

Austin Gem & Mineral Society

THE STONE CHIPPER



Each one teach one



Presidential Message

Hello, Gem & Mineral Enthusiasts,

It's time for the annual swap meet on April 14 at the clubhouse. We are expecting a crowd this year, as we have done more advertising. If you haven't attended one of our swap meets before, come and see what it is all about. You will find much to inspect, buy or swap, and it is always a lot of fun. Thanks to those who helped clean up our parking lot to get ready for the meet.

Also, this month is the Show Committee's second annual picnic and auction, to which they graciously invite all club members and their families. Last year we had a great time. Details will be forthcoming in the Stone Chipper and the AGMSlist.

I would like to encourage new members to get involved in classes, committees, Special Interest Groups, and the workshop, because this is the way to get much more out of your experience in AGMS.

As always, if you have suggestions for better ways to do things or new activities to investigate, bring them to the Board.

Pauline Denson

THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. (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 website at www.austingemandmineral.org Contact our webmaster for website 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 at 7:00 p.m. 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 meetings are open to anyone. Society officers are listed on the second page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information

Dues for 2012

Annual membership dues are:

Adult-\$15.00 Couple-\$20.00 Junior--\$4.00

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Officers

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Terry Barry
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Stretch Young
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Committee Chairs

Annual Show - Susan Postlethwait
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Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky
classes@austingemandmineral.org

Field Trips - Chip Burnette
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Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher
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Co-Librarians - Diann Hill, Terry Barry, Roger Waguespack, Harriet Streiber Librarian@austingemandmineral.org

Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Perkins
stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

Building Chair - Vacant

Display Cases - Jackie Fisher

Federation/Conservation - Paul Good

Historian - Vacant

Hospitality - Kathleen Howard

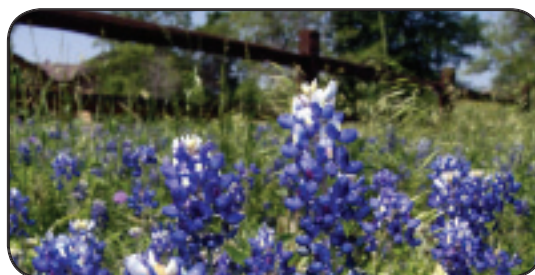
Membership - Tonya Barry

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

**Bar M Ranch Topaz**

Good news from Mason! The Bar M Ranch is open now through May 31 to topaz hunters. This newly opened hunting site is located on Honey Creek, downstream of the Seaquist ranch. It has never before been available to the public, so the hunting should be good.

Availability:

Feb.1-May 31, 8:30 AM-6 PM, 7 days a week

Primitive camping only:

\$20 per person per night (request group & child rates)

Camping and topaz hunting:

\$25 per person (request group & child rates)

Restrictions:

NO firearms, mechanized digging equipment, unattended children, or un-leashed dogs

Cont'd on Page 3

*Bar M Ranch**(Cont'd from page 2)*Rules:

- Safety first
- Check in with Mark Hahn prior to entry
- Signed liability release for each entrant
- May not leave assigned location (pasture) to hunt another location (pasture) without permission.
- No off-road driving
- Gates closed at all times
- No trash left behind
- Contact Mark Hahn when leaving
- Photographs of items found requested

For Information: Mark Hahn, 830-203-1611; 325-265-4223; mhahn@barmranchservices.com

Thanks to Diane Eames



Hunts & Events

April 14-15 Abilene, TX Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society show, Abilene Civic Center, N. 6th and Pine St. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5.

Apr 20-22 Alpine, TX Alpine Agate Festival, Chihuahua Desert Gem & Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center, Hwy 90 West Fri 9-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. NOTE: Teri Smith will be leading Walker Ranch field trips all three days—contact Teri at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.

Apr 27-29 Houston Fine Mineral Show Embassy Suites Hotel, 2911 Sage Rd., Houston, TX 77056 10-6 Fri & Sat, 10-5 Sun. Follow link... <http://finemineralshow.com>

Apr 28-29 Lubbock, TX Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Show, Lubbock Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Ln. Sat. 10-5, Sun 10-5.

Apr 28-29 Irvine, KY Mountain Mushroom Festival & Rock Show, Irvine, KY. (Field trips 24-26 Apr.)

May 26-27 Ft. Worth G & MS, Will Rogers Memorial center, Ft. Worth, TX

August 25-26, Jasper, TX SCFMS Annual Meeting & Show

From *The Rock Prattle* March 2012

AGMS Board Meeting Synopsis March 6, 2012

The AGMS Board of Directors held a regular meeting on March 6, 2012 to conduct club business. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting; a complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Attendees: All officers and directors were present as well as one club member.

Minutes: The February 7, 2012 minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The February 2012 Income and Expense Budget was presented.

Old Business:

List of known field trip locations to be shared with other local clubs: The Board was not able to reach a consensus on the matter.

Swap meet: Business owners in the area have been approached about using their parking spaces. The date of Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 until noon, was set for clearing our parking lot of weeds and debris prior to the swap meet.

New Business:

Resolution for Teri Smith: Teri Smith requested AGMS consider passing a resolution that any field trip led by her is designated as an official AGMS field trip in order to eliminate any participant having to join the Rollin Rock Club for insurance

*March AGMS Board Meeting
(Cont'd from page 3)*

purposes. No resolution was passed. She also requested a letter of recommendation for her trips.

Lost wax casting supplies:

The club has some existing wax forms that will be offered to students in any upcoming lost wax casting class.

Mail issues:

Procedures for handling sorting of incoming mail were outlined.

Sign out of club fluorescent lights and other equipment:

A sign-out and in sheet will be created for use when equipment is borrowed for club-related functions.

Request to use the clubhouse:

The Austin Jewelry Association would like to use the clubhouse for a meeting. More information is being requested from them.

The meeting was adjourned.

Joyce Hrapsky, 2012 Secretary

Minerals SIG Meeting

We had our first Minerals SIG meeting on Tuesday. Those who came learned that the white mineral on the azurite and malachite specimen from the Tucson Show, which I posted to the AGMS list previously, was gypsum and not cerussite as I had earlier suggested. The meeting started at 7 pm and ended about 8:30pm. About 20 people with varying levels of knowledge from basic to advanced came. The first part of the meeting was used for introductions and for participants to discuss their knowledge, interests, and ideas for the SIG. Several people brought unknown specimens, and the second part of the meeting was dedicated to trying to identify them. Robert Morriss generously donated a piece of prehnite as a door prize, which was won by Pauline Denson. I'd like to thank everyone who came and offered ideas.

Here are some of the areas of interest that were mentioned:

Techniques for identifying minerals

Help with identifying minerals

Creating a database of mineral locations that could be used for field trips

Field trips

Discussing minerals are generally associated with others

The general format of future meetings will be fairly casual. Each meeting will have two parts. The first will be a presentation or discussion of a specific topic by one of the SIG members. The second part will be used to discuss specimens that members bring to the meetings. Andrea Miller has generously offered to discuss mineral properties and how they can be used to identify specimens at the next meeting on April 10th at 7pm.

Roger Waguespack

How Geodes Are Created

Geodes begin as bubbles in volcanic rock or as animal burrows, tree roots or mud balls in sedimentary rock. Over time, the outer shell of the spherical shape hardens, and water containing silica precipitation forms on the inside walls of the hollow cavity within the geode. The silica precipitation can contain any variety of dissolved minerals, the most common being quartz, but amethyst and calcite are also found.

Over a period of thousands of years, layers of silica cool, forming crystals of different minerals within the cavity. Different types of silica cool at varying temperatures, thus creating layers of different types of mineral crystals. Each geode is unique in composition and can only be truly discovered when cracked open or cut with a rock saw. The size and formation of crystals and different shades of color within the crystals make each geode special. The rough exterior of the geode gives no indication of

the secrets held within its core. The anticipation never fades for those who curiously collect buckets full of round geodes and eagerly expose the secrets of each individual sphere shaped rock. The most prized contain rare amethyst crystals or black calcites.

From March 2004 Rock Rattler, Ark-La-Tex GMS

BIRTHDAYS ARE IMPORTANT! That's why we regret not featuring any this month. Sorry, April babies. Please let me know who you are and when you arrived and you will appear in May's issue.

Minutes of AGMS General Meeting March 22, 2012-7:00p.m.

Pauline Denson, President, called the meeting to order.

Paul Bordovsky introduced the speaker, Steve Blyskal, who gave a presentation on the minerals and mine of Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico. He brought several flats of mineral specimens from the mine from his personal collection and also brought minerals from the mine for sale. Included in the presentation were slides showing a variety of Naica specimens.

Paul said that Gail and Jim Spann from Dallas will be our speakers for April.

Pauline reminded everyone that a volunteer is still needed to manage building repairs such as air conditioning, etc. Gef Fisher handles incidentals such as replacing light bulbs, etc. A volunteer is also needed to act as club historian.

On behalf of Carolyn Perkins, new *Stone Chipper* editor, Pauline said that anyone who did not receive the newsletter either by postal mail or email should contact her.

Committee Reports

Hospitality: Kathleen Howard asked that refreshments and open colas not be left after the

meetings. She stated that there is a sufficient supply of plates and utensils now on hand. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring refreshments was passed around.

Membership: Tonight's meeting was attended by 70 members.

Tonya Barry showed a pin that her brother made for her to wear to club meetings. He will be making bronze medallions (or pendant) with "Austin Gem and Mineral" on them to sell for \$24.99, and Tonya will take orders at the meeting. A \$1.00 donation will be made to the club from each sale.

Field Trips: Chip Burnette said that the field trip to Cherokee, Texas originally scheduled for March 10 is this weekend. Texas Topaz days in Mason, Texas is this weekend. April 20-22 is the Agate Festival led by Teri Smith. May 20 is the Memorial Day weekend trip to Paron, Arkansas. For more information, contact Chip at trip@austingemandmineral.org.

Show: Susan Postlethwait said that everyone is invited to the annual Picnic/Auction hosted by the Show Committee on April 28 at Emma Long Park off Hwy. 2222. Bring a pot luck dish, drinks and desserts and a rock for the live auction. The committee will provide burgers, hotdogs, sausage, buns and paper products. Bring a canned good for donating. Please rsvp to Dee Fly. Flyers are available for more information.

Susan reminded everyone that the theme for the 2012 capping contest is calcite and challenged members to create a cabochon to compete with last year's contest winner.

Sunshine: Fran Ellis reported that "thinking of you" cards had been sent to two members.

Mineral ID SIG: Roger Waguespack said that the first meeting was held on Tuesday, March 13 and was attended by between 15-20 people with various levels of expertise. Some members

brought unknown minerals for identification. Among topics discussed were techniques and the creation of a database. The next meeting is April 10 at 7:00 p.m. Andrea Miller will discuss identification. Reminder notices will be published to the Yahoo List and in the *Stone Chipper*.

Swap Meet: It is set for April 14. This coming Saturday (March 24) has been designated as parking lot clean-up day, starting between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Andrea Miller requested that if anyone has large plastic containers they can donate, please bring them on Saturday.

Door Prizes:

The following people won door prizes: Craig Brandt, Joe Perkins, Dee Fly, Brian Wetzig, Chantal Berezovytch, Kathleen Howard, Marilyn Bowers, Louis Lee and Pauline Denson.

Show and Tell:

Alan Cherepon – a specimen from the Naica mine.
 Chip Burnette – cabochons he cut from material from the Deming field trip and serpentine from Pennsylvania which had gold inclusions.
 Nancy Hause – a large amethyst slab won as a grand prize at the San Antonio show.
 Ron Guzman – a large specimen from the Naica mine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. with refreshments following.

Joyce Hrapsky, 2012 Secretary

Sorting the Club's Mail

Your help is needed in sorting mail in the correct boxes. If you are at the clubhouse and pick up mail, please distribute it in the following manner:

1. If a past officer's name is on the mail piece, it should be placed in the current officer's box. For example, if it was addressed to a former President (Alan, Robert, Josie, etc.), please

put it in the President's box so that Pauline receives it.

2. If there is no specific name on the mail piece (i.e., junk mail or mail addressed to a former member), put it in the miscellaneous hanging box.
3. If there is a specific name on the piece but no hanging box for that person, either phone or email the person to notify them of the mail, particularly if the mail is first class.
4. If it is something that was not delivered via USPS (it was put through the mail slot) and is not directed to a particular person, open the envelope to determine to whom it should be directed, i.e., membership dues, class fees, etc. and put it in their box, or if no box, email or call them.



Steve Blyskal was guest speaker at the March AGMS General Meeting. He discussed the minerals of Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico, displaying the numerous samples he has collected.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS--We look forward to receiving your article on or before the 6th of each month.

It's that time again, please pay your 2012 dues using the handy coupon below. Simply cut out the membership application below and enclose with your dues.

AUSTIN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC,
Membership Application
(Please Print)

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Junior name: _____

Junior name _____

Junior name _____

Dues: _____ Single (\$15.00) _____ Couple (\$20.00) _____ Juniors (\$4.00 each)

Email-only newsletter: _____

If you wish to have **only your name** published in a membership roster please check here _____

What telephone number may we include? _____

May we include your e-mail address? Yes _____ No _____

You may mail your check and the above membership application to:

AGMS
6719 BURNET LANE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78757
(512) 458-9546

As some of you have moved during the past year, and/or changed your e-mail address, returning the membership application will allow us to verify the mailing address and contact information we currently have on file for you.

Gem Capers Show Committee

April-May Dates to Remember

- March 15 Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room
- April 19 Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
- April 28 Picnic/Auction at Turkey Creek Pavillion--10 am

Susan Postlethwait-2012 Show Chair

2015 AGMS/SCFMS/ AFMS

- June 14 2015 Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
- Sept 13 2015 Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
- Dec 13 2015 Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm

Susan Postlethwait-2012 Show Chair

Show Committee Meeting March 15, 2012

Show Committee Meeting March 15, 2012

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

Minutes: Minutes for January were presented for review and then submitted with corrections.

Treasurer: Brian advised balance for the start of February and March.

Susan still needs to talk to Ed Gage about the competition exhibits. Susan will look in her information to finding any contracts on Demonstrators.

Susan will bring the gravel and sand. Susan will order Riverside signs.

Susan will talk to Charlotte about how much the dealer's signs cost.

Weigh what inventory we have for the Gem Mine. Do pre-made cords and an inventory count on the Jewelry making.

Stretch will send trailer waivers to the dealers with the move-in letter but will have some blank ones available at the show. Stretch will inquire at Silicon Labs about posters for the Federations show.

April Meeting will not be needed.

Picnic: Is April 28th at the same as last year. Emma Long Park at the picnic sight on the left just before the entrance to the park. The club will furnish the hamburger meat and buns, Andrea will bring a cake in honor of her Mother and the rest will be potluck. Bring your own condiments for the burgers. Stretch will bring the cabbing contest reward for the juniors.

Victoria club contacted our club to inform us that our show dates for this year and next are the same dates for their show. There are a couple of dealers that were not going to be back at our show this year, Aquarius and JS Gems because of retiring or health and travel.

Because of the dates of both show some dealers are staying with the Victoria show because they have already paid their booth fees. We will replace the dealers that are not attending our show and give them a 1-year pass but to get into our show again after that they will have to resubmit an application. We will consider distributing contracts earlier because of the conflict. James Mercier will be going to the Tulsa show and will check out any new dealers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Don't forget to sign up in the refreshment book for your turn to bring refreshments for 2012. Sign up now and beat the rush.

Show Committee 2nd Annual Picnic & Auction

Spring has arrived in Texas! Buckets of rain, temperatures that soar and fall at whim and incredible sunsets! Bluebonnets and huisache in bloom. This is what I love about Texas!

Last year the show committee hosted a picnic to celebrate the 50th Show for Austin Gem & Mineral Society....what a milestone for the club. Well I have to tell you we had such a good time we have decided to do it again. Yep, you read it right here, WE are having a picnic! Save the date.....April 28th.

Here are all the details:

Date: April 28th Saturday

Time: High Noon (This is Texas!)

Where: Turkey Creek Shelter on Emma Long Park Rd
Turkey Creek Shelter is on the left, 5.6 miles from the junction of 2222 and City Park Road. If you get to the pay station, you have missed it by 1/10th of a mile.

The show committee will supply:

Burgers n Buns

Hotdogs n Buns

Sausage n Tortillas

Plates, silverware, napkins, n cups

Members need to bring:

Side, salad, dessert or snack

Something "Rocky" for the auction

Canned Good for the Food Bank

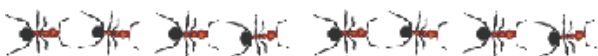
Lawn Chair

Your drinks

Sunscreen, bug spray, hat

What will we do??? We will have games, good food, auction, and just some good camaraderie! And don't forget we love tall tales about the rocks that got away!

Please RSVP to Dee Fly at 434-8613 or Dee.Fly@ipaper.com



Thanks!

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



Tucson: Heaven, Haven or Hades--by Josie Middleton

Well folks, I happen to be of the opinion that this is a truism for all that attend. A place of beauty, fraud, and just wonderment that the earth can hold any and all of these for you!

That unless you have the wherewithal to be at a mine, hopefully, you may be the one of the select few who will ever see that one item. To also gain the opportunities to even purchase such a part of that history. People gainsay and beleaguer this time spent, always hunting, roaming and gathering. It sounds all so rather, primordial. Then of course, you have the fraudsters, who would give all the others of honest value, a run for their money, literally. This is where the love of history, of geography, of learning and languages, all become one!

Now I am only a mineral collector, who happens to enjoy the small stuff. I don't really notice those massive pieces, but the sizes of some of those minerals defy comprehension. The amount of effort, cost, and yes, some human toll, which takes place to bring such items for your viewing pleasure and to bring the right buyer, that is, AWESOME!!! Sometimes, my pint size frame was somewhat dwarfed, again literally, by the size of the tent, and the occupants! There were so many outlying shows, the web has not necessarily gotten bigger but it is more widespread. You literally can't walk every show in a day's time unless you have the eye for only one type of item and resist temptation to be side tracked, in other words, focus.

I was not surprised by the amount of persons there whom I actually knew or had known at one point or other! It is really a small community, where one loves to share the knowledge and the wealth in one form or fashion. So in conclusion, for me it was all the above title, which to me, is, was, and will, always be fascination!

The Stone Chipper is the official publication of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. It is published monthly in Austin, Texas. Expanded minutes of Board Meetings are available upon request. Note: Clip art images are under Copyright 2010 by the AGMS and its licensors. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, text items in *The Stone Chipper* may be reproduced in other nonprofit publications as long as proper credit is given to the author and *The Stone Chipper*. All authors who make submissions to this newsletter are presumed to agree with this policy.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society
presents



Gem Capers 2012

51st Annual Gemstone, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show

Friday October 19th 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday October 20th 10 a.m.- 6p.m.
Sunday October 21st 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Palmer Events Center,
900 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX

For more information please visit www.GemCapers.com

The Stone Chipper

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April 2012 Newsletter

Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org