



Each one teach one



President's Notes:

Summer & Safety

Summer is upon us. Visions of trips for fun and adventure flitter across our minds. Some trips have been planned for months, others a spur of the moment. Are you headed for the surf or the mountain peaks? I was planning to mention creeks and rivers but the recent rain systems have closed many river/creek sites. We now have an opportunity to explore new locations. Plan on a 'show & tell' if you discover a new location.

Please be careful as you explore and/or re-explore hills, plains, forests, beaches and the like. We tend to embrace our relaxed place and forget to remember SAFETY FIRST! Remember your safety list of eye-wear, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray and other safety equipment. This also includes ensuring that your tools are not chipped or worn out. If you plan on a 'stay-cation', ensure that your home machines are in good condition. Are belts in good shape and not cracked/glazed? Are the grinding wheels on center and cleaned of build-up, same for saws?

You are a treasured member of AGMS. We all want you safe and look forward to your tales of your summer 'cations. At the June meeting we'll talk about our topaz hunting trip to Mason. See you then.

Laird

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 7:00 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 2016

Annual membership dues are:

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

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Officers

President—Laird Fowler

president@austingemandmineral.org

1st VP—James Mercier

vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org

2nd VP—Paul Bordovsky

vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org

Treasurer—Craig Brandt

treasurer@austingemandmineral.org

Secretary—Pauline Denson

secretary@austingemandmineral.org

Board Members

Cindy Murphy—

murphy@c@austingemandmineral.org

John Curtright –

johnc@austingemandmineral.org

Richard Dorsey –

richardd@austingemandmineral.org

Deborah Johnson –

deborahj@austingemandmineral.org

Jan Ozias –

jano@austingemandmineral.org

Gary Collins--

collinsgj@austingemandmineral.org

Committee Chairs

Annual Show - Chip Burnette

showchairman@austingemandmineral.org

Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky

classes@austingemandmineral.org

Field Trips - Sue Postlethwait and John Curtright

trip@austingemandmineral.org

Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher

juniors@austingemandmineral.org

Co-Librarians -Cathy Brandt and Cynthia Murphy

librarian@austingemandmineral.org

Webmaster – Diann Hill

webmaster@austingemandmineral.org

Building Chair - John Curtright

Curator - Betsy Gager

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Cathy Brandt

Hospitality - Sunny Sturgeon

Membership -Susan Postlethwait

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Perkins

stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

AGMS Meetings Schedule

Board Meeting-- 1st Tuesday--7:00 p.m.

Minerals SIG Meeting--2nd Tuesday--7:00 p.m.

Capers Show Planning Meeting--3rd Thurs.--7:00 p.m.

General Meeting--4th Thursday--7:00 p.m.

Apology

to Katiri Peters, Arlington GMS, for failing to credit her for her fascinating picture of SCFMS Convention participants jammed into an elevator at the Lubbock show in April. The picture ran in the May 2016 StoneChipper.



No June Board Meeting

General Meeting

May 26, 2016

The speaker for the meeting was Frank Roberts, who spoke on The Bizarre Case of Wilson W. Crook III. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed.



Frank Roberts presented *The Bizarre Case of Wilson W. Crook III* at the May General Meeting.

Photo by Joe Perkins

Craig Brandt reported balances at Fidelity.

Chip Burnette reported that the Show Committee is seeking designs for this year's show pin. At the next meeting the committee will choose a dealer for the one open spot this year. A workday is scheduled to work on cases, wheel prizes, etc., on July 16. Club members are encouraged to tumble rocks for the gem mine, as purchased stones are expensive and less desirable.

Laird Fowler said that we would like to have cases of Mexican minerals to display at the show. The material to be used for this year's cabbing contest is Mexican minerals.

Carolyn Perkins announced winners and handed out awards in the newsletter competition at the South

Central Federation annual meeting in Lubbock. These are:

Marilyn Gilbreath, 6th place for "Anasazi Lightning Stones" in the February 2015 StoneChipper
Craig Brandt, 7th place for "Laura Dow & Crew" in the May 2015 StoneChipper.

Laura Dow, 8th place for "Harriet Streiber", May 2015 StoneChipper.

Laird Fowler, honorable mention for "Gem Caper Display", November 2015 StoneChipper.

Joyce Hrapsky, honorable mention for "Steps To Take To Enroll in AGMS Classes", April 2015 StoneChipper.

Josie Middleton, honorable mention for "The First Mining & Mineral Symposium at Montana Technical University", June 2015 StoneChipper.

Jan Marie Ozias, honorable mention for "Each One Teach Many", April 2015 StoneChipper.

Sue Postlethwaite, honorable mention for "What A Show", November 2015 StoneChipper.

Lilly Cave, 1st place, Poetry, for "Ode To Rocks", February 2015 StoneChipper.

Carolyn also announced that Chip Burnette had won numerous awards related to his Tri-Cities Gem and Mineral Society newsletter, *The Rock Prattle*.

Laird next reported that Carolyn had placed third for The StoneChipper in the small bulletin category.

Cindy Murphy reported that she will make patterns for vests for members who would like to make, or have made, club vests. She has not yet found appropriate fabric in Austin, and would like anyone who finds some to let her know.

Laird said that the Board is looking into getting patches made.

Laird also said that there are new books on the shelves in the library. The library has purchased

"Minerals Of Mexico" in honor of Harriet Streiber, and "Gems and Crystals From the American Museum of Natural History" in honor of Barbara Evans.

Laird said that the Saturday field trip would go unless there was widespread heavy rain that day. The raffle was held, followed by Show and Tell.

Laird introduced the new members who joined that night.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Pauline Denson

Show Committee Meeting May 19, 2016

Minutes were approved with two corrections.

Treasurer: Brian Wetzig provided the Treasurer's Report.

Banners: Chosen locations for banners this year are 10500 Jollyville Rd. W.; 4700 West Gate Blvd. N.; and MLK facing the Bob Bullock Building. One of the banners needs to be replaced next year as it is falling apart.

Committee SOP's: Operating procedures should be provided by all chairs.

Dealers: We will need to select dealers where needed.

Displays: The Club received a letter from Raymond Boswell inquiring if we would be interested in him bringing his display cases. The pictures went around and it was decided that he should be invited to the show.

Grand Prize: Will be a fluorite specimen from Bingham, New Mexico.

Postcards: Dee needs the winning picture to put on the postcard. Alan won and will send the picture to Dee. The addresses should be done by the end of July.

Raffle Items: Possibly move them out by the registers. Run a special on raffle tickets 2 for 1.

Show Pin: A couple of ideas for pins were: shape of Mexico with fluorite or a mineral with a sombrero hat and a stamp of Mexico. Possibly have designs for the next meeting as the pins need to be ordered by August 1st.

Student Volunteers: Laird indicated that Texas Tech has seniors and grad students giving presentations. San Antonio had students from UTSA doing that also. Talks could be given in the corner in the outside hall.

Other Item: Create a telephone booth skeleton frame to hang show sponsor banners on.

Work Day: We need to break rock, clean show shed, fix items for show and have a PICNIC! This will be on July 16 starting at 8:00. Come one and all.

Open Committee Chairs: Dealers, Demonstrators, Gem Mine and Head Cashier.

Minutes by Dee Fly

Hunts & Events



July 2-3, 2016 - Arlington G&MS Show. Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, Tx.

July 30-31, 2016 - Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Show. 3939 Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Tx.

August 13-14, 2016 - Baton Rouge G&MS, Baton Rouge, La. Lamar Dixon Expo Ctr., Gonzales, La.

August 20-21, 2016 - Ark-La-Tex G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, Bossier City, La.

August 27-28, 2016 - Pine County G&MS, Events Center, Jasper, Tx.

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. 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 and Marla Hayes of **Horizon Environmental Services**, for their continuing support of the club by printing *The Stone Chipper* each month. 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.
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 a 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 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.

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.

Your Very Own Soapbox

Here's your chance to be heard. And you can even submit your suggestions anonymously. The format and even content of the *StoneChipper* are getting a little stale. If you have any thoughts for making it better, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Do you have an article you have written or would like to write about rocks or minerals? Better yet, would you like to have the chance to be heard on a monthly basis, via a regular column? Or maybe you have a poem or a photo or drawing, or a funny story you'd like to share. I'm even thinking it doesn't have to be about mineral matters or rock hunting specifically. It can be about creating or adventuring or a special club member or other person you admire and we should all know about--we'd love to hear from you!

You can put your ideas/articles in the *StoneChipper* mail bin or email me at stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

The 2016 AFMS Convention is being held in late July of 2016.

So what does that mean to you?

Hopefully, it means you will purchase your tickets (yes, you need to be in it to win it!) before July for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing!

Why the raffle? The money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few. Before the clock runs out – why not Purchase tickets? You can also donate an item or two! Why not both options!

The tickets are \$5.00 a piece or \$20.00 for five! What a bargain!!

Where can you purchase tickets? Great questions- you can always send me a request for the tickets at my email at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com>

I will send you an email version of the tickets and I will fill in all the details on the original ticket, once I receive the money for the tickets. Or better yet- you can purchase them from your Federation's representative!

Representatives selling tickets and soliciting donations are as follows for each of the Federations:

California

Colleen McGann
PO Box 224
Santa Clara, CA 95052
kmcgann0009@gmail.com

Eastern

Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org>

Midwest

J.C. or Donna
Moore
25235 N State Rte 97
Cuba, IL 61427
<jcmoore3rd@gmail.com>
<mwfsecretary@gmail.com>

Northwest

Judi Allison
1701 NW 11th St
Hermiston, OR 97838
<jall@eotnet.net>

Rocky Mountain

DeLane Cox
or
Richard Jaeger
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr
Bentonville, AR 72712
3515 E 88th St
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
<delanec3#earthlink.net>
<rjgrsci@aol.com>

South Central

Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St
Dallas, TX 75211
<llispeed2@gmail.com>

Southeast

Jerri Heer
7301 N Howard Ave
Tampa, FL 33604-5224
<jheerx6@aol.com>
All pictures are on the website for all of the donations to date.

The Clock is Ticking...Tick... Tock...Tick...Tock

by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

SALT! In the Name of the Law! by André Mongeon

Yes, the Salt Police really exists. I'm not talking about your doctor or your dietician here. I am talking about uniform wearing, civil servant bona-fide cops that enforce the rules.

Now relax, don't put down your potato chips and fried chicken. The Salt Cops are far, far away in China and have very little to do with your blood pressure. They enforce a centuries-old government monopoly on salt in China. I managed to obtain (the) insignia of the Chinese Salt Authority, which shows little salt crystals and I had to find out what they were. I couldn't find very much information on this agency, just an article in the Prescott, Arizona Daily Courier from November 13, 2002. The agency started in 1994 and, with a force of 25,000, it rivals the size of some armies.

Salt mining in Zigong, Sichuan province has been going on for centuries. It brought prosperity to the area (and wealth to the rulers) in a time when salt was far more valuable than it is today. Well, perhaps not all of the people of Zigong did so well.

Before the advent of modern machinery, salt mining was extremely dangerous. Workers were often slaves or convicts and were doomed to certain death by dehydration. Even today some people can recall that being 'sent to the salt mines' was a punishment. Nowadays, tourists pay to visit salt mines as if they were spas.

Salt beds suitable for mining were originally deposits on an ancient ocean floor, which ended up over time being buried by geological forces. A familiar deposit near here is the one near Goderich, Ontario, currently operating as Sifto Salt. Surely most of us have even purchased rock salt (every winter) for our sidewalks and/or softener salt from this mine. I can almost guarantee that we all ate salt from there as well, that being in the form of iodized table salt. Which brings us back to our friends, the Salt Cops.

At one time there existed a dietary deficiency of iodine. It was decided to fortify table salt with minute amounts of potassium iodide. Often, salt originating from an ocean already contains some iodine, originating from the sea life that resided in the saltwater. The levels are often too low to prevent diseases such as goitre (severely swollen thyroid gland) or keep the thyroid full of iodine so you are less likely to pick up any ra-dioactive iodine (like in Chernobyl). This iodine supplementation was also put into effect in China, but a problem arose.

Independent salt miners in China were not always providing top quality product. Just like at mines for other minerals, people flock there to check the dumps and tailings ponds for overlooked products to earn a few extra bucks. The Chinese government created their Salt Police to ensure quality, but at the same time, it is used to enforce a modern government salt monopoly. Food safety? Salt is required for human health but in moderation. The Salt Cops are far away but not for long. It wouldn't surprise me if we would get our own version of Salt Cops coming to a restaurant or grocery store near you. A fine for doing 140 over 90? No, perhaps a food tax. After all, this is Canada [or America].

From "The Rockblast" -Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club September 2013

The StoneChipper 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 2016 by the AGMS and its licensors. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, text items in *The StoneChipper* 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

June 2016

Carolyn Perkins, Editor
6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, Texas 78757
stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

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



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org