



Each one teach one



### Presidential Message

Hi Rockhounds,

Looks like we have had quite the do over all the rare ice strewn weather we have been drenched in. When you read this short welcome address it will be one of those times when I am having to read notes, minutes and the newsletter to make sure I get my thoughts correct. The 2014 Show Committee has met and quietly things are going on there and there may be changes. The 2015 Show Committee has also met and they will meet again in April. We have so many great people in this Club that I wish you guys would show up at these meeting and have fun with all of us. In the following months these two show committees are going to need all the support from us that we can give them! Yes it is work but it is FUN work and we really do have a good time!

I hope that Brian is doing well and is comfortable. Mac is up and around, thank goodness and Harriett is recovering well also. Prayers and wishes to all of us that have our tribulations to deal with to stay healthy. Yes, we are getting older and it is not for the faint of heart!

Kathleen did a great job, and had Lauren Andrews speak about her project and thesis on Greenland. You guys that did not attend really missed a great and entertaining speaker! Thank you, Lauren. *(Cont'd on page 2)*

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 2014

Annual membership dues are:

Adult-\$30.00      Couple-\$40.00      Junior--\$4.00

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Display Cases - Jackie Fisher

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Vacant

Hospitality - Kathleen Howard

Membership -Harold Von Rosenberg

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Perkins

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*(President's Message cont'd)*

Oh and I will not be appointing a Hospitality Chair but would appreciate a volunteer. If no one volunteers, we might not be able to depend on having snacks at every general meeting. It is such a easy job that if you're a wonderful hostess, just step up to the plate and volunteer! We would really appreciate it, as this group does like to eat and talk!!

Roger spoke to both of his projects, the Library and the Minerals Special Interest groups. Thanks, Roger.

Bear with this new Board as we get our wings and bring everything up to your standards again. I know it should be seamless but it is not! I have been so scatter brained too many notes, LOL.

Cheers to all, Josie

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2014

The minutes from the last minutes were approved.

Charlotte presented the Treasurers Report from 2013, the totals for the 2013 show are not in yet, so the final total of the budget is not in. Susan asks if the figures could be recalculated to include last year's show totals, but exclude last years scholarship funds. Charlotte agreed and will redo the budget as there also seemed to be some duplicates in items and clarity needs to be provided.

Charlotte suggested that we use our sales tax exemption more often. Pauline will email the number to Charlotte. Jeff brought up that the tax forms for Lowes, Harbor Freight, and Home Depot are kept at the store and need to be renewed yearly. Board members should have access to the tax number.

Sian suggested that there should be more security in keeping the tax number as it could leave us open for legal issues if used improperly. Charlotte agreed that tighter reigns should be used.

As the maintenance and operations of the club house, including utilities seemed to be one of the large expenditures, Shawn suggested that we revisit installing a remote or self adjusting thermostat in the clubhouse to save on utilities. Josie said any motion for expenditure needs to go before the board for approval of purchase. That purchase was not discussed in the projected budget approved in November. Some of the budget items were questioned by Craig and Dee as not being clear as to what they were used for such as Food and Dining costs. Susan added that we need to also look at Budget and Savings. Les proposed that we revisit purchasing a new thermostat.

Charlotte suggested that we give our scholarship to the Bob Bullock Museum instead of UT. Laird said we should reconsider that because UT

promotes education programs that the club supports and he is working on something with them.

Cindy thought giving some scholarship to another recipient might be a good idea, but perhaps in another way.

Craig voiced concern over when the library door will be fixed.

Joyce introduced Bryon who has donated some stones and cutting blades and is wanting to start into classes for beginning lapidary at the clubhouse. The first class is full already. Laird questioned whether the board could just approve that, so Charlotte made a motion and the motion was seconded by Dee. The class was approved will cost \$20.

Susan brought fans for the clubhouse and air circulation in the work rooms.

Charlotte was uncertain that we should publish members' contact information or not in our directory. Discussion on publishing members names, phone numbers, and email addresses ensued. Sian suggested that we leave it up to the individual to provide their primary information.

Betsy discussed curating some new gem stones we have received as well as display cases for them and insurance. We had not budgeted for it, but it is too good to pass up. Charlotte moved to approve \$200 towards the shelves, Sian seconds purchase up to that amount. Ron questions whether tax exemption will be applicable. Yes, it should be. Pictures of the donation of stones were passed around and a unanimous vote was passed to accept them and approve new shelving.

An increase in our insurance was discussed as Betsy said an appraiser (The Doves) believes the actual value of the new donation exceeds the current insurance coverage by more than double. Some research needs to be done to determine the increase in cost of the insurance versus keeping

and displaying valuable stone. It is agreed it will not be a traveling display. Selling them could negate future donations from the benefactors, which we don't want to jeopardize, per Betsy.

Diane has email address of new officers- we are seeking a new webmaster. Josie recommends that we all review bylaws for board members positions. She asks Charlotte to redraft last years Finance Report. The Show Committee for 2015 meets Thurs. 1.9 . Copy of last Audit needs to go to Show Committee. Craig has electronic copy and will email them in.

Joyce motions to adjourn meeting, Dee seconded

## AFMS Endowment Drawing for 2014

The AFMS Endowment Drawing will be held on July 12, 2014. Check their website for prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be obtained from Catherine Rouchon of the Baton Rouge G&MS, rouchonc@starband.net

If you would like to be the contact person for the club, let Josie know so that she can announce it at the general meeting and get a count of everyone interested in tickets.

## General Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014

Josie Middleton presided over the meeting – opening the meeting at 7:05 PM. Josie introduced Kathleen Howard who introduced the guest speaker of the month – Lauren Andrews. Lauren - a student from Carlton University working on her PhD while running a summer program in Greenland, partially funded through NASA, spoke about glaciology and the effects we are now seeing in extreme mass melts. Studies conducted over the past six summer seasons have witnessed and recorded melts of this magnitude unseen since 1889. However, this melting is exceeding

the speed and extensiveness of past known examples by not only affecting the surface glacier but sub glacier as well.

Melting causes large masses of ice to break off the glacier into the ocean that creates an enormous cracking sound known as calving that resonates throughout the ice fields. The data collected in the field work is based on information gathered through GPS deployment and seismometer readings that capture tide flow levels and earth movement. These movements are often demonstrated in crust rebound and mélange dynamics (movement of ice). Statistics are taken on iceberg flows by tracking their movement through the bay tides and currents (both wind and water). The dirty ice that collects on the bergs carries with it Basilica bits from the Wisconsin Era but mostly Precambrian metamorphic rock.

Lauren exhibited photographs of the expeditions showing living conditions, weather effects, and tremendous views of the rough mountainous region where they camped in temperatures averaging from plus 34 to -32 degrees on the ice during the summer months. The study is expected to continue for another three years.

Kathleen presented a sample of fluorite to express the club's appreciation to Lauren for her willingness to share her information and presentation.

Three door prizes were given out and announced by Josie - to Tanya Berry, Harold Von Rosenberg, and Brianna (visitor).

Open discussion ensued – the minutes from DEC 2013 and JAN 2014 are to pass this FEB. The Mineral Club Meeting is to be held FEB 11<sup>th</sup>. Roger Waugespak talked about their meeting and current state of the library. Paul asks about Texas mineral collecting. Allan Cherepon sent them some information, but may want to write it up, and maybe sponsor or supplement "Mineralogical Record". Clifford and Harriett may also want to submit something. Next board meeting is in 1.5 weeks on FEB 4<sup>th</sup>. Georgetown show is coming up soon.

A sign-up sheet was provided in the lobby for name badges – anyone wanting a new badge should talk with Jeff.

Chip reminded everyone that the Terry Smith place south of Marfa (aka Singleton Ranch) may be working into a field trip for FEB 20 – 24<sup>th</sup>. There are lots to collect - from plume to black & white agate. Also, Deming may be happening in the spring, then maybe Montana.

Robert is available to take club dues – reminder of fees – Couples are now \$40, and singles are \$30. Josie motions to adjourn and Ivy seconded the motion.

## Show Committee Minutes

January 16, 2014

Minutes for September were submitted with a couple of corrections. No treasurer report was available.

Committee chairs needed are: Advertising, Display Cases, Gem Mine and Head Cashier.

Susan would like some feedback on how to get more demonstrators. Maybe a gemologist could come in and identify gems. Robert asked Mac about some of the knappers demonstrating. Maybe Charles Kirkpatrick would come in and we could also advertise his business.

See about having the Dinosaur Guy come in and see about choosing parts of his demonstration which might be cheaper and having him come in for all three days.

Display Case Chair would need to handle the logistics of the cases. Assigning them out to individuals, coordinate people to set up the club displays and to make sure they are all filled.

Alan advised that the T.V. at the fluorescent display was great with the slide show, plus the display box had a lot of traffic. The new sign looked great and the clock worked out really nice.

Stretch was asked why we did not charge \$1.00 for the gem mine booth. The question was raised why we don't charge \$1.00 for the gem mine, jewelry making or the wheel of fortune. Raising the amount from 50 cents to \$1.00 was brought to a vote, which passed.

Fran advised that maybe the raffle items need to be moved somewhere else as there was way too much going on at the club booth.

Show Dates: Susan advised that we have the show dates for 2015 which are 10/22 for move in and then 10/23,24 & 25 for the show. However, Palmer does not have anything in writing about our show dates and our weekend is not open, so we have to pick another weekend. After, a lot of discussion the date chosen was 10/2 for move in and then 10/3,4 & 5 for the show. Susan will get with Palmer and get those dates scheduled. Stretch will start calling all of the dealers to let them know.

## Walker Ranch Rock Hunting

The 2014 Alpine Gem Show will be April 18-20. The Walker Ranch rockhunt this year will be a six-day hunt, starting on Wednesday, April 16th and running through the next Monday, April 21. Sign-ups are starting now, so if you are planning on coming, please email me. Those who pay their fees prior to March 20 can hunt on Monday, April 21 at no additional charge.

We'll need to have a minimum of 20 people who have paid their deposits by April 1 for the rockhunt to happen. The price is still the same: \$75 per person per day, or \$150 per person for 3 days. The fourth and fifth days are \$35 each. Those of you who have been here know that this ranch is certainly worth the price of admission. If you haven't been to Walker Ranch, check out my website, [www.terismithrockhunts.com](http://www.terismithrockhunts.com), for information and photos.

Please email me if you're interested in hunting at the Walker, at [agatehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agatehunter@sbcglobal.net)

and let me know how many people will be in your group. You will be able to dry camp on the ranch if you wish, at no cost. Your reservation won't be confirmed until you send a deposit of half the cost of the rockhunt. I'll send you the details about the deposit once you tell me you are coming.

*Teri Smith*

THANK  
YOU!

Each month Jim and JoAnn Wiersema & Cora Caffey of Horizon Environmental Services print, fold and seal the *Stone Chipper* for mailing to those club members who do not have computer access and for non-members interested in finding out more about the club. This is a real cost savings for AGMS and we appreciate their generosity.

## Stone Chipper Ads

The *Stone Chipper* can now accept non-political AGMS Board-approved paid advertising. If you are interested in placing an ad or have questions about the process, please contact *Stone Chipper* editor Carolyn Perkins at [stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org).

You can choose from a variety of sizes for your print-ready ad:

- Full Page (7" x 8") (\$100 per issue)
- Half Page (7" x 4") (\$50 per issue)
- Quarter Page (3 1/2" x 4") (\$25 p.i.)
- Business Card (3 1/4 x 2) (\$12.50 p.i.)

There is no extra charge for full color, but mail out copies will be black and white only.

## AGMSList Serve

If you are currently not a member of the AGMSList and would like to be, please email Diann Hill at [general@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:general@austingemandmineral.org). It's the best way to keep up with the latest AGMS happenings.

## A Change in the Refreshment Procedure

As Josie stated in this month's *President's Message*, the club no longer has a Hospitality Chair, so February's General Meeting snacks will be brought and set up by those who would like to snack. This procedure will continue until someone volunteers to take on the coordinating responsibilities. Please let Josie know if you are interested in doing so.

## Mark Your Summer Calendar! July 31-August 4, 2014

### **Multi-Federation Field Trip -- Make Plans to Attend NOW!**

By Doug True, Field Trip Chair, AFMS

The town of Terry, Montana may be small, but they are planning on rolling out the red carpet for us as they host the AFMS 2014 Multi-Federation field trip gathering. The dates are July 31-August 4, 2014, so mark your calendars and get ready to register!

Terry is right in the middle of some of the best Montana rock hounding areas. We'll have numerous trips to the Gravel Bars on the Yellowstone River; productive areas that I've been hunting on annually for 40+ years. Many are accessed only through private property, but permissions have been granted. We'll be hunting for Montana agates, jasper, pertified wood, fossil coral, stomatolites, and numerous other "oddities."

We'll have numerous trips into Montana fossil country to the Pierre and Bear Paw formation areas, and we'll collect ammonites, baculites, scaphites, natiloids and many other shells (70-95 million years old) in the ancient sea bed areas. We are also working on trips to several areas where we can collect dinosaur fossils from the Hell Creek Formation. More information will be forthcoming as plans are solidified

In addition, we'll have an opportunity to take a guided tour through the Eastern Montana Badlands - a once in a lifetime opportunity.

For more information contact Doug True, Field Trip Chair, (406) 670-0506, or email <dtruefolssils12@yahoo.com>.

## Chris Wright Tribute

April 25, 1946-January 8, 2014

Chris Anthony Wright, 67, owner of Wright's Rock Shop, passed away on January 8th at his home in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He is survived by his partner, Christopher, his daughter, Shara and her husband Vladimir, his sister, LeNoira, his brother, Mickey, nieces and nephews, and countless friends worldwide.

His expertise in the world of mineralogy led him to help many individuals and museums assemble world-class collections. He also encouraged the love of minerals in young people he encountered at hundreds of gem and mineral shows he attended all across the nation.

Contributions can be made to the SFMS Chris Wright Workshop Scholarship Program for Juniors at [sfms@amfed.org](mailto:sfms@amfed.org).

*from Gross Funeral Home, Hot Springs*

## Lapidary Equipment Sale

18" Covington saw (@ 8 yrs. old)  
 Covington10" maxi lap (@ 8 yrs. old)  
 Covington 8"Expando drum unit (@ 8 yrs. old)  
 4 or 5" trim saw  
 Rocks bull wheel  
 auto gem drill  
 approx. 1,100 lbs rough  
 twin 3 lb. tumbler  
 12v dc 9 watt uv light  
 5 gal Rockhound cutting oil.  
 Will sell all as one lot for \$4,000.

Dan Kiecke, [dkiedke@windstream.net](mailto:dkiedke@windstream.net),  
 830 896-7255



## Hunts & Events



**February 15-16--** Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society Show, Gemboree. Community Center at San Gabriel Park, 445 E. Morrow St., Georgetown. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission: Adult \$3, 6-15 \$2, under 6 free. Free parking.

**February 15 & 16--** Plainview, Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show Ollie Liner Center 2000 South Columbia, Business I-27 South Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5. Contact: Josephine Macha (806) 293-8572 E-mail: [josefcmacha@aol.com](mailto:josefcmacha@aol.com)

**February 22 & 23--** Las Cruces, NM-- "The Museum Rocks!" Friends of NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum's 2nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show New Mexico-- Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum 4100 Dripping Springs Rd Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10 - 5. Contact: Diane McMellen (575) 522-1232 E-mail: [diane@helpinghandsevents.com](mailto:diane@helpinghandsevents.com) Website: [www.LCMuseumRocks.com](http://www.LCMuseumRocks.com)

**March 1 & 2--** Big Spring, Big Spring Prospectors Club 45th Annual Show, Howard County Fair Barn Rodeo Grounds Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10 - 5. Contact: Lola Lamb (432) 263-3340. Free Admission

*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 2014 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 StoneChipper*. All authors who make submissions to this newsletter are presumed to agree with this policy.

## The Stone Chipper

February 2014 Newsletter

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## Address Correction Requested

### Austin Gem and Mineral Society



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