



Each one teach one



## President's Notes:

Rockhounds,

With Fall comes SHOW TIME. First and foremost is our SHOW at the Palmer Center, October 20, 21 and 22. Volunteers are still needed to assist with our programming. Watch the agmslist for the sign-up sheet. This year our theme is GEODES. Please bring any geodes you have in your collection to place in the club's display. A couple of members have loaned their geodes already. We are looking for more.

In addition to our show I hope you had a chance to attend the Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society's SHOW earlier this month. A small event to be sure but one I always found enjoyable. There are a couple of dealers that aren't at our show and have quality gems and jewelry.

The other SHOW of note is the Houston Gem & Mineral Society's Show on the second weekend of November. They will be hosting the South Central Federation meeting this year. Larger than our show, this show will have quality items which will interest rock-hounds of all ages. Check further in the Stone Chipper for dates and location.

Be sure to stop and visit with me at our show. I'll be at several locations including the Illumination Station. I'll be interested in what you found. I'll show you what I found and THANKS in advance for your help during the show's set-up, presentation and take down.

Laird

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](http://www.austingemandmineral.org) Contact our webmaster for website updates at [webmaster@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:webmaster@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 2017

Annual membership dues are:

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

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Officers

President—Laird Fowler  
[president@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:president@austingemandmineral.org)

1<sup>st</sup> VP—James Mercier  
[vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP—Kathleen Howard  
[vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org)

Treasurer—Craig Brandt  
[treasurer@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:treasurer@austingemandmineral.org)

Secretary—Pauline Denson  
[secretary@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:secretary@austingemandmineral.org)

Board Members

Cindy Murphy—  
[murphyc@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:murphyc@austingemandmineral.org)

Gene Healy –  
[geneh@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:geneh@austingemandmineral.org)

Richard Dorsey –  
[richardd@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:richardd@austingemandmineral.org)

Deborah Johnson –  
[deborahj@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:deborahj@austingemandmineral.org)

Jan Ozias –  
[jano@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:jano@austingemandmineral.org)

Gary Collins--  
[collinsgj@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:collinsgj@austingemandmineral.org)

Committee Chairs

Annual Show - LudyToles  
[gemcapersshowchair@yahoo.com](mailto:gemcapersshowchair@yahoo.com)

Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky  
[classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org)

Field Trips - Sue Postlethwait and John Curtright  
[trip@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:trip@austingemandmineral.org)

Librarian -Cynthia Murphy  
[librarian@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:librarian@austingemandmineral.org)

Webmaster – Gary Collins  
[webmaster@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:webmaster@austingemandmineral.org)

Building Chair - Open

Curator - Betsy Gager

Federation/Conservation - Josie Middleton

Historian - Cathy Brandt

Hospitality - Angie and Scott Steelman

Membership -Susan Postlethwait

Scholarship - Open

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sunshine - Fran Ellis

Newsletter Editor - Carolyn Perkins  
[stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto: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--2nd Thurs.--7:00 p.m.

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

**GEM CAPERS**  
**GEODES**



**October 20, 21 & 22, 2017**

Fri & Sat 9 am – 6 pm; Sun 10 am – 5pm

**SIGN UP--See AGMS List**

## General Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

Bill Ambrose presented a talk on Lunar Mysteries and Wonders

The meeting was called to order by Laird Fowler, President.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed.

Laird announced that forty-one members were present, and welcomed two visitors and two new members.

Laird said that this year's show theme was geodes, and that we plan to have a case of geodes at the show. He asked that anyone who has geodes loan them for the exhibit. Bring them to the Mineral ID meeting on October 10 or to the Palmer Events Center Thursday afternoon during set up for the show. Various sizes and types are needed.

Magnetic signs for the show, to be placed on cars during show week, can be picked up tonight or at the Mineral ID meeting. The sign-up sheet for volunteers is available at the sign-in desk.

This year's show pins are for sale for \$3.00.

Laird said that there will be a general meeting in October this year, and that Nature's Treasures has offered to provide refreshments for the meeting.

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers for a couple of officers and board members. If you would like to get more involved in the club, contact Laird, who is chairing the committee.



*Photo by Joe Perkins*

*William Ambrose, from the Bureau of Economic Geology at UT Jackson School of Geosciences, spoke on the moon's mysteries and wonders, including its seven-kilometer-deep impact crater, Tycho,*

Laird said that we have several vacancies in the structure of the club. An editor of The StoneChipper is needed. This is a once-a-month publication. We also need a Building chair to take care of the building and grounds, and a Head Librarian. Contact Laird to volunteer.

Gregory Rhode said that he has a large supply of optical quartz for use in making doublets and triplets. Various sizes are available. Anyone interested can contact him at 503-927-8059. The drawing was held, there was some show and tell and the meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes by Pauline Denson*

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2017

Present: Laird Fowler (President), Kathleen Howard (2nd V-P), Craig Brandt (Treasurer), and Directors Gary Collins, Richard Dorsey, Gene Healy, Deborah Johnson, Cindy Murphy, Jan Ozias. AGMS member: Cathy Brandt.

September meeting minutes were approved with no further changes.

Board members with an excused absence were Pauline Denson and James Mercier.

Treasurer's report: Balances as of 9/31/2017 are posted: Fidelity (\$35,681), checking account (\$6574), and savings (\$10,621) totaling \$52,868.

The primary business for this regular meeting was a 2018 proposed AGMS budget. The Board reviewed the 2017 budget, line item revenue and expenses to date. Estimated 2018 revenue is \$\_ (using a conservative Show net revenue of \$\_). Estimated expenses are \$\_ including major expenses of building utilities (\_\_) and property/liability insurance (\$\_) using 2017 actuals. Electricity use has been reduced after replacing outdoor lights with LEDs, caulking, and training more members on the air conditioning.

*(continued on page 4)*

Kathleen Howard Moved and Gary Collins seconded to approve the 2018 budget as developed through Board discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Old Business

A letter to LCRA regarding rock and mineral collection is still pending Laird's edits to request a meeting to discuss allowable approaches, e.g. permitting an activity as a sponsored group activity rather than as individuals.

Regarding club patches, it was reported that James Mercier received them.

#### New Business

Laird cannot attend the Nov 10-12 SCFMS meeting at the Houston Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil show in Humble due to a travel obligation, and alternate representatives were suggested.

The Nominating Committee has updated Laird on the need for at least one more nominee for a Director vacancy. Laird also reported vacancies for volunteer StoneChipper Editor, and the Building, and Field Trip Committees chairs.

#### Information Items

A deferred discussion item is to consider requiring liability insurance for any outside groups that rent the facility for meetings in accord with current approval process.

The parking lot is in need fo resealing in the near future so estimates should be sought.

Cathy Brandt updated the board on Rockhound of the Year and steps she took, including identifying that Chip Burnette is the South Central Federation representative to the AFMS. She recommends outlining a communication flow chart to expedite the process in future years.

Richard Dorsey named a website, [www.ganoksin.com](http://www.ganoksin.com) which has detailed information about lapidary safety.

Craig reported analysis of auction net proceeds from Saturday versus post-meeting Thursday evening auctions and found no differences attributed to timing. He also reported that the domain name

(austingemandmineral.org) registration was renewed for three years. The new site (agms-tx.org) if not due for renewal until 2018.

Jan Ozias reported that Education Chair, Joyce Hrapsky, shared that she is getting emails directed to "Interest" and "Request" in addition to Classes on the updated website. For now, Gary will redirect the first two to Laird who will route them to the appropriate person for a reply.

There being no more business, Gene made and Craig seconded a motion to adjourn with unanimous agreement.

*Recorder, Jan Ozias*

## Show Committee Minutes--September 14, 2017

**Minutes:** The minutes were submitted.

**Treasurer:** Brian Wetzig provided the treasurer report for August. He did a wire transfer for the show pins. Next deposit for Palmer will be due October 18<sup>th</sup>. Brian has been trying to pay for the Gem Capers domain but he is having trouble to get through to the company.

**Advertising:** After discussing all of the options, it was decided to go with some commercials, news and two live shows – Studio 512 and Rachel Ray.

**Cashiers:** Les will send his copy of instruction for the cash registers to Dee.

**Committee Chairs:** Some Committee Chairs still need to complete operating procedures and send them to Pauline.

**Credit cards:** Need to write up instructions on how to use the tablet with the square.

**Fluorescent:** Alan indicated that we either need to replace the triple bright or get replacement filter and bulb.

*(continued on page 6)*



**HELP WANTED**

Looking for an energetic AGMS member to take over the Youth Day Chair. This chair involves the Quest for Knowledge as well as Friday, Youth Day. I have enjoyed this for the past 10+ years but need to pass this on. I thought it would be nice to be able to train someone this year instead of dumping this on show committee next year.

Jobs functions are to verify the Quest; pre-register students starting Sept 1<sup>st</sup>; create Quest maps and set out maps at show; set up Friday Youth Day table; distribute Quest flags; greet students and teachers; take down Friday Youth Day table, and a few other little things.

Time commitment at the show on Friday, from open to about 2pm. Thursday set up takes about an hour. Tear down on Friday afternoon, about 20 minutes.

Please contact Susan @ [TexasAgate@gmail.com](mailto:TexasAgate@gmail.com) or visit with me at a meeting.

**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](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org)

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org) for more information.

Joyce Hrapsky

*(Show Committee Minutes continued from page 4)*

New the light is \$1,200.00 or replacements are a package of 2 filters - \$199.25 and the bulb is \$588.00 for a total of \$787.25. James made a motion to buy a new light, Susan seconded and motion passed.

**Nature's Treasure:** Ludie will talk to Karen about their truck and loading.

**Postcards:** Dee gave invoices to Brian paying for the two type of postcards.

**Show Pins:** Should have the pins in by the club meeting. They will be for sale for \$3.00.

**T-Shirts:** We will not sell the yellow volunteer shirts.

**Yard Signs:** Don't need to go out until 4:00 on Friday and taken down around 3:00 on Sunday.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43.

*Minutes by Dee Fly*



**Ron Guzman**, co-owner, with his wife, Jennifer Clayton, of Fluorescence Minerals and former AGMS member, always showed up at swap meets with new loads of Mexican minerals and a charming smile. Ron passed away in September following surgery. Our love and prayers go out to Jennifer and the rest of his family.

***You will be missed, Ron.***

## 5600 Miles Driving & Silver-Picking

Text & Photos by Laird Fowler

Many rock hounds are winding up their summer trips. Others are preparing their fall and/or winter trips. For August, I really didn't have any rockhounding planned. Maybe I would silver-pick (purchase) some specimens from a few shops. Then Life knocked on the door and opportunities opened.

On August 10th, my brother was moving his daughter in San Antonio to Madison, Wisconsin. She snagged a great job opportunity so he rented a trailer to move her things. He decided to drive straight through, spend a couple of nights in Madison then drive straight back non-stop. I volunteered to help drive. So with the trailer packed, my brother Joe, my niece Bridget, her Border Collie Dexter and I loaded into the borrowed truck to begin our trek. Envision a modern version of the Beverly Hillbillies on their moving day.

Fortunately, the trip was uneventful. Frustrating at times as we passed a few signs enticing me to visit some Illinois and Missouri mine tours. We arrived in Madison as expected, unloaded, and helped her set up her apartment. Meanwhile I learned that Austin is Madison's 'Sister City'. Both are their state's capitol, home to their state's university, hosts numerous artistic and musical events as well as a center of 'weird'. Exercise is a central component of the town with hills and lakes in and around the town.

Upon closer review I discovered a ROCK SHOP! There are two shops but have the same name: Burnies Rock Shop. One located on a South Congress-like street and one nearer the University of Wisconsin. The SoCo street shop was like an old concept shop: slabs,

rough, findings, minerals, books, crystals, etc. They also taught classes. The other shop is more like Nature's Treasures' concept of a holistic presentation. I purchased items from both shops. I picked up a nice metallic black, barrel-like Hematite crystal, a couple of slabs, a hedgehog carved from multi-colored sandstone, a Scheelite that fluoresces a nice white-blue and an inch and a half Fadden Quartz. Not a bad silver-pick trip when I wasn't expecting to find anything on the trip. Joe and I returned on the 14th; 2400 miles round trip.

My next travel was our annual August trip to Mesa, Arizona. Paula (my lovely wife) attends a stitching seminar. She attends the seminar, I play golf, search out rock shops and collecting sites. This year we decided to leave on the 22nd and visit Lubbock. Texas Tech University professor YA Yates sells parts of his collection at an antique mall. Over ten years I have been able to silver pick nice pieces from around the world including Antarctica. This year I discover that the professor had passed away in the spring. Before passing, he sold his collection at his home and at the mall. Alas, another site has faded away.

Traveling west toward Mesa, I decided to stop at the Bingham Rock Shop (New Mexico). I am in the hunt for a nice single, classic light blue Fluorite crystal. The shop was closed for the day. As Charlie Brown would say: AAUUGGHH! So onward to Mesa with no shops between Bingham and Mesa. We arrived at Mesa without any issues. The next day Paula and a few of her stitching friends asked for a ride to an antique mall. We loaded up and went to the Brass Monkey Antique Mall in Tempe. More of a consignment store instead a mom and pop store. Hundreds of booths and cases; yet lo and behold, three cases had rocks and minerals. Most specimens were common and no interest to me but I did silver pick a ping pong ball size Creedite with Fluorite. The specimen had one nice 5 mm transparent, light blue Fluorite octahedron nestled in the orange-clear Creedite cluster.

The next day I visited the TRC Gallery Rock Shop I had found last year. The owners' business is

primarily an on-line store. Everywhere you look are plastic shoeboxes. Each box represents on-line orders. The shop also contains numerous specimens on display and for sale. The star of the shop is a very nice spread of Tennessee's Elmwood Mine's specimens. Back in the garage area sits several buckets of slabs. A few times a year they host an event like our April rock swap. They invite their local customers and prospectors to offer their specimens, jewelry, slabs and rough. But, alas not this weekend. I did however; silver pick a couple of slabs, a stepped, Fluorite octahedron (TN) from the Hardy Mine in Arizona and a fist sized plate of light yellow Fluorite cubes. The cubes fluoresce whiter than blue. Overall, this shop operates on interesting business model.

With the seminar concluded we head north for Las Vegas. Let's just say the stay was nice, the shows were very good but that's about it. So off to Leadville, Colorado traveling through magnificent scenery of the Redlands. After checking into our motel, we planned our itinerary. After a great breakfast at a local café, we visited the National Museum of Mining. Very interesting museum with very nice specimens, informative educational rooms and exhibits plus an enjoyable walk through a life-like mine exhibit. Alas, the gift shop was closed.



*Leadville, Colorado train station.*

We returned to Leadville's main street found the Rock Hut. This rock shop is certainly one of the years-past type of shops: hundreds of





*Leadville, Colorado Train.*

mineral and fossil specimens, rough material, numerous books, a wide range of rock hunting tools. Of special interest was seven racks of thumbnail sized specimens. Most of the specimens were from Colorado. I picked two specimens from the Patch Mine: Quartz & Pyrite. The Patch Mine is reportedly the location where gold was first mined in Colorado. I highly recommend stopping and visiting this shop if you are near Leadville.

We then visited the antiques mall. I found a few mining related equipment and specimens but nothing of any interest. Next, we rode the Leadville train. This recreational themed train takes visitors on a two and half hour high into mountains aligning the Arkansas River valley. There were many splendid views and the conductor was quite entertaining in his narrating. Our next stop was the Tennessee Pass Café where we had good food and live music.

Thus, ended our first day. Unfortunately, it was our last day. I became afflicted with the 'high altitude' illness. We decided to leave early and get to lower elevations instead of the 10,200-ft. elevation of Leadville. We returned home Labor Day, thoroughly enjoyed our trip. Disappointed

in some of our stops but delighted with our new discoveries and beautiful scenery. A day or so later I sat down and calculated that from August 10<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day, I had driven and ridden over 5600 miles. Yes, long days and miles but given the same circumstances I would do it all again. However, I would plan for the Illinois and Missouri mine tours, find shops open and maybe pan a little gold in them dar hills.

## Hunts & Events

### **Annual Shows:**

#### **October 14-15**

Temple, Tri-City G&MS, Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center

#### **October 14-15**

Fort Worth, Cowtown CMGC, Corporate Employees Recreation Assoc., 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd.

#### **October 20-22**

Austin, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.

#### **November 4-5**

Round Rock, Paleontological Soc. of Austin, Old Settlers Heritage Assoc., 3300 Palm Valley Blvd.

#### **November 4-5**

Odessa, Midland G&MS, Ector Co. Coliseum

#### **November 4-5**

Amarillo, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Ctr.

#### **November 10-12**

Humble, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center,

#### **January 21-22**

Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg Rockhounds , Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Pk.

#### **January 28, 2018**

Tyler, East Texas G&MS, Tyler Rose Garden Ctr.

*Courtesy of SCFMS Newsletter*



## October Meeting Speaker

**Mark you calendars!** We will have a meeting on the fourth Thursday (Oct. 26) this month, the week following the show. Julie Hemmings' talk will be on "Raising Science Awareness with the General Public." Thanks, Kathleen, for providing us with so many great speakers!

## Alpine Rockhunts Galore!

Gene Healy's recent AGMS List post included a complete list of fall hunts with details Teri Smith has announced for Alpine area ranches: South Laremore, Stillwell, Singleton, and Walker. These hunts will be held beginning Friday, October 13. The last hunt is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8.

**South Laremore** hunts will be held Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10/13-15, and on Wednesday, Oct. 25. The cost is \$50/day.

**Stillwell** hunt will be on Monday, 10/16. The cost is 50 cents per pound of rocks you keep.

**Singleton Ranch** hunts will be held Saturday, through Tuesday, 10/21-24; Thursday through Sunday 10/26-29; and Friday through Sunday, 11/3-5. The Cost is \$50 per day.

**Walker Ranch** hunts will be held Monday & Tuesday, 10/30-31 and Monday through Wednesday, 11/6-8. The cost is \$75 per day.

All trips start at 8:00 a.m. at the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Hwy. 90 in Alpine. (To reserve a room there, call (800) 880-8106 or register online at [www.antelopelodge.com](http://www.antelopelodge.com) ) At least one of your group members must have a Rollin' Rock Club membership (\$10 for single, \$16 for dual), purchaseable at the time of the trip. Payment for the trip is not due until the morning of the trip. Singleton Ranch accepts only cash. Larremore and Walker accept cash or checks. Stillwell even accepts credit cards. To reserve a place on a trip, email Teri Smith at [agatehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agatehunter@sbcglobal.net)

## Angie Steelman

*StoneChipper Editor, 2018 and Beyond*

I am pleased to announce that Angie Steelman has volunteered to become the next *StoneChipper* editor.

Angie's editorial proclivities became apparent back in her high school newspaper days. She says (& this is the official way to determine if you have a staunch inner editor.) "To this day I find it difficult to read something without picking up a red pen and making edits." We knew Angie was smart, but now we also know she has the editing gene.

The Steelmans, Angie, Scott, and Mary, are the kind of folk who join a club and become active members right away. They have volunteered for Gem Capers and other tasks and are currently managing the Hospitality role so well that we have forgotten how difficult it can be to keep the food conveyor belt running consistently.

Angie said one reason she considered taking on this position was that her 3-year term as secretary for the Austin Amateur Radio Club is coming to a close. (She (KF5ZXI), Scott (KF5ZRZ), and Mary (KG5EXJ) are all three extra-class hams). She has enjoyed being a member of AGMS and has been searching for a way to expand her contribution to the club. Wow!

The Steelmans, Angie with a background in chemistry and Scott with a background in chemical engineering, became members of AGMS "as a way of exploring and sharing our interests in the earth sciences as well as providing an additional resource for homeschooling Mary." They have proceeded to become mineral collectors, through field trips as well as purchasing, and have even learned cabbng. Angie says that she was hooked as soon as she made her first cab. It's obviously a perfect fit. We are very happy that Angie is poised to become our new StoneChipper Editor!

*Carolyn Perkins*

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## **Gem Capers**

**October 20, 21 & 22, 2017**

***Don't Forget to Sign Up!***



The Stone Chipper

October 2017

Carolyn Perkins, Editor  
6719 Burnet Lane  
Austin, Texas 78757  
[stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org)

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



Please visit us at [www.Austingemandmineral.org](http://www.Austingemandmineral.org)