

# THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



## FEATURED MEMBERS: THE SHOW COMMITTEE

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### BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

*Articles are due on the 15th day of the month before the date on the BBG issue.*

*Copy is due for the next issue by the 15th of this month. Email content to [editor@hgms.org](mailto:editor@hgms.org)*



*The*

# BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE



*The Newsletter of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Sigrid Stewart*

If you were among the faithful who attended the last General Meeting, you have already heard the news: we had a great show! Attendance may not have hit a record, but it was good. Most of the dealers said they were very pleased with the show. And the public looked happy to be there and ready to look over the dealers' offerings!

There were differences from past shows, of course, the most obvious being the number of masks on faces. There were far fewer displays, no Fluorescent Exhibit, and fewer demos, but more classes. There were many new dealers. The Mineral and Paleo Booths did well, and kids sought out the Youth Section, Computer Demolition (Recycling!) and Dino Dig. Scott Singleton gave a more complete report at the General Meeting on November 23rd.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve our club as President these past three years. It has been a privilege! The last three years have been really interesting, to say the least. I hope to see many of you at our annual Christmas Party on December 11th. Details will be coming with the eBlast this week. The Club will furnish the meat and drinks; members bring side dishes, dessert and wine or beer. Volunteers needed for set up!



Next month, our incoming President Nancy English will have entertaining observations and new pearls of wisdom for you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone!

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Steve Blyskal*

There is no program this month as our Christmas Party replaces our December General Meeting.

It has been a long year since I stepped up from my Board position to take over the 1st Vice President position after Michele Marsel took over the Treasurer position when it became vacant. As 1st Vice-President it was my job to provide talks for the General Meeting. We started out the year with Zoom meetings and I was able to get several speakers to call in and give presentations, including members Deidre Prince and Burton Dworsky and well-known geologist and mineral collector Peter Megaw. I even gave my own presentation via Zoom on our trip to the Kokernot o6 Ranch near Alpine, and then reprised and expanded that talk for a live meeting in July. We re-opened the clubhouse this summer and started live meetings again. This fall we have tried, with partial success, to host hybrid Zoom meetings along with the live meetings. I am sure we will have the details worked out soon!

Please think about subjects that interest you and be ready to suggest talks for our incoming 1st Vice President, Sarah Metsa. And if you can give one, so much the better!

## **UPCOMING SHOWS**

Fredericksburg Rockhounds, 51st Annual Show January 15-16, 2021, Saturday 9:00 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 4:00 PM. Free! Lady Bird Johnson Park, Fredericksburg, TX

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, January 21-23, Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. \$5.00 admission. Tyler Rose Garden Center, Tyler, TX

## **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 will have a Christmas Party December 19th from 2:00 - 6:00 PM.

### **BEADING SECTION**

For the November meeting, six members made the field trip to Beadoholique Bead Shop to shop to their hearts delight and to take a leather wrap bracelet class. Afterwards some went to lunch and the Chantal Cookware warehouse sale.

On December 18, 2021: Members will learn how to make three different designs of earrings. Joy Lester will teach Hanukkah designed earrings, Gretchen will focus on Christmas earrings, and Maggie will teach regular earring making.

## **DAY LIGHT SECTION**

Day Light meets December 1st for their Christmas Party and business meeting. Please join us next year!

## **LAPIDARY AND SILVERSMITHING SECTION**

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**

Youth is having their Christmas party at the regular meeting time on the 1st Saturday of the month. The second meeting of the month will be cancelled due to the holidays. See you next year!

## **PALEO SECTION**

The December meeting is canceled because of the holidays. Paleo is not planning a Christmas party at this time; they are different. They like to have Christmas in July.

## **NEWS FROM NEAL**

We have received a donation of a big slab saw. I will let you know more details when Richard Good gets into it. Many thanks to Ray Hooks for providing an easy way to transport the saw.

Trim Saw - I have hauled home part of a trim saw for recoating. There are now two trim saws down for repairs. Now that the show is over, I can get more work done on these.

## **CHANGES COMING TO THE BBG**

The Board has been considering the drop in the overall numbers of people requesting a printed copy for some time, and in fact the number has fallen below that needed for bulk mail. Like many organizations, we have decided that our newsletter will become an online-only publication. This means that our format can become more flexible. If you have suggestions, please drop a line to [editor@hgms.org](mailto:editor@hgms.org). And watch this space for changes!

## FEATURED MEMBERS: THE SHOW COMMITTEE

*by Sigrid Stewart*

That cover photo does NOT tell the story! That is a picture taken after a long day of hard work setting up the show on Thursday, November 11th. After taking that photo, I posted it to Facebook to let our fans know that the Show would start on Friday morning.



3 days.  
46 Dealers.  
Hundreds of tables.  
2 Grand Prizes.  
Publicity.  
School kids and  
Scouts.  
Demos and Dino  
Dig.  
Swap Area.  
Info Booth.

All at the Humble  
Civic Center.

What does it take to  
pull this Show off?

Look for more photos at <https://hgms.org/2021-show-pictures/>

A lot of work by your Show Committee! The committee is led by **Scott Singleton** who has been Show Chairman for several years now. The other members of the committee have worked together for years, but we would welcome new members! We had a great show this year and I would like to recognize all the hard work your committee members have put in.

Show Chairman: **Scott Singleton**

Assistant Show Chairs: **Clyde McMeans** and **Sigrid Stewart**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Nancy English**

Dealer Committee: **Steve Blyskal** and **Scott Singleton**

Security: **Rick Rexroad** (HGMS members) and **Clyde McMeans** (logistics)

Publicity: **Scott Singleton**, **Sarah Metsa**, **Sigrid Stewart**, **Steve Blyskal**

School Daze and Scouts: **Elsa Kapitan-White** and **Scott Singleton**

Information Booth: **Sarah Metsa** and **Sigrid Stewart**

Tickets: **Nancy Fischer**

Hospitality: **Gary** and **Cliff Hildbold**

Youth: **Beverly Mace** and **Elizabeth Guynn**

Swap Area: **Steve Blyskal**

Classes: **Maggie Manley**

Dino Dig: **Tom English** and **Mike Clark**

Of course, the Show Committee had a lot of help. Special thanks to the Boss of Load-Up and Postcards, **Beverly Mace**, to Building and Shop Manager **Neal Immega**, and our Treasurer, **Michele Marsel**, for handling cash needs and PayPal transactions. And a very special thanks to our MANY volunteers!



# ROCK STORY

*a poem by Sigrid Stewart*

Inside every rock is a story of how it came to be  
And on the outside is another, of its journey to the sea  
For everything was born to die, to be made and then undone  
To serve as the stuff of making, because creation isn't done

When you stand on the top of a mountain, look around and you will see  
The mountains wear a skirt of rocks eroded from the peaks  
Ice and snow and the rain that falls carry them to merry streams  
Ever smoother as they tumble into sand for the waiting seas

Sand forms rocks deep underground that rise as mountains high  
Until the waters wear them down again and bare their roots unto the sky  
The heat of the sun and the cold of night, and the grinding of the ice  
Combine to carve this land we see into an earthly paradise

Life does her part, for She has learned some cunning tricks  
Silica and calcium build shells and bones like bricks  
When her creatures die the hard parts pass into the deeps  
Pressure will form limestone while Mother Earth sleeps

Heat from our planet's burning heart drives currents through the earth  
Magma rises from below and to volcanos it gives birth  
The sea floor spreads from giant faults, carries islands on its back  
Then dives beneath the continents on an ever-moving track

Mountain ranges rise and fall, mighty oceans form and close  
New lands are born and waste away or fall to nature's blows  
Ephemeral are we who live upon the surface of this earth  
Everything that falls repeats itself and will surely find new birth

This poem is also a song to be recorded.

## **SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETY MESSAGE**

*by Jerrold Simpson, President*

Well, we had a great SCFMS Annual meeting, and it was good to be in Lubbock again for their show. Lubbock always has a good show and we East Texans get to see some dealers we normally don't see at other shows.

Big thanks to the Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society for their generous contribution to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

The AFMS President, Judy Beck, donated a beautiful ring to the SCFMS for auction. The ring brought \$100.00 which will go to the SCFMS general fund.

While attending the Austin Gem & Mineral show, one of their members mentioned it might be a good idea for each club in the federation to sponsor a field trip and invite other clubs

to attend. So, if Austin sponsored a trip, members from all over the Federation would be invited. That would allow for members from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas to attend. Sounds like a good idea. I have never had the chance to collect in either Arkansas or Louisiana and I am sure there are others who have not either. It would also be a chance for members from different regions of the Federation to get better acquainted.

It was also mentioned that perhaps each region could sponsor a regional field trip and invite other regions. This idea might be easier to coordinate because it could be done through the regional Vice-President. Let me know what you think about this idea. Contact me through the Federation email address for the president or [jsimpson-claims@live.com](mailto:jsimpson-claims@live.com).



*Jerrold Simpson, SCFMS President*



Not all rocks are collectible! Sometimes, you just need to see some beautiful rocks in their original location. This is a photograph by Breck Kent of the Grand Canyon.

You can see Breck's Photo of Day by going to his personal Facebook page.

He is a former teacher and professional landscape and wildlife photographer.

He is also a mineral collector

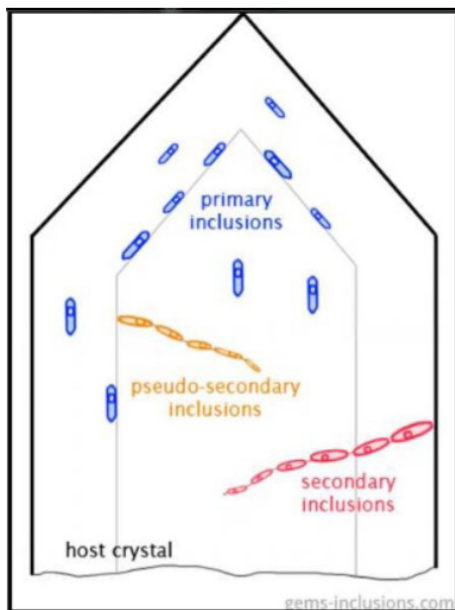


Dr. Joshua Field completed his doctorate in geology in 2017 and has been sharing his knowledge and expertise both in academia and industry. His presentation to MSDC drew on his analytic work with inclusions. They are the “little accidents” that often occur when solid crystals precipitate out of a fluid during or after the formation of the crystal. The “happy” aspect of those trapped fluid inclusions is they allow researchers to discover aspects of the environment in which the crystals were formed and sometimes provide hints as to how the crystal developed over time. “Because most mineral collectors are not familiar with the analysis of fluid inclusions,” Joshua said, his talk would “be going over the basics of fluid inclusion” which he did with clarity and in three parts as listed below: the basics, the science, and showing examples of inclusions in minerals and research with inclusions.

## PART ONE: THE BASICS OF INCLUSIONS

Simply put, crystals are formed by precipitating out of fluids. But sometimes, the process is not perfect and a bit of the original fluid does not crystallize and instead becomes trapped as fluid or vapor which is engulfed within the growing crystal. At other times, a small part of the crystal melts and becomes a liquid trapped within the crystal. But that happenstance will not be addressed in this program. Joshua showed a short video illustrating the imperfect ways in which crystals form. It showed a halite crystal, parts of which grew in different directions and rates. It also had some pressure and fluid’s chemical composition at the time of the crystal formation. What they can not tell us, however, is the exact time when the crystals were formed.

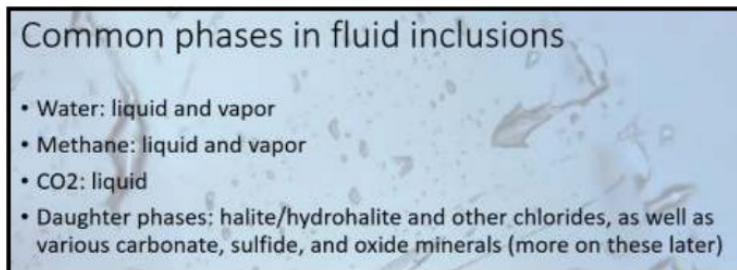
## PART TWO: THE SCIENCE OF INCLUSIONS



The bulk of Joshua’s presentation focused on the specific types of inclusions found in crystals and what information researchers can discover about the context of the inclusions’ formation. He emphasized that the value of the analysis comes from the information gathered from a cluster of crystals, a population, rather than from findings pertaining to an individual crystal. That being said, based on how the inclusions were formed, there are three types of inclusions described and illustrated below.

1. The primary inclusions form along the growth zones of the crystal.
2. The secondary inclusions happen after the crystal growth has been completed. They do not form along the crystal’s growth zones but rather along a plane which cuts across the growth zones.
3. The third type of inclusions, “pseudo-secondary inclusions,” form when there has been a hiatus in the crystal growth or there

has been a fracture in the crystal and fluid seeps into that fracture and is captured inside. Also, this third type of inclusion always terminates at a growth zone boundary and never ends at the outside edge of the host crystal. Joshua said that inclusions become particularly interesting when researchers determine the content of the inclusions which can change over time. He noted fluid inclusions have four typical forms of content or phases listed below.



Mineral collectors are curious about how researchers can learn about the environment in which the minerals and inclusions formed once they identify the content of the fluid inclusion.

One method is for researchers to heat up and cool down the crystals and inclusions and watch any changes that occur. By determining the temperature at which the inclusion melts, that helps identify the pressure at the time the inclusion was trapped.

Joshua said that for the MSDC presentation, he preferred to avoid describing the complicated analytic method. He thought it sufficed to say that researchers use previously calculated temperature vs. pressure and temperature vs. NaCl weight charts, derived from earlier studies, to gain valuable information as to the environment in which the researchers' inclusions were formed. "The reason we care about any of this this is that getting the salinity and homogenization temperature can point you in the direction of what type of deposit you are looking at." As examples, he cited deposits of volcanogenic massive sulfide: epithermal, intrusion-related base metal, porphyry copper, Mississippi Valley-Type, and skarn.

### **PART THREE: EXAMPLES AND RESEARCH**

The final part of Joshua's presentation gave some examples of how inclusion research makes a difference. As an example, he drew from his doctoral dissertation which worked on analyzing samples of trace inclusions within sphalerite crystals in selected regions of the continental U.S. Joshua asked why, for example, despite finding gram-size quantities prevalent throughout the Upper Mississippi Valley, in only a few locations did the zinc-lead deposits amount to millions of tons.

In the photo on the next page, showing one of the Mississippi Valley rock formation sites which Joshua explored, he found a tiny sample of sphalerite on limestone identified within the blue circle in the photo. Joshua wanted to know, given all relevant contributing elements being equal, such as abundant conduits for fluid flow, what factors were associated with the respective formation of large or tiny quantities of zinc deposits.

Briefly stated, Joshua used analysis of the fluid inclusions of his samples, their primary, secondary and pseudo-secondary types of inclusions, along with high-tech instruments noted in the above slide as "Methods," to help explain the genesis of the very large and tiny zinc deposits.



When Joshua analyzed measurements from over 250 inclusions, he found that the amount of zinc metal in the fluid was not associated with variations in the size of the deposits, whether tiny or huge, found at their respective sites. Rather, it was the presence of reduced sulfur and methane that was associated with the massive deposits of zinc. He noted that there are several ways of assessing the diverse sites to predict the extent of their metal ore deposits. Analysis of their fluid inclusions, however, was the focus for his dissertation research.

### Trace occurrences of Mississippi Valley-Type Pb-Zn mineralization

Why did MVT mineralization occur frequently, but only grow to millions of tons of Zn and Pb in few locations? What factors control the formation of MVT deposits?

Methods:

- Sphalerite-hosted fluid inclusions from trace MVT mineralization
- Instrumental analyses
  - Microthermometry
  - Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS)
  - Raman spectroscopy

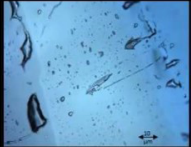


100 km

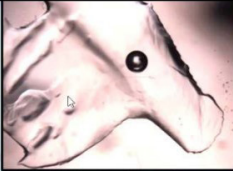
**Examples of Fluid Inclusions:** Joshua concluded his presentation by showing examples of the fluid inclusions with which he worked. He used laser analysis to determine which metals were trapped within the specimen. He found that in 60% to 70% of the massive deposits of zinc or lead metal, it was the presence of sulfur or reduced sulfur in the fluid inclusions which was associated with massive metal deposits, not the amount of zinc contained in the fluid inclusions.

As an example of other research with inclusions, Joshua shared a study which he found particularly interesting, relating to the current explorations of extremophile microorganisms. The researchers examined algae which they found to have been trapped within halite crystals for about 35,000 years. When the fluid inclusions containing the algae were removed from their crystals and nurtured, a number of the samples were found to be viable, akin to Jurassic Park.


Joshua also shared a number of inclusion specimens from his personal collection, shown below. He pointed out the peculiarities he found most interesting in each.




Tourmaline crystal from Barra de Salinas, Brazil (personal collection)




Macro-scale fluid inclusion in quartz from New Mexico (personal collection)



Population of fluid inclusions in sphalerite from Iowa (personal collection)



Complex inclusion in spodumene from Laghman, Afghanistan (personal collection)



Population of fluid inclusions in calcite from Missouri (personal collection)

His favorite specimen, shown left, is a beautiful translucent spodumene he obtained from Pakistan. He pointed out a tiny bubble trapped in fluid at the top center, and the inclusion bubble clearly

moved as he tilted the mineral from side to side. For Joshua, these specimens combine his love of geology and impactful videos.

## HEMIMORPHITE – CRYSTALS OR BLUE CLOUDS

*Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas*

*November 2021 Chips and Chatter*

Hemimorphite is a zinc-based mineral,  $\text{Zn}_4\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , a zinc sorosilicate. A sorosilicate consists of a double tetrahedron sharing a common oxygen atom vertex, see illustration to the right. It gets its name as the crystal terminations are dissimilar. In addition to crystals, it also forms in massive formations, often globular masses, and finely shaped needle formations. Hemimorphite is over 50% zinc by weight and is primarily an ore for zinc. It is also sought by mineral collectors, both for its crystalline shape and the globular form that looks like a blue cloud.

Hemimorphite and Smithsonite were once thought to be the same mineral called Calamine. Both are zinc-based minerals and are similar in appearance and have many similar physical properties (hardness, streak, etc. James Smithson identified that there were two distinct minerals in calamine in 1803. James Smithson was a prominent geologist and provided the funding for the US national museum that was named for him, the Smithsonian Institution.

Reference:

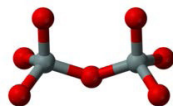
- Hemimorphite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemimorphite>
- Hemimorphite, Minerals.net, <https://www.minerals.net/Hemimorphite.aspx>

Pictures:

- Tetrahedral diagram, Wikimedia, picture by Genjah-bmm27, released into the public domain
- Hemimorphite specimen, picture by Don Shurtz of a specimen on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science



*Hemimorphite*



*Tetrahedral diagram of structure of Hemimorphite*

## SMITHSONITE

*By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
December 2021 Chips and Chatter*

Last month we addressed Hemimorphite. This month we will look at Smithsonite, a mineral that is often confused with Hemimorphite. Up until the early 1800s, Smithsonite and Hemimorphite were thought to be the same mineral. That mineral was called Calamine.

In 1802, James Smithson, a prominent British chemist and mineralogist, determined that calamine consisted of two distinct zinc-based minerals. In 1832, Francois Sulpice Beudant, a French mineralogist and geologist, named Zinc Carbonate ( $\text{ZnCO}_3$ ), one of the two minerals in calamine, as Smithsonite in honor of James Smithson.

Smithsonite has a Mohs hardness of 4.5, a white streak, and a specific gravity of 4.4 to 4.5. It is found in a variety of colors including white, green, blue, purple, pink, and yellow. It belongs to the trigonal crystal system, but rarely forms crystals. Smithsonite is generally found as a botryoidal massive formation. Smithsonite's primary use is as a Zinc ore.

James Smithson was a British chemist and mineralogist. He was never married and had no children. His will specified his estate was to pass to his nephew.

However, his will provided that if his nephew were to pass without heirs, his estate was to be given to the United States with the stipulation the estate was to be used "to found in Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men".

Upon Smithson's death, his estate did pass to his nephew, but the nephew died six years later without heirs. The estate was thus used as the seed money to build the Smithsonian Institution into the Museum system it is today.



*Smithsonite*

### References:

- Geosciences and Geological and Petroleum Engineering, <https://ggpe.mst.edu/mineral-collection/>
- Minerals.Net, Smithsonite, <https://www.minerals.net/>
- Wikipedia, Smithsonite, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



## HEMIMORPHITE VERSUS SMITHSONITE



Why was it that Smithsonite and Hemimorphite were thought to be the same mineral that was named Calamine?

Let's start with a visual comparison:

I think it is safe to say that they look similar. If you look at the shade of blue on the left of the Smithsonite, it definitely looks like the Hemimorphite. Both are botryoidal. You may just have to take my word for it, but the size of the botryoidal balls (grapes – botryoidal means bunch of grapes) are similar.

Chemically, both Smithsonite and Hemimorphite are zinc-based minerals. Smithsonite is a zinc carbonate, while hemimorphite is a zinc silicate. You would think that would be an easy difference to be identified but remember that they were thought to be the same mineral until 1802. Science didn't have a lot of tools back then. Both Smithsonite and Hemimorphite have "uneven fracture". Both have a "brittle" tenacity. Both have a "white" streak. They compare favorably on the Mohs hardness scale; Smithsonite's hardness is 4.5 while Hemimorphite is the same to a little harder (4.5 to 5.0). Smithsonite is translucent while Hemimorphite is translucent to transparent.

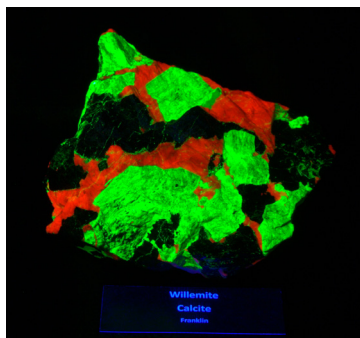
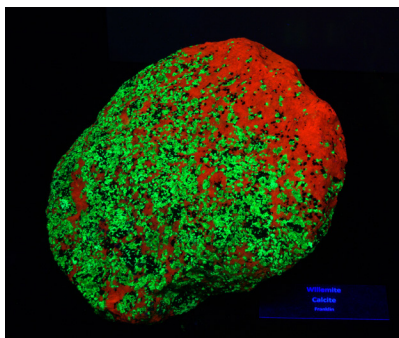
That is a lot of similarities. However, one of the biggest differences is the specific gravity. Smithsonite is denser having a specific gravity of 4.4 to 4.5 while Hemimorphite's specific gravity is 3.516 - 3.525. You would think that you could tell the difference by just lifting pieces of the same size, but it would be easy with a balance scale, some string, and a cup filled with water.



**HGMS CHRISTMAS PARTY!  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 11  
STARTING AT 6:30  
FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD,  
AND A LIVE AUCTION**



## IT WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT... CHRISTMAS ROCK!



Christmas Rock is a popular name for a combination of Willemite and Calcite which of course fluoresces red and green. This beautiful rock is found in Franklin, New Jersey. Over 350 minerals, of which 80 fluoresce, are known from the Franklin Mining District, home of the Franklin and Sterling Hill zinc ore bodies.

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT MARGARET KOLACZYK, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES PRESIDENT 2021-2022, NOVEMBER 2021



It is a start to a new year for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. To start things off I thought I would introduce myself. I joined the Amador County Gem and Mineral Society in 1996. By the second meeting I attended, I was asked to handle programs for the society's meetings. It was a challenge, but I was lucky enough to be able to work with the person who had handled this position. From that position, I have held the positions of Vice President, President, Treasurer, Education, Publicity and a few others for my society. At present, I am the Federation Director for my society.

At the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies level, I was the Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President. Committee Chairs I have held are 2015 CFMS Show, Golden Bear, Long Range Planning, Boundaries, and Rules. For 16 years I was an instructor for the Earth Science Program.

At the AFMS level, I held the position of 3rd and 2nd Vice President, President Elect and now President. In 2015 Jay Bowman asked if I would be the Judges' Training Instructor. I was surprised and knew this was an honor. Jay started a revolution in how judging is done, and I am a firm believer in Jay's philosophy.

My hope is to do my best for AFMS. I have made some committee chair changes. I have made these changes because the present chairs know how these committees work and it is their expertise they can share. Each committee is a team and the more the team

members understand how their committee works, the stronger the committee will be. From past experience, I know it is great to have someone else who knows what needs to be done.

I wish to thank Jennifer Haley for stepping in for me at the AFMS 2021 Show in Big Piney, Wyoming. While I was at the show, I had to leave early due to a death in the family. I did arrive early and was able to work with the Sublette County Rock Hounds setting up the tables for the show. I had a wonderful time helping and you could not ask for nicer group of people. Thank You!

**HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

*by Nancy English*

X	President—Sigrid Stewart	x	Beading— Maggie Manley
X	1st Vice President— Steve Blyskal		Day Light—Fred Brueckner
X	2nd Vice President—Beverly Mace		Gemstones & Faceting—Randy Carlson
X	Treasurer—Michele Marsel		Lapidary & Silversmithing—Richard Good
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.

**Approval of Minutes:** On October 16, 2021, Nancy English sent the first draft of the October 5, 2021. BOD meeting minutes to the Board for review and edits. After collating the edits, on October 26, 2021, Nancy English emailed the final draft of the October 5, 2021, Board meeting minutes to the BOD with her motion to approve them. Michele Marsel seconded the motion. A quorum of seven Directors voted via email to approve the minutes. On October 31, 2021, Nancy English sent the approved October 5 BOD minutes to Sigrid Stewart to post them in the November BBG.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Michele Marsel sent the Treasurer’s Report to members on November 1, 2021.

Treasurer Marsel will accept email requests for expense reimbursement in addition to the carbonless forms that have been in use. When submitted via email, scanned or photographic copies of receipts must be attached. Approval will be requested from the appropriate Committee Chair or Board Member before payment is made. The Show Committee members plan to use electronic email submission this year.

Maggie Manley thanked Michele for being easy to work with.  
Michele accounts for the sales tax we collect so it is available to pay in January.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BBG Editor:** Sigrid Stewart said the BBG is available now (November 2) Beverly Mace will notify members on November 3 that the online version of the November BBG is available on the HGMS Website. We will not mail a paper copy of the BBG in November as we still do not have enough requests to qualify for bulk mail.

**Bylaws:** The members attending the HGMS General Meeting on October 26, 2021, voted to approve the updated HGMS Bylaws as presented by the BOD on September 26. Nancy English complimented the Board on an outstanding job of updating the HGMS Bylaws. She said Michele Marsel did all of the work recording the updates and creating the double-column format to make it easier for members to see what was in the February 2017 version versus the September 2021 updates. Michele reported that the updated HGMS Bylaws are posted on the HGMS Website. (A link to them can be found on the About Us page.)

**Donations (DSAC) Committee Report:** We sold twelve (12) out of twenty-eight (28) items offered in our online equipment auction on Saturday, October 23. The big equipment was all sold. The remaining items will be placed in later auctions/sales.

The HGMS Book Sale was announced on October 24. The 184 books came from a recent donation. Neal took those we did not already have in our HGMS Library before the remainder were listed for sale. The books will be available for purchase during General Meetings and Open Shops until they are sold. We sold twenty-five books at the October 26, General meeting and have sold a total of 42 of 125 books so far.

### **Education Committee Upcoming classes:**

Beginning Wire Wrapping by Joy Lester on Sunday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Tree of Life Wire Wrapping by Joy Lester on Sunday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Beginning Wire Wrapping class by Joy Lester on Sunday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m.

**Insurance Renewal Committee** met November 1, 2021, and updated coverage. Michele Marsel, Sarah Metsa, and Nancy English are committee members. Michele Marsel reported that the HGMS Hanover Property and Liability insurance policy renewed on November 1, 2021. The base policy increase reflected the 25% industry-wide increase.

Hanover is working on a quote to add scheduled coverage for shop equipment, including the Gemstones and Faceting Section faceting machines. Michele asked if Hanover would insure the fluorescent bulbs used for the fluorescent rock display at the Annual Show. Does it matter if they are stored offsite? The Mineral Section owns the bulbs.

Michele and Neal Immega had a safety and loss prevention walk-through with the Pathfinder insurance broker on October 22. The committee will prioritize items that need to be addressed after the final report is received (expected later in November.) Most items will be estimated for inclusion in the 2022 budget.

**Membership Committee:** Beverly Mace reported new members in October: three adults, two couples, one family with one child, and one youth member. Other people renewed memberships after dropping out during Covid in 2020 and 2021: two adults, one couple, one family with two kids. That is a total of seventeen people in October.

Michele Marsel recommended an email separate from the weekly eblast to all members reminding them that membership dues for 2022 are due on January 1, 2022; similar to the notice about the changes to the HGMS Bylaws.

**Scholarship Committee:** The committee met on October 21. Mike Sommers reported via email. Nancy English read the information. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2. The committee will work on its goals.

- 1) Establish a budget to increase the scholarship awards for the future
- 2) Pare down the schools not responsive to our outreach efforts
- 3) Add jewelry schools to our outreach efforts
- 4) Revise the application form
- 5) Investigate using Google Forms, our web form, or another third party (free use) form hosting site
- 6) Nancy English plans to ask Mike Sommers for a flyer advertising our scholarships which she will hand out at the Volunteer Check-In at the Show.

Nancy English reminded the Board that in the past, the Board agreed to advertise Art Smith's book, *The Mineralogy of Texas* on HGMS.org since we receive royalties on the book for our scholarship program. Sigrid Stewart had suggested it would be good to put it on the Mineral Section page. It has not been set up there yet. Sigrid will look into it.

**Show Committee:** Next meeting is on November 3 at 5:30 via zoom.

**Beading and Wire Wrap classes** will be taught at our Annual HGMS Show! People have already started signing up for classes online. Maggie Manley will teach four beading classes. Joy Lester will teach three wire wrap classes. So far, eight people signed up for the Wire Wrapping Class and one for beading.

**Paleo Tables at the Show:** In the recent Sunday eblast, Neal Immega asked for Paleo member participation at the Paleo Tables. Neal and Mike Dawkins will be there all weekend. Neal promised fossils to Paleo volunteers.

**Trailers:** Clyde McMeans found a more affordable storage unit, closer to the Club, to house the show trailer and fluorescent display. HGMS is on a waiting list for the next available unit.

**Volunteers:** Nancy English reported that due to working at Early Voting for two weeks she has not had time to respond to the volunteers that have already sent applications to volunteer. She has sent all of them an email response saying that after Early Voting she will contact them. Many volunteers are students from the University of Houston Downtown.

Steve Blyskal received an estimate from **Events Plus**. We ordered 5% fewer tables.

**Website Committee:** Sigrid Stewart announced the Committee will meet on November 4. Sigrid plans to work with Nancy Engelhardt-Moore after the Show to post HGMS member awards from the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS) and the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) on the HGMS Website (per 9/7 BOD meeting.)

## SECTION REPORTS

**Beading Section:** third Saturday, 12:30p.m., November 20, 2021. Maggie Manley reported that the Beading Group is taking a field trip to Beadoholique Bead Shop. They will shop

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and then take a class from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. taught by the owner, Lisa Kirkeby to make a leather-wrapped bracelet. The cost is \$25.00 plus the cost of materials.

**Beading December 18, 2021:** Members will learn how to make three different designs of earrings. Joy Lester will teach Hanukkah designed earrings, Gretchen will focus on Christmas earrings, and Maggie will teach regular earring making. For 2022: Maggie is considering a class to restring beads.

**Day Light Section:** first Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., November 3, 2021. We will be making Christmas Decorations using colored agates Participants will be allowed to delve into the beads in our Day Light closet and make earrings for holiday gifts. The cost for this session is \$5.00. December 1, 2021: will be the date of our annual Holiday Dinner and business meeting.

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** second Wednesday, 7:00, p.m., November 10, 2021. No meeting because of Annual Show.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** third Monday, 7:30 p.m., November 15, 2021. Michele Marsel reported for Richard Good. Members will continue their work on two silversmithing projects at the November 15 meeting: Cuff Bracelet with Cabochon and Money Clip.

Fourteen (14) 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 is on hold. Tony will introduce a final new project in November – pendant mounting for the Mexican Opal cab cut in October.

During the October 18 Lapidary and Silversmithing meeting, Richard Good was appointed interim Lapidary Section Board Representative, replacing Phyllis George, who announced her resignation at the October 5, Board meeting. The section will elect a long-term representative in January at regular election time.

There will be no December Lapidary meeting, and Lapidary members were encouraged to attend the Club Holiday Party on December 11, 2021.

Next year, projects will continue alternating monthly between Lapidary and Silversmithing.

**Mineral Section:** third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., November 17, 2021. Zoom program planned. Traditionally this meeting focuses on the dealers at the HGMS Show, the success of the Show, and members show off the Show purchases.

**Paleo Section:** third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., November 16, 2021. In-person meeting. we are going to make 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 NY that produce red slate. Paleo will not have a December meeting or Christmas party.

Mike Dawkins taught his first free class on air abrasive equipment on Saturday, October 23. Before the October 26 General Meeting, he showed the same student the rock polishing equipment.

Sigrid Stewart interjected that the Kokernot Ranch O6 leads fossil field trips in the Glass Mountains of West Texas.

**Youth Section:** first and third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon, November 6 and 20, 2021. Beverly Mace said Saturday, November 6 is the last day to turn in stones for the Youth Cabochon Competition at our Annual Show. Volunteers are still needed at the Youth Section booth at the Show, especially for Friday, November 12 from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Help is needed to set up the Youth Section Booth on Thursday, November 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Youth Section December 4, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, The Holiday Party. Awards will be passed out. Holiday snacks and fun to be had.

**Archaeology Section:** Dormant

## OLD BUSINESS

**HGMS Holiday Dinner & Auction,** December 11, 2021, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. HGMS will provide the meat main dishes and non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB for alcohol). 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 afterward and reset the Sanctuary for services Sunday morning.

Michele Marsel said the Holiday Auction will consist of twenty-five items. Most items are already chosen from the donations on hand. The only thing still needed is a nice Paleo specimen. Michele will post a request for Paleo items in the next few eblasts. Do not bring auction items to the party. Any donations for this auction should be brought to the Club by Saturday, December 4. If they are not incorporated into the Holiday Auction they will be put in future auctions.

**Building Cleaning:** No Report.

**Display cases:** No Report.

**Dunn SW Assessments:** HGMS received the Dunn SW assessment bill for exterior painting and maintenance for business park signage. Painting our building costs \$1,656.23 and the Dunn Southwest signage is \$300 more. HGMS may pay installments between October 2021 and March 31, 2022. The Board discussed three options: pay it all now, pay it over the next 5 months (Nov-Mar) which would be \$391 per month, or pay it all in February after the 2022 Budget is approved. Nancy English moved to amend the 2021 budget and pay the amount in full in November 2021. Michele Marsel seconded the motion and it passed. Nancy English will contact Coir Properties and ask if the painters will paint the HGMS sign if we provide the paint and pay a fee.

**Printed BBGs:** President Stewart informed the members in attendance at the October 26 General Meeting that the BOD is considering digital format only for the BBG and ceasing the physical BBG mailout. For the past four months, issues have been digital-only because we no longer have enough members requesting print copies to qualify for bulk mail rates. There were no comments from the General Meeting audience. Michele Marsel moved to discontinue creating the printed copy of the BBG and only create the digital format and to remove the option to receive the printed copy from the membership material. Maggie Manley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Nancy English reminded the Board that the Club will save \$4,000 per year in printing and postage costs.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Clubhouse Maintenance:** Michele Marsel reported that Neal Immega is recertifying all Clubhouse fire extinguishers and adding smoke and CO2 detectors throughout the Club. This will be completed in 2021 and is covered under the existing Clubhouse maintenance budget. Neal is also looking into replacing the existing parking lot security lights with new, longer-lasting, and more energy-efficient LED fixtures. One of the lights has been out for about 2 months. James Burrell may be able to help with the electrical changes for the parking lot lights. The roofers need to be contacted to check out the leaks in the main hall.

**Chase Bank:** Michele Marsel asked the BOD to authorize an HGMS debit card for our primary Chase checking account. This will facilitate online payments to vendors that do not accept PayPal or when a paper check is either not acceptable or would delay HGMS orders. Michele Marsel is proposing obtaining only one card to be managed by the Treasurer.

HGMS has vendors who do not take PayPal, like NiceBadge, and they will not begin processing our orders until they receive payment. Having to cut and mail a check delays the order by at least a week.

HGMS also has about a half dozen recurring annual payments that could be paid using the debit card (budgeted items that will not take PayPal or a check) including:

- Nexcess (web hosting)
- Web plugins (WP Forms, Auction Software, etc.)
- MailChimp
- LortonData (bulk mail software)

Right now, the recurring items are paid by a members' credit or debit cards then the member waits to be reimbursed.

Before the next Board meeting, Michele will contact Chase Bank and ask about daily limits and fraud policies. Nancy English agreed with Sigrid that one other signer or one other card is needed in case something happens to the treasurer.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be the first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., December 7, 2021.

The next General Meeting will be the fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. November 23, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

The members will vote on the 2022 slate of Board of Directors' Officers.

This will be a hybrid meeting. Members are encouraged to join us at the Club or participate in the meeting via Zoom. A link will be posted on the November 21 weekly eblast.

Steve Steinke will reprise a presentation given to the Mineral Section on the new Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson. Steinke was able to tour the museum on the second day they began giving tours. The museum has a tremendous collection of Arizona and Mexico minerals, along with multiple sections covering origins of the Earth, as well as world minerals, and gems and jewelry.

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn. Tricia Rittaler seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

## **HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

*by Nancy English*

President Sigrid Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. She welcomed twenty-four in-house attendees and two members on Zoom.

A new member, Dean Wix, joined HGMS after finding us online while looking for field trips and lapidary templates.

Two guests attended: Steve Steinke's wife, Holly Steinke came to watch Steve's program; and Matthew Sklar accompanied his mom, member, Nancy Fischer.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Thank you everyone for attending tonight, both in person and via Zoom! As you know this will be the last meeting over which I will officially preside as President. I would like everyone to know how much I have enjoyed being President and working with all of you. It has been a wild ride!

I want everyone to know that we had a dynamite Show, and to thank all the volunteers who helped make it possible. I will leave the details until later for Show Chairman Scott Singleton's report. Of course, I saw most of you at the Volunteer Appreciation Party at Scott's house. Next year, volunteer and you can join the party!

Tonight, the members will vote on the 2022 slate of Board of Directors' Officers. This will be a hybrid meeting. Two members are participating in the meeting via Zoom. A link was posted on the November 21 weekly eblast.

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. Bidding closed at 7:30 p.m. and reopened during the break. Final bids were collected after the break, and winning bidders paid for items after the program.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sharon Halton moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021, General Meeting as published in the November 2021 BBG and posted on the Sunday weekly Eblast, on November 21, 2021. Will Heierman 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 other Section Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs to make any additional announcements.

**Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC):** Michele Marsel said the next auction will be at the HGMS Annual Holiday Party. See Old Business below. There are still books for sale.

**Education Committee:** Joy Lester and Maggie Manley were pleased with the results of the classes at the Annual Show.

Joy Lester described her upcoming classes at the Club:

Tree of Life Wire Wrapping class on Sunday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Beginning Wire Wrapping class Sunday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m.

**Nominating Committee:** President Stewart asked Ray Kizer to introduce the slate of 2022 HGMS Board of Directors officer nominees.

President–Nancy English

1st Vice President–Sarah Metsa

2nd Vice President–Beverly Mace

Treasurer–Michele Marsel

Secretary–Sharon Halton

Will Heierman moved to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers. Ray Kizer seconded the motion. President Stewart called for the vote. Michele Marsel polled the online attendees. Both voted to approve. All twenty-two of the in-house attendees voted to approve, making the vote unanimous.

**Shop News:** Neal Immega asked for a Shop Foreman to work the morning of Saturday, November 27, 2021. Sharon Halton volunteered.

**Show Committee:** Scott Singleton reported on the highlights of the 2021 Show.

The response from the public did not disappoint. Scott paid for Facebook boosts which paid off in better attendance. Not counting the school children on Friday, we had 3,329 people over the three-day Show. Pre-pandemic shows had more attendance, but Scott was happy with the turnout. A little less than 3,000 people paid for tickets through the front door. For the first time, and with minimal advertising, 209 tickets were sold online. Sales of tickets mailed to members accounted for the rest of the sales. More money is expected from members who were mailed tickets. No public schools participated this year. Only two private schools attended, about one hundred kids. The Home School attendance was larger than ever: 660 kids and 385 adults. Comparing those numbers to 2019: public and private schools brought in 1500 kids and homeschoolers represented five hundred kids and adults.

All our concerns about having enough volunteers were gone by the Wednesday before the show. Nancy English had 112 volunteers. Only twenty-five students volunteered this year. Many HGMS members volunteered for more than one shift, sometimes multiple days. The University of Houston Downtown provided most of the young volunteers. The National Honor Society in Katy got involved this year, thanks to the Moore family.



Two of the student volunteers working security observed a shoplifter and reported him to the police. That resulted in an arrest, return of the stolen property, and booking the thief for theft of other valuable dealer items.

Sharon Halton pointed out that many of the security vests are not labeled “security” on the front and back of the vest. She is concerned that the security team looks like crossing guards to the kids. The walkie-talkies were not working on Friday. She suggested we provide instructions for the walkie-talkies next year. Will Heierman pointed out that other shows use undercover security to control shoplifting.

Aside from the shoplifter, Steve Blyskal reported that the Dealers were all pleased. Some dealers said they had the best Friday sales ever.

Maggie Manley and Joy Lester taught successful classes during the three days of the Show. Next year there will be more preshow advertising.

**Website Committee:** The list of the HGMS library contents has been added to the front page of the HGMS Website. The next Website Committee meeting is on December 9.

## 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 BBGs:** During the November 2 BOD meeting the Board voted to discontinue creating the printed copy of the BBG and only create the digital format and to remove the option to receive the printed copy from the membership material. It will be provided online in the Publications section of the HGMS Website, [Hgms.org](https://hgms.org). Sigrid Stewart will be able to expand the BBG once she is not producing it for print and online access. She will make those changes in January.

**HGMS Holiday Dinner & Auction:** December 11, 2021, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 1504 Wirt Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m. As always, we need volunteers to set up the serving area and the dining area at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to clean up afterward and reset the Sanctuary for services Sunday morning.

HGMS will provide the meat main dishes and non-alcoholic beverages- (BYOB for alcohol). Members are asked to bring potluck side dishes and desserts. Michele Marsel said the Holiday Auction will consist of twenty-five items. Most items are already chosen from the donations on hand. The only thing still needed is one or two nice Paleo specimens. Michele will post a request for Paleo items in the next few eblasts. Do not bring auction items to the party. Any donations for this auction should be brought to the Club by Saturday, December 4. If they cannot be incorporated into the Holiday Auction, they will be put in future auctions.

## NEW BUSINESS

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. December 7, 2021.  
The next General Meeting will be replaced by the Holiday Party Dec 11.  
The January General Meeting will be held Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., January 25, 2022.

Sarah Metsa will present a PowerPoint program about the Grotto in Dickeyville WI. Dickeyville Grotto and Shrines were erected in the Village of Dickeyville, Wisconsin on Holy Ghost Parish grounds. They are the works of Father Matthias Wernerus. His handiwork in stone was built from 1925-1930. The shrines were constructed without the use of blueprints and by using stones and materials from all over the world.

#### **Show-n-Tell:**

Nancy Fischer traveled to the Jade Belt in Wyoming near Jeffrey City. She went to a mine a little west of there, but east of the Sweetwater Gap rest area which is a well-known landmark in the middle of nowhere. The miner, Eddie Cole, has a rock shop in Thermopolis and let her club, the Sublette County Rockhounds, go through the tailings. She brought jade and serpentine to show us.

Steve Steinke displayed rocks and minerals from his collection that pertained to his upcoming program: red wulfenite from the Red Cloud Mine, orange wulfenite from the Rowley Mine, yellow wulfenite from the Silver Bill Mine, vanadinite from the Apache mine in Arizona, azurite from the Morenci Mine, rosasite from the Silver Bill mine, emerald, green diopside, chrysocolla druzy quartz. The wulfenites, rosasite, and vanadinite were all self-collected.

Steve Blyskal showed two flats of specimens he obtained at the recent HGMS show. He did well in the swap area, which accounted for many of the specimens, including three amethyst scepter quartz specimens from Zimbabwe, and of course, a couple of prehnite specimens. He also concluded a trade with one of the new mineral dealers, obtaining five high-quality specimens for five flats of minerals from his collection. Two are from Colorado, a white cap amazonite feldspar and quartz crystal spray destined for Sigrid's Colorado mineral collection. He also got a nice Shattuckite from Namibia.

He showed three specimens, fossilized root casts filled with calcite-cemented cross-bedded river bar sand, from one of the swap area dealers, Greg Sullivan. He intends to mount these vertically. They were found in Austin County and can be up to eighteen inches long.

**Drawing:** Ray Kizer won the diopside specimen from the Republic of Congo, donated by Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart, from the estate of their friend, Martha McCrae.

**Adjourn:** Will Heierman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ray Kizer seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Refreshments were provided by the Show Committee Volunteer Appreciation Party. Members were asked to "Feed the Kitty" with donations toward the food. Refreshments for the next General meeting on January 28, 2022, will be provided by Neal Immega. Bidders were reminded that the Silent Auction ends after the break. Payment will be accepted after the program.

**Vice President Blyskal introduced the Program:** Steve Steinke reprised his presentation given to the Mineral Section on the new Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson. Steinke was able to tour the museum on the second day they began giving tours. The museum has a tremendous collection of Arizona and Mexico minerals, along with multiple sections covering origins of the Earth, world minerals, gems and jewelry.

## 2021 HGMS OFFICERS

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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

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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

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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

Please refer to the Website Calendar

<https://hgms.org/calendar>

Having one common source of  
information will be more accurate