

BACKBENDER'S

GAZETTE



President's Message For February

by Sigrid Stewart

This month marks the beginning of a new era for HGMS. The editorship of the Back Bender's Gazette is passing to a new editor, Dr. Sharon Thomas. We had a wonderful run with Phyllis George as editor, and her work on the BBG has earned many prizes. But while hard work is its own reward sometimes, enough is enough! Phyllis is moving on after 23 years on the BBG.

Please welcome Sharon! She has new ideas and will bring a new focus to our newsletter. It will take time for her to pick up all the contacts that Phyllis had, and in the meantime, she would like to implement some of these new ideas. She would like to focus on how people use our club: what do they do, how do they do it, and who do they do it with? How do people learn new skills? What tools do they use? What do all the different sections do? Sharon plans to visit each of the sections and see for herself.

I think you will find that everyone can learn something new from this approach. Why not follow the journey along with Sharon, and learn something new about our society?

Vice President's Message

by Michael Sommers

Please join us for the general meeting program on Tuesday, February 25. Maggie Manley from our beading section will be giving us a presentation on the History of Beading. As I've come to understand it, by studying my mother and her basement completely filled with beads, probably "it started out as a harmless hobby, and no one expected it would come to this!"

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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 metal craft; and to provide the opportunity to obtain, exchange, and exhibit specimens and rough or finished materials.

Membership Rates

- 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.

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 Board Member . Nancy Engelhardt-Moore Archaeology@HGMS.org
- Beading Board Member Maggie Manley Beading@HGMS.org
- Daylight Board Member ... Fred Brueckner
- Faceting Board Member ... Matthew Phillips Faceting@HGMS.org
- Lapidary Board Member ... Phyllis George
- Mineral Board Member Steve Blyskal Mineral@HGMS.org
- Paleo 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 C..... Nancy Searle Daylight@HGMS.org
- Gemstone & Faceting Section Chair. Randy Carlson Faceting @ HGMS.org
- Lapidary & Silversmithing..... 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

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 times when the Sections meet. The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30. The HGMS website address is <https://hgms.org>

Member Accomplishments

Neal Immega: Wow! Somebody noticed! Inda Immega, long time HGMS member, was awarded the Michel T. Halbouty Medal by Texas A&M's College of Geosciences. This award is given annually to recognize distinguished alumni, professors, and other geoscientists. Inda was cited for her accomplishments at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in earth science education. Some years she has volunteered more than 1000 hours. She gives tours to thousands of toddlers and seniors alike, writes documentation and helps organize hands-on materials, trains other docents, and works behind the scenes in several departments. It is wonderful to have your efforts recognized. I know I am biased, but I am impressed!



Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

Happy New Year! Our lineup of Spring 2020 programs is shaping up to be outstanding. Instead of our regular first Thursday meeting day/time on February 6, The Section will have a field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) on February 8. Then in March, we will be having a demonstration on horsehair rope making. Mark your calendar for these exciting programs!

Upcoming Programs

February 8, 2020: The Section will have a special event on February 8 instead on the normal meeting day and time. Please join us for a guided tour of the HMNS Special Exhibit “Stonehenge: Ancient Mysteries and Modern Discoveries” led by Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology. You will learn about the fascinating people behind the stones dating back 5,000+ years and encounter 300 original artifacts. For more information, please contact Nancy Engelhardt-Moore at Archaeology@HGMS.org. SPACE IS LIMITED! We hope you can join us.

March 5, 2020: The Section will hold a regular meeting on Thursday at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker, Christopher Kilgore will present The Invention of Rope and the Roots of Western Civilization, Evidence from Palaeolithic Europe. Christopher will demonstrate horsehair rope making, a nearly extinct craft he learned from retired cowhand and author, the late Bill Brett. Curious about the origin of the process, he traced its beginnings to the Cro-Magnon culture of Ice Age Europe some 17,000 years ago. Based on his analysis of cave paintings and ancient engravings, Christopher came to believe that the invention of rope likely served as the major catalyst of the Palaeolithic Cultural Explosion, a seemingly spontaneous flourishing of art, technology, and material culture. As such, rope manufacturing may have been the single most important technological innovation within the last million years. His discovery ultimately led to the publication of a groundbreaking article in “L’Anthropologie”, the oldest and arguably most prestigious archaeological journal in the world. Attendees will receive a piece of handmade horsehair cordage as a souvenir. Please join us!



Gemstone and Faceting Section

Pat Cockrell led a class on the gemstone software program GemCad. Pat's skills as a teacher kept teams of two engaged and excited! No mean feat!



Lapidary and Silversmithing Section

by Theresa



Top: The “Water Test” demonstrates the bezel is soldered correctly in place.

Below: The “fit” of the stone is checked. Using dental floss easily removes the stone for polishing



Left: Silver is milled from 1 oz rounds. The piece is polished and stamped: .999 Silver



Right: For the finishing touch, holes were drilled to dangle 3 sky blue topaz settings.



Katy Rock Shop, 535 Pin Oak Rd Katy, TX 77494

The first in a series about local rock shops.

<https://www.katyrockshop.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/KatyRockShop/>

The Katy Rock Shop was started in 2012 by Bruce and Carol Huff. Many of you were no doubt familiar with the little shop on Pin Oak Road. Bruce began the shop after retirement, with his own huge mineral collection. But in 2019 health problems were looming, and Bruce's interests were shifting to art. It was time to move on. Jacob and Astrid Proctor were grateful for the opportunity.

Many of you will be familiar with Jacob and Astrid, who have been dealers for the last few years at our trade shows under the name "Gems in the Rough". Jacob, born in Tunisia, grew up in Katy, and his mother Betsy has a business, The Limited Edition Est. 1993. His father Harry Proctor, an exploration geologist with Amoco and later Nations Energy Ltd, took him collecting in many localities, sparking his early interest in rocks and minerals.

At Rice University, Jacob worked on his Masters in Sedimentary Geology, upscaling thin section properties to logs, and studying carbonate diagenesis and planetary geology. After graduation, he returned to work for Ingrain Services, later bought by Halliburton, where he works with digital rock analysis to predict fluid flow and stages in diagenetic alteration.

At Ingrain, he met a young geologist named Astrid. She had attended the Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro, one of the largest and most prestigious universities in Brazil. Later she went to work for Ingrain Brasil, and they sent her to Houston for training, where she met Jacob. After their marriage he was sent to Brazil to work.

So, here they were in Brazil, a country with many fascinating mineral localities. On a holiday in Minas Gerais, they went to the city of Governado Valdares, a mineral collecting hub, to look around. Many interesting specimens are available in the town, but they have gone through middlemen, making them more expensive. They began trying to make their own contacts without much luck, until they talked to a man at a gas station and asked if he knew anyone who worked with minerals. "Funny you should ask," he responded (or the Portuguese equivalent thereof). He worked in a mine that produced specimens of alligator quartz. Gradually they met other miners and were fascinated to see the rocks they mined and how they did it. They were able to go into the famous Pederneiras Mine, where amongst the quartz and schorl, miners occasionally find pockets of tourmalines. To begin getting into the business, they bought gemstones.

One miner, Don Jose, took them to his place near the Aricanga Mine, a remote location up a 4x4 road. Astrid was a little worried about the very rough-looking

miners until she realized the woman cook at the mine was relaxed and happy and not worried about anything. They mined beautiful smoky quartz there, and a variety of clear quartz called Gringold, which could be heat-treated to an interesting yellow shade.

While Jacob and Astrid lived in Brazil they began selling gemstones to a jeweler in Katy. They also took some to Bruce Huff at the Katy Rock Shop, who asked them to bring back mineral specimens instead.

As of now, the shop still resembles the one that Bruce and Carol Huff ran. There is a Kid's Corner, with small tumbled rocks and shark's teeth, a metaphysical section, and an expanding book section. There are tables of minerals organized by name and a small room in back with specimens of amethyst and other minerals from Brazil. One shelf features Texas minerals, and a small display shows off Astrid's jewelry. Of course, with two small children, it is hard to find time for jewelry making.

One tabletop features the hand-made art of Fred Gay, who happened to stop in while we were there. He creates small train and mining scenes out of rocks and pewter figurines. If in the past, you ever traveled to Durango, Colorado, or Taos, New Mexico or Oatmen, Arizona, and stopped at a rock shop named "Old Traditions", you might have met Fred, then the proprietor. He says he still has loads of rock and 6", 8", 10" and 18" saws.

There are two new employees; Leo, an undergrad in geology at the University of Houston, and Tana Congi, a teacher who worked with them at Gems in the Rough. Former employees and ex-teachers Penny Bevill, Theresa Rhodes, and Jack Rhodes, who formerly worked with the Huffs, continue at the shop.



Above: Porch of the Katy Rock Shop

Above Right: Fred Gay at the Katy Shop

Right: Leo and Owner Jacob Proctor

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 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	X	Gemstones & Faceting—Matt Phillips
	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 meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Three non-voting members attended: Theresa Phillips—member, Sharon Thomas—Editor of BBG, and Tony Lucci—new Lapidary Section Chairman.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Please welcome Matt Phillips, as the Gemstones and Faceting representative, while Randy Carlson is out of state.

Approval of Minutes: The December 3, 2019 BOD Meeting Minutes were sent to the BOD on January 4, 2020 for review. Beverly Mace moved to approve the minutes of the December Board meeting. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Report: Tatyana Kuhne sent the Treasurers Report to members on January 2, 2020. Section Treasurers need to give 2019 financial reports to Tatyana, for filing of 2019 taxes. There were some line item questions to be referred to Tatyana.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: Articles for the February 2020 BBG are due January 15, 2020.

Dr. Sharon Thomas will become the BBG editor in January to complete the February 2020 BBG. She attended tonight’s meeting to clarify the expectations of her new position as editor. Her goal is to attract more members, students, and instructors by sharing information, design, and culture of HGMS through the BBG (Backbender’s Gazette.) Sharon intends to visit all the Section meetings to request pictures of the Section meetings and programs in progress to share in the BBG. the future of the BBG newsletter and her new ideas.

Education Committee: Maggie Manley reported that two refunds for classes have been issued. An attempt to improve registration reporting resulted in registrants not actually paying. It was abandoned. Despite statements that “you must be a member,” non-members continue to try to register. Maggie will join the Web Site Committee’s next meeting to work with them on the parameters for the signup page. Or, the Committee will hire Lauren Blyskal to figure it out.

Tony Lucci is teaching 5-wax carving and casting classes, and Joy Lester will teach 1-Beginning Wire-wrapping class. We have two openings for the Wire-Wrapping class. The next Beginning Silversmithing classes will be held in March.

Show Committee: Scott Singleton reported via email that he needed more financial information to complete his report and to make the budget for next year. He and Tatya-na will meet before the next BOD meeting to figure it all out.

Web Site Committee: The Web Site Committee will probably resume meetings this month or next month.

SECTION REPORTS

Archaeology Section: No meeting January 2, 2020.

Instead of the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, 7:30 p.m., February 6, 2020, the Archaeology Section will meet at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) on Saturday, February 8, 2020. Archaeology Section participants will meet in the HMNS Grand Hall at 9:45 a.m. to take a guided tour of the special exhibit Stonehenge: Ancient Mysteries and Modern Discoveries led by Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology. The tour will start promptly at 10:00 AM. SPACE IS LIMITED! Please contact Nancy Engelhardt-Moore at Archaeology@HGMS.org for more details.

For the March 5, 2020 (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. meeting, Christopher Kilgore will present “The Invention of Rope and the Roots of Western Civilization, Evidence from Paleolithic Europe.” At the HGMS Clubhouse. Christopher will demonstrate horsehair rope making, a nearly extinct craft. Attendees will receive a piece of handmade horsehair cordage as a souvenir. Please join us for this educational event!

Beading Section: Saturday, 1:30 p.m., January 18, 2020. Kim Fuselier will lead the group in fabrication of a beaded bezel for a Rivoli to create a pendant or earrings. The project we will be doing is How to Bezel a Rivoli. We will be using a YouTube video once again from PotomacBeads. They have given us permission to access them online and to use their ideas for growth and learning. You can find the supplies needed at at your local bead shop or Hobby Lobby. You may also buy your supplies from online sources—one is [PotomacBeads](https://PotomacBeads.com).

Day Light Section: Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., NO meeting January 1, 2020. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Debbie Kirkpatrick will lead the February 5 Daylight Section. This class/demonstration is focused on etching with various acids or salts and either using the piece produced from the etching as an end product or a die to be re-used. We will also cover using everyday objects to create texture and the proper use of the rolling mill. Participants will also learn how to use the metal shears, anneal copper, and use the rolling mill to transfer texture using dies. Copper will be provided to be textured, and the result can be used as elements in jewelry. If you would like to texture silver, feel free to bring your own silver sheet. The cost for those who want to participate in the session is \$5.00. Please email

Nancy Searle (nancysearle21@gmail.com) to register for the session. Nancy Searles is the new chair of Day Light Section. She is compiling a wish list of programs from regular attendees. She will have more specific information for news@hgms.org after January 9, 2020.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., January 8, 2020. During Randy Carlson's absence, the duties have been divided. Matt Phillips will be the Board of Directors representative. Pat Cockrell will teach the class scheduled for February 14, 2020. Glenn Parks will preside over the meetings for the next two or three months. Matt Phillips has a new faceting program that will print cutting patterns. He will meet with Jim Kendall to have the program installed on the library's computer to print the patterns on the library's printer.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Monday, 7:30 p.m., January 20, 2020 Richard Good will handle the business meeting. Tony Lucci, the new Lapidary Chairman, will conduct the program. He will teach how to drill holes in rocks.

Mineral Section: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., January 15, 2020. They will be electing a new Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a program director. Steve Blyskal will continue to be the Treasurer and Board Representative.

Paleo Section: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., January 21, 2020. Pennsylvanian fossils—I am telling you this early because you just might want to read up on a bizarre coral. It is a walking coral. The paper on it is on my Dropbox along with locality info if you want to visit. The site is open thanks to the city of Jacksboro. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jo9ug7k1ta9aaib/AACqafP32bQ-uKPuS8ipJ3IVa?dl=0> Jeanean Slamen and her son found the weird coral, and there is a paper on it. We will be looking at things from the site.

Nancy English reminded the Board that Terry Mitchum called the Club because he has about two tons of petrified wood with "diamond looking stuff in it" to sell. He lives between Livingston and Woodville. His information was on an updated December 29, e-blast on December 30, 2019. Mike Dawkins suggested a Field Trip.

Youth Section: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, January 18, February 1, and February 15, 2020. Kids will continue to make cabochons.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 HGMS Holiday Party: The Annual Holiday Party was held on December 14, 2019. As usual the food was terrific, thanks to the great cooks that brought potluck dishes. We have Clyde McMeans to thank for picking up the Barbeque. Nancy Fischer worked the auction computer program while Neal Immega ran the auction. President Stewart gave an inspiring speech wrapping up the accomplishments for 2019. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and take down the tables at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. Steve Blyskal agreed to call the Hall and schedule the second Saturday for the HGMS 2020 Holiday Party.

Building Issues:

- o Tony Lucci has already begun repairing the sagging ceiling tiles in the classroom.
- o New batteries are needed for the solar light under the parking lot door hood
- o The filters in the shop have not yet been changed.
- o Sigrid will talk to an electrician about installing exhaust fans in the restrooms and the Metalsmithing Lab.
- o Tony Lucci reported material washing out from the roof drains. President Stewart said the roofers told her to expect debris to wash down from the roof repair.
- o Scott Thompson of Lee Thompson Air Conditioning told President Stewart to put vents in the doors of the libraries to facilitate circulation.

Building Safety: We found the list Paul Brandes left for us, and Nancy English and Sigrid Stewart have a copy of it. Nancy English will scan it and send it to the Board to be discussed next month.

Shop News: Santa Gary gave us 25 pounds of 600 grit silicon carbide. Thanks, Gary. Neal continues to work on saws, wheels, lighting, and all other things “Club.”

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Directors wishes to thank Douglas Dodds for his generous donation toward the 2020 HGMS Scholarship Fund.

Mosaic Sign for the Clubhouse Entry Door. Diane Schaub, one of our members has volunteered to make a mosaic sign for the main clubhouse entry door. The sign will read HGMS. Diane has requested that anyone who is willing/interested in giving input to this effort, contact her at divinggator@yahoo.com. Specifically, Diane is seeking small (less than 1”) size non-porous material to be used to create the initials or be used in the background of the sign. She anticipates starting work in early February.

Education Outreach: Shaukat Haque called the Club on December 31, 2019. She teaches first and second grades at the Sugar Creek Montessori School in Stafford, TX. She has asked for a member of the Club to come to the school in April. Neal Imme-ga agreed to teach the class.

Annual Dues: Beverly Mace reminded the Board and Section Representatives that Annual Dues are due now.

Wall Display Updates: Matt Phillips has volunteered to reset the displays in wall cases. He will also add more examples. Thank you, Matt.

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

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. January 28, 2020. Neal Imme-ga will present Copper Banded Agates of Kearsarge, Michigan. Maggie Manley will present the History of Beading for the February 25, 2020 General Meeting Program. Adjourn: Mike Sommers moved to adjourn. Nancy English seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Show Time 2020

February 15 - 16 Georgetown, TX	Williamson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc Georgetown Community Center at San Gabriel Park 445 East Morrow Street wcgmtx1@outlook.com ; www.wcgms.org
February 22 -23 Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Club Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway clgmsvendors@gmail.com ; www.clgms.org/page2.html
February 22-23 Plainview, TX	Hi-Plains Gem and Mineral Society Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S Columbia bobcat22@suddenlink.net ;
March 7 - 8 Robstown TX	Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society RMB Fairgrounds, 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd, Exhibit Hall A gulfcoastgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com gcgms.org
March 14 - 15 San Antonio, TX	Southwest Gem and Mineral Society San Antonio Event Center 8111 Meadowleaf Drive lolabellelamb@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/bigspringprospectorsclub-krbotx@gvtx.com swgms.org
April 11 - 12 Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society Abilene Convention Center, 1100 North 6th Street and Pine linewalk26@yahoo.com ; https://www.newcalichetimes.com/page13.html
May 30 - 31 Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org ; www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
June 25 - 28 Lodi, CA	CFMS putting on its own show Lodi Grapevine Festival Grounds, 413 E. Lockeford St.
September 18 - 20 Howell, MI	MWF Hosted by??
October 12 - 13 Temple, TX	SCFMS hosted by Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St David Farhie 512-826-2754, dfarhie@gmail.com ;
October 16 - 18 Knoxville, TN	SFMS hosted by ??

February 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1 10 - 3 Shop Open 10 - 12 Youth Section
2 10 - 4 Shop Open	3	4 10 - 3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	5 10 - 3 Shop Open 1 - 3 Daylight Section	6 10 - 3 Shop Closed NO Archaeology Meeting	7	8 10 - 3 Shop Open 10 - 3 Beading Section 10 Archaeology HMNS Tour
9 10 - 4 Shop Open	10	11 11 - 3 Shop Open	12 10 - 3 Shop Open Gemstone & 7:30Faceting	13 10 - 3 Shop Closed	14	15 10 - 3 Shop Open 10 - 12 Youth Section
16 10 - 4 Shop Open	17 7:30 Lapidary & Silver- smithing	19 11 - 3 Shop Open	19 10 - 3 Shop Open	20 10 - 3 Shop Closed	21	22 10 - 3 Shop Open
23 10 - 4 Shop Open	24	25 11 - 3 Shop Open 7:30 General Meeting	26 10 - 3 Shop Open	27 10 - 3 Shop Open	28	29 10 - 3 Shop Open

10805 Brooklet
Houston, Texas 77099

The Newsletter of the Houston
Gem and Mineral Society



BACKBENDER'S

GAZETTE

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