

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



FEATURED MEMBER:
RAY KIZER

see more on page 6

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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

On July 27th, HGMS held its second in-person General meeting. This meeting, like the previous month's, was well-attended, with over 30 people present to look over the agates found by Steve Blyskal and myself on our trip to the KokernotO6 north of Alpine back in March and view a powerpoint explaining different types of agates found at various ranch localities. Neal Immega prepared snacks. But we had to ask even members who were vaccinated to mask up again due to the new surge in Covid-19 cases brought about by the Delta Variant. Last month they could remove their masks but this month? Sigh. I had so hoped we were on the mend and about to put this pandemic behind us.

We did have a small Silent Auction and awarded a Door Prize. Hope you can join us next month. And maybe you could attend one of our classes! Check your eBlast and website. And wear a mask if you show up!

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Blyskal

For August, Neal Immega will present an expanded and updated presentation on the demise of the Dinosaurs and how the Chicxulub asteroid was not responsible.

Dr. Keller from Princeton University visited outcrops all over Texas and Mexico and drilled new wells near Bryan, Texas to provide core samples of the impact event and found that the impact happened more than 100,000 years BEFORE the extinction event.

Yes, I know that Chicxulub meteor impact is all over the media and textbooks as the smoking gun that killed all the dinosaurs and 65% of all life on Earth, but the DATA DOES NOT SUPPORT THAT. This program will show you the data that Dr. Keller collected and she kindly gave me permission to use her slides. This is real science.

SHOWS

The 45th Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show will be August 7th and 8th at the Pasadena Convention Center, at 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas, southeast of the Houston Metro area, and 2.5 miles east of Beltway 8.

Hours are Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5, and parking is free! Admission is \$7 for adults (good for both days of the show), \$3 for students in grades 6-12, and children and scouts in uniform are free.

The Show Committee has carefully selected about 30 quality dealers to bring a balanced variety of merchandise to appeal to as many people as possible and at reasonable prices. There will be tools, raw materials, and books for the hobbyist, many mineral and fossil specimens for the collector, and jewelry ranging from fun-to wear to the finest opals, diamonds and emeralds.

The show is oriented for the whole family! Special demonstrations of lapidary work are included for the entertainment of all show patrons.

Special Events - We have scheduled a special demonstration by The Dinosaur Guy. We also have the Rock Food Table.

Demonstrations - Another special club-sponsored table provides demonstrations by the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society Club Members on Cabochon Making, Rock Tumbling, and Jewelry Making. A local merchant or club member may be available to identify your gemstones, minerals and/or fossils at the Demonstration table.

GRAND PRIZE: The Grand Prize Drawing will be held at 4:30 PM, Sunday during the show.

SECTION REPORTS

As always, please see the [Upcoming Programs](#) section under Events on the HGMS website to learn more about planned future meetings.

MINERAL SECTION

The Mineral Section met July 21st via Zoom. Tricia Rittaler presented a program on her favorite mineral, Diopase, and showed some nice specimens. August's meeting will also be held via Zoom, and the topic will be new discoveries about the interior of Mars and how that relates to planet formation, which of course relates to the development of minerals.

BEADING SECTION

The Beading Group met on July 17th, and the project was a 2-Drop Peyote Bracelet using at least 5-colors to create a pattern or ombre effect. This teaches the Peyote Stitch which is a basic stitch used in many projects and probably the most popular stitch in beading. Seed Beads and thread were provided by the group. Maggie requested participants bring the following to class: Beading mat, scissors, small beading needle, magnifying glasses (if desired).

For the August meeting, Gretchen will teach participants how to make a crocheted, beaded necklace. Future meetings will start at 12:30 PM (one hour earlier than before).

DAY LIGHT SECTION

Nancy Searle reports that Day Light's next meeting is 1-3pm on Wednesday, August 4th. Neal is going to be teaching us how to make cabochons. There is no cost for this

session. We will be supplying the materials from which to make a cabochon. If you have your own materials, please bring them.

LAPIDARY AND SILVERSMITHING SECTION

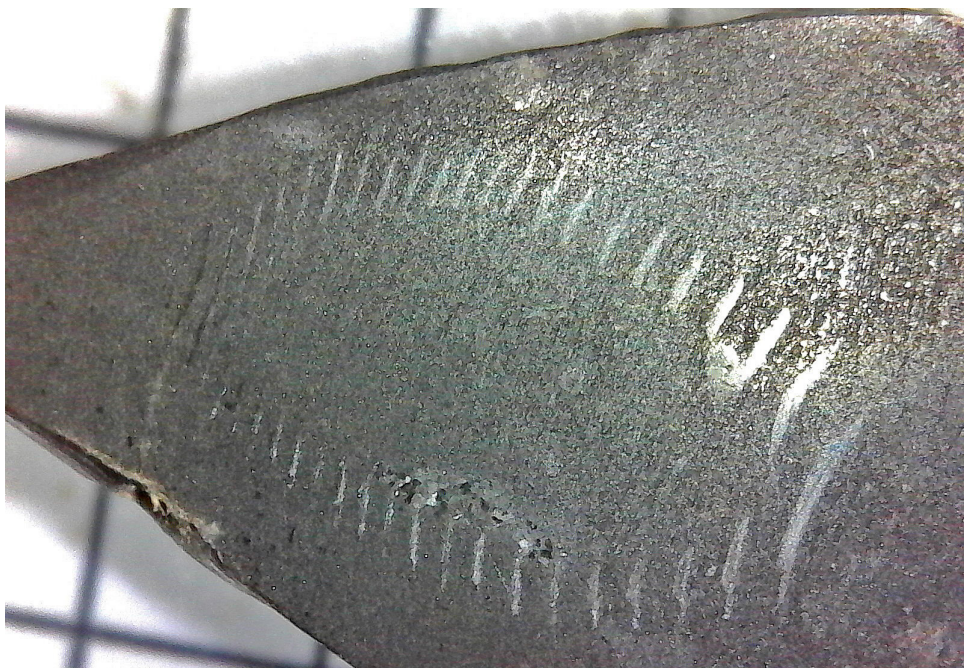
The Lapidary Section met on July 19th and had a good turnout. After show and tell of member projects, Tony Lucci provided the Stone of the Month (a picture jasper) and described the program for the next few meetings, which is making stone beads with a Bead Mill.

PALEO SECTION

Paleo Section Finds Hidden Structures in Fossil Brachiopods
by Neal Immega and Jeanean Slamen

The Paleo section is doing new things in the Covid recovery year of 2021. Recently we dissected fossil brachiopods. Since the brachiopods are nearly a half a billion years old and have become STONE, the usual biological methods do not work. Fortunately, HGMS has a full shop of tools for preparation of jewelry. After all, brachiopod fossils are nothing but limestone and shale so they grind easily.

We were looking for the animal's lophophore, a spiral that the brachiopod uses to support most of its internal organs. We have the perfect test subjects, a box of Chinese brachs that are scientifically useless because they have no age or locality information. We ground them in half and the pictures below (taken by Jeanean) show the spiral in cross section.



A tangential cut through the spiral structure.

The spiral structure was tight enough that it blocked the black mud that filled the rest of the shell. Eventually white calcite filled the spiral like a geode.

Note the thumb for scale.
Success!



FACETING AND GEMSTONES

The August meeting will be virtual, via Zoom and will be one week later than normal! It will be on August 18th, at 7 pm. Randy will send out a separate invite to Section members.

We will have a workshop on Saturday, August 28, from 9 am to 3 pm. We will have a hands on review of the gem i.d. tools we have studied over the last few months. If you have any tools of your own, please bring them! I will also have a contest, with prizes, for the correct ID of 6 stones! I will also set up some of our faceting machines for anyone wanting to use them.

FEATURED MEMBER: RAY KIZER

Ray grew up Westland, Michigan, north of Ann Arbor and his first exposure to the joys of rockhounding came from visiting his grandfather, who was a lapidary and a wood carver. His grandparents spent the cold Michigan winters in Needles, Arizona, where they collected all types of rough rock material and also collected and carved ironwood from Mexico. They would sell their finds and carvings during the Quartzite tailgate shows in the

early 40's through the 60's, returning to southern Michigan during the blazing hot Arizona summers.

Ray's Grandfather enjoyed making spheres and made his own sphere-making equipment. Of course, starting to shape spheres meant lots of leftover rock pieces that could cut into slabs, some of which Ray sold at one of our interior sales. Ray would visit during the summers and marvel at his yard full of rocks. He had a very large palm root stump strapped onto an old lawnmower base so he could move it around the yard. He even hauled a huge eleven-foot-long petrified log from the Chinle formation (Late Triassic, 21-230 ma) back to Michigan and young Ray wondered how he ever got it home.

One day Ray was fortunate enough to talk to the right classmate in Junior High. He was trying to get the Art teacher to hook up a diamond saw so he could cut some of his grandfather's material. While they were trying to hook up the saw, the other student, "Big" John Wilson, a very large fellow for eight grade, said "You like rocks, my dad likes rocks! I can show you some great rocks!"

The two went to the classmate's home and down into the basement. When they turned on the lights, the whole basement was full of display cases filled with rocks and minerals. They spent hours looking at everything and then "Big" John's father came home and was told to go down to the basement to see what was happening.

His father's name was Ed Wilson and he was even bigger than his son, standing at 6'4" 260lbs. Ed was the president of the Detroit Gem & Mineral Society. He was also the founder of the Garden City Rock Club, a less formal organization. Big John, his youngest, was a rockhound and so was the middle son, who later became a paleontologist for

the state of Michigan. After hours of grilling Ed about his collection he invited Ray to come collect that weekend at a local Michigan quarry. It was the Schofield quarry, where they could collect fluorite, native sulfur, celestine, calcite, marcasite, and pyrite. After that weekend it was like Mr. Wilson had adopted a new son to take on field trips.

Every weekend after that they visited sites near Michigan, from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and as far away as Herkimer in New York. They made day trips to Amherstberg quarry in Ontario, and even bigger Canadian field trips which



Copyright Steve Blyskal 2017

Fluorite with Chalcocite, Hardin County Illinois

included Bancroft and Sudbury, Ontario and the Yates Mine in Otter Lake, Quebec, all classic localities.

Ed was quite the mentor. They collected until Ray went off to college, where he intended to become a computer programmer. Unfortunately, Programming was run by the Math department, so he ended up switching to Geology.

In the Geology program at Western Michigan University, he became an assistant for a graduate student who was working on his master's thesis, helping him with his notes and field measurements. They collected Stromatolites and Stromatoporoids in limestone quarries, also horn corals and brachiopods. They did field measurements to identify geologic formation contacts and their bioherm diversity. One exposed reef structure was so full of brachiopods, he could just brush them into a collecting basket. During his years of study at WMU, he was able to talk a classmate, Tim Cook, who later became a geologist for Exxon, into a week-long collecting trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula copper country and on into Ontario where they visited a uranium mine, and then to Sudbury to collect silver.

After he graduated, he took a job with Exlog as a mud logger in 1978. He was happy to move to Texas and get out of the cold Michigan weather. After a near miss on an offshore assignment he went into cartography, going on to supervise the drafting shop. He moved into aerial photography, airborne radar and magnetic imagery and mapping, completing uranium-thorium surveys in upper Minnesota, and geophysical work in Mexico and the Philippines. He wanted to work for Nasa during the Viking Mars mapping expedition but they wanted PhDs for the mission and his dream was dashed.

Eventually, he went to work with Challenger Minerals, an oil company that drills in Texas and Louisiana. He drilled a lot of Austin Chalk wells with them and wrote computer programs for the company so they could keep track of production, which the engineers appreciated. That job ended with a downturn, like so many in the oil industry. From there he went to Elf Exploration, to work the Texas Shelf, and then became their oil scout. Elf bought Texas Gulf Sulfur, which had onshore leases and drilled wells for Frasch sulfur production. He collected his first sulfur core from them. When another downturn hit Elf, Total bought them, and he worked for Total for a while, until they decided to purge all the old Elf employees. From there he was



Copyright Steve Blyskal 2017

Datolite with copper inclusions, Keweenaw peninsula

hired by Burlington on what turned out to be the day they were purchased by Conoco, resulting in a really bizarre interview. He worked on contract for them for a year, after which Conoco took over and it was time to move on. He then worked for IHS as regional manager and editor, writing articles on exploration and development operations in the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific margins. After another industry layoff he had time to serve as President of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society for two years.

At that point, he had to go back to work to be able to afford medical insurance and scored an amazing job in a totally different industry, working at Bass Pro Shops as a fly-fishing advisor. Mostly it's a lot of fun, especially teaching beginners how to cast and how to read the water and guess where the fish are. He is looking forward to retirement and being able to travel!

Mr. Wilson was a great teacher and started Ray on a life-long journey to collect minerals in the field and later purchase those he couldn't get to in person. After many, many years of collecting he has realized that he was subconsciously trying to duplicate Mr. Wilson's amazing collection which started Ray's love for minerals in the first place. Ray's favorite minerals include Fluorites of all shapes and sizes and Michigan copper country minerals, especially Datolites.

NEAL'S SHOP REPORT

- Trim Saw - the 8" trim saw has been down for corrosion repairs and Tony now says that he has bead blasted it to prepare the metal for coating. Thanks, Tony!
- Grinder - I repaired the damage to a 600 grit wheel by recoating it with epoxy (with microfiber reinforcement) and 600 grit diamond. The unit is back in operation.
- Screw Feed Pulley Settings - I have had 3 people DEMAND a better explanation of the pulley settings - face to face. Wonderful. I am happy to tell you everything. I am at the shop Thursdays and Saturdays or by appointment. I think I will write this up for the BBG in my typical long winded fashion where I tell the readers enough to put them to sleep.
- Missing Heat Gun - We used the shop's heat gun for the coal ball peel program and someone apparently took it home with their stuff. Please return it!

Neal also says: The Library is OPEN! Please come in and read BOOKS! Check them OUT!

PELE'S HAIR

*by Pam Birrenbach
from 2021-07-08 SCFMS Newsletter*

Oh happy day, Ya'll. ROCKY HOUND here to chat with you about something you probably did not know. Now ask yourself this....

Can a VOLCANO have HAIR? What? Yes, that is what they call it! At various points around the summit of Kilauea and the Ka'u Desert, what appears to be golden mats of hair lay gathered on the ground. These fibers are not human or an animal's hair, but rather a delicate byproduct of some of Earth's most powerful forces.

They are thin glass fibers know as Pele's hair, named after the volcanic deity, PELE. These long, fragile strands are formed by gas during a volcanic eruption. When bubbles of gas near the surface of a lava flow burst, it can stretch the bubble skin of the molten

lava into long glass threads. Strands of Pele's hair may be up to a couple feet long, but only a micron (.001mm) thick. These strands are so light, they can become airborne and carried by the wind. They usually accumulate in low-lying areas and form dense mats many inches deep.

While fragile and very brittle, they are also sharp. As tiny pieces of glass, they can become lodged in human skin and much worse—in eyes. Caution around the fibers is necessary to avoid injury from glass slivers.



Pele's Hair



(NPS Photo)

Find more photos of Pele's Hair here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1136184309752694/permalink/4159528934084868/>

JADE

by Don Shurtz

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

2021-06 Chips and Chatter Newsletter

When you think of Jade, what comes to mind? Do you think of beautiful Chinese jade carvings? Or do you think, perhaps, of the simple to elegant figures, masks, tools, and ornamental carvings of Mesoamericans? Perhaps you have a little more rockhound influence and think that there are two different minerals called jade? It does not matter what jade brings to mind, because all of the above plus many more possibilities are correct.

Two different minerals are called jade: Nephrite and Jadeite. Nephrite is a metamorphic Calcium, Magnesium, and Silicate mineral that has a Mohs hardness of 6.0 to 6.5 and a splintery to granular fracture. It is very tough (resistant to fracture) due to the interlocking fibrous matrix of calcium, magnesium, and silicate. For toolmakers, this makes it ideal for hammers, axes, and puncturing tools. It was also fabricated into knives with very strong blades.

Nephrite jade comes in a variety of colors. Translucent white to yellow nephrite jade was known in China as Mutton Fat jade. Opaque white to light brown or gray was known as Chicken Bone jade. The favored color for nephrite jade in China was Imperial Green—a transparent, deep green color. Nephrite jade was used in China almost exclusively before the early 1800s. The primary source of nephrite in the Neolithic period was the now depleted deposits from the Ningshao area in the Yangtze River Delta. After the Ningshao deposit was gone, the majority of the nephrite came from the Khotan region in the western province of Xinjiang. Since the early 1800s, the majority of the nephrite jade in China has been imported. Today the most productive nephrite jade deposits are found in British Columbia, Canada.

Jadeite started its life as Albite. A sodium aluminum silicate is often found as a matrix stone for other semi-precious minerals.



This jade vase carving is of a Carp transforming into a Dragon. In ancient China, this symbolized successful completion of civil exams, a milestone in a young man's life.

This specimen is on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

During metamorphism, albite subjected to high temperatures and pressures breaks down into jadeite and quartz. Jadeite is also a sodium aluminum silicate, but has a higher density than albite. It is an inosilicate with interlocking tetrahedral silicate chains. These interlocking tetrahedral silicate chains make jadeite a very tough mineral that resists fracture. Jadeite was often used for axes and hammers by the early stone toolmakers. With a Mohs hardness of 6.5–7.0, jadeite is slightly harder than nephrite. Jadeite ranges in color from white to green to blue and purple. If it has trace amounts of iron and chromium in the crystalline matrix. It can be very dark green to black. Purple and blue jadeites are generally associated with mines in Guatemala, but they have been found in deposits from Turkey. The Mesoamerican culture's (Olmec, Maya, and Aztec) primary source for jadeite was Guatemala. The primary jadeite source for Neolithic European countries was from deposits in Italy. As an example, over 180 jadeite ax heads from northern Italy have been found in the British Isles. Other major deposits of jadeite include Myanmar, New Zealand, United States (California), and Japan.



Axehead made from Jadeite quarried in Italy, found in a barrow near Stonehenge

Jade is two different minerals, a fact discovered in 1863 by French mineralogist Alex Damour.

However, many of the Chinese artisans that worked the jade knew that there were two varieties. Their preference was for the harder jadeite when a selection was available.

Because jade is beautiful and valuable, there are many look-alikes that are less expensive materials to take your money. Some of the most common are serpentine and green varieties of quartz, including green quartz, aventurine, prasiolite, and chrysoprase. Soapstone (talc) is often used to simulate jade figurines. Chalcedony has been used to simulate white (mutton fat and chicken brown) jade. It has also been used to simulate blue, green, and purple jade. These simulated jades should be easy to identify using hardness, fracture, and density. Glass has also been used to simulate jade, but that can be identified with a 10-power loupe to look for air bubbles in the glass.

A buyer should also be aware that some jade is enhanced or “stabilized” by the use of resins and dyes. Some dealers will refer to the use of resin to improve the color and transparency of the jade as Type B jade. The use of dyes to enhance the color is sometimes called Type C jade, and the use of resin and dye in combination is sometimes called Type B+C jade. More often, there will be no mention of the enhancements. Infrared spectroscopy can be used to identify the use of resin to enhance jade. Dyes can be identified if the color is uneven, dull brown, and if the jade lacks transparency. One other type of enhancement is using a doublet, normally a plastic or rock backing of the jade. This can be detected by a careful visual search of the finished piece. A doublet is called Type D jade.

Many identify jade with China and Mesoamerican cultures. There are, however, many

other cultures where jade was a significant aspect. Jade is the national stone of Japan. Japanese wore jade bracelets as a symbol of wealth and power. In Korea, jade carvings in the shape of commas or tubes were sometimes found in burial sites. About 850 BC, the comma-shaped jade pieces were found on the gold crowns of royalty and in burial sites of the Korean Three Kingdoms. India has a 5-foot-tall jade sculpture of Mahavira. India also had knives and sword hilts carved from serpentine (false jade). In the Philippines, there is evidence of a significant jade culture. Archeological investigations have yielded many green and white Nephrite jade artifacts (tools and personal ornaments). It is believed that most of the jade for the later artifacts was mined in the Philippines, but the early artifacts were made from Nephrite jade from Taiwan. It is believed that there was a significant jade trade between Taiwan and the Philippines around 1000 BC. The Maori used the jade found in New Zealand to carve tools, weapons, and ornaments for wear. Previously we mentioned the 180 jade ax heads from Italy that made their way to the British Isles. The Italian jade was found throughout Europe as tools and jewelry.



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Photograph of a pendant in the Yale University Art Gallery. Photograph released to Public Domain, from Wikimedia Commons, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
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<https://salisburymuseum.org.uk>
Jadeite Axehead

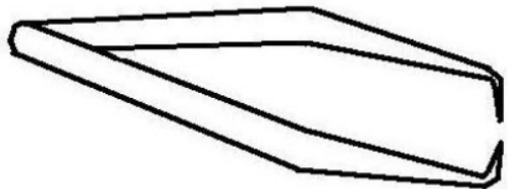
BENCH TIPS FOR JUNE

By Brad Smith

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight.

A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread



the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other.

To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR JEWELRY MAKING PROBLEMS:

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Are other clubs planning hybrid meetings? If so do you have technology tips?

TIPS AND TRICKS FROM BRAD'S BOOKS



NORTH CAROLINA'S LINK TO THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT

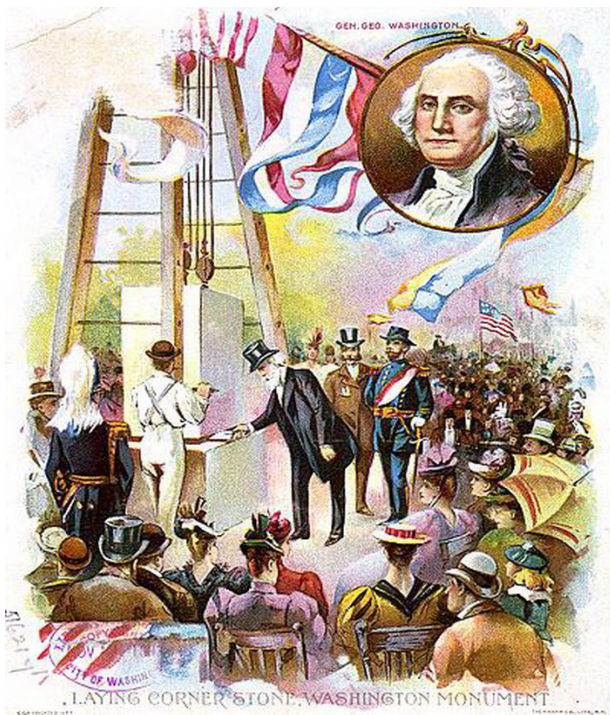
By Ken Rock, MSDC Newsletter Editor

from The Mineral Minutes Newsletter 2021-06

Text adapted from "The Secret's at the Peak of the Structure"

by Kempton H. Roll, 1997-02 Rock & Gem Magazine

What does the Washington Monument have to do with the gems of North Carolina? Answer: more than most people realize. Attached to its top is a five-pound pyramid of solid aluminum. The aluminum was made from rubies and sapphires mined primarily in North Carolina.



When the monument was finally topped off in 1885, the event was reported widely because the government decided to do it with a specially-created cap at the apex: a pyramidion, as they called it, made from aluminum.

The ceremony marked the culmination of 37 years of hard work, with time out for the Civil War—so the whole nation was excited about the event. Perhaps most excited were the metallurgists of that period because it marked the first time that the unique properties of the newly discovered metal, aluminum, were brought to the public's attention.

What better way to crown the top of America's monument to one of its greatest presidents? This “new” metal was much lighter than steel yet surprisingly strong, had excellent corrosion resistance, and was a good conductor of electricity. It was as precious as silver (because silver and aluminum cost the same in the late 1800s), could be cast into the shape of a pyramid, polished to a high luster, engraved for posterity, and also allow the United States to demonstrate its leadership in material science and industrial technology.

The only problem was that aluminum at the time was very difficult to produce, and therefore very expensive. It definitely was not the familiar household metal that it is today. As it turns out, the best source of aluminum was the corundum crystals being mined commercially in the gravels and mountainsides mostly in Clay and Macon counties in southwestern North Carolina. Crystals of corundum are more familiar to us as sapphires and rubies. They are the gemstones that rockhounds have been seeking at Carolina gem mines for years.



To turn the mineral corundum, aluminum oxide, into metallic aluminum was far from an easy process. After the mineral crystals were crushed into fine particles, they had to be converted chemically into aluminum chloride and then reduced with metallic sodium to form salt and metallic aluminum. Known as the Sodium Reduction Process, it was the main reason why aluminum production was so costly. The primary reducing agent—metallic sodium—was in itself expensive, but because it also was extremely reactive (bursting into flame on exposure to air), the process was very difficult, dangerous, and costly.



After the masonry work on the monument was completed, the final topping off was scheduled for December 7, 1885. However, Tiffany & Company had other plans and achieved a marketing coup to delay that event. Perhaps because of its link with the source of the crushed gem ore, the jeweler succeeded in “borrowing” the polished aluminum pyramid for display in its Fifth Avenue store.

With appropriate promotional flair, Tiffany & Company then invited its customers to come in and see this precious, soon to be famous, piece of metal and if they were so inclined, to “step over the top of the Washington Monument.” All the customer had to do was be willing to stand in line on Fifth Avenue to await his or her turn to climb the small stair on the showroom floor.



It is likely that many New Yorkers would boast later in life of their physical prowess to envious friends and relatives. It actually was quite a distinction—the pyramid would crown what was then the world’s tallest manmade structure!

Historical note:
For a number of years, almost all of the corundum used in the United

States and much of Europe came from mines in the Carolinas. Prior to the First World War, Germany was the largest consumer. The Corundum Hill Mine produced some very large crystals, most (but not all) of which were crushed to bits. The mine and others in the area became not only important producers of corundum for abrasives and jewel bearings, but they were considered by the metallurgists of the day to be the best—if not the only—source of high-purity aluminum oxide.

Today, bauxite is now the preferred ore for aluminum with production costs a mere fraction of producing aluminum via crushed corundum. Bauxite is a hydrated aluminum oxide ore typically found in the topsoil of various tropical and subtropical regions. Using bauxite to produce aluminum oxide resulted in costs plummeting by 80 percent almost overnight.

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JULY 6, 2021

by Nancy English

X	President—Sigrid Stewart		Beading—Maggie Manley
X	1st Vice President—Steve Blyskal	X	Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace		Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
X	Treasurer—Michele Marsel	X	Lapidary & Silversmithing—Phyllis George
X	Secretary—Nancy English	X	Mineral—Tricia Rittaler
	Archaeology—Vacant	X	Paleontology—Mike Dawkins

President Sigrid Stewart called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Stewart happily stated that the HGMS Clubhouse is open for member use and people are coming to work in the shop.

Approval of Minutes: On Monday, June 28, 2021, Michele Marsel moved, via email, to approve the minutes of June 1, 2021, Board of Directors' Meeting. Nancy English seconded the motion. It was voted on via email and it passed.

As requested in the June 1, BOD meeting, Nancy English proposed a timeline for producing the minutes. Via email, she asked for it to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors in time to be included in the following month's BBG. The BOD made suggestions that Nancy incorporated in the document. The Board postponed the vote until the August 3, 2021, BOD meeting to allow Nancy and the Board an opportunity to test the proposed timeline.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Michele Marsel sent the Treasurer's Report to members on
August 2021

July 6, 2021. Nancy English moved to raise the two-signature limit for check writing to \$1500 from \$1000. Fred Brueckner seconded the motion. The increased limit will apply to all authorized check signers. The higher limit will facilitate timely payments to HGMS instructors and contractors. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: Beverly Mace said the online version of the July 2021 BBG is available on the HGMS Website.

On Sunday, July 4, 2021, E-blast readers were told that the printed version of the BBG would not be mailed to members in July. The notice will be posted again, in the July 11, 2021, E-blast with instructions on how to find the BBG on the HGMS Website.

Our membership numbers have dropped due to the pandemic and that has affected the number of BBGs to be mailed, as not everyone requests a print copy. The US Post Office requires 200 items to qualify for bulk mailing. Since we did not meet that requirement, we must pay First Class prices. That expense would significantly impact the postage budget, so the BOD decided not to mail them in July. Michele Marsel and Beverly Mace will research the specific impact of the new expense and propose a solution for future mailings at the August 3, 2021, BOD meeting. Members who received a printed copy of the BBG in the past will receive an email explaining how to find it on the hgms.org Website. Contact Beverly ONLY if you DO NOT want to receive the link to the online version membership@hgms.org.

Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC): On July 6, 2021, Michele Marsel sent a pre-meeting document to the BOD, defining the responsibilities of the DSAC and clarifying how incoming donations will be handled. Nancy English moved to adopt the HGMS Donations & Sales/Auction Committee ("DSAC") Policies. Michele Marsel seconded the motion, and it passed. The DSAC Policies will be posted on the Website. The Website Committee will discuss where to post it at their upcoming meeting. Michele also reminded the Board of the Saturday, July 10, Auction & Buy It Now Event. Nancy English is seeking volunteers to help with the event.

Education Committee: Joy Lester is teaching regular classes for Beginning Wire Wrapping. Tony Lucci is teaching Beginning Silversmithing in July and Lost Wax Casting in August. The earlier the classes are posted on the Website the better opportunity there is to fill the classes. The Website Committee will help Maggie Manley post the classes.

Field Trip: Mike Dawkins, Field Trip Leader, led a Paleo field trip to the Brownwood, Texas area on Saturday, June 26, 2021, and Sunday, June 27, 2021. The weather cooperated better than expected; the hot weather did not start until about 1:00 p.m. Rockhounds brave enough to face the heat found some good fossils. Mike has agreed with Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society to include CLGMS in future field trip announcements.

Membership: On June 28, this motion was circulated via email: I, Nancy English, move that the Board of Directors authorize the Membership Chairman to reduce the membership renewal fee by 50% effective July 1, 2021. This is a one-time modification of the Membership Bylaws for existing members because of the drop in membership brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Michele Marsel seconded the motion online on June 28, and it passed via BOD email responses.

Nancy English suggested that Beverly Mace give the BOD the current membership count, or the number of new members, as a monthly report. Beverly agreed and asked for a reminder next month.

Beverly is finished with the 2021 membership roster Excel spreadsheet. On July 7, she will forward it to Phyllis George to be put into book format. The 2021 HGMS Rosters will be mailed to members after they are printed.

Publicity Committee: Via email, Sarah Metsa suggested that HGMS host open house events with refreshments and tours of the building. All Sections could have a display with someone to talk about the Section. Or a different Section could host each Open House. People are still worried about Covid-19 so it may not be the right time yet. The Board discussed expanding the advertising of the General Meetings to encourage the public to attend. The BOD tabled the discussion for a later time.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers, Tricia Rittaler, Sigrid Stewart, Michele Marsel, and Nancy English met on July 1 via Zoom.

Tricia reported that the Committee agreed, via email, to give Tarynn Fossati the full \$4,250 for her final year of college, 2021-2022. We will give the school \$2500 for her fall semester, and assuming that her transcript is still good, we will give the school \$1,750 for the spring semester.

On July 20, the Committee will meet again via Zoom to discuss updating the Scholarship program and adding a Scholarship Section to the HGMS Bylaws.

Shop News: Starting July 1 we will no longer have Friday shop access because we do not have a shop supervisor for that day. The Thursday shop hours have changed to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – also effective July 1. The HGMS Shops are also open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Show Committee: Steve Blyskal: San Juan Gems will not be in the HGMS Show this year due to health issues. They hope to join the circuit next year. Steve assigned another dealer to their space for this year only. Ten of the regular dealers have not yet sent in their contracts. Steve will be contacting them. All the major dealers are returning.

We received the final check for the display cases from Hanover Insurance Company. Assistant Show Chair, Sigrid Stewart, will choose a carpenter after she and Beverly Mace determine how many cases we need and how many we can afford based on labor and materials. They will compile a complete list of the building materials needed per case including wood, hardware, clear panel material (i.e., plexiglass), color-balanced lighting, and interior display covering. They plan to store the cases in the attic instead of using offsite storage.

Website Committee: The Committee will meet on Thursday, July 8, 2021. They are planning to work out backup plans for each other, so the Website is kept current when someone is on vacation or unavailable. Nancy English would like to see Section Meeting Programs posted to the Website as soon as they are received by news@hgms.org.

SECTION REPORTS

Beading Section: third Saturday, 12:30 p.m., July 17, 2021.

The group wishes to express sincere thanks to Kim Fuselier for her dedication to the Beading Section in the past and for teaching us so many wonderful projects. We will miss her. The Board of Directors also thanks Kim for her support of HGMS in her years as a member.

- Maggie Manley was elected new Chairperson.
- The Beading Section started meeting in person at the clubhouse on June 19. They learned to make a beaded chain with wire and beads.
- The group voted to start future meetings at 12:30 PM (one hour earlier than before). This will allow more time to work on projects. The members reorganized the beading cabinet, so materials are readily available for member use. Projects will be planned to make the best use of newly donated material.
- The next meeting is on July 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the large meeting room. Maggie Manley will teach a 2-drop Peyote Stitch Bracelet. All interested persons are welcome to participate.

Day Light Section: first Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., July 7, 2021. Neal Immega and John Searle will teach attendees how to drill glass and stone beads. The cost of the session is \$5.00. If there is time, participants can make a pair of earrings or make a pendant with what they have drilled. Nancy Searle, Section Chair, will bring earring-making materials. Bring \$1.00 to \$2.00 to make a more elaborate pair of earrings. Please let Nancy know if you would like clip-on earrings. If you register early enough, Nancy will get those materials. You must register for this class so that we will be able to provide enough materials. Contact Nancy Searle to register at daylight@hgms.org.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: second Wednesday, 7:00, p.m., July 14, 2021. Randy Carlson reported via email. The Gemstones & Faceting Section will continue virtual meetings only, via Zoom. New members wishing to join our virtual meetings need to contact Randy Carlson via email at Faceting@hgms.org.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: third Monday, 7:30 p.m., July 19, 2021. Michele Marsel reported for Tony Lucci. Tony will demonstrate the bead mill and talk about the steps involved from preparing the rough to finishing the beads. This will be a long-term project, and everyone will have the opportunity to make their beads. He is also planning to reinstate the Stone of the Month program.

Mineral Section: third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., July 21, 2021. Via Zoom, Tricia Rittaler will talk about "Diopase," which happens to be her favorite mineral. Steve Blyskal will report on the Frisco Show. The Mineral Section will continue virtual meetings until they learn how to produce a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting because they have out-of-state members participating. During the BOD meeting Steve Blyskal, Sigrid Stewart, Phyllis George, and Michele Marsel brainstormed some ideas on how to create a hybrid meeting. Testing will be done at the Club.

Paleo Section: third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., July 20, 2021. Mike Dawkins reported that Neal Immega will show us how to cut up Brachiopods to see the internal structure. We will be using the grinding shop so be sure to wear appropriate clothes.

Youth Section: first and third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon. No programs are planned until August 7 and August 21. Masks are required for all the children. The age range for the youth section is five to eighteen years old. No one under twelve has been vaccinated.

OLD BUSINESS

Report Dollar Amounts in Minutes: The Board did an email survey and decided not to publicize the financial results of our auctions and Annual Show in printed format. The information may be given orally at meetings.

Sales Tax: On June 30 Treasurer, Michele Marsel sent some clarifying research about when we must charge sales tax. It was copied from the TX Comptroller's Website: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/96-122.php>.

Michele has reviewed the Comptroller Website about sales tax. HGMS must charge tax on all of our sales. The only exception is during our Show weekend. As a 501(c)(3) we are granted a 2-day (within 48 contiguous hours) exemption when we may sell items without collecting and paying sales tax.

We can use the backout or add-on tax method. Michele said, "As Treasurer, I am willing to mix and match and do the backout method on small sales like General Meeting auctions where we expect total revenue to be \$100 or less. What I will not do is mix and match within a single event because that would be a huge amount of extra work to reconcile. "

Treasurer Marsel will send a communication to all Section Chairs and Treasurers clarifying how sales tax collection and payments need to be handled going forward. Sections may not opt-out of sales tax collection.

NEW BUSINESS

hgms.org Addresses for Members: All members receiving emails regarding HGMS business should be using the ...@hgms.org addresses. These addresses allow members to receive business emails without having to reveal their personal email addresses. For example, secretary@hgms.org is forwarded directly to Nancy English, HGMS Secretary. More examples can be found in the "CONTACT US" section of the Website.

CC List for Minutes and Board work

It was suggested that all appointed committee chairs be included in the emails with the minutes and out-of-meeting business. We would be sending a cc to Neal Immega (Clubhouse Chair), Scott Singleton (Show & Web Comm Chair), Sarah Metsa (Publicity Chair), and Mike Sommers (Scholarship Chair). Maggie Manley is already on the email list (Education Chair), as is Steve Blyskal (School Collections Chair), and so is Michele Marsel (Donations Chair).

Michele suggested that at least once each quarter all the Committee Chairs should be joining the BOD meeting and giving an update on their areas or at least emailing some status on committee activities to the Secretary and President to be shared with the BOD. Secretary English will contact them before the board meeting and ask for a brief report on what and how the committee is doing, and if they need any help or have any news on upcoming projects. They can join the Zoom meeting or simply email a report to secretary@hgms.org to be added to the agenda. This will start with the August BOD meeting and will repeat in November, February, and May.

Dunn Southwest Business Park Association, Inc. (DSWBPA) Board of Directors will be conducting their 2021 Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. by video

(ZOOM) conference. Nancy English will attend. To avoid any conflict at the DSWBPA meeting, Nancy reminded Fred Brueckner and Michele Marsel to ask our Dunn Southwest neighbors if HGMS members can park in their lots during the July 10 Auction and Buy It Now event. Then Michele will contact Audrey Kelly at Coir Property Company to let her know we are open for our members and have permission to use neighboring businesses' parking lots for overflow parking at member events. Fred and Michele said they had scheduled visits with the neighbors.

Bylaws Committee: A Committee of three: Sigrid Stewart, Michele Marsel, and Nancy English; will meet this month to start updating the HGMS Bylaws. They will review the first draft with the BOD in August. The Board needs to approve the new Bylaws no later than the October BOD meeting. The improved Bylaws will be emailed to all HGMS members immediately to allow 30 days to review. A vote for approval will be called for at the November General Meeting. If anyone has a specific change that they want to be addressed, please notify Nancy English at secretary@hgms.org.

Holiday party: Steve Blyskal will reserve the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston church for the HGMS December 11, 2021, Holiday Party. We enjoyed this venue in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Michele Marsel moved to raise reimbursement for General Meeting snacks to \$35.00. Nancy English seconded the motion and it passed.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be the first Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. on August 3, 2021. Nancy English moved to continue to have the Board of Directors' meetings via Zoom. The motion passed. A statement will be posted on the hgms.org Website saying, Currently, these meetings are virtual. Any member who wishes to observe the meeting may request the Zoom link by emailing president@hgms.org.

The next General Meeting will be the fourth Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. on July 27, 2021.

Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart will present Part II of Agates from the Kokernot 06 Ranch: a new collecting locality in Brewster County. They will bring lots of samples from their recent trip to the area and discuss agate formation. A PowerPoint presentation will highlight the ranch and its collecting sites. Neal Immega will bring the snacks.

Adjourn: Steve Blyskal moved to adjourn the meeting. Tricia Rittaler seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 27, 2021

by Nancy English

President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She welcomed thirty-one attendees. The Club is happy to welcome seven new members: Mimi and Harry Posey, Cynthia French and Gregory Smith, Charles Shupe, Richard Vaile, and Sonja Janysek.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Because of the rise in Covid cases with the Delta Variant, the Board of Directors is asking for everyone to wear masks at our General Meetings whether or not they are vaccinated. The Silent Auction opened at 7:00 p.m. Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart donated some agates they picked up at the Kokernot 06 Ranch. People could bid on them until the meeting started and again during the break. Final bids were collected after the break and paid for after the program.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) Awards: President Stewart praised the winners of the 2019 and the 2020 awards for articles, poetry, and editing of the BackBenders Gazette (BBG). Then she distributed the awards to the members who were present and announced the awards for those who were not attending. See the full list in the July BackBenders Gazette.

Approval of Minutes: Phyllis George moved to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021, General Meeting as published in the July 2021 BBG. Steve Blyskal seconded the motion and it passed.

COMMITTEE/SECTION REPORTS

In the interest of time, President Stewart asked members to look for reports of future Section meetings and presentations in the BBG calendar, on the Website <https://hgms.org>, or by reading the weekly e-blast from Houston Gem and Mineral Society. If you are a member and not on our email list, please contact the Publicity Chair at News@hgms.org, Subject Line: New Member to be added.

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

Donations and Auction Committee Donations and Auction Committee: Chairperson Michele Marsel reported via email. We have recently picked up a very large donation (50/50 split with the donor) and the Committee is busy inventorying material. Coming up in August and September: Slabs & Rough by the pound at the Club; online auctions with select rough, cabochons, small equipment, and more.

Nominating Committee: Please contact President Stewart at president@hgms.org to volunteer for the Nominating Committee. Everyone in this room is qualified to be on this valuable, important committee. We need a new President and Vice President for 2022.

Scholarship Committee: Mike Sommers reported that the Committee agreed to give Tarynn Fossati the full \$4,250 for her final year of college, 2021-2022. We will give the school \$2500 for her fall semester, and assuming that her transcript is still good, we will give the school \$1,750 for the spring semester.

Show Committee: Nancy English said "It's time to mark your calendars to volunteer at the 2021 Annual Show, Thursday, November 11 for set-up, November 12, 13, and 14 for the show. Show shifts are half-day."

Steve Blyskal announced that Dealer turnover is significant for the 2021 Annual HGMS Show. Horizon Minerals, San Juan Gems, Angels' Rocks and Fossils, and Opal Trove are

not returning. Steve is vetting new dealers to fill those spaces.

Mary Ann Mitscherling circulated a sign-up sheet for Demonstrators at the Show. Our talented members demonstrate wire wrapping, making jewelry out of jump rings, cabochon polishing, rock carving, faceting, lost wax casting, silversmithing, and beading projects. These are three-hour shifts for all three days of the Show.

Sigrid Stewart reported that the insurance company paid HGMS for the stolen cases. She is finishing the list of materials needed before selecting a cabinet maker.

Web Site Committee: Members of the Website Committee are updating the Website for the Show. President Stewart welcomed Joy Lester to the Committee to work on Facebook and Instagram.

OLD BUSINESS

President Stewart asked members to look for the progress of Old Business items in the Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes in the latest BackBenders Gazette (BBG) on the HGMS Website <https://hgms.org> under Publications.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws: The current Bylaws can be found on the "About Us" page of the HGMS Website <https://hgms.org>. The Bylaws Committee is updating the HGMS Bylaws. The Archaeology Section needs to be removed from the Section groups list. If anyone has anything they want to add or change, please contact Nancy English at secretary@hgms.org.

Dunn Southwest Business Park Association, Inc. (DSWBPA) Nancy English attended the Annual Meeting. Building owners will be responsible for painting the outside of their buildings in the next few months. DSWBPA needs a volunteer to work on the Architecture Committee. See Nancy English if you are interested. secretary@hgms.org. Mary Ann Mitscherling asked if HGMS members are allowed to park in the neighbors' parking spaces on weekends and evenings. Nancy English explained that neighbors have been contacted and said yes HGMS may use the neighboring lots for overflow parking on evenings and weekends.

Holiday Party 2021: Steve Blyskal confirmed with the Unity Fellowship Hall secretary that HGMS is on the calendar for the HGMS Holiday Party on December 11, 2021. There is a church that uses the facility for worship services on Saturday afternoons, so we will not be able to get into the building to set up until 5:00 p.m. We have the facility all evening but we will have to put everything away and leave the building ready for Sunday services. Nancy English said volunteers will be needed for set-up at 5:00 p.m. and tear down after the event.

Internet upgrade for the Clubhouse: Sigrid Stewart explained that the Mobile Beacon routers were bought in 2012 and 2014. Our current service is up for renewal on August 28. The Mobile Beacon routers are nine and seven years old. Mobile Beacon does not offer an upgraded service. We only get 20Mbps and this speed is insufficient to support videoconferencing or streaming of hybrid meetings. Even our PayPal card readers do not perform well at this low speed. If we want clear higher-end videoconferencing and broadcast capability, 200 Mbps is recommended. We need 100Mbps speed for up to ten

simultaneous users on Wi-Fi and Zoom calls. If we want to upgrade our security camera system next year, we need higher performance internet to support that. Comcast Xfinity is available at the Club. The Board will investigate switching to Comcast's higher bandwidth in our area.

Pre-meeting Shop Use: Mary Ann Mitscherling provided a sign-up sheet for people wishing to use the Shop before the General Meetings and Lapidary Meetings. She will open it from 5:00 until 7:15.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. August 3, 2021. Currently, these meetings are virtual. Any member who wishes to observe the meeting may request the Zoom link by emailing president@hgms.org.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. August 24, 2021. The Program by Dr. Neal Immega, paleontologist, is about the demise of the Dinosaurs, and the Chicxulub meteor did not do it. It is his second-most popular program at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) and HGMS. Yes, he knows that the Chicxulub meteor impact is in all the media and textbooks as the smoking gun that killed all the dinosaurs and 65% of all life on Earth, but the DATA DOES NOT SUPPORT THAT. Dr. Keller from Princeton University visited outcrops all over Texas and Mexico and drilled new wells near Bryan, TX to provide core samples of the impact event and found that the impact happened more than 100,000 years BEFORE the extinction event. This program will show you the data that Dr. Keller collected. She kindly gave Neal permission to use her slides. This is real science.

Show-n-Tell: President Stewart asked members to please limit yourself to two items. Steve Blyskal showed a Mt. Diablo red jasper from the Livermore Bay Area in California and another colorful jasper. Michael Sommers showed a three-point calcite with prehnite in basalt from the north shore of Lake Superior. Sonja Janysek brought finds from Windmill Hill at the Kokernot 06 Ranch: a botryoidal agate, a cracked biscuit showing six-point crystals inside, an uncut biscuit, and a biscuit showing bands and plumes. John Mitscherling displayed some beautifully polished knives and letter openers carved out of Jadite. He also showed intricate bracelets made from jump rings.

Drawing: Steve Wilkerson won the large rough agate.

Adjourn: James Wark moved to adjourn. Mary Ann Mitscherling seconded it. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

President Stewart reminded buyers to make their final bids on the Silent Auction items and pay for Silent Auction Items after the program.

Refreshments were provided by Neal Immega. Members were asked to "Feed the Kitty" with donations toward the food cost. Refreshments for August 24, 2021, meeting will be provided by Michele Marsel.

Vice President Blyskal introduced the Program: Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart presented Part II of Agates from the Kokernot 06 Ranch: a new collecting locality in Brewster County. They brought lots of samples from their recent trip to the area and explained agate formation. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted the ranch, its collecting sites, and the treasures available there.

2021 HGMS OFFICERS

President	Sigrid Stewart	President @HGMS.org
First Vice President	Steve Blyskal	Programs@HGMS.org
Second Vice President	Beverly Mace	Membership@HGMS.org
Secretary	Nancy English	Secretary@HGMS.org
Treasurer	Michele Marsel	Treasurer@HGMS.org
Archaeology Section Board Member	Vacant	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Board Member	Maggie Manley	Beading@HGMS.org
Daylight Section Board Member	Fred Brueckner	Daylight@hgms.org
Faceting Section Board Member	Randy Carlson	Faceting@HGMS.org
Lapidary Section Board Member	Phyllis George	Lapidary@hgms.org
Mineral Section Board Member	Steve Blyskal	Mineral@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Board Member	Mike Dawkins	Field_trips@HGMS.org

HGMS SECTION CHAIRS

Archaeology Section Chair	Vacant	Archaeology@HGMS.org
Beading Section Chair	Maggie Manley	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	
Assistant Show Chair	Sigrid Stewart	
Backbender's Gazette Editor	Sigrid Stewart	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	Michele Marsel	Templates@HGMS.org
Librarian for Main Library	Neal Immega	Librarian@HGMS.org
Publicity Chair	Sarah 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	Lauren Blyskal	Webmaster@HGMS.org
Youth Section Assistant	Elizabeth Guynn	Youth2@HGMS.org

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SHOP 10-3	2	3 BOD 7:30-9:30	4 SHOP 10-3 DAY LIGHT 1:00-3:00 FACETING 7:00-9:00	5 SHOP 9-3	6	7 SHOP 10-3 YOUTH 10-12
8 SHOP 10-3	9	10	11 SHOP 10-3	12 SHOP 9-3	13	14 SHOP 10-3 POUNDER SALE 10-3
15 SHOP 10-3	16 LAPIDARY 7:30-9:30	17 PALEO 7:30-9:30	18 SHOP 10-3 MINERAL 7:30-9:30	19 SHOP 9-3	20	21 SHOP 10-3 YOUTH 10-12 BEADING 12:30-3:30
22 SHOP 10-3	23	24 GENERAL MEETING 7:30-9:30	25 SHOP 10-3	26 SHOP 9-3	27	28 SHOP 10-3
29 SHOP 10-3	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 SHOP 9-3	3	4 YOUTH 10-12 SHOP 10-3
5 SHOP 10-3	6	7 BOD 7:30-9:30	8 SHOP 10-3 DAY LIGHT 1:00-3:00 FACETING 7:00-9:00	9 SHOP 9-3	10	11 SHOP 10-3
12 SHOP 10-3	13	14	15 SHOP 10-3 MINERAL 7:30-9:30	16 SHOP 9-3	17	18 YOUTH 10-12 SHOP 10-3 BEADING 12:30-3:30
19 SHOP 10-3	20 LAPIDARY 7:30-9:30	21 PALEO 7:30-9:30	22 SHOP 10-3	23 SHOP 9-3	24	25 SHOP 10-3
26 SHOP 10-3	27	28 GENERAL MEETING 7:30-9:30	29 SHOP 10-3	30 SHOP 9-3		

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE

HGMS | HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



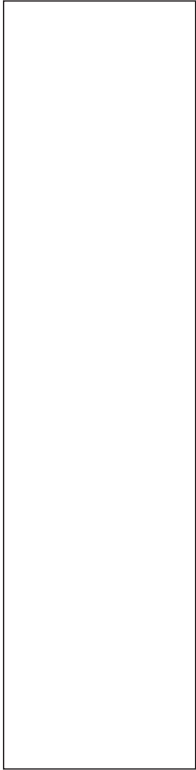
SCFMS Bulletin Awards

- 1998 - 1st (Large)
- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005-2019 -1st (Large)
- 2020 - 3rd (Large)

AFMS Bulletin Awards

- 1998 - 2nd (Large)
- 2004 - 3rd (Large)
- 2007 - 1st (Large)
- 2010 - 2nd (Large)
- 2012 - 2013 - 3rd (Large)
- 2014 - 2nd (Large)
- 2017 - 3rd (Large)
- 2019 - 2nd (Large)
- 2020 - 2nd (Large)

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