



**Make a dash for the  
November 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Meeting Info**

The November Meeting will be at the Museum of Arts and Sciences on Forsyth Rd. at 7:30 PM. Come early to visit and chat with the early birds.

The speaker for the evening is Ellen Price. Currently Ellen works as the Senior Environmental Engineer for Martin Marietta Materials in Georgia. She manages environmental and permit compliance for South Georgia quarry operations. She will be speaking on Georgia Aggregate Mining: How aggregate mines operate, what characterizes a mine site and pit development, and environmental and permit compliance.

Jay listened to this talk at GMS club before and it was very interesting. There are so many things that need to be done to open a mine.

**Upcoming Events:**

November 6-10 decorating for the Festival of Trees (We will be decorating on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM if you want to help)  
November 16 Jones Pit Dig  
November 28 Johnson Creek Farm  
December 2 Club Christmas Party at 7:00PM

**President's Message**

So how many diamonds did you find in your bags that Eddie shared with all of us? I'll be getting my loupe out and looking at every grain. Thanks to Eddie for sharing with us an enjoyable program.

It's the end of the year and things are changing. Finally, the weather is turning cooler and becoming fall like, thank goodness. The newly elected officers of our club are changing, well, kind of. Voting, under the new constitution, took place with ballots at our October meeting. A big change was having Tina step up to being our Vice president. She is a workhorse and we all look forward to having her in this position. Susan, as our treasurer, has filled this position for several years now. We appreciate her experience and knowledge of the club's history, procedures and financial guidance is a steady influence on us. Al and I are relative newbies to this and we are doing our best. Al does a superb job of taking our minutes.

Last year was a good learning experience for me. I couldn't assume that things would just magically work out, so I needed to find out the who, what and when. In addition, each year brings new change and this last year was no exception. With that said, this year should go much more smoothly and less worry on my part that things will get done. New terms begin at our November meeting. Thanks to all who answered the call to help fill the elected officer positions and also agreed to fill the appointed positions too. It takes everyone to help us move forward. My objectives are quite simple this year and that is to make this club enjoyable and fun for everyone. I came to the club for field trips and good programs, this is fun for me. What do you want to see or do with regards to do with the club?

History has a way of repeating itself, many ideas and suggestions have come up over the years and were not acted upon, for whatever reason, lack of manpower, leadership, or money. I like to think that was then and this is now. We have a new board, new members, and new ideas, even old ideas with a new look. We are open for suggestions and ideas, please bring them up to us, new and old ideas are always welcome. Let's make it fun for all.



Any suggestions you may have, ideas for field trips, or programs, please let me and our board hear about them. Also, our newsletter and website always need articles, trip reports and photos of your recent finds or items that would be interesting to us all.

One thing that I have learned is that it takes all of us pitching in and doing what needs to get done to make our club function and progress. Large events take many little individual tasks. Field trips, programs, newsletters and websites and regular meetings all take work and effort to have them be successful, fun and enjoyable for us all.

### **Board meeting Nov. 13**

I believe it is good timing for a board meeting. The new change of officers beginning new terms for 2020, Christmas Party, Georgia National Fair review, new Trustee appointment, future programs and field trips, and a big new direction we have embarked on is School outreach programs. There is lots to talk about and discuss. Being on the same page is a big plus and promotes harmony from within.

#### **National Fair Review**

It was another successful year at the National Fair for the Mid-Ga club. A big pat on the back for everyone that participated in making this event possible. We sold 403 bags this year. It may have not been as many as last year, but still more than enough for us to go forward with our programs. The scorching hot weather during the early days of the fair definitely kept the crowds down.

Our displays were outstanding and the specimens were exceptional. They brought out many oohhs and ahhs from the passing folks. That in itself was enough to promote our hobby. Even though it is a major part of our fundraising, the fair also has major benefits in putting our club and its rewards as a great hobby to the public. Chatting with the people about our love for the hobby and learning about their experiences is a good time. Establishing relationships, answering questions, and handing out club flyers was all in a day's work. Planting

the seeds of a rewarding hobby or career in young minds is a deed well done. The cab machine was up and running demonstrating to all how to turn a rough stone into a shining beauty. Besides talking with the public, another benefit is getting to know other club members. During slow periods, we would sit around and talk about this and that and get to know each other much better than a 2 minute chat at the meetings. I enjoyed this part very much as it was a rewarding and learning experience. Thanks again to all who raised their hands and pitched in to the effort.  
See you at the next meeting!  
Bill Mayer, President

### **Festival of Trees**

This year the club is doing a tree for the Festival of Trees at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Some members have been making ornaments and garland for the tree. If you have something made from gems, minerals, fossils, rocks, or even glass that is handmade, bring it to the November Meeting. Tina, Jay, Sharon and Bill will be decorating the tree on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. The title for our tree is "Rocks Around the Christmas Tree." One of the requirements for the tree is that it has a story. Below is the story for the tree.

### **Rocks Around the Christmas Tree**

By Tina Perkins

It was a cold Christmas Eve and the Spiders were spinning,  
Covering the tree with gems and minerals instead of ornaments and tinsel.

Hanging from every branch were Jasper, Agate, and crystals galore,  
Decorating them all from tree top to floor.



There were lots of Crabs, shells, other oddities and even sharks' teeth,  
They hid behind the beaded garland with rocks for presents underneath.

In the dark room appeared a bright light,  
Father Christmas laughed when he gazed at the sight.

There were amazing treasures of nature with a geologic theme,  
Someone had turned rocks from the earth into ornaments that gleam.

If you like to dig in the earth, come join us for fun,  
You'll find wonder and new friends before you are done.

Merry Christmas  
Mid. Georgia Gem and Mineral Society

### Meeting Minutes

Bill Mayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There was 20 members in attendance with 2 visitors, Anastasia and Brandi.

Adoption of Minutes: The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting to be taken from the newsletter. A motion was made and the members approved.

Treasurer: Susan gave the balances of the accounts and money taken in. Also mentioned the Membership Dues are being collected.

Programs: Jay Batcha said Ellan Price was the speaker for November and tonight Eddie Williams will talk about a field trip to The Crater of Diamonds State Park.

Field Trips: Jay mentioned a DMC dig in Mississippi hosted by the Memphis Club and

our dig at Jones Pit in Hawkinsville, Ga. on November 16 2019.

Publicity: Tina Perkins said there was a presentation at an Elementary School on 10-28-2019 and needing volunteers. Jay, Bill, Sharon and Tina are going.

Newsletter: Tina mentioned any items to be put in the newsletter need to be submitted by 10-12-2019.

Festival of Trees still needs ornaments. Tina is heading this up and will need ornaments by the November meeting. Our tree is "Rocks Around the Christmas Tree." This is a good community outreach for the club.

New Business: Bill called for a vote from members to elect the clubs 4 officers for the next year. A ballot with the nominees was passed around and a vote count approved. Bill Mayer- President, Tina Perkins - VP, Susan Hargrove - Treasurer and Al Steffanini - Secretary.

Education: Tuell Walters talked about the mineral of the month Dolomite. He said it was common and abundant with soft characteristics suitable for some polishing but not good for tumbling. Some items were on display for members to view.

Speaker: Geologist Eddie Williams spoke about a recent field trip to Crater of Diamonds in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. The 32 acres Prairie Creek dig site was the result of a Diatreme Volcano eruption 95 million years ago.

Lamproite magma from 100 miles below brought the diamonds to the surface. He had a slide show of pictures and diagrams of the process with tips also on gear, dress and sifting techniques to collect the Diamonds. There were samples of rocks and plentiful bags of pay dirt for members to take home and sift thru.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59

Respectively submitted  
Al Steffanini



## Mineral of the Month

### Prehnite

Crystal: Orthorhombic

Mohs: 6-6.5

Brittle

Luster: Vitreous to Pearly

Specific Gravity: 2.8-2.95

Fluorescence: short UV- blue and long UV yellow

Prehnite is a translucent to transparent gem-quality hydrated calcium aluminum silicate.



Prehnite with Epidote

Pintrest.com

Prehnite was the first mineral to be named after an individual, (Colonel Hendrik von Prehn) and it was also the first mineral to be described from South Africa. It was first described in 1788 after it was discovered in the Karoo dolerites of Cradock, South Africa. Colonel Hendrik von Prehn (1733-1785) was a Dutch mineralogist and an early governor of the Cape of Good Hope colony. Though not a zeolite, prehnite is found associated with minerals such as datolite, calcite, apophyllite, stilbite, laumontite, and heulandite in veins and cavities of basaltic rocks, sometimes in granites, syenites, or gneisses.



Wikipedia.com

4.6 grams gem cut

## Local Events

### Georgia National Fair

Some of our members had great fun volunteering in our booth, talking to fair goers, and demonstrating the art of cabbing from October 3-13. Volunteers were: Susan Hargrove, Jay Batcha, Sharon Milner, Bill Mayer, Helen Forgay, Kim Cochran, Neil Cowan, Al Steffanini, Gary Gordon, and Tina Perkins.

### Pictures from the Fair



Main cabinet- Sharon Milner and Jay Batcha



Jay Batcha and Gary Gordon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cabinet



What our members can make!!



Jay with all the items for sale  
and the cabbing machine.

## Shows

The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society  
will hold its 2019  
52nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show  
Fri Nov. 22, 10:00 - 6:00;  
Sat. Nov. 23, 10:00 - 6:00;  
Sun. Nov. 24, 12:00 - 5:00  
Jamil Temple  
206 Jamil Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Educational for the whole family. South Carolina amethyst on display. Cost: \$5.00 for adults, Sixteen & under free. All military & their dependents free.

## Digs

### Jones Pit

An official trip of the Mid Ga. Gem and  
Mineral Society  
November 16, 2019  
10:00 am

**Trip:** To the Jones Pit in Pulaski County, halfway between Unadilla and Hawkinsville. We will be digging on private property so fill in any holes and pick up your trash, so we can come back.

**Meet at:** First convenience store on the right (east side of I-75) after crossing bridge on exit #122 (highway 230). Meet at 10:00am on Saturday November 3th.

**Fee:** Free

**Collect:** Picture Jasper (looks like Biggs picture jasper from out west) it is nice stuff, also brown agate, goethite / hematite some geodes and some iridescent. Fossil shell cast/molds with drusy quartz and calcite.

**Geology:** Geology of the Chandler Iron Mine / Georgia Queen Picture Jasper site Pulaski County, Georgia. Oligocene Era 30 million years ago, Silica from erosion deposition replaced fossiliferous limestone – subsequent silicification of shell and marine animal forms – iron from precipitation in a shallow inland sea with chalk and iron in the form of Goethite, Limonite, and Hematite. They are abundant, and are responsible for patterns and colorations in the Georgia Queen Picture Jasper. In July 2002, Members of Mid-Ga. Gem and Mineral Society uncovered this superb lapidary material and geologically impressive deposit especially for the State of Georgia. This mine is still productive but will close permanently in the near future due to, sale of property.



**Bring:** Safety glasses and Gloves are a must! Hammers, chisels, scratching tools, digging tools, pry bars, buckets, paper to wrap specimens, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks.

**Directions:** Head south on I-75 from Macon to exit #122, highway 230 (the Unadilla exit).



Turn left on highway 230 (towards Unadilla) go about 1/4 mile and the convenience store we are meeting at is on the right. It is 34 miles from the I-475/I-75 merge on the southside of Macon.

**Questions call:** Jay's cell # 478-957-5002

Official Field Trip of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Club (Pendleton, SC) (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Mid. Ga. Gem and Mineral Society  
Saturday, November 23, 2019  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
**Johnson Creek Farm**  
Due West, SC  
75 Person Limit (Fee Site)

**TRIP:** The Johnson Creek Farm is a relatively new site that is not far from Diamond Hill Mine.

**COLLECTING:** There are different areas in which to dig. There is one area that has epidote. Another pit has smoky quartz and amethyst, and there is an area that contains beryl. You can dig in the pit where the veins are exposed or go through the tailing piles left from the excavator.

**FEES /REGISTRATION:** Fee is \$25.00 per person with an option to camp out at the facility on Friday night with an additional fee of \$25.00. The gate will be open and check in for camping will be at 3:00. Registration and payment must be made through PayPal using Jason Ashley's PayPal email account: [jason@wctel.net](mailto:jason@wctel.net) or call him at 864-378-1908 to send a check.

**BRING:** Bring your usual digging tools and buckets. The pits are usually pretty dry unless there has been a heavy rain. You should probably wear rubber boots or sturdy shoes to climb down in the pits. The site is an open field with no trees so a hat might be useful!

**REQUIREMENTS:** Participants must be members of clubs affiliated with DMC and must show their club membership card during

check in. [Acceptable proof of membership also includes club name tag, membership dues payment receipt, or current newsletter with valid address label -- DMC Coordinator]

**TERRAIN /ACCESSIBILITY:** Parking is along Crawford Road adjacent to the property. The terrain is pretty even and flat, but some of the sites require a little walking to get from one to the other. Jason will provide a shuttle service to the different digging areas.

**CHILDREN (Yes):** Children 6 years and older are allowed, but there is a \$25.00 fee. Children must be supervised by an adult.

**PETS (No):** No pets allowed.

**FACILITIES:** There will be a Porta Potty there by 5:00 Friday evening and all-day Saturday. There is also running water. Bring your own food and drinks as there are none on site.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The nearest lodging would be in Greenwood, SC. The Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn and Suites, Fairfield Inn and Suites and Red Roof Inn. Anderson, SC is nearby.

**DIRECTIONS:** The dig site is located at 439 Crawford Rd, Due West, SC. You will see a table set up outside in front of the gate by the road.

Jason Ashley will have a list of names of who have paid. Everyone must be a member of a club associated with DMC for insurance reasons. Everyone must check in and sign a waiver before entering the property.

**CONTACTS:** Jason Ashley 864-378-1908 or Donna Mayeur president of PDGMS 864-723-9042 home and 864-772-9074 cell phone on the day of the dig.

**"When a great team loses through complacency, it will constantly search for new and more intricate explanations to explain away defeat." ~ Pat Riley**



**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](mailto:orebilly@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Tina Perkins  
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**Sunshine:** Sharon Milner,  
[milner3791@gmail.com](mailto:milner3791@gmail.com)

Please let her know if people are sick so she can send them a card from the club.



**Dues are Due**

November starts a new club year. There is a grace period until February 1, 2019. Please send in dues to Susan Hargrove.

**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 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**

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