



Whooo? We are looking for you at the October Meeting and don't forget the fair!!!!

Meeting Information

The October Meeting will be held Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Come early to talk to the early birds and members you may not have seen in a while.

Program for the evening

Geology of the Crater of Diamonds (Arkansas)

The program will be presented by Eddie Williams. Eddie is a member of the Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society and a geologist. In 1984, he began work at the Georgia Geologic Survey (now defunct) of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), working in information research for the private sector and citizens, permitting for Oil and Gas wells, and permitting for Underground Injection Wells. In 1993, he began work at the Hazardous Waste Management Branch (now defunct) of the EPD overseeing hazardous waste compliance and remediation at local, state, and Federal facilities. Continued as Branch expanded into commercial compliance and remediation oversight and investigations at State Hazardous Site Response Act (HSRA) Superfund sites.

Retired from the Land Protection Branch (Hazardous Waste Management Branch merged into Land Protection Branch in 2013) in 2018.

Upcoming Events:

October 3-13 Ga. National Fair

October 4-6 Graves Mountain

October 12 Senatobia, Miss.

November 4 Meeting

November 6-10 decorating for the Festival of Trees

November 17 Jones Pit Dig

Prez Box

National Fair

The club's annual big event is rapidly approaching. This year we have 485 grab bags and ten days to sell them to the public. The fair not only it gives the opportunity to show off our specimens, we also show off our club to the public and share our hobby with everyone. We will have a Genie cab machine set up for us to demonstrate cab making. It is a fun week of sharing and talking to people about rocks. Which we all like to talk about. Three people in the booth at one time is a good number and with 10 days to fill it will need quite a lot of man hours to fill the positions. The fair runs October 3-13, 2019 and people are needed all day each day. Susan really needs some people for Saturday (5th and 12th) and Sunday (6th and 13th) so if you can help, let her know as soon as possible since she has to coordinate the hours and arrange parking passes and tickets.

Arkansas field trip?

Diamonds!!! Now that is worth looking for. Wouldn't it be nice to find a handful of them beautiful gemstones? With Eddie's program on Crater of Diamonds lighting the fire, what about heading to Arkansas for a long field trip? Diamonds, crystals and other rocks would make it a great place to search for a few days. Would you be interested in going there? If we



can generate enough interest in going, we could put something together. More than likely it would be in the early spring before the weather warms up. If you are interested, please let Tina or any board member know or if you have another location in the southeast, we would love to have your suggestion.

Looking back at September's meeting:

Well we had a rather lengthy meeting last month, but there was a lot of important items to go over and decide upon. My preference is to have these discussions with the club and have it open to all points of view. Buying a printer, having a Christmas tree and manning the Fair booth all require club input, along with upcoming programs and events it does take some time. I believe it is time well spent. With that said, a very important vote was taken on our new constitution and was passed successfully. This was a major piece of work that will help our club in the future. The new document will be emailed to all members and we will have copies available at our October meeting. Its impact will be felt immediately with our election process and voting requirements.

Another first for the club. Putting up and decorating a Christmas tree at the Museum's annual festival of trees. We sent in our application and gearing up for the decorating process. In the coming weeks we will have dates on this event. In the meantime, start the wheels turning on making ornaments for the tree. Rock, gem, minerals will be the theme for our tree. Possibly we could have a day for gathering together and making ornaments. We will definitely have a day for set up and decorating the tree. This should prove to be a fun and satisfying project to undertake. Tina will be spearheading this event and she will keep us up to date.

Summer Fun:

Jay and I took a 2-week rockhounding trip to the upper peninsula of Michigan the last of July. It was a wonderful trip. The U P was a

major source of iron and copper for our growing country beginning in the 1840's. the mines and mills are all closed now, but they left behind a rich history and legacy of hard work, determination, and the product of all that work, smelters, railroads, logging, great small towns and mines. Most importantly for us rock hounds, the tailing piles from all those mines. There are so many of them they have transformed the landscape. We hooked up with the local rock clubs and went on club sponsored trips to the piles. Using a metal detector to search for copper was a new experience for me. The turned over material was all dirt covered and looked the same. The only way to find the copper was to sweep across the pile with a detector and wait for the beep, beep, beep. To narrow the location further a hand held detector was then used. This would take you right to the source of beeping. It could be a piece of copper, a piece of basalt infused with copper, or old mining items such as nails, spikes or even a miner's shovel as Jay found. I would like to thank Jay for sharing his local knowledge of the mines and territory, it made it so much more enjoyable on knowing where to go. Jay has been to the area numerous times and knew the locations of the mines along with the good places to eat. A typical day for us was leaving early in the morning and going to 2 or 3 mining locations loading up our buckets full finally arriving back at the motel late in the evening, tired and happy. A truckload of Banded iron, Copper, Jaspilite, dolomite, and magnetite were some of the materials we brought back with us, along with many memories to last forever.

Other happenings:

Our success at the 50th anniversary of Lunar landing at the MOA, led us to being back to the MOA for the NASA Regional Education Resource Center's STEM teacher conference. We were given the opportunity to display rock specimens and also be able to sell our grab bags. 15 grab bags were sold along with Mohs



kits that were made just prior to the event. Our Tina was a presenter at the conference and did an excellent job at challenging and informing the teachers on several projects for students to learn about minerals, geology and biology. Additional information about the conference and pictures are also in this newsletter. Our outreach programs have been successful in getting attention from the education community, we have been getting requests to have a program or a presentation at local schools. The need for **volunteers** to help honor these requests is a priority. If you can help with any of these programs, please let a board member know.

I am anxiously awaiting Eddie's program on Crater of the Diamonds. Finding a bucketful of diamonds would certainly make my day. It should be very interesting and I am hoping we all come out to hear this month's program.

See you all at the meeting, Bill Mayer

NASA RERC STEM CONFERENCE

The club had an opportunity to participate at the Stem Conference that was held at the Museum of Aviation on the 24th of August. We were able to sell grab bags and other items including kits that we made for teachers. There were three states and over 120 people present. Below are some pictures from the conference given to us from Clare Swinford.

The hangar set up.



Sharon at the table.



Bill, Jay, and Tina before the conference.



Meeting Minutes

Bill Mayer called the meeting to order at 7:32. He welcomed everyone back from summer break with 23 in attendance. He also introduced new member Dan Warner and visitor Dania Eubanks.

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 Report: Susan stated there wasn't much activity in checking because of the summer break. She gave account balances and said club member dues under the new rate structure can start being paid now.

Programs: Jay Batcha said Kim Cochran was our speaker tonight with Eddie speaking in October and Ellan Price speaking in November.



Field Trips: Jay stated a Summerville DMC dig on September 22, Graves Mountain on October 5 and 6 and our club trip to Jones Pit on November 17. He mentioned Mr. Jones passed away and the property could be sold after this dig

Webmaster: Jim Souter said the website is doing ok and for members to send their field trip pictures. He also noted his e-mail address has changed to jdsouter@charter.net.

Sunshine: Sharon Milner passed around two cards for members to sign, one thankyou card for Kim Cochran and the other for a member that was in the hospital.

Education: Tuell Waters talked about Fluorite our mineral of the month. It can be a mineral or gas with many shapes and colors. Has a Mohs Hardness scale of 4 and is found around the world. Many members specimens were on display for all to see.

Old Business: Bill called for a vote on the new revised constitution and by-laws. A motion was made to accept the revision and seconded. A show of members hands approved the new Constitution. Susan also said she had the schedule for volunteering in the club's booth at the fair. Bill also went over the - what we need for the fair -item list along with some other ideas and suggestions.

New Business: Jay, Tina and Sharon of the Nominating Committee said the nominees were Bill- President, Tina- Vice President, Susan- Treasurer and Al- Secretary. The nominations are being taken for the members to vote on at the October meeting. Tina also said the club needed a new printer that hers was getting old and the cost of ink was going up. She had some info on new printers and members gave feedback on many different ideas and options. A proposal or decision will be determined soon, as many printing tasks are at hand. She also talked of members asking for video presentations of meetings and a discussion followed. Bill also presented the idea of the club entering our own Christmas Tree at the Museum of Arts and Sciences Festival of

Trees. A show of hands indicated enough interest and more details will be announced concerning volunteers on the November 6th decorating day.

Speaker: Our speaker Kim Cochran talked about Organic Gemstones. He said they are formed by plants like bamboo and animals like elephants under strict qualifying guidelines. Some minerals like gallstones and kidney stones are created by humans but not recognized. Three common groups are: Carbonates- consisting of naturally formed Corals, Pearls and Clams; Phosphate - naturally formed ivory, bone and horns from Elephants, Rhinos and Hornbill Birds; Hydrocarbons - examples are coal like Jet and Amber which are formed from decaying trees. Many beautiful and interesting items were passed around and Kim said many Organic Gemstones on the market are fake usually made of plastic and glass. Kim is Director of Southeast Federation of Societies and mentioned our club could send two delegates to the November Convention being held in Huntsville, Alabama.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Al Steffanini

Nominating Committee

Tina, Jay, and Sharon named the individuals who have been nominated as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer for the next club year starting November 1, 2019- October 31, 2020. Of course, nominations can be brought up from the floor during our October meetings in addition to those listed below.

Voting will take place at our October meeting.

President: Bill Mayer

Vice President: Tina Perkins

Secretary: Al Steffanini

Treasurer: Susan Hargrove

Appointed Positions (president appoints):

Nomination Committee: Tina Perkins,
Jay Batcha, Sharon Milner

Sunshine Person: Sharon Milner

Programs/ Field Trips: Jay Batcha



Education: Tuell Walters
Editor/ Publicity: Tina Perkins

Mineral of the Month

Dolomite/Limestone

Dolomite is referred to by geologists in two ways: as a mineral and as the name of a rock also referred to as dolostone.

Dolomite is a common rock forming mineral composed of magnesium, calcium, and two carbonate ions $[\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2]$. It makes up a sedimentary rock called dolostone and a metamorphic rock called dolomitic marble. Dolomite is a common mineral in hydrothermal vents and is often associated with barite, fluorite, pyrite, chalcopryrite, galena, and sphalerite.



En.wikipedia.org (dolomite with magnesite)

Dolomite has a Mohs hardness of 3.5-4. It has a white streak in powder form. It can be colorless, white, pink, green, grey, brown, or black. It has a hexagonal crystal system. It has many uses: Construction aggregate, cement manufacture, dimension stone, calcined to produce lime, sometimes an oil and gas reservoir, a source of magnesia for the chemical industry, agricultural soil treatments, metallurgical flux. (geology.com/minerals/dolomite.shtml) Gray's Reef off the coast of Georgia is made of dolomitic sandstone. The dolomitic sandstone started as sand and lime mud. The reef was once above sea level. Mastodon, horse, and other mammal fossils have been



Geologylearn.blogspot.com

found around the reef. The reef has been submerged for about 7,000 years. (Roadside Geology of Georgia, 2013)



SHOWS

Gaston Gem, Mineral and Faceters Club
October 4-6, 2019
Gaston County Park
1303 Dallas Cherryville Highway
Dallas, North Carolina

Central Florida Gem and Mineral Society
October 4-6, 2019
Florida National Guard Armory
2809 South Fern Creek Avenue
Orlando, Florida

Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society
October 11-13, 2019
Jaycee Community Center
2180 Airport Road
Huntsville, Alabama

Kanawha Rock and Gem Club
October 19-20, 2019
South Charleston Community Center
601 Jefferson Road
South Charleston, West Virginia





DIGS

Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA

Collecting Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite,
Iridescent Hematite, Pyrophyllite,
Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite,
Sulfur, variscite, woodhouseite,
crandallite, strengite, phosphosiderite,
cacoenite, blue quartz, quartz
crystals, etc.

October

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 4, 2019

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019

"You are invited to field collect minerals at
Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain,
Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to
hold a three day dig and rock swap on the
Mountain during April and October. He will
have the mountain open to collecting from 8
am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop
at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent
to sign a liability release and make a small
contribution to defray the cost of opening the
mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will
be several golf cart-type, four wheeled vehicles
available to transport those participants who
have trouble walking long distances. The dig
will cease and everyone is expected to be off
the mountain by around 6 pm each day.
Participants will be allowed to park in a
designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper
parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock
swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a
table(s), please contact Junior at the phone
numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the
grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for
purchase on the mountain during all three days
of these events.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706-359-1544
(his business) or 706-401-3173 (his cell)

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP
FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"!

Mark your calendar and tell all your friends
about these two great events!

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-
20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78
(SR 10, SR 17) and turn left.

Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR
378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain
area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on
your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln
county line sign.

-OR-

Just after you exit onto SR 78, turn right onto
GA 43 and drive towards Lincolnton about 13
miles. Take a left onto GA 220 going
Northwest for about 3 miles to SR 378. Take a
left on SR 378 and go about 2 miles. The
entrance will be on your left.

The entrance is a paved road that goes through
a gate and up a hill. Please park along
the access road and then proceed to the
"Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to
obtain a liability release form and to make a
donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.
Graves mountain is accessible and open for
mineral collecting by colleges, universities, and
gem and mineral societies. Groups as small as
two INDIVIDUAL mineral collectors can now
reserve the mountain!



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 ¼ 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



An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (Memphis, TN) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Mid Ga.
Gem and Mineral Society
Saturday, October 12, 2019

8:30 am to 3:00 pm Central Time
Memphis Stone and Gravel, Perry Plant
4053 Hogfoot Road
Senatobia, Mississippi

Meet at the Perry Plant, Senatobia, MS (directions below). When arriving do not leave the parking area until the safety briefing has been conducted. Each trip participant must sign in and include your club membership.

COLLECTING: Chert gravels with fossils (Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian), petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz and other rocks and minerals associated with regional alluvial terrace deposits of Pleistocene / Pliocene age. We will be collecting the gravel from stockpiles. Samples of material (tumbled polished) collected from North Mississippi Gravel Pits:

BRING: Bucket, rock hammer or hand rake. We will be surface collecting and no digging is necessary. Spray bottle with water is very helpful.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: A review of safety rules will be provided during the site orientation. This is an active mine with dangerous areas, including water hazards. Do not walk or climb under/on any equipment. All children must be under CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION and NEVER allowed to roam around. Shoes must be closed and/or laced (no



flip-flops or Crocs) and Long Pants are required. Remember, any time eye hazards may exist, such as hammering or prying, safety glasses **MUST** be worn. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen and always stay with the group
TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: Easy walking, no long hikes or climbing required.
CHILDREN (Yes): Adult supervision at all times.

PETS (Yes): Must always be on leash.

FEE: No fee.

FACILITIES: Portable Potty. No other services available. See notes about food/drinks below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Memphis Stone and Gravel and MAGS will provide drinks and lunch.

RSVP: If you plan on attending, let a MAGS trip leader know (contact information below). We would like a head count so we will have enough buns for everyone.

DIRECTIONS: From Memphis, TN or Jackson, MS, take I-55 to Senatobia, MS At the I-55 Senatobia, MS exit (265), exit and go **WEST** on MS-4 / E MAIN ST toward downtown Senatobia 1.0 miles

Turn **LEFT** onto US-51 / MS-4 / S PANOLA ST (then immediately get ready to make right at stop sign, as described next) <0.1 miles

Turn **RIGHT** onto MS-4 / W TATE ST.

Continue to follow MS-4. 5.1 miles

Turn **RIGHT** onto JJ RANCH RD. 2.1 miles

Turn **LEFT** at fork onto HOGFOOT RD and proceed up the hill until you see the plant on your right (north). 1.9 miles

The plant entrance is all the way on the west side of the property on the right (north) side of the road. You should see the scale house.

CONTACTS: MAGS field trip leaders: WC McDaniel 901-490-3575, w.c.mcd@att.net or Kim Hill at 901-585-2268.



By Betty Sue Smith

My sidekick (husband) and I went on numerous, exciting rockhounding expeditions,

and we always came home richer than we were before. Not only was it from all the bits and pieces of terrain that we brought back but also from the many unforgettable experiences that enriched our souls.

There are still some wild remote places where
animals have no fear of man,
Where ravens light on your shoulder and deer
feed from your hand.

Where stars are so immense, they light up the
night sky,
Constellations, shooting stars and the Milky
Way appear magnified, for there is no pollution
to veil the eye.

Where snow-capped mountains tower above
myriads of wild flowers on the valley floor,
With so much that seems like heaven all
around, how could anyone ask for more?



From the Editor:

If you have a story to share, please send it to me so that we can all hear about your adventures in collecting rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands—one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — Audrey Hepburn

Volunteering helps us stand together!!!

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,
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Vice President: (vacant)

Secretary: Al Steffanini
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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



Dues are Due

November starts a new club year. There is a grace period until February 1, 2020. Please send in dues to Susan Hargrove.

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral
Society
Application for Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

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

Senior (65+) \$10.00

Family (2-4 members) \$25.00

Additional members \$5.00 each

Mailed Newsletter \$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

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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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