

# THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 640<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The September program will be a talk by geologist William A. Ambrose entitled, "The First Billion Years of the Solar System."

AGMS Annual Show  
 Gem Capers 2009  
 Palmer Events Center  
 October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>.  
[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 2009

Membership dues are:

\$15.00 annually for an adult    \$20.00 annually for a couple    \$4.00 annually for juniors

### THE STONE CHIPPER

*The Stone Chipper* is the official publication of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. It is published monthly in Austin, Texas. Minutes of Board Meetings are available upon request. Note, clip art images are under Copyright 2009 by the AGMS and its licensors. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, text items in *The Stone Chipper* may be reproduced in other nonprofit publications as long as proper credit is given to the author and *The Stone Chipper*. All authors who make submissions to this newsletter are presumed to agree with this policy.



### President's Message - Josie Middleton, President

August has really been a scorcher; thanks goodness I was in Montana. Kathleen and I went on a field trip hunting for Montana black agate that was a beautiful site. It was an at least an 80 car caravan and I was up at the top of the ridge and as far as the eye could see, down the back roads there was a dust plume from all the vehicles. We even had port-a- potties! Thank goodness I ESCAPED in more ways than one. I might be a native Texan but I have always hated hot weather and this year has just been torture for me!!!

The board meeting has taken place and most items have been checked off and accounted for. We seem to be moving right along. Patron nominations are happening now and our Nominating Committee will be looking for replacements for the board. Please members, consider taking part in our board and having the great time of pretending you have power. Because it's always one for all and all for one! We really do have a great time and it has been a whole lot of fun!

Thanks to **Kathleen Howard**, our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, for organizing this year's auction. It went better than I expected, though I have to admit I was really disappointed at the lack of turn out. Of those who showed up, we all had a wonderful time. The general meeting was not without its drama either; you should have been there! The amount generated was large, which will go towards scholarships and other items. I think next year's will be better along with the economy, so on that note start thinking about helping our with the show.

Our annual Gem Capers show is one of the few ways that we make any money and it is a lot of fun when you are working and there is a lot of satisfaction that you get from a job well done. The sign-up sheet is here so speak with Brian to find out which slots are available. We need folks to really help out. Please do your part and join in the fun!

---

### Library News - Diann Hill, Co-librarian



Please be courteous of others when checking out your books. Only keep them for one month; if you need or want longer please contact one of the librarians and let them know and remember to update the card in the library. Please do not keep new books out for longer than one month at a time as we want to be sure and let everyone have a look see as soon as possible. Thank you for not leaving any of the VCR tapes out in the hot sun in your car - none appear to have warped this summer. We are still in need of someone who would like to convert the VCR tapes into CDs. Please see one of the librarians if you are interested and can assist us with this task. Remember that you have to be a member in good standing in AGMS in order to check out any library materials. Happy Reading!

---

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 and Jo Ann Wiersema - principals**

**Cora Caffey - printer**



Continued thanks also to **Brian Wetzig** and his son for taping, stamping, and addressing the newsletters each month!

---

---



---

## August 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes - Linda Northcote, Secretary

---



---

No minutes were received for the August meeting.

---



---

### Board Minutes

---



---

No board minutes were received.

---



---

### A.G.M.S. Calendar

Sep 15 - Paleo Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Sep 17 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
 Sep 24 - AGMS Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
 Oct 06 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
 Oct 23-25 GEM CAPERS, Volunteers Needed



### Refreshments

Volunteers for **September** to bring in refreshments are Barbara Evans, Josie Middleton, and Jamie Young. For November, Ed Gage and Paul & Margaret Good have signed up.

### Paleo Club News

By Diann Strout



The Paleo club **September 15<sup>th</sup>** presentation will be a talk by UT Professor **Dr. Ann Molineaux**. Her topic will be "An Introduction to the Geological Formation - the Basic Unit of Lithostratigraphy."

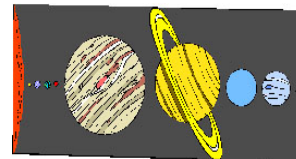
This is a basic, ground zero, introduction to an important geological concept which is used to unravel stratigraphy. For example, it allows us to correlate the rock outcrops in Austin to those in Georgetown or West Texas. We'll examine the major formations that occur in Central Texas such as what defines the Walnut Formation or the Glen Rose Formations? You may have noted that fossils present in the Walnut Formation differ from those in the Glen Rose Formation.

---



---

### AGMS Club Presentation



The AGMS Club talk on **September 24<sup>th</sup>** will be given by geologist **William Ambrose** on "The First Billion Years of the Solar System." Mr. Ambrose will talk about the beginnings of our solar system when it was a swirling mass of colliding planetesimals which eventually coalesced into our own favorite place in the galaxy. He will cover the theories on the origin of the Moon as well as major collision events on Mercury, Mars, and others. Lastly, the so called "Late Heavy Bombardment," (LHB) will be discussed, during which time the earliest evidence of life on Earth has been traced.

Mr. Ambrose is a geologist who received a Master of Arts degree in geological sciences in 1983 from the University of Texas at Austin. He has worked on a variety of projects at the Bureau of Economic Geology since 1987. Bill has a long-standing interest in planetary geology, focusing on cratering processes and morphometrics, lunar stratigraphy, and energy resources in the solar system. He is a Co Chair of the AAPG Astrogeology Committee and is currently a co-editor of the AAPG Special Publication "Energy Resources for Human Settlement in the Solar System and Earth's Future in Space." He also served as President of the Energy Minerals Division of AAPG in 2006-2007.

---



---

## Sunshine Committee



Please send news about our membership, both good and bad, to Ron and Jennifer Guzman at 512-292-9816.

**Paddy Covill** was admitted to the hospital on August 17<sup>th</sup> and is currently at the Reliant Rehab center in the La Frontera area of IH35 and 45. Paddy is physically weak and the doctors are trying to get her strength up enough to let her go home. She is having some short term memory issues and her kidneys are problematic as well. Visitors are welcome. She is in room 314.

Her husband **Charles** has also had some issues during her hospitalization, including a fall which injured his leg, and a severe cut to his hand. I'm sure they could both use some TLC from all of their old and new friends at the AGMS!

## Thanks!

Diann Hill, Paddy and Charles' daughter, would like to give a huge thanks to **Josie Middleton** and **Mac and Fran Ellis** for coming over to her folks' home to help get it sparkling clean again! With Paddy in the hospital and Charles injured, the housework had really been suffering. Their hard work is much appreciated!



## Club Auction August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

This year's auction was another successful fund raising event for the club. Members bid up items for a large total return. Thanks go out to the donors of the items, as well as the club members who purchased them. Thanks also to **Dee Fly** and **Kathleen Howard** for organizing and tagging the items and **Dee Fly** and **Diann Hill** for handling the money and inventory. Thanks also to **Robert Morriss**, our illustrious auctioneer, and his "runners," **David Dow**, **Alan Cherepon**, and **Ron Carman**. Lastly, thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> VP **Kathleen Howard**, for organizing and working on the entire event!

~*Josie Middleton, President*

## Needed - New Editor

We're down to **TWO** more newsletters! Unless someone else volunteers soon, the November *Stone Chipper* will be the last newsletter. Ack!! I'm sure you won't let that happen. If you think this sounds like the job for you, then please contact us at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org). It would be nice if someone could volunteer sooner rather than later so we can take some time to teach the new person(s) all the ins and outs of the rules and expectations of the job, as well as how to work with the software.

Do you have ideas about what kinds of articles you'd like to see? News items? Recurring columns? Now is your chance to remake the club newsletter to look like you want to see it. You could even change the layout, the fonts, and the graphics. It is not set in "stone," so to speak. If you have some creative ideas and would like to volunteer for the club but work at home, then this is your opportunity. This is an especially good job for someone who is new to the hobby and may know a lot about computers, but not much about rocks yet. Reading all the articles from exchange bulletins is a great way to start.

---

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Pauline Denson**, treasurer.

If you wish to be kept notified of “breaking news” and impromptu events within the club, you need to be on the **AGMS email list**. Information on things such as field trip details and member rock sales may be disseminated this way in real time. You can also ask to get the newsletter delivered via email notification rather than through snail mail. It comes sooner and in color that way. To get invited to the list, and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org).

---

---



## Junior News

---

---

There is a website located at <http://www.diamonddanpublications.net> that offers junior oriented gem and mineral publications for sale. The site also offers a subscription (for a price), to a mineral newsletter for kids. Check it out and see if there's anything that your pebble pups might have fun with.

*~Website from Trudy Martin*

---

---

## Free Online Gemology Course

---

---

If you're interested in learning about gemology from a scientific (rather than a commercial or artistic) viewpoint, then you might enjoy this website: <http://www.bwsmigel.info>.

Included there is a series of lessons developed by Barbara Smigel, PhD, GG, and Emeritus Professor at the College of Southern Nevada. You don't need to register to use the materials contained on the site, however you can opt to register and take the full distance learning, online course for college credit.

Web lectures include the following lessons:

- Lesson 1: Basic Terms
- Lesson 2: Naming and Measuring Gems
- Lesson 3: Physical Properties of Gems
- Lesson 4: Optical Properties of Gems
- Lesson 5: Magnification and What it reveals
- Lesson 6: Optical Phenomena in Gemstones
- Lesson 7: Gem Fashioning
- Lesson 9: Synthetics and Simulants
- Lesson 10: Gem Formation

Also included on the site are Web Essays that are one topic, pictorial essays with information on specific rocks and minerals. You can follow a link to “Ask the Teacher” specific questions and actually receive an answer in response. There's also an audio pronunciation guide, and A-Z Survey of Gemstones downloadable as a PowerPoint presentation, and suggested textbooks and reading assignments if you're interested in learning more. Simply visit <http://www.bwsmigel.info/> and check it out!

*~From Rockhound Rambling 7/07, via Blue Agate News 3/09, Rockcollector 5/09, The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 6/09*

---

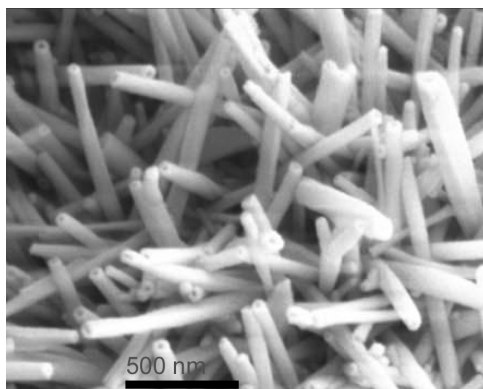
---



## All That Is Clay Is Not Just Mud

By Frank Berezovytch  
AGMS Club Member

Around certain clays exposed to hydrothermal alterations, an unusual alteration can occur to aluminosilicate clay material. This alteration is called **halloysite** and was named in 1826 after the Belgian geologist Omalius d'Halloy. This substance has a fine grain and usually occurs in tan or white clay like clumps with a waxy appearance. Like carbon, this clay also forms nanotubes that naturally occur as small cylinders. Depending on the mine site, the particle size can vary within 1-15 microns in length and 10-150 nm in diameter. Halloysite comes in two varieties, both being tubular-fibrous materials - unlike the platy or mica-like material of common clay. They are as follows: metahalloysite (also termed halloysite - 7 Angstrom), a dehydrated halloysite  $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$ , and endellite (termed halloysite -10 Angstrom), a hydrated halloysite  $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .



Hollow tubular hydrated halloysite morphology. From Turplu Mine, Balikesir, Turkey, Photo courtesy of Omer Isik Ece, Istanbul Technical University. <http://www.minersoc.org/pages/gallery/claypix/halloysite/halloysite7g.html>

Unlike kaolinite, halloysite has a larger surface area with more capacity for both cation exchange and catalytic activity. The inner core and outer surface areas of halloysite have different charge potentials, (i.e. positive versus negative). This property can allow the utilization of halloysite as a catalyst or halloysite may be combined with a desired substance of the proper pH range that will “self load” into the hollow nanotube cores. Encapsulated agents like drugs or insecticides may thus be utilized as a timed release property.

Halloysite is found in a wide spectrum of environments that includes basaltic rock in low temperature hydrothermally altered fissure deposits in monzonites, (a type of rock that is mostly feldspar). It can also form out of other substances such as feldspars, micas, rhyolites, granites, and volcanic rocks.

Halloysite is used to produce some of the world's highest quality porcelain and bone china with outstanding strength and translucency. New Zealand produces the whitest variety of this clay in the world, white being free of impurities. So as you can see, all clay is not just mud, sometimes it is halloysite.

### References:

<http://csmres.jmu.edu/geollab/Fichter/IgnRx/Monzon-1A1.html>

<http://www.halloysite.com>

<http://www.minersoc.org/pages/gallery/claypix/halloysite/halloysite7g.html>

<http://www.mindat.org/min-1808.html>

[http://www.naturalnano.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=45](http://www.naturalnano.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=45)

<http://www.sigmaaldrich.com/materials-science/nanomaterials/nanoclay-building/halloysite-nanotubes.html>

---

## One Liners - internet via John Thompson, S.C.R.I.B.E. 7-9/09

Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.

The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

---



**Show Talk**  
By Brian Wetzig  
2009 Show Chair

Gem Capers is fast approaching, and we need your support again this year. Our show is not possible without our membership stepping up and volunteering to operate our booths. I do not call what we do at the show “work” though, “socializing & educating” are better words. We talk with young people and open their eyes to the wonders

that can be found in their own back yard. When you hear them “ooh and ah” when looking at a fluorescent mineral or see them holding a piece of fossilized wood in wonder, you know you’ve done something special. A lot of us will make new friends and reconnect with old ones. We’ll talk about our love, our passion, and (yes for some of us!), our obsession for rocks, minerals and everything related. Please join us for this year’s Gem Capers and support your club by volunteering.

**You’ll find this year’s signup sheet on the web site in the same location as the “club only” newsletter**, with the times, booths, and activities. Please take time to review and send me an email with your name, time, and activities you wish to volunteer for, or call and let me know when and where you can help out. It takes a lot of people to run just one two hour shift, so if you know you’re going to be there all day or for multiple days, please sign up for more than one shift. We really need your service to make our club’s show a success. Thank you.

---

**Gem Capers 2009 Show Committee Minutes (synopsis by editor)**

By Dee Fly - Show Secretary  
August 20, 2009

- 
- Motion to change treasurer’s report to reflect 3rd payment made to Palmer, Diann seconded, motion passed.
  - All quartz points have been bagged - about 200. Still have emeralds, selenite, and opals. Lynn and Stretch will donate about 1,000 quartz points.
  - Karen Richards company is going to move our tables for us again this year. The table deal went through but she will have to find out the details. We still have some 6’ tables up at Georgetown. We will need 284 – 8’ tables and about 89 chairs.
  - There are some utility changes to the floor plan and Brian will have to go back up to Palmer.
  - Les talked to Bill Evans who will get with the Dean. Les will check back when they return from NM early September.
  - Craig is ordering 2,000 postcards and still has about 700. We will use about 250 of those.
  - Intergem is having a show the weekend before AGMS’ at the Palmer Events Center. Lynn advised a new gem & jewelry show will be having a show at the Convention Center on the same weekend as ours. They are an ex-Intergem show participant, MALICJEWELS Gem & Mineral Show. Susan will contact Intergem and see if we can advertise or distribute flyers out at their show. It was decided to place a sticker on the front of the postcard stating in red “Still at the Palmer Event Center.”
  - The revised show pin sample has a Texas and an American Flag crossed with mining tools underneath. Send to Susan by e-mail and she will order. Lynn will get Susan the picture of Rocky for the other pin.
  - Brian asked for volunteers to pick up the rental truck on Wednesday, take back Thursday, and pick up again on Sunday.
  - Greg Minckley has taken over for Richard Dorsey as Show Case Chair.
  - Pauline will need to buy liability insurance because the City of Austin will not accept the Certificate of Insurance showing SCFMS. Last year they put AGMS as the insured but that was incorrect. Pauline checked - it will be \$1,207 a year. Motion that we go ahead with this purchase, as it’s too late to try to find something else. It was seconded, motion passed.
  - Bob Folsom is retiring from Show Treasurer and Andrea Miller is stepping down from Gem Mine Chair.
-

-Susan had school letter items ready to put together and several people stayed to fold letters and flyers, stuff envelopes, and label to get them ready to be mailed after September 1st.

---



---

### Silent Auction Reminder

---



---

If you have any specimens or rocks to donate to the Silent Auction for this year's Gem Capers Show, please bring them to the September club meeting or to the show on Saturday. If possible, identify specimens for us. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

~Mac Ellis

---



---

### AGMS Rock and Mineral Photo Contest

---



---

The AGMS is having a mineral photo contest that will be judged by popular vote at the September meeting. Three entries per contestant are allowed. They can be color or black and white, 8X10 printed images. No enhancements are allowed. You can leave them off any Wednesday during shop night before the meeting or bring them to the club meeting. First, second, and third prize adult and junior prizes will be awarded. So juniors, take some pictures!

After the contest I will be hanging the photos in the clubhouse. They will also be on display at the show. Good luck all!

~Jackie Fisher

---



---

### Local Show Announcements



Golden Gem Rendezvous & Knap-In  
 4th Annual Gold and Gem Show in Llano, TX  
 Great State of Texas Gold Panning Championship  
 25th-27th of September, 2009  
 Located on the Llano River in Badu Park  
[www.llanochamber.com/rendezvous.html](http://www.llanochamber.com/rendezvous.html)  
 (325) 247-5354

PLEASE NOTE! The Houston Gem & Mineral Society breaks with years of tradition! The NEW date of the HGMS 2009 Annual Show is **November 13-15**, not in September. We will still be at the Humble Civic Center.

October 10-11  
 Temple, TX  
 SCFMS & Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society  
[lconnally@clearwire.net](mailto:lconnally@clearwire.net)  
 (254) 939-7015

**SCFMS News**



The South Central Federation Show this year will be hosted by the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society in Temple, Texas from **October 10-11, 2009**. The host hotel is the Quality Inn at 254-770-1100. For more information on this show, you can go the SCFMS website at [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net).

---



---





## AFMS News



The AFMS/NFMS annual show was held July 30 - August 1 in Billings, Montana. It was a huge success by all accounts. One of the activities was an auction of faceted stones to raise money for the Scholarship Foundation. Our own Wing Evans, renowned faceter, donated a stone made of heliodor. Following is the letter he received from the AFMS.

Dear Wing, As you know the Annual AFMS Scholarship Auction for 2008 in Houston, Texas was cancelled because of Hurricane Ike. The stones were auctioned on August 1, 2009 at this year's annual AFMS Show and Convention in Billings, Montana. Your beautiful yellow beryl brought \$1,325. On behalf of The Scholarship Foundation and The Intermountain Faceters' Guild, we thank you for your support and participation in this project. Ed Romack, Chairman.

Yay Wing! The AGMS is proud and honored to have you as a member. Thank you for generously donating your time, talent, and materials to supporting higher education and our hobby.

## The Field Trip: Black Agate, Montana

By Josie Middleton  
AGMS Club Member

Do you like the wind at your back as you scamper up a grade of 30 degrees or more?  
Looking, always looking, at your feet.  
For that agate you might miss, or could it be a fossil?  
Up the trail, boulder, or ravine, topping the mountain.  
They all crawl like ants, always with the eye for a glint, speck, or flash of color.  
Matters not if it be nodule, crystal, or leaverite.

The sack is loaded, back slightly strained, hamstrings, quadriceps, singing the song of under use.  
But now is not the time for thirst, it is for seeking that elusive botryoidal black.  
The balance is off, harder to go down than up, especially with that extra half ton you added.  
As you come down that mountain, nature calls, round that bend lo and behold,  
Those twin towers of American ingenuity, his and hers porta potties, forty miles from nowhere!

People are coming off the mountain now, muttering and scowling, hot, tired, thirsty.  
Wafting in the wind, burgers and hotdogs, odors making your mouth water, and a sight of three long tables filled with all manner of good eats!

Drinks all around be it beer, sodas, water, or milk; partake, it's that time.  
People not so quick to remember their dissatisfaction, only seeking out their comrades and sharing all that they found,  
Quick to laugh with old and new friends, all because of rocks.  
The day is ending; all friends remove all, to leave no trace, but track of tire and man.

**American Lands  
Access Association  
ALAA**

Many legislative issues are in the works that may affect rock hounds and fossil collectors. For more information, go to the ALAA website at <http://amlands.org> or see the AFMS newsletters at <http://www.amfed.org>.

# THE STONE CHIPPER

6719 BURNET LANE  
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757

*StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org*



**Address Correction Requested**

## Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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

### 2008 Officers

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

### Board of Directors

Ron Carman (1)  
Robert Morriss (1)  
David Wenger (1)  
Tom Bowers (2)  
Joyce Hrapsky (2)  
Louis Lee (2)

### Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Brian Wetzig
Building Chair	Bob Greenway
Mineral Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
Field Trip Committee	Ron Carman
Field Trip Committee	Chip Burnette
Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Marilyn Bowers
Junior Advisor/Programs	Vacant
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Library Co-Chair	Andrea Miller
Membership	Marilyn Bowers
Newsletter Editors	David & Laura Dow
Program	Kathleen Howard
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher



**September 2009**

United We Stand

### Editor Awards

**2003-1st AFMS New Editors, 1st SCFMS**

**2004-4th AFMS**

**2005-2nd AFMS, 1st SCFMS**

**2006-6th AFMS, 2nd SCFMS**

**2007-6th AFMS, 1st SCFMS**

**2008-4th AFMS, 1st SCFMS**

**2008 AFMS Editor Hall of Fame**