



# The Stone Chipper

Each one teach one



## Presidential Message

Hi Fellow Rockhounds,

Well, it looks as if our first meeting was short and sweet with the surprises that you should have read of in the last newsletter. We will continue to keep you informed as much as possible. But I have to admit if I don't write it down I tend to forget it. It's heck getting older. Note that there will **not be a meeting in April** due to the big Saturday Swap Meet. It was a great to-do last year and did quite well, but it is a lot of work, so it was decided to suspend the monthly meeting (April only) this year to allow maximum concentration on swap meet preparations.

Another thing to keep in mind is the possibility of club members providing national, regional or local Society members with room and board for the duration of our October National Show. As Sue said, it would be a great opportunity to make contact with rock enthusiasts from other locales and possibly gain knowledge of/access to other rock hunting areas. We are working on a nonbinding match-up list for members who are interested. Thank you for your participation.

Take a look at the [www.afms.org](http://www.afms.org) and the [www.scfms.org](http://www.scfms.org) websites to see any other information you may want and ask us for any clarification also, we will gladly help you.

*(President's Message cont'd on p.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 2015

Annual membership dues are:

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

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Building Chair - Craig Brandt

Curator - Betsy Gager

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Vacant

Hospitality - Sunny Sturgeon

Membership -Susan Postlethwait

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Perkins  
[stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org)

*President's Message cont' from p. 1*

The days are getting warmer, so watch out for reptilian movement if you're out in the higher grasses and rocks.

Oh, and bring your dollar for 5 tickets if you want to participate in the monthly door prize raffle.

Thank you, Cindy, for the great January guest speaker. It really was a lot of fun and people enjoyed it.

We are looking forward to the Georgetown Gem and Mineral show on February 21& 22

. You may visit their website which I think is [www.wilcogms.org](http://www.wilcogms.org) for more information.

Cheers to all,  
 Josie, *AGMS President*

**AGMS**  
**Annual Gem & Mineral Show/**  
**AFMS Annual Meeting**  
**October 2015**

## AGMS General Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Josie Middleton. Cindy Murphy, second Vice-President, introduced Jake Jordan from the UT Department of Geosciences, who spoke on “Reactive Transport – Effects on Rocks and Minerals”.

Minutes of the November meeting were published in the *Stone Chipper*; there were no changes.

Craig Brandt gave the Treasurer’s Report.

Susan Postlethwait, Show Chairperson, introduced visitors and said that 50 persons were in attendance. She summarized the last Show Committee meeting and encouraged members to host visitors to our show next October and invited all members to the next Show Committee meeting on 19 February.

Les Postlethwait, first Vice-President, said that seven more mineral specimens donated by Jeremy Smith are now on display. He also announced that our annual swap meet will be the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at the clubhouse and that we are starting to sell raffle tickets for the door prizes at general meetings. The cost will be five tickets for one dollar.

Brian Wetzig, Show Treasurer, said that the 2014 show made a profit despite slightly less attendance than the previous year. He gave credit to two anonymous donors who helped considerably.

Sunny Sturgeon, Refreshments Chairperson, showed new sign-up sheets for volunteers who wish to provide refreshments for monthly general meetings.

Josie presented certificates of completion

of the Introduction to Cabbings class; the recipients were Adin Batson and Andrea Elliott.

Ron Carman gave the report for the Mineral Section; they will not meet in February due to the Tucson Show, but will resume monthly meetings on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

Josie encouraged all those who go to the Tucson show to have fun and then Susan conducted the drawing for the door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ronald R. Carman, Secretary*



Jake Jordan, from UT’s Department of Geosciences, was January’s guest presenter, speaking on “Reactive Transport--Effects on Rocks and Minerals.”

*photo by Joe Perkins*

## AGMS Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2015

*Members present: Josie Middleton, Les Postlethwait, Cindy Murphy, Ron Carman, Craig Brandt, Dee Fly, John Curtright, Deborah Johnson, Richard Dorsey, and Sian Schilhab. A quorum was present.*

*Craig Brandt gave the latest Treasurer's Report.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Dee brought up the open issue of a modification to the Bylaws to allow non-tenured members to serve as Directors. Ron said he is working on that and will have a written recommendation for everyone to see at the next Board meeting. Susan said that the new membership applications (approved at the January Board meeting) have been printed and are ready to use.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Diann Hill reported that she has been trying to correct the difficulties with the AGMS website. The website owner of record is Lester Wetherell and besides Diann, the current moderators are Paul Bordovsky, Alan Cherepon, and David Dow. Diann gave out lists of AGMS addressees and said that if anyone has any corrections, be sure to notify her and not to divulge information about AGMS members to anyone outside AGMS. Also, if anyone receives any threatening e-mail addressed to AGMS, do not delete it but instead report it to Josie, Diann, and Sian Schilhab.

Susan Postlethwait said she would like to announce our Feb. 26 general meeting on Craigslist. She also requested the e-mail

addresses of any long-standing members if not already listed. Susan also asked about where the proceeds from our monthly Door Prize raffle should go. After discussion, the Board decided to let members make suggestions at the next general meeting.

John Curtright asked about the possibility of future scholarship awards. Since those are not currently in the budget, the Board decided to examine our financial status after the AFMS show and make recommendations after that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ronald R. Carman, Secretary*

## Hunts & Events



**Jan-Feb, 2015--**Qartzsite, AZ annual rock and fossil swap meet. [www.xpopress.com/QZ-show-schedule.html](http://www.xpopress.com/QZ-show-schedule.html)

**Jan 31--Feb. 15, 2015--** Tucson Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase, Tucson, AZ., featuring over 40 different sites, most free and open to the public. For information, <http://www.visittucson.org/events/gem-show/>

**Feb 21 & 22, 2015--** Williamson County Gemboree, San Gabriel Park Community Center, 445 E. Morrow St., Georgetown, Tx. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free Parking. Adults \$3, Youth 6-15 \$2, under 6 Free. William Medford Show Chairperson, 512-930-2768. [wcgms.org/Gemboree.html](http://wcgms.org/Gemboree.html)

**Mar 7-8, 2015:** Annual show; Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds; 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd; contact Linda Simpson, 1302 Annapolis Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78415, (361) 877-5820; e-mail: [lsimp@swbell.net](mailto:lsimp@swbell.net); Web site: [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)

**Mar 7-8, 2015—**Big Spring Annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Barn; Big Spring Rodeo Grounds; contact Lola Lamb (243) 263-3340; e-mail: [lolabellelamb@yahoo.com](mailto:lolabellelamb@yahoo.com)

**Mar 21-22, 2015—**San Antonio 54th Annual Fiesta of Gems; Southwest Gem & Mineral Society; 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr. [Corner of I-410 W and Marbach] Contact ROBERT BOWIE, (210) 860 2830; e-mail: [krobotx@gvvc.com](mailto:krobotx@gvvc.com); Web site: [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

**Apr 11-12, 2015—**Abilene Show and Sale; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Abilene Civic Center; N. 6th and Pine; contact Kay H. McDaniel, (325) 668-8558; e-mail: [kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net](mailto:kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net); Web site: [rockclub.txol.net](http://rockclub.txol.net)

**April 17-19, 2015--**Alpine Show & Sale, Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center; 801 W.Holland Ave. (Hwy.90); FREE Admission!; Contact Judith Brueske, (432) 244-9503; e-mail: [jbrueske@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbrueske@sbcglobal.net)

Apr 25-26—Waco Annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club, Extraco Events Center; 4601 Bosque Blvd., Creative Arts Bldg.; Contact Andrew McDonald, (254) 366-3846; e-mail: [babydocmac@aol.com](mailto:babydocmac@aol.com); Web site: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

## Anasazi Lightning Stones

(You've probably got some in your rock piles.)

by Marilyn Gilbreath

I was reading a work of fiction that described Anasazi lightning stones as rounded cobbles of quartz that sparked with "lightning flashes" when rubbed or struck together. Intrigued, I searched online and found mention of the phenomenon of triboluminescence (luminescence produced by friction, usually within a crystalline substance), and one author who said he easily achieved the lightning effect with quartz.

Anxious to make my own lightning, I quickly found some small egg-shaped quartz pieces in a backyard rock pile and some rectangular pieces from a doublets class in our inside rock pile.

Entering my closet (you've got to have a dark place to test this), the attempts with the quartz eggs got no results, but small orange and blue flashes came from striking the edges of the doublets material together. Encouraged, I tried rubbing the eggs together again and this time had success---so don't give up until you've tried several surfaces and edges.

Heading next to the patio rock pile, I found two palm-sized quartz river rocks and was rewarded with an orange glow between the two when I vigorously rubbed the flat sides together while applying pressure---the best effect yet.

Wow---who knew?! No Anasazi shaman training required. Just tell your family if they hear you in the closet striking rocks together don't be too quick to call the men with the white coats---you're probably just in there making lightning.

## THANKS!

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

## **ODE TO ROCKS**

Written by Lilyth Amelia Cave,  
AGMS member, now 14,  
sometime in 2011

Ode to rocks that are everywhere  
Ode to rocks that are just sitting there  
Smooth or rough, big or small  
Pretty or ugly, cube or a ball  
All that matters is that it is a rock

Ode to rocks that are many shapes and colors  
Ode to rocks that are just like the others  
Green or blue, black or red  
Small as a mouse or as big as my head  
All that matters is that it is a rock

Ode to rocks that are big and shinny  
Ode to rocks that are dull or tiny  
Quartz or calcite, agate or sandstone  
I don't care, but I really like dinobone  
But yet again all that matters is that it is a rock

Ode to ROCKS!!

### **General information about Club Classes**

There is a notebook at the front desk during general meetings with class sign-up sheets to be on waiting lists. Once there are enough club members and an available instructor, a class is scheduled. Past classes have been held in seed beading, bead knotting, wire wrapping, cabbing, doublets/triplets, faceting and metalsmithing. There is no regular set schedule for classes. Club members on a waiting list are notified when a teacher is available and everyone in the class agrees on a good date. So it's best to go ahead and get on the list since those people are given priority in scheduling. If anyone is unable to attend a general meeting, they can send me an email to be on a list.

There is also a blurb on the AGMS website under "Education" with a link to the monthly calendar where class openings (if any) are listed. Since

anyone on a waiting list is given priority, sometimes a class is full when it appears on the calendar.

If an instructor is available on given dates and there are not enough people for a particular class, I send out a notice on the Yahoo List.

The club depends on its members to teach classes, so we're always looking for volunteers. If you or someone you know has a special talent and would be willing to teach a class, please contact me for more information.

Joyce (email: [classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org))

### **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.

### **Sign up for the AGMS List**

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

excerpted from *Exotic Terrane*  
by Bill Gissler, SCVGMS  
December 2005 *Breccia*

The geologic term “exotic terrane” refers to a group of rocks, a fragment of a formation, that attaches itself to a tectonic plate and ends up at a new site, totally out of place from its origins.

In the early 1960’s, Dr. Tracy Vallier began mapping the Hells Canyon region on the Oregon-Idaho border and discovered “pillow lavas,” which develop only where volcanic lava flows into a large body of water. But Vallier was mapping an area 9000 feet above sea level and 350 miles east of the Pacific Ocean.

Subsequent studies of the paleontology of nearby rocks by Dr. George Stanley, Jr., from the University of Montana, turned up tropical marine fossils, specifically corals. How could it be that marine fossils were being found thousands of feet above sea level in eastern Oregon?

The answer lies in plate tectonics. The Earth’s crust is made of separate pieces, called plates, that fit together like a puzzle. The plates are floating on hot, plastic-like material below. Some of the plates are pulling away from each other and some are colliding. Geologists call an area a subduction zone when two plates collide and one sinks under the other. The sinking plate melts and creates magma which then forces its way up through the overlying plate by volcanic action.

Dr. Ellen Bishop, from Eastern Oregon State College, noticed that rock samples dredged up from active subduction zones looked very similar to the rocks she was finding in eastern Oregon. Both were a melange, rocks that were highly altered and a composite of a variety of materials.

Combining their research, Drs. Vallier, Stanley, and Bishop recreated the geologic history of the Pacific Northwest. Millions of years ago, ocean waves broke on beaches in western Idaho. A portion of a tectonic plate that had formed

near the equator broke free, migrated up to, and collided with the North American continent. The collision occurred along a zone near Hells Canyon.

It is now thought that much of western North American did not form as part of the continent. Large parts are made of oceanic islands, coral reefs, and other seafloor fragments. And it is these parts, the EXOTIC TERRANE, which offer geologists such important clues to the past.

### HOSTS WANTED: URGENT NEED

At our 2015 annual show, Gem Capers, will host the SCFMS & AFMS National show this year. The dates are Oct 23, 24 & 25.

But do you also know what else is happening that same weekend? The Formula One United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas track. And this means that the hotels have raised their rates, a lot.

We are looking for AGMS members who are willing to open their homes to fellow rock hounds who will be traveling to Austin from around the country. If you have a room or two please consider hosting for our show. It goes without saying you already have something in common with out of town guests.....ROCKS! And will probably make a new friends that will know all the good spots for rock hounding in their part of the country!

Contact the show committee, Ron Carman or myself for more information and to offer up a room! -- Respectfully, Susan Postlethwait

*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 2015 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 2015 Newsletter

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### **Address Correction Requested** **Austin Gem and Mineral Society**



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