

JULY 2006

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# THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 606<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2006, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The program for July will be a talk by **Brad Cross** on the process of writing his new book, co-authored with **June Culp Zeitner**, "Geodes: Nature's Treasures."

**AGMS Annual Show  
Gem Capers 2006  
Palmer Events Center**  
Show Dates: December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 2006.  
[www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org)

## 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.**

### 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 2006

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

It is nearing mid-July, and we've already had more rain in the last two weeks than in the last three months. With the last few cool nights, it would be nice to think that fall is on the way. However, it is still mid-July, so we will have plenty of heat and humidity left for the summer.

The board meeting has been rescheduled for the second Tuesday night of July, so please attend if you would like to see the inner workings of the AGMS.

Thanks to all the members who showed up and helped during our water disaster a couple of weeks ago. **Dee Fly** is working with our insurance adjuster, and should know soon of the plan to get the clubhouse back in shape. Thanks also to the other **Dee, Purkeypile** for getting onto the problem when first discovered.

The upcoming general meeting will have Brad Cross speaking on geodes. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

*~Paul Bordovsky, President*



## Library News

As some of you may or may not have heard this week - a lady was driving down the road in Beaumont. A cop pulled her over. She was arrested and taken to jail. She was released after paying a \$150 fine for OVER DUE library books! Honest; it was on the news. And perhaps you were thinking...boy, AGMS is sure picky about those library books!

The inventory is in progress, insurance adjusters are working on the damaged bookcases and books. Please bear with us and hopefully soon there will again be an AGMS library open and functional.

Until the water issues can be sorted out, the library is CLOSED until further notice. Please return books through

the slot in the door, or give them to Harriet or Diann at the meeting. Also please note in there that the library is NOT open at any other time that folks are in the club house. Your cooperation will be appreciated during this time. Thanks.

*~Soggily submitted, Diann Hill & Harriet Streiber, Co-Librarians*



## Meeting Minutes June 2006

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Paul Bordovsky.

**Presentation:** Our speaker was jeweler Charles Kirkpatrick, who talked about Diamonds in North America.

**Club Business:** The backlog of minutes that appeared in the *Stone Chipper* were approved as they appeared.

**Announcement:** There has been a catastrophe in the library that was discovered this past week. The Paleo meeting was last Tuesday, and someone noticed that the carpet in the library was soaking wet. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the drain pan of the front air conditioning unit (the one that wasn't replaced) had gotten clogged and overflowed. Fifteen to twenty people mobilized for an emergency clean-out of the library area and that closet. All the material was moved into the cabbng and faceting workrooms, and those rooms as well as the library are off limits until further notice. It was stressed that none of this water came from the roof!

There will be an insurance adjuster to come out to assess the damage, which included some of the floor boarding and walls, as well as shelves and carpet.

### Committee Reports:

**Show:** Susan Postlethwait says that the show is 6 months away, so keep on tumbling. The July meeting will involve choosing new dealers and also a Saturday grand prize.

**Juniors:** We are doing the Egg Carton Competition again this year. Susan will reprint the packet of articles that detail how to make an egg carton.

**Auction:** Brian Wetzig asks that we **bring our items for the auction to next month's meeting**. He wants the items beforehand for cataloguing and preparation. Please tag your items with your name, the name of the item, and the location (for minerals, fossils or rocks). You can leave your auction items on the table in the workroom. The viewing of auction items will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the auction itself will begin at 6 p.m. on August 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be ended at 10 p.m.

**Membership:** Tommie Potts is still asking us to find a replacement. In the meantime, there are 66 members, 2 guests and 2 juniors here tonight.

**Sunshine:** Josie Middleton is not here, but her proxy said there are no items of note.

**Federation:** Paul Good is not here.

**Workshop, Historian:** Ed Gage is not here.

**Field Trip:** The next field trip will be to Clifton Quarry this weekend. You need to get a signed, notarized release for this one, and there will be no juniors allowed. Meet at the Clif-Tex parking lot.

**Library:** Diann Hill and Harriet Strieber stress that the air conditioning needs to stay on during this cleanup. There will be no checkouts allowed either; no books may leave the building. There has already been some water absorption occurring and there is some carpentry needed on some of the shelf units. On the up side, Charles Covill has bought one of the speaker's books for the library.

**Stone Chipper:** Laura Dow has brought copies of the Chipper. She needs an article on crystals that will appear in the *Show Bulletin*, but it needs to be published in the Chipper first. Somebody please volunteer. If you want to get on the AGMS list, send an email to the Dows.

**Hospitality:** Kellee Greenway needs some signups to bring food to the next few meetings.

**Nominating:** Dee Fly is here but has no report yet.

**Announcements:** Mac Lester has overhauled one of the cabbings machines. Thanks, Mac. We had show and tell and door prizes.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*~Linda Northcote, Secretary*

## A Bit About Volcanoes

By Susan Postlethwait  
AGMS Club Member

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Mount St Helens shot a plume of steam and ash into the air. That plume rose between 16,000 and 20,000 feet in the air! Mt. St. Helens is infamous for her deadly eruption on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980. During that eruption 1,300 feet were blasted off of the top of her peak. Mt. St. Helens is the most active volcano in the continental United States.

A volcano is a place on the Earth's surface where molten rock, gases and **pyroclastic** debris erupt through the earth's crust. Some volcanoes are cracks in the earth's crust where lava erupts, and others are domes or mountain-like structures with a crater at the summit.

Magma is molten rock within the Earth's crust. But when **magma** erupts through the earth's surface it is called **lava**. Lava can be thick and slow-moving or it can be thin and fast-moving.

Some rocks also come from volcanoes. We call them ash, cinders and pumice. **Ash** is a finely powdered rock that looks like dark smoke coming from the volcano. **Cinders** are bits of fragmented lava. **Pumice** is a light-weight rock that is full of air bubbles and is formed in explosive volcanic eruptions. Pumice can float on water. Imagine that, a rock that floats!

The largest volcano on Earth is Hawaii's Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa is about six miles tall from the sea floor to its summit. Paricutin in Mexico might be one of the smallest volcanoes. Basically it is just a cinder cone.

Did you know that volcanoes can be found on other planets as well? Mars and Venus have volcanoes as well as our own moon. One of the moons of Jupiter also has volcanoes. The largest volcano in our Solar System is probably Olympus Mons on Mars. It is 17 miles tall and over 320 miles across! That is about the distance from Austin to Lubbock. Better pack a big lunch.



### TIME FOR SOME FUN

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

~From Stone Age News, 05/06

## Board Minutes Synopsis May 9, 2006

**NOTE:** These are synopsisized minutes. For full text of board minutes, please contact Linda Northcote, Secretary.

~Editors

- New answering machine procured by Susan. It has 40 minutes of possible recording time. We need to compose a message and put it on the machine.

-The ceiling has a couple small spots on it. Need to watch for leaks in the roof. Marked the spots to tell if there are new ones or they change size. So far no changes.

-No progress on finding someone to help out with the web site.

-AGMSList removed from moderated status as of last week.

-We will have to drill out the show committee cabinet because it has keys in it, but the key to it has been lost.

-Annual auction will be held at the August meeting. Starts at 6 p.m., viewing beings at 5:30 p.m., break around 7 p.m. Limit number of items. All items brought prior to the night of the auction. Extras held over until next year

-Paul wants an inventory of all the material that has been donated for evaluation of taxes. Susan will make a list of rocky material and Dee will list the equipment. The equipment needs to be listed with what the item is and how it is to be used.

-Painting committee reactivated now that the roof is done and most leaks repaired. We still need to measure the rooms. We

have already picked colors, but Paul wants the estimate first. Need to see what Margaret says about the funds that are available for this project.

-Dee wants a list of procedures, like how the A/C works, how to turn up the water heater, how to work the outside lights, and so forth, including location of switches and cutoff valves. This can be typed up and put under laminate cover on the wall somewhere.

-Question about advertisements in the newsletter. It was suggested we tell potential advertisers to buy an ad in the *Show Bulletin*. Current informal policy of not doing commercial ads in the newsletter; however, members can still put items of interest in (like estate or moving sales; one-time-only stuff, not permanent establishments).

-Changed the July board meeting date to Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

-Show shed purchased out of club, not show funds. Show committee getting it ready to receive new shelving. James Mercier is looking into where those metal shelves came from and how much they would cost to duplicate. Susan found extra lumber .

-Ought to redo the light fixtures while we're remodeling the clubhouse. Austin Energy will pay for half if we pay half. If use their contractor and they pay half, our half would be about \$500. Could be substantial reduction in number of fixtures. We do have some funds. Several other projects in the works. Tabled the lights until we get the shelves built and the painting done.

-New shelving will be built next week. Will need up to \$300 to complete this project. Funds allocated. Susan will purchase the wood.

-Found some polish in second shed. Lots of stuff to manage in sheds. Will appoint a "Disposal Chair" to decide what to do with spare stuff. Dee Fly volunteered.

-Joint field trip with the San Antonio club this weekend. We are still looking at trips for June.

-Adolph wants to do a cabbing class, but we are waiting until June. Nancy wants an assistant or a committee to help with setting up classes. Recommended to limit class size to four when using machines. We can try this and then assess the

condition of the shop again later. James Lopez fixed one of the bubblers, for which we thank him. Blue binder used to sign up for classes is not current – need to update it.

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## Board Minutes Synopsis June 6, 2006

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-Dee took the LCD projector home to work with it and figure it out. Discussion on check out procedures and liability for bulb and projector. Card box sign out, keep locked up otherwise in a cabinet. Key box to store keys for various items

-So far no roof leaks.

-2007 Show contract requires a 15% deposit right now. Rob Lavinsky of the Arkenstone might not be back as a dealer. Discussed the number of club members we have as dealers in our show.

-Susan says we used up all the recycled lumber, and we should use the \$300 that was allocated to build out the show shed for another shed.

-Nothing has been done on the website.

-Dee still has a lot to do on the inventory. The inventory is a huge job, perhaps best as a revolving task, rather than an annual one.

-There was a short discussion on insurance, the donated equipment, and if we needed pictures of the new equipment. The Treasurer does insurance through Keith.

-The outside light is out again. We need to ask James Mercier how the electric system works, and perhaps we need to upgrade it, as well.

**-The gates have been left standing open lately. They need to be closed except when a meeting is going on.**

-New mailboxes will be put up for officers.

-Still looking for a replacement for Membership Chair, Tommie Potts. Karen Travis was suggested.

-Gene is still working on getting us a new school to sponsor.

-Dee as Nominations Chair suggested we extend the term for the Treasurer (only the Treasurer, not the other offices). That is a complicated job that takes awhile to learn, and just when a person has learned it we have to replace them. It was suggested that we say “two years with an option for two more”.

-The quarry field trip that was announced will not happen. The Committee is working on another trip to somewhere around Georgetown.

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## A.G.M.S. Calendar

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

\*Closed due to water leak

July 11 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m

July 18 - Fossil SIG Meeting

July 20 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

July 26 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

July 27 - Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Aug 01 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m



## Field Trips

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### CLIFTON QUARRY FIELD TRIP REPORT

June 24, 2006—After early morning rains, eleven AGMS members arrived at the Clifton Quarry to clearing skies where we met Stacey Dillard, the quarry supervisor, who lead our group to the collecting areas. We were hunting until 2 p.m. and found several calcite-crystal forms, plus marcasite and limonite crystals were found in the silicified limestone. Interestingly enough, ammonites, echinoids, coral and bi-valves also were discovered. Many fossils with centers of calcite-crystal replacement were found to add to people’s collections at home.

Many thanks to the Clifton Quarry management for allowing us to visit and collect a variety of specimens.

*~Clifford Strieber, Field Trip Co-member*

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## Sunshine Committee

**Murry Fly** recently had knee surgery and is recuperating at home. He is scheduled for a different surgery on his skull and brain on Monday, July 17th at St. David's Hospital. I'm sure we will all be thinking about Dee and Murry at this time and hoping that all goes well.

**Rodney McNeel** turns 50 on July 15th!

Congratulations to **Jeff "Stretch" Young and Lynn Clark** who will be getting married on July 22nd!



## Show Talk

At the next show committee meeting on **Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will be selecting the Saturday door prize. Members are welcome to bring an item they deem "door prize" worthy that costs under \$100. We will choose the item by popular vote.

*~Susan Postlethwait, Show Chair*

## 2006 Egg Carton Contest



### CALLING ALL JUNIORS!

Juniors, did you remember that AGMS is sponsoring an "Egg Carton Collection" competition for you, our junior members? Well, now it is time to get ready for the competition! We don't want to wait till the last minute. All entries will be displayed at our very own Gem Capers Gem and Mineral Show in December, for all of Austin to see!

The basic ground rules are simple.

1. Each display will have 12 specimens in an egg carton.
2. Parents and others may help, but the work should be the juniors own as much as possible. 5 to 7-year-olds will probably need more help, while 11-year-olds and up should need very little help.
3. The Junior's name should **NOT** be on the egg carton.
4. You must be a current junior member of AGMS.

At the August meeting, I will proudly display my very own egg carton collection along with the collections my grandchildren entered. I know that I learn much better from looking at things so this might help you figure out what to do.

I will also have entry forms and copies of the rules. One big bonus to coming to the August meeting is that the meeting program is the yearly auction - a good chance to pick up some new specimens!

Last year I wrote a series of articles getting us ready for this event; you know, collecting, cleaning, labeling, etc. If you no longer have copies of those articles, or if you are new to the club, please let me know and I will be happy to run off some copies for you.

This will be the second annual "Egg Carton Collection" competition event for us at Austin Gem and Mineral. Please be patient. And as always, I am very open to suggestions and help. Juniors, GOOD LUCK and I need your suggestions too!

*~Respectfully Submitted, Susan Postlethwait*

## Local Show Announcements

**Aug 16-20**

Nashville, TN

AFMS/SFMS Combined Show

**Aug 19-20**

Bossier City, LA

SCFMS/Ark-La-Tex Combined Show

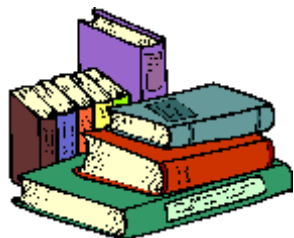
**Aug 26-27**

Jasper, TX

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Margaret Wetherell**, 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*



## Old Books Revisited

By J.W. Downs  
AGMS Club Member

Recently, I acquired and re-read a copy of *Quartz Family Minerals* by Dake, Fleener and Wilson, published in 1938. It was the book that started my interest in minerals back in 1942 when I was a junior in high school. While it is not now the most up-to-date book on the subject, it has valid information on the formation and distribution of all of the silica-based minerals that I have not encountered in any other publication. A few things reminded me that the book had been written sixty eight years ago; *e.g.* reference to the World War, some of the measurements were given in rods instead of feet, and there was no mention of plate tectonics. Two quartz minerals, Coesite and Stishovite, were discovered in the 1960s and are associated with meteor impact craters. Specimens of these forms of  $\text{SiO}_2$  are extremely small and rare and are not likely to be encountered by mineral collectors. With those exceptions, the information contained in the book is well presented and perfectly applicable today.

We have a tendency to overlook older books, some of which contain information that has been dropped by more recent publications. Many new books simply re-hash old but valid information with the addition of color pictures, but most of the information has been around for a long time. For example, an irate parent confronted the board of education in Richmond, California, protesting that his daughter's plane geometry textbook was eleven years old and did not have any of the recent developments in that field. He was not aware that plane geometry had been pretty well set in stone more than two thousand years ago and has been taught in translated editions of Euclid's *Elements* continuously for two millennia.

*Quartz Family Minerals* gives a brief rundown on the chemistry involved in formation of quartz type minerals and the conditions under which they are formed. The authors point out that since oxygen and silicon constitute 75% of the earth's crust (Si= 28%, O=47%) it is little wonder that there is an abundance of silica-related minerals. These elements are not only the most abundant in the lithosphere, but are by far the most abundant.

There is enough dissolved  $\text{SiO}_2$  in the oceans of the world for diatoms and other marine life to form skeletons of this material. Considering the fact that quartz is insoluble in water at standard temperatures and pressures, I never understood how the microscopic diatoms found enough silica in ocean water to form the vast deposits of diatomaceous earth found in areas like Lompoc, California. It obviously did not come from quartz crystals dissolving, but had its origin in the decomposition of feldspar, which yields colloidal silica that is readily dissolved and dispersed in water.

All of the silica-related minerals are covered individually by chapter, starting with pure rock crystal, amethyst, agate, jasper and so on, giving explanations of the conditions under which the minerals were formed and where they were found as of 1938. Some interesting anomalies were cited, such as geodes found near Keokuk, Iowa, which contained up to a quart of petroleum. Probably the most inexplicable inclusions were found in the Pioneer Mine, Napa County, California, where agate geodes were filled with liquid mercury. (One might expect to find geodes in that area filled with White Zinfandel or Pinot Noir, but not mercury!) Minerals other than quartz are found inside agate geodes, *e.g.* calcite and sphalerite. Such occurrences raise challenging questions.

In the chapter on opals, the book gives two examples worthy of note and have helped fan the superstition that opals bring bad luck to their owners. During the Black Death (1347 - 1351) it was noted that opals worn by people dying appeared to become more colorful immediately before they died and then lost their luster upon the death of the wearer. Later it was observed that the accompanying fever was at its highest immediately before death, which heated the opal and brought out its luster. After the demise, the temperature cooled down and the luster of the opal decreased. This must have been the ultimate medieval mood ring.

In an effort to dispel the superstition of opals being associated with bad luck, and to boost the opal business in recently discovered opal deposits in Australia, Queen Victoria gave opal jewelry to her children for wedding presents. This may not have done much to reassure her subjects that opals were not bad luck, since she also gave them the hemophilia gene which showed up a generation later. Her granddaughter, Tsarina Alexandra, produced a son, the Russian crown prince Alexis, who was afflicted with that disease. Alexandra also brought Rasputin to the Russian Court and ended up

getting shot with the other members of the Russian royal family. This probably was not the most comforting proof that opals did not bring bad luck. (We are reminded of the ad for a lost dog that read, "Lost: small black and white dog. Missing one leg, torn left ear, no tail, blind in one eye, neutered and answers to the name *Lucky*.")

The other "golden oldie" that I re-visited (but did not read from cover to cover) was *A Textbook of Geology, Part II - Historical Geology* by Schuchert and Dunbar, published in 1941. This was the text used at the University of Alaska, when Alaska was still a territory, and was my first book on the subject. Obviously, a lot has been learned since 1941. The authors mentioned continental drift, but indicated that it had been largely discredited because there was no known source of energy sufficient to push the continents around. While volcanic action was covered, they did not have a real clue as to its origin. The last chapter covered the ascent of mammals and included our hominid ancestors. There was a picture of the reconstruction of the now discredited Piltdown Man, including a two paragraph explanation.

In spite of these glitches, the book contains an astonishing amount of sound geological facts that are as valid now as they were in 1941. Dates of the geological eras and periods were surprisingly accurate but not as accurate as they have been recently calculated. It also contained information not generally available in the more up-to-date textbooks, such as this description of the harvest of the tusks of Woolly Mammoths (*Mammonteus primigenisus*) in Siberia:

*Siberian ivory was imported into China as early as the fourth century B.C., and began to be extensively transported into Europe early in the nineteenth century. Between 1800 and 1850 the annual sale of tusks at the trading center of Yakutsk averaged about eighteen tons, and up to 1940 no fewer than 46,750 pairs of tusks have been recovered in Siberia.*

With a veritable army of geologists, mineralogists, paleontologists and geophysicists busily digging and probing, it is possible that more information has been uncovered since 1941 than all of the combined data before the publication of this book. Considering that the study of geology and paleontology is quite new in the long history of humanity, much information has come to light and has been interpreted in a very short time.

There is no shortage of well presented modern books available, but before we throw out our old texts, we would do well to examine them to see some of the interesting material that may not have been included in the newer publications.

#### References:

**Quartz Family Minerals** *Dake, Fleener and Wilson* 1938 McGraw-Hill.

**Textbook of Geology Part II** *Schuchert and Dunbar* 1941 John Wiley & Sons.

**Rocks from Space** *O. Richard Norton* 1994 Mountain Press Publishing Co.

Google

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### Our Club Librarian

By Margaret Good  
AGMS Club Member

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Our club has an excellent library.  
But looking for help you just may tarry.  
Harriet can help you  
Find your need, it is true.  
What you're hunting might easily vary.

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### What is It?

By Josie Middleton  
AGMS Club Member

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So did you guess that last month's puzzle was jadeite? It's a silicate from the pyroxene group. There is a similar silicate from the amphibole group, known as nephrite. The nephrite will not fuse nor will it bead up. Now onto the next set. Good luck!

1. One of the best localities for this mineral was Namibia; the mine has been closed for about twenty years.
  2. One of the very first sources was located in Eisenkappel, Austria.
  3. It's mostly used in the manufacturing of steel.
  4. The crystal system is hexagonal.
  5. It is a secondary mineral, meaning that it only forms when primary mineral has undergone a natural change
  6. Three of its four chemical components are lead, chlorine, and oxygen.
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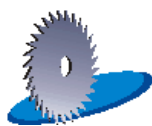
7. This is a soft mineral, with a Mohs' scale rating of 3.
8. It has an adamantine luster and streaks yellowish brown to a brownish red.
9. Its mineral colours are best collected in red but it also comes in yellow, brownish tan, or orange, and in its most rare form, it is clear.
10. Mineral will fracture unevenly, and conchoidal.

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## July Program Preview

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**Brad Cross** will provide a brief history of how and why his new book was written, the various "bumps" along the way, and the tasks involved in producing the final product. Brad will have a limited number of books available for sale at the meeting." Released on June 1, 2006, *Geodes: Nature's Treasures*, is the first book dedicated to geodes. Co-authored by Brad Cross and June Culp Zeitner, the book addresses world-class geode deposits in Mexico, Brazil, the mid-western U.S., Florida, and other known deposits. The book also includes geode's close cousins — thundereggs, septarians, and concretions.



## SHOP TIPS

### Remove Carbonates

One way to remove carbonates, such as calcite, from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow it to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing-type ammonia for 8 to 12 hours. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry.

*~from Amador Nugget 07/00, via The Mountain Gem 09/03, Hound's Howl 11/03*

NOTE: Shop tips are not pre-tested. Use at your own risk! *~Editors*

### How to Tell the Sex of a Fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies," he responded. "Oh... Kill any?" "Yep, three

males, two females," he replied. Intrigued she asked, "How can you tell them apart?" He responded, "Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone."

*~From Agate Explorer, 05, Gems from the Redwoods, 3/06, Hy Grader, 6/06*



### A.F.M.S. News

The **AFMS/SFMS combined show** time is nearly here. It will be in **Nashville, Tennessee** from **August 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**. See the May 2006 *Stone Chipper* or the AFMS website at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) for the details.



### S.C.F.M.S. News

The **2006 South Central Federation convention and show** will be hosted by the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society from **August 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**. It will be held at the Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Road, **Bossier City, Louisiana**. Highlights include the Rock Food Table, gem stone cutting, 24 dealers, flint knapping, exhibits, a children's gem dig, the Wheel of Fortune, and other demonstrations. The SCFMS silent auction will be ongoing throughout the show.

### Banquet

By Margaret Good  
AGMS Club Member

On Saturday night to top things off  
The banquet is the place to be, I hear  
For there awards are handed out  
To those who performed well through the year

Winners of scholarships will be announced  
The food is good, just can't be beat  
So pull up your chair, join in the fun  
Let's all be there, it will be a treat

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



**Address Correction Requested**

# Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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

## 2006 Officers

President: Paul Bordovsky  
First V.P.: Dee Fly  
Second V.P.: Brian Wetzig  
Secretary: Linda Northcote  
Treasurer: Margaret Wetherell

## Board of Directors

Ed Gage (1)  
Gene Healy (1)  
Nancy Keller (1)  
Robert Greenway (2)  
Susan Postlethwait (2)  
Jeff Young (2)

## Committee Chairpersons

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Show              | Susan Postlethwait |
| Building Chair & Website | Craig Brandt       |
| Education/Classes        | Nancy Keller       |
| Federation/Conservation  | Paul Good          |
| 4 Field Trip             | Gene Healy         |
| Clifford Strieber        |                    |
| Committee:               | Ron Carman         |
| Chip Burnette            |                    |
| Workshop & Historian     | Ed Gage            |
| Hospitality              | Kellee Greenway    |
| Junior Advisor/Programs  | Susan Postlethwait |
| Library Co-Chair         | Harriet Strieber   |
| Library Co-Chair         | Diann Hill         |
| Membership               | Tommie Potts       |
| Newsletter Editors       | David & Laura Dow  |
| Program                  | Brian Wetzig       |
| Scholarship              | Betsy Gager        |
| School Programs          | Wing Evans         |
| Sunshine                 | Josie Middleton    |



**JULY  
2006**

## Editor Awards

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