

# THE STONE CHIPPER

## 643<sup>RD</sup> AGMS MEETING

**WHEN:** January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** AGMS Clubhouse  
6719 Burnet Lane  
Austin, TX.

**PHONE:** (512) 458-9546



The January program will be on *Cretaceous Geology of the North Slope of Alaska* by **Peter Flaig**.

AGMS Annual Show  
Gem Capers 2010  
Palmer Events Center  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>  
[www.GemCapers.com](http://www.GemCapers.com)  
Theme: Petrified Wood

## THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.



The AGMS is a member in good standing of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies. Its editors are also members of SCRIBE. The club address is 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, Texas 78757, and phone (512) 458-9546. **The AGMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.** Visit our web site at [www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org). Contact our webmaster for web site updates at [DiannH@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:DiannH@austingemandmineral.org).

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the AGMS is to promote interest and education in the various Earth Sciences and other related subjects.

### MEETINGS

**The Society meets the fourth Thursday of every month except** October, which is show set up day. There will be a meeting on the **THIRD** Thursday in November. December is the Installation of Officers meeting held on a date and at a place determined by the officers. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers are listed on the back page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

### DUES FOR 2010

Membership dues are:

\$15.00 annually for an adult    \$20.00 annually for a couple    \$4.00 annually for juniors

### THE STONE CHIPPER

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## *President's Message*

Hi All,

I am so proud of the way that we have rocked and rolled through this past YEAR! Boy, was it a doozy... Seemed like a whirlwind for me! I will be your President again this year and I still want and need all your feedback; negative and positive. We have all kinds of changes to get used to, for one, there are two new members on the Board; Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary and Stretch Young, Board of Directors; taking the place of Ron Carman. We have a new Editor; Frederick Falk, who is also our Gem Caper's grand prize winner. The other announcement is that Kathleen Howard has so graciously agreed to help with Field Trips. This is one of the items that make us want to be a part of all the fun in our club. So, I know that all of you will want to take part in field trips, so make sure you contact Kathleen Howard to coordinate; Chip Burnette will be a helper but has gotten really busy at work, hence the NO trips the past year. I want to thank Chip for all the time he did spend trying to set up trips the past three years along with Ron Carman.

This is the best time to THANK ALL OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS for giving of their time to make this society the fun club that it can be and will be!!! Also for all the hundred of hours put in by our members that have no titles to their name and still help and will help when needed without pause.

Goodness, so much news to impart, look out for the information to help start our club into Gem Capers 2010. The Show Committee will have met in December. The Board will also have met January 5, 2010. Annual club pins, patches, and decals are now readily available for your purchase. I need someone to be Membership Chair. Anyone want to volunteer before I actually appoint you? The job is not hard other than you need to be available for the general meetings to sign-in at beginning of the monthly meeting. Some of the other duties are to make sure people have signed the attendance book, to take membership form along with their dues which are paid yearly, to make copies of membership form as needed. In addition submit a report to the membership once a month and hand out the monthly attendance door prize. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you do have to make arrangements for a substitute. You will also need to network with our Editor and the Treasurer as needed.

The Paleo Society has had their show. I helped out there and had a great time. I want to thank those of you that took the time out to help the Paleo group because as Susan said they help us at our show and we want to help them with theirs. Thank goodness I was sitting next to the television with all the paleo info; you would be surprised what I found out that I did know!!! All the info I tried to teach to my kids actually stuck for once.

I hope that all of us are enjoying our time with family and friends. Reintroduce yourselves to Rick and Jennifer Barto. They were both at our Christmas dinner and ready to enjoy our hobby. I was especially happy to see them up and well since the wreck. We want to remember both all the good times and some of the sad. Auld Lang Sayne is to enjoy the New Year and remember the old! After all, we are part of the Earth we so much enjoy. Thank you for making me a part of a great 2009.

See you at the General Meeting, January 28, 2010.

*~Josie Middleton, President*

## *Calendar of Events*

Jan 14 - Beginning Cabbing Class, 6:00 PM  
 Jan 16 - Fredericksburg Gem and Mineral Show  
 Jan 17 - Fredericksburg Gem and Mineral Show  
 Jan 19 - Texas Paleo Society Meeting, 7:00 PM  
 Jan 14 - Beginning Cabbing Class, 6:00 PM  
 Jan 21 - AGMS Show Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM  
 Jan 28 - AGMS General Meeting, 7:30 PM  
 Feb 02 - AGMS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM



## *Refreshments*

Volunteers for **January** to bring in refreshments are:

**Richard Dorsey**  
**Eunice Young**  
**Kathleen Howard**

## *Hospitality*

2010 is here! Already! And the first meeting of 2010 will be January 28th and I can't wait to see everyone! This year I have volunteered to be Hospitality Chair and just want to remind everyone to sign up to bring refreshments. The sign up sheet will be in the kitchen next to the coffee.

AGMS will continue to provide coffee, hot tea and soda as well as ice, cups, plates, forks, spoons, and napkins. There will be limited hot chocolate during the January, February, and March meetings. BURRRRRR

I will do my best to keep the paper towels, toilet paper and trash bags well stocked. Feel free to contact me if you notice anything running dangerously low. Certainly do not want to wait for the last of anything to be used!

Two new items for this year:

**First:** I ask that anyone who places their own personal food items in the refrigerator that they mark all items with their name and date. This will help me to keep everything clean and organized.

**Second:** Canned sodas are now 40 cents each. Inflation, go figure. AGMS will also have bottled water in the fridge at the same price. Canned soda and bottled water is provided as a convenience to our members who may be at the club house for classes, board meetings, show meetings or work days and are *not* free. Also note that canned soda and bottled water are *not* free during the general meeting. Please place payment in the cup in the fridge or in the box by the back door.

I look forward to the New Year, the January meeting and being the Hospitality Chair for 2010!

*~Susan Postlethwait, Hospitality*

## *Communications with Club*

Note: Send notices of change of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Pauline Denson**, Treasurer.

If you wish to be kept notified of "breaking news" and impromptu events within the club, you need to be on the **AGMS E-mail List**. Information on things such as field trip details and member rock sales may be disseminated this way in real time. You can also ask to get the newsletter delivered via e-mail notification rather than through snail mail. It comes sooner and is in color that way. To get invited to the list, and/or to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send a note to the newsletter editor at [StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org).

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*December 3, 2009 Board Minutes*

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Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM. The date was changed from Dec. 1 to Dec. 3 by poll of Board members.

**Attendees:** Josie Middleton, Kathleen Howard, Linda Northcote, Pauline Denson. **Board members:** Tom Bowers, Robert Morriss, Joyce Hrapsky, Louis Lee, David Wenger, Ron Carman. **Club members:** Marilyn and Bill Gilbreath, Brian Wetzig, Charlotte Morriss.

**Minutes** – Concerning the November minutes, in the 4th paragraph of Old Business, about the removable hasp, take out the ‘re’ prefix, making it “moveable hasp”.  
[other corrections = I have to find them]

**Treasurer’s Report** – Pauline handed out a spreadsheet with the treasurer’s report. It was suggested that she print the grid on the spreadsheet so it’s easier to read across the line. We are about \$8000 under where our expenses should be at this time, mostly because the scholarships weren’t sent and we did not receive the bill for the liability insurance yet. The South Central Federation dues have been paid.

**Old Business**

**Show Committee** – Brian Wetzig presented to the Board the proposal to buy a trailer to store the tables. There are several benefits to having a trailer, including the fact that the tables can be stored in the trailer as long as the trailer is a closed one. The trailer can be loaded after a show, driven back to the club house, and parked in the lot without unloading. Brian has found one in New Braunfels, which is 8x16 feet and reinforced. He has put a hold on this pending Board approval. Price would be \$4500. It was decided that this was indeed a matter for the Board.

It was pointed out that this trailer is too large for our tables. It is feared that, besides being more than we need, the extra space would be filled with other stuff besides tables, causing us to have to unload that stuff to get at the tables. We want to buy a trailer, but not necessarily this one. We should consider buying 2 smaller trailers. Board decided to appoint a committee consisting of Brian, Louis Lee, Susan Postlethwait, and Robert Morriss to look for a trailer, and tabled this decision until next year.

**Faceting Room equipment** – Craig Brandt has not made it to the Board meeting to present his list of things needed for the faceting room. Board will wait for this report.

**Audit Committee** – Louis Lee took the spreadsheets for 2007 and 2008 and reconciled them with the bank statements. Both years proved irreconcilable. We lack the information to make these work. Charlotte Morriss wants the club to buy Quicken software to do the books in the future.

Also needed is more in the Standard Operating Procedures for the office of Treasurer.

It was moved to authorize the Treasurer to buy appropriate software to keep the club books. Motion passed.

**New Business**

Kathleen proposed that we allow SBOE, an education organization that is organizing to keep the fundamentalist religionists from packing the state board and forcing religious issues to be taught as science. It was moved to allow them to meet at the clubhouse. Motion passed.

*Continued on next page...*

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A proposal to teach a one night class in making doublets was proposed, but not fully presented. It was decided to table this until January.

We need to compile a list of who has taken classes and give it to Gef Fisher so he knows who needs training for safety reasons.

The Standard Operating Procedures are tabled until the January meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

*~Linda Northcote, Secretary*

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### *Endowment Fund Tickets For Sale*

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As the new chair of the AFMS Endowment Fund, I have tickets for sale! If I can sell 200 tickets at \$5 each, we will automatically receive one free ticket towards the grand prize. The current prizes are: 1. Eudialyte sphere, 2 inch diameter; 2. Faceted amethyst pendant and earring set; and 3. Faceted ladies' amethyst pear cut ring size 6.5-7.

Please see me, Josie Middleton, to purchase tickets. The funds are to support the Earth Sciences scholarships of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

*~Josie Middleton, President AGMS*

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*Special Thanks  
to  
Laura and David Dow*



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It takes a lot of people and countless volunteer hours (read: free labor) to make a club as successful as the one we have. I have only been a part of this club for a short period of time but I can see all of the hard work that it has taken to get the club to where it is today. As we look forward to the new decade with great anticipation, let us not forget the labors of those that came before us.

I would like to say a special thank you to Laura and David Dow for all of the countless hours they have spent in the past working on this award winning newsletter. Having just worked on my first newsletter (this issue), I can tell you that it is a lot of work. I look forward to being the new newsletter editor and I ask for your patience and understanding as I continue to come up to speed. I will be sending out e-mail reminders in a couple of weeks for submissions for next month's newsletter.

*~Frederick Falk, Newsletter Editor*

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### *AGMS Member Survey Special Prize Drawing*

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Each member that fills out the following member survey form (*see next page*) and has it turned back in by the January meeting will be eligible for a special prize drawing. The drawing will occur during the January 28th meeting. If you mail in your survey, the survey must be received by the day of the meeting. The survey form will be used as your entry in the drawing so your name must be on it for you to win. You do NOT have to be present to win! Only one survey per individual member is eligible for the prize drawing.

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AGMS Member Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member for  less than one year  
 one to three years  
 longer than three years

What brings you to the AGMS? (check all that apply)

Field trips  Earth Science classes  Lapidary classes  Speakers

Social contact with common interest people

Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

What type of Field Trips? (check all that apply)

Fossil collecting  Mineral collecting  Lapidary material collecting  Geology study  Museum trips

What length of Field Trip? (check all that apply)

Local one-day trip  Two/three day trip  Three/five day out-of-state trip  Possible foreign country trip

What type of education classes are you interested in taking?

(use 1 for very interested, 2 for somewhat interested and 3 for not interested)

Fossil collecting & study  Mineral collecting & study  Geology study  Cabochon cutting  Faceting

Beading  Silver smithing  Metal casting  PMC  Wire wrapping

Add your own interesting class: \_\_\_\_\_

What sort of class schedule would you prefer? (check all that apply)

2 or 3 hour weeknights, multiple nights  2 or 3 hour Saturday daytime, multiple Saturdays

6 or 8 hour sessions, one or two Saturdays  None of these work, I need: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current level of skill in the following fields?

(Use 1 for very advanced, 2 for above average, 3 for average, 4 for some skill, or 5 for no skill or knowledge)

Fossils \_\_\_\_ Minerals \_\_\_\_ Geology \_\_\_\_ Beading \_\_\_\_ Basic lapidary \_\_\_\_ Advanced lapidary \_\_\_\_

Silver smithing \_\_\_\_ Metal casting \_\_\_\_ PMC \_\_\_\_ Wire wrapping \_\_\_\_

Other related skills: \_\_\_\_\_

If your skill level in any of these fields is above average or higher, would you be willing to teach or lead a study group? Yes \_\_\_\_ Maybe, with help \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Which subjects would you feel comfortable in teaching?

What subjects or speakers would you like to hear make a presentation to the club?

Are there subjects for which you could provide a 20 to 30 minute talk to the club?

Comments:

Fill out survey, remove this page and either mail it to club or bring it with you to the January meeting for your chance at the **Special Drawing** to be held during the meeting. You do **NOT** need to be present to win!



Please send news about our membership,  
both good and bad, to  
Ron and Jennifer Guzman.



Sunshine Committee

In Loving Memory...

Paddy was a great friend with a very dry sense of humor! Frankly sometimes I could not tell if she was joking and of course she knew when you got that breeze on top of your head and would smile at you. Her face lit up when she was smiling. If she was upset with you, you knew it! It didn't last long thank goodness and if it did, she just out would not talk to you. I saw her do that to one or two folks and boy were they clueless and not my problem, I just got out of the way. I have known Diann and her family as long as 1983 and they were great additions to our family of dealers in our annual Gem Capers show. Every now and then I would take care of Josh (Diann's son) while he played with Alex under those show tables and to see him hurting was anguish for me. When I hugged Valarie, we had a bawling session all over again. I thought I had already cried out my tears but apparently not. Paddy liked to make cabochons and some wire wrapping but then so did Charles though he was a fantastic faceter. They made a great team. I will miss her quiet demeanor, and seeing her face light up with a laugh and a smile. Thank you to the Covill family for letting us say goodbye and have more memories at your home. Included below is the obituary that was in the *Austin American Statesman*.

With a sorrowful hug,  
Josie

#### Special Request:



For those of you that knew Paddy, please take some time and write down your first-hand experiences you had with her over the years. Please look through your photos and find any that you might have of her from past shows and trips. If you know of someone that is no longer active in the club but knew Paddy, please contact them as well. I would like all of these items to then be turned into the historian and a special book of memories of Paddy to be made in honor of her and for the lifetime devotion she gave to this club.

~Newsletter Editor

**Patricia Ann Covill**, age 88, known as "Paddy" by her family and friends, passed away Dec. 8, 2009. Paddy is survived by her husband, Charles Covill; son, Bruce Covill; daughter-in-law, Candy Covill; and daughter, Diann Hill. Six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren also survive Paddy. Paddy was born on Dec. 20, 1920 in Seattle, Washington. She enjoyed an active and full life. During WW II she was a volunteer for the USO, where she met her future husband Charles. The couple wed soon after the war. Paddy was active in Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, PTA, Red Cross, and local dog training and kennel clubs. As a lifetime member of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society, she held every office except for President. A memorial will be held at her residence Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations be made in Paddy's name to the Meals on Wheels program.

~Austin American Statesman

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*December 2009 Awards Banquet*

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**Austin Gem and Mineral “Rockhound of the Year”**

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society selection committee is proud to announce this year’s “Rockhound of the Year” award recipient. This person has worked tirelessly to help make the club better in all its endeavors for many years. He selflessly gives his time to the club whenever it is needed.

AGMS is proud to announce this year’s winner is: **Richard Dorsey**.



Photo of Richard sharing his knowledge to children at the 2009 Gem Capers show.

Photo courtesy of Laura Dow.

Richard has been a member of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society since 2000. During that time he has stepped forward to volunteer for more than just rock related subjects. On countless occasions he has helped with the day-to-day building and parking lot maintenance. This has involved everything from evaluating to making repairs to the air conditioner, water heater, doors and fences, as well as checking for leaks in the roof. He has also scheduled and arranged to meet repair people at the club house for the jobs too big for him to handle. He always shows up to work parties, whether it is for the general club or the show committee.

Richard has always been a trooper at the club’s Gem Capers show when it rolls around each year. He is always willing to step up and work at any booth that needs help, and is always there during the all-important setup and tear down. He has served as our Gem Capers show Display Case Chair and is currently mentoring our new show Display Case Chair. He served as a Board member from 2007-2008, and is currently assisting with opening and supervising the Wednesday workshops. This makes it possible for others to practice, and Richard is always willing to show new cabber’s the tricks he has learned.

It goes without saying that he loves going on field trips and loves cutting the material he finds. He generously gives away rough and cut material to our members and the club when there is a need. He’s an accomplished cabber and also makes wooden belt buckles from exotic woods.

This award could not go to a nicer guy. Thank you again Richard for your dedication to the club.

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*December 2009 Awards Banquet*

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**Patron Endowment Fund Award Procedures**

In 1994, George Browne, in conjunction with the SCFMS, established the Patron Endowment Fund Award for AGMS. This annual, life time achievement award, is intended to honor a long time active member or members who have contributed considerable effort toward making their respective SCFMS organizations a success.

Every year a nominating committee comprised of the preceding three prior year's honorees meets to select new Patron Award recipients. The name of the person or persons is submitted to the AGMS-SCFMS representative, currently Paul Good, around September. He forwards the information to the SCFMS endowment fund chairman. The awards are presented at the annual December "Induction of Officers/Holiday" party. With this year's nominations, there will have been 35 AGMS members awarded this honor since its inception. Congratulations to this year's newest recipients for a well deserved recognition of their hard work.

**2009 Patron Endowment Fund Award winners**

Photos courtesy of Ed Gage

Photos of **Dee Fly** and **Pauline Denson** respectively, receiving their Patron Awards from Paul Good during the awards banquet held at the AGMS clubhouse on December 10, 2009.

**Dee Fly** – Since joining AGMS in 1998, Dee has been a very active member. She has served in an officer capacity as vice-president and as a board member. Other club activities include serving on the show committee, participating in the annual show and tabulating proceeds from the club's mineral auctions. Volunteering to do special projects is one of her strong points; such as organizing committee files and helping in the clean up of the clubhouse water damage.

**Pauline Denson** – Pauline became a member of the AGMS in 1994. She has served as an officer in the following capacities: Secretary in 2007 and 2008, and Treasurer in 2009 and 2010. Over the years she has worked at our show in different ways such as at the Gem Mine, ticket sales and, in particular, the Wheel of Fortune. One of Pauline's best attributes is that she regularly volunteers to help with the club's various activities.

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## *Show Committee Report*

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The Show Committee met on November 11th and December 17th, 2009 to discuss the Gem Capers 2009 show. Below is a listing of the highlights of these two meetings. A complete set of minutes is available upon request.

The gate this year was \$ with a final bank balance of \$. The committee voted to present the club with a check for \$ at the January general meeting.

Schools selected for Teacher prizes were Legacy Oak Christian, Discovery Academy, and Zilker Elementary.

The silent auction ran out of items. They made \$ and Bill Patillo was impressed with the amount AGMS will give towards the endowment fund.

Discussion that 2012 is the 50th AGMS show so it was decided that the theme will be Gold. The 2015 show theme with the SCFMS will be Tourmaline. Next year's show theme will be Petrified Wood.

The show committee has asked the club to purchase some trailers that will transport the tables and other items to and from the AGMS annual show and Fossilfest.

Frederick Falk was introduced as the new treasurer for the Show Committee.

*~Dee Fly, 2009 Show Secretary*

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## *AGMS Upcoming Classes*

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### **Beginner Cabbing Classes**

I am taking names for possible beginner cabbing classes in February. The dates would be either on Tuesday, (February 9, 16 and 23) or Thursday (February 4, 11 and 18). We need a minimum of four AGMS members for each class. If either of these times fit into your schedule, please let me know as soon as possible. Class fees are due by the date of our next general meeting, January 28, no exceptions. Class fees are either \$30 or \$35 dollars depending on instructor and night of class.

### **Announcing a new beading class: "Beginner Beading Using Knotting Method"**

This class is for instruction in the basics of gemstone and decorative metal beading. The finished necklaces or bracelets will be strung on silk thread with knots placed between beads. The class will extend over a period of six weeks. The fee is \$20 dollars plus supplies (supplies to be furnished by class participants). A sign-up sheet and list of supplies needed will be available at the January 28 general meeting. The first class will be scheduled when six people have signed up.

### **Announcing a new workshop: "Making Doublets/Triplets"**

A workshop demonstration will be presented on how to select backing and capping lapidary material and the procedure for bonding the two layers to allow for cabbing. No hands-on work will be done by the workshop participants, so no supplies are required. The fee is \$5 dollars for the demo which will cover one session for three hours. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January 28 general meeting.

For more information, please contact me.

*~Joyce Hrapsky, Education/Classes*

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*Dues for 2010 are now Due!*

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It's that time of the year again! Annual dues are due for club membership. The cost is \$15 for one adult, \$20 for a couple, or \$4 for a junior. You can pay at this month's meeting or mail a check to the club address, care of the Treasurer. If you have not paid by April, you will no longer receive the newsletter.

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*AGMS Budget 2010*

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Intentionally blank.

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“Rocks are records of events that took place at the time they formed. They are books. They have a different vocabulary, a different alphabet, but you learn how to read them.”

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~John McPhee

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**THE STONE CHIPPER**  
6719 BURNET LANE  
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757

Postage  
Required

*StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org*



**Address Correction Requested**

*January 2010*

## **Austin Gem and Mineral Society**

For membership information write: AGMS, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX 78757

### **2010 Officers**

President: Josie Middleton  
First V.P.: Jackie Fisher  
Second V.P.: Kathleen Howard  
Secretary: Marilyn Gilbreath  
Treasurer: Pauline Denson

### **Board of Directors**

Jeff "Stretch" Young (2)  
Robert Morriss (1)  
David Wenger (1)  
Tom Bowers (1)  
Joyce Hrapsky (1)  
Louis Lee (1)

**Stone Chipper awards**  
**2009 - 1st AFMS, 1st SCFMS**

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Annual Show	Brian Wetzig
Building Chair	Bob Greenway
Mineral Display Cases	Jackie Fisher
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
Field Trip Committee	Kathleen Howard
Field Trip Committee	Chip Burnette
Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Susan Postlethwait
Junior Advisor/Programs	Vacant
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Library Co-Chair	Andrea Miller
Membership	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Frederick Falk
Program	Kathleen Howard
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher