



Meeting Information

Come early and join the early birds to chat. The meeting this month will be held inside at the Museum of Arts and Science on October 5, 2020 at **7:00PM. Masks and social distancing are required.** The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Matt Malone. He will be speaking on "Ionic liquid facilitated recovery of metals and oxygen from regolith." Dues are due November 1, 2020. Don't forget to bring a sample of the mineral of the month...Beryl.

Table of Contents

Upcoming Events.....	page 1
Prez. Box.....	page 1
Resources.....	page 2
Meeting Minutes.....	page 2
Survey Results.....	page 3
Mineral of the Month.....	page 4
Fossil/ Rock... Month.....	page 5
Letter from the Editor.....	page 5
Shows.....	page 6
Blast from the Past.....	page 6
Space News.....	page 7
Club Information.....	page 8

Upcoming Events

Oct. 5- Meeting- Dr. Matt Malone
Oct. 31- Fall Festival (Picnic and Silent Auction), Halloween Theme, Full Blue Moon
Nov. 2- Meeting- Eddie Williams
Nov. 2- Asteroid 2018VP1

Nov. 4-8 Decorating Tree at Museum (time/day TBD)

Prez. Box

I hope all is well with everyone this September. Staying safe and healthy is the main goal this year. While there is so much going on in the world and in our own back yards, it is hard to focus and keep positive through it all. One thing that does keep me grounded and looking forward is my rock hobby and business. With all the stuff going on, headed to the rock room for cutting, tumbling and cabbing is a great way to keep calm and have the worries of the world pass on by. These nature's beauties have seen it all, pandemics, earthquakes, fires, dinosaurs, and meteor impacts. They are still here and shining brightly.

Our September meeting, held outdoors, was a success. It was a nice warm night with everyone wearing masks and social distancing. Special thanks to Jay for putting together a very nice program on agates, jaspers, and chalcedony. My favorite rocks. It was very informative and there were plenty of specimens to awe over.

Our board meeting discussed the survey results quite extensively and then we presented to the assembly at the meeting. We are enacting many of them, but with the Covid-19 situation, many will have to wait for a better climate. As with anything, actions, programs, classes and trips take volunteerism and stepping up to pitch in your talent. Together we all can make this a great and vibrant club. Two suggestions are being enacted this October meeting; 1) is having a 7:00 pm start time, which will help out in getting home after the meetings this winter and 2) is having a Fossil / Rock of the month. Read more about this in the newsletter. One of these will be at our coming October meeting. The new start time will be discussed as to see how effective it is and if it is wanted. Changing the start time officially needs to go through the bylaws change process.



October is election month where we will vote on the new officers. There will be a call for any other nominations before we vote. A special thanks to George Ruff for stepping up and volunteering to be on the board of trustees. Thanks George!!

We are not out of this Covid-19 pandemic yet, and no one knows how long this is going to be. I realize this is a very personal thing to do when we step outside and into the world around us. We all need to have a little more patience and understanding in the weeks and months ahead. Stay safe
President Bill

Resources:

1. After Jay's talk the other night, I found a really interesting article and have included the link.
<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/what-is-the-difference-between-chert-flint-and-mozarkite/>
2. Lapidary 101: An Introduction to Stone Cutting
<https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/s-tone-cutting-tips/>



September Meeting Minutes

President Bill Mayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. with 10 members in attendance under the pavilion out back of the Museum.

He welcomed everyone back and stated the October 5, 2020 regular meeting would start at 7 P.M. and the October 31, 2020 Annual picnic would be from 11 A.M. till 2 P.M., both meetings under the pavilion also. Bill mentioned with the fair being cancelled and the loss of income from the grab bag sales, the club would still be in good shape with the saving account. Also said future income would be from bags being sold at the Museum, the picnic silent auction sales, items sold at meetings and the March 2021 Yard Sale.

Adoption of the Minutes: The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting to be taken

from the newsletter. A motion was made and the members approved.

Newsletter: Tina Perkins said the newsletter would be updated with some new fun things, tips and projects and informative articles. She mentioned the deadline for submitting articles is September 12.

Programs: Jay Batcha said our speaker Kim Cochran couldn't make it and he would fill in tonight. Jay said Matt Malone was speaking on Space Mineral Exploration at October meeting and Eddie Williams was speaking on Graves Mountain at the November meeting. Jay also said the club had a dig scheduled for Graves mountain September 19, 2020 and had a sign-up sheet available. He was also working on a future trip to Jones Island Savannah, GA. possibly in January.

Old Business: Bill asked Tina to give a report on the recent Club member survey. She said many of the suggestions were already in place and others were in progress. October meeting starting at 7 P.M., Fossil of the Month at meetings, more Rock I.D. and How To Presentations were among the many member inputs. Bill asked about the club banner and Tina said we were waiting on a digital picture of the club emblem. Pam Mayer suggested a person to do it and Tina is looking into having it made.

New Business: Bill mentioned elections coming up and the nominees were: Bill - President, Tina - Vice- President, Susan - Treasurer, and Al - Secretary. He also said George Ruff has volunteered to be Trustee. Bill reminded everyone of the clubs 60Th. Anniversary. Tina suggested sending out notices for a reunion possibly in March 2021 depending on the Virus situation. Bill also mentioned the Annual picnic October 31, 2020 under the pavilion with food, raffles, silent auction and Halloween Theme.

Mineral of the Month for September was Jasper and many members brought specimens to display. October's MOM is Beryl and



Novembers MOM is Graves Mountain specimens.

Jay said Kim Cochran couldn't make it and that he was going speak on Jasper. Talked about it being Chalcedony, a micro crystalline quartz made mostly of silica and oxygen that was hard and durable. MOHs Hardness of 7 and Conchoidal Fracturing resulted in ancient tool making. Jasper is opaque and has a duller luster than quartz, with light scattering off in different directions. He stated Agates were Chalcedony also, formed in Igneous and Sedimentary rock that are translucent with banding. He mentioned that Agate, Chert and Jasper were found at the club's old dig site, Jones Pit in Unadilla, with some fossil imprints. Jay had many specimens from around the world on display. Members asked questions and gave input.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectively Submitted
Al Steffanini



Jay filled in for our speaker. He spoke on Chalcedony (Chert, Jasper, Agate).



Survey Results

Executive Council 8/18/20

In February, we sent out a link to a survey link by mail, e-mail and handed it out at the meeting to help the executive council make informed decisions for the club. Our club at present has around 60 members and out of that number only 25 people responded. As we address the topics, concerns and ideas supplied by the survey results

they will be discussed in the newsletter. Due to Covid-19 and the loss of the 2020 Georgia National Fair revenue, some results are being shelved for now.

We will continue to provide opportunities for fieldtrips (Question 7) within the CDC and state guidelines. Based on the state guidelines, most quarries are not open for field trips at this time. Meetings are at present being held outside with masks and social distancing.

Question 1: Name

16 people put their names and 9 did not.

Question 2: Interests for being in the club

These included but were not limited to rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts, education, identification of the above specimens, field trips, geology, club activities and hanging out with others who like the same things.

Question 3: Volunteering for a club event

5 people skipped the question, 14 said yes (some put their names), 5 said maybe (some put their names), and one said no and included his name

Question 4: Attending a workshop

8 people skipped this question, 17.65% said wire wrapping, 11.76% said cabbing, Gem and Mineral Identification was at 52.94% and 17.65% said other which included all of the above, lapidary, smelting metals, gem cutting, gem trees, silver, and cold connections. **At peaches to beaches, Jay taught three of us how to make a gem tree and we are planning on doing a class on this next year if possible. (picture from Peaches to Beaches)**



Question 5: What topics would you like to see in the newsletter? (skipped 7 times)

Although most of these will be addressed later by the editor, one item came up that was addressed and discussed by the executive council.



Two people made mention of putting our financial report into the newsletter. The newsletter is placed in its entirety on-line and it is for public viewing. We do not think that at this time putting it in the newsletter is a good idea. If you attend the meeting then the treasurer or his/her designee should tell the members present how much money we have. This topic will be revisited later.

Question 6: Changes to the club

Someone suggested moving the meeting time to 6:30. The executive council decided to try moving it to 7:00 in October to see how people would respond. We still have members who work so any earlier would be a hardship on them. To make this time permanent would mean a change to the bylaws.

Three people would like to see more people volunteering at club events and more people showing up at the meetings, picnic, and Christmas party.

More youth involvement was also brought up, but Mondays are school nights and not good for youth. Most clubs have an alternative time and day with someone (usually paid) to run the meeting. At this time as a club that would not be possible.

People need to stand up front to give reports.

This was started at the March meeting when results started coming in and the officers were made aware of the problem and it will continue.

Instead of just a mineral of the month, we will also be doing a fossil/ rock of the month and we want people to bring in specimens for a chance at a door prize.

Scholarship to be used to pay a teacher to teach classes to club members. Classes are being designed for club members and when we can meet inside in groups of 4 or 5, there will be classes for cabbing, gem trees, ID for gems, minerals, and rocks, as well as others but not until after concerns for Covid-19 are lowered. Class materials will be purchased or supplied by members taking the class.

Question 8: What type programs?

Topics for this question included lapidary and jewelry making, show and tell in addition to a speaker, club slide show, fossils in Georgia,

instructional how to do, and Rock swap and ID table. Two people put this was not applicable to them and five people skipped this question.

Programs have been and will continue to be diversified, however, classes cannot be taught during a regular meeting. Instructional how to do and classes will be addressed after Covid-19. Rock swap and ID table will be at the June meeting each year.

Question 9: If you have not attended a meeting in the last year, please indicate the best reason why. 23% health; 31% working; 38% other; 8% distance

Question 10: Work on a committee (most people skipped this one/ number indicates those that responded) **A special thank you for those who signed the link with your name so we can call on you.**

Program: 1
Publicity: 1
Events: 4
Other: 2

Field Trips: 0
Sunshine: 2
Officers: 2



Mineral of the Month
Beryl



Jeff Stovall, GeologyIn.com

Beryl is a hexagonal crystal mineral composed of beryllium, aluminum, silicon, and oxygen with a hardness of 7.5-8.0 and a specific gravity of 2.65-2.8. Beryl has a refractive index of 1.57-1.61 and displays an imperfect cleavage and a vitreous luster. Colors vary with beryl, typically generating different varieties: Aquamarine (greenish-blue transparent), Morganite, aka Rose Beryl (pale pink to deep rose), Emerald (deep green transparent),



and Golden Beryl (clear golden-yellow). Beryl can also be white, clear, and mottled (a combination of white and clear). The majority of beryl crystals are green in color. Emerald is the most desired of the varieties as a gemstone and may have a much greater value than the diamond. Other clear varieties are valued in the semi-precious gemstone industry. Beryllium from the beryl at the Cochran Mine in Cherokee County, GA was used in the production of heat-resistant tiles for the NASA Space Shuttles. Beryl generally occurs in igneous (granites and pegmatites) rocks, metamorphic (schists) rocks and in tin ore. The world's finest Emeralds occur in dark bituminous limestone in Columbia. The word "beryl" is derived from the Greek word "beryllos" which means "precious blue-green color-of-the-seawater stone". Beryl (verulia or veluriya) was mentioned in the Pakrit, an Indo-Aryan, language common to India between 600 BCE and 1000 CE. Because no beryl is known to occur in Greece, and it can be found in India, it is assumed that the Greek word was derived from the Pakrit language. In Georgia, beryl can be found in numerous pegmatite deposits in the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain. A crystal found in Albany, Maine was 27-feet long and weighed 25 tons.

Eddie Williams



Rock/Fossil of the Month Granite



Photo by geology.com

The rock of the month is granite. Granite is a coarse-grained plutonic rock with grains that may range in size from 1/16" to 1/2" or more. They were created via the emplacement of molten magma

between existing rocks or by an atom by atom replacement of existing rocks. Their primary mineral assemblage includes quartz, up to 27% of the rock, orthoclase feldspar, and a mixture, up to 10% of mica, amphibole, and/or pyroxene. If albite feldspar is present in amounts exceeding the amounts of orthoclase feldspar, the granite is called soda granite. If the albite feldspar contains more than 10% content of the calcium feldspar, it is called a quartz monzonite. Granites can be of varying colors, including gray, white, pink, black, yellow-brown, depending on the mineral assemblages during the rock formation. Granite is used for aggregate in road building and as dimension stone for monuments and grave markers. Granite quarries exist in 34 states in the U.S. with the primary producing states being Texas, Massachusetts, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Georgia.

Eddie Williams



Letter from the Editor:

I have been doing the newsletter for almost two years and I have thoroughly enjoyed doing it and reading all the material that is submitted. Although the question was skipped 7 times, I loved what was said about the newsletter and have included the answers below along with what is in progress, but I need your help. As the editor, I put the newsletter together, and sometimes contribute photographs or a story, but I cannot write everything, so if you have a topic that you would like to see in the newsletter, send it to me by snail mail or e-mail and it will get put inside. Deadline for the newsletter is the 12th of month.

*More personal experience stories, helpful hints for doing different things including specimens **Talked to Jay about getting Cam Muskelly to come talk as he is amazing and has YouTube videos on so much. Also, he has connections to Fernbank.**

*How to's and where to's of lapidary

*The newsletter is great and informative

*(Fine) as is (2 people)



- *Rock sites, tips, Rock ID, Digs
- *Information about upcoming digs (We always have digs in the newsletter, if any are available)
- *Some clubs have birthdates without age and anniversaries, but that is not necessary
- *You are doing great now
- *I think the newsletter is great. I have compared it to the Cobb Mineral Newsletter and found it to be far superior to the Cobb Newsletter.
- *Field trips upcoming and upcoming shows nearby (Blame covid-19 for lack of these)
- *How to articles and small projects (2 people)
- *Fossil of the month (Thank you Thomas for offering to let me use your info and give credit to your website. It is awesome.)
- *I am a new member so all of the information in the newsletter is interesting
- *Thunder eggs and geodes (Bill said he had one for this but had to find it)
- *More about the history, discovery and any background information on the mineral of the month (Eddie is now doing MOM each month as our resident geologist as well as the rock of the month every other month.)



Shows

Although shows are listed, please make sure you check before you go because Covid-19 may have caused them to cancel.

Sarasota, Florida
October 2-4, 2020, daily 10-5
Frank Cox Productions
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
801 N. Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41)
\$5 (\$1 off with mention of this listing)
Gems, crystals, minerals, rocks
contact Frank Cox
755 S. Palm Ave. #203

(941) 954-02

Email: frankcox@comcast.net

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club Show
Hickory, NC
October 23-25, 2020
Fri/Sat 9-6 Sun 10-4
1960 13th Ave Dr. SE
Hickory Metro Convention Center

28th Annual Leaf Lookers GEMBOREE
Franklin, NC
October 23-25, 2020
Fri/Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4
Community Center
1288 Georgia Road
Franklin, NC



Blast from the Past

From October 2011
TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wires together can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Dremel or Foreman should do well. Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Fasten the ends of the wires in a vice and slip the other ends on your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with a variable speed control.



SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own ear wires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy or fast.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

Special Note:

2020 marks the 60th year of the Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society, but because of the pandemic we have not been able to celebrate. At present we are thinking about celebrating it in March of 2021 in hopes that some sort of normalcy will return. One idea that has been mentioned would be to do a Saturday drop-in meeting and inviting all old members who have lapsed but were once part of the club to come, having refreshments, and just good fellowship. If you have any other ideas, the executive council would like to know. Email Bill, Tina, Jay, Susan, Al, or Jim. We want to hear from you.



Space News: Talking about a rock

Tina Perkins

I am sure all of you have probably either heard on television or maybe read about Asteroid

2018VP1 and November 2, the day before the elections. Being that I do contract work as a certified scientist for NASA's Regional Education Resource Center as a resource teacher (I teach teachers stuff to do in their classes), I get lots of information from NASA and frequently have to dismiss all the crazy stuff put out by the media and conspiracy theorist. Asteroid 2018VP1 was discovered in 2018 and after observing it twenty-one times over a period of 13 days, the CNEOS (a group with a budget of 4 million a year that watches about 8000+ near earth objects) was able to determine its speed and the trajectory of its orbit (orbits the earth every 730 days). It will come anywhere between 4,700 and 260,000 miles to earth based on its present orbit pattern and it is currently found in the constellation of Libra approximately 0.3327AU from earth. The little asteroid is about 6.5 feet in diameter and it has a 0.41% chance of hitting the atmosphere. If it does hit the atmosphere, it will burn up causing no damage. Unless you are looking for it, you might never know it was there. For more information check out theskylive.com Asteroids come close to the earth all the time and by the time you read this 10 will have gone their merry way past earth. If you want to see some great meteors burning up, the Draconids are best on October 7th, with between 10-100? per hour and the Orionids are best on the 21st of October with up to 10 per hour.

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.

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Dues are Due

November starts a new club year.

There is a grace period until February 1, 2021. After the February meeting you will be dropped from the roll if dues are not paid

**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.



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**



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