

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 626TH MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JUNE 26TH, 2008, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The June program will be a talk by **Gail Spann**, winner with her husband Jim of the Desautel Award for best competitive case of minerals in Tucson 2008. Her talk will be on **“Women’s Perspective in Collecting and How it Differs From Men’s.”**

**AGMS Annual Show
Gem Capers 2008
Palmer Events Center
NEW Show Dates:
October 24th - 26th.**

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 October which is show set up day. There will be a meeting on the **THIRD** Thursday in November. 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

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President's Message



Things continue to be hectic, at least at my work, being out of town much of the past month and more. As a result, there was a sudden lapse in me getting out, (or not getting out), a message for the *May Stone Chipper*. Hopefully things will even out a little more now that my field work is over (I think). I did get to visit numerous springs and seeps in the Austin area, and a couple in San Antonio. There seems to be something mystical about water flowing from rock, even to a scientist like myself. I even found calcite crystal-lined cavities in one location, but I doubt the neighborhood people would appreciate us banging on them in their backyards (literally). Still, it was fun to see.

I am in the process of lining up a field trip south of Lampasas, where there are calcites similar to Terligua/Boquillas in that they fluoresce different colors under long and short wave UV, and have strong phosphorescence. As soon as I can arrange to have the AGMS go out there I will update you all. I am hoping it can be arranged in the next month. I will also see if we can return to the uranium mine on a Friday, and will try to give us plenty of notice time so you can arrange to take the day off (those of you who work on Fridays).

Summer has arrived with a vengeance. After having the first real spring weather in years we have to get used to our typical hot, humid, summer weather. Keep in mind some safety precautions during your summer collecting trips: always have plenty of cool water, maybe something salty to keep the cramps to a minimum, use sun screen/sun block, a collared shirt, loose-fitting, cotton clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, and drink before you feel thirsty. Also, take rests as needed, try to get started early in the morning, and keep your eyes open for snakes. Other safety issues include a first-aid kit, safety glasses/goggles, gloves, steel-toed boots, and stay away from overhangs and high walls, especially in softer material. Use the buddy system and never go out alone, or at least leave information with someone you can trust as to where you are going, and when you should be back before they call in the Marines to bail your carcass from some trouble you may not be able to get yourself out of. Finally, get permission rather than lead poisoning.

If you have not yet visited the UT Texas Memorial Museum, the UT geology/geosciences building mineral exhibits, or maybe haven't even seen some AGMS member's collection, summer is a good time to do these indoor activities. The museum in Houston and in some surrounding states also have mineral exhibits to consider on your vacation plans. Find out where things are before you go. You may be surprised.

Some additional items I have been meaning to address include creating a listing of mineral dealers in the central Texas area to post on our Website, as well as collecting locations, to help people in quickly answering these questions they typically have when visiting our area of the state. Also, if you have received some national or international award/competition in our hobby, please let Dee Fly or myself know. If you can, provide a copy of the certificate, or let us know so we can come over and take a photo or two of the award and you to place on our "Wall of Fame" that we are compiling in our main meeting room. We know who you are and feel it is important to recognize those of you who have accomplished some meaningful things in our hobby. The AGMS is very proud of your work and having such members can only help increase the membership, and possibly give opportunity for your passing on some skills and experience to keep our hobby and society vibrant. This will help everyone in the long run.

~Alan Cherepon, President



Library News

There are a number of books that appear to be overdue. If you have a book checked out, can you please look and see if you need to renew it to keep it up to date? For the new members, you can feel free to pick up a courtesy copy of the library rules and find out how to check out books and videos for your home use. If there are any suggestions for book or video purchases, please let the librarians know so they can be investigated.

~Diann Hill, Co-librarian

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Married men live longer than single men do, but married men are a lot more willing to die. To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little. To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

~Stone Age News, 01/07



May 2008 Meeting Minutes

Program: The May program was a talk by Charles Kirkpatrick of Midas Manufacturing, a jewelry manufacturing company. He talked about the properties of platinum, gold, and silver alloys and their use in the creation of jewelry. He also discussed different types of diamonds and other precious gems and answered many questions from club members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Alan Cherepon, President.

Minutes: Josie Middleton moved that the minutes of the April meeting be approved. Ewing Evans seconded the motion and it passed.

Dee Fly said that her star sapphire necklace had been returned.

Old Business: Since Alan had not been at the April board meeting, he called upon Dee Fly to report on that meeting.

Dee said that the air conditioner had been checked by Tedford, who found that it had been set on fan instead of cool, and that it was working properly. She called on Robert Morriss, who is handling repair of the main door to the building. Robert said that he needs two volunteers to help on two Saturdays, and that he believes they can take care of the repairs.

Dee said that Gef Fisher had fixed the wiring on the water heater and had installed a light with a photoelectric cell over the shed door. She also said that Robert Morriss had developed a cost per hour for cabbing classes, and that we also need a cost per hour for the other types of classes.

Dee said that the board had discussed shop fees and decided to keep them the same. Members who use the shop must be checked out on the equipment they use, and they must sign in and out and pay the fees.

The board also decided to purchase locked cash boxes to be kept in the library, the kitchen, and the workshop.

Show Committee: Susan Postlethwait said that fliers for the show are available to be downloaded from the web site. She said that we need to get them out to as many places as possible when it gets near show time, especially in the smaller stores where they are more likely to be seen. She said that Lynn Young is working on the paid advertising, and that Laura Dow had sent information to other clubs. Susan said that there will be another work session for the Wheel of Fortune on June 12th to make bolo ties and lots of earrings.

Workshop: Gef Fisher asked that everyone using the workshop sign in and out, and indicate which saw you used. He said that he will help anyone who wants to learn to use the slab saws if they come on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Robert Morriss said he is offering a daytime Beginning Cabbing class starting June 2nd for three Mondays.

Library: Harriett Streiber said that the reference section is now kept locked. She, Diann Hill, and Andrea Miller have keys, and members must contact one of them to get access to do research in that section. Harriett asked that new members take a copy of the library procedures to learn how to use our library. Harriett also said that Lynn and Stretch Young had been featured in *Mineral News* for their winning exhibit in their category at the Tuscon show.

Field Trips: Chip Burnette said that the field trip to Clifton was cancelled because of water in the quarry. It may be rescheduled for June 14th.

Ron Carman said that the due date was coming up for submitting a request to exhibit at the national show in Humble. Josie Middleton said that she is the South Central URC chair this year, and that anyone wishing to exhibit should get online, fill out the form, and mail it to her.

Education: Dee Fly reported for Joyce Hrapsky that the Introduction to Silversmithing class will start on June 3rd and meet every Tuesday for six weeks. She said that James Lopez is offering a cabbing class May 29th, June 5th, and June 12th.

New Business: Dee Fly said that Ewing Evans has built a case for his and other members' awards or special pieces, which will be mounted in the club house. The case is meant

for national or international awards won by members. Ewing said he will need help to hang it, as it quite heavy.

Membership: Alan Cherepon announced that 69 members were present, as well as 4 guests and 1 junior.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary

Refreshments



JUNE: The following persons have volunteered to bring refreshments to the June AGMS Meeting: **Laura & David Dow, Robert Folsom, Meredith Sneider, and Harriet Strieber.**

JULY: The following persons have volunteered to bring refreshments to the July AGMS Meeting: **Paul Bordovsky, Ivy Hjernevik, Kathleen Howard, and Tommie Potts.**



December Holiday Banquet Help Needed!

We're just entering the heat of summer, yet we are trying to plan ahead for the needs of the club. Since there is no one person in charge of refreshments this year, we will need a Chair and assistants to plan the Christmas New Officer Induction Banquet and to set up for dinner on December 11th. The skills involve arranging for a caterer and drinks, notices to include gift exchanges, inviting the scholarship recipients, setting up the rooms with tables and decorations, and securing help to break down afterwards. If you are a party host extraordinaire or have been looking for a way to help out the club that doesn't involve rock and gem skills, then here is your opportunity! Please contact one of the club officers if you'd like to help out.

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.

"Gold, Diamonds, and Other Stuff: A Question and Answer Session with Charles Kirkpatrick"

May Presentation Review
By Laura Dow

Charles Kirkpatrick of Midas Manufacturing gave a question and answer session about many aspects of jewelry and its fabrication. Mr. Kirkpatrick has been in the business for 32 years and studied under Stanley Young who was a jeweler for Tiffany's.

Midas makes all types of jewelry but specializes in doing platinum casting. Charles uses a 90/10 Platinum/Iridium alloy that is strong and supple when compared to other mixtures in the marketplace. The "Platinum Guild" in Europe (who knew such a thing existed?), has decreed that all items sold as platinum should be 95% pure. Mr. Kirkpatrick clearly disagrees and calls this ruling simple snobbery.

Gold is another metal that has several options for mixing. Eighteen karat gold is 75% gold. The remaining 25% are other metals selected to change the properties such as hardness and color. There has been a resurgence of rose gold for example; copper is the metal that gives it the distinctive color. White gold is created with 15-25% nickel. It may be attractive, but it's very hard and brittle making it difficult to set stones. Some people also have nickel allergies and find that this jewelry can give them a rash. Platinum is clearly the better choice.

In Charles' opinion, platinum is the best metal for setting stones. It has a property called "dead set," meaning that it doesn't spring back into its old shape. You bend the metal once and it stays put. It IS hard to polish, but conversely that means that it keeps its shine for a long time.

Diamonds are another area of expertise for Mr. Kirkpatrick. He noted that a lot of diamonds are now coming out of Russia and they even have their own syndicate similar to De Beers. The US has a large number of diamond deposits in the Colorado and Wyoming area. It is actually the southern border of the same geologic formation that is yielding diamonds in Canada.

The most popular color of diamond is still white, followed by yellow and pink. There are also blue diamonds, like the

famous Hope Diamond. A color and property that is very rare are found in "chameleon" diamonds that are photochromic. These shift in color from a greenish yellow to a yellowish or olive green. It's theorized that their lattice structure was bent while forming in the kimberlite pipe, probably by the presence of uranium. The light slowly bleeds out of them when put into darkness. They are then exposed to light again and it takes a few minutes to go into a full shift of color. There are also diamonds that exhibit a thermochromic property which means that they change color when they are heated up.

The colors of diamond are due to traces of other minerals. Yellow is due to nitrogen, blue is from cobalt, red is due to cadmium, orange is from beryllium, and green is attributed to the presence of chromium.

Charles was next asked several questions about manufactured diamonds. A method using carbon vapor deposition developed by NASA has the best product. They can produce whites, pinks, and browns. Diamond wheels have gotten cheaper due to the abundance of colored synthetic diamond chips. The infamous process whereby pets or loved ones are turned into diamonds yields whitish, mottled stones.

One property of diamonds and gold that everyone is noticing is their surge in prices. Mr. Kirkpatrick attributes this simply to supply and demand. Chinese and Indian citizens are becoming wealthier. As they get more money they want the same luxury items that everyone else wants, including gold and diamonds. In the last year there has been nearly a doubling in price of high end/large diamonds. US baby boomers are also fueling the surge, seeking to upgrade small engagement rings with 3 to 5 carat whoppers. The US is still the number one consumer of diamonds. Europe is close behind, followed by Japan. A one carat flawless white diamond is now going for \$14,500.

We were all delighted by Mr. Kirkpatrick's talk. The question and answer format was a nice change from the usual presentation and gave everyone a chance to weigh in on the topic. Our thanks to Charles for coming out to the AGMS and sharing his expertise with us.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job.

~Chips and Chatter, 05/08

Paleo Club News



The June talk will be a presentation by Chris Garvie entitled, "Micro-Gastropod Changes from the Early Cretaceous to the Recent in the Gulf Coastal Plain of the USA."

~Diann Strout

A.G.M.S. Calendar

Jun 12 - Wheel of Fortune Assembly Party 7:00 p.m.

Jun 12 - Cabbing Class 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Jun 17 - Paleo Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Jun 17 - Beginning Silversmithing Class 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Jun 19 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Jun 25 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

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

Jun 24 - Beginning Silversmithing Class 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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



Sunshine
Committee

We are saddened to announce that the mother of Charlotte Harmon, one of our show dealers, has passed away. Our deepest sympathies go out to her and her family.

Andrea Miller's mother is ill. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Please send sunshine news to Kathleen Howard.

Displays In Schools

By Margaret Good
AGMS Club Member

Paul Good's minerals are put in display
Where each school student will have a heyday.

These they surely enjoy.

Looks to them like a toy.

If it is broken, would be Paul's mayday.

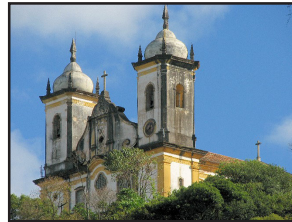
Brazil: The Land of Aquamarines and So Much More

By Laura Dow
AGMS Club Member

Brazil is a country that is famous to mineral and gemstone enthusiasts as one of the pre-eminent places in the world to find gorgeous, rare, and alternatively prolific treasures. Located in the northeast corner of South America, the country covers a vast area slightly larger than the continental United States. It is often thought of as the “place where most of the Amazon is,” which is true, but due to its size the land also covers vast plains, mountain ranges, sea coasts, and swampy interiors as well. It is the southeastern corner of Brazil that is most renowned for gold and gemstones. The state of Minas Gerais, which means “general mines” in Portuguese, is where most of the trove can be found.

Brazil was first colonized by the Portuguese in 1500 along the eastern coastlines. Expeditions in the early 1700’s pushed inland in search of gold and treasure. They were not disappointed. First were discovered beautiful green gemstones that were thought to be emeralds. They were in fact green tourmalines. This confusion led to the term “Brazilian Emeralds” which is sometimes used even to this day. Also discovered were black stones. These were sent to Portugal for evaluation and determined to be gold. The black rock it was found in was due to high concentrations of iron oxide in the soil. Thus was the town of Ouro Preto christened – it means “black gold” in Portuguese.

The discovery of gold in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, led to the Brazilian gold rush that lasted until the end of the 18th century. The diggings amounted to 80% of the world’s production at the time. Slaves were brought in from Africa to do the hard labor. Many small cities sprung up which today still display the beautiful “Brazilian Baroque” architecture. In their digging for gold, prospectors came upon diamonds, emeralds, tourmaline, and aquamarines as well. At the time, “colored stones” or “semi-precious” gem stones, were not very notable. The gold and diamonds were what fueled the industry for decades. “For nearly 150 years, Brazil was the world’s leading diamond producer, taking over from India.” (Sauer 1982, p. 11) This situation didn’t change until the famous South African deposits were found in 1866.



Brazilian Baroque architecture
in Ouro Preto, Brazil
7/7/2007
Photo by Bob Brown

When WW II was in full swing, the mining regions of Brazil took on a new importance. The allies had large needs for quartz and mica to put into military devices. Beryllium, the metal element found in beryls, is a very important substance. It is stiffer than steel, it is nonmagnetic, nonsparking, and is lighter than aluminum. These properties led to its use in atomic research which was a direct predecessor to the Manhattan Project. Beryllium doesn’t occur pure in nature but must be smelted from bertrandite and beryl ores. At only .0006 % of the Earth’s crust, it is a rare substance. Today beryllium is in high demand for space vehicles and for alloys; Brazil is the world’s largest producer.

As a consequence of the search for mica and quartz, more and larger colored stones were discovered. It so happens that they are found near the same pegmatite intrusions. Southeastern Brazil contains a large number of *inselbergs*. These are pegmatite (formerly hot magma) intrusions into the Pre-Cambrian shield or “basement” stone (so termed due to its great age), that have eroded to the surface. They were once very, very deep in the earth’s crust. The ancient basement rock tends to be granitic, made of quartz, feldspar, and mica. The pegmatites themselves are estimated to have intruded the shields from 680 to 450 million years ago, a time when Brazil was still abutting Africa and all of life on Earth was in the seas.

So much time has passed that many of the pegmatites have begun to break down into clays – so called “kaolinized” pegmatites. The gemstones are much more robust and survive the cycles of wet and dry, freezing and heat. This is a fortunate situation for the local people as it makes mining much easier. The *garimpeiros*, or free lance miners of Brazil, burrow into the clay earth in search of *linhas*, lines that used to be fissures in the rock where super hot fluids passed. Ideally these fractures terminate in a vug where the pressures would have been reduced and crystals would slowly cool out of the mixture.

After WW II, people began to take an interest in non-diamond gemstones. Brazilians opened up their own jewelry shops with stone faceting and goldsmithing, where these tasks had formerly been done overseas in Europe. The types of colored gemstones and minerals that can be found in Brazil are staggering with over 70 known species. A partial laundry list includes: beryls – emerald (green), aquamarine (blue to blue-green), morganite (pink), goshenite (clear), and heliodor (yellow); tourmalines – green, rubellite (red), indicolite (blue), and schorl (black); topaz – blue, imperial (yellow to orange); quartz – clear or “crystal”, rose (pink), amethyst (purple), aventurine (green), citrine (yellow), smoky (gray), rutiled (rutile inclusions); agates; opal; garnets; and the list goes on! Brazil has gemstones that are found no where else in the world. For others, Brazil is known for having the best quality in the world, such as imperial topaz – found near Ouro Preto, and Paraiba (neon blue) tourmalines.

With this huge quantity and quality of gemstones and minerals available, it’s no wonder that the Minas Gerais area of Brazil is a tag so frequently seen on museum and private specimens around the world. Of them all, they are most famous for aquamarine. “This South American nation was the 20th century’s top producer of aquamarines... The color, shape, and luster of Brazilian aquamarine crystals rank them among the finest and most sought-after mineral specimens in the world.” (Falster, et. al. 2005, p.84)

1 1/4 inch, 90 carat Aquamarine found by David Dow, 7/3/2007, Marambaia region, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Photo by Laura Dow



A huge, single, flawless crystal of aquamarine was found in 1910 in the Marambaia region of Minas Gerais. The Papamel Aquamarine, at 19 inches long and 16 inches around, weighed 244 pounds or 552,500 carats. It was cut into several large gemstones. A less famous but equally interesting find (to me), was also made in the Marambaia region – that of a flawless, perfectly terminated, 1 1/4 inch, 90 carat blue green aquamarine crystal dug up by my husband, David, on a journey to Brazil in 2007! It will NOT be cut up.

Aquamarine is one of several varieties of beryl, a beryllium aluminum cyclosilicate that grows into a hexagonal crystal structure. The most famous member of the beryl family is emerald. Aquamarine is so named due to its blue green coloration that is similar to the color of the sea. Its hue is due

to traces of iron. Aquamarines often exhibit a property called *dichroism*, meaning “two colors.” If you view it down the optic axis, the stone appears greener while on the perpendicular axis, it is blue. Even though aquamarine is very sturdy under normal circumstances, it is easily broken down at high temperatures and pressures. This results in specimens of so called “acid etched” aquamarines and heliodors. With a Mohs hardness of 7.5 to 8, aquamarines are tough enough to withstand placement in rings and other jewelry, much to the delight of us all.



David Dow checking out dichroism with a “dichroscope” on large slice of aquamarine crystal. 7/2/2007,
Photo by Tony Kampf



Natural, acid etched aquamarine specimen, Minas Gerais, Brazil,
Photo by Laura Dow

If you ever get a chance to visit Brazil, you must certainly add the state of Minas Gerais to your list. If this is not an option, there are many shows and vendors who have specimens to choose from. As always, be sure they are reputable. Blue topaz in particular, can easily be mistaken for aquamarine once it is faceted. Last but not least, be sure to peruse and enjoy all the many museums that have examples from this region. You are guaranteed to see “Minas Gerais” on the label somewhere, somehow, in almost any exhibit that you visit.

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Show Committee Minutes

- Robert Morriss presented the initial floor plans.
- Letters went out to the schools and we will do registration when school starts in August.
- Second weekend in June next work party for Wheel of Fortune. Need to make a lot of earrings. Need a vendor for rings and onyx carvings. Discussed adding bucket of sand with strainers to Gem Mine for tiny children. Stretch Young found contact for bulk tumbled stones in 55 gallon drums.
- Mac Ellis and Ed Gage have it worked out the silent auction.
- Need someone in demo booths at all times. Josie Middleton has contacts to help put the Brazil case together. Still need to get with Paul Bordovsky about a sponsor.
- Lexcel Minerals pulled out of show. Contacted next dealer on list, C&R Enterprise. Grant needs to contact City of Austin reps to send them fire information. Several dealers contacted us wanting to be in the show. Susan advised that we send them an application. We will be reviewing for possible new dealers in April next year.
- Lynn working on the T.V. commercial. Need to have dates changed on banners. Will bring to general meeting so they can be looked at and maybe someone in the club will volunteer to fix the banners. Banner bar or commercial to show sponsors.
- Two articles from Chipper to use in bulletin. Need to start getting advertising for bulletin. Need to place show flyer pads in several business locations.

~Dee Fly, Show Committee Secretary

Local Show Announcements

August 16-17

Bossier City, LA

Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society

<http://larockclub.com>

~www.rockngem.com

Board Minutes Synopsis June 3, 2008

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

~Editors

- Robert Morriss asked for volunteers to help with the door replacement at the general meeting but got no response. He said he would do some calling to get help.
- Weeds sprayed with Roundup a couple of times, but needs to be done again. The tile by the door will be replaced when the door is finished. Need more filters for the air conditioner.
- A dealer who paid has asked to withdraw from the show. Dealer replaced with one of the others who had applied.
- Robert Morriss created course outline of education objectives for basic cabbing classes, copies distributed to the board. Describes what students should be able to do after completing the course. Copy to Bob as example of what is needed for faceting courses, and copy to Joyce to give to students.
- Method for scheduling and paying for classes isn't working. Joyce wants to go back to using the book, know when you pay for a course, when you sign up, when you take the course. Board agreed but must go through book regularly, when a minimum number reached, get a teacher. Policy is that only members may take classes and children must be accompanied by their parents to take a class.
- Stretch Young said no scholarships given last year because arrangements happened too late. The proposed scholarships for this year are two \$500 scholarships to ACC students and four \$750 scholarships to UT students.
- Robert Morriss moved we give four \$500 scholarships to ACC students and eight \$750 scholarships to UT students to make up for last year. Dee Fly seconded and the motion passed. Stretch will tell the colleges why there are more scholarships this year, so they will not expect this many in the future. He was also asked to invite the recipients to the December meeting.
- Alan will call Paul to see if he can attend AFMS show in Houston. Alan asked if the club would pay any of the

expenses for the president and the delegate to the show. There is \$250 in the budget

-A new owner has taken over the Knife River quarry between Burnet and Lampasas. Geologist sounded open to field trips. Alan said he will try to get another Karnes City trip scheduled for a Friday.

-How to handle the Officer Installation banquet since we had no hospitality chair? Ask for volunteers for the various tasks.

-Diann Hill will re-institute giving membership cards to members.

-August show is the auction, September getting ready for the show. Schedule a workday the Saturday before the show. There is a conflict with the show in Houston, but this cannot be helped. October meeting is on show set-up day. This is when we elect officers. Program can be a round-table discussion on where we want the club to go. Decided to have a general meeting the third Thursday in November. The December meeting will be on the 11th.

-Alan presented a program at Dessau Elementary. Diann Hill said that the Gages are working on the Texas Collection and that some of the collection will go around to schools for exhibition.

-Charlotte Hanson's mother passed away.

-Nominating committee has candidates for the three board members, but unknown status on officers.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary

Clean out your tumbler!

For a 1-2 lb tumbler. Pour mixture of ¼ C vinegar and 1-¾ C water into barrel. Run 20-30 minutes. Rinse with clean water. Pour mixture of ¼ C baking soda and 1-¾ C water into barrel. Run 20-30 minutes. Rinse with clean water. The vinegar cleans the barrel (removes rust and residue). The soda mixture neutralizes the vinegar.

~by Susan Bannon, WGMS, in Quarry Quips, 02/08

A.F.M.S. News



The AFMS Endowment Fund was established so that the Federation would have available funds for special projects. Funds collected are invested and only the interest from them can be spent. One way to add to the principal is the annual drawing for prizes at the AFMS convention. This year's drawing at the convention in Humble, TX will be held on September 27th. Some of this year's prizes include a selenite plate on amethyst pipe, Brazilian amethyst cathedral, vial of Virginia Valley Opal, a London Blue CZ pendant in 14k gold, and a lone star cut faceted topaz. All the prizes can be seen in color at the AFMS web site at <www.amfed.org>. If you would like to buy a coupon or coupons to get entered in the drawing, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to Joyce Speed, 4680 Wisteria St., Dallas, TX, 75211. Include a check made out to "AFMS Endowment" for the number of entries you wish to buy. The cost is \$5 per coupon or \$20 for 5 coupons. You can also call her at 214-337-9446.

~Excerpt A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 05-06/08



S.C.F.M.S. News

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS) is hosting the combined AFMS/SCFMS annual show for 2008 from **September 26th – 28th**. There will be 40 dealers along with kids' activities. They will have jewelry making and gemstone cutting demonstrations, a fluorescent rock room, and the free identification of rocks, minerals, gemstones, and fossils. As an added bonus the **Texas Faceters' Guild** is having their symposium as a satellite show to be held at the Comfort Suites, Kingwood.

The show will be held at the Humble Civic Center. The hours are 9-6 Friday (Kids' Day), 9-6 Saturday, and 10-5 on Sunday. Prices are \$5 for adults (all three days), \$3 for students, teachers, or seniors, and children under 12 are free. The parking is also free. For more information on all aspects of the show, please visit the website at <www.hgms.org> or contact Shiara Trumble at shiara.trumble@sbcglobal.net or call 281-463-7954. *~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 03-04/08*

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Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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June 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