



Time for the Christmas Party

Meeting Information

The meeting this month will be December 7 at 7:00PM at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. This is our annual Christmas Party.

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Upcoming Events

November 11, 2020- January 17, 2021 Festival of trees at the Museum of Arts and Science.
November 20 RSVP to Jay on Digs if you want to go.
November 30 RSVP to Tina if you are coming to the Christmas Party.
December 7 Christmas Party
December 19 Hogg Mine
Jan. 9, 2021 Jones Island Savannah Trip
Feb. 1, 2021 Club Meeting

Prez Box

Hello Fellow hounders,
Fall is here and winter is fast approaching. This December meeting will be our last meeting till

February. This break is coming at a good time with the pandemic we have on our hands. It is not going away which means we still need to keep our distance and stay at home. Although I like to travel, this stay at home period will be put to good use. Winter is a good time to catch up on old projects and start some new projects that we always seem to put off. My problem is that I love to start new ones faster than I can finish the old ones. So, when I go to the workshop, everywhere I look there is something to do. Projects that are relatively new and some have a few years on them. Which some of them now are losing their importance over time. Time has a way of changing our priorities and how we look at things.

Our coming Christmas party will not be the usual event. It will have a few COVID-19 tweaks to how we hold it, but it is still on and a go. I am looking forward to it and seeing our club tree that is in the Hall of Trees being held at the museum. Tina will have a write up on the details of the party.

Jay is working on several field trips for the winter break. These will be a welcome break to the winter and a chance to get out for some digging and fresh air. It has been a while since I have been to the Hogg mine. I remember the huge outcropping of rose quartz there. It was unbelievable. Don't forget to sign up for these. Everyone please, stay safe this winter. It is going to be along one, but we all need to hang in there and beat this thing. 2021 is going to be a big year with all of what was put off from this year added to the great things coming for 2021. See you at the party.

President Bill



Christmas Party Information

It is that time of year when everyone is thinking about the annual Christmas Party, however, this year is going to be different with Covid-19.



Masks will be required except when eating. It was decided at the last meeting that each person would need to bring their supper. What does that mean...well, I am going to stop by and pick up a takeout plate from a local restaurant, but you can bring something cooked from home. Tables will be set up six feet apart with only four chairs per table. We will be doing the gift exchange so bring \$7 to \$10 gift related to rock hounding or lapidary arts. In order for us to be CDC compliant we can only have a limited number of people so you must **RSVP** me (fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com) in order to reserve your spot at a table no later than November 30, 2020. If after reserving a spot you decide not to go, please let me know that also. We will have things set up to be festive with table decorations and music. We will also hold the drawing for the scholarship to William Holland and Wild Acres.

Requirements for the Scholarship are listed below as published in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 1. An adult member who is in good standing as of the February meeting for the scholarship shall be eligible to have his/her name placed into the drawing for a scholarship to William Holland or Wild Acres (Federation Values) for tuition with a double occupancy room plus fifty dollars for expenditures for the next fiscal year.

Section 2: Must be present to be included or have notified an officer in writing (e-mail) that they wish to be included. Drawing will be held during the Christmas Party in December. The Society will draw a Primary and an Alternate.

Section 3. Primary must commit (by registering) to taking a class at either William Holland or Wild Acres by April 1 or forfeit spot to the Alternate.

Section 4. Member must be prepared to do a presentation for the Society within six months from taking a course.

Section 5. Members will not be eligible for scholarship for two years after attending a class at either institution.



Mid Georgia Meeting Minutes

President Bill Mayer called the meeting to order at 7:06PM. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to ask for a motion that the minutes from the last meeting be approved as published in the newsletter. They could not be approved because at that time there were only 7 members present.

Programs: Jay said that the program tonight was being presented by Eddie Williams and that February's meeting would be by George Ruff.

Field Trips: Jay mentioned the Hogg Mine and the Savannah River trips which will be written up in the newsletter. Both trips will have a limited number of spaces.

Festival of Trees: Tina said that she and Jay would be decorating the club's tree on Wednesday November 4th at 10:00AM. Anyone who wanted to help could do so.

Old Business: The digital image of the club patch will cost us \$125 dollars for the shark's tooth, crystals and staurolite. Then the banner will need to be ordered for additional cost. The idea was again tabled until the February meeting since we will not need a banner until March.

New Business: The Fall Festival (picnic and auction) netted us \$212.00. There was no charge for the use of the pavilion. Several people commented that they had fun and one person commented that they liked it better in May.

Treasurer's report: None given due to Susan not being present. Report was sent to officers.



The minerals of the month were all the minerals found at Graves Mountain. Eddie Williams had a table full of specimens labeled and identified specimens brought in by members. Jay, Bill, Tina, and George brought in samples for the MOM table.



The top five minerals from Graves Mountain are Kyanite, Lazulite, Pyrophyllite, Rutile, and Hematite. Some geologists estimate that there are as many as 130 different minerals at Graves Mountain and that some are still being formed as others decompose.



Program: Eddie Williams was a geologist with the state of Georgia. He also worked as a geologist in Colorado and Alabama. He has a BS degree in Geology. The first paper written about Graves Mountain was published in 1859. By 1986 the mountain had been reduced by some 200 feet due to mining by different companies. Graves Mountain began its formation as part of a volcanic island arc some 560 mya. The rock type was pyritiferous kyanite granofels. It has had two phases of replacement minerals. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM with 8 people present.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Tina Perkins for Al Steffanini



Fall Festival

A big thank you to all who made the Picnic and Auction in the fall a big success. We made a little money, gathered some new specimens and information, and were able to fellowship still using social distancing. Some people dressed for the occasion (Halloween) and others just came as usual. Attendees were: Jay and Maxine, Tuell, Bill and Pam, Eddie and Launa, Richard, Susan, Tina, and Katelyn.





Festival of Trees Update



Rock My Tree

(there are more rocks below the pedestal)

It took Jay and I about 90 minutes to decorate the tree. Jay and I both commented on how decorating the tree made us want our own rock tree. Don't think Jay will get one. Below is a shot of some of the ornaments.



Jay made some new ornaments out of guitar picks and Launa did some ribbons with geodes, agates and polished stones. Ornaments from last year made by Betty Sue, Bill, Sylvia, Jay, Sharon, Al, and Tina.



I think all Rockhounds would like to have presents like that under their trees at home. Don't you love the small screening box



Let's Get Digging

Mid-Ga Gem & Mineral Society Field Trip
Fossil collecting on an island in the
Savannah River.

Saturday January 09th, 2021

First Group: 9:00am to 1:40pm

Second Group: 10:00am to 2:40pm

Savannah, Georgia

Collecting: Sharks teeth, turtle shell, misc. bone, possible horse teeth, and teeth of other animals and more. Will be digging in dredged dirt/sand from the Savannah River.

Cost: \$50.00 a person plus a tip for boat hands (If we have at least 6 people). At least six people will get the cost to \$50.00 a person. Minimum of 10 people and maximum of 12 people for this trip! The first 12 to call and RSVP will get a place on the boat. Once the first 12 people RSVP, I will start a waiting list in case someone backs out.

First group will meet at the Marina at 9:00am, to pay and get equipment to the boat. Boat will be leaving dock at 9:30am. Second Group will meet at the Marina at 10:00am.



BRING: You need to bring a hand tool, trowel, and small shovel. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying, something to wrap your finds in. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet will get wet. Also nothing on the island so bring everything you need like sunscreen (no shade), bug spray (properly not needed at this time of the year), water, food, and towels. Dress in layers could be cold or rain.

Note: I will send out meeting place directions to the people going only.

Low tide is around 11:37 am. They say it's a 30-minute boat ride each way to the island.

I will cancel trip if I don't get at least 6 people signed up for the trip!

Call Jay's cell to RSVP at 478-957-5002 or if you have any questions as soon as possible.

Directions: To follow for the 12 people going on the field trip.

Travel time 2hrs 50 mins from I-75/I-16 split in Macon to marina and about 185miles. This is not the same marina used in past trips.

Covid-19 can change these plans all the way to trip day. Please wear masks on boat and when near other people. Once on island we can spread out. Also, if you are sick please do not come on the trip and let me know your status.



**Mid-Ga Gem & Mineral Society Trip
Hogg Mine, Troup County, Georgia
9:00am EST**

Saturday, December 19, 2020

FEE SITE

Must RSVP to Jay Batcha can call or text at 478-957-5002 as soon as possible!!!

Need at least 10 people to have the dig or it is \$100.00 more!

Just for our club field trip.

Where: LaGrange, Ga. We meet at McDonalds at 2408 Whitesville Rd, LaGrange, Georgia. **Must be there before**

9:00am we will leave McDonalds at 9:00am exactly. From there, you will follow our caravan to the mine.

Time: Be at McDonalds before 9:00am we will leave McDonalds at 9:00am exactly. The safety briefing ends around 9 AM. The mine closes at 5PM. When you have heard the safety briefing you can leave and come back as you need to.

Directions: From Macon, take Highway 74 to Thomaston, Ga., continue on highway 74 after Thomaston until you get to highway 109, turn left (west) on to highway 109. Take I-85 south just before you get to LaGrange. Get off on Hwy. 219 also Whitesville Road (Exit 13). Turn right onto Hwy. 219 and McDonalds is on the left. **From I-475/Hwy74 (Macon) to McDonalds is 90 miles and takes 1 hour and 50 minutes travel time.**

COLLECTING: Rose quartz, black tourmaline, beryl, mica books, & quartz crystal. The Rose Quartz will star if cut correctly, and some or the beryl can be gemmy Aquamarine.

FEE: Adults-\$35 & children under 16 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

What type of tools will I need to bring?

Pick, Shovel, Potato Rake, Rock Hammer, Sledge Hammer, Chisels, Rock Bars, 5 Gallon Bucket, Gloves, Safety

Glasses **(Limit one 5-gallon bucket of material per person and one, yard rock per dig.)**

New Covid-19 Protocol

*Meet us in the parking lot beside McDonalds. Be sure your release form is signed and ready. You will follow us to the mine from McDonalds.

*Once you arrive at the mine, remain in your vehicle. The crew will come around to each vehicle and take your dig fees and your form. They will then give further instructions after.

*Remain 6 feet apart from groups that you did not travel with. Must wear masks when not 6 feet. Try to pick a dig spot for your group that



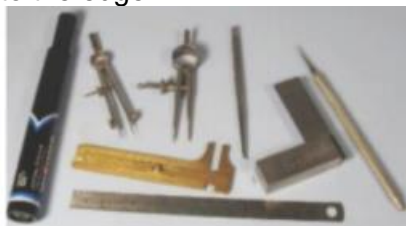
is a safe distance from other diggers. Be mindful of where people are when walking.



Resources: reprinted from Hound's Howl, January 2020-Newletter swap
Bench Tips by Brad Smith
Work Smarter with Brad's
"How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them. They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.



Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments. Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will

form a small four-sided box, and the center of the box is at the center of the disk.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Originally printed December 2011

Hardness and Acid Reaction Tests for Minerals and Rocks

The heart of science is the ability to make accurate observations about the natural world. Two of the most common properties we measure in mineral and rock identification are hardness and reaction with dilute hydrochloric acid. It is very difficult to avoid these two tests. Some guidelines and suggestions are below.

HARDNESS:

The technical tool is the Mohs's hardness scale which divide minerals and rocks into ten hardness steps. Practically, though, we can get away most of the time with harder or softer than glass, and harder or softer than a fingernail (click image for pdf file). For the glass hardness test, we use glass plates about 2 inches square, purchased from any hardware or glass supplier. Students place the glass on a hard, flat surface, and then firmly run the specimen across the glass - sometimes several times to make sure the test is accurate.

The cautions are: One, sometimes a specimen will rub off on the glass rather than actually scratching it. Run a fingernail across the glass to feel for a nick.

Two, some specimens softer than glass are contaminated with things harder than glass and will give a false test. Rub several times in several places to be sure.

Three, many important minerals are just slightly harder than glass, so it takes care to do a good hardness test. (And frustratingly, if the specimen is weathered it will give a false test.)



HCl ACID REACTION:

Carbonate minerals and rocks (i.e. those that have calcite and/or dolomite in them, such as limestones, dolostone, and marble) are very common, and the quickest way to identify them is with an acid reaction.

The acid used is dilute hydrochloric acid. Just a few percent solution is good enough, and never more than 10 percent. We keep it in a squeeze or dropper bottle so that just a drop at a time can be placed on the specimen. And we wash the specimen well each time. Acid this weak will not hurt you, but it will eat holes in your clothes.

Any rock with calcite reacts quickly with large bubbles. Dolomite, however, reacts very slowly, and pure dolomite must be powdered to get even a weak reaction, very fine, slow bubbles. Calcite and dolomite are a solid solution series; that is, there is a complete intergradation from 100% of one to 100% of the other, so in between there are intermediate reactions.

The biggest caution, aside from safety, is that many non-carbonate rocks are contaminated with more or less small amounts of calcite. These contaminated rocks react just as well as pure carbonate rocks, sometimes better. It takes careful observation to be sure, but look for a residue that did not react with the acid. This is a good indication that something else is in the rock, or may even be the majority of the rock.

Lynn S. Fichter © 2000

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Dues are due November 1. There is a grace period until February 1, 2021 and then you will be removed. If you don't come to a meeting, when paying Susan your dues, send a self-addressed envelope with your dues to get your cards. She will mail them. They are used to show membership in a club.

For the young at heart:

All answers must have the word rock in them.
The first one is done for you.

1. What does a rock want to be when it grows up?
A. A Rockstar
2. What do you call a dog who collects rocks?
3. What do you do to a baby rock?
4. What is a rock's favorite kind of music?
5. Where do rocks sleep?
6. How do rocks wash their clothes?
7. What is a rock's favorite transportation?
8. What is a rock's favorite television show?
9. What does a rock love for Valentine's Day?

<https://rocksandminerals4kids.wordpress.com/2012/03/08/rock-jokes-of-the-day/>



**Mid-Georgia Gem Clips
Official Bulletin of Mid-Georgia Gem
and Mineral Society
Macon, Georgia**

The Club meets on the First Monday of each Month, at The Museum of Arts and Sciences, in Macon, Georgia.

Except: No meeting January, July, and August. The annual Christmas Party is the first Monday in December. September the first Tuesday of the Month

Purpose: To promote the earth sciences, the lapidary arts, and the collection, study and display of rocks, minerals, and fossils; to promote the public awareness of these efforts in educational and recreational activities.

Club Officers:

President: Bill Mayer, ph. 678-621-3457,
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Web Master: Jim Souter, ph. 478-454-7273,
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Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society
Application for Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Adult (18-64) \$15.00 Junior \$ 5.00
Family (2 adults and 2 children under 18) \$25.00
Additional children \$5.00

Seniors (65+) \$10.00 Newsletter mailed \$5.00

New _____ Renewal _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

List your interests and reasons for joining

Make checks payable to:
Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society
Mail to the Treasurer (listed on this page) or
bring to a meeting.

To all our members:
Stay safe and





Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

**Official Bulletin of Mid-Georgia Gem
and Mineral Society
Macon, Georgia**

**Member of Southeast Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies
Member of American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

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