



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

The Newsletter of the  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Volume XLVI - No. 12

December 2015



## President's Message *by Raymond Kizer*

The end of the year is upon us, and so is the end of my time as President of the Society. I have enjoyed the position immensely and all the great people who worked alongside me to make my two years at the helm a pleasure to serve. I need to thank Nancy English for sitting at my right hand and keeping me straight on all the club business from month to month, taking the minutes, organizing all our functions, and just being someone I could depend on. Thanks also go out to our faithful editor, Phyllis George, who has taken my last-minute ramblings in stride and polished them until they read as though written by someone wise and knowledgeable.



The New Year will bring a change in some HGMS leaders, and hopefully even more growth for our membership. We have welcomed many new members this year, over 160 at last count. Growth is important; it keeps the club fresh and brings in people with new and varied talents. Make them welcome, and share your tips and experience with them because they will be our spokesmen of tomorrow.

## Upcoming Programs *by Paul Brandes* HGMS 1st VP

**D**ecember 12, 2015--Annual HGMS Holiday Party! 5 p.m.: view auction items. 6 p.m. Holiday potluck dinner. 7 p.m. Auction. More info later. Bring auction items to club before the day of the party. If you're bringing items for auction to the party, bring them at 5 p.m. so they can be catalogued and ready.

**December 22, 2015: NO MEETING -- Happy Holidays!!**

**January 26, 2016: Possible Benefit Auction; details to follow.**

## Contents

President's Message .....	1
Upcoming Programs .....	1
Purpose of HGMS .....	3
2015 HGMS Officers .....	3
Keeping Your Machines Running:	
Motor capacitors and why you should care .....	4
HGMS Entries Submitted to the 2015 SCFMS Editors' Contest .....	7
HGMS Rankings in the 2015 SCFMS and AFMS Contest .....	7
HGMS Participates in 2015 Energy Day Festival .....	8
Serious Rockhounding .....	9
General Meeting Minutes .....	10
Board of Director's Meeting .....	14
Archeology Section .....	18
Bench Tips .....	18
On Christmas Eve .....	19
Rockhounds and Phishing .....	20
Santa's Surprise .....	21
Fordite .....	22
The Largest Ammonite in the World .....	24
Iron Sand .....	24
Show Time 2015 - 2016 .....	26
Calendars .....	27

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*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 January 2016 issue  
by Tuesday, December 15, 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>.

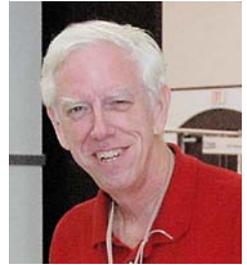
## Keeping Your Machines Running: Motor capacitors and why you should care

by Neal "shop elf" Immega

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

**Executive Summary: install old motors only after testing capacitors.**

If your shop is full of old motors, like ours is, you need to know about motor capacitors. Capacitors are the most failure-prone portions of a motor. The Houston Gem and Mineral Society gets most of its equipment by donation, and that it still works is because we know how to handle them. We rehabilitate grinders by putting in new bearings. Old oil-lubricated diamond saws usually do not need any work on their arbors. Electric motors, though, frequently do need some work.



I will concentrate on machines where the motor is connected to the arbor by a V-belt and powered by single-phase standard line current (110 volts). The motor has to provide a substantial starting torque to get a grinder or saw up to speed, and this necessitates that there be at least one capacitor in the circuit. If you are installing a machine and are fishing around in your junk bin for a motor, find one with at least one bump on the outside. That is where the capacitor is located. Motors that run off line current and do not have a capacitor are intended for uses like powering a fan where there is essentially no starting load. **DO NOT USE THESE MOTORS** on saws or grinders. Really.

**One-Bump Motors:** Motors with one capacitor use it to start the rotor spinning. When it gets up to speed, you will hear a "click" when it disconnects from the circuit. Follow this decision tree to detect the reason for a problem.

1. With power applied, motor hums but does not spin up except when it is manually turned—replace capacitor. I have opened machines and found the capacitor **EXPLODED!**
2. With power applied, motor does not hum or spin—likely a bad motor, discard.
3. With power applied, motor spins up slowly—check and replace capacitor.
4. Capacitor has a blown pressure seal (see pictures on next page)—replace capacitor.
5. You do not hear a click as the motor speeds up, **AND** the motor has a capacitor—open up the housing and clean and lubricate the centrifugal switch (WD40 works fine). Reassemble and retest. **You will burn up the motor if the centrifugal switch does not open after a second.**

6. Measured capacitor rating (see below for how to measure) does not equal the rating printed on the cap. Start capacitors are rated with a range such as 189-245 mfd. The capacity you measure should fall in this range, or you should replace the capacitor.

**Testing Capacitors:** This is easy. Buy a cheap capacitor tester off eBay.com and use it. Disconnect the motor and discharge the capacitor with a screwdriver before testing. I test all the capacitors when I am doing an install and whenever there is a problem. The exploded capacitors shown above test to within specifications, but I am discarding them just the same. Caps are cheap compared to motors. I buy replacement capacitors from eBay and from HVAC stores like Johnson Supply.



Defective capacitors - replace

**Ratings:** Always replace capacitors with identical MFD rated units. If you cannot read the label on the can or on the motor faceplate, discard the motor. You **cannot** just guess. BUT the voltage rating is not so hard and fast. We have some very old, still working equipment in the shop like the 20" diamond saw that I used as a summer hire in the Mobil Field Research Lab in 1971. It has come back to haunt me. I had the machine apart to work on the motor pulley (see previous article on pulleys at <http://www.hgms.org/BBG/Feb15.pdf>) and tested the capacitor. This is a 50+ year old saw, and the capacitor was fine. The capacitor has a voltage rating of 370 volts, which is 3x the line current and that probably explains its survival. Manufacturers give this rule of thumb for life—10,000 hours at line current, 20,000 at 2x line current, etc. It is very unlikely that this machine has run 30,000 hours in the past 50+ years. I try to buy capacitors that are rated 220 volts or better, but check the physical size because higher-voltage capacitors are always bigger and may not fit the housing.

**Two-Bump Motors:** They are called Capacitor Start/Capacitor Run motors and draw less current for the same nameplate rating. Our Super Grinder (ganged saw blades on a grinder arbor, see <http://www.hgms.org/Articles/SuperGrinder.html>. Article on page 12) has a 1 HP motor, and we had to buy one new. Actually, we bought new surplus from Surpluscenter.com. We had to have a more efficient motor because we are right at the rating of the breaker box for the whole shop. If you must buy a motor, get one of this type. You test these capacitors the same way as above.

**Lubrication:** Lubricate old motors as specified on the motor nameplate. Ball bearing motors frequently specify that you use 3 drops of 10-weight oil annually. Sleeve bearing machines frequently specify that you use 30 drops. A new motor should **not** be lubricated for 5 years. Do not over-lubricate.

3-in-One® oil is good, as is 10-wt motor oil.

**Running Hot:** We have cured some “hot” motors by just blowing the dust out of the vents in the housing! Also, see #5 above about the centrifugal switch. I have had to junk a motor because I could not find why it ran so hot.

**Rotation:** If you are fortunate, the motor will give directions for wiring it for different voltage/rotation direction. Alternatively, many motors have 4 wires in their wiring block. Two are labeled L and are for 110 volt line current. The other two are black and red. You can reverse rotation by reversing the red/black connections. See picture below

**Genie, Titan, and other makes with wheels on the motor arbor:** These machines have a start capacitor in the housing which should be tested when a used machine is installed. Since the motor is totally enclosed for protection from water, it runs hotter than other motors with ventilation.

**From our Editor, Phyllis George:**

Capacitors have many uses—not just in motors. My son replaced capacitors in my two 22" monitors, my A/C, and in an electronic micro-grand piano. This has become an essential life skill! He resurrected my dual 22" computer monitors about six years ago—the office where he worked pronounced them dead after leaving them on 24/7/365 for a few years. They gave both to him to be junked. He merely replaced the capacitors in each. They have worked flawlessly since. (I turn them off when I am not using them.) The piano was given to my son 10 or 15 years ago for \$50 by the piano dealer because his technicians had no idea how to fix it. David reseated every electronic connection in the unit. And it works—its value went to \$2000 overnight.

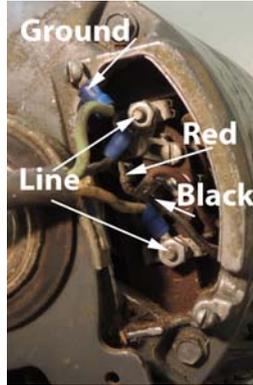
## Resources

### Tutorial on motors:

<http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/textbook/alternating-current/chpt-13/single-phase-induction-motors/>

**Capacitance meter:** search for “Digital Capacitor Meter” on eBay, and you will find any number of satisfactory units.

**Motors:** surpluscenter.com—better and cheaper than Harborfreight.com



This motor will reverse rotation if the red and black leads are swapped on the push-on terminals.

## HGMS Entries Submitted to the 2015 SCFMS Editors' Contest

by Phyllis George  
HGMS Newsletter Editor

Rockhound newsletter editors throughout the U.S. scoured through their previous year's newsletter issues, selecting articles and newsletters to submit to their regional 2015 Editors and Authors Contest. The entries from HGMS are listed below along with their category. The top three winners in each category were forwarded by our regional federation (SCFMS—South Central Federation of Mineral Societies) to the national federation (AFMS—American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) judges.

This year, the annual NATIONAL SHOW was held in SCFMS-land. This happens only once every seven years. Both the national federation (AFMS—American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) and the SCFMS were hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society (AGMS). The results of BOTH the SCFMS contest and the AFMS contest were announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters held Saturday, October 24 in Austin, Texas.

HGMS submitted 16 entries produced by 14 members. The top three entries in each category win plaques. HGMS won 7 SCFMS plaques and 4 AFMS plaques. HGMS ROCKS!!!

HGMS Entries in the 2015 SCFMS and AFMS Editors and Authors Contest				
SCFMS Rank	AFMS Rank	Name	Title	Month, 2014
<b>Large Bulletin</b>				
1	5	Phyllis George	The Backbender's Gazette	April, December
<b>Advanced Adult Article</b>				
1	5	Nathalie Brandes	The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway	August
2	1	Paul V. Heinrich	Llanite and the Blue Quartz in Texas	May
3	2	Neal Immega	Tiktaalik—A Fish Trying to Get Out of Water	April
4-HM		Paul T. Brandes	Porcelaneous Datolite of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan	February
HM		Jonathan A. Woolley	Manganese Nodules and the CIA's Deep Ocean Mining Venture	February
HM		Mark Villanueva C.S.P., A.J.P	Mind-Bending Minerals at 2014 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show	March
HM		John Anderson	The Miner's First Trip to San Carlos, Mexico	August
<b>Adult Article</b>				
4-HM		Chase Jennings	Preserving Pyritized Fossils	December
<b>Adult Poetry</b>				
1	3	Edward Clay	God's Fire	March
4-HM		Kemp Maer	Gravity and Ice	June
<b>Feature</b>				
1	—	Neal Immega	Canyon Lake Gorge—Fabulous Field Trip Destination	July
3	1	Dr. Garth A. A. Clark	Archeology Evolves with Genetics	June
HM		Terrell William "Terry" Proctor	Paleontological Preservation Act	March
HM		Scott Singleton	Homeschoolers at the HGMS Annual Show	October
HM		John Anderson	The Miner—The "Cool Water" Aquamarine	January

## HGMS Participates in 2015 Energy Day Festival

by Scott Singleton

While at the Houston Museum of Natural Science participating in the Earth Science Week activities on Saturday, October 10, Neal Immega and I were approached by the Consumer Energy Alliance, who also had a table at the museum, with an invite to participate in their Energy Day Festival the next weekend (October 17). This festival is a large-scale affair being held at Sam Houston Park downtown. There were over 100 vendors composed of energy companies, universities, public and private schools, businesses, and a lot of non-profits. The HGMS was invited because they saw what we had to offer and recognized that our material has a lot of crowd appeal.



So Neal and I put together a display set-up that included a lot of my larger



petrified wood pieces, some larger fossils, and a grinder to demonstrate lapidary work. Neal invited Kim Fuselier to demonstrate beading and wire wrapping. Add a full complement of HGMS promo literature, and we had three full tables of material organized in a U-shape with our HGMS banner hanging behind us.



The booth was a huge success. Most of the time we had a crowd

around the entire booth. Rocks are something that everyone can get into, so we were a popular item. The festival organizers stopped by to compliment us on drawing such a crowd, and they assured us we would be on the list of

invited vendors next year. They also told us that the police directing traffic on Bagby, which was closed for the event, estimated the crowd was in excess of 25,000. I easily gave away an entire 5-gallon bucket full of petrified wood pieces.

It was a fun event, and it was very satisfying to know that people appreciate what we have to offer. We are looking forward to next year.

### **Serious Rockhounding**

*by Terrell William Proctor, J.D.*

*Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society*

**T**here are many kinds of rock hounds,  
if we study these folks a little.  
The new member, whom everything astounds  
with magnifying glass and spittle.

Next are those who collect by the pound.  
Find the right rock, collect all you can.  
This guy has rocks in the whole house and around,  
knowing his spouse has a far different plan.

The expert is known on most every trip.  
Ready to help rock hounds who are new  
Showing the color and maybe a chip.  
Exposing the things which are a cue.

Devoted rock hounds, often seek to excel,  
ending each trip with a better sample.  
At Show and Tell, on such rock to dwell.  
At yearly Shows, their cases are ample.

Then there is the real professional.  
One who earned the degree to prove.  
Well qualified and usually discretional,  
these members help your club improve.

Finding a better rock may end in a yell,  
as this great find is showed around.  
Friendly fellow rock hounds, wish her well.  
knowing another great find will be found.

@ 2015 TERRELL WLLIAM PROCTOR, J.D.  
20 September 2015 10:00 P.M  
Houston, Texas

## General Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2015

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Ray Kizer at 7:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the October General meeting. The meeting was attended by 32 regular members and two new members.

President Kizer asked the new members and visitors to stand and be recognized. The new members are Samantha Lanphier and Katherine Moore.

**Drawing:** Dave Janos won the drawing for the polished agate trivet. Mike Sommers won the second drawing for the obsidian knife.

**Minutes:** Karen Burns moved to approve the minutes of the September General Meetings as published in the November BBG. Joan Riley seconded, and the membership passed the motion.

**President's Announcements:** President Ray Kizer thanked everyone who planned and worked the Show. The results were super. On Saturday of the Show, Ray said he could not get down the aisle for all the people. The dealers were really happy with the higher attendance. The next two HGMS shows (2016 and 2017) are scheduled for the second weekend of November.

**Show Committee—Scott Singleton reported:** Most expenses have now been paid, so we can estimate our Show profit and loss with some certainty. This analysis indicates the show made about **\$26,600**. That is more than \$10,000 over the historical average for Show profits for the last decade. Attendance topped at 5,218, which includes the kids on School Daze Friday. Over the three days, we had 2,800 paying customers. Some previous budget expense items were reduced. This year we did not offer any discounts for tickets. However, customers were happy to be able to pay for tickets with credit and debit cards. Card sales for Tickets and for Info Booth merchandise accounted for \$7,777.60. **Social Media Advertising** on Facebook and other Gem & Mineral-related Web sites boosted attendance. The HGMS Show Facebook site reached 16,000 people. Beverly Mace is in the process of compiling the answers on the brief surveys on the Door Prize tickets to see to what extent social media influenced the attendance. The Grand Prize was a Dugway geode donated by Nature's Treasures from Austin. Pamela Lewis of Humble was the winner. The Volunteer Thank you Party was attended by 21 people. The food was great, and the weather was beautiful for an outdoor experience. Another success for the show.

### Show and Tell

**Scholarship Donation:** Ray Kizer announced that Rhonda Burrage donated a \$2,550 scholarship in her father's name, Richard Baker. It will be presented in 2016 to the winning candidate.

**Nevada Map Art:** Recently, Harvey and Rita Bergeron presented HGMS with a framed map of Nevada showing where Nevada rocks are found. The artwork was made by the late Ed Rupprecht of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society, Las Vegas.

**Energy Coalition:** Scott Singleton reported that he, Neal Immega, and Kim Fusellier set up an HGMS booth at the Energy Coalition downtown in Sam Houston Park Saturday, October 17, 2015. Scott had a table of his larger petrified wood pieces, and he gave away smaller pieces. There were so many kids that he went through an entire 5-gallon bucket full of pieces. Neal demonstrated grinding and polishing with a grinding wheel. Kim demonstrated beading and jewelry making. The booth was very popular, and they were invited to come back next year. The event organizers estimated that over 25,000 people attended.

**Steve Blyskal** was able to buy a large Clear Lake collection of over 700 specimens including a LOT of quartz. He brought three flats to show some of the types of minerals in the collection. He will be selling them at future Trade Shows and donating some of it for Club auctions. He also had a partial flat of Condor Agates from Argentina which he had just obtained from a dealer.

### Section Reports

**Archeology Section:** The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Gail Larsen Peterkin will present a talk on “French Upper Paleolithic Hunting Technology.”

**December 3, 2015** Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout: He will talk about the priceless pieces in the collection of the new Amazon Special Exhibit that opened October 23 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Pieces include ceremonial objects, masks, and body costumes.

**Beading Section:** The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on **Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** The necklace project for December is a netting red lace pattern titled “December.”

The **December 12, 2015** meeting is on the same day as the party. The Beading Section will have its own Christmas party and will help set up the HGMS Holiday party for that evening.

**Day Light Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 5, 2015 at 1:00**--the second program: Kate Smith: She will demonstrate metal working to make the clasp of the bracelet worked on last month. Hands-on practice will be available, time permitting.

**December 2, 2015** will be the **Holiday Lunch**. Details to come.

**Education:** There are two new classes in November. The Faceting class scheduled for last weekend was cancelled because of the rain forecast. It will be rescheduled. Please contact Carrie at [carriehart2000@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehart2000@yahoo.com) to reserve your class space.

**Jim Paras** is teaching **Polymer Clay for Beginners on Sunday November 15, from 2 PM to 4 PM. The cost of \$30.00 includes all supplies.**

**Ray Kizer** is teaching **Cabochon Calibrating on Sunday November 22 from Noon to 5 PM. The cost of \$75.00 includes all supplies.**

**Gemstones and Faceting Section:** The next regular meeting is **Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** The program will be announced.

**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next regular meeting is Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Polishing a cabochon and selecting best portions of a stone. Open Shop will be held 5:00–7:15 p.m. prior to the meeting.

**Mineral Section:** The next regular meetings are Wednesday, November 4 and November 18 at 7:30 p.m. On November 4 the program: **is to be announced. On November 18,** Mike Sommers—Searles Lake, CA

**Paleo Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program to be announced.

**Youth Section:** The next meetings are scheduled for November 7, 2015 and November 21, 2015; December 5, 2015—Holiday Party; December 19, 2015—NO MEETING!

### Old Business

**New Officers for 2015:** The nominating committee consists of Neal Immega, Margo Bedman, Mike Sommers, Richard Goode, and Rose Cleveland. Mike Sommers announced the Candidates for next year's offices: **President** – Paul Brandes; **First Vice President:** Sigrid Stewart; **Second Vice President** – Beverly Mace; **Treasurer** – Rodney Linehan; **Secretary** - Nancy English. The Nominating Committee continues to look for a Show Committee chair.

President Ray Kizer said he would entertain nominations from the floor, if the nominee is present and agrees to be nominated. No further nominations were made. (Additional nominations cannot be accepted after that meeting.) Attendees will vote on the officer slate at the November 24 General Meeting.

**New Web site Design:** **Scott Singleton** reported that the new HGMS Web site is nearly complete. Formatted displays and content are complete for Archeology, Mineral, and Paleo Sections. Other Sections need to send their information.

In the interest of time, President Kizer asked the members to follow the progress of other Old Business items in the September Board meeting and August General meeting minutes as published in the October edition of the BBG.

## New Business

**The Annual HGMS Holiday Party** will be held Saturday, December 12, 2015. Please bring donations for the auction to the club a few days before the party so we have time to label them and to set up the auction list. If you bring items the night of the party, come at 5:00 to give us time to log them. The potluck dinner starts at 6:00. The Club will provide the meat. The food will be coordinated by Nancy English. Please let her know what you are bringing. The Auction starts at 7:00.

**Rocks and Minerals: Steve Blyskal** announced that he will be setting up an **auction** early next year to fund the HGMS account used to donate \$1000 per year to **Rocks and Minerals** for the Color Fund for the Connoisseur's Choice column. *Rocks and Minerals* will acknowledge our donation in each of the six issues per year, including mentioning that it is done in memory of Art Smith, an HGMS and Mineral Section member. Art donated that amount every year for many years to ensure that the mineral photos are printed in color instead of black and white, and also so that HGMS would be recognized. There will be an article in the BBG for the next few months explaining this in further detail and asking for donations.

**The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. The next General Meeting is November 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** The program will be **American Corundum Deposits** by Will Heierman. Despite its large land mass, the United States has relatively few gem corundum (ruby or sapphire) localities. However, there are many which produce very attractive sub-gem specimens. Montana and North Carolina are the two principal gem regions, but many states, even Texas, have produced euhedral sub-gem corundum crystals. These historic pieces, when they can be found, can be very attractive as well. For this evening's presentation, Will Heierman will talk about the history, geography, and geology of corundum deposits, as well as the latest news about opportunities for rock hounds who would like to collect their own. Will has also promised that he will have specimens from his collection that has been more than thirty years in the making.

Open Shop will be held 5:00-7:15 p.m. prior to the meeting.

**Adjourn:** Phyllis George moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Karen Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned 8:10 p.m.

### 5-minute break

**Program—Neal Immega on Australian Opals:** President Ray Kizer called on Vice President Paul Brandes to introduce our speaker Neal Immega. Neal introduced us to Australian opals using photos taken by Rose Cleveland during her trip to the land down under.

**Refreshments:** Provided by Ray Kizer.

## Board of Director's Meeting

November 3, 2015

by Nancy English

	President - Ray Kizer	X	Archeology Rep - Garth Clark
	1st Vice President - Paul Brandes	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
X	Secretary - Nancy English	X	Lapidary Rep - Phyllis George
		X	Mineral Rep - Mike Sommers
		X	Paleontology Rep - Mike Dawkins

**Call to Order:** Second Vice President Beverly Mace called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. A quorum was present. Three non-voting members were in attendance: Scott Singleton, Show Committee; Chase Jennings; Carrie Hart, Education.

**Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes:** Mike Sommers moved and Diane Sisson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2015 Board Meeting as published in the November 2015 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rodney Linehan e-mailed financials to all Board members in advance of the meeting.

**Show Committee: SCOTT SINGLETON reported the final numbers for the Show.** This year, 5,218 adults and children attended the three-day event. The net profit of \$28,400 is \$10,000 more than the last two years. The increase can be attributed to expenses being under budget, a raise in dealer fees, and increased attendance revenue. The crowd growth is accredited to advertising, advertising, and more advertising on Social Media such as email forwards, Facebook, and other Gem & Mineral Web sites; more face-time at events throughout the year to promote the Show and Club; and more newspaper ads. Dealers and attendees were happy to have food cooked on-site by **Jim Benton's Catering.**

### Office, Committee, and Section Reports

**Archeology Section:** The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Gail Larsen Peterkin: will present a talk on "French Upper Paleolithic Hunting Technology."

**December 3, 2015** Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout: He will talk about the priceless pieces in the collection of the new Amazon Special Exhibit that opened October 23 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Pieces include ceremonial objects, masks, and body costumes.

**Beading Section:** The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on **Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** The project is a netting red lace pattern necklace titled "December."

The **December 12, 2015** meeting is on the same day as the HGMS Holiday party. Beading Section will have their party during their meeting, then they will help set up for the Club party that evening.

**Day Light Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 1:00**. Kate Smith will demonstrate metal working to make the clasp of the bracelet worked on last month. Hands-on practice will be available, time permitting.

**December 2, 2015 Day Light Section** will have their **Holiday Lunch**. Preparations for the 1–3 p.m. Day Light Holiday Party will begin at 11:00 a.m. Members can bring their potluck containers until 1 p.m., when the eating will begin. Potluck selections should be noted by last name initial: A – F should bring Salads and Appetizers; G –M should bring Side Dishes, e.g., green beans, broccoli with cheese sauce, sweet potatoes, rice, quinoa; N –Z should bring Desserts. Turkey will be provided by the Section.

**Education:** There are two new classes in November. The Faceting class scheduled for last weekend was cancelled because of the rain forecast. It will be rescheduled. Please contact Carrie at [carriehart2000@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehart2000@yahoo.com) to reserve your class space.

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**Lapidary and Silversmithing Section:** The next regular meeting is Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Polishing a cabochon and selecting the best portions of a stone. Open Shop will be held 5:00-7:15 p.m. prior to the meeting.

**Mineral Section:** The next regular meetings are Wednesday, November 4 and November 18 at 7:30 p.m. On November 4, the program is to be announced. On November 18, Mike Sommers—speaking on Searles Lake, CA. Discussions about the Web page design will follow.

**Paleo Section:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program is to be announced.

**Youth Section:** The next meetings are scheduled for November 7, 2015, and November 21, 2015. **The November meetings will be dedicated to mounting stones and simple wire wrap.**

**General Meeting:** December 12, 2015—Holiday Party; December 19, 2015—NO MEETING!

**BBG Editor and Webmaster:** Phyllis George reported that the deadline to receive articles is November 15, 2015. Recently Kim Brandon, Bulletin Aids Chair for the SCFMS, sent Phyllis George the SCFMS and AMFS certificates and awards for the HGMS contest entries. Seven SCFMS trophies were awarded from sixteen entries. Six of those winning entries were forwarded to the AMFS, resulting in four more trophies. Phyllis will present the awards at the November 24 General Meeting. Congratulations to the BBG for being ranked fifth nationally in the Large Bulletin Category of rockhound newsletter entries.

### Old Business

1. **Club House Repairs / upgrades:** The doorbell still needs to be extended to ring in the meeting room.
2. **Security System:** Garth Clark is ready to set up remote viewing. He is still looking for smoke detectors. Ray Kizer is researching waterproof housings for the outdoor cameras.
3. **Nominating Committee results:** The nominating committee consisted of Neal Immega, Margo Bedman, Mike Sommers, Richard Goode, and Rose Cleveland. At the October General Meeting, Mike Sommers announced the Candidates for next year's offices: **President** – Paul Brandes, **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Sigrid Stewart, **Second Vice President** – Beverly Mace, **Treasurer** – Rodney Linehan, **Secretary** - Nancy English. The Nominating Committee and Board of Directors continue to look for a Show Committee Chair.
4. **The number and timing of future Trade Shows.** Discussion and vote on number of new Trade Shows was tabled at the August BOD. Since then, Chase Jennings has called the IRS and The Texas State Comptroller to discuss tax ramifications for multiple fundraisers. Both said there are no limits as to the number of events HGMS can hold each year or to the amount of money we can collect each year. If HGMS makes more than \$20,000 in a calendar year, a long form must be used to file with the IRS—which HGMS already does. Dealer table fees do not require sales tax. So holding multiple Trade Shows will not impact our tax liabilities. Therefore, Chase scheduled the first 2016 **HGMS Fossil, Mineral, Jewelry, and Archeology Trade Show for January 30, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** He will provide plenty of help with planning, details, setup, and take down. He will begin advertising for dealers and customers soon.
5. **Web site:** **Scott Singleton** reported that the new HGMS Web site is nearly complete. Formatted displays and content are complete for Archeology, Gemstones and Faceting, Mineral, and Paleo Sections. Lapidary is in pro-

cess. Beading and Daylight need to send their information to Autumn Breese. Scott asked for Club Member-published articles to be forwarded for another section of the Web site. The Board of Directors must approve the site before it can be activated.

6. **Christmas party:** The party is scheduled for December 12, 2015. Please bring donations for the auction to the club a few days before the party so we have time to label them and to set up the auction list. If you bring items the night of the party, come at 5:00 to give us time to log them. The potluck dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. The Club will provide the meat. **The food will be coordinated by Nancy English.** Please let her know what you are bringing. The Auction starts at 7:00.

### New Business

1. **Rocks and Minerals: Steve Blyskal** announced at the General Meeting that he will be setting up an **auction** early next year to fund the HGMS account used to donate \$1000 per year to **Rocks and Minerals magazine** for the Color Fund for the Connoisseur's Choice column. This ensures that the mineral photos are printed in color instead of black and white, and also that HGMS will be recognized. There will be an article in the BBG for the next few months explaining this in further detail and asking for donations.
2. **The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. The next General Meeting is November 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be** American Corundum Deposits by Will Heierman: Despite its large land mass, the United States has relatively few gem corundum (ruby or sapphire) localities. However, there are many which produce very attractive sub-gem specimens. Montana and North Carolina are the two principal gem regions, but many states, even Texas, have produced euhedral sub-gem corundum crystals. These historic pieces, when they can be found, can be very attractive as well. For this evening's presentation, Will Heierman will talk about the history, geography, and geology of corundum deposits, as well as mention of the latest news about opportunities for rock hounds who would like to collect their own. Will has also promised that he will have specimens from his collection of more than thirty years in the making.

**Adjourn:** Gary Tober moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Mike Dawkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned 8:45 p.m.



## Archeology Section

by Nancy Engelhardt-Moore

The HGMS Archeology Section held a meeting on November 5 as scheduled. Dr. Gail Larsen Peterkin gave her talk on “**French Upper Paleolithic Hunting Technology**” and discussed prehistoric hunter-gathers in France where the regional Upper Palaeolithic sequence is well documented for over a century. She showed how specific prey species were selectively exploited using carefully chosen lithic and organic weapons.

Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout is our guest speaker for December 3. He will speak about the priceless pieces in the collection of the new Amazon Special Exhibit that opened October 23 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Pieces include ceremonial objects, masks, and body costumes.

### Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

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

### Freedom Stand

A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and only costs about \$10.

I use 1/2-inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty-inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe—three foot, a flange, and a 90-degree “street elle.”



Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8” steel rod from the hardware store.

### Broken Drills

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with

Get last-minute news about club events by sending a note to Jim Kendall at [kendal\\_ja@yahoo.com](mailto:kendal_ja@yahoo.com)

pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.



### **On Christmas Eve**

*by Dick Stata*

*December 17 2004*

I was looking at my rock collection late on Christmas Eve.  
When this bearded guy in a red suit came tugging at my sleeve.  
"Ho! Ho! Ho! He laughed and said, "Is there something there for me?"  
If you can spare a crystal, I would like one for my tree."

I was kind of startled, and I jumped back in surprise.  
I flattened out the jolly guy for he was half my size.  
Oh, he was fat and had big boots, but he wasn't very tall.  
So when he landed on his butt, he didn't have far to fall.

"I'm sorry, Santa, you startled me," I pulled him to his feet.  
If you came for milk and cookies, I've nothing here to eat.  
Again the Ho! Ho! Ho! filled the room, a smile was on his mug.  
"Herkimer," he laughed, "You've got a big one in that vug."

On my table was a limestone chunk with an empty cavity.  
It was a piece of leaverite I'd brought back home with me.  
I stared down in amazement at the huge crystal in that hole.  
You couldn't buy better quartz from the Devil for your soul.

I stared in wonder, I could not speak; not a sound came to my lips.  
It was the crystal I had wished for on a hundred collecting trips.  
A water-clear crystal, as big as my fist, it sparkled like lights on a tree.  
I had never seen such a flawless gem, and Santa had left it for me.

I turned 'round to thank him and to wish him Christmas cheer.  
But I was alone, the elf had gone; I shed a joyful tear.  
Then the alarm went off, and I awoke and screamed.  
That Herkimer Santa gave me was just something that I dreamed.

## Rockhounds and Phishing

by Linda Nelson, CPA,  
Pasadena Lapidary Society  
from CFMS Newsletter, 10/2015

**W**e use email to communicate with each other and to share our finds with others. We work hard and save our earnings to enable us to enjoy our hobby. However, there are those who would like to take our earnings away from us and from our friends. They do this by “Phishing” (fishing), a process by which a thief sends an innocent-looking email designed to make us think they are helping us. Here is an example I received:

Subject: Incoming Mails Date: 7/7/2015 8:46:32 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time  
From: taehun@hanmail.net Dear Aol User, Your mailbox has exceeded the storage limit is 1 GB, which is defined by the administrator, are running at 99.8 gigabytes, you can not send or receive new messages until you re-validate your mailbox. To Update, Please Click : UPDATE» AOL Mail Privacy Policy | AOL Privacy Policy | Web Beacons in Email — Please do not reply to this message. This is a service email related to your use of aol Mail. AOL is located at 701 First Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Other common phishing headings are: Incoming Mails On Hold; Mail Service Update; Incoming Email; Hello are you there; Business Proposal; Suspension Level; Your Mail Outgoing and Incoming is blocked. Reason: Daily Mail Bounce Count Exceeds Limit; Account Upgrade; Account User Quarantine; Account Validation; Payment Receipt; Your email account.

Misspellings and poor grammar are common in such emails. If you notice, the person sending the sample email is using the server @hanmail.net. Hanmail is the most popular email service in South Korea. The email asks you to click on an UPDATE or other seemingly simple link to fix the problem. They may ask you to confirm your password or to log in to your account through their link. When you do, they capture your access password and can read all email you read or send! Some phishing emails contain a picture. If you open the email, it plants malware on your computer that can enable it to steal your contacts, friends, passwords, and banking information. Then the thief can contact your friends and use your own email to invade their computers.

Did you enter any username or password without going to the Web site in the normal fashion? If you did, you need to immediately log into those accounts (and all other accounts which used the same password) and change your password. So if you entered your email login credentials (such as @Verizon.com), immediately go to the real Verizon Web site, log into your account, and change your master password to a completely different one which is secure (long and hard to guess). If your password is shorter than 10 characters, it's too short!

To see a list of phishing scams targeted at Arizona State University, see this link: <https://getprotected.asu.edu/phishing>.

If you suspect your computer has been infected, take it to a reputable servicer such as Computer Village in San Dimas, CA or contact your local Best Buy Geek Squad which can come to your home to service your computer.

**Editor's note:** A good rule is to never click on a link in an email unless you are totally confident that the source is legitimate, and never enter personal information including passwords or ID and account numbers in a link from an email. It may take a bit longer to type in the Web site or click on a link you have saved in your favorites list, but you know your security is protected. Other reputable servicers might include the computer department at a Staples or Office Max store.

### Santa's Surprise

by Sandy Lynn

*from Cobb-L-Stones, others via Glacial Drifter 12/90,  
via The Roadrunner 12/2014*

"Twas a cold Christmas eve and Santa came calling -  
The stars were all twinkling, the snow had stopped falling.  
Next house on his list didn't run normally -  
ROCKHOUNDS lived here, (they lived quite informally).

First thing he did as he came in the den, was  
trip over the tumbler—he took quite a spin.  
On to the kitchen for cake and a coke -  
What he saw in the window almost made him choke.

Lining the window sills—strange little rocks -  
he let out an "OUCH" (he had one in his socks).  
Went to the living room—sat in a chair -  
But he was up like a bullet—more rocks were there.

Cars in the driveway, covered with snow,  
The garage? Full of rocks (wouldn't you know?)  
Mom and Pop's room was the strangest by far.  
Big rocks, little rocks, rocks in a jar!

The rocks on the dresser someone had marked "super."  
Santa stared for a while, then left in a stupor.  
He went to the john and turned rather pale -  
No one would believe this incredible tale!

He looked around warily, scratched his white beard -  
no doubt about it, these people were weird.  
Rocks in the sink, rocks on the floor—  
but the bathtub, THE BATHTUB? He couldn't stand more.

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*Continued on page 22*

He looked rather shaken, he stopped by the tree -  
 a doll for sweet Susie, a guitar for Lee.  
 For Mom and for Pop he just left a short note -  
 Put it under a rock—this he hurriedly wrote;

“I’m sure you’re not bad folks, just hopeless,” it said.  
 “I honestly think you’ve got rocks in your head.”

### Fordite

*by Layna Palner, IVire-Sculpturc.com 2-1-2013  
 from the Livingstones 7/2015, via The Rockpile 9/2015*

**W**hen Henry Ford first started rolling his products off the assembly line, he was asked what colors the vehicles came in. He replied, “Any color you want, as long as it’s black!” The painting process at that time was very time-consuming and tedious, taking several days to paint—with a brush—each layer of black lacquer and allow it to dry. The workers at Ford Motor would rub the entire chassis down with pumice after each layer as well. This process often caused a bottleneck at the factory and slowed production. There had to be a better way.

**Enter the DuPont Company In 1924.** DuPont, in conjunction with General Motors, developed a nitrocellulose paint lacquer that dried fast and came in several colors, the most popular of which was blue. They also developed a sprayer for the paint, virtually eliminating the brushing process.

This was still an air-dried lacquer, but it was a faster process and sped up production at the factory. New paint came in the 1930s that was enamel instead of lacquer, and it was baked onto the car’s frame. This paint lasted longer and retained its shine better over time. The automobile was mounted on an assembly stand and pulled into the painting room, sprayed by a person, and baked in place, then pulled down the line for further assembly. The paint overspray on the walls and assembly stands would also be baked in place, making a very hard, thick product. Over time, the layers of paint would build up, making it difficult to pull the car chassis through the painting process, and the workers would chip the paint off the metal sleds and walls.

In the 1960s and 70s, acrylic paint was introduced that was more durable and weather-resistant than the enamel being used at the time, creating a buildup of vibrant colors in defined layers on the overspray. Workers noticed this material building up, and they would clear it away and take it home, forming it into shapes. Voila. . . **Fordite**, or **Motor Agate**, was born! That’s recycling!

**About Fordite:** Fordite is not really a gemstone, but the buildup of layer upon layer of acrylic enamel paint that has been baked over and over again makes it very hard and durable. The lapidary process for Fordite is similar to other stones, though care does need to be taken since it is in such defined layers

and may have hairline cracks from the removal process at the factory. I couldn't find any information about the hardness on Mohs scale, but it is a medium-hard material with some earlier specimens being a little softer due to the composition of the paint. You may be wondering as to the lead content and safety of the paint. The paint is an acrylic material that does contain lead. Lead is absorbed into our bodies through breathing, our mucus membranes, ingestion, and occasionally through cuts or scrapes. However, inorganic lead that is contained in paint is not easily absorbed through our skin—not even through a cut or scrape—so unless you are going to eat it, there is really no danger in wearing a piece of Fordite.

There are several different types of Fordite; some have separated colors and regular banding with a primer layer in between, while others are color-on-color with metallics and limited color ranges. Add in the color from drips and swirls, most likely from the walls and floor of the painting rooms, and you have very neat patterns.

**Where is Fordite from?** Fordite also comes from several different places. Great Britain has some beautiful specimens that not only have the opaque colors, but metallic and transparency to some of the layers too. Detroit Fordite, although not necessarily from Detroit, is American in origin and usually has a gray primer layer between the vibrant colors. Ohio Fordite is another American original and comes from the factories that painted vans, so the colors can be earth-tones of green and brown or the more vibrant colors of the 70s with yellow, orange, and bright blues.

**Why Fordite is a Collector's Item:** Automobiles are no longer painted in this way today. The painting process is automated, and the chassis is charged to attract the paint molecules, so there is virtually no waste. Because of this, Fordite is a finite material that is quickly running out, but what a great piece of automotive history!

*How To Pronounce Peridot*

*by Mark Nelson*

*Editor of Rockhound Ramblings (newsletter of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, Pasadena, Calif.)*

*from Rockhound Ramblings 8/2015*

**A** couple of years ago, our Secretary/Treasurer and I were in search of Peridot stones and jewelry in the small Arizona town of Peridot (population 1,266) on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. I stopped to ask a roadside food vendor where I might find someone who made jewelry from Peridot (I pronounced it peri-dough). I was politely corrected that it was peri-dot and directed to the home of an Indian jeweler.

To help others who were as uninformed as I, I referenced the on-line Merriam-Webster Dictionary. They list the origin of the word to be from the French *péridot*, from Old French *peritot* with the first recorded use of the word in

1706. Words rhyming with Peridot are aeronaut, apricot, aquanaut, Argonaut, astronaut, Camelot, coffeepot, kilowatt, Lancelot and others.

**HGMS Editor's note:** *Who knew? I didn't!*

### The Largest Ammonite in the World

via *Stoney Statements* 9/2015

<https://www.tonmo.com/community/threads/image-the-largest-ammonite-in-the-world.2628/>

If you thought ammonites were small creatures that would fit into the palm of your hand, have a look at this monster:

#### Giant ammonite

This is a specimen of *Parapuzosia seppenradensis*, which has a diameter of 8 feet, 6 inches, weighs 3.5 tonnes, and was found in rocks about 78 million years old at Seppenrade near Munster, Germany. It was discovered in 1895 by Prof Hermann Landois and is currently on display at the Munster Natural History Museum (Westfälischen Landesmuseum für Naturkunde). A cast is on display at the Museum of Natural History in LA. This is the largest ammonite ever discovered to date.



Photographie Cyril Langlois

#### Iron Sand

Article and Photos by Paolo Sanchez  
Pasadena (California) Lapidary Society  
by Paolo Sanchez, age 15  
from *Rockhound Ramblings* 7/2015

One day when I was at the beach, I coincidentally had a magnet with me. But what happened was that I accidentally dropped it into the sand. I thought that the magnet would look and stay the same when I was about to pick it up. But once I did, the whole magnet was covered in a very fine, black, sand that was attracted to it. Later on, I discovered that this strange material was called **iron sand**.



Iron sand is named for its large amount of iron that composes most of the

sand. But it is also called black sand or iron filings. Due to the heavy concentrations of iron in the sand, it can be easily picked up by a magnet. This sand mostly contains the mineral magnetite, yet it can contain hematite and other iron ore minerals, which makes it easily magnetized. It can also contain different elements like titanium, vanadium, manganese, calcium, and sometimes precious metals like gold and platinum. It is extremely common, and can be found all over the world, especially on the beaches and shores of all continents, or anywhere where there is fine sand made of iron-rich rock.



The formation of iron sand, like all other sands in the world, is actually quite simple. This sand originates as iron ore or (very rarely) from iron meteorites or space dust. After many years of erosion and weathering, the parent rock crumbles and weathering brings the particles of iron in the rock down to fine particles. Then, the newly formed iron sand gets carried away, and it gets deposited in places where most sands would deposit, like where a river merges with the sea. But since this sand is heavier than most sands, it sinks to the bottom, or it just gets trapped in rock crevices, like gold. That is why many gold prospectors find this sand in the bottom of their gold pans.

But you do not need a gold pan to find iron sand. All you need is a simple magnet and a good location to find the sand—like a sandy beach or a riverbank. In some countries, like New Zealand, large magnets pull tons of iron sand from beaches to be refined to make steel. Even though iron sand doesn't really have a high value to it, it is still a really amusing object to play with when it is magnetized.

*From MWFMS Bulletin Editor News 1/84  
via Golden Spike News 9/00*



**Show Time 2015 - 2016**

- November 21-22 Mesquite, TX      Dallas Gem & Mineral Society  
 Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall  
 1800 Rodeo Dr.; bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net  
<http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/>
- December 4-6    El Paso, TX      El Paso Mineral & Gem Society  
 El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama  
 e-mail: gemcenter@aol.com

**Show Time 2016**

- January 16-17    Fredericksburg, TX      Fredericksburg Rockhounds  
 Lady Bird Johnson Park, HWY 16 So.  
 gedeonjim1@gmail.com  
[fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org)
- Jan. 30-Feb. 14    Tucson, AZ      Tucson AZ Gem & Mineral Shows  
 Multiple shows occurring simultaneously at  
 more than 40 sites across Tucson  
[tucsongemandmineralshows.net/](http://tucsongemandmineralshows.net/)
- February 11-14    Tucson, AZ      Tucson Gem & Mineral Society  
 SMG-Tucson Convention Center  
 tgms@tgms.org; <http://www.tgms.org>
- February 20-21    Georgetown, TX      Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society  
 Community Center, San Gabriel Park  
[wcgms.org](http://wcgms.org)
- March 5-6      Robstown, TX      Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
 Richard M Borchard Regional Fairgrounds  
 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd., Exhibit Hall A  
[rockcamp\\_speaker@outlook.com](mailto:rockcamp_speaker@outlook.com); [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)
- April 30-May 1    Waco, TX      Waco Gem & Mineral Club  
 Extraco Events Center; 4601 Bosque Blvd  
[www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)  
[showchair@wacogemandmineral.org](mailto:showchair@wacogemandmineral.org)
- May 7-8      Lubbock, TX      Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society  
 Lubbock Memorial Civic Center  
 1501 Mac Davis Lane  
[walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org)  
[www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)
- 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>

2015		December					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
10-4 Shop Open		1 7:30 Board Meeting	2 10-3 Shop Open 1:00-3:00 Day Light Section's Potluck Christmas Party 7:30--Mineral Section	3 7:30 Archeology Section	4	5 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section's Christmas Party	
6 10-4 Shop Open Hanukkah Begins	7	8 NO Show Committee	9 10-3 Shop Open 6:30 Gemstones & Faceting Section	10	11	12 10-5 Shop Open 1:30 Beading Section— Holiday Party HGMS Holiday Party	
13 10-4 Shop Open	14	15 7:30 Paleo Section	16 10-3 Shop Open NO Mineral Section	17	18	19 10-5 Shop Open NO Youth Section	
20 10-4 Shop Open	21 NO Lapidary Section	22 NO General Meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Winter	23 10-3 Shop Open	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christ- mas	26 10-5 Shop Open	
27 10-4 Shop Open	28	29	30 10-3 Shop Open	31 New Year's Eve			
2016		January					2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 New Year's Day	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 10-4 Shop Open 31	25	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**

10805 BROOKLET

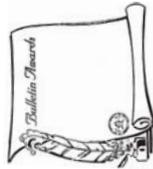
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77099

(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)



## 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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