



March meeting is in the wind.

The next meeting of the Mid Ga Gem and Mineral Society will be held March 2, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Come early to talk to the early birds. Our Speaker for this month will be Hank Josey who will be speaking on Late Eocene Paleontology of Central Georgia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 25: Executive Council
March 7: Kaolin Mine
March 13-14: Peaches to Beaches
March 21: Science Olympiad
March 29: Summerville DMC Dig
April 6: Meeting- Thomas Thurmond
May 2: Picnic at Museum of Arts and Sciences
May 4: Meeting- Bill Witherspoon (Georgia Geology co-author)
June 1: Rock Swap and ID with snacks

Prez. Box

Let's thank George Ruff for getting our year off to a great start with his outstanding program on Iceland. I had no idea what Iceland was like. It is truly a unique place, with its dramatic landscape barren of trees and so many volcanos and massive rock formations carved and sculpted by wind, water and the forces within the earth. Thanks George.

We would have already had our spring board meeting when you read this. It's a long year with many events to plan for, and I don't like to assume that things will somehow get done. So,

making sure everyone knows their responsibilities and timing is critical for success. A few things that I know of for sure on the agenda is having the manpower available for our annual participation in the Science Olympiad. The date is Saturday march 21st. and we will need several volunteers to pull this off successfully.

Our Peaches to Beaches yard sale will also be on the agenda and is a new adventure for the club. It will be held this March 13 and 14 in Perry. We will have (2) 10 x 10 tents to sell our rocks, grab bags, and yard sale items. It is a good way for our public outreach and also to raise funds for the club. Come on out for a day and have fun, make money and chat with folks about the things you love, rocks!

I am really excited about our Kaolin dig this March 7 that Jay has arranged for us. Never been to a kaolin mine before and this should be really exciting to see the massive walls of kaolin. Georgia mines 8 million metric tons of Kaolin each year, so it will be very interesting to see the processing and production of kaolin. Then there are the fossils, I have heard many stories of what there is to find in the white walls. It is going to be funny as when we usually go rock hunting, we get nice and dirty brown, this time we will be getting nice and dirty with white clay. This dig is limited to our club members only. Attendees need to let Jay know they are going.

We have a pre-meeting dinner at Jeanene's restaurant before each meeting day. If you would like to attend, please come on by for an informal get together. We usually order by 5:30 pm and stay for an hour or so before heading to the museum. All are welcome.

Look forward to seeing everybody this next meeting and don't forget to bring a piece of Rutile!

Prez Bill Mayer



The Geologist's Lament
By RL Frism (Lodestone 1940)

Gather 'round me, hear my story,
I'm a Rockhound in distress:
I'm a Rockhound bathed in troubles.
I'm an outcast, more or less.
I have fossils in the kitchen.
I have crystals in the hall.
I have min'rals in the bathtub.
I have relics on the walls.
I have oxides on the carpet.
I have oil upon the floor;
I have black light in the parlor;
I have bones behind each door.
Attic rooms are fairly sagging;
Flat rocks pave the cellar floor-
Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces.
All this and millions more.
Wifey thinks that I am goofy:
I don't know: she may be right;
She insists I've silicosis
or some horrid form of "ite"
Says my head is lined with agate
(Freak replacement of the bone);
Claims my brain is just a nodule,
Says my heart has turned to stone.
Threatens me with separation:
Storms about our rock-lined home;
Says my life is just a geode
Or a hunk of mammal bone.
Are you rated as a fossil?
Or obliged to live alone?
How can you maintain a hobby?
And still have a happy home?

© 2014 Suzanne Day
<https://owlcation.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound>
used with permission

Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020
President Bill Mayer called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. with 19 members in attendance. He welcomed new member Janice Wood.

Program: Vice-President Tina Perkins said club member George Ruff was our speaker tonight. She also mentioned at the March 2nd meeting Hank Josey a paleontologist who is very familiar with Shark Tooth Island will be speaking on the Late Eocene Paleontology of Central Georgia. In April Thomas Thurmond will be speaking to the club.

Field Trips: Tina Perkins standing in for Jay Batcha said a Kaolin Mine Dig was scheduled for March 7, 2020 in Gordon and had a sign-up sheet for members. There will also be a DMC dig in Summerville on March 29th. Look for details in the next newsletter.

Publicity: Tina Perkins mentioned the Peaches to Beaches yard sale on March 13 and 14th weekend, with the club setting up 2 tents with four tables. We are in need of two more tables and people to help. More information will be available at the March 2nd meeting. She also said March 21 at Rutland Middle School that we will be again doing the Science Olympiad Event "Rock Hounding". In May, Bill Witherspoon co-author of Georgia Geology will be talking and signing books at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in conjunction with our club meeting. Both the Museum of Arts and Sciences and Museum of Aviation will be putting out publicity information for us.

Webmaster: Jim Souter said the club website was up and running well and the application had been fixed.

Newsletter: Tina Perkins said the deadline for submitting information for the March newsletter is February 12th.

Sunshine: Bill Mayer said Sharon Milner was not feeling well and has temporarily resigned. Jim Souter has volunteered to fill the position while she is out.

Old Business: Bill Mayer thanked Eddie Williams for accepting the Board of Trustees position.

New Business: Bill Mayer mentioned some details for the Peach's to Beach's event saying it would be good publicity for the club and



generate income also. He also said Tina Perkins was needing material for the Mohs kits. George Ruff brought a clear egg carton for the Mohs kits. A date to work on kits is forth coming. Launa Williams donated items for the Peaches to Beaches sale.

Treasurer: Susan Hargrove gave the checking and CD account balances. She also mentioned paying the Club Insurance, dues to the federation, and Clubhouse Rent.

Other Information:

Gary Gordon spoke on the Sea Shell Show in Panama City, Florida in late May. He also had a display of cowrie shells and gave some interesting information.

Mineral of The Month: Pyrite was the Mineral of The Month with many member's specimen's on Display.

Speaker: Club member George Ruff gave a presentation on a recent trip to Iceland with his Brother, his brother's wife and two family members. The trip was a gift and involved a country wide sightseeing tour. He had a photo slideshow and detailed information about Iceland's geology, history, culture, food, and places of interest. Among the sites shown were many waterfall's, geothermal geysers, volcanic mountains, glaciers and numerous varieties of sheep.

Next meeting will be March 2, 2020 and Rutile is the Mineral of the Month. Meeting Adjourned 8:35 P.M.

Respectively Submitted

Al Steffanini

Mineral of the Month: Rutile



<https://www.fossilera.com/minerals/>
Graves Mountain, Georgia

Rutile is a mineral composed of Titanium oxide with a hardness of 6.0-6.5. The streak is bright red to dark red with a specific gravity of 4.23. Rutile has the highest refractive indexes of any known crystal. Because of these properties it is used for the manufacture of certain optical elements, especially polarization optics, for longer visible and infrared wavelengths up to about 4.5 μm (micrometer). Natural Rutile may contain up to 10% iron. Rutile is derived from the Latin word "rutilus" meaning red because of the deep red color of transmitted light. Rutile was first described in 1803 it is mined heavily in Sierra Leone in West Africa. In Georgia, Rutile has been removed from Graves Mountain. Beginning in the 1920's, Tiffany's mined the area to use Rutile for polishing diamonds.



[En.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)



Athens Rock, Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show
The Classic Center
440 Foundry Street
Athens, Georgia
March 6-8, 2020
10:00- 6:00

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternMineralSpecimens/>

Treasures of the Earth
Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show
Richmond Raceway Complex
Richmond, Virginia
March 13-15, 2020



Aiken /Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show

Julian Smith Casino
2200 Broad Street
Augusta, Georgia

Bellpoint Gem Show Marietta
Cobb County Civic Center
Marietta, Georgia
March 20-22, 2020

GTS Gift and Jewelry Show Greensboro
Greensboro Coliseum Complex
Greensboro, North Carolina
March 20-22, 2020

MAGMA Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show
Camp Stephens Boy Scout Camp
Asheville, North Carolina
March 20-22, 2020

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show
Hickory Metro Convention Center
Hickory, North Carolina
March 27-29, 2020



DIGS

**A Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society
Field Trip at**

BASF Kaolin Quarry

**March 07, 2020 at 10:00am to 2:00pm
Gordon, Georgia
No Fee**

Registration Required

REGISTRATION: Participants
must **register no later than March**
2nd because property owner needs a head
count. **Must RSVP with Jay (see note at the**
bottom of dig information).

This is to give you time to plan ahead.

LOCATION: This field trip is in Gordon, Georgia.

COLLECTING: Sharks teeth, stingray dentals, whale bone, and many other marine fossils (from formations above the Kaolin layer mostly Tivola Limestone). Also, can collect Kaolin and Limestone.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: **You must have the following safety equipment or you will not be allowed into the quarry: hard hat, safety glasses, steel toed boots/shoes, safety vest (orange/yellow) and gloves. Long pants are also a must.** **Note from quarry:** Closed toe shoes with tread (trail/running shoes or hiking boots recommended, steel toe boots or shoes preferred). **CHILDREN (Yes):** Must be accompanied by an adult and watched. **PETS (No):** No pets allowed.

BRING:

- Bottled water or a reusable bottle to fill before we depart
- Snacks or bag lunch (not a lot of options to eat around here)
- Sunscreen (or a breathable long sleeve shirt)
- Baseball cap, hat, or visor
- Small tools
- Container(s) for collecting samples

VERY IMPORTANT!!! Field trip attendees must be escorted at all times by quarry personnel, so we will caravan into and out of the quarry as a group. If you have an emergency and have to leave before the trip is over, you must be escorted out by quarry personnel. **YOU CANNOT ENTER OR LEAVE ON YOUR OWN. Please obey all rules so we can return in the future.**

Special Conditions: This is an active quarry. **STAY AWAY from all heavy equipment, high walls, ponds, and quarry machinery.**

TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: This location has flat areas and areas with loose rock. People with mobility issues may have some difficulty navigating over and around boulders. Collecting areas are within 25 yards from where we park.



DIRECTIONS: Directions will be sent via email to registered attendees only. Meeting place will be in Gordon, Georgia and is 21 miles from the I-75/I-16 split in Macon, Ga.

Note: Must RSVP with Jay (cell# 478-957-5002 or email batcha.jay@gmail.com) to find out meeting location and directions!



An official trip of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Mobile, AL) (HOST Club)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society
Sunday, March 29, 2020
9AM - 2PM Eastern Time
Patty Construction Quarry
7525 Hwy 27
Summerville, Ga
Unlimited number
No Fees

TRIP: The March 2020 SFMS DMC Field Trip is sponsored by the Mobile Rock & Gem Society to collect Summerville Agate at the quarry in Summerville Georgia. This site has been a long time favorite of many collectors. The agate forms within Mississippian age chert as delicate concentric bands. Colors are predominantly gray and red. Sometimes you can find stalactic formations, or pieces covered in drusy quartz. Note: We may have a cabbing demonstration using material collected on-site.

COLLECTING: Material is generally found by simply surface collecting, although there are plenty of large pieces and boulders for those so inclined to break them apart. A couple of guys from Georgia found a huge (about 3 feet diameter) boulder with good pattern and figure throughout and briefly contemplated how they might get it loaded into a truck, but eventually gave up on the idea.

BRING: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge, or are nearby someone else doing so! Things, such as a hammer, chisels, scratching tools, pry bars, buckets, small

ground shovels and rakes, paper to wrap specimens, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pail of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take-home material.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER OF THE DAY. This will be in March, so the temp could range from 70's to the teens. Also, be prepared for rain if forecasted.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.

REGISTRATION: Register upon arrival at the MRGS tent for insurance purposes and for additional information.

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children.

PETS: Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

FACILITIES: In town about 2 miles away. Bottled water will be available at the MRGS tent

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:
Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

From downtown Summerville (Commerce St.) take U.S. 27S. There will be a left curve, then a right curve. Just past the right curve is the mine (7525 Hwy 27). Look for the Mobile Rock and Gem Society signs.

7525 Highway 27
Summerville, Georgia 30747



CONTACT: Larry Landry, Field Trip Chairman, (251) 591-5682
CHECK OUT
<http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/field-trips/>
FOR PHOTOS OF OUR PREVIOUS DIG AT THIS LOCATION.



Special Thank You Note:

I want to thank everyone, so much, for all the prayers, well-wishes, cards, and phone calls during my recent hospitalization. It really meant a lot.

Thank you again,
Betty Sue Smith

PURPOSE

In the Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society, the purpose is stated as the discussion, collection and study of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and lapidary arts, and the promotion of civil interest in these fields. Over the last two years I have been thinking about the responsibility of the membership. So, let's first look at what a society is. By definition a society is a group of people formed as a separate organization and which has as a stated purpose, some charitable or benevolent purpose either in regards to the public at-large or in regards to the common interests of the members, and which operates as nearly as possible at cost.

We have a stated purpose and within that purpose it lists promotion of civil interest in these fields. Last year a few members did presentations at various schools and public libraries including Rock Hounding at the Middle Ga. RESA Science Olympiad for elementary students, set up displays at the Museum of Aviation for Young Astronauts Day, Apollo 11 60th Anniversary, and NASA's Ga. STEM Conference for Educators as well as a permanent display for the Museum of Aviation. A few members also worked the Ga. National Fair for 11 days not including setup and takedown. A few members helped with our first go at doing a rock, gem and mineral

Christmas Tree at the Museum of Arts and Sciences' Festival of Trees. The Society gave away a scholarship for William Holland or Wild Acres. The Society held a rock swap and identification night, a picnic with silent auction, and a Christmas Party. If you haven't noticed I have been using the term "few" quite often. Each month (9 months out of the year) the society's newsletter is produced and sent by e-mail or snail mail. Each month (9 months out of the year) the society holds a meeting that can last anywhere from 60-90 minutes that has a speaker and deals with the business of the society. The field trip chair finds places for the membership to go and dig for gems, minerals, and fossils along with the other field trips offered by our membership in the federation. Money for all the things provided at meetings (building and speaker- \$722.20 and \$25 each), special events (meat and paper goods for Christmas and picnic-\$140), insurance for digs (\$2.00 per person), membership in the federation(\$1.50), and the scholarship (approximately \$500.00) come not just from dues, but also from the making and selling of grab bags, society specimens and donations (both time and money).

Now that you know what the society does, I want to talk about the responsibility of membership and getting the most out of your membership. I was brought up to give 110% in everything you do. I did this when I worked and I have done so for the society. Many of our members are aging or not in the best of health. Many of our members live more than an hour from where we meet. What I would like is for you to just think about what you can do to help the society continue meeting its purpose and continuing the legacy that started 60 years ago this year. We have quite a few opportunities coming up in the next few months and I would love to see you at one or more events and if that is not possible consider writing an article about your experience with rocks, gems, minerals, fossils or the lapidary arts or maybe doing a presentation for the club.



I am not only the Vice President this year, but also the editor of the newsletter and I would love to be able to put a face to the e-mails/ snail mails I send out each month. The executive council meets February 25, 2020 and if you have something you would like to share, please e-mail an officer to get it on the agenda. If you would like to teach a class or have a class taught, we need to know. Our members have such a wide knowledge base that if it is not shared it will be lost. Check out the upcoming events on page 1 and join us for some fun.

Vice Pres. Tina Perkins

Blast from the Past!

Over the next few months, as editor of the newsletter, I am going to be pulling bulletins from different decades and publishing an overview of what was covered along with one article. After reading the bulletin, I felt inspired by the legacy we have all been handed.

From the July 1976 edition of Gem Clips "How to make a Rock Barometer:

First, select a rock approximately the size of an orange. For the best results, select one that is white. The shape of the rock doesn't matter much, but you should bear in mind that you will need to tie a string around the rock and suspend it with approximately two feet of strong string. The place to hang the rock (to the house) is as near as you would place a rain gauge and out in the open so that it can be affected by the elements of the weather. If the rock remains dry, you will have fair weather. If the rock does not change color, the sun is or has been shining. If the rock gets wet it is raining. If the rock sways gently to and fro, you have gusty winds. If ice collects on the rock, you have freezing rain. If snow collects on the rock, it is snowing. If the rock disappears (and the skies are dark), run to the storm cellar or place of safety as you probably have a tornado. (Author unknown) Via Memphis Arch. & Geo. Society, Via Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society."

Other items in the July 1976 bulletin included all the names and addresses of the members of the society along with phone numbers. Membership

came from six different middle Georgia counties. Attendance at meetings was 50% of membership (100 on roll). Members travelled as 100 miles to attend the meetings. The June field trip was to Wind Creek. There was a side note about what to do in case you are bitten by a poisonous snake or a black widow spider. Federation news included the effort to get Georgia's state gem, mineral and fossil named and approved. They also reported on the John Day Fossil Beds in Oregon becoming a National Monument. The Georgia State Fair was mentioned. The "Master Fossil Collector" in the group found a nearly complete Whale Skeleton. Mrs. Margaret Brewer was the editor of Gem Clips at the time.

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. The September meeting the first Tuesday of the Month.

Purpose: The discussion, collection and study of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and lapidary arts, and the promotion of civil interest in these fields.

Club Officers:

President: Bill Mayer,
ph. 678.621.3457, orebilly@gmail.com

Vice Pres/ Editor/Publicity: Tina Perkins
ph. 478-542-0388,
fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com

Secretary: Al Steffanini
Ph. 478-396-4279, aldosteffanini@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Susan Hargrove,
86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006,
cell. 478-837-5327, susanbphilh@pstel.net



Field Trips / Programs: Jay Batcha,
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216,
ph. 478-784-1965, Cell 478-957-5002
rocky1s@cox.net

Education Chairperson: Tuell Walters,
ph. 478-922-7200
firecomet46@gmail.com

Web Master: Jim Souter,
ph. 478-454-7273, jgsouter@charter.net

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society Application for Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Adult (18 to 64) \$15.00 Junior \$5.00

Family (2 adults and 2 children) \$25.00

Additional membership \$5.00

Senior (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 (above) or bring to a meeting.



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

Tina Perkins, Editor
106 Brown Drive
Warner Robins, Ga.