

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 613TH MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **APRIL 26TH, 2007, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The April program will be a talk by **Dr. Ann Molineux** of The University of Texas. She will be talking about the **E. M. Barron Exhibit of Minerals and Gem Collections** at the Texas Memorial Museum. This exhibit has been on display since October 2006.

**AGMS Annual Show
Gem Capers 2007
Palmer Events Center**
Show Dates: November 30th,
December 1st and 2nd 2007.
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 Craig Brandt for website updates.

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 2007

Membership dues are:

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

THE STONE CHIPPER

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President's Message



The year is moving right along. The Tucson Show has come and gone, next year's Gem Capers is well on its way for planning, and things are being repaired at our building, thanks to all those who make these things happen for the benefit of all. Your Board is busy trying to get numerous things done that are in need, such as replacing and/or fixing workshop machines, improving the website, as well as several behind the scenes projects. Hopefully, by the time this gets out, the shed will have been re-painted and looking good. The phone line has been repaired, and termites have been put to sleep. This is worse than owning a house. I did have a thought for the future, of painting a mineral-themed mural on our parking lot side building wall. Let me know if this sounds like a good idea or not, and if you would be interested in working on this with me.

Talking with some of you, I can see specific interests waxing and waning, a certain amount of hype tends to get people going in one direction or another. It makes me wonder if we could all use a little direction in our hobby. I haven't heard of anything like this ever being addressed by those of us in the mineral and gem world, but you would think the subject has been addressed prior to this. I was thinking about having some sort of open, but guided discussion at one of our meetings, to cover the many aspects of our hobby, assess where we came from, where we are, and where we want to be, or will possibly end up regardless. To assess future growth prospects, avenues that have closed or are closing on us, different specialties that some may not even be aware of, and such. What are our strengths and weaknesses, and where should we and our society be putting extra effort (helping schools, museums (maybe even get the Texas History Museum interested in a group effort of all Texas Gem & Mineral Societies to put together some exhibit on minerals and mining history in Texas), nature centers, special exhibits, libraries, books/papers, research)?

It seems there could be a considerable amount of opportunity out there, if we only stop and think about it, and get some sort of concerted effort going to channel our resources and talents. We have a lot of very talented people in our society;

people who I know can make things happen. As you can see, I have lots of ideas. I only need feedback on which ones are worth pursuing. I'm just trying to enjoy my hobby and profession as much as possible, and hoping to spread enthusiasm for the betterment of our hobby. I can't imagine ever losing interest in minerals, and I know many of you feel the same way. Let me know what you think. In the mean time, enjoy our favorite past time, and hope to see you at the April meeting.

~Alan Cherepon, President



Library News

If inventoried in time before the Swap Meet on April 14th, there will be a number of yearly sets and individual surplus copies of the *Lapidary Journal*, *Rock and Gem*, plus other periodicals for sale. Either AGMS members or visitors may purchase these magazines on a first come basis. If available these will be marked and priced—please note that if not priced, these issues will be sold at a later date to be announced.

Recent gifts: Glenn Klein's *Faceting History—Cutting Diamonds & Colored Stones* from the **Texas Faceters' Guild** as a thank you to AGMS for the use of the clubhouse for their annual meeting; *The Mineralogical Record* for 2006 from **Bob Madrulli**; a 2007 subscription to *The Mineralogical Record* from **Hollis Thompson**; several years of *The Lapidary Journal* and other periodicals from **Tom Bowers**.

Many thanks for these generous additions that continue to make our library even better. Thank you!

~Diann Hill & Harriet Strieber, co-librarians

March 2007 Meeting Minutes



Program: Mike Freeman presented a program on metal detectors and how they may be used to find gold, meteorites, and other metals.

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

Show Committee: Susan Postlethwait thanked club members for the buckets that had been donated and stated that we need more. She said that at the committee would like ideas and help on setting up some display cases early so that they could come up with questions for the kids at the show. She said that they wanted a clear tumbler so the kids could see what happened inside the tumbler while it was running. Ewing Evans will work on this. The Sunday grand prize will be a dinosaur bone.

Susan also has created a 5-year calendar with dates for annual events, such as the swap meet and the auction, to help in planning.

Junior Committee: Susan Postlethwait said that a junior trip would be April 15th to the Whiskey River Bridge to collect fossil shells and shark teeth. There are details on the Houston club web site.

Building Committee: James Lopez said that two weekends from now he needed volunteers to finish repainting the saw shed. However, since that would be the Easter weekend, it was tentatively set for March 31st.

Field Trips: James Mercer said that the field trip to Big Bend has to be put off because of his wife's back problem. Alan Cherepon said there will be a field trip April 21st on the volcanic features of Austin. There will be a field book. Clifton Strieber said that there will be a field trip on May 26th to the Clifton Quarry, where calcite, marcasite, and fossils are some of the things to be found.

Hospitality Committee: Kelley Greenway said she needs people to sign up to bring refreshments for April and May. Starting at the next meeting she will send around a sign-up sheet during the meeting. Alan Cherepon said that if people don't sign up the board may begin assigning people to bring refreshments.

Library: Harriet Strieber reported that the library is shaping up. She said that Tom Bowers has donated duplicates of the *Lapidary Journal*, and that she will need someone to help sort them for the swap meet. She also said that Bob Mudrulli, who has been donating the *Mineralogical Record* is not

subscribing any more, so she would like to subscribe for the club. The Faceters' Guild has donated a book on *Faceting History in Afganistan*.

Swap Meet: Brian Wetzig announced that tables are still available for the swap meet on April 14th.

Sunshine: Josie Middleton said that she is swamped at work and needs to resign as Sunshine chair. A volunteer is needed to replace her.

Old Business: Alan Cherepon said that committee chairs need to report at the Board meeting at least quarterly. He also said that the board is still in the process of getting the web site upgraded, and that several members are trying to repair some of the club's equipment. We may try to upgrade, standardize, and have a much better workshop in the next four to five years.

Membership: Ron Guzman said that there were sixty-seven members present, two juniors, and four visitors.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary



March Program Review: Metal Detectors

By Laura Dow
AGMS Club Member

The March presentation was a talk by James Freeman on the features of metal detectors. He is a vendor for White's Electronics. Metal detectors have been around since the late 1930's but only became effective around the 1950's.

Modern metal detectors now allow one to choose either "prospecting mode" to look for gold, or "relic mode" to search for things such as civil war bullets and buttons. Older models came in only one mode or the other.

People love to hunt for many different types of treasures and as such, metal detecting is a crossover hobby for some rockhounds as you can find gold or meteorites with one of these devices. A meteorite collection in the U.S. is now rated as the 4th most valuable treasure in the world – and the owner

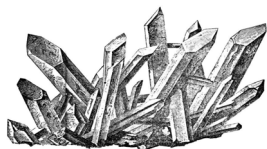
reportedly uses a White metal detector. [Editors' note, we think he is referring to Robert Haag in Arizona.]

Detectors use a filter called "discrimination" to determine what metal it is picking up. This can range from iron to silver. There has long been a problem that in order to eliminate pop tops from detection, you had to turn the discrimination so high that it also looked over smaller gold items. This usually meant that treasure hunters just resigned themselves to digging up trash too. Modern models are much more sophisticated. Research has been done to figure out exactly what type of reading is most often associated with a certain item. These items are given codes – there are even ones for various pieces of a pop top! Then you simply program out these exact readings so you don't have to get a hit on all the trash, yet still allow for small gold items to sound off.

One can buy a metal detector for as little as a few hundred dollars on up to several thousand. Mr. Freeman said that a very effective model that would be suitable for most uses is priced at around \$800. You can also get hip mounting kits to carry the battery at your waist and save some wear and tear on your arm.

Mr. Freeman told the club many tales of the times he had been hired to find items for people. He also prospects for storage tanks and underground utilities. There are all sorts of local tales about buried treasures. One famous one that is still being searched for is in Bell County. There are many buried items in Mexico and he sells lots of detectors to folks down there. As Mr. Freeman says though, "the real treasure is having a good time."

In the local Austin area, Mr. Freeman has found musket balls in S. Austin and other civil war relics. He said that this hobby has inspired him to learn a lot about the history of the area. His shop sells many books on the subject, as well as old maps so you can see where historic buildings and sites used to be. He did offer a word of caution to make sure that it is legal to collect in any given spot. There are various rules for parks you should be aware of, and always be mindful of private property. As he said, "If you don't own the property, somebody else does." Always get permission to hunt for treasure, and have a great time!



Class Announcement

Adolph Krchnak will hold a basic **cabochon class** starting at 7:00 p.m. at the AGMS club house on Thursday, April 12th and continuing on April 19th and May 3rd. In order to take the class you must be a paid up AGMS member.

~Adolph Krchnak

Field Trips



Junior Field Trip to Whiskey Bridge

There will be a field trip to Whiskey Bridge in Burleson County for all juniors on **April 15th**. It is off Highway 21. You will need to have your parents park on the southwest side of the bridge. [For full details, see The Stone Chipper, March 2007 edition.]

We will be hunting for fossils in the Crockett Formation such as gastropods and shark teeth. Check out this cool website for plenty of information on this site. <http://hgms.org/> then click on FIELD TRIPS and go to the very bottom of the page. Directions, collection cards, fossil descriptions and a lot of useful information can be found here.

To RSVP, please call Susan. I will have a field trip sheet posted to the club website by March 15th. It will contain all the information needed to attend this trip. Field trip, fossils and friends! What else could you ask for? See you then!

~Susan Postlethwait, Junior Chair



Volcanic Features of Austin

The April field trip of the AGMS will be held **Saturday, April 21st**, to visit the notable volcanic features of Austin. The trip will be lead by Alan Cherepon, and will take place in South Austin. The trip will be similar to the one Al conducted for the Austin Geological Society in 2006. The revised guidebook should be available for around \$25 for those who wish to purchase one. This is a great resource for one of the most interesting aspects of local geology, and an update of the 1982 guidebook, with considerable new material. It includes write ups of all the stops, an overview on volcanism, a road log, maps, and photos of each stop, as well as a CD with additional material and photos. This trip will provide attendees with the following:

- An overview of volcanism in Texas in the Late Cretaceous,
- Descriptions of the significance of each stop,
- Detailed location info, such as latitude/longitude and maps,
- Color photos of the most interesting aspects of each site,
- An appreciation and understanding of some unique rock and reworked volcanic materials present in the Austin area

I have secured permission to visit Pilot Knob, which is private property and required special arrangements to access. There will be an opportunity to collect calcite and marcasite/pyrite crystals, fossils, and basanite (a silica-poor volcanic rock similar to basalt) at various sites. The areas where the trip will be going to are mostly fun places for hiking around.

Those wishing to attend should meet at the **AGMS building** on Burnet Lane at **7:45 a.m.** and be ready to leave by about 8:00 a.m. The first stop will be just behind Travis High School, in the Blunn Creek Preserve. We will car pool to each site, bring a brown bag lunch, and money for entering into McKinney Falls State Park (\$4 for 12 and up, children <12 years old are free). Also bring sun screen, water/drink, snacks, a hat, boots, rock hammer and bag for specimens, as well as a camera. Guidebooks will be about \$25, should you

wish to purchase one. Be aware of some potential dangers, such as rattlesnakes, slippery, steep slopes, and an active train line in one location. Any questions, please contact Alan Cherepon.

~Alan Cherepon, President

A.G.M.S. Calendar

Wednesdays - Workshop Open 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Apr 11 - Faceter SIG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Apr 14 - **AGMS Swap Meet**, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Apr 15 - Junior Field Trip to Whiskey Bridge

Apr 17 - Fossil SIG Meeting

Apr 18 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Apr 21 - Volcanic Features Field Trip

Apr 22 - Dinosaur Day Event

Apr 25 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

Apr 26 - Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.

May 01 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

May 05 - Fossil SIG Auction

May 09 - Faceter SIG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

AGMS Swap Meet

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to invite you to this year's AGMS Swap Meet to be held on **April 14th**, 2007 in the AGMS Clubhouse parking lot. Setup starts at 9:00 a.m. and booths open at 10:00 a.m. and close around 5:00 p.m. We invite you to bring your treasures to identify, trade, or sell.

Members, if you are interested in setting up a table or tent at this year's swap meet you can contact me. As always, space is limited so let me know if you want a one table area or 10' X 10' space to set up in ASAP. Please bring your own table(s) if possible, if not let me know and I will see what I can do, but no promises.

~Brian Wetzig, 2nd Vice President

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.

~The Editors



Fossil SIG News

The Paleo Society of Austin and Central Texas is having its annual Picnic and Auction on Saturday, **April 21st** from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the West Cave Preserve. To get there, (allow an hour from downtown Austin), travel west on Highway 71 to the village of Bee Caves. Turn left at 3238 locally known as Hamilton Pool Rd. Travel 14.5 miles on Hamilton Pool Rd. to the Pedernales River. West Cave Preserve is the first gate on your right after crossing the river. Bring a covered dish and healthy appetite.

The speaker will be Mr. Charles (Chuck) Finsley, author of *A Field Guild to Fossils of Texas* and past curator of the Dallas Museum of Natural History.

~Diann Strout

Local Show Announcements

Apr 20-22

Marfa, TX

Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club
Paul Graybeal, 432-729-4526

Apr 28-29

Waco, TX

Waco Gem & Mineral Club
Kay Langston, 254-863-0206

May 5-6

Lubbock, TX

Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society
Archie Scott, 806-894-1584

May 26-27

Fort Worth, TX

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club
Steve Hilliard, 817-925-5760

Jun 7-10

Roswell, NM

AFMS & Rocky Mt. Federation

http://www.rmfmf.org/rmfms_2007_show.htm

~From www.lapidaryjournal.com calendar and
www.amfed.org

Sunshine
Committee



A few weeks ago, Charles Covill became suddenly ill and had to be hospitalized. He was kept there for about a week and is now back home, recovering. Hope you are back to normal soon Charles!

Board Minutes Synopsis March 6, 2007

NOTE: These are synopsised minutes. For full text of board minutes, please contact the club secretary, Pauline Denson.

~Editors

- Over budget on maintenance due to the termites.
- Will get new ceiling tiles to replace the damaged ones.
- Half of saw shed has been painted. Need more paint and a 4x8x1/2 plywood board to replace the door of the shed. Another paint party will be needed.
- James Mercier is supposed to restring the phone wire.
- Need another estimate including the large door.
- Ron Guzman has not been able to get here to do the paint cleanup.
- Termites have been taken care of and James Lopez put all the baseboards back.
- Bob will meet with the accountant to work on the taxes and he will ask about file retention.
- Discussion on holding classes for judges to learn to judge cases.
- Would like a 5-year plan on items that are usually done regularly.
- August meeting was designated the annual auction.
- Swap meet always be the 2nd weekend of April.
- Annual officers dinner and induction the Thursday after the annual show.
- Theme of the show is dinosaurs. Meeting for the show committee will be changed to 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- Field Trips – Big Bend field trip will be 3/28-31 [Note: cancelled]. They will be going to Needle Peak, Walker Ranch, and Southgate. April 21 possibly go to the local volcano.
- Hospitality, still trying to find someone to take over for Kellee. Hannah and her friend did a good job last time.

—Juniors will be doing a field trip to find fossils at Whiskey Bridge area. Houston club has their club open every other Saturday for juniors to have classes. Stretch said maybe we could have something to hand out (like a coupon) to attend free classes within the following 3 months after the show. We will need to train teachers to do the classes and parents would have to attend with their child.

—Need to standardize our cabbng equipment, repair (if possible) or replace.

—Bob Greenway advised a donation of \$1,165.00 was sent to SCFMS for George Brown's memorial.

~Dee Fly, 2nd Vice President, substituting for Pauline Denson

Show Committee Minutes Synopsis March 21, 2007

—It was discussed and approved to invite Bill & Lois Patillo back as demonstrators with the Rock Food Table.

—Alan Peterson as a possible demonstrator to entertain the children while the teachers are getting tickets and other information with dino tales.

—Need to have some cases with displays that are always at the show. Possibly club owned so that put some cases they are just box up at the end of show for the next year. Could also be used for schools and libraries throughout the year.

—Discussion about doing a table to display from start to finish what happens when you go collecting in the field.

—Need new name for Fluorescent Tunnel.

—Scott Singleton will not be back to our show.

—Ann Molineux, Jamie Young, Karen Richards have been contacted about demonstrating.

—Education - question sheets for each grade level, with balloons to point the way. Maybe do teachers gifts to take back to the classroom to promote early registration.

—Dealer contracts went out last Friday (March 16th) and are due back on April 27th.

—Next meeting date is Wednesday, April 18th at 7pm.

~Dee Fly, Show Secretary

“I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.”

~Thomas Edison, in conversation with Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone, 1931

Seven Beryls of Color

By Chuck DeFlorin

What do emerald, aquamarine, morganite, heliodor, goshenite, bixbyite, and golden beryl have in common? All seven of them are the same mineral, beryl, just different colors. The different colors of beryl are made from a variety of different metallic oxides during the forming of the crystals.

Beryls have a hexagonal crystal structure and a color streak of white. The chemical composition is beryllium aluminum silicate and has a 7 ½ to 8 hardness on Mohs scale. Beryls are somewhat brittle and are easily damaged by knocks. The emerald gem cut was developed because of the mineral's sensitivity. The four corners of the gem are squared off by facets, making them less likely to chip when bumped. Beryl is almost exclusively found in pegmatite veins. The bright crystals form in seams and pockets from beryllium-bearing gases. The crystals are often striated parallel to their lengths and are often quite huge (some are as long as thirty feet and weighing twenty-five tons). Beryl also forms in massive, compact and columnar habits. Other than jewelry, beryls have another use, that being the main industrial source of beryllium. Beryllium is used in the nuclear industry and is also used in light, but very strong, alloys in aircraft development.

Now that we know what beryl is, it is time to discuss its seven brothers and sisters. The first and most valuable of the beryl family is *emerald*. Emerald is derived from the Greek word “smarogdos” which translates to “green stone.” Emeralds can be transparent to opaque, but the finest gems are transparent. The brilliant green color of emerald is caused by chrome oxide or sometimes vanadium. Much of the time emeralds are not transparent but are cloudy due to liquid or gas bubbles, healing cracks and foreign crystals. You may think that these inclusions are bad, but gem specialists don't classify them as a fault in a gem. It is actually preferable to show evidence that the specimen in question is a true emerald and not a synthetic imitation that has no flaws. Gem experts even have a special name for inclusions and that is “jarden” (garden). Emeralds can be found in Connecticut, Maine, and North Carolina in America. However, the biggest deposits ever found are in Columbia, in and around the city of Bogotá. The emeralds found in the mines at Bogotá are of an intense deep green color and much in demand worldwide.

Next in the beryl family comes *aquamarine*. In Latin, aquamarine translates to “water of the sea.” Aquamarine is the blue or greenish beryl. Most crystals are pale to medium bluish green, a “sea green.” The pigmentation is due to ferric iron oxide as the crystals were in their forming state. The clarity of aquamarine is very good and there usually aren’t any inclusions to cloud it up as with the emeralds. In the USA, aquamarine can be found in Connecticut, Maine, South Carolina, Colorado, and also California.

The third member of the beryl group is *morganite*. Pastel pink, peach, lavender and purplish all describe the color of morganite. Morganite gets its color by trace amounts of manganese oxide that finds its way into the crystal as it was being formed. It is named after the mineral collector J. Pierpont Morgan who was quite a famous American industrialist. Mr. Morgan’s huge gem collection is now housed in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Heliodor is another form of beryl. Heliodor is named after the Greek words for sun ‘helios’ and gift ‘doron.’ It is a sunny yellow color just as the Greek name implies. It also has been described as lemon yellow in color and of course the deeper the yellow, the more of a demand there is for it.

Believe it or not heliodor can be slightly radioactive due to the uranium oxide which gives it such a brilliant color. Heliodor isn’t found in the United States in abundance, only in California and North Carolina is it found in very small quantities. It comes chiefly from Namibia, Brazil, and Madagascar, which has the best crystals available.

Number five of the beryl group is *goshenite*. Goshenite is pure beryl that is colorless. It looks similar to quartz in appearance. In antiquity, eyeglasses were made from this clear crystal which has few, if no inclusions. The name goshenite comes from the deposit it was found in Goshen, Massachusetts. Goshenite can be found to some extent in about all localities that beryl is generally found.

Golden beryl, colored by iron impurities, is another of the big family of beryls. The darker the golden color, the more there is a demand for it. The gem has great clarity and rarely has any inclusions of any kind.

The last member of the beryl family is the rarest, always small and usually under a carat. The proper name is called *bixbyite*; however, a lot of dealers call it red emerald. The color is a

dazzling strawberry-red which comes from manganese during its formation. What makes this beryl so rare is that it is found in only one place, the Wah Wah Mountains (Violet Claims) near Beaver in Beaver County, Utah. Another thing that makes bixbyite so rare is that most crystals have many inclusions which muddy the clarity, so that it’s not gem quality.

The beryl family is full of stunning color and the crystals with their long prisms are spectacular. Beryls will always be sought after by mineral collectors and I’m sure that their wives have many kinds of beryl in their jewelry boxes also.

~From *Rock Rustler News* 1/02, others, via *The Glacial Drifter* 2/07, *The Roadrunner* 3/07

What is It?

By Josie Middleton
AGMS Club Member

The answer to the March 2007 “What is It?” is Olivine.

Rock Hunting Shall We Go?

By Margaret Good
AGMS Club Member

Winter’s come and gone
Here in Central Texas.
This will make a rockhound
Bring out his pick and axes.

He is raring to go
To where gems can be found;
Hoping to pick some up
Just on top of the ground.

What he will find right now
Will help him to expand
The collection he has,
For to him it is grand!

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar.
One says, “I’ve lost my electron.”
The other says, “Are you sure?”
The first replies, “Yes, I’m positive...”

~*The Crystal Gazer*, date unknown



Junior Roundup

It's time once again for the annual "TEXAS DINOSAUR DAY" event held at the **Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country Museum**. This is one of the best events in Texas when it comes to learning about the dinosaurs that once roamed the Lone Star State!

Dinosaur track expert **Everett Deschner** will present "What you can learn from a dinosaur track." Everett will lead you on a tour and show you some of the hundreds of tracks that can be found on the grounds of the museum.

Dinosaur George, along with some of his dinosaur experts, will be there to speak about the various dinosaurs, and other prehistoric creatures, that lived in Texas.

This is an excellent way to learn about the past, while enjoying the hospitality of the team at the museum. Date - Sunday, **April 22nd**, hours - Noon to 5:00 p.m., lecture times - 12:00 - 1:00 - 2:00 - 3:00 - and 4:00, admission - \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children, address: 4831 FM 2673 - located between Sattler and Startzville, near Canyon Lake

The museum is trying to raise funds to make some improvements to their facilities. This is a great way to have fun, learn about dinosaurs and help support the fine folks at the museum! Visit www.heritage-museum.info for directions and more information!

~News from Dinosaur George LLC and Susan Postlethwait



S.C.F.M.S. News

The 2007 South Central Federation Convention and Show will be hosted this year by the Arlington Gem & Mineral Club in Arlington, Texas. The show dates are **September 1-2, 2007**. This will be the 50th annual show for the Arlington club. It will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way. The hours are Saturday 10-6, and Sunday

10-5. Contact Karen Cessna at 817-860-5232 or go to their web site at <http://tsees.org> for more information.

The Arlington Gem and Mineral Club was formerly known as the Texas School of Earth Sciences.

~http://tsees.org

A.F.M.S. News



The Combined AFMS and Rocky Mountain Federation Show is fast approaching! As a reminder, it will be held in Roswell, NM from **June 5th-10th**. Detailed information was provided in the February 2007 *Stone Chipper* and can also be found at the website, www.rmfmfms.org/rmfms_2007_show.htm.

Two members of the Intermountain Faceters' Guild, Ed Romack and Dick Glismann, will be holding an auction at the show on Friday **June 8th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ed asked "master cutters" from around the U.S. to donate natural stones for this auction. Dick will mount the stones in 14k gold. Some of the items will include: earrings of sapphire and of tourmaline, pendants of aquamarine, zircon, apatite, blue topaz, garnet, and emerald, and a .58 carat diamond cut by Gary Peterson of Sun Valley, Idaho. The retail value of the unmounted diamond is \$2,200.

There will be a total of 20 lots to be auctioned. All proceeds, except for the price of the gold, will be donated to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

~excerpted from The AFMS Newsletter, 4/07, article by Dee Holland



SHOP TIPS

Cutting geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the "up" side each time. Then cut on a plane parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting position.

~From Golden Spike News 6/00, via The Backbender's Gazette 12/06, S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter 3-4/07

THE STONE CHIPPER
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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.: Brian Wetzig
 Secretary: Pauline Denson
 Treasurer: Bob Greenway

Board of Directors

Susan Postlethwait (1)
 Jeff "Stretch" Young (1)
 James Lopez (1)
 Chip Burnette (2)
 Richard Dorsey (2)
 Diann Hill (2)

Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Susan Postlethwait
Building Chair	James Lopez
Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Nancy Keller
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
4 Field Trip	Gene Healy
Committee	Ron Carman
Workshop & Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Kellee Greenway
Junior Advisor/Programs	Susan Postlethwait
Library Co-Chair	Harriet Strieber
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



**APRIL
2007**

Editor Awards

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