

AUGUST 2006

VOLUME 45.08

# THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 607<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2006, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546. **\*\*Auction Viewing starts 5:30 p.m.!**



The program for August will be our annual **AUCTION!**

**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.



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.**

### 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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## President's Message

Summer is almost over, and while the heat won't be gone anytime soon, the lazy days, and relatively open roads will soon be pleasant memories. Back to school and all that that implies will change all of our day to day routines, in at least some fashion.

Gem Capers is fast approaching, so please ask what you can do to help out. The clubhouse renovation is moving along. The painting should be done soon, and then the tile work will go in next. Hopefully we will be back to a normal situation soon, with the workshop back in operation, the library functional, and classes starting soon.

The latest edition of Extra Lapis is now available. The entire issue covers fluorite, and has beautiful photography. Check it out if you get a chance.

I hope to see all of you at the upcoming meeting, which will be the yearly auction

~Paul Bordovsky, President



## Library News

Briefly, the members who have been so helpful in the library/office area cleanup deserve a huge thank you! When the library materials have been moved back into the room, then we will be back in business. With replacement and additional shelving, things may not be completely in order for a while, but somewhat usable. Members will be notified via e-mail when the library has its grand "reopening."

In the meantime, overdue books may be returned at one's convenience through the mail slot by the front door (hint, hint).

Thank you to **Charles Covill** for donating the Wyoming diamond book (associated with June's meeting and program). Also, **Rusty Wallace** has donated three books and

a set of audio tapes. These will be added to our circulation list soon. In the meantime, keep cool.

~Harriet Streiber, Co-Librarian

## July Meeting Minutes

There were no meeting minutes available at press time.

## July and August Board Minutes

There were no board minutes available at press time.

## Auction Time!



I would like to invite everyone to this year's **AGMS Auction**. It will be held on **August 24<sup>th</sup>**, during the club's regular monthly meeting. We will be trying something different this year so please take note of the times.

**Viewing of items will start at 5:30 p.m.**, and bidding will start shortly after **6:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m.** There will be an intermission to conduct club business around 7:30 p.m., and the auction will continue after that. The reason for the changes was to allow plenty of time for the auction and yet finish the auction earlier. In past years the auction has run as late as 11:30 p.m. Most people do not want to be out that late, but there were still items they wanted to bid on that had not yet come up.

If you have anything you would like to donate please contact **Brian Wetzig**. Anyone wishing to help with the auction (Cashier, Auctioneer, Spotters) let me know please. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

~Brian Wetzig, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President





## Fossil SIG News

The Austin Paleo Society meeting will be held on **August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** It will be an **auction** of Ed Bowden's books, books on fossils, as well as modern corals and modern sea shells. It was Ed's wish that the proceeds would set up a scholarship fund.

~Jean Wallace

## Field Trips



The next scheduled field trip will be on **September 30<sup>th</sup>** to the TXI quarry at **Midlothian, Texas**. Midlothian is south of Dallas, about 170 miles from Austin. Shark teeth, marcasite rosettes and concretions with calcite cores have been found in the quarry.

In regard to participation, TXI has a limit of 25 people with no one under the age of 8. Attendees will be required to wear hard hats and safety glasses. For those who do not have such, they will have them available.

TXI also needs to know how many will be attending 2 days in advance. **So, if you plan to go, please let me know sometime before September 28<sup>th</sup>.**

More details will be in the September *Stone Chipper*.

~Clifford Strieber, Field Trip Committee

## A.G.M.S. Calendar

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

\*Closed due to water leak repairs

Aug 15 - Fossil SIG Meeting

Aug 17 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Aug 23 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

Aug 24 - Club Meeting 5:30 p.m.\* Auction viewing

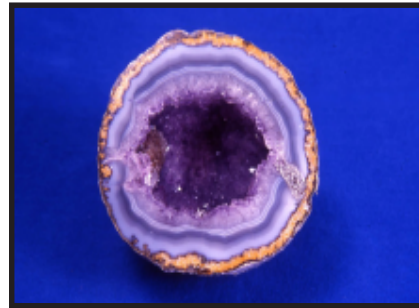
Sep 05 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m

Sep 30 - Field Trip

## July Program Review Coconuts of Las Choyas Chih. Mexico

By Ed Gage  
AGMS Club Member

We were entertained by a beautiful program by Brad Cross, narrated by Brian Wetzig. The topic was the story of the coconut geodes of Las Choyas. The area is located approximately 140 miles south of El Paso, Texas on a private ranch in a very dry desert area that supports little except cactus and transient annual plants with a few perennials that lie dormant until a few scattered rains. Within a 2 square mile area there occurs a 10 foot thick layer of gray tuff deposited by an ash flow during the Jurassic-Cretaceous period.



Geode  
Las Choyas, Mexico  
Photo by Brad Cross

Initially a hole is drilled with a well drillers' rig and then enlarged up to 30 inches in diameter so a man can lower himself down to 125 feet where a series of underground tunnels have been dug to allow the access to the geode layer. Miners use hand picks to chip the geode out of the matrix. The geodes are then sacked and hauled to the surface with a rope and pulley by hand. They are transported to the ranch shed where they are sized and graded by the percentage of hollow cavity they contain. They are priced by the amount of hollow area they have. Solid ones are not considered acceptable and are not sold. They are then packed in large bags and shipped worldwide. (Photographs reprinted with permission to Brian from Brad Cross).

Piles of  
discarded, filled  
(versus hollow)  
geodes.  
Las Choyas,  
Mexico  
Photo by Brad  
Cross





## Sunshine Committee

**Charlotte Morriss** underwent knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, August 2nd. She is home from the hospital and recuperating. Our best wishes to Charlotte as she gets on her feet again!

**Murry Fly** is continuing to improve after his brain/skull surgery of last month. He is planning to return to teaching when school opens up again this month.

## FOR SALE



The **Purkeypiles** are having a backyard sale during the month of **August** on the following weekends: **12&13, 26&27**. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will have a whole bunch of rough rock and virtually thousands of slabs for sale. The rough rock at \$2 per pound: West Texas plumes (red and black), Balmorhea Blue, various West Texas Agates, Montana Moss, Obsidian (mahogany, snowflake & rainbow), various mixed agates and jaspers. Also, Brazilian agates, Mexican and Dugway geodes and Thunder Eggs (halves & wholes). We have buckets of partially tumbled agates and jaspers, and some great little 1 to 5 pound pieces of petrified wood from all over.

We will also have Kabambi Ocean Jasper at \$3.50/lb., Agua Nueva (B-grade, nice moss) at \$3/lb., Royal Purple Aztec Lace at \$10/lb.

Equipment: Two All-you-need machines with used laps (\$150 each), two 8" Poly arbors (\$50 each), two 20" diameter Rose Reciprolaps (\$500 each, same machine that Alamo used), one Richardson Ranch sphere machine (\$600), One Lortone Little Beaver 6" Arbor with motor (\$150), various rotary tumblers and large steel barrels, Diamond pacific Genie (\$400 older model with 4 wheels), Cabmate 6"

saw & arbor (\$150), Jewelry Buffer (\$350, like Rio Grande large commercial, dual sided model), large Ultrasonic jewelry cleaner (\$150), and a bunch of odd and end lapidary accessories.

## Lapidary Equipment Auction

The HGMS club is selling off working lapidary equipment including - 10" oil trim saw, 18" oil slab saw, 6" water trim saw, 18" vibrolap, polishing plates for 1/2", 3/4", 1" shafts; tumbling drums, etc. See the lapidary page on [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org) for pictures of the sale items.

Auction will be at 2 p.m., Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>. There are minimums on some of the equipment. I will have the web pages up by 6 p.m. 8/3/06. [Editors' note, no information available as of 8/10/06.]

~Stoney Statements, 8/06

## A Tale of Perspective

By James Mercier  
AGMS Club Member

Three years ago I was in Cairo, Egypt for six weeks on a job. During that time I did some sight seeing including Coptic Cairo, the old city dating back to Roman times. This is the neighborhood in which Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were said to have lived in during their hiding in Egypt.

This past spring, David and Laura Dow visited the near east including a tour of Cairo. As they walked down a particular street which I had photographed and shown them, David remarked, "Just think, Laura, 3 years ago James was here." To which Laura exploded, "James, Hell! The historian Herodotus was here over 2 thousand years ago!"

You know, sometimes you just have to put things in perspective!

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

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## Local Show Announcements

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**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

*~From [www.lapidaryjournal.com](http://www.lapidaryjournal.com) calendar*

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## Our Library – A Brief History

By Paddy Covill

“An Old and Tired AGMS Member Who  
Remembers All of This”

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Many years ago, about 40 or so, the AGMS owned one book that someone had donated to the club. Eventually a few more were added, some were given to the club, others were member owned and lent to the club so that others could read them. Soon we had enough to fill a wooden fruit flat that was carried to the meetings.

There was a drawback though – someone would borrow a book, someone else would borrow it from the first person and it went on and on with no written records to follow the trail. Sometimes a person would move or drop out of the club and “forget” to return a book. Like a lot of “borrowed” things, some books were lost.

About this time, one of our members passed away and it was suggested that we honor that person with a book for the library about his/her special interest. This was brought up to the members and it was voted that this be a continuing practice for the club. At the time, it was amended to include members of the immediate family. After some discussion, the motion carried with the immediate family was to be mother, father, sister, brother, or child. The practice of remembering deceased club members with a book is still in effect today.

Along about this time, it was suggested that we give the books to the Austin Public Library. After we had given them one or two we received a letter from them. It did say “thanks”,

but included a list of books that they would “accept.” The list did not include any “how to” books but some very artistic picture books with a price of up to \$175 to \$250. This was way more than we had allotted in our annual budget. It also implied that they really preferred to purchase their own books, and also that they probably would not be able to mark each one as to who had donated it and in whose honor it was made. Needless to say, we dropped that idea.

Thanks to more profitable Gem Shows, especially the National one in 1976, our dreams of owning a home of our own have actually come true and our building has room for a wonderful and permanent library as well as a way to keep good records.

Let me remind those of you who had forgotten, or inform those who didn’t know, about memorial books. As you glance at the books, you will see names of those who helped start the AGMS, who were members for a long time, who helped make the club and especially the library what it is today. This practice will remind and inform future members of those who kept the club going so the newer ones could enjoy belonging.

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## FUN FACTS ABOUT DIAMONDS

By - Charlotte Beebe

Pine County Gem & Mineral Society  
The Pineywoods Rooter, no date given

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1. There is enough carbon in the cremated remains of a human body to make 50 small diamonds. The small diamonds will cost about \$5,000 each to make.
  2. About 102 million carats of diamond are mined worldwide each year. (22.5 tons)
  3. The largest diamond ever found was the **Cullinan**. It weighed 3106 carats (about 1 ½ pounds). The man who cut the Cullinan, Joseph Ashup, studied it for one year before cutting it.
  4. Diamond weights are measured in carats. One carat is 200 milligrams.
  5. DeBeers is the largest diamond company in the world and owns 80% of all mines.
  6. If you put a diamond on your tongue, your tongue will feel cold. The diamond draws the heat from your tongue, hence the feeling of cold. (They don’t call it “ice” for nothing.)
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7. Diamonds can be made in the lab for about 1/10 the cost of natural diamond. Some are so well made that even experts can't tell which is which.
  8. Diamonds are formed deep in the earth's crust or in the upper mantle under high pressure in hardening igneous rock called Kimberlite.
  9. The **Hope Diamond** is the world's largest blue diamond. In the rough, it weighed 112 carats; the cut weight is 45.52 carats.
  10. The **Cullinan I, "Star of Africa"** was discovered in 1905. It weighed 530 carats and was cut into 105 diamonds. It was given to King Edward VII of England to be set into the British Crown Jewels and is now kept in the Tower of London.
  11. Antwerp, Belgium is the diamond headquarters of the world.
  12. Pressure and heat cause diamonds to form.
  13. White diamonds are pure carbon. Diamonds are a mineral consisting of almost pure carbon.
  14. Colored diamonds have impurities in them.
  15. **Canada** now mines **12%** of the diamonds of the world.
  16. The famous **Krups Diamond**, is now owned by Elizabeth Taylor.
  17. Diamond is the hardest natural substance known.
- Reference - Various Internet Sites

~From *The Calgary Lapidary Journal* 4/06

### What is It?

By Josie Middleton  
AGMS Club Member

I am sorry that I couldn't put in the fourth chemical in last July's clue, which was **Vanadinite** and would have given away the answer. For this month it may be easier for some of you geologists than the average Joe, like myself.

1. This mineral decays, meaning that it is releasing radiation particles and creating new isotopes, gas and lead. This type of process will most probably continue for millions of years.
2. It belongs in the Isometric or Cubic system.
3. The impure form of this mineral is known as pitchblende.
4. Known to be autographic.

5. It is known as one of the most important minerals to the atomic age.
6. Geologists can tell its age.
7. The hardness is a 6 and brittle, the metamorphic type can have a hardness of about 3.5.
8. Streaks green, brown, or gray.
9. It is usually found in pegmatites and may look gray, greenish or black.
10. This mineral type is known to have several morphologies, such as massive, earthy, crystals, reniform, and granular.



Our thanks go to the following for their continued support of the A.G.M.S. by printing out the newsletter for us each month:

**Horizon Environmental  
Services, Inc.**  
James M. Wiersema, Principal

### SHOP TIPS



### Untried Shop Tips

**Green out:** Heat treating of aquamarine to drive out the greenish tint and to intensify the blue can be done with a ceramic kiln or burnout oven. At 800 degrees F, the green disappears, leaving a bright stable blue. Embed the aquamarine crystals in sand in a ceramic jar and then raise the temperature in the oven slowly over a period of three hours. Turn off the kiln when at 800 degrees F and let cool for 12 hours, without opening the door.

~From *Pick & Pack* 4/00, via *The Pegmatite* 1/04, *Stoney Statements* 8/06

**Measure out:** Try this: Use a standard measuring teaspoon, fill it with grit of any size (coarse, medium or fine), scrape with a flat surface such as a knife blade or ruler so that the spoon

is filled flat from rim to rim and Voila! You have ¼ ounce grit in the spoon. Polish is another story. It takes eight (8) level teaspoonfuls to measure out an ounce of polishing powder.

~From *The Show Me Geode* 2/03 via *The Pegmatite* 1/04, *Stoney Statements* 8/06

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### One Minute Mystery

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Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his old and faithful friend, remarking, "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what it is that you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions of stars in the sky above."

Holmes responded, "And what does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. And, finally, meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a long minute, then spoke, "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!"

~From *The Rockhound Record* 3/01, others, via *Rockhound Gazette* 5/06, *The Roadrunner* 7/06

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### The Geologist's Lament

By R. L. Frism

Gather 'round me, hear my story,  
 I'm a Rockhound in distress;  
 I'm a Rockhound bathed in troubles,  
 I'm an outcast more or less.  
 I have fossils in the kitchen,  
 I have crystals in the hall,  
 I have min' rals in the bathtub,  
 I have relics on the walls.  
 I have oxides on the carpet,

I have oil upon the floor,  
 I have black light in the parlor,  
 I have bones behind each door.  
 Attic rooms are fairly sagging;  
 Flat rocks pave the cellar floor,  
 Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,  
 All of this and millions more.  
 Wifey thinks that I am goofy;  
 I don't know, she may be right;  
 She insists I've silicosis,  
 Or some horrid form of "ite".  
 Says my head is lined with agate  
 (Freak replacement of the bone);  
 Claims my brain is just a nodule,  
 Says my heart has turned to stone.  
 Threatens me with separation;  
 Storms about our rock-lined home;  
 Says my life is just a geode  
 Or a hunk of mammal bone.  
 Are you rated as a fossil?  
 Or obliged to live alone?  
 How can you maintain a hobby,  
 And still have a happy home?

~From *The Lodestone*, 1940, via *Rock Chips* 6/03,  
*Quarry Quips* 3/04

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### The Goldstone Story

For hundreds of years men everywhere tried to transform base metals into gold. In older times monks of a northern Italian monastery were also engaged in this task. For years the monks labored to recover the precious metals in their retorts.

About 1590, after years of effort, the monks happened to make a very beautiful sparkling material with innumerable golden stars. The monks failed in making gold, but they did succeed in producing a marvelous specimen which they named "goldstone."

Goldstone was used for decorative purposes until 1890 when it was imported to the United States after it was found to be suitable for cutting and polishing for jewelry pieces.

The monks called goldstone the "adventuring stone", as it's impossible to foretell the success of a mixture for many

weeks. To this day, due to a lack of modern production methods, a batch of material can turn out unsuitable for use because of the uncertainty in the heating and cooling process. Goldstone production has been a secret method all these years, concealed from everyone. Many tried to duplicate goldstone but no one has successfully imitated this beautiful stone.

For the most part, bulk goldstone, after it is removed from the retorts, is shipped to the major stone cutting and polishing centers throughout the world. Germany, perhaps, is the most important cutting center, although much cutting is done in Austria, Holland, and Japan.

In recent years a blue goldstone has been developed from the same process as the first brown goldstone. The stone has been called "Blue Magic." Some people claim it glows in the dark after being exposed to sunlight for many hours. Goldstone will not discolor or fade or lose its beauty in any fashion, making it a precious keepsake.

*~From The Glacial Drifter 11/03, via The Southwest Gem 12/03*



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

### It's Not Too Late to Stop a Bad Bill

By Ronald M. Slyter  
SCFMS Conservation & Legislation

The "Paleontological Resources Protection Act" has been referred to House Committee after being received from the Senate. The number of the bill is [S.263.RFH]. Congress has been kicking this idea around for some time now.

Some bad ideas just keep getting resurrected. It was H.R. 2416 back in September 2003 when George Loud reported on it in the AFMS Newsletter.

The name is the same and it is basically an anti-rockhounding bill. Below I have drawn heavily on the things that George

gave us in that article. I have read the latest version of the bill and the bad parts are still there.

It still places severe penalties on recreational rockhounding, permitting only "experts" to disturb public land surfaces. It allows for seizure of private vehicles, camping equipment, and anything else the government wants to grab for even minor violations.

It has a provision that at first glance seems to exempt the amateur, but when you look a little closer you can see what they give with one hand they take away with another. Provision 3 of Section 12 specifies that the bill does not apply to amateur collection of rock, mineral, or invertebrate or plant fossils that are not protected under this act. You can collect invertebrate fossils but not vertebrate fossils. Some of us might have difficulty telling the difference. A small error in judgment can transform an innocent collector into a criminal. Doesn't "vertebrate" mean you could be prosecuted for picking up a shark's tooth? Also, you would be prohibited from selling or trading fossils which you legally collect from Federal lands [Section 7, provision 3.]

The whole idea is bad scientifically. History shows us that most great finds are made by amateurs originally. If you stifle the rockhound, you risk never finding things that nature is constantly uncovering and then destroying by erosion. The bill ignores the educational and 'motivation for preservation' values of amateur groups.

Again I want to give credit to George Loud for his excellent research that exposed the weakness of this legislation. Please encourage your representative to vote against this bill.

*~From S.C.F.M.S. Newsletter, 7-8/06*

## A.F.M.S. News



### A.F.M.S. Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every



year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collect-ing of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access As-sociation (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportuni-ties, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gem-stone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.

*~From A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 7/06*



An acquaintance of mine who is a physician told this story about her then four year old daughter. On the way to preschool, the doctor had left her stethoscope on the car seat, and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. Be still, my heart, thought my friend, my daughter wants to follow in my footsteps! Then the child spoke into the instrument, "Welcome to McDonald's. May I take your order?"

*~From Mineral Memos 1/06, via Glacial Drifter 4/06, The Roadrunner 7/06*

### Heat Treating Rocks

You have just removed a slab from an agate rough, and you are disappointed with the color. The overall color is a washed out white. At this point, most rockhounds would toss both the slab and the rough into their wife's rock garden and write off the investment in the piece.

Well, there may be a life yet in that nondescript piece of rough. Before consigning it to the rock garden, try heat treating agate, jasper, petrified wood and many other types of rocks. Almost any sedimentary rock can benefit from the process. A recent example was a piece of dull brown agate. After heat-treating, it became a deep red.

How, you ask, does one go about heat treating a piece of rock? The process is relatively simple, but is a trial and error process. The slab should be immersed in a small pan of sand and placed in a range oven. Turn the oven temperature to warm about 200degrees for about one hour to expel any moisture trapped in the stone, then raise the temperature 25 degrees every half hour until the temperature is up to 350 degrees. Leave it at this setting for two hours, then turn off the oven and allow the rock to come to room temperature without opening the door.

Now you can check the results. If you are satisfied, you can slab the rough and heat-treat the lot. If not, return the slab to the oven and repeat the process. You can skip the time at 200 degrees since all the moisture has already been baked out by now. Raise the temperature to 400 degrees this time. Continue raising the final temperature by 50 degrees until the results you want are reached. Most ovens will go up to 500 degrees. If you need to go higher, some special oven will be required.

*~From Texas Faceters' Guild Newsletter 11/04*

**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  
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Treasurer: Margaret Wetherell

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**AUGUST  
2006**

## Editor Awards

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