

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



## MEMBER PROFILE: PHYLLIS GEORGE

SEE MORE ON PAGE 5

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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](mailto:editor@hgms.org)*



*The*

# BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Sigrid Stewart*

Usually in September we only have the Hurricane season to worry about. This of course is an exceptional year, so in addition to the pandemic afflicting our nation, the heat advisories baking the life out of us, and the wildfires scorching the west, I'd look for at least one or two other major disasters! We have dodged a bullet with Laura, but not everyone did. Please find it in your hearts to make a relief donation.

Sadly, the cancellation of our Annual Show is a minor disaster for HGMS. So many people look forward to our show: the school kids, the general public, our members and our dealers. I don't believe in finger pointing to assign blame for the pandemic, and I also don't believe that it's just a wee bit worse than the flu. Too many elderly people have died, and too many younger people have been sickened. Too many people continue to suffer side effects months after infection.

Mitigating the dangers of this virus are also difficult. Social distancing, hand washing, masks and gloves and sanitizing may not be enough. We decided not to risk our volunteers, our dealers and especially our customers.

But all is not lost. Your Web Site Team is researching the options for holding a Virtual Show. We want an interactive show to feature our educational outreach and provide opportunities for our dealers. Videos and Chat Rooms can showcase our experience and skills. Many other organizations are doing the same in this Year of the Plague 2020. With the help of our members, we think we can do it.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Michael Sommers*

### **Upcoming Program: Dinosaur National Monument**

Steve Blyskal will lead us on a tour of this vast and sprawling park that stretches over two states and preserves some unique geology as well as some amazing fossil beds from the time of the Dinosaurs. He took over 500 photographs over several days in the park and the surrounding area and will put the best of them in a travelogue to show you some of the highlights of the area as well as talk about the geology and why all those dinosaur fossils are there.

## SECTION REPORTS

### ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

*by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore*

In October, the Archaeology Section will resume meetings after a summer hiatus. However, due to the Coronavirus, the Houston Gem & Mineral Society Clubhouse is closed. Therefore, upcoming Section meetings will be virtual until it is safe to meet in person in the Clubhouse. **The next program will be Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7:30 pm.** Our speaker will be Bob Moore. Please mark your calendar and watch for our virtual Zoom invitation!

**Speaker Biography:** Robert “Bob” Moore is the Chair of the HGMS Archaeology Section and a Financial Planner. He graduated from Michigan Technological Institute with degrees in geology and computer science. He earned his CFP through the University of Houston and currently runs his own financial business called “Moore Money Management.” Bob and his wife,



*Bob Moore*

Nancy Engelhardt-Moore, love travel, history, paleontology, and archaeology. They both are Mentor Docents at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) and work in the Paleontology Lab. Both participate in paleontological and archaeological digs around the world for the HMNS and the Burpee Museum of Natural History, and have been in National Geographic documentaries.

### UPCOMING PROGRAM

**October 1, 2020:** Bob Moore will speak on “**Lost Ancient Greco-Roman Medicine.**” 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** who was a physician, surgeon, and philosopher in the Roman Empire. He is considered one of the most accomplished of all medical researchers of antiquity. Bob will also show actual Roman medical instruments. Don’t miss this fun educational event. We hope to see you online!

### Upcoming Archaeology Section Programs

**November 5, 2020:** TBA, watch for announcements of our programs in the HGMS Backbender’s Gazette. Also, check the weekly email blasts, Facebook Group, and the Website for program updates under **Upcoming Programs and Meeting Schedule** at <https://hgms.org>.



## PHYLLIS GEORGE, FEATURED MEMBER

*by Sigrid Stewart and Phyllis George*

Many members of the club know Phyllis George—as former editor of the Backbender's Gazette, former webmistress, and Board member representing the Lapidary Section. There is much more to her story.

**Growing up:** She grew up in the city of Geneseo, Illinois, close to the Quad-Cities, five cities in Iowa and Illinois (there were originally four) on both sides of the Mississippi River: Davenport and Bettendorf in southeastern Iowa, and Rock Island, Moline and East Moline in northwestern Illinois. The metropolitan area is about 160 miles west of Chicago.

**School years:** Phyllis learned to play clarinet in eighth grade and played in the band through high school. She graduated in a class of 120 students. She enrolled at Iowa State College (ISC). It was the Fall Quarter, and she wanted to try out for the ISC Symphonic Orchestra. She needed to be at the symphony hall by 7 p.m., it was almost dark, and she was unsure of the way. She heard a well-played French horn. Relieved, she followed the sound to the Concert Hall. The player was a good-looking young man named Graeme George—the man she would marry. Graeme graduated from Iowa State with a Civil Engineering degree in 1955, followed two years later in 1957 by Phyllis with a General Science degree and minors in Chemistry, English, Textiles and Clothing, and Foods and Nutrition.

**Married Life:** She and Graeme lived in an apartment in Ames until after her graduation, when they moved to Urbandale near Des Moines, Iowa. He was a civil engineer working for the Iowa Department of Transportation, and she worked as an assistant buyer for Yonkers Department Store. Two years later, they bought a house in Ames. Eventually they had three children. When Procon (an international civil engineering company) hired Graeme, the family moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They bought a house, moved in, and three months later, Procon sent them all overseas.

**Singapore:** In Singapore, they lived on Bukit Timah street, named for a rather steep hill. Graeme commuted to Indonesia daily. Singapore was at once wealthy and elegant—and poverty-stricken, but overall, life there was very fascinating. The family was there for nine months. The two older children attended the Singapore American School. Citizens all spoke English with strong British accents. If Phyllis wanted to go



*Phyllis at Singapore Garden of Chinese History*

somewhere, she took taxis., looking for wooden carvings, bronze decorator items, etc. Before their return to Arlington Heights, the family spent two weeks driving through parts of Europe. After landing in an airport in the U.S., she was shocked at the physical relief she felt at hearing the American accent once again. She was finally HOME!

**Algeria:** After two more years in Arlington Heights, Illinois, they went to Oran, Algeria for 2½ years for Graeme's job. Each working day, Graeme had a 20-mile daily commute to the port city of Arzew. He was directing the construction of the government's largest liquid natural gas (LNG) plant and of several holding tanks for the compressed LNG. People were friendly, but life along the Mediterranean coastline was more challenging than in Singapore and very – colorful? The whole family tried to learn French. Phyllis took about 75 books to read—the family had been assured that there was NO English literature available. As in Singapore, she took taxis in her quest for unique decorator items. Junk yards and flea markets turned out to be gold mines for old copper and bronze pots, pitchers, platters.



*Family on camels in Algeria*

**Apartment:** Procon was paying the bill for the family to live in the Grand Hotel in Oran, Algeria, but after a few months, Graeme began looking for an apartment. They went to see one on the fourth floor in a high-rise building one night. They knocked on the door, and when it opened, it was pitch black inside. They stepped in, the lights flicked on—and thousands of roaches scurried to get out of the light! They were shocked and horrified. The couple who opened the door were stunned at their reaction. They explained that it was impossible to get rid of them—the central waste chute that went through all the apartments was filled with them. Graeme bid a hasty goodbye, and they left. The family stayed in the hotel until he located a house.

Every weekend Graeme drove the family around to see the sights. Some experiences were awesome, some terrifying. Like driving on the narrow winding roads along the mountainsides—sheer drop-offs on one side, immovable mountain on the other. One time the three kids were fighting in the back seat, and Graeme turned around to yell at them. Phyllis was watching the road. Suddenly the road took a sharp turn to the right. She yelled, “GRAEME!” He yanked the wheel to make the turn, coming within an inch or two of going over the cliff!

**Morocco:** Another weekend, Graeme announced the family needed to go to the American Consulate in Rabat, Morocco to renew their passports. The plan was to spend the first night in Marrakesh.

They were driving a VERY tiny car—the back seat consisted of two slings—Linda in one, Diane in the other, and David balancing on the bar in the middle. Graeme had neglected to buy a map, but he did not realize the need for it until he came to a fork in the road. He asked an Algerian man on a corner which way to Marrakesh. The Algerian said, “à droite” meaning left, but he pointed to the right “la gauche.” Graeme decided the man meant what he said and not where he pointed, so he took the left fork. All went well for about 10 or 20 miles, but by then they were well into the stony Sahara Desert, and the road marking had diminished to sparsely placed rocks. Even that thinned out until they were driving small rock to small rock placed about 100 yards apart.

It was getting dark, and gas was low. They continued driving, passing sparse clusters of buildings, but no gas pumps. Phyllis was very worried that at night, alone in the desert, they would be in danger of being robbed—or worse. Finally, they spotted a gas pump next to a small store, and were able to get fuel. The proprietor assured Graeme that they were still going in the right direction—just 10 more miles, and they would be in Marrakesh. The rocks were now so far apart, they had to drive quite a distance to find the next—hoping there would be a next. Finally, the rocks quit. The family was not looking forward to spending the night in the tiny car.

They were headed right at tall sand dunes. In the fading light, the dunes looked magnificent! Rounding a dune, they suddenly were driving on a black asphalt road! The road wound about five miles through the sand dunes, and the final turn revealed—a blaze of lights, and a Holiday Inn! It had just opened that week; it was Holiday Inn’s first effort at expanding their hotel chain into Morocco. The family checked into two very nice rooms. MAJOR relief!

**Back in the USA:** They returned to the U.S., moving to Houston for a new job for Graeme with TXDOT, maintaining roads in the area. Phyllis began substitute teaching in Katy, especially with Junior and Senior High School classes. Eventually she substituted for a Senior English teacher for three months. She enjoyed it so much, she applied for a teaching position. She was hired as an English teacher at Katy Taylor High. The first year she taught sophomores, the next year juniors, then seniors, so she had some of the same kids for three years running. She enrolled at the University of Houston for a Master’s of Education degree and a teaching certificate, which she earned over the next three summers.

Graeme took a new job. The children were grown, and Phyllis and Graeme moved to Camden, New Jersey. They soon divorced, and Phyllis returned to the Katy area. Many of you may know David George, her son. He has been to the clubhouse and helped

on club projects. He is also a very helpful IT Specialist. Diane lives in Fort Worth, TX and Linda lives in Pasadena, TX.

**Rockhounds:** It was time for a new phase in her life. Phyllis' father and mother were both rockhounds. They lived near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and were members of the Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society. Her father had taught himself to facet stones and make cabochons, and he also made jewelry. His workshop was full of equipment and rough rock. In 1984 he passed away, and she asked her mother if she could have the equipment and stones he had collected. Her mother said "Okay, but you have to join a Gem & Mineral Society."

**HGMS:** Phyllis went to her first meeting at the Houston Gem & Mineral Society in 1984, and Beverly Mace showed her around. She joined the HG&MS and learned to make cabochons and to facet. Eventually she found she was more interested in editing and the Lapidary Section. Much of her father's rough rock and equipment ended up being donated to the Club, and his faceting machine went to the Faceting Section. Ron Talhelm, Show Chair in 1996 asked her to be the Dealer Chair. She served for two years and organized all the dealer information into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program.

**BBG:** She became the editor of the BBG in January 1996 when John Emerson was president, and at that time passed the Dealer Chairmanship to Elizabeth Fischer. She continued as Editor of the BBG for 24 years, until February 2020, earning 32 awards for the BBG from the South-Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) and from the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS). Each year she entered the SCFMS contest, she won, sending the BBG to the AFMS Contest. An entry must score in the top three at the regional level to be considered for competition at the national level.

**Web Site:** New challenges continued to present themselves. In 2006, Jeannine Slamen gave up the position of webmaster, and Phyllis took over her duties. Neal Immega and Scott Singleton, who had been working on the Web site with Jeannine, expressed their doubts about the wisdom of Phyllis taking it on, but they had to eat their words as she received multiple awards for the Web site over the years. She was webmaster until 2016.

**Still Active:** Although Phyllis has given up the editorship of the BBG, she has not given up editing. Members of the Web site are now putting out the BBG, and Phyllis has been gracious enough to look over articles for the final editing. Her commitment to quality and love for HGMS continues. She also wants you to know that she thinks Sigrid Stewart, Lauren Blyskal, and Libby Guynn have been doing a marvelous job on the BBG since they took it over. Their modifications and additions have improved it immensely.



*Backbender's Gazette 1st Place Award*



# A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND THAT BUT MOSTLY ABOUT THE FREMONT LAKE GLACIER

*by Nancy Fischer*

We have inadvertently spent 8 months during the lockdown in western Wyoming, just south of Pinedale for those of you familiar with the area. Wyoming is known as the Cowboy State. Indian Paintbrush is the State Flower. It is also known as the Equality State because in 1889, Wyoming was the first to give women the right to vote, back in 1869 when it was still a Territory.

I think they got some of it wrong. I think the State flower should be sagebrush and Wyoming should be known as the Geology State.

Everywhere you look, something geologic is going on. It's like living in Geology 101. You can see the U-shaped valleys that were formed by glaciers. There are old meandering rivers and oxbow lakes that are perfect for a kayak float. Young rivers are still cutting channels providing fast white water great for a raft trip. Visible sedimentary layers look like Georgia O'Keefe paintings. The Green River Formation is a treasure trove of fossils.

There is a reason why when I tell my geologist friends that we are living part of the year in Wyoming, they start reminiscing about their field camp experience somewhere in the state. During the summer we often see vans of college age students checking out the ice cream at the Farson Merc.

When you drive through the Wind River Canyon from Shoshoni to Thermopolis, the road signs tell where you are in geologic time. Thermopolis is a hot bed of hot springs. And that is not even including the wonders of Yellowstone, the majesty of the Tetons or the iconic Devil's Tower.

There are many rock hounding opportunities as well as stunning scenic views.

Since we started spending more than just hike and camp vacation time in western Wyoming, we joined our local rock club, the Sublette County Rockhounds. They offer a great introduction to hunting in the local area. We've gone with them to look for all kinds of things including banded chert. (See "Sublette County Rockhounds" BBG July 2019 [https://hgms.org/BBG\\_Archives/2019/HGMS-BBG-Jul2019.pdf](https://hgms.org/BBG_Archives/2019/HGMS-BBG-Jul2019.pdf))

Whenever we get bored and the snow is melted enough, we can go out to the hills between Big Piney and LaBarge to pick up stromatolites also thanks to Sublette County Rockhounds. We've also found stromatolites just walking around the Big Sandy Reservoir and BLM Recreation Area as well as off the road south of the road between Sand Draw and Big Piney. Jim and Leanne Gray at the Rock Shop in Marbleton are a great help with advice and maps when you want to go out rock hunting. Further south we can go fossil fishing in the Green River Formation near Kemmerer. There are acres of seemingly barren public land out that way that give up agates and glass.

There is jade in the center of the state near Jeffrey City. Opalized petrified wood can be found in the Blue Forest west of Farson. There are places to look for dinosaurs, amethyst, thundereggs, corundum, agate, trona and quartz. We have a lot on our to do list.

We can drive south about an hour, almost to Rock Springs to see Boar's Tooth (see photo) or head across the highway to the Wild Horse Scenic Drive to see Pilot Butte. There is "something" to see everywhere you look, even if you are looking at "nothing".

One of the more interesting things we did was take a driving tour of the Fremont Lake Glacial area just above Pinedale. The tour was offered through Sublette County BOCES (Board of Cooperative Education Services) and was free. It was scheduled for 4 hours. Before COVID, this was a boat tour on Fremont Lake. It morphed into a 5 stop tour on Skyline drive, stopping at scenic overlooks. Our leader was Ron Worl, PhD, DPG. PG who recently retired from the USGS. He not only provided us with geologic facts, stories from his personal experience, some opinion, and lively discussion, but also with a scholarly 29-page handout with detailed information, pictures and diagrams in full color. Ideally, you should read along with Google Maps!

We've driven this road many times. It goes up to Elkhart Park which is the trailhead for many backpacking trips as well as day hikes. Several lakes are visible from the road which goes from an elevation of 7020' in Pinedale to 9600' at the trailhead. We take all visitors up to Elkhart and stop at each of the overlooks. There are such spectacular views.



*On the trailhead at Elkhart Park in late June.*

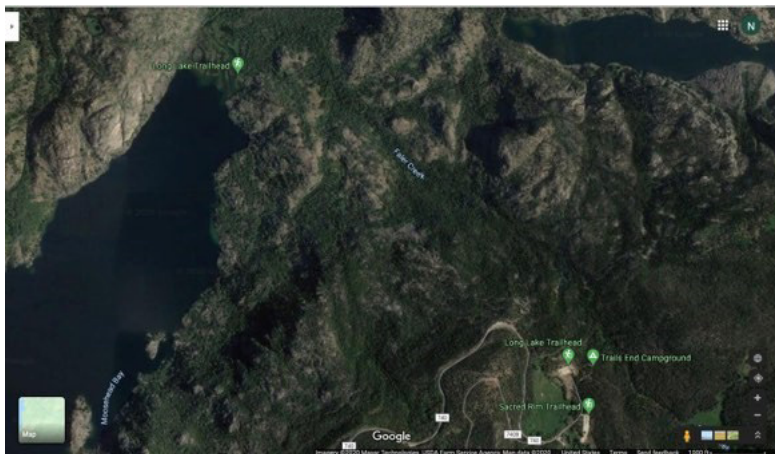


*Boar's Tooth*

It was another nice Wyoming August morning when 8 of us met for the tour. That means we had to have light jackets for an hour or so. Ron told us that in nonCOVID times BOCES cuts his boat tour off at 30 people.



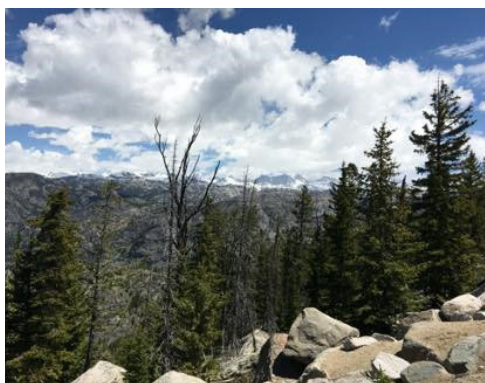
*We like this overlook on a curve above the ski area. The sign has a profile of the mountains with their names. This was the first stop.*



*Overlook 1*



*Glacial Lakes near Pinedale. Google Maps*



*At the other end of the overlook*

We met near the top of the 16-mile drive. Ron gave us a rudimentary introduction to geology; i.e., rock types, how the glaciers formed, the geologic setting, climate zones and glacial landforms. Ron also talked about the composition of the rocks that were affected by the glaciers and how that shaped the geomorphology. For the most part the mountains have a pre-Cambrian metamorphic crystalline core. These are high alpine above 10,200'. We were standing at about 9000' just below the high erosional zone from 9500'-10,200'. Below us was the piedmont, a flattish area at the base of the mountains.

We descended to Overlook 2 about 2.5 miles downhill. From here you can see Soda Lake and Little Soda Lake. We didn't think Soda Lake was either glacial or natural because we couldn't see the inlet or outlet. It is a pretty desolate place when we were scouting for camping and kayaking locations. Ron is going to give another Geology Tour of Soda Lake in the fall. Hope we are back in Wyoming again.

At this overlook you can see the 2 major geologic terrains of the Fremont Lake Glacier. The Wind River Fault runs across Fremont Lake. The underlying rocks change from the crystalline core to sedimentary rocks of the Green River Basin. When the glaciers flowed across the fault, they dug a deep basin in the lower part of Fremont Lake which is the second deepest lake in Wyoming, over 600' according to the signs. Ron said that

students have been measuring it in recent years and have found depths of 900'. From this vantage point you can see the different levels of moraine on the hill across the lake. These consist of unsorted rocks of varying sizes caused by glacial erosion. Some of the rocks are almost the size of small cars. You can huge rocks strewn randomly on both sides of Skyline Dr. The White Pine Ski Area is across Skyline Dr from a little above this overlook and was not glaciated. It is on Fortification Mountain. You can see the difference as this area is forested and the mountains in the glaciated area are polished and bare.



*Early morning Zumba at Half Moon Lake Lodge*

From Soda Lake, we stopped at the Half Moon Lake Overlook about 3.5 miles further down. This overlook and Half Moon Lake are on the other side of Skyline Drive. At the end of Half Moon Lake, around an outcrop is a wonderful hidden sandy beach perfect for picnics and camping. An offshoot of the Continental Divide Trail goes through here. A glacier came down both sides of Half Moon Mountain. It drained down the Wind River Fault and emptied Mud Lake.



*Behind my friend Paul who was visiting from Indiana, you can see the other major geologic terrain.*

Another 5 miles down took us to an overlook at the bottom of the lake. It has a historical sign about the explorers, John C. Fremont and a little bit of information about the lake. It is a good place to recap since we could see all of the features Ron had been talking about. The last glaciers were formed about 5,000 years ago and started receding in 1850. There are still glaciers in the area, but they are difficult to get to. They are receding at a rapidly increasing rate.



*Big overlook area with historical sign about John C. Fremont and the lake.*





*My friend Paul standing by the sign. Notice the boulders dropped by the glacier.*

We started at 9 a.m. It was now a little after noon. Ron allows 4 hours for the tour, but we were a small group. Most of us had some sort of geology background so it went a little faster than usual. We ended up at the ballfields down on the piedmont. Ron talked about the terminal moraines that we could see. Then he talked at length about the cyclical nature of climate and briefly about the difference between climate and weather. He talked about how we could see the ebb and flow of the Fremont Lake Glacier through time and climate change. He talked about climate change, the unprecedented warming of the earth and the increase in CO<sub>2</sub>. It was an interesting discussion and Ron ended the session by reminding us to be aware of the difference between fact and opinion and to make decisions wisely.

The Plains Cottonwood is the State Tree. Nephrite Jade is the State Gemstone. Triceratops is the State Dinosaur. Horned Toad State Reptile, Knight (Green River Fish) is the State Fossil Cutthroat Trout is the State Fish. Bison is the State Mammal, Meadowlark is the State Bird.

## **THE “HUMBLE” GEODE**

*Compiled by Ruth Rolston  
from Rock Prattle 08/2020*

One of the items collected by a number of rock hounds is the geode. While wonderful to have, they are mainly for display unless you wish to destroy their beautiful interiors and sacrifice the gemstones within. I call them “humble” because they are not for everyone. I have never hunted them, but have acquired several and love the excitement of seeing them broken and finding the treasure inside.

Patti Polk (Collecting Rocks, Gems, and Minerals p.88) describes geodes as follows. “Geodes are formed by chalcedony that is deposited in rhyolite vugs or cavities leaving a hollow center. These centers are frequently lined with beautiful crystal formations, including amethyst, and are primarily split in half and polished as display specimens. Some small geodes are used for jewelry and are a special favorite of children.”

Highly popular for their inclusions are the coconut variety of geodes from Mexico. Geodes may also be found in Kentucky, Brazil, Arizona, and Argentina. There are some unusual geodes from the Keokuk, Iowa area. Also worth mentioning are the solid spherical-shaped nodules that are agate-filled. These are called thundereggs. A well-known one of these is the Baker nodule from the Baker Ranch near Deming, New Mexico.



*Baker Ranch Nodule*



*Coconut geode pair*

One of the famous places for finding a particular type of geode are the Dugway Geode Beds west of Salt Lake City, Utah near the Dugway Proving Grounds. There is a very large, rugged field, and from the pictures I have seen, this hunt is not for the casual hunter. It is remote, and if you decide to go it alone, you must be prepared with extra water and food. References say there is a lot of work to do here as one has to dig to find the good geodes—as much as two to five feet. Summer is not a good time to go, as it is a very warm location. The Dugway geodes may not be the most popular, but they are very interesting.

### How Did The Dugway Geode Form:

From the Utah Geological Survey May 19, 2020, writers describe how the Dugway geodes were formed. Approximately 6 to 8 million years ago (Miocene epoch), volcanic activity occurred in western Utah and deposited an extrusive rock called rhyolite. Trapped gasses formed cavities within the rhyolite and millions of years of ground-water circulation allowed minerals to precipitate into the cavities. The result is geodes with spherical shapes and crystal-lined cavities. Roughly 32,000 to 14,000 years ago, a large body of water known as Lake Bonneville covered most of Western Utah.



The lake's wave activity eroded the geode-bearing rhyolite and redeposited the geodes several miles away in the Dugway bed area as lake sediments.

### Are they geodes or thundereggs?

My references seem to differ on what to call the Dugway specimens. Some of the pictures show the typical openings of the geode and some of the solid thunderegg. I have one of each. On pp. 218-219, 2006 Cross and Zeitner, *Geodes, Nature's Treasures* refer to the stones in Utah as "geodal thundereggs" and agates as being plentiful near Dugway. They have irregular shapes and rhyolite-appearing shells or rinds.

They are not round as in other geodes, but have unusual artistic shapes. Centers are often blue-white drusy quartz covering botryoidal surfaces. The skin of these "geodes," as they are usually called, is light in color with a rough texture. They often contain picturesque stalactites, blue chalcedony fortification agate frames, and details. Some are just rhyolite balls. So you can see the reason for the confusion—geodes or thundereggs?

Another reference states that the most common mineral found in these geodes is quartz in a variety of colors: clear (rock crystal); purple (amethyst); and pink (rose). It is suggested that digging needs to be done in mostly gray unconsolidated materials in the area. Look for rounded shapes. Tools needed are a pick and a hammer.

There are several methods of opening a geode:

1. Place in a cloth sack and smash it. This leaves a lot of pieces and is not too good for preserving your specimen.
2. Use a hammer and chisel. This will open up the geode leaving a rough and uneven edge.
3. Saw open the geode when you get back home. Use a rock or tile saw. This leaves a smooth edge.
4. Break open the geode with a soil pipe cutter that leaves a ragged edge, but a more natural view of the interior of your specimen. Seek out a rock hound or rock club who may have such a device.

Now that you know a little more about the Dugway Geodes or thundereggs, who is ready for a field trip to Utah? Not now, of course. It is a little too warm!

Additional Reference: *Gem Trails of Utah*, 2006, James R. Mitchell.

## BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

### RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel can hide much of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you choose to raise it up, the question is, what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust, but now I think that might be a problem when used in rings. Rings frequently get wet, thus causing the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone is a little loose.

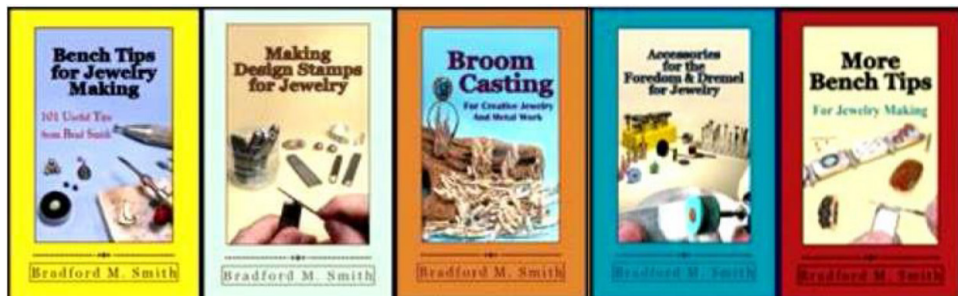
In any case, I now insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards. In either case, just cut a piece to fit loosely into the bezel and drop in the stone (with a strand of dental floss under it for easy extraction—if necessary) to check its height.

### TRANSPARENT CABS

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift-wrap stores—or in a pinch—from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques with Brad's Jewelry-Making "How To" Books  
<https://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>





# DETERMINING THE SOURCE OF PETRIFIED WOOD IN THE JASPER/SAM RAYBURN RESERVOIR COLLECTING AREAS

by Scott Singleton

Many of us in the HGMS took field trips out to the Jasper/Sam Rayburn Reservoir area in the decade of the 2000's. The geologic maps all showed this petrified wood to be in stream beds in the Oligocene Catahoula Formation so that's what everyone assumed it's age was. But the Catahoula in that area was a thick, sticky and hard gray silty clay that appeared to be completely non-fossiliferous so many of us had lots of doubt this was the actual source. But being suspicious and finding out the real answer are two different things.

Eventually I decided we needed to put in some field work to resolve this issue. I had many conversations with Dr. Tom Yancey, geology professor at TAMU and an avid supporter of amateur geologists and collectors, being one himself. So by the summer of 2007 we were ready to do some field work. We arranged to do this on a weekend (both days) in late July. By the time we were ready to dig the team had grown to include Neal Immega (the survey chief who provided the theodolite for surveying and a GPS), Robert Stevens, Mike Dawkins, Owen Martin, Bill Moore, and Rick Rexroad. Most of us stayed at the Bass Buster Inn next door to The Stump, a café that we always visit after the conclusion of just about every trip we make out there.



*One of the stream bottoms we found in our searches. Note the large pieces laying around. The flat stream bottom is actually the top of the Catahoula which is a hard clay that resists erosion.*

The trip was long and hot but our intrepid team was devoted to finishing the task at hand. About ¾ of the team carried

over to Sunday to finish work. I think we all were quite happy about the results which were everything I hoped. I had found small paleo stream channel deposits in the lowest Miocene Fleming Formation (which lies immediately above the Catahoula) that contained petrified wood, thus proving this wood was Miocene in age. This caused us to make three more trips out to the site (in September, October and May of 2008). We surveyed the entire section and dug small holes to get sediment samples in that interval, which I described in my paper. Realizing where this wood was coming out of formation caused us to broaden our search to several adjacent stream valleys where we found at least two



*Neal ordering Owen to pull him down to the stream under threat of impalement with his pick. Owen came up with this contraption to drag large pieces out of the stream and up the bank. We actually needed a horse or donkey to do that kind of work.*

locations that appeared not to have been touched by humans recently. One of these stream valleys was the source of a lot of petrified wood that was partially or mostly red, a very rare occurrence in this area. All of us got some for our collections.

Tom Yancey drew up the stratigraphic section for my paper and proofed the work for me. I published it in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) Transactions in 2008. I received several compliments for original field work, which mapped and resolved a geologic (paleontological) problem. I've even used those results in the decade since when we go on club field trips out there because by looking at a geological map of the area I can predict where petrified wood will occur.

You can read this paper & see more photos on the Backbender Extras page of our website at <http://hgms.org/backbender-extras>



Cartoon by Erston Barnhart  
From Rockbuster News 2/99  
via T-Town Rockhound 6/99

## 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

AUGUST 4, 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	X	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 August 4, 2020 Board of Directors Zoom meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. She had researched other virtual online meeting platforms before deciding on Zoom for the HGMS meetings. The BOD Meetings from September 1, 2020 through February 2, 2021 have been scheduled. 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](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 decides that it is safe to reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The August and September General Meeting programs can be enjoyed virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Club reopens.

**Approval of Minutes:** Maggie Manley moved to approve the July 7, 2020 BOD minutes. Phyllis George seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Tatyana Kuhne sent the Treasurer's Report to members on August 1, 2020. President Stewart will send the receipts for Zoom and Mobile Beacon to Treasurer Kuhne for reimbursement. She will also send the air conditioning bid to the Treasurer.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BBG Editor:** The electronic version of the August BBG was emailed on August 3, 2020. The hard copy will be mailed by August 5, 2020. The Board is still looking for a permanent editor. Phyllis George continues to provide editing services and to review other newsletters for articles that will be interesting to HGMS.

**Donations:** Neal Immega posted: "We have received a donation that includes lots of waxwork stuff and a baby trim saw. Email me at [nealimmega@gmail.com](mailto:nealimmega@gmail.com) if you want to see it. I will post some pictures next time I go in. We also have a large supply of plush jewelry trays, model heads, and such. I will sell it cheap. I also have a 5-gallon bucket of poor-quality small agate from Terry Smith in Alpine, TX. Free to good/bad home.

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

**Scholarship Committee:** Mike Sommers said to look for biographies of the three 2020 scholarship winners in the August BBG. For the 2020–2021 academic year, the Houston Gem and Mineral Society has again found itself in the enviable position of providing more than one student a slightly easier path toward their education in Earth Science. In addition to our primary \$2500 Earth Science and Jewelry Arts Scholarship, the Board also approved a secondary Earth Science and Jewelry Arts Scholarship award of \$1000. On top of that, our wonderfully generous and long-time club member, Douglas Dodds, again gifted the club with a donation of \$500 to award a third deserving student!

### 2020 Scholarship Winners:

Bryttani Muniz—\$2500      Kaitlyn Truss—\$500      Tahiry Andriamiharisoa—\$1000

As always, if you know of an Earth Science or Jewelry Arts student from Harris County or one who is attending a school within Harris County or in 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).



**Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported via email. On July 27, 2020, seven members of the Show Committee met virtually to discuss the 2020 HGMS Annual Show. Steve Blyskal reported on dealer participation to date. Half of the dealers have paid in full. Another thirteen have paid half of their fees, and twelve are waiting for final word that the Show will happen.

Members of the Show Committee are concerned for the safety of our volunteers, dealers, and customers in the current pandemic environment. Discussion covered potential safety measures such as masks, gloves, Plexiglas shields, sanitizing, and social distancing. Our youth programs and educational programs may be impractical during the COVID-19 emergency and may need to be cancelled this year. This includes School Daze on Friday for public schools and homeschoolers, Youth Area, Swap Area, Computer Recycling Area, Scout Badge Program, Dino Dig, HMNS Activity table, and the Fluorescent Display. It is very likely that none of the Section and Demo tables can be manned for education displays and questions. Even the Info Booth can be considered high risk.

Humble Civic Center (HCC) has seen most of its convention schedule decimated by the pandemic. Scott Singleton has been working with them for several months. HCC is flexible, and they will refund our first installment if we decide to cancel. We also can roll the deposit over to next year.

Nancy English reported that eighteen (18) of the fifty-five (55) loyal HGMS volunteers she polled are willing to volunteer this year. Some others have said they may volunteer, based on precautions available.

The Show Committee decided to recommend to the Board that we not hold an in-person show this year. This recommendation was forwarded to the Board for their discussion.

**The Board reviewed the Show Committee's information.** 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 maintain its financial responsibilities. HCC does not take any responsibility for sanitizing the venue—HGMS volunteers would need to maintain the sanitized environment. Plexiglass shields to protect demonstrators and Info Booth personnel are not available. There are not enough committed volunteers to provide Ticket Sales, man the Info Booth, maintain security, and continuously clean the public areas. 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. Scott Singleton has recent experience with this—conventions and forums in which he is involved professionally. An associate of Scott's, Mai Elfouly who has attended our show, joined the group discussion at Scott's invitation. She believes we could put together something with subscription fees replacing table fees, to leverage the "HGMS brand." There is value in being part of this community, and we do have a large customer base. It is also possible that if we pull this off for November, it can become a permanent feature of our **Web site**.

The Board considered a virtual sales presentation for some of the Show dealers in order to help with sales. Several dealers are already selling online. Tatyana Kuhne suggested that those dealers be contacted to get some ideas on the best way to do it. It was also suggested that the Education Committee put something together for the public schools and homeschoolers to see online. Fred Brueckner mentioned the Better World Auction site. They are free to non-profits. Maggie Manley moved to pursue an online Show with auctions, demonstrations, educational material, and dealer showcases for sales. Phyllis George seconded it and it passed. Nancy Engelhardt-Moore will get information from the Montana Show about online events. Sigrid Stewart said our webmaster, Lauren Blyskal, is capable of doing all that.

A new WordPress e-commerce app called WooCommerce is in place for Paleo Books. It is much more versatile than previously used, and it should be able to handle any of our e-commerce needs in the future—including a virtual marketplace if we decide to go that route.

The August BBG is finished.

## SECTION REPORTS

**All IN-CLUB Section Meetings are canceled until further notice.**  
**Some virtual meetings may be scheduled. Watch the Sunday E-blasts.**

**Archaeology Section:** First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. October 8, 2020. Right now, the Section is still on summer hiatus. Watch for our exciting lineup of fall programs in the August Issue of the Backbender's Gazette.

**Beading Section:** Saturday, 1:30 p.m., August 15, 2020. No program planned.

**Day Light Section:** Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., August 5, 2020. No program planned.

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** Wednesday, 6:30, p.m., August 12, 2020. Randy Carlson reported from the road on his way to Colorado. "I have set up virtual meetings for the rest of the year for our Section. All current members have received my email. I will provide the link to Jim Kendall for the weekly email blast. I am traveling today, back to Colorado. I hope to be at the hotel in Raton tonight to call in, but if not, I was going to report the above, plus John Lee's stellar accomplishments, and that I have completed the GIA Colored Gemstones Essential program last month. It was one of four programs offered for free by the GIA, due to the COVID-19 lock downs."

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** Monday, 7:30 p.m., August 17, 2020. No program planned.

**Mineral Section:** Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., August 19, 2020. No program planned.

**Paleo Section:** Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., August 18, 2020. No program planned.

**Youth Section:** Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, August 15, September 5 and 19, 2020. No program planned.

## OLD BUSINESS

**HVAC—A/C replacement:** President Stewart met with Scott Thompson of Lee Thompson Company. The Club wants to replace the shop HVAC with the same unit installed for the meeting room, libraries, office, and kitchen. The unit is not in stock right now—they are built in Conroe. The plan is to install it when it becomes available. Tatyana Kuhne reminded the Board of the UV filters she mentioned last month. Sigrid Stewart will ask Scott Thompson about the filters. UV filters remove allergens and bacteria from the air.

**2021 HGMS Officers:** President Stewart will post a request in the Sunday, August 9 E-blast for volunteers to form a Nominating Committee to be introduced at the **September 22, 2020 General Meeting**. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for 2021 at the **October 27, 2020 General Meeting, to be voted on by members at the November 24, 2020 General Meeting**.

## NEW BUSINESS

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., August 25, 2020.

**General Meeting Program: The Origin of Breathing in Animals—Examples from deep time.** Hold your breath! Mike Sommers reported that Neal Immega will be giving the August General Meeting presentation (jointly as the Paleontology Section meeting) on how releasing a lot of hot air came about. Technically, Mike is sure the process originally released relatively low or slightly warm air. Come find out how that works! The online General Meeting will start roughly at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 25**. Please watch the Web site, Facebook page, or weekly email for the link the weekend prior to the talk. See you online!

**Adjourn:** Nancy English moved to adjourn. Tatyana Kuhne seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

## HGMS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 31, 2020

*by Nancy English*

President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. She welcomed fifteen attendees to the virtual Google Meets meeting.

## 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](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 Board of Directors determines that it is safe to reopen. Some Sections are scheduling virtual meetings. The July and August General Meeting programs can be participated in virtually. Classes will not be scheduled until the Club reopens.

**Approval of Minutes:** Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 General Meeting as published in the July 2020 BBG. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion, and it passed. The June 23, 2020 General Meeting Minutes will be published in the August BBG for approval at the August 25 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.

**Gemstone and Lapidary Section:** Randy Carlson reported via email—“Our own John Lee just ‘cleaned house’ in the 2020 Australian Faceting Guild Stone Competition. He submitted five stones and took two third places and three first places. That is incredible! This is on top of his 4th place in the United States Faceting Guild (USFG) Grand Master competition last year.” The total score is high enough to put him in the Open Champion position.

## OLD BUSINESS

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

**Scholarship Committee:** 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 traditional \$2500 Earth Science and Jewelry Arts Scholarship, during the July 7, 2020 BOD meeting the Board 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!

The 2020 recipient of the primary scholarship is **Bryttani Muniz**. Ms. Muniz attends Sam Houston State University (SHSU). Friendship among rockhounds bonded Ms. Muniz with the recipient for our Douglas Dodds award, also a student at Sam Houston State University: **Kaitlyn Truss**. 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 has finished studies at Lone Star College Montgomery, and she is continuing at Texas A&M Kingwood this fall.

Members are encouraged to read the winners' bios in the August BBG. HGMS wishes 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 Harris County or attending a school within Harris County 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).



**Building Issues:** New Air Conditioner for Shop areas. President Stewart talked with Scott Thompson from Lee Thompson Company about purchasing the same model unit that was installed last year for the meeting room and libraries. The unit is not in stock. Scott Thompson is waiting for it to become available.

**Show Committee:** Met on Monday, July 27, 2020. The Show Committee addressed the pros and cons of having the HGMS Annual Show this year. The BOD will review the Show Committee's discussion and make a final decision during the August 4, 2020 BOD meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee:** It is time to select officers for 2021. The President and First Vice President are considering ending their terms December 31, 2020. HGMS needs members to serve. The HGMS Board is looking for members interested in being officers.

**ZOOM Purchase:** President Stewart plans to purchase a Zoom subscription to maximize the virtual meeting experience for our members.

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

**The next General Virtual Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. August 25, 2020.**

### **The Origin of Breathing in Animals—Examples from deep time**

Hold your breath! Neal Immega will be giving the August General Meeting presentation (jointly with the Paleontology Section meeting) on why life left the ocean, how did humans learn to talk, and the consequences of the physical changes allowing humans to talk. How the whole process of spewing a lot of hot air came about. Technically, Mike Sommers is sure the process originally released a lot of low or slightly warm 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 Web site, Facebook page, or the weekly email blast for the link. It will be available the weekend prior to the talk. See you online!

**Show-n-Tell:** Kris Dingfield showed agates that he collected on Wolf Creek Pass, Colorado.

**Steve Blyskal** showed his three-ball prehnite found in Massachusetts in 2019.

**Vice President Sommers introduced the Program at 7:49 p.m.** Rachel Ford-Dingfield gave her online presentation about her family's trip to Vietnam and Thailand this past winter in early 2020. 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 their gem buying experience in Bangkok!

**Adjourn:** no motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It ended at 8:33 p.m. after the attendees asked questions, commented on the program, and shared stories of their treks for rocks.

## SHOW TIME 2020

DATE	LOCATION	SHOW INFO
Sep. 11-20	Denver, CO	CANCELLED - 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	Virtual Experience	Houston Gem and Mineral Society Anywhere! Our interactive virtual show can be viewed from anywhere <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

## SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
X	X	1	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

## OCTOBER 2020

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



# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE

**HGMS** | HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



### SCFMS

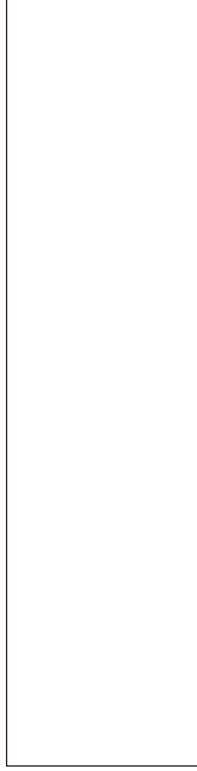
1998 - 1st (Large)  
2000 - 1st (Large)  
2003 - 1st (Large)  
2005 - 1st (Large)  
2006-2016- 1st (Large)  
2017 - 1st (Large)  
2018-1st Large  
2019-1st Large



### 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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