

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



## MEMBER PROFILE: NEAL IMMEGA

SEE MORE ON PAGE 6

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	3
Vice President's Message / Upcoming Program	3
Section Reports - Archaeology	4
Member Profile: Neal Immega	6
Bench Tips	10
Rockhound's Alphabet	11
Novel Mosquito Repellent	12
TRIVIA: Traffic Lights	12
HGMS Faceting Section Member SCORES in Stone Competition	13
Juniors Word Puzzle	14
The Lost Gold Of Bone Hill	15
HGMS 2020 Scholarship Announcements	16
Wonders of a Crystal	18
Summer Rockhound	18
Purpose of HGMS / Membership Details	19
Board of Director Meeting Minutes – current month	19
General Meeting Minutes	23
Show Time	25
Officers List	26
Calendar	27

*Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source. Every article published in the BBG is edited for grammar and content. No flaming is allowed.*

### BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

*Copy is due for the next issue by the 15th of this month. Email content to [editor@hgms.org](mailto:editor@hgms.org)*



# The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Sigrid Stewart*

If you had told me back in January that the mysterious pneumonia beginning at that time to be reported from Wuhan, China would cause a world-wide epidemic, I might have said, "Oh, who's the author? I love science fiction!" Sadly, the real meaning of a disaster is something you weren't expecting, that seems to come at you out of the blue. However, disease has always been with us. Our ancestors battled plagues and illness, but we arrogantly thought we were done with all that. The one bright side is that all the work currently being done on Covid-19 may yield surprising insights and new methods of battling disease.

Since we are experiencing a new surge in reported cases at the current time, you can look forward to more remote meetings and continuing restrictions on the use of the club house. However, if you have a need to use the shop, you can contact Neal Immega and he may be able to arrange a session with a shop manager for you. (Remember that individuals should never work in the shop alone.) Speaking of Neal, be sure to read our Featured Member article this month. Find out how the man behind the grinders and saws got that way!

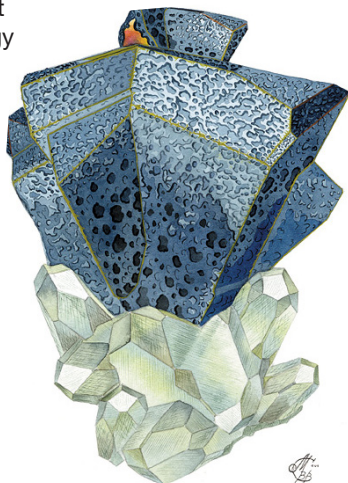
## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Michael Sommers*

The Origin of Breathing in Animals—Examples from deep time

Hold your breath! Neal Immega will be giving the August General Meeting presentation (jointly as the Paleontology Section meeting) on why did life leave the ocean, how did humans learn to talk, and what are the consequences of the physical changes that allow humans to talk. How the whole process of spewing a lot of hot air came about. Although technically, I am sure the process originally spewed a bunch of relatively low or negligibly temperature-increased air.

Come find out for yourself! The online General Meeting will start roughly at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25. Please watch the HGMS Web site, Facebook page, or weekly email for the link the weekend prior to the talk. See you online!



# SECTION REPORTS

## ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

by Jay Roussel

Due to the Coronavirus, the Houston Gem & Mineral Society Clubhouse is closed. Currently, the Section is on a Summer Break. Hopefully, the Section will be able to hold meetings in the fall. So, for now, stay safe and enjoy this article based on notes taken from a Fort Bend Archeological Society YouTube Channel talk by Dr. Valerie Feathers, Louisiana, The Division of Archaeology.

### POVERTY POINT WORLD HERITAGE SITE, LOUISIANA

The Poverty Point World Heritage Site is located in Northeastern Louisiana, just east of Monroe. It was occupied from 1700 BC – 1100 BC. At the time, it was the largest earthworks in North America. The people who occupied the site, did so for over 600 years, but there is no evidence of domesticated agriculture. This monumental site was most likely built as a ceremonial center.

One of the many reasons that Poverty Point is such an incredible site is because of how much of the cultural material found was imported from other sites. In fact, over 78 tons of stone artifacts were recovered from the site, but practically none of them are local. The most common stone artifacts were tied to hunting technology. The Poverty Point Site was utilized prior to the bow and arrow. So, points and weights found were made of a large variety of stones. Many groundstone plummets were also found, and it is believed that they were used on fishing lines and nets. However, more investigation is needed before archaeologists can reach a conclusion.



*Aerial Reconstruction of Poverty Point*

Source: Wikimedia Commons, Artist's reconstruction Poverty Point Aerial HRoe 2014.jpg

Some of the most impressive artifacts excavated are the nearly 30 small red jasper owls that were found at sites that span from eastern Florida to as far west as Poverty Point, all of which date back to the same period as Poverty Point. The tallest of the owls is just over an inch in height. Many of the intricate pieces are much smaller and it is incredible to imagine they were carved using stone tools. Another group of fascinating carved artifacts, which leads to more questions than answers, are stone figures, usually with a female body and normally, missing their heads. The few heads that are intact show people speaking or smiling. We don't know if the heads were removed intentionally. It is possible they were used for ceremonial purposes.

The only material local to the area is the clay. The most common artifacts found during





*Red Jasper Owl Pendants, Photo courtesy of Jennifer Ellerbe*

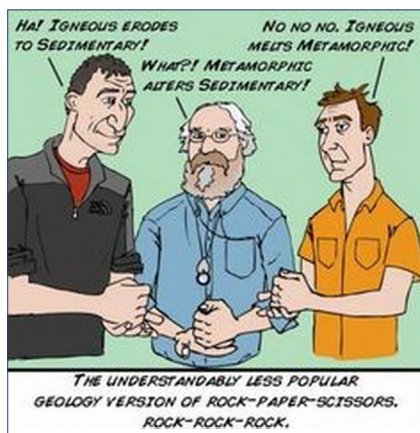
but very few pottery bowls. The Poverty Point inhabitants had pottery, but they apparently had a preference for the stone bowls. Research has shown that the stone from the bowls came from Alabama.

**And here is my personal opinion:** If you are looking for an interesting road trip, I highly recommend visiting this site. There is just no way to express how impressive the mounds are unless you visit them yourself. Poverty Point State Park is only about 15-minutes away from the Poverty Point Site where you can find a great cabin right on a large reservoir.

For more information, check out this link: <https://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/historic-sites/poverty-point-state-historic-site/>

### Upcoming Archaeology Section Programs

**July – September, 2020:** The Section is still on hiatus. Watch for an update and lineup of Fall programs in the September Issue of the Backbender's Gazette. We are considering a virtual program. So, stay tuned, stay safe and, we hope to see you soon!



## NEAL IMMEGA, FEATURED MEMBER

*by Neal Immega*

In the beginning: People frequently ask me how long I have been collecting rocks, and I hold my hand about three feet off the floor and say, "Since I was this big." Our family loved Sunday picnics in Missouri parks, and I always came home with a pocket full of rocks.

**Paleontology:** I found my Dad's rocks in the basement—they were collected in what would become Big Bend National Park. I took them to him—one at a time—asking him to tell me about them. He collected them when he was courting my mother who stayed with friends in their cabin at Hot Springs. The roads were so bad that Dad said he always carried two spare tires and a bottle of whiskey—and sometimes he needed them all. One of his rock pieces was a 10-inch square of limestone containing an *Inoceramus* clam. He said that he put it under the jack when he had to change a tire. I grew up collecting Mississippian age fossils around the St Louis, Missouri area, and I learned to appreciate just how hard the Paleozoic limestone is.

**Lapidary:** When I was 10 years old, I told my father that I wanted to do lapidary and I needed a grinder. His response was "Tell me more," and so he, with my poor help, built a grinder. I still use it. When I was 12, I asked my father to help me build a diamond saw, and so we did. I grew tired of making stones for commercial mountings and found that I could take a class at school on silversmithing. The teacher was always impressed with how well my mountings fit my stones. I never told her that I would make the mounting first, then cut the stone to fit!



*Neal at Millstadt*

**Sputnik:** In High School, my coaches wanted me to play basketball—but after a season of that, I decided it was easier to be a straight-A student. The beginning of my formal education came about because Russia launched the Sputnik satellite. The National Science Foundation then

decided that the US needed to encourage students to go into the sciences and offered summer programs around the country for juniors in High School to take college science classes. I signed up for a 6-week summer geology program at Texas A&M with Professor Fred E. Smith, and had a marvelous time.

It is a case of "It's not what you know, but who you know." When it came time for me to pick a college, I naturally chose Texas A&M and Prof. Smith made it all happen. Oil companies would let Prof. Smith pick people for their summer programs, and so I had summer jobs with Sun in their Roswell office and with Mobil in their research lab in Richardson. They even paid me to work there! Prof. Smith called me in one day and said that there as going to be lady undergraduate student (their first one) coming in, and that I was to show her a good time. That's how I met Inda.

**Graduate Work:** I do not know why people say that it is hard to get into graduate school. I just asked Dr. Stanton where I should go, and he said that I should study paleontology at Indiana University with Dr. Dodd. A little paperwork later, I had a teaching assistantship that paid enough to live on. More importantly, I married Inda, the lady undergraduate I met at Texas A&M. I guess I was still "showing her a good time." We went on field trips, taught undergraduates, and did research with machines in the labs and took nearly useless classes like French. A few of my classes had a major impact on my life, like Fortran programming and numerical analysis. I found that I had a real flare for programming and that I could use numerical analysis to come up with a "good enough" answer to nearly any problem. I made good use of these talents when I went to work.

We were a little worried when Inda and I began going to job interviews—there were few industrial and university jobs open. Then, in 1973, the Shah of Iran raised the price of oil from about \$4 a barrel to \$13, and the oil companies became very interested in anyone who could spell "Geology." It really is better to be lucky than good. In 1975, I finished my Ph.D. in Paleontology and started interviewing. With four summers of oil jobs, I could "talk the talk," and I easily got a job in Houston with the domestic exploration branch of Shell Oil Company. When Inda got her Ph.D. in Mineralogy a year later, she likewise made good use of her summer job with Shell in Midland, and she was signed on to Shell's Midcontinent Exploration division.

**Shell Oil Exploration:** As usual, the new man always gets the jobs that send you out of the office. I monitored the geology encountered in wells being drilled on offshore drilling rigs in California and Alaska. Using helicopters allowed us to cover a huge area on the North Slope of Alaska and field studies everywhere. Using an all terrain vehicle was the next choice, but the government did not want us to make tire tracks across the tundra, and it would have been slow going. It was great fun, but then I got a chance to transfer to the research office on Bellaire Blvd. (the site is now a housing development) about a mile from my house to provide the geology for a team of chemists working on the origin of light hydrocarbons.

**Shell Oil Research:** I had found my place. At this time, Shell funded research from the Head Office, and you could work on things that had the POTENTIAL of a big payoff. I did projects in geochemistry, computing, and databases. I started turning out code myself when the professional programmers in Shell cost too much, but I soon found that I could not meet the demand by myself. My efforts became a bootleg programming shop that exclusively used genius-level undergraduate programmers from Rice University. I told them what I needed a program to do, they asked their professors at Rice how to do it,

and then they did it. Everyone was part-time, so they did not show up on the books as new employees—a critical subterfuge.

**Retirement:** Exploration careers are roller coasters. In 1998–1999, the squabbles inside OPEC cut the price of oil to \$10/barrel, and the oil company and lab were hit with big layoffs. They offered Inda and me early retirement with a partial pension, and we took it. The lab was not nearly as much fun by that time, because they switched funding models. Each project had to find a sponsor within the oil company that wanted something enough to pay for it. Time to leave. We got to retire at the age of 50. We renewed our memberships in HGMS (we dropped out in the 1980s when we got busy at Shell) and Inda started volunteering at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) and putting in 1000 hours/year. I usually volunteer Sundays at the museum, giving tours and training people to give tours.



*Inda and Neal*

Later, I spent lots of time at the museum's dig in Seymour, Texas with Dr. Bakker digging Permian proto-mammals like *Dimetrodon*. It looks like a crocodile with a sail on its back. One of the special projects I did with both the museum and HGMS is the Zuhl Petrified Wood collection. Herb Zuhl donated 208 pieces to the museum. The museum liked the specimens, but did not do much to curate the collection. I got Scott Singleton of HGMS (our resident petrified wood expert) to identify each of the slabs. I assembled what information the museum had, and I had wonderful help from Herb who remembered each piece. I wrote up all the labels used in the "Jurassic Bark" exhibit in the Museum's new



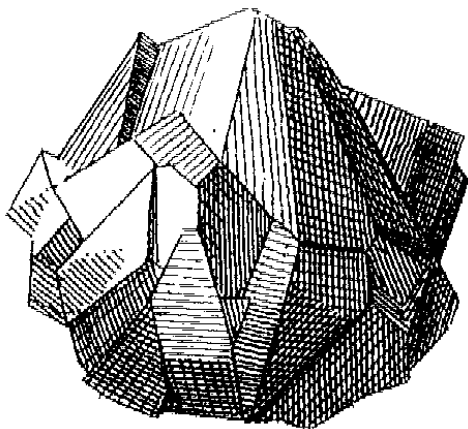
Paleontology Hall, and Scott and I created a publication that currently is being sold by the Paleo Section.

**HGMS:** How do I fit in with HGMS? First, I became a member of the Paleontology Section, served as Field Trip Chair, and eventually became the President of the Section. Since I started handling the book sales for the Paleo section, we have sold over \$20,000 worth of books. I also needed to spend a lot of time in the shop cutting specimens and making jewelry. Gary Anderson had been running the shop for ages, but things were not getting done—like machine repairs. I offered to become his assistant, and Gary leaped at the chance to transfer some of his responsibilities to me. Even though I became the primary Shop Foreman, Gary provides considerable help. When I am having problems getting something apart, he is always there with a wrench and hammer. I almost feel like Tom Sawyer painting the picket fence because I have a wide range of assistance. Tony Lucci is my go-to man when I have problems that are beyond me. Tony is a British racing car mechanic, and he really knows how to get rusted parts apart. John Cooper is our machinist for making new parts. He did most of the work on the project to put stainless steel shafts on the grinders, making maintenance easier. I have other people who have the equipment to transport heavy donations like saws and grinders. My favorite story is about Bill Moore, who showed up to use our big lap plate and said, "This damn thing is not flat" and he proceeded to take it to his own machine shop and turn it flat. "It's not what you know, but who you know." I am sure my high school English teacher would be very surprised that I have won national awards for my articles in the HGMS newsletter, *Backbender's Gazette*.

**Libraries:** Art Smith was our prime HGMS mineralogist, and he kept the club library. Unfortunately, he had no understudy to take it over, so the library had no continuing caretaker for 10 years after his death. Eventually, the Board of Directors asked me if I would take on the job. Many people were horrified when I discarded a pickup truck load of useless or out-of-date books to make some space. It looks nice now, and cataloguing is underway.

**Virus year:** We are currently enduring the year of the COVID-19 virus. I am taking the time to get the machines repaired, install new lighting, and do more rustproofing. Actually, rustproofing is too optimistic, mostly we do rust-retarding. I am proving up some new technology like the Orion TIG welder and vacuum-impregnating rocks with an acrylic resin called Cactus Juice.

I am proud of being part of the HGMS community. I cannot wait until we have the place open again and people start to make some noise, go on trips, and teach each other new things.



## BENCH TIPS

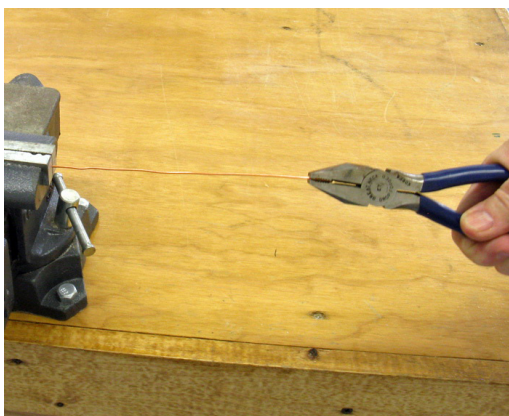
by Brad Smith

### STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it is all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise, and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



### DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there is no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone will not quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here is a fix that usually works for those times when there is just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet, or howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding must be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.



Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books <https://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

## ROCKHOUND'S ALPHABET

*by Emma Biowski*

*in T-Town Rockhound via Rock Rattler 9/89*

A - IS FOR AGES --- IT TOOK ROCKS TO MAKE  
B - IS FOR BACKS----ROCK HUNTING WE BREAK.  
C - IS FOR CAMPING---WE DO QUITE A BIT,  
D - IS FOR DAMN! ---WHEN FINGERS WE HIT.  
E - IS FOR EXAMINE ---EACH BOULDER AND STONE  
F - IS FOR FELLOWSHIP--- WE ARE NOT ALONE.  
G - IS FOR GEOLOGY ----THE EARTH AND ITS CRUST.  
H - IS FOR HAMMER ---A TOOL THAT'S A MUST.  
I - IS FOR INSECTS ----WE COPE WITH THEM TOO,  
J - IS FOR JEANS ----THE BEST WEAR FOR YOU .  
K - IS FOR KIDS ----THEY TOO COME ALONG  
L - IS FOR LABOR --- AND BACKS THAT ARE STRONG.  
M - IS FOR MINERALS--- SOME HARD TO FIND  
N - IS FOR NEVER -----GIVE UP. WE'RE THAT KIND.  
O - IS FOR OUTDOORS ----ANY TIME OF THE YEAR,  
P - IS FOR PRIDE ----IN COLLECTIONS AND GEAR.  
Q - IS FOR QUARRY ---ALWAYS A GOOD BET,  
R - IS FOR RAIN ----WE ALWAYS GET WET.  
S - IS FOR STIFF ---IN KNEES, BACK, AND HIP,  
T - IS FOR TONNAGE ----WE BRING BACK FROM A TRIP .  
U - IS FOR ULTRAVIOLET ----THOSE ROCKS GIVE US THRILLS,  
V - IS FOR VACATIONS----TO MOUNTAINS AND HILLS.  
W - IS FOR WEATHER ---WHICH SELDOM IS RIGHT,  
X - IS FOR XL'S IN WHICH WE DELIGHT.  
Y - IS FOR YARNS -----WE CAN TELL QUITE A FEW,  
Z - IS FOR ZEALOUS ----THAT'S A ROCKHOUND FOR YOU .

## NOVEL MOSQUITO REPELLENT

*via Internet, via Glacial Drifter 05/2016, via Roadrunner 07/2020*

Big bottle of Blue Cheap mouthwash, 3 cups of Epsom salts, 3 stale 12 oz. cheap beer.

Mix those three ingredients together until salt is dissolved. Spray anywhere you sit outside around pools, will not harm plants or flowers. Mosquitoes will be gone from that area for approximately 80 days. I spray my deck all around my sitting areas twice a summer. Go out and sit; enjoy the night, and never be bitten. Mosquitoes leave the area you spray, and they will not return.

I have been using this mixture the last 15 years. It works. I heard about this on a Paul Harvey segment years ago.

Source: Internet. From Glacial Drifter 5/16

There were other hints in the article, but one I tried didn't seem to work on the mosquitos we were having in our area. This one seemed worthwhile. Give it a try, anyway.

Lola Lamb, Editor of The Roadrunner

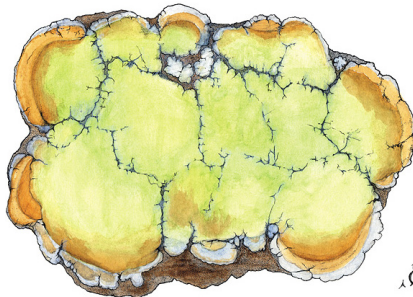
## TRIVIA: EVER WONDER WHY RED, YELLOW, AND GREEN WERE CHOSEN FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS?

*from Chips and Tips, via Glacial Drifter 11/2000, via The Roadrunner 07/2020*

The first traffic light was invented around 1912 by Lester Farnsworth Wire, who was then head of the traffic division of the Salt Lake City Police Department. His light contained only two lamps, one red and one green. These were the colors he took from lights then in use on seagoing vessels and railroad signals where they meant stop and go as they do now.

Red has often been the color chosen when the goal was to attract attention, since red, more than any other color, heightens tension in people. Green on the other hand, has a neutral effect on human emotions, so it was natural to use it to indicate an "okay to proceed condition."

When it was decided to add a caution lamp to the traffic light, yellow was chosen because, other than white, it was the color most distinguishable from red and green. White was not desired since it would be confused with the many other white lights, such as streetlights, that might be near a traffic light.



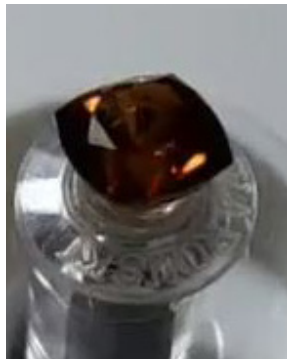


## HGMS FACETING SECTION MEMBER SCORES IN AUSTRALIAN FACETING GUILD STONE COMPETITION

*by Randy Carlson*

HGMS and Faceting and Gemstones Section member **John Lee** scored highest in this year's Australian Faceting Guild Stone Competition. He submitted five stones and took three 1st places and two 3rd places!! That is incredible!! This is on top of his 4th place in the United States Faceting Guild (USFG) Grand Master competition last year.

According to John, he got three first place and two third place in the Open Challenge section, giving him a total score high enough to put him in the Open Champion position.



Be sure to check the website at <http://hgms.org/backbender-extras> to view videos of all the stones in motion.

## JUNIORS WORD PUZZLE

from *Pick & Shovel* 03/1997 via *Pick & Shovel* 07/2020

The following was originally published in the March 1997 issue of the *Pick & Shovel* for the juniors' page by Kay Jurgens, then-Youth-Leader. See how many you can answer correctly.

- I am black, and am burned for industry. \_\_\_\_\_  
I could be yellow or blue, but my colorless form is popular in wedding rings. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am soft, the Native Americans carved me and smoked with me. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am sometimes found as concretions, and look rust-colored. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am found in Nebraska, and am pinkish in color. \_\_\_\_\_  
I form in layers, and can be fairly colorless. I have been used for windows. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am nature's form of glass. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am different rocks molded together. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am mined in Mexico, and can display many colors. I am a woman's name. \_\_\_\_\_  
I can be many colors, and am the birthstone for November. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am often red, and the color of people's lips. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am green, and I sometimes have swirls in my patterns. \_\_\_\_\_  
I have bands, and could be from Brazil or the prairie. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am blue, and am often found with malachite. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am hollow, and may have crystals inside. \_\_\_\_\_  
I can be found in Oregon, and have agate inside of me that can form stars. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I once was a tree, but now I am fossilized. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am the purple form of quartz. \_\_\_\_\_  
My common name is "Fool's Gold". \_\_\_\_\_  
I am metallic and have as many colors as a peacock. \_\_\_\_\_  
I produce a double image and cleave rather easily. \_\_\_\_\_  
I fluoresce, and begin with the same five letters as fluoresce. I also have cubic crystals. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am a green gemstone and Dorothy came to my city. \_\_\_\_\_  
I look like the skin of a wild cat. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am an agate named after a lake. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am an agate named after something on the north side of a tree. \_\_\_\_\_  
I have the same name as something you wash your hands with. \_\_\_\_\_

### WORD CHOICES

IRON ORE	FLUORITE	LEOPARDSKIN
MICA	PIPE STONE	JASPER
OBSIDIAN	THUNDER EGG	PEACOCK ORE
CONGLOMERATE	QUARTZITE	EMERALD
OPAL	PYRITE	SOAP STONE
TOPAZ	RUBY	DIAMOND
MOSS AGATE	MALACHITE	LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE
AZURITE	OPTICAL CALCITE	COAL
AGATE	AMETHYST GEODE	PETRIFIED WOOD

## THE LOST GOLD OF BONE HILL

### WHERE IS THE LOST TREASURE OF BONE HILL?

*via Roadrunner 06/2020*

There are two stories that have been told about the treasure lost at Bone Hill. The first one is from Indian lore, and from before Levasy, Missouri became a town. This area of Missouri was where Indians hunted for buffalo. They stampeded the buffalo, then killed them on this hill—leaving behind only the bones, hence the name Bone Hill. Settlers arriving in the area found flint-scraping tools, arrowheads, and of course bleached buffalo bones in very large quantities. The bones were bleached by lying in the direct sun.

The next story that was told about Bone Hill is one of buried treasure and a mysterious light that appears upon the hill. Prior to the Civil War, a family came along with their slaves to the area to farm. They settled Bone Hill, and the slaves built a stone fence around the entire acreage. During 1862, a fierce border warfare was going on, and the farmer sold his acreage for gold. It is believed that he buried this gold along the stone wall.

The family moved away, and promised their neighbors they would return in 7 years. The family never did return; however, a mysterious light did appear in exactly seven years in 1869. This mysterious light has appeared every seven years since that time around the location of the stone wall. Some believe it is the ghost of the farmer coming back to find his buried treasure.

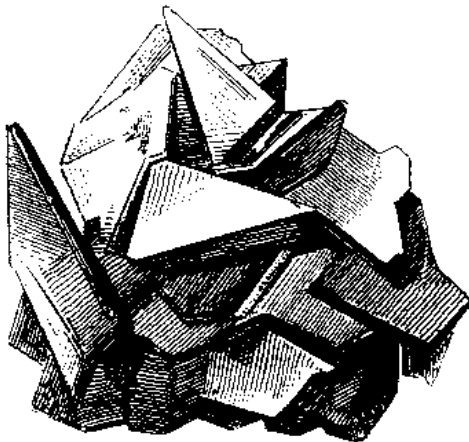
Not everyone around Levasy believes in the buried gold, but many have seen the light. No one has actually recorded searching for the gold. Who knows, it may still be there, and if anyone would follow the ghost when he appears every seven years, they may be led to the location of the gold.

The light was scheduled to appear once again in 2009. If you decide to visit the area about that time, you only need to travel south of Levasy about 1½ miles on the west side of H Highway. Levasy, Missouri is approximately 25 miles east of Kansas City, Missouri on U.S. Highway 24.

#### Another Shop Hint

**Here is a suggestion to make the wet grinding procedure more comfortable. Place water pipe foam insulation over the edge of the water trough for an easy wrist rest while working the stone. Just cut to the length needed and slip it over the edge of the water pan.**

*from the Rock Rattler via Amador Nugget 1/01  
via RockCollector 3/01*



# HGMS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

*by Michael Sommers  
HGMS 2020 Scholarship Chair*

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Houston Gem and Mineral Society finds itself once again in the enviable position of providing more than one student with a slightly easier path toward their education in Earth Science. In addition to our \$2500 Earth Science and Jewelry Arts Scholarship, the Board has approved a second Earth Science and Jewelry Arts Scholarship award of \$1000. On top of that, our wonderfully generous and long-time club member, Douglas Dodds, has again presented the club with a donation of \$500 for a third deserving student!



*Bryttani Muniz*

The 2020 recipient of the primary scholarship is Bryttani Muniz. Ms. Muniz attends Sam Houston State University (SHSU), and she is a former Education major who switched to Geology in 2018. Her education background fuels her drive to pursue post-graduate education and become a teacher herself. She will teach geology lab courses this fall at SHSU. The chair of her department recalled how he told the rest of Bryttani's class that that they all should thank her for asking so many questions—they probably all had the same questions, but now they know the answers! "Geology is something I have found myself to be truly passionate about, and because of it I have created some of the best friendships," she wrote in her application. This sentiment probably applies to all of us within HGMS, regardless of whether it was rocks, minerals, lapidary, archaeology, or jewelry making that brought us together.

Friendship among rockhounds happened to bond Ms. Muniz with the recipient for our Douglas Dodds award, also a student at Sam Houston State University: Kaitlyn Truss. Ms. Truss too has instructed geology labs at SHSU, and she hopes to become an intern at NASA after attending geology field camp next year, focusing on planetary geology. Who knows, she may be our official second member of the Planetary Geology section of HGMS!

Kaitlyn wished to share this message with HGMS: "It would be an honor to accept this award! I am very grateful for the support from this community during my last year at Sam Houston. Again, thank you so much!" Her friend and cohort, Bryttani, added: "Thank you so much for this opportunity! I will attach a picture of me together with Kaitlyn Truss! We are both TAs at Sam Houston as well as great friends! Thank you again for allowing us to further



*Kaitlyn Truss*





*Bryttani Muniz & Kaitlyn Truss*

our futures!" Their picture was taken at an Air BnB ranch in West Texas where they camped during a field trip. The land had been cleared with dynamite, and had tons of gypsum scattered everywhere to collect! After spending all spring cooped up at home, I suspect many of you reading this are feeling as jealous as I am.

Our new Secondary scholarship has been awarded to another student who loves working in the field: Tahiry Andriamiharisoa. Ms. Andriamiharisoa hails from the island nation of Madagascar. She was drawn here to study geology in more depth than can be done in her home country. She has finished studies at Lone Star College Montgomery, and she is continuing at Texas A&M Kingwood this fall. She hopes eventually to have a career as a mineralogist or petrologist. "Thank you for granting me this scholarship. This is a great blessing to support my education. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and helping me out. I accept it and I am so thankful, words cannot express my gratitude. God will always bless you and your families."

We wish these deserving students the best of luck in achieving their educational goals, and we hope these awards help ease their burden on their way to academic and professional success!

As always, if you know of any Earth Science or Jewelry Arts students from or attending a school within Harris or one of the adjacent surrounding counties, please encourage them to apply for our scholarship.

Any questions can be directed to [scholarships@hgms.org](mailto:scholarships@hgms.org).



*Tahiry Andriamiharisoa*

## WONDERS OF A CRYSTAL

*Rock Scoop 2\01 via Dusty Rocks 7/01  
via Golden Spike News 8/01*

A crystal is one of the strangest objects of nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. Place a crystal in a liquid, or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broke in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.

Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth.

Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow closely.

## SUMMER ROCKHOUND

*By Cindy Lind*

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both,  
Went out to hunt one day.  
The Rockhound wanted specimens,  
The 'Skeeter wanted prey!  
The Rockhound found a likely spot,  
and settled with his gear.  
He'd dug a short time when he heard,  
A buzzing in his ear.  
The Rockhound swatted at the noise,  
And stood to look around.  
He missed the Skeeter, but he saw,  
A great stone on the ground!  
The Rockhound bent to lift the stone,  
His backside in the air.  
The 'Skeeter took advantage then,  
And bit the Rockhound there.  
The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug,  
His bottom to defend.  
The Rockhound and the Skeeter had,  
Both got it in THE END!

*(Submitted by La Von Logan, and published in ROCK-A -TEER, bulletin of Puvallup Volley  
Gem Club, 9/96), via Hy Grader 6/01*

## 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, 1/4 page; \$150 for 6 months, 1/4 page.

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

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse which is located at 10805 Brooklet near the intersection of Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) and Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8).

See the calendar inside the back page for when the different Sections meet.

The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30PM.

The HGMS web site address is

<https://hgms.org>

## HGMS BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES

JULY 7, 2020

*by Nancy English*

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

President Sigrid Stewart called the SKYPE meeting to order at 7:35. A quorum was present.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The shop is available for use if a Shop Foreman and a helper are available to operate the machines. If you need the shop, contact Neal Immega at [nealimmega@gmail.com](mailto:nealimmega@gmail.com). He will schedule an appointment. Beyond that, the HGMS clubhouse remains closed for member

use in order to minimize the danger of Coronavirus spread. It will remain closed until the BOD determines that it is safe to reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The July and August General Meeting programs can be enjoyed virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Club reopens.

**Approval of Minutes:** The June 2, 2020 minutes were posted in the July BBG sent on July 6. The minutes were also emailed to all on July 7. Nancy Engelhardt-Moore moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 BOD meeting. Maggie Manley seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Tatyana Kuhne sent the Treasurer's Report to Board members on July 2, 2020. She explained that she is making deposits through the Chase Bank Mobile Deposit App. This allows the depositor to take a picture of the checks and forward the pictures to the bank for the deposits.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BBG Editor:** The July BBG was emailed on July 6, 2020. The hard copy will be mailed by July 10, 2020. The Board is still looking for a permanent editor. Phyllis George continues to review other newsletters for articles that will be interesting to HGMS. She also provides editing services.

### Donations:

Ron Talhelm met with Fred Brueckner at the Club on June 3, 2020. The entire middle classroom table was filled with rocks Ron Talhelm donated. Fred went back Monday, June 8, and he bagged and priced all the rocks. The rocks were the leftovers from Ron's sale. Also included were miscellaneous rough and slabs, and some of the better minerals—jade, covellite, lepidolite, and carnelian. Some tools (as is) also were donated. On Friday, July 3, Nathan Gandara ran the Shop. One of the people he had invited in to be his second person BOUGHT all the rocks. With the rock sale, oil sale, and his cutting charges, the Club made \$600.

Colleen Costelloe donated several pieces of equipment to the Club in June. Randy Carlson facilitated the sales. Randy sold the Genie cabbing machine and the faceting machine, the jewelers' bench, and a few accessories. Funds have been sent to Ms. Costelloe and to our Treasurer accordingly (50/50 split). The portable 10" rock saw and various accessories are still available. These are mostly faceting accessories, but Randy will give the casting accessories to Tony Lucci for the Lapidary Section.

Dick Rathjen: Sigrd Stewart and Steve Blyskal picked up a donation of a LOT of Mineralogical Record issues (1977–2020) from Dick Rathjen, a member of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society. First these issues will be offered to members interested in obtaining issues; the rest will be sold online to interested parties. The money generated from sales will be used to defray or to pay entirely the \$1000 donation the Mineral Section and the Club make to Rocks and Minerals magazine every fall.

**Membership:** Beverly Mace reported that four members have asked for a rebate or refund of their membership dues since they have not had use of the Clubhouse. The Board's discussion resulted in the following statement:

Membership in HGMS is not payment for use of the shop. Shop use costs \$2.00 per



hour and fees for using the large saws. Because of the pandemic, the shop is only open by appointment, and fees for large saws and hourly rates still apply. Membership includes the HGMS Web Site, the monthly Backbender's Gazette, Sunday E-blasts with weekly calendars of events and online classes, and presentations to entertain members. Sections cannot have face-to-face meetings, but some like-minded people are meeting online on Section Meeting dates. General Meeting programs can be accessed through Skype online. Schedules and access sign-on for online meetings can be found in the Sunday weekly E-blasts. HGMS dues are in line with other Gem and Mineral Societies.

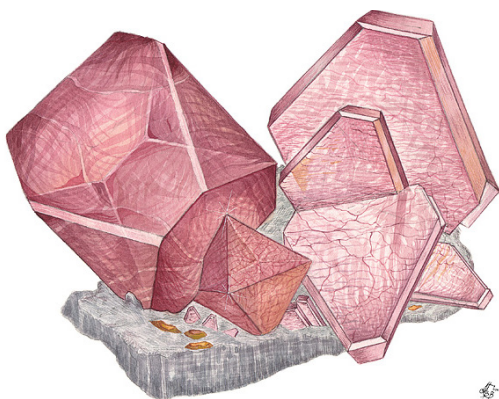
**Scholarship Committee:** Mike Sommers reported that we have three Scholarship candidates. He will forward their information to three Board members for review. Mike recommended that HGMS create an additional \$1,000 scholarship. Following Board discussion, Mike Sommers moved that the Board approve a second HGMS scholarship for \$1000.00. Maggie Manley seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Shop News:** Neal Immega continues to upgrade saws and lighting, and he cleaned up the Paleo Library. Neal will facilitate appointments for members to use the shop. Members may call Neal Immega to make an appointment with a Shop Foreman to use the shop for the regular \$2.00 per hour. Masks will be required. President Stewart will ask the Shop Foremen to be responsible for sanitizing surfaces and doorknobs.

**Show Committee:** The Board discussed the Show. At this point, the Show Committee is planning a scaled-back version of the show due to the expected impact on our volunteers. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the areas devoted to the Youth will not be available this year. This includes School Daze for public schools and home schoolers, Boy Scout events, Dino Dig, HMNS Kid project, and the Youth Area. Nancy English will contact volunteers from previous years to poll them about volunteering this year. Ticket Sales may be done online.

Scott Singleton sent the contract for the Humble Civic Center to President Stewart. The first installment payment has been sent to HCC. Steve Blyskal commented that the dealers are happy about the Show. There will be fewer dealers, so the floor plan will reflect the extra spacing needed for social distancing.

**Web Site Committee:** Nancy English voiced the need for the "Upcoming Programs and Meetings" page (under Events on the HGMS Web Site) to be updated continuously in a timely fashion. The Section meeting dates need updating each month, and program messages need to be replaced with "postponed," "cancelled," or "virtual meeting" each month. The General Meeting program needs to be updated as soon as it is available. Sigrid Stewart agreed for these changes to happen.



## SECTION REPORTS

**All IN-CLUB Section Meetings are canceled until further notice.  
Some virtual meetings may be scheduled.**

**Archaeology Section:** First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Archaeology Section is on hiatus until September.

**Beading Section:** Saturday, 1:30 p.m., July 18, 2020.

**Day Light Section:** Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., July 1 and August 5, 2020.

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., July 8, 2020.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** Monday, 7:30 p.m., July 20, 2020.

**Mineral Section:** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., July 15, 2020.

**Paleo Section:** Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., July 21, 2020. Mike Dawkins said there will be no field trips this September or October.

**Youth Section:** Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, July 18, August 1, 2020

## OLD BUSINESS

**AT&T Billing:** Nancy English spoke with AT&T about the HGMS phone bill. HGMS has a new contract as of June 11, 2020 that will result in monthly billings of about \$95.00. Our next bill on July 4 will be adjusted effective June 11 for the new rate. Then the August billing will be \$95.00.

**HVAC:** A/C replacement: Sigrid Stewart scheduled an appointment with Scott Thompson of Lee Thompson Company to bid on the second air conditioner replacement. The unit that cools the shop needs to be replaced. Tatyana Kuhne suggested new UV filters to add to the duct work. Filters will be discussed later.

**Taxes:** Rodney Linehan filed an extension for us. The Government extended our 2019 tax deadline to July 15, 2020.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **DSWBPA MEMBERS, Dunn Southwest**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, DSW is tentatively rescheduling the annual meeting until the third week of September 2020. Advance notice of the updated time and location will be sent to HGMS accordingly. Nancy English will attend the meeting.

**2021 HGMS Officers:** Mike Sommers reminded the BOD that a Nominating Committee needs to be appointed. Quoting the Bylaws, "The Nominating Committee shall consist of five senior members selected by the Board of Directors. Each member must represent a different Section of the club. Members of this Committee shall be introduced at the September General Meeting so they may have time to receive recommendations from club members. At the October General Meeting, the Committee shall present a slate

of nominees for the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.”

**The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. August 4, 2020.**

**The next General Meeting will be Friday, 7:30 p.m. July 31, 2020.** Due to a slight schedule conflict, Rachel Ford-Dingfield will give her online presentation on July 31 about their family's trip to Vietnam and Thailand this past winter. They were not able to visit any of the mines due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but they did see many exotic sights, purchased lots of fine materials, and they have plenty of stories to tell—with the pictures to back them up—including of their gem buying experience in Bangkok! Come and listen to a first-hand account of their trip, see some wonderful sights, and ask questions!

**Adjourn:** Mike Dawkins moved to adjourn.

Mike Sommers seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

## **HGMS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 23, 2020**

*by Nancy English*

President Sigrid Stewart called the Skype meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., and she welcomed twenty-one attendees. Two were guests.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

The Clubhouse remains closed for meetings and classes. Future General Meetings and some Section meetings will be conducted virtually.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the May 26, 2020 General Meeting have not been published yet. Those minutes will be published in the June 2020 BBG for approval at the July General Meeting.

### **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.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Building Issues:** Neal Immega notified President Stewart that the shop air conditioner is not cooling sufficiently. President Stewart will call Lee Thompson Company to get a bid.

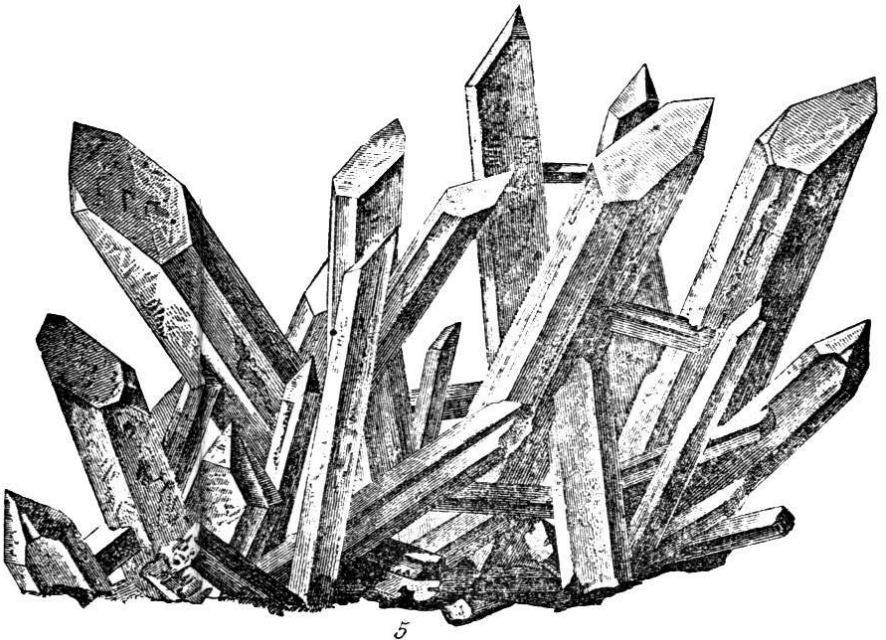
The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., July 7, 2020.

The next General Meeting is Friday, 7:30 p.m., July 31, 2020. Rachel Ford-Dingfield will give a virtual presentation of their family's trip to Vietnam and Thailand this past winter. The date change to FRIDAY of the General Meeting week (July 31) is due to a schedule conflict. They were not able to visit any of the mines due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but they did see many exotic sights and purchased lots of fine materials. They have plenty of stories to tell—with the pictures to back them up—including their gem buying experience in Bangkok! Come and listen to a first-hand account of their experience, see some wonderful sights, and ask questions!

**Show-n-Tell:** Steve Blyskal displayed a 20 lb. prehnite piece that Sigrid bought for him in Tucson in February. Not until she began carrying it all the way back to Steve's display (several blocks away and a few floors up) did she realize how heavy it was.

**Adjourn:** Nancy Fischer moved to adjourn. Phyllis George seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Vice President Sommers introduced the Program—Speaker: Bob Moore, Chair of the Archaeology Section, spoke on *Lost Ancient Greco-Roman Medicine*. His presentation covered the origins of ancient medicine and how sophisticated it became during the 2nd century due to the Roman gladiator games, and then how it was lost to humanity for centuries.



## SHOW TIME 2020

DATE	LOCATION	SHOW INFO
Aug-1-2	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>
Aug. 8-9	Gonzales, LA	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Lamar Dixon Expo Center-Trademart Building 9039 S. Saint Landry Ave <a href="mailto:mercymom3@gmail.com">mercymom3@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.brgemandmineral.org">www.brgemandmineral.org</a>
Aug. 15-16	Bossier City, LA	Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society Bossier City Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd. <a href="mailto:larockclub@gmail.com">larockclub@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://larockclub.com">larockclub.com</a>
Aug. 22	San Antonio, TX	Southwest Gem and Mineral Society Wonderland of the Americas Mall I-10 and Loop 410 at Fredericksburg Road <a href="mailto:jspeck2@att.net">jspeck2@att.net</a> ; <a href="http://www.swgms.org/">http://www.swgms.org/</a>
Aug 29-30	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W Lancaster <a href="http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/show.html">http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/show.html</a>
Sep. 11-20	Denver, CO	Annual show; Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council Denver Mart, Expo Hall, 451 E 58th Ave Many shows, many venues Denver Mart, Expo Hall, 451 E 58th Ave <a href="mailto:nkk9960@hotmail.com">nkk9960@hotmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.denvermineralshow.com/">https://www.denvermineralshow.com/</a>
Sep. 18-20	Howell, MI	MWF hosted by ??
Oct. 10-11	Temple, TX	Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society Frank Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street / Lois Ruth Rolston, 106 Ottoway Drive, Temple, TX 76501, <a href="mailto:lrolston@hot.rr.com">lrolston@hot.rr.com</a>
Oct. 23-25	Austin, TX	Austin Gem and Mineral Society (AGMS) Palmer Events Center, 900 Bartons Springs Rd Laird Fowler, 6719 Burnet Ln, Austin, TX 78757 (512) 458-9546, <a href="mailto:showchairman@austingemandmineral.org">showchairman@austingemandmineral.org</a> <a href="http://www.agms-tx.org">www.agms-tx.org</a>
Nov. 6-8	Humble, TX	Houston Gem and Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway <a href="mailto:show@hgms.org">show@hgms.org</a> ; <a href="http://hgms.org">hgms.org</a>
Nov. 7-8	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan <a href="mailto:patfoster2@hotmail.com">patfoster2@hotmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://amarillotreasure.com/">http://amarillotreasure.com/</a>



## 2020 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
Archaeology Section Board Member	Nancy Engelhardt-Moore	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Board Member	Maggie Manley	Beading@HGMS.org
Daylight Section Board Member	Fred Brueckner	
Faceting Section Board Member	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary Section Board Member	Phyllis George	
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	Nancy Searle	Daylight@HGMS.org
Gemstone & Faceting Section Chair	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary & Silversmith Section Chair	Anthony Lucci	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		Editor@HGMS.org
Clubhouse Chair	Neal Immega	ClubhouseChair@HGMS.org
Day Light Contact Person	Nancy Searle	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	Scholarship@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

# AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<div>  <b>Due to coronavirus, many club events are postponed</b>  <b>-Please check our online calendar at</b>  <b><a href="https://hgms.org/events/calendar">hgms.org/events/calendar</a> for updated information</b>  </div>				X	X	1 10a-12p Youth Section 12p-3p Shop Open
2 10a-3p Shop Open	3	4 10a-3p Shop Open	5 10a-3p Shop Open 1p-3p Day Light Section	6 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Archaeology Section	7	8 10a-3p Shop Open
9 10a-3p Shop Open	10	11 10a-3p Shop Open	12 10a-3p Shop Open 6:30p-8:30p Gemstones & Faceting Section	13 10a-3p Shop Open	14	15 10a-12p Youth Section 12p-3p Shop 1:30p-3:30p Beading Section
16 10a-3p Shop Open	17 7:30p-9:30p Lapidary & Silversmithing Section	18 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Paleo Section	19 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Mineral Section	20 10a-3p Shop Open	21	22 10a-3p Shop Open
23 10a-3p Shop Open 30 10a-3p Shop Open	24 31	25 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-8:30p General Meeting	26 10a-3p Shop Open	27 10a-3p Shop Open	28	29

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
X	X	1 10a-3p Shop Open	2 10a-3p Shop Open 1p-3p Day Light Section	3 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Archaeology Section	4	5 10a-12p Youth Section 12p-3p Shop
6 10a-3p Shop Open	7	8 10a-3p Shop Open	9 10a-3p Shop Open 6:30p-8:30p Gemstones & Faceting Section	10 10a-3p Shop Open	11	12 10a-3p Shop Open
13 10a-3p Shop Open	14	15 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Paleo Section	16 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Mineral Section	17 10a-3p Shop Open	18	19 10a-12p Youth Section 12p-3p Shop 1:30p-3:30p Beading Section
20 10a-3p Shop Open	21 7:30p-9:30p Lapidary & Silversmithing Section	22 10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-8:30p General Meeting	23 10a-3p Shop Open	24 10a-3p Shop Open	25	26 10a-3p Shop Open
27 10a-3p Shop Open	28	29 10a-3p Shop Open	30 10a-3p Shop Open	X	X	X

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE

**HGMS** | 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

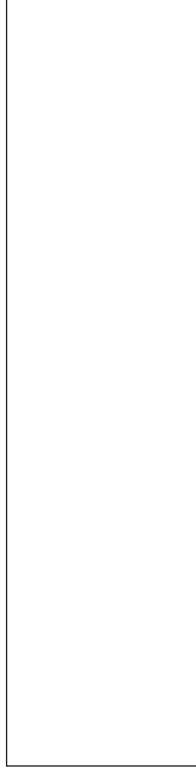
AFMS



PUBLICATION

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)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BELLAIRE, TX 77401  
PERMIT NO. 303



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