

THE STONE CHIPPER

THE 655TH MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **JANUARY 27TH, 2011, 7:00 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, 6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX. PHONE: (512) 458-9546.



The January program to be announced.

2011 Dues are now Due.
Please pay the Treasurer
Wing Evans

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.** 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 the fourth Thursday of every month except October which is show set up day. There will be a meeting on the THIRD Thursday in November. December is the Invocation of Officers meeting held on a date and at a place determined by the officers. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers are listed on the second page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.

DUES FOR 2011

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 2011 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.



2011 Officers

President – Robert Morriss 512-267-2078
president1@austingemandmineral.org

1st VP – Richard Dorsey
vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org

2nd VP – Paul Bordovsky
vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org

Secretary – Marilyn Gilbreath
secretary@austingemandmineral.org

Treasurer – Ewing Evans
treasurer@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member– Terry Barry
terryb@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member– Amy Dalton
amyd@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member– Joyce Hrapsky
joyceh@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member – Louis Lee
louisl@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member– David Wenger
davidw@austingemandmineral.org

Board Member–Jeff “Stretch” Young
stretchy@austingemandmineral.org



Sunshine

Fran Ellis & Paul Good have both returned home and are now recuperating. Charlotte Morriss is healing a broken lower left arm. (Robert says the rumor I ducked and she hit a tree isn't true.) Everyone please send your speedy recovery thoughts their way.

2011 Committee Heads

Annual Show - Susan Postlethwait
showchairman@austingemandmineral.org

Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky
classes@austingemandmineral.org

Field Trips - Ed Gage
trip@austingemandmineral.org

Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher
juniors@austingemandmineral.org

Librarian - Andrea Miller
librarian@austingemandmineral.org

Newsletter Editor - Diann Hill
stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org

Building Chair - Bob Greenway
 Display Cases - Jackie Fisher
 Federation/Conservation - Paul Good
 Historian - *Vacant*
 Hospitality - *Vacant*
 Membership - *Vacant*
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher
 Scholarship - Jeff “Stretch” Young
 School Programs - Wing Evans
 Sunshine - Ron Guzman
 Workshop - Gef Fisher

Moving ?



Please send change of address notices, or report errors on the mailing list to: Wing Evans, Treasurer.
treasurer@austingemandmineral.org

Not on the AGMSList on YAHOO, or receiving the newsletter via email ? Please send a note to the editors at StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org.

Presidential Message



Greeting to AGMS members, especially the newcomers,

This is my first chance to address you since becoming President, and I want to take the opportunity to outline my goals for 2011.

First, an effort is going to be made to develop more local field trips. Our own George Fisher (aka as Gef) has expressed a desire to go looking for field trip sites. His search will involve selecting areas that have the right geology, finding names of large acreage landowners, and making face-to-face visits to “sell” the idea of field trips to the landowners. If any member has a contact with landowners in the petrified wood belt or in the Llano uplift area, please pass on the info to Gef. We also hope to find more sites by contacting other local clubs. More on this as it develops.

Second, we hope to expand the education classes. At the January general meeting, we will make available signup sheets for basic cabbing and beading classes and a doublet making workshop, with classes scheduled as soon as enough interest is shown by names on the list. We are also trying to find a faceting instructor and a silversmithing instructor, as we know there is a lot of interest in such classes. Any instructor volunteers?

Third, I want to bring new members into the group of folks that lead this Society. A lot of the people, the movers and shakers, who have run the club over the past twenty years, are, frankly, getting old. I am sure that there are leaders in the group of new members, and I hope to get them on the Board of Directors and serving as committee chairpersons. Yes, that means I will be hitting you up to do some work for the Society. Look at it this way; can you think of a better way to become acquainted with the whole membership?

And speaking of getting acquainted, I am afraid that I must confess, I know a lot of faces in our membership without a name being attached. Starting this January, I want everyone attending our meetings to have a name tag, even if it is a paper one, and these will be available at the table where you sign the attendance book. I will be trying to greet folks by name, so have your name where I can see it.

Fourth, the 2010 Board approved revised standard operating procedures for the Society. That does not mean that we now have established the best way to run this organization, just that it's the best we can think of. You, new or old member, may see a better way to do something. If you think we can do better, feel free to come to the Board with suggestions and ideas; we need them to improve. I intend to have this 2011 Board approachable, so speak up.

Finally, for the moment, I want to thank the group of members (you know who you are) that came out on December 30th to clean up our meeting space for the New Year. We even had some help from the Paleo group that uses our meeting room.

See you on the fourth Thursday,

Robert Morriss,

President

president1@austingemandmineral.org

AGMS Board Meeting Minutes Synopsis
December 7, 2010
Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

The AGMS Board met on December 7, 2010, to discuss club business. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting; a complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Minutes: A motion passed to accept the minutes as printed.

Treasurer's Report: After presenting the November report of income and expenses, Pauline Denson reported that:

- She needs to move money out of the Fidelity account to pay the scholarship.
- The insurance premium for the extra day at Gem Capers will be returned because there were no claims.

Old Business

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Issue: David Wenger asked if we have culled through the SOP to verify that all of the issues resolved and recorded in the minutes were incorporated into the SOP. It was decided that this would be a 2011 action item and that 2009 and 2010 minutes should be reviewed.

Webmaster SOP: A motion passed to table the action on the Webmaster SOP.

New Business

Show Pin: Brian Wetzig (not present), requested that Sue Postlethwait (not present) order a small number of the correct show pin design. The winning show pin design was not the one that was ordered and sold. No action is required by the Board.

Library Issue: Andrea Miller said that in the past, librarians have put out their own money first and gotten reimbursed. She suggested one refillable prepaid card that any of the librarians could use. A motion passed to table the issue of a prepaid card for the librarians until January as it is a 2011 budget issue.

Financial Information in Stone Chipper: Robert Morriss commented that the financial breakdown of the show funds was published in the December Stone Chipper, and he thinks that should be avoided. Frederick Falk explained that this was the members' version and that the newsletter version posted on the website did not include money amounts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

AGMS Officer Installation and Awards Dinner Minutes
December 9, 2010
Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Dinner:

In December, the Officer Installation and Awards Dinner is held in place of a regular meeting. Many of the forty-seven attendees arrived a little early to enjoy a visit and a cup of coffee while admiring the holiday-decorated tables. At 7:05 PM, Sue Postlethwait invited us to form a line for the tasty buffet of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, cranberries and rolls. A visit (or two) to the well-supplied dessert table made for a fine finish.

Installation:

First Vice-President Jackie Fisher called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM to install the new Officers and Board Members:

- Officers: President, Robert Morriss; 1st Vice President, Richard Dorsey; 2nd Vice President, Paul Bordovsky; Treasurer, Ewing Evans; Secretary, Marilyn Gilbreath.
- Board: Terry Barry, Amy Dalton, Joyce Hrapsky and Louis Lee.

Award Presentations:

SCFMS (South Central Federation of Mineral Societies) Awards – Printed biographies of Louis Lee and James Mercier were distributed before Ron Carman presented the subjects with letters, certificates and pins honoring them as new Patrons of the SCFMS Endowment Fund. In recognition of their service, \$100.00 for each honoree will be donated by AGMS to the SCFMS Endowment Fund.

AFMS (American Federation of Mineral Societies) Awards – Ron Carman presented Gef and Jackie Fisher with AFMS certificates honoring them as Rockhounds of the Year.

Merrymaking:

Game: Sue Postlethwait, with her usual enthusiasm, urged us on as we played the Christmas Carol Game---calling out carol names as we recognized their descriptions from the 20-item list.

Gift Exchange: Those who brought a gift to exchange came one by one to the Christmas Pole to either select an unopened gift or claim a previously opened gift. After getting off to a bit of a slow start and some confusion about how many times an opened gift could be “stolen”, some spirited exchanges took place to the amusement of all.

Gem Capers Volunteer Drawing:

Brian Wetzig had previously asked all Gem Capers volunteers to report the number of hours they worked on the show and preparation. The volunteers' names were placed in a drawing for a silver and petrified wood pendant made by Brian. The winner of the pendant was James Mercier.

AGMS Board Meeting Minutes - Synopsis
Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

The AGMS Board met on January 4, 2011, to conduct club business. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting; a complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Minutes: The December minutes were accepted as printed.

President's Announcements:

- Brian Wetzig is stepping down as Show Chairman; Susan Postlethwait will be his replacement.
- Frederick Falk stepped down as Show Treasurer; Brian Wetzig is taking over the job.
- Frederick Falk also stepped down as editor of *The Stone Chipper*. Diann Hill is now the editor and reported that Frederick turned over the publishing software, software "keys" and files.

Old Business

Webmaster SOP: Robert Morriss deferred action on the item until the February meeting. Diann Hill said she would e-mail the latest text to the Board members.

Scholarship Update: Stretch Young has not talked to SCORE yet. The issue was tabled.

New Business

Paying Instructors: James Lopez proposed that the Board reinstate pay for instructors; the instructors to decide the payment split with no less than 1/3 going to the club treasurer. There was an objection to the proposal. Robert Morriss said he will place the issue on the agenda for the February meeting to give the new Board members an opportunity to learn more about the history of instructor pay issues.

E-mail and Home Addresses/Phone Numbers: There has been an objection over giving out some members' personal e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers to the regional/national societies. SCFMS requires an annual update for their records of our club officers and newsletter editor. Josie Middleton recently supplied this update and gave only the President Robert Morriss's personal contact information. For the other officers and the editor, Josie gave an austingemandmineral.org e-mail address and the club's phone number.

As newsletter editor, Diann Hill plans to remove all home addresses and phone numbers from the last page of *The Stone Chipper* (except for President Robert Morriss's). Diann said that the resulting vacant space is a prime place for *Gem Capers* advertisements. She wants to do only one version of the newsletter and wants to use members' first names and the first letter of their last name.

Survey: Robert Morriss said he'd like to survey the membership in January and February to identify wants for classes and field trips. Robert has last year's surveys and will turn them over to Joyce

AGMS Board Meeting Minutes - Synopsis Continued

Dues: Wing Evans will track the paid dues using a Texas Faceters' Guild model and send updates to Diann Hill for *The Stone Chipper* circulation.

SCFMS Meeting: Josie Middleton reminded Robert Morriss that he should attend the SCFMS regional meeting in Alpine in April.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Issue: Marilyn Gilbreath agreed to search the September, 2009, through December, 2010, Board minutes to ensure that all of the approved motions that affect Article I of the SOP were incorporated.



Juniors

Juniors, did you know you have your very own page on the website? It is still under construction, but stop by and check it out. Mineralogical School for Juniors (or anyone else, but only juniors earn points for prizes) is up and running. Learn about rocks, minerals, earn cool prizes. To contact Jackie Fisher (Junior Advisor) email juniors@austingemandmineral.org , please include your name, age and birth date.



A Special Thanks

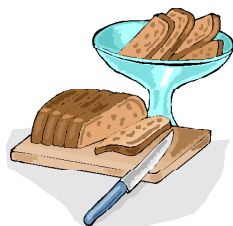
The Austin Gem and Mineral Society would like to thank Jim and JoAnn Wiersema @ Horizon Environmental Services, for their continued support of the club by printing *The Stone Chipper* each month.



Library News
This month a book review

S&S Guide To Fossils (Nature Guide Series) - A. Teruzz (1987) Practical, concise, and easy to use, Simon & Schuster's *Guide to Fossils* contains everything the fossil enthusiast needs to know. A thorough introduction discusses science, evolution, and history and describes the process of fossilization, how we trace evolution with fossils, how fossils are classified, where fossil organisms lived, and where fossils can be found today. This guide includes 260 entries, including dinosaur fossils, all beautifully illustrated in color, and is complete with each fossil's classification, description, geographic distribution, and notes on the main areas where examples have been found. Information on age, appearance, and environment is provided and highlighted with easy-to-read visual symbols.

Refresher on check outs: A member in good standing may check out three (3) items for a two (2) month time period. Please see a librarian for more information.



Refreshments

Refreshments are served after each meeting of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. Society members take turns bringing their favorite snack to share with the rest of the club. Currently, our hospitality chair seat is vacant. Please bring a snack or finger food to the January meeting.

Next month AGMS is 61 years young. Who wants to volunteer to bring February refreshments? How about since it is the club's birthday, we have cake and ice cream? If you are willing to bring a cake (at least 3 members) and ice cream (another couple of members), please let the membership know by posting on the AGMSList on the YAHOO group.



New Mexico Field Trip



To my Rock Hounding Buddies:

Les and I have always regretted not being able to make a field trip (years ago) to the Deming show when the Strieber's had invited us on.....so.....

WE ARE GOING TO NEW MEXICO!

This is not an official club trip but rather a trip Les and I started planning and found out many rock hounds are interested in so we are inviting everyone we know.....the more rock hounds together the further the tail wags!

We have contacted the Deming Gem and Mineral Society to get information on their 2011 show and field trips. (Yes to plural field trips and yes to guided)

The show dates for 2011 are: March 10-13, 2011. (Thursday thru Sunday)

The field trips: Thursday, Friday and Saturday

The cost of the field trips are: \$5.00 per person except to the Big Diggins, which is \$10 per person (prices from last year, they still have not locked down the 2011 price)

Their Website: <http://dgms.bravehost.com/>

They have 2 buildings full of vendors plus a number of outside vendors. The total count for vendors in 2010 was over 100.

Les and I plan on heading out on Tuesday night after work arriving in Deming (681 miles later) on Thursday afternoon.

We will be staying at Rock Hound State Park (<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/Rockhound.htm>) which is about 15 miles outside of Deming. We have already made our reservation for an entire week. (<http://www.demingchamber.com/custom2.asp?reason=search&pagename=members&intID=409&TypeSearch=COMPANY&SearchCriteria=&cboCategory=lodging>).

We will be staying a few extra days after the show to see what trouble we can get into in the surrounding area. So many places....so little time. We have this great little book from the Lordsburg club with 100's of places to hunt! And let's remember, we will be making new friends in Deming.

And I am shamelessly asking, if anyone has any great places to hunt in that area of New Mexico that they want to share, let's chat at the January or February meeting! We are very picky hunters though.....only like to look for agate, jasper, quartz, fluorite, artifacts, pyrite, apache tears, pictographs, petroglyphs, petrified wood, desert driftwood, antlers, yard rocks, views, sunsets,

Talk to you all later.....

Susan & Les Postlethwait

Local Show Announcements

Jan 1-Feb 28—QUARTZSITE, AZ: huge gathering of rock & gem dealers; includes several ongoing G&M shows, an RV show, a car show, and a chili cook-off; for schedule and lots of info: www.desertusa.com/Cities/az/quartzsite.html

Jan 15-16—FREDERICKSBURG, TX: Gem, mineral, and fossil show; FREDERICKSBURG ROCK-HOUNDS; Ladybird Johnson Municipal Park, three miles south of Fredericksburg on hwy 16; free admission; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Rolling Rockhounds meeting Sun 9 am; contact Jeff Smith, jeffbrenda@windstream.net or 830-895-9630; printable flyer on website: fredericksburgrockhounds.org

Jan 29-Feb 13—TUCSON, AZ: Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase. For two weeks every winter, the world meets in Tucson as it becomes a bustling, international marketplace of buyers and sellers; thousands of participants and attendees at more than 40 sites around town. For details: www.visittucson.org/visitor/events/gemshow

Mar 5-6—BIG SPRING, TX: 42nd annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, dealers, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hourly prizes, jewelry repair, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

Mar 19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TX: 50th annual show, "Fiesta of Gems"; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Dr., Canyon Lake, TX 78133; e-mail: krbotx@gvvc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

Apr 15-17—ALPINE, TX: Show, "Alpine Agate Festival"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center, Hwy. 90W and 13th St. N; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; South Central Federation convention; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Web site: www.cdgmcc.org

Apr 16-17—WACO, TX: Annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; Texas State Technical College, Industrial Tech. Bldg., Crest Dr., off I-35, north of Waco; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (both days); contact Karen Wood, 2315 Colcord, Waco, TX 76707, (254) 755-7274; e-mail: kwood@hot.rr.com; Web site: www.wacogemandmineral.org

For more shows outside Texas, visit: www.rockngem.com/showdates



Gem Capers Show Committee Meeting

Due to unforeseen circumstances there are no minutes for the December show committee meeting this month. December and January minutes will be in the February *Chipper*.

The show committee meetings are open for any club member to attend. The committee welcomes new members and ideas. Please come and join us. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at the clubhouse at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



HELP WANTED

Workers wanted - AGMS is looking for a few good volunteers. Whether you are new to the club or an old-timer don't be shy. Your club needs you. Please see the President Robert Morriss and volunteer to take over one of the following vacant chairs:

Hospitality
Historian
Co-Librarian
Membership

You'll be glad you did. Benefits include long-lasting friendships, hours of rock talk, great stories and free food. Remember your club is only as good as you make it. Volunteer today.



For Sale : Lapidary equipment and rocks, rocks, rocks. Please contact Paul Batterton (you may know him from San Antonio) or Debbie (his daughter) for information. 512-644-5094 or ruckeld@austin.rr.com

All items are in working condition and sold "as is".

- 1) 16" slab saw, weight feed. \$150.
- 2) 6" double grinder with stand & 6" diamond grinding wheel included. \$195
- 3) Rock polishing machine with 8" felt wheel & 10" flat polishing wheel. \$195
- 4) Highland Park trim saw with 6" diamond blade. \$150

THE STONE CHIPPER

6719 BURNET LANE

AUSTIN TEXAS 78757

(512) 458-9546

StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org



January 2011

Address Correction Requested

Austin Gem and Mineral Society's
Annual Gem and Mineral Show

GEM CAPERS 2011

Dates

Friday, October 21 (9am-5pm), 2011

Saturday, October 22 (10am-6pm) 2011

Sunday, October 23 (10am-5pm), 2011

Location

Palmer Events Center

900 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas

Admission

Adults: \$5;

Seniors: \$4;

Ages 13 – 18: \$1

Ages 12 & under: \$.50;



2015 will be our Federation Show make plans now to attend.