

1.

March 2011

**PICKIN'S AND DIGGIN'S**  
***WILLIAMSON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY***



**Presidents Message:** Thanks for all the hard work, long hours and doing such a Grand job on our show. I am quite proud of all... together we created a fantastic show... we have received many wonderful comments.

We have signed up many new members ..we are really growing nicely, we can continue to add more new members with shows like this show.

The weekend after the show Bill Morgenstern lead us on a really nice fieldtrip..we found many fossils and got to see Merritt Romans fantastic collection.. had a very nice picnic.. Thanks Bill for a job well done.. If anyone has any suggestions please feel free to call or email me...I would love to hear from you.

**Thanks**

**Wanda Reynolds**

**WCGMS President 2010-2011**

**[dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com)**

**Phone# 512-338-9443 or 512-461-**

2.

## MARCH'S BIRTHSTONE IS AQUAMARINE

The name aquamarine was derived by the Romans, “aqua” meaning water and “mare” meaning sea, because it looked like sea water. They were considered scared to Neptune, *god of the sea*. This association with and safe voyages as well as protection against perils and monsters of the sea. Its first documented use was by the Greeks between 480-300 BC. They wore aquamarine amulets engraved with the god **Poseidon** on a chariot. Beginning in the Roman period.

The aquamarine was believed to possess medical and healing powers, curing, ailments of the stomach, liver, jaws and throat. During the Middle Ages, it was believed to be an effective antidote against poison. Aquamarines were thought to be the source of power for soothsayers, who called it the “*magic mirror*”, and used it for telling fortunes and answering questions about the future. It is said that Emperor Nero used it as a eyeglass 2,000 years ago, and much later aquamarines were used as eyeglasses in Germany to correct shortsightedness. In fact, the German name for eyeglasses today is “**brill e**”, derived from the mineral **beryl**.

**Aquamarines vary in color from deep blue to blue-green of different intensities**, caused by the trace of iron. Naturally occurring deep blue stones are the most prized because they are rare and expensive. However, yellow beryl stones can be heated to change them to blue aquamarines.

### *Old Miner's Rule*

#### *from the Geode Strata Data 9/2005*

While a miner's tools, equipment, and personal belongings remain in or next to a digging, that is his until he relinquishes it either by removing said property or announcing that he is finished digging in that area. Furthermore, specimens or rocks cached on or near said personal property are also the property of the miner and shall not be touched or removed without his express permission. Every Rock hound should obey this rule.

### **Rock Show at Live Oak Texas**

Bill Morgenstern and I went to the Rock Show in Live Oak, Texas Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, nice trip traffic not to bad. The show was very good they had a large layout with about a 20' table for the silent action, with boxes of rocks of all description, saws, tumblers, polishers and sanding wheels. They had some beautiful display cases that different vendors had set up and you could vote on the best display set up. They had 28 vendor booths set up with a Geology Club Booth at the entrance which was maned by some very nice people that gave us some location in state where different items can be found.

The prices were pretty good with some very nice purchases of jewelry, geodes, agates, palm wood and many other minerals and gems. We saw two other members of the WCGMS at the show. After lunch we hit the back roads coming home scouting out new places for field trips in the future.

### 3. Some fun for the younger members

#### Gems and Minerals of Brazil Word Search

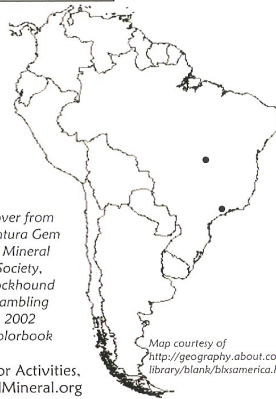
The following puzzle has been supplied for the Gem Capers Show to provide stimulus for the kids. You can find the answers hidden in the puzzle either diagonally, horizontally, vertically, or backwards. Good luck!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | X | E | H | R | V | P | C | B | W | M | X | C | O | L |
| U | O | O | T | H | E | M | A | T | I | T | E | H | G | A |
| Z | R | E | G | I | E | J | G | R | W | S | Y | R | N | I |
| S | J | K | S | W | H | J | M | B | U | R | O | Y | E | R |
| V | Y | Y | A | X | C | F | G | U | E | J | S | T | E |   |
| B | R | A | Z | I | L | I | A | N | I | T | E | O | Z | P |
| F | B | N | I | G | G | C | L | S | S | U | B | T | M |   |
| N | K | I | X | I | O | A | U | Y | A | R | Y | E | R | I |
| J | J | T | W | E | L | L | H | E | M | M | O | R | A | Y |
| R | C | E | S | C | M | T | D | A | J | F | R | Y | U | W |
| M | F | O | I | Z | E | E | L | U | K | U | J | L | Q | Z |
| U | T | T | A | M | J | I | R | A | G | A | T | E | N | Z |
| E | E | P | A | E | N | I | R | A | M | A | U | Q | A | G |
| S | O | C | U | E | N | Q | K | Z | L | A | J | K | R | P |
| T | D | N | O | M | A | I | D | U | I | D | V | I | L | D |

AGATE  
AMETHYST  
AQUAMARINE  
BRAZILIANITE  
CALCITE  
CHRYSOBERYL  
DIAMOND  
EMERALD  
EUCLASE  
GOLD  
HEMATITE  
IMPERIAL  
KYANITE  
MALACHITE  
QUARTZ  
TOPAZ  
TOURMALINE

#### Map Quiz

- o Locate Brazil on map.
- o Draw the Amazon River.
- o What is the capital of Brazil?
- o Locate the capital of Brazil on the map.
- o Locate Rio de Janeiro on the map.





Crossword Puzzle  
Answers  
DOWN  
ACROSS  
1. BAUXITE  
2. BRAZILIANITE  
3. AQUAMARINE  
4. TOURMALINE  
5. AMAZON  
6. RUTILE  
7. TOPAZ  
8. RUTILE  
9. DIAMOND  
10. FORTOQUESE  
11. GOLD

Cover from  
Ventura Gem  
& Mineral  
Society,  
Rockhound  
Rambling  
2002  
Colorbook

Map courtesy of  
<http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxamerica.htm>

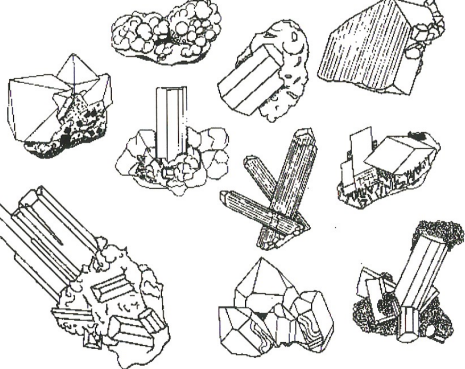
For information about AGMS Junior Activities, visit our website at [AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://AustinGemAndMineral.org)

Austin Gem and Mineral Society  
Sponsored by Silicon Laboratories  
*presents*





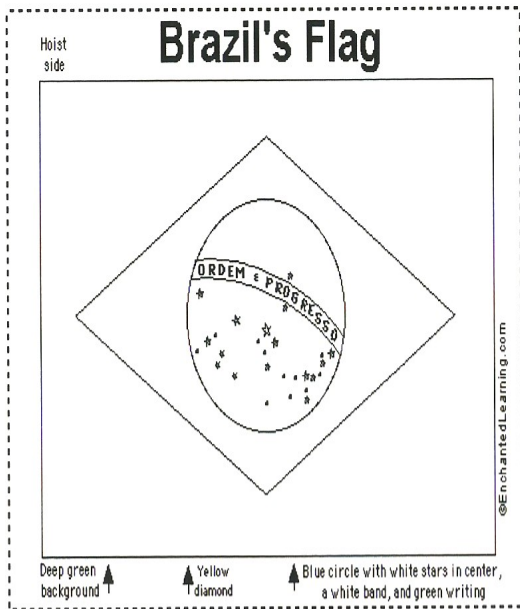
## Juniors Resource Guide

October 24 - 26, 2008



*Gems and Minerals of*  
**Brazil**

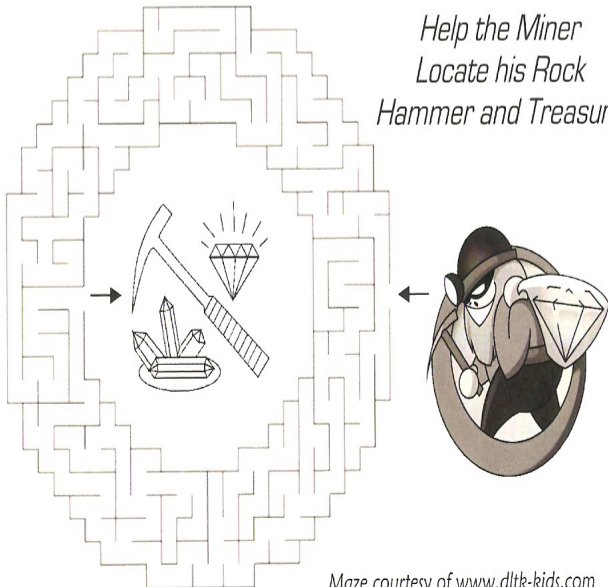




Brazil's Flag is a deep green banner with a yellow diamond enclosing a night-blue, star-studded Southern Hemisphere sky. The sky depicts 27 white, five-pointed stars (one for each state and the Federal District); the stars are arranged in the pattern of the night sky over Rio de Janeiro on November 15, 1889 (this is the date when the last Emperor of Brazil, Dom Pedro II, was deposed, and the republic was proclaimed). This flag was adopted on May 11, 1992 – it was an adaptation of an earlier Brazilian flag from November 15, 1889. A banner across the sky reads, "ORDEM E PROGRESSO," which means "order and progress" in Portuguese.

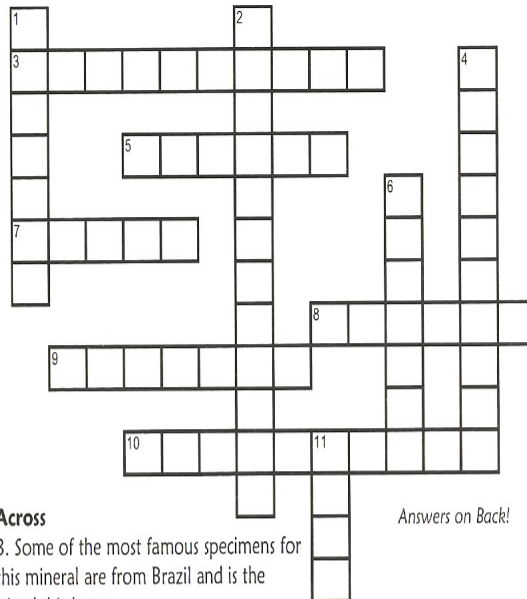
Courtesy of EnchantedLearning.com.

*Help the Miner  
Locate his Rock  
Hammer and Treasure*



Maze courtesy of www.dltk-kids.com

## Gems & Minerals of Brazil Crossword Puzzle



### Across

3. Some of the most famous specimens for this mineral are from Brazil and is the March birthstone
5. There is a long debate as to whether the Nile River or this river is the longest in the world.
7. Ouro Preto, Brazil is famous for this Imperial variety of what? (Hint: it has a hardness of 8 on the Moh's scale).
8. This mineral is often found inside of Quartz as inclusions. (Its chemical components are Ti and o2).
9. First discovered in Brazil in 1729, has a Moh's hardness of 10.
10. The official language of Brazil.

### Down

1. One of Brazil's main ores, which is a primary ore of Aluminum.
2. The mineral named after the country of Brazil.
4. This Mineral comes in all colors and one of its famous names is watermelon because of its outer green rind and bright red core.
6. A recent find at the Sapó Mine produced this mineral and it is often associated with how much you eat.
11. First discovered in Brazil in the 1690's, they became 5th largest producer of this shiny element. It's periodic symbol is Au.

Answers on Back!



**Commemorative  
AGMS 2008 Show  
Pins are available  
for sale at the  
AGMS Club booth  
for only \$3.00!**

Crossword Courtesy of Stretch Young, AGMS Member

5.

## **AZURITE**

$\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$

Some minerals come in a variety of colors, so color isn't always the best way to identify them. But azurite is always blue and leaves a light blue streak. The name is derived from *lazhuward*, the Persian word for "blue". It forms either as deep-blue tabular crystal or pale-to-dark blue masses, nodules and crust. Its luster tends to be earthy or velvety when in massive form, but glassy in crystal form.

Azurite forms from the weathering of copper, when cool, oxygen-rich groundwater seeps into rocks and veins containing metals near the earth's surface, it creates what's an "oxidation zone" that alters the metals. Thus, azurite turns into malachite. The two minerals often occur together in such close combination that inter-grown specimens of blue and green are called azur-malachite.

Because azurite is composed of up to 55 percent copper, its primary use has been as copper ore. Famous deposits have been found in France, Namibia, Russia, Zaire, Mexico and the American Southwest, particularly Arizona and Utah. Although it's a soft mineral (Mohs 3.5-4), azurite is sometimes cut into cabochons for jewelry. It has been ground to produce a bright blue pigment. Renaissance artists favored it, but it had one disadvantage: if kept in a humid environment, the azurite absorbs water and turns to malachite. Over years, an azure-blue sky in a painting slowly fades to green...

James Brace-Thompson  
Rock & Gem Magazine-Mar. 2011

## ***WCGMS NEWSLETTER***

### ***EDITORS NOTE:***

If you have an item you would like to submit for the Newsletter submit it to:

[rd4006@suddenlink.net](mailto:rd4006@suddenlink.net)

Roger Dennen, Editor

6.

### **Lampasas Field Trip:**

We had a wonderful field trip to Lampasas, TX, with about 2 hours spent at Mr. Romans Rock Museum which by the way has hundreds of beautiful rocks displays from all over the world and he has them set up in magnificent displays, you name it and he has it. After the tour of his museum we enjoyed a sack lunch on the grounds, the weather was great and as always Bill Morgenstern did a wonderful job guiding us on another back road fossil hunt with everyone finding some great fossil of sea creatures. After the main party completed their fossil hunt, 4 of us went on a scouting trip on other back roads in the area, finding several places that show great promise of many more field trips in this area, Thanks again Bill for another great fieldtrip.

### **Wonderful Speaker and Slide Show**

We had Mr. Brad Cross as our speaker at the March meeting, he is an author, great speaker and has traveled all over Northern Mexico gathering agates and geodes. Brad and his son gave about a hour talk along with a slide presentation on Northern Mexico and the different place he gathered agates of all type and small geodes accompanied by color slides of some of the most beautiful, cut and polished agates. The colors were breath taking and needless to say Brad has very large assortment. The slide show included pictures of the different areas that most were found in on different ranches in Northern Mexico around Chihuahua area. Brad brought some of his books along for people to buy and several were sold to happy customers. Wonderful show and great speaker who is most welcome back anytime.