

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 617TH MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **AUGUST 23RD, 2007, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The August program will be the annual club **AUCTION!** Please see page 3 for details.

AGMS Annual Show Gem Capers 2007

Palmer Events Center

Show Dates: November 30th,
December 1st and 2nd 2007.

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.** Visit our website at www.AustinGemAndMineral.org. Contact Diann Hill 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 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 2007

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



Summer is nearly beginning and over at the same time this year. Hope everyone is doing well and finding some time to spend with their favorite rocks and such. I am still waiting on takers for organizing a Saturday when several collections can be viewed at their respective homes. I am slowly working up ideas on the mural, with help from one member.

The annual auction is nearly upon us, so please get your donations to the building ASAP. I may actually be able to bid higher than \$20 this year. Sorry for the short message, but having end-of-year (fiscal year) things to address (more than usual, as my boss is retiring), and a daughter who just graduated and will be attending graduate school has kept me busy - but never too busy to completely ignore my minerals. See you at the meeting and auction.

~Alan Cherepon, President



Library News

The Librarians would like to remind the everyone that library privileges are extended only to current members (dues paid for this year) and the limit is two items at one time for a one-month checkout period. We would also like to say thanks to Andrea Miller and David Wenger for their library help this past month. If anyone else would like to help sort out the excess of magazines and books which have been donated, please contact Harriet or Diann.

~Diann Hill, co-librarian

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Bob Greenway**, treasurer, at BobG@austingemandmineral.org. To get signed onto the AGMS email list and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors at StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org.

~The Editors



July 2007 Meeting Minutes



Program: Linda Northcote presented a program of photos she took at the South Central Federation convention in Roswell.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Alan Cherepon, President. The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Bob Greenway stated that the Board had recommended that the budget be amended in order to pay for the upgrade of the club's web site. He said that the club has more income than expected to cover the cost, and that the Board had approved using the contingency funds listed in the budget for the *Stone Chipper* to pay for the web site. Bob moved that the budget be amended to include the \$3,000 surplus in the budget and to return \$2,395 in funds to the *Stone Chipper* fund. Charles Covill seconded the motion and it passed.

Web Site: Diann Hill screened several pages from the new web site. She said that comments or suggestions should be emailed to anyone on the web committee or to the email addresses listed on the site. Web committee members are Diann, Dee Fly, Stretch Young, and Paul Bordovsky.

Sunshine: Kathleen Howard was not present, but Harriet Streiber said that **Paul Good** had had a slight stroke, but was doing better. She said that the club needs a liaison between AGMS and the Federation, as someone must forward information to the Awards Committee. Paul has offered to send in the information. It was also announced that **Nancy Keller** has been in and out of hospitals for the last six months.

Building: James Lopez reported that the concrete blocks above the side door are starting to go, and that we need to contract to install a commercial metal door.

Field Trips: Clifford Streiber reported that he had been investigating the Oxford ranch near Llano for a possible field trip. He said that there was not very much that would interest collectors. The material is from the Llano uplift, which is one billion years old.

Hospitality: Kellee Greenway asked people to sign up to bring refreshments.

Show Committee: Susan Postlethwait said the Show Committee met Wednesday and picked three new dealers for the show, and that all had accepted the invitation. They are Monarch Minerals, J&S Gems, and Nagle. Next month they will pick the Saturday grand prize, so anyone who has something to offer should bring it early so that everyone can look at them before the meeting. Susan said she had asked Ewing, Josie, and several others for questions for children for the show. She would also like questions from paleo and fluorescent people.

Juniors: Susan Postlethwait said that after seeing how well the juniors at the Houston club were taking to cabbing instructions, she would like to set up a program to teach our juniors. Anyone interested in taking part in the project should contact her.

Program: Brian Wetzig said that the **August meeting is the auction**. He asked that people who brought donations to the club designate where they wanted their donations to go i.e., the auction, silent auction at the show, door prizes, etc.

Newsletter: Laura Dow thanked **Rusty Wallace** for putting out the July *Stone Chipper* while she and David were away. Laura also said that just before they left Paul Good emailed her the club winners at the South Central Federation. They are: Small Bulletin: 6th Place, *The Stone Chipper*; Original Adult Articles: 4th Place "The Need To Bead," **Betsy Gager**, Author; Juniors Articles - Under 12: 8th Place, "My Trip To The Houston Museum," **Leighton Cave**, Author; 9th Place. "My Story About Rocks," **Jacob Good**, Author; Adult Poetry: 6th Place, "Springtime In The Rockies," **Ed Gage**, Author; Special Publications: 1st Place "Gem Capers 2006 Show Guide and Rockhound Resource," **Lynn Young**, Author.

Membership: There were 61 members present, 6 juniors, and 6 visitors.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Alan Cherepon.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary

It's Auction Time!



I would like to invite everyone to this year's AGMS Auction. It will be held on **August 23rd**, the club's normal meeting date. Last year we started the auction earlier than normal and I think it worked out very well. We were able to auction off a large number of items and still leave at a reasonable time. With that said **viewing of auction items will start at 5:30 p.m.**, so come early and scope out our stuff! Bidding will start at 6:30 p.m. sharp. There will be an intermission at 7:30 p.m. to conduct club business and the auction will continue after that. The auction will end around 9:30-9:45 p.m.; I will leave that up to you and the auctioneer. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact me. Anyone wishing to help with the auction (Casher, Auctioneer, Spotters) please let me know. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

~Brian Wetzig, 2nd VP

Fossil SIG News



The speaker for the **August 21st** meeting will be **Dr. William Morgan** of San Antonio. He is currently Professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. His talk will be entitled "**Mazon Creek - Pennsylvanian.**"

~Diann Strout

A.G.M.S. Calendar

- Aug 15 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Aug 21 - Fossil SIG Meeting
- Aug 22 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)
- Aug 23 - Club Meeting - AUCTION 5:30 p.m.
- Aug 27-29 - Lapidary Class
- Sep 04 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 12 - Faceter SIG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.



Sunshine Committee

We're sorry to report that **Virginia Medford** passed away on July 28th. Her husband, William (Bill) Medford was president of the South Central Federation for a couple of years. He is also a member of the Georgetown Club. Our sincere condolences go out to Bill and all of Virginia's loved ones.

~reported by Fran Ellis

Please send sunshine news to Kathleen Howard.

AGMS Website Update



The website committee is happy to announce that the **new AGMS website is up and running**. You can visit us at the same web address as before at www.austingemandmineral.org. Stop by and check us out! Please feel free to send your comments suggestions to the webmaster or general email on the contact page. Also, we are still looking for more pictures to add to the site. Remember this is the club's site—let's show the world what we have.

~Diann Hill, Website Committee Member



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



Field Trips

Field Trip Report-TXI Quarry

Members looked for specimens in two locations in TXI's quarry at Midlothian, Texas. At the first place, we collected numerous shark teeth and fossils including a fish jaw by a junior member. The shark teeth ranged in size from one-quarter to over one inch. Also found were many marcasite-pyrite nodules, some weighing as much as a pound or more. At the second location, white and yellow calcite crystals lining septarian-like concretions were collected. Some of the crystals were coated with a thin layer of marcasite that produced an iridescent effect.

~Clifford Strieber, Field Trips co-member

Local Show Announcements

Aug 18-19

Bossier City, LA

Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society

www.larockclub.com

Aug 25-26

Jasper, TX

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society

seadigest@aol.com

Sep 01-02

Arlington, TX

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club

Combined SCFMS & AGMC Show

<http://tse.org>

~www.rockngem.com

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to **Aleta (Rusty) Wallace** for volunteering to do the *Stone Chipper* for us while we were out of town last month! She did a beautiful job, especially considering that she learned how to do it all in just one month.

~The Editors



The Onion Creek Mosasaur

By Leighton Cave, Age 8
AGMS Club Member

Hello my name is Leighton Cave and I am writing you about my interview with Pamela Owen, Ph.D. I had a list of 25 questions to ask and Dr. Owen was nice enough to answer them. She is the Senior Paleontology Educator at the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin. When I asked her what a Senior Paleontology Educator was, she told me that she explained dinosaurs to people from 3 to 99 years old. The museum where she works is part of the University of Texas at Austin. I was there to meet with her and find out more about the Onion Creek Mosasaur. Dr. Owen was very nice to me and let me come when the museum was under renovation. I had to ask my mom what renovation meant. Renovation means to re-do the building. They are working on different parts of the building to make it better. While I was talking to Dr. Owen, I saw a giant ground sloth at the museum. I actually saw a lot of really neat stuff. But that was not what I was there to see. I went for the mighty mosasaur.

I want you to make a picture of the Texas Memorial Museum Mosasaur in your head. This mosasaur was discovered on accident in 1935 by two University of Texas geology students, Clyde Ikens and John P. Smith. Imagine their excitement! They found the remains in Onion Creek, which is in South Austin. It took them anywhere **from a few months to a year** to dig it up. You see, they did not write down how long it took for them to dig the mosasaur out of Onion Creek. Almost 60% of the skeleton was found. The rest they added as best they could by doing research on mosasaurs. Now, on to the good stuff.

Picture looking into the mouth of this Cretaceous giant. It had a head that was 4 feet 8 inches long! I know that I would be scared. It had two sets of teeth; one set was used to catch its prey and the second set, the inner set, was used to hold the prey so that it could not get out as it was being swallowed whole. Did you catch that, it swallowed its prey **WHOLE**. It was so dangerous that they called it the *Tyrannosaurus rex* of the sea.

The mosasaur had large eyes and only thought about one thing, food. Where was the food? How to catch the food? Is there more food? Its brain was small and all it could think about was hunting most of the time. Mosasaurs ate everything - clams, shellfish, fish, and even its own young. The nostrils were placed on top of its head like a crocodile therefore the mosasaur could lay in the water with only its nose showing. It could come to the surface of the water and back down without really being seen. Like a crocodile, the mosasaur was a powerful predator. This predator had very little problems finding food.

The mosasaur was the biggest reptile in the sea. Growing as long as 60 feet, The mosasaur was definitely the top predator in the sea. Its body was flexible like snakes and so it swam kind of like a snake. They steered with two small hands that looked like flippers and a tail that was 12 feet long. They were stalk hunters and very aggressive. They were cold-blooded like a snake and had to move all the time to stay warm. Paleontologists think mosasaurs were colored like a shark, lighter on the bottom and darker on the top so that it was hard to see in the water.

The other thing that I found out was about how it had its babies. When they were born, they were ready to swim away. Remember, they eat their young! Now that is weird to me. Paleontologists do not think that mosasaurs took care of their babies. They think that they would eat them if they could. That is all they know right now about how it had babies.

So you can see it was dangerous, and I think, a very scary creature. I am glad it went extinct with the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous Period. I would be afraid to swim at the beach! Dr Owen is very smart and she gave me an internet site that I could go to get more information. I visited the internet with my Mom and there was a lot of information! A lot! I had a great time at the museum with Dr Owen and I would do it again. My Mom said that we could go back when ever we wanted. The mosasaur is one of my favorites now and it is easy to see why.

Here is the internet site: www.oceansofkansas.com. I am only allowed to go on the internet with my Mom so if you are in third grade like me, you better ask your Mom or Dad.



Show Talk

The August Meeting of the show committee will be a fun one! We will be choosing the Saturday Grand prize. A little background music for some of our newer members - the Sunday Grand Prize is usually purchased from a dealer but the Saturday prize, that is a geode of a different color. We encourage all members to bring something that they would like to donate or sell to the club. Then at 7:00 p.m. by popular vote, we choose the Saturday Grand Prize. Some come on out for the fun and munchies (yes I said munchies) and vote! The meeting is on **August 15th** at the club house. Be there with your entry around 6:00 p.m. We will vote at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

~Susan Postlethwait, Show Chair 2007

Show Committee Minutes Synopsis July 18, 2007

There were 18 people in attendance

A pre-meeting at 6:00 p.m. was held to view the potential new dealers' applications and pictures for the show. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Diann Hill announced that the new website was already ready.

Minutes were approved with a change made to the wording about when the Rock Table will be back at the Austin show.

Grant Gibson advised that he has most of the dealer fees in and will contact the ones that haven't paid the second half of their booth fee.

The dealer applications were reviewed by the table size. Monarch Minerals, 6 or 8 tables; Mineral Search, 6 or 8 tables; JS Gems, 6 tables; H&P Minerals, 6 tables; Nagle, 4 tables; and Bandera, 4 tables. The new dealers for the 2007 Gem Capers will be Monarch Minerals, JS Gems and Nagle by majority vote.

No specimens were brought to select for the Saturday door prize. We will select door prize at the next meeting.

Grant Gibson wanted to know if the two dealers with torches need to re-submit for their torch permit. Susan Postlethwait advised yes, they have to re-submit every year.

Paul Bordovsky wanted to know how many kids are on a bus because he has a friend who will donate \$1,000. Susan Postlethwait advised that would probably sponsor three buses. Paul will see about getting their banner to hang, Logo Builders. Susan Postlethwait advised that Valero could sponsor the Mad Scientist lady.

Wing Evans has fixed the Wheel of Fortune wheel and for us to advise if it will be satisfactory.

Motion to adjourn and was seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

~Dee Fly, Show Secretary



News

The Houston Museum of Natural Science has scored a coup with its world premiere presentation of "**Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia.**" The famous Lucy skeleton of *Australopithecus afarensis*, discovered in the Afar region of Ethiopia by paleontologist Donald Johanson in 1974, has rarely been seen even in its native country. The museum patrons there usually view fossil casts while the very fragile and valuable skeleton itself is stored in a vault. This exhibition is not without controversy, as several noted museums and paleontologists have voiced concern over the idea that this exhibit is traveling out of the country where it could potentially be stolen or damaged. Be that as it may, it is in Houston and will be shown from **August 31, 2007 through April 20, 2008**. Included in the exhibit will be cultural artifacts from this most interesting region of the world. For more information on the exhibit, visit the museum web site at www.hmns.org.

~from www.hmns.org, various news accounts

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'erals 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?

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

**Fossils in shale - always start out with
 the weakest method and work your
 way up. Here is what I do:**

By Ed Tindell, Clear Lake G&MS

Method #1 - the quick way:

Time - I let my specimens sit packed up from the trip for a few weeks in my garage so that the mud and dirt dries out and naturally detaches from the specimens. This gives the specimens time to acclimate to the more humid environment here in Houston as well. This also kills any thing living I brought back home with them.

Heat - Let the shale dry out in the sun or better yet, warm it in the oven for several hours. You want the shale to dry out really well. Hydrogen Peroxide - place the dry shale in a container and cover it with 3% hydrogen peroxide. The peroxide will penetrate all of the little cracks and crevices in the shale and decompose. The gases released will act like little chisels and the shale will literally fall apart.

Screen - Pour this mixture into a fine screen and rinse away the mud with water. Collect all that remains and let it dry out on a sheet pan. Tweezers - go thru the remains with tweezers and magnifying glass picking out the sharks teeth and other fossils. Some fossils, such as shark denticles, can be quite small.

Method #2 - the slow way:

Water - Place the shale in containers and keep it covered with water. Seal the containers to prevent algae from forming and leave it alone for several months to a year. The shale will slowly break down into a grey muck. Screen - pour this mixture into a fine screen and rinse away the muck with water. Collect all that remains and let it dry out on a sheet pan.

Tweezers - Go thru the remains with tweezers and a magnifying glass picking out the sharks' teeth and other fossils. Some fossils, such as shark denticles, can be quite small. I'll be happy to pass on any tips or tricks you may have for extracting the fossils from the shale. You will want to get a set of small bottles to collect your teeth in or a Riker Mount to mount them in for display. See how many teeth you can find. In 2003 one attendee claimed to have found 457 teeth! See how many kinds of teeth you can find. There are dozens, hundreds of different teeth, some from sharks, some from fish and some from other animals, in the shale. Which teeth although different in size/shape are from the same animal? Can you reconstruct a set of teeth for the animal? There are also a lot of other fossils including shells, gastropods, etc. There are a lot of black phosphate nodules as well. What is really neat to do is document the steps you go thru. Photograph the original sample of fossil bearing shale. Weigh it. Then use one of the methods above to take it apart and sort/separate it into all of its constituent components. When you are done you will have a small pile of shale fragments, a small pile of phosphate nodules (all the little unidentifiable black bits that

you find), dozens of small piles of teeth, and other fossils. When you finally get done and have everything organized it is quite a sight to behold, even for a small piece of the shale. I brought back some shale pieces each about the size of a large grapefruit or a little larger and I intend to do this with each one for comparison and also because it's a whole lot of fun. Enjoy yourselves!

~From *Stoney Statements*, 5/07

S.C.F.M.S. News



The 2007 South Central Federation Convention and Show will be hosted this year by the Arlington Gem & Mineral Club in Arlington, Texas. The show dates are **September 1-2, 2007**. This will be the 50th annual show for the Arlington club. It will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way. The hours are Saturday 10-6, and Sunday 10-5. Contact Karen Cessna at 817-860-5232 or go to their web site at <http://tse.org> for more information.

The Arlington Gem and Mineral Club was formerly known as the Texas School of Earth Sciences.

~<http://tse.org>



A.F.M.S. News

AFMS 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 collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (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 opportunities, 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, gemstone 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.

~www.amfed.org

You Might Be a Geologist If:

1. You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
2. Your rock collection weighs more than you do.
3. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
4. You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
5. You don't think of "cleavage" the same way everyone else does.
6. You have even uttered the phrase "have you tried licking it" with no sexual connotation involved.
7. You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
8. You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.

9. You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
10. Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
11. You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type rock as the side you're parked on.
12. You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world globe.
13. The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help you with your luggage.
14. You have even found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn't really a weapon.
15. You never throw away anything.
16. You have even taken a 22-passenger van over "roads" that were really intended only for cattle.
17. You consider a "recent event" to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
18. You have even had to respond to "yes" to the question, "What have you got in there, rocks?"

~From The Petrified Digest 08/04, via Rocket City Rock & Gems 07/04, Stone Age News 12/04

What is the Simplest Gem & What is the Most Complex?

The Diamond is the simplest gem—the chemical composition being all of carbon and crystallized isometrically.

Tourmaline is the most complex. It is said that tourmaline's chemistry is more like a doctor's prescription than the makings of a respectable material.

~From Rock Chips, Deming G&M Society 1/07, via Quarry Quips, Wichita G&MS 1/07

Obsidian

Obsidian is overlooked by many collectors as something common and dull. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. For a start, obsidian's chemistry is identical to granite. But, unlike granite, because the volcanically erupted material has cooled quickly, crystals have not formed. Obsidian thus exists as a super cooled solution of silica with a total absence of internal structure, just like glass. For this reason, and in common with other glass-like materials, obsidian breaks with a typical conchoidal fracture. This curved, smooth type of cleavage occurs as a fracture follows the shortest path.

Interestingly almost all obsidian contains a small amount of water. Steam from the eruption becomes trapped in cavities forming tiny bubbles. These give rise to spectacular varieties, especially the rare gold and silver sheen obsidians. Other inclusions are also common. Thus mahogany obsidian results from the presence of hematite, feldspars give rise to blues and greens, and quartz gives rise to the snowflake. Obsidian boring – no way!

~Author unknown, From golden Spike News, Golden Spike G&MS, Ogden, Utah, 7/03, via Quarry Quips, 3/04

Metamorphic Rocks

Metamorphic rocks are formed when other kinds of rocks are changed by great heat and pressure inside the earth. The word "metamorphic" means changes. Think of metamorphic rocks as recycled rocks. When igneous, sedimentary, or even metamorphic rocks get buried deep beneath the surface of the earth, over millions of years the heat and pressure inside the earth change them into something else. Limestone can be changed to marble, sandstone can be changed into quartzite, and shale can be changed into slate. It's just another example of how the earth is constantly changing!

—from Rockhound Ramblings 2/06 via Rock Chips 4/06, via Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 05/06

Tektites

A tektite is a glassy stone that may look like a teardrop, ball, disk, rod, dumb-bell or button. Tektites measure from about 1/2 inch to several inches across. They are black, dark brown or dark green, and they usually have grooved or pitted surfaces. Tektites differ chemically from meteorites, but some of them contain small bits of meteorite iron.

Some scientists believe that tektites were formed when giant meteorites or comets crashed into earth. The blast melted the soil and splashed drops of liquefied rock over great distances. These drops solidified and fell to earth. Still others think that impacts on the moon blasted chunks of material weighing millions of tons through space into orbit around the earth. These chunks then broke into smaller that melted and solidified again while descending through the earth's atmosphere.

~From Oregon Rockhound Bulletin 2/04, via the Pyriter via Wasatch News & Views, Golden Spike News, via Stone Age News 4/04

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Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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

2007 Officers

President: Alan Cherepon
First V.P.: Dee Fly
Second V.P.: Brian Wetzig
Secretary: Pauline Denson
Treasurer: Bob Greenway

Board of Directors

Susan Postlethwait (1)
Jeff "Stretch" Young (1)
James Lopez (1)
Chip Burnette (2)
Richard Dorsey (2)
Diann Hill (2)

Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Susan Postlethwait
Building Chair	James Lopez
Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
3 Field Trip	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	Ron Guzman
Newsletter Editors	David & Laura Dow
Program	Brian Wetzig
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Kathleen Howard



**AUGUST
2007**

Editor Awards

2003-1st AFMS New Editors, 1st SCFMS
2004-4th AFMS
2005-2nd AFMS, 1st SCFMS
2006-6th AFMS, 2nd SCFMS