

# THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 629<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2008, 7:00 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The September program will be a talk by Charles Woodruff entitled, **“Substrate, Soils, and Stair-step Hills-Unexpected Attributes of the Central Texas Hill Country.”**

**AGMS Annual Show  
Gem Capers 2008  
Palmer Events Center  
NEW Show Dates:  
October 24th - 26th.  
[www.GemCapers.com](http://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](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org). Contact our webmaster for website updates at [DiannH@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:DiannH@austingemandmineral.org).

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the AGMS is to promote interest and education in the various Earth Sciences and other related subjects.

### MEETINGS

**The Society meets the fourth Thursday of every month except** October which is show set up day. There will be a meeting on the **THIRD** Thursday in November. December is the Invocation of Officers meeting held on a date and at a place determined by the officers. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers are listed on the back page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

### DUES FOR 2008

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



The annual auction was held at the August meeting. We could have had better attendance and material, but with the Labor Day weekend looming, school starting, and countless other things drawing us here and there, it wasn't too bad. I still can't say how much we made due to some minor computer glitches, but for what we had, I would say it was probably respectable. I came away with one specimen (naturally it fluoresces). I think part of the issue may be with the show in Humble and our show coming on so soon, these may also have held people back some. At any rate, it was fun for me, and it was nice being done by 9:30 and getting home at a reasonable hour. I want to thank **Robert Morriss** for the great job he did as our auctioneer, as well as a big thank you to all who donated items and bought items for the auction. I also thank all those who helped up front with holding the specimens, "modeling" them, keeping notes on who bought what, and ran the specimens to the winners. Additionally, a big thanks to **Diann Hill** and **Dee Fly** for running the bidder check in and out table, taking care of all the payments, and such. What a great job by all. Lastly, I need to thank the **Fischers** for cleaning up inside and weeding the outside prior to the auction. I can't say enough about how nice it was to arrive and see all the weeds totally gone from our property.

I will be off in Humble in September representing our society at the national/regional show as a delegate, preparing and giving our AGMS annual report at the meeting, as well as exhibiting and enjoying the show. I also will attend the awards banquet and hope to bring back numerous honors our society members usually win at this event. I will doubtless run into Paul and Margaret Good, who are chairs for the AFMS newsletter and are usually representing the AGMS at most of these events, as well as bringing back the treasure trove of awards for the society. They really put in a lot of time and effort and represent the AGMS in an important way year after year, so if you see them, thank them for this service. Ron Carman, (and I think Josie Middleton), have also been involved with various aspects of both promoting the competition exhibits, and helping to prepare the AGMS members to participate in this (and maybe bring back additional awards).

Our own show, Gem Capers, is just around the corner and we still have much to do. New members, this would be a great way to get involved, get to know people, and have a great (although often tiring) time as well. Please volunteer if possible. It always is a lot of work, but it is also fun to see how we can try and improve on things from the previous years, add a little something extra, and be a part of helping our society to prosper. Don't forget, we also help educate school children in the many aspects of minerals, gems, lapidary, fossils, and rocks. In short, it is a good tired. Hope to see you there.

*~Alan Cherepon, President*



## August 2008 Meeting Minutes

**Program:** The August program was the annual auction.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Alan Cherepon, president.

**Minutes:** Susan Postlethwait moved that the minutes of the June meeting be approved. Diann Hill seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Treasurer:** There was no report from the treasurer.

**Announcements:** Alan Cherepon announced that name tags have been ordered but not yet received, Diann Hill is resigning from co-chairing the library at the end of the year, and the next board meeting is Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Nominating:** Susan Postlethwait said that the three candidates for board member are Tom Bowers, Joyce Hrapsky, and Louis Lee, and that candidates for officers were Josie Middleton, president, Jackie Fisher, first vice-president, Pauline Denson, treasurer, and Linda Northcote, secretary. A candidate for second vice-president is still needed.

**Schools:** Susan said that she and Ewing Evans will be starting a school program next Tuesday at Oak Hill Elementary and that two more volunteers are needed. The schedule is every Tuesday for seven weeks and involves less than one hour in classroom time.

**Show Committee:** Susan Postlethwait said that this is the last meeting she will attend before the show, as she will be in Houston for the AFMS show during the September meeting. Volunteers should get in touch with Brian Wetzig to sign up to work the show. Volunteers are needed all weekend to cab during the show.

**Volunteers:** Susan said that Zilker Botanical Gardens is sponsoring DinoLand in September and October. There will be special family weekends on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and AGMS has been invited to have a booth those weekends. We will do “dino rubs” and hand out club and show literature. Volunteers are needed those weekends to handle the booth. Call Susan if you can help.

Alan said that he would also be in Houston during the September meeting, but that Dee Fly would chair the meeting.

**Silent Auction:** Mac Ellis asked that members bring items for the silent auction to the next meeting or to the show.

**Membership:** Alan Cherepon announced that 63 members and 8 visitors were present.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary

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## September Program Preview

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The September program will be a talk by Charles Woodruff, Ph.D., P.G., on “Substrate, Soils, and Stair-step Hills-Unexpected Attributes of the Central Texas Hill Country.”

As the Hill Country of Central Texas undergoes transformation from rangeland to prized sites for exurban development, new attention must be accorded the environmental attributes of this landscape. This area is underlain by alternating beds of limestone and dolomite of varying resistance to weathering and erosion, which produce the characteristic stepped terrain and stony soils.

Conventional wisdom has promulgated numerous misconceptions about these “stair-step hills.” Seven key misconceptions are presented here: 1) soils are thin or absent; 2) the soils that do occur consist of light-colored “caliche” materials that indicate deficient nutrients and minimal biotic activity; 3) appreciable soil thicknesses occur only on the gently sloping “treads” of the stepped landscape; 4) owing to presumed

inadequate soil cover, landscaping requires importing soils from elsewhere; 5) environmental impacts from development would be less on gently sloping “treads,” compared to the steeply sloping “risers;” 6) because of overall steep slopes and thin soils, most rainfall should run off rapidly; 7) rapid runoff implies adverse water-quality impacts downstream.

Detailed investigations of bedrock, soils, and landforms at various sites within the Hill Country call into question these commonly held opinions and present a dramatically different picture of environmental problems and potentials of the region.

Charles Woodruff received his B.A. and M.S. degrees in geology from Vanderbilt University, and his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin. He has worked on the limestone terrains west of the Balcones Escarpment for the past 38 years. Currently, he is self-employed as a consulting geologist and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering at U.T.



Sunshine  
Committee

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**Fran Ellis** reportedly suffered a small stroke last week. Fortunately her doctors were able to treat the symptoms immediately and she is back home with no residual effects. Our best wishes go out to Fran.

Please send sunshine news to Kathleen Howard.

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## Refreshments




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**SEPTEMBER:** The following persons have volunteered to bring refreshments to the September AGMS Meeting: **Barbara Evans, Diann Hill, Josie Middleton, and JoAnn and Jim Wiersema.**

We still need volunteers for the November meeting.

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Annual Club Auction,  
From L to R: Gene  
Healy, Les Postlethwait,  
Robert Morriss, David  
Dow.

Photo by Ron Carman.

## Auction Report - August Program Review

By Laura Dow, AGMS Club Member

The Annual AGMS Club Auction was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was light at first, probably due to the early hour, but soon the meeting room filled up.

There were many folks involved in this endeavour who I'm sure all the club members would like to thank. First and foremost is **Brian Wetzig** for setting up the entire enterprise. He came in a day before with his sons and arranged all the specimens and their bidding cards. Great Job! Next were the helpers. **Robert Morriss** was the auctioneer for both sets, making sure that every item got bid up as much as possible. We all had to be careful with loosely waving hands too as at least one of us, (that would be me), managed to win a bid unexpectedly. The runners also worked hard - **Gene Healy, Les Postlethwait, and David Dow.**

We can't forget the ladies in the back - **Dee Fly and Diann Hill**, who laboriously entered all the winning bids into the computer and kept a tally for checkout. They even managed to bid on a few items with help from folks in the back of the room.

Lastly, thanks to the people who donated items to bid on and of course, to the ones who purchased them. Everyone had a good time chatting, bidding, eating good food, and raising much needed money for the club.

## A.G.M.S. Calendar

- Sep 16 - Paleo Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 18 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Sep 24 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)
- Sep 25 - Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 07 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

## Important Notices About Upcoming Club Meetings

As you are all aware, the club had to change the dates for the show this year to October 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. As a result, our usual end of year meeting dates and purposes have been modified.

The OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting occurs on the Thursday that we are setting up for Gem Capers, our annual show. This will be a brief meeting whose only purpose will be to vote in a slate of officers for 2009.

The NOVEMBER meeting has been moved up a week to avoid Thanksgiving. It will be held on the THIRD Thursday of the month, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The DECEMBER meeting is, as usual, the “Induction of Officers” and holiday meeting, to be held at the club house on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Local Show Announcements

### September 20-21

Farmer's Branch, TX  
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club  
[www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)

### September 26-28

SCFMS/AFMS Combined Show  
Humble, TX  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society  
[www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)

### September 27-28

Llano, TX  
Golden-Gem Rendezvous and Knap-In  
[www.llanochamber.org](http://www.llanochamber.org)

### October 11-12

Mt. Ida, AR  
Quartz Crystals Digging Championship  
[www.mountidachamber.com](http://www.mountidachamber.com)

### October 11-12

Temple, TX  
Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society  
[loconn@aol.com](mailto:loconn@aol.com)

~[www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)



## Board Minutes Synopsis September 2, 2008

**NOTE:** These are synopsised minutes. For full text of board minutes, please contact the club secretary, Pauline Denson.

~Editors

Last month's minutes needed to add that the Board decided to send another letter, certified and regular mail, to the member who had been requested to appear at the Board meeting.

Treasurer Bob Greenway reported that our tax return had been submitted and that we still need to pay the accountant in the neighborhood of \$750 for that work. Also outstanding are dues to the SCFMS and our insurance bill.

Robert Morriss will probably work on door next week.

Tile work will be done when the door is finished.

Paul Bordovsky said that he had contacted Gordon May, who is a friend of the roofer, to try to get the roofer to respond to our calls.

Alan said that the doors between the faceting and capping rooms and between the faceting room and the lobby needed to remain open during meetings so that cool air will flow through the building.

Dee Fly has fixed the computer.

Alan received an email from the member who had been requested to meet with the Board saying he would not attend a meeting.

Robert Morriss presented a draft policy statement on classes for the Board to review. It will be presented for possible revision and approval at the next Board meeting.

Joyce Hrapsky said that Ed and Lester will not offer more classes until next year, and that Craig will not offer classes for several months. Joyce will send an email to the AGMS list asking anyone interested in a class to let her know so she can try to set something up.

Alan Cherepon is trying to set up field trips at two places, but the owners have not called him back as yet.

Gef Fisher will be starting the workshop again on Wednesdays in August.

The August program is the annual auction.

~Pauline Denson, Secretary

## DinoLand Report By Laura Dow, AGMS Club Member



AGMS DinoLand Booth,  
Zilker Park, 9/6/2008  
Photo by Laura Dow.

AGMS volunteers manned a booth at the Zilker Park DinoLand festivities on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Both were typical blistering hot days, but lots and lots of families and kids came out nonetheless. Our booth was situated in the shade beside the rose garden. There were several raised impressions of dinosaurs for the children to rub over with crayons and get their own pictures to take home. It was immensely popular. Several kids wanted each dinosaur, and in a different color.



Making Dinosaur Rubbings,  
DinoLand Booth, Zilker Park,  
9/6/2008  
Photo by Laura Dow.

Per Charlotte's suggestion, Sue and Les Postlethwait also brought along several large rocks and fossils to act as a small touch table. The AGMS personnel would give anyone who wanted to listen, a bit of information about each piece and let them touch and pick up the rocks. The adults loved this just as much as the little ones. At one point, a volunteer from the Paleo club, Sue, also came by to show off fossils and help. Both clubs had the chance to hand out many, many show fliers, as well as AGMS membership applications.

Bob Greenway and Sue,  
Rock Touch Table, DinoLand  
Booth, Zilker Park, 9/6/2008  
Photo by Laura Dow.

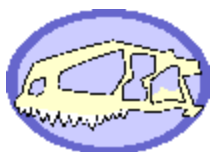


Interacting with the kids and the rock loving adults is always lots of fun. If you'd like to help out for the next DinoLand week-end, contact Susan Postlethwait who is organizing this effort on behalf of the AGMS. The dates are **October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** when it will almost certainly be cooler out! If you can hand a kid a crayon and paper, then you too are qualified to supervise "The Booth."

The club needs to thank **Sue and Les Postlethwait** for organizing and setting up this educational outreach booth, as well as the September volunteers: **Laura Dow, Bob Greenway, Barb and Wing Evans, Alan Cherepon, and Pauline Denson.**

## Fossil Fest 2008

The Paleontological Society of Austin is sponsoring their 18<sup>th</sup> annual fossil show - **Fossil Fest 2008**, at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock, next to the Dell Diamond on **November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**, 2008. This year's theme is: "What's in YOUR Backyard?" - highlighting fossils from in and around the Central Texas area. A fun and educational event for the entire family with door prizes, demos, displays, a spin the fossil wheel, a fossil dig pit, and dealers from around the country selling fossils and fossil related material from around the world. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students, and children under 6 are free. Visit their website at <[www.texaspaleo.com](http://www.texaspaleo.com)> for more details.



## Paleo Club News

At the monthly meeting of the Austin Paleontological Society on **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, the speaker will be **Patrick Lewis Ph.D.** talking on, "**Of Mice and Men: Recent Excavations in Southern Africa.**"



## Gem Capers 2008

The show is almost at hand! Sign up now to get your favorite activity and time slot! Contact either Brian Wetzig, or me, Susan Postlethwait to volunteer.

At the next show committee meeting we will be addressing the postcards that are mailed out to all of our customers. This is one of the biggest things we do to get our customers to the show! We will also look at the 2 or 3 cases that need repair.

I need each chair to attend the meeting (or send an email) and have a complete status report. Please try to include everything. If you could send the email a few days before the meeting that would help me greatly!

- What has been accomplished?
- What needs to be done? How long will it take and please come prepared to pick a date from the calendar to get the work completed!

So don't forget, Thursday, **September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** at the clubhouse. Rain or shine, heat wave or hurricane, flooding or hail. The show committee meeting is the place to be!

AND.....we need about 300 to 400 pounds more of tumbled stones! We are getting there but we really need your help with this one. The Gem Mine is one of the most popular activities we have at the show, for both kids and adults, tied only by the Wheel of Fortune. Word is getting out; we put on a great show!

*~Respectfully Submitted, Susan Postlethwait, 2008  
Show Chair*

## Silent Auction Donations

We still need lots of donations for the SCFMS Silent Auction to be held at the combined AFMS/SCFMS show in Humble, Texas on September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. If you have something to contribute, please contact Mac Ellis or Susan Postlethwait. You can also bring items to the September meeting.

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## Show Committee Minutes

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**Advertising:** Lynn Young had lots of information on our advertisers; they will be Chronicle, News8, KXAN, KEYE, Austin 360, and XL with Austin American Statesman. Chronicle will have 1/8 page ad, XL will have a 1/2 page ad, online campaign will change to skyscraper type instead of across bottom or top. Chronicle will do a contest again and KXAN will also do contest. Kirk Root, Karen Richards and Silicon Labs will sponsor the ads. Street banners will be redone with the assistance of Susan with Needlepoint Guild to show the correct month and date.

**Floor Plans:** Robert Morriss presented floor plans with booth names and electrical amps per booth.

**Saturday Door Prize:** A citrine on a wooden base received the most votes.

**Show Cases:** Richard Dorsey will get the last 3 cases from Georgetown. A couple of cases need to be fixed.

**Gem Mine:** Karen Richards can get us tumbled stones at Denver if we need them.

**Bulletin:** Alan Cherepon will contact the Brazilian restaurants to see if they would like to advertise. Lynn Young said she will produce 500 more copies. Silicon Labs is paying for the junior guide which will not cost as much this year, so we will need to re-allocate \$121.00 to other educational items.

**Dealers:** Grant Gibson received an e-mail from Jim Manganella with Southwest Rock & Gem Co. on 7/25 advising he can not continue to do shows anymore and would like to get his deposit back. There were not any replacement vendors available. We decided to stay with the 34 dealers we currently have and not add anymore because our space next year will be smaller. After discussion about refunding the deposit or not, Dee made a motion to send back the refund, motion was seconded, motion passed with only two no votes.

**Demonstrators:** We will need enough tables for PMC, Paleo, the cabbing, faceting and wire wrapping demonstrators.

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**Postcards:** Susan will contact Craig Brandt to order postcards. Brian would like to add e-mail address to contact slips. Send request to Charlotte to add for next year. Need to stamp & label postcards at the next meeting to be mailed out on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Palmer Event Center:** Susan will meet with contact at Palmer next week to finalize security.

*~Dee Fly, Show Secretary*

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**NOTE: As of this printing, the AGMS is still in need of a new Show Chair for 2009. Could it be you???**

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### Announcement: Rock Collection For Sale



I (Jack Rose), have a large collection of minerals and fossils for sale located in Killeen Texas. I have CDs with pictures and prices for anyone who requests them.

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### AGMS School Program Needs 2 Volunteers

Wing Evans and Sue Postlethwait are looking for two more people. The assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to visit Oak Hill Elementary on Thursdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. to help teach 41 4<sup>th</sup> graders about the three types of rocks, the hydrological cycle, and the rock cycle. The students will also be making posters that display what they learned and will exhibit those posters at our show! To increase the fun, we're bringing the club tumbler to the classroom. The school program runs **through October 21<sup>st</sup>**.

There are only five more weeks but both Wing and Ivy will be gone at the same time and Sue will need help. Les will have to go and fill in if no one else is willing to go on this "Mission Quite Possible" adventure. Contact Wing Evans or Sue Postlethwait if you can lend a hand.

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**NOTE:** Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Bob Greenway**, treasurer. 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](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org).

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## SHOP TIPS

### Making a Doublet

By Don Brenholtz

Have you ever had a beautiful stone with small pits or imperfections that can't be sanded out? Here's what you can do. This works great on a lot of the agate and other stones we find.

Making a doublet is simply gluing a quartz cap on the top of the stone to be made into a cabochon. There are several advantages to this. 1. You can buy the quartz caps already finished so this eliminates a lot of work. 2. It solves the problem of imperfections in the stone as the glue between the quartz cap and the stone makes them invisible. 3. Because the quartz cap already has a dome to it, you can use a much thinner slab. This lets you get more slabs from a stone.

Pick your stone and the size cab you want to make. Mark and cut it as usual. Leave the preform slightly larger than the cap. Then finish grinding it to size after the two are joined. By grinding with a slight angle to the back, you can get a perfect match without getting into the cap. If you have a large slab, you might want to glue several caps on it, then cut it apart after the glue has set. The top of your stone should be perfectly flat. Sand it smooth. A flat lap is best for this. Do not polish it, as the glue will adhere better to a slightly rough surface.

Here is the tricky part: you must be sure there are no air bubbles trapped between the quartz cap and stone, as these will show up as a silver streak after it sets up. The stone and the cap should be cleaned with acetone to be sure they are free of any oil. A trick I use is to mix the epoxy, and then heat it a little. This thins it a little and tends to make it easier to get any air bubbles out. This could be done by holding it over a light bulb. Be sure the stone is covered evenly with the glue. The quartz caps can be rather expensive in larger sizes. You can make your own from plate glass, but they will not be as durable as the quartz. Natural or man-made quartz can be used.

*~From The Informer 3/08, via Fredericksburg  
Rockhound News 5/08, Midland Gem & Mineral  
Society 6/08, The Rockytier 7/08*

### Photos of AGMS Activities Needed

Ed Gage is always in need of photos to document any and all club related activities to put into the club history book. This book is entered into competition each year as a documentation of our club and has had the distinction of winning a medal of some kind nearly every year. Please help out! He just can't seem to be everywhere he needs to be to take the photos himself, but some of us always are.

The psychology professor was lecturing on emotional extremes to his students. "For example," he asked, "what is the opposite of joy?" The student replies, "Sadness." "And the opposite of depression?" he asks another. "Elation," the student replies. Looking toward a transfer student from Texas, the professor asks, "And you sir, what would be the opposite of woe?" The Texan replies, "Sir, I believe that would be giddy-up."

*~From the Lighter Side Farm Bureau, via Mountain  
Gem 4/07, The Roadrunner 8/08*

### Fall DGMS Rock Swap

The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society will host their semi-annual fall rock swap on Saturday, October 4th, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. until finished. There will be many dealers including, but not limited to, rocks, fossils, slabs, minerals & gem stones, etc. Food and drinks will be provided for a donation of \$5.00.

The swap is located at the DGMS Club House at 635 and Plano Road. There will be signs at the corner of Plano Road and Plano Road (no mistake our street is also Plano Road) just NE of I-635. A donation of a \$10 set up fee is requested.

You can also visit the club website at <[www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)> for a map to the club house. Please tell as many of your friends, relatives, whom-ever as possible, the more the merrier!

*~From Rok Tok 9/08*



## The Ten Commandments of Rock Collecting

An incident occurred recently on a field trip to the Holbrook, Arizona area where a person found a long-handled shovel stuck in the ground, surrounded by a pile of prime small full-founds of petrified wood. This person high-graded the pile, loading the best pieces – and the shovel! – into his own vehicle. As rockhounds on group field trips, we need to adhere to some rules of behavior so that we can collect together in peace. This article was written mostly for mineral collectors, but could apply to all rockhounds.

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing, or biting.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of a mineral too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands, and feet so that they mayest enjoy many future field trips with thee.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shalt not break "The Old Miner's Rule."

While a miner's tools, equipment, and personal belongings remain in or next to a digging, that is his digging spot until he relinquishes it, either by removing said property or by announcing that he is finished digging in that area. Furthermore, specimens or rocks cached on or near personal property are also the property of the miner and shall not be touched or removed without his express permission. Every rockhound should obey this rule.

*~ adopted from "The Ten Commandments of Mineral Collecting", From Rockhouser 5/04, "Old Miner's Rule" from The Tumble Rumble 11-12/06, via Chaparral Chatter 3/07, The Glacial Drifter 9/07, The Rockytier 10/07*

## The Making of Friends

By Bob Ross

If nobody smiled, and nobody cheered  
And nobody helped us along;  
If each little minute looked after itself  
And the good things all went to the strong.

If nobody cared just a little for you  
And nobody thought about me,  
And we all stood alone in the battle of life,  
What a dreary rock club it would be.

Clubs are nice because of the friends we make,  
The things in common we share.  
We want to keep on, not because of ourselves,  
But because of the people who care.

It's giving and doing for somebody else,  
In which all of life's splendor depends;  
And the joy of the club when it's all added up,  
Is found in the making of friends.

*~From The Tumbler, others, via Rockhound Gazette 7/05, The Roadrunner, 8/05*



**AFMS/SCFMS News**



This is it! The time is now for the combined AFMS/SCFMS show in Houston. The details are below. See you in Houston.

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society (**HGMS**) is hosting the combined **AFMS/SCFMS annual show for 2008** from **September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**. There will be 40 dealers along with kids' activities. They will have jewelry making and gemstone cutting demonstrations, a fluorescent rock room, and the free identification of rocks, minerals, gemstones, and fossils. As an added bonus the **Texas Faceters' Guild** is having their symposium as a satellite show to be held at the Comfort Suites, Kingwood.

The show will be held at the Humble Civic Center. The hours are 9-6 Friday (Kids' Day), 9-6 Saturday, and 10-5 on Sunday. Prices are \$5 for adults (all three days), \$3 for students, teachers, or seniors, and children under 12 are free. The parking is also free. For more information on all aspects of the show, please visit the website at <[www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)>.

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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**

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United We Stand

**September 2008**

### **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**