



Each one teach one



Presidential Message

Hello, Rockhounds,

What a great show! I had a great time drooling over the wonderful specimens brought by the dealers. As expected, the gate was lower than we would like, but we did have a good crowd, and I believe most of the dealers sold well. Thanks to all the members who volunteered. It takes a lot of people to put on this show, and we are grateful to all who participated, even if you could not be there more than a couple of hours.

We are approaching the end of the year, and have much to do. The November general meeting is the third Thursday because of Thanksgiving. Please try to make it, as we need to elect officers and board members for next year. Also, get your tickets for the Officer Installation and Banquet on December 12. Great food, good fun, and a very short meeting.

Pauline

A Time for Reflecting on What We Have and Sharing the Wealth



Photo by Yathing S. Krishnappa--courtesy Wikipedia

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 2013

Annual membership dues are:

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

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Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

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Hospitality - Kathleen Howard

Membership -Harold Von Rosenberg

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

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stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

General Meeting Minutes October 23, 2013

Alan Cherepon was the speaker for the meeting. He showed slides of postage stamps depicting a number of subjects, including mining activities, UK stamps, stone cutting and polishing, cave sites, fossils, petrified wood, minerals and gems, and diamonds.

Visitors who introduced themselves were Becky Booker who was trained as a gemologist, Judy Westerman, a former member, and her daughter Karen, who makes jewelry. Don Cogburn, a former member, rejoined the club.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Announcements

Dues for 2014 can be paid tonight.

Tickets for the banquet are available for purchase.

Ron Carman has tickets for the November 8-10 Houston Gem & Mineral show at the Humble Civic Center - \$8 at the door, \$6 from Ron.

Ron said they are trying to revive the custom of having competitive exhibits at the show. **Diann Hill entered this year and was awarded a blue ribbon.**

Josie Middleton said that **Laird Fowler won first place in the voting for favorite mineral at the show.**

Name tags will be available for purchase and orders will be taken at the November meeting. Names of winners of the cabbing contest are not available tonight. Dee Fly took pictures and will send them out on the Yahoo List.

Field Trips

Chip Burnette said that the Emerald Ridge trip, north of Mason, is this weekend, October 26. Reservations could be made through www.baringerhill.com. Anyone interested in going to Arkansas the week of Thanksgiving should contact Chip.

Diann Hill said that she is resigning as webmaster. She said it is already set up on a template and just needs to be maintained, involving approximately 10 hours a month. Brian Armstrong volunteered and will take over in January.

Door prizes were won by Jackie Fisher, Shawn McMahon, Dee Fly, Robert Morriss, Gene Healy, Harry Hause and Gef Fisher.

Joyce Hrapsky, 2013 Secretary



Alan Cherepon presented slideshow highlights of mineral stamps from around the world and provided actual samples for closer inspection.

AGMS Board Meeting Synopsis October 1, 2013

The AGMS Board of Directors held a regular meeting on October 1, 2013. Ten board members were present. A complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report – Deposits were reported from the auction and the Guthrie sale. Checking, savings and investment account balances were given.

Door replacement – Tabled

Nominations Committee – The committee is continuing to work on nominations for 2014.

New Business:

Curator/Conservator - Betsy Gager will serve as curator of the club's collections.

Saturday Auction - The yearly auction will be held on a Saturday in August instead of during a regular monthly meeting.

Five-year calendar – Dates were set for 2014 through 2018.

Joyce Hrapsky, 2013 Secretary



Lt. Col. William
Richard Mullener

1/17/1949-10/24/2013

Lt. Col. William Richard Mullener, 64 of Plantersville Texas, son of longtime AGMS members William P. Mullener (deceased) and Elaine Mullener, passed away on Thursday, October 24, 2013. Bill was working as Grimes County Emergency Response Coordinator at the time of his death. Besides his mother Elaine, he leaves behind his wife of 21 years, Diane, 4 children and 8 grandchildren, as well as a sister, Holly and numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Bill had an illustrious military career as a pilot in the Air Force after graduation from Texas A&M, logging in a total of 20,000 hours flight time over Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf. He won multiple medals for his distinguished service. Retiring from active duty, Bill flew for Delta Airlines. After retiring from Delta he completed a Masters degree in counseling and devoted himself to helping others, especially military families and individuals with addiction. He was committed to his family and became involved with the Boy Scouts when his children were young.

Bill was honored in a service at Klein Funeral Home in Magnolia TX on October 31.

Our condolences to Elaine and the other loved ones Bill leaves behind.

Thanks to Josie Middleton--from Houston Chronicle obituary

November Mineral
SIG Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 12

Just a reminder that the November Minerals SIG Meeting is this Tuesday, the 12th, at 7pm at the clubhouse. It will be a show-and-tell and mineral identification meeting so bring your stuff. The pre-meeting dinner will be at Top Notch Burger, 7525 Burnet Rd. starting between 4:30 and 5 pm.

Fluorescence-
-What Is It and
What Causes It?

*July 2003 "Fire & Ice"/via
"Rolling Rock" March 2001*

Fluorescence is caused by the reaction of certain substances to light, occurring within the atoms themselves. The electrons of certain atoms absorb ultraviolet or short wave rays. In doing so, they become hyperactive and move out of their normal positions of orbit around the atom's nucleus. Since electrons carry a negative charge, they are attracted by the positively charged protons in the nucleus and try to return to their normal orbits. In doing so they release the trapped excess energy they have absorbed, thereby emitting a tiny bit of light. Multiply this bit of light by the millions of atoms in a mineral and you have the visible glow known as fluorescence.

To fluoresce, a mineral must contain a trace of an impurity, or activator. The most common of these impurities are manganese, copper, silver, lead, uranium and chromium. No minerals fluoresce more brilliantly than those found in northern New Jersey's Franklin Mining District, mined principally for zinc. The Franklinite is the best.

Cabbing Contest Winners

The 2013 AGMS Member Cabochon Contest received twelve entries this year. If you were able to find the Cab Contest exhibit you could have seen the entries. The entries were turned to me in September. Five anonymous judges craned their necks and eyeballs searching for the hidden gems and blemishes of each cabochon. This year the material was Cabber's Choice. I received snowflake obsidian, copper in quartz, dinosaur bone, various agates, blue tiger eye and rhodochrosite. Three cabs were entered into the Free-form category while the remaining nine competed in the Traditional (one plane of symmetry) category.

The judges assessed the following:

2013 Best Free-Form Cab: Copper in Quartz:
Brian Wetzig

2013 Best Traditional Cab: Montana Agate:
Chip Burnette

2013 Best Overall Cab: Montana Agate: **Chip Burnette**

During the 2013 Gem capers, attendees were asked to vote for their favorite Cab in the exhibit case.

2013 Fan Favorite Cab: Quartz Crystals: **Terry Barry**

Congratulations to all the cabbers who submitted their outstanding craftsmanship. The competition among their cabbing skills was strong. The difference between the top two Free-Form cabs was a mere .08 points. The difference between the top two Traditional cabs was just .3 points. While the fan favorite top two cabs differed by only two votes.

Remember to place a note on your calendar to enter your 2014 entries. Next year's material will

be DINOSAUR BONE in keeping with 2014 Gem Caper's theme.

Laird Fowler

November General Meeting Presentation

Robert and Charlotte Morriss will be presenting at our November meeting. They will speak on their opal collecting trips to Australia, and will be using slides. **MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOV 21 DUE TO HOLIDAY.**

Alan Cherepon



Hunts & Events

Dec 6-8-- El Paso, El Paso Mineral & Gem Society Show, 6331 Alabama St., El Paso, Tx.

Nov. 24-30-- Trip to Arkansas quartz mines led by Chip Burnette. Day trips to mines around Mt. Ida and Jessieville and other mineral locations in area. Will also visit Crater of Diamonds State Park. Join for a day or for the whole week.

Alpine Area Spring 2014 Rock Hunt

Teri Smith reports that the October 2013 field trips were a great success, with lots of agate and other material found. The next hunt is scheduled for the weekend of the 2014 Alpine Gem Show, probably April 14-22. Contact Teri for details.

agatehunter@sbcglobal.net

AGMS Annual Show

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society's annual show was held at the Palmer Events Center October 18-20. A special thanks to Susan and all her crew. And there were many other folks who worked multiple days and multiple shifts to make this work. Since I don't want to overlook anyone, I won't name names, but you know who you are--THANK YOU!

All photos by Joe Perkins



This little guy is really interested.



Chip and Josie have set out the next Silent Auction selections and Josie seems very pleased with the result.



The action rarely slows at Andrea's Gem Mine.



Gef shares his knowledge of cabbing



Nature's Treasures always brings them in.



There's something irresistible about geodes.



Dee shows a customer the special sliding size adjustment feature on the cords used to hold pendants at the Jewelry Booth.



Shawn helps out at his friend's booth.



Richard checks customer's winning number at the Wheel of Fortune.



Fascinating fossils.



Paul discusses fluorescence.



Can't get enough of Andrea's Gem Mine.

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.

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.

Refreshments!



Please contact Katheen Howard (clitzbomb@att.net) if you have refreshment questions or have signed up and find you will not be able to attend that meeting.

If you have trouble remembering when it is your time to bring something and would prefer not to bother, Kathleen is happy to accept cash donations as well.

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. It's the best way to keep up with the latest AGMS happenings.

What a Show!

What a show! The weather could not have been prettier and our customers were so happy to see us again. It was good to see our dealers Thursday morning for move in. They are truly like family that lives too far away. And how about those new dealers? Neat new things to look at and best of all, new friends!

There were oodles and oodles of compliments from our customers:

- Quite a few commented that we must have known that they were coming because we put chairs in strategic locations.
- And I can't even count the compliments on the calcite specimens. They were in awe of our

personal collections and the fact that calcite has so many forms AND it can be found locally AND that we cared to share it with them. I want to thank everyone who took the time to look through their collection, make the labels, and bring their prized specimens to the show and work together to put together a fantastic set of displays.

- And then there were a slew of compliments about the Touch Table, they absolutely love the concept! The Gem Mine, they cannot believe how much fun they can have for fifty cents! The dealers, our customers love our dealers. The variety, their personalities, and “seeing something for the first time” is what I heard over and over again.

- And best of all, I heard back from both our customers and our dealers on how helpful our club members are, how courteous our club members are, and how friendly our club members are! And that is the heart of our show.....GREAT VOLUNTEERS! There is absolutely no way I can think of to let you know how BIG a part the volunteers play in putting on a great show. Without you, there really would not be a show.....I am just a cat herder, nothing more! THANK YOU.

Although we had a bit of a rough patch this year, I want to really thank the members of the show committee that got it ALL together in time for the show: (in no particular order) Fran & Mac, Barbara & Wing, Dee, Pauline, Robert & Charlotte, Stretch & Lynn, Andrea, Chip & Sandra, Laura, Alan, Paul, Josie, and last but not least Brian and Les! Also, through the year there were members who stopped by our show committee meetings and your presence is appreciated.....we need new ideas and a fresh look on old things. Laird, Ron, Joyce... Thank You.

I also want to thank Pauline & Richard for helping me navigate the insurance. What an education!

That’s all I have....a big THANK YOU to all of the members who volunteered before, during and after the show. Without your help we would not have had such a wonderful show!

sue



Wild turkey photo by Riki7, wikipedia

Happy Thanksgiving!

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 2013 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

November 2013 Newsletter

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Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org