



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

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLVII - No. 04

April 2016



President's Message

by Paul Brandes

I was reading the Houston Chronicle the other morning, as I do every morning at 4:30 a.m. before I leave for that great commute down the Northwest Freeway (U.S. 290 for you “out-of-towners”), and one headline I saw was “Houston region is now the most diverse in the U.S.” Reading on, I saw another statement that read, “In one neighborhood, you can have a person from Nigeria living next to a person from India living next to a person from Germany, living next to a person from North Dakota, etc.”



Later on as I was driving in, it got me to thinking that HGMS is also quite diverse. Not only do we have members originally from other U.S. States as well as foreign countries, we also have very diverse interests even within the earth sciences and arts. This is the reason why we have eight specific Sections within the Society—to ensure that all aspects of the earth sciences are covered. With such a diverse group of people, there is always the chance that those interests may not always mesh, and disagreements will happen. My Scottish Grandmother always taught me that a little understanding and patience goes a long way in the acceptance of interests that may be differ-

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Upcoming Programs

by Sigrid Stewart, 1st Vice President

April 26, 2016--**Steve Blyskal**: The Southern Illinois Fluorspar District, along the Ohio River, was America's primary source of fluorspar for over 150 years. It was also the source of some of the finest fluorite specimens ever found in the USA. This talk will briefly describe the geology of these deposits, how it was discovered, and why it was so important during the industrial revolution in the late 19th and early 20th century. The mineral specimens found in these mines will be discussed and illustrated with photographs and with actual specimens from collections of members of the HGMS.

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Permission to use material originating in this newsletter is given freely providing that credit is given to the author and the source.

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

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

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Copy is due for the May 2016 issue by Friday, April 15, 2016.

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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>.

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ent from yours; therefore, I encourage every Society member, no matter what Section you align with, to take the time and talk with your fellow members. You may just learn a new facet to the hobby.

Since the last BBG was circulated, many of you may not have realized that we had a mineral show in the Houston area. The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Show took place on the last weekend of February. I went with my wife Nathalie, and while attendance at that show was good, I noticed that the number of people attending has dwindled slowly over the past few years. I'm not sure if it's due to the lack of interest in the hobby, or the lack of interest in putting on these types of events, but it made me realize something. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated group of people to organize and see our Annual Show through to the end—and then do it all over again the next year. The next time you see anyone from the Show Committee, please thank them for all they do to bring us the largest gem and mineral show in Texas. In addition, if you feel so inclined, please offer your services to the Committee as a show volunteer—they will greatly appreciate it.

A few final thoughts: we now have a new Web site up and running that looks great; however, if you see any issues or can offer suggestions, please let your Section representative to the Board know. We also have a new "official" Librarian that will start the monumental task of organizing the library into a more user-friendly area for Society members to use. Finally, we are working on replacing our current Internet connection with something much better that will allow members Internet access while they are at the Clubhouse.

As I write this President's Message, it is a beautiful, sunny day, which means spring can't be too far away. I don't know about all of you, but I'm ready for a little field work—who's with me?

THE BLARNEY STONE

by Doris Strange

from S.C.R.I.B.E. 1987, via The Roadrunner 03/2016

The Blarney Stone will give you luck,
So the Irish say.

Of course, you have to lie down prone
And kiss the stone that way.

If you can lie down on the ground
And not fall on your head,
Or get a crick in back or neck,
Good luck that stone has shed.

We rockhounds know that it's just not so--
Just tradition by the Irish,
They're really rockhounds; they lick the stone
To see if it'll cut and polish.

Garth Clark Studies Humans As Well As Coins of Antiquity

by Ben Ballanfant

from *Southwest News*, 02/16/2016

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Article referred to HGMS Editor by John Mitscherling

Dr. Garth Clark has a brain that chomps down and digests information as voraciously as his chompers solve the riddle of cheeseburger and fries. It has led him to a life of interesting research, vocations, and hobbies. The lines between the three are often blurry.

In his day job, he currently is doing some interesting research on human aging, but it didn't start there.

"I didn't want to cure cancer. What I wanted to do is take the cancer cell—and force it to behave," he says. He explains that a cancer cell is one that is misbehaving, reproducing when it shouldn't, and not getting along with neighboring cells. If you get it to follow the rules, you stop it, essentially making it so it can't metastasize.

Then it won't kill. At least that was the theory he had, but as you do research, you start to see certain patterns in the genome.

"... Certain patterns ... become apparent. The interesting thing is, if you look at a cancer from say a six year-old kid with leukemia versus an 80 year-old with stomach cancer, we have to start separating out what is being expressed because of cancer and what is a product of their age," he explains.

He says this led the research in a different direction—research in aging.

Once again, he starts explaining the basic ideas of aging in the contemporary science community.

He says there are two basic camps: "We die because we accumulate damage" and "we are programmed to die." He says most scientists currently fall in the former group, but he is in the latter because of his research.

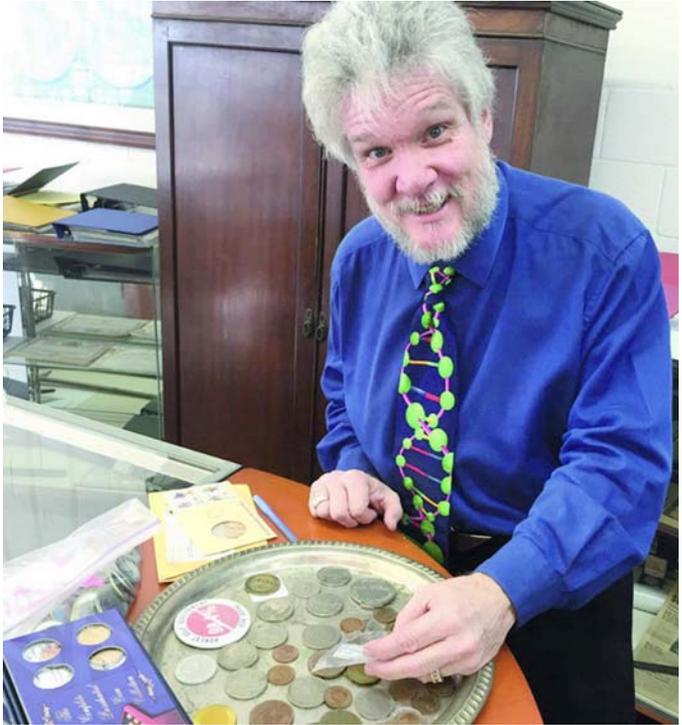
"What I found is in the end, they will both be right, but the theory that will come out on top will be programmed aging." He goes on to add, "What I am seeing is that there seems to be a definite sequence of changes in the genome. Envision it like this—imagine it was two billion years ago, and there were some unicellular life forms. Let's say half of them evolved to be 'immortal.' They pretty much never die, and the other half develop a program somehow where once they acquire enough damage, they let themselves die.

"What ends up happening is the world keeps changing ... so the approach of an organism to kill itself individually so that a species' genes can survive and

go on. The greatest degree of adaptability comes about by killing the individual to let the species live.”

Natural selection takes care of the rest. As the more adaptable mortal species fill more and more niches, the programmed mortality pays off.

He believes it may be possible in the future to reprogram that sequence to increase human longevity.



One of Dr. Garth Clark's hobbies is coin collecting. He currently is president of the Bellaire Coin Club.

He is also a professional metallurgist, which he intermingles with his long-time hobby, coin collecting. He is the current president of the Bellaire Coin Club, and he has been on a mission to collect a coin from every country. That gets complicated since there are countries that don't exist anymore, but that is what makes it fun.

He has coins that range from antiquity to rare Texas coins. He even used his metallurgical knowledge to prove there was a “new,” previously unknown type of Texas coin. Experts at first thought they were counterfeits.

Lately he has been picking out coins for the club's youth auction which will be held at their coin show on February 27–28 at the Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 S. Rice. The show is a fun event for all ages, with buying, selling, and trading as well as special activities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Editor's Note: Dr. Clark is also a member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society, and he is the Archeology Section's Vice-Chair as well as the Section's representative to the HGMS Board of Directors.

Cottonwood Forest Campground

by John Anderson

The Miner

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

I do not know why I am writing this story, but it needs to be told. It happened 10 years ago, and I will remember it for the rest of my life. I have changed the names of the people and the area where all this happened; I will explain why later in my story.

I grew up in Los Angeles, California, just loving the great outdoors. I was always interested in geology and in mining as I was growing up. My family always had a mining claim as far back as I can remember. As for my family's success with its mining claims, we never made any big finds, but we did make a few small ones. It was only natural that I studied geology in college and that I would work for a mining company. Every chance that I got, I would go prospecting on my own into areas that were very remote. I have always loved being in an area that is as far away from civilization as I could find. The description of such an area is that if I fell down, the only thing that would be able to find me would be a buzzard in the sky. That kind of remoteness is like the frosting on a cake for me.

The mining company where I worked at the time, I will call the Sun Mining Company, and it had many mine locations in California. I was working in their research section, developing new ways to identify different mineral ore bodies and to quickly estimate their value while the actual mining was going on.

During our lunch hour, we used to play a very competitive game of ping pong. Three of our ping pong group grew up in an area that I will call the "Mexico Highway 24 area." They had worked for Sun Mining Co. for more than 20 years when it was just starting its operation in California. Sun needed some hard rock miners, so they hired these men to work for them in California. Jobs were not plentiful in Mexico at that time, so it was a win-win opportunity for the mining company and for the Mexican miners. The area they were from was filled with great stories of mining, lost treasure, also some ghost stories. They had raised their children in the U.S., but they still had their own young memories of the area where they grew up.

Our ping pong games were very competitive, and we needed to rest once-in-a-while during our games. So they told stories about where they had lived many years ago in Mexico. After a time, we knew all their stories because we had heard the same ones so many times. We also talked about how the mining industry had not changed for hundreds of years—until now, because Sun Mining Co. was making so many advances in the mining technology.

My Hispanic friends loved to relive their childhood dreams of living and looking for mineral specimens where they used to live along Mexico Highway 24. World War II had just ended, and the workers who left Mexico for the defense plant jobs in the U.S. would not be going back to Mexico to work mines. They were now making more money here in the U.S. The

mining properties in Mexico had been idle for years because of the war. Now the world was looking for new sources of uranium—a mineral they were using for atomic energy.

Sun Mining Co. had developed new mining technology, and now was a good time to explore the area where my friends were born. For a few weeks I tried to get some friends to commit to going there, but they were too busy raising families and could not find the time—especially since their kids were now so involved in baseball Little Leagues. I finally announced, “I have three weeks’ vacation coming up in two weeks. Does anyone want to join me going to the Mexican Highway 24 area? When we go, we cannot do anything that would be construed as looking for or digging for any kind of treasure. We would need a special permit for that. If we do find anything worthwhile, we could then get the permit.”

After two weeks, I was still planning on leaving on my trip, but it now looked like I would be going by myself. The trip to the area I wanted to explore was all along Mexico Highway 24, and it was a good 11-hour drive from my home in Los Angeles. I left my home at 3 a.m.—I could not sleep because of the possibility of finding some excitement or high adventure. Before I left, I was told that when I reached Highway 24, I would need to travel in a northerly direction along Highway 24 until I found an area that looked promising. Then and only then, should I start looking for a good prospecting area.

It was about 2 p.m. when I reached Highway 24, so I thought at that time I might as well start looking for an area to camp for the night. I had only traveled about 20 miles when I saw a very small rusty sign that said to be sure and stop at the Cottonwood Campground for Free Overnight Camping. There was no address or directions so I lost interest in finding the free campground. About another 5 miles further, I saw another sign—even more rusty—saying Free Camping with an arrow pointing to the right side of the road onto an old dirt road. The dirt road became extremely rough; it looked like it had not been used for years. I was ready to forget the free campground offer and was trying to find a place to turn around, when I entered a heavy grove of cottonwood trees.

A circular area cleared for camping was about 50 yards wide. I saw only one car parked there, so it was not going to be a crowded campground. I stopped my car at a barbecue pit in the center of the campground. I was amazed—the area looked like it had just been raked, not a single pebble out of place—a formal Japanese garden that you might see in a Home & Garden Magazine. Not wanting to disturb the beautiful raked area, I wondered where I should park. A small piercing beam from the sun acted like a stage spotlight, completely illuminating the barbecue pit. A lone man walked over to my car and said “You can park anywhere this time of day because most of the traffic on 24 is about done for today. I hope that you can join me for dinner tonight because I have two big steaks needing to be eaten.” It took me about one second to say “Yes,” because I was not looking forward to eating peanut butter sandwiches after driving so far that day. He said, “I will expect you for dinner about 6 p.m.,” and I said “Okay.”

I moved my car about 50 feet to a marked parking spot and picked up my mineral-collecting bag and the few items that I never leave home without: rock hammer, water, compass, flashlight, and a small rope.

I headed out of the forested area, getting excited about being able to actually do some real prospecting. I had only walked about 400 yards when I noticed a wash area that looked like a small rockslide had occurred. I could see a small slit of a hole in the center of the rockslide area that I thought definitely needed to be looked at more closely. Some huge bushes blocked me, but I was able to work my way through in just a few minutes.

The slit opening in the rockslide area was a lot larger than I originally thought. It looked like it actually opened up into a cavern. I dug into my prospecting bag and turned on my flashlight—but the batteries were down, so my light was not very bright, about which I yelled, “You dummy”! In looking back into the cavern, about 6 feet from where I was standing I could make out what appeared like a leather bag and a few coins just lying around. I had about 12 feet of light rope, so I tied one end to my rock hammer and one end to my rock bag, and tossed my rock hammer beyond the leather bag. I pulled the hammer back towards my rock bag in trying to snag some of the treasure that I thought that I had seen.

After 20 minutes, I was about to give up when I snagged a coin and dragged it back to me. The coin was so dirty that I had to use my drinking water to wash the many years of grime off of the coin. When I had done that, I saw some kind Spanish writing on the coin. But what made me so excited was that the coin was gold. **Yes!** this was a gold coin that I had just found. I became very excited—and at the same time, very tired. I sat down on a flat rock, pulled a candy bar from my bag, and started to celebrate my find of a gold coin. While looking at the rock slide area and the gold coin in my hand, I became very sleepy, and I just dozed off. I thought I had been asleep only for just a minute or two until I looked at my watch. It was two hours later, and I had a very hard time waking up or even standing. I felt like that for more than 10 minutes, as I struggled back to my camp. I felt like I had been drugged, but I wondered how that could have happened. My lone camper friend waved at me and said dinner will ready in “five minutes,” so I quickly washed my hands and face, and I actually felt a lot better in doing that. I was really looking forward to dinner—I could smell the steak being cooked, and I definitely was not disappointed with the flavor of the steak.

After we finished eating, we just sat looking at the dying fire embers when he asked if he could sing for me. I had already decided that he was a real character, but after asking me that, he just started singing without even waiting for me to answer his question. His singing was more like a chant, and his voice took my breath away. He sang for about 15 minutes or more, and I would have been completely happy if he had continued for hours.

He was singing was in another language but his voice was so outstanding that even though I did not understand the words, my eyes started to cloud up with tears. I started to feel ashamed of my tears, remembering the

time I heard a Vietnamese choir singing a Gregorian Chant in the Vietnamese language—my eyes had acted the same way.

We sat for about 10 minutes in silence, when he said, “I need to tell you about myself, and also the story about this and the surrounding area known as “Cottonwood.” First off, this area is like no other place in the world. I have been living here for over six months.” Six months ago before he came to the campground, he was just traveling around because he had recently retired. At an Indian Reservation Trading Post about 100 miles south of here, he saw a stick flute—just a wooden stick with some holes. He said that he had always wanted to play some sort of a musical instrument, so he bought the flute, which he then pulled from his pocket.

The day after he left the Indian trading post, he saw a rusty sign saying be sure to stop for a Free Night of Camping at the Cottonwood Campground. When he arrived at the campground, he thought that he would only stay for a few days. No one ever seemed to come to the campground, and he was very thankful for the peace and quiet and would be able to do a lot of reading and to possibly learn to play the stick flute. He said that the sounds he was making with the flute sounded more like a duck quacking. He really worked hard in trying to improve the tone quality to make a decent sound. He thought he would only stay another week before going to the closest town to get provisions. He realized it was not healthy for him to stay away from people for so long, because he had been at the Cottonwood area now for three weeks.

As he was preparing to leave, a group of six new campers drove into the Campground, so he decided to leave when the campers left. They had been to Cottonwood Campground before and would only be staying overnight. The reason was that they were afraid to stay longer. I thought that was an odd thing for them to say, until they told me the story of the Cottonwood Campground area and why were afraid to stay longer. They answered so many of the questions regarding what he had seen and heard while he had been there that now it all made sense.

They said that before the white man found gold in this part of the country, there was an Indian tribe known as the “Suma Indian Tribe.” Many different tribes used to live close to the Cottonwood area due to the abundance of water and wild game. With different tribes living near each other, it did not take long to establish the first-run Indian Trading Post where other tribes would come to trade.

An Indian Tribe called the “Suma Indian Tribe” had lived there for many years, but a few members of the tribe contracted an infectious illness that was causing deaths in the other tribes. The trading actually had to stop because the different tribes now feared they might catch the infectious disease.

The Suma Tribe members now only numbered twelve because of their deaths. The other tribe members were deathly afraid of the deceased, so they held a council and decided that they wanted to return to what they all had just a short year ago—to the prosperity in trading. So they made a decision. All of the Suma Tribe Members, sick or healthy, would be driven with sticks into a cave known as the “Endless Cave.” The cave entrance

would be sealed with all of the Suma's wealth, which by then was almost worthless. Because of their illness, they now owned only a few baskets, bowls, pots, a few nuggets of gold, and only one horse. Members of all the other tribes were made to help seal the cave so that they all would share responsibility for burying the Suma Tribe members. After he told me the Suma Tribe story that the visiting campers had told him, they almost made it mandatory for him to accept the freeze dried and extra food they had. He said he was very happy to receive the food because he would not have to leave to buy provisions now. When he finished telling me the story, he stopped talking and complete silence followed for more than ten minutes. Then he started playing the stick flute. The sound from the stick flute sound quality was as good as if it was being played in some concert hall. Silence returned for 10 minutes.

After that length of silence, he said that down through the years different people have seen an Indian just sitting on a horse in the distance. It appeared he was looking or searching, because he was looking in one direction and then another direction. He started singing again that which I now will called an "Indian chant."

The chant now gave me a creepy feeling, even though I thought his singing was so beautiful just a short time before. After a while, he just stopped singing and said he was becoming very tired and was going to turn in for the night. I was happy with him saying that because of the scary thoughts he had just dumped into my lap. As I prepared my army cot for my bed, I thought I would never be able to get to sleep this night. I awoke at dawn, yelling "Not Now" which completely awakened me. I slept like a log the rest of the whole night, which was great.

For breakfast, I thought some dry cereal would taste good. I just added water to some powdered milk and poured this over my dry cereal for my breakfast. After that, I added some raisins which really helped the flavor. I tried to remember what I was so upset about last night when I went to sleep, but I could not remember what it was. I just puttered around the whole day in reading because I just was tired, like when I found the gold coin and had the long nap.

I was not afraid, so I decided that this evening I was going to see if I might be able to come up with some answers concerning the legend of the Cottonwood Campground area because I was not afraid to find the answer.

With some new batteries for my flashlight, I walked out of my camp just as the sun was setting and through the trees to the slide area, and found a good flat rock to sit on. I wanted answers, and wondered if the Indian would appear.

When the sun said goodbye to the light of day, and hello to the stars at night, the light from the full moon filled the sky. I settled more onto my flat rock. The moon light was so bright I thought I could actually walk around if I wanted, even without using my flashlight. The yelping of a few coyotes in the hills was the only sound that broke the stillness of night, and it actually helped me stay awake. While looking at the stars, I started having the wildest sensation that I was falling in space. I started to feel

dizzy like when I was at the circus and riding on one of those loop-the-loop rides. I was getting sick to my stomach when the stars started spinning and looked like they were out of control. I started yelling, "Stop, please stop!" because now I started throwing up. I buried my head in my arms, but looked up when I heard a sound that was coming from the rockslide area about 50 feet away from me. It sounded like some gigantic grinding operation going on. The grinding sound became louder and louder until I felt something was going to explode. A bolt of lightning filled the sky, and it hit the cave entrance. Then complete silence. The silence was so intense that it filled every pore of my body, forcing me to sit completely upright. I felt like I was glued in that position, looking at the cave.

In front of me now was an Indian sitting on a horse at the cave entrance. The Indian seemed to be looking for something, for he was first looking one way and then another way, but never in my direction, which I was happy about. The silence was broken when he started to sing that beautiful Indian chant that my lone camper sang to me the night before. The Indian's voice was better because he was singing the chant in his tribal language. The singing seemed to never end until he raised both of his arms upright to the heavens to pray. He finally let his left hand fall to his side, and with his right hand, he pointed a finger directly at me. I felt like I was hit by a strong wind, almost knocking me off the rock I had been glued to. I was so scared, that again I covered my head with my arms and felt I was going to die. I don't know how long I stayed in this position—it might have been hours or just a few minutes, but I know that I just wanted to be as far away from where I was as possible. I finally took a peek. No Indian—only the silence that seemed to settle my nerves. The area where the Indian had been now looked like it had during the day. I finally got some feeling in my legs and was able to get up and stumble back to my camp.

The lone camper was up even though it was past midnight, and he walked over to me. He did not say a word but he looked at me intently for a moment and then said, "You have found gold and saw the Indian on a horse where he pointed a finger at you." I asked, "How did you know that?" He said, "You look like you have aged 10 years since yesterday. That happened to me six months ago. I will be leaving Cottonwood Campground tomorrow morning because you have found the gold and have witnessed the "rising of the Indian from the cave." I said, "What do you mean?" He said that he had been captive at the Cottonwood until another person came and relieved him, and what I have done and seen has made it so. He has tried so many times to leave, but he could never find the road to the highway. Every time he tried, he was always led back to the barbecue pit area.

Maybe the pit is some sort of a beacon because of the bright sunlight directed onto the pit area. In the past six months, I have had a full-time job in raking the gravel smooth at this Campground and as I have said, I had to stay here until another person takes up the offer from Cottonwood Campground.

"I know that I promised in the beginning of my story to tell you the names of people and the places, but certain circumstances have recently devel-

oped that now I can only tell you that my name is “James Bolt,” and that I was killed ten years ago at this campground. I make this statement now because it is only one of the names I now go by because of what happened to me ten years ago there at the Cottonwood Campground.

“I hope and pray that you will take up my offer of “free camping” at the Cottonwood Camp-ground, so please visit me, please. Pleasant dreams.”

The Miner, John Anderson

Archaeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

March 3, 2016: Bob Moore, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Bob thanked Peter Ragusa for the goodies that were much appreciated and me for all the great effort at advertising. Then, he asked for someone to move to approve the February minutes. Peter moved that the minutes be approved; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. A brief discussion followed on upcoming talks. Bob introduced the guest speaker, **Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology**, and thanked him for doing the talk on such short notice when the original speaker had to cancel due to a health issue.

Program: Dirk gave a talk entitled “Life and Death in Maya Cities.” He gave an overview on the population density and the concept of family in Maya culture. It appears that the Maya had no city halls or government structures. Their housing clustered around waterholes, and their temples were places of worship. They had sports arenas—ball courts similar to modern-day ones, like the Toyota Center. Our initial impressions of the Maya were that they were peaceful, farmers, astronomers, mathematicians, and lived an idyllic life in forests.

In reality, once their writing was understood, we learned that they lived in a harsh, rainforest environment and in highlands even above the tree line! Warfare existed, which at times was widespread. Politics—not idealism—guided their actions. Their cities were defensive with walls, berms, and moats. The timeframe of the Maya ranged from 1500 BC to 1500 AD, and we know that there were 39 different languages! Today, our sources of information include archaeology, genetics, art, and ancient writing. Dirk talked about various ancient cities, such as Chichen Itza, Tikal, Tulum, and Bonampak.

He noted that the stone city buildings were painted with bright colors and that we now know that besides pyramids, palaces, and other stone structures, the lower class lived in oval wooden buildings with thatched roofs that seldom survive. Also, excavated pottery depicts scenes of everyday life. One cylinder-shaped vase shows they drank a chocolate drink with chili peppers.

Unlike the Inca and Aztecs, DNA testing has proven that there are Maya people alive today! Q&A followed the talk with a discussion on Olmecs. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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April 7, 2016: Dr. Garth Clark will speak on “**The Celts: A Tracing of Celtic History through Archeology, Linguistics, Coins, and Genetics.**” Most of us have at least a passing familiarity with something “Celtic” through Scottish or Irish cuisine, bagpipes, Renaissance festivals, Celtic knots and jewelry, or leprechauns and shamrocks—but these associations have as much to do with a revived neo-Celtic culture. So, who were the Celts? Garth will review the rise of a Celtic culture in central Europe around 4000 years ago and how it spread throughout Europe, and into central Turkey through archeology, coins, linguistics, and genetics. He will show evidence supporting a surprisingly strong and vigorous culture that was eventually overwhelmed on two sides by the Germans and the Romans. Don’t miss this informative talk!

General Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Brandes at 7:30 p.m., and he thanked everyone for coming to the February 23, 2016 General meeting.

The meeting was attended by 28 regular members, including one new member, Ron Rogers. There were no visitors or guests. Ron introduced himself and said he found us on the Internet.

Minutes: Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the January General Meeting as published in the March 2016 BBG. Joan Riley seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

President’s Announcements:

1. **President Brandes called on Beverly Mace.** She reminded the audience that Annual Dues are due!
2. **Trade Show: January 30, 2016:** In Chase Jennings’ absence, President Brandes reported that the Trade Show was very successful for the Club, for the dealers, and the public. He estimated there were three times as many visitors as attended the last show in July 2015.
 - a. Beverly Mace has already recorded the 24 new members to the Roster: 18 new memberships, thirteen (13) singles, three couples (6), one family (4), one youth.
 - b. The next **Trade Show is scheduled for April 30, 2016.** New floor plans for better traffic control and security are being implemented. Volunteers will be needed.
3. **Web Site update:** The new Web Site is live as of today. Contact your Section site manager if you find problems. Well done, Autumn Breese and Scott Singleton.

4. **Show Chair:** Scott Singleton is the 2016 Show Chair. Assistant Show Chairs are Sigrid Stewart and Clyde McMeans. The ¼ page flyer is ready for distribution—just in time for the Clear Lake Show on February 27–28.
5. **The Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show** is being held February 27–28 at the Pasadena Convention Center. We need a couple more volunteers. See Nancy English or Clyde McMeans for more information.
6. **Appointments:** President Brandes announced two appointments:
 - a. Chase Jennings: Publicity Chair. Chase has agreed to be the Social Media Publicity Chair for HGMS and for the 2016 HGMS Show.
 - b. Nathalie Brandes: Library Chair. Nathalie has already begun reorganizing and categorizing the extensive HGMS Library.
7. It is important that every group who uses the building cleans up after themselves and maintains security standards. When leaving, pick up trash and put chairs and tables back in position. The temperature needs to be readjusted to reduce energy consumption. All lights must be turned off. Close all interior doors; check the street-side door to be certain it is locked. Lock the parking lot door, and activate the deadbolt.

Section Reports

In the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to look at the Web site or read the weekly email blast from Jim Kendall for future meetings and presentations. See chalkboard for Jim's email address if you are not getting the weekly updates.

President Brandes invited Section Chairs to make any special announcements. Karen Burns told the attendees that the **Day Light Section** will be learning to braid wire at the March 2, 2016 meeting at 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Old Business

Also in the interest of time, President Brandes asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items from the February 2016 Board meeting and the January 2016 General Meeting minutes as published in the March 2016 edition of the BBG.

New Business

1. **Library:** As reported earlier, Nathalie Brandes is our new HGMS Head Librarian.
 - a. Please return all books that have been checked out to the Library.
 - b. Please DO NOT check out any books or otherwise remove books from the Library during the reorganization project. For more information or to volunteer, contact Nathalie Brandes.
2. **The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

3. **The next General Meeting is Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** The program will be presented **by** Michael Sommers **on the** Searles Lake Gem-O-Rama: Michael will talk on the area of Searles Lake, California and the minerals found there. For over 70 years, the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society has hosted the "Gem-O-Rama," supported by Searles Valley Minerals Company, who allows collectors the unique opportunity to acquire their own specimens of the rare minerals found in the lake. These minerals are evaporites, and they include one of the rarest minerals on the planet—the famous **Hanksite**. (A sulfate mineral, distinguished as one of only a handful that contain both carbonate and sulfate ion groups!) Come learn about the area and the show, see these minerals in person, and smell the brine.

Show 'n Tell: Matt Phillips presented some results of the Davinci 3-D machine.

Drawing: Richard Good won the palmwood; Xuan Ye won the agate.

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Joan Riley seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51.

Refreshment Break

Refreshments: Provided by Nancy English.

President Paul Brandes called on 1st Vice President Sigrid Stewart to introduce our speaker for the General meeting—Fred Lemme, the Laboratory aid for the Advanced Material Resources Center. He works with Roland Fields, Supervisor of Technicians covering Manufacturing for Houston Community College, and supervisor of a Fabrication Lab—the Advanced Material Resources Center. Fred demonstrated 3D printing and discussed lost wax applications.

Just for Fun ... Watch That Ego

from Wellness works, others via Glacial Drifter 11/93, Roadrunner 12/2015

One night at sea, the ship's captain saw what looked like the lights of another ship heading toward him.

He had his signalman blink to the other ship: "Change your course 10 degrees south." The reply "Change YOUR course 10 degrees north."

The Captain answered "I am a CAPTAIN. Change YOUR course south." To which the reply came "Well, I'm a seaman first class. Change YOUR course north."

This infuriated the captain, so he signaled, "D— it, I say change YOUR course south. I'm on a battleship."

To which the reply came, "And I say change YOUR course north. I'm in a lighthouse!"

Board of Director’s Meeting

March 1, 2016

by Nancy English, Secretary as recorded by Paul Brandes

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

Call to Order: President Paul Brandes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Five non-voting members attended the meeting: Scott Singleton, Web page Designer and Show Committee Chairperson; Carrie Hart, Education; Neal Immega, Clubhouse Chair; Jim Kendall, Wi Fi investigator; and Steve Blyskal.

President’s Comments:

- 1. Neal Immega—Building security briefing:** Neal Immega, the Clubhouse Chair, trained the BOD members on Security for the Club House, including resetting the temperature, turning off all the lights, shutting all interior doors, locking the garage door, locking street-side door, locking the parking lot door, and setting the deadbolt.
- 2. Clear Lake Show:** Paul Brandes visited the show for about 2-3 hrs. Good crowd, but not like past years. Talked w/CLGMS members who said it is getting harder to organize and pull off.
- 3. CLGMS March Meeting:** I plan to attend on March 21 to discuss how our Societies can work together.

Approval of Previous Month’s Board Minutes: Phyllis George moved and Sigrid Stewart seconded a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the February 2, 2016 Board Meeting as published in the March 2016 BBG. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Rodney Linehan emailed financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting.

Officer, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is **Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7:30.**

Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout—Life and Death in Maya Cities: Dr. Tuerenhout, HMNS Curator of Anthropology, will speak on “Life and Death in Maya Cities.” When the western world became aware of the ancient Maya, they were seen as the world’s only peaceful civilization. The fact that they lived in the

rainforest made it even more intriguing. According to 19th century investigators, ancient Maya cities were no more than ceremonial centers, very different from our own urban centers. All of this has changed. We now know that Maya cities fulfilled many of the same functions as their modern counterparts, but also had unique aspects. Come hear this fascinating talk and learn about Maya cities!

April 7, Dr. Garth Clark: Amazing artifacts from Ecuador (400–700 AD)

Beading Section: The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on **Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.** Ruby Lockwood will teach how to make a “Pathway to Christmas” Bracelet.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Karen Burns will be teaching a hands-on program to make woven wire pieces which can be used to make bracelets or frames for cabochons. Karen will demonstrate the technique and coach anyone who needs help. Day Light will have the clamps and jewelry pliers needed to make the project. There will be a \$2 fee for the wire.

Education: Please contact Carrie at carriehart2000@yahoo.com to reserve your class space or to request classes. Carrie announced that a jewelry fabrication class by James Burrell is planned for all Sundays in April and on May 1, 2016. The cost for five classes is \$400 per student, including supplies. PayPal is available for payment.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: The next regular meeting is **Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** Program to be announced.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: The programs for the next four months are on the Web Site.

The next meeting is on **Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** **Edward Clay** will speak on **Fabrication—Metal working, soldering.** The shop will be open from 5:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

On 4/18/2016, 7:30 PM, Edward Clay will demonstrate stone carving techniques. The shop will be open from 5:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

The Section is sponsoring a competition for Amateur and Master Level Cabs. They are to be created and submitted prior to the HGMS show, and they will be judged during the show.

Mineral Section: The next regular meeting is **Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** **Program: Clear Lake Show Recap.** We are going to discuss the Clear Lake Show, the dealers in minerals, and show off what we found there. March 16, the program will be on Illinois and Kentucky fluorspar, and the April 6 program will be our annual auction.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.** Neal Immega will present the program on the Houston Museum of Natural Science's marvelous new exhibit on Cretaceous Burmese Amber which includes trapped feathers and a nano-raptor (hummingbird size) and lots of bugs.

Paleo Field Trips

1. **Paleo Tour at HMNS – Neal Immega** is doing a “Best things in the Paleo Hall” tour on March 6 at 1 p.m. for one of our youngest members, Draven. If anyone wants to come along, we are meeting at the Triceratops. If you are late, my path starts at the Ichthyosaur, goes to Allosaurus, Triceratops, T-rex (Wyrex), Gorgosaurus, and then the humanoid skull wall. My tour takes about an hour. Nathalie Brandes also will attend to answer any Geology questions along the way.
2. **Brownwood Field Trip March 18 – 20, 2016:** The area is rich in Pennsylvanian age fossils including crinoids, gastropods, bivalves, brachiopods, urchins, the occasional rare shark tooth, maybe a trilobite if you are lucky, maybe some sponges, and some other goodies. You will have to find your own accommodations. The Flagship Inn out by the lake gave us a good rate last time. I will be contacting them soon for more information.
3. **CERA Field Trip to Midlothian, TX, Saturday, March 12, 7:30 a.m. to noon.** If you are late, you will not be let in. Only a few slots are available.

Youth Section: The next meetings are scheduled for **March 5 and March 19, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.**

BBG Editor: Phyllis George reported that the deadline to send articles to her is March 15, 2016. She also asked the Section representatives to please send her the program schedules two months in advance. That way the BBG will have current program information. Phyllis was able to cancel the old host on February 24, 2016. She has already been reimbursed by Infinology, the Web host for the original hgms.org Web site.

Old Business

1. **Web Site update:** The new site is LIVE! If you have questions or issues, report them to Autumn. A list of the Section people responsible for updating their portion of the Web Site is needed, along with their email addresses. All Web Site changes need to go to webmaster@hgms.org.
2. **Club House Repairs / upgrades:** Mike Dawkins will purchase two doorbells.

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

3. **Security System Status.**
 - a. Garth did not attend; sent information for meeting (last month said he would research smoke detectors and give report)
 - b. Mount the outdoor cameras and smoke detectors.
4. **Dunn SW:** Any volunteers for rep to Dunn SW?
5. **Show Update:**
 - a. Scott will present the 2016 Show budget at the March 1, 2016 Board Meeting.
 - b. Publicity: The ¼ page done in time for the Clear Lake Show, February 27 and 28.
 - c. Clear Lake Show not well attended. Needed social media advertising. Good HGMS coverage at the Clear Lake Gem Show.
 - d. The question was asked whether students could get a discount on tickets to the show. The answer is no.
6. **Trade Show: January 30, 2016:**
 - a. Discussion on last Trade Show; issues, concerns, etc.
 - b. Recommendations for future trade shows:
 - i. Every trade show must provide a continuous customer walking space at least 30" wide with no obstructions in front of every table or side of table if the side is on the customer walking path. Two facing tables will have 60" of walking space between the two fronts. Obstructions include chairs, boxes, walls, and dais.
 - ii. All vendors must be verified as HGMS members prior to the show date. Only Beverly Mace can verify whether a vendor is a member. A vendor not verified within two weeks of table payment will lose the table assignment.
 - iii. Tables will be offered for sale only through the official HGMS email notification system for the first 3 days. This will allow current members to have first choice of tables.
7. **Replacement of Wi-Fi in club building:** Jim Kendall emailed his report and recommendations to the Board.
 - a. I suggest the Comcast proposal should be Business "Starter" plan (~16 Mbps download) + Phone. We should drop TV. I am indifferent to the Voicemail issue (extra \$5 per month). The price would be <\$100 per month for 3 years. This plan would save us money by allowing us to cancel the \$115 a month AT&T phone bill. I am interested in the next faster internet package "Deluxe 50?" which would bump internet speeds to 50 Mbps and our bill to ~\$120/130 per month. I suppose we could start with the cheaper package and upgrade later, if we wished.
 - b. The timely Tech Soup offer gives us a comfort zone. I would have no problem going with it, if Comcast is recalcitrant.

8. **Scholarships:**

- a. **Update Scholarship Contact list: Sigrid Stewart** will send out current scholarship information to colleges and junior colleges.
 - b. **Elizabeth Jean Smith Scholarship fund:** Will be funded by Art Smith's book, *The Mineralogy of Texas*. Nancy will contact Brett and Mark Jacobson to get addresses for Thank You notes.
 - c. **Richard Baker Scholarship fund:** Rhonda Burrage donated a \$2,500 scholarship in her father's name, Richard Baker Rhonda submitted an article/announce in the Victoria and Hallettsville newspapers. She does want to review applicants with us.
 - d. **Annual HGMS Scholarship \$2500:** The HGMS Earth Science/Jewelry Arts Scholarship. Sigrid has started the process of verifying the contact information for the Universities, Colleges, and 2-year degree schools.
 - e. **The Paleo Section** also provides a scholarship. The Paleo scholarship is awarded to candidates Paleo recruits.
 - f. **Thank-you letter sent to Rhonda Burrage.** Nancy is contacting James to get address to mail Thank You.
 - g. **Chase Jennings** will broadcast the Scholarship information and application on Face Book as soon as we provide the information.
9. **Library: Subscription to magazines:** Get magazine names for library ordering. Sections should provide publication names and costs to Nancy before the next BOD meeting.

New Business

10. **Library News:**

- a. **New Librarian:** Nathalie Brandes has agreed to be Society Librarian.
 - b. **News from Nathalie:**
 - i. Library will be reorganized following Library of Congress classification; set up similar to Paleo Library
 - ii. Will develop a database that is searchable (new computer/printer-copier would be nice)
 - iii. Books will be relabeled using modern archival techniques.
 - iv. Many badly photocopied magazine articles need to go; can now be retrieved on websites (this will free up lots of space). Originals will be kept and documented.
 - v. Would prefer to be "research only" library; non-lending
11. **The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.**
12. **The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:30.**

Program: Searles Lake Gem-O-Rama, presented by Michael Sommers
 Michael will talk on the area of Searles Lake, California and the minerals found there. For over 70 years, the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

has hosted the “Gem-O-Rama,” supported by Searles Valley Minerals company, who allows collectors the unique opportunity to acquire their own specimens of the rare minerals found in the lake. These minerals are evaporites, and they include one of the rarest minerals on the planet—the famous hanksite! Come learn about the area and the show, see these minerals in person, and smell the brine. (Yes, I will have some!)

Adjourn: Diane Sisson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mike Sommers seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

“Bench Tips for Jewelry Making” and “Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry” are available on Amazon.

www.BradSmithJewelry.com

GRIPPING SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or 0.040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.



The problem is easily solved in either of two ways—with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank-size.

Either way, you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom, or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb, I assume it’s going to take me 15–20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects, buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they’re not dependable for stones with steep side walls.



Lastly—before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom.

Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone, and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

The Rock's Revenge

by Tom Carlisle

*from The Roadrunner 10/2007, via Rock Chips1/2008, via Arkansas
Rockhound News 9/2014, via The Rockhounder 3/2016*

There's nothing stupider, I think...
than washing geodes in the sink;
A "teenie-weenie" crystal grain...
slips unnoticed down the drain.

These crystals get you now - or later,
wrecking your "in-sink-er-ator,"
And this will put you "up-the-creek"...
I truly know whereof I speak.

I took some geodes I had grubbed,
and in the sink, faithfully scrubbed;
'til when I finished they were clean...
prettiest things I'd ever seen!

I didn't know while I had worked,
crystals broke off; now they lurked
in my disposer - out of sight
where they waited 'til that night.

When I started that disposer...
it sounded like a Broadway "closer,"
then I heard an awful clatter...
I didn't know what was the matter!

A grand cacophony of sound...
came from that thing as it went 'round;
Click and Whirrr, and Clank and Bong!
Then it crashed and stopped its song.

It broke the blades right off the shaft...
and I suppose I'm truly daft
for washing geodes in the sink.
There's nothing stupider, I think!

I broke the grinder...oh, I know,
my "clean-out" plug has told me so;
I won't forget that day, you see...
when I learned crystallography!

I know what happened, it's so plain,
those geode crystals, down the drain.
It ruins your plumbing... now YOU know,
and don't forget, I told you so!



AFMS-Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
from the AFMS Newsletter 3/2016

Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools—your hands.



There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks, it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of those folks who do not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and going on about your day. The hand behind one's back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important. Give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset—hands.

Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of *Gray's Anatomy*, I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius, and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm, and fingers. Counting the bones of the right and left hands, that's 60 bones of the body's 200 or so bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body's total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good, I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care—they deserve great care.

Soon I will transition from winter's snowshoeing enjoyments to Spring's bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition, I will move from using certain muscle/bone groups to other muscle/bone groups. During that transition, I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition, I will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that I'm not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken.

On occasion, we do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I'm using my rock hammer so much, that at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand, my fingers stay frozen in the curl—that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand and finger positions frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is—and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do—hold a rock in one hand and, using

the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity, and I'm sure you will get an earful of commentary about the foolishness of the act.

Next for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty—and I'm not talking about the resultant air turning a blueish color. Hands do not have an easy life! What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are (a ta-da moment) hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike. There are also numerous chisel-holding devices available.

A plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves exist that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands.

We have available to us dirt, flat rocks, and really great holding devices that can support or hold a rock so that it is not held in one's hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly—so if in doubt about any program or device, please consider consulting a professional. Oh, and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity, and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues experienced by those dedicated cabbers among us using too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance, our hands can last a lifetime—and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, and stay safe.



Show Time 2016

April 9	Austin, TX	Austin Gem & Mineral Soc. Annual Rock Swap 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org
April 9-10	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center; 600 Pine St. kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net
April 15-17	Alpine, TX	Chihuahuan Desert Gem and Mineral Club Alpine Civic Center; 801 W. Holland (Hwy. 90) paulgraybeal@sbcglobal.net
April 22-24	Houston, TX	Fine Mineral Show Embassy Suites Hotel, 2911 Sage Rd. info@finemineralshow.com FineMineralShow.com
April 30-May 1	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Extraco Events Center; 4601 Bosque Blvd www.wacogemandmineral.org showchair@wacogemandmineral.org
May 7-8	Lubbock, TX	SCFMS/Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
May 14	Arlington, TX	Arlington Gem&Mineral club, ann. Swap Meet Arlington club house; 1408 Gibbons Rd. jlspinks@sbcglobal.net ; agemclub.com
May 28-29	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Amon G. Carter Exhibit Building Will Rogers Memorial Center 3401 W. Lancaster fwgmc@embarqmail.com fortworthgemandmineralclub.org
July 25-30	Houghton, MI	Keweenaw Mineral Days A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum Michigan Technological University 1404 E. Sharon Avenue http://www.museum.mtu.edu/keweenaw_mineral_days/index.html www.museum.mtu.edu
September 10-18	Denver, CO	Multiple shows and locations Eons Expos, Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St 250 dealers in Denver Coliseum plus 100 tents http://www.ColiseumShow.com
November 11-13	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

2016		April					2016
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	11	12 NO Show Committee	13 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	14	15	16 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 a.m. 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	25	26 7:30 General Meeting	27 10-3 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-5 Shop Open	

2016		May					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 10-4 Shop Open	2	3 7:30 Board Meeting	4 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section 7:30--Mineral Section	5 7:30 Archeology Section	6	7 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section	
8 10-4 Shop Open	9	10 NO Show Committee	11 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	12	13	14 10-5 Shop Open	
15 10-4 Shop Open	16 7:30 Lapidary Section	17 7:30 Paleo Section	18 10-3 Shop Open 7:30 Mineral Section	19	20	21 10-5 Shop Open 10-Noon Youth Section 1:30 Beading Section	
22 10-4 Shop Open	23	24 7:30 General Meeting	25 10-3 Shop Open	26	27	28 10-5 Shop Open	
29 10-4 Shop Open	30	31					

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 BROOKLET

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(281) 530-0942



SCFMS

- 1998 - 1st (Large)
- 2000 - 1st (Large)
- 2003 - 1st (Large)
- 2005 - 1st (Large)
- 2006 - 2012 - 1st (Large)
- 2013 - 1st (Large)
- 2014 - 1st (Large)
- 2015 - 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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