



The Stone Chipper

Each one teach one



Presidential Message

Woohoo, way to go AGMS Rockhounds!!!

Gosh, yous guys (and you know who I'm talking about) are just great! The Show Committee met August 20th with 22 people in attendance. Advertisement opportunities are popping up right and left and are being negotiated by all of you wonderful volunteers! We have completed the InterGem show headed by Wing; now on to the Art In Public Spaces show headed by James; and then at the end of the month, to the TX Chapter of Fluorescent Minerals event at the Texas Memorial Museum headed by Alan. Thank you to all who have worked or will work to see these events to fruition! Everything else is moving right along.

The annual club auction was fantastic and a huge amount of fun. We had so many new folks in. The food was great!! To say that it was a roaring success is an understatement. There is no way that I can thank all of you enough!! Blessings to all involved.

The Board meeting took place September 1st. We had a quorum with 2 people missing and 1 place unfulfilled and 3 visitors. Dee's report will come in at our general meeting. Sian's report is at a standstill as she awaits the 2014 books. John and Craig have made many improvements to our humble clubhouse along with help from Laura and

(Continued 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. 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 2015

Annual membership dues are:

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

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Historian - Vacant

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Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

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President's Message cont'd from p.1

David and others. We will be having a building clean-up work day October 3rd at 8 a.m., so thank all of you ahead of time who will be helping with this endeavor!! Craig will also be looking into our taxes and contacting accountant Keith Rech.

Our next meeting is Sept 24th at 7 p.m. and Cindy will have announced our speaker by then. I hope some of you can contribute to our club showcase. It is open to all of us!!!

And don't forget to finish your cabs for submission to Laird Fowler.

Also, Jackie Fisher requests that you bring your 8 x 10 mineral/rock photos to the general meeting to submit for competition.

I will be attending the Denver show, hope I run into some of you there.

Thank you all,
Josie

AGMS Meetings Schedule

Metalsmith SIG Meeting--2nd Monday--7:00 p.m.

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.

Board Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by president Josie Middleton. Seven Board members were present, constituting a quorum. Three additional AGMS members were also present. Craig Brandt gave the Treasurer's Report.

Secretary Ron Carman said that the minutes of the August Board meeting were published in the *Stone Chipper*. He also had a printed copy for persons to read.

Sian Schilhab reported for the Auditing Committee; there are still a few discrepancies they are trying to resolve and they will let us know when it is done.

John Curtright gave the building report; repairs to the saw and storage shed were accomplished for less than the estimated amount and we still have some paint and other items left over. We must set a date for yard cleanup before the show; the Board decided to do it on October 3.

Under New Business: There was discussion on the status of our tax reporting; Craig will try to

contact Keith Rech, an accountant, to see if he will be able to file IRS Form 990 for the AGMS.

Show Chair Susan Postlethwait announced that the AGMS has been invited to the Unveiling of Art in Public Spaces at Robert Mueller Park on the 18th of September. She recommended that we bring geodes to show off and various club and show handouts to give to attendees. Both Sue and Josie will try to contact AGMS members to help with this event. Sue also said that she will send membership lists in pdf version via e-mail to members.

Sian said she will try to contact Wanda Reynolds in the Williamson County Club for information about the base of the Wheel of Fortune we use at our show.

John said that the materials are here for Breanna Batson's metal classes; the proposed start date is 21 September 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald R. Carman
Secretary

NO August General Meeting Minutes

(Due to lack of a meeting)

Photo Contest

Please bring your prize-worthy 8 x 10 rock and/or mineral prints, preferably on photo paper, to the general meeting on September 24th. These can be photos of rocks or minerals from your own collection, or ones that you photographed at museums or shows. Jackie Fisher will be there to collect them for judging.

Gem Capers Show Planning Meeting

August 20, 2015

Minutes: Minutes are submitted with no corrections. Dee will be out of town for the next meeting and Ron Carmen will take the minutes.

Treasurer: Brian provided the treasurer's information.

Advertising: Lynn is going to be on Good Morning Austin with Nature's Treasures.

*****We need someone to work with Lynn and take over the Advertising chair.*****

Cases: Wing made some risers out of wood and covered them with felt. He going to make some more and we will drape them with cloth this year, then cover them with felt next year

Convention items: Josie took Deborah all over town to show her where to pick up items to put in the delegates bag. Convention gifts boxes are almost done just need a little more fluorite and flint.

Dealers: The dealer names, electrical requests and layout have been emailed to both Robert and Susan.

***** We need a new dealer chair starting next year.*****

Intergem: Wing advised that Laird and he helped cover tables for their show and set-up our table. Now he needs some helpers to either demonstrate or just talk and hand out AGMS flyers.

Fluorescent Cases: Alan switched out one of the black lights and all the cases have been laid out for the material. Alan is going to have a meeting on Sunday at 1:00 at the show for the "TX Chapter of Fluorescent Minerals".

Flyers: Stretch has completed them and made several different sizes.

Shirts: Susan has received shirt sizes to order volunteer t-shirts and the show committee shirts.

Touch Table: Robert advised that he needs a chunk of slate and a chunk of flint. Several people volunteered to provide for him.

Volunteer sheet: The volunteer sheet went around for people to sign up.

Wheel of Fortune: Sian is going to talk to Wanda with the Williamson County club about the base for the WOF.

Other items: Robert will be at the Cedar Park Center this weekend and he will see about getting a floor plan.

Josie had a visitor come by, Jose Manis from Houston, to show his paintings of Amethyst geodes into which he incorporates crushed or tumbled glass or quartz. He was wanting to see about displaying at the show. He will be at the show but not to sell his work, just showing or demonstrating some aspects of his work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Minutes by Dee Fly

Hunts & Events



September 25-27--Houston G&MS annual show. Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. Contact: Scott Singleton, (281) 530-0942; show@hgms.org

October 10-11--Tri-City GMS, Mayborn Civic Center, Temple.

October 23-25--54th AGMS Gem Capers, & AFMS/SCFMS federations show, Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Contact: showchairman@austingemandmineral.org

November 21-22--Dallas G&MS annual show, Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, 1800 Rodeo Drive. Contact: Darrell Harrisonbrabo1bravo@sbcglobal.net.

December 4-6--El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama. Contact: Jeannette Carrillo, gemcenter@aol.com



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

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith



BEZEL SETTING PROBLEMS – When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face. In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch. If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

(More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips))

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 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.
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 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.



photo by Joe Perkins

So much to do, so little time.

Gem Capers 2015 pegmatites



This year, the Austin Gem and Mineral Society's annual show, Gem Capers 2015, will proudly host the American Federation and South Central Federation

conventions and show. Included in the weekend are meetings, judging, talks, and field trips as well as the annual meeting of A.L.A.A. (American Lands Access Association) and S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). These organizations' activities will begin on Wednesday, October 21. The talks will be open to the public for the price of admission and will include topics such as Central Texas pegmatites, mineral preparation, and North American Diamond mining by Charles Kirkpatrick. Please see the Gem Capers website for a detailed schedule <www.gemcapers.com>.

The show will include over 30 vendors selling jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, fossils, spheres, meteorites, and lapidary equipment. There will also be a cabochon cutting contest and a SCFMS and AFMS display case competition. The show and many events will be held at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road. Hours for the show are:

Friday, October 23-- 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday, October 24-- 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday, October 25-- 10 am - 5 pm

Admission is \$8 per adult (\$7 for seniors 60+) and \$2 for children 13-18. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Multiple day tickets are available when registering in advance.

In addition to competitive and non-competitive exhibits, special exhibits will include the

"touch table" of rocks and fossils and an "illumination station" containing fluorescent minerals.

There will be a silent auction Saturday and Sunday, as well as demonstrations such as stone faceting, wire wrapping, capping, fossil cleaning, and polymer clay. There will also be numerous activities for children. Friday, October 23 is Youth Education Day, with field trips to the show from various schools sponsored by Silicon Labs.

Hourly door prizes will be awarded to visitors on Saturday and Sunday (must be present to win), plus a grand prize will be awarded on Sunday to one lucky paying show visitor (the winner need not be present). This year's Grand Prize is the floor sized globe with semi-precious stone inlay, shown here.



The Austin Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds of the show support the society as well as provide scholarships for students in the Earth Sciences.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

At the first of this month Sue emailed the updated membership list to all members with a viable email address. I have made copies and will mail them to those on the Stonechipper "snail mail" list. If you have paid your membership dues and have not received a copy of the list it may be that the email address we have for you is incorrect. Please contact me, Newsletter Editor, at stonechipper@austingemmandmineral.org if you think the address we have for you might be outdated.



The Texas Faceters Guild would like to announce a faceting contest. You do not need to be a member of the Guild to participate as it is open to anyone who facets. We are holding this impromptu contest in order to obtain more interest in the Guild. Please forward this email to anyone you know who facets and might be interested in participating, no matter where they are located.

Class divisions for the contest will be:

1. Cutter has faceted under 10(ten) stones
2. Cutter has faceted over 10 (ten) stones
3. Fantasy cuts

The design will be cutters choice (go ahead and pick your favorite cut if you wish) stones will need to be received by Sept. 25 to:

Texas Faceters Guild
C/O P.O. Box 44
Lexington, Texas 78947

The judging of said stones will be at the October meeting of the Guild which will be held in Ingram., Texas. Stones will be labeled by a number as they are received, so no one will know who has cut what stone when they viewed.

Please be sure to package your stones accordingly so they will not be damaged during mailing please be sure to include monies to return your stones back to you. Texas Faceters Guild accepts no responsibility for damages during the mailing to and from the contest.

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone Number _____

2015 SINGLE CABOCHON CONTEST

Hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society

The Austin Gem & Minerals Society is proud to announce the hosting of a single cabochon competition. The competition will commence during the AFMS Show held in Austin, Texas; October 23-25, 2015. The required material must come from one of the South Central Federation states: Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas. Entry deadline is by NOON, October 23, 2015. Entry forms will be available at the show. Contact person is Laird Fowler: lairdf@earthlink.net (512-971-8224). An entry form can be emailed to you prior to the show.

Overall guidelines for fabrication and judging will be defined in the updated American Federation of Mineralogical Federation's Rules: Section 9.0; DIVISION C – LAPIDARY; Rule 9.1

Cabochons: A cabochon shall be lapidary material of a size that could be worn for jewelry, cut free hand without having been tumbled. Cabochons fall in two categories:

(1) **Traditional:** Traditional cabochons must have domed tops and must have at least one plane of symmetry. A plane of symmetry exists when a straight line passed through the middle of a cabochon gives two equal halves in size and shape. Some examples of traditional cabochons are: heart, cross, star, square, rectangle, diamond, teardrop, pear, circle, oval, and kite.

(2) **Modern and Creative:** Modern and Creative cabochons may have either domed or flat tops and have any shape that exhibits both the skill and creativity of the lapidary. They are not restricted to having a plane of symmetry. (Category sometimes known as Free-Form)

The reverse side of any cabochon modern, traditional, or creative, may have a bevel or chamfer. A bevel or chamfer is not mandatory.

OUT-OF-CLASS materials for THE 2015 Cab Contest are:

- (a) Mineral specimens
- (b) Materials embedded in plastics
- (c) Tumbled material
- (d) Material **not** from one of the South Central Federation States: AR, LA and/or TX

While Rule 9.2 considers the following OUT-OF-CLASS, the 2015 Cab Contest will allow the following: Any lapidary entry that has more than fifty percent of the specimens composed of petrified wood.

We look forward to your entry in this competition.

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.



Coming October 23-25!

AGMS Presents:

Gem Capers 2015 and
AFMS & SCFMS
Show & Convention

54th Annual Gemstone, Mineral & Fossil Show Featuring PEGMATITES!

The Stone Chipper

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Address Correction Requested Austin Gem and Mineral Society



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org