



The 663rd Meeting of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society will be held on:

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

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

September Program: Frank Roberts

THE STONE CHIPPER
SEPTEMBER 2011 VOLUME 50.9



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



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vpresident1@austingemandmineral.org



2nd VP – Paul Bordovsky
vpresident2@austingemandmineral.org



Treasurer – Ewing Evans
treasurer@austingemandmineral.org



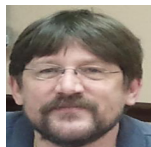
Board Member – Amy Dalton
amyd@austingemandmineral.org



Board Member – Joyce Hrapsky
joyceh@austingemandmineral.org



Board Member – Louis Lee
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Board Member – Jeff "Stretch" Young
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Not pictured are: Secretary - Marilyn Gilbreath,
secretary@austingemandmineral.org

Board members - Terry Barry,
terryb@austingemandmineral.org

David Winger,
davidw@austingemandmineral.org

AGMS MOTTO: EACH ONE TEACH ONE

2011 AGMS Committee Heads



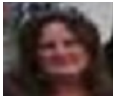
Annual Show - Susan Postlethwait showchairman@austingemandmineral.org

Education/Classes - Joyce Hrapsky classes@austingemandmineral.org

Field Trips - Chip Burnett trip@austingemandmineral.org

Junior Advisor - Jackie Fisher juniors@austingemandmineral.org

Co-Librarians - Terry Barry, Roger Waguespack, Diann Hill Librarian@austingemandmineral.org



Newsletter Editor - Diann Hill 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 (Josie Middleton is filling in temporary for Ron)



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Presidential Message

Greetings to all AGMS members,

Well, this has been a really bad week here in Central Texas. The ultrahot temperatures and low humidity, coupled with the strong winds from the TS Lee to our east and from the front that came down from the north did create conditions for the perfect fire storm, and we got it. So far the only AGMS members that have reported the loss of their home are the Fishers, Gef and Jackie, who lived southeast of Bastrop in the Colovista area. They got out with their RV, so they do have a place to sleep, but the house is gone. Mac Ellis contacted me to say their home is still there, and Miriam Hall checked in with no losses so far, so that is good news.

I don't know if we have any members involved with the Steiner Ranch fire or the Leander fire. No one has checked in with bad news about these two hot spots, so I'm thinking positive.

I'm also thinking about what I should do in a similar situation. I have a small travel trailer and a pickup that I don't have to drive on a daily basis. Right now that pickup and trailer are coupled up, and a pull on the electric connection will allow me (or Charlotte) to hit the road with a trailer load of necessary documents, family mementos and the little goodies that we just have to keep safe. Yes, there are some mineral specimens in there.

I suggest to each of you that you consider packaging up the important documents (insurance papers, deeds, tax records, etc.) in a container that can be grabbed on your way out the door. That same container can also hold a few days supply of necessary medicines. One or two days supply of clothing (in a plastic bag) stashed in the car won't take up much space in the trunk. Simple precautions such as these will help you to take care of yourself and family for the critical first two or three days if you do have to run from a fire, and I think it's safe to say that we have not seen the last of big fires in Central Texas. I know that Charlotte and I will be "settin on ready" until we get a decent rain, and one of us will be close to that silver pickup nearly all the time.

Hopefully, I can be more cheerful next month.....try to keep safe out there.

Robert Morriss
Current President, AGMS

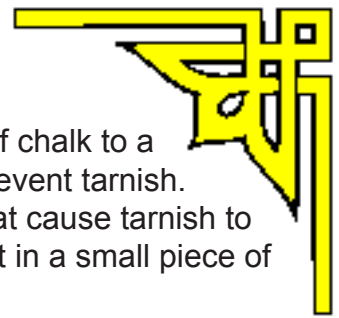
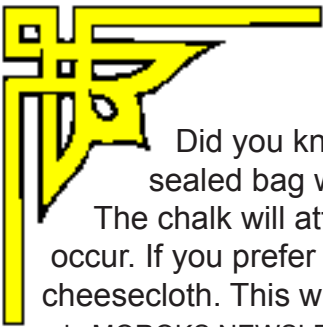
October Meeting 4th Thursday
November Meeting 3rd Thursday



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.





Did you know that Chalk prevents tarnish? Adding a small piece of chalk to a sealed bag with a sterling silver jewelry piece inside does work to prevent tarnish.

The chalk will attract any moisture as well as most chemical residues that cause tarnish to occur. If you prefer not to worry about the chalk touching the jewelry, wrap it in a small piece of cheesecloth. This will work for jewelry as well as for flatware, tea sets, etc.

via MOROKS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER



What Do Gold and Diamonds Have in Common? by Celia Tiffany, Livermore Valley Lithophiles

via MOROKS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER

Diamonds and gold are both classified as Native Elements in the Periodic Table of the Elements: that is they are among the few elements that occur in the Earth's crust in a relatively pure, uncombined form.

- Both crystallize in the cubic system.
- Both most commonly occur as octahedral crystals.
- Large deposits of each have been mined in South Africa and in Australia
- Both are highly valued for use in jewelry, science, and industry.
- Both have inspired exploration, exploitation, and brutal conquests.

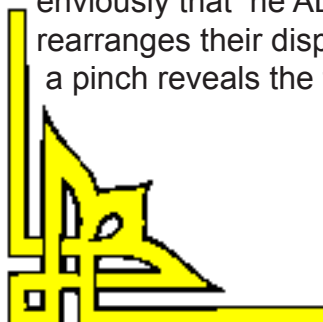


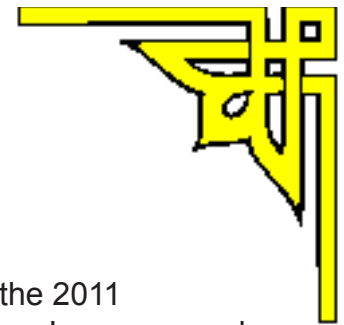
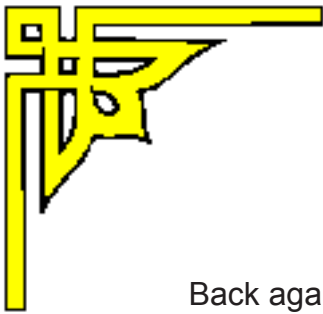
MISTAKEN IDENTITIES = SHATTERED ILLUSIONS, SO VERY APPROPRIATE!

(Note: Full appreciation of the following story requires one to be both cat lover and rockhound.)

As she hands him the object, she is thinking it is one of the most beautiful rocks she has EVER found. She says to him, "see, here is something I found when I was four or five years old and I have kept it all of my life." He replies, "Oh, a melted marble." After they went rocking at Bettas Road, he says to her, "Look what I found when I cleaned out my pockets! Have you ever seen a prettier piece of Ellensburg Blue? True, it's small, but look how it glows. I think I can make a ring set or something out of it." As he places the little Blue in their tiny, but growing, E.B. display, she thinks enviously that he ALWAYS finds the best rocks. She keeps thinking that until the day she rearranges their display and picks up the little Blue – and a piece of it falls off. A closer look and a pinch reveals the true identity of the "rock." It is a piece of silica crystal cat litter.

Author anonymous by request, via The Petrified Digest 4/2010,





2011 CABOCHON CONTEST
by Susan Postlethwait

Back again is the AGMS Cabochon Contest. Taking a cue from the 2011 show theme, Gold, this year's theme will be gold Tiger Eye Cabochons. I was amazed at the number of members who participated last year!

The capping class at our club is very popular, with many members cutting their first stones and many members refining their skills.

The idea is simple, cut a gold tiger eye cabochon, enter the cabochon for evaluation at the September general meeting, and then see your work of art displayed at our show! 1, 2, 3!

The Cabochon Contest is:
Open to all AGMS members, including juniors
Must use gold tiger eye
Two divisions: Adult & Junior
Two classes: Traditional & Freeform

The purpose of the contest is to foster knowledge in lapidary arts with the goal being to encourage each member to learn more about the lapidary arts whether that is learning through doing or learning through evaluating.

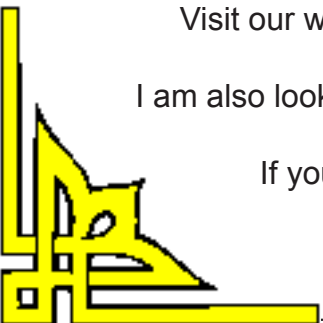
Evaluation will cover such things as:
MATERIAL (Quality, Orientation to pattern in stone)
SANDING/GRINDING (Flats, Scratches)
POLISH ("Water" finish, high luster)
SYMMETRY (Dome, Outline)
SIZE (If defined, Template Accuracy)

All cabochons will be displayed at Gem Capers Gem and Mineral Show. The Cabochon Contest Chairman will be responsible for setting up the exhibit including cabochons, scores, artist name and ribbon. Each artist will receive copies of the evaluation sheets, appropriate ribbon and will be recognized at the November meeting.

Last year's juniors received \$20 from Stretch Young and a slab of tiger eye from Robert Morriss. Visit our website for more details. www.AustinGemAndMineral.org

I am also looking for a few volunteers to judge the stones. Just give me a shout!

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Postlethwait.





Chipper Chatter

The following members celebrate
birthdays
in September and October:



Charlotte Morriss - 9/3

Dee Fly - 9/12

Susan Postlethwait - 9/22

Ron Guzman - 9-26

Sherman Waters - 9/26

Carolyn Perkins - 9/29

Lou Pulliam 10/6

Josie Middleton 10/16

Angela Alba-DiRico 10/17

Sarah Blake 10/19

Tony Pulliam 10/25

For those members who have been affected by the recent fires, please know that your AGMS family is here to help in any means possible. Just let someone know what you need.

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.



A look back in History Field trip from 1987

On March 28, 1987 The Austin Gem and Mineral Society held a field trip. The location will now surprise you. At the time it was a very 'hot' location for collecting.

March 28th is the date set for a fossil field trip to Lago Vista. We will meet at the Safeway Store on 183N just past Hwy 620, and will leave at 9:20 a.m. We will visit 4 locations. We will pick up Echinoids, Phymosoma Texanum, Loriola Texana, Holoctypus, Planatus, Spines and various clams, oysters, and gastropod casts. These are from the Walnut Formation and Lower Cretaceous. Bring your own lunch or you may eat at one of the many restaurants in Lago Vista. Tools: chisels, hammer and safety glasses. If rainy, bring rain gear. Fossil location and information from Dan Ryder fossil collector.



1987 Officers:

President: Mrs. Alberta Miller

Secretary: Vivian Taylor

1st VP: John Boyd

Treasurer: Ivy Hjernevik

2nd VP: Howard Hagood

One Year Board Members: Maxine Grote, Pat Marshall, Hank Moncure
Two Year Board Members: Leroy Archer, Kathy Alexander, Alice Ann Wilder

Trustees: Bull Mullener, Wes Hjernevik, Grace Hall,
Greg Fisher, Bob Kanewske



Library News

Please stop by the library and say "Hi and Thank You" to the newest member of the AGMS Library team: Roger Waguespack. Just a reminder, the Library is open ANYTIME the building is open and there is a Librarian present.

Upcoming Classes

Please be sure and sign up (in the notebook) for the upcoming classes. See Joyce Hrapsky for more details, or email Joyce at joyceh@austingemandmineral.org for more information.

UpComing Shows

September -

23-25—JOPLIN, MISSOURI: 13th annual show; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Schifferdecker Park, 7th and Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; free admission; contact Chris Wiseman, (417) 623-1180; e-mail: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

23-25—SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO: Palace of the Governors, New Mexico History Museum; Palace of the Governors courtyard, 113 Lincoln Ave.; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-4:30; free admission; dealers, specimens, talks, demonstrations, contact Inessa Williams, 113 Lincoln Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501, (505) 476-5106; e-mail: inessa.williams@state.nm.us; Web site: www.nmhistorymuseum.org

October -

1-2—JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS: 39th annual show; Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society; Jacksonville Civic Center, 5 Municipal Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 20 dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, Kids' Dig, geode cracking, Rock Spin, mineral identification, grand prize; contact Lenora Murray, 218 Old Hwy. 11S, Hazen, AR 72064, (870) 255-3679; e-mail: lenoramur@aol.com; Web site: centralarrockhound.org

8-9—TEMPLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society; Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3; silent auctions, raffles, door prizes, grand prize, demonstrations, dealers, rough, slabs, cabs, faceted gems, equipment, finished jewelry; contact Chip Burnette, 2630 Polk St., Killeen, TX 76543, (254) 630-3573; e-mail: burnette@aceweb.com



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

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.

AGMS General Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2011

Annual Auction Night: Auction organizer Richard Dorsey invited members to preview the donations from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and President Morriss called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The auction was attended by 50 members, 3 visitors; and 3 new families joined the club.

Committee Announcements:

Show: Ed Gage said members can enter their favorite thumbnail, miniature or cabinet specimen(s) in this year's show competition. The entries are needed by show set-up date; additional details will be posted on the club's website.

Sunshine: For the next month or so, please contact Josie Middleton instead of the Guzmans with any sunshine news or needs.

Mineral Photography Contest: Jackie Fisher showed an 8x10" mineral photograph by Ivy Hjernevik's grandson as an encouragement to others to enter the annual contest. Please submit your entries prior to the September meeting when the judging will take place. Jackie has two prizes lined up for winners.

Auction:

Our enthusiastic auction team:
Robert Morriss, auctioneer;



Vincent Leonardo relief auctioneer;
David Dow and Brian Wetzig spotters;



continued on page 9

August Meeting Minutes Continued:

Richard Dorsey and Les Postlethwait stagers;
Jackie and Gef Fisher, helpers; Laura Dow and Sue Postlethwait, cashiers.

Items for bid included: Attractive rocks (of course), small boxed mineral specimens and micromounts from Linda Northcote's estate, a flint-knapped knife with horn handle by Mac Ellis, necklaces, a pendant, bundled magazines, containers, plastic specimen bags, and machines that included a flat lap, centrifuge, slabbing saw and some miscellaneous parts. The first item up---den-drite quartz from New Mexico donated by the Striebers---brought \$1 as did several other early items. By auction's end, Robert Morriss recalled a \$50 mineral specimen and the \$40 saw as being the two big bid items. [Secretary's note: My winning bids got me two nice slabs---one of tiger-eye and one of amethyst and crystal with a striking pattern on one side.]

During the 8:00 p.m. break, we enjoyed choosing from about a dozen flavors of ice cream and as many delicious toppings.

The auction ended at 9:40 p.m. with a few items remaining. Thank you to those who donated so generously and to the bidders and buyers who competed to take these treasures home in support of AGMS.

Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary

Pictures taken by Paul Bordovsky with Laura Dow's camera.



AGMS Board Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2011

The AGMS Board met on September 6, 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, one club member and one visitor.

Minutes: The August minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Wing Evans said that the August ending balance has not been received, but that dues income is below forecast, the auction income is very close to that expected, our utility costs are higher than normal and our form 990 income tax report preparation fee is greater than last year. Overall, we are near the expected income/outlet condition.

New Business

Proposal for a New Class: Brian Wetzig presented a syllabus for a Metalsmithing class. The class will cover basic techniques, tools and supplies. The students will build a wood hammer, make a pierced copper piece, and set a cabochon in a silver bezel. A motion carried to approve Brian Wetzig's syllabus for a Metalsmithing class and set the fee for the class at \$25. For the first class, Brian is to furnish, at his expense, the "Items Supplied to Student" as listed in the syllabus. AGMS will reimburse these items at any subsequent classes.

Communications from Members: Robert Morriss asked how long we need to keep documents of various types because someone had asked him about some old show dealers lists. Discussion: old show dealer lists – dispose of them; taxes – keep 7 years; insurance – year by year; financial and property – keep indefinitely. Stretch Young asked if we have a fire safe and a plan for storing essential records off site. There is a safe, but no provisions have been made for storing records off site.

Donations: Stretch Young said he'd like for our procedures to mention donations. He does not think donors should set conditions that obligate the club to carry out a certain course of action. Robert asked Stretch to bring some text for consideration.

Old Business

Bylaws Revisions: Tabled.

Addendum to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): Joyce Hrapsky presented a proposed appendix to replace the current document in Appendix B entitled "Class Fee Structure" dated June, 2009. The document was discussed and some changes made. The motion to accept the "Appendix to SOP – Class Structure and Fees" as revised passed.

Marilyn Gilbreath, Secretary



Just for Fun

“THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN GEM CUTTING CHALLENGE 2011”

Competition entries to be in by **Saturday 19th November, 2011.**

Competition to be open to – “Anyone who wishes to contribute to raising the standards of gem cutting in the region” Note: Southern Africa includes all countries bordering South Africa as well as Zambia/Malawi/Tanzania. (Editors note: I have been receiving this club’s newsletters for a while now.

When I asked if our club members from the USA could enter this if they liked, here is the response I received: “What a wonderful surprise! Yes you certainly may enter this competition - we would love to see your contribution.”)

Purpose:

The idea behind this challenge is firstly, for everyone to have fun. We want to encourage participation with a view to improve the standards of excellence in stone cutting in our region.

Everyone is invited to enter, as indicated above, regardless of skill levels. As the saying goes – unless you are challenged, you will not necessarily improve.

The judging panel will consist of veteran cutters from various backgrounds to ensure that the entries are judged fairly. The last Competition was indicative of this impartiality as both the faceted and cabochon winners weren’t from Pretoria.

So, now you know its happening, prepare to start cutting.....

We look forward to your entries.

From the panel’s chair-

Fay Pier



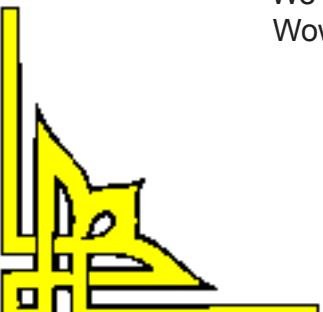
SCHOOL DISPLAY TIME

The students are back in school
Where they learn the golden rule
Also math, science, and engineers;
Keeps them busy many years.

Students ask before we’re there
Where are the rocks those people share?
We want to see them! We can’t wait.
Wow, we sure like to see them. They are great!

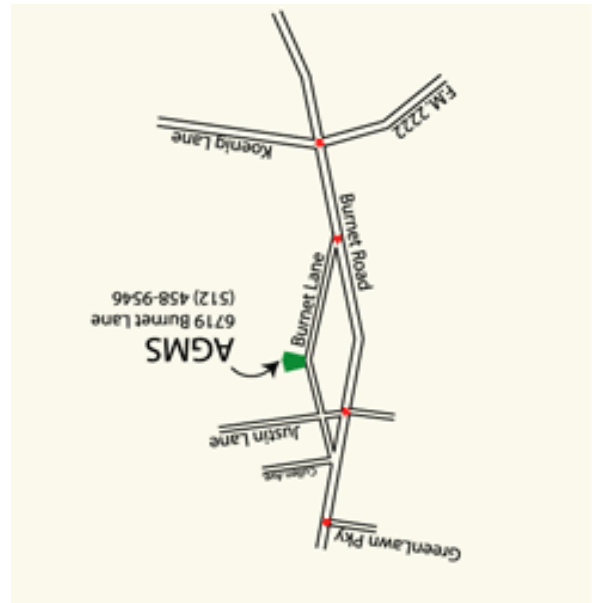
Yes. Time for gems and minerals to be displayed,
So geology and hobby can be arrayed.
Eleven schools here in the county of Hays
Are happy to see these ‘most every day.

By Margaret Good AGMS member



Please visit us at www.Austingemandmineral.org

Address Correction Requested



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Diann Hill, Editor

September 2011 Newsletter

The Stone Chipper



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 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.



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



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