

# THE STONE CHIPPER



THE 620<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2008, 7:30 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The January program will be a talk by a group of club members on their **"Adventures in Brazil - Gem Mine Tours."**

**AGMS Annual Show  
Gem Capers 2007**

**Palmer Events Center**

Show Dates: November 30th, December 1st and 2nd 2007.

[www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org)

**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 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 2007**

Membership dues are:

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

**THE STONE CHIPPER**

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## President's Message



As 2007 is coming to a close, our most important event of the year will be here; Gem Capers, our annual show. This year's theme is "dinosaurs." We are hoping to ride on the wings of enthusiasm generated by these huge creatures (something I can relate to), partially due to the Houston show theme being the same, as well as having the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology here in Austin in October. Both of these events will hopefully generate even greater attendance for our show. Our one-two punch is completed as a result of an incredible advertising blitz by **Lynn Young**. Indications are we should have a great show and great attendance this year due to the hard and creative work of those involved with the show. **Thanks to all of you.**

With a packed and successful show, we will **need more AGMS volunteers** to help make this a complete success, instead of sitting around afterwards complaining about what should have been done better. This is your society, and it is up to all of us to help out during this long weekend. Sure, it is exhausting, but the rewards are many, including providing enough funds to help our society accomplish even more in 2008. We have an opportunity to make this one of the better shows in the nation, one that people will plan on attending annually, but without your help, this may not be possible. Sign up today; even if only for one day, or half a day. Your help will be needed and appreciated.

I am still working on field trips to the Karnes County uranium mines (as well as Naica, Mexico), but have not gotten an ok on this yet. Hopefully by mid-November I will know. It is a shame with all the beautiful weather that we haven't had much in the way of field trips this fall. Maybe it is a sign of the times, not being able to get access, the City of Austin making it illegal to collect on City property, and the harsh decisions by the BLM. Still, we should be able to get out somewhere. If you know of any good collecting localities, please let us know. These trips help keep the members excited, and help bring in new members.

Hope to see you all at Gem Capers, not just attending, but working also. In addition, **plan on bringing something good for the silent auction**, purchase your show pin, your

annual dinner tickets, and pay for your 2008 dues all at the same time when you come to the show. I find this a great way to take care of business and fun all at the same time each year, and not having to wonder if I paid for this or that. It also ensures that you won't have to worry about it after Christmas. So, in closing out 2007 (at least for those who can't make the show or the dinner), let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; hopefully, one with a mineral, gem, or fossil in your future. All the best.

*~Alan Cherepon, President*



## Library News

If you didn't get a chance to purchase your magazines from the library table, you'll have another chance at the show. Let's make the load leaving the show a lot lighter than when it came in. Don't forget to drop your books in the mailbox slot, as there isn't a meeting until January. As always, please remember only 2 items per member. You must return your overdues **BEFORE** checking out new items.

Have a wonderful Turkey day and we'll see you at the show!!

*~Diann Hill & Harriet Strieber, co-librarians*

## October 2007 Meeting Minutes



**Program:** Paul Bordovsky presented a program on photographing minerals.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Alan Cherepon, president. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

**Treasurer:** There was no treasurer's report.

**Show Committee:** Susan Postlethwait said that plans for the show are looking good. There will be new displays and new questions for the kids to answer. Workers are needed on Thursday at Palmer Events Center to help assemble and set up cases and whatever needs to be done to get ready for the

show. Brian Wetzig randomly selected time slots for work at the show, and prizes were given to people who had signed up in those slots. The prizes were this year's show pins. The theme this year is dinosaurs, and Susan thanked Mac Ellis' daughter for the pin design. Susan said she has been working on getting more kids to the show.

Susan said that Lynn Young had taken over advertising for the show. Lynn reported on advertising in progress, including a logo character named GemCapers to brand the show. She will look into the cost of registering it as a trademark. Lynn said she is also doing a kid's guide for the show, sponsored by Silicon Labs. She got permission from the artist to use her dinosaur picture for the front of the guide. Lynn told of a lot of places where the show will be advertised, including 52 commercials on TV channels, for which she secured sponsors. There will be free contests in some of the media advertising. KXAN will be offering coupons for free emeralds (very small) Monday through Saturday the week of the show.

Susan asked that members sign up for all the days, including Sunday evening for pack up. She also said that we need silent auction donations. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the silent auction go to the American Federation Endowment Fund. Bring donations to the show Friday or Saturday or to the show committee meeting.

Show pins may be purchased at this meeting for \$2.50 or at the show for \$3.00.

**Web Site:** Diann Hill said that the Show Committee had purchased gemcapers.com and gemcapers.org domains, each of which will take you to the club's regular web site.

**Federation:** Paul Good said that the club had \$36.96 to send to the Federation for scholarships.

**Field Trips:** Alan Cherepon said that he hoped to arrange a field trip to a mine that is going to be reclaimed. He will call to get permission on Monday.

**Workshop:** Gef Fisher said that he and Sherman Waters had got the two slab saws working and that by January he expected to have everything up and running. He has not had many people show up for workshop nights. He asked that members call or email him if they want to come for workshop.

**Hospitality:** Kellee Greenway said that the Officer Induction would be December 6. Tickets may be purchased at the show. She has a different caterer this year.

**Library:** Diann Hill said that this is the last chance to purchase magazines at a discount. Anything not sold tonight will go on sale at regular prices at the show.

**Programs:** Brian Wetzig said that the January program will be on Brazil.

**Nominations:** Alan Cherepon called for nominations for officers and board members for 2008 from the floor. There were none. Alan called for a vote for the nominees and they were elected without opposition. The officers and board members for 2008 are:

Alan Cherepon, President; Dee Fly, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Paul Bordovsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Pauline Denson, Secretary; Bob Greenway, Treasurer; Board Members: Susan Postlethwait, Jeff "Stretch" Young, James Lopez, David Wenger, James Mercier, and Ron Carman.

**Announcements:** Susan Postlethwait said that she had received a call from someone in the Houston Club who invited AGMS to man a booth at the CAST conference on Friday two weeks before our show. CAST is an association of science teachers. Susan asked for volunteers to help, and Josie Middleton and Andrea Miller volunteered.

**Sunshine:** Nancy Keller has received her new heart valve and is doing well.

**New Business:** Susan Postlethwait said that the Paleo club, which has a booth in our show, would like AGMS to have a booth in their show, Fossilmania, November 2, 3, and 4. Susan is planning to do dino-rubs and have a cabbing demonstration. She needs volunteers to man the booth on Friday afternoon and Saturday and Sunday mornings.

**Membership:** There were 75 members present, 4 guests, and 3 juniors.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Alan Cherepon.

*~Pauline Denson, Secretary*



**A.G.M.S. Website**

Lynn Young announced that she worked on having a new Gem Capers logo created for us. It has been approved by the Show Committee but not yet named. Also, the Show Committee bought the domain names *www.GemCapers.com* and *www.GemCapers.org* for the Show page. [Editors' note: We think these will be referenced from the existing AGMS website.]

~Lynn Young



The new Gem Capers logo.

**Sunshine Committee**



**Nancy Keller** has received a new heart valve and is doing well. Hope you are better soon!

Please send sunshine news to Kathleen Howard.

**Local Show Announcements**

Nov 30 - Dec 2  
Austin, TX

**Austin Gem & Mineral Society - Gem Capers**  
*www.austingemandmineral.org*

Nov 30 - Dec 2  
Montgomery, AL

**Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society**  
*www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.org*

~*www.rockngem.com*

**Paleo Club News**



Our November program (20th) will be given by our very own **James Lopez** on the Eocene Fauna of West Texas, or **“Hunting the Texas Rhinoceros.”** James, who is one of a few native Austinites, finished school in Pflugerville and works as a carpenter. He found his first fossil in Shoal Creek while on a third-grade field trip and became “hooked” (sound familiar?) An incidental invitation from paleontologist Jon Kalb to search for this rhino near Marfa has resulted in his monthly treks since April. Don't miss seeing his incredible pictures.

~Diann Strout



**Show Talk**

The 2007 Gem Capers Gem and Mineral Show is almost here; **November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

I am so very excited to see opening day. The show committee has spent a lot of time this year working on display cases, refreshing our junior program, and adding club owned displays that can also be loaned to schools. We have taken our advertising to the next level and even created a Gem Capers logo and web site. All these things are in reaction to feedback received through the years from customers, vendors and other show chairs. With all that we do to get ready we still need one thing, **YOU. This show runs on you, the volunteer.** So dust off that vest and come on down!

We will need volunteers starting on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the evening that we load the trucks for the next day which is move in day. Meet at the club house at 3:30 p.m.

On Thursday we will need volunteers at the Palmer Event center starting around 1 p.m. That is just after lunch. We need help skirting tables, setting up cases, setting up the club owned activities and booths, and just general make ready.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday we will need volunteers to put on the show. Our hours are Friday 9 to 5, Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5. If you have an opening shift, please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. It takes a bit to open the booths.

On Sunday we will need plenty of volunteers to pack it all up. Plan to start packing around 5 p.m. and we are finished when we are finished. The fun thing is that we meet at the club house when we are all done and have dinner together.

I have tried extremely hard though the year to make the annual show a fun and exciting event for all members. **We are now down to the wire and need your help.** See you there.

*~Respectfully Submitted, Susan Postlethwait, 2007  
Show Chair*

**EDITORS' NOTE:** The latest version of the volunteer sign up sheets are printed at the end of this newsletter. Please contact 2nd Vice President **Brian Wetzig** to fill in any activities that you can help out with.

If you haven't been able to find the time to help with the club so far this year, please consider finding the time to do something at the show. It is THE event that raises funds to pay for our building, activities, and the geology scholarships and is a huge task. It's also a great way to make friends and have fun. Thanks!

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## Show Committee Minutes Synopsis October 17, 2007

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**Attendees:** 22 people in attendance.

**Call To Order:** Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes for September were not sent out so they will be reviewed and approved at the November meeting.

**Treasurer:** Robert Folsom advised that he paid the last payment to Palmer Center.

**Business:** Adrienne at Palmer Center said balloons would be okay as long as not attached to the building.

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Susan Postlethwait checked on name tags with business cards that has information for customers on how to join AGMS. Charlotte Morriss will print the business cards after Diann Hill designs them.

Susan Postlethwait made up two displays with AGMS information for promoting the club at different functions or other Gem & Mineral shows.

Lynn Young advised she had found several other options for advertising, *Statesman XLent*, KXAN Weather, News 8, and the *Chronicle* with web banners on two of them. Motion made to go with all of them and seconded, motion approved. Lynn will also try to get sponsors to buy more time on advertising.

Lynn Young advised that we need to buy *GemCapers.org* and *.com* and link it to the AGMS website as it is a shorter name, also, to brand the name "Gem Capers."

Susan Postlethwait has the show pins and will unveil them at the October General meeting.

Paul Bordovsky will have a space available in the building where he works to put together the fluorescent cases.

Emeralds with labels were put in bags and postcards had the labels and stamps placed on them.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*~Dee Fly, Show Committee Secretary*

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## Donations Needed for Silent Auction

Donations are needed for the Silent Auction which will be held during the show in December. If you have extra specimens, slabs, and/or rough material that would be suitable for the auction, please bring them to the October meeting. The auction will be held on Saturday and Sunday with the proceeds being split with the SCFMS Endowment Fund and AGMS. Any donations may be given to Mac Ellis or left at the club house marked for the Silent Auction.

*~Mac Ellis*

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## AGMS Holiday Party 2007

The AGMS Induction of Officers meeting, a.k.a. the Christmas Party, will be held at the club house on Burnet Lane on Thursday, **December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** Kellee has selected a new caterer this year. 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 attends. Ideally the gift should be “rock” related and of a small value—about \$10. Contact Kellee Greenway if you can help decorate for the party.

## A.G.M.S. Calendar

Workshop Open 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Workshop Open Dates: Nov 14,28 Dec 12,14,19,20

Nov 14 - Faceters' SIG Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov 14 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov 20 - Paleo Club Meeting

**Nov 28 - Load Up the Show Truck 4:00 p.m.**

**Nov 29 - Set Up the Show at Palmer 1:00 p.m.**

**Nov 30 - GEM CAPERS Day 1, 9-5**

**Dec 01 - GEM CAPERS Day 2, 10-6**

**Dec 02 - GEM CAPERS Day 3, 10-5**

**Dec 02 - Show Pack Up at Palmer 5:00 p.m.**

Dec 04 - Board Meeting

Dec 06 - Holiday Party at AGMS 7:00 p.m.

Dec 12 - Faceters' SIG Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Dec 19 - Show Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Jan 15 - Paleo Club Meeting

Jan 23 - Clubhouse Clean Up (volunteers needed)

Jan 24 - Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to: **Bob Greenway**, treasurer. To get signed onto the AGMS email list and/or to receive the newsletter via email, please send a note to the editors at [StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org).

~The Editors

## Show Time Once More

By Margaret Good  
AGMS Club Member

Yes, show time once more  
At Palmer Center  
On Barton Springs Road  
Right here in Austin  
We have three full days  
Filled with things to see  
There's rocks, gems, fossils  
Jewelry, minerals  
There's meteorites  
And Demonstrations  
Fluorescent displays  
Things to decorate  
Supplies in the rough  
For the lapidaries  
The cost will be less  
Buy a three day pass  
Special for children  
Teenagers, sixties  
Hourly prizes  
Which dealers donate  
Last is the grand prize  
At the very end  
So as you can see  
There's goodies for all  
Join us for you'll be  
Where you'll have a ball.



## Veteran's Day 2007

A Veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve—is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount of “up to and including my life.”

~Author Unknown

~submitted by Diann Hill

Thank you to all of you who have served our country in times of peace and war.

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**THE STONE CHIPPER**  
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**Address Correction Requested**

## **Austin Gem and Mineral Society**

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

### **2007 Officers**

President: Alan Cherepon  
First V.P.: Dee Fly  
Second V.P.: Brian Wetzig  
Secretary: Pauline Denson  
Treasurer: Bob Greenway

### **Board of Directors**

Susan Postlethwait (1)  
Jeff "Stretch" Young (1)  
James Lopez (1)  
Chip Burnette (2)  
Richard Dorsey (2)  
Diann Hill (2)

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Annual Show	Susan Postlethwait
Building Chair	James Lopez
Display Cases	Betsy Gager
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
3 Field Trip	Clifford Strieber
Committee:	Ron Carman      Chip Burnette
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	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Kathleen Howard
Workshop	Gef Fisher



**November/December 2007**

### **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**