

The Stone Chipper



653rd AGMS Meeting

When: November 18th

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: AGMS Clubhouse



November Meeting

Volcanoes

by Dr. Jim Gardner



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. The newsletter editor is also a member 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 WebMaster@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 on the **fourth Thursday** of each month, January through September. In October, the meeting is usually devoted to the set up of the annual show. In November, the meeting is on the **third Thursday**. In December, an awards banquet is held for the Installation of Officers on a date and at a place determined by the Board of Directors. Board meetings are called as needed. All members are welcome to attend. Society Officers, Board of Directors and Chairpersons 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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President's Message



Hello all fellow Rockhounds,

As I sit down to write my last note in Office, I want to thank the WHOLE club for all of their support and hard work, both helping me and your SHOW to make it enjoyable, for all.

I want to take a few moments to keep Frank Roberts in our thoughts as his immediate family learns to deal with the tragic accident. [Editor - See Sunshine Report for more details]

Our Board meeting was the shortest and sweetest it has ever been, and I am glad of all that has been accomplished. Yes, some things are just not ever finished. The next meeting is our Show Committee Meeting. If you are at all interested in how all of that takes place along with the year-long planning, please attend; it is a lot of fun and you get to meet the FANTASTIC folks that are behind the scenes! Come on in and help be a bright spot in our Show. The regular meeting takes place on Nov. 18th, being that the following week is Thanksgiving. Travel carefully! This meeting promises to be a lot of fun. Thank you, Kathleen, for all the great lectures, along with great speakers.

As for the Show, it is a little bittersweet for me as I take care of all of Linda's wishes. I didn't see her enjoying herself at the Gem Mine or the Wheel of Fortune nor the critical detailed eye; she used to take care of the Crystallography Exhibit. Thank you Susan, ahead of time, for taking over the Crystallography Exhibit.

May you all be blessed, with the grace to see all that our hobby gives us in our lives, from the friends to the smallest of beauty in the mineral world, as we also learn new crafts, and all the wealth of information of the biodiversity of our world! It has been my greatest pleasure and honour to be your President. I am truly sorry if I disappointed anyone but there was only one of me and I tried. Truly just as you are feeling comfortable with the role, it ends.

Thanks.

~Josie Middleton, AGMS President

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November

- 11 AGMS Show Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 16 Paleontological Society of Austin Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 18 AGMS General Meeting, 7:00 PM



December

- 7 AGMS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 9 AGMS Installation Dinner, 7:00 PM
- 16 AGMS Show Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM

Refreshments for November Meeting

Bring your favorite drinks, snacks, chips and dip to enjoy after the meeting.



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Conservation and Legislation



This is a time of national, state and local political upheaval. There are many new pieces of legislation that have been introduced during the current congressional session which may limit the ability to access and collect at our favorite collecting areas on public lands. These pending bills are not only addressing public lands in the west, they are creeping into the eastern part of the United States trying to restrict access to and the collecting in our National Forests.

In order to be effective as the Conservation and Legislation Committee for the AFMS, we need input from the membership where these pieces of legislation or local restrictions and regulations are being introduced.

When legislation does appear in any of the 7 regional federations, please let your committee know and it will be investigated and the results will be distributed to the AFMS membership.

To report any information on public land initiatives, please drop the committee an e-mail with the pertinent information to the Conservation and Legislation Committee e-mail address:

afms-conservation@antelecom.net

The American Lands Access Association website has current information on active legislation pertaining to Public Land.

~by John Martin, AFMS Chair

Article reprinted from the AFMS November 2010 Newsletter

"HUNTING" In Autumn



For some folks down here in the SCFMS region, the boiling bite of summer may have started to wear off. Here in Houston we're counting the days until October when our 6-month summer unofficially ends! Of course, once it cools down it will be time to fill our weekends with field trips and visits to locations from our youth or rumored spots not on any map!

It all sounds like great fun, but keep in mind that this time of year we aren't the only ones "hunting." Dove season started in north Texas a couple of weeks ago. Subsequently, a couple of my friends (Barry and Tera) ended up in a creek next to someone's hunting lease. As there were plenty of doves, there were also plenty of shots going up into the air. On several occasions, bird shot could be seen and heard falling back to earth right where they were hunting.

Barry, who has the nickname Creek Crawler, has plenty of experience doing both kinds of hunting and felt confident that they were not in danger. However, Tera eventually had enough of the gun shots and decided to move. <Insert any mental comment here that you may have about women having better common sense than men>. Similarly a few years back, OK it was 25 years ago; I was out hunting and was marveling at the new path that had been cut through the cedar and oak brush at an old quarry spot where I liked to hunt. Well, shortly thereafter I discovered at the head of the path a big deer stand. Luckily no one was hunting that day or I might have been in a heap o' trouble!

As for a general safety recommendation, make sure you are aware of potential hunting activities in areas where you go on field trips. You never know when you are going to head to an area and find a couple of dozen grizzly-looking rednecks all excited about bow season starting that Saturday!

~ Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator

Article reprinted from the SCFMS September–October 2010 Newsletter

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October 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes

President Josie Middleton called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed the winners of the *Gem Capers* door prizes who were present to receive their petrified wood:

- Kevin White (who joined the club) won the colorful bookends.
- Terri Warren won the large polished palm wood slab.



Program: Alan Cherepon narrated his picture presentation, *Tri-state, Fluorite and Beyond*. Earlier in 2010, he and his wife travelled to MO, OK, KS, KY and IL and visited the Tri-State District (lead-zinc mining) and the Southern Illinois Fluorite District. His pictures included some of the impressive specimens exhibited in the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY, and The American Fluorite Museum in Rosiclare, IL.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Josie Middleton read the nominations submitted by the committee:

- **Officers:** President - Robert Morriss; 1st Vice President - Richard Dorsey (tentative); 2nd Vice President - Paul Bordovsky; Treasurer - Ewing Evans; Secretary - Marilyn Gilbreath.
- **Board of Directors:** Terry Barry, Amy Dalton, Joyce Hrapsky and Louis Lee (to fill the one year term that Robert Morriss would vacate if elected).

Josie asked for nominations from the floor; there were none. Voting will be at the November meeting.

2011 Budget: Treasurer Pauline Denson provided copies showing the individual budget categories and budgeted amounts for 2010 and 2011. The total budgeted for 2011 is \$-.00. Several members asked for clarification of the amounts shown for 2010. Pauline explained that the 2010 income and expense amounts shown were the budgeted amounts, not the actual amounts. She also explained that the actual 2010 amounts were available to the Board members when they set the 2011 budget amounts.

Sue Postlethwait moved and Dee Fly seconded to accept the budget as stated. The motion passed.

Annual Show: Josie Middleton reported that the *Gem Capers* attendance was down this year, but the majority of the dealers were happy with their sales. Show Treasurer Frederick Falk is waiting for final expenses from Palmer Auditorium; he does not expect to have the *Gem Capers* results until December.

Membership: Eunice Young reported that 43 members, 2 visitors and no juniors signed in tonight.

Announcements

Fossil Fest: Susan Postlethwait announced that she needs volunteers for the December 4th and 5th Fossil Fest at Old Settlers' Park in Round Rock. She will have a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

Installation Dinner: For tickets to the catered December 9th Installation Dinner, see Susan Postlethwait at the November meeting. Josie said if you wish to participate in the gift exchange at the dinner, bring a gift (\$15.00 or under) and mark it for male or female.

SCFMS Show: Josie Middleton reminded members that the South Central Federation show is December 11th
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and 12th in DeRidder, LA.

Farmer's Market Mineral Specimens: Ron Guzman told the members that the Farmer's Market on Burnet Road is open on Thursdays and it now has a mineral specimens booth that is open 3:00–7:00 PM.

Field Trip Prospect: Ron Guzman met a man from Karnes City who said he would be willing to let the club hunt on his land.

Gem Capers' Show Guides: Josie said that Frederick Falk has leftover show guides; contact him if you want one. [Editor - The extra show guides are at the clubhouse for anyone who wants one.]

Cabbing Contest: Sue Postlethwait reported that 16 adults and 5 juniors submitted cabs for the contest. The categories and winners, who will receive a ribbon at a later date, are:



Junior Division

First Place:	Lily Cave
Second Place:	Bailey Cave
Third Place:	Leighton Cave
Judges' Favorite:	Leighton Cave

Adult Traditional

First Place:	Robert Morriss
Second Place:	Chip Burnette
Third Place:	Les Postlethwait

Adult Freeform

First Place:	Robert Morriss
Second Place:	Susan Postlethwait
Third Place:	Brian Wetzig
Judges' Favorite:	Susan Postlethwait

Looking forward to next year's contest, "Stretch" Young is donating \$20.00 for each junior to take a class with Robert Morriss to improve his/her cabbing skills. In addition, Robert donated slabs of tiger-eye (selected for its color to go with the 2011 *Gem Capers* "gold" theme) for the juniors to use.

Tumblers Needed: Andrea Miller said it is never too early to begin tumbling stones for next year's *Gem Capers'* Gem Mine. Please contact her to volunteer and for tumbling material. Also needed are the larger, flatter polished stones used to make the popular googly-eyed "animals" for Wheel of Fortune prizes.

Show and Tell: Members (and former members) were encouraged to show and tell as part of tonight's program.

- **Ron Carman** showed some of his nice Arkansas finds.
- **Tony and Lou Pulliam** took a multi-stop Brazilian trip and showed some of the specimens they shipped back. Tony was **President of AGMS**—in **1964!** Being in his 20's at the time, he said he was the youngest president the club had elected since its start in 1950.
- **Chip Burnette** displayed a doublet cab he made and a block of the clear synthetic material he bought to slice for making additional doublets.



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- **Gene Healy** told that he went to Happy Camp, CA, where he got a large piece of Jadeite. He passed a slab of it among the members.
- **Jennifer Clayton** showed a cut white Moroccan geode that was mounted on a base and lighted. Ron Guzman said he makes these and other lighted mineral items and the wood bases to sell in his business.
- **Josie Middleton** showed a piece of Cooperite with Malachite from Africa.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

~Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary
Photos courtesy of Newsletter Editor

Board Meeting Minutes

The AGMS Board met on October 5, 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: The September minutes were accepted with two corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was accepted with the addition of notes on the \$-.00 transfer of funds.

Old Business

Tabled Budget Issue—Arbors: In March, the Board tabled the discussion of purchasing new arbors until the 2011 budget preparation. Gef Fisher reported that the motor is burned out on one arbor, but the others are functional. Considering the excellent condition that our shop manager, Gef Fisher, is keeping the equipment, a motion was approved that we do not purchase additional arbors until such time as replacements are needed.

Membership Packet—Clarification: Frederick Falk will revise the packet and present it to the next Board for approval.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Formal Approval: Tom Bowers was not present. A motion passed to table the SOP formal approval and review of the revised Web Master SOP until the November Board meeting at which time we should have all Board members present.

Audit Committee: Pauline Denson has the 2009 books ready to turn over for audit. Louis Lee resigned from the audit committee; Charlotte Morriss is the only remaining auditor at present. A motion was approved to delay the audit until February, 2011, and that between now and that time the President, Josie Middleton, will appoint a committee.

Cabbing Contest: Sue Postlethwait reported that 18 entries have been received, 5 of them from 3 juniors. Sue will serve on the judging committee with Pauline Denson, Richard Dorsey, Josie Middleton and Robert Morriss. For the juniors, a class will be set up with Robert Morriss and paid for with Stretch Young's \$20.00 donations. Sue said they'd like to put the juniors' cabs in a display case until the induction banquet.

Sue said that tiger-eye will be the stone for next year's cabbing contest—the color goes with the *Gem Capers*' "gold" theme.

New Business

Scholarships: Betsy Gager researched *The Stone Chipper* archives and saw that two members were very instrumental in starting the scholarship program. She suggested that we consider re-naming the scholarships in honor

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of Russell and DeEtta Sayers. A motion passed to name the scholarship the Austin Gem and Mineral Society (AGMS) Sayers Memorial Scholarship.

Josie Middleton brought up the possibility of conflict of interest in offering scholarships to members citing that we are a 501(c)(3) organization, but also fall under Section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Pauline Denson will contact the accountant and ask if 509(a)(2) precludes member scholarships.

Nominating Committee: Joyce Hrapsky, Gef Fisher, Tom Bowers and Charlotte Morriss selected members to be nominated for the 2011 AGMS Board of Directors. The Chairperson, Charlotte Morriss, brought a printed report to the Board. The nominees will be read at the October General Meeting and a call will be made for nominations from the floor.

2011 Budget: Pauline Denson brought copies of the 2010 budget items and amounts. Each item and amount was considered and the 2011 budget prepared for presentation to the membership for a vote on October 28th.

2010 Total Budgeted = \$-.00

2011 Total Budgeted = \$-.00

Federation Delegate: Josie Middleton would like for us to get more involved in the SCFMS. Robert Morriss said the President is supposed to go to represent us in the voting. The budget has \$125.00 designated for "Fed Delegate".

~Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Upcoming Shows and Events

November

12–14 Houston Gem and Mineral Show; Humble Civic Center, Humble, TX

20–21 Dallas Gem and Mineral Show; Resistol Arena, Mesquite, TX

December

4–5 Fossil Fest; Old Settlers' Association Headquarters, Round Rock, TX
Sponsored by the Paleontological Society of Austin
Web site: www.TexasPaleo.com/psa/index.html

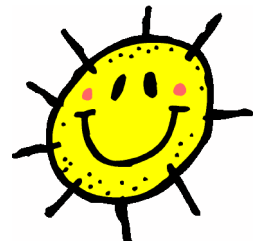
11–12 SCFMS 2010 Regional Show hosted by the DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society
DeRidder Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show; Richard Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, DeRidder, LA
Web site: <http://www.scfms.net/> then click on the "SCFMS Show" tab.
Contact: Adam Valin at (337) 585-3693; e-mail: avalin1@bellsouth.net
or Dan Venazi at (337) 463-9567

Sunshine Committee Report

On the morning of November 3rd, an explosion at the Frank Roberts' home severely injured Frank with life-threatening injuries. http://weareaustin.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=101177

Please keep Frank and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

~ Josie Middleton, President



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

President@AustinGemAndMineral.org
VPresident1@AustinGemAndMineral.org
VPresident2@AustinGemAndMineral.org
Secretary@AustinGemAndMineral.org
Treasurer@AustinGemAndMineral.org

Board of Directors

Term expires Dec. 2011

Robert Morriss
David Wenger
Jeff "Stretch" Young

Term expires Dec. 2010

Tom Bowers
Joyce Hrapsky
Louis Lee

Newsletter Awards

2009 – 1st place AFMS, 1st place 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	Jackie Fisher
Library Co-chair	Diann Hill
Library Co-chair	Andrea Miller
Membership	Eunice Young
Newsletter Editor	Frederick Falk
Program	Kathleen Howard
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jackie Fisher
Scholarship	Jeff "Stretch" Young
School Programs	Wing Evans
Sunshine	Ron Guzman
Workshop	Gef Fisher

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