

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 638TH MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JULY 23RD, 2009, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The July program will be announced at the meeting.

AGMS Annual Show
 Gem Capers 2009
 Palmer Events Center
 October 23rd - 25th.
www.GemCapers.com

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 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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President's Message - Josie Middleton, President

Hello fellow Chippers,

I haven't heard any complaints on our featured speaker W.C. Jameson last month. Those were some really interesting books that he has written. I even saw the movie "National Treasure," but I have yet to see the sequel NT2; I might have to rent it. I never thought I would run into a real treasure hunter but I guess that's what we are, considering we are always on the look-out for a favorite find. We are just not on the scale he uses.

Boy it's hotter than Hades, so everyone stay cool and keep your wits about you. It doesn't take long for you to get into trouble with this type of heat if you are not drinking water! And for heaven sakes watch out for those vipers in this heat. They may not warn you how close you are to being bit, especially if it's asleep and you step on it!!! This is heatstroke weather and if you are not sweating YOU are in major trouble; get in the shade and start drinking water. If handy, cool the back of your neck, armpits, and the groin area with alcohol and cool water to bring your body temperature down. If you are sunburned, keep the vinegar close for the sting and the aloe vera for the blistering and pain.

Some things to do while you are inside to enjoy our hobby are: start labeling that unlabeled collection; learn how to cab or facet, (our teachers are ready to help you), learn and do research on the various minerals or fossils that interest you or even one you hate, you'll be surprised what ends up fascinating you. My favorite is reading - whether it is a History of Mineral Collecting, Mineral Mines of Mexico, or Mining and Hydrology. There is bound to be a happy medium for you.

Note that we will have a board meeting on July 7th.

Everyone enjoy your Fourth of July, watch out for any burn bans and careful with those firecrackers. My favorite eating: lots of watermelon, sweet and cold, it gives you a few vitamins and hydrates you at the same time! Enjoy!

Needed - New Editor

We're down to **four** 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. 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.

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.



Library News - Harriet Strieber, Co-librarian

One of the new additions to the AGMS library is the DVD, "How to Find Genuine Diamonds in Arkansas." Although a visit to the Crater of the Diamonds State Park probably is not really recommended during the heat of the summer (unless well-prepared), one might enjoy this 84-minute presentation for a future collecting trip.

A project that needs attention is the library's video collection. A few of the older tapes have been transferred to DVD, but if someone is willing to help continue this, please contact a librarian. The blanks would be provided, there is no set deadline and one could choose only to copy a few, as this is a time-consuming activity.

The library has had some very good presentations in the past, and as the history of media has changed through the years, it would be unfortunate to lose this information. Also more members would be able to enjoy the newer format. Please know that your help will be appreciated.

A.G.M.S. Calendar

July 11 - Last Cabbing Class, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 July 16 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 July 21 - Paleo Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 July 23 - AGMS Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 August 04 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m

Board Minutes

There were no board minutes received for July.

Refreshments

Volunteers for **July** to bring in refreshments are: Mac & Fran Ellis and Clifford and Harriet Strieber. We need more volunteers for July please.



So far there is only one volunteer for **August** to bring in refreshments - Betty Lee. This will be our auction so we need more if possible!

May 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes - Linda Northcote, Secretary

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Josie Middleton at 7:30 p.m. The presentation was held.

Library: Harriet Strieber is looking to inventory the library. She would like to have some help, namely 2 people for five days (at least it took five days last time it was done).

Education: Joyce Hrapsky announced there would be two cab cutting classes to be held in June. Sign up for either of them after the meeting.

Show: Brian Wetzig announced there would be a work party on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Building: There are air conditioning problems going on in the lapidary room. We are working on the problem.

Federation: Paul Good says the data, including application blanks, for the SCFMS Federation show is posted on the website now. The Temple club is hosting this year, and their show will be held on October 10-11. The host hotel is the Quality Inn on I-35, exit 301. The Show itself will be held at the Mayburn Convention Center at exit 303. Deadline for exhibit entries and preregistration is September 10.

Hospitality: Josie says that if you want food at the future meetings, you'd better sign up. Marilyn Bowers will call and remind you before the meeting, and the names of volunteers will also be posted in the *Stone Chipper*.

Membership: Marilyn Bowers is the new Membership Chairman. Diann Hill had to resign. There are 52 members signed in tonight.

Program: Kathleen Howard says the next speaker is a renowned storyteller. Be sure not to miss June's meeting!

Workshop: Gef Fisher has procured a donation of some equipment.

Announcements: Mac and Fran Ellis announced that they were having a rock sale on June 6 and 7 at their home in Bastrop.

Show & Tell: We had show and tell and door prizes.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

June 25, 2009 Meeting Minutes - Linda Northcote, Secretary

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Josie Middleton.

Presentation: The presentation was by W. C. Jameson about his adventures in treasure hunting.

Show: We need to put out the volunteer sign-up sheet and have it for the July general meeting.

Building: Bob Greenway has bought filters for the A/C unit.

Classes: Joyce Hrapsky is looking for students to take James Lopez's cabochon contouring class. Students wanting to take this class need to sign up after the meeting because they will need to order a set of burrs.

Federation: The South Central Federation show is the weekend before ours in Temple. The AFMS show and convention will be in Billings on July 29-August 2.

Library: Harriet Strieber says there is lots of stuff missing from the library without being signed out. She's enjoying the air conditioning now that it's been fixed.

Hospitality: We still need two more people to sign up to bring goodies for the July meeting.

Membership: Marilyn Bowers, the new Membership Chairman, announced that there are 4 guests at the meeting.

Stone Chipper: Laura Dow has announced that she's stepping down as editor, but we are still looking for a replacement.

Sunshine: If you have news for the Sunshine Chair, contact Ron Guzman.

Announcements: Kathleen Howard has started to put stuff aside for the auction, to be held at the August 27 meeting. Give any donations to her.

Show & Tell: We had show and tell and door prizes.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

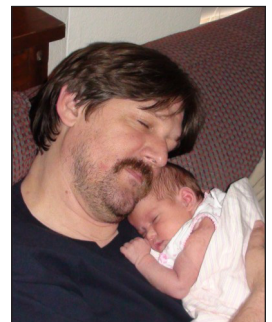
Sunshine Committee



Please send news about our membership, both good and bad, to Ron and Jennifer Guzman.



Lynn and Stretch Young are pleased to announce the birth of their new baby girl, **Kimberlynn Young!** She was born on June 22nd at 9:08 a.m. and weighed in at 7 lbs 13.6 oz. Lynn reports that she was 19 inches long and has a dimple in her chin, just like Stretch. Oh, she is also reportedly, "pretty and perfect." You can see photos of the happy family on the baby's website Stretch has already given her a gift of her birthstone - a natural, uncut, 30 carat alexandrite.



Sadly, the faceting world lost one of its best - **Jeff Graham** of Tucson, Arizona, passed away on June 21, 2009. He was a well known and highly regarded figure. You can view his website at www.faceters.com. His obituary and tributes can be viewed at <http://www.legacy.com/tucson/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=128847334>.

~notified by Les Postlethwait

Show Talk

By Brian Wetzig
2009 Show Chair



The next Show Committee meeting will be **Thursday, July 16th** starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be putting the final touches on the floor plan this month. We will also be voting on this year's show pin design. So if you have one or plan to enter one please be sure to drop it off and the club house by the 16th. Please include your name on your entry. There are no work parties scheduled at this time. It's not too late to start coming to the meeting and if you want to volunteer for something, your help will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there.

Gem Capers 2009 Show Committee Minutes

By Dee Fly - Show Secretary
June 18, 2009

Attendees: 12 people in attendance.

Call to Order: Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes were approved with two grammatical corrections.

Treasurer: Not in attendance.

Teacher's prize: Two prizes were selected for two teachers. A DVD donated by Andrea Miller and a fossil fish for the classroom with crinoid stems for the students donated by Susan Postlethwait.

Saturday Door Prize: A nice selenite piece was donated by Susan.

Floor plan: Robert handed out two different floors plans. Plan "A" was a layout for 34 dealers and Plan "B" was for 35 dealers with the usual events. Les Postlethwait said he saw at a Kerrville weekend show a booth by Austin Community College Jewelry students selling the jewelry they made in class. Wing made a motion that AGMS go with Plan "B" and invite ACC Jewelry class to present and sell their jewelry in a four table booth, motion was seconded and it passed. Les will contact his source at ACC about the invite to Gem Capers.

Dealers: Diann advised that Bill Patillo said it was okay for Froot's to hand out coupons at the food table.

School Letters: We will put together the teacher packets at the August meeting. Dee volunteered to do the mailing.

Quest for Knowledge: Susan and Stretch are working on the questions. Susan can get a lot of plain Mylar balloons for around \$70.00 and they can be re-used if we take the air out and lay them flat. She also can get a refillable helium tank for about \$94.00 and will get credit for any poundage left over. Diann made a motion, it was seconded and the motion passed for Susan to go that route.

Show Pin: Vote will be in July. Send your examples in to Brian so they can be included in the voting. Theme is the history of mining.

Wheel of Fortune: Pauline advised only 3 people showed for the May 30th work party. Several people are working on items at home.

Demonstrators: Susan will talk to Ann with UT and the Paleo Group about their setup.

Adjournment: Motioned was made and seconded to adjourn, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Local Show Announcements



There are no local shows in July.

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 or email Doug True, Show Chair, at dtruefossils@yahoo.com for more information.

Keokuk Geodes

by Aletha Hoogeterp, April 30, 2009

From Stoney Statements, 7/09

Although geodes of different kinds are found all over the world, the greatest abundance and variety are found in the outcropping of the Mississippian lower Keokuk bed within a 70 mile radius of the intersection of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers. Southeastern Iowa is one of the best areas for collecting geodes, which were designated as Iowa's State Rock in 1967. The large number of mineral inclusions and the exquisite crystal groups that they form have made Keokuk Geodes the most beautiful and most sought after of all geodes by museums and collectors all over the world. The most common size of Keokuk Geodes is about 3-4 inches across but they can sometimes reach 2 feet across and larger. Most Keokuk Geodes occur within a 35 mile radius of Keokuk. The geodes are found in at least 3 different layers. The uppermost limestone/ shale layer is a rust brown color.

Here you can find nice sized geodes all of which are hollow. The downside of this layer is that most are weathered pretty badly. The next layer down in this stratum is a gray shale layer around 40 cm in width. Here is where you can find the awesome capillary pyrites in quartz, Alpha quartz, and even calcite geodes. Geodes in this layer range from 4 cm up to 18 cm. The larger flattened geodes are, more often than not, filled in with quartz crystals and are not worth filling your bucket with. By lifting your finds you can judge most of the time if there is a cavity or not. Some of the quartz geodes; however, can deceive you because of the high specific gravity of quartz. The thicker the geode skin you find the better condition you will find your inclusion minerals. The lowest layer is semi-hard grey shale in which you find smaller but hollow quartz geodes to 5 cm. Most are only quartz with no inclusions inside but they are still very nice for the avid geode collector. Some of the more common minerals found in the geodes are, quartz, chalcedony, calcite, pyrite, smoky quartz, aragonite/kaolinite and citrine quartz. Other rarer mineral inclusions are drusy quartz, snowballs, barite, selenite, malachite, red quartz and black calcite.

Recommended tools for digging geodes include a short handled shovel, a pick ax or geopick, a long pointed chisel, known as a gad point, a hammer, 5 gallon buckets, and newspapers for wrapping broken geodes with—be

sure to wear gloves if you want to avoid blisters! Many areas contain clusters of geodes, so removing individual geodes can be a challenge as they are often found in close proximity to each other. Other items you may wish to bring are drinking water, sun screen and insect repellent.

One of the best methods for cracking geodes is to use a manual soil pipe cutter. However, for the hard-core geode enthusiast a hydraulic pipe cutter is a “must have”. The most common way to open a geode is the hammer and chisel method. This is done by tapping a line around the center of the geode, using a flat chisel and hammer, and continuing to go around deepening the line until the geode cracks open. This method takes lots of practice. Give yourself plenty of time and don’t rush it. If you do you won’t get two equal halves but a pile of sparkly crystals that used to be a geode. The other common method is to use a lapidary saw. This method is not highly recommended unless you plan to polish the geode halves. With this method you also run the risk of cutting through an interesting mineral formation. The collecting fees at the various sites range between \$16 and \$25 for a 5 gallon bucket full.

There is even one site that has a per pound fee for geodes which are too large to fit in a bucket.

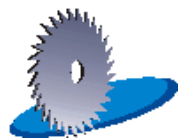
Geode hunting can be exciting experiences as you crack open each geode exposing the treasures inside rewarding you with the first glimpse of a crystal world previously unseen by anyone else.

References:

Keokuk Area Convention and Tourism Bureau, www.keokukiowatourism.org

“Jacob’s Geode Mine” by Everett Harrington, May 7, 2005, <http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr/HarringtonMay05.html>

“Keokuk Area Geode Collecting” by Heidi Retherford, May 2008, <http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr08-2/RetherfordMay08.html>



SHOP TIPS

Hints & Tips For the Silversmiths

The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing wheel threads - not the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff will not give the same results as a quality one.

Plain old-fashioned whiting moistened with ammonia water makes an excellent agent for polishing tarnished silver. Wipe the paste on; allow it to dry; then rub with a piece of lemon. Wash and dry thoroughly. The silver will stay brighter longer than with ordinary cleansing.

To rub smooth the high points of a gold article, use sodium bicarbonate with a minimum of water.

To antique silver jewelry, paint the pieces to be darkened with raw egg yolk. Rinse off the egg and rub highlights with Linde A.

Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. It removes easily.

Bon Ami applied with a toothbrush will give a satin finish.

One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be the orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on cuticles and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough not to mar gold or silver, yet is hard enough to use as a pushing tool in setting prongs. It will not scratch gems and will reach into impossible places.

~From The Lodestar - 11/92, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 5/09

Field Trip Season Know Your Rocks

Leaverite: Also known as Dropite, Junkite and Crudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitutes 90% of most rocks. This includes Sourgrape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

Sack Rock: This is material that is stuffed into a sack but fall from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a corner and forgotten.

Wonder Rock: You always wonder why you brought it home, and where you found it.

Braggin' Rock: Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon and fondled until it assume a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

@#%&+ Rock: A large heavy, possibly angular rock that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

~From -Gem Time 06/98, via MWF Newsletter 12/02, The Calgary Lapidary Journal 5/09

SCFMS News



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.

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

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry we don't serve food in here."

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"

~From the Crystal Gazer, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal

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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

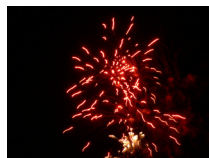
President: Josie Middleton
First V.P.: Jackie Fisher
Second V.P.: Kathleen Howard
Secretary: Linda Northcote
Treasurer: Pauline Denson

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	Marilyn Bowers
Newsletter Editors	David & Laura Dow
Program	Kathleen Howard
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher



July 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