



**December Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
December 04, 2017 at 7:00pm.**

No Speaker for the December Meeting. This is our Christmas Party and it starts a half hour earlier than our normal meetings!!!!



**You are invited to a
Christmas Dinner**

The Annual Christmas dinner is coming up on December 4, 2017. **We meet a half-hour early for the Dinner, which is 7:00pm on Monday.** Please bring a covered dish, something to drink, and a present to swap with, keep cost of presents under \$10.00 and hobby related. So come and enjoy an evening of fellowship. Bring one present per person! We will also be drawing for a free scholarship to William Holland or Wildacres (see below).

The rules to enter the drawing for a free week lapidary class at Wild Acres or William Holland School of Lapidary Arts:

1. Must be a member of the club as of February 2017.
2. Not have won this drawing in the last two years.
3. Be 18 years or older.
4. Be at our club Christmas Dinner to enter the drawing.
5. You will give a presentation at one of our monthly meeting on you experience/learnings at the school.

President's Message

I would like to welcome all our new members. We have had a good year and I look forward to another great year to come. We had a great time at the Georgia National Fair in Perry this year, talking to hundreds of people about the club, places of interests in Georgia, and their rock collections.

We have our annual Christmas party coming up on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Museum of Arts and Science. We ask that you bring a covered dish item, your beverage (non-alcoholic of course) and a gift for exchanging. One gift for each person in your group or party that is rock related. The club will be providing the meats so all you have to bring are veggies and desserts. I look forward to us having a great time once again.

One of the things I have learned by collecting rocks, gems, minerals and fossils is that if you don't label them, all you have is a pile of rocks. It is important to label your rocks when you get them so that you will be able to know where they



came from and what the name of the specimen is;

Amethyst

SiO₂

Variety: Quartz

Jackson Crossroads, Georgia

04/23/16

This is one of my labels as an example. When I am giving demonstrations in the schools, I have a bit of information on the reverse side of the label as to family, crystal structure, colors, etc.

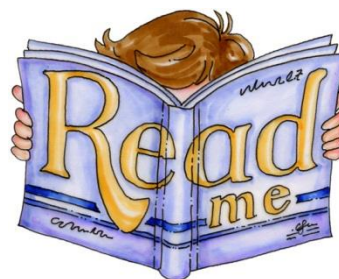
Amethyst

Amethyst is a purple variety of quartz and owes its violet color to irradiation, iron impurities, and the presence of trace elements, which result in complex crystal lattice substitutions. The hardness of the mineral is the same as quartz, thus it is suitable for use in jewelry.

I have this printed on card stock and then laminated to protect them. You don't have to go to that much trouble or expense but I think you get the idea. This is but one suggested method of labeling, there are hundreds of ways to do it. Find what works for you and use it.

I want everybody to have a merry Christmas and a wonderful and safe New Year. I look forward to seeing everybody at the Christmas party this year. If anybody has any suggestions, questions, or ideas for programs or trips, feel free to call or email me.

Jim Souter, President
jgsouter@windstream.net
478.454.7273



Reminder!!!

No meeting or newsletter for January. Next meeting will be in February 5th, 2018

Re-Voting for club Officers during the Christmas Party

We are doing a redo of electing the officers of the club, due to not having a nominating committee. The nominating committee would like to hear from anyone interested in running for an officer position. Please contact Jay at 478-957-5002, Richard at 678-359-1119, or Tina at 478-953-9663 ASAP.



Dues are Due

Another year has gone by in no time. It's that time of the year to pay dues. They remain the same 10 dollars for each adult and 2.50 for children under 18 years of age. They are due by November 1st.



November Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Jim Souter with 18 members/guests present.

Old Business

The treasurers' report was read and approved. We signed up nine new members as a result of the fair. We sold 480 grab bags and 20 Mosauras teeth during .

New Business

This month's mineral was Turquoise and several members brought in specimens to share. The nominating committee was established and approved with the following members: Tina Perkins, Jay Batcha and Richard Arnold. Anyone interested in running for office should show up at the Christmas Party or contact one of the committee members. We will be voting on new officers for 2018 season during the business portion of the meeting.

There is an upcoming dig at Jones Pit on December 02 beginning at 10 am. There is an additional dig at the Ruby mine near Macon on December 09. The following must be strictly adhered to: heavy leather shoes, hard hat, safety glasses, hand rakes and rock hammers (no sledge hammers allowed.)

The idea of presenting a fruit basket to the landowners of Jones Pit as a thank you for letting us dig in their yard all these past years was brought up, voted on and

passed by the membership. They are moving sometime next year and we wish them well.

Everyone is reminded that the Christmas Party starts at 7:00 in lieu of 7:30 and to bring a side dish, drink preference and a lapidary based gift valued in the range of \$5-10.

Our own Kim Cochran was our speaker for this month. His talk was on birthstones. There are a multitude of lists with different stones for each month. The official shows as: January Garnet, February Amethyst, March Aquamarine or Bloodstone, April Diamond, May Emerald, June Alexandrite, Pearl or Moonstone, July Ruby, August Peridot or Sardonyx, September Sapphire, October Opal or Pink Tourmaline, November Topaz and December Lapis, Turquoise or Zircon. Many people believe that some of the stones have different powers such as: healing, soothing, etc. He passed around many diverse specimens of all the different birthstones he had described. The talk was quite informative and provided some insights into what the history of birthstones entails. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

BY: Richard Arnold



No Mineral of the Month Due to Christmas Party!



Some field trips coming up, time to do some digging!!!

Mid-Georgia Field Trip December 2, 2017

10:00 am

Jones Pit

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 pickup 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 December 2th.

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 with drusy quartz and calcite.

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



Georgia Queen Picture Jasper



Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society
Field trip
December 9, 2017
9:30am
Martin Marietta - Ruby Quarry

Trip: To Martin Marietta - Ruby Quarry in Jones County. Off of Highway 49 on Pitts Chapel Road. We will be collecting in the quarry. We must follow all rules given to us, so we may be invited back!

Meet At: The parking lot of Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church on Pitts Chapel Road off of Hwy 49 (between Macon and Milledgeville) across from Ruby Quarry. At 09:30am on Saturday 12-09-2017.

Fee: Free

Collect: Calcite, Barite, Epidote, Feldspar, Muscovite, Prehnite, Pyrite, Quartz, Stilbite, and maybe others.

Children: All ages must stay with their parents at all times and follow the same rules required below (must wear the equipment listed below, except the cell phone required as long as parent has a cell phone).

Must have safety equipment to be allowed into quarry: If you don't have all this on/with you, you will **not be allowed into the quarry!!!!**

- All members will be required to bring their own PPE that will include:
 - Safety eyewear
 - Safety toe shoes
 - High visibility clothing or vest (bright yellow or orange, neon green or pink to be worn on outer layer of your clothes)
 - Work gloves
 - Long pants
 - Hard hat

- All individuals will be required to have a working cell phone on their person at all times. A list of these phone numbers will be provided to myself before access to the site is granted.
- After safety training and PPE Inspection we will conduct safety and task training for mineral collection.

Cannot bring: Sledge hammer large or small, chisels, big anything (shovels, picks, and so on).

Bring: Buckets and paper to wrap specimens, geology hammer, scratching tools, water and food.

Directions: From I-75 in Macon, Ga. Take I-16 east and take exit 1A (Spring Street). Turn left at bottom of ramp. This is Hwy 129 north. Go 1.1 miles and turn right onto Hwy 49 (Shurling Dr). Continue 8.8 miles on Hwy 49 then turn right onto Pitts Chapel Road. Just a little ways on the right is a church (Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church) will be meeting in the church parking lot. **Be there no later than 9:20am! Will leave the church parking lot at 9:25am for the Ruby Quarry.**

Questions please call Jay at 478-957-5002

DMC Dig

**An Official Field Trip of the Emerald
City Rock and Gem Club
(Greenwood, SC) (HOST)**
**An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga
Gem and Mineral Society**

Saturday, December 9, 2017
9:00 am to 2:00 pm EST
Diamond Hill Mine



Antreville, Abbeville County, SC
Fee (See Below)



Quartz cluster, approx. 8" across, found Sept. 2017

TRIP: This is a very popular site that has had the spoil heaps turned over regularly this fall. In our travels around the country we've run into people from all over who love coming here. Recently people have been finding aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix. We often don't know what we've found until we get it home and clean it up!

COLLECTING: Quartz crystals (milky, skeletal, smoky, and some amethyst - rare), Beryl/Aquamarine - rare. Garnet and epidote finds have also been reported.

BRING: Digging tools, buckets, work gloves, and don't forget weather protection gear, water and snacks. It can be muddy, depending on the weather.

REQUIREMENTS: Participants can take away as much as can fit in their car. Recently, there have been some problems with people digging outside the confines of the mine area, specifically into the county road easement. Participants

are asked to stay on the mine side of the log. The mounds of dirt are fairly tall, so stout shoes are recommended. A wide path to the back area of the mine has been created making that an easier walk. Hand tools only.

FEE: \$20 per adult 18 and up, cash only (Checks are accepted only from a club account). Teens and Seniors \$10. Children 12 and under \$5.

CHILDREN: Yes. This is a great place for children.

PETS: Yes. Diamond Hill Mine is pet friendly.

FACILITIES: There are picnic tables and a porta potty, but no running water. If you want to clean your finds before taking them home, bring some water and a scrub brush.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Meet at: 50-99 Diamond Mine Rd.

From I-85 - Take exit 19A for US-76 E/Carolina 28 E toward Anderson. Turn right onto Hwy 28 S E. Turn right on SC-284 S. Turn right on Suber and a right on Diamond Mine Road. About 40 minutes from I-85.

CONTACT: Marf Shopmyer at (864) 910-5369



Aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix, found July 2017.



Quartz cluster with iron stain.



Check website

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

For more shows coming up in the
Southeast and other great information!

December 1-3, 2017

WITHLACOOCHEE ROCKHOUNDS

43rd ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW

9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, with setup for vendors on
November 30th.

Veterans Memorial Park,
14333 Hicks Rd.,
Hudson FL 34669.
Follow State Road 52 to Hicks Road, go north 2.5
miles
to Veterans Memorial Park

Special Junior Activities on Saturday
Hourly Drawings

Show Chairman Ralph Barber 352-200-6852
Show Information Judith Birx 352-587-1702

Check our website for vendor information and
applications
<http://www.withlacooccheerockhounds.com/>

Dec 1,2 and 3, 2017 The 47th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society

Garrett Coliseum
1555 Federal Drive
Montgomery, Alabama

Show Times:
Friday, December 1: 9 AM - 6 PM
Saturday, December 2: 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday, December 3: 11 AM - 5 PM

Admission:
\$2/Adults or \$3 for weekend pass
Free/18 & Under with student ID and 1 paid adult
ticket.

Free Parking. Free door prize ticket with each paid
adult admission.



Dealers will have beads, crystals, geodes, rough, cabochons, gem stones, finished jewelry, tools, supplies and mineral & fossil specimens. Club members will display their individual collections and will give demonstrations on gem and rock cutting, faceting, cabochon making, and knapping.

\$1 Wheel of Fortune.

Web

Site: <http://www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com>

Click [HERE](#) for admission coupon (go to this site for a \$1 off coupon)

<http://montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/index.php/annual-gem-show>

E-mail Contact:

GemShow@MontgomeryGemAndMineralSociety.com



For Sale

Past club members Frank and Sharon Milner are selling off most of their rock equipment and a lot of rock. Here is a short list of items for sale A Panther 14inch rock saw for \$500.00, Diamond Pacific 6-inch Genie Grinder/polishing unit with some extra wheels for \$500.00, HP 18inch rock saw for \$500.00, A portable concrete gas powered 14 inch diamond saw for \$500.00, assorted tumblers 3lb, 6lb, and 65lb tumblers with misc. tumbling grit and 15-20 pounds of cerium oxide. Also for sale is misc. cutting rough, slabs, and minerals. Call Frank at cell # 478-293-3406, if you have trouble getting a hold of Frank call Jay at 478-957-5002.





ph. 678-682-9860 rarnold216@charter.net

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

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

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ph. 478-922-7200
firecomet46@gmail.com

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

Vice President: Bill Mayer,
Cell 678-621-3457 orebilly@gmail.com

Secretary / Photographer, Richard Arnold,

Club year begins November 1st, a grace period of three months will be given before membership lapses.

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 _____

Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

Jay Batcha, Editor
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle
Macon, Ga. 31216

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**

