

# THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 637<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, 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 **W.C. Jameson** about hunting for treasure. He is a very interesting speaker so please join us!

AGMS Annual Show  
 Gem Capers 2009  
 Palmer Events Center  
 October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>.  
[www.GemCapers.com](http://www.GemCapers.com)

## THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.



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](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org). Contact our webmaster for website updates at [DiannH@austingemandmineral.org](mailto: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 2009

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



### **President's Message - Josie Middleton, President**

Hi Guys. So what did you think of the speaker? Jim was just great! Thank you Kathleen for another fine program, and thank goodness I live in Round Rock on one of the small bits of Austin Chalk instead of the clay!

I want to put out the call for new editors for our newsletter, *The Stone Chipper*. Dave and Laura Dow have been at it for a long time but life changes and they would like to move on. I would like someone to step up to the plate and take over as new editors. Dave and Laura have done an excellent job and have been awarded for those efforts and we have enjoyed those efforts. The job is not hard it just needs a bit of getting used to the software and using your creativity. Most of the articles are sent to you and you put it together. Not only that, but you can get reusable material from other clubs around the U.S. Please think about doing your part to help in the endeavor and it does not have to be a one man job. If you want to share it, you can. After all, this is a volunteer organization.

All is going well and the classes need to be filled. Craig Brandt, James Lopez, and Robert Morriss are or have been teaching and are chugging right along. Have fun and enjoy those classes. The A/C unit in the front is now in working condition. Thank you Bob! Kudos to Alan for changing out the water stained ceiling tiles. Thanks will go to Kathleen for taking care of the unfinished painting clean-up around the building and repainting some of the windows that did not get completed. See you folks later this month!

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### **Library News**

There is no library news this month.



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### **May 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

There were no meeting minutes received for May.

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### **Needed - New Editor**

We're down to five more newsletters! Hopefully before that happens, someone in the club will step forward to volunteer to fill our shoes, (David and Laura Dow), to take over editing the newsletter. If you think this sounds like the job for you, then please contact us at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org). It would be nice if someone could volunteer sooner rather than later so we can take some time to teach the new person(s) all the ins and outs of the rules and expectations of the job, as well as how to work with the software.

Do you have ideas about what kinds of articles you'd like to see? News items? Recurring columns? Now is your chance to remake the club newsletter to look like you want to see it. You could even change the layout, the fonts, and the graphics. It is not set in "stone," so to speak. If you have some creative ideas and would like to volunteer for the club but work at home, then this is your opportunity. We hope to hear from you soon.

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## AGMS Email List and Change of Address

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Pauline Denson**, treasurer.

If you wish to be kept notified of “breaking news” and impromptu events within the club, you need to be on the **AGMS email list**. Information on things such as field trip details and member rock sales may be disseminated this way in real time. You can also ask to get the newsletter delivered via email notification rather than through snail mail. It comes sooner and in color that way. To get invited to the list, and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org).

The **June 16th** meeting at 7 p.m. will be a talk by Linda McCall on Pleistocene fossils from California.

### Paleo Club News

By Diann Strout



### Sunshine Committee

It is with my utter regret to inform you that one of my friends has passed away. Don Buell, a true rockhound along with his wife, operated the Kingsland Rock Shop for a number of years.

He and Jean are and were a fantastic duo. What a sense of humor that man had and with much laughter Jean was there to add the extra dig, sometimes to the point we were rolling. I am sure Jean will miss him entirely, as we who knew him, will also.

~Josie Middleton, President

Please send news about our membership, both good and bad, to Ron and Jennifer Guzman at 512-292-9816.

### A.G.M.S. Calendar

June 16 - Paleo Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 June 18 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
 June 20 - Beginning Cabbing Class, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
 June 23 - Beginning Lapidary Class, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 June 25 - AGMS Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
 June 27 - Beginning Cabbing Class, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
 June 30 - Beginning Lapidary Class, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 July 07 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m

### Board Minutes

There have been no board minutes received for April, May, or June.

### Refreshments

Volunteers for **June** to bring in refreshments are: Richard Dorsey, Kathleen Howard, Linda Lamere, and Shelly Wood. We need volunteers for July as no one has yet signed up.



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## The First American Gold Rush: The Forgotten Gold Rush

By Jackie "Georgia Peach" Fisher  
AGMS Club Member

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When people think of the so called "Gold Rush," they usually envision miners and donkeys headed west to California or north to Alaska, but there was an earlier rush to riches in America – in Georgia in 1829. Prior to the Georgia Gold Rush of 1829 there was knowledge of gold in north Georgia. American Indians possessed gold which they said came from the mountains. There were also reports that the Spanish and French mined gold in north Georgia from 1560-1690.

A rich belt of gold was found in what was later to become Dahlonega in 1828, and the Georgia gold rush started in 1829. Dahlonega comes from the Cherokee language meaning yellow money. By 1830, 4,000 miners produced 300 oz/day from an area on Yahoola Creek. By 1831 an estimated 15,000 miners were in Dahlonega.

An Act of Congress in 1835 established the United States Mints in Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, N.C. These mints coined only gold. The mints existed for only 24 years and ceased operation during the Civil War.

Gold from Dahlonega had a silver content of less than 5% which caused the coins to have a greenish gold hue. The fineness standard was .900 so the silver was left in the gold from Georgia. When gold from California was brought to the mint, the silver content was around 15%, so silver was removed, possibly resulting in an orange gold color. If gold content exceeded .900, copper was added to achieve .900 fineness.

By the early 1840's mining shifted to working on deposits. When miners heard of the California Gold Rush, many left. Some 500 mines in 37 counties produced gold for many more years. An estimated 870,000 troy ounces were produced between 1828 and the mid 20th century when commercial production ended.

Miners from Georgia also played roles in gold mining in Colorado. John H. Gregory discovered the first Colorado gold lode in 1859. Golden Colorado was named after a Georgia miner named Thomas L. Golden. Auralia Colorado, which later merged with Denver, was founded by Georgia miners.

On May 13, 2008, one million dollars in sunken coins from Dahlonega were recovered from the 1846 shipwreck of the SS New York, off the coast of Louisiana. The ship was sailing from Galveston to Louisiana. There are still treasures to be found in Georgia and I have been to Dahlonega myself to pan for gold. Perhaps you could find something there too.

### References:

Bowers, Q. David. The Treasure Ship SS New York. Publisher and year unknown.

Bykofsky, Sheree. "Georgia Gold Rush, Dahlonega, GA." 1995-2008 TravelLady Magazine.  
<<http://www.travellady.com/Issues/March07/4044GeorgiaGoldRush.htm>>

Lester, Carl N. "An Illustrated History of Georgia Gold Rush and the United States Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia." 1997-2009 Gold Rush Gallery, Inc. <[http://www.goldrushgallery.com/dahlmint/c\\_history\\_outline.html](http://www.goldrushgallery.com/dahlmint/c_history_outline.html)>

Lester, Carl N. "Dahlonega Gold, A Brief History of the United States Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia." <<http://www.dahlonegagold.com/dghist.htm>>

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## Show Talk

By Brian Wetzig  
2009 Show Chair



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I want to invite everyone to the next show committee meeting to be held June 18th starting at 7:00 p.m. at the club house. We will be selecting this year's Saturday door prize and teacher's prize. If you have something that you would like us to consider purchasing or to donate, please bring it to this month's meeting. We will also start to review the floor plans for this year's show. We are still looking for entries for this year's show pin. So get those pencils, pens, and computers going and get those entries in. We will be voting on pin designs at July's meeting.

At last month's meeting we voted on replacement dealers for the 2009 Gem Capers show. This year we had three dealers that regrettably had to decline this year's invitations. **Crystal Keepers**, **Ebersole Jewelry & Supply**, and **Rusty & Ann Mercer** will not be able to attend this year's show. They will be missed and we wish them well. In addition to last year's returning dealers we will have two new dealers. Please welcome **Unique Russian Minerals** and **Mineral Search** to this year's show. We also have a dealer from our past shows who will be returning this year. Please welcome back **Angela Fowler's Wire Art Jewelry**. We look forward to seeing you all at this year's show.

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## Gem Capers 2009 Show Committee Minutes (Synopsis)

By Dee Fly  
April 16, 2009

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- The first deposit has been paid for the 2009 show.
  - Diann sent out reminders to 17 or 18 dealers. There are 15 dealers that have not returned the contract yet. Diann has since heard from 5 or 6.
  - The dealer list on the show page will not be updated until we finalize the dealers. The sponsor page was tabled for now.
  - Lynn should have sent flyers to Charlotte for printing. Need to send to dealers.
  - A few more pin submissions were turned in.
  - Froots wants to hand out coupons and it is looking good for them to sponsor the Food Table.
  - Grand Prize has been picked and there are several people that can take pictures.
  - No three day passes. Entry will be paid each day but hand will be stamped for going in and out on the same day.
  - Need a uniform free pass with an example at the cash registers.
  - Diann has set up a link on web site for teachers.
  - Wheel of Fortune only has a few things that need to be made.
  - Is Bob Greenway collecting and handling money again?
  - Diann said the first ad under the content page of the Show Bulletin should be a random pick. All ads other than the premium pages should be assigned a number and then picked by lottery.
  - It was voted on at the general meeting to host the 10/20-25/2015 AFMS show. Two days of activities then our three day show. Josie & Ron are going to this year's show in Billings, MT and it will be voted on then. Will need to have a few people on a committee to put everything together.
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May 21, 2009

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- Gate fees were discussed and voted on in March and the April meeting made no mention of amending or nullifying the previous vote, thus the April vote on gate fees is null and void.
- Diann gave Robert money received from dealers.
- Diann will check with Bill Patillo to see if Froots can stand next to the food table and give out coupons. Three dealers will not be returning. Angela Fowler would like to be back in our show. Motion passed to have her return. Two additional dealers selected will be Unique Russian Minerals and Mineral Search. Ten dealers still owe the second half of payment.
- Stretch asked why the question of placing the ads in the show bulletin came up. We did not want to have anyone say we were playing favorites by whose ad is placed where. There is a lot of work going into producing the Show Bulletin and we will let Lynn set it up as she has been.
- Flyers are done. Charlotte had them and we could take some.
- Susan will not send out letters until school starts.
- Diann will set up the schools links when school starts. Does the Show or the Board pay the website bill for the gem capers link? Dee will check past Board and Show minutes to find out how it was voted.
- Vote will be in July on the pin design. We will also have a pin for Rocky.
- Will make selection in June for door prizes. Remember to bring items to choose from in the range of \$50 to \$100.
- Laura has sent out magazine notices.
- Susan and her friend will change the dates on the show banners.
- Let Charlotte know about changes to dealer signs and she will get new ones done. Diann advised Amber Way wants "Co." taken off of theirs.
- Andrea has 13 buckets of broken rock, so may not have to do anything until later for the Gem Mine.
- Pauline will call a work party on May 30th to make zipper pulls, magnets and finish the bolos for the Wheel of Fortune. She also asked when she could get the sharks teeth.
- Paul brought up the idea of having a cart to get handicapped people from the front to the back hall. That idea was brought up once before and it was decided not to do it.
- Brian has the contract for the 2010 years show.

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### Local Show Announcements

There are no local shows until August. It's just too hot!  
Look to the AFMS news for details on The Federation  
show in Billings, Montana July 30 - August 2.

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### Pillsbury Doughboy Obituary

It is with the saddest heart that we must pass on the following news. Please join us in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71. Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased pan.

Dozens of celebrities came out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The gravesite was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very 'smart' cookie, wasting half of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still, as

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a crusty old man, was considered a roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children John Dough and Jane Dough; plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

*~taken from an advertising paper in a restaurant ~ author unknown~  
~Via Stone Age, 11/08, Marysville, WA Rock & Gem Club newsletter*

## SHOP TIPS



### Eliminating Flat Spots

A while back, someone was saying that he was having problems with getting “flats” on his cabs, that there was insufficient “give” in his wheels, and it didn’t seem to make any difference no matter how much pressure he applied. THAT WAS HIS FIRST MISTAKE!

Diamond and corundum are two different animals relatively speaking, about the same difference as between quartz and chalk. If you “lean into” a diamond wheel, you will get lousy results...flat spots etc., on your stone, and your wheels will wear out long before their time. On diamond, you try to do your cutting (and almost everything else) by almost not touching the wheel. USE ESSENTIALLY NO FORCE!!! Don’t “grind” the stone, let the diamond wear it away, but keep it spinning. The technique is simply to use the WHOLE FACE OF THE WHEEL, and KEEP YOUR CAB MOVING. Any time you stop, you just bought a “flat.” Can’t help it!

IF YOU LEAVE ANY FLATS ON THE PREFORM, YOU’RE GOING TO HAVE THEM ON THE FINAL PIECE.

*~By Ted Robles in Mountain Gem, via others, via Glacial Drifter 2/09, The Roadrunner 4/09*



**AFMS News**



**SCFMS News**

The AFMS/NFMS Show will be in Billings, MT from July 30 - August 2, 2009. Included in the displays will be a moon rock from NASA, a life sized cave bear, dinosaurs, a world class ruby collection, a Yogo sapphire collection, and a huge polar bear carving. There are several field trips planned as well. Check out the website [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) or email Doug True, Show Chair, at [dtruefossils@yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils@yahoo.com) for more information.

*~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 5-6/09*

The South Central Federation Show this year will be hosted by the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society in Temple, Texas from October 10-11, 2009. The host hotel is the Quality Inn at 254-770-1100. For more information on this show, you can go the SCFMS website at [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net).

*~S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 5-6/09*

# 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

### 2008 Officers

President: Josie Middleton  
First V.P.: Jackie Fisher  
Second V.P.: Kathleen Howard  
Secretary: Linda Northcote  
Treasurer: Pauline Denson

### Board of Directors

Ron Carman (1)  
Robert Morriss (1)  
David Wenger (1)  
Tom Bowers (2)  
Joyce Hrapsky (2)  
Louis Lee (2)

### Committee Chairpersons

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



**June 2009**

### 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**

**2008-4th AFMS, 1st SCFMS**

**2008 AFMS Editor Hall of Fame**