

THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



FEATURED MEMBER:
NANCY ENGLISH

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Calendar: <https://hgms.org/calendar>

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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 Nancy English

At the Volunteer Appreciation Party in November 2021, I sincerely quoted the lyrics from the James Bond movie, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, (without the music) "Nobody does it better." The volunteers that give their time and energy to maintain HGMS and steward the Sections and Committees are commendable.

When I look back at what has been accomplished since I became Board Secretary eight years ago, I am humbled by the leadership of the HGMS Presidents I worked with: Ray Kizer, Paul Brandes, and Sigrid Stewart. I hope to do as well.

I could not be happier with the Board Officers and Section Representatives for 2022. I get to work with a healthy mix of seasoned and new Section Reps. Gratefully, Beverly Mace—2nd Vice President, and Michele Marsel—Treasurer remain on the Board. Sarah Metsa—1st Vice President and Sharon Halton—Secretary are new voices on the Board for 2022, but like Michele and Beverly, they have been contributing to the Club for years.

Now I look forward to continuing projects put in motion by the 2021 Board and Committees. Thanks to Treasurer, Michele Marsel, the 2022 Budget is gaining momentum for the February Board approval. Preparations to upgrade the shops and Clubhouse, and inventory our equipment are underway.

Last year, Michele Marsel, Chairman of the Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC) set strong precedents and rules for accepting, inventorying, repairing, photographing, and auctioning generous gifts from people.

The Education Committee Chairman, Maggie Manley, has already posted classes for 2022 and continues to recruit teachers for new classes. The Scholarship Committee, headed by Mike Sommers, has proposed increasing our annual HGMS Scholarships to three \$2,500 gifts. I am 100% behind that idea.

The 2021 Show was masterfully executed by Scott Singleton, the Show Committee, and all the 112 volunteers. I plan to participate in the success of the 2022 HGMS Annual Show. The Website Committee maintains and improves HGMS.org, while the Publicity Committee keeps our name in the public's eye. We need a new committee to write an Operations Manual to clarify the Board of Directors' roles for the Club.

I am inspired by the plans for 2022 and the competent, dedicated people I get to work with on these projects. There will be plenty to do. Let's get started! But for the time being, wear your mask at the club, vaccinated or not.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sarah Metsa

Hello! I am your incoming 1st Vice President, Sarah Metsa. I have some great ideas for programs this year, but I am also depending on YOU, dear members, for suggestions. And if you can give a program or talk, so much the better! Let me know what you would like to hear about.

We plan to continue and improve upon our hybrid meetings, having in-person meetings (Covid permitting) with a Zoom component. This month's talk will be given by none other than me! I 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.

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

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show, February 26-27, Saturday 10-6 PM, Sunday 10-5 PM Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena TX 77507. Tickets \$7.

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 meets on the 3rd Wednesday via Zoom at 7:30 PM. Steve Blyskal will give a presentation on calcite localities in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

BEADING SECTION

Regular meetings resume on the third Saturday, 12:30 PM. As always, bring beading mat, scissors, wire and wire cutter, round nose and needle nose pliers, thread and beading needle if you have them.

NOTICE: Do you have a bracelet or necklace that needs restringing? The Beading Section will carefully restring your piece at an hourly rate of \$15.00 + materials. Contact beading@hgms.org to make arrangements. All funds will go to the Beading Section. Want notifications about upcoming Beading Group activities? E-mail beading@hgms.org to be added.

DAY LIGHT SECTION

On January 5th we will be inventorying the large amount of materials belonging to the section and arranging them in a useful order for session instructors. Finding these materials may help guide us in section topics for the upcoming year. Wear old clothes. Bring rubber gloves and bring cleaning supplies so we can give the dirty, dusty stuff a good cleaning. I am buying some new containers so that we can better organize the materials. This is a working session, but should be fun and interesting.

LAPIDARY AND SILVERSMITHING SECTION

January 17, 2022 – We will begin the 2-part Money Clip set with Cabochon project. Part 1: Cut a cabochon of Petrified Wood to fit the money clip. Material will be provided. You may use your own alternate material, but it should be hard and durable (agate or other MOHS 7.0 or higher).

GEMSTONES AND FACETING

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. The section will be electing a new Chairman and Randy will remain as Board representative. The program will be the introduction of the new chairman and the "Introduction to Faceting" books by Tom Herbst.

YOUTH SECTION

Regular meetings resume on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

PALEO SECTION

Paleo meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 PM at the clubhouse. Come and find out what interesting fossils we have to talk about.

NEWS FROM NEAL

Neal says the sale of Paleo books this year was the best ever!

FEATURED MEMBER: NANCY ENGLISH

by Sigrid Stewart

You already know Nancy! She has been your HGMS Secretary for the last eight years. And now she is your new President.

Nancy was born in Lawrence, Kansas in the shadow of the University of Kansas (KU.) Her father was the official photographer for KU and took photos for the yearbook. At age one Nancy was a centerfold for the 1948 Jayhawker yearbook. At seven years old the family moved to Overland Park, Kansas where she graduated from Shawnee Mission West high school. She became an official Jayhawker when she returned to KU for two years of college. Her sophomore year she met her first husband. She says KU is where she got her MRS and MOM. Their son Rick was born in 1968. They lived in Chicago for four years,

divorcing in 1972. She moved back to Lawrence, where she went to work at Douglas County State Bank, the beginning of a long banking career.

Later she started dating a fellow named Gary who invited her to move to Houston with him, where he would work for Arthur Anderson. She asked if it snowed there, and when he said, “No” she said, “Yes, Ricky and I will move to Houston Texas with you.” When she and Gary split up, he offered to move her and Rick back to Kansas. No way was she leaving this remarkable city.

As a trained teller, she got a job at the first bank she applied to in 1973. The workforce was small, the opportunities limitless. She succeeded at three of the major downtown Houston banks. She began taking night school courses at Houston Community College when she first moved to Houston – one class a semester. During those years Nancy was a single mom and according to a segment 60 Minutes, she was in the top 3% of single mothers: making a living well above the poverty level, owning her home in Spring Branch, working in a professional job, and investing her savings.

She was certain she could get married after 40, too. In 1983 she took a Marketing course from a special fellow named Tom English. She eventually earned an Associate's degree in Banking. In 1986 the banking industry suffered a collapse, so did her job and her investments. Nancy worked multiple part-time jobs to support her teenage son and keep their condo.

In 1988 Nancy's prayer, “Please God, I want a man just like Tom English” was answered when she married the genuine article. Nancy was 41 years old. They moved to his home in Humble, where his two daughters joined them. Nancy went back to banking at Kingwood Bank. Tom left banking and went to work for Prudential Insurance. The girls graduated from high school and moved to colleges. Rick was already living on his own.

When Prudential consolidated offices to the Memorial area, the Englishes moved into Houston. Nancy went to work for Rogers Benefit Group and retired from there seventeen years later. Tom retired three years after that.

Tom and Nancy have opened their home to their family three times. Her mother lived with them for five years before her death. Their oldest granddaughter lived with them for four years while in high school. Nancy's youngest brother moved to Houston and stayed with them for a year and a half while he got on his feet.

They have enjoyed eight grandchildren all living in the greater Houston area from birth to adulthood. Only two are still in high school, soon to graduate. Nancy says their lives are rich with family, friends, and travel. They have been married thirty-three years. They both love being retired.



Nancy and Tom English

Here is some of Nancy's work, below:



Lapis and Gold wire-wrap



Agate Squares Wire-wrapped

Nancy joined HGMS the year before she retired, in 2013, beginning her retirement activities early. Her chiropractor, Larry Mornhinveg, had an extensive collection of cabochons, slabs, and rough in his office. When she asked about the rocks, he told her about the Tucson Show and said someday he was going to join HGMS, cut and polish rocks, and make jewelry.



She visited the January 2013 HGMS General meeting with Larry – that night there was a big dispute, someone was yelling at everyone about it. Nancy said it was better than Reality TV.

She was hooked by the diverse personalities, amazing machinery, and the potential to create something beautiful. In 2015 she became the Volunteer Coordinator.

Nancy is shown on the left, above, checking volunteers at one of our Annual Shows. Another of her important jobs with the club, after being the Secretary, was Volunteer Coordinator. She has also answered the phone for years!

Over the years Nancy has taken classes from Charlie Fredregill, Karen Burns, Ray Kizer, Neal Immega, Susan Burch, and recently from Joy Lester. Mary Ann Mitscherling, Margaret Hardman-Muye, Jim Paras, Diane Schaub, Debbie Kirkpatrick, Margo Bedman, and Tony Lucci have taught her skills in the Section meetings. Nancy encourages everyone to take classes, advice, coaching from these and other talented members of HGMS. And asks everyone to get involved in the administrative activities of this wonderful Society.

At the General Meeting that first November, she raised her hand when Neal said they needed a secretary for 2014. She served two years with Ray Kizer as President, three years with Paul Brandes, and three years with Sigrid Stewart. I think by now she knows what it means to be President!

UPCOMING CLASSES

BASIC JEWELRY MAKING SKILL CLASSES will be taught by Maggie Manley, on Thursdays, from 1 PM to 4 PM on January 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2022.

We will begin with basic stringing techniques and proceed into basic wire working techniques. In the 3rd and 4th class students will create several projects utilizing their beading & wire skills. Individual support for students will be provided on Sundays from 1 PM to 2 PM following each class, if requested in advance. For more detailed information on this class send an e-mail to classes@hgms.org, and Maggie will send you a class outline. Class ID BJMS-010622-MM All materials and tools are provided.

FREE-FORM WIRE WRAPPED PENDANT CLASS will be taught by Joy Lester on Sunday January 9, 2022 from 1 PM to 3:30 PM.

If you can wrap it, you can wear it! Joy Lester will teach you to wire wrap objects in free-form style. No previous experience is needed and all materials and tools will be provided. This simple introduction into the art of wire wrapping will teach students how to work with copper wire to encase a loose stone into a wearable pendant.

A variety of stones will be provided; but, feel free to bring any rock or small object that has meaning to you. The skills learned in this class can be used to wire wrap almost any 3D object of appropriate size.

BEGINNING WIRE WRAPPED PENDANT CLASS will be taught by Joy Lester on Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Learn to wire wrap a cabochon into a pendant. Joy Lester will teach you to wire wrap a semi-precious cabochon to create a beautiful, unique pendant. No previous experience is needed and all materials and tools will be provided.

This class will teach students how to work with copper wire to encase a cabochon of approximately 30 MM to 40 MM. A variety of cabochons will be provided; or, feel free to bring your own cabochon of similar size. The skills learned in this class can be used to learn more complex wire wrapping projects.

Register on the HGMS website at <https://hgms.org/Classes/Education>
Send questions/suggestions for classes to: Classes@HGMS.org

THE BRIDAL CHAMBER

by James Winchell

From NEWS NUGGETS April 1998 (Albuquerque, NM)

Reprinted in The GLACIAL DRIFTER April 1999

For more than a century the voices that recalled and relived the myths and mysteries and hard fact memories of New Mexico mining lore have spellbound listeners when recounting the saga of the Bridal Chamber. Lake Valley was one of three mining camps to emerge near the south end of the Black Range about 1880; Hillsboro and Kingston, the other two, were a few miles away. They all are on the west side of the Rio Grande Rift. All had extensive gold and silver claims. Hillsboro was basically a gold camp and the other two, silver bonanzas. As so often true on the early frontier, these dramatic discoveries were quiet memories before the century's end. The boom towns became a silent listener to the winds and the ghosts.

The first claim discovery site at the Bridal Chamber area was made by a cowboy prospector, George Lufkin. In August 1878, Lufkin found a partner, Chris Watson, but they depleted their meager resources quickly. Soon they began to seek an infusion of new funds.

Meanwhile, Apache Indian raids delayed their return to the original diggings. Their actual work on the discovery remained stagnant until they interested a Fort Bayard Trading post owner, John Miller, in the claims. As many such historical webs are woven, the discoverer loses control of the treasure for necessary financing.

Based on assays at the initial discovery, Miller hired an experienced mining engineer, George Daly, from Leadville, Colorado. Daly later secured the assistance of Bernard MacDonald, also from Leadville.

Although highly recommended as a potentially valuable deposit, one could hardly have imagined its extraordinary example of nature at her creative heights. A small opening into the fabulous ore body was broken through by MacDonald in mid-August, 1881.

The "Chamber" measured more than 100 by 100 feet and varied from 10 to 20 feet from floor to ceiling. Almost the entire room was lined and filled with interlaced crystals of Cerargyrite, now called Chlorargyrite (Silver Chloride - AgCl), Calcite



*Chlorargyrite, Silver King Mine, Providence Mts,
San Bernardino County, California.
From Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com*

Featured on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorargyrite#/>

and Native Silver. The light from candles, lamps and torches sparkled back reflections that numbed the senses. The dark room was reflecting light from the glistening crystals. The sight must have stunned those eyes that first tried to focus on its magnificence! No one ever had viewed such a sight before - or since. Nowhere on earth has a comparable deposit of silver ever been discovered.

A candle would melt the Cerargyrite stalactites into silver globs. Much of the silver was mined with axes and hatchets. Saws were used to cut the silver into blocks. One horn silver crystal mass weighed over 10,000 pounds! Records indicate 2.5 million ounces of silver was recovered from the Bridal Chamber. A nearby "lesser" discovery, the Thirty Stope, produced a million ounces. It is doubtful these records allow for the actual amount removed. Most early official reports of precious metal extraction were on the low side.

A sad footnote to history: At the very hour the Chamber entrance was broken into, Mr. Daly, whose appraisal of the location was so instrumental in funding the search, was killed with three of his friends. An Apache war party, led by Chiricahua Chief Nana, ambushed them nearby. Twenty-two months later, Victorio would lead his Apache band to kill 16 more men at Lake Valley. Life on the frontier indeed had its hazards, and mine safety was only one of them.

The whispering breezes that waft these learned hills and valleys are all that remember those wretched days of hope and toil and those dramatic nights of whiskey, women, wild card games and wounds that bled.

More information:

<https://e-rocks.com/blogs/11437/silliman%E2%80%99s-endlichite-cerargyrite-bonan-za-george-daly-gets-killed-nana>

<https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoNomad/photos/the-bridal-chamber-was-26-feet-wide-and-12-feet-high-the-spectacular-deposit-com/1736985213074368/>

<https://www.mindat.org/loc-28001.html>

To see other, copyrighted photos:

<https://www.irocks.com/minerals/species/buy-chlorargyrite-fine-mineral-specimens-photos>

Chlorargyrite: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1014.html>

Bromargyrite: <https://www.mindat.org/min-783.html>

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BRIDAL CHAMBER

Mindat lists 4 valid minerals from the Bridal Chamber Stope of the Sierra Grande Mine, Lake Valley Mining District, Sierra Co., New Mexico: Cerussite, Chlorargyrite, Manganite and Pyrolusite.

Chlorargyrite, which is the currently accepted mineral name, is also called Cerargyrite (an older name) and Horn Silver. It is a gray, very heavy halide mineral composed of silver chloride (AgCl) and is an ore of silver. It forms a complete solid-solution series with bromargyrite, silver bromide (AgBr), in which bromine completely replaces chlorine in the crystal structure. It occurs as a secondary mineral phase in the oxidation of silver mineral

deposits. It crystallizes in the isometric - hexoctahedral crystal class. Typically massive to columnar in occurrence it also has been found as colorless to variably yellow cubic crystals. The color changes to brown or purple on exposure to light. It is quite soft with a Mohs hardness of 1 to 2 and dense with a specific gravity of 5.55.

Good specimen pictures are hard to find, as the available examples tend to be massive, non-crystallized ugly rocks blackened with oxidation. Both the ruby silvers (there's another article!) and the silver haloids, including chlorargyrite, are highly light sensitive. As valuable ore samples, they were destined for the smelter. And of course, many photographs are copyrighted.

references:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/cerargyrite>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorargyrite>

You should also read the short section on Lake Valley in Nathalie and Paul Brandes' book, "New Mexico Rocks!"

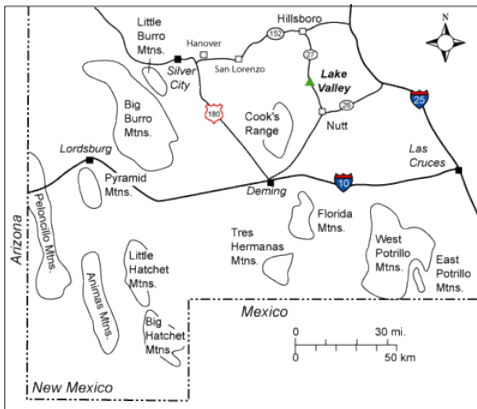
To see a Rock & Gem article on natural silver boulders coated with Chlorargyrite, see:

<https://reader.magzter.com/preview/qq96jumh1ttrm4h4ybt4649910/464991#page/2>

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE "LAKE VALLEY", BY SHARI A. KELLEY

https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/landmarks/lake_valley/home.html#

From the home of New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources:



Index map showing the geography of southwestern New Mexico and the location of Lake Valley.

The ghost town of Lake Valley is located about 17 miles south of Hillsboro and 16 miles north of Nutt on New Mexico Highway 27 (Index map) in southwestern New Mexico.

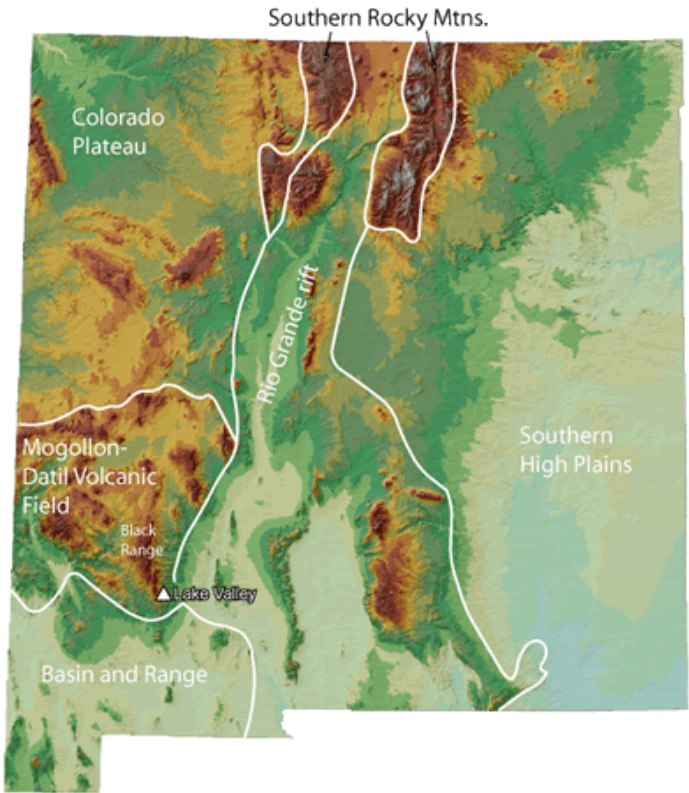
Lake Valley is in the southeastern Black Range, a northerly-trending mountain range west of the Rio Grande that is made up primarily of Eocene to Oligocene volcanic rocks derived from several eruptive centers in the Mogollon-Datil volcanic field.

An aside for fossil lovers: Apache Hill, located about 1.5 miles north of the ghost town of Lake Valley on the east side of New Mexico Highway 27, is one of the best fossil collecting sites in southern New Mexico. The fossils are in the Mississippian Lake Valley Limestone. Good outcrops are located just below the top of the hill. Intact fossils (Figure 2), including brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoid plates and calyxes, and horn corals, weather out of the shaly limestone in this particular area. Other fossils that can be found include gastropods, pelecypods, cephalopods, and trilobites (Mack, 1997).

Lake Valley was a silver-manganese mining district during the late 19th century. Silver was discovered in 1876, and the area was extensively mined until the silver crash in 1893 (Donegan et al., 1965; McLemore and Nutt, 2002). The Lake Valley district includes the famed Bridal Chamber, which was found in 1881. The Bridal Chamber was among the richest silver deposits ever mined (Eveleth, 1986). The spectacular Bridal Chamber ore body composed of silver chlorides and silver bromides was nearly two hundred feet long and 25 feet thick (Clark, 1895; MacDonald, 1909; McLemore and Nutt, 2002). Chlorargyrite (cerargyrite; AgCl), the main high-grade ore taken from the Bridal Chamber, was mined out by the late 1880s. Manganese minerals, mainly manganite and pyrolusite, were mined in the Lake Valley district during and after World War II (Creasey and Granger, 1953). No significant mining activity has occurred in the area since 1959 (McLemore and Nutt, 2002).

REGIONAL SETTING OF THE GEOLOGY

Carbonates deposited on the floor on an ocean 350 million years ago formed the host rock, Mississippian Lake Valley Limestone. 60 million years ago the region was just south of the northern margin of the northwest-striking Rio Grande uplift (Seager et al., 1986; O'Neill et al., 2002) which developed as a result of compressional Laramide deformation. The deformation of the limestone formed east-west trending normal faults on the crest of the Laramide highland that served as conduits for mineralizing fluids from the later Mogollon-Datil Volcanic Field, which was active 40 million years ago.



Physiographic setting of Lake Valley at the southern tip of the Black Range in the Mogollon-Datil Volcanic Field

THE ORIGIN OF THE PEACE PIPE

by Amy Rolfe Emerson

Taken from The Mentor, November 1922, thanks to Kay Bradford

Copied from THE SHAWMISH ROKTAWK

Reprinted from THE GLACIAL DRIFTER July 1983

In the southwest corner of Minnesota, 1,700 feet above the level of the sea, lies the site of much of the action in Longfellow's "The Song of Hiawatha". A half-mile north of the town of Pipestone are the famous Indian pipestone quarries and the falls of Winnewissa. The people of Pipestone have allowed some of the rock to be blasted, and a drainage ditch empties into the stream above the falls. The rock ridge, thirty feet high, over which the waters of Winnewissa fall, is the great divide of the Missouri and Mississippi watersheds. It stretches hundreds of miles to the northeast and the southwest.

In the valley below the falls are the pipestone quarries. Red cliffs overlay the pipestone, and five feet of rock must be removed before the real pipestone stratum is reached. The stone is brilliant red and when first quarried it is soft enough to be carved easily. It hardens upon contact with the air.



Winnewissa Falls, from <http://onlyinyourstate.com>



Quartzite cliffs along Circle Trail in Pipestone National Monument by Evan Frost. MPR News 2016

The Indians found the labor of digging with crude tools great; but as this is the only place in the world where true pipestone can be obtained, the effort seems justified. Indians had been known to trade two horses for an especially fine fragment of pipestone.

George Catlin, the artist/explorer, was the first white man known to have visited the quarries. Near the carvings stands the Great Spirit shaft, a pinnacle of rock crowned with the rough likeness of a man. The Indians believed that the rock assumed its shape because the Great Spirit stood upon it when he addressed the assembled nations.

Traditionally, the first people to occupy the earth were Indians, the first man having been hatched from an eagle's egg by a clap of thunder. According to the legend, the Great Spirit was angered by the warring of his people, so some time later, he again called all the nations of the earth together. They assembled in the valley of the pipestone for a third time. Standing on a pinnacle of rock, he bade them lay down their arms and live as brothers. As he spoke, water gushed from beneath his feet, and flowed over the precipice, forming the Winnewassa Falls. The penitent warriors threw away their weapons, plunged into the river at the falls, and washed the war paint from their faces. Then the Great Spirit took a fragment of soft pipestone and made a huge pipe, turning it in his hands. He sent the smoke from the pipe over his people, then to the north, the south, east, and west. He told them that the stone was their flesh; that they must use it for their peace pipes, that it belonged to them all, and that club and scalping knife must never again be used on its ground. Then he disappeared in flame. The heat was so great the surface of the rock was glazed. So, to this day, Indians come yearly to the sacred spot, to dig pipestone and bury their feud.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PIPESTONE AND PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT

From <https://www.nps.gov/pipe/learn/nature/geologicformations.htm>

Three geologic formations dominate the Pipestone National Monument: An ancient river deposited thousands of feet of sand throughout parts of Southwest Minnesota, southeastern South Dakota and northwest Iowa. A great flood or lake deposited clay that was buried under thousands more feet of sand. Pressure, heat, and 1.6 billion years combined to transform the sand into quartzite and the clay into an argillite claystone called pipestone or catlinite. During the Pleistocene, the land was scoured by glaciers and a conglomerate was deposited on top of the bedrock.

Geologists call the unique variety of pipestone at Pipestone National Monument catlinite, after George Catlin. Although there are other pipestone deposits around the country, each has a unique chemical signature. Catlinite is only found at Pipestone National Monument. It consists largely of microscopic crystals of pyrophyllite, diaspore, muscovite, and kaolinite. Traces of the iron-bearing mineral hematite give the stone its red color.

Most other red pipestones found in the world contain the mineral quartz; catlinite has little or none. It is very soft, 2.5 on the Mohs hardness scale. It can therefore be easily carved using only the simplest of tools which has made it a dominant source for stone for pipe making for centuries. Providentially, the pipestone is sandwiched between layers of the very tough and hard (7.5 Mohs hardness scale) Sioux Quartzite.

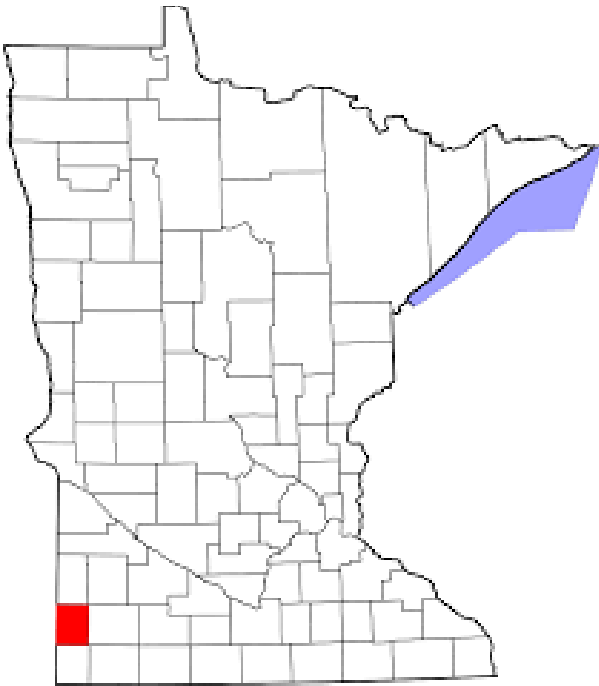
Of course, not everyone thinks it should be called catlinite, after George Catlin, a white American.

CULTURAL CONTEXT

From <https://religionsmn.carleton.edu/exhibits/show/pipe-stone/parkmanagement>

Before European contact, different groups of Native Americans came to the area of the pipe-stone quarries, which were understood to be neutral territory. Pipestone was also traded for long distances.

About 1700, the Yankton Nakota Sioux moved west and eventually took over the quarries. Their occupation was later recognized by treaty. In 1836 George Catlin visited and popularized the quarries, but he was preceded by white fur traders, if their journals are accurate. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was inspired by Catlin to include the quarries in "The Song of Hiawatha".



Map of Minnesota showing the location of Pipestone National Monument. From commons.wikimedia.org

Ignoring treaties, settlers illegally claimed portions of the land including the quarries and some began producing pipes for trade to Native Americans. In the 1890's the federal government decided to build the Pipestone Indian Training School on the reservation and rights to the quarry were managed by the superintendent of the school. In 1926, the Supreme Court ruled that the building of the school violated the 1858 Treaty of Washington. Compensation was paid but ironically, the Yankton Sioux were forced to give over control to the National Park Service.

In the 1960s the American Indian Movement called for equal civil rights and the end of patronizing and unequal treatment, and for more control over their lands and sacred places. This led to changes in the treatment of Native Americans under law. Not surprisingly, general interest in Native American ways of life began to increase.

Members of the Lakota and Dakota peoples from the area visited Pipestone National Monument and protested the stereotypical depictions of Native Americans and inaccuracies in the presentation of pipes at the museum. Many were shown with pipestem and bowl joined, whereas tradition mandates that bowl and stem of the sacred chanupa pipe only be joined in ceremony.

References:

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/09/22/pipestone-national-monument-to-stop-sale-of-pipes-on-park-grounds>

Beginning in 2019 pipes will no longer be sold at Pipestone National Monument in southwestern Minnesota. This move is the culmination of decades of contention and

several years of more-formal talks about whether to continue selling pipes made from the quarries at Pipestone — spiritual objects carved from what many Native American tribes consider sacred ground.

Under the new policy, pipestone carving will continue as part of the national monument’s cultural demonstration program, giving Native American craftspeople a chance to share their work and history with visitors. The store at the park, operated by the Pipestone Indian Shrine Association, will offer small pipestone crafts with background information on their significance. The store operators will open a second location in downtown Pipestone, Minnesota, off the park grounds and away from the quarries. In that location, pipes carved from pipestone may continue to be sold.

SYNTHETIC EXPLAINED

By Helen Crichton, from the Agatizer, and others, via Glacial Drifter 9/94

Synthetic does not mean artificial. A synthesized stone has been laboratory grown and has exactly the same composition as its natural counterpart. Of course, there are artificial gems, usually glass, hard plastic, or wafers of real stone sandwiched between glass or plastic, but a synthetic stone has all the same properties as a stone pried from the ground. Some respected companies specialize in synthetics and although these are priced below the natural, some can be quite costly.

Boules which can be bought for faceting may be synthetic and the stone you cut from this source will be virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, except when using sophisticated scientific techniques. Very often it is the perfection of a synthetic stone that distinguishes it from that which is produced by nature.

Generally, the laboratory-grown example will not have all the inclusions characteristic of its natural counterpart.

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 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—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 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Sarah Metsa, 1st Vice President-Elect 2022 attended to observe.

Approval of Minutes: Michele Marsel moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021, Board of Directors' Meeting as posted in the December BBG. Tricia Rittaler seconded the motion and it passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michele Marsel sent the Treasurer's Report to members on December 7, 2021. Michele reported the status of other financial items. Show numbers are in the final reconciliation stages, and overall, the results were good.

We are having a good year. We have underspent in several categories and had higher revenue than projected in some as well. We will end the year with healthy net revenue, not a loss as projected at the start of the year. There are still a few larger bills to be paid in December, so our year-end net revenue will be lower than the current report.

Michele reiterated the need for a Business Debit Card and clarified card functionality and fraud protection. A Business Debit Card tied to our primary Checking account addresses several needs.

1. Provides an HGMS direct payment option other than a member credit card with reimbursement for vendors that only accept online card payments (no checks or PayPal)
2. Expedites orders that require payment before order processing or item production can start
3. Allows prompt payment and capture in current year financials for recurring payments (avoids late member reimbursement requests that attribute charges to the wrong fiscal year)

Michele suggested accepting the standard daily debit card limit of \$1500 which matches our single signer check limit. If there is a need to use the card for a higher amount, an authorized card signer can arrange that with Chase for a specific transaction. Debit card transactions appear on our regular monthly Checking account statement and can be viewed by Board Members with account view access. Cards will be requested in January 2022 for the Treasurer and President when the incoming Board Officers update authorized account signers. The President's card will be a backup in case the Treasurer is not available. Michele moved that HGMS obtain debit cards tied to the primary Chase operating account: one for the Treasurer and one for the President. The cards will be used for recurring electronic transactions and bills that cannot be paid by check. Randy Carlson seconded the motion and it passed.

Michele also proposed an approval process for electronic payments over \$1500 to align with the oversight currently in place for paper checks (2 signatures required over \$1500). Michele Marsel moved to establish an approval process for electronic payments over \$1500. The Treasurer will email either the President or 1st Vice President with the invoice or payment request and any associated receipts for email approval to proceed with the transfer payment. The Treasurer may issue electronic payments up to \$1500 without additional approval, as is currently done with paper checks. Nancy English seconded the motion and it passed.

Rodney Linehan filed our 2020 Form 990 in November (within the extension period).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BBG Editor: On Friday, December 3, 2021, Beverly Mace notified members that the online version of the BBG was available on the HGMS Website.

Donations, Sales, Auction Committee (DSAC): Michele Marsel reported that several

small donations came in over the last two weeks. We continue to get equipment donated. The DASC will meet on December 12 to brainstorm how to manage what we still have to organize and sell, as well as how to keep things moving forward next year. They will also review their 2021 accomplishments. Michele will discuss a new chairperson for the committee at the upcoming meeting. Richard Good joined the committee. He is repairing and refurbishing donated equipment for sale. Sigrid said she is impressed by the work Richard has done.

Michele thanked Fred Brueckner for picking out the live auction items for the Annual Holiday Party Auction. This year the auction items are limited to twenty-five. No items will be added to the auction at the party. They will however be accepted and used for future auctions. We sold over 100 books and any remaining at year-end will be donated to Libraries through Half Price Books.

Education Committee: Maggie Manley, Education Chairman, explained that taking classes is a benefit of membership, as intended. The Board felt that opening up classes to non-members would discourage new membership and might present legal issues. The Insurance Committee determined that anyone on the HGMS property is covered by our Hanover insurance policy.

Maggie gave credit to Michele Marsel for suggesting bi-level pricing, a plan other organizations and non-profits use, one price for HGMS members (existing costs), and a higher cost for non-members. This would give others the chance to visit our building and meet like-minded people, increasing the chance that they would join HGMS. It also ties into the advertising efforts of Sarah and Joy who are trying to promote HGMS classes.

After an in-depth discussion about bi-level pricing, President Stewart asked for a motion. Maggie Manley moved to implement bi-level pricing for classes, the increase in price to be determined, for a trial period of one year. Extra shop time would require membership. If the non-member becomes a member within 30 days, the price increase will be applied to the membership. Otherwise, the extra price would go to the Club Education Revenue. Nancy English seconded the motion and it passed. Advertising and HGMS.org sign-up form and payment will need to be updated on the Website.

Maggie proposed giving classes in other parts of the city. Michele has some ideas to share with her. Maggie is hosting Basic Jewelry Making Skill classes in January. See the Website and weekly eblast for details. New instructors are needed.

Randy Carlson has a list of thirty people who signed up for faceting classes at the Show. He will be organizing those classes in 2022. He schedules the twelve-person intensive nine-hour classes once a quarter. It takes three instructors.

Membership Committee: November total new members: twelve singles, one couple, two families, one youth. November total renewals 2021-22: six singles, four couples, one family. November total early 2022 renewals: three singles, one couple.

Scholarship Committee: No report.

Show Committee: Assistant Chairman, Sigrid Stewart delivered the report. 2021 Show Net Revenue was discussed in the Treasurers report.

Our records show that twenty-nine members used the tickets that were mailed to them

without paying for them, depriving the club of over \$500 in revenue. Nancy Fischer posted a reminder in the December 5, 2021, eblast. She will also contact members individually, asking for payment. Sarah Metsa will collect mail responses received and forward the money to the Treasurer.

Both Grand Door prizes have been claimed. Sigrid will post the photos of the winners receiving the prizes on the Website.

The Volunteer Appreciation Party was a big success and a lot of fun. We gave out door prizes for the first time.

Website Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for December 9. The library list of books has been posted on the Website.

SECTION REPORTS

Beading Section: third Saturday, 12:30 p.m., December 18, 2021, In-person meeting. 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. They will talk about next years' projects. At next year's Annual Show Maggie plans to sell Bead People and Spiders to raise more money for the Beading Section. The Beading Section is offering restringing services for a fee.

Day Light Section: first Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., December 1, 2021, In-person Holiday Party. Nine members enjoyed barbeque and potluck sides. The Chairman, Nancy Searle, generously gave the members small angels made from banded agate and decorated Christmas ornaments. Nancy gave the group a list of proposed projects for 2022 to rate for interest. The next meeting will be on January 5, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The group will inventory the Day Light cabinets and reorganize the supplies to make them easier to use in the future. They will review the projects list from the December meeting.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: second Wednesday, 7:00, p.m., December 8, 2021, No meeting. The next meeting is on January 8, 2022. Randy Carlson is working on policies and a leasing agreement to allow members to check out a faceting machine and take it home for 30 days. He has downloaded a contract template that will protect the Section and Club from loss or damage. Lessees sign a contract agreeing to pay up to \$2000 per machine for damages.

The person must be prequalified as an HGMS member, must have been to at least four out of six of the most recent Gemstones and Faceting Section meetings, trained in the proper use of the machine, and approved by two members of Section leadership. A \$200 deposit check is required along with a credit card number and valid driver's license. The monthly fee should cover the consumables that will need to be replaced. The machine will be thoroughly inspected by a Section Leader before being leased. It will be checked out again when it is returned to the Section Leader. After 30 days the machine must be turned in and the person is blocked for 30 days from leasing it again.

Pat Cockrell has left the Club and the Leadership Team of the Section. Randy invited Logan (L. T.) Wilcox to join the Leadership Team. Randy is resigning his position as Chairman. He has asked for candidates to replace him. They will vote on a new Chairman on December 10. Randy will continue to be the Section Representative on the Board of Directors.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: third Monday, 7:30 p.m., December 20, 2021. No meeting. They are anticipating an exciting year.

- January 17, 2022 – We will begin the 2-part Money Clip set with a Cabochon project. Part 1: Cut a cabochon of Petrified Wood to fit the money clip. The material will be provided. You may use your alternate material, and it should be hard and durable (agate or other MOHS 7.0 or higher).
- February 21, 2022 – Money Clip Part 2: construct and finish the project started in January. Participants need to bring their silver – one 4" x 1" piece of 20g sterling (dead soft).
- March 21, 2022 – Obsidian stone inlay project. Tony Lucci will demonstrate how to use diamond burs to carve the Obsidian which will then be filled with crushed Mother of Pearl/Abalone. Each participant will cut a square piece of obsidian and carve their initial for the inlay. Materials will be provided.

Mineral Section: third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., December 15, 2021. Meeting postponed to Sunday, December 19 for a Holiday Party 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. Ray Kizer volunteered to replace Tricia Rittaler as the Mineral Section Representative. Tricia has moved to Winnipeg, Canada. The Mineral Section table was well staffed at the Show, and they sold "the heck out of the 8 for \$1.00 minerals." The money is used to purchase things that benefit the whole Club. It was proposed that next year the Show Committee explain to other Sections what they can sell to benefit their Sections. A discussion followed about other Sections selling items at the Show. Although the final answer to this question was referred to the Show Committee, it was stated that Sections could sell small items to benefit the Section, not an individual.

Paleo Section: third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., December 21, 2021. No meeting. The Next meeting will be on January 18, 2022. Program to be announced. Paleo sells small boxes of fossils at the Show. Mike Dawkins gave away small pieces of petrified wood and crinoid stems at the Show. The November meeting was sparsely attended and short.

Youth Section: first and third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to Noon., on December 4 the Youth Section had their Annual Holiday Party. Seven kids and their parents attended the Christmas party. They ate pizza and potluck desserts. Awards for the cabochon contest were passed out. Food, gift bags, and rocks were distributed. Neal turned the kids loose on the free table. On December 18 there is No Meeting. The next meeting will be on January 15, 2022.

Archaeology Section: Dormant

OLD BUSINESS

Cases: Sigrid talked with Kris Dingfield at the Show about display cases. He has also spoken with Neal and Kris is willing to handle the construction of some cases. He has some ideas about what we need, and Sigrid has some design ideas in mind also. She and Kris will be on the Case Committee in 2022. Al Mowery has offered to do a CAD (computer-aided design) drawing of the case we have. Kris will go to Quartzite and Tucson, so he will not be available until after those shows. The club would have to pay for supplies of course. The \$750 approved prototype budget will still be available in 2022.

Covid 19 Protocols: If you are unvaccinated, you must wear a mask in the HGMS building.

The Board reiterated that all Shop Supervisors are empowered to:

- 1) Ask an unvaccinated member to wear a mask.
 - 2) Ask an unvaccinated member who refuses to wear a mask to leave the premises
 - 3) If the unvaccinated member refuses to wear a mask and insists on using the shop, the Shop Supervisor is empowered to shut down the shop and close the building.
- Refer to the HGMS Bylaws for more information.

Dunn SW: Nancy English contacted Dunn SW to inquire about having their painters repaint our orange HGMS letters on the side of our building during the scheduled Spring 2022 complex repainting work. Dunn SW advised their painters can give us an estimate when they mobilize for power washing in March 2022. They advised purchasing paint in advance.

Maggie Manley offered to choose the color and purchase it from a store she knows well. She will pick up a sample of the old orange Texas-shaped badges from the Club which are the correct color.

HGMS Holiday Dinner & Auction, December 11, 2021, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall: Nancy English asked for more volunteers in the eblast. Nancy has received fourteen volunteers for set-up and takedown. Nancy has offered to be the point person for the Party. The Donations Committee picked out twenty-five items for the Auction. Clyde will order the meat.

Insurance Walk Through Report: Michele Marsel sent the report with a summary cover email to all BOD members ahead of the meeting to identify what the Committee agreed was policy and process changes, vs. remediation and repair. Clyde purchased the fire extinguishers, smoke and CO alarms, and photoluminescent exit signs.

The 2021 Insurance Committee was formed to clarify what is covered under both our Hanover property and liability insurance policy and through our SCFMS insurance. This Committee is working with Pathfinder (our insurance broker) to get a quote to add coverage specifically for our high-dollar shop equipment. Neal Immega and Michele are working on the inventory of equipment to create a rider. The equipment must be photographed, listed with serial numbers, and replacement prices must be looked up for the report.

Pathfinder offered to do a site visit and provide a free risk analysis based on our building conditions. This courtesy assessment helps HGMS get into a stronger position to avoid potential denial of a claim because we did not do something properly or had pre-existing non-compliance issues in our building.

The 2021 Insurance Committee (Nancy English, Sarah Metsa, Michele Marsel with participation from President Stewart) has done our best to group the items so they can be addressed. President-Elect English may appoint one or more new Committees in 2022 to address these items and the Clubhouse Chair will be asked to participate in and contribute to this work. Except for a few small items, we anticipate including this work in the 2022 budget. The current Insurance Committee is not making any specific recommendations to address the list now; this will be handled by the 2022 committees. The new Committee(s) will need to obtain estimates for review and remediations work; this has not been done yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Fidelity Bond: this insurance product protects HGMS in the event of financial crimes including theft (cash/securities) by a Volunteer, loss from forgery or check alteration, robbery, or accidental loss of in-transit funds (money going from Show to bank), computer fraud, and cost of paying someone like Rodney to prepare the proof of the claim (up to \$5K). We would be insuring the six individuals who have access to Club financial accounts and/or handle large sums of Club funds: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Show Committee Chairman. The maximum loss covered is \$250K, with a \$1000 deductible per loss event. Premium will be between \$650-\$725 a year (awaiting final quote). We can also get a 3-year premium which would be about a 5% savings over annual.

President Stewart preferred that the Board vote on a motion after Michele gets the answer to the question, "is it by role or by the person?" We will vote on it at the January BOD meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be the first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., January 4, 2021. The December General Meeting is replaced by the HGMS Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

The next General Meeting will be fourth 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.

Adjourn: Randy Carlson moved to adjourn. Tricia Rittaler seconded the motion. Sigrid said she enjoyed being our President and working with us. Board members told her they are proud to have worked with her. She has done a great job. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF

You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.

The local university geology department requests permission to hold field trips in your back yard.

You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.

You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "wood."

You receive a letter from the county informing you that a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks on your property.

Your collection upsets local geologic isostasy and shows up on seismic surveys.

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2021
by Nancy English

The December 2021 General Meeting was replaced by the HGMS Annual Holiday Party, held at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall on Wirt Road. After having to forgo the 2020 party it was a joy to be able to eat and socialize together to kick off the Season.

Fourteen volunteers transformed the church reception area into a buffet and dining room complete with hot trays and centerpieces while Nathalie Brandes played carols on the piano. HGMS provided the sodas and barbeque from the member-favorite restaurant, Hickory Barn.

Thank you, Clyde McMeans, for organizing the brisket, ham, and chicken. Potluck cooks brought iced tea, shrimp cocktail, chips with chili con queso, Hawaiian rolls, beans, meatballs, spinach, quinoa, potatoes, green bean casserole, squash, salads, and luscious desserts. (I know I left out some things, sorry.) What a feast!!

After dinner, the lovely sanctuary provided a beautiful, windowed backdrop for the brief meeting and live auction. President Sigrid Stewart opened the meeting.

"Traditionally, the last meeting of the year is the Christmas or Holiday party, and we gather to celebrate the season and the past year together. Despite this being one of the stranger years in my personal experience, we do have successes to look back on and that's what I would like to speak about briefly.

We are a volunteer organization. All work accomplished on behalf of the club is done willingly by members, to advance our Society and our hobby in the company of like-minded people. Our latest success is still fresh in our minds; we were able to stage our annual show despite pandemic fears and worries about people being willing to work the show; the public responded with enthusiasm and our dealers were happy with the results.

The success of the show is due to every person who helped set up, worked a shift, or helped break down the show, the dedication of the Show Committee, and of course to Scott Singleton's organization and leadership. I would like to recognize Scott's contribution at this time and ask him to say a few words about the show."

Scott read part of an article from the Houston Geology Society newsletter written by Janet Combs about the HGMS Show. "On November 12-14, 2021, the Annual Houston Gem and Mineral Show was held – after it was canceled last year for the first time in over 60 years due to COVID – and the Houston Geological Society once again hosted an outreach booth.

Although the local school districts did not permit field trips that typically bring several thousand kids on Friday, 97 private school students and 660 home-schooled children did come on Friday with specified stops at the HGS booth. On Saturday there were 83 scouts working on geology badges with the HGS booth as a designated part of the process.

Total attendance at the HGMS 2021 show was: 3329 paid + 385 teachers/parents + 757

kids = 4471. Paid attendance per day was 739 on Friday, 1638 on Saturday, and 952 on Sunday."

Education is one of our biggest commitments, and part of our 501c3 agreement. Classes, organized by Maggie Manley, School Daze, organized by Elsa Kapitan-White and Scott, and School Collections and Mineral kits, handled by Steve Blyskal, all contribute to that mission."

Sigrid continued her speech. "As this year progressed, we began opening up the shop again and having in-person Section meetings. God bless Zoom, it has helped us get through the pandemic so far, but it just isn't the same as being able to get together, work together and pursue our interests. I know that I was very glad to get back to the shop and do some lapidary work.

Our shop and clubhouse are important to all of us, and I would like to recognize Neal Immega for his long-time work with the shop and his dedication to revamping the library. Neal, would you like to say anything about shop management, our building or library?" Neal replied succinctly, "Everything works!"

"Section meetings have also resumed, both virtual and in-person. Our Section chairs, Maggie Manley for Beading, Nancy Searle for Day Light, Randy Carlson for Gemstones and Faceting, Tony Lucci for Lapidary and Silversmithing, Steve Blyskal for Mineral, Neal Immega for Paleo, and Beverly Mace for Youth all put in a lot of time to make sure there are programs for their Sections and opportunities to learn.

I would like to applaud all of you who give of your time on the Board of Directors to help direct the endeavors of the Society. I would like to recognize members of the Board, beginning with 1st Vice-president Steve Blyskal, who was responsible for programs, school collections, mineral kits, and the dealer committee. Beverly Mace, 2nd vice-president in charge of membership, the Youth section, and Load Up. Secretary Nancy English, who has answered the phone and organized volunteers. Treasurer Michele Marsel, who has made a big impact this last year, not only as treasurer but as head of the donations committee. She has also spearheaded several important initiatives that will disrupt our complacency and help us get things done.

Section representatives make sure that the concerns of their Sections are heard. Our Section Representatives Maggie Manley, Mike Dawkins, Randy Carlson, Reinhardt Brueckner, Tricia Rittaler, and Beverly Mace all deserve to be recognized.

There is additional recognition due to Richard Good, who has taken over the role of Lapidary and Silversmithing representative, and to Phyllis George, who recently resigned from that role.

I would like to recognize Phyllis for her work with the Lapidary Section, and for the many years for which she served as the editor of the BBG and as our webmaster, with this certificate of Lifetime Achievement.

I would like to close by saying that I have enjoyed working with all of you and I am happy to have served the Society. I am also happy to be turning over these duties to Nancy English, our new President, Sarah Metza our new Vice-President, Beverly Mace, continuing 2nd Vice-President, Secretary Sharon Halton, and Treasurer Michele Marsel. I

think the club is in good hands.”

The room applauded Sigrid’s speech and her outstanding accomplishments in the last three years.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. January 4, 2022.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, at 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.

Following President Stewart’s speech, the Auction began. Neal Immega conducted the auction. Michele Marsel recorded the buyers and prices and collected payments.

Ten people made short work of putting the church back in order for Sunday services the next day. Nancy English is grateful for all the help and looks forward to next year’s party.



Aquamarine on Quartz Erongo, Namibia

2022 HGMS OFFICERS

President	Nancy English	President @HGMS.org
First Vice President	Sarah Metsa	Programs@HGMS.org
Second Vice President	Beverly Mace	Membership@HGMS.org
Secretary	Sharon Halton	Secretary@HGMS.org
Treasurer	Michele Marsel	Treasurer@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	Richard Good	Lapidary@hgms.org
Mineral Section Board Member	Ray Kizer	Mineral@HGMS.org
Paleo Section Board Member	Mike Dawkins	Field_trips@HGMS.org

HGMS SECTION CHAIRS

Beading Section Chair	Maggie Manley	Beading@HGMS.org
Day Light Section Chair	Nancy Searle	Daylight@HGMS.org
Gemstone & Faceting Section Chair	Open	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

Please refer to the Website Calendar

<https://hgms.org/calendar>

Having one common source of
information will be more accurate