



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

The Newsletter of the
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

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January 2015



President's Message

by Raymond Kizer

I hope everyone enjoyed all the Holiday parties hosted by our HGMS Sections and also the main club party and auction. A lot of time and work goes into organizing and executing these club mini-events. So I just wanted to take a second to thank all our loyal club members for stepping up time and time again to pull these events off. It's usually a short list of our long-time members who do the work.



The same seems to go for our annual show in the fall. We get a lot of last-minute "Day of" type help, but that's not what carries a show. It's NEW members who step up that make a show a success—existing members who are NEW to the Show Committee, or members who are NEW to the club. Since January 2014, over 150 people have joined the club as new members, and I say "Thank you" for the new blood. Clubs that can't at-

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Upcoming General Meeting Programs

by Paul Brandes

January 27, 2015: Neal Immega—Oh, those EVIL Mineralogists!
February 24, 2015: Fluorescent Minerals—Some How's and Why's. This presentation by Aaron Rever will focus on all aspects of fluorescent minerals, including the science of why minerals fluoresce, the history of collecting fluorescent minerals, and several of the worldwide locations historically famous for their collecting sites. Such locations include Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey; Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec; as well as Langesundsfjord, Norway; Langban, Sweden; and Illimassaq, Greenland. A short lesson on the chemistry and physics of fluorescence will be discussed, including activators and quenchers of fluorescence in minerals, as well as the intrinsic fluorescence present in some minerals. In addition, there will be a brief discussion of the evolution of ultraviolet lamps from historic to

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

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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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tract new members eventually just seem to “Gray away.” Please read the article by John Anderson on page 5 in this issue about the Victoria Gem & Mineral Society. This club, which has been a focal point in south Texas for over 55 years, is ending its annual show because of the lack of new people to help put on their show. The same members are always doing the work year after year, and they have finally worn out.

I see the same trend starting to develop with our club, and I really don't want HGMS to head down that one-way road. So please, encourage and excite the new folks to get involved. Invite them personally to your Section meetings. Make them feel welcome in more than one Section, because this is how you build knowledge and commitment. If we mentor and share our experience with them, they will be able to step up and take over when we start to fade. Show Committee members and others who help out during the show, look at your fellow club members with fresh eyes—invite THEM to join the Show Committee and to become involved in planning the 2015 show. Let's do this before we, too, burn out.

We currently need a Show Chairperson to take over for our 2015 HGMS Gem Show. We have many senior members who in the past have taken on the mantle of Show Chair, so there is a lot of knowledge that can be shared with anyone who wants to take on the project. To keep our club strong and growing into the future, all members should reach out to our new folks. Get them excited about helping out and keeping HGMS the premiere club in Texas.

HGMS deeply mourns the loss of one of HGMS's most devoted, long-time members, Tom Wright. A Tribute section about Tom is in this issue of the BBG, with articles written by a number of members on whom Tom made an impact. Brian Honsinger writes about how Tom, over the years, continually challenged Brian to volunteer for a number of posts within the club. Tom had more confidence in Brian than Brian himself did—until Brian proved that he not only was up to the challenges but also excelled at them. ALL HGMS members have many undiscovered skills and unrecognized capabilities just waiting to be discovered. VOLUNTEER! You'll have a great time—and we NEED you.

Upcoming Programs continued from page 1

modern-day. Following the presentation, there will be a Show and Tell session of various specimens from Aaron's personal collection.

“OLD” and “WISE” are not the same,
 Though this is what we're often told,
 It takes real living to grow WISE
 Just keep on breathing to grow OLD.

*Anon, in The Conglomerate 6/1987,
 Glacial Drifter 10/2003, The Roadrunner 11/2014*

Victoria Gem and Mineral Society—No More Shows in the Future!

by John Anderson, *The Miner*

Member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society

The local newspaper for the town of Victoria, Texas printed a statement that the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society's October 17-18-19, 2014 Gem show would be their final Gem Show. I wondered why a Lapidary Club Society that regularly has put on good Gem and Mineral shows would not be able to continue doing so in the future. It appears that the people who work so tirelessly in putting on their shows are exhausted—and no new members are coming in to take their place.



My dealer partner D.R. "Matt" Dillon and I have had the privilege to be one of the dealers selling at this Gem and Mineral Show for about four years. The question I need to ask is why would a club that seems on the surface to have all its "ducks in a row" announce that this would be their final show? Having said that, I tried to find out how a great show like this could find itself in this position. The show had a good balance in what their dealers were selling, and there seemed to be nothing that would cause dealers problems.

This was a three-day show. You would arrive around noon on setup day, and their club members did their best to help dealers unload their items. The Hospitality Section offered both club members and dealers the fixings for a great sandwich—which many clubs no longer do.

I was told that these same people who—year after year—have been working, planning, and putting on the show are tired. I can see why. People new to the idea of putting on a show are not stepping up and taking over the responsibility for putting on this show.

The club has been in existence for 55 years—and that is a tribute to this club—but it appears there now are only 28 active club members. With this number, it would be almost impossible to put on a show of this type without the 28 existing members making great personal sacrifices.

I do not know what the final outcome will be, but I would personally like to thank the existing club members and also its Club Officers:

President: Les Pagel

First Vice President: Lisa Styk

Second Vice President: Beverly Wolf

Treasurer: Ken Limke

Show Chairman: Bob Clark

Please excuse any names that I may have omitted.

The Mines of Sulitjelma, Norway

by Nathalie Brandes

Professor of Geosciences

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Sulitjelma, Norway is located in Nordland County north of the Arctic Circle and not far from the Swedish border. The town sits at the north-east shore of Lake Langvatn with mines in the surrounding area on both the north and south sides of the lake. For over 100 years, Sulitjelma was one of Norway's most important mining districts, producing sulphur, copper, zinc, and minor amounts of silver and gold (Segalstad et al., 2006; Iversen, 2011).

The rocks of the Sulitjelma region are part of the Köli Nappe Complex in the Upper Allochthon of the Central Scandinavian Caledonides (Stephens et al., 1985; Cook et al., 1993; Boyle et al., 1994). These were folded and metamorphosed during the closure of the Iapetus Ocean and the collision between Baltica and Laurentia



The mining complex and processing plant at Sulitjelma, Norway. Photo by P. Brandes

during the Caledonian Orogeny (Boyle et al., 1994). The oldest rock unit at Sulitjelma is the Skaiti Supergroup, which includes mostly metasedimentary schists and gneisses. Intrusive parts of the Sulitjelma Ophiolite cut across these rocks (Boyle et al., 1985; Kollung, 1989, 1990; Cook et al., 1993; Boyle et al., 1994). Pedersen et al. (1991) dated gabbro within the ophiolite to 437 ± 2 Ma. Overlying the ophiolite complex are the metasedimentary schists of the Furulund and Sjønstå Groups, which are Ordovician to Silurian in age (Vogt, 1927; Wilson, 1971; Boyle, 1989; Cook et al., 1993; Boyle et al., 1994). Ore bodies are concentrated at the contact between the ophiolite and Furulund Group (Cook et al., 1993). Deformation during the Caledonian Orogeny folded the rock sequence such that the stratigraphy is now inverted with the older rock units overlying the younger ones (Boyle, 1987; Ramberg et al., 2008). Peak metamorphism of greenschist to amphibolite facies has been dated to about 434 Ma (Burton and O'Nions, 1992; Boyle, 1986; Cook et al., 1993). Pressure and temperature conditions during this event have been estimated to range from 480°C and 5 kbar to 628°C and 9-10 kbar (Burton et al., 1989; Boyle and Westhead, 1992).



Some of the equipment at the processing plant in Sulitjelma, Norway. Photo by P. Brandes.

The ore deposits at Sulitjelma are stratabound volcanogenic massive sulphides (VMS) that formed at the top of the ophiolite from a hydrothermal system on the seafloor (Cook, 1996; Frost et al., 2002). At least 20 deposits are recognised in the district (Cook et al., 1990). They are tabular ore bodies up to 1200 m long and 300 m wide with variable thicknesses from less than a metre to several metres. The host rock beneath the ore bodies was hydrothermally altered, but because of the overturned stratigraphy this alteration is now above the ore zone (Cook et al., 1993; Cook et al., 2006). During metamorphism some elements were mobilised and redistributed along fractures and faults (Cook, 1996). Frost et al. (2002) suggest partial melting of the VMS deposits occurred during peak metamorphic conditions and accounts for the later mineralisation. Major minerals within the ore bodies include pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, and pyrrhotite. Galena, arsenopyrite, cubanite, molybdenite, stannite, and tetrahedrite occur in lesser amounts. Traces of antimonides, tellurides, and native metals are present (Cook et al., 1993; Cook, 1996). Faults and veins that cut the ore bodies contain pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, and sulphosalts. Also found in these veins are anhydrite, baryte, and Celestine, often intergrown with actinolite, biotite, chlorite, and quartz (Cook et al., 1993).

The area around Sulitjelma was originally reindeer grazing land of the Sami people. The first permanent settlement appeared in 1848 and in the subsequent years a few farms were established. Ore

The ore deposits at Sulitjelma are stratabound volcanogenic massive sulphides (VMS) that formed at the top of the ophiolite from a hydrothermal system on the seafloor (Cook, 1996; Frost et al., 2002). At least 20 deposits are recognised in the district (Cook et al., 1990). They are



Sulitjelma, Norway in 2013. Photo by P. Brandes.

was discovered in 1858 by Mons Peter, but mining did not begin until 1887 (Ellingsen et al., 1996; Segalstad et al., 2006; Iversen, 2011). The mining industry in the area quickly grew. An electric power station was built in 1893, soon followed by a smelter, which became the world's first electric copper smelting works (Witherell and Skougor, 1922; Ellingsen et al., 1996). By 1900 the mines had become the second largest industrial firm in Norway. Peak production occurred in 1913, when over 3000 people lived in Sulitjelma with more than 1750 of them working in the mines (Ramberg et al., 2008). Recession in the 1970s and declining profitability caused mining to be scaled back over subsequent years. At 12:30 pm on 27 June 1991, the last blast was fired at the mine (Ellingsen et al., 1996).

In over 100 years of mining about 880 km of underground rail lines were built to transport ore from the mines. A total of about 26 million tonnes of ore were processed to produce ~470,000 tonnes of copper, ~215,000 tonnes of zinc, and ~5,320,000 tonnes of sulphur (Iversen, 2011). The mining history of Sulitjelma is very obvious still today in the numerous adits, buildings, and the ruins of the smelter. A mining museum includes displays of local and international minerals, tools used in the mining operations, and information about local history.

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Open Shop Hours of 2015 Day Light Section Meetings

by Mary Ann Mitscherling

In January 2015, the Day Light Section schedule will include
 Open Shop hours: 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Open Shop;
 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Open Shop without use of rock saws;
 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. regular Daylight program as announced.



Ornament Tree

Created by Diane Sisson

Photo by Nancy Fischer

On display during the
 HGMS 2014 Holiday Party.

Ornaments designed
 by Kim Fuselier

Ornaments like this were made by
 the **Beading Section** members
 during their December 13 meeting
 held the afternoon of the party.

Gerald Thomas "Tom" Wright*by Beverly Fininis**Excerpts from Condolences**Forwarded to the BBG by Clyde McMeans**Published in Houston Chronicle on Nov. 29, 2014**See more at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/>**obituary.aspx?pid=173290752#sthash.4hZ0XpyB.dpuf***Gerald Thomas Wright****1934–2014**

Born 09/27/34 in Olean New York and died 11/25/2014 in Houston. He leaves Beverly J. Fininis, his life partner of 26 years, to mourn. Surviving family members include his brother John F. Alexander, sister Karen Calderwood, and Aunt Barb Frantz, all of Bradford, PA., and Mrs. Edna Wright, aunt, of Houston, Texas.

Among the many friends who will miss him is Brian Honsinger. Brian tirelessly helped Tom with his walker so they could go on their weekly shopping trips to Costco and Sam's Club; could keep their appointments at Matt's Barber Shop in Bellaire, and make their numerous lunch stops at the local Asian restaurants along their route. Brian also enabled Tom to enjoy his favorite sport of fishing around Bolivar peninsula and the Galveston area.

Tom was a graduate in Engineering from the University of Houston. During his career, he became a skilled tool and die maker. At the onset of his employment, he worked at Case Cutlery in Bradford, PA, on to the F.H. Maloney Company in Houston where he worked as a supervisor in the tool and die division, later becoming a salesman for the Eastern branch in the window gasket industry.

After spending several years at the Maloney Company, Mr. Wright opened his own business in Stafford Texas, Wright Building Products. He supplied window gaskets to numerous structures here in the Houston area. Prior to being diagnosed with a debilitating heart condition, Tom worked as a C & C operator and mold designer for MW Industries, Houston, TX.

Mr. Wright was a member of the Masonic Lodge Enchanted Mountain # 252 out of New York State for 58 years, as well as the Bellaire Masonic #1336 Lodge in Houston, TX.

He became a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society during the late 1970s. He was extremely instrumental in negotiating the purchase of their current location on Brooklet in Houston. He spent many tireless hours helping to renovate the facility to incorporate classrooms and jewelry benches for the students and members. He is an honorary life member of the club.

Tom was a man of many talents: he became accomplished at faceting precious minerals into beautiful pieces of jewelry. He also taught several silversmithing classes, and was always willing to share his expertise with those interested in learning. In addition, he became a licensed pilot and flew his own private plane for many years.

Tom spiraled into a rapid decline after being diagnosed with lung cancer. He passed away at the Vitas Hospice on Gessner with his loving partner Beverly at his side.

Per Tom's request, he did not want a traditional funeral or any type of memorial service, so as his trusted mate, I abide by these wishes.



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

In Memoriam Tributes Written about Tom by His Many Friends

In Memoriam—Tom Wright

by Brian Honsinger

I only had the pleasure of knowing Tom (as he was known to all) for his last 11 years, but what a great time that was. He made me a better cook, vegetable shopper, salesman, person, and club member. He convinced me I could make things with my hands that pretty women would like to wear, and that for me was the largest leap of faith I ever made. He taught me nearly everything I know about jewelry making and casting.

Neither of us could ever figure how we had not met back in the 1960s and 1970s as we ate in all the same restaurants. We both had for a time in our lives been hunters, fishermen, and pilots, so we were never at a loss for subjects to discuss. He taught me so much, and all I was ever able to show him was the marsh and bay system I had grown up in and had fished all my life. We took our last boat ride together a few days after hurricane Ike to see what had happened to that estuary.

Tom literally lived and breathed HGMS where he was an honorary life member and had served four terms as president. A member pointed out to me today how Tom had “led from behind”! Now that was not meant as a bad thing, but was only his way to describe the seven leadership roles Tom had steered him into in his association with him since 1982.

Then I remembered back to when Nell and I joined in 2002, and I had made her promise that we would only be good little Indians at this club as we were supposed to be out traveling and enjoying our later years. Within months after meeting Tom and helping him on a few shop projects, I was given some keys and made a foreman. It was not long after that I was convinced that someone who had sold only shrimp as a teenager could sell education classes and still travel in the summers. Tom was a true salesman, as he talked me into all of that while I thought we were just trying out a new Chinese restaurant.

Tom had so many friends I will make someone mad if I try naming them, so let me just list a few groups. There were his “Girls” who had taken classes from him, and he had taken such joy in the fact that they went so much further with their education that he felt in some small way he’d had a hand in starting them. There was the class in jewelry making where he had five students who were absolute wonders at designing things using the skills he was teaching that Sunday. They are all gone from the club now, but I was there to watch that happen, and it was a thing of beauty.

Tom and I talked about that class many times, as it was one of his favorite memories—having so many gifted students in one class. There also were the many to whom he taught faceting, and the Texas star design stone was his favorite cut.

Tom Wright Photos page 12

Top left: 2006 Show
Bottom left: 2005 Christmas Party
Right: 2005

Tom often talked about how he would be happy if he left the world a better place when he was gone. He developed the gaskets that held the glass windows into many of our buildings—if the building has a curve done in glass, a Tom Wright patent made that possible. He felt those were the only monuments he needed.

I have felt for years that all those students who are out there passing on the knowledge Tom shared with them will go on being monuments to Tom for decades to come!

Tom Wright—In Memoriam

by Gary Anderson

Tom was president of the HGMS for four different terms, and he did a good job of guiding the club through changing times.

Tom was one of the signers of the title application for the building, along with Yvonne Dobson and Paul McGarry—treasurer of the club—who had a restaurant supply company and lent the club usage of his business's International 2½ ton truck for show hauls, which I drove a couple of times.

Tom was a tool and die maker as well as a rubber extruder making the moldings for the first Exxon building downtown—the rubber moldings were to hold the windows in the building.

He was instrumental in the huge effort to convert the clubhouse in 1982 from 22 little office cubicles to a big high-ceilinged room for meetings and an area for the shop. He made certain to thank everyone who contributed to the effort of framing, electrical wiring, dry walling, painting, and planning the whole process.

You have to wonder if the club, though we are much greater in member numbers now, has the level of volunteerism necessary for such an effort. The stainless sink, the electrician (Dr. Lee Trick who was last a member in 1985, but was a USA champion goldsmith in 2002), is now retired after being an inspector of psychiatric hospitals over all the US for years. He shared the smithing shop with his wife who was with him while he put himself through medical school as an electrician. So many folks were involved, that I cannot begin to mention them all here.

Though Tom seemed a little cranky at times—kinda like Neil Immega—he was a great fellow with many talents who led the club through some real growing pains. Many of us will remember him until we, too, are gone. Gary Anderson

Upon the passing of HGMS member Tom Wright.

by Terrell William "Terry" Proctor, J.D.

HGMS Past Pres. 2008–2010

In Anthony's funeral speech on Julius Caesar, he says "*The evil a man does lives after him, the good is often interred with his bones.*" The same could be said of Tom Wright. Tom was a man who often used few words to communicate, and so often, those words were not the most kind and gentle words. But if you watched Tom instead of listening to him, you know that Tom Wright was a man who

for many years was invaluable to the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. He was a good teacher and a ready mentor to new and inexperienced members on how to use our shop equipment. He also was a man who could repair both the shop and the equipment. He spent many long hours keeping the shop open and supervising it to see that no harm or abuse came to the equipment.

I guess I was on Tom's list since many, many years ago. Back then, Tom regularly brought his alcohol and had it cooling in the HGMS refrigerator. About that time, the State Legislature passed the Dram Shop Act, making hosts responsible for their guests being intoxicated and then causing a collision. A few other members also were keeping alcoholic beverages in the HGMS refrigerator. I thought with our number of young rock hounds, that we shouldn't have beer and another alcoholic beverages kept at the Clubhouse. I also was concerned and believed that HGMS should not serve alcohol at any functions lest we stand a chance of being sued if anyone caused an alcohol-related collision with injury or death. Therefore, as HGMS First Vice-President at the time, I presented a motion to the HGMS Board prohibiting Club members from putting alcohol in the refrigerator. The motion passed, and Club members were advised not to do that any longer. To this day, I do not recall ever seeing any beer or other alcohol in our Club refrigerator. However, from that day years ago, Tom never seemed happy with me. I understood and accepted that and was never unfriendly to him.

Near the end of my third term as President of HGMS, Tom asked me rather acidly "You aren't going to be President next year are you?" I am the only three-year-in-a-row President of HGMS. Tom is the only person to be President for four years (two years in a row, and then later two years in a row again). I am not sure whether he didn't want someone else to tie his record as President or if he, like some in the Club, felt three years were all I needed to be President. I assured Tom that I did not intend to be a candidate for a fourth term as President. So Tom still holds the honor of being the only HGMS member to serve as President four times.

Several Christmases ago, near the end of the annual Christmas Party, Tom was leaving a little early. He was in a wheel chair with an oxygen line to his nose. He rolled out the front door toward Brooklet on the short sidewalk we have there. When he rolled off the sidewalk, his wheelchair hit the grass, tipped over, and threw him on the ground. The oxygen line was pulled from his nose, and through the open door, all the folks inside could hear Tom swearing loudly. There were no lights out front (*later found that our lighting fixtures had been stolen*).

Shortly after that, as President of HGMS at that time, I asked for a motion to install lights out front, put up new bright lights for the parking area, and for lights to shine on our HGMS letters on the side of the building. After getting bids and some debate, the Board passed the motion to put in new lighting. The electric company, owned by our own Jim Burrell, was given the contract to do all of this lighting. Later as a member of the Dunn Southwest Business Park Association's Board, I was able to have HGMS reimbursed for almost all of the cost of the outside lighting—with the exclusion of the sign letter lighting).

When the lighting was done, I told Tom Wright that the HGMS Board had lighting installed, so we hoped his accident would not be repeated in the future. He made no comment.

So the bottom line is that maybe upon his passing, more than a few HGMS members recall things about Tom which certainly were not evil, but perhaps they were less than friendly. The good could be interred with his bones—EXCEPT we should all remember that Tom gave many years of service to HGMS; he certainly input far more good than he ever received; he was a stalwart member of HGMS over many years; and his was a major hand in this Clubhouse being here and being maintained in good shape. So let's forget any differences and pay respect to a long-time member who has been a real credit to HGMS. We can consider him as having been our friend in HGMS, even if he was not a personal friend in a relationship manner. Tom deserves a lot of credit, and I owe him my respect, in spite of any lifetime conflicts he may have had with me.

Tom Wright - In memoriam
by Neal Immega

Tom was GRUMPY. There, I said it. His daughter told me once that his picture should be in the dictionary right above the word "Grumpy."

Tom was grumpy when people did not do things his way, but they would have been better off if they had because he usually was right. I found Tom to be the best project planner (along with Gary Anderson) for shop improvements I have known. His experience is so broad that he sees pitfalls that most people do not see. Tom had real hands-on experience with mechanical things that had proved invaluable. When I read that he died, my first reaction was "Rats, I wanted to ask him to teach me how to use the lathe." That was the ticket—ask Tom how to do something, and he was the most helpful person in the shop. I am going to miss him.

In Memoriam—Tom Wright
by Lon Kelley.

I am a recent member, but I will certainly miss Tom. About a year a year ago, I walked into the club and announced that I wanted to learn to do silver casting. Tom had never even seen me before, but immediately said he would teach me casting. Over the next couple of months, he took me through the process from start to finish, stating he wanted me to learn each step of the basics. I have now been casting on my own while calling upon the knowledge and confidence provided by Tom. Many other members have also been very supportive of my efforts, but they usually say that Tom is the expert, and they also learned from him. My best goes out to Tom's family and friends.

In Memoriam—Tom Wright
by Deborah Kirkpatrick

I have been thinking long and hard about what to say regarding Tom Wright. I know that so many of you in HGMS have known him much longer, and probably better, than I did. I can only share what I know.

I came to HGMS wanting to learn how to lost wax cast, something I had been trying to learn for nearly 30 years, which Tom taught me to do, along with much more. Tom was my first real mentor, and he helped me in more ways than I could imagine. He generously gave his time, knowledge, and expertise free of charge. Yes, he was curmudgeonly, but he was always there for me and many others, helping whatever way he could.

I believe that he is responsible in large part for HGMS being what is today—a place where experts freely share their knowledge with novices. He taught me casting, mold making, stone setting—the list goes on and on. He knew something about almost every aspect of HGMS, and if he didn't know, he could tell you who did. He didn't hoard information; he shared it freely.

On a personal note, I know that on occasion I massively annoyed Tom. He taught me a valuable life lesson in the way he did not hold a grudge for long. He let it go quickly and didn't dwell on it, a quality to which I aspire.

My only regret regarding Tom is that I had not met him earlier. I will miss him always. I relied on him heavily when I had technical difficulties. But more than that, he was my true friend who always wished me well, and in life we don't get many friends like that.

Farewell, Mr. Tom Wright

by James Wark

I first met Tom about 12 years ago when David Hawkins introduced me to him during his famous dollar tour of the club. I wanted to learn lost wax casting, and Tom was the man to teach me. More important was how to convert 24K gold to 14K, and Tom was a genius at doing that. If there is a casting heaven, Tom is there teaching the instructor new tricks. If I knew 50% of what he forgot, I probably would be teaching it.

I remember one night he tripped outside the front door, and that sped up the front lights being installed on the building. Tom said he was okay, but it had to have hurt. That was Tom—don't worry about me.

Tom was always happy to see me, with his memorable smile, and shaking his head. He was a friend and colleague. Many of us, including myself, have experienced challenges in grieving his passing. By faith, thou, I believe that Tom is fully healed and whole in God's presence. Cast on, my dear friend. I salute you, SIR.

Glass Beach—Revisited!!

by Judy Bennett

Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Another amazing edition of the Backbender's Gazette arrived, and I just now had a moment to read it from page to page. Thank you so much for this wonderful resource.

I would like to share some wonderful news about one of its articles. The sea glass section had some great information with one wonderful exception. Taking glass

from Glass Beach is NOT illegal. Three beaches compose Glass Beach, and they are fully accessible with the exception of one. This third beach is legally accessible only by water. You can wade to it at low tide only during certain times of the year, or you can take a kayak or skiff if you have the equipment and the knowhow. The only other access is available by trespassing, which 99.9% of sea glassers do. Sometimes they get caught and when that happens, they are asked to please leave. I know of no citations being written to trespassers.

The misconception that it is illegal to remove glass from any of these beaches is false and is propagated by an individual who lives in Fort Bragg. He runs a store there with an area he refers to as a “museum.” If removing glass from the beaches were illegal, he would be out of business, LOL! The fact is that he spreads this falsehood because he considers this glass to be his living. When tourists and other sea glassers remove glass from there, they aren’t buying it from him, and second, they are taking glass away that—for some unknown reason—he actually considers to be his property.

So, if you love sea glass, as I do, visit Fort Bragg. Sea glassers respect the glass and the history behind it. When we find a piece with a shiny edge, we say, “see you in ten years,” and toss it back out into the ocean. We select each piece carefully and do not remove buckets of glass just to have it. Sea glass is a virtual fossil from previous generations. Much of the glass at Fort Bragg ended up there as a result of an earthquake in 1909. The debris was bulldozed off the cliff, and the only survivor was the beautiful glass. One treat you won’t forget is the incredibly beautiful coastline. So enjoy the glass, the coastline, and the folks at Fort Bragg. I’ve been twice, and you won’t find finer folks anywhere. Happy hunting!

Lapidary Section

by Phyllis George

During the November 17, 2014 meeting, the Section members inspected the Lapidary Staff. It had been on display during our November 7–9 annual show at the Humble Civic Center. Fifteen years or so ago, it was discovered in the HGMS attic up near the roof, and no one knows who crafted it or when it was made. The staff is quite unique. It appears to be a very sturdy branch with a polished finish, 5 or 6 feet tall, and 36 cabochons mounted in many of the depressions in the wood.

So—the Section is challenging any Section member who wishes to compete to make a cabochon that might be mounted on the staff. The shape is to be an oval, 25x12 mm up to 28x15 maximum (to fit in the selected spot on the staff), and made from Montana agate, carnelian, or Brazilian agate. Seven people have already indicated that they will participate in the contest: Margaret Hardman-Muye, Dorothy Meltzer, Stephen Wilkerson, David Janos, Nancy English, John Mitscherling, and Mary Ann Mitscherling. More people are welcome to sign up for the contest.

The finished stones are to be presented during the Monday, August 17, 2015 Lapidary Section meeting, at which time the members present will decide upon the winner. That person will be allowed to mount his or her stone in the selected place on

the staff. The expectation is that this will become a continuing drive to “finish” out the staff in the future.

Mineral Section Programs

by Paul Brandes

January 7, 2015: What's Hot in Tucson, 2014: Come get in the mood for the Tucson shows by viewing the DVD summary of the 2014 show. Narrated by Dave Wilber and Bob Jones, this DVD brings you the Tucson experience without the travel or expenses. For those who saw last year's DVD, you know the quality of this program is quite impressive (and the minerals aren't bad either!). Refreshments will be provided.

January 21, 2015: Minerals of Western Europe: In preparation for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in February, this evening's presentation will focus on the minerals and mining localities of Western Europe in honor of this year's Tucson show theme “Minerals of Western Europe”. Section Members will discuss such items as what localities in the different countries hold the best minerals, some of the more common and museum quality minerals that can be found, a little on the formation of these minerals, and any members that have personally collected at these locations. All members are encouraged to bring and display specimens from their collection. Refreshments will be provided.

February 4, 2015: DVD of attendees' choice: Due to the participation of many Mineral Section members in Tucson, those not able to attend can chose a DVD from the Library to view (the tentative choice is to continue with another part of the 2014 “What's Hot in Tucson”) or attendees can discuss their possible collecting plans for the spring/summer. Refreshments will be provided.

February 18, 2015: To be announced

General Meeting Minutes

November 25, 2014

by Nancy English, HGMS Secretary

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

President Ray Kizer thanked everyone for coming to the November General meeting and reminded them about the club holiday party coming up on December 13. The party will be a potluck with the club supplying the turkey and brisket, and members will bring side dishes. Nancy English will coordinate the food. An auction will be held after the dinner, so please come and enjoy the festivities.

Beverly Mace: We will have three turkeys, two hams, and two briskets for the holiday party. Members should bring side dishes like vegetables, fruit, and desserts.

Nancy English: Please notify Nancy of the dish you are bringing. Jim Kendall will be sending periodic updates of the dishes reported.

The meeting was attended by 27 regular members and one new member.

Continued on page 20

HGMS Gemstone Faceting Class 101
Two 4-hours sessions
January 11 & 18—1 p.m.-5 p.m.

We are getting ready to start a Gemstone Faceting Class. We have only six HGMS faceting machines and two or three loaners available for those who don't already have a machine, dops and laps. All other students must bring their own machine and supplies. So if you are not already fully equipped with your own machine, it's very important you register early.

Those who bring their own machine will need:

- a faceting machine complete with lamp & water drip tank
- Set of dops
- Laps: (1) 600 grit, (1) 1200 or 3000 grit, (1) master lap.

We will have 10x loupes available—but if you prefer, you can bring your own.

We will furnish each student one polishing lap (film) to use on top of the master lap.

We will also furnish each student a piece of preformed quartz stone to cut into a faceted gemstone.

Instructor is James (Pat) Cockrell, and there will be personal tutors from the HGMS in the classroom.

Class fee is \$80 paid in advance for the two 4-hour sessions

Sunday afternoons, January 11 & 18, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(No unregistered late walk-ins will be allowed.)

For more information and to register, contact our Education Chair

Carrie Hart

carriehart2000@yahoo.com

Continued from page 19

President Kizer asked the new member to stand and be recognized. The new member is Marshall Byrd. There were no visitors.

Drawing: Sigrid Stewart won the drawing for the geode. David Hawkins won the loupe.

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

Show Committee Report / Wrap Up: The President wanted to thank everyone who was involved in the planning and execution of the annual club show. Many thanks go out to the members and volunteers who worked so hard to pull off a fantastic show. The load out, setup, and takedown went smoothly and efficiently with the help of the commercial movers who helped do the heavy lifting and truck loading.

Member Update: David Hawkins announced that Tom Wright has stage-4 lung cancer and is already in hospice. Tom was instrumental in buying and helping build out our current HGMS location. He has been President four times as well as Section

Chair of some Sections over the years. A Tribute section on Tom is included in the January issue of the BBG, pages 11-18. It consists of articles written by some of the many people who knew and worked with Tom.

Nell Honsinger is in a hospital in Galveston. Brian Honsinger said she is improving.

Show 'n Tell: John Mitscherling displayed the blue- green jade heart he cut recently.

Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:30pm – The program will feature an excellent presentation by Robert Moore and wife Nancy Engelhardt-Moore on **“The Hidden Treasures of Rome and Naples, Italy.”** Bob and Nancy will give a talk on obscure treasures of Italy. See and learn more about a secret temple under the Circus Maximus, unknown magnificent museums, secluded villas, and lost marvels of Roman engineering—sights that even the Roman Imperial government didn't know about. See ancient wonders that few Italians and even fewer tourists ever see.

Beading Section: The next regular Beading Section meeting will be on Saturday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. Saturday's project will be a Hanging Ornament designed by Kim Fuselier.

Day Light Section: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. **Section Holiday Party—Starts at 11:00 a.m.!!** Bring a dish, the Section is providing turkey breast and ham.

Education Committee: Carrie Hart announced that currently we are seeking members interested in attending class groups of five or more students interested in Gemstone Faceting 101, Framed Focal Bead Bracelet, and Jewelry Fabrication. These classes will teach the basic skills needed to complete one or more jewelry items. Intermediate classes will follow if there are interested students. All tools and materials will be covered by course fees unless specifically noted. Course Fees must be paid in advance. Contact Carrie Hart for availability, course schedules, and fees. Please e-mail her at classes@hgms.org or at carriehart2000@yahoo.com.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. The program is on Optics and Loupes, and Following a Line. Coming on January 11 and 18, 2015, the Section will offer a for-fee class **“Gemstone Faceting 101.”** The class will consist of Two Sunday afternoons, two 4-hour sessions from 1–5 p.m. Class registration fee will be \$80 for both sessions. (Total of 8 class hours).

Only six to eight student slots will be available. To hold a seat—Preregister for the class:

1. Contact Carrie Hart (713) 253-3804
2. Submit a \$20 (nonrefundable) deposit

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: There will be no meeting on December 15, 2014. The next regular meeting is Monday January 19, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The program is an open shop for the Section. The meeting will focus on showing new members the steps for making cabochons and on coaching experienced members with problems they might be having.

Mineral Section: Steve Blyskal reported that in mid-November the Mineral Section members made a field trip to the Llano area with Baringer Hill Minerals. The group of 25 members visited the Emerald Ridge pit and Badu Hill quarry for fluorescent minerals, and they also went to a copper mining location. A great time was had even if the weather was a bit challenging. The next Mineral Meeting will be on Wednesday December 3. The program will be a DVD of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines Gem & Mineral Show in France. Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart will be hosting a Christmas party for the Mineral Section on Sunday December 14, 2014. There is NO MEETING December 17, their normal 2nd meeting of the month.

Paleo Section: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30. The program will be announced in an e-mail blast.

Youth Section: The Youth Section met on November 1 and again on November 15. The kids were busy finishing up work on their competition stones for the November Gem & Mineral Show. The Section will meet Saturday, December 6, 2014 and have their holiday party. Awards will be distributed at the party. There will be no meeting on December 20, 2014. The next meeting will be on January 3, 2015.

Old Business

In the interest of time, President Kizer asked the members to follow the progress of Old Business items in the November 4 Board meeting minutes as published in the December edition of the BBG.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, December 2. There will be no General Meeting on December 23. The next scheduled General Meeting is Tuesday January 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Neal Immega will present "Oh, those EVIL Mineralogists."

Adjourn: Karen Burns moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Steve Blyskal seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

5-minute break

The President called on Vice President Paul Brandis to introduce our speaker for the General meeting:

Adeene Denton – A Geology Student's Adventure in Nepal. Adeene Denton was the 2014 HGMS Earth Science/Jewelry Arts Scholarship winner. Ms. Denton's presentation was on her summer field geology class in Nepal, and she addressed three different areas she studied—the metamorphism, general geomorphology, and glacial impacts in the Himalaya Mountains. Over the course of the evening, Ms. Denton gave an overview of the tectonics that formed the Himalayas, and then using the knowledge she gained over the summer, extrapolated that concept to the geology on a regional scale. Ms. Denton also spoke about the unique culture of Nepal and described her experiences during her trip.

Refreshments: Provided by Ray Kizer.

HGMS Board of Directors Meeting

December 2, 2014

by Nancy English

X	President - Ray Kizer	X	Archeology Rep - Garth Clark
X	1st Vice President - Paul Brandes	X	Beading Rep - Jillynn Hales
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	Past President - John Caldyne		Mineral Rep -
		X	Paleontology Rep - Mike Dawkins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. with a quorum of seven members present. President Ray Kizer presided over the meeting. Non voting member Michele Marsel attended the meeting.

Approval of Previous Month Board Minutes: Gary Tober moved and Paul Brandes seconded that the minutes of the November 2014 Board Meeting be accepted as published in the December 2014 BBG. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Comments: Our Annual Holiday Party and Auction will be held on December 13. It will be a potluck dinner with the club providing the meats and members bringing the rest of the meal. An Auction follows the dinner. Auction items will include several large minerals, at least six flats of small minerals and fossils, several bags of slabs, metalworking tools, framed mine location maps, along with other odds and ends. There will be NO General Meeting on December 23. Guests will be able to pay for auction items by credit card.

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

Show Committee: Michele Marsel reported that including some unreported expenses, the Show profit is estimated to be \$13,000-plus in revenue. The trailer repair expenses were higher than expected. The Humble Civic Center has presented two dates for the 2015 Show. President Ray Kizer sent e-mails to the dealers asking for their preferences. The position of 2015 Show Chair is unfilled at this time, and the Board is looking for someone to volunteer.

Office, Committee, and Section Reports

Archeology Section: The next Archeology Section meeting is Thursday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature speakers Bob and Nancy Moore who will give a talk on the **Hidden Treasures of Rome and Naples, Italy**. See and learn more about a secret temple under the Circus Maximus, unknown magnificent museums, secluded villas, and lost marvels of Roman engineering. Sights that even the Roman Imperial government didn't know about. See ancient wonders that few Italians and even fewer tourists ever see. January 8, 2015, will be the 1st meeting of 2015 (the first Thursday of January turned out to be January 1—New Year's Day).

Beading Section: Diane Sisson reported that they covered Christmas balls with a design by Sabrina at the November meeting. The December meeting will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. They will finish beading the ornaments. After their meeting, the members will help set up for our Christmas party that evening.

Day Light Section: Mary Ann Mitscherling reported that members had an open shop at the November 10 meeting. The attendees discussed new projects for 2015.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8. This will be the **Section Holiday Party** — Starting at 11:00 a.m.!! The Day Light Section will open the Shop for members to use at 10:00 a.m. At noon sharp, the Section will begin serving turkey breast and ham provided by the Section and potluck items brought by attendees.

Education Committee: Diane Sisson reported for Carrie Hart that the Faceting class to be taught January 11 and 18, 2015 is full. Two more positions (people who can bring their own faceting machines and equipment) can be accommodated.

Gemstones and Faceting Section: The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. This will be the Section's Christmas party. After all the food and fun, the topic for the night will be Optics and Loupes, and Following a Line.

Lapidary and Silversmithing Section: Nancy English reported that at the November 17, 2014 meeting Ed Clay displayed a gem-inlaid staff. He asked members to submit polished stones (cut to specifications for evaluation by Section attendees during the August 17, 2015 meeting) for selection to be added to the staff. Four new members attended. Margaret Hardman-Muye conducted a tour through the shops. They were encouraged by several members to return on weekends and Wednesdays to learn more and to take future classes. The new members were very enthusiastic. There will be no meeting on December 15. The next regular meeting is on Monday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Mineral Section: Only one Mineral Section meeting will be held in December—on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. The topic will be **What's Hot in Sainte-Marie, 2014:** The presentation will be a showing of the DVD featuring the world-renowned Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines Gem and Mineral Show which occurred June 26–29, 2014. Sainte-Marie is located in the department of the Haut-Rhin, in the picturesque Vosges Mountains, northeast region of France. The feature last year was the "Expo Prestige Copper Exhibit." There will be NO Section meeting on December 17, 2014. Meetings will pick up again on January 7 and 21, 2015.

Paleo Section: Mike Dawkins reported that at the November 19 meeting members shared their treasures from the Show. Some members went on a field trip to the Seymour, TX area to look for matridon bones. The December meeting will be held as usual on December 16. Members will use the shop and create Christmas ornaments from red slate under the tutelage of Neal Immega. The Paleo holiday party will be in February. The first meeting in 2015 will be Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:30.

Publicity Committee: No Report

Youth Section: Beverly Mace reported that the next meeting is on Saturday, Decem-

ber 6, 2014—Youth Christmas party. First and Second place awards won by youth members during the Show will be presented at the luncheon. NO MEETING December 20, 2014. Meetings will pick up again on January 3, 2015; January 17, 2015.

BBG Editor and Webmaster: Phyllis George reported that the deadline to receive articles for the January issue is December 10, 2014. She has changed the font for the BBG to Calibri. Phyllis shared a letter from Diane Dare complimenting the high-quality articles found in the BBG. Over the years, Diane has been one of the most knowledgeable judges of articles and newsletters submitted to the SCFMS and the AMFS for the annual Bulletin Editors' Contest.

Old Business

- a) **Club House Repairs / upgrades:** Ray Kizer – Update – The next item is the installation of a pneumatic door-closing system for the door going out to the parking lot. Installation should take place before the Holiday Party arrives. Mary Ann Mitscherling spoke for many of us when she expressed thanks for the motion-activated light at the parking lot entrance.
- b) **Security System:** Garth Clark – Garth has committed to picking from sales during the Black Friday season in the fall. He is looking at two systems, just waiting on the best price.
- c) **Sign on club front door to direct people to side door:** Nancy English brought the suggested sign to be attached to the door facing Brooklet directing people to the parking lot entry. She will have it laminated.
- d) **Member Badges -** Beverly Mace reported that the price of the badges needs to be changed on the membership forms. The color of the badges has been changed from orange to blue.

New Business - Bring up items not previously discussed.

- a) **Changes to 2015 Show Date:** The Humble Civic Center has informed HGMS that our normal 2nd weekend in November 2015 will not be available. HCC has offered two potential dates to choose from. September 24 – September 27, or October 29 – November 1. Ray sent an e-mail letter to last year's dealers asking for their choice in dates and requiring a response by December 12, 2014. As of the Board meeting (December 2) fourteen dealers have responded. A decision will be made and announced by the holiday party on December 13, 2014.
- b) **Holiday Party and Auction:** Discussion of preparations for the Holiday Party resulted in this outline of responsibilities. Beverly Mace and Nancy English will buy need supplies for the party. Nancy will send e-mail blasts with a notice that auction items can be purchased with credit cards this year, and asking to be notified about what dishes members plan to bring to the party so we have an idea of what sides and desserts will be brought. Ray Kizer will set up for the auction. Neal Immega will be our auctioneer.

Adjourn: Phyllis George moved to adjourn the meeting, and Paul Brandes seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Show Time 2015

January 23-25	Tyler, TX	East Texas Gem & Mineral Society Rose Garden Center; 420 S. Rose Park Dr. keithharmon19@yahoo.com
March 7-8	Robstown, TX	Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd. Linda Simpson, lsimp@swbell.net www.gcgms.org
March 7-8	Big Spring, TX	Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard County Fair Barn Big Spring Rodeo Grounds Lola Lamb, lolabellelamb@yahoo.com
March 21-22	San Antonio, TX	Southwest Gem & Mineral Society 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr., I-410 W./Marbach Robert Bowie, krbotx@gvtc.com www.swgemandmineral.org
March 27-29	Hickory, NC	Eastern Federation (EFMLS) Show
April 10-12	Ogden, UT	Northwest Federation (NFMS) Show
April 11-12	Abilene, TX	Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center; N. 6th and Pine kmcDaniel23@suddenlink.net rockclub.txol.net
April 17-19	Alpine, TX	Chihuahuan Dessert Gem & Mineral Club Alpine Civic Cntr, 801 W. Holland Ave. (Hwy 90) Judith Brueske, jbrueske@sbcglobal.net
May 2-3	Waco, TX	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Extraco Events Center 4601 Bosque Blvd., Creative Arts Bldg. babydocmac@aol.com www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub?ref=hl
May 2-3	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Lubbock Memorial Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Contact Walter Benezé walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org
May 23-24	Wheaton, IL	Midwest Federation (MWF) Show
June 12-15	Lodi, CA	California Federation (CFMS) Show
July 16-18	Cody, WY	Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS) Show
October 23-25	Austin, TX	AFMS/South Central Fed. (SCFMS) Shows

2015		January					2015
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 10-5 Shop Open 10-12 Youth Section	
4 10-4 Shop Open	5	6 7:30 Board Meeting	7 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	8 NO Archeology Section	9	10 10-5 Shop Open 1:30 Beading Section	
11 10-4 Shop Open	12 1:00 Day Light Section	13 7:30 Show Committee	14 7:00 Faceting Section 10-3 Shop Open	15	16	17 10-5 Shop Open Youth Section	
18 10-4 Shop Open	19 7:30 Lapidary Section	20 7:30 Paleo Section	21 7:30 Mineral Section 10-3 Shop Open	22	23	24 10-5 Shop Open	
25 10-4 Shop Open	26	27 7:30 General Meeting	28 10-3 Shop Open	29	30	31 10-5 Shop Open	

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

The BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE

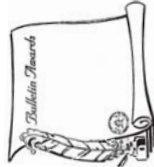
The Newsletter of the
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(281) 530-0942



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- 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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