



THE **659TH** MEETING OF THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, **MAY 26th, 2011, 7:00 P.M.**, AT THE AGMS CLUBHOUSE, **6719 BURNET LANE, AUSTIN, TX.** PHONE: (512) 458-9546.

May Program:
Gail and Jim Spann on Chinese Minerals

THE STONE CHAPER
MAY 2011 VOLUME 50.5



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Board Member– Terry Barry
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Board Member– Amy Dalton
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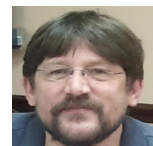
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Board Member– David Wenger
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Board Member–Jeff “Stretch” Young
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AGMS MOTTO: EACH ONE TEACH ONE

2011 AGMS 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

Librarians - Andrea Miller , Monika Hakkinen, Terry Barry

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 - Tonya Berry

Membership - *Vacant*

Scholarship - Stretch Young

School Programs - Wing Evans

Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher

Sunshine - Ron Guzman

*Happy Anniversary to all of you
who celebrate this month.
There are no May birthdays listed.*

***** Upcoming Classes *****

Please be sure and sign up (in the notebook) for the upcoming classes. See Joyce Hrapsky for more details. Currently there are bead stinging, and wire wrapping classes under way.

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Presidential Message



Greetings all,

This past month has been a quiet one for your AGMS President. In April I represented AGMS at the regional annual meeting of the Federation, held at Alpine, Texas. Not much to report as there was nothing major happening at that level. I did note that the larger clubs in our region did not send a representative to the annual meeting. In fact, few clubs participated, more's the pity. The excitement around Alpine centered on the wildfires in the area. I saw square miles of burned desert between Fort Stockton and Alpine, and could see only a small part of the burned areas.

While in Alpine I looked into the possibility of a land purchase (for a field trip site) by AGMS, a suggestion made by a member earlier this year. The idea was to pick up property that had not been sold at a tax auction, but I found that, at the last such auction, everything was sold. I did manage to visit the county central appraisal district and got some information on tax properties, and right now any such purchase appears unlikely. We will keep this idea on the back burner for now.

Our speaker for April happened to be the current president of the Houston GMS, the largest club in the state, with a membership about three times our numbers. He was very surprised to see the turnout for our meeting, and I assured him that the number (about 65) was typical. He told me that 35 members at their meetings was a good turnout. I think this shows we have a good thing going, with interesting talks, lots of classes, good field trips and extra social activities, like the Show Committee picnic which was held on the 21st.

Our Board meetings have come away from the problem ridden meetings we had last fall and earlier this year, and, as a result, the Board is covering the necessary items, tending to business and going home early. We all like that. Everyone is, of course welcome to any and all of the Board meetings, but they are no longer exciting to attend I like that.

Finally, I still need a few folks to step up and head a few committees. Participating in running AGMS is the best way to get to know your fellow members. Come talk to me after the meetings and let me find something for you to do.

Robert Morriss,
Current President, AGMS

AGMS Board Meeting, May 3, 2011
Minutes submitted by
Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

The AGMS Board met on May 3, 2011, to conduct club business. Below is a listing of the highlights of this meeting; a complete set of minutes is available upon request.

Attendees: Four officers, five board members and no club members.

Minutes: The April minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Wing Evans reported the end of April balance and said that we spent more in April than we took in.

Old Business

Possible Land Purchase for Field Trip Site: Robert Morriss went to Alpine before the show to investigate land deals, but was unable to talk to the chief appraiser. He suggested that if anyone takes this on, it would be beneficial to have a background in geology and surveying. He found out:

- At the last courthouse steps sale, all the properties were bought.
- From the property descriptions, it would take serious study to identify where the tax foreclosure tracts are actually located and how to reach them.
- People he talked with had no experience with 501(c)(3) organizations; he was given no assurance that we would be tax exempt.

South Central Federation Meeting in Alpine: As president, Robert Morriss attended the SCFMS meeting in Alpine.

Bylaws Revisions: No report.

Instructor Travel Reimbursement: A motion passed that the Board reimburse Craig Brandt to cover his travel expenses.

New Business

Property Donation: Robert Morriss said Ron Carman has 20 acres near Terlingua that he would donate to AGMS. There is calcite on the property. Robert said this could be a test case for our tax exemption questions. Robert will invite Ron Carman to the next meeting to get more particulars.

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.



AGMS General Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2011

Program: At 7:10 PM Paul Bordovsky introduced Steve Blyskal, President of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, who gave an overview the Viburnum Trend history and minerals. Steve has collected specimens from the Viburnum Trend over the past 40 years. He also photographs his specimens and showed slides of many from his collection in addition to bringing several flats for display.

Meeting: At 8:20 PM, President Robert Morriss welcomed the visitors.

Attendance: 71 members, 6 visitors and 2 juniors.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Diann Hill pointed out to members who receive their newsletters in the mail that she had the April edition printed in color to show what they could be viewing every month if they changed to e-mail delivery. To have your birthday acknowledged in the newsletter, Diann said that there is a clipboard on the hospitality table for listing your name and the month and day of your birth (and T-shirt size for the potluck detailed below).

In January, Diann promised to award a prize each quarter to a person who submitted an article to *The Stone Chipper*. Alan Cherepon, the only contributor so far, received a tsavorite in thanks. Send in your contribution---there is a second tsavorite to be awarded.

2011 Membership List: Diann Hill has posted an Excel membership list on the AGMSList under Files. If you have any corrections, notify Diann or turn in the correction form she made available at the meeting.

For Everyone - Show Committee Potluck: Dee Fly, substituting for Sue Postlethwait, announced a fun potluck get together to celebrate the 50th show. The show committee will provide burgers, hot dogs, chicken, sausage, buns, condiments and paper products. Party goers need to bring chips and dips, sides, desserts and your own drinks if you want other than tea or water. In addition, bring a canned good for the food bank and something "rocky" for a live auction. T-shirts will be distributed.

Name Tags: Diann Hill reminded that she can order name tags (\$5).

AGMS General Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2011
Continued

Hospitality: Please sign up to bring snacks for coming meetings.

Classes: Joyce Hrapsky said there was a sign up sheet for wire wrapping on the back table.

Door Prizes and Winners:

Pauline Denson assisted Robert Morriss in the door prize drawings:
Polished Brazilian Agate Slabs – Bob Folsom, Charles Covill, Gene Siste and Kellee Greenway.
Concretions - Fran Ellis and Jackie Fisher. Peruvian Quartz Pyrite – Dick Nelson . Gray Druzy Quartz – Bill Blakeley.

Announcements: Metalsmith Special Interest Group: Brian Wetzig announced that the metalsmithing group will probably meet on the first Wednesday of each month. He also said that Mrs. Johnson is selling off her silverworking tools; a list is available on the hospitality table.

Quilt Raffle Tickets: Jackie Fisher said there was a problem with the tickets and asked that anyone who bought tickets for the quilt raffle see her about getting replacements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Show and Tell:

Robert Morriss told of two recent mishaps:

- A rock slipped out of the vise on his rock saw and bent the blade.
- As a favor, he attempted to cut a Pyrex handle off of a larger piece with a trim saw. Moral: Don't try it---the whole piece broke.

Speaker Steve Blyskal was guided on a quartz hunt north of Broken Bow, OK, by a man named Cephus Hall. He showed a flat of specimens from the location explaining that his own recent finds are still covered in mud.

Alan Cherepon showed calcite from the Karnes mine field trip.

Ron Guzman invited interested members to join him in the fluorescent room to view the colors of his angel wing barite and fishtail selenite specimens.

Chip Burnette showed petrified wood---both opalized and clear.

Ron Carman showed a handsome large quartz piece and fluorescent material. He commented that the Alpine Show did not have as many clubs represented as usual and that two of the five show cases were from our members, who won one first level and one second level award. Ron said that the next federation show will be in Jasper, TX.

Marge Troutner brought a bag of uncut emeralds from Brazil to show.



Please Remember

While you are out looking at the flowers and rock hunting, these guys are also out enjoying the sun and hunting.



Chipper Chatter

Let us help you celebrate your birthday by listing it in *The Stone Chipper*. Please e-mail the editor at stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org with your birth month and day so it can be added to the list. Or sign the clipboard, located at the greeters table, at the next general meeting.



Gem Capers News

Show Committee Meeting March 17, 2011

The Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. No minutes presented. Brian gave the treasurers report.

Advertising: Josie reported on her contacts with the TV stations and provided some cost figures for several package of ads. Stretch questioned about other TV stations not mentioned. Josie advised that those stations had not been contacted last year but Stretch advised they were contacted for the 2009 show. Josie did not have the earlier information. All other items were tabled due to lack of attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Show Committee Meeting April 21, 2011

The Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Minutes for February and March were presented for review then submitted with corrections.

Brian advised we have received the contract from Palmer Event Center (PEC) and it is due back on 5-11-2011 with 1st payment. Request was for the PEC was sent in 12:01 a.m. April 18th for the 2012 show.

Diann provided dealer checks to Brian. She advised that she has 12 dealer prospects that are new. We will need 5 replacement dealers. Charles McCoy wants to demonstrate faceting with a different type machine. Diann also brought in the updated evaluation forms.

Still need someone to contact TV stations to get the T.V. ad and banners. Susan checked on sizes and prices for the Real Estate type car magnets. She found two different sizes but thinks the 12 x 18 size would be best for people to see. We can get green lettering with white background.

Discussed having Palmer personnel police the move out at the dock to alleviate any problems. Have Karen bring and take away the display cases, as they will need to be in Georgetown after our show. Have everything staged in the gem mine area until ready to pack the trailers. All members can assist in move in and take down. Some tasks require heavy lifting, some require light lifting, while others just need to assist or help provide direction.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, the motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



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

If you're not on the AGMSList on YAHOO, or receiving the newsletter via e-mail, please send a note to the editor at StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org.



2000 Toyota 4 Runner, 4 wheel drive, V-6, Automatic. Less than 84,000 miles. Knows many good rock hunting spots in North America. Contact Robert or Charlotte Morriss for more information. 512-267-2078. Also listed here: <http://austin.craigslist.org/cto/2380094368.html>

AKC Registered Standard Poodle Pups, already starting their rock hunting career. Apricot, cream, and whites. Contact Diann or Stoney Hill 979-716-1380.

Wanted: Faceting Machine contact Susan Postlethwait for partiuclarars 830-609-7462.



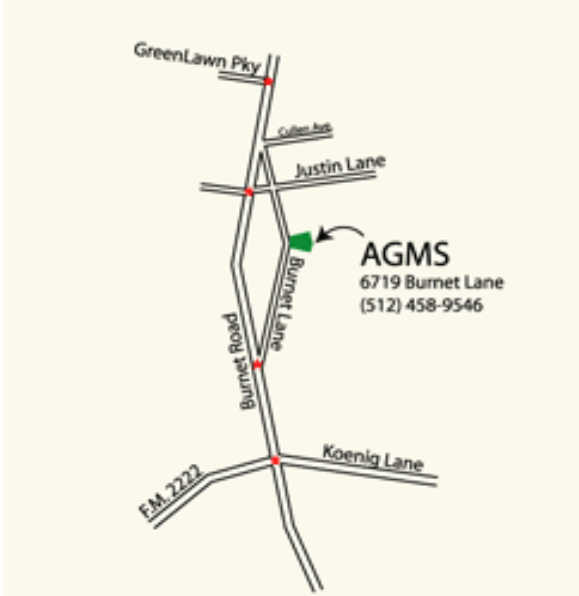
Calling all Juniors - Please print out your newsletter located on the Juniors page of the website, www.austingemandmineral.org and share it with your friends, or better yet bring a friend to a meeting.

Parents don't miss the oportuntiy to print out a copy and share with a neighbor whose child shows an interests in rocks. At the May meeting the first 2 juniors to come up to me (Diann) and say they read The Stone Chipper will be given a piece of Tiger Eye to make a cabochon for competition at this years Gem Capers show. The tiger eye is donated for this purpose by Charles McCoy.

The Stone Chipper

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Address Correction Requested

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. The November meeting will be held on the THIRD Thursday. December is the Officers' Induction Banquet held on a date to be determined. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Show committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. All 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.

