



The 665th & 666th Meeting of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society will be held on:

THURSDAY - November 17, 2011  
December 8, 2011

at the AGMS Clubhouse located at  
6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, Texas  
Phone 512.458.9546

Program: Nov. Vote on Officers  
Dec. Office Induction Banquet

# THE STONE CHOPPER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011 VOLUME 50.11



President – Robert Morriss 512-267-2078  
[president@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:president@austingemandmineral.org)



1st VP – Richard Dorsey  
[vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org)



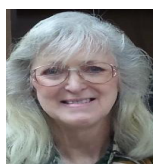
2nd VP – Paul Bordovsky  
[vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org)



Treasurer – Ewing Evans  
[treasurer@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:treasurer@austingemandmineral.org)



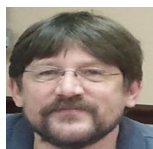
Board Member – Amy Dalton  
[amyd@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:amyd@austingemandmineral.org)



Board Member – Joyce Hrapsky  
[joyceh@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:joyceh@austingemandmineral.org)



Board Member – Louis Lee  
[louisl@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:louisl@austingemandmineral.org)



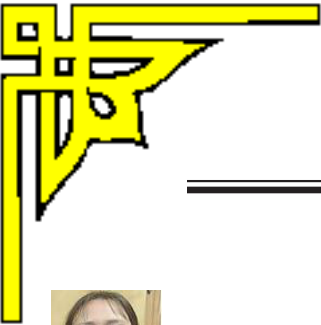
Board Member – Jeff "Stretch" Young  
[stretchy@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stretchy@austingemandmineral.org)

Not pictured are: Secretary - Marilyn Gilbreath,  
[secretary@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:secretary@austingemandmineral.org)

Board members - Terry Barry,  
[terryb@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:terryb@austingemandmineral.org)

David Wenger,  
[davidw@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:davidw@austingemandmineral.org)

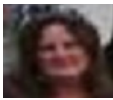
AGMS MOTTO: EACH ONE TEACH ONE



**2011 AGMS Committee Heads**

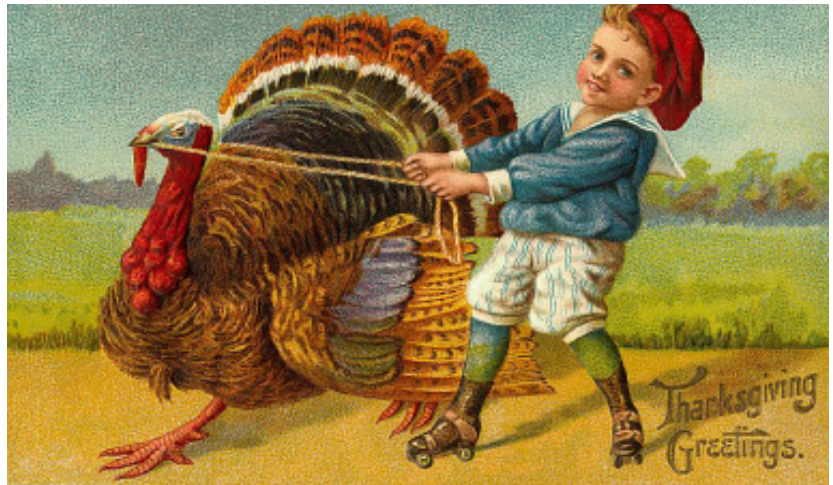


Annual Show - Susan Postlethwait [showchairman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchairman@austingemandmineral.org)  
 Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky [classes@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:classes@austingemandmineral.org)  
 Field Trips - Chip Burnett [trip@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:trip@austingemandmineral.org)  
 Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher [juniors@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:juniors@austingemandmineral.org)  
 Co-Librarians - Terry Barry, Roger Waguespack, Diann Hill [Librarian@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:Librarian@austingemandmineral.org)



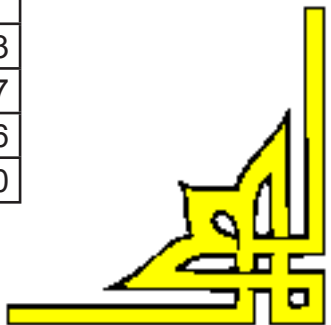
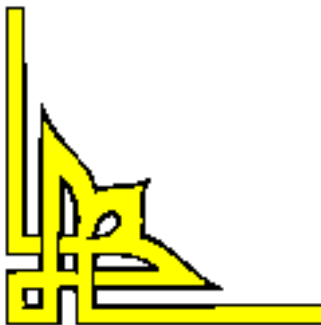
Newsletter Editor - Diann Hill [stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org)

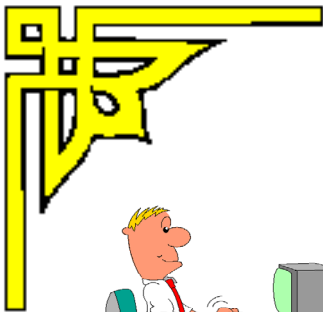
Building Chair - Bob Greenway  
 Display Cases - Jackie Fisher  
 Federation/Conservation - Paul Good  
 Historian - Ed Gage  
 Hospitality - Tonya Barry  
 Membership - Pauline Denson  
 Scholarship - Stretch Young  
 School Programs - Wing Evans  
 Sergeant-at-Arms - Jackie Fisher  
 Sunshine - Ron Guzman



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## Presidential Message



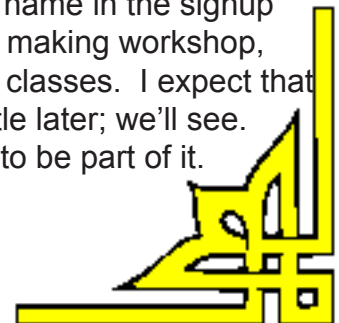
Well, since our editor tells me that the Nov./Dec. Stone Chipper issues will be combined, this is my last "President's message". Due to a couple of difficult decisions that had to be made, I can't say I "enjoyed" my year in office, but I can say I am satisfied with what was accomplished, and I'm glad I took the job. I thank the Board members that have served with me, and I thank those that are coming to the Board, for their time spent for the benefit of AGMS. I also want to thank those that have responded when asked to help in some specific way. This includes the various committee chairs and those that have joined the committees to get things done. I hope you new members will consider finding one of those committees that catch your interest, join that committee and thus get yourself into the active group that will run this club in the future. I specially want to thank those members that expressed their willingness to serve on the Board, but were not nominated. This year we did have a number of willing persons that was greater than the number of open positions on the Board, an unusual condition. Those not nominated this year will certainly have their turn in the future.

I urge everyone to attend the November general membership meeting (third Thursday this month) because this is the meeting when we elect the new Board. I think the sitting Board members, with the nominees offered for your approval, will make a very good Board of Directors for the coming year. AGMS will be in good hands. Also, see the reference to dinner tickets, below.

The December meeting will be the induction dinner, (December 8th) when the new Board is introduced. For those of you that haven't attended an induction dinner, here's what happens; we party! There will be a catered dinner, followed by the introduction of the new Board, followed by a gift exchange. The gifts are to be for "a man" or "a woman", and so labeled. The gifts should be related to the earth sciences or lapidary fields and be valued at no more than about \$10; use your head here. Gifts will reach the hands of the receivers in a manner to be explained at the gift giving time. (How's that for a teaser? Last year was a riot!) By the way, since the meal is catered, there will be a charge for the dinner. Tickets will be available at the November meeting, and the price will be announced at that time. For those of you that can't attend the November meeting, or just forget to buy a ticket, contact me prior to December 1 about getting on the dinner list.

For the coming year, I promise more classes will be available; just get your name in the signup book kept by Joyce Hrapsky. I will be doing cabbing classes and a doublet making workshop, hopefully starting in January, and Brian Wetzig is introducing silversmithing classes. I expect that there will be faceting classes and possibly beading classes available a little later; we'll see. 2012 promises to be a busy year for AGMS; I hope each of you plan to be part of it.

Robert Morriss,  
President, AGMS, 2011



AGMS General Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2011

President Robert Morriss called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There was no program scheduled. Attendance: 42 members and 6 visitors.

Announcements:

November Meeting: Robert Morriss reminded that the November general club meeting will be held on November 17th---the 3rd Thursday instead of the 4th.

December 8th Induction Banquet: At the November meeting, you can buy tickets for the catered banquet meal. The meal does not include dessert, so please bring one to share. Robert Morriss said that there would be a gift swap; please designate if the gift is for a man or a woman.

Volunteer Opportunity: Sue Postlethwait said that the Paleontological Society of Austin helps at our show by doing fossil cleaning demonstrations. We, in turn, go to their show and do Dino Rubs and cabbing demonstrations. She asked for volunteers to help at this year's Fossil Fest, December 3rd and 4th at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock (take the same exit as for Dell Diamond). The show is family-oriented and has food vendors.

Cabbing Contest: Sue Postlethwait directed our attention to the display case at the front of the room and reminded members to vote for one cab in each category (adult and junior).

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: The Board consists of five officers and six directors; the Nominating Committee recommended these members to fill upcoming vacancies:

- *Officer Nominees - For President, Pauline Denson and for Secretary, Joyce Hrapsky. (Officers Richard Dorsey, Paul Bordovsky and Wing Evans will begin their second terms.)*
- *Director Nominees: Lou Pulliam, Marilyn Gilbreath, Sian Schilhab and Harold Von Rosenberg. (Directors Terry Barry and Stretch Young will begin their second terms.)*

Voting will take place at the November meeting, and at that time, additional nominations can be made from the floor.

Show: Susan Postlethwait, the Show Chair, thanked all those who worked so hard all year and at the show to make it a success. She received many compliments especially on the volunteers and the chairs. She reported that traffic to our show was boosted somewhat from a food trailer event that was going on across the street and that even with the state of the economy, the majority of the club booths made more than last year. She thanked Chip Burnette for running the silent auction and explained that 3/4 of the proceeds go to the South Central Federation (SCF) Endowment Fund and 1/4 goes to AGMS for operating expenses. The SCF uses the interest earned from the Endowment Fund to run the Federation.

AGMS General Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2011

The next Show Committee Meeting is Thursday, November 10th at 7 p.m.; it serves as a de-briefing and feedback opportunity to improve next year's show. Everyone's welcome to attend. Sue reminded those who worked on the show in any capacity to report your hours to Brian Wetzig. For every 2 hours, you get a ticket that goes into a prize drawing.

Newsletter: Diann Hill said that some members are on the AGMSList, which indicates they have email, and they also request a paper copy of the Stone Chipper. She asks that these people consider changing to receiving the Stone Chipper by email---it's in color and saves postage. Printing the newsletter also restricts it to 12 pages.

Library: Diann Hill showed a water-damaged book that was returned in the book drop. Accidents happen, but it would be preferable to contact a librarian and offer to pay for or replace a book that is no longer suitable for the library.

Door Prizes and Winners:

Pauline Denson assisted Robert Morriss in the drawing; the winners were:

- David Wenger - Hematite
- Stretch Young - Fluorite
- Alex Swanson - Calcite from Mexico
- Carl Phelan - To be identified
- Chip Burnette - Danburite.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

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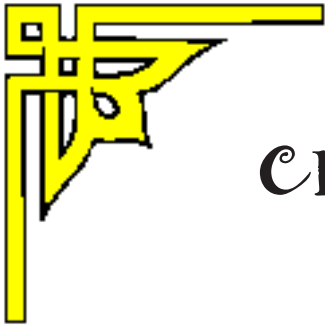
Shop Tip

One reason for polishing a stone all over, front, back, and edges, is the polish acts as a sealer. It seals and keeps in water, especially opal. It prevents natural corrosion as in Rhodonite, which corrodes to black ore called wad, and helps stop absorption of harmful substances such as perspiration, etc. Polish the back of your cabs by flat lapping on the back of a glass plate or normally.

via Gem of the Rogue 8/98, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09, STAR-O-LITE 11/11

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How do you explain counter-clockwise to a child that only has a digital watch?



# Chipper Chatter

The following members celebrate *birthdays* in November and December:



Fran Ellis 11/7  
Chip Burnette 11/25

Robert Morris 11/7  
Robert Folsom 12/4

Mac Ellis 11/18  
Glenn Gilbreath 12/7

Ewing Evans 11/24

Let us help you celebrate your birthday by listing it in *The Stone Chipper*. Please e-mail the editor at [stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:stonechipper@austingemandmineral.org), with your birth month and day so it can be added to the list.

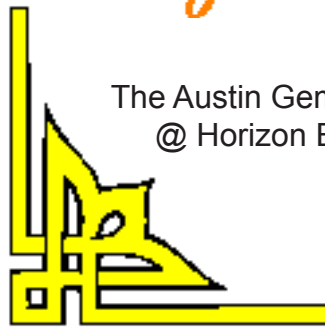


The Librarians would like to say "Thank You" To Kathleen Howard for the beautiful new rug in the library and the runner outside the library wall. The sure brighten up the place!



### 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.



Show Committee Meeting  
October 13, 2011

The Show Committee meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes for were submitted with one correction on the Treasurer's ending balance.

Treasurer: Brian provided the bank account information.

Auction: Chip advised there are a few donations.

Advertising: Susan would like to do a little more online advertising.

Club Booth: Members can pay at the next meeting which is October 27th.

Display Competition: There are three competition cases.

Dealers: Stretch sent out the letter to dealers advising of move-in times.

Dinosaur talk: Andrea has the dinosaur samples and will have them at the show on Thursday after 3:00.

Floor Plans: Done and provided copy to the Palmer Event Center.

School letters: Susan advised we will have close to 1,000 school kids.

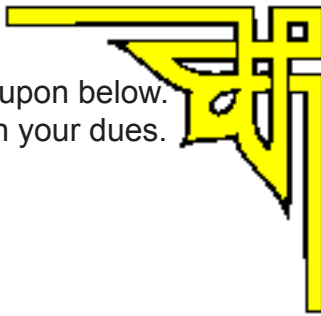
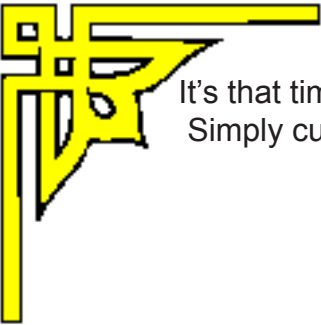
Show Bulletin: Stretch brought in a sample of both bulletins, some corrections were requested. Susan will send Stretch a copy of the show pin to place on the bulletins. Print 1,500 copies of junior bulletin and 2,000 adult bulletins.

Show Money: Brian will get with Bob Greenway to find out how much money is needed for the registers.

Gold Display: Susan has talked to Ann at UT about a display.

Staging at break down: Cases will be emptied before we take them down. Susan will make up signs for where items need to be placed in a staging area (at the gem mine) for loading in the trailers.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, the motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.  
Next meeting will be November 10th at 7:00.



It's that time again, please pay your 2012 dues using the handy coupon below. Simply cut out the membership application below and enclose with your dues.

AUSTIN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Membership Application  
Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Single \$15.00, \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$20.00, \_\_\_\_\_ Juniors \$4.00 each;

**E-mail only newsletter:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to have only your name published in a membership roster please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

What telephone number may we include ? \_\_\_\_\_

May we include your email address? Yes  No

You may mail your check and the above membership application to :

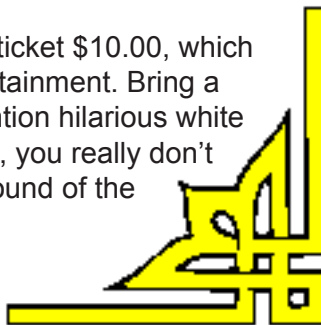
AGMS  
Attn: Ewing Evans  
6719 BURNET LANE  
AUSTIN TEXAS 78757  
(512) 458-9546

As some of you have moved during the past year, and/or changed your email address, by returning the membership application this will allow us to verify the mailing address and contact information we currently have on file for you.



Officer Induction Banquet  
December 8, 2011  
7:00 P.M.

Get your tickets now for the famous Officer Induction Banquet. The price of your ticket \$10.00, which includes a fantastic catered meal, announcements, awards, music and other entertainment. Bring a small gift (\$10.00 tops) related to the hobby for the fast and furious, not to mention hilarious white elephant present trade offs. If you have never been to one of these functions, you really don't know what you are missing. Who will be this years' receipt of Rock Hound of the Year, or the Patron Endowment Fund Award?



AGMS Board Meeting Synopsis  
November 1, 2011

The AGMS Board met on November 1, 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: Five officers, five board members and one club member.

Minutes: The October minutes were accepted as printed.

#### New Business

2012 Budget: Wing Evans brought copies of the 2011 budget with year-to-date actual income and expenses and his proposed 2012 amounts. The Board reviewed each line item and some amounts were changed for a final proposed 2012 budget. A motion passed unanimously to accept the budget as revised by this Board.

Review Nominating Committee Recommendations: Robert Morriss said that there were more people willing to serve than needed for the vacancies. From the committee: Pauline Denson for President; Joyce Hrapsky for Secretary; Lou Pulliam, Sian Schilhab, Harold Von Rosenberg and Marilyn Gilbreath for new directors. (Serving the 2nd year of their terms: Officers Richard Dorsey, Paul Bordovsky and Wing Evans; Directors Terry Barry and Stretch Young.) A motion passed unanimously that we accept the slate of officers as presented at the general meeting.

A second motion passed unanimously that we accept the automatic resignation of Amy Dalton per the Bylaws.

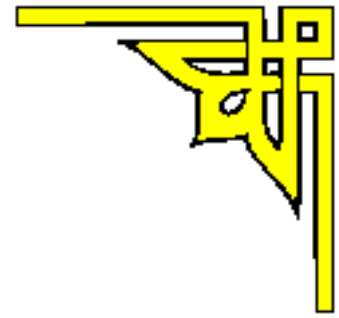
Member Communications: Stretch Young reported that Silicon Labs received three nice letters from children who came to Gem Capers. Robert Morriss said several other complimentary communications have been received and one critical one. Robert sent a personal response and tried to address the criticisms.

#### Old Business

Bylaws Committee Report: Stretch Young reported that he expects the committee to be ready by the December meeting. The Bylaws changes were tabled.

Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

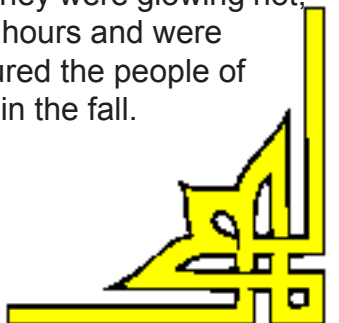
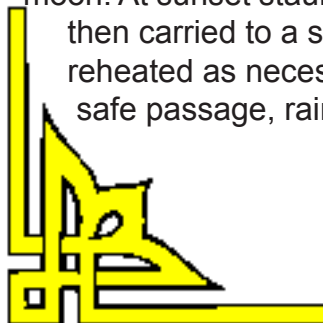
Don't forget to sign up in the refreshment book for your turn to bring refreshments for 2012. Sign up now and beat the rush, make sure you get your favorite month for those wonderful snacks. Thanks to everyone who so faithfully brought snacks during this past year. It is a wonderful way to meet guests and mingle with fellow club members.



Staurolites

Staurolite is a metamorphic mineral that is famous for its twinned crystals that form the shape of a cross. It is composed of iron aluminum silicate and its color ranges from yellowish brown to reddish brown to black. It can be transparent or opaque. It forms with garnet, tourmaline and kyanite in mica schists and gneisses and other aluminum-rich metamorphic rocks. They can be found in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and New Mexico. Deposits are also located in Russia, France and Brazil. It is the official state mineral of Georgia. The cross most commonly forms at a 60 degree angle (St Andrew's Crosses) but the 90 degree angle (Greek Crosses) is most sought after. They sometimes form with both types of crystals creating a specimen that looks like a 6 rayed star. Staurolite gets its name from stauros, the Greek word for cross but is also known as Fairy Stone and Fairy Cross. It has long been prized as a good luck charm and is thought to aid in healing and provide protection from evil spirits. A popular Christian legend states that tears shed by the angels at the time of Christ's crucifixion crystallized and fell to the earth as Staurolites. Other legends claim they were formed by the tears of fairies, shed in sorrow over the death of Christ. The Cherokee have their own legend which tells of the little people who brought to them a tale of greatness and sadness. The little people spoke of a special boy-child who had grown into a man of wisdom and taught his people the ways of the Creator and the straight white path of peace. He brought strong medicine (nuwati) to his people but had many enemies who would not hear his message of peace. On this day they would torture and kill the wise man. Because of their sorrow, the Cherokee began to cry. When their weeping had ended they looked down and saw that their tears had been changed into small stone crosses. (legend preserved by the Chiltoskey family of Cherokee North Carolina) The Cherokee also tell of an annual ceremony centered around staurolites that was held at the Spring Solstice full moon. At sunset staurolite crosses would be put into the fire and heated until they were glowing hot, then carried to a special mound with green sticks. There they glowed for hours and were reheated as necessary to keep them hot until sunrise. The ceremony assured the people of safe passage, rain during the growing season and an abundance of food in the fall.

Sources: ·Smithsonia via Strata Gem June 2011,  
via Moroks November Newsletter 2011



## Not Everything Geological Takes Forever to be Shaped

(contributed by Terry Fetzner) By Dale Gnidovec, Curator of the Orton Geological Museum at Ohio State University.

Many Earth processes are very slow — the growth of mountains, the erosion of hills, the movement of continents — so geologists tend to think in long time spans. That outlook is proper for many things, but a recent article demonstrated that it might not apply to something that I have often assumed it does — the growth of crystals.

Most of the gem minerals — emeralds, rubies, sapphires, diamonds — form underground, so we can't watch them form or measure how fast they grow. We can, however, make some educated guesses based on other information.

For example, the beautiful aquamarine crystals from Pakistan and Afghanistan occur in granite-like rocks called pegmatites that solidified less than 5 million years ago. Pegmatites form only at depths of at least 3 miles. The area is rising at the rate of about half an inch per year, so it took at least half a million years for those pegmatites to reach the surface. That doesn't leave more than a couple million years for those aquamarine crystals to form. Another indirect method is to calculate how long it took crystal bearing molten rock to cool and harden. A dike is a tabular (sheet like) body of igneous rock that was injected as molten material into older rock. The dikes in California's San Diego County are known for producing large crystals of tourmaline. One dike, called the imalaya Dike, is 1½ feet thick, and another, the Stewart Dike, is 82 feet thick.

Knowing how hot the material had to be when molten and knowing the thermal conductivity of the surrounding rocks, researchers calculated that the thicker dike took nine years to cool and harden and the thinner dike took just five days! That means a 4-inch-long tourmaline crystal in the Himalaya Dike grew at almost an inch a day. Fast crystal growth also has been documented directly. The ancient Greek silver, copper and lead mines of Laurium, about 25 miles southeast of Athens, were worked extensively. The Greeks dumped the slag into the sea, where reaction to seawater caused crystals to grow. As long as a halfinch, they formed after the mines were abandoned about 2,000 years ago. Gypsum crystals in salt pools in Australia have been observed to grow a half-inch a month, and borax crystals in Searles Lake, Calif., add a half inch every few hours. Earth isn't always slow.

gnidovec@geology.ohio-state.edu, December 27, 2005, [www.dispatch.com](http://www.dispatch.com), website of The Columbus Dispatch, via, The Golden Nugget April 2011, via STAR-O-LITE August 2011.



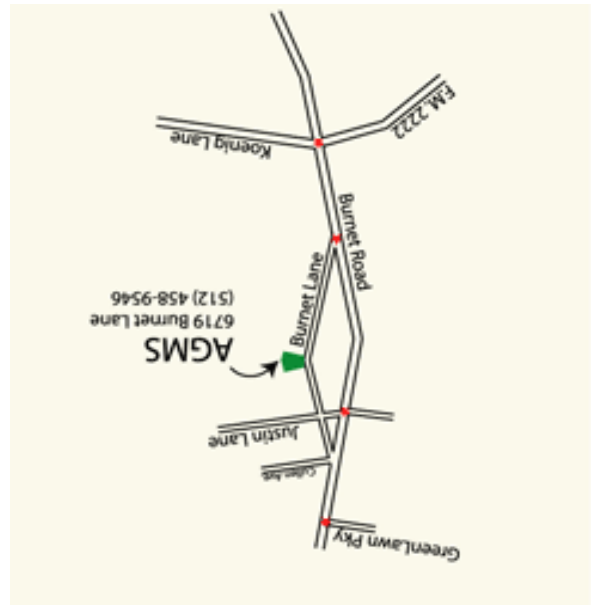
Please visit us at [www.Austingemandmineral.org](http://www.Austingemandmineral.org)

### Address Correction Requested



Newsletter

November/December 2011



[StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:StoneChipper@austingemandmineral.org)

(512) 458-9546

AUSTIN TEXAS 78757

6719 BURNET LANE

Diann Hill, Editor

### The Stone Chipper

THE AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.



## 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](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** 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 meetings are open to anyone. Society officers are listed on the front page of this publication. Please feel free to contact any of them for information.



\$15.00 annually for an adult

### DUES FOR 2011

Membership dues are:

\$20.00 annually for a couple

\$4.00 annually for juniors

### THE STONE CHIPPER



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