

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 621ST MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JANUARY 24TH, 2008, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The January program will be a talk by a group of club members on their "Adventures in Brazil - Gem Mine Tours."

**AGMS Annual Show
Gem Capers 2008
Palmer Events Center**

Show Dates:
October 24th - 26th.
www.AustinGemAndMineral.org

THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.



All American Club Awards
AFMS Gold & Trophy 2002
AFMS Gold 2003, 2004
SCFMS Gold 2002, 2003, 2004

The 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 the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December. November or early December is show month and the meeting, if any, is held after show setup on Thursday before the show. December is the Invocation of Officers meeting held on a date and at a place determined by the officers. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers are listed on the back page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

DUES FOR 2008

Membership dues are:

\$15.00 annually for an adult \$20.00 annually for a couple \$4.00 annually for juniors

THE STONE CHIPPER

The Stone Chipper is the official publication of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. It is published monthly in Austin, Texas. Minutes of Board Meetings are available upon request. Note, clip art images are under Copyright 2008 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 Stone Chipper*. All authors who make submissions to this newsletter are presumed to agree with this policy.

President's Message



2008 is here and Gem Capers was a big success in many ways. The number of people attending and the amount of money brought in appear to have increased. A big part of that was due to the hard work and organization of the Chair, Susan Postlethwait, as well as the advertising blitz orchestrated by Lynn Young. Thanks again to all of you.

I am still working on field trips to the Karnes County uranium mines (as well as Naica, Mexico), but have still not gotten an OK on this yet. I have repeatedly contacted the land owner, but he has yet to get an OK from the contractor. So we remain in limbo on this one. As soon as I hear anything further, I will let you know.

I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I made it up to Arkansas after Christmas, went to some rock shops in the Hot Springs area and in Eureka Springs (didn't stop at the Purkeypiles, just drove past their new property), and up to Branson before coming home. I picked up some more quartz (will I ever have enough?) Then the unthinkable happened on the trip - my youngest daughter bought a piece of slag. You know that bright colored glass they seem to sell everywhere up there? Where did I go wrong? I didn't think I was a bad father. Maybe some of you can tell me where I went wrong, and how to clean up a piece of slag for her. I could try pointing the blame on her mother, but eventually, as the Jimmy Buffet song goes, "it's my own d@#* fault." Just thought I would mention this so some of you don't make the same mistakes I did.

Moving into the new year on a positive note is always good. Hopefully the field trips will come together. Dee Fly and I are moving along on the "Wall of Fame" of notable achievements by our AGMS members, and the workshop is coming along nicely with Geoff Fisher doing some great things for the lapidary enthusiasts of our society. Looking forward to seeing you all at the January meeting and seeing what you acquired in December.

~Alan Cherepon, President



Library News



Welcome to all the new and returning club members! We are fortunate to have a fantastic library from which to choose books, periodicals, and videos. Please remember that in order to check out books one must be a current member of the club, not have any over due books, and only check out 2 books (or articles) at a time.

Please note that we are still looking for a volunteer to be another co-librarian!

~Diann Hill, Librarian co-chair

December 2007 Meeting Minutes



[Editors' Note: usually there is no formal meeting in December, but this time business was transacted. I've adjusted the "count" of the meetings for January to reflect this fact.]

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Alan Cherepon, President. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Old Business: Alan thanked everyone who had participated in the show and recognized the officers and board members.

Show Committee: Susan Postlethwait said that she will again be Show Chair next year.

Federation: Paul Good announced all the awards that had been won this year. He also announced that Paul Bordovsky had been named Rockhound of the Year, and that Jim and JoAnn Wiersma had been named Patrons of the Southwestern Federation.

Budget: Alan Cherepon presented the budget for 2008. Diann Hill moved that the budget be approved. Dee Fly seconded the motion and it passed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Alan Cherepon.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary



Dues are Due!

Time Again for Dues

By Margaret Good
AGMS Club Member

Oh, yes, dues are due again this year.
So don't waste time, let's have a cheer.
Fifteen dollars for one, twenty for two,
Four for juniors and that will do.
So write that check, put it in the mail.
Let's get together our talents to hail.
Dues are accepted at any meeting,
If you forget, yourself you're cheating.

[If you haven't yet paid up for 2008, you can bring in your dues to the next club meeting, or send them to the AGMS address, attention treasurer. ~Editors]

Preview of the Brazil Gem Tour Presentation

In late June and early July of 2007, a group of eight AGMS club members embarked on a special mineral collecting tour to southern Brazil's Minas Gerais area. It was sponsored by the Los Angeles Mineral Museum and led by their curator of minerals, Tony Kampf. The two week tour turned into quite an adventure! The group visited several working mines for emeralds, imperial topaz, aquamarine, and tourmaline. Along the way, they were allowed to do some collecting of their own and managed to find a veritable treasure of aquamarines at one mine in particular.



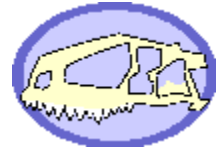
Photo by Charlotte Morriss

The rock group also took some time to visit the wild regions of Brazil, including the famous Pantanal and Iguassu Falls. Both locales had stunning scenery and

bountiful wildlife. Be sure to attend the **January 24th** meeting to have your own Brazilian tour!

~excerpted from the AGMS Gem Capers Show Guide and Rock Hound Resource, December 2007

Paleo Club News



Come to the **January 15th, 7:00 p.m.** meeting of the Austin Paleontological Society and hear Linda McCall make fossils come 'alive!' Her enthusiasm is contagious and her topic will be "**The Edwards of Georgetown - Phase One,**" a look at the site, the methods used to recover the fossils, and the spectacular fossils she found. She has a fascinating paleo history, starting at age six. Her Creede, Colorado collection is renowned; she worked for Dr. Langston in the VP lab at the Balcones Research Center; helped author a paper with Dr. Sprinkle and the APS on a holotype found in Oklahoma; and even appeared on the Howdy Doody show for the Natural Science Center. She promises spectacular pictures and you won't want to miss this!

~Diann Strout

A.G.M.S. Calendar

- Jan 15 - Paleo Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 17 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Jan 22 - Move tables to Georgetown 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 23 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)
- Jan 24 - Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 05 - Board Meeting

Sunshine
Committee



Just before Christmas, **Kellee Greenway** became ill with an upper respiratory problem and had to be hospitalized. She is home recuperating.

Charles Covill was hospitalized earlier this month with a bleeding ulcer and is thankfully, also now home recovering.

Paul Good fell this week and broke his shoulder. He too had a hospital stay but has been released to heal and later have physical therapy.

I'm sure we all hope that our friends will be well again soon!

Please send sunshine news to Kathleen Howard.

Where Do We Go From Here? Or, The Status and Direction of Mineral Collecting in Texas

By Alan Cherepon
AGMS Club Member, President

You see the occasional editorial or letter in the journals bemoaning the fact that getting access to good collecting sites is becoming more difficult, government lands, both federal and local, are becoming increasingly prohibited to rockhounds. Well, here's another one, with one exception; a proposed plan for reversing the trend.

As our society ages, the population continues to grow, and urban sprawl becomes common place, you would expect some changes and difficulties related to our hobby. Add to this a smattering of those people who ignore common courtesy and property rights, as well as an epidemic of law suits for such frivolous reasons as their children's poor health because they ate too many burgers and fries instead of both parents and children taking responsibility for what they do. People have become increasingly more cautious, especially when a group of strangers come rolling up to their doorstep and ask if they can go bang around on their property.

Think about it. Would you be more responsive to a group who just show up one day seeking access to your property, or a group that takes the time to contact and educate you on who they are, what they do as a society, the benefits they are providing, and the way they are prepared to protect the landowner from a potential lawsuit by having waivers and an insurance policy in place? We also see it in the media that the press can create the illusion of nearly anyone being a saint or sinner. Some good, local press can go a long way in putting a positive picture in the minds of potential collecting area landowners. This may also require some PR work with local authorities, as well as school districts, to demonstrate the benefits of promoting rock hounding as an alternative to kids and adults doing less beneficial things with their time.

Many locals are not even aware of some of the natural wonders right below their feet. One trip comes to mind where our group was exploring the local volcanic features in Austin. I asked some young dudes who were passing through the creek bed if they knew what the dark green rocks they were walking on represented. They had no clue. When I told them

this was rock from a lava flow from an ancient volcano they were reasonably impressed and slowed down long enough to take a look. When people become aware that there were once erupting volcanoes and dinosaurs roaming around in what is now their backyard, they suddenly become a little more excited and aware of their surroundings. Adults appear to be even more impressed, especially if they are involved in education or have children of their own that they can share this new information with.

Even our own past president, Paul Bordovsky, who grew up in Karnes City and even worked temporarily in the nearby uranium mills, had no idea of the incredible mineral specimens available in the old mines he lived so close to until he became involved with our own gem and mineral society in Austin.

So, what can we do as a society? Here is what I suggest. Just as Lynn Young planned and initiated the media blitz for our annual Gem Capers show, the AGMS (and all such societies) needs to plan and implement how to best position ourselves to increase our access to local mineral collecting areas. I believe this can best be accomplished by what I indicated above:

- Have a society insurance policy in place with the specifics available to all to read and use, (the AGMS has such a policy, through our affiliation with the SCFMS);
- Have a waiver of liability form readily available for all field trips that all attendees will sign; all landowners should have a blank copy sent to them when requesting permission (AGMS has such a form);
- Educate society members on proper collecting etiquette and the respect of private property (the AGMS should prepare a summary document to keep on file and to review each year as both a reminder to old members and information for new members who may have never considered what is right, what is legal, and how we should go beyond the letter of the law in an effort to build a good working reputation among landowners and local authorities);
- Develop a pamphlet/tri-fold that can be used to provide to schools, local authorities, and landowners that explains what our society is, does, our benefits to the community and science, and ways in which we protect the landowner from liability issues;

- Develop a plan and prioritize who to mail out these brochures to, and request an audience with specific people in school districts, local government, and the media, to allow us to educate them on what we are about, and how we benefit the community;

- Get media coverage, especially on local news stations, and especially for our annual show, or on a local field trip;

- Educate local and state quarry and mine owners/operators about our society in an effort to gain access to working properties that may have been off-limits for many years;

- Develop a plan and checklist of what process should be followed when contacting a land owner to request permission to collect on their property.

Perhaps others reading this may have additional ideas and suggestions on how to improve this initial draft plan. I heartily invite your input to make this the best organized such plan thus far developed for our hobby, and look forward to your input and assistance in developing and initiating such a plan, provided the society is in favor of such an approach. If we want favors from landowners, I think it is high time we put more effort into it instead of grumbling about how difficult it is to collect anymore.

Local Show Announcements

Jan 19-20

Fredericksburg, TX
The Fredericksburg Rockhounds
www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

Jan 26-27

Tyler, TX
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
Keith Harmon (903) 581-4068

Feb 16-17

Georgetown, TX
Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society
Bill Medford (512) 930-2768

Feb 23-24

Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society
www.ghg.net/gpenning/index.htm

~www.rockngem.com

Details on the Williamson County Show

After a long, two year hiatus awaiting the upgrades to the San Gabriel Park facilities, the Williamson County Gem Show is finally back! The dates are **February 16th - 17th** at the San Gabriel Park Community Center in Georgetown, Texas. The hours are Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. Parking is free. Admission for adults is \$2.00, 6-12 is \$1, under 6 is free.

Let's all go back to Georgetown and support our neighbors' revived show and make sure it is one to remember!

Final Plea for Photos

Our intrepid and hardworking historian, **Ed Gage**, is putting the finishing touches on this year's entry book for the club awards. He **REALLY NEEDS PHOTOS!** Ed especially needs documentation of junior activities. His drop dead date is coming up soon in January. He will be attending the Fredericksburg show and will be available to take your pictures there. Ed is "going for the gold" for all of us, so please try to help him out if you can.

2008 Exhibitors and Judges Seminar

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society, in conjunction with the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies, will host an **Exhibitors and Judges Seminar** on Saturday and Sunday, **March 8th and 9th, 2008** here in Austin, Texas at the AGMS clubhouse on 6719 Burnet Lane. Every member of the AFMS is invited to attend. The fee is **\$15** to cover the cost of refreshments and printing costs and will begin each morning promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Topics to be covered include: preparing a display for exhibiting, AFMS uniform rules for exhibiting, how exhibits are judged, and what makes a good display. Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday for a small donation. It will likely consist of salad, sandwich, chips, and fruit. There is a refrigerator for personal lunches and nearby restaurants for those who want to dine out.

For additional information and copies of the application form, please go to our website at www.austingemandmineral.org, email general@austingemandmineral.org or phone 512-458-9546. To register, send in your fee along with your name, address, phone, and e-mail to: AGMS, Attn Exhibitors & Judges Seminar, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX, 78757. Also please indicate if you are primarily interested in learning to judge or exhibiting, as well as if your primary interest is in fossils, minerals, lapidary, jewelry, or other.

~Susan Postlethwait & Ron Carman

Rock Enthusiasts Share at Tobias Elementary!

Rock and mineral enthusiasts Paul and Margaret Good continue to share their knowledge and rock samples with our Tobias Explorers. They have a display case in the library which they change each six weeks. Recently, this dedicated team of volunteers spent time in Mrs. Buskness' first grade classroom answering many questions about rocks. They even left displays for the students to study in the room.

Being active members of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society for many years, the Goods encourage people to visit the web site, become a member, get involved, and learn more about rocks and minerals. This society even takes junior members while providing ongoing programs of fun and education. After 37 years of providing displays in schools, libraries, museums, and universities, this pair are still excited to share their passion for collecting and learning about rocks.

Margaret Good also writes poetry. A copy of her book *Baker's Dozen of Birthstone Poems* is available in our Tobias library. You can also visit the Kyle Public Library to read Ms. Good's other poetry book *Wings of Flight*.

~From *The Tobias Traveler*, provided by Paul & Margaret Good.

The Goods added that they now have increased their displays to 10 schools in Hays County. They are providing set ups for six elementary, two intermediate, and two high schools. The total enrollment of the schools last year was 5,146. Since adding the two high schools, the total enrollment is 8,915.

Fiber Optic Gems: What Are They?

By Bill Grimes

Fiber optics was developed as a result of someone studying a piece of the mineral ulexite. Also known as TV stone, it is a hard, brittle, fibrous stone which when writing is placed underneath, will allow the image to appear on the surface of the stone. This led to the theory that if this type of fibrous material could be manufactured, it could be used in many different ways where image transmission is needed.

Fiber optic cables were at first very slender and flexible, used in surgeries and in house-hold decorations. The manufacturing technology improved and soon manufacturers were spinning out miles of cable for a new application - data transmission lines. These lines can be up to two inches across. The cable consists of thousands of pairs of optic fibers. Each pair carries data for phone, computer, fax, etc. Since the sides of the cable are reflective, there is no need for insulation or shielding around each fiber, as in old phone lines. This translates to more pairs in a smaller space. For us in the hobby, this created one of the newest gem treasures - fiber optic cabs. In order to make a fiber optic cabochon, the cable scraps are first cut into small lengths. The cable is then either cut into spheres, or it is sectioned parallel to the length of the fiber. Once the slices are made, it is cut much like any other gem. Care must be taken however, to protect the ends of the cable from splintering, or catching cutting dirt, abrasives, etc.

There is an interesting thing about fiber optic gems. If you look at them from a 90 degree angle from the eye of the gem, the gem will be transparent to light, maintaining its properties for light transmission.

~From *Rockhound Roundup*, 05/99, via *Gem Cutters News* 05/01, *Stoney Statements* 11/07

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Bob Greenway**, treasurer. To get signed onto the AGMS email list and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors at StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org.

~The Editors



SHOP TIPS

DOP POTS—DOP WAX: Don't leave your dop pot on continuously because the shellac in the dop wax will dissipate and your stones will fly off the dop stick. Turn it off when not in use.

JASPER: A good test for Jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs water and dries rapidly, throw it away (or at least into your box of tumbling material). It will not take a high polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony (quartz) and will take a good polish.

POLISH: Try adding a few drops of liquid detergent to the water you use for mixing cerium, tin oxide or chrome oxide. It makes the polishing much easier and faster as the detergent holds the polishing compound to the wheel/buff longer.

~from Calgary Lapidary Journal 12/03 via Blue Agate News 2/07, Stony Statements 09/07, Fredericksburg Rockhound News 10/07

Junior Roundup



A Project For The Pebble Pups Crystal Towers

INGREDIENTS:

2 pint jars, 1 jar lid, 10 tablespoons Borax (washing soda), a strip of old towel (1 x 18 inches), measuring spoon and cup, stirring spoon, hot tap water, and a cookie sheet.

This demonstrates how cave type stalagmites are formed.

Place two jars on a cookie sheet next to each other separated by the jar lid. Fill each jar with a solution of Borax and water - 12 ounces of hot tap water to each jar with 5 tablespoons of Borax in each jar. Stir until dissolved.

Put one end of the towel in each jar with a dip in the center between the jars so the solution will travel along the towel and drip in between the jars onto the jar lid. It will drop, one by one drop, and create a pillar of crystals. If you let it go long enough, the pillar will grow down from the towel and up from the lid until it meets in the middle, just like a real cave.

~Original source unknown, via Rockcollector 04/04, The Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/07

Feel Like Carving?

Try one-cup flour plus 3 cups of Plaster of Paris, and 2 cups water. Mix the flour and plaster together. Add water to thicken. Pour into an oiled container (shoebox, milk carton), and let set up over-night. Use a paring or table knife to carve.

~From News & Views & others via Quarry Quips 10/01, Stony Statements 11/07



A.F.M.S. News

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip

**May 21 - 26, 2008
Texas Springs, Nevada**

The Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV, over Memorial Day Weekend 2008 and all AFMS members are invited. The Texas Springs area is well known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as, other agate and petrified wood. Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of the town of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Directions: The Texas Springs area is located about half way between Wells, NV and Twin Falls, ID, south of Jackpot, NV, and east of Hwy 93. From the south, take I-80 to Wells and go north on Hwy 93. From the north take Hwy 93 south out of Twin Falls. About 2.5 miles south of Jackpot turn east on to the California National Historic Trail and follow the orange plates to camp.

Camp: Our camp will be located about 6 miles from Hwy 93 on Trout Creek. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motor homes and trailers to campgrounds. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. We will set up camp starting Tuesday afternoon, May 20th. Please try not to arrive before Wednesday, May 21st; this is due to our BLM camp permit.

Schedule:

Wednesday, May 21 Arrive at camp.

Thursday, May 22 Daily Field Trips, Welcome potluck dinner and get together

Friday, May 23 Daily Field Trips, Tailgate displays

Saturday, May 24 Daily Field Trips, Tailgate displays, All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner

Sunday, May 25 Daily Field Trips

Monday, May 26 Break camp to head for home or other adventures

Plan on several potluck dinners and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify your respective Federation leader early, but no later than May 16, if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Dick Parks, Northwest Federation

Yonis Lone Eagle, Rocky Mountain Federation

Richard Pankey, California Federation

General Information

1. Daily Field Trips:

- All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Mountain Time), SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas.

- All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability.

- We will collect at 4 to 6 different sites: pink limb casts, small limb casts and bogwood, snakeskin agate, jasper/agate limb casts, geodes, and more.

- We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day. Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a signup sheet each day for each site.

- Much of the collecting will be float. Two sites involve some digging, but not too deep. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment, and what ever else you usually bring.

- High clearance vehicles highly recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them.

2. This trip is open to all members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and their guests. This trip is hosted by Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rock hounding is welcome to attend.

3. There are two full hook-up campgrounds in Jackpot: Saguaro RV Park - 800-821-1103 and Spanish Gardens - 800-422-8233. There are several casino/motels also in Jackpot: Cactus Pete's - 800-821-1103, Western Star Resort - 800-655-0643, Four Jacks - 800-251-6313, Barton's "93" - 800-258-2937.

4. We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday evening and the all Rendezvous Potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood.

5. Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite home collecting area to show and swap at the tailgate display. This

will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings, and information about your favorite home collecting areas.

6. This area of Nevada has a lot to offer rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts. Plan to spend some extra days after (or before) the Rendezvous. Some suggestions and information will be available at camp.

7. Gas in Jackpot can be expensive. Be sure to fill up your tanks and extra gas cans in Wells or Twin Falls.

8. Be prepared for a variety of weather. In 2003 we had sunny skies with the temperatures in the 70's and cool night in the 40's.

~A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 12/07-01/08

S.C.F.M.S. News



The Prez Sez By Chuck Schuler President SCFMS

The past six weeks have been a very hectic time for me, but out of it, I observed a few interesting things. I have been to shows in the Federation and outside the Federation. The interesting thing I noticed, at almost all the shows, was the number of young new club members helping their club to have an outstanding show. For any club to succeed it needs new members willing to accept different club assignments. It looks to me like there are some very solid clubs now and for the future. With the new members I see a new optimism and renewed energy from the older club members.

The holidays are upon us again. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and looking forward to a very Merry Christmas. Let's all keep in mind, and our prayers, our sick and disabled friends and especially our troops overseas. Looking forward to a bigger and better New Year.

~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 11-12/07

Too many of us are like wheelbarrows - useful only when pushed and too easily upset.

~The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 12/07

Yearly Check Up

I went to the doctor for my yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basics. "How much do you weigh?" she asks. "160," I say. The nurse puts me on the scale. It turns out my weight is 200.

The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 9," I say. The nurse checks and sees that I only measure 5 foot 6 inches.

She then takes my blood pressure and tells me it is very high. "OF COURSE IT'S HIGH!" I scream, "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"

She put me on Prozac. Have a GREAT day!

~Larry Brennan RN, PhD* (Professor of humor development), From The Rockytier, 5/07

Mohs Scale of Hardness

A German mineralogist, Friedrich Mohs in 1822 set up a scale of hardness for minerals, and mineralogists have used it since. The scale goes from one to ten with ten being the hardest. Don't confuse hardness with toughness. The Mohs scale mainly shows what mineral will scratch another. The minerals shown below are representative of the degree of hardness for the Mohs scale:

1. Talc 2. Gypsum 3. Calcite 4. Fluorite 5. Apatite 6. Feldspar 7. Quartz 8. Topaz 9. Corundum 10. Diamond.

When tumbling, it is recommended to use stones of the approximate same hardness to get the best results per stone. Listed below are other minerals or gemstones and their approximate hardness:

2-3: howlite, 2-4: chrysocolla, 3-4: malachite, 4: fluorite, 5: obsidian, 5-6: rhodonite, opal, 6: turquoise, feldspars (plagioclases), 6-7: garnet, 7: amethyst, citrine, chalcedony, agate, turritella, jasper, onyx, bloodstone, chert, flint, agatized or silicified petrified wood, tigereye.

~From Stoney Statements 01/08

A fine is a tax for doing bad. A tax is a fine for doing well.

~Quarry Quips, 03/04

THE STONE CHIPPER
DAVID & LAURA DOW, EDITORS
6719 BURNET LANE
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757

StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org



Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society

For membership information write: AGMS, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX 78757

2007 Officers

President: Alan Cherepon
First V.P.: Dee Fly
Second V.P.: Paul Bordovsky
Secretary: Pauline Denson
Treasurer: Bob Greenway

Board of Directors

Chip Burnette (1)
Richard Dorsey (1)
Diann Hill (1)
Ron Carman (2)
James Mercier (2)
David Wenger (2)

Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Susan Postlethwait
Building Chair	James Lopez
Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
2 Field Trip	Ron Carman
Committee:	Chip Burnette
Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Kellee Greenway
Junior Advisor/Programs	Susan Postlethwait
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Membership	Ron Guzman
Newsletter Editors	David & Laura Dow
Program	Brian Wetzig
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Kathleen Howard
Workshop	Gef Fisher



January 2008

Editor Awards

2003-1st AFMS New Editors, 1st SCFMS
2004-4th AFMS
2005-2nd AFMS, 1st SCFMS
2006-6th AFMS, 2nd SCFMS
2007-6th AFMS, 1st SCFMS