



The **BACKBENDER'S** **GAZETTE**

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

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April 2015



President's Message

by Raymond Kizer

First, I would like to thank all of the members who turned out to spread the word about HGMS during the recent Clear Lake Gem & Mineral (CLGM) show. The guys and gals who made time to sit at our information table really did a great job. We talked to a lot of CLGM members and visitors during the show, convincing many to come out and see what we have to offer. We signed up some new members and had several current members stop by to pay their 2015 dues.



We were able to collect around 170 email addresses through our free door prize offer. We plan to use the email addresses we collected to get out the word about the Houston Gem & Mineral show which has moved to an earlier date than our previous shows. Our 2015 show is September 25-27—

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Upcoming General Meeting Programs

by Paul Brandes

March 24, 2015: **Dr. Paul Abell – An Introduction into Near-Earth Asteroids:** Lately, we've heard a lot about meteorites and some near misses, including some that have been captured on video (think Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013!) This evening's presentation by Dr. Paul Abell from the Johnson Space Center of NASA will be a general overview of near-Earth asteroids explaining where they come from, what they are made of, what happens when they hit the planet, what we know about them from our ground-based telescopes and spacecraft, and why we are interested in them. Dr. Abell is the Lead Scientist for Planetary Small Bodies assigned to the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. His main areas of interest are physical characterization of near-Earth objects (NEOs) via ground-based and spacecraft observations, examination of NEOs for future robotic and hu-

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2015 HGMS Gem & Jewelry Show—This Year ONLY
September 25–27, 2015
Y'all come!

(In 2016 our show will be held in November—As Usual.)

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Every article published in the BBG is edited for grammar and content. No flaming is allowed.

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 Wednesday, April 8, 2015.*

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Purpose of HGMS

The objectives of this Society are to promote the advancement of the knowledge and practice of the arts and sciences associated with the collecting of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, and their identification and classification; the general lapidary art; the collecting and identification of gemstones; the designing and execution of jewelry or metalcraft; and to provide the opportunity to obtain, exchange, and exhibit specimens and rough or finished materials.

Membership dues are \$40 for an adult membership, \$60 for a couple, \$75 for a family (including all children aged 5-18), \$25 for a youth membership (ages 5-18), and \$500 for an adult life membership. Advertising rates: \$70 for 2 months, ¼ page; \$150 for 6 months, ¼ page.

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies & South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse which is located at 10805 Brooklet near the intersection of Highway 59 (Southwest Freeway) and Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8). See the calendar inside the back page for when the different Sections meet. The General Meeting is the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. The HGMS Web site address is <http://www.hgms.org>.

President's Message continued from page 1

but only for THIS ONE YEAR--2015. All in all, the information booth was a big success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members who have signed up since the beginning of the year. We are very glad you have decided to join us. HGMS has a lot to offer you. From the club-owned equipment you can learn to use in our shops, to the great activities and information shared in the various club sections. It's all available to you. So come spend some time getting to know the other members.

The mix of talent and knowledge our members hold is what makes belonging to our club a real bonus. My suggestion to our new members is to feel free to ask questions, plan to develop or improve your skills, and by all means, pick the brains of our membership. You can learn more about all facets of our hobby in a short period from them than you can from any book. Just my observation. However, if you are more comfortable learning from books, we have thousands of reference volumes in our two libraries which can help you do that. Come by and look for yourself. See you soon.

Upcoming Programs continued from page 1

man exploration, and identification of potential resources within the NEO population for future resource utilization. Please plan to attend!

April 28, 2015: Scott Singleton – There and Back Again – A Journey to Middle Earth *Editor's Note: See page 6 for a full description of Scott's talk.*

May 26, 2015: Nathalie Brandes – The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway

Vinegar—Not Just for Salads

*from Rocket City Rocks & Gems 6/1999; via Roc Toc 9/2008 and others;
via The Tumbler 9/2014*

One way to remove carbonates such as calcite from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow it to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing-type ammonia for 8.5 hours. Remove, rinse very well, wipe, and air dry.

For the gloss finish on tiger-eye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let stand for a few minutes, and then give it a second polish.

Mother-of-pearl for inlay work can be softened by a soaking in white vinegar. It then can be cut easily.

If you have sore hands from hard-rock mining, soak your hands in warm vinegar water, and the swelling and soreness will disappear.

Dark household vinegar will dissolve epoxy glue by soaking overnight.

Heard around the faceting table—spray vinegar on the lap while polishing with water, or mix 50/50 water and vinegar in your water cup. This lowers the pH, giving a faster and better shine.

The Mineralogy of Texas: The book by Arthur E. Smith, Jr.

by Mark Jacobson

In 2009 Art Smith completed a draft of the book “The Mineralogy of Texas.” This manuscript, including bibliography, contained about 200 single-spaced pages with no pictures or maps. Although this manuscript had existed in 2005, Art was then working on it at a more leisurely pace. By 2008, Art knew that his time might be limited, so he added to this text at a frantic pace. There are sections that clearly post-date 2008. The book contains all the minerals, and not surprisingly, hydrocarbon varieties known in Texas up to 2009. It does not contain meteorites or minerals in meteorites. It is thoroughly referenced—Art used to sit in the Rice University library and go through each journal manually, issue after issue. The bulk, if not all, of the material was created pre-Internet.

I have taken this manuscript and completed the editing to make the referenced cited (bibliography) section match the mineralogy text. The remaining work at this time is line editing for grammar, style, and format—not content. The sections that are completely not done are his acknowledgements, mineral pictures, and maps. The current text is 212 pages, single-spaced at 12-point font, with healthy 1.25 inch margins.

The plan is to have the book published in color as a “print on demand” in softcover and hardcover via Lulu or similar online company by the end of 2015. The final book would probably be 250 to 350 pages, due to the inclusion of hoped-for pictures and possible maps. I expect to have the line editing done by July 2015. The copyright to the text is owned by Art’s son, Brett Smith. He has given me permission in writing to complete the book and have it published. Profits, if any, would go to Brett, not myself.

I am soliciting pictures of Texas mineral specimens for inclusion in the book. What I am offering is that any mineral photographs that are used would be cited as a photo by and courtesy of “the photographer.” The owner of the specimen will be cited also, but only if the owner wants this to be done. In addition, the photographer’s name will be added to the acknowledgement section. In all cases, the photographer retains the copyright on the picture and only licenses its non-exclusive use in the book. The pictures can be either digital jpg files at greater than 500 dpi (printed size) or scanned from 35 mm slides/negatives at 2500 dpi or greater (meaning the picture can be printed at 5x the slide negative size). The author of the book will be exclusively Art Smith and copyright to him or his estate. I am only taking on this project as a debt to Art for his many years of friendship, and clearly, this book was intended to be his “Great work.” It is unlikely that a similar manuscript with his thoroughness and depth of knowledge will appear for many years in the future, if at all.

I can be contacted via markivanjacobson@gmail.com regarding pictures or black and white maps. Mark Jacobson

Talks you will NOT want to miss!*by Scott Singleton***Paleo Meeting, Tuesday April 21: Scott Singleton—Living Fossils – Two Trees from the South Pacific**

The most ancient conifer family is Araucaria. Probably originating in the arid Permian, this family was well established by the Triassic and persisted throughout the Mesozoic. It is the most prevalent fossil in Arizona's Petrified National Forest (*Araucarioxylon arizonicum*), which is in the Triassic Chinlee Fm. In Texas, it is common in transgressive sands within the Cretaceous of Central Texas. Today the family still exists in isolated populations. One of these is in the South Pacific, specifically Eastern Australia and New Zealand, where it is sold in garden centers throughout the world as the Norfolk Island Pine. We will compare living and ancient species of this family.

Ferns have been around since the mid-Paleozoic. They are a broad and successful plant form, often the first to colonize tropical disturbed areas. In the Upper Eocene of South Texas, an odd preservation environment occurred whereby small tree ferns of the family Cyathea were preserved. They have been named *Cyathodendron texanum*. This family still exists and is the most common tree fern in the South Pacific. In fact, the tree fern *Cyathea dealbata* is known as the Silver Fern and has been informally accepted as the symbol of New Zealand. We will look at modern and fossil representatives of our well-known Choke Canyon "fern bud."

General Meeting, Tuesday April 28

Scott Singleton—There and Back Again – A Journey to Middle Earth. Over the Christmas break, the Singleton family went on an extended vacation to New Zealand, and they also spent some time on the east coast of Australia diving the Great Barrier Reef. The purpose of the NZ trip was as a self-guided "discovery" to visit locations for the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* movies. We traveled the length of the North and South Islands and experienced a ton of actual movie sites. NZ is absolutely beautiful, and having a spine of mountains (known as the Southern Alps) down the length of South Island adds to the beauty. I, of course, enjoyed the abundant wineries as much as anything.

As a means of showing this trip in a fresh and interesting manner, I photo-processed all the pictures in Adobe Lightroom, and my wife created an iSlideshow complete with an audio track consisting of five songs appropriately picked according to theme and lyrics. The iSlideshow is 17 minutes long and includes actual scenes from the movies, so appropriate connections to the locations can be made. It is preceded by a short PowerPoint presentation consisting of a route map to introduce the audience to the photos they are about to see. If you are a Hobbit or LOTR fan (like we are), this is a presentation you will not want to miss!

Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

March 5, 2015: Garth Clark, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Attendance was taken and visitors signed in. The Section briefly discussed possible field trips. Trips and dates will be announced later. Future talks were also discussed. It was decided that for the April 2 meeting, various members will bring items for "Show & Tell." So don't miss this opportunity to get up close and personal with some amazing ancient antiquities. Also, I volunteered to give a preview of the HMNS new exhibit "*China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of the Sanxingdui*" that will be opening Friday, April 10. For the meeting on Thursday, May 7, Bob Moore will be doing a presentation on "*Avebury: Britain's Neolithic Monument*." Following the discussion, Garth gave his talk, followed by questions and discussion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Program: Garth Clark, Section Chair of the HGMS Archeology Section, gave an excellent presentation entitled the "*Neolithic Civilization, the Levant - a cradle of mankind*." He described the region and history starting in the Paleolithic with evidence of modern man being found in Israel based on a *Homo sapiens* skull fragment found in a cave that was dated at 52,000 years old. This skull proved that modern man was in the Levant earlier than previously thought. Then, he talked about how the region had forests and grasslands during the Epipaleolithic 20,000–10,000 years ago, much different than the desert-dominated landscape today. During this time, large herds of animals such as horses and gazelles and wild edible plants were abundant. In the Levant, the Neolithic ended about 6,000 years ago with a major global warming climate event that occurred very rapidly over 40–50 years, which ended the lush landscape. Garth noted that 250,000 people lived along the Jordan/Saudi Arabia border prior to this change! He then talked about culture, agriculture, and stone structures in the area including several stone circles, standing stones, and kites (structures built for capturing animals). The change in climate led to farming and to domestication of the cat. Many staple crops such as wheat, barley, and corn were developed in the region. He noted that today the region is arid, and there is much unrest and violence. Many of the Neolithic sites and artifacts that he visited in Syria during the 1980s have been destroyed. In early March, it was announced that the Islamic State bulldozed the ancient city of "Nimrod" in Iraq; one of the most famous and most important archeology sites in the world. Garth concluded that during the last 12,000 years, several climate events have affected agriculture and civilizations.

April 2, 2015: Show & Tell, and preview of HMNS new exhibit "*China's Lost Civilization: The Mystery of the Sanxingdui*" at the HGMS Clubhouse at 7:30 p.m. This will be a fun and interactive meeting, so please mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to examine actual antiquities!

General Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2015

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Ray Kizer at 7:30 p.m.

Visitors and New Members: Ray thanked everyone for coming to the February 24, 2015, General Meeting. The meeting was attended by 26 regular members, five new members, and one visitor. Ray then asked the new members and visitors to stand and be recognized. The new members are Mitchell Lukens, J. Nathan Fischner, Danny Arnold, Shellene Wilson, and Emily Moskal. Peyton Barnes was visiting.

Drawing: David Hawkins won the drawing for the fluorescent pink calcite with green willemite from the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, New Jersey.

Minutes: J. Nathan Fischner moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2015, General Meeting as published in the BBG. Neal Immega seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

President's Comments: The Clear Lake Show is March 7–8, 2015. It is at the Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas. HGMS will have a booth to promote HGMS and the HGMS Annual Show. We have volunteers for every shift. Many members volunteered to take multiple shifts. While working on your shift, feel free to stay at the table as long as you want or go see the show and check back. People can sign up for a free Door Prize with their email addresses. When the winning ticket is drawn, the winner will be notified by email.

Field Trips: A field trip is being organized for March 7, 2015 by Cera Field Trips. Collecting will be done at Sand Creek Farm and Dairy, Cameron, Texas. Contact cera.fieldtrips@gmail.com for more details.

Teri Smith is organizing an agate-hunting field trip in April. Collecting will be done at Walker Ranch and Singleton Peak East.

Installation of the new security system has begun. There are enough channels that we can add smoke detectors.

Membership Dues for 2015 memberships are due now. Reminders are posted around the club, in the BBG, and on the Web site.

Phyllis George sent emails to all Section heads asking them to review their Web pages as part of the Web site update. She asks that they email their plans as a Word document, placing photographs in the text where they belong. Also, please attach copies of all pictures to the email. (If you have lots of photos, it might take more than one email to get them all sent.)

Show 'n Tell: Joe Niernberger shared a sauropod vertebrae. He also brought

fossilized teeth embedded in matrix that he could not remove. He asked for suggestions on how to accomplish this.

Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, **March 5, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. Garth Clark is presenting the program: *Mysteries of the Neolithic Cultures of the Upper Levant*. The **April 2, 2015**, program will be announced. The **May 7, 2015** program will be a **Bob Moore presentation: Avebury—Britain's Neolithic Monument**.

Beading Section: The next two regular Beading Section meeting will be on Saturday, **March 21, 2015**, and **April 18, 2015** at 1:30 p.m. Projects will be announced.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, **March 9, 2015**, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Members will make a jasper or agate slab bead. Completing the total project will take two meetings. In the March meeting, we will construct the rough bead using saws and grinders in the shop. Slabs will be available, or you can bring your own 3" X 4" X ¼" slab. We will cut four smaller slabs, smooth them, and glue them together to prepare for shaping and polishing at the next meeting.

The monthly Day Light Section meetings are moving to the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month starting **April 1, 2015** at 1:00 p.m. At that meeting, we will **shape and polish the beads we made in March**. We will be using files and the club's grinders and polishers. Shop fees DO NOT apply for Day Light members during Day Light meeting hours.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: The next regular meetings will be on Wednesday, **March 11, 2015** and **April 8, 2015**, at 7:30 p.m. The programs will be announced.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: The next regular meeting is Monday, **March 16, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a carving demonstration by **Ed Clay**. The April 20 and May 18, 2015 programs are to be announced.

Mineral Section: The next regular meeting is **Wednesday, March 4, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be **Tucson Show & Tell**. Members will bring their recent acquisitions from the many Tucson Shows. Impressions and experiences are welcomed.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. members should bring recent acquisitions from the Clear Lake Show (March 7–8). Also, specimens that did not make it back from Tucson in time for the previous meeting will be discussed.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015, program to be announced.

Wednesday April 15, 2015 The Mineral Section will be hosting its annual

auction to help raise money for the Section. Set up begins at 6:30 p.m. with viewing from 7:00 to 7:30. After a short business meeting, bidding will begin and last until the final item is sold.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 17, 2015**. Scott Singleton will present a program on petrified wood. The program for **April 21** at 7:30 p.m. will be announced.

At the last meeting—**February 17, 2015**—Chase Jennings' presented Microfossils—and How to Purchase and Use an Affordable Digital Microscope

Youth Section: The next meetings are scheduled for **March 7** and **March 21, 2015** from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. **However**, the March 7 meeting is canceled because of the Clear Lake Show. It is hoped that the Youth Section members will attend that show. The March 21, program will be announced. Typically, the Youth Section continues training and working on cabochons in the shop.

Old Business

In the interest of time, President Kizer asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items in the February 2, 2015, Board minutes and General Meeting minutes as published in the March 2015 edition of the BBG.

New Business

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

The next General Meeting is Tuesday March 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be An Introduction into Near-Earth Asteroids **by Dr. Paul Abell**. Lately, we've heard a lot about meteorites and some near misses, including some that have been captured on video (think Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013!) This evening's presentation by Dr. Paul Abell from the Johnson Space Center of NASA will be a general overview of near-Earth asteroids, explaining where they come from, what they are made of, what happens when they hit the planet, what we know about them from our ground-based telescopes and spacecraft, and why we are interested in them. Dr. Abell is the Lead Scientist for Planetary Small Bodies assigned to the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Adjourn: Paul Brandes moved to adjourn the business meeting, and J. Nathan Fischner seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

5-minute break

The President called on Vice President Paul Brandes to introduce our speaker for the General Meeting.

Fluorescent Minerals—Some Hows and Whys; Speaker: Aaron Rever. Aaron focused on all aspects of fluorescent minerals, including the science of why minerals fluoresce, the history of collecting fluorescent minerals, and several of the worldwide locations historically famous for their collecting sites. Such locations include Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey; Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec; as well as Langesundsfjord, Norway; Langban, Sweden; and Illimassaq, Greenland. A short lesson on the chemistry and physics of fluorescence in minerals was discussed, including activators and quenchers of fluorescence in minerals, as well as the intrinsic fluorescence present in some minerals. In addition, there was a brief discussion of the evolution of ultraviolet lamps from historic to modern-day. Following the presentation, Aaron held a Show and Tell session of specimens from his personal collection.

Refreshments: Provided by Nancy English.

Board of Director’s Meeting

March 3, 2015

by Nancy English

X	President - Ray Kizer	X	Archeology Rep - Garth Clark
X	1st Vice President - Paul Brandes	X	Beading Rep - Jillynn Hailes
	2nd Vice President - Beverly Mace		Daylight Rep - Mary Ann Mitscherling
	Treasurer - Rodney Linehan	X	Faceting Rep - Gary Tober
X	Secretary - Nancy English	X	Lapidary Rep - Phyllis George
	Past President -	X	Mineral Rep - Mike Sommers
		X	Paleontology Rep - Mike Dawkins

Call to Order: President Ray Kizer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present. There were two other non-voting members at the meeting: Tamara Ritchie, Publicity and Carrie Hart, Education.

Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes: The minutes of the February BOD meeting had an error at the end. “Rodney Linehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Beverly Mace seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. so the General Meeting Presentation on Fluorescent Minerals could begin,” should be changed to “Rodney Linehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Beverly Mace seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.” Phyllis George changed the online BBG to correct it. We were unable to change it before the hard copy was printed.

Gary Tober moved and Paul Brandes seconded that the corrected minutes of the February 2015 Board Meetings be accepted as published in the March 2015 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Rodney Linehan emailed financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting. He sent requests to all Section Chairs to get **2014 financial information** from the Section Treasurers. The Board Representatives will remind their Section Chairs.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, **March 5** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be **Mysteries of the Neolithic Cultures of the Upper Levant**

Speaker: Garth Clark, Section Chair, will present a talk on the Neolithic cultures of the Middle Eastern Upper Levant area, a large area in southwestern Asia. This area is almost daily in the headlines with news of violence—such as the destruction of treasures in the Mosul Museum. Although the area is desert, the bounties of nature during the Neolithic gave rise to the first year-round agriculture, oldest known temples, first potter's wheel, and what is arguably the first empire—the Akkadian. Learn about the mysterious stone circles of Jordan, the Nazca lines of the Middle East, and a buried city.

The **April 2, 2015** program will be announced.

The **May 7, 2015** program will be presented by **Bob Moore:** Avebury Britain's Neolithic Monument. **This monument is larger than Stonehenge.**

Beading Section: Jillynn Hailes reported the next meetings are on Saturday, **March 21, 2015** and **April 18, 2015** at 1:30 p.m. Projects will be announced.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, **March 9, 2015**, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Members will make a jasper or agate slab bead. This will take two meetings. In the first meeting, we will construct the rough bead using saws and grinders in the shop. Slabs will be available, or you can bring your own 3" X 4" X ¼" slab. We will cut 4 smaller slabs, smooth them, and glue them together to prepare for shaping and polishing at the next meeting.

The monthly Day Light Section meetings are moving to the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month starting **April 1, 2015** at 1:00 p.m. We will **shape and polish the bead made in March.** We will be using files and the club's grinders and polishers. Shop fees DO NOT apply for Day Light members during Day Light meeting hours.

Education Committee: Carrie Hart reported that the **Master Lost Wax Casting** class started March 1. The multiple classes cost \$200.00 and will continue on March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2015. Ray Kizer donated 200 castings for student use. Carrie Hart will email the six students to let them know Garth Clark and Ray Kizer have silver to sell for casting.

Gemstones & Faceting Section: The next meetings are on Wednesday, **March 11, 2015** and **April 8, 2015**, at 6:30 p.m. On March 11, the topics will be Gemstone ID, Use of Dichroscope and Specific Gravity Kit. Tommy Cardwell from the TV show "Prospectors" may be a guest speaker.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: The next regular meeting is Monday, **March 16, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a carving demonstration by **Ed Clay**. The April 20 and May 18, 2015 **programs will be announced**.

Mineral Section: The next regular meeting is Wednesday, **March 4, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be Tucson Show & Tell. Members will bring their recent acquisitions (and hopefully tales of their impressions and experiences) from the many Tucson Shows.

Wednesday, **March 18, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. members should bring recent acquisitions from the Clear Lake Show (March 7–8). Also, specimens that did not make it back from Tucson for the previous meeting will be discussed.

Wednesday, **April 1, 2015**, program to be announced.

Wednesday **April 15, 2015** The Mineral Section will be hosting its annual auction to help raise money for the Section. Members will give one (1) specimen of to the Section. They are allowed to sell five (5) additional specimens, (10% going to the Section and the rest going to the member. Set-up will begin at 6:30 p.m. with viewing from 7:00 to 7:30. After a short business meeting, bidding will begin and last until the final item is sold.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 17, 2015** and **April 21** at 7:30 p.m. The programs will be announced.

At the last meeting—**February 17, 2015**—Chase Jennings presented the program **Microfossils—and How to Purchase and Use an Affordable Digital Microscope**.

Publicity Committee: Tamara Ritchie reported that the Morton Ranch High School Crafts show is March 21. The table cost for a non-profit is \$50.00. Tamara will email Nancy English the information so she can start signing up volunteers. We will promote HGMS and the HGMS Show. She also confirmed that the Fine Mineral Show has approved us having a table set up in the front lobby April 24–26. She is also working on getting two tables at the Intergem show on April 17–19 and one at the Bead Market in June.

Show Committee: The Show Committee has planned a table at The Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show March 7 and 8, 2015. Volunteers are scheduled for both days. This year HGMS is giving away a Door Prize each day. The winner will be notified by email ONLY. Ray Kizer supplied a nice "Alligator Smoky Quartz..." from Minas Gerais, Brazil (donated by Katy Rock Shop). Steve Blyskal offered a split coconut geode.

Youth Section: The Youth Section **WILL NOT** have a formal meeting Saturday March 7. Youth members are encouraged to attend the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show. The next meeting is on Saturday, **March 14, 2015** from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: Phyllis George reported that the deadline to submit articles for the April BBG is March 11, 2015.

Phyllis sent emails to all Sections asking them to review their Web pages as part of the Web site update. Send the updates to her in a Word file. Place photographs in the text where they belong. In addition, attach copies of all photos to the email. (Depending on the size of each photo, it may take more than one email to send them all.) So far, there has only been one response to the request.

Old Business

1. **Club House Repairs / upgrades:** Neal is working on the counterweight to close the back door. Ray is aware that the doorbell needs to ring in the meeting room.
2. **Security System:** Garth Clark – Installation of the new security system has begun. There are enough channels that we can add smoke detectors. Garth will look for a fan, cage, and cable lock as well as wire for smoke alarms.
3. **Member Badges.** Beverly Mace did not attend, so there was no update on the badge order. The Board was reminded that many vendors at the shows will give club members a discount. Wearing a badge calls attention to membership.
4. **2015 Dues Reminder:** Neal is starting to check the dues list for everyone using the shop. You **MUST** be a member of HGMS to use the shop. No exceptions, and no IOUs for dues.

New Business

1. **Dunn SW property:** Michele Marsel sent word of Dunn SW's proposals to increase security. In light of the recent robbery at Southwest Moving. The cost of real-time camera monitoring is double what Dunn has historically spent on security. In addition, increased patrols are being considered due to other owners' concerns regarding prostitution, graffiti, and unauthorized use of the Dunn SW owner parking lots.

The Board discussed the situation in detail. We agreed with Michele that HGMS has not had specific issues with any of the above. HGMS has al-

Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Jim Kendall at kendal_ja@yahoo.com

ready invested in a security system. It appears that Dunn SW is trying to fix things beyond their control, and they should put the onus on individual owners to beef up their security rather than try to take action for the entire 33-owner park.

At this time, the Board is disinclined to pay for more security without knowing what it would cost HGMS. The issue will be reviewed again when Dunn SW provides a specific plan.

2. **Shop News:** Neal sent word that the Texaco hydraulic feed saw is ready to be moved into the shop. John Cooper did the work to get it ready. Thanks, John.
3. **Proposal for HGMS LAPTOP for Shows for collecting email addresses, dues, and new memberships.** Jim Kendall suggested via email that we need to try to go electronic as much as possible. He contends that because we have a continuing problem with reading handwritten forms (with handwritten email addresses), HGMS should invest in a laptop or tablet to be used at any venue where new memberships or any HGMS form is completed.

The Board decided not to purchase a laptop (or tablet) because of the expense, the need to secure it, and the need to maintain it.

4. **General Meeting Presentation Tuesday March 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be “An Introduction into Near-Earth Asteroids.”** This evening’s presentation by Dr. Paul Abell from the Johnson Space Center of NASA will be a general overview of near-Earth asteroids—where they come from, what they are made of, what happens when they hit the planet, what we know about them from our ground-based telescopes and spacecraft, and why we are interested in them. Dr. Abell is the Lead Scientist for Planetary Small Bodies assigned to the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.
5. General Meeting Tuesday April 28, 2015 at 7:30: Scott Singleton—New Zealand trip.
6. General Meeting Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 7:30: Nathalie Brandes—The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway

Adjourn: Nancy English moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mike Dawkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.

DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7 mm-wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

PIECE OF LEATHER

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise—for instance, a drawplate.

WINDING JUMP RINGS

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount



stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be really careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5½ on the Mohs scale—softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one-inch diameter ones such as those shown at www.riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

Can You Guess the Mystery Mineral?

by Jim Hooper

from The Conglomerate 1/2015

Test your memory! Name a mineral you feel is pretty much described in the following clues: (answer is found elsewhere in the newsletter!)

- It's the most abundant mineral worldwide
- It occurs as both small crystals and massive aggregates
- Typically colorless, it can be light blue in some formations
- Small crystals are rarely larger than 7mm
- Small crystal forms/habits may include dendritic, and skeletal, hopper-shaped prisms, and platy hexagonal
- On the Mohs hardness scale it can range from a 4 to 6 or 7 depending on conditions when the crystals were formed.
- Despite its abundance, it's rarely seen in museum collections and even more rarely in private collections.

Got it? Okay, here are some more clues:

Group: Oxides

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Diaphaneity: Translucent to transparent

Luster: Vitreous
Streak: White

In massive forms, it is sometimes used as a building material. There are manmade varieties, but they are classified as “synthetic” and not officially mineral.

Stumped? The answer is on page 23.



Beasts of Burden

*The T-Town Rockhound, 11/2008, via Rock Buster 12/2011-1/2012,
Franklin County Rockhouser 1/2015*

Three animals are outstanding examples of the Beast of Burden class: the mule, the camel, and the simple-minded rockhound.

The mule is smart—put one pound more than his usual load on him, and he simply balks until it is removed.

The camel is even more decided in his ideas—try overloading him, and he’ll stay in the sand, and if you persist, will spit his cud at you.



But that simple-minded rockhound? He takes 15 to 20 pounds of equipment in with him, then tries to load on about 50 to 60 pounds of rock and carry it back to the car on the road. Does this sound familiar to anyone?

Famous Last Words

*from “The Best of We Go” via newsletter of the Rotary Club of
Westtown Goshen, Pa., USA, via The Chiseler 12/2002*

- * This will be a short meeting.
- * I don’t burn. I tan.
- * Don’t worry. I never forget the tickets.
- * The train isn’t coming that fast.
- * We’ll only stay five minutes.
- * This won’t hurt at all.
- * Don’t worry. You can’t miss it.
- * One more cookie won’t ruin my diet.
- *When the gas tank reads “empty,” there’s always a gallon or two left.

For a chuckle: Old people shouldn’t eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.

SCFMS—SAFETY ON THE FIELD TRIP

by Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Chair

from SCFMS Newsletter 3-4/2015

Well, the weather is warming and I've been out hunting a lot recently. On one of these trips I re-learned the lesson about knowing where you're going and making sure that you have the gear to get there, and more importantly, to get out.

As I like to tell my kids, "the easiest thing about climbing trees is getting down. The hardest thing is doing it without getting hurt."

So there I was, standing alone on an old country bridge looking down 40 feet to the water. The creek was about 4 feet higher than normal, but the fringe of the bank still looked accessible—which meant I would have access to the fossil layer. So I attached my tag line and lowered my bucket and gear over the side to a little ledge that looked to be just above the water. Then I walked back around to access the bank and headed in. That's when I realized I had some problems that had started with bad depth perception.

Problem 1: I couldn't get down the way I have always done in the past because it was under water.

Problem 2: My bucket wasn't on the edge of the bank; it was actually about 5 feet up and I couldn't get to it from higher up on the bank/cliff.

Problem 3: Where was my buddy Chase who was supposed to bring some better ropes?

Problem 4. The small amount of bank that was still exposed was actually a talus slope of shale that had just gotten "lubricated" by the creek.

Problem 5: you'll have to wait for...

So for **Problem 1**, I found a spot, used some old vines and roots to get as far down as possible, then jumped into about 8 inches of water + a few more of mud. Good thing I didn't twist anything! Remember the depth for future reference.

Problem 2 - it wasn't too hard to handle except that I didn't want to go for a swim. When balancing on a precarious slope, adjusting your center of gravity upwards isn't a good idea. Moving very carefully, I maneuvered the bucket down. I stayed dry to that point and found a little dry spot for my bucket and gear. Then I started working my way downstream. I used my tag line to steady myself as I scuttled along.

#3 - where was Chase? About then he called and told me he couldn't come because his girlfriend's parents just came into town and had to take him out to dinner. This was bad since I really needed some better gear to haul my

middle-aged butt back out of the creek!

Problem 4: “Man, this footing is slick!” My tag line only helped for about 20 feet, and then it was just me, my mud boots, and my pick. I used the pick to dig out dry footholds just above the water and worked my way to the outcropping layer. I spent a good 3 hours there digging through the matrix and came away with my first mosasaur tooth. Small with the very tip broken off, but I was still pretty happy. So, time to call it a day, and I could even be back in time for dinner.

That’s when **Problem 5** reached up (literally) and threw a wrench in my pre-conceived plans. Although there had not been any recent rain in the creek’s watershed, the Brazos River had recently received several inches a couple of hundred miles upstream. So while I was in the creek, the Brazos continued to rise and water backed into the creek. I was facing the wall and didn’t notice that the water had risen about a foot behind me!

So there I am at the bottom of the cliff, the fringe of the bank is now underwater, AND I’m loaded down with matrix I want to take home. Well, I did make it out. Had to cut more steps which took a lot of work.

Flailed numerous times and fell in once while tossing my pick in the air. Luckily, it missed me on the way down and landed where I could grab it. Otherwise, I WAS swimming back. Finally made it to the tag line and used it to haul myself about two feet up the bank. I secured it to my bucket and realized how hard it was to climb with two mud boots filled with muddy water. After partially emptying them (I must have looked like a crazed and muddy yoga master), I crawled the remaining 38 feet to the top. Yes—I was exhausted, and now all I had to do was drag that 50 lbs. of rock up from the bottom, and I could go.

The only smart thing I did in the whole process was bring my wagon to the bridge. I loaded it up and easily walked the quarter mile back to my Jeep. Then I headed home, very tired, but not bleeding (much) and without needing to go to an orthopedic surgeon the next day! I even used that change of clothes. All was good in the world until my hands cramped into a death grip on the steering wheel. I always take Motrin® with me, and that helped!

In retrospect, I put myself in a pretty dangerous situation and should have pulled out once I realized my hunting buddy wasn’t going to show up, but since I had been to this spot several times before, I thought I could handle it. Maybe I did, just barely, or maybe since my Mom still prays for me every day, I had a little help! Either way, I’m too old to do something that stupid. So I vow here and now to stop—at least until I need more fodder for my next article!!!

Owen Martin

Mineral Munchie—Rock Candy

by Elizabeth LaBau

from About.com Guide:

http://candy.about.com/od/hardcandyrecipes/r/rock_candy.htm

via Diamond Dan's Mini Miner Monthly 12/2014, via Rock Chips 1/2015

Ingredients: 2 cups water, 4 cups granulated sugar, 1/2-1 tsp of flavoring extract or oil (optional), Food coloring (optional), glass jar, skewer or thread (see below)



1. Prepare your materials: wash a glass jar thoroughly with hot water to clean it. Cut a length of thick cotton thread a few inches longer than the height of the jar, and tape it to a pencil. Place the pencil across the lip of the jar, and wind it until the thread is hanging about 1 inch from the bottom of the jar. Attach a paper clip to the bottom of the thread to weight it and ensure it hangs straight down. Alternately, you can use a wooden skewer as the base of your rock candy, and use clothespins balanced across the top of the jar to clip it into place.
2. Wet your thread or wooden skewer, and roll it in granulated sugar. This base layer will give the sugar crystals something to “grab” when they start forming. Set the thread or skewer aside to dry while you prepare your sugar syrup.
3. Place the water in a medium-sized pan and bring it to a boil. Begin adding the sugar, one cup at a time, stirring after each addition. You will notice that it takes longer for the sugar to dissolve after each addition. Continue to stir and boil the syrup until all of the sugar has been added and it is all dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat.
4. If you are using colors or flavorings, add them at this point. If you are using an extract, add 1 tsp of extract, but if you are using flavoring oils, only add ½ tsp, and **make sure you don't stand right in front of the pan—the scent can be very strong as it rises in the steam.** Add 2–3 drops of food coloring and stir to ensure even, smooth color.
5. Allow the sugar syrup to cool for approximately 10 minutes, then pour it into the prepared jar. Lower the sugared string or skewer until it hangs about 1 inch from the bottom.
6. Carefully place your jar in a cool place, away from harsh lights, where it can sit undisturbed. Cover the top loosely with plastic wrap or paper towel.

7. You should start to see sugar crystals forming within 2-4 hours. If you have seen no change to your skewer or thread after 24 hours, try boiling the sugar syrup again. Dissolve another cup of sugar into it, then pour it back into the jar and insert the string or skewer again.
8. Allow the rock candy to grow until it is the size you want. Don't let it grow too large, otherwise it might start growing onto the sides of your jar! Once it has reached the size you want, remove it and allow it to dry for a few minutes, then enjoy or wrap in plastic wrap to save it for later.



ALAA Membership

*by Cheri George, ALAA Membership Chair
from AFMS Newsletter 2/2015*

I am happy to have been able to serve as your Membership Chairman this year! ALAA is important to me and to my husband, as we have enjoyed our forays out into the wilds to look for interesting rocks and to join friends who are doing the same.



Many of our "Public Lands" are no longer "Public." There are lots of signs saying, "Enjoy your Public Lands," but they don't really mean for us to do that. They mean drive through, go "oooh and aaah," but keep our bloody hands off. I personally am affronted by their audacity, and feel that the BLM as well as the Federal Government have no idea with what they truly are dealing.

The Feds make a rule, but then they sign the paper and file it away somewhere—all the while, the Department of the Interior tells the BLM, "Just make it up as you go along." At least that is how it feels to me. There are people out there who have filed claims on land so they can do their mining and metal detecting and looking for just that special something, and even they are being pushed around. If a claimant can't search on their own claim, what can they do?

We have to keep fighting the powers that be and keep writing to our Congressmen and stating our case. We have to keep on going and never give up. After all, these are "OUR PUBLIC LANDS."

As a member of ALAA, you can help by spreading the word and urging your friends and acquaintances to join ALAA. The membership fee is small, and every little bit helps us keep our program going. You will find a membership form on our Web site at www.amlands.org. Print out several and pass them out.

Contact me at <lizardwoman3@yahoo.com> if you have questions regarding your ALAA Membership. I am happy to have been able to serve as your Membership Chairman this year!

Biggs Picture Jasper: A Legacy is Born

by Dale Rhode

from *The RockCollector* 1/2006, via *Chippers' Chatter* 11/2014

Biggs picture jasper and the discovery thereof played a vital role in the evolution of the lapidary field. Many a lapidarist would not be involved with this fine hobby if it had not been for their awe-struck inspiration in seeing a polished slab or cab of Biggs picture jasper. No other jasper created such a "gold rush of excitement," as did the Biggs jasper discovery of 1964. It is engrained in my mind like it was last summer.

I was just a towhead. I remember my dad talking with some other rockhounds/miners about how that country around Biggs Junction was made up of basalt, rattlesnakes, and sage brush, with sporadic deposits of agate. Who would have ever thought such beautiful jasper lay beneath the surface of this rugged desert?

The Biggs jasper discovery changed the lives of a lot of people, as you will see in the following pages. I recall the excitement within my dad when he first saw a slab of Biggs jasper. He was hooked from that moment on! Everyone was fascinated by how the scenes in the jasper reflected so much the terrain from whence it came. From the time I ground out my first cab of Biggs picture jasper, I too have been drawn to its beauty. It has gained a highly respected throne in the royal realm of picture jaspers.

Like all jaspers, Biggs has variety. Any lapidarist knows about the most rare, blue sky Biggs and blue Biggs jasper that demands prices of \$100 plus per lb.

Continued on page 24



Mystery Mineral Answer

from page 18

The mineral is **Ice**. Chemical formula: H_2O **And it's only a mineral when it's frozen!** In Iceland and Sweden there are buildings made completely of Ice. Alaskan Native Americans have been making igloos out of it for a long time. Manmade Ice is considered synthetic. Steam and liquid H_2O are not considered mineral.

Continued from page 23

The old Biggs is another variety, black Biggs, Rufus Biggs, which tends to be harder. The most common is lace Biggs, strictly a landscape rock as there is rarely any pattern to it, and it is plagued with soft spots. One can gather hundreds of lbs. of lace Biggs as it litters the hillsides all around Biggs Junction and Rufus.

To whom do we owe credit for the discovery? The first to ever make use of Biggs jasper was the Native Americans who lived on the Columbia. There is an old mine that they dug up on a mountain off highway 97. I have seen several arrowheads found on the river made from Biggs jasper. Since then, numerous old Native American quarries have been located where they mined Dolphite agate for their gem points and Biggs jasper for their knives and scrapers. It would be 100 years before man would once again discover the magic of this jasper.

Isami Tsubota aka Sammi has one of the oldest running Biggs mines still in production. He purchased quite a bit of land in and around Biggs Junction. Back in 1987, Sammi was able to give me some firsthand accounts of the famous Biggs jasper discovery. In his own words: "It was in 1964 that a road crew was constructing I-84, and they, "the crew," were staying at my motel and RV park. Biggs was not discovered by the road crew while constructing the freeway, as many have come to believe." As Sammi explained, "A great flood came and destroyed the canyons from the John Day River drainage, the Rufus drainage, and Biggs Junction drainage. Biggs Junction was totally marooned with no way in or out, except by air. The state relief would bring in baloney and bread." It was around Christmas Eve, and we had 75 people stranded at my motel."

Luckily the road crew was already there working on I-84, and they went to work rebuilding the washed-out bridges. Sammi noted that the flood had washed out these unusual-looking boulders that were scattered about. He couldn't figure out why all the fuss over these rocks. His wife was becoming angry at the road crew as they would gather these rocks up and pile them next to their motel and RV Park. She told Sammi to tell them fellows to be sure and take them rocks out when they left. Sammi laughed when he said that, better that than cry. Like he said now, there were boulders of blue Biggs, and here he was telling the workers they better not leave them rocks! Sammi shook his head, and laughed and said, "if only I had known."

It wasn't until Sammi met up with a rockhound by the name of Hoot Elkins that he learned the truth. Hoot soon became widely known for discovering the Deschutes picture jasper deposit. He showed Sammi a slab of Biggs jasper, and Sammi fell in love with the jasper and was an instant rockhound! Then he was out gathering up the washed-out boulders. Soon he had a full-scale rock shop running, and he was marketing the jasper.

The flood had destroyed the old highway 97 that came in from the south, and the road crew tackled that after the bridges were completed. It was then that rockhounds were able to see the huge exposed deposits of Biggs jasper. The floodwaters had washed the dirt away that had concealed their hidden beauty for millions of years. Rockhounds would get the Biggs from the road crews. Some road workers became rockhounds themselves. By then there was a chaotic rush to get this jasper as it was gaining international attention.

In doing my research, I came across an article written in the *Lapidary Journal* in 1968 and was stunned to read this excerpt: "Biggs jasper, a silicified clay, and please, let us not call this material a jasper, no matter what its texture or coloring. Due to changes in its composition this beautiful picture rock will never quite make the grade as top-quality cabochon material." Wow! Evidently, the writer didn't do his homework as some of the finest cabochons in museums today came from Biggs Junction.

Is it silicified clay? That discussion came up one afternoon while visiting with Howard Dolph. He laughed and said "Let me show you something." He took me to his museum, and I was awe-struck to see a slice. It is ridiculous to say it is silicified mud/clay because if it was volcanic, the fish would have been dusted.

Howard Dolph, God rest his soul, was one of the first to get in on the Biggs digs. Some make false claims, but they just can't fill those boots. Howard mined hard and cut Biggs constantly for decades. He also fished for salmon off the ramps at Celio Falls right next to the Native Americans, before the dams covered the falls. Howard was a wealth of information on the history of Biggs jasper. Dolph left me wiser on every aspect of Biggs jasper and the history of the Columbia River gorge.

Many old-timers were in on the first Biggs digs. Kop Kopcinski of Mitchell was one of the first to ever put Biggs jasper to a saw, Shirts Quant of Prineville dug tons of it, Hoot Elkins, dug both the Biggs and Deschutes picture jasper—and sadly, there are some who are not worthy of being listed here because of their past and continued dishonorable conduct.

Biggs jasper used to be confined to the north half of "the rockhounds triangle," from Biggs south to Wasco, then north to Rufus, and west back to Biggs. Since this writing, a new discovery has been made at Tygh Valley, some 25 miles S.W. as the crow flies. It was also dug on the Washington side of the river for years until the corps and railroad shut down the digs.

Biggs jasper will always play a major role in the lapidary world, and it has been my pleasure to share with you the stories of those who are worthy of being noted here. We now own our own Biggs jasper mine, and I gladly welcome folks to come and dig. Just drop me an e-mail for instructions.

Show Time 2015

March 27-29	Hickory, NC	Eastern Federation (EFMLS) Show
April 10-12	Ogden, UT	Northwest Federation (NFMS) Show
April 11-12	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center; N. 6th and Pine kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net rockclub.txol.net
April 17-19	Alpine, TX	Chihuahuan Dessert Gem & Mineral Club Alpine Civic Cntr, 801 W. Holland Ave. (Hwy 90) Judith Brueske, jbrueske@sbcglobal.net
May 2-3	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Extraco Events Center 4601 Bosque Blvd., Creative Arts Bldg. babydocmac@aol.com www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub?ref=hl
May 2-3	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Contact Walter Benezé walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org
May 23-24	Wheaton, IL	Midwest Federation (MWF) Show
June 12-15	Lodi, CA	California Federation (CFMS) Show
June 13-14	Grapevine, TX	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main anastasi.chaparro@att.net; www.agemclub.org
July 16-18	Cody, WY	Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS) Show
September 25-27	Humble, TX	Houston Gem & Mineral Society Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. 5 miles east of Bush Intercontinental Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59 www.hgms.org ; showchair@hgms.org
October 23-25	Austin, TX	AFMS/South Central Fed. (SCFMS) Shows Palmer Events Center Exhibit Hall 900 Barton Springs Road susanp@austingemandmineral.org http://www.austingemandmineral.org/

2015		April					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	2 7:30 Archeology Section	3 Passover begins Good Friday	4 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
5 10-4 Shop Open ? Easter	6	7 7:30 Board Meeting	8 10-3 Shop Open 7:00 Gemstones & Faceting Section	9	10	11 10-5 Shop Open	
12 10-4 Shop Open	13	14	15 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	16	17	18 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
19 10-4 Shop Open	20 7:30 Lapidary Section	21 7:30 Paleo Section	22 10-3 Shop Open	23	24	25 10-5 Shop Open	
26 10-4 Shop Open	27	28 7:30 General Meeting	29 10-3 Shop Open	30			

2015		May					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
3 10-4 Shop Open	4	5 7:30 Board Meeting	6 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30 Mineral Section	7 7:30 Archeology Section	8	9 10-5 Shop Open	
10 10-4 Shop Open Mother's Day	11	12	13 10-3 Shop Open 7:00 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
17 10-4 Shop Open	18 7:30 Lapidary Section	19 7:30 Paleo Section	20 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	21	22	23 10-5 Shop Open	
24 10-4 Shop Open Shop Open 31	25 Memorial Day	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29	30	

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

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SCFMS

- 1998 - 1st (Large)
- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005 - 1st (Large)
- 2006 - 2012 - 1st (Large)
- 2013 - 1st (Large)
- 2014 - 1st (Large)



AFMS

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



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