



February Meeting At the Museum of Arts and Sciences on Monday, February 06, 2017 at 7:30pm.

The speaker for the February meeting will be Michael Runzi. Michael will be speaking on his Casting class that he just attended at Wildacres in September. He won the class in a drawing at your May picnic. Michael will be showing off the casting work he made in the class and talk about his experience at Wildacres.

President's Message

I hope and pray that everyone had a great and wonderful holiday season this year.

Now that 2017 is with us, I think we can make it a great year for us. Last year, we focused on birthstones and their significance. Doing more reading, I have found that they are not the original stones but adopted stones presented by the National Association of Jewelers (now called *Jewelers of America*) in 1912. The first century Jewish historian, Josephus, believed

there was a correlation between the twelve stones of Aaron's breastplate and the twelve zodiacs. It was in the eighth or ninth century that the foundations stones listed in Revelations became prevalent as they would wear one of the foundation stones for a month before changing to the next one. It would be centuries before the stones were recognized as birthstones and being worn for the entire year. The current list of birthstones have nothing to do with Christianity or the twelve stones on Aaron's breastplate but what some refer to as the *1912 Kansas list* which had nothing to do with historical traditions but more of salesmanship.

Birthstones have been recognized for the zodiacs, months, even the days of the week you were born. At one time, it was fashionable in some places to have two or three "birthstones" because they recognized the day, the month and the zodiac in which a person was born. Each culture also has their own list in which to find a birthstone. Many would rely on what they had local and how easy it would be for them to shape as to what their own talisman would be. Some would take onyx found in caves and the surrounding areas and would rub them against harder rocks to shape and form them into shapes they could string onto cords or thongs and wear. As this year goes forward, I'll be talking about other stones that are significant to the zodiacs around the world, either through mentions or through our mineral of the months. That will be determined as we go forward.

As we start this New Year, we have another chance to broaden our horizons by sharing our experiences, knowledge and ourselves with each other. Let's try to bring



in new people to our club so they too can give us a part of themselves. If you have any ideas as to programs you would like to see this year, please contact myself, Phil Hargrove or Jay Batcha.

Phil Hargrove, cell: 478.862.5327 e-mail: susanbphilh@pstel.net

Jay Batcha, cell: 478.957.5002 e-mail: rocky1s@cox.net

Thank you,

Jim Souter
jgsouter@windstream.net
478.454.7273



What a Christmas Party!!!

The Christmas Party was a blast. There were 29 people present with presents and food in hand. We stuffed ourselves with good food and desserts then exchanged presents. We had the drawing for the free scholarship to William Holland or Wildacres of Lapidary Arts. And the winner of the drawing was (drum roll please) Jay Batcha. I am sure he will put it to good use.





Ice growing out of the ground at the Jones Pit

Follow-up on Jones Pit December Field trip

There were nine members attending this dig at the Jones Pit. It started out cold with a little wind with clear skies. But by the time we started collecting and moving around it was not bad. We had a lot of rain earlier in the week but the ground was so dry it soaked up all the water. There was no standing water in the pit at all! I collected enough Hematite to fill all the grab bags for this year. Everyone found plenty to keep and take home. What a great day it was!

By: Jay Batcha



Ready to go collecting at the Jones Pit



Dues are Due

Last chance before you are dropped from the club rolls. This will be your last newsletter if you have not paid the 2017 dues it is only \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

Science Olympiad coming up on March 18th 2017

Our club has been asked to run the Rock Hound part of the Middle Georgia RESA Elementary Science Olympiad again, the same as last year. It will be held at Rutland Middle School located at 6260 Skipper Road in Macon on March 18, 2017 from 8:30 to 4:30. We did not have to stay the entire time last year, I believe we left by 12:00 noon last time. I need some help running this Rock Hound event. Please give me a call if you can help or you have any questions about it. Call Jay at 478-957-5002

Mineral of the Month

Magnetite

It is the mineral with the highest Iron content of 72.4%. It is an iron oxide found in all three types of rocks. Magnetite is one of few minerals that are attracted to a common magnet. On the Mohs hardness scale it's between 5 and 6.0 and is black, opaque, submetallic to metallic and heavy with a specific gravity of 5.2. Also octahedral crystals are a common habit of magnetite. They are often seen in igneous and metamorphic rocks and sometimes seen in sediments near the magnetite source area. Small grains of magnetite occur in almost all igneous and metamorphic rocks.

Normally magnetite is attracted to magnets, but some specimens are magnetized and have the ability to attract small pieces of iron (iron filings), small pieces of magnetite, and other magnetic objects. This form of magnetite is known as "lodestone. Lodestones were used as an early form of magnetic compass. Magnetite typically carries the dominant magnetic signature in rocks, and so it has been a critical tool in paleomagnetism, a science important in understanding plate tectonics and as historic data for magneto hydrodynamics and other scientific fields.

The main use of Magnetite is for ore to make Iron. Other uses include as a heavy media, powdered magnetite is often mixed with a liquid to produce thick, high-density slurry that is used for specific gravity separations. As an abrasive, known as "emery" is a natural mixture of magnetite and corundum. Some synthetic emery is produced by mixing magnetite with aluminum oxide particles. And other uses such as, small



amounts of magnetite are also used as a toner in electrophotography, as a micronutrient in fertilizers, as a pigment in paints, and as an aggregate in high-density concrete.

Healing; Magnetite provides the healing energy necessary for recovery. It is beneficial for asthma, blood and the circulatory system, skin, and hair. It stimulates sluggish organs and sedates overactive ones. It is anti-inflammatory, healing muscle strains and cramps. It is useful for stopping nosebleeds.



Magnetite – from Cerro Huanaquino, Bolivia



**Field trips coming up, time to do
some digging!!!**

**An Official Field Trip of the Alabama
Mineral and Lapidary Society
(Birmingham, AL) (HOST)**
**An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga
Gem and Mineral Society**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017
Gravel Pit / Coal Mine
Brookwood, AL
Meet at 8:00 AM Central
Collect from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

TRIP: This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field.

COLLECTING: Material at Brookwood is primarily water smoothed pebbles of mixed size from teeny to baking potato size. We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz pebbles shaped like a double sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. Lots of great tumbling material but some is suitable for cutting.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets or bags for specimens, hammer, screwdriver (or something similar to pry the rock out of the surface). No digging



needed. Wear appropriate dress, hat, good gloves, and sunscreen.

REQUIREMENTS: All tools, equipment, and ponds are strictly off limits. The SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed. The property owner has been generous to let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

**WAIVER FORMS MUST BE SIGNED
BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**

Please check out with me before you leave so we can keep count of who is there. We do not want anyone to get locked in the gate!!

EVERYONE MUST BE OUT OF THE SITE BY 3:00

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

McDonald's
22183 Highway 216
McCalla, AL 35171

We will be meeting at McDonald's at exit 100 off of I-20/I-59 South (heading from Birmingham towards Tuscaloosa). It is inside the Love's Truck Stop and can be seen while at the off ramp on the right side.

You will turn right onto Hwy. 216 and the Love's Truck Stop will be on your immediate left.

Please be there between **8 - 8:30 a.m.**

Central. We plan to pull out at 8:30 am so you need to get there to sign the waiver and attendance sheet. (So if you fall in a hole we know who to look for!!)

CONTACT: Lou Ann Newell
newell.louann@gmail.com 205-482-3234.

RSVP: Please let us know if you are planning on attending. This is a large site but we cannot manage more than about 75 visitors.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL ME!**



**Check website
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>
for more shows coming up in the
Southeast and other great information!**

**Feb. 6- 7, 2016
Merritt Island, Florida
39th Annual Symphony of Gemstones
Show and Sale**



Sponsored by Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club

**Kiwanis Island Recreation Center
951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd. off SR 520 Exit
on I95 going East, entrance is just east of
the Merritt Island Mall, turn at the sign**

**Sat./Sun 10AM - 5 PM adults \$5 (\$1
discount coupon on Website and in local
papers) children under 12 are free when
accompanied by adult**

We will have over 20 vendors offering both finished and handmade fine jewelry, beads, pearls, rocks, slabs, minerals, specimens, tools, silent auction, sluice and children activities. There will be demonstrations by club members.

Demonstrations, hourly prizes, grand prize, children's activities and silent auction.

Flyers for \$1 off admission can be found on our website: centralbrevardgems.org and local newspapers.

Contact information: Roz Mestre
email: roz.mestre@att.net, (321) 431-0159.

club website:

www.centralbrevardgems.org

**February 25-26, 2017
Jackson, Mississippi**

58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS)

**Saturday, February 25, 2017 – 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, February 26, 2017 – 10 am to 5 pm**

Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Jackson, Mississippi

Admission: Adults \$6.00; Students; \$3.00; Scouts and Leaders in Uniform - \$2.00; Children 5 and under – free

Over 25 dealers selling gems, fossils, minerals, lapidary supplies, jewelry, beads, and more.

Demonstrations of lapidary art including flint knapping, jewelry making and cabochon cutting.

Exhibits and education opportunities by colleges and state organizations. Children's activities (adults are welcomed too).

Touch and See table.

Displays by MGMS members of some of the own collections or lapidary work. Hourly door prizes, and a grand prize drawing.

Additional information:
rock2lanes@gmail.com

Club website: www.missgems.org



Tidbits

Largest diamond in more than a century found in Botswana

The 'high-quality' gem is only second in size to 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond mined in South Africa in 1905



Shares in the company that mined the 1,111-carat gem jumped 34% on Thursday. Photograph: Lucien Comen/Lucara Diamond/AFP/Getty

The biggest diamond to be found in more than a century has been discovered at a mine in [Botswana](#), a Canadian mining company has said.

The 1,111-carat "high-quality" gem is only second in size to the [Cullinan diamond](#), which was unearthed in South Africa in 1905.

"The magnificent stone ... is the world second largest gem quality diamond ever recovered and largest ever to be recovered through a modern processing facility," the Stockholm-listed miner, Lucara Diamond, said.

Shares in the company jumped 34% to 14.2 kronor in Thursday morning trading.

Lucara said the gem was the largest recovered in Botswana, the world's second biggest diamond producer. "The significance of the recovery of a gem quality stone larger than 1,000 carats, the largest for more than a century ... cannot be overstated," its chief executive, William Lamb, said.

The 65mm x 56mm x 40mm stone is yet to be evaluated, but one commodities and mining analyst said it had the potential to be "one very expensive diamond". "Valuation will depend on potential inclusions, how it would behave in cutting, optimal shape as well as final colour. All these things will need to be evaluated prior to bidding," Kieron Hodgson said.

The 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond, the world's biggest, was found near Pretoria. It was cut to form the Great Star of Africa and the Lesser Star of [Africa](#), which are set in the British crown jewels.

Lucara indicated there had been further significant finds at its Karowe mine this week – an 813-carat stone and a 374-carat one.

Copied from: www.Rockhounds.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,
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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 _____

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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