



# The Stone Chipper

Each one teach one



## Presidential Message

Welcome to a New Year for our Austin Gem & Mineral Society. Hopefully, you have recaptured your energy after the National Show and the Holidays, because some exciting events are on the immediate horizon. The question is are you going to PARTICIPATE?

Your 2016 Board reflects numerous changes: President, VP1, VP2, Secretary and three at-large Directors. Take some time and talk to your Board members. Do you have an issue that you would like for us to review, discuss, solve, etc.? We don't want to be a reactive group, we hope we can start addressing future needs, concerns. We can't do this well unless you help us out.

Your Board jumped onto several issues: real estate inquiries, tax filings, Patron & Rockhound of the Year protocols to name just a few. As an update, real estate agents regarding the availability of our property have approached several members. To make a long discussion short, we are asking all inquiries be directed to me. Have them call the AGMS' phone and I'll return all inquires.

One of the first new events to hearken the horizon is 'Third Saturday Workshop'. Starting January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Workshop will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thereafter every THIRD Saturday of the month, the Workshop will be open. The library, small saws and grinder wheels will be available. Larger saws will be available when approved

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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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**Officers**

President—Laird Fowler  
[president@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:president@austingemandmineral.org)

1st VP—James Mercier  
[vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org)

2nd VP—Paul Bordovsky  
[vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org)

Treasurer—Craig Brandt  
[treasurer@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:treasurer@austingemandmineral.org)

**Board Members**

Cindy Murphy—  
[murphyc@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:murphyc@austingemandmineral.org)

John Curttright –  
[johnc@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:johnc@austingemandmineral.org)

Richard Dorsey –  
[richardd@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:richardd@austingemandmineral.org)

Deborah Johnson –  
[deborahj@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:deborahj@austingemandmineral.org)

Jan Ozias –  
[jano@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:jano@austingemandmineral.org)

Gary Collins--  
[collinsgj@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:collinsgj@austingemandmineral.org)

**Committee Chairs**

Annual Show - Chip Burnette  
[showchairman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchairman@austingemandmineral.org)

Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky  
[classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org)

Field Trips - Chip Burnette  
[trip@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:trip@austingemandmineral.org)

Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher  
[juniors@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:juniors@austingemandmineral.org)

Lead Librarian - Laird Fowler, Co-Librarians -Terry Barry and Roger Waguespack (periodicals)  
[librarian@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:librarian@austingemandmineral.org)

Webmaster – Cindy Murphy  
[webmaster@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:webmaster@austingemandmineral.org)

Building Chair - Craig Brandt

Curator - Betsy Gager

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Cathy Brandt

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)

<p><b><u>AGMS Meetings Schedule</u></b></p> <p><u>Board Meeting--1st Tuesday--7:00 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Minerals SIG Meeting--2nd Tuesday--7:00 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Capers Show Planning Meeting--3rd Thurs.--7:00 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>General Meeting--4th Thursday--7:00 p.m.</u></p>
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saw operators are present. I'll be available for club issues discussion, social talks, mineral/rock identification, slide show and the like. Hopefully, you will find time to PARTICIPATE.

Another exciting happening will be discussed in detail at the General Meeting. Hope to see many of you then.

~Laird Fowler

## NO General or Show Committee Meetings Held in December

### Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016

Present: President, Laird Fowler, James Mercier, 1<sup>st</sup> V/P, Paul Bordovsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> V/P, Pauline Denson, Secretary, Craig Brandt, Treasurer, and Board Members Gary Collins, John Curtright, Deborah Johnson, Jan Ozias, and Cindy Murphy. Other members present: Les and Susan Postlethwaite, Josie Middleton, Cathy Brandt, Brian Wetzig, Alan Cherepon

John Curtright moved the approval of the minutes of the November meeting, Deborah Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Susan Postlethwaite reported that the Patron Award recipient(s) had not been chosen for 2015 and the American Federation guidelines had not been followed. Paul Bordovsky will see that those with a vote for the Patron(s) choose recipients, and Craig will send payment to Ed Riese at the SCFMS.

Susan Postlethwaite passed out a schedule of field trips for the year, which she and John Curtright had compiled, as well as a handout for the first field trip on January 23 at the Sand Creek Dairy Farm.

Diann Hill, webmaster, discussed email protocol for Board Members.

Josie Middleton said that the Rockhound of the Year had also not been chosen for 2015, and that this should be revisited and a Rockhound chosen. Susan Postlethwaite told James Mercier that information on the April swapmeet needs to be sent to other clubs this month to give them time to plan attendance.

Josie Middleton announced that Jeremy Smith had donated four fossils, three trilobites, a death

plate, and some fossil fish to the club. The value of the donation, for tax purposes, is \$3,100. The Facetors' Guild has requested the use of the clubhouse the weekend of the swap meet. Jan Ozias moved that the Board approve, Gary Collins seconded the motion and it passed.

Laird Fowler stated that we are getting many inquiries from real estate people about buying the clubhouse property. He said that this is an issue we will have to address at some point, and asked that all inquiries be passed along to him.

Laird said that we do not have all paperwork for 2013 and 2014 tax returns. All documents for the Show Committee are available for those years. Dee Fly said she can get the 2014 club documents. We have an extension until August 15, 2016. There will be penalties for late filing. Treasurer's Report:.... Tax penalties will be pushed into this year, as will the 2015 Patron fees. Craig asked Brian Wetzig how much the Show Committee will transfer to the club, and Brian said the Show Committee will vote on this at their next meeting.

Laird announced that he will open the workshop on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The saws in the saw shed will only be available if another member who can supervise these saws is present.

Jan Ozias moved to adjourn, and John Curtright seconded the motion.

*by Pauline Denson, Secretary*

## Hunts & Events

**Jan. 30**--Houston Fossil, Mineral & Archaeological Trade Show II. 10 am-6 pm Sat. 10805 Brooklet St., Houston, TX. Free parking and admission. Houston Gem and Mineral Society.

Teri Smith's winter and spring Big Bend area listings for rock hunts to be held in February, March, and April can be found on Teri's website [terismithrockhunts.com](http://terismithrockhunts.com)

## Sign up for the AGMS List

If you are currently not a member of the AGMS List 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.

## 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. And a big welcome to Marla Hayes, who will be the new hands-on person at Horizon for duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate each of you.

## Steps to take to enroll in AGMS classes

Classes are open to AGMS members whose memberships are current. The fees are minimal.

1. The first step is to sign up on a waiting list. The notebook is at the front desk during general meetings.
2. If unable to attend a general meeting, you can be added to a waiting list via email to [classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org).
3. Write your name and email address in the book CLEARLY. Include your phone number, but more class information and notices are sent to your email address. Phone calls are only in emergencies, i.e., last minute changes, etc.
4. There is not a set schedule for classes. Classes are scheduled when an instructor is available and there are several people on the waiting list.
5. If an instructor is available on certain dates but there are not enough people for a particular class, a notice is posted on the Yahoo List and added to the calendar on the club's website.

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 email [classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org) for more information.

*Joyce Hrapsky*

## Stone Chipper Advertising

*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.

## Bench Tips    Stretching Wire

By Brad Smith

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

## GREAT NEWS!

### 2016 New Year's Resolution – A Rock Hound's Guide to a Healthier 2016

Ahhh....the new year.....a time to eat healthier, lose weight, get some exercise and in general try to be a better you....as if you were not a darn good rock hound already! Am I right? Well....are you ready to get some fresh air? Do some walking? Do a lot of squats? Do some heavy lifting? That is right.....I am talking FIELD TRIPS! John Cutright and I have been working on scheduling some field trips! And with that..... Let's see how heavy a bucket you can lift because we are off to Cameron to look for PETRIFIED WOOD. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> we will circle the buckets at 8:30 in Cameron and head out around 9am to Sand Creek Farm to find petrified wood. Come to the January business meeting to get all the details, sign up as well as plot and plan our Saturday. Cost will be .25 a pound for the wood and check out is self-service....and they are a cash only business.

Sand Creek Farm is a working dairy and aquaponics farm with raw milk, cheeses, yogurts and produce for sale. If you plan on shopping remember to bring your cooler with ice and FYI, this is a cash only business. [www.sandcreekfarm.net](http://www.sandcreekfarm.net). So come join us for some hounding!

Now for the next little surprise.....The Curttrights' and the Postlethwaits' sat down over beer...and pizza...and you know what happens then....right? The woulda's, the coulda's and the shoulda's! And then we mapped out field trips for all of 2016. ALL OF 2016!! Once a month we will be out in the field, lifting weights and practicing our rock hounding. Sometimes it will be a geology tour, sometimes a museum, sometimes a beach and sometimes a good time but most of the time we will be in the field! Picking up rocks, fossils and what nots. We also thought one long trip is a good idea so we planned a New Mexico trip in March! BLM land everywhere, 3 days of big hunts and 2 days of roaming the BLM for minerals! Come to

the January meeting for all the details! Plan on attending March 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup>!

That is it. Questions, come to the meeting. Can't make the meeting, send us an email and we will see if we can help.

OHHHHHHHHHHHHH and if you have a rock hounding place, let us know. We will love to check it out!

Respectfully,  
Susan Postlethwait

*Ed's Note: Wow! Thanks, guys!*

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## The Stone Chipper

January 2016

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



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