

# THE STONE CHIPPER



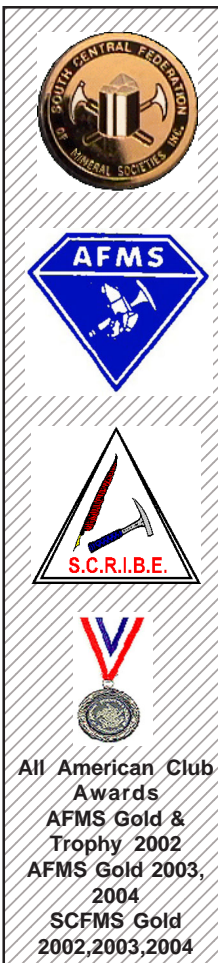
THE 610<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2007, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The January program will be announced in the January newsletter.

## IT'S SHOWTIME!

**AGMS Annual Show  
Gem Capers 2006  
Palmer Events Center**  
Show Dates: December 1st,  
2nd, and 3rd 2006.  
[www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org)



### THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

The AGMS is a member in good standing of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies. Its editors are also members of SCRIBE. The club address is 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, Texas 78757, and phone (512)458-9546. **The AGMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.**

#### PURPOSE

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

#### MEETINGS

**The Society meets the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December.** November or early December is show month and the meeting, if any, is held after show setup on Thursday before the show. December is the Invocation of Officers meeting held on a date and at a place determined by the officers. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers are listed on the back page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

#### DUES FOR 2006

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 2006 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.

All American Club  
Awards  
AFMS Gold &  
Trophy 2002  
AFMS Gold 2003,  
2004  
SCFMS Gold  
2002,2003,2004

## President's Message



December is upon us and that means that the biggest event of the year is imminent. Although some outside our peculiar little passion might think I'm speaking of yuletide greetings, ho-ho-ho's, merry shopping, and of course a special birthday, most of you know that Gem Capers is just a few weeks away.

The committee chairs are working feverishly to get ready, so I want to add my refrain of "please volunteer." There are never enough volunteers, although somehow things always get done. There is an old "truism", 80% of the work gets done by 20% of the people. My plea to you is to be part of the 20%. Wouldn't it be nice if that % was higher in this club?

This is my last President's message, and what an interesting two years it has been. My main goal heading into this term was to get the roof replaced. I thought it would take a few months, and jumped into getting bids immediately after Gem Capers 2004. A few months turned into almost a year, but finally the work was done. Many thanks go to **Dee Purkeypille** for heading up this knotty project. Also I can't give enough accolades to **Dee Fly** for all that she has taken on. The real power and work ethic in the club is found within her. Thanks Dee, for always being there, and stepping up for whatever is needed.

I also presided over a few very divisive issues to the club. Throughout it all, I tried to do what I thought best for the AGMS. I'm sure I ruffled a few feathers along the way, and I hope that these matters were taken as "just business, nothing personal."

I also tried to speed up the meetings so as not to bog down both members and guests with administrative minutiae. However, I found that as time went along, the meetings tended to have their own inertia and soon expanded back into the usual time span. So, I must make apologies to "El Gran ex-Presidente, James," and acknowledge the unspoken, but surely contemplated "I told you so's."

I had a great time, all the while getting to meet the nicest people. Many of you have become good friends, and I look forward to continuing my participation in the AGMS, and will help the new administration any way that I can.

*~Paul Bordovsky, President*

## Library News



With everything that has been "happening" to the library the last few months- we are still catching our breath and pausing. Thanks to each of you who came "shopping" with us at the last meeting. It was a great success. Please remember the rules; you must be a member to check out books. Check out lasts from one meeting to the next. Call Harriet or Diann if you need an extension. Fill out the card in the book/tape and place behind the corresponding number in the blue card file. Magazines are checked out on the clipboard. You must return your checked out books before you check out more. We will be accepting donations again after the first of the year. Happy reading and see you at the show!

*~The Library Staff*



## October Meeting Minutes

There were no meeting minutes provided at press time.

*~Editors*

## October Program Review Pilot Knob Fossils

By Ed Gage  
AGMS Club Member

**Linda McCall** gave a program on the fossils from the Dean Ward Quarry at Pilot Knob. The collections were made during the 1996-97 seasons.

During the upper Cretaceous period about 80 million years ago, the central Texas area was under a shallow sea with numerous lagoons. Located near the NW tip of the Ouachita belt, a volcano emerged and trapped a small lagoon nearby.

The combination of volcanic activity and shallow lagoons supported a rich fauna of dwarf-like sea life. There have been at least 70 different life forms identified from the area. Three distinct color zones of deposition occur at the site with the middle red color zone contains the majority of the fossil diversity. The fossil diversity includes echinoids, crinoids, crustaceans, bivalves, oysters, bryozoans, clams, corals, sharks, fish, sponges, worm tubes, forams and coprolites among others. The site is currently closed to collecting. This was a very interesting program about a very unique spot in the Austin area.



## Field Trips

My kind subjects, El Gran Ex-Presidente, like Santa Anna before him, has to admit defeat (although Santa Anna never really did!) I have to back out on the Thanksgiving Trip this year. I still don't have enough details or contacts at locations around Bustamante for a fully successful trip to make me happy. (And, we all know that our mission in life is to make El Gran Ex-Presidente happy? Well, maybe not.)

Now, Ron and his wife ARE going anyway, and anyone who wants to go also is welcome and encouraged to call Jennifer. (El Gran Ex-Presidente confers upon him knighthood in the order of the pyrite cluster.) But, El Gran Ex-Presidente will not be leading a group until he's had a chance to scout out the place better to establish what is accessible, what is available, who are the contacts, what are the costs, and what are the liabilities. Once this information is in hand, a glorious and well planned trip should be available for all of us.

~El Gran Ex-Presidente, James Mercier

## Classes



The club has two vacancies in Adolph Krchnak's upcoming cabochon cutting class. The class costs \$35 and runs from November 14, November 21, and November 28. Times are 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Let me know by e-mail if you are interested.

~Nancy Keller

## Workshop

Anyone who wants to work in the workshop, the cabochon cutting class is your chance! In order to work in the workshop you must know the basic technique in cutting stones with a trim saw and then grinding then on the wheels and then polishing. The only way to get that instruction and experience is to take a class (unless you already know it) and the best one to learn it is the cabbing class. I highly recommend you take this class if you want to work in the workshop to learn the process and how to operate the machines.

~Ed Gage, Workshop Chair

## Fossil SIG News



It's now a reality - the two clubs formerly known as the Austin Paleontological Society and the Central Texas Paleontological Society, have merged and will be known as **The Paleontology Society of Austin**. They have agreed to the same meeting day and time at the AGMS club building. John Hinte will be the 2007 president and Erich Rose, will be the editor of the newsletter.

~Jean Wallace

## A.G.M.S. Calendar

Wednesdays - Workshop Open 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Nov 16 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov 21 - Fossil SIG Meeting

Thanksgiving Weekend - Field Trip to Mexico

**Nov 30 - Gem Capers Show Set up**

**Dec 1 - Gem Capers 2006 Day 1**

**Dec 2 - Gem Capers 2006 Day 2**

**Dec 3 - Gem Capers 2006 - Day 3, breakdown**

Dec 7 - Christmas Party, Installation of Officers, 7 p.m.

Jan 2 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Jan 24 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

Jan 25 - Club Meeting 7:30 p.m.



## Sunshine Committee

We are sorry to report the sad news that **Don O'Neill** passed away on November 3, 2006. Funeral services were held on November 10th in San Antonio. Immediate survivors include his wife Linda Ann, son Shawn, and daughter, Julie Johnston (Jason), and step daughters, Erica Herrera (Eric) and Veronica Dominguez.

Don was the founder of the Austin Paleontological Society and the Central Texas Paleontological Society. He was also a past president of the AGMS and of the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society (S.A.). Don collected fossils as well as rocks and gems. A 90 million year old fish fossil was named in his honor.

While with the Central Texas Paleontological Society he co-authored the publication "Fossils of Smith's Branch Williamson Co., TX - A Cretaceous Deposit." Don won many trophies and ribbons at gem and mineral show competitions. His fossil collection had specimens featured in the publication *Texas Fossils* by Charles Finsley. Don also served in the USAF.

Don asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Shawn O'Neill Scholarship Fund at Washington Mutual Acct.# 319-614049-1. Condolences may be sent to the O'Neill family at [www.brookehillfh.com](http://www.brookehillfh.com). All of us in the AGMS send our deepest sympathy to Don's family.

*~exerpted from <http://obits.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?type=0&id=58004>, The San Antonio Express News Online.*

## Clubhouse Re-keyed

The rekeying of the locks of the AGMS clubhouse has been completed. One key now fits the front door, the back door, the shop and the shed.

The show shed key is still the same as before. The back door bottom door knob has been replaced and disabled from being lockable, meaning the deadbolt is the only lock that works. The shop door knob has been disabled from being

lockable as well meaning the deadbolt is the only lock that works. If you need a key please call myself, Stretch Young, You can also call Paul Bordovsky.

*~Stretch Young, Board Member*



## AGMS Scholarships 2006

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society 2006 scholarship winners from the University of Texas are: **Melody Cornelius** of Austin, **Jennifer Denbow** of Round Rock, **Geoffrey Scotty** of Vanderpool, and **Sarah Turpin** of New Braunfels. Congratulations and welcome to the club!

*~Betsy Gager, Scholarship Chair*



## Dues are Due!

**Dues for 2007 are now due!** Please pay at the show if you can, at the next meeting, or by sending your check and information to the clubhouse, attention the treasurer.

*~Editors*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob Greenway would like to announce that he is starting a **Faceting SIG** at the AGMS. It will meet the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm**. He will be there getting the faceting room in shape for the upcoming class. He will also bring some problem rough that participants might be able to discuss appropriate cuts for. There may be some openings for the upcoming class also. Contact Nancy Keller for the class sign up sheet.

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Margaret Wetherell**, treasurer, To get signed onto the AGMS email list and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors.

*~The Editors*

## A Wealth of Crystals

By Rusty Wallace  
AGMS Club Member

Quick! I'll give \$1,000 to the first person who hands me a crystal! What might people hand me? Most folks would look around for a clear quartz rock. A computer student could hand me a laptop with a liquid crystal display and internal crystals and crystal assemblies. Both would have been technically correct. It simply isn't that hard to find a crystal since a majority of solids are crystalline. A crystal savvy scientifically minded diner might have just passed me the salt.

We are surrounded by crystals including salt on our tables, almost all the ground we stand on, and most of the gemstones we wear. Crystals, including the unhealthy calcium crystals called calcium pyrophosphates, are even found at the molecular level inside our bodies. However, not everything called a crystal by the general public is one to a scientist.

While Shakespeare might have said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet",<sup>1</sup> scientists correctly insist that a name embodies its definition and using the right one does matter. For example, those pretty, so called "crystal" glasses on Aunt Sara's table are actually *noncrystalline*. And, according to some very precise scientific definitions, are not even solid! At the molecular level, the various particles that make up glass have no fixed pattern which excludes glass from being a crystal. So even though glass is evenly made up of silicon dioxide molecules, they are not oriented in a crystalline symmetry.

How do we decide what is or isn't a crystal? Scientists sometimes simplify and define a crystal as a solid and a solid as a crystal. They are using a very precise molecular level definition that defines a solid as being made up of molecules that have a pattern and don't move around. Like a child's building toy, the molecules each stay in their place in the crystal. A more commonplace approach is to recognize that there are non-crystalline solids.

Solid is only one possible state of matter. That means a substance might be crystalline in one state and be noncrystalline in another. For example, get water cold enough and it forms ice crystals. Warm that ice up and it goes back to being a liquid or gas as the molecules absorb the heat and start moving around more. The snowflake is a temporary crystal-

line solid that beautifully shows off the repeating patterns of the frozen ice.

Most crystals form via the slow cooling of a hot solution of water and dissolved minerals. There are six basic crystal shapes and in a perfect world, or at least one perfect for crystal growing, the standard shapes are easy to see. With lots of room to grow, an evenly distributed super-saturated solution, and most importantly, slow growth, nature will create large, beautiful crystals that reflect their inner molecular structure. Such lucky crystals are called *euohedral*, (good surfaces). An entire rock of euohedral crystals is termed *panidiomorphic*, (all one proper shape). However, crystalline structure can be hidden during growth by anything that disrupts their perfect world.

A crystal's inherent shape can be modified when its growth is blocked by a surface – usually that of another mineral. Or, the solution will over time become unequal in density with heavier particles settling. Additionally, temperature changes, impurities, faster growth on one surface compared to others, and natural or manmade breakage can hide the natural crystal shape.

As might be expected, less fortunate crystals had their original pattern blocked while growing but still retain some of their ideal shapes. These *subhedral*, (imperfect type or number of sides) crystals are termed *subidiomorphic*, (imperfect shapes) when found together in a rock. Then, there are the unfortunate *anhedrals*, (lacking shape) whose name says it all. They are crystalline at the molecular level but you couldn't tell it by looking at their outer shapes. While they were being formed, everything that could go wrong, did. In the rock hound world we call these massive crystals.

Yet, there is at least one instance where the anhedral crystals have great benefit. Although all organic matter may have long since gone away, petrified wood and many fossils retain the shape of the original material. As the biomatter rotted away, very finely grained quartz took its place. In the case of petrified wood, chalcedony made up of silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) and traces of iron reproduced the texture and grain of the ancient tree. Occasionally, a larger crystal is found with the petrified wood.

In our lucky euohedral crystals, we can frequently see the crystalline symmetries that successfully repeated the pattern of their microscopic molecular structure. Rock hounds,

jewelers, and mineral collectors use these patterns in their discovery, collection, cutting, and evaluation of the quality of a specimen.

Crystals grow using basic shapes as patterns which they repeat over and over again as they get large enough for us to see without magnification. However, it only takes six repetitions of the pattern at the molecular level to qualify as crystalline. There are always patterns in the solids around us that are invisible to the naked eye. Many beautiful gemstones and minerals can be identified using rock hound forensics, including recognizing the meaning of the crystal shapes.

It helps to know the crystal patterns to recognize which mineral is which. There are only six crystal systems that encompass all the patterns.

(1) Diamonds, (C), belong to the simple, elegant **cubic** crystal system. There are three axes of equal length and all are inclined at 90°.

(2) The **tetragonal** crystal system has three axes at right angles with only two of equal length. Zirconium silicate, (ZrSiO<sub>4</sub>), also known as zircon, is one of Earth's most common minerals and has a tetragonal shape.

(3) In the **orthorhombic** crystal system there are three axes at right angles but each has a different length. Topaz, made of aluminum silicate, (Al<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>(F,OH)<sub>2</sub>), has an orthorhombic shape.

(4) Beryl, (Be<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>6</sub>O<sub>18</sub>), whose most well known variety is emerald, shows us the **hexagonal** crystal system. There are three axes of equal length in one plane making angles of 60° with each other and a fourth axis at 90° to these and of unequal length.

(5) The **monoclinic** crystal system has three axes all unequal. Easily found examples include calcium sulfate, (CaSO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O), and sodium borate, (Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·10H<sub>2</sub>O), which are borax and gypsum respectively.

(6) Copper sulfate, (CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O), and boric acid, (H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>), belong to the **triclinic** crystal system. That means that there are three axes of unequal length and all axes are inclined at angles other than 90°.

There are many different types of crystals in the gemstones, minerals, and fossils found here in Texas. Blue topaz is the state gemstone of Texas. Topaz is found in a wide variety of shades from almost clear, golden, and to a dark brown.

Varied crystal resources span Texas. Alpine, Texas has clear chalcedony and red and black plume agate in basalt. Petrified wood is found in Giddings, Ledbetter, and Crockett Counties. Llano County has ancient granites that are pink with coarse grains called Town Mountain Granite. Found only in Llano County, llanite is a very rare granite feldspar. Its various brown shades and pink masses are accented with blue quartz crystalline inclusions. Terlingua and central Texas have calcites. Celestite is found in Lampasas.

The expansive range of crystals in Texas includes agate, barite, beryllium, world class fluorescent and phosphorescent calcite, cinnabar, copper, fluorite, fossils, gold, iron, jasper, lead, opal, petrified wood, tektites (Yes, Texas even has crystals from outer space too!), topaz, zinc, and many other crystals. Local rock and mineral society members have built club and personal collections that display our state's crystal wealth and preserve it for future generations. Extensive private collections with exceptionally fine crystal formations have been donated to the University of Texas museum and are now available to all those wishing to see firsthand the great rocks of Texas.

<sup>1</sup>Shakespeare *Romeo and Juliet*, act 2, sc. 2, lines 1-2.

#### References:

[www.utexas.edu/tmm/npl/mineralogy/Texas\\_Minerals/index.htm](http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/npl/mineralogy/Texas_Minerals/index.htm)  
[www.lib.utexas.edu/geo/links.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/geo/links.html)  
[www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/gpm1.html](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/gpm1.html)  
<http://www.minrec.org/> (The Mineralogical Record)

Bueren, H. G. Van, *Imperfections in Crystals*, Second Edition, North-Holland Publishing Company – Amsterdam, Interscience Publishers, Inc. – New York, 1961

Holden, Alan and Morrison, Phyllis, *Crystals and Crystal Growing*, First MIT Press Edition, 1982, ISBN 0-262-58050-0

Klein, Cornelius and Hurlbut Jr, Cornelius S., *Manual of Mineralogy*, 21<sup>st</sup> Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993, ISBN 0-471-57452-X

Lewis, J Volney, *Determinative Mineralogy*, First Edition, First Thousand, John Wiley & Sons, The Scientific Press, 1912

Pabian, Roger K. with contributors Brian Jackson, Peter Tandy, and John Cromartie, *Agates Treasures of the Earth*, Natural History Museum London, 2006, ISBN-10: 1-55407-098-8

Schumann, Walter, *Gemstones of the World*, Revised Expanded Edition, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1997, ISBN 0-8069-9461-4

Sofianides, Anna S. and Harlow, George E, *Gems & Crystals from the American Museum of Natural History*, Simon and Schuster, 1990, ISBN 0-671-68704-2

Spearing, Darwin, *Roadside Geology of Texas*, Ninth Printing, Mountain Press Publishing Company, March 2005, ISBN 0-87842-265-X

Vargas, Glenn and Martha, *Descriptions of Gem Materials Third Edition*, published by authors, 1985, ISBN 0-917646-06-1



**Harriet Strieber**, the AGMS librarian for many years, was honored and presented with a wall plaque made out of calcite and engraved with: "BOOKS ARE THE GEMS OF KNOWLEDGE" THE HARRIET STRIEBER LIBRARY. Laura Dow and Dee Fly selected the text for the plaque. Ed Gage constructed the plaque. Congratulations Harriet!

~Ed Gage, Board Member



### AGMS Holiday Party 2006

The AGMS Induction of Officers meeting, aka the Christmas Party, will be held at the club house on Burnet Lane on Thursday, **December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** It will be catered by Pok-E-Jo's and usually consists of turkey and dressing with all the extras. Tickets can be purchased at the AGMS club booth at Gem Capers. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift tagged for either a man or woman for each of you who comes. Ideally the gift should be "rock" related and of a small value—about \$10. Contact Kelle Greenway if you can help decorate for the party.

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

~Albert Einstein

~from *The Rockytier*, 8/2004

## Local Show Announcements

**Nov 18-19**

Mesquite, TX

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

[www.dallasgemandmineralshow.com](http://www.dallasgemandmineralshow.com)

**Dec 1-3**

**Gem Capers 2006, Austin, TX**  
**Austin Gem and Mineral Society**  
**Palmer Events Center**

**Dec 1-3**

Montgomery, AL

Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society



## Show Talk

### 2006 GEM CAPERS SHOW

The 2006 Gem Capers Show is just around the corner. Matter of fact it is 28 days away as I type this article! Twenty-eight DAYS!

As I have been preaching throughout the year, this is the major fund raiser for our club. Come on in and join the fun! It is always so much fun when we see our returning dealers again! And then there are always new dealers to meet. And not to mention just being at the show! I just love it!

**Admission is free for anyone volunteering for four or more hours.** And of course life members of AGMS always get in free!

Please keep checking the website for **volunteer openings** or **contact Brian Wetzig**. There are plenty of jobs and don't forget MOVE IN THURSDAY! We always need lots of help.

Short and sweet: See you at the Austin Gem and Minerals Society's 2006 Gem Capers Gem and Mineral Show!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Postlethwait*

*2006 AGMS Gem Capers Show Chair*

---

## Show Volunteers Needed

---

I want to thank everyone that signed up at the last meeting. The **volunteer sign up sheets are attached to the newsletter**. Please take some time to look them over and volunteer for something. Admission is free for anyone volunteering for four or more hours. Tell me the event and time you would like to work, and I will update the schedule based on earliest requests. If there is a conflict with your request I will get back to you and see if we can come up with an alternate time or event that will work for you.

Note: On Sunday the last shift is only 1 hour and be careful not to sign up for two events on at the same time/day. Thank you.

~Brian Wetzig, 2nd VP

---

**Donations are still needed for the Silent Auction** to be held on Saturday and Sunday during the December show. Please contact Mac Ellis, or bring the items to the show on Friday or Saturday morning.

~Mac Ellis, Silent Auction Coordinator

---

**If anyone needs a case** for the show, please email me as soon as possible. Give me your name, email address, phone number and the number of cases you need for the show. I will be keeping the list for the cases. I'm putting out **a call for help for the show in December**. We need some dedicated volunteers to help set up the cases, take them down after the show and back to the club and put them into the storage shed. We really need your help folks! Thanks.

~Richard Dorsey

---

The **fluorescent tunnel setup** is underway in some spare office buildings at Mopac/2222 with arrangements made by Paul Bordovsky. The address is 3301 Northland and is very close to the clubhouse. If you can help with the setup, please **contact Paul**. So far the set up meetings have been held on Sunday afternoons.

~Paul Bordovsky, President




---

## The Last Show!

---

For those of you who may not know, this year's Gem Cappers 2006 will be the last show for long time dealers and club members, **Murry and Dee Fly**. Please make sure you stop by and check out their booth and wish them well in their new adventures!

**Dee and Teresa Purkeypile** will also be having their last show with us as they will soon be moving on to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Best of luck to them as well.

---

## What is It?

By Josie Middleton  
AGMS Club Member

---

Topaz was the mineral I described last month. The opaque name, which has been discredited I believe, was Physolite. I think it is mentioned in one of the Dana books. Now for this month, check this out.

1. This is non-metallic, as are graphite and diamond.
2. Hardness is no more than a 2.5 on the Mohs scale.
3. Streaks white.
4. This is used in a wonderful Chinese invention.
5. It is found in the following minerals; sphalerite, pyrite, and galena.
6. Texas used to mine quite a bit of this material through about the early 1970's.
7. It is a natural element.
8. Was thought to be a restorative for rheumatism, arthritis, and the common cold.
9. The best deposit of this mineral is on the island of Sicily.
10. This element is also found in eggs.

---

## SHOP TIPS




---

To keep the crystal centers of geodes free from grit, which is next to impossible to remove after flat lapping, place paper towels in the deep bottom of the cavity. Then use a bar of soap (little motel bars are perfect) and rub the soap bar onto the crystals, then smooth them down with a damp finger. Small holes and cracks can also be filled with the soap. The geodes brush out when finished.

~From others via The Rockytier 9/06

---



---

## Fire Dog

---

Walking home from school, a group of children watched a fire truck drive by. The company dog was sitting on the front seat. They began to discuss the dog's duties. "They use him to keep back the crowds," one suggested. "No, it's for good luck," another said. The discussion ended when one explained, "They use him to find the fire hydrant."

*~Original source and author unknown, From The Gemrock 5/04, via Quarry Quips 9/06*

---



## A.F.M.S. News

---

### American Lands Access Association By Marve Starbuck, President ALAA

The purpose of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) is to protect the public lands for the public! Formed in 1991 as a 501(c)(4) organization, ALAA continues to involve itself in pending legislation, both at the federal and local level that would effect our ability to collect fossils, minerals, and rocks. In the past, ALAA has been most influential in defeating the "Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 1992" which would have prohibited the collection of fossil materials on public lands. ALAA continues to be involved in current attempts to limit collection areas as well.

To continue this work and to broaden its ability to "get the word out," ALAA is joining the Blue Ribbon Coalition, an organization with similar goals to that of ALAA.

Are you a member of ALAA? Is your club? Membership fees are \$25 per year. In order to work to keep our public lands open for us, ALAA needs your support. An application form and more information can be found on our website at [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org).

*~Excerpted from A.F.M.S. Newsletter, 11/2006*

---

I want to thank all the many contributors to the newsletter. I now have a backlog of items that I have no room to print yet! That's an enviable situation to be in. Thanks again.

*~Editors*

---



---

## Springtime in the Rockies

By Ed Gage

AGMS Club Member

---

Snow capped peaks in the spring,  
with fields of flowers and everything.  
The sun and rain are sure to bring,  
meadows filled with golden strings.

Winter is gone and will not be missed,  
don't forget the bird book and the list.  
Better yet the rock hound's guide,  
to keep in your pack or by your side.

Dust off the backpack and find the maps,  
for dirt to screen... a burlap sack.  
The jeep is full with shovels and picks,  
and a barbecue grill just for kicks.

Flashlights and batteries will come in handy,  
and the navigation will be left up to Randy.

A GPS will show us the way,  
to mines galore and a place to stay.

The flatbed truck, a winch and chain,  
for tons of rock of every name.  
Just to be safe, an extra tire,  
for muddy roads in which to mire.

The first place we see that looks good,  
we better stop or miss the wood.  
It could be palm of any color,  
but if it glows we will want another.

The rocky stream or washed out draw,  
may be closed to us so check the law.  
Find the man who owns the land,  
and ask permission to dig the sand.

If we're lucky and follow our leads,  
for agates again we will not need.  
The jasper trail is long and dusty,  
into the desert to feel so crusty.

At the end of the journey so long,  
we hope we will be singing our song.  
We found a treasure looking for gold,  
just like the miners and stories of old.

---

Gem Capers 2006 Sign Up Sheet  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th

Setup Day  
9am - 5pm

	Unload Truck Start at 8 am	Setup Tables	Cover Tables	Setup Cases	General Work Party				
	Brian Wetzig		Harriet Strieber		Ron Carman				
	Richard Dorsey		Clifford Strieber						
	James Lopez								

	Cashiers Area	Club Booth Area	Fluorescent Tunnel Area	Gate Area	Gem Mine Area	Jewelry Assembly Area	Security Area	Wheel of Fortune Area	Touch Table Area	Silent Auction Area
			Alan Cherepon					Betsy Gager		
			Paul Bordovsky					Kerry Gager		

Gem Capers 2006 Sign Up Sheet  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st

Education Day  
9am - 5pm

	Cashiers	Club Booth	Fluorescent Tunnel	Gate	Gem Mine	Jewelry Assembly	Security	Wheel of Fortune	Touch Table	School Bus
9am to 11am	Kellee Greenway Merritt Romans	Barbara Evans Margaret Good	Ron Guzman Alan Cherepon	James Mercier	Linda Northcote Bob Folsom	Wing Evans	Diann Hill	Pauline Denson Paul Good	Jennifer C.	Mac Ellis Jim Ford
11am to 1pm	Kellee Greenway Merritt Romans	Fran Ellis Margaret Good	Ron Guzman Alan Cherepon		Pam Cloyde Paul Good	Wing Evans	Lillian Butler Jamie Young	Ivy Hjernevik Dorothy Duncan	Jennifer C.	
1pm to 3pm		Barbara Evans	Pauline Denson Alan Cherepon		Miriam Hall Bob Folsom Cindy Murphy	Wing Evans	Ed Gage	Richard Dorsey Bob Folsom	Jennifer C.	
3pm to 5pm			Pam Cloyde Alan Cherepon	James Mercier	Miriam Hall Cindy Murphy	Wing Evans				

At this time please do not sign up for the Gate. We may be eliminating this booth due to changes in floor plan.

**Gem Capers 2006 Sign Up Sheet**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**  
**Meet and Introduce Yourself**  
**9am - 5pm**

	Cashiers	Club Booth	Fluorescent Tunnel	Gate	Gem Mine	Jewelry Assembly	Security	Wheel of Fortune	Touch Table	Silent Auction
10am to Noon		Marion Krchnak	Pauline Denson Julian Turner	Gene Healy	Linda Northcote		JoAnn Wiersema Jim Wiersema	Pam Cloyde Bob Folsom	Emily Turner	Mac Ellis Richard Dorsey
Noon to 2pm	Diann Hill	Betty Lee	David Pierce				Ed Gage Louis Lee	Pamela Neeley	James Lopez	Jack Zelensky Chip Burnette
2pm to 4pm	Louis Lee		Julian Turner Emily Turner					Betty Lee Pauline Denson		Chip Burnette David Pierce
4pm to 6pm								Bob Folsom		Jan Day

At this time please do not sign up for the Gate. We may be eliminating this booth due to changes in floor plan.

**Gem Capers 2006 Sign Up Sheet**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**  
**Share Your Love Of The Hobby**  
**10am - 5pm**

	Cashiers	Club Booth	Fluorescent Tunnel	Gate	Gem Mine	Jewelry Assembly	Security	Wheel of Fortune	Touch Table	Silent Auction
10am to Noon		Barbara Evans Fran Ellis	John Wallace Rusty Wallace		Joe Perkins Carolyn Perkins	Wing Evans Mike Miller		Adolph Krchnak Marion Krchnak		Mac Ellis
Noon to 2pm		Fran Ellis Ron Carman	John Wallace Rusty Wallace			Wing Evans Mike Miller		JoAnn Wiersema Jim Wiersema	James Lopez	Jack Zelensky Chip Burnette
2pm to 4pm	Louis Lee	Barbara Evans			Gary Vliet	Wing Evans Mike Miller		Betty Lee Clifford Strieber	Harriet Strieber	Chip Burnette
4pm to 5pm		Barbara Evans Betty Lee	Alen Cherepon Gary Vliet			Wing Evans Mike Miller		Harriet Strieber Richard Dorsey		Louis Lee Jan Day
Pack Move Out			Alen Cherepon					Bob Folsom Betsy Gager Kerry Gager		James Mercier Jan Day

**General Move Out Work**

Start at 5pm	Harriet Strieber Clifford Strieber Brian Wetzig	Ron Carman Lillian, Butler Gene, Healy	Richard Dorsey James Lopez Jan Day							
--------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**THE STONE CHIPPER**  
 DAVID & LAURA DOW, EDITORS  
 6719 BURNET LANE  
 AUSTIN TEXAS 78757



**Address Correction Requested**

# Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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

## 2006 Officers

President: Paul Bordovsky  
 First V.P.: Dee Fly  
 Second V.P.: Brian Wetzig  
 Secretary: Linda Northcote  
 Treasurer: Margaret Wetherell

## Board of Directors

Ed Gage (1)  
 Gene Healy (1)  
 Nancy Keller (1)  
 Robert Greenway (2)  
 Susan Postlethwait (2)  
 Jeff Young (2)

## Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Susan Postlethwait
Building Chair & Website	Craig Brandt
Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Nancy Keller
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
4 Field Trip	Gene Healy Clifford Strieber
Committee:	Ron Carman Chip Burnette
Workshop & Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Kellee Greenway
Junior Advisor/Programs	Susan Postlethwait
Library Co-Chair	Harriet Strieber
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Membership	Ron Guzman
Newsletter Editors	David & Laura Dow
Program	Brian Wetzig
Scholarship	Betsy Gager
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Josie Middleton

## November/December 2006



### Editor Awards

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