

THE STONE CHIPPER

644TH AGMS MEETING

WHEN: February 25th, 2010

TIME: 7:30 PM

WHERE: AGMS Clubhouse
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, TX.

PHONE: (512) 458-9546



The February program will be on *Equador - From the Mountains to the Sea* by **Dr. Leslie Wood**.

AGMS Annual Show
Gem Capers 2010
Palmer Events Center
October 22nd - 24th
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. Contact our webmaster for web site updates at 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 more 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

Welcome all!!!

Stratigraphy was one of my loves as a little kid and listening to Pete brought back some memories of hanging more or less by my nails on some of those Pedernales River cliffs. Then, I did not even know that was even a word. Little did I know that I could have gotten an education, let alone a job for that! Thank you Pete and Delores for your time and taking us on a small part of your journey. Want to rustle up a field trip for us to the Dallas Museum? We are willing! *Hint!*

So, as I start to write this, I have been reminded, that we need to again, have some real communications with our members. Unfortunately you can not fix what you do not know about, and implementing solutions will need to be addressed by this board and any following board. Now comes the hard part, the fixes, and I welcome any suggestions and or ideas, but you must also be at our board meetings to air out anything that needs to be discussed.

Please do not take any of my suggestions personally; this is for the good of the club. Making people of the same interest aware and willing to use our services and resources should be safe for all! And *no* it will not come cheaply, you will need to take a class to show competency for the use of our workshop! I *do not* want the club to have to shell out extra money for our equipment, when it may be damaged because you were too lazy to take proper instruction, nor for you to get hurt! We have several good instructors, who are not that expensive, only about 30 dollars folks! If you were to take these same types of classes in an educational facility, it would cost well over 300.00 and woe is you if you are not in district! So suck it up; take the class and use our workshop *after* you learn how to use the equipment!

Library books are being lost, and after looking at the missing list; I am dismayed. We may not be able to replace some of those books. That is *all our loss*. That will be remedied, hopefully by the time you get this in the newsletter. Always remember, that the actions of a few are paid by all, at everyone's loss!

On a better note, great things are happening. We have a field trip to Arkansas set for May 14th-20th or maybe a little longer; more information will come forth shortly. Look for more information both on the web site and the newsletters. Also by this time; we may have an opportunity to educate more children with an Earth Science project. Wing Evans will get me more information on that, so I can make you more aware on what is happening on this project.

Some of you will be just returning from Tucson, AZ from the Gem and Mineral Show held there and I hope that you bring back some wonderful show and tell items and pictures for Ed Gage and his historian book and for us to "OHHH" and "AHHHH" over.

Be well, be safe and have fun.

~Josie Middleton, President

Calendar of Events

Feb 16 - Texas Paleo Society Meeting, 7:00 PM
 Feb 18 - AGMS Show Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
 Feb 25 - AGMS General Meeting, 7:30 PM

 Mar 02 - AGMS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

 Apr 10 - AGMS Annual Swap Meet, 10 AM - 4 PM



Refreshments

Volunteers for **February** to bring refreshments are:

Fran & Mac Ellis
Laura & David Dow
Charlotte & Robert Morriss
Josie Middleton

Hospitality

The sign up sheet to bring refreshments is kept in the kitchen next to the coffee. If you have not done so already, please sign up to bring refreshments for one of our club meetings this year. Your generous participation is greatly appreciated.

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 February and March meetings.

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!

In case you missed it last month, 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

~Susan Postlethwait, Hospitality

Communications with Club

Please send notices for change of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Frederick Falk**, Newsletter Editor.

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.

January 28, 2010 Meeting

Program: Peter Flaig narrated a slide show titled: *Dinosaur-Bearing Cretaceous Sediments–North Slope, Alaska*. He was a participant in this collaborative study by sedimentologists and paleontologists. Some of the findings will be published in a future book, *River to Rock Record*.

Call to Order: Josie Middleton called the meeting to order at 8:30. There was no December meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Annual Show: Brian Wetzig reported that the theme of the 2010 show will be petrified wood. Members should be thinking about display cases and ways to contribute. Les Postlethwait will be the show chairman. Brian said the 1,772 volunteer hours reported by members for the 2009 show were fewer than last year. It's not too late to report your hours.

Brian drew a name and Lynn Young was the winner of a piece of silver jewelry. Lynn is no longer doing publicity for the show; we need a replacement to work on the show/guide bulletin.

Robert Folsom turned over a \$_____ check from this year's show. Robert resigned as show treasurer after many years of service; Frederick Falk will be the new treasurer.

Building: Josie reminded that the filters should be changed.

Mineral Display Cases: Josie said the cases in the clubhouse are for use by members to display their collections either temporarily or long-term.

Education/Classes: E-mail Joyce Hrapsky if you are interested in an upcoming class. Two new classes are: bead-ing taught by Betsy Gager and doublets by Robert Morriss.

Federation: Paul Good sent word that the AFMS show will be in California and that the web site is up for reservations. Linda Northcote plans to attend.

Field Trips: Josie said we only had a couple of field trips last year. The two committee members, Chip Burnette and Kathleen Howard, gave recent notice that they are no longer able to serve. Members: please help with suggestions or lead a field trip. (See announcements below for a proposed trip.)

Historian: Send your activity write-ups, pictures, etc. that relate to the club's activities or interests to Ed Gage.

Hospitality: Susan Postlethwait said that the sodas and bottled water available in the club's refrigerator have gone up from 35 to 40 cents. She needs two people to bring snacks in February.

Junior Programs: At present, we don't have any juniors attending. Please encourage young members to attend if only for an hour.

Library: Diann Hill reported that they, in doing the annual inventory, have worked up to the 400 series and that 22 books are missing so far. Charlotte Morriss suggested closing the library door during meetings.

Membership: Eunice Young will be the new membership chair taking care of the sign-in book and door prize drawings. Present tonight: 60 members and 6 visitors.

Newsletter: Frederick Falk, the new *Stone Chipper* editor, said that members should have received either a mailed or e-mail a copy of the newsletter by January 8-12th. If not, please contact him at the e-mail address: StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org.

Sunshine: Contact Ron Guzman to report such matters as sick members and bereavements. It was reported that Tommie Potts was discharged from rehab to a nephew and that neighbors were forwarding her mail if members wished to attempt contact.

Workshop: Gef Fisher thanked Glenn Gilbreath and Robert Morriss for working with him to install outside and exit lights.

Announcements

Trailers – Thank you to Robert Morriss, Louis Lee and Brian Wetzig who worked to acquire two new trailers for club use.

Interest Survey Drawing – Frederick Falk drew the winning AGMS Survey from the entries submitted. Winner selected: Eunice Young.

Swap Meet Set for April 10th – A sign-up sheet was on the back table. You can also contact Kathleen Howard to reserve a space.

Texas Highways Magazine – James Mercier brought multiple copies of the February edition to share with members, some of our members were pictured in the article, titled *No Stone Unturned*. Two copies went to the library.

Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society Show – February 20 & 21 at the Community Center in San Gabriel Park in Georgetown, Texas. Flyers were on the back table.

Tucson Show – February 11-14.

Show and Tell: Chip Burnett, Alan Cherepon, Ron Carman and Brian Wetzig.

Proposed Field Trip – Ron Carman is willing to lead a field trip to the Hot Springs area of Arkansas. This is a multi-day trip. Tentative dates range from the 14th to the 20th of May (after Mother's Day). Multiple members expressed interest.

Information Sharing – Mary Lowrance voiced frustration over how hard it is to get information about various club classes and events and the lack of events. (Note: After the meeting, Mary accepted an invitation to bring a list of her concerns to the board meeting February 2nd.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

~Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Library Report

The librarians have been doing an inventory of the books and periodicals in our library. We have found several books for which we cannot account and we would like to remind everyone that **only** members of AGMS in good standing [*your annual membership dues to AGMS have been paid - editor*] can check out books. You can only check out 2 books at a time. You **must** fill out the book card at the back of the book and file it in the plastic box, *behind the appropriate number assigned to the book in the box*, on the library table. Check out time is from one month's meeting to the next month's meeting. You may renew the book one time. You must return books before you check out new ones. If something happens and you need more time or something is wrong with the book, please contact a librarian. The same applies to checking out **any** type of media found in the library.

If you have any library books, please return them to the library. Please leave all returned books on the table by the check-out box, this way we can account for them. Please do not re shelf the book yourself. If you have borrowed a book without signing it out, please return it at the next meeting, no questions will be asked.

Many of our books are no longer in print, were donations from members who have passed away, or are memorial books for members who are no longer with us. If any of you have been to a bookstore lately you will know that a novel isn't cheap and the prices only go up from there. Many, many of our books are close to, if not over, \$100.00 dollars each. We have over 600 titles on the shelves. Think about that, it's your club monies that paid for a lot of those books.

So please take some time and check and see if you have any of the following titles or periodicals:

- #20 Microscopic Determination of Non-Opaque Minerals*
- #22 How to Repair Jewelry*
- #23 How to Use Diamond Abrasives to Cut Gemstones*
- #35 Trophy Winning Facet Cuts*
- #38 Metalcraft and Jewelry*
- #65 Guide to Rocks and Minerals*
- #96 Appendix to the 2nd Edition – Index of Mineral Species and Varieties*
- #160 Texas Monthly's Guide to Fossils of Texas – copy 3*
- #198 Pennsylvanian Depositional Systems in North-Central Texas*
- #212 Creative Casting – copy 1*
- #249 Colorado Rockhounding – copy 1*
- #290 The Rose Rock of Oklahoma*
- #301 Field Geology Illustrated*
- #306 Silversmithing – copy 1*
- #308 Metals Technique*
- #330 Padre Island National Seashore – A Guide to Geology*
- #334 The Mineralogical Record Index – Vol. 1*
- #365 Gem Trails of Texas – copy 4*
- #398 The Hazel Copper-Silver Mine (TX)*
- #399 Regional Distribution of Fractures – Relationships to Tectonic and Caves (TX)*
- #400 Ouachita Facies in Central Texas (TX)*

May 09 & Dec 09 Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist Magazines
Nov 09 Mineral News

Library Report

Here are some places that books like to hide and might be worth checking out:

- under the front seat of a car or truck
- in between newspapers on the coffee table
- in a toy box, toolbox, tackle/supply box
- in a locker
- under the bed
- in a bathroom
- behind the shelves, or behind other books on shelves
- the neighbor/friend you lent it to and never got it back from
- and the oh so obvious, right under our noses (grin)

Since sending out an announcement on the AGMS E-mail list a couple of weeks ago, some books have found their way home. Thank you for directing those wandering books home. If you know something has happened to a book and it isn't going to be recovered, please let a librarian know so we can see about replacing the book.

We are also looking into how we can better secure this valuable club resource and make it readily available to our members. A committee has been appointed into how to best accomplish this task. Any input you would like give regarding how this can be accomplished would be greatly appreciated.

~Diann Hill and Andrea Miller, Co-Librarians

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



Sunshine Committee

Do you know of a member that is in poor health, has had a recent accident or just needs to be cheered up? Please contact us with their needs so we can address them.

We have heard than Tommie Potts has had heart surgery and has gone to live with a nephew. If anyone knows how to reach her or has additional details, please let us know.

Endowment Fund Tickets For Sale

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 your 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

Board Meeting Minutes

The January Board meeting was held on January 5, 2010. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting. A complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Treasurer's Report: Pauline bought Quicken software for \$40 and checks that will print with Quicken.

Old Business:

Faceting Inventory – Craig Brandt reported that the club has over 50 laps that they have now graded and valued at a total of \$ _____. He suggested charging \$3 per dop even though the various sizes range above & below \$3 in cost.

Estimated cost for faceting room needs: \$700 if IGI machine repair is included, \$600 if not. Note: The 2009 budget still has \$500 for workshop equipment. A motion passed to bring the \$500 from the 2009 workshop equipment budget forward to 2010 and permit Craig to purchase faceting equipment not to exceed \$1,000.

It will take about a month to order and get prepared for classes. Twenty people have expressed interest in a faceting class.

Trailers for AGMS – Robert Morriss and Louis Lee purchased 2 new 6' x 12' trailers. They hold a ton each, have metal skins, ramp-style doors, 3/4" plywood floors, fold down stabilizers, ventilators in the roofs, 15" wheels and interior lights. The side doors have keys and a bar that can be padlocked.

A motion passed to allow Robert to purchase 2 receiver hitch anti-theft devices and 6 locks for the new trailers at a cost of approximately \$90.

Richard Dorsey will look into liability insurance for trailers and report at the next meeting.

Electrical: Outside and Exit Lights – Gef Fisher and Robert Morriss will get the materials out and get with Glenn Gilbreath to decide when to do the projects.

Key Committee Update – Tabled because the key work depends on the exit signs.

Board Member Ron Carman Replaced – Stretch Young was introduced as Ron's replacement.

New Business

Beading Class - Betsy Gager presented a syllabus for a beading class in which she teaches knotting in between each bead (not seed beading). A motion passed approving her to teach the class which will meet for six weeks (one 2-3 hour session per week). Cost: \$20 plus materials

Nominating Committee - It was reported that Tom Bowers would volunteer for the nominating committee and is willing to canvas the membership for candidates for expiring terms. Charlotte Morriss is also willing to serve. Per the bylaws, the committee will consist of two long-term and two newer members. Need suggestions for two newer members.

Sam's Club Card – A motion passed that we not buy a Sam's Club or Costco card in the name of the club, but that we authorize the use of a tax-exempt form for purchases made for the club.

Advertising and Selling of Booths for Swap Meet – Kathleen Howard proposed flyers for distribution by the members and Craig's List (no paid advertising this year) and see how it goes. Stretch Young said we are allowed only two tax-exempt fund raising events per year. Last year did not have a good turnout because of a bad weather prediction.

Doublets Class – Robert Morriss presented his syllabus for a doublets class at the December board meeting. A motion passed to allow him to teach a class as presented in December and charge \$5. Robert clarified that it will be a one-night demonstration workshop lasting about 3 hours.

AGMS Member Survey – Robert Morriss brought an AGMS Member Survey for the January meeting. Frederick Falk will include it in the January *Stone Chipper*. Members can fill out the *Stone Chipper* copy and mail or bring it to the club in January for a drawing to be held at the general meeting. Additional copies will be available at the door. Jackie Fisher will provide the drawing prize.

Insurance Problems – Pauline Denson reported that it took four months to get our policy from our insurance company in Tyler. (Reason for a Tyler insurer: we were getting part of it through the South Central Federation.) A motion passed to allow Pauline to seek a new local insurance representative for liability and property insurance.

Request from Ed Gage – Ed, the club historian, spent \$222 last year on the book he sent to the Federation. He requests an increase to \$300 this year. A motion passed to revisit the issue in approximately three months.

Stone Chipper Deadlines – Frederick Falk, the new *Stone Chipper* editor, asked to have all items by the Friday following the Thursday general meeting (the next day). An exception: general meeting minutes from the secretary may be submitted later when necessary.

~Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Workshop Usage

If you are member in good standing (having paid your dues for the current year), you may use the equipment in the workshop *after* you have been certified to work on that machine. The club has invested a lot of money into these machines and equipment. For your safety and the safety of the equipment, we require all members to be checked out on the equipment prior to using it.

There are two ways in which you can be checked out to operate this equipment. First is to take a class that uses the equipment you wish to use. Once you have demonstrated proficiency with the equipment, you may use it when the workshop is open on Wednesdays. If you are already proficient on a particular piece of equipment, having taken a class from another organization, you may come up on a Wednesday when the workshop is open and get checked out by Gef Fisher. He has a checklist of operations that must be performed satisfactorily by you that demonstrates your proficiency with the equipment.

Once you have been cleared to use the equipment, you may use the equipment at a rate of \$2.00 an hour. If you have any questions regarding equipment usage or when the equipment is available, please contact Gef Fisher.

Show Committee Report

The Show Committee met on January 21, 2010 to discuss the upcoming Gem Capers 2010 show. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting. A complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Bob Folsom will present a check from the show to the club in the amount of \$_____ dollars at the January 28th meeting. He will also introduce Frederick Falk as the new show treasurer.

Lynn Young will not be doing the show bulletin this year so we will need a new publisher. [*Anyone interested in doing the show bulletin or helping out with it should contact Frederick Falk - editor*]

There are several items that the show committee will need for next year's show and there are several people working on it.

The club now has two trailers to use to store tables and other items so that space in the show shed is not so limited. A work day to help clean out the shed will be announced soon.

Need someone going to Tucson to help the show committee in purchasing the grand prize.

~Dee Fly, 2009 Show Secretary

AGMS Upcoming Classes

New class announcement: "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 the beads. This class will extend over a period of six weeks. The fee is \$20 plus supplies (supplies to be furnished by the class participants). A sign-up sheet and list of supplies needed will be available at the February 25 general meeting or you can send me an e-mail. The first class will be scheduled when six people have signed up.

Two Beginning Cabbing classes to start in March

We have two instructors who are available to teach beginning cabbing classes in March. Robert Morriss is available for a class on Thursdays, March 4, 11 and 18, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Robert's class fee is \$30 and the class fee payment deadline is February 18. James Lopez is available for a class on Tuesdays, March 9, 16 and 23, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. James' class fee is \$35 and the class fee payment deadline is February 23. Those people who have signed up in the Class Notebook or have sent me an e-mail to be on the waiting list will be given first priority. If we do not have a minimum number (4 in each class) on the waiting list who can take the March classes, they will be open to anyone who has paid their 2010 club dues.

If one of the above classes fits into your schedule, please contact me.

~Joyce Hrapsky, Education/Classes

Dues for 2010 are now Due!

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 1st, you will no longer receive the newsletter.

Upcoming Shows and Events

February

- 20-21** Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society 48th annual show, Ollie Liner Center in Plainview, TX.
Contact: Mildred Matlock at (806) 293-3476; e-mail: jmmatlock@suddenlink.net

March

- 6-7** Big Springs Prospectors Club 41st annual show, Howard County Fair Barn in Big Springs, TX.
Contact: Jerals Wilson at (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340.
- 20-21** Southwest Gem & Mineral Society annual show, Live Oak Civic Center in Live Oak, TX.
"Fiesta of Gems"; Web site: swgemandmineral.org
Contact: Robert Bowie at (830) 935-3373; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com

April

- 10** Austin Gem & Mineral Society annual Swap Meet, AGMS Clubhouse parking lot in Austin, TX.
Setup starts at 7 AM and doors open to public from 10 AM to 4 PM with a Pot Luck for lunch.
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Wanted: Field Trip Chair

Do you like going on field trips? Do you have organizational skills and access to a telephone? If so, we would like for you to step up and help us organize some field trips for our members. You will need to determine the following for a trip: where, when, who, and how. You will need to get permission from a land owner if this is a collection trip. Any costs associated with the trip will need to be disseminated to the group as well as provide directions on how to get to our destination. It is up to the participants to have fun. If interested, please see Josie Middleton.

Wanted: Junior Advisor/Programs Chair

Do you like to work with young people? We need someone to step up and chair the Junior Advisor/Programs Chair. The youth are our replacements. If we do not reach out to the youth of today and "promote interest and education in the various Earth Sciences and other related topics", our club will shrivel up and die for they are our future. If interested, please see Josie Middleton.

"With their four-dimensional minds, and in their interdisciplinary ultra verbal way, geologists can wiggle out of almost anything."

~John McPhee

THE STONE CHIPPER

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Postage
Required



Address Correction Requested

February 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 (2)
David Wenger (2)
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	Vacant
Field Trip Committee	Vacant
Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Susan Postlethwait
Junior Advisor/Programs	Vacant
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Library Co-Chair	Andrea Miller
Membership	Eunice Young
Newsletter Editor	Frederick Falk
Program	Kathleen Howard
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher