

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

67th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

VIRTUAL EVENT

Nov 14 & 15 | 10AM - 4PM



ANNUAL SHOW - GOING VIRTUAL!

SEE MORE ON PAGE 3

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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



The

BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sigrid Stewart

Virtual Show Update

Your Web Site Committee has been hard at work outlining a plan for our Virtual 67th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil and Mineral Show. A mix of recorded video, articles, talks, demos and live interaction is what we are aiming for, to be presented November 14th and 15th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

We have at least 16 vendors planning to participate, a Silent Auction, raffles and educational videos and articles. Many of you have already received calls asking you to prepare videos or to do demos and requests are still going out. If you have a subject you would like to talk about or would like to create a video, please contact Sigrid Stewart ASAP.

Videos should be short, to the point, and scripted to avoid long pauses. Make eye contact with the camera and either request an assistant to hold the camera or phone or use a tripod. Lighting is important and so is zooming in on interesting specimens or work in progress.

Do you have ideas about educational material for kids? Videos are especially important here because teachers are having a hard time with scheduling remote instruction. Recorded video will give them material they can use when it best fits into their schedules.

We are planning to run a Silent Auction both days. Do you have a beautiful specimen or piece of jewelry you can donate? We need some more really nice pieces to appeal to our customers. Worth should be at least \$20 because we will need to package and mail them to the winners. And we will need some volunteers for that effort.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michael Sommers

Upcoming Program: Maggie will present slides about the history of beads from books found in the HGMS Library for the October 27 general meeting program.

SECTION REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

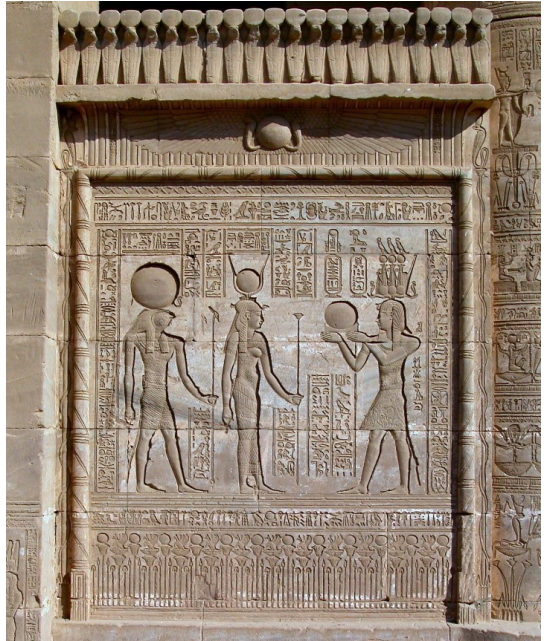
by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

In October, the Archaeology Section will resume its meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. However, the HGMS Clubhouse is closed due to the pandemic. Therefore, until it is safe to meet in-person, the Section will hold virtual programs. Please watch for announcements about our upcoming programs and for Zoom invitations. We hope to see you online!

UPCOMING PROGRAM

October 1, 2020: A brief meeting to discuss Section business, officer nominations, and to talk about upcoming programs will occur at the beginning. Bob Moore, the Section Chair, will give a Zoom presentation on “Lost Ancient Greco-Roman Medicine.” For more information on this talk and the speaker, see the HGMS September issue of the BBG. Bob will cover the origins of ancient medicine, how it became highly sophisticated during the 2nd century, and then—how it was lost for centuries. He will show actual Roman medical instruments during this educational event!

November 5, 2020: A short meeting will occur prior to the presentation. Then, Bob Moore will present “Egypt: The Dendera Temple Complex.” The talk will show photos taken by Bob’s wife, Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, during their 2007 trip to Egypt. They were able to visit the Dendera Temple complex that contains the Temple of Hathor, one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt. Construction on the site was started in 2250 BC by Pharaoh Pepi I, third pharaoh of the 6th dynasty. In time, it grew to more than 431,000 square feet in size. A hefty mud brick wall surrounds the large complex. Many of the gods of Egypt—up to and including Christ—were worshiped there. Bob will describe the many temples and churches in the complex to understand their effect on life and death in ancient Egypt. Do not miss this talk—it is about possibly the best temple complex in Egypt. Gaining access to it today is difficult, but this talk will give you the opportunity to see the complex and to learn its fascinating history.



Nero making an offering to Hathor and Horus

December 3, 2020: The Section plans to hold a virtual Holiday Party! Right now, we are considering ideas on how to make this a fun event. Please watch for further details on the HGMS Web site, in the BBG, and on Facebook. If you have a suggestion, please let us know at Archaeology@HGMS.org. Thanks!

PETRIFIED WOOD—OFFICIAL STATE STONE OF TEXAS

*from Stoney Statements 09/2007, via The Glacial Drifter 11/2019,
via The Roadrunner 09/2020*

Texas designated petrified palmwood as the official state "stone" in 1969. Petrified wood is actually a fossil rather than a prehistoric wood, and it is called the most beautiful of fossils. Petrified wood is also the state gem of Washington and the state fossil of North Dakota and Louisiana.

What is now arid Texas was a lush tropical forest 100 million years ago. Trees that fell into mineral-rich mud before having a chance to decay became petrified wood, which is actually a quartz-like stone. The organic wood cells were replaced over time by minerals, often retaining the detailed shape of the original. The spotted look of palmwood is caused by fossilized rod-like structures within the original wood. Depending upon the angle at which the stone is cut, they show up as spots, tapering rods, or lines. Petrified palm wood is very hard, and it takes a wonderful polish, making beautiful jewelry.



MINERAL TIP

*from Eureka News, Osage Hills Gems, The Gemrock, spring 2020.
via AFMS Newsletter 09/2020*

For cleaning quartz, many collectors use hydrochloric acid (muriatic) to clean the brown stains from quartz crystals. This cleans the crystals but leaves a residue of ferric acid that requires washing to remove. Tartaric acid will clean as well and much easier. Put a spoonful of tartaric acid in water, and immerse the specimen.

FEATURED MEMBER: CHARLIE FREDREGILL

by Sigrid Stewart

Charlie Fredregill was born in Midland, Texas. His father was a variety store manager and hardware salesman who eventually bought the Stewart Brothers Floor Coverings company. His parents were from Shawnee, Oklahoma, outside of Oklahoma City, and how they met is an interesting story.

His grandfather was a Gypsy, and of course most Gypsies traveled around. There was an old tradition that when a Gypsy man died, the widow settled down in the place where he died. His grandmother settled in Shawnee with her six kids after her husband died, and that's where his father and mother met.



Charlie Fredregill

At age nine, Charlie's family moved to Silver City, New Mexico for work. It was just after World War II when housing was in short supply, so they lived in an old Tuberculosis sanitarium. Depending on the day of the week, the town provided school bus service to the sanitarium, but he often walked the three miles to school. The local Catholic school had a swimming pool, so he loved it there.

After Silver City, the family moved back to West Texas, to Odessa, where Charlie went to junior and senior high school. He was in band: in junior high he was in marching band, and then he played an alto saxophone in his high school band. Following high school, he attended Odessa College for two years, then he went to the University of Oklahoma where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. However to this day, he thinks he should have gone to Texas Tech instead.

While in college, Charlie visited his sister in Florida, but he returned late—after tryouts (a competition that assigns seating based on playing skill)—therefore he was assigned the last alto sax chair in the band. Miffed, Charlie ended up playing lead alto sax in a dance band instead. They played lots of Glenn Miller music, and the band director found them jobs playing for \$10 a night. During his employed years, he also played in bands occasionally. For years, he played on Fridays with his friend Lloyd Ernst, who owns World Music in Sugar Land. You can still hear Charlie play sax now and then.

One of his first jobs after college was in a carbon black plant 10 miles outside of Odessa. However, Charlie had always wanted to live in Houston, so after that job he came to Houston and was hired to work for another carbon black plant outside of Houston—a job he found through an employment agency. It was the usual deal—hire on as a temporary and you can become a permanent employee after 90 days. He soon found out that everyone got fired at 89 days. He went on to work at Signal Oil & Gas as an analytical chemist.

In a later career change, his wife Caroline, a professional librarian with a Masters Degree

in Library Science, helped him research new business opportunities. They consulted a business broker looking for a business to buy, and they selected a printing company. The company was a franchise headquartered in Los Angeles, California, so he went there for training. A Jewish delicatessen next-door is where Charlie developed a life-long taste for bagels and cream cheese.

Charlie also had an interest in psychic fairs, and he learned to do readings. They were popular with customers, and they generally used Tarot or crystals. After the fairs were over, people who performed readings compared notes. Interestingly enough, the different readings had very similar results.

One day Charlie and a woman friend from the psychic fair circuit visited an HGMS show at the old Albert Thomas municipal building complex north of downtown and next to the bayou. It turned out that she was a girl friend of one of the exhibitors—Tom Wright. Despite Tom's initial reaction to Charlie showing up with Tom's girlfriend, Charlie was interested in Tom's demonstration, and he became involved with HGMS. He learned a lot from Tom over the years, and they did a lot of lost wax casting. Another club member with whom he has worked on joint projects is Dave Hawkins.

Charlie has also done a lot of wire-wrapping, so his wife Caroline has a full jewelry box! Eventually Charlie would serve as president of HGMS in 2012.

Even the printing shop was important to Charlie's new hobby. The printing process used the light-sensitive chemical silver halide. Every three or four months, his waste barrel would fill up, and a recycler would take the plates and refine out the silver. Eventually he worked out a deal to be paid in silver.

Life is a little slower these days. Caroline now has difficulty walking, so Charlie does all the shopping and meal preparation, and he spends a lot of time with her. He says the secret to a happy retired life is to keep active. He loves to read and play computer games on his laptop. And he still has his 8-inch Titan lapidary unit set up and ready to go.

OPAL

by D. W. Webb Varum, from The Conglomerate 2020/10

There are three types of Opal—precious opal (e.g. black, boulder), common opal (opaque, splintery), and fire opal (red, orange, yellow), all composed of $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$. It has a white streak and a conchoidal or some-times a splintery fracture, a Mohs hardness of 5.5-6.5 and a specific gravity of 1.9-2.3. It is brittle and trans-parent to translucent with a vitreous, waxy, greasy, or dull luster. Precious Opal is best known for its variety of color which can flash red, yellow, orange, green, blue in a white, black, or brown background. It is most often found in altering volcanic tuffs, basalt and deep water sediments formed at low temperature and pressure. The gem variety has considerable value as a semi-precious gem stone. Opal is found in several places in Australia, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and the US. Fire opal has been found in Oregon and Louisiana, in addition to Mexico, and black opal occurs in Nevada. There are several mines in northern Nevada where collectors can dig for a fee, and opal has also been found in the Tonopah region.



Nevada Black Opal, Webb Varnum



Tonopah Opal, Webb Varnum

Opal is the birthstone for October, and if we are lucky enough to have an opal, there are steps to take to safeguard it. If our opal is a solid stone, it will not be damaged by water, but it can be fragile, so avoid activities where it might be knocked. Opal for jewelry is frequently used as a doublet or triplet, and those stones can be damaged by prolonged exposure to water. Clean an opal with a soft cloth and mild detergent. If your opal becomes dull, take it to a professional for polishing. To store your opal, protect it from contact with other jewelry by keeping it in a cloth bag. If it is to be stored for a length of time, “place our opal in cotton wool with a few drops of water, then into a sealed plastic bag just to be safe.

The water is not intended to soak into the stone (as opal is impervious) but will prevent water coming out of the stone if it is exposed to very low humidity environments.”

Sources: Mindat, Gemdat, Opals Down Under, and personal knowledge.

AFMS PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*by David Wayment, AFMS President 2019–2020
from 2020/09 AFMS Newsletter*

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

It is with regret that I announce that the 2020 AFMS/SFMS Annual Show and Meeting is cancelled this year. The SFMS was to host the event in Knoxville in October, but the county is still under restrictions, so the meeting location will not be available.

We are working to set up a VIRTUAL MEETING to take place, accessible by computer or smart phone. This will require preregistration so that interested people will be emailed an access link. So far, we are planning to have a different access for each of the different meetings. Details will be available on the Web site as plans are finalized.

The Uniform Rules Committee (URC) meeting will be scheduled for the evening of October 15. At this time, the URC Chair has had no requests for changes to the rules to be considered. If you have any requests to be considered, please forward them to the Chair.

At this time, we are still looking at October 16 for all AFMS meetings. The Board meeting will be in the morning, followed by the AFMS Scholarship meeting. There will be time for the ALAA to hold a meeting in the afternoon. The awards presentations, including the Editors' and Webmasters' awards, is currently planned for the early evening.

Any input or requests for meeting time should be forwarded to Secretary Donna Moore. With a virtual meeting, we have an opportunity to increase meeting participation greatly. Regional and Local organizations will have a great opportunity to see what the AFMS does. Preregistration will be necessary to limit individuals outside the rockhound world and to ensure enough capacity for participants. Until next time, stay safe and stay well.

SCFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Roger Burford
from SCFMS Newsletter 09-10-2020*

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and being safe. The Corona virus has really put a kink into the functioning of our clubs as well as our everyday lives. For those who do not know—by the time Liz and I returned home from Quartzsite in January, I was paralyzed from the waist down. I had to undergo emergency surgery on my back. I am glad to say that after another surgery, I am able to walk a bit—but I think my field collecting days may be over.

The Corona virus has also taken a toll on our clubs being able to have their annual Gem and Mineral shows. Many of the shows are being cancelled—not only in our region, but all over the country. Here in Baton Rouge, we were able to hold our show with numerous safety precautions. Attendance was down—which was to be expected—but we did have many eager customers who could not wait to get out and enjoy the vendors' wares.

The Temple show has been canceled—they were planning to host the SCFMS Show and Convention—so we have decided to hold our Convention over Zoom. For some of our members there will be a learning curve, but attendees will be able to join in over the Internet from computers, smart phones, and regular phones.

I will send out an invitation to all club presidents and to other officials on how to join in. This information may be distributed to all of our members who would like to listen in. I ask all required members to please load Zoom onto your devices, and **test your system well in advance** to make sure that you understand how Zoom works. If you have questions or problems with Zoom, please reach out for help early so we can get started on time. The Convention will be held according to the original Schedule, so we do have some time to get ready. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get out and do some hunting for new treasures.

Please remember that Delegate forms for the convention are due no later than September 10, and Committee Reports and Officers Reports are due no later than September 1. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you soon.

SAPPHIRE

from The Rock Prattle 09-2020

Sapphire is a precious gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum, consisting of aluminum oxide with trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, vanadium, or magnesium. It is typically blue, but natural "fancy" sapphires also occur in yellow, purple, orange, and green colors; "parti sapphires" show two or more colors. Red corundum stones also occur but are called rubies not sapphires. Pink colored corundum may be either classified as ruby or sapphire depending on locale. Commonly, natural sapphires are cut and polished into gemstones and worn in jewelry. They also may be created synthetically in laboratories for industrial or decorative purposes in large crystal boules. Because of the remarkable hardness of sapphires – 9 on the Mohs scale (the third hardest mineral, after diamond at 10 and moissanite at 9.5) – sapphires are also used in some non-ornamental applications, such as infrared optical components, high-durability windows, wristwatch crystals and movement bearings, and very thin electronic wafers, which are used as the insulating substrates of special-purpose solid-state electronics such as integrated circuits and GaN-based blue LEDs.



423 carat Logan Sapphire



Teardrop Sapphire



Dark Blue Sapphire

Sapphire is the birthstone for September and the gem of the 45th anniversary. A sapphire jubilee occurs after 65 years. Sapphire, has traditionally symbolized sincerity, truth, faithfulness and nobility. For countless centuries, sapphire has adorned royalty and the robes of the clergy. The elite of ancient Greece and Rome believed that blue sapphires protected their owners from harm and envy. Clerics of the Middle Ages wore sapphires because they symbolized Heaven. Ancient Persians believed the earth actually rested on a giant sapphire, which made the sky blue. The September birthstone was reputed to have healing powers as well. Medieval Europeans believed that sapphire cured plague boils and diseases of the eye. The sapphire birthstone was also thought to be an antidote to poison. Famous sapphires include the Rockefeller Sapphire, a 62.02 carat (ct) rectangular step cut stone that was unearthed in Myanmar (Burma). Acquired in 1934 by financier and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874–1960) from an Indian maharaja, the gem was recut and remounted over the years. The sapphire was first set as a brooch and later as a ring featuring two cut-cornered triangular (diamond side). Perhaps the best-known sapphire in recent years is the 12 ct blue gem surrounded by diamonds in the sapphire engagement ring first worn by Princess Diana and then given by her son to Kate Middleton, now Duchess of Cambridge.

Source: Wikipedia

PRAIRIE AGATES

from *The Glacial Drifter*, 1/1991 & 2/2020, via AFMS Newsletter 09/2020

Designated as the Nebraska State rock by the 1967 State Legislature, the prairie agate is not a true agate. This rock grades into banded or layered chert rather than agate. Prairie agates are found in northwest Nebraska, southwest South Dakota, and northeast Wyoming. These are the same areas where the much sought-after Fairburn agates are found, and many rockhounds mistake some of the banded prairie agates for Fairburns. These are referred to as “Nearburns” by the more knowledgeable.



Banded chalcedony (Prairie Agate) (White River Badlands area, western South Dakota, USA)

Although ignored by many of the natives of the area where they are found, prairie agates lend themselves very well to lapidary. Because of the coloration of these nodules, which runs from bright yellows and reds to subdued pastel shades of pink, lavender, blue, tan, and grey, many beautiful specimens can be cut and polished. The fascinating blend of colors also can be captured in cabochons to make attractive and novel jewelry pieces. Using the same procedure as used when working true agate, the lapidary is rewarded with a brilliant polish on any piece of prairie agate he works with.



Prairie Agate

[Photos: James St. John flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jamesstjohn/)

AFRICAN GREEN GARNETS—TSAVORITE

*by Ed Gage, Member of Austin Gem & Mineral Society, Austin, TX
from Mineral Record 2004/01-02, via Stone Chipper, 2005/11-12, via Rollin Rock
2019/01, via Roadrunner 2020/09*

When you think of East Africa, you probably see the brown hills of the Serengeti, the endless herds of wildlife and the blue African skies. What you probably don't think of are green colored gemstones. But across the savannah, some of the most brilliant green is right there hidden under your feet. Hundreds of millions of years ago, this land was covered by a vast ocean. Layers of organic muddy sediment were deposited and eventually formed shale. After the vast expanse of water receded, the land underwent a metamorphosis, changing it completely, like the transformation from a caterpillar to a butterfly. Intense heat and pressure caused by the uplifting and folding and refolding of rock layers caused the ocean floor, rich in minerals such as vanadium and chromium in addition to others, to metamorphically transform these rocks into the unusual gemstones of Africa we know today.

The geological processes that produced the green gemstone were graphitic gneisses, rich in calcium from the veins of marble that are found networking through them. The green crystals are often formed in pods coated with quartz or scapolite, which are known as "potatoes" to the local miners.

The discovery of this beautiful gemstone in 1967–68 was actually the result of two geologists, each working independently at the same time.

The Scottish geologist, Campbell R. Bridges prompted by Tiffany of New York was working on one side of a hill, and South African Peter Morgan was approaching from the other side. Bridges is thought to have first confirmed the discovery, but Morgan found the first large deposit.

Tiffany of New York named the gemstone "Tsavorite" in 1974, and they are credited for introducing it to the world market.

The brilliant green Tsavorite, a type of garnet, is a very young gemstone with a very ancient geological history. The composition is $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$ with a hardness of 7.5.

The bushland on the Kenya and Tanzania frontier is dry grassland with some bare rolling hills. The region is dangerous to travel with areas where lions roam and snakes are abundant. The nearby Tzavo National Park was considered typical of its habitat, so consequently the stone was named in the park's honor.



LEAD MINERAL WORD FIND

from Chips and Chatter 10/2020

Find the words in the Word List in the puzzle below. Words can be up, down, left, right, and on any diagonal. Find the solution on Page 25

PUZZLE

E	T	I	N	I	L	E	U	Q	U	A	V	E	R	V	E	A	B	C
L	J	S	E	E	I	E	D	T	N	Z	A	T	E	C	T	V	C	Q
A	D	E	T	T	N	S	U	S	A	N	N	I	T	E	I	E	P	E
R	V	T	I	I	A	U	F	A	D	J	A	A	I	R	Y	T	Y	F
Y	R	I	T	G	R	V	T	Y	O	F	D	T	L	U	T	I	R	Z
P	O	N	E	N	I	K	I	R	R	B	I	L	L	S	S	N	O	E
K	L	N	M	A	T	A	T	I	I	C	N	A	E	S	I	A	M	T
U	A	U	I	Y	E	N	E	T	T	M	I	E	B	I	R	D	O	I
X	N	T	M	Q	X	E	B	E	E	K	T	R	F	T	H	R	R	R
A	A	O	T	B	O	L	L	N	M	L	E	A	D	E	C	O	P	E
R	R	C	P	O	O	A	E	L	U	N	A	N	I	I	Y	J	H	P
R	K	D	L	L	L	G	L	R	I	V	Q	G	Q	K	D	V	I	S
A	I	F	A	E	H	Q	U	U	N	W	U	L	F	E	N	I	T	E
S	T	E	T	I	R	R	A	M	I	N	W	E	T	J	A	Q	E	T
P	E	N	N	T	T	B	V	V	M	A	S	S	I	C	O	T	E	I
I	B	I	E	E	R	E	Q	E	T	I	S	I	S	A	X	W	R	R
T	T	S	U	M	E	B	I	T	E	O	T	T	E	K	E	T	F	U
E	T	I	Y	R	R	E	B	P	W	U	L	E	T	I	K	R	O	C

WORD LIST

ALTAITE
ANDYCHRISTYITE
ANGLESITE
ARDAITE
ASISITE
BELLITE
BERRYITE
BOLEITE
CERUSSITE

CORKITE
COTUNNITE
CURITE
DUFTITES
ESPERITE
GALENA
JORDANITE
LANARKITE
LEAD

LINARITE
MARRITE
MASSICOT
MENECHINITE
MIMETITE
MINIUM
NADORITE
PLUMBOGUMMITE
PYROMORPHITE

RASPITE
SAYRITE
SUSANNITE
TSUMEBITE
VANADINITE
VAUQUELINITE
WULFENITE
YANGITE

WRAPPING A SHARK'S TOOTH—OR WRAPPING THE TRIANGLE

*from Fossil Club of Lee County 04/2010, via Northwest Federation Newsletter
05/06/2020, via SCFMS Newsletter 10/11/2020*

Check Out this Art Contest for Your Club's Kids!

Our technique for making a wire wrapped pendant follows. We modify the technique by not wrapping spiral coils of wire from bottom to top of the shark's tooth—or other triangular shape. Instead, we wrap the spiral coils only halfway up the triangular shape; then wrap the wire around behind the triangular shape horizontally to the halfway point on the opposite side of the triangle.

In the picture, you can view how you would begin with the spiral at the bottom (Point 1) and continue wrapping the wire to the halfway point (Point 2). From Point 2 to Point 3 in the figure, the wire is essentially horizontal—behind the tooth. At Point 3, you change the direction of the wrap to securely hold the top of the shark's tooth and wrap up toward the center of the top of the tooth (Point 4). From Point 4 to Point 5, the wire is wrapped diagonally, behind the shark's tooth.



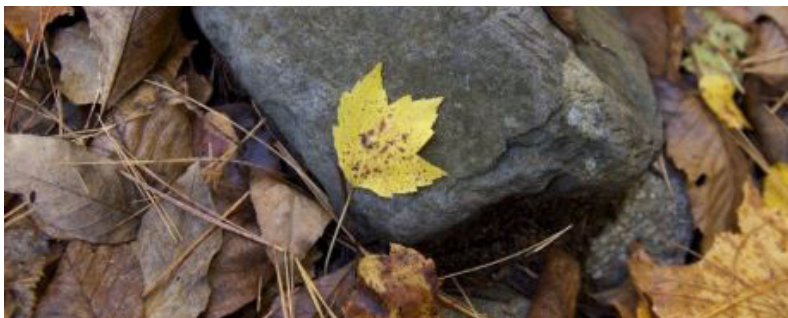
The wrap is completed by wrapping the wire from Point 5 to Point 6. At Point 6, the wire is bent horizontally and wrapped around the middle wire of the spiral, running up the center of the back of the tooth.

After this wrap is completed, the excess wire is cut and the cut end is squeezed flat. At this point, you would have about 1-1/2" of wire remaining from the central wire in the spiral. This wire is first bent 90 degrees, then a loop is made at the bend, and finally the loop is wrapped closed.

AFMS LAND USE POLICY

from 2020/09 AFMS Newsletter

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation, and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations, and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow the freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials, and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.



ALABASTINE GYPSUM MINE—THE END OF AN ERA

by Kreigh Tomaszewski, from The Roadrunner 2020/09

Fifty-one years ago, the Indian Mounds Rock Club of Wyoming, Michigan, received its Charter from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies in a ceremony held 85 feet underground in the Alabastine Gypsum Mine.

After 51 years of access for our club, the mine owner is closing the mine. The mine was started in 1908, and the shaft was completed in 1909. For about 35 years, the miners came in each morning to clear the rubble from the previous night's blasting, and they spent the afternoon drilling holes for the current day's blasting. At the end of the day, the holes would be loaded with dynamite and touched off, and the dust was allowed to settle overnight. They came back in the next morning and started all over again.

The highest level of automation was hydraulic drills. They had help from donkeys pulling carts on rails to move the gypsum; the gangue (unwanted material adhering to the ore being mined) was hand stacked on the sides of emptied tunnels/rooms. Wallboard had not been invented yet—the mine output went into Alabastine Paint. The gypsum was crushed and mixed with paint to make paint that sparkled from the selenite crystals once it dried. The lack of automation (and some bad management) finally caused the mine to fail in the 1940s.

The current owner's family bought the mine and property shortly afterwards, and they turned it into a food warehousing business. The natural 50-degree mine was great for food storage. Rock is a good insulator, and they could freeze a tunnel to 0 (zero) degrees. It would take a year before it reached 32 degrees. Over the years, they expanded into records storage, and they even hosted a secure data center underground. The business uses about 1/3 of the six miles of tunnels and rooms in the mine. Our club has had access to the remaining 2/3 of the mine that does not have cement floors or lights. They used to give tours of the mine, and one employee led them all day. Every hour of the day, school busses arrived full of school kids, Boy and Girl Scouts, Sunday school classes, and every other group you could think of. They would get a half-hour tour of the facility, ending with fifteen minutes of collecting in a dead-end tunnel. This went on eight hours a day, six days a week, at \$2 per child, for almost 40 years. Everyone in the Grand Rapids area had been to the gypsum mine as a kid, from the 1950s to the 1980s (my first visit was in 1960).

In the 1990s, the liability insurance rates finally forced the mine owner to close the mine to public access. The Geology Departments at the local colleges and our club both pressed the owner to give us restricted access. It took a few years, but we worked it out on a handshake.

As Trip Chairman for my club, I have had the honor of taking up to 40 currently affiliated rockhounds into the mine every other month for six hours of collecting. We would show up on our arranged date, sign club waivers, pay a \$3 access fee (to nominally cover the cost of running the elevator), and enter through the door they left unlocked for us. We ran the elevator and walked through the warehouse to the mine, where we had unlimited access for six hours. We were allowed to take out as much as we could carry, in as many trips as we wanted, as long as we only used hand tools and wore a clean pair of shoes when going through the warehouse. Yes, I did give a safety lecture.

Over our 51 years of access, there have been occasional ceiling collapses years apart (caused by groundwater seep) that have blocked access to parts of some tunnels/rooms. The mine is arranged as a large square of main tunnels, with side tunnels/rooms off both sides of the north/south main tunnels (and many random connections between side tunnels/rooms). The past 18 months has seen three significant collapses, two of them associated with an earthquake in nearby Kalamazoo, Michigan.

I grew concerned about safety and contacted the mine owner and the Geology Department at Grand Valley University about the collapses (there might be a paper waiting to be written, and I wondered if they were on it already). It ended up with a trip into the mine with the owner and five Ph.D. Geologists to assess the recent collapses. We were able to confirm there was no "throw" (rock fall), so the failures did not occur during the earthquake. Two collapses were due to weakening of the bedding planes during the quake, but these occurred after the earthquake. The third was due to groundwater seep. For years the mine owner has been under extreme pressure from his insurance company and lawyer to stop all public access. The public records storage people, and the data center, are also concerned about public access. This warehouse is a major component in the food supply chain, and that generates security concerns about public access. The recent collapses tipped the scale.

As far as I have been able to learn, our club is the only one in the world that has had regular access to an underground mine in the past five years. We knew that access would end someday. I have been amazed that we have had unlimited access to the mine—on a handshake—for so many years. The mine owner has graciously allowed our club to take the last two trips we had scheduled after announcing the closure. I understand his desire to make sure that any potential future injury in the mine occurs under Workman's Comp. I went to the mine at 9:00 a.m. to wait for the 40 attendees of this next-to-the-last visit. As expected, the door was open and there were no employees in sight. My usual trip has included seven clubs, but today I only had three; most of those attending were from my club. We went in as a group at 10:00, but we needed five elevator trips to shuttle everyone, their carts, buckets, and hammers (the mine owner prefers that we use the small elevator instead of the big freight elevator).

Once down, I gave my usual safety lecture laced with some of the history of the mine. Then it was through the warehouse part of the mine (about 1/3 of the mine's six miles of tunnels) to the unfinished portion we collect in. Time to change from shoes to boots, turn on our lights, and head into the darkness. We need clean shoes to go back through the warehouse part so we don't track the sticky muck that is shale-enhanced drywall mud on the nice clean concrete floors. Most people made several trips back to the surface to empty their buckets or carts into their vehicles so they could continue collecting. I estimated the average rockhound took out over 250 pounds today, against the mine's variable gravity (the closer you get to the elevator the heavier the rocks get).

- Alabaster in white and salmon; white and red pencil selenite.
- Two pockets with one-inch double-terminated water-clear selenite crystals.
- Fish & shark coprolites from the shale layer at the top of the 12-ft thick gypsum bed.
- We also had lunch downstairs (food tastes better underground).

All too soon it was 3:30 and time to pack it out so we would be off the property by 4:00. Time to take a few final photographs and say Good-Bye to an old friend. It was a good ride while it lasted.

AFMS—SAFETY MATTERS
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
from 2020/09 AFMS Newsletter

Communication

Why is communication a matter of safety? Sometimes it is not a matter whether communication is needed, but which method of communication would be most effective.

It used to be that a club's bulletin distributed the word regarding safety matters. Things have changed. Now we have an instant age where communication is, shall we say, a bit faster. I get it—it's how we live now-a-days. Faster is better, but only when the message gets where it needs to go and in a timely manner. Most folks had landline telephones for such messages. Telephones still serve that purpose. However, some people still have landlines, and the landline cannot leave the house with them.

How does your club contact its members in an emergency? One can start with landline and cell phone calls. Instead, some members may prefer Internet options - Facebook, Yahoo, Google, Twitter, LinkedIn, Skype, Gmail, Snapchat, Texting, Instagram... whatever. Let's say one member uses Yahoo exclusively, and another only Facebook, and a third only uses Twitter. Does your club have a list of the Internet contact preferences for each member's household, or a reliable cell number?

Is it necessary to have an emergency contact method for every member household? Well, maybe, maybe not. How often might such a list be needed? The answer to that is easy—hopefully as seldom as possible. Most reasons for contacting members are not urgent. The main reason for noting the many ways to contact members is to raise the “what if” awareness.

Having many options for contacting members is great. However, the one charged with doing the contacting needs to have access to all those many Internet options too. One answer to that is to have several people as contactors—each knowledgeable with several Internet options. Another answer is to utilize a super-connected Internet expert. In an Internet-connected world, it is good to have options.

Be safe out there on the Internet and with COVID-19. Be safe while doing what we need to do to manage in this ever-changing world and its new normal. Your safety matters.

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

by Nancy English

X	President—Sigrid Stewart		Beading—Maggie Manley
	1st Vice President—Mike Sommers	X	Day Light—Fred <u>Brueckner</u>
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	X	Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
	Treasurer—Tatyana <u>Kuhne</u>		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 Zoom meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. 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 to use the shop, contact Neal Immega at 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. The Board of Directors (BOD) will determine when it is safe to reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The September, October, and November General Meeting programs can be experienced virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Club reopens.

Approval of Minutes: The August 4, 2020 BOD minutes were emailed to the Board on August 31, 2020. Fred Brueckner moved to approve the minutes as written. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Report: Tatyana Kuhne was unable to attend the meeting. She sent the Treasurer's Report to members on September 2, 2020. BOD members may contact her via email if they have any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: The BBG was available online September 1, 2020. The hard copy version was picked up from the printer September 1, and it will be taken to the Post Office by September 3, 2020.

Phone calls from buyers, sellers, and donations: This is a new category. Nancy English answers the phone for HGMS, and she would like to share some of those calls with the BOD by reporting on callers who wish to sell or buy rocks or who need a service. Some of the callers are described below.

Chelsea wanted to buy Taaffeite. She found some online, but she prefers to buy it locally. She lives in Baytown. Nancy English has her contact information.

A man named David wanted to buy a 6-inch cubed piece of sodalite immediately. Nancy called David to recommend Johnson's Rock Shop in Livingston (thank you, Nathan Gandara). David found what he needed at Indigo Moon in Spring, TX. The piece needed to be cut into a pyramid shape. He left it with a marble/tile cutting company to get the precision needed. However, they were unable to do it. David called back to see if a Club member would cut it. He did not mention polishing. As of this meeting, Nancy has not found anyone to cut the brick for him.

Donation: Colleen Costelloe called the club on Saturday, August 30. She wants to donate the rest of her rocks (Montana agate) plus some faceting and capping utensils. She would like someone to pick them up. She suggested that they be made part of the Christmas Auction. Fred Brueckner volunteered to pick it up, inventory it, and to make sure it is saved for a Club auction.

Education Committee: Members can find links to online projects in the Sunday E-blasts sent by Jim Kendall. As part of the Web Site Committee tasks, Sigrid Stewart has been sorting the online classes and projects into the appropriate Section tabs on the HGMS Web site.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers reported via email that one of the HGMS Scholarship recipients needs a speaker for her class in the fall. Mike is on vacation in Minnesota visiting family.

Show Committee: Steve Blyskal reported that dealers are disappointed that the Show is canceled due to the pandemic. However, they understand the need for caution. They are looking forward to the 2021 Show. Some dealers rolled over their fees to next year. Only a few asked for refunds.

Web Site Committee: The Show and Web Site Committees are creating a Virtual 67th Annual HGMS Show for 2020. Randy Carlson will provide an online Faceting 101 class. Sigrid Stewart will be asking for collections of fossils, rocks, and gems for online displays. Nancy English asked for an area to be set up on HGMS.org where members or callers could have their items posted for sale, could request items to buy, or could request services. Sigrid is already planning to do something similar.

SECTION REPORTS

**All in-person Section Meetings are canceled until further notice.
Some Sections conduct virtual meetings.**

Nancy English will contact the Section Chairs who are not on the Board and invite them to join the virtual BOD meetings.

Archaeology Section: Thursday, 7:30 p.m., October 1, 2020. Bob Moore will present “Lost Ancient Greco-Roman Medicine,” as a virtual talk. He gave this talk previously for the HGMS June General Meeting. This will be a second opportunity to see this presentation. The origins of ancient medicine occurred during the 2nd century, and it became sophisticated due to the Roman gladiator games; then it was lost for centuries. He will talk briefly about Otzi the Iceman, the oldest known natural mummy, Egyptian medical practices, and then show how Greco-Roman medicine spread throughout the Roman Empire. You will learn about Galen of Pergamon—a physician, surgeon, and philosopher in the Roman Empire. Pergamon is considered one of the most accomplished of all medical researchers of antiquity. Bob will also show actual Roman medical instruments. **Please watch for the Zoom invitation.**

Beading Section: Third Saturday, 1:30 p.m., September 19, 2020. No program planned.

Day Light Section: First Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., September 2, 2020. No program planned.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Second Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., September 9, 2020. Randy Carlson set up video meetings for the rest of the year. Check the weekly E-blasts for the invitation codes to attend the meetings.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., September 21, 2020. No program planned.

Mineral Section: Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., September 16, 2020. No program planned.

Paleo Section: Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., September 15, 2020. No program planned.

Youth Section: First and Third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, September 5 and 19, 2020. No program planned.

OLD BUSINESS

HVAC—A/C replacement: replacement: The unit we wanted is unavailable due to COVID-19 production issues. Therefore, we need to get additional quotes.

2021 HGMS Officers Nominating Committee: President Stewart posted a request in the Sunday, August 9 E-blast for volunteers to form a Nominating Committee to select members willing to fill 2021 Officer positions. The Committee will be introduced at the September 22, 2020 General Meeting. The Nominating Committee will present their proposed slate of officers during the October 27, 2020 General Meeting. The proposed slate will be voted on by members at the November 24, 2020 General Meeting. So far, there has been no response.

NEW BUSINESS

Clubhouse Security: The number of door keys to the Clubhouse is out of control. Now that the Shop is closed to control the pandemic, it is vital to limit access. The last time it was rekeyed was seven years ago. The Board discussed upgrades to the door access: keypads, electronic card keys, or rekeying the locks and reissuing new keys. The easiest alternative is to rekey the locks. President Stewart will contact Neal Immega, Clubhouse Chairman, to discuss rekeying the locks.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. October 6, 2020

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 22, 2020. Steve Blyskal will present "Dinosaur National Monument—A Wall of Bones" Worth the Trip! This spectacular fossil deposit containing the skeletons of many dinosaurs is the main feature of Dinosaur National Monument, but many other activities in this park in the northwestern corner of Colorado also draw traffic. There will be stories and photos.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the meeting. Randy Carlson seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

HGMS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2020

by Nancy English

President Sigrid Stewart called the August 25, 2020 virtual Zoom General Meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. She welcomed the twelve attendees.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

She was sorry to report that longtime member Brian Honsinger died in his sleep of congestive heart failure on August 2, 2020. Brian had moved to Colorado to be near his family and to live in the mountains. Neal Immega told us, "I (Neal) greatly appreciated both Nell, his wife, and him on field trips. He was always good company, and he always had the best stories to tell. He could always be trusted to do his part. HMNS loaned us a replica of a Mastodon skull for the 2010 show, but they forgot to pick it up to get it back to the museum. Brian loaded it into his pickup and got it to the museum the next day,

saving everyone's job." Brian was a great guy, and he will be missed by all.

Approval of Minutes: Neal Immega moved to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2020 General Meeting as posted in the E-blast on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Ken Bruneau seconded the motion, and it passed.

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 to be added.

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: New Air Conditioner for Shop areas. When we received a quote, Thompson told us there were two choices of air conditioners and one of them would not be available until August. The available one had poor reviews. The producer of the better unit has had production problems due to COVID-19, and it still is not available.

The Board reviewed the Show Committee's recommendation during the August 4, 2020 Board Meeting. During the virtual Show Committee Meeting July 27, 2020, they decided not to hold an in-person show this year and to make that recommendation to the Board.

The Board considered the health risks to volunteers, dealers, and patrons. They weighed the possibility of a net loss after expenses and the fact that HGMS does not need the income to cover its financial responsibilities. **After serious discussion, Nancy English moved to cancel the 2020 67th HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show. Maggie Manley seconded the motion, and it passed.**

Web Site Committee: At the August 3 Web Site Meeting, Scott Singleton, Sigrid Stewart, Steve Blyskal, and Lauren Blyskal considered whether the Club could host a virtual show and put together a marketplace or forum. Our dealers would be featured, and educational lectures, videos, and demonstrations would be in a somewhat interactive mode with Q&A. A Zoom format and chat sessions would be used. The Board considered a virtual sales presentation for some of the Show dealers in order to help with sales. More information will be available at the September 22 General Meeting. Scott Singleton has done this in the past for some organizations.

Shop News: The shop is available for use **IF a Shop Foreman and a helper** are available to operate the machines. If you need to use the shop, contact Neal Immega at 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 Board of Directors determines that it is safe to

reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The September and October General Meeting programs can be participated in virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Club reopens.

Nominating Committee: President Stewart put out a request for volunteers to join the Nominating Committee in the Sunday E-blast on August 17, 2020. Any volunteers? The Nominating Committee will be introduced at the **September 22, 2020** General Meeting. The Committee will present a 2021 slate of officers at the **October 27, 2020** General Meeting, and **they will be voted on by members during the November 24, 2020** General Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Energy Day Festival: On August 7, 2020, David E Holt from the Consumer Energy Education Foundation emailed this message to be forwarded to the participants of Energy Day Festival.

"With safety being our number one priority, the CEEF staff and its Board of Directors have sadly made the difficult decision to delay our 10th Annual Energy Day Festival in Houston this October. We will advise everyone as soon as we settle on a new date in 2021 and an updated, comprehensive program." President Stewart suggested sharing videos with the Scouts about the information we normally share at the Energy Festival. The videos being made for the Virtual Annual Show would be good for this purpose.

Show-n-Tell: Steve Blyskal showed fluorite specimens from his collection, including blue fluorite from Iran, green fluorite from China, and purple fluorite on Celestine from Coahuila, Mexico. He also displayed a long blade of stibnite, an antimony sulfide from China.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 1, 2020.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. September 22, 2020.

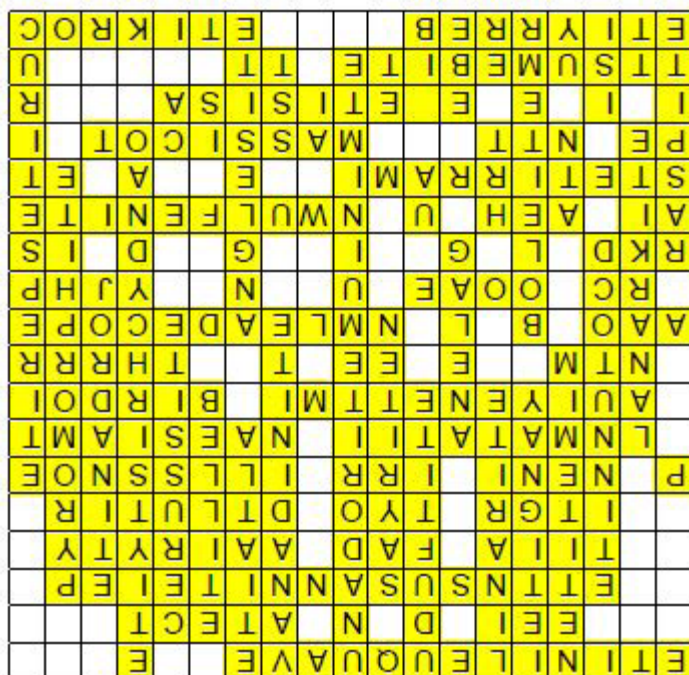
Steve Blyskal will present: "Dinosaur National Monument—Worth the Trip!" A Wall of Bones! This spectacular fossil deposit containing the skeletons of many dinosaurs is the star of Dinosaur National Monument, but there are many other activities in this park in the northwestern corner of Colorado. There will be stories and photos.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the meeting. Inda Immega seconded it, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Program: The Origin of Breathing in Animals—Examples from Deep Time
Vice President Sommers introduced Dr. Neal Immega, PhD. Neal answered the questions of "Why did life leave the ocean, and how did humans learn to talk? He also explained the consequences of the physical changes that allow humans to talk.

SHOW TIME 2020

DATE	LOCATION	SHOW INFO
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, lrolston@hotmail.com
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, showchairman@austingemandmineral.org www.agms-tx.org
Nov. 7-8	Amarillo, TX	Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan patfoster2@hotmail.com ; http://amarillotreasure.com/
Nov. 14-15	Virtual Event	Houston Gem and Mineral Society Anywhere! Our interactived virtual show can be viewed from anywhere show@hgms.org ; hgms.org



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

OCTOBER 2020

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

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN		MON		TUES		WED		THURS		FRI		SAT		
10a-3p Shop Open		1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
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			7:30p-9:30p Lapidary & Silversmithing Section		10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Paleo Section		10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-9:30p Mineral Section		10a-3p Shop Open				10a-12p Youth Section 12p-3p Shop 1:30p-3:30p Beading Section	
10a-3p Shop Open		22	23		24		25		26		27		28	
					10a-3p Shop Open 7:30p-8:30p General Meeting		10a-3p Shop Open		10a-3p Shop Open				10a-3p Shop Open	
10a-3p Shop Open		29	30		X		X		X		X		X	

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE
NEWSLETTER OF THE

HGMS | HOUSTON GEM &
MINERAL SOCIETY

10805 Brooklet
Houston, Texas 77099
(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

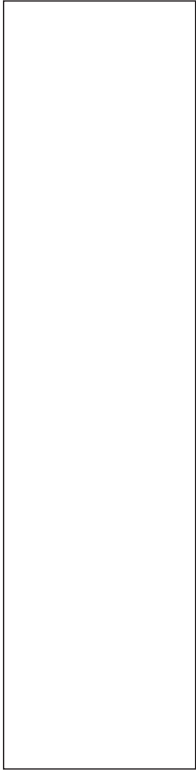
1998 - 1st (Large)
2000 - 1st (Large)
2003 - 1st (Large)
2005 - 1st (Large)
2006-2016- 1st (Large)
2017 - 1st (Large)
2018-1st Large
2019-1st Large

AFMS

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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