

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 2012 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.

2012 Society Officers:

President - Pauline Denson - president@austingemandmineral.org
 1st VP - Richard Dorsey - vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org
 2nd VP - Paul Bordovsky - vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org
 Treasurer - Wing Evans - treasurer@austingemandmineral.org
 Secretary - Joyce Hrapsky - secretary@austingemandmineral.org

2012 Board Members:

Lou Pulliam - loup@austingemandmineral.org
 Marilyn Gilbreath marilyng@austingemandmineral.org
 Sian Schilhab - sians@austingemandmineral.org
 Harold Von Rosenberg - haroldv@austingemandmineral.org
 Terry Barry - terryb@austingemandmineral.org
 Stretch Young - stretchy@austingemandmineral.org



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 7:00p.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 front page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

DUES FOR 2012

Membership dues are:

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

Chipper Chatter

The following members celebrate *birthdays* in February and March:

Tony Peregrino 2/5

Barbara Evans 2/17

Andrea Miller 2/20

Charles Covill 3/2

Diann Hill 3/6

Marilyn Gilbreath 3/14

Stoney Hill 3/26

Let us help you celebrate your birthday by listing it in *The Stone Chipper*.

Please e-mail the editor at stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org, with your birth month and day so it can be added to the list.



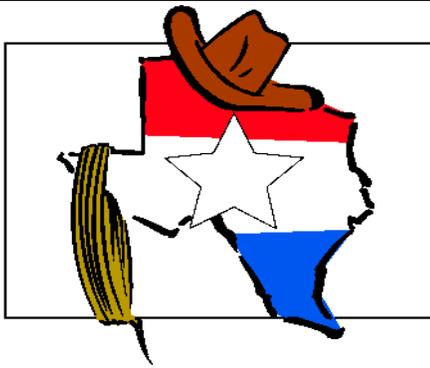
SPECIAL NOTICE

Starting in 2013 there will be a \$10.00 yearly fee to receive *The Stone Chipper* by U.S. Postal mail. At the January 2012 board meeting, this matter was discussed and voted on. Emailing *The Stone Chipper* will remain free of charge. *The Stone Chipper* will continue to be posted monthly on the AGMS website www.AustinGemandMineral.org.



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PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Greetings, AGMS members,

Thanks to you, we are off to a flying start. We have several classes scheduled to start, and two members stepped up to take committee chairs. Kathleen Howard is our new Hospitality Chairperson and Fran Ellis is our new Sunshine chairperson. Way to go, Kathleen and Fran.

We had an outstanding speaker at the January general meeting. So put the February meeting on your calendar and see what Paul Bordovsky has for us then.

I have heard of a couple of educational outreaches by members recently. We need to document those in the AGMS historical record, so if you do a program for a school, or for Boy Scouts, or any other community educational project, be sure you give the information to Carolyn Perkins.

As always, I solicit your ideas and suggestions for new ways to improve AGMS. See you at the meeting.

Pauline



Eagle Pass Cobbles come to Boerne - A Field Trip Opportunity

Boerne Rock Shop and the Cave Without a Name have teamed up to create a field trip opportunity - hunting Rio Grande rock in relative comfort. We've hired transport for nearly 50 yards of Eagle Pass cobbles, and working through slippery surface issues, managed to place the rock at the Cave Without a Name. The cave is located 15 minutes east of Boerne at 325 Kreuzberg Road, and about 50 minutes from downtown San Antonio. We couldn't resist "testing" the pile and found beautiful jasper, plume agate, petrified wood, fluorescent quartz masses, chert, fossils, and even fire agate. Many cobbles are small enough to cut in a trim saw. Cost to rock club members and guests is \$2 per pound. (Hauling all those tons of rock wasn't free). Our first "day on the rock pile" will be Saturday, 25 February 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. Bring your favorite collecting tools and a lunch. We have running water available, bags for your beauties. There are picnic tables and toilet facilities at the Cave, and all participants are eligible for a discount on cave tour tickets. The collection area is conditionally handicap accessible, but the cave is not. We're working on plans for an April Pow Wow Tailgate Sale and Rock Hunt (camping available).

Dick and Bess Shields, Tom Summers
Boerne Rock Shop and Studio, Cave Without a Name
manager@boernerockshop.com www.cavewithoutaname.com

MINUTES OF AGMS GENERAL MEETING

January 26, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Pauline Denson, President, called the meeting to order. She reminded everyone not to park in front of the Taco Shack property.

Paul Bordovsky introduced the speaker, Charles Kirkpatrick, a wholesale jewelry manufacturer. Charles spoke on recent developments in the diamond business, the breakup of the DeBeers corporation, and other diamond trends.

Pauline welcomed the visitors. There were visitors from Houston, Austin, Round Rock and Bastrop. One of the visitors, Sam Rodgers, is the Hunt Director for Southwest Gem & Mineral Society in San Antonio. Sam suggested that our clubs jointly work to create a list of available places for field trips and to develop a plan to encourage rock hunting among the younger generation.

Pauline announced that Kathleen Howard had volunteered to head the Hospitality Committee. There is still a need for a Sunshine Committee chairman to assume the duties formerly held by Ron and Jennifer Guzman.

Committee Reports

Library: Harriet Strieber said that she is now doing more cataloging and that Diann Hill is assuming more of Harriet's duties. Harriet then introduced the other librarians and gave their responsibilities: Roger Weguespack – periodicals and media, and Terry Barry – overdue books. There will always be one of the librarians present during meetings to give access to the library. Diann said that currently two books are overdue and a new book has been donated. She also thanked the Club for the book donated in memory of her mother. She said that the majority of our books are geared towards adults and stated that donations of books for juniors would be helpful in encouraging more participation by our junior members.

Education: Joyce Hrapsky displayed the Class Sign-Up notebook and explained that after a sufficient number of people have signed up on a waiting list for a particular class, a member instructor will set dates, then those on the waiting list would be notified of the dates. She also pointed out that a syllabus and/or tools list was located behind the sign-up sheets for each class. She asked that people print clearly on the sign-up sheets.

Hospitality: Kathleen Howard asked for people to sign up to bring refreshments to the meetings. Members have already volunteered for the next two months.

Show Committee: Susan Postlethwait announced that show themes for the next few years have been set. 2012 is calcite, 2013 is Famous Heists, 2014 is Dinosaurs, and 2015 is Pegmatites. The capping contest will be held again in 2012 with calcite being the featured stone. Details on the contest will be given in the coming months. A date has been set for the annual Show Picnic/Auction. It will be held on April 28th at the Turkey Creek Pavilion at Emma Long Park and will be pot luck. Sue said she needs someone who has a truck to load the Wheel of Fortune and stand and deliver it to Georgetown this weekend. Robert Morriss volunteered.

MINUTES OF AGMS GENERAL MEETING
January 26, 2012
continued

Field Trips: Chip Burnette announced two out-of-state trips currently scheduled: March 8-10, 2012 – Rockhound Roundup in Deming, New Mexico; and April 24-26, 2012 - Mountain Mushroom Festival in Irvine, Kentucky. Another trip is currently being planned for the Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28, 2012 at the mine owned by Julian Turner in Paron, Arkansas. Julian is inviting AGMS members to join him that weekend at no charge. He asks that members only take the smaller crystals and not the large yard rock. Julian emphasized that the area is primitive with no water, electricity or bathrooms, but camping is welcomed. More information, cost, location, etc. on these trips will be posted in the Chipper or you can contact Chip.

Announcements:

Andrea Miller said that more tumbled stones are needed for this year's show.

Roger Weguespack would like to meet with anyone interested in forming a mineral identification special interest group (SIG). He posted a message on the Yahoo List earlier this week and several people have already indicated an interest. He will meet with Pauline after adjournment tonight to discuss possible times.

Door Prizes: The drawing was held and the following people made their selections: Laura Dow, Chantal Berezovytch, Ron Hrapsky, Kelley Tom, Ivy Hjernevik, Will Berezovytch and Lillian Butler.

Show and Tell: Tony Pulliam showed a souvenir he and Lou brought back from Brazil. It was a colorful carved parrot mounted in amethyst.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned with refreshments following. There were 63 members and 9 visitors present.

Minutes Submitted by Joyce Hrapsky, 2012 Secretary



TUMBLER TIPS

- Vaseline can be used around the rim of a tumbler before anchoring the lid to get a tight seal and an easily removable lid.
- Use enough filler materials to keep the rocks from knocking together. Suggested filler materials are whole grain oats purchased from any feed store, ground up corn cobs, rubber bands (which can be used and re-used), and plastic pellets.
- Be sure to have a lot of small stones and a variety of sizes for good abrasive action among the stones. The smaller stones help abrade the centers of larger materials. When finished with polish let the stones soak in a 50/50 solution of vinegar and water.

Via QUARRY QUIPS, February 2012

Upcoming Shows

Feb 18-19 Georgetown, TX, Williamson CO Gem & Mineral Society San Gabriel Park, Adults \$2, Students \$1.

Feb 25-26 Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Show, Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Pkwy. Adults \$5, Students \$1.

Mar 3-4 Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Show, Richard Borchard Regional Fairground, 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd., US 77 and Hwy 44. Adults \$5, children free.

Mar 8-11 Deming, NM, Deming Gem & Mineral Show, SWNM Fairgrounds, Raymond Reed Blvd. Free Admission, Field Trips available!!!

Mar 17-18 Live Oak (San Antonio), TX, San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society, Live Oak Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd. Adults \$5, Seniors & Military \$3, students \$2.



Out of State Digging Opportunities Available:

Rockhound Roundup (Deming, NM) 08 – 10 March 2012

Field trips (three locations each day) are available Thursday through Saturday during the Deming, NM Annual Rock & Gem Show. Trips leave at 8:00 a.m. daily from the show site, and return by mid- afternoon, so you have plenty of time to shop and enjoy the show. Cost is \$5 to \$10 per person per day, depending on location. Locations will include Big Dig (agate), Baker Ranch (geodes), Honey Onyx, and several others. Sign up for the field trips in person at the show – Hope to see you there!

Mountain Mushroom Festival (Irvine, KY) 24 – 26 April, 2012

Daily guided hunts for Kentucky Agate from 9:00 a.m. to late afternoon – cost is \$10 per day, and you have the choice of “easy terrain” (can drive closer to the creeks where you hunt) or “rough terrain” (more walking to the creeks). Hunts are limited to 30 people per day, so early sign-up is encouraged. (I have copies of the form available, see me at the meeting or request a copy by e-mail). The Mushroom Festival itself happens 28 – 29 April in Irvine, KY, and features a Rock & Gem show, Mushroom Cook-off, Car Show, Mushroom Market, and many other activities.

Submitted by Chip Burnette

Show Committee Meeting
January 19, 2012

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

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

Treasurer: Brian advised beginning balance for January.

Old Business:

New Chairpersons:

Show Exhibits - Discuss how this would be a co-chairperson. One person would get exhibits lined up for competition and the other would take care of other exhibits excluding the education exhibits

Advertising: Kelsey

Signs: Andrea and Sian are heading up the Sign chair. Andrea will take care of Crystal display cases.

Committee Reports

Fluorescent cases: need to work on lights.

Gem Mine: Susan will get the gravel and sand.

Grand Prize Ticket: Dee presented a new form for the Grand Prize ticket, taking out the e-mail address. Everyone approved and Dee will send to Charlotte.

Jewelry Making: Need to do pre-made cords and will need all findings.

Wheel of Fortune: Stretch will pickup arrowheads in Tucson. Pauline also needs small mineral specimens. A suggestion was made that the rings on the Wheel of Fortune be placed on cords and made into necklaces.

New Business:

Demonstrators: Send out contracts to them and look to see if all demonstrators get contracts.

Picnic: Will be April 28th and menu will be discussed later.

Palmer contract: Need to get a copy of the Palmer contract about leaving trailers. Send them out when the move-in letter goes out to dealers.

Signs: Need additional signs for doors on Riverside pointing to entrance. Susan will order 20 signs.

Show themes: Stretch suggested Pegmatites for the Federation show.

2012 – Calcites

Competition cab is calcite.

2013 – Famous Heists

Competition cab is open – free form.

2014 – Dinosaurs

Competition cab is dino bone.

2015 – Pegmatites

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

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;
E-mail 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 email address? Yes ___ No ___

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

AGMS
Attn: Ewing Evans
6719 BURNET LANE
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757
(512) 458-9546

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



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, make sure you get your favorite month for those wonderful snacks. Thanks to everyone who so faithfully brought snacks during this past year. It is a wonderful way to meet guests and mingle with fellow club members.

Come to the Texas Faceters' Guild Seminar

Sunday, March 25, 9am to 5pm

In conjunction with

Texas Topaz Day, March 24

The Wildlife Ranch Lodge

College @ Live Oak, Mason, Texas

Join Texas Faceters' Guild and hone your skills as a gem cutter. Learn how to move up to the next level, or ask the masters for help with that pesky gem. Feel free to bring your faceting equipment, or use ours.

*Robert Strickland- Advanced designing with GemCad

*Scott Sucher- The development of diamond cutting

*Robert James, GG, FGA- How the study of gemology helps faceters

*Ewing Evans- Demonstration of USFG gemstone judging

The cost is \$75 for non-members, \$40 for those that join Texas Faceters Guild at the seminar, and free for current members. Limited to 30 faceters. Registering in advance is mandatory. Checks payable to Texas Faceters' Guild. Send with your info. to Texas Faceters' Guild, c/o Hollis Thompson, 2713 Vinwood Cove, Round Rock, TX 78559.

The seminar will be held at The Wildlife Ranch lodge, a block off the Mason courthouse square. We have it for the entire weekend. It offers space for presentations, as well as on site lodging. Faceting machines can be left up for the entire weekend. There's a kitchen, outdoor area with fire pit and bbq pit, and a card room. There are 2 to 4 beds per room. The down side- a communal bath- the lodge is a re-purposed old folk's home. Photos are posted on www.thewildliferanch.com/lodging, as well as our sites below. Reserve space for the lodge at Gems of the Hill Country, 325-347-0475, or gemologist@texas-topaz.com. There are a couple of motels in town, and many B&B's, as well as RVparks. See www.masontxcoc.com, or www.masontexaslodging.com.

For more information, contact B. Diane Eames, GG, 325-347-0475, gemologist@texas-topaz.com. More details soon on www.texasfacetersguild.org, or www.texas-topaz.com.



Motto-A-Day

- ◆ A little experience often upsets a lot of theory.
- ◆ It takes a baby approximately two years to learn to talk and between sixty and seventy years to learn when to keep his mouth shut.
- ◆ Success is a journey, not a destination.
- ◆ The right kind of criticism will leave a person with the idea that he has been helped.
- ◆ There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."

via Hound's Howl Jan. 2012

Gem Capers Show Committee
Dates to remember

- February 16 There was NO Show Committee meeting
- March 15 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- April 19 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- April 28 Show Picnic/Auction at Turkey Creek Pavilion 10am Details will be in the Stone Chipper
- May 17 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- June 21 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- July 19 NO Show Committee meeting
- August 16 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- Sept 20 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- Oct 18 Show Set up – Volunteers to be at Palmer no earlier than 2pm
- Oct 19, 20, 21 Gem Show
- Nov 8 Show Committee meeting at the clubhouse 7pm Set up in general meeting room
- Dec 20 NO Show Committee meeting



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.

Show Committee News

As promised to you in the January meeting, you can read it here in the Stone Chipper!

The show committee had a really productive January meeting and we have some wonderful things coming up in the next few months!

First off, we set the show theme for this year AND all the way to 2015. We were very industrious! We talked about what themes can club members support as many customers asked "Where's the gold?" last year. Lesson learned.

This year's show theme is CALCITE, with Famous Heists in 2013, the ever popular Dinosaurs in 2014 and Pegmatites in 2015.

To go along with this year's show theme, we will of course have the cabbing contest follow the same theme- the stone for 2012 is Calcite. 2013 will be Cutter's Choice, 2014 will be none other than Dino Bone! We will even include poop! (Coprolite to us grown-ups). We are still discussing 2015 but will have a choice soon.

But new to our show this year will be a single specimen competitive category for all of our members. In a nutshell (or dare I say Geode?) we will have a case at the show and you are invited to enter a single specimen for judging. This will allow all of us to show off our wonderful finds without having to come up with a whole case full of specimens (which I understand to be at least 20!). To go along with this year's show theme, our inaugural specimen is Calcite! Calcite from anywhere on the planet! While we are working out the details I can tell you that AMFS uniform rules will apply. So please, dig through your stash, find those nifty calcites and we will keep you abreast of what's happening.

And last but certainly not least is the Show Picnic/Auction. We had such a good time last year we voted to do it again. Same thing as last year, we will be at the Turkey Creek Pavilion at Emma Long Park Saturday, April 28th starting about 10am. This is pot luck picnic with a live auction. Bring a side dish, your favorite beverage, and an auction item. We had a lot of fun last year so come on, put us on your calendar, pack up the chairs and have some fun!

2015 AGMS/SCFMS/AFMS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 8th | Kickoff meeting for the 2015 AGMS/SCFMS/AFMS Gem Capers Gem and Mineral Show 7pm at clubhouse |
| June 14th | Quarterly 2015 meeting 7pm at clubhouse |
| Sept 13 | Quarterly 2015 meeting 7pm at clubhouse |
| Dec 13 | Quarterly 2015 meeting 7pm at clubhouse |

Susan Postlethwait - 2012
Show Chair



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org

Address Correction Requested



The Stone Chipper
Diann Hill, Editor
6719 BURNET LANE
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757
(512) 458-9546
StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org

Feb 2012
Newsletter

Austin Gem and Mineral Society
presents
GEM CAPERS 2012

51st Annual Gemstone, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show

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

Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Rd
Austin , Texas

For more information please visit: www.GemCapers.com

