



THE **662ND** MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **AUGUST 29TH 2011, 7:00 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, **6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX.** PHONE: (512) 458-9546.

August Program:

It's Auction Time!!!

(& don't forget to bring your favorite ice cream)

THE STONE CHIPPER  
JULY 2011 VOLUME 508



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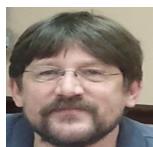
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AGMS MOTTO: EACH ONE TEACH ONE

**2011 AGMS Committee Heads**



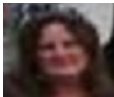
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Building Chair - Bob Greenway

Display Cases - Jackie Fisher

Federation/Conservation - Paul Good

Historian - *Vacant*

Hospitality - Tonya Berry

Membership -Pauline Denson

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

Sunshine - Ron Guzman

**Upcoming Classes**

Please be sure and sign up (in the notebook) for the upcoming classes. See Joyce Hrapsky for more details.

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AGMS General Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2011  
Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Program: Beginning at 7:03 p.m., Paul Bordovsky illustrated his topic, Cataloging Your Mineral Collection, with a slideshow. Paul talked about recording systems---from low-tech index cards to database programs that store pictures as well as descriptions. He showed an example page from the free database program he uses: Minerals by Carles Millan. He recommended that you:

- Start with your best specimens.
- Decide on a numbering system.
- Label the specimen if possible.
- Make multiple backups of the records you create---on flash drives, USB drives, paper prints, CDs or DVDs---and store them away from home.
- Take pictures and label them with the specimen's unique number, location found and description.
- Consider whether measurements and weight should be a part of the record and/or picture info.
- For estate planning, inform people in your family and your executor about your collection and cataloging.

Meeting: At 8:56 p.m., President Robert Morriss called the meeting to order. Attendance: 51 members; there were no visitors or juniors.

**Committee Reports:**

Newsletter: Diann Hill expressed her appreciation for items submitted to The Stone Chipper. She awarded a book and a day planner to:

- Sue Postlethwait, who got The Dictionary of Bull for being the only one who sent an e-mail change of address.
- Alan Cherepon, who got The Texas Brag Book for properly submitting an "I like rock hounding because" entry even if it was to late to publish.
- Ivy Hjernevik, who got Earth Facts in the contest drawing of those who submitted "I like rock hounding because" by the deadline.

Library: Diann Hill said that Terry Barry has been helping in the library. Andrea Miller and Harriet Strieber are stepping down, so they are looking for another person to do various jobs like opening the library and cataloging. Harriet Strieber said that a fairly new member is "thinking about" helping to transfer the library's videos to DVD. Harriet also:

- Thanked Brian Wetzig for organizing and bundling issues of the Lapidary Journal that will be come available to members later.
- Asked if anyone knew who left some topographical maps on a chair in the library. Were they donations to the map collection---or left accidentally?
- Asked if anyone subscribes to Mineral News and would they be willing to donate their copies to the club so we wouldn't have to purchase a subscription.
- Mentioned that Jewelry Artist will now have bi-monthly issues.

Show: Brian Wetzig (for Sue Postlethwait) said there will be a show work party starting at 7:00 a.m. on July 30th. They plan to pull cases and work in the trailers. Ed Gage said that this year, they are encouraging competitive show exhibits where you can be judged if you choose. Forms to enter your exhibits are due by Wednesday, September 21st. Ed has the forms and will also supply one to Diann Hill to place on the website.

## July General Meeting Minutes Continued

Ed and Stretch Young talked about having 1-2 cases where members could display a single specimen. Look in The Stone Chipper for more details and possible themes for these cases. Stretch also encouraged members to consider educational cases---they don't necessarily require a large number of specimens and are very popular at the shows.

Annual Auction Replaces August Meeting: Richard Dorsey reminded that donations for the annual club auction should be turned in by the weekend of August 20-21 so that the items can be organized for the auction on meeting night, August 25th.

Hospitality: Tonya Barry will not be at the next meeting, so Gef and Jackie Fisher will coordinate the ice cream and toppings planned for the August auction night. Tonya urged people to sign the hospitality sheet and include a phone number for a reminder call.

**Announcements:**

Annual Photo Contest: Jackie Fisher reminded members to submit their mineral photos (no people in the shots, please) for the annual contest prior to the September meeting when the judging will take place. The winning photos will be displayed at the show at the Palmer Events Center.

Former Members: Diann Hill said that Dee Purkeypile said to tell everyone hello. He was in town to deliver four sphere machines to their new owners.

**Show and Tell:**

Murry Fly said he and Dee had good luck collecting in locations near Arches National Park and Moab, UT. They found septarian nodules that fluoresce, Yellow Cat Agate, agatized baryte nodules and fluorite. Places mentioned: Bartlett Flat, Yellow Cat Road, Bingham, and Joe Wilson Wash.

Alan Cherepon showed multiple specimens he found off U.S. 183 on the South fork of the San Gabriel River. He also went to Eureka Springs, AR, to visit the Purkeypiles who had some mariposite.

Charles Covill showed his bolo tie with dark green jade slide.

Ron Carman went to one of the Herkimer Diamond mines in New York. He showed smoky quartz and amazonite and also had pieces from Sentinel Rock in El Paso County, CO.

Tony Puliam brought two pieces he bought---anhydrite and a specimen with a variety of minerals.

**Door Prizes and Winners:**

Pauline Denson assisted Robert Morriss in handing out door prizes which included:

- Jade slabs to Murry Fly and Diann Hill.
- Septarian nodule pieces to Glenn Gilbreath, Chip Burnett and Mindy Waters.
- Agate slabs to Ivy Hjernevik and Barry Compton.
- Selenite to Gene Siste, Ron Carman and Dennis Miller.
- Travertine to Dee Fly and Jackie Fisher.

Diann Hill moved and Wing Evans seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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## Chipper Chatter

*Happy Anniversary* to all of you who celebrate this month.

The following members celebrate *birthdays* in August and September:

Pauline Denson - 8/14	Charlotte Morriss - 9/13	Ron Guzman - 9-26
Les Postlethwait - 8/21	Dee Fly - 9/12	Sherman Waters - 9/26
Sian Schilnab - 8/28	Susan Postlethwait - 9/22	Carolyn Perkins - 9/29

Lloyd Lamere is recuperating from a fall that recently damaged his foot, ankle and ligaments. Ed Tindell is still battling the powers that be concerning his accident from Dec. 2009. Please keep both of these people in your thoughts and prayers.

Let us help you celebrate your birthday by listing it in *The Stone Chipper*. Please e-mail the editor at [stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org), with your birth month and day so it can be added to the list. Or, sign the clipboard located at the greeters table, at the next general meeting.

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### AGMS Board Meeting Minutes - Synopsis August 2, 2011

The AGMS Board met on August 2, 2011, to conduct club business. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting; a complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Attendees: Five officers, three board members and four club members.

Treasurer's Report: Wing Evans reported the July ending balance and said budget spending was on track with approximately half of the funds allotted for the categories spent.

Minutes: The June minutes were accepted as printed. There was no July Board meeting.

#### Old Business

Bylaws Revisions: Stretch Young reported that the Bylaws review group will meet tomorrow.

#### New Business

Display Cases: Alan Cherepon reported that he fixed the cases, and that Sue Postlethwait said that they may need to buy some Super Brights (UV lights), filters, and two UV long-wave bulbs.

Competitive Case Judging Seminar: Ed Gage, after meeting with the Show Committee, proposed that the club host a case judging training seminar during our 2013 show. History supplied by Ed, Ron Carman and Josie Middleton: The Federation sent a delegate to Wild Acres, NC, to train judges; the entire rule book was reviewed at these sessions. The last few years, it has been difficult to get enough people to travel to Wild Acres. Ron and Josie were at the Federation meeting at Syracuse, NY, where a proposal was made for a group to go around to different local shows to conduct the training. Reno, NV, has been asked to host in 2012 and Austin in 2013. There would be no extra expenses for the club, just a couple of days' use of the clubhouse for the training sessions while the Show was going on.

A motion passed to allow the use of the clubhouse for rules training sessions for the Federation with details to be determined later. Robert Morriss will send a commitment letter to the Federation for the year 2013.

Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Show Committee Meeting  
June 16, 2011

The Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes for May were presented for review, and then submitted without corrections.

Brian gave the treasures report.

No one has volunteered to handle the television advertising, so we will not have that advertising this year. Susan said that, to make up for it, she would like to do a blitz with flyers, to be passed out to businesses by members shortly before the show. This flyer will need to be redesigned.

Crystal Springs declined the contract, so another dealer (Katy Rock Shop) was chosen. Diann has spoken to Nonesuch, but their contract or payment hasn't been received yet, and she has not yet been able to speak with Moonvine Design.

Robert is making some changes. He is putting the Food Table next to the Club Booth. He said we need to rent some extra chairs, and put some tables with them.

The show pin and the Saturday prize will be picked at the next meeting. Work needs to be done on the show shed, the trailers need to be organized and the display cases need to be checked out.

There is enough pyrite for the kids and for those bringing in a coupon.

Stretch is working on getting supplies for the school kits. He is not sure they can be ready this year. He plans to have 50 each of two kits for the next two years – one for streak and one for hardness. They will go to those teachers who register their classes for the show. Home schoolers will be able to check them out, but not keep them. He has \$500 left from last year and hopes to get \$500 for them this year. Susan said the Bureau of Economic Geology has kits for \$2. We could buy those for this year and use the money to build up for additional years.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, the motion passed, meeting adjourned.



***A Special Thanks***

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to thank Jim and JoAnn Wiersema @ Horizon Environmental Services, for their continued support of the club by printing *The Stone Chipper* each month.



Please send change of address notices, or to report errors on the mailing list to: Wing Evans, Treasurer, e-mail [treasurer@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:treasurer@austingemandmineral.org).

If you're not on the AGMSList on YAHOO, or receiving the newsletter via e-mail, please send a note to the editor at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org).

Show Committee Meeting  
July 21, 2011

Minutes for June were presented for review, and then submitted without corrections.

Brian gave the treasurers report. Diann gave Brian some more checks from dealers.

Advertising: Stretch advised that we do need to advertise with Austin American Statesman and the Chronicle as that pulls in the bulk of the customers. Pauline asked him to send her information on the paper advertising. Dee will send flyers to geology departments of area colleges.

Display Competition: URC chair for SCF is Ed Gage. We went over the application for competing, made a few changes. Ed will provide Diann a corrected application form and link to the competition rules for the website. There was discussion regarding the Regional traveling judges for competitive cases traveling to various show and they will be at Gem Capers in 2013 to judge voluntary competition cases. We would like to try to negotiate a trade with another show and have them come to Gem Capers in 2015 when we host the Federation show instead of the 2013 show. Josie volunteered to pay for the judge's hotel rather than have AGMS budget for their hotel.

Dealers: Moonvine Designs has moved to AR and has a conflict this year. Katy Rock shop is sending a check. Ed asked if Bandera International had applied. Diann advised that they had but after three years of not being voted in they need to submit a new application. Ed will contact him and advise him to get in touch with Diann.

Show Pin: Ed was the only one who bought in designs. We looked at all of them decided on one design with some changes to be made. Diann motioned, Robert seconded, motion passed to accept pin design with changes. Ed will make changes and send to Susan to order pins.

Work Day: Susan wanted to set a date for the work to fix cases and clean out trailers, as it is staying hot. July 30th was picked and to start at 7:00 a.m.

Committee chairpersons:

Address cards:	Dee Fly	Gem Mine:	Andrea Miller
<b><u>Advertising:</u></b>	<b><u>Open</u></b>	Grand Prize Ticket:	Charlotte Morriss
Booth:	Fran Ellis	Junior Bulletin:	Lynn Young
Bulletin:	Diann Hill	Postcards:	Craig Brandt
Dealers:	Diann Hill	School Letter:	Susan Postlethwait
Demonstrators:	Diann Hill	Silent Auction:	Chip Burnette
Display Cases:	Les Postlethwait	Touch Table:	Charlotte Morriss
Floor Plan:	Robert Morriss	<b><u>Transportation:</u></b>	<b><u>Open</u></b>
Fluorescent:	Alan Cherapon	Wheel of Fortune:	Pauline Denson

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, the motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Gold and Texas  
By Alan J. Cherepon

Gold has fascinated and possessed people for as long as people have been picking up pretty rocks. Fortunes and empires have been built on gold, and just about every religion and numerous legends, books, movies and songs mention gold in some way. El Dorado, the City of Gold, Jason and the Argonauts and the Golden Fleece, and numerous other stories persist to the present time. The gold standard, referring to the world's economic base, is based on gold. With the price of gold over \$1600 per troy ounce in 2011, it remains the standard of wealth, security and power. But what is gold, and how does it fit in the story of Texas? But first, some background on this precious metal we so love and desire.

Gold is an element in the periodic table, number 79, by its atomic mass. The symbol is Au, from the Latin word for gold, Aurum. The Spanish word is oro. Gold is a naturally occurring precious metal, having a bright metallic yellow luster and color. It is soft, dense (at 19.3g/cc, greater than lead), and can be easily shaped (malleable and ductile). An example of this is one troy ounce of gold can be hammered to cover a standard tennis court, or drawn out into a wire fifty miles long. Gold is also the least reactive element, aside from the noble or inert gases, rarely forming as a compound in minerals. Gold is primarily used in jewelry and works of art, as an investment against changing currency values, and industrial and electronics applications.

Gold is typically found in its native form in three main environments: as lode or primary deposits in hard rock such as quartz veins or schist; as by-product impurity such as porphyry deposits as a minor percentage in copper or iron minerals; and as placer or secondary deposits such as in unconsolidated sediments in stream beds or sandstone in subsurface paleo channels. When found in stream beds, gold is typically associated with other heavy minerals, such as black sands of magnetite and cassiterite. To the untrained eye, gold dust can be mistaken for sand, except for it being much heavier. In the mineral world, pyrite and chalcopyrite have been mistaken for gold, hence the common name "fool's gold" for these minerals.

When prospectors and explorers in the past would find gold, they would determine how rich the deposit was by performing an assay, which indicated how much gold per ton of ore they could expect. Modern assaying techniques use instruments such as atomic absorption spectroscopy and other instruments to determine the amount of gold in a sample. Of course, the price and difficulty in getting it out of the ground, transporting it, and smelting or refining it all are factors in deciding if the prospect is worthwhile. The processed gold most of us are familiar with is further characterized in several ways. Fineness refers to how many parts of gold are present out of 1000 parts total material. Karat, not to be confused with the measure for gem stones, is the measure of how many parts of gold are present out of a total of 24 parts of material. A 14K gold ring would have 14 parts of gold to 10 parts of other metals. Due to the softness of gold and ease of bending it, other metals are alloyed with gold to make it stronger and more practical for use in jewelry. Gold is weighed in troy ounces and troy pennyweights, with one troy ounce equal to 20 troy pennyweights and one troy pennyweight equal to 1.555 grams. One troy ounce equals 31.1 grams.

#### Gold in North America

Natives to North America have mined gold prior to European explorers arriving here. The Aztec gold and reports of Native Americans having mined gold on smaller scale in California and other states are documented in various histories. The first Spanish settlement in Texas was in the El Paso area in 1682, and the first prospectors went out from there around 1730. In the original 13 colonies, the discovery of gold in North Carolina in the 1790s set up the first gold rush in that area, with that state becoming the largest gold producer east of the Mississippi River.

Gold and Texas  
Continued

Gold was discovered at Sutter's in California in 1849, the Comstock Lode in Nevada in the 1860s, and in Colorado at Cripple Creek in 1892. The famous Klondike strike was discovered in 1896, and was actually in the Yukon Territory of Canada, yet it brought attention to gold prospecting and discovery in Alaska. Numerous stories of lost mines, such as the Lost Dutchman's Mine in Arizona spread rapidly at the time, and even today, have kept numerous people in search for these in hope of finding a bonanza. The Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota, has been in production from 1876 until 2002, going to a depth of about 8,000 feet. This mine accounted for about 10 percent of the total US gold production at that time, for some 40 million troy ounces. Other major gold producers in the US include the Carlin District, Nevada, discovered in 1962, which produced about 1.5 million troy ounces per year of gold since 1965, and the Round Mountain Mine, Nye County, Nevada, is reportedly the largest active gold producing mine in the US. The largest by-product gold mine is the Bingham Canyon Mine in Utah, producing from a copper porphyry deposit, producing 18 million troy ounces of gold since 1906. These major gold mining areas have made the US the number three gold producing nation in the world. This brings us to Texas, and why it hasn't been named amongst the major gold producing states.

#### Texas Gold

Texas is known for its "Black Gold", or oil production more than actual gold production. Relatively minor amounts of gold have been mined in Texas over the centuries, and not for lack of searching. Tales of lost Spanish mines and treasure abound in Texas, such as the San Saba Mine in the Hill Country. A good number of these can be found in the book "Coronado's Children-Tales of Lost Mines and Buried Treasure of the Southwest" by J. Frank Dobie, 1930. However, the first documented Spanish mine was for silver in 1756, on Riley Mountain, near Llano. West of the Packsaddle Mountains the Mexican or Mormon Gold Mine was reported to have been located, along with remains of an old recovery processing operation one-half mile west of Honey Creek, about three miles west of the Packsaddle Mountains. Near Enchanted Rock, north of Bull Head Creek, gold was also reported. In the Sandy Creek area and its tributaries that include Silver Mine Creek, Gold Mine Creek, Walnut Creek, Comanche Creek, Coal Creek, and Crab Apple Creek, all had reported shows of gold in small amounts in the past. The Heath Mine, some five miles east, northeast of Llano, was discovered in the early 1890s, and produced some gold from 1896 till 1916. The old mine is on private land north off Ranch Road 2241. The gold was reportedly in quartz veins and stringers. Generally, wherever streams cross the Packsaddle Schist are thought to be the best locations for finding gold in the streams of the Texas Hill Country, with the area upstream of Llano on the Llano River a favorite for hobbyists today.

Other gold prospects are reported in Tertiary sandstone nearer the Gulf of Mexico, most notably the Harwood Mine, east of Gonzales. Remains of an old Spanish recovery facility are on the ranch. Cretaceous limestone in Irion, Uvalde and Williamson Counties are also reported to have traces of gold, as are some sands and gravels in creeks in Howard and Taylor Counties. The final mention of gold in Central Texas is the Norse Gold Mine in Bosque County, on FM 182 just east, northeast of Sugarloaf Mountain, yet little to no gold is reportedly produced from these central Texas mines and prospects.

The West Texas-Trans Pecos areas have produced most of the gold actually mined in Texas. The Hazel Mine, north of Van Horn, the Presidio Mine, in the Shafter District on the south flank of the Chianti Mountains, and the Quitman Mountains have all reported prospects or gold production. input.

Gold and Texas  
Continued

The largest producing mine has been the Presidio Mine, which produced about 73percent of all Texas gold from 1884 till about 1942. So, aside from the mines in West Texas, little gold has actually been produced in minable quantities as it is not worth the effort. Still, legends persist, and who wouldn't want to stumble upon a gold nugget for their collection. The lure of gold for the treasure hunters and hobbyists alike will never be quenched. After all, it is "The stuff dreams are made of" (Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade, *The Maltese Falcon*).

Acknowledgement:

I want to thank AGMS member Grant Gibson for taking the time to review this and providing valuable

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Coronado's Children-Tales of Lost Mines and Buried Treasure of the Southwest, J. Frank Dobie, The Southwest Press, 1930

(Editors note: The first segment of this piece will appear in the Gem Capers Bulletin.)



ROCK PALS  
(from AFMS)

When you were in school, you may have been partnered with kids from schools in towns and countries far-and-wide to become Pen Pals in a letter-exchange program. Patricia Egolf of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York, has instituted a new spin on this for junior rockhounds, namely, establishing a "Rock Pals" program in conjunction with our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

Kids love the different rocks, minerals, and fossils to be found across our great nation, but they can't always afford to buy them or to travel to collect them. But how wonderful it would be for juniors in a club to band together to collect local samples to trade with juniors in other clubs across the country! With that in mind, Patricia has volunteered to establish and oversee "Rock Pals." A club would gather between 20 and 25 local specimens in sizes small enough for all to fit in a \$10.95 flat-rate box available at the post office and, after making arrangements with another club, each would mail a box to each other.

Clubs interested in participating should contact either Patricia Egolf (phone 315-471-1758, email [Pjegardens-aol.com](mailto:Pjegardens-aol.com)) or, as a back-up, Jim Brace-Thompson (phone 805-659-3577, email [jbracethroadrunner.com](mailto:jbracethroadrunner.com)). They'll be building and maintaining a list of clubs interested in participating that your club can contact and start the ball rolling. As a start, we've already heard from clubs in New York, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, and Washington, so we have all four corners of the nation covered, with a few points between!

Address Correction Requested



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August 2011 Newsletter

*The Stone Chipper*



### THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.



a member in good standing of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and the Association 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 website at [www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org). Contact our webmaster for website 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. The November meeting will be held on the THIRD Thursday. December is the Officers' Induction Banquet held on a date to be determined. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Show committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. All members are open to anyone. Society officers are listed on the front page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.



\$15.00 annually for an adult

#### DUES FOR 2011

Membership dues are:

\$20.00 annually for a couple

\$4.00 annually for juniors



#### THE STONE CHIPPER

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