

The Stone Chipper



645th AGMS Meeting

WHEN: March 25th

TIME: 7:30 PM

WHERE: AGMS Clubhouse



“The world is round
so that friendship may
encircle it.”

~ Teilhard de Chardin



AGMS Annual Show Gem Capers 2010

Palmer Events Center
October 22nd - 24th

www.GemCapers.com
Theme: Petrified Wood



The March meeting topic will be:

*Northern Exposure: Geology of the Lower Cretaceous
Pebble Shale Unit in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife
Refuge and Surrounding Areas*

by Dolores A. van der Kolk



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 clubhouse address is **6719 Burnet Lane**, Austin, Texas 78757, and phone (512) 458-9546. **The AGMS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.** Visit our web site at www.AustinGemAndMineral.org. Contact our webmaster for web site 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 Installation 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 and Chair Persons are listed on the back page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for more information.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$15.00 annually for an adult \$20.00 annually for a couple \$4.00 annually for juniors (under 18)

THE STONE CHIPPER

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The Stone Chipper

Aquamarine

March Birthstone Color: Pale Blue



If you can picture the cerulean blue waters of the Mediterranean, you will understand why the birthstone for March is named Aquamarine. Derived from the Roman word “Aqua,” meaning water, and “mare,” meaning sea, this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater. The ancient Romans believed that the Aquamarine was sacred to Neptune, the god of the sea, having fallen from the jewel boxes of sirens and washed onto shore. Early sailors wore aquamarine talismans, engraved with the likeness of Neptune, as protection against dangers at sea.

The association with water led to the belief that the Aquamarine was particularly powerful when immersed. Water in which this gemstone had been submerged was used in ancient times to heal a variety of illnesses of the heart, liver, stomach, mouth and throat. Aquamarines were also used to reverse poisoning and to aid in fortune telling.

The Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large grained igneous rocks on the earth’s crust. It varies in color from clear to vibrantly colored gemstones such as the Emerald. Beryl was used as far back as 2,000 years ago to correct vision, and it continues to be used today in the manufacture of eyeglasses. It is a very hard mineral, making the Aquamarine a durable gemstone for use in jewelry.

Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, but gems containing green are often heat-treated to remove this less desirable color. The majority of Aquamarines, unlike other gemstones, are flawless. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest deposits being in Brazil, but other sources of Aquamarine are in China, India, Australia, Africa, and the United States.

The aquamarine rough was first mined in 1811 in Brazil. However, history has it that it has been used in jewelry much before this time. One of the first documented proofs of the use of aquamarine gemstones exists between 480 and 300 BC. This gem was used by the Greeks to make aquamarine jewelry. In the middle ages, people believed that this gem stone could magical overcome the effects of poison.

The chemical formula for an aquamarine gem stone is beryllium aluminum silicate ($3\text{BeO Al}_2 \text{O}_3 6 \text{SiO}_2$). Its specific gravity is 2.71 and refractive index ranges from 1.574 to 1.580. Its hardness on the Mohs scale is between 7.5 and 8. It has a vitreous polish luster.

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for March is Bloodstone, a dark green opaque quartz flecked with red spots. The name Bloodstone derives from the legendary belief that the red coloration resulted from the blood of Christ spilling onto green jasper during the crucifixion. For this reason, too, the stone has been called “martyr’s stone.” Bloodstone is mined in India, Brazil, Uruguay, Australia, and the United States. Ideal for carving into cameos and beads, this stone symbolizes courage.



References: <http://www.about-birthstones.com/marchbirthstone.html>
<http://www.gehnabazaar.com/gemstones/30/aquamarine.html>

The Stone Chipper

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Mar. 10 – Clean out show shed, 6:00 PM
- Mar. 13 – Texas Paleo Field Trip (collect petrified wood) – Jasper, Texas, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Contact Ed Elliot if you plan to attend.
- Mar. 14 – **Daylight Savings Time begins - set your clocks ahead by one hour!**
- Mar. 16 – Texas Paleo Society Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Mar. 18 – AGMS Show Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Mar. 25 – AGMS General Meeting, 7:30 PM



- Apr. 02 – AGMS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Apr. 10 – AGMS Annual Swap Meet, AGMS Parking Lot, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Apr. 24 – Discovery Center Grand Opening at Guadalupe River State Park Event (see page 8 for more details)

President's Message

We had another fantastic presentation this past meeting, this one by Dr. Leslie Woods. When Kathleen told me who the speaker was, I realized I had known Leslie for at least 11 years and had not kept up with her work. Could you tell Leslie was enthusiastic about her job? Thank goodness, we didn't let her get away without her ever having spoken to us. I hope when her schedule permits she will come and speak again. Kathleen has done a great job for us with the programs.

Wasn't the Show and Tell just grand? Oh and go to our web site and keep informed on the upcoming multi-day field trip to Arkansas in May. That also reminds me, please help Ed Gage so we can keep the field trips going. If you have any ideas or suggestions, drop him an e-mail. This way he will know what you are interested in. They do not have to be grand adventures; ideas for day trips are especially good during these hot Texas summers. But be aware that he travels with his job and may not be able to get back to you immediately, so please be patient with all of us. Just like you, we have other lives.

The Swap Meet is rapidly approaching and will be held on April 10th in our own parking lot. There are flyers for you to pick up and distribute where you can! They will be available at the Board Meeting, Wednesday workshop night, and at any other meeting before the swap meet. If you want people from outside our club to buy your stuff, this will help! You don't need to hand out hundreds of flyers, though that would be nice. Hand these out to friends, family and also at work. Please post them on message boards if you can.

We also need all of you to think about someone who can generate our Show Brochures. These brochures are used as general guides with information about the Club and some of our activities. They also include puzzles for the kids as well as advertisements to help sponsor the brochure. See Brian Wetzig for information if you are interested.

I am still looking for someone to lead our Junior Members program. If you would be interested in this, please contact me. Thank you to all of you that have stepped up to the plate and made this club one of the best in the state.

So get your friends and family and come join us.

~Josie Middleton, President

The Stone Chipper

Refreshments for March Meeting



Alan Cherepon, Joyce Hrapsky and Robert Morriss



History of Future Rockhounds of America

Rockhound clubs throughout the Federations have been supporting youth groups for many years. Most clubs have always had young members but often didn't know what sorts of activities to provide for them. Consequently many youth fell through the cracks. We're sure no one would argue the fact that we need to ensure the future of our hobby by encouraging our youth. Knowing this, under the direction of AFMS President Bill Cox in 1984, a committee was added to the AFMS called "Junior Clubs." Bill coined the name "Future Rockhounds of America" and designed a certificate to be given to junior clubs becoming members of FRA. It gives pebble pups and juniors the distinction of belonging to something worthwhile. The only requirement for kids to obtain FRA membership is to be a member of a regional federation club with an AFMS affiliation. There are no dues to pay to AFMS. Starting in Fall 2004, Juniors Activities Chair Jim Brace-Thompson developed a free badge program of guided activities to provide youth leaders with 53 individual activities in 9 areas: Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, and Leadership. In 2008, 6 new areas were added with 32 more activities on Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. Kids can now earn badges in each of 15 overall areas. Those earning a minimum of 6 of the 15 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge as a mark of accomplishment and distinction. Additional details of this program may be found on the "Kids Corner" section of the AFMS web site: www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm. (*Editor – Who from our club will step up and ensure the future of our hobby?*)

References: http://www.amfed.org/fra/fut_rock.htm

Petrified Wood

Petrified Wood Formation: When wood is petrified it becomes a type of fossil. Petrified wood is formed when minerals typically in the silicate form replace the dead tissues of the plant. In order for a plant composed of woody materials to become petrified it must first be covered with sediment. The process of petrification takes place underground where water containing the right minerals can reach the plants cells. When the lignin and cellulose in the plant's cells decomposes, the minerals fill in the empty space resulting in a solid stone fossil referred to as petrified wood.

Petrified Wood Coloring: Petrified wood is often found in a wide spectrum of colors. One petrified wood fossil can be found with as many colors as the rainbow due to the wide variety of minerals flowing into the decaying cells of the plant. Minerals like iron, copper, and manganese cause the petrified wood to take on colors. Other minerals like Quartz will add to the color of the wood if they contain iron even though Quartz is generally colorless. Iron oxides usually give the wood a red, brown or yellow color. Green or blue colors come from the infusion of cobalt, chromium or copper in the wood. Black colors are the result of carbon or manganese oxides. Manganese by itself will result in a pink color and silica results in a white or gray color. It is common to find intricate details remaining from when the fossil was a tree. The petrified wood fossils can be so detailed that they reveal structures like tree rings and vascular tissues.

References: <http://www.fossils-rocks-minerals.com/petrified-wood/petrified-wood.html>

The Stone Chipper

February 25, 2010 Meeting



Josie Middleton and Eunice Young opened the meeting at 7:30 PM by drawing for three door prizes and presenting four more to visitors.

Program: Dr. Leslie Wood narrated a slide show, *Ecuador – From the Mountains to the Sea*. Featured were photos of her family's travel experiences in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands combined with slides showing the geological features of the area.

Call to Order: Josie Middleton called the meeting to order at 8:25 PM.

Minutes: Diann Hill made a motion and Frederick Falk seconded that the December and January minutes be approved with one correction to the January minutes. Correction: Les Postlethwait should be listed as the Case Chairman of the annual show instead of the Show Chairman.

Committee Reports

Annual Show: Brian Wetzig said show pin designs with a petrified wood theme are due by July 15th. He still needs an editor for the show guide and donations for the auction. Come join a work committee on March 10th at 6:00 PM. Projects include cleaning out the show shed, labeling tables and packing of plastic tubs.

Membership: 60 members and 5 visitors attended.

Library: Diann Hill reported on ten overdue books by naming the person who last signed each checkout card. Four of the ten were dinosaur books checked out by a non-member.

Mineral Display Cases: Josie Middleton volunteered her mineral collection for display next month. Contact Jackie Fisher to display yours. A good time to bring items in is 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesdays (shop times).

Education/Classes: Joyce Hrapsky said that the two cabbing classes that start next week are full. A \$50.00 money order that was clipped on the mail slot is missing. It may have been inadvertently gathered with other papers. If found, please give it to Joyce.

Federation: Josie Middleton is selling Endowment Fund raffle tickets, \$5.00 each or \$20.00 for five.

Field Trips: Josie appointed Ed Gage as the new field trip chairman. Please contact Ed with suggestions and land owner contact information. Reminder: the liability release form is available on the Yahoo List.

Program: Kathleen Howard said the Swap Meet date is April 10th. Flyers are available to hand out and there is a sign up sheet for tables.

Sunshine: Josie reported that Paul Good had a cataract operation. Ron Guzman and wife Jennifer visited with Tommie Potts. They asked that we let them know of others who might need a card or visit.

Announcements

Birthday: Diann Hill persuaded her father, Charles Covill, to come forward to be serenaded by the members. He celebrates his 90th birthday on March 2nd!

Texas Parks and Wildlife Event: On April 24th our club has been invited by Texas Parks and Wildlife to participate in the opening of a new discovery center in Guadalupe State Park. They would like for us to set up touch tables, show rocks, and answer rock-related questions for some of the expected 1,500 visitors. Contact Wing Evans if you can help.

Web site: Diann Hill said the contact information on all the pages has been updated.

Parking Lot: Jackie Fisher thanked Richard Dorsey, James Lopez and her husband, Gef, for helping her weed the parking lot.

Rock/Mineral Photos: Jackie Fisher reminded members of the second annual photo competition coming up in September. On a recent trip, her husband took some pictures with that in mind.

First Edition: David Dow showed a copy of the *Stone Chipper* #1 (First Quarter, 1956) that he framed for display so that the newsletter is visible from both sides and donated it to the club.

Show and Tell: Shawn Maddox, Ron Guzman, and Paul Bordovsky. (continued on next page)



The Stone Chipper

Show Committee Report

The Show Committee met on February 18, 2010 to discuss the upcoming Gem Capers 2010 show. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting. A complete set of minutes is available upon request.

The dates for the **2011** show were approved, which are **October 21 - 23, 2011**.

Committee Chairs: Verify that the current chairperson for the 2010 show will continue.

Scholarship Chair – Determined it is not part of the Show Committee.

Show Bulletin Editor – Still needed.

School Bus Chair – Still needed (Directs the buses that drop kids off).

Transportation Chair – Still needed (Checks to be sure the vehicle moving the trailers has the right set-up).

Work Parties:

1. Clean out show shed is **March 10th** starting at 6:00 PM.
2. Need to label the new tables on top and two sides. Susan will make stencils.
3. Check all cases for repair and put instruction for assembly in each case, after show shed is cleaned out.
4. Need to pre-make the necklace for jewelry making.
Will hand out cord at the next meeting and demonstrate how to make the slip knots.
5. Prep trailer – Install D ring mounts, Susan to get with manufacturer to find out specifics.
6. Load trailers – After show shed is cleaned out.
7. Trailers – Need to place a contents list on the inside of each trailer.
8. Rock Busting – We have enough currently but will have a rock breaking session later.

~Dee Fly, 2010 Show Secretary

Sunshine Report



Charles Covill was born on March 2, 1920 in Rural, Otero County, New Mexico and turned 90 years young this month. While attending the February AGMS meeting, the club sang a rousing Happy Birthday to him.

He is retired from the Texas Highway Department. His trade was a civil engineer, bridge designer. He has bridges all over the state, the closest one being the Pennybacker bridge over the Colorado river in west Austin. After retirement he and his wife (Paddy Covill) started Custom Faceted Stones and did the gem show circuit. He took up faceting as a hobby.

Please send us any news about our members, both good and bad, to be included in the newsletter.

~ Ron and Jennifer Guzman, Sunshine

Final call for 2010 Dues!

Annual dues are due for club membership. The cost is \$15.00 for one adult, \$20.00 for a couple, or \$4.00 for a junior (under 18 as of January 1st). You can pay at this month's meeting or mail a check to the club address, care of the Treasurer. If you have not paid by April 1st, you will no longer receive the newsletter.

The Stone Chipper

Upcoming Shows and Events

March

- 20-21** Southwest Gem & Mineral Society 49th annual show; Live Oak Civic Center in Live Oak, TX.
“Fiesta of Gems”; Web site: http://swgemandmineral.org/our_show.html
Contact: Robert Bowie at (830) 935-3373; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com

April

- 10** **Austin Gem & Mineral Society annual Swap Meet**; AGMS Clubhouse parking lot in Austin, TX.
Setup starts at 7 AM and doors open to public from 10 AM to 4 PM with a Pot Luck for lunch.
Contact: Kathleen Howard at (512) 491-9201; e-mail: khoward15@austin.rr.com
- 16-18** Chichuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club 20th annual show; Kokernot Lodge in Alpine, TX.
“Wonders from our desert and beyond”; Web site: <http://www.agates123.com/cdgmcc/page2.html>
Contact: Mary Brogan at (432) 837-3824; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com
- 19** Texas Dinosaur Day; Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country; Canyon Lake, TX
Contact: www.heritage-museum.info
- 24-25** Waco Gem & Mineral Club 50th annual show; TSTC Industrial Trade Center in Waco, TX
Contact: Kay Coleman at (903) 389-8311

May

- 1-2** Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society 52nd annual show; Lubbock Civic Center in Lubbock, TX
Web site: <http://lgmstx.org>
Contact: Archie Scott at (806) 894-1584; e-mail: archie.scott73@yahoo.com
- 29-30** Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club 59th annual show; Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX
“Fabulous Fossils”; Web site: <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/show.html>
Contact: Steve Hilliard at (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fvgmc@embarqmail.com

Communications with Club

Please send notices for change of physical address or e-mail address to StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org.

If you wish to be kept notified of “breaking news” and impromptu events within the club, you need to be on the **AGMS E-mail List**. Information on things such as field trip details and member rock sales may be disseminated this way in real time. To get invited to the list, go to our web site and click on the join group link or contact the web master at DiannH@AustinGemAndMineral.org.

You can also have the newsletter delivered to you via e-mail notification rather than through snail mail. It comes sooner and is in color that way. To receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send your request to the newsletter editor at StoneChipper@AustinGemAndMineral.org.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society

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

2010 Officers

President: Josie Middleton
First V.P.: Jackie Fisher
Second V.P.: Kathleen Howard
Secretary: Marilyn Gilbreath
Treasurer: Pauline Denson

Board of Directors

Robert Morriss (2)
David Wenger (2)
Jeff "Stretch" Young (2)
Tom Bowers (1)
Joyce Hrapsky (1)
Louis Lee (1)

The Stone Chipper awards
2009 – 1st AFMS, 1st SCFMS

Committee Chairpersons

Annual Show	Brian Wetzig
Building Chair	Bob Greenway
Display Cases	Jackie Fisher
Education/Classes	Joyce Hrapsky
Federation/Conservation	Paul Good
Field Trip Committee	Ed Gage
Historian	Ed Gage
Hospitality	Susan Postlethwait
Junior Advisor/Programs	Vacant
Library Co-Chair	Diann Hill
Library Co-Chair	Andrea Miller
Membership	Eunice Young
Newsletter Editor	Frederick Falk
Program	Kathleen Howard
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher

March 2010

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6719 Burnet Lane
Austin, TX 78757
(512) 458-9546

Postage
Required

Time Value – Do Not Delay



Address Service Requested

March Birthstones

Modern: Aquamarine
Traditional: Bloodstone
Mystical: Jade
Ancient Hindu: Opal