



Each one teach one



President's Notes:

October is here and so we focus upon OUR show. Your help is needed to ensure that our services, activities and booths are covered. If you haven't done so, find Brian's eMail (jmw...) which has the volunteer schedule. Pick an activity on those days you can help and let Brian know.

We will have a General meeting on Oct 27th. We are trying to get one of the speakers at the show to present their Gem Capers' program. It's frustrating to be working and miss one of the talks. By having one of them present at our meeting helps all of us.

We are still scheduled for the field trip scheduled for Oct 29th. Frank Roberts will go with us and share the geology, history, etc. Details will be forwarded later this month.

Speaking about field trips, the Board is seeking suggestions for trips for 2017. We are seeking day as well as overnight(s) trips. We'll also try co-oping with other rock clubs. Some suggestions have been: topaz hunting, Emerald Ridge pegmatite, Thanksgiving -West Texas agate hunt, Hot Springs-Arkansas hunt as well as back to the petrified wood ranch. So let me or one of the Board members know of your interests.

See you at GEM CAPERS

Laird



AGMS Annual Show
Coming October 21-23

THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. (AGMS) is a member in good standing of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies. Its editors are also members of SCRIBE. The club address is 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, Texas 78757, and phone (512) 458-9546. The AGMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Visit our website at www.austingemandmineral.org. Contact our webmaster for website updates at DiannH@austingemandmineral.org.

PURPOSE

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

MEETINGS

The society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month except October, which is show set up day. The November meeting will be held on the THIRD Thursday. December is the Officers' Induction Banquet held on a date to be determined. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Show Committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. All meetings are open to anyone. Society officers are listed on the second page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information

Dues for 2016

Annual membership dues are:

Adult-\$30.00 Couple-\$40.00 Junior--\$4.00

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Curator - Betsy Gager

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Cathy Brandt

Hospitality - Sunny Sturgeon

Membership -Susan Postlethwait

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Perkins

stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

AGMS Meetings Schedule

Board Meeting--1st Tuesday--7:00 p.m.

Minerals SIG Meeting--2nd Tuesday--7:00 p.m.

Capers Show Planning Meeting--3rd Thurs.--7:00 p.m.

General Meeting--4th Thursday--7:00 p.m.



photo of Ding Dong Mine entrance by Michael Kewn

It is not certain when the Ding Dong black tin mine in Cornwall, England was first worked. Although the earliest record is from the beginning of the 17th century, it is located near the Bronze Age Nine Maidens Stone Circle, the Men-an-Tol, and Lanyon Quoit, which date back to prehistoric times, and is thought to be one of the oldest mines in the UK. In 1823 it "was described as being 400 feet above sea level and 600 feet below the earth's surface. There were 120 men working underground at the time and they used 900lbs of candles each month to light their way in the mine. Every day, the mine's pumps removed 50,000 gallons of water from the mine; and 300lbs of gunpowder were used each month in the mine...."

General Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2016



As featured speakers at the September General Meeting, Steve Blyskal and Sigrid Stewart presented a slide show on their trip to the 2016 Agate Expo in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

photo by J. Perkins

The speaker for the meeting was Steve Blyskal, who described his and his partner's trip to the Agate Expo and showed many photos of the agates shown and offered for sale from worldwide locations.

The meeting was called to order by Laird Fowler, President. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed.

There was no treasurer's report in the absence of the treasurer.

Laird welcomed visitors and new members.

Laird announced that the sign-up sheet for GemCapers is available in the anteroom. Workers are needed on Thursday afternoon for set up. The Mineral ID SIG is setting up cases of Mexican minerals.

Laird said that the field trip to Canyon Lake scheduled for September 24 has been postponed to November 5. The next field trip will be to the Willow City serpentine mine on October 29. This includes a quarry and creek bed, and finds include serpentine, agates, and some other minerals.

The capping contest deadline has been extended to the October 4 board meeting. Cabs must be of Mexican material.

There were no submissions for the photo contest. Laird said that several club members had traveled

to Baytown, Texas, to purchase material from Smitty's Rock Shop estate. They brought back tumbled stones, grit, and slabs.

Chip Burnette announced that the Tri-city show is in two weeks.

Laird asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Board members Jan Ozias and Richard Dorsey are on the Committee, and two or three non-board members are needed. No one volunteered. Laird said that KEYE has been contracted to redo the club Facebook and Twitter accounts, and that Gary Collins is working on the club web site.

Show and Tell was followed by the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Pauline Denson

Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2016

Present: Laird Fowler, President, James Mercier, 1st V-P, Paul Bordovsky, 2nd V-P, Pauline Denson, Secretary, and Board Members John Curttright, Richard Dorsey, Cindy Murphy, and Jan Ozias. The minutes of the September 4 meeting were approved as printed.

There was no treasurer's report in the absence of the treasurer.

Laird Fowler reported that the web site was in progress, that Gary had figured out a design issue, and that he was waiting for files from Susan Postlethwaite. The old site is still functional.

Work on the operating budget for 2017 was tabled until the treasurer is back in town.

Laird announced that Formula One is on the same week end as Gem Capers again.

Laird said that Alan Cherepon and Kathleen Howard will be on the Nominating Committee along with

Board members Richard Dorsey and Jan Ozias. Laird appointed Jan as Chair.

Cindy Murphy said that she should have sample vest sizes available at the October general meeting. Members who would like to make vests for themselves can arrange purchase of fabric and patterns with her.

Laird asked for discussion on the proposed Auction Procedure prepared by Jan Ozias. James Mercier moved that the procedure be adopted. Cindy Murphy seconded the motion and it passed. A brief discussion was held on appointing a new chair for Gem Capers. Pauline asked if the job might be split.

Laird said that the club needs a Field Trip chair. James moved and Jan seconded the motion to adjourn.

Minutes by Pauline Denson

Show Committee Meeting

September 15, 2016

Minutes were submitted with no corrections.

Treasurer: Brian Wetzig provided the June and July treasurer's report.

Advertising: Per Dona Hope, Andrea would like any founding members to interview. Advertising on Facebook and with KEYE.

Car Magnets: Were found and brought out for members to take.

Committee Chairs: Procedures for Fluorescent Display and Cases were provided to Chip.

Dino Guy: Need to get with Nature's Treasure and get video to use for advertising. Dino Guy will be at the show for 2 days.

Floor Layout: Robert advised there are a few changes and he would send it to Chip, Stretch and Susan.

Gem Mine: Went over all of the items for the Gem Mine for Thea and answer her questions. There was a lot of tumbled stones acquired at a rock sale.

Raffle Items: A couple more items were donated for the raffle.

Rocky: Brian is working on the Rocky cutout.

Show Bulletin: Stretch only needs the floor plan and they will be finished. He suggested taping one of each of the junior bulletins to the table at the cash registers so they would not be confused on which one to give out.

Show Pin: Susan has received and ordered the pins.

Speakers: Alan and Brad Cross both will give talks. Brad talks will be 45 minutes on both Saturday and Sunday. 11 to 12 and 1-2. Laura advised they will donate their microphone and speaker.

Surveillance signs: Received.

Table Covers: The 6 ft cover have been sewed on the bottom and washed. The 8 ft covers need to be washed. Several members took them home to wash.

**THE SHOW IS AROUND THE CORNER!!
WE NEED ALL VOLUNTEERS!!**

Minutes by Dee Fly

Ready to Sign Up?

To be a part of the annual AGMS show and have some fun, contact Brian Wetzig at jmw314@aol.com Let him know what you want to volunteer for (if you don't know the choices, he can tell you), what day and what time. *Then* join the rest of us for a once-a-year experience you won't forget and you won't regret. Admission is *free* if you volunteer and you can follow up your shift with a mineral-shopping spree or attend one of the fascinating guest talks.

Sign up for the AGMS List

If you are currently not a member of the AGMS List and would like to be, please email Diann at general@austingemandmineral.org. It's the best way to keep up with the latest AGMS happenings.

THANKS!

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to thank Jim and JoAnn Wiersema and Marla Hayes of **Horizon Environmental Services**, for their continuing support of the club by printing *The Stone Chipper* each month. We very much appreciate each of you.

Steps to take to enroll in AGMS classes

Classes are open to AGMS members whose memberships are current. The fees are minimal.

1. The first step is to sign up on a waiting list. The notebook is at the front desk during general meetings.
2. If unable to attend a general meeting, you can be added to a waiting list via email to classes@austingemandmineral.org.
3. Write your name and email address in the book CLEARLY. Include your phone number, but more class information and notices are sent to your email address. Phone calls are only in emergencies, i.e., last minute changes, etc.
4. There is not a set schedule for classes. Classes are scheduled when an instructor is available and there are several people on the waiting list.
5. If an instructor is available on certain dates but there are not enough people for a particular class, a notice is posted on the Yahoo List and added to the calendar on the club's website.

The club depends on its members to teach classes, so we're always looking for volunteers. If you or someone you know has a special talent

and would be willing to teach a class, please email classes@austingemandmineral.org for more information.

Joyce Hrapsky

Stone Chipper Advertising

The Stone Chipper can now accept non-political AGMS Board-approved paid advertising. If you are interested in placing an ad or have questions about the process, please contact *Stone Chipper* editor Carolyn Perkins at stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org.

You can choose from a variety of sizes for your print-ready ad:

Full Page (7" x 8") (\$100 per issue)

Half Page (7" x 4") (\$50 per issue)

Quarter Page (3 1/2" x 4") (\$25 p.i.)

Business Card (3 1/4 x 2) (\$12.50 p.i.)

There is no extra charge for full color, but mail out copies will be black and white only.

Your Very Own Soapbox

Here's your chance to be heard. And you can even submit your suggestions anonymously. The format and even content of the *StoneChipper* are getting a little stale. If you have any thoughts for making it better, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Do you have an article you have written or would like to write about rocks or minerals? Better yet, would you like to have the chance to be heard on a monthly basis, via a regular column? Or maybe you have a poem or a photo or drawing, or a funny story you'd like to share. I'm even thinking it doesn't have to be about mineral matters or rock hunting specifically. It can be about creating or adventuring or a special club member or other person you admire and we should all know about--we'd love to hear from you!

You can put your ideas/articles in the *StoneChipper* mail bin or email me at stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

Hunts & Events



Fall Rock Hunts in Big Bend Area on Walker, Laremore, Ritchie, and Singleton ranches. Contact Teri Smith at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net

October 21-23, 2016 Austin, TX Austin G&MS *Gem Capers*, Palmer Events Center

October 28-30, Fossilmania 34, Dallas Paleontological Society. Somervell Country Expo Center, Glen Rose, TX.

October 29, AGMS field trip to Willow City serpentine mine to hunt for serpentine, agates and other minerals.

November 5, AGMS field trip to Canyon Lake (nature hike--not a rock hunt)

November 5-6, 2016 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Center Exhibition Hall

November 6-7, 2016 Midland, TX Midland G&MS Midland Center

November 11-13, 2016 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Pkway

November 19-20, 2016 Dallas, TX Dallas G&MS Restiol Expo Cen. Mesquite, TX

November 29-30, 2016, Paleontological Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park Hwy 29 E Round Rock, TX

January 14-15, 2017 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park

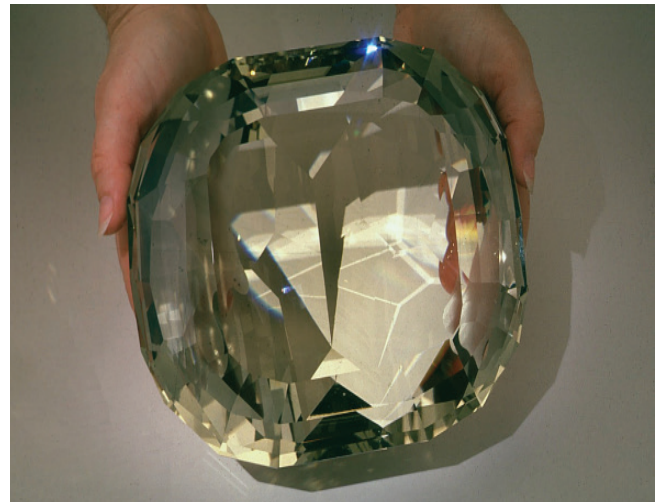
January 27-29, 2017 Tyler, TX East Texas G&M Soc. Rose Garden Center

in part borrowed from July/August 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

The American Golden Topaz

by Don Shurtz,
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas

Are there any out there who remember seeing the American Golden Topaz at an AFMS Show? The American Golden Topaz is a 22,892.5 carats (cut weight) gem from Brazil. In 1987 Mr. John White, curator of the gems and mineral collection at the Smithsonian, approached the AFMS with plans to acquire a topaz that was bigger than the 21, 327 carat Brazilian Princess Topaz, but needed \$40,000 to procure the rough stone. The AFMS originally balked at the idea, but did form a committee which supported the concept and rapidly raised the funds to procure the stone. The stone was owned by



The American Golden Topaz

from Wikipedia, no attrition given

Drs. Marie and Edgar Bogatta of Seattle WA and was cut by Mr. Leon Agee of Walla Walla WA. The stone was then presented to the Smithsonian and displayed with a plaque that read "Gift of the Rockhound Hobbyists of America through the efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Drs. Marie and Ed Bogatta, 1988." One of the inducements for the AFMS to help in the acquisition of the American Golden Topaz was that the gem would be made available for display at the Federation Show. However, in 1997 the American Golden Topaz was placed on permanent display at the Smithsonian and was no longer available to the Federation.

(Continued on following page)

Now fast forward to today. The American Golden Topaz is one of about 24 Smithsonian “Giant Gems” which go on temporary display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas! Here is some information I received from the Perot Museum:

GIANT GEMS OF THE SMITHSONIAN (Sept. 9, 2016-Jan. 17, 2017). Never before seen together, approximately two dozen magnificent, Texas-sized gems from the Smithsonian’s world-renowned National Gem Collection will be on display in the Lyda Hill Gems and Minerals Hall on Level 3. The mineral masterpieces, many weighing over 1,000-plus carats, include the “American Golden” topaz that tips the scales at almost 23,000 carats (more than 10 pounds), a blue topaz “football” of nearly 7,000 carats, a kunzite Tiffany necklace, the Mogul emerald diamond necklace and more. This temporary installation will mark the first time such a large collection of Smithsonian gems, some of which have never been displayed in any museum, will be on exhibit outside the famed Washington museum complex.

Special AFMS connection: The “American Golden Topaz” was presented to the Smithsonian in 1988 by the Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). AFMS members had rallied to help raise the money to purchase the American Golden Topaz and the plaque indicated that the gem was donated “in the name of the rockhound hobbyists of America and its six regional federations.”

If clubs are interested in seeing the American Golden Topaz and the rest of this collection, they may contact the Perot museum at 214-428-5555 or reserve@perotmuseum.org for a Group Ticket discount rate (group must be at least 10 individuals).

For the record, I am not an employee of the Perot Museum, but I am an active volunteer at the museum. This article is not intended to be an advertisement, but rather to point out an opportunity to see the American Golden Topaz – a stone that we all helped the Smithsonian Museum to acquire.

SCFMS NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER, 2016

To all the good folks that enjoy the western arts and artifacts, the city of Balmorhea, Texas will hold the “OASIS OF WEST TEXAS ARTIFACTS AND WESTERN ART SHOW” on October 15. Location is the Balmorhea community center, Balmorhea Texas. Hours from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Free admission and Door Prizes all day. For information or to reserve a table to participate, call Pat Brijalba at [432-448-2430](tel:432-448-2430), or email brijalba@gmail.com. Come one come all and enjoy a day in the beautiful little town.

GEM CAPERS

This Year’s Theme is
Mexican Minerals



October 21, 22 & 23, 2016
Fri & Sat 9 am – 6 pm; Sun 10 am – 5pm

Join Us!

The StoneChipper is the official publication of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. It is published monthly in Austin, Texas. Expanded minutes of Board Meetings are available upon request. Note: Clip art images are under Copyright 2016 by the AGMS and its licensors. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, text items in *The StoneChipper* may be reproduced in other nonprofit publications as long as proper credit is given to the author and *The StoneChipper*. All authors who make submissions to this newsletter are presumed to agree with this policy.

The Stone Chipper

October 2016

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Address Correction Requested **Austin Gem and Mineral Society**



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org