com](mailto:nancyjodi@aol.com)
- Earth Science Week at Houston Museum of Natural Science October 12, beginning at 8:00–10:00 a.m. for members, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for the public

- Field Trips in October—probably High Island and Downtown Granite Tour
- Energy Day at Sam Houston Park Saturday, October 19 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. For more information, please see <https://energydayfestival.org/>
- Pre-show Dinner and Auction—October 26, 6:00–9:00 p.m. at the HGMS club house. The Show Committee pays for the entrée, and everyone brings side dishes, salads, or desserts. BYO beer and wine.
- Weekend after Show—Volunteer Appreciation Party Saturday, November 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. BYOB. This is NOT a potluck.
- Post-Show Field Trip for volunteers (possibly)

Nancy is already getting volunteers—it is not too early to sign up for your favorite slots at the show!

**Paleo Hall Tour:** The last free tour of the HNMS Paleo Hall is Thursday, August 29, 2019.

**Field Trip news:** Midlothian Field trip being scheduled for October.

### Old Business

**President Stewart** asked members to look for the progress of Old Business items in the BOD Meeting Minutes in the latest BBG.

**HVAC:** More work has been done on the plenum and the ductwork.

**Painting:** The Screen paint has been ordered. Work will commence after Labor Day weekend.

**Shop News:** Neal Immega has changed the Saturday Shop hours to 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m.

### New Business

**The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 3, 2019.**

**The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 24, 2019.** Diane Schaub will give a presentation on the history of mosaics using Pietra dura, the process of inlaying polished gemstones to create art works.

**Show-n-Tell** was skipped because we had so many auction items to view.

**Drawing:** Rhett Boren won the bird of paradise agate.

**Refreshments:** Jack Opatrany provided the refreshments. President Stewart explained that the refreshments will be reimbursed up to \$25.00. Contributions to the Kitty are welcome.

**Melinda Schmidt** volunteered to bring next month's refreshments.

**Adjourn:** Nicole Ayoub moved to adjourn. John Mitscherling seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

After a 15-minute break, Steve Blyskal spoke briefly about the purpose of the auction.

**The Auction commenced.**



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2019

by Nancy English

X	President—Sigrid Stewart	X	Beading—Maggie Manley
	1st Vice President—Mike Sommers	X	Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	X	Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
	Treasurer—Tatyana Kuhne	X	Lapidary & Metalsmithing—Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Mineral—Steve Blyskal
X	Archaeology—Nancy Engelhardt-Moore	X	Paleontology—Mike Dawkins

**P**resident Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. A quorum was present. Foster Kneeland was the only non-voting member in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the July 2, 2019 BOD meeting could not be approved at the August 6, 2019 meeting because there was no quorum. Phyllis George moved to approve the July minutes. The motion was seconded by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, and it passed.

Fred Brueckner moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2019 with the corrections Nancy Engelhardt-Moore reported. Beverly Mace approved the motion, and it passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Tatyana Kuhne sent the treasurer's report to members on September 3, 2019.

**BBG Editor:** Articles for the October BBG are due Sunday, September 15, 2019.

**Education Committee:** Thanks to Maggie Manley, our new Education Chairman, several classes are scheduled. The following classes do not yet have the minimum number of students signed up:

- Glass Classes:
  - Glass Fusing, October 19, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; \$120.00; minimum 6 and maximum 8 students
  - Glass Fossils, Tuesday, October 22, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; \$42.00; minimum 4 and maximum 6 students
  - Dichroic Glass, October 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; \$165.00; minimum 6 and maximum of 8 students
- Beading Basics Classes on October 6, 13, 20, and 27
- An Intermediate Wire Wrap Class will be scheduled when enough interest has been recorded on the HGMS Web site.

**Library Committee:** Neal Immega continues to promote the now-functioning library by sharing the joy of books in the weekly e-blasts.

**Publicity Committee:** Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart set up a display at the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library. It will run until October 1. They think they will be able to take it down on October 1 and set it up at the Octavia Fields Branch of the Harris County Library in Humble for the month of October. They showed pictures of the beautiful mineral display.

**Chase Jennings** is now a science teacher for Humble ISD. Sigrid has contacted Chase about publicity through Humble ISD and the possibility of getting some Humble ISD Honors students to volunteer.

**Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported via email several important pre-show events that are coming up.

**Show Committee meeting September 21, 6:00–9:00 p.m.** Interested in being on the Show Committee? Email [showchair@hgms.org](mailto:showchair@hgms.org).

- ♦ **Postcard labeling and Pizza Party September 28, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** at the HGMS Clubhouse. Volunteers will label 6000 postcards and eat pizza.
- ♦ **Earth Science Week at Houston Museum of Natural Science, October 12**, beginning at 8:00 until 10:00 a.m.; for members, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for the public.
- ♦ **Field Trips in October**—probably Whiskey Bridge and Downtown Granite Tour
- ♦ **Energy Day at Sam Houston Park, Saturday, October 19, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** For more information, please see <https://energydayfestival.org/>
- ♦ **Pre-show Dinner and Auction—October 26, 6:00–9:00 p.m.** at HGMS. The Show Committee pays for the entrée, and you bring a veggie side, salad, or dessert. BYOB beer and wine.
- ♦ **Volunteer Appreciation Party, Saturday November 16, 6:00–10:00 p.m.** at the home of Nancy English. Food will be provided by the Show Committee. BYOB.
- ♦ **Post-Show Field Trip for volunteers.** Details will be posted on the HGMS Web site for possible trips to Emerald Ridge or Badu, Texas.

**2019 Trade Show Committee:** The Committee cancelled the meeting scheduled for August 31, 2019. They will continue to research the insurance policy to determine the HGMS protection for a public event.

**Web Site Committee:** Sarah Metsa has been cleaning up the MailChimp database. Sigrid Stewart created a new email forwarder for people who update the Web site, Facebook, and the e-Blast. The PayPal readers have been updated. Scott Singleton has been updating the Show and the School Daze and Scout pages. Lauren Blyskal held WordPress training for Libby Guynn and Sarah Metsa.

## SECTION REPORTS

**Archaeology Section,** Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.: Bryan McAuley will speak on *“San Felipe—It’s Not Just a Street in Houston; Surprising Stories of Settling in Mexican Texas.”* On Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Dirk Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at HMNS, will present “Indigenous Arctic Cultures—from Earliest Settlers to Today’s Inuit.”

**Beading Section,** Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on September 21, 2019: We will be learning how to use the Beading Loom. Included are Patterns that Kim Fuselier made as well as a blank chart for Size 10/0 seed beads. There are two types of beading looms—one is wood, the other is metal. Kim will have 10 sets of wood looms for purchase at \$10.00 each. The metal one you may already own or may purchase at Hobby Lobby.

**Day Light Section:** Wednesday, 1:00–3:00 p.m. September 4, 2019 Diane Schaub is offering a second mosaic project spanning two Day Light meetings:

**September 4 and October 2.** Each class will cost \$10.00 to cover supplies. The project will be 12-foot square and can be used outside. See HGMS Web site for details.

**On Wednesday, 1:00–3:00 p.m., November 6, 2019,** Nancy Searles will teach how to make angels.

**Wednesday, 12:00–3:00 p.m., December 4, 2019,** we will have our Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon. Entrée will be provided.

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., September 11, 2019: They will continue their Gem I.D. study by learning how to use a microscope to distinguish between natural and lab-created gemstones. Glenn Parks purchased a microscope and donated it to the Gemstone and Faceting Section.

**Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., October 9, 2019,** they will work with a Dichroscope.

**No meeting in November** because of the Annual Show.

Watch the weekly e-blast for information about the **December Gemstone and Faceting Holiday party.**

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** Monday, 7:30 p.m., September 16, 2019 Tony Lucci will be doing a hands-on fabrication session, building earrings to match the bracelet made earlier.

**Monday, 7:30 p.m., October 21, 2019** Jack Opatrany will present "How to take good photos of rocks and jewelry." Jack is a professional photographer.

**Monday 7:30 p.m., November 18, 2019,** Show 'n Tell—bring special items you bought at the show so everyone can see.

**December 23—NO MEETING:** Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

**Mineral Section: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. September 18, 2019:** Show preparation and discussion from the Dallas Mineral Symposium. Steve Blyskal is concerned about having enough workers to set up the Fluorescent Room at the Humble Civic Association for the HGMS Annual Show.

**Paleo Section:** Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., September 17, 2019: Neal Immega will teach how to recognize dinosaur eggs. He will give away a dino eggshell to everyone who attends.

**Youth Section: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, September 7 and 21, 2019;** October 5 and 19, 2019. Program: Students will be making and finishing their cabochons for the HGMS show in November.

### Old Business

**Building Issues:** HVAC: more HVAC repairs have been done—repair of the plenum and addition of ducts to libraries and office.

**Shop News:** New lighting is being installed over the grinding wheels.

**Donations:** New process—no progress due to vacations: Tatyana Kuhne and Randy Carlson have not met yet. See New Business auction discussion. Fred Brueckner emailed ideas to the BOD. They were referred to the Donation Committee.

**Paint the Main Hall:** Tatyana Kuhne reported via phone; the second coat has been completed. She received the screen paint and will paint the presentation wall as soon as possible.

**HGMS Business Cards:** No report.

### New Business

**General Meeting Auction:** The purpose of the Auction was to raise money so the Mineral Section (in the name of HGMS) could give \$1,000 to the *Rock & Gem* magazine to offset the cost of color pictures in the magazine. The auction did not produce the amount needed. Nancy English moved to augment the raised amount of money with a donation from the HGMS operating account. Fred Brueckner seconded the motion, and it passed.

The **Gemstone and Faceting Section** has received donations of six used Ultra Tec faceting machines over the last few years. The machines are used for classes and now need minor and major repairs. Randy Carlson will get repair estimates. The Board agreed to fund the repairs based on the estimates.

**The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. October 1, 2019.**

**The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 24, 2019.** Diane Schaub will give a program on pietra dura/mosaic. She may be able to show videos on tourmaline and the Dreher Stone carving.

**Adjourn:** Nancy English moved to adjourn. Mike Dawkins seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

## Humor from the Internet

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

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Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

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All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.

The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly.

As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

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Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table.

"Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes."

They were seated immediately.

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I was in the six-item express lane at the store, quietly fuming.

Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart, and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"

(Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?)

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## AFMS Safety Matters—A Numbers Game

*by Ellery Borow*

Perhaps you may have heard about the questions of vaccinations and having sufficient coverage to ensure the safety of the “herd” effect. Being safe is sometimes a matter of numbers. What is the likelihood of a particular tree being struck by lightning? Or the likelihood of a mailbox being taken out by a car careering out of control on slippery roads? Or the likelihood of toast landing on the floor—butter side up? What are the odds? What are the numbers?

With much of the rockhound safety, an important number is the number one. One person is usually the one working in the basement lapidary workshop. One person is usually the one working with the hazardous rock-cleaning chemistries out in the garage. One person is sometimes the one going on the field trip to the new site.



How does the one protect himself or herself? Well, have you ever heard of the instance where the person puttering upstairs has a sudden thought, “Hmmm, sure is quiet down in our basement shop. It sounds a little too quiet. I think I’ll wander down and see how things are going for her.” In this case, the number is two. There is another person involved with the safety of the other. What if there is no one else around? Well, there is always reliance on being familiar with all workshop safety parameters, having a cell phone for emergency communications, having a medical kit nearby, knowing and respecting one’s limits and abilities, and so on. Still, having the number two is a great backup.

With chemicals, one can encounter—with remarkable ease—a situation of breathing too many fumes. One way to be safe would be to understand that pilots, surgeons, astronauts, and rockhounds use checklists. Why would a thoroughly trained professional use a checklist? Because they are a thoroughly trained professional. Please seriously consider having and using checklists when working around hazardous chemicals.

One person can be safe on a field trip, if one is prepared. However even with the best preparation, it is wise to have a number two. The number two in this case will be a person who has information about the one’s destination, route (especially when there are several ways to enter the collecting site), anticipated time of return, cell phone number, and any other information that might be useful in an emergency, such as meds.

A herd is not necessary in most rockhound activities, although the one should make doubly sure to do everything possible to be safe. It is often not merely a matter of numbers to be safe. It’s a matter of guidelines, understanding, patience, practice, common sense, thoughtfulness, care, attention, preparedness. Is that all? Well, almost. There is one more. Respect your abilities and limits.

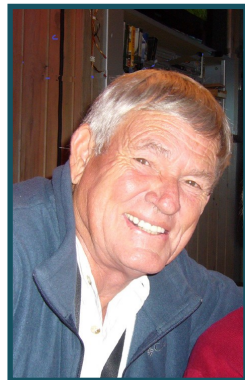
By all the numbers, your safety matters.

**AFMS President's Message**

*by Doug True  
from AFMS Newsletter 09/2019*

This has been a busy spring for us—after attending the AFMS show in Cedar Rapids, we drove back to Quartzsite, Arizona and finished closing our shop. Then went to San Diego County to our mining claim, and worked it for a while. We returned home to Billings, Montana the end of April, worked our local show May 4 and 5, then off to the Blue Forest in Wyoming for five days.

We drove to New York and attended the Eastern Federation Show and Convention. We really enjoyed ourselves, and they provided such great hospitality. We attended the show and meetings, did a tour of one of the world-famous florescent collecting areas, the Sterling Mine in New Jersey. Again, thanks to the Orange County Club, David, and the Eastern clubs for making us feel at home.



Spent a day seeing the beauty of the Niagara Falls, both the US and Canadian sides. Then back to Montana and a week of fishing in Wyoming.

Now we are in Utah, visited Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. We have not been to these parks for 53 years (on our Honeymoon, August, 1966). Fun to see the parks from a different perspective. We are on our way to the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and Convention at Prescott, Arizona.

In the next several months, I will be presenting some ways to help build and/or strengthen your club shows by using social media. Ways to save money, increase attendance, and build your club. Hope you are having a great summer.

**SCFMS President's Message**

*A Note from Roger Burford  
from SCFMS Newsletter 09-10/2019*

Last night we had our August club meeting which just so happened to follow our club show. Our club only has two people who do all of the planning and management for the show, which in our case works very well. We found that the majority of people attending our show heard about the show on Facebook, followed by word of mouth. This year we had another record crowd. That is three years in a row that the attendance has increased.

The week after our show, we attended a show from another club, and their attendance was 'way down from the previous year. Why? It seems that something was overlooked in getting the word out. We have not been able to determine what, but the suspicion is that Facebook and other online sources were not utilized by the club members to get the word out. Facebook is a great place to get the word





out about your event. If you create a post with your show flyer and the dates and times, and share that with all of your club members, they in turn share it with their friends, and so on. That is a great way to get free advertising. You can also boot the post—for a minor fee—which puts the information out into news feeds to catch even more eyes.

Our shows are a major part of getting the word out about our clubs and what we do. We always pick up new members at our shows who had not heard about us before—and in many cases, they are very enthusiastic and motivated.

So let's get the word out about our shows, share on Facebook and other online sources, and grow our clubs. All of us need new blood and new ideas.

Thanks,

Roger Burford

## Jewelry Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

*Work Smarter & Be More Productive*

*With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books*

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

### TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you do not see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round, or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I am drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and cannot find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.



For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

### TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It is not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you are on the right track—and it is inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution, you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple—as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

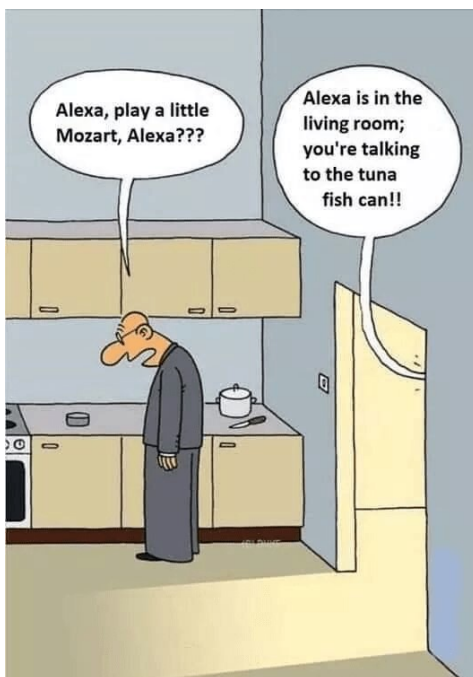
If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

#### Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silver .....	Red/Orange
Sterling silver .....	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper .....	Dark red changing to gray
Brass .....	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel .....	Gray-green
Copper .....	Yellow changing to blue
Steel .....	Black
Stainless Steel .....	No color change

**Caution**—If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

- ♦ **Wear safety glasses.**
- ♦ **Do not get any testing solution on your skin.**
- ♦ **Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.**
- ♦ **Wash and clean up well when you are done.**



From the Internet

## GOLD

*by Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
from Chips and Chatter 08/2019*

One of the most sought-after materials is gold, be it as a mineral specimen, a nugget, or as a metal. Economic gain is probably the number-one cause of wars. Possession of gold belonging to another country or nation is one of the leading ways of quickly establishing economic gain, particularly in the not too distant past. If you do not think so, you only need to look to Cortez and his conquistadors. Certainly establishing a claim to the land was a big part of the war, but you only need to look at the plunder the armies took to realize that gold was a major player. Control of the land and the people would also give control of the gold mines. Several of the ships of the Spanish fleet returning to Spain were so heavily laden with gold that they easily sank, and often did!

Gold derives its name the Proto-Germanic word *gulþą* which comes from the Proto-Indo-European word *\*ǵʰelh<sub>3</sub>* that means to shine, gleam, or to be yellow or green. However, gold's chemical symbol, Au, comes from the Latin word aurum which comes from the Proto-Indo-European word *\*h<sub>2</sub>é-h<sub>2</sub>us-o-* which means to glow. Gold certainly does match the criteria of yellow and shiny.

Gold is a very stable element. It is resistive to forming chemical compounds and to most acids. Gold is generally found as native gold, not in a chemical compound. When it is found in a chemical compound (very rare) it is generally with tellurium. Gold will sometimes be found as a natural alloy of copper or palladium.



**AUSROX 51.3 pound Gold Nugget  
from Australia**



**Crystalline Gold from California**

Gold has a Mohs hardness of only 2.5—about the same hardness of the typical fingernail. It can easily be scratched by calcite. Gold is the most malleable of all metals. It can be drawn into a wire only one gold atom in thickness, and it can continue to be stretched to about twice the length of the atom before breaking. A single gram of gold can be hammered into a sheet 1 meter square. In the not too distant past, one of the tests to determine if a material was gold or fools gold (iron pyrite), was to bite down on it. If the miner could leave a dent in the material, it was gold (true)—if he broke his tooth, it was pyrite—(okay, a little joke—just no dent!)

It is said that a diamond is forever, and apparently so is gold. In 2016, the US Geological Survey estimated that 5,726,000,000 troy ounces (178,100 tons) of gold have been produced since the beginning of civilization, and that 85 percent of it is still in use. About 50 percent of the world's gold is used in jewelry, 40 percent is held for investments, and 10 percent is for industrial use. The primary industrial use of gold is in electronics, mostly in forming corrosion-free connectors. The connectors are generally free of oxidation except when attacked by free chlorine.

Speaking of oxidation of gold, it was mentioned that gold is resistant to most acids. Gold will not dissolve in nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ). One of the tests used to determine if a material is gold, is to attempt to dissolve it in nitric acid—a test that became known as the “acid test.” Gold is attacked by hydrochloric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{HCl}$ ), but very shortly after the reaction starts, the equilibrium point is reached. For every atom of gold attacked by the free chlorine, an atom of gold from the solution returns to the gold—thus very little gold is dissolved. The only acid that dissolves gold is aqua regia (Royal Water). Aqua regia is a mixture of hydrochloric and nitric acids in a ratio of one part hydrochloric acid to three parts nitric acid. In this combination, the hydrochloric acid attacks the gold, and then the nitric acid attacks the gold-chloride ion to form chloroauric acid ( $\text{HAuCl}_4$ ), thus allowing the reaction to continue until the gold is fully dissolved.

It is estimated that the world produces 2,700 tons of gold each year. China is currently the leading producer of gold, followed by Australia. However from a historical point of view, most of the world's gold has been produced by South Africa. Gold is found in the United States, with California and Alaska being the primary producers. If you want to search for gold in Texas, the best bet would be the Llano River near Llano, but do not expect to make any major or even minor finds!

#### References:

- Gold, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>
- Gem and Mineral Gazette, <https://www.goldandgemgazette.com/texas>

#### Pictures

- By Don Shurtz of the AUSROX Gold Nugget and California Crystalline Gold. Specimens on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX



**Rhodocrosite,  
Sweet Home Mine Museum  
from 2010 SCRIBE DVD**

## Blast from the Past—Bring on the Heat

by Don Shurtz

*Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
from Chips and Chatter 07/2016, via Chips and Chatter 07/2019*

### Heat is DANGEROUS!

**S**ummer is now officially here, and all indications are it will be scorching hot! Soon we will have our first triple digit temperature, but we have already had several days that “feel like” over 100 degrees. Heat may lead to heat exhaustion, heat (sun) stroke, and death because the body tries to cool itself by perspiring (sweating). When the humidity is high, the perspiration cannot readily evaporate to cool us down. During outdoor physical activity, one must watch for symptoms of nausea, dizziness, headache, thirst, and excessive sweating. Other symptoms may include disorientation and lack of sweating. These can occur in infants and the elderly without physical activity.

#### The Heat Index

It is the “feels-like temperature,” the heat index, which is a combination of air temperature and humidity that determines any heat advisory. The National Weather Service issues advisories if the heat index:

- reaches 105 to 115 degrees for three hours on two consecutive days
- exceeds 115 degree during the day
- reaches 80 degrees for two consecutive nights.

Be sure to listen for advisories during the weather forecast or download this PDF chart at <https://www.weather.gov/ama/heatindex>

#### Treatment of Heat Exhaustion

If you experience heat exhaustion:

- move to a cool or shaded place
- take off any extra layers of clothing
- cool off with a fan or wet towels.

Without prompt treatment, heat exhaustion may lead to heat stroke—a condition of hyperthermia that occurs when the core body temperature rises above 105 degrees.

#### Treatment of Hyperthermia

The following treatment is needed to cool the body core temperature:

- bath or shower in cold water.
- use cold compresses to the body, neck, head, and groin.
- use a fan or air conditioner to aid in evaporation of sweat
- use wet towelings or misting.
- take in fluids.

Water or sports drinks may be a good starting point, but too much water may lead to an electrolyte imbalance. Pedialyte® can be helpful to add electrolytes. (It's not just for infants!) Do not be reluctant to call 911 for emergency help. It could save a life!

Take proactive steps to avoid exhaustion and heat stroke. Stay in the air conditioning. A mall or

theater is a good option if your air conditioner is broken. Take it easy working outside. Take frequent breaks. Drink lots of fluids, and cool down if you start feeling any symptoms.

### How Does All of This Apply to Rockhounds?

For one thing, we tend to be a hobby of senior citizens with a smattering of younger members. We all need to watch for symptoms. Field trips should be planned in the months with historically milder temperatures. During summer, leave the strenuous activities for the cooler hours in morning or evening. Remember—even the cooler temperatures may not be enough—in the morning, the relative humidity is higher. This makes it harder to cool down by sweating. When hiking, ensure that you take plenty of water with you—along with sunscreen and insect repellent. Rest frequently, and keep cool as possible. Better yet, do these exciting activities earlier or later in the year!

## Texas Woman Finds 3.72-Carat Yellow Diamond at Arkansas State Park

*by Park Interpreter Waymon Cox  
[from Arkansas State Park Web site  
([www.arkansasstateparks.com/articles](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/articles))  
via DGMS Rok Tok Newsletter 09/2019,  
via SCFMS Newsletter 09-10-2019*

Sometimes, a small change can change your life. On Friday, August 16, 27-year-old Miranda Hollingshead of Bogata Texas, visited Arkansas's Crater of Diamonds State Park for the first time.

But according to Hollingshead, that wasn't her original plan. "I was just going to pick up a transmission that day, but my siblings were in town and wanted to do something fun together." Hollingshead, who has known about the Crater of Diamonds for years, decided to go diamond searching when she found out the park wasn't too far from her home. "When I realized it was only a couple hours away, I knew we had to go!" What started as a fun family outing became the experience of a lifetime when Hollingshead discovered a diamond weighing nearly four carats at the Arkansas State Park.

After searching for about an hour, Hollingshead found the diamond at the base of a hill on the northeast side of the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area. "I was sitting in the shade, watching a YouTube video on how to find diamonds. I looked over at my kid for a second, and when I looked down, I saw it mixed in with other rocks." Hollingshead noted she was pretty sure she had found a diamond when she first saw the stone. "I shook my hand across it to make sure what it was, picked it up, and yelled across the field to my mom, 'I think I got one!'" After showing her mom and siblings, Hollingshead carried her find to the Diamond Discovery Center, where park staff registered it as a 3.72 ct. yellow diamond.





It is the largest registered at the Crater of Diamonds since March 2017, when a teenager from Centerton, Arkansas found a 7.44-carat brown gem. It is the largest yellow diamond since a visitor from Oklahoma City found a 3.85-carat jewel there in October 2013. Park Interpreter Waymon Cox said, "Every diamond found at the park is beautiful in its own way, and this one is certainly no exception. It's about the size of a pencil eraser, with a light yellow color and a sparkling, metallic luster. Ms. Hollingshead said her gem's unique shape reminded her of a rounded molar, with a small indentation in one end."



Cox pointed out that rainfall likely played a role in Hollingshead finding her diamond. “Much of the ground where Ms. Hollingshead found her diamond is made of unweathered volcanic rock. When it rains, flowing runoff often leaves loose gravel, and sometimes diamonds are on the surface in these areas. Diamonds have a brilliant, adamantine luster that makes them easy to spot, and Ms. Hollingshead happened to be sitting in just the right place to see the diamond sparkle in the sun.” About one in every 10 diamonds is found on top of the ground by observant visitors. Periodically, Park personnel plow the diamond search area—the eroded surface of an ancient, diamond-bearing volcanic pipe, to loosen soil and to assist with natural erosion.

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Hollingshead and her son named her gem the Caro Avenger. “He chose the name Caro, and I am a fan of superheroes, so it seemed like a good fit.” When asked whether she plans to sell her gem or keep it as a souvenir, Hollingshead said if she doesn’t sell it, she’ll probably have it mounted in a ring. As of this writing, 319 diamonds have been registered at Crater of Diamonds State Park in 2019, weighing a total of 63.49 carats. Thirteen diamonds registered this year have weighed at least one carat each.

Crater of Diamonds State Park is located on Arkansas Highway 301 in Murfreesboro. It is one of 52 state parks administered by the State Parks Division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

**Photo Credit:** Arkansas State Parks



By Ernston Barnhart - via Rock Buster News 3/01  
via Golden Spike News 8/01

## RECRUITING AT YOUR SHOW

by Bob Rush, CFMS Membership Chair

via CFMS Newsletter 01/2019, via SCFMS Newsletter 09-10/2019

**Y**our biggest exposure to potential new members during the year is at your annual show. The people attending your show are there because they have an interest in lapidary, jewelry, minerals, dinosaurs, fossils and everything else that you present at your show. They make prime candidates for being new members. You have a captive audience, so the opportunity should not be squandered.

We attend multiple shows during the year, but unfortunately, I observe many times that efforts to recruit at the show are not a focus of the show activities. I see that the membership activities are usually combined at the tables by the entrance and are not well marked, manned, or emphasized. This is not an optimal time or location for recruiting for the society. Most people are focused on quickly filling out their door prize tickets and making a beeline for the dealers to see what they are offering. Maybe later they will wander back by the combined information/lottery tickets/membership/admission tables.

For the best exposure to your recruiting activities, you need to have a fully-manned, dedicated membership table out in the mix of the other activities. Preferably, this table should be along the path that the attendees routinely pass by as they go about seeing the show. At our show, the Mother Lode Mineral Society show in Turlock, CA, **we take extraordinary efforts to attract people to our membership table. It is located in a busy path, but in a quiet location—definitely not under a PA system speaker or around noisy activities. We have a 3-foot x 4-foot membership sign with flashing LED lights around it. It is positioned behind the membership table on a wall up high enough that it can readily be seen from many locations in the showroom.**

Positioned on the table is a polished piece of the state stone, serpentine. Near it is a large abalone shell filled with candy. Additionally, we have a spinning disco ball. Because we have a major focus on attracting children to our show, we have many of them moving about with their parents. My wife Pat usually works at this table. She was a hairdresser for 35 years, so she has developed good salesmanship skills and a gift of gab that works quite well for the membership recruitment activities. While admonishing the kids not to touch the disco ball, she offers them a piece of candy—but they must answer a rock question. As she points to the rock on the table, she asks them, “What is the California State Rock?” Many times, they do get the right answer and they get the candy. She also rewards those who make the effort to identify it. This activity is a subtle means to convey to the parents that we are trying to help educate their children on geology or rock identification.

The next step is to ask if the parents are enjoying the activities going on at the show. This is a lead in to asking them if they would like to become a part of these activities by becoming a member. We have three chairs at the table, so people can sit down and continue in a one-on-one discussion. It is quite successful. Another step that our society took was to eliminate all activities that would be deemed to be a hurdle or obstacle to becoming a member. Our motivation here was to give the potential new member the feeling of belonging as soon as they signed the application and paid their dues. Thus, they are members as soon as they walk away from the table.

This starts the biggest challenge for the society. That challenge is to make the new members feel welcome as soon as they walk in the door to the meeting room. This is accomplished by having a

board member—preferably the president—be one of the first people to greet them as they arrive. The feeling for them is that they must be important for a leader to be the first to greet them. During this initial discussion, they are queried as to what their main interest is—then they are introduced to a general member who shares this interest and who will be their mentor through the meeting.

Getting the new member a seat within or near a group of people is very desirable. Never have the new member sitting alone for any time at the meeting. Keeping the new member's interest and having them return for future meetings and participation is very important, so having a great presentation is necessary. Another necessity is have a warm, friendly group of members around. Elimination of cliques is mandatory for a successful group. A constant mix of new members goes a long way toward breaking up the cliques.

The results in numbers of new members recruited for us at the show is significant. In 2017 we had 31 new-member applications of which about 75% were families. This year the goal was to meet this number and exceed it, if possible. The result was 41 new-member applications.

One of the challenges for societies is to have enough members to man the dedicated membership table. For us this meant getting more help at the show. Our solution was to reach out to the schools and get students to come to the show to earn their community service hours working at our show. Most students in California are required to have 30 hours of community service to graduate.

Organizing these students involves having a society member contact the local high school community services person, provide a form for the students to fill out, and then schedule the times and show locations where the students should show up. The response has been so successful for us that we are now struggling a bit to find enough jobs for them to do at the show.

### **A Joke Worth Telling** *from Suzck Prattle 09/2019*

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on a camping and hiking trip.  
They had gone to bed for the night and were looking up at the sky.  
Holmes said to Watson, "Watson, look up, what do you see?"

"Well, I see thousands of stars."

"And what does that mean to you?"

"I guess we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"

"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

## Show Time 2019–2020

Oct 11-12 Mount Ida, AR	Annual Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. <a href="mailto:director@mtidachamber.com">director@mtidachamber.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.mtidachamber.com">www.mtidachamber.com</a>
Oct. 12-13 Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center 3303 N. Third Street <a href="mailto:lrolston@hotmail.com">lrolston@hotmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://drarhie.wixsite.com/tcgme">http://drarhie.wixsite.com/tcgme</a>
Oct. 18-20 Austin, TX	Austin Gem and Mineral Society Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. <a href="mailto:showchairman@austingemandmineral.org">showchairman@austingemandmineral.org</a> ; <a href="http://www.agms-tx.org">www.agms-tx.org</a>
Oct. 18-20 Lewiston, ID	<b>NFMS</b> hosted by Hells Canyon Gem Club Nezperce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Avenue <a href="mailto:hcgemclub@yahoo.com">hcgemclub@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.hellscanyongemclub.com/">http://www.hellscanyongemclub.com/</a>
Nov. 2-3 Midland, TX	Midland Gem and Mineral Society Barbara and George H. W. Bush Convention Center 105 N. Main St.; <a href="mailto:mgmstx@gmail.com">mgmstx@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.midlandgemandmineral.org">www.midlandgemandmineral.org</a>
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 <a href="http://HGMS.org">HGMS.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:Showchair@hgms.org">Showchair@hgms.org</a>
Nov. 23-24 Mesquite, TX	Dallas Gem and Mineral Society Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibition Hall, 1800 Rodeo Dr <a href="mailto:lynncouvillion@gmail.com">lynncouvillion@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org">www.dallasgemandmineral.org</a>

## Show Time 2020

Jan. 18-19 Fredericksburg, TX	Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park at the Pavilion, Hwy.16 South <a href="mailto:hcgms20@gmail.com">hcgms20@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org">fredericksburgrockhounds.org</a>
Jan. 24-26 Tyler, TX	The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 South Rose Park Dr. Margaret Kilanski— <a href="mailto:mkilanski@yahoo.com">mkilanski@yahoo.com</a>
May 30-31 Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane <a href="mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org">walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org</a> ; <a href="http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org">www.lubbockgemandmineral.org</a>
Oct. 10-11 Temple, TX	<b>SCFMS</b> hosted by Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St. David Farhie 512-826-2754, <a href="mailto:dfarhie@gmail.com">dfarhie@gmail.com</a>

2019		October				2019
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Mtg	2 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	3 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Archaeology Section Meeting	4	5 10-3 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
6 10-4 Shop Open	7	8 11-3 Shop Open 7:30	9 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 p.m. Gemstone & Faceting Section	10 10-3 Shop Open	11	12 10-3 Shop Open
13 10-4 Shop Open	14 <b>Columbus Day</b>	15 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	16 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	17 10-3 Shop Open	18	19 10-3 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
20 10-4 Shop Open	21 7:30 Lapidary Section	22 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	23 10-3 Shop Open	24 10-3 Shop Open	25	26 10-3 Shop Open
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29 11-3 Shop Open	30 10-3 Shop Open	31 10-3 Shop Open <b>Halloween</b>		

2019		November				2019
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10-3 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section
3 10-4 Shop Open  <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>	4	5 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Board Mtg	6 10-3 Shop Open 1-3 p.m. Day Light	7 Set up HGMS Annual Show	8 HGMS Annual Show	9 HGMS Annual Show
10 HGMS Annual Show	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>	12 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 Paleo Section	13 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 p.m. Gemstone & Faceting Section	14 10-3 Shop Open	15	16 10-3 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 11-3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	21 10-3 Shop Open	22	23 10-3 Shop Open
24 10-4 Shop Open	25	26 11-3 Shop Open	27 10-3 Shop Open	28 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	29	30 10-3 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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