

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



FEATURED MEMBER:
DAVID GARDNER

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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

November is here as I write this, and that means so is our Annual Show! This time we are not planning a virtual show, but a by-gosh, boots on the ground, rocks on the table show at the Humble Civic Center just as in years past. Well, almost like years past! Sadly, there will be far fewer display cases due to the theft we suffered last year. I was not successful in finding a cabinet maker who could produce new cases affordably due to the higher cost of lumber and an over-heated housing market that commanded the attention of all cabinet makers.

We will not set up the Fluorescent Booth this year, due to both manpower concerns and the fact that people would have to pack into a small space with no hope of socially distancing. We will have lots of new dealers this year so you can look for some surprises there. School Daze will not have the crush of public-school students this year, due to Covid and budget concerns. I'm getting ready, looking for items to donate to Silent Auction, checking show supplies, and making new signs. I also just received my booster shot, so I will feel a little safer! I hope most of our volunteers will get their boosters as well.

News from dealers at the Denver and Austin Shows is indicating a lot of pent-up interest in attending Gem & Mineral Shows. People look forward to shows to see new specimens and chat with other collectors and dealers. Let's not disappoint our public and customers.

Please plan to attend if you can. Please try to volunteer if you can! We need help for set-up and break down, activities such as ticket sales and all Club booths. And plan to wear a mask! Nancy English is your contact for all volunteer slots and will be happy to help you. All volunteers are invited to the post-Show party. A great way to decompress!

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Blyskal

Steve Steinke will reprise a presentation previously given to the Mineral Section on the new Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson. Steve was able to tour the museum on the 2nd day when they first began giving tours. His brother, who works at the University of Arizona Geology department, made arrangements for the tour. The museum has a tremendous collection of Arizona and Mexico minerals, along with multiple sections covering origins of the Earth, world minerals, and gems and jewelry. Anyone who visits Tucson should plan to tour this museum. Alfie Norville was the inspiration and founder of the Gem and Jewelry Exchange (GJX) gem show in Tucson, Arizona.

UPCOMING SHOWS

November 6th and 7th, AMARILLO, TEXAS: The Golden Spread Gem, Mineral, and Treasure Society presents the 59th Annual Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at the Amarillo Civic Center 401 S. Buchanan; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Golden-Spread-Gem-Mineral-and-Treasure-Society-1489121894750990/>

November 6th and 7th, MIDLAND, TEXAS: The Midland Gem & Mineral Society presents the Annual Midland Gem & Mineral Show at Bush Convention Center, 105 N. Main St., Midland, Texas 79701. Sat. 9am-6pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. Over 20 vendors, adults \$7.

November 12th, 13th, and 14th, HOUSTON, TEXAS: Hurray, we are presenting our 68th Annual Show LIVE AND IN PERSON! The Show will be held at the Humble Civic Center. Load up day is Wednesday the 10th, Set Up day is Thursday the 11th, and the Show begins on Friday at 9:00am. All hands on deck! Please volunteer! Contact Nancy English to reserve your preferred volunteer slots.

November 20th and 21st, MESQUITE, TEXAS: The Dallas Gem & Mineral Society presents their 63rd Annual Show at the Mesquite Convention Center, 1800 Rodeo Drive; Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5. Adults \$8.

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

During the Zoom meeting, members will discuss the Show, the Mineral Booth, the several new dealers and old acquaintances, and of course any acquisitions from the 68th Annual Houston Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show.

BEADING SECTION

The Beading Group meeting for Saturday, November 20th is a field trip to Beadoholique Bead Shop, located at 17311 FM 529, Houston, TX 77095. We will shop and then take a class taught by owner, Lisa Kirkeby to make a leather wrapped bracelet from 11:00 to 1:00 PM. Cost is \$25.00 + cost of materials. Meet us at the shop; or we can drive in a group from the HGMS clubhouse at 9:00 AM to carpool (if you reserve a seat in advance). You must preregister for the class at 832.674.9005 as soon as possible, as this class is also open to the public and seats are limited. Cost is \$25.00, plus materials. You can order lunch for delivery at the class or bring your own lunch. Two examples will be shown. You will select the beads of your choice at the shop.

Lisa Kirkeby, Beadoholique Bead Shop

Two Loose Beads, LLC 832-674-9005 17311 FM 529, Houston, TX 77095

two loosebeads.com [facebook.com/beadoholiquetoo](https://www.facebook.com/beadoholiquetoo) [instagram.com/beadoholique_too](https://www.instagram.com/beadoholique_too)

Are you interested in being notified of upcoming Beading Group activities? If yes, e-mail classes@hgms.org with your e-mail and telephone # and Maggie will add you to our list. We are looking for new members and we are considering adding some non-beading crafting activities to our meetings.

DAY LIGHT SECTION

This session we will be making Christmas ornaments and Christmas (or other holiday) gifts. It is important to know how many people are coming so that we will have enough materials to accommodate everyone. Please contact Nancy Searle.

I will lay out beads and other materials along with directions. You will then "design" your own. I have made a few things so you can use them along with the written directions to make your own "stuff".

In addition to the beads and other materials we have in our cabinets, I am bringing a lot of beads and other materials, please feel free to bring directions and any materials you would like to share with the group. Someone might like to make your suggestion. I'm bringing a lot of materials to make simple earrings and stretch bracelets to give as gifts, or to put on gift packages. I'm bringing directions for a Christmas spider, angle, earrings and other stuff I cannot think of just now.

LAPIDARY AND SILVERSMITHING SECTION

Richard Good was appointed interim Lapidary Section Board representative replacing Phyllis George. Thank you, Phyllis, for your long service to the club in this post, as well as for being editor of the BBG for so long! The section will elect a long-term representative in January at regular election time.

Fourteen members attended the October 18 meeting and worked on Mexican fire opal cabochons. Tony reported the Bead Mill needs a new belt, so that project will go on hold. Members will continue work on two silversmithing projects at the November 15 meeting: Cuff Bracelet with Cabochon and Money Clip. Tony will introduce a final new project in November -- pendant mounting for the Mexican Opal cab cut in October.

There will be no December Lapidary meeting, and Lapidary members are encouraged to attend the Club Holiday Party on December 11th. Next year, we will continue alternating Lapidary and Silversmithing projects monthly.

GEMSTONES AND FACETING

The Section is taking a Holiday break - no meetings in November and December. Regular meetings will resume in January.

YOUTH SECTION

Saturday, November 6th is the last day to turn in your stone for the youth cabochon competition at our Annual Show. Volunteers at the Youth Section booth at the show are still needed! Activities at the Booth will include touch displays, game wheels, and of course Beverly's cookies.

PALEO SECTION

The November Paleo meeting will be held during the regular meeting time, and the project will be making holiday ornaments from red slate from New York. You may never have heard of RED slate. It is usually black or gray. There are two quarries in New York that produce red slate. I think those are the only quarries for red slate worldwide.

The folks in New England commonly use gray and black slate chips for their driveways. If you are putting on airs, you would use an admixture of red slate. Roofing your house with black slate is common but if you are trying to outshine your neighbors, you will use red slate.

When I was visiting the area, I found out the slate yards dump their scrap by the side of the road, including RED, and do not defend it from Paleontologists. I am running out of this material and so this will probably be the last time I offer this class.

Yes, I know that this has nothing to do with paleo. Tough.

The December meeting is canceled because of the holidays.

Note: According to Wikipedia, Slate is a fine-grained, foliated, homogeneous metamorphic rock derived from an original shale-type sedimentary rock composed of clay or volcanic ash through low-grade regional metamorphism.

NEWS FROM NEAL

Notched Blade - Somebody marked a slab saw as out of service because there was a notch in the blade. I have no idea how it got the notch, but the blade still is good. If you look at one of the segmented blades on one of the 24-inch machines, you will see LOTS of notches. They are also still good.

New/Old Books - 60+ books from a recent donation have been integrated into the library. Come and check them out. The Library Beading Section has been GREATLY expanded.

18" Slab Saw Repaired - The 18" slab saw in the back of the shop, right side has been repaired. The gear that powers the drive screw disengaged from the worm gear because the set screw loosened up. It was not difficult to fix. I just had to use the recently donated small gear puller to move the gear forward on the shaft to engage the worm gear.

20" Slab Saw Repaired - The saw next to the trim saw table was feeding the rock faster than the blade would cut. This causes the drive belt to stall and burn. The usual fix is to cut a piece of carborundum to bring out the diamond but that did not work so I replaced the blade. BTW - this is the first time I have taken the blade out of this saw and realized it is MUCH smaller than the 24" blades on Texaco and the Highland Park behind it. Fortunately, I collect saw blades just like I collect fossils and have some 20" ones on hand.

Texaco blade replaced. - I was going to move the blade that was not cutting well to Texaco because that machine never stalls because it has a hydraulic feed. Since I had the blade off, I put on another blade. It is a crimped blade rather than a sintered one. It is much thinner but cuts slower. The old blade was almost used up.

FEATURED MEMBER: DAVID GARDNER

by Holly Gardner

David grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina where he first began many of the interests he would enjoy throughout his life. His mother and grandmother took him mineral collecting in the mountains of North Carolina, digging for rubies and sapphires. He has enjoyed digging for treasure ever since! In the mid-sixties his father bought a 1929 Ford Model A, and he had a neighbor that owned Edsels when they were new. This also established his love for classic automobiles. A collector at heart, he also collected stamps and coins.



David in his father's Model A

In the early '70's, David attended college at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. After a brief stint as an engineering major, he switched to geology, earning his BS. In 1975 he moved to Houston to work for Texaco as a Development Geologist. It was there that he met his wife, Holly, an Exploration Geophysicist with Texaco. He would tell you it was his wit and charm that attracted her, but actually, it was his emerald-green 260Z!

They were married in the fall of 1978. Soon after, they relocated to Denver where David became involved with the International Edsel Club. He owned several Edsels and took them to shows in the Rocky Mountain region. During their 10 years in Denver, they took advantage of the many adventures Colorado had to offer.

With their daughter, Alison, in tow, they enjoyed camping, backpacking, sailing, digging for dinosaur fossils, rockhounding and skiing. Holly's home in Bloomington, Indiana also afforded many collecting opportunities including geodes and fossils from the Harrodsburg Formation and fern fossils from the abandoned coal mines south of Terre Haute, Indiana.



David in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada



David and Holly at the Portland Rose Garden

David has been collecting thumbnail specimens since the mid-70's and now has a sizeable collection. The Mineral Section gave him a place to show off his acquisitions, and he adopted Steve Blyskal's method for displaying his thumbnails, using "Hot Wheels" cases.



David and Catherine in the Swap Area at the Show

David has also been a participant at the Annual Show, helping to set up the Fluorescent Booth and Swap Area and staffing the Mineral Section Booth. For 10 years he had a table in the Swap Area, often working with his wife Holly or daughter Catherine. Over those years he greatly expanded his offerings and became the top earner of Swap Dollars in 2019. Of course, he used those to buy jewelry for Holly and Catherine!

After 28 years, David retired from Chevron in 2015. He now enjoys more time with family, including his four grandchildren: Jackson, Jenna, Hallie and Harry.

BENCH TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

By Brad Smith

In my club the hybrid meetings are going well. We can accommodate the members and guests who wish to come to the meeting room as well as those members who do not venture out for healthcare or other reasons. And the Zoom capability lets us offer a vastly wider range of great speakers with no extra costs for travel.

Wishing you well as we wrap up another year,

- Brad Smith

MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.



But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

Left, Branding Iron

Below, tool handle with brand and detail of the letters on the Branding Iron

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.



NO-SCRATCH VISE JAWS

If your bench vise has replaceable jaws, there is a simple modification to customize it for bending sheet metal and holding jewelry pieces without worrying about the jaws leaving scratch marks. I make a duplicate set of jaws from high density plastic such as Nylon

or Delrin. Remove the jaws and use them as a template. Cut two pieces from a 1/2-inch sheet of scrap plastic. Then clamp the steel jaw over the plastic and drill through the steel side and into the plastic. Finally, use a larger drill to countersink the plastic for the screw heads.



Plastic can be obtained from the scrap bin at a local plastics store, can be purchased online from Ebay, or can be repurposed from an old kitchen cutting board.

Note: See the July 2021 BBG for Ed Clay's take on customizing tools with pieces of old plastic from cutting boards.

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR JEWELRY MAKING PROBLEMS:

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

TIPS AND TRICKS FROM BRAD'S BOOKS



FROM AFMS PRESIDENT 2020-2021 JUDY BECK

Judy is the Outgoing President

I'm excited about the American Federation and its future. This past year we saw big strides in improving our digital presence by the updating of our website, which will be available to members in the near future. We also looking at how we can better support the wonderful Junior Rockhound Program that we have. Please Continue to volunteer at the club, regional, or national level.

Hoping to see you on a field trip soon-and may all your finds be keepers!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATHALIE AND PAUL BRANDES!

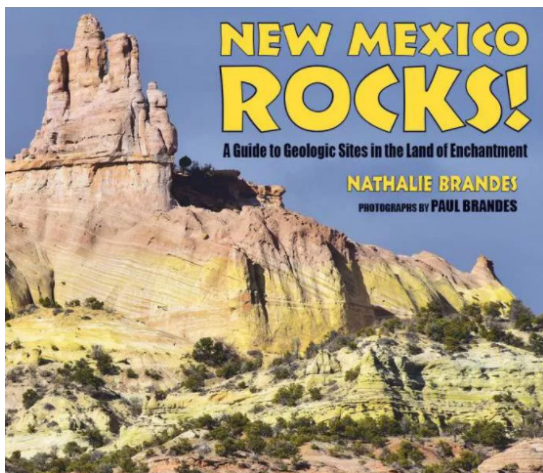


Nathalie holding the book at the Geological Society of America meeting when it was first unboxed

This is very familiar territory for both Nathalie and Paul, who both received their BS in Geology from New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico. Nathalie also received her MS there, and her PhD. at Michigan Tech, where Paul worked on his MS/ABD.

Nathalie and Paul Brandes, two of our members and noted PhD. geologists and professors at Lone Star College, have written a book about geological sites in New Mexico. Nathalie is credited as the author, and Paul with taking the photographs. Currently for sale on Mountain Press, *New Mexico Rocks!* is a guide to a state shaped by volcanic eruptions, from supervolcano calderas to young basalt flows and cinder cones.

Its wonders are not limited to the igneous domain however, as anyone who has visited White Sands (composed of gypsum), or Carlsbad Caverns (a cave in limestone) knows! There are Dimetrodon trace fossils at Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, and dinosaur fossils. Silver ore coats the surface of a cave named the Bridal Chamber by Lake Valley miners, and many more marvels.



<https://mountain-press.com/collections/geology-rocks/products/new-mexico-rocks>

HUMANS IN ANCIENT NEW MEXICO

Human occupancy in North America has now been pushed back to at least 23,000 years ago by the discovery of fossilized human footprints at White Sands National Park in New Mexico. The ancient site of Lake Otero clearly shows the footprints of people and Ice Age mammals such as mammoths, ground sloths and dire wolves. Grass seeds above and below the footprints enabled the dating.

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/whsa/learn/nature/fossilized-footprints.htm>

REPORT ON GEM CAPERS, 59TH ANNUAL AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

OCTOBER 22-24, 2021

by Steve Blyskal

On Sunday, October 24th, Sigrid Stewart and Steve Blyskal drove west from Houston, headed for Palmer Events Center in downtown Austin, the site of the 2021 Gem Capers, the Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show put on by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. Palmer sits next to the downtown lake created by damming the Colorado River and is a scenic spot with all the new office buildings being constructed there. We stopped first at The Little Gallery and Rock Shop, located on Highway 71 just west of Smithville and visited with the proprietor, Katherine Martin. Steve has minerals and geodes on consignment with her, so we picked up some cash for the show from sales at her shop. Katherine has decorative specimens, minerals, cutting rough and slabs and a variety of other rock related items. You can read more about her shop in a previous article in the May 2020 Backbender's Gazette.

On to the show! There is covered paid parking available in a large garage, and a brisk walk took us to the entrance to the show, where we were treated to a nice display of minerals, rocks and fossils put together by the club. After buying our tickets we went around the corner and into the ballroom where the show was held. After filling out our Grand Prize forms we checked out the Show booklet, which gave the layout of the dealers in the hall. The booklet also contained a very nice article on quartz by AGMS member Stretch Young on the special forms of Quartz – Gwindels and Scepters. It was a multipage article with photographs and very well done! The show theme was quartz and members put in displays of quartz in the display cases around the hall.

The space is similar in square footage to the HGMS ballroom, but Austin only has 30 or so dealers, spread fairly widely apart, with 12-foot aisles. Steve is the dealer chairman for the HGMS Show so he was eager to talk to the dealers who also do our show in November. Between Sigrid and Steve, we managed to visit all the dealers who will be coming to our show. Uniformly they said the show had been good as far as attendance and sales and thought there was some pent-up demand due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the Austin show (and many others) in 2020 and 2021.

Walking around the show, we stopped at Amber Way Jewelry and picked up some pendants and earrings for presents. When we got to Texas Crystal Creations, Steve was attracted to his nice selection of amethyst scepter crystals from a new location in Zimbabwe in Africa. Since Jason will be at our show, he decided to wait. At Stone Crystals Steve talked to Keith Harmon about his recent sale of 50 tons of rough rock to a club in Louisiana who will be selling it to rockhounds from a location in Clinton, LA. Then Steve asked Keith to pick out a nice geode and crack it for him. After all the years of attending HGMS Shows Steve had never had one cracked before! Keith picked out a nice geode and opened it, revealing a quartz crystal interior with a touch of agate. Blue Llama Jewelry, another of our HGMS Show dealers, offers a nice selection of faceted stones and jewelry but our interest was drawn to their nice selection of cabochons, attractively priced at 50% off. We each picked out several!

After the show closed, we had a dilemma. We had come in on Highway 71, but that weekend in Austin features a Formula 1 race at a racetrack east of the airport, near highway 130 and 71, which was letting out its traffic. So, we drove through deserted down-

town Austin and wound our way through the city to 290 E. After a stop in Manor at a nice small Thai restaurant for a great meal we drove 290 E home. A long day but a good one. Because of the Formula 1 race, hotel rooms in Austin are highly overpriced and mostly not available.

CRYSTAL LOVE

by Sigrid Stewart

Many times, I have shown someone an interesting mineral specimen and been puzzled when they ask, “what do you do with it?”

Let’s start with my own background – I am a life-long rock and mineral collector. It is something I have always been interested in, since I was a small child grubbing through road gravel for pretty little rocks. My parents just said, oh, she’s going to be a rockhound like her grandmother, and in fact both my grandmother and one of her sisters were rock-hounds. My grandmother collected and gave me specimens from exotic localities. California! Arizona! Mexico! My great aunt had a cool little shop with tumblers and saws and bins of different rocks, and I thought, I’m going to do that someday. Now I am a member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society, which has a great clubhouse and shop where I can enjoy sharing my hobby with other people, and I have a house and yard full of rocks and minerals. I like to look at and handle my displayed rocks and minerals and wonder about the processes that created their present forms or crystal structures.

Others may want to acquire crystals for metaphysical reasons, for their ability to help them gain spiritual and temporal power and clarity of purpose. And love! It is part of New Age philosophy that the proper crystal can aid the seeker in strengthening their visualization and focusing their desires and help them achieve success in their endeavors. You might say that there is a little bit of conflict between the scientific and metaphysical views of the Mineral Kingdom.

If you peruse a book about the metaphysical properties of crystals, the first thing you may notice is that many practitioners seem to refer to all rocks as crystals. Scientists view crystals as the solidification of a liquid solution at some time in the past into a structured form from which they may infer the chemistry of the rock matrix in which the crystal occurs. Minerals form crystals due to their distinct physical and chemical properties and their environment of deposition, which dictates their physical forms, and in total, there are seven crystal forms. Rocks are composed of different minerals mixed together. Some of the rocks called crystals by metaphysical practitioners are stones such as jade or turquoise or lapis lazuli, all combinations of minerals.

Others are not even composed of minerals deposited by the usual processes, but are organic concretions such as amber, which is pine resin subjected to geologic pressure over time, or jet, which is metamorphosed coal, or pearls, created by oysters.



Faden Quartz, Waziristan, Pakistan

If you google crystals, first, of course, you will see ads to buy “crystals”, and then a list of the most popular questions, such as what is the most popular crystal,

what are crystals used for, what are crystals good for in your home, and what crystals should you start with, followed by healing crystals and crystals for love. While this may seem like a new preoccupation, there is a long tradition of using rocks, minerals, crystals, and gemstones to signify power, gain influence, and achieve spiritual insight.

There is archaeological evidence that early modern humans in the Kalahari Desert collected crystals over a hundred thousand years ago. The ancient Egyptians and Sumerians used crystals in magic. There are links in today's metaphysical practices to traditional Chinese medicine and Indian Ayurvedic medicine, astrology, and meditation of many different traditions.

Crystals are thought to have a vibrational energy which can interact with the body's own energy field or ward off negative vibrations in the environment. Stones, crystals and wands are thought to direct one's own psychic energies. Plato wrote that the Atlanteans used crystals to read minds and heal illness.

And of course, crystals are also fashioned into gemstones. Think of the jewelry industry, providing wedding rings and other beautiful emblems of high social status. Gold and jewels have always been symbols of wealth, but there is also a little magic in saying that your love will last as long as the diamond in the ring or that you are valued above rubies.

Many people collect rocks and minerals from the standpoint of their interest in geologic processes, and for their beauty.



Amethyst, Diamond Hill Mine, Abbeville SC



Calcite crystals collected by ancient humans. Photo by Jane Wilkins

I often wonder if some of those people actually do sense the vibrations of crystals and are attracted to them and that is part of why they enjoy examining and handling their specimens and love to see them displayed.

How can you find out if you feel such an attraction?

Attend the 68th Annual Houston Gem Jewelry Mineral and Fossil Show at the Humble Civic Center, to be held November 12th, 13th and 14th! It should be a great show. We have many new dealers and lots of your past favorites.

Bring the kids! There are many educational activities for them, too. There will be rocks, minerals, gems and fossils of all kinds and all price ranges from all over the world. Find out if you are ready to experience crystal love!



*Silver Sheen Obsidian
Sphere with Cast Bronze
Stand*

*Metaphysical properties:
Healing when illness is
due to emotional causes
or grief.*

*Cleansing of energy
blockages and release of
negative energy.*

*Disclaimer: There is no
scientific proof of these
properties.*

Reference: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2273020-people-living-100000-years-ago-spent-time-collecting-crystals/>

YOUR DONATIONS & SALES/AUCTION COMMITTEE (DSAC) AT WORK

BOOK SALE

We've received a very large donation of books. Some have been incorporated into the Library, but the duplicates are for sale. We will bring the book cart out at the October and November General Meetings.

AUCTION

We also held an auction for some quality pre-owned lapidary and jewelry making equipment, featuring slab and trim saws, small flat laps, a 2-drum variable speed Covington grinder, drill press and more. Receiving and processing donations is very labor intensive. Minerals, rocks and lapidary rough must be sorted and evaluated before being offered for sale or auction. Thanks, Michele Marsel, Fred Brueckner, Libby Guynn, Jeanean Slamen

and Neal Immega for your work in handling all these items. In the case of books, the Librarian (Neal Immega) examined every book for potential inclusion in the library before clearing them for sale. Equipment must be cleaned and often repaired. Thanks to Richard Good for his work in rehabbing equipment for the sale - he did a beautiful job.

NEW CLASSES SCHEDULED

Beginning Wire Wrapping will be offered by Joy Lester on Sunday, November 21st at 1 PM, at the clubhouse.

Tree of Life Wire Wrapping will be offered by Joy Lester on Sunday, December 5th at 1 PM, at the clubhouse.

Beginning Wire Wrapping class will be offered by Joy Lester on Sunday, December 12th at 1 PM, at the clubhouse.

Joy Lester will offer wirewrapping classes, and Maggie Manley will offer beading classes at the Show.

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE, OPAL

*Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
Excerpt from article in October 2021 Vol. 55, Issue 10*

Opal is one of two October Birthstones, the other being tourmaline.

While it is not specified what kind of opal, most would pick precious opal. The precious opal has a play of fire in the stone and is normally cut as a cabochon.

Opals are composed of silica (silicon and oxygen), structured as spheroids of silica that are arranged in a hexagonal or cubic lattice structure, with varying amounts of water.

It is the distance between the planes of spheroid lattices that cause the different flashes of colors. The light is being diffracted by the grating between the different planes.

Opals are mineraloids, not minerals, as they do not form with a definitive crystalline structure. Opals exhibit conchoidal fracture and have a waxy luster. The Mohs hardness ranges from 5.5 to 6.0. The color of the light



is determined by the incident angle of the light and the spacing between the planes of the spheroid lattice structure.

References:

Opal, Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Opal, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Picture of Precious Opal from Cooper-Pedy Opal Field, Australia. by James St. John, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2021

by Nancy English

X	President—Sigrid Stewart	x	Beading—Maggie Manley
X	1st Vice President—Steve Blyskal	X	Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace	x	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 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

President Stewart would like each Board Representative to talk to or email their Section members about their plans for the Annual Show. Each Section Head needs to encourage all their members to volunteer, at least for set-up. If they feel like they cannot attend due to COVID-19, ask them to donate something for the Silent Auction.

Approval of Minutes: On September 20, 2021, via email Nancy English moved to approve the attached minutes of the September 7, 2021, Board of Directors meeting. Michele Marsel seconded the motion. A quorum voted to approve the minutes, and the motion passed. Nancy English forwarded the approved minutes to Sigrid Stewart on September 21, 2021, to post in the October 2021 BBG.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michele Marsel sent the Treasurer's Report to members on October 4, 2021. She explained to the Board that the 2021 budget reduced show income and show expenses by the amount paid in 2020. Rodney Linehan, our CPA, asked Michele to adjust the 2021 budget by moving that money into the proper year. Those adjustments will appear on the October month-end reports. Steve Blyskal complimented Michele on how easy the Treasurer's report is to read and follow. In the future, Michele

wants to make budget pages that show revenue-to-expenses for specific areas like Show, Donations, and Shop. President Stewart complimented Michele's work on the budget this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG: Beverly Mace notified members on October 3, 2021, that the online version of the BBG is available on the HGMS Website. A paper copy of the BBG was not mailed this month.

Bylaws: The Board-approved 2021 Bylaws changes were sent to members on September 26, 2021, to allow 30 days for members to review them before the October 26 General Meeting. Nancy English plans to put a reminder in the Sunday eblasts each week to remind members to review the HGMS Bylaw changes and to be prepared to vote on the Bylaws on October 26, 2021.

Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC): Michele Marsel reported that Libby Guynn and Fred Brueckner are preparing for the online equipment auction that is planned for October 23 on the HGMS Website. Libby Guynn sorted 184 books that were donated. Richard Good repaired some of the equipment.

Education Committee: There are no classes scheduled for October. Classes will resume after the show in November. There was a discussion in September about whether a teacher of HGMS classes needs to be a member to be covered by our insurance policy. See Insurance Renewal November 1, 2021, under New Business.

Membership Committee: Beverly Mace reported new members in September: seven adults, one couple, one family, and four youths. New Youth Section members have volunteered to help Beverly at the Youth Area at the Annual Show.
Scholarship Committee: Meeting postponed until October 21, 2021.

Show Committee: September 14 Meeting highlights.
Postcard mailing labels will be applied to thousands of postcards by a small group from the Show Committee on Sunday, October 10, 10:00 a.m. This decision was made to avoid a crowded environment. Beverly Mace will contact Scott Singleton to verify plans.

Publicity Committee met on September 17 to discuss advertising.

Dealer Committee: We have fourteen new dealers for a total of forty-four dealers. This dealer turnover is the largest in years, and it can be attributed to retirements.

Show Education: No public schools had applied as of the date of the Show Committee meeting. Some Home Schoolers have registered. Fewer Scout troops are signing up.
Information Booth: Sarah Metsa, Sigrid Stewart, and Michele Marsel met to look through the silent auction items. Michele gave them items from donations for the auctions. Sigrid and Sarah are considering offering Buy-It-Now items at Info Booth. They are reconfiguring the silent auction protocols to reduce the crowds around the tables.

Grand Door Prize pictures are available. Steve Blyskal said Scott Singleton and Lauren Blyskal have the images. The 1st Grand Door Prize is a large amethyst geode from Uruguay. The 2nd Grand Door Prize is a very large geode from Keokuk, Iowa.

Swap Area: Steve has contacted Swap dealers. He is continuing to look for more dealers who might be interested. Nancy Fischer ordered the Show tickets from Katy Printers. Beverly Mace has the tickets and is now preparing to mail them to members. Michele Marsel reported that the Show Committee has presale tickets available on the HGMS

Website: Eleven tickets have been sold online so far.

Classes for the Show: Joy Lester and Maggie Manley are planning to teach wire wrapping and beading classes at the Show. Advertising for the classes is top priority.

Volunteer Committee report: Nancy English sent news@hgms.org an ad for volunteers to work the Dino Dig. Nancy prepared ads for each volunteer area to post each week in the eblast to encourage volunteers for other areas. Four volunteers signed up the next Monday. Sigrid Stewart suggested that Alex Moore (of the Youth Section) is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). Nancy will email Alex to see if he has contact information for NHS students who need volunteer hours.

The Gemstone Identification area will be run by the Gemstone and Faceting Section during the Show.

Website Committee: Web Committee will meet on October 6, 2021.

SECTION REPORTS

Beading Section: In-person meeting the third Saturday, 12:30p.m., October 16, 2021. The Beaders will finish the beaded tassel project. They may start a spider project.

Day Light Section: In-person meeting the first Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., October 6, 2021: Neal Immega will teach how to solder a double-sided mounting that shows both sides of a polished cabochon.

Day Light Section November 3: We will be making Christmas Decorations using colored agates and the skills we learned from the silver soldering class. Participants will also be allowed to use the beads in our closet and make earrings for holiday gifts. The cost for this session is \$5.00.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: Zoom meeting the second Wednesday, 7:00, p.m., October 13, 2021, Beryl is the featured stone for the Annual Show this year, so the participants will be looking at the beryl family of gemstones. Randy Carlson will be showing faceters how to hook up an electric meter to a faceting machine. This meter helps to improve accuracy for those who are cutting without digital faceting devices.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: In-person meeting the third Monday, 7:30 p.m., October 18, 2021. Phyllis George reported that she is resigning as the Lapidary Board representative.

Members will continue to work on three ongoing projects:

- Petrified Wood Beads—The first group of beads has started its run through the Bead Mill. Tony has more material for anyone who wants to prepare more beads.
- Silver Cuff Bracelet with Cabochon (see photos/materials at hgms.org/events)
- Silver Money Clip with Cabochon (materials list coming soon.)

During the September Lapidary meeting, Mary Ann Mitscherling asked Lapidarists to sign up for the Show Demonstration Area.

Mineral Section: Zoom meeting the third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., October 20, 2021: Tricia Rittaler reported that Marty Rothenberg will present a program on Zeolites from New Jersey.

The Mineral Section's September speaker, Stephen Steinke, was excellent. Steve Blyskal is recruiting him to present his Zoom program to a General Meeting in the future. The new mineral museum at the University of Arizona— the Alfie Norville Museum— is fascinating to learn about.

Tricia will continue to be the Mineral Section Representative through the December BOD meeting. She is moving to Winnipeg in November for a new job. The Board thanked Tricia for working with us this year. We have enjoyed having her as a representative.

Paleo Section: meets the third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., October 19, 2021: The Paleo Section meeting scheduled for October 19 is postponed until the General Meeting on October 26. Paleo is supplying the speaker. Dr. Spaw will be doing a Zoom presentation on Trace Fossils.

Mike Dawkins, Paleo Representative, was the featured member in the October BBG. Neal has asked Mike to teach free, one-on-one classes in the Air Abrasive room about basic prep skills of fossils. There is also an Air Scribe for heavier work. He will recruit new members to get them interested in Paleo.

Youth Section: In-person meetings the first and third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, October 16, 2021. and November 6, 2021. The Section has a small group of enthusiastic kids who are excited about the Show. November 6 is the last day to turn in Show competition cabochons. Beverly Mace is looking for volunteers to help man the Youth Section booth at our Show on November 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Archaeology Section: Dormant

OLD BUSINESS

Building Cleaning: Maggie Manley has spoken to two companies, but they have not seen the Club yet. So, there are no quotes yet. Maggie verified that the BOD wants the cleaning to happen once a month before the General Meeting. The Board wants them to clean the floors in the public areas including the garage, but not the shops. Clean the bathrooms and the kitchen. In the beginning, clean the oven and refrigerator. Plan to shampoo the carpet annually, and spot clean it as needed. Dust all areas except the shops.

Display cases: Sigrid Stewart reported that the latest estimate on Show Display Cases was too expensive. She is meeting one more person on October 13, for another bid. There is no plan to move forward until after the Show.

Dunn Southwest: Nancy English reported that the DSW Board has decided to change the exterior building color to gray. They will award the contract on Friday, October 8. They will send the assessments out sometime this month pending their decision. They have decided to provide a six (6) month window to collect the assessment and the job will commence sometime in April 2022. We will pay the assessment after we approve the expenditure in the 2022 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Holiday Dinner December 11, 2021, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. HGMS will provide the meat main dishes and beverages- (BYOB). Members are asked to bring potluck side dishes and desserts. As always, we need volunteers to set up the serving area and the dining area. Volunteers are also needed to clean up afterwards and reset the Sanctuary for services Sunday morning.

Insurance Renewal November 1, 2021: Michele Marsel, Sarah Metsa, and Nancy English have been working with Pathfinder (our insurance broker) to clarify coverages on our Hanover insurance policy and to adjust the coverage as needed ahead of the November 1 renewal date.

Equipment Coverage: The inventory list is due to Hanover on October 11. Michele Marsel reported that the equipment in our shops is considered commercial equipment valued at \$75,000 to replace, but it is currently only insured for a maximum of \$5,000. Neal Immega and Fred Brueckner are inventorying the equipment to be scheduled correctly on the policy. Randy Carlson will provide serial numbers for the faceting machines and photograph them this week. The fluorescent lights for the fluorescent booth at the Show are stored off-site and they will need to be added to the schedule. Steve Blyskal will provide that information.

We are asking Hanover to quote the updated scheduled equipment for replacement cost instead of depreciated value. This will raise the rates, but since all of our equipment is donated, it would be a major hardship to replace it if we had a major loss.

Show Insurance Coverage: The Show Chairman provided Humble Civic Center with the Certificate of Coverage they needed.

Field Trips: The Hanover policy does not cover anything about our field trips. That coverage comes from the SCFMS policy. We are waiting on SCFMS to provide us with those policy details.

Member Coverage: There is no member/non-member distinction in our coverage. Anyone on the property is covered. Non-member instructors are covered. There may be a limit for them.

Renewal: We will not have the updated policy/invoice until the end of October. The Board will receive notification of the new policy amount via email with a brief explanation of what changed and why it changed. This is a budgeted expense, approved in February 2021. There will not be enough time to get competitive quotes before the November 1, renewal date. We can continue to work with our broker to find a different company before the 2022 renewal date if we are dissatisfied. We are still paying significantly less than we were paying with Liberty Mutual.

The Team: Nancy English pointed out that Sarah Metsa brought her compliance specialist expertise and Michele Marsel lent her project management skills to this undertaking. They have done an outstanding job of compiling the questions and issues that needed to be addressed.

Printed BBGs: Michele Marsel and Beverly Mace prepared a spreadsheet about

the mailing expenses for the BBG. Nancy English sent all the Board members the spreadsheet to review and be prepared to discuss whether to permanently eliminate the printed BBGs.

President Stewart suggested soliciting member input at a General Meeting. It was pointed out that the BBG is not being mailed now and there have not been any complaints. Suggestions could be encouraged for what members would like to see in an online-only publication. Michele suggested that if we want to continue mailing the BBG to the small group of members who still want a physical copy, it could be treated as an additional \$30.00 membership add-on per year to the members who want- it. However, mailing the BBG 1st Class would be labor-intensive and expensive. HGMS does not have the manpower to perform the extra work of stuffing, addressing envelopes, and adding postage manually. Nancy English said HGMS pays \$4,000 per year just to mail the BBG. That savings could be used for more scholarships, more shop equipment, or any number of projects.

Sigrid Stewart, the BBG editor, told us that if we eliminated the hard copy BBG we would be less restricted in our design and format of the online publication. We could have live links and videos. Michele reminded us that the online newsletter can also be submitted for the AMFS and SCFMS contests. Michele suggested an article in the BBG explaining why the newsletter is no longer mailed. Many other Gem and Mineral Societies only provide online newsletters. President Stewart prefers that the BOD wait to vote on this issue until it is presented at the General Meeting.

The next Board of Directors Zoom meeting will be the first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. November 2, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting will be the fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., October 26, 2021. Dr. Joan Spaw will present "Tracks and Trails and Scat, Oh My! How trace fossils add to our understanding of life in the past." Joan has a distinguished academic and professional career. She earned her undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College and her master's degree and Ph. D. from Rice University. In her professional career, she worked for and consulted with major oil companies as well as Core Laboratories. She was considered a subject matter expert in carbonate mudstone, and siliciclastic petrology at Marathon Oil Company. Joan will present her program via Zoom. Steve Blyskal and Neal Immegea will bring trace fossil samples.

Masks are required at the General Meeting because of the size of the crowd.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn. Randy Carlson seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2021
by Nancy English

President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She welcomed twenty-eight members to the meeting. Two new members were there, Marlie Hopper and Michael Treves. Before the General Meeting Mike Dawkins of the Paleo Section taught Michael

Treves how to use the air abrasive and air scribe equipment. Dawkins will continue to teach free classes on how to use this paleo equipment.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The Board of Directors is asking for everyone to wear masks at our General Meetings whether or not they are vaccinated.

President Stewart prefaced the meeting by saying that the program presenter, Dr. Joan Spaw, is scheduled to join the meeting via Zoom at 8:00. The business meeting will be suspended at 7:50 for a short break. The program will follow, and the meeting will resume afterwards.

The Silent Auction has been open since 7:00 p.m. Bidders will get to bid again during the break. Final bids will be collected after the break and be paid for after the meeting is over. Members may also shop the HGMS Book Sale during the break and after the meeting.

Longtime member Dr. Natalie Brandes has written a new book *New Mexico Rocks!* The photographs were done by her husband, former HGMS President Paul Brandes. To discover geologic treasures in the Land of Enchantment, all that is required is a good map, a sense of adventure, and *New Mexico Rocks*, a guide to 60 of the state's most compelling geologic sites. More than any other state except Hawaii, New Mexico was shaped by volcanic eruptions, from supervolcano calderas to young basalt flows and cinder cones.

Approval of Minutes: Sharon Halton moved to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021, General Meeting as published in the most October 2021 BBG. Phyllis George seconded the motion and it passed.

COMMITTEE/SECTION REPORTS

Please look for reports of future Section meetings and programs in the BBG calendar, on the Website <https://hgms.org/events>, 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, using the Subject Line: "New Member to be added." President Stewart invited Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC): Michele Marsel reported on the equipment auction on Saturday 23, 2021 and mentioned the new HGMS Book Sale. A large donation of books is available at low, buy it now prices. They can be viewed and bought during General Meetings and Open Shop times. Credit card payment can be accepted during General Meetings and at Sunday Open Shop only – cash or check at other times.

Nominating Committee (Sharon Halton and Fred Brueckner): Sharon Halton introduced the proposed slate of HGMS officers for 2022: President, Nancy English; 1st Vice President (Programs), Sarah Metsa; 2nd Vice President (Membership), Beverly Mace; and Treasurer, Michele Marsel. Sharon reminded the members that we still need a candidate for Secretary. She told them how important it is to volunteer to be part of the administration of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society. Contact President@hgms.org to

volunteer to become Secretary. Nominations can be made from the floor at the November General Meeting. Adult members will vote to approve the 2022 Slate of Officers at the November General Meeting.

Show Committee: Reminder: The Clubhouse will be CLOSED during the 68th Annual Show, November 11, 12, 13, 14. The Shop Supervisors will all be volunteering at the Show. Nancy English listed the areas that need volunteers at the Show. Mary Ann Mitscherling asked for volunteers to demonstrate lapidary skills at the Show.

Beverly Mace explained the process of identifying the supplies for the Section booths at the Show. The movers will load them on Wednesday afternoon. The movers and volunteers will unload the trucks for Set up on Thursday November 11. Volunteers will help pack up the HGMS booths for Tear down after 5:00 p.m. on Sunday on November 14. Movers will load the truck, drive to the HGMS Clubhouse and unload the truck with volunteers to put it away.

Beverly Mace thanked Clyde McMeans, Scott Singleton, Elsa Kapitan-White, Rick Rexroad, Nancy & Tom English, and Maggie Manley who helped with labeling the show postcards on Oct 10. EXTRA thanks to Clyde for helping Beverly get the tables set up. Everyone did a great job! Postcards were mailed October 15, 2021.

Steve Blyskal reported the Swap area and Youth area will be able to set-up in the atrium after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. The Dino Dig and Computer Recycle area will be able to set up in the dock area after Dealer Check in and unloading, about 3:00 p.m. There are fourteen new dealers this year.

Web Site Committee: The committee is still adding Show material to HGMS.org. New posts are going 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.

Mailing the BBG: Michele Marsel presented the BOD a spreadsheet to demonstrate what it costs us to mail printed BBG copies by bulk mail and 1st class mail. The Board is reviewing this information and the potential for cost savings as well as the extra work required for 1st class mailing. It costs \$4,000 per year to print and bulk mail the BBG. Since the demand for mailed copies fell below the bulk mail requirement in July, we have not mailed them. The BOD wanted the opinion of the general membership about continuing to send paper copies, so President Stewart brought it up to the General Meeting members present. If we abandon the print and mail format and only use the digital online format, we could have a more fluid and elaborate publication. None of the members present offered comments or asked questions.

Vote on Bylaws: The Board voted to approve the updated HGMS Bylaws on September 7, 2021. As the current Bylaws direct, the new version was sent to all members on September 26 to provide thirty days for members to review the changes before the October 26, 2021, General Meeting. Sigrid Stewart moved to approve the updated HGMS Bylaws. Phyllis George seconded the motion and it passed. The updated Bylaws are

available to view from the HGMS website "About" page.

Shop News: Mary Ann Mitscherling had the Shop open from 5:00 to 7:15 for members.

PROGRAM: President Sigrid Stewart suspended the business meeting for the break at 7:50 p.m. Sigrid, Mike Cox, and Joy Lester provided the refreshments. Members were asked to "Feed the Kitty."

1st Vice President Blyskal introduced the Program: Dr. Joan Spaw presented "Tracks and Trails and Scat, Oh My! How trace fossils add to our understanding of life in the past." Joan has a distinguished academic and professional career. She earned her undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College and her master's degree and Ph. D. from Rice University. In her professional career, she worked for and consulted with major oil companies as well as Core Laboratories. She was considered a subject matter expert in carbonate mudstone, and siliciclastic petrology at Marathon Oil Company. She is retired and currently a Docent at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Issues: Neal Immega will have all the Clubhouse fire extinguishers serviced and certified during November and December. He will also add smoke and CO2 detectors in appropriate areas. Neal Immega and Michele Marsel are also researching new lights for the outside of the building.

Show-n-Tell: Steve Blyskal and Neal Immega showed trace fossil samples. Steve and Sigrid brought finds from their recent camping trip and rockhunt at the Kokernot O6 Ranch near Alpine, Texas. Please contact Sigrid Stewart if you are interested in a club trip this spring.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., November 2, 2021, via zoom.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. November 23, 2021. Steve Steinke will reprise a presentation given to the Mineral Section on the new Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson. Steve was able to tour the museum on the second day they began giving tours. His brother, who works at the University of Arizona Geology department, made arrangements for the tour. The museum has a tremendous collection of Arizona and Mexico minerals, along with multiple sections covering origins of the Earth, world minerals, and gems and jewelry.

Drawing for Door Prize: Steve Blyskal, Ray Hooks, and Rick Moderna each won a framed sandstone picture. Silent auction winners were reminded to pay for their Silent Auction items.

Adjourn: James Wark moved to adjourn the meeting. John Mitscherling seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 BOD 7:30-9:30	3 SHOP 10-3 DAY LIGHT 1:00-3:00	4 SHOP 9-3	5	6 YOUTH 10-12 SHOP 10-3
7 SHOP 10-3	8	9	10 SHOP 10-3 SHOW LOAD UP AT CLUB	11 SHOP 9-3 SHOW SET-UP	12 ANNUAL SHOW 9-6	13 ANNUAL SHOW 9-6
14 ANNUAL SHOW 10-5	15 LAPIDARY 7:30-9:30	16 PALEO 7:30-9:30	17 SHOP 10-3 MINERAL 7:30-9:30	18 SHOP 9-3	19	20 YOUTH 10-12 SHOP 10-3 BEADING 12:30-3:30
21 SHOP 10-3	22	23 GENERAL MEETING 7:30-9:30	24 SHOP 10-3	25 NO SHOP Thanks- giving	26	27 SHOP 10-3
28 SHOP 10-3	29	30				

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SHOP 10-3 DAY LIGHT 1:00-3:00	2 SHOP 10-3	2	4 YOUTH 10-12 SHOP 10-3
5 SHOP 10-3	6	7 BOD 7:30-9:30	8 SHOP 10-3	9 SHOP 9-3	10	11 SHOP 10-3 CHRISTMAS PARTY
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	21	22 SHOP 10-3	23 SHOP 9-3	24	25 NO SHOP TODAY CHRISTMAS
26 SHOP 10-3	27	28 NO GENERAL MEETING	27 SHOP 10-3	29 SHOP 9-3	30	31

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE

HGMS | HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



SCFMS Bulletin Awards

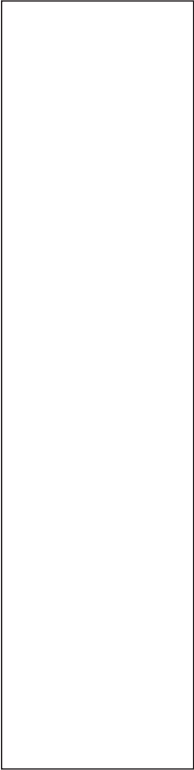
- 1998 - 1st (Large)
- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005-2019 -1st (Large)
- 2020 - 3rd (Large)

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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