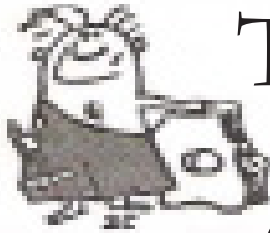


# Austin Gem & Mineral Society



# THE STONE CHIPPER

Each one teach one



## Presidential Message

Hello, fellow rockhounds,

March already! Time to start thinking of field trips and swap meets and vacations to places where we can hunt for specimens.

If there is a particular trip you would like our field trip chair to set up, don't hesitate to contact Chip Burnett. There are many fairly close places we have hunted in the past, and I would like to see repeat visits to some of them before the weather heats up too much.

On the more mundane side, we are still in need of a volunteer Historian. This isn't a difficult job, and for newer members it would give you many opportunities to learn more about the club and other members. Give me a call if you are interested.

The Board has set a clean-up-the-parking-lot date on March 24, with a rain fall-back date of March 31, to get our space spruced up for the swap meet in April. Plan to come and help.

Let's make it a good month!

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](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 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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## The Agates of Northern Mexico

### by Nova Wells

Did you happen to attend rock shows in the 50's and 60's and fall in love with the beautiful banded agates of Laguna and Coyamita? Did you dream of the day when you could take a trip to Mexico and hunt the agates yourself? According to author Brad Cross, your best chance is to watch for estate sales from Texas rockhounds.

The credit for discovering Mexican agates and Laguna, in particular, goes to Dr. Ralph Mueller and a reference published in Lapidary Journal in the late 1940's. Most of the agates are named for the large ranches (Spanish land grants of over 35 million acres to seven families between 1884 and 1922) in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. The state of Chihuahua

includes migrating sand dunes, the Mexican portion of the Sonoran Desert (grassy plains) and igneous mountains overlaying limestone deposits. Mining and cattle ranching are the two primary businesses. Each agate site produced distinctive banding, different from the others. Manganese compounds produced shades of violet and iron contributes reds and yellows.

When you first begin researching, it sounds like the supply of beautiful agates is never ending. They are produced in the gas pockets of volcanic flows that may be as thick as 500 feet and contain as many as 20 different flows. More reading reveals that the agates occur in only the top layers, and not in all of them. Finally you learn that in the 40's and 50's when rockhounds first began collecting, the agates lay loose on the ground, product of countless years of weathering. Once the ground surface had been cleaned, local people began hand digging in the hard andesite matrix to free the agates. Most of the favorite and best known sites have been exhausted to the point only small and not particularly colorful agates are produced, if any! Geodes and crazy lace agate is still fairly plentiful.

excerpted from *The Agates of Northern Mexico*  
from *The Hound's Tale* 2/00  
via *Golden Spike News* 11/01

## Rio Grande Agate in Boerne

*Chip Burnette took advantage of the opportunity to hunt for imported Rio Grande agate at the Cave With No Name in Boerne last month:*

“The Cave With No Name had teamed up with the Boerne Rock Shop to bring 50 cubic yards of Rio Grande river rock from Eagle Pass to the grounds of the cave for Rockhounds to search without having to make the drive to Eagle Pass.

The Rio Grande River flows from southwestern Colorado, through New Mexico, and along the TX/Mexico border on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, it picks up and carries tons of rocks, sand and silt, including some fabulous *(cont'd on page 3)*

(cont'd from page 2)

lapidary material. The material brought to Boerne had been dumped in a low pile about 8 feet wide, 40 feet long and a foot or two high for easy searching. The hunt was made easier by the availability of two hoses, so we could wet down the rocks.

In about four hours, we found some excellent plume agate, fortifications agate, petrified wood, jasper, chert and several varieties of rhyolite in the pile. Weather was excellent, and it was great to be out collecting!

### Upcoming Events

Mar 23-24 Alpine, TX Teri Smith will be leading Walker Ranch Field trips all three days—contact Teri at [agatehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agatehunter@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

April 14-15 Abilene, TX Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society show, Abilene Civic Center, N. 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Feb. 7, 2012

The AGMS Board of Directors held a regular meeting on February 7, 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: A quorum was present consisting of four officers, five directors and two club members.

Minutes: The January 3, 2012 minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The January 2011 Income and Expense Budget was presented.

#### **New Business:**

##### Minerals ID SIG

The second Tuesday of the month has been selected as meeting night for a Mineral Identification SIG. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. The first meeting will be in March. Roger Waguespack will coordinate the meetings.

##### Request for fund-raising article to be placed in our newsletter

An email from an out-of-state collector was sent to the Club with a request that a notice be placed in the *Stone Chipper* advertising a fund-raising project to create an educational video documentary series about gems, minerals and mineral collecting and asking for donations from our members. It was the general consensus that AGMS not participate.

##### Request from quilters to use bldg

Motion unanimously passed for the quilting group to meet in our building again this year on April 21, June 2 and June 3, 2012. In exchange for the use of our building, the quilting group sews our Gem Capers banners.

##### List of previously and currently known collecting locations to be shared with other local clubs and sharing of field trips`

In response to a request from a visitor at the January general meeting from one of the

*Cont'd on Page 4*

**Board Meeting***Cont'd from Page 3*

San Antonio clubs,

AGMS will jointly work with that club to compile a list of hunt locations. Pauline will send out a general email calling for any former field trip leader to provide information about past field trips and locations.

**Audit committee**

The CPA currently has our books for tax preparation purposes. Members of the audit committee will consist of two Club members and one Board member for the purpose of checking the Club's books to verify all entries.

**Swap meet**

The date of April 14, 2012 has been set. The hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is proposed to be held outside the fence. Since parking is limited, a Board member will talk to business owners in the area to see if parking on their premises would be allowed.

**Request from former member**

An email was received from a former member asking for assistance in being reinstated into the Club. A motion was unanimously approved that a certified letter will be sent to him stating that the previous resolution disallowing future membership has not been rescinded.

The meeting was adjourned.

Joyce Hrapsky  
2012 Secretary

**Thanks!**

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

**MINUTES OF AGMS GENERAL MEETING****February 23, 2012**

Pauline Denson, President, called the meeting to order.

Paul Bordovsky introduced the speaker, Alan Cherepon. Alan had Power Point slides of his visit to the Tucson show this year which included photos of minerals and a review of highlights of his trip. He brought minerals purchased at the show and used his long and shortwave UV lights to show the fluorescent minerals. He also brought show bulletins and guides.

Paul Bordovsky announced programs for the next several months. In March Steve Blyskal will speak on Naica, Mexico; in April Gail and Jim Spann from Dallas will be our guests; in May Brad Cross will speak on Laguna agates; in June Kirk Root will be the speaker; and in July the Fenders from Dallas will speak on cleaning and mineral preparation.

Pauline announced that a new *Stone Chipper* newsletter editor is needed because Diann Hill can no longer serve as editor. Anyone interested should talk to Pauline regarding amount of time required, etc. Pauline also said a new building chairperson is needed to replace Bob Greenway.

Three visitors introduced themselves (one from Harker Heights and two from Austin).

**Committee Reports**

**Hospitality:** Kathleen Howard passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring refreshments to the meetings. She stated that any leftover food should be taken home after the meetings because food will no longer be kept in the refrigerator but will be thrown away if no one takes it.

**Show:** Susan Postlethwait said that AGMS will host the 2015 American Federation and South Central Federation show and that quarterly show committee meetings will be held to prepare for that show. The first meeting will be March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The committee will rely on our members

*(cont'd on page 5)*

*AGMS General Meeting  
(Cont'd from page 4)*

who have experience with previous Federation shows to help get things going. She said that the 2012 show theme is calcite. She also said more tumbled stones are needed for the show, and a prize will be awarded to whoever brings the most.

**Field Trips:** Chip Burnette reminded everyone that this Saturday, February 25, the Boerne Rock Shop and the Cave Without a Name are sponsoring a rock hunt. Cost is \$2 per pound. Other planned trips are in March for the Rockhound Roundup in Deming, New Mexico; and April 24-26, 2012 for Mountain Mushroom Festival in Irvine, Kentucky. More information on these trips can be found in the *Stone Chipper*.

**Mineral ID SIG:** Roger Waguespack said that the first meeting of this SIG will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. It is open to any member who has an interest in minerals. Roger stated that he has volunteered to coordinate the group and that the first meeting will be organizational with no formal agenda. People may bring anything they would like help to identify.

**Library:** Roger Waguespack said that recent contributions have been made to the library. Books were donated by Tony and Lou Pulliam and Sunny Sturgeon, and magazines were donated by Joan Corte.

**Membership:** Tonya Barry said that tonight's meeting was attended by 3 visitors and 68 members.

**Door Prizes:**

The following people won door prizes: Rowena Greider, Terry Barry, Roger Waguespack, and Chip Burnette.

**Show and Tell:**

Julian Turner recently returned from Taipei, Taiwan, having visited the flower and jade market

while there. He showed Pakistani tourmalines, an Aurichalcite in gypsum on calcite, and Indonesian blue amber. C.N. Kimbro and Kay Pugh recently completed a cabbing class taught by Robert Morriss and showed the cabochons they made in class. Julie Stiles showed a rock she purchased from Nature's Treasures and asked if anyone was able to identify it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with refreshments following.

Joyce Hrapsky, 2012 Secretary



*At the February AGMS meeting Alan Cherepon spoke about his trip to the Tucson Gem & Mineral show.*

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS!**

Charles Coville 3/2

Diann Hill 3/6

Marilyn Gilbreath 3/14

Stoney Hill 3/26

## Texas Faceters' Guild Seminar

**Sunday, March 25, 9am to 5pm**

in conjunction with Texas Topaz Day, March 24 at

**The Wildlife Ranch Lodge,**

College at Live Oak in 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](http://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](mailto:gemologist@texas-topaz.com). There are a couple of motels in town, and many B&Bs, as well as RV parks. See [www.masontxcoc.com](http://www.masontxcoc.com), or [www.masontexaslodging.com](http://www.masontexaslodging.com).

For more information, contact B. Diane Eames, GG, 325-347-0475, [gemologist@texas-topaz.com](mailto:gemologist@texas-topaz.com). More details soon on [www.texasfacetersguild.org](http://www.texasfacetersguild.org), or [www.texas-topaz.com](http://www.texas-topaz.com).

### ARE YOU SURE IT'S JADE?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If a chip is knocked off, the freshly broken surface should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.</li> <li>2. If you can scratch it with a knife-point, it isn't jade.</li> <li>3. It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.</li> <li>5. If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.</li> <li>6. The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests.</li> </ol> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">From <i>Rockhound Rumbings</i> 11/00 via<br/><i>Rock Writings</i>, July 2004</p> |
|--|--|

It's that time again, please pay your 2010 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

### Dates to Remember

March 15	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
April 19	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7pm
April 28	Picnic/Auction at Turkey Creek Pavillion --10 am (details will be in the <i>Stone Chipper</i> )
May 17	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
June 21	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
July 19	NO meeting
August 16	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
Sept 20	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
Oct 18	Show set-up--volunteers to be at Palmer <i>no earlier</i> than 2pm
Oct 19-21	Gem Show
Nov8	Meeting at clubhouse in general meeting room--7 pm
Dec 20	NO meeting

**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.

## 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

## Rockhounds

I think that there shall never be  
 An ignoramus just like me,  
 Who roams the hills throughout the day  
 To pick up rocks that do not pay;  
 For there's one thing I've been told  
 I take the rocks and leave the gold.  
 O'er deserts wild or mountains blue  
 I search for rocks of varied hue.  
 A hundred pounds or more I pack  
 With blistered feet and aching back,  
 And after this is said and done  
 I cannot name a single one.  
 I pick up rocks where e'er I go,  
 The reason why, I do not know,  
 For rocks are found by fools like me  
 Where God intended them to be.

*Submitted by Ruth Hooker, Author unknown.  
 Rock-A-Teer, Puyallup, WA, 2004*



*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 note, 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

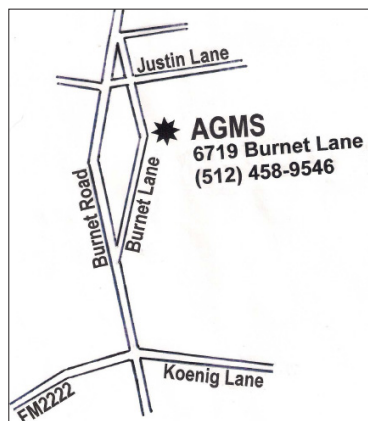
For more information please visit [www.GemCapers.com](http://www.GemCapers.com)

## The Stone Chipper

March 2012 Newsletter

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## Austin Gem and Mineral Society



## Address Correction Requested

Please visit us at [www.Austingemandmineral.org](http://www.Austingemandmineral.org)

