



May Meeting

The meeting will be held May 6th at 7:30 pm at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Come early to visit and chat with the early birds. Don't forget to bring a sample of the mineral of the month.

This month's speaker is Dr. Daniel Snyder, Middle Ga. State University. Dr. Daniel Snyder has studied the history of life and the Earth in universities across the nation and museums around the world. He has published on fossil fish, sharks, alligators and some of the earliest amphibians. He is presently employed at Middle Georgia State University and is secretary of the Paleontology Association of Georgia. His topic for the evening will be "How to Have Fun with X-Rays in Paleontology."

UP COMING CLUB DATES:

Apr. 26-28: Graves Mountain Rock Swap/Dig
May 4: Picnic 11-2 Ocmulgee National Historic Park in Macon. Bring a dish and your own drinks, money to spend, and something for the auction.

May 4: Young Astronauts Day at the Museum of Aviation from 8-10:00 AM. Club will have 2 tables set up for displaying fossils, gems and minerals plus talking to the students and their parents. Tina will provide handouts.

May 8-12: Franklin Gem and Mineral Shows

June 6: Club Meeting (Rock Swap, Rock ID, bring a rock for show and tell and something you have made, contest/activities, and snacks.)

June 28: Rock, gem and mineral talk at the Museum of Aviation for STEM Summer Camp 9AM-12 noon. (Need one volunteer and show and tell materials. More information to come.)

July 20: Apollo 11 Lunar Landing Anniversary Museum of Aviation from 9:15-2:30 (includes set up and take down) displaying rocks, gems, minerals and fossils from all of the world. Volunteers still needed.



Big Announcement

Tuell Walters was voted in as an honorary member this past meeting. Tuell joined the club in 1963 when he was 16 years old. He has been our education chairperson off and on since 2003 to now. In July 2003 Tuell and a fellow member, Jim Nix made the connections at Jones Pit for field trips. The club has enjoyed many field trips there. Tuell has been our amateur geologist identifying rocks and minerals. He enjoys playing the guitar and painting along with all of the different lapidary arts, he does cab work, casting, silver/brass work, and more. Congratulations Tuell!!!



PROPOSED NEW DUES STRUCTURE:

Senior (65+)	\$10.00
Adults (18-64)	\$15.00
Family (2-4 members)	\$25.00
Addition members	\$ 5.00
Juniors (5-17)	\$ 5.00
Mailed newsletter	\$ 5.00

There will be a discussion and vote at the next meeting.





Prez Box

I would like to start with a big thanks to our executive council for all their efforts in revising our constitution. It has been a trying experience and testing our patience. None of us are lawyers and that's what appears we need to be to do this. What started out as a simple update has turned into a challenging task. From the beginning of my term, I always wanted to be open and transparent with the membership on what was occurring with the current activities of the club. Revising the club constitution, by laws, and the new dues is controversial and can be very upsetting to a lot of folks, but I believe if it is brought out into the meetings and discussed, then everyone has a chance to voice their opinion. I keep thinking that the process is good for the club and will pay off in the long run. Bear with us as we struggle to bring this to an end.

There are a few things that I love to do, besides wanting to go camping and fishing, I also love looking for rocks and eating food. Lucky for us our picnic has both of them, lots of foods and plenty of rocks, not only to look at but to buy and take them home. Which has an additional benefit of providing the club with funds to operate though the year. Bring a rock donation or two to the picnic to be used as a silent auction item. The silent auction is always fun and has good deals to be bid on. One thing about our regular meetings is they keep us up late for a long drive back home. Saturday, the picnic day starts early so we have the day to really talk to each other without the time constraint of having to go home in the dark. So, come early and stay late for a day of food, rocks and getting to know one another. See ya there!

Sunshine

Let's give Sharon Milner a big thanks for being our new sunshine chair. Sharon will be sending

cards to our members that need a little sunshine in their life and to let them know our members are thinking of them. If you know of anyone in the club that needs a little pick up in their day, please let Sharon know.

Trustees

We now have filled our 3 members trustee council. The council is responsible for the club's financial requirements. To begin Betty Smith will serve a one-year term, Sharon Milner will serve 2 years, and Jay Batcha will serve a 3-year term. After this, all new trustees will serve 3-year terms. Give them a thanks for stepping up and pitching in.



April Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Mayer at 7:30 pm with 15 in attendance.

Speaker: Our speaker for the night was Dr. Burt Carter. He gave a slide show presentation on the Dougherty Plain that stretches from Albany to Lake Seminole at the Florida Line. The northern western boundary is the Fall Line with elevations of 250' and the southeastern boundary is the base of the Pelham Escarpment with elevations of 300'. He explained that shelves and straits were formed during the Eocene and Oligocene periods with Rhodolith beds and coral heads along the ancient ocean shoreline. He also showed how water drainage and flow over the layers of limestone resulted in numerous sinkholes and caves.

Treasurer's Report: Susan gave the balances of the banking account, CD and due's paid. She spoke of paying the Museum rent and Insurance also.



Programs and Field Trips: Jay reported that Daniel Snyder was speaker for the May 6 meeting talking about fossils. He also talked about the Graves Mountain field trip that was on March 23. Eight members attended the dig with great finds and Jay had some of the rocks and minerals on display. He mentioned the DMC Summerville Church Granite dig in Cartersville is coming up, and also our dig at Red Oak Quarry on April 13. A sign-up sheet was available.

Publicity: Tina talked about our display case which will contain specimens on loan to the Museum. She said there was good participation filling up the case and asked for more donations. On May 4 there is expected to be 350 students and parents attending open house. She asked for help to give lapidary and geology information to guests, saying this was good exposure for the club. Tina also said the deadline for personal stories for the newsletter was April 12.

Old Business: Jay said a grab bag get together was scheduled for 10 am April 8 at his house. Tina noted we had 350 bags to fill. Bill talked about the progress of revising the constitution, a slide show draft was on display with club members giving input and making changes. Emails of the constitution draft were recently sent to members and they are encouraged to contact board members with any comments. In the near future this revised constitution will be presented to the club members for a vote of approval.

New Business: Bill said the club picnic was coming up on May 4 at the Ocmulgee National Historic Park. Members should bring a covered

dish and their own drinks. Also, they need to bring donated items for the silent auction and money to purchase items in the auction if they want too, saying this is one of our fund raisers for the club.

Mineral of the Month: Tuell gave information on the four types of Mica. Muscovite, Biotite, Phlogopite and Fluorophlogopite were used as windows in furnaces, cosmetics and house paint pigments. He also said India was the number one provider in the world. Many members had different types of Mica on display. At the end of the presentation Jay proposed to make Tuell Honorary Lifetime Member saying Tuell had been a member of the club since 1963. Motions were made and members voted to approve this honor for him. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Al Steffanini



Mineral of the Month for May

Fossils

Fossils fall into five categories although the names of the categories are sometime slightly different depending on location. In Georgia especially in the coastal plains and northwest corner of the state, you can find a wide variety of fossils.

Mold-and-cast fossils form when the original shells or bones dissolve and leave a depression that is later filled in with other sediments. Sea shells form some of the most common mold-and-cast fossils.



Clams from Morocco

If a dinosaur walked across a muddy area and left footprints then the mud dries, it forms a **trace fossil**. There are many different types of trace fossils, such as footprints, tail furrow marks, nests, burrows and tooth marks. Trace fossils form in many ways. Footprints are the most common trace fossils.



Thalassanoides- marine burrow

A mosquito perfectly preserved in amber is one example of a **body fossil**. These fossils form when an organism's whole body is preserved unaltered. The La Brea tar pits are another example of where these can be found.



www.howitworksdaily.com

Carbonization fossils form when the body is compressed by high pressure. Carbonization leaves a dark imprint of the organism. Fossilized ferns and leaves are most often found as carbonization fossils.



Metasequoia fossil leaf

Permineralization fossils form when minerals replace organic matter, filling original pore spaces. The original organism is thereby transformed into stone. Petrified wood is one example of a permineralization fossil and has been found across the southeastern United States.



Petrified wood from Lemming, SD

Remember to bring a fossil for the door prize drawing or to get identified.



Local Events/ Club News

Graves Mountain Dig

We had eight club members show up for the dig on Saturday March 23. Present at the dig were Jay Batcha, Sherrill and Al Steffanini,



Blade Davis, Bill and Pam Mayer, Toby Johnson, and Tina Perkins



Jay, Sherrill, Bill, Al, and in the hole (picture below), Blade. (Pic by Tina)



Blade in an iridescent hematite deposit hole
(Pic by Jay)



Selfie of part of the group by Al Steffanini



Tina and Sherrill above the hole (pic by Jay)



Al and Jay: Time to head home. (Pic by Blade)



Grab Bag Party at Jay's House

Thanks to Tina (with help from Katelyn Cline who ran strings for some bags) and a friend of Jay's we had 350 grab bags to fill April 8, 2019 at Jay's house. Thanks to Maxine, Jay, Blade, Eddie, Ray, Richard and Tina for showing up to help fill the bags. We all should be contributing to what goes in the grab bags. If you have 50+ extra small pieces of a rock, fossil, or mineral, please give to Jay for the grab bags. We will need to fill 150 more sometime over the summer possibly in June. Most of the budget for the club comes from grab bags and the silent auction at the picnic.



Pile of bags at the end of the table and all the specimen containers set out for people to walk around and around. Pictured: Jay, Eddie, Blade, and Ray. (Pic by Tina)



Shows

Echo Valley Gem and Mineral Show
Echo Valley Showplace

Franklin, North Carolina
May 8th-12th

Highlands Road Gem Show
1602 Highlands Rd.
Franklin, NC
May 9th-12th

Daily 9-5
Free admission

G&LW Gem Show
Franklin, North Carolina
Watauga Festival Center

Mother's Day Gemboree
May 10th- 12th
Robert C. Carpenter Community Center
1288 Georgia Road
Franklin, NC

All of the shows above are part of the Franklin
Showcase of gems and mineral.



An Official Field Trip of the
Northeast Georgia Mineral Society
(Cornelia, GA) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Mid
Ga. Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, May 18, 2019

10:00 AM Eastern Time

Chunky Gal Mountain

Clay County, NC

TRIP: Chunky Gal Mountain -- people always wonder about that name. Legend has it that it was named for a young Native American woman who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Some stories say she prevailed by



defying the odds and crossing the mountain to be with her beloved, while other stories say she never saw him again. Hopefully it was the happy ending. It is certainly a happy place for rockhounds.

COLLECTING: Green smaragdite is abundant and can be found in small chunks to large boulders. It is a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite and gets its emerald green color from a touch of chromium. Some of the smaragdite has tiny bits of pink to red corundum in it.

BRING: Rock hammer, chisel, short handled sledge, a UV light for verifying corundum, gloves, safety glasses, hiking boots, 5-gallon bucket, and paper for wrapping specimens. You should also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, water, and snacks.

Very Important – Please read carefully: According to National Forest rules, “Materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. Removing mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools can cause significant impacts to resources is considered mechanical so therefore not allowed.” For more information about these rules, see the following website:

www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144.

TERRAIN: Wooded areas are steep and rocky and may be difficult for people with mobility issues. There may be poison ivy, snakes, ticks, mosquitoes, and other wildlife in the area. Parking may be limited, so carpooling is highly recommended.

FEE: None.

CHILDREN (MAYBE): The terrain may be difficult for small children and they may encounter dangerous wildlife. Parents are encouraged to consider their child's interest and abilities before attending this trip. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Attendees with unattended children will be asked to leave for the safety of the children and other participants.

PETS (NO): This location is not suitable for pets so pets are NOT allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at this location. Closest facilities are in Hayesville, NC, about 16 miles to the west, and Franklin, NC, about 19 miles to the east. Cell coverage may be spotty or non-existent.

LODGING: There are some hotels in Franklin, NC and near Hayesville, NC, and several in Murphy, NC (about 30 miles away).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Northwest Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions about the site and will have water and snacks.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

GPS coordinates: 35 04' 10.0" N, 83 37' 43.3 W
Intersection of Highway 64 and Buck Creek Road

From the west: Approximately 16 miles from Hayesville, NC on Hwy 64 (left turn onto Buck Creek Road).

From the east: Approximately 19 miles from Franklin, NC on Hwy 64 (right turn onto Buck Creek Road).

CONTACT: Kim Cochran, 770-979-8331. Cell phone the day of trip, Charles Carter, 770-998-1127.



Smaragdite with corundum





Why I love rocks (gem and minerals) and fossils.

By Katelyn Cline (Junior Member)

Most kids stay inside and play video games, I however like to rock hunt. I love to rock hunt because it helps me learn more about rocks and fossils and how they form. I have loved rocks for a long time. I have been told that when I was two years old, we went hiking in the Smoky Mountains and I claimed a rock as mine and did not want to leave it. It was boulder size.

Rock hunting allows me to explore the outdoors. I like to go hunting with family especially my aunt and grandmother. Getting out allows me to see rocks and things I would have never seen. At Jones' Pit, I even got to see colorful dirt. Rock hunting is always an adventure. I have collected rose quartz in South Dakota and visited the Badlands. I have collected quartz crystals and tried to find a diamond in a crater in Arkansas. I got hit by a wave collecting a jade green rock on the beach in California. I have hunted for gem stones at Emerald Village, NC. Last summer I got to see the Rocky Mountains and picked up a few rocks along the way in each state.

From the editor:

If you have a rockhounding story you would like to share, please send it to me before the 12th of each month to be included in the newsletter. If you have pictures of events that the club has done, I would love to have those also.



**DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR
FUN AT THE CLUB PICNIC!!!!!!
Bring a covered dish, a drink, items
for the silent auction and money to
spend.**

**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, orebilly@gmail.com

Vice President: Blade Davis
ph. 478-508-0104, maconmissionary@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

Editor/ Publicity: Tina Perkins
Ph. 478-542-0388
fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com

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

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

Sunshine Chairperson: Sharon Milner
milner3791@gmail.com

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

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society Application for Membership

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip Code_____

Phone_____

Adult (18+) \$10.00 Junior \$2.50

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.