



February Meeting At the Museum of Arts and Sciences on Monday, February 05, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Speaker for the February Meeting is Jay Batcha. I will be talking about Richard and my trip last year to Michigan and how mindat.com helps with collecting and more.

President's Message

We ended last year with a great dig. We went to the *Martin Marietta's Ruby Mine* located on highway 49 just east of Macon. The mine is a giant source of granite that is crushed for road material. We had six members there for the day. It started out cold and dreary with sleet falling but that cleared up and we had a good day there. I want to thank ***Ellen Price*** who escorted us into the mine and stayed with us all day. We found

some nice barite crystals.

We had a great Christmas party. We missed all those who weren't there. But due to the lack of a quorum, we could not carry out business for the club. That being the election of officers for the club. Back in November, we voted on new officers but some people said they were null since we didn't have an election committee to nominate people for the positions. So, to prevent any hard feelings, we will have the election again when we meet. I want to ask that everybody attend the next meeting so we can get this taken care of.

As we start the new year, I want to take this time to thank everybody for all their efforts this past year in making us the club we are and I hope we continue to grow, in knowledge and in club size. If you have any suggestions for a program, or where we might be able to go and dig, please notify us.

Jim Souter- current President
jgsouter@windstream.net
478.454.7273

Phil Hargrove- current Vice-President
susanbphilh@pstel.net
478.550.8199

Bill Mayer- potential Vice-President(still has to be elected)
orebilly@gmail.com
678.621.3457

Susan Hargrove- Treasurer
susanbphilh@pstel.net
478.837.5327

Jay Batcha- Editor & Field trip chairman





rocky1s@cox.net
478.957.5002

Jim Souter, President
jgsouter@windstream.net
478.454.7273



Re-Voting for club Officers Not enough members to vote on elected officers at 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.

Mineral of the Month Barite

Barite (UK: Baryte)

Chemical formula: BaSO_4

Hardness: 3-3 1/2

Sulfate family

Crystal System: Orthorhombic

Color: Colorless, white, yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, brown, green, gray, and black. It may also be found

multicolored and/or banded.

Streak: white

Crystals are tabular, prismatic, and as grainy, platy, and coxcomb aggregates. Individual crystals are often twinned and can be quite large. May also be bladed, massive, nodular, fibrous, stalactitic, and as perfect rosettes. Crystals may show phantom growths.

Specific Gravity: 4.3- 5.0

The name "barite" comes from Greek *barus* meaning "heavy". Also known as *barytine*, *heavy spar*, *tiff*, and *blanc fixe*.

Barite is used to make *drilling mud* which is used in oil wells to help keep them from blowing out due to the higher density of the mineral. It is also used in the medical field when doing X-ray scans of the esophagus, stomach, and intestines. In paint pigments, it is used in white paint.

The barite below was found in the *Martin-Marietta Ruby* mine in Macon, Georgia. This material was located above the granite found there, in the decomposed matrix. Most was found at the surface or barely under it.



Barite from Ruby mine, Macon, Georgia



Barite from Martin-Merietta Ruby mine
Macon, Georgia



Need help with upcoming Mid-Ga DMC Dig!

The March 10th DMC dig below is our sponsored DMC dig that we do about every other year. We need help running this dig. Mostly at the meeting place before we head to the dig site. Need help with the sign in sheet, release forms, collecting the \$10.00 entrance fee, and parking at the dig site.

We would also like to have 3-5 door prizes we can give out for a drawing. We need door prizes, if you would like to donate something for a door prize or if you can help at the dig, please contact Jay Batcha cell # 478-957-5002. Jay will be handling the door prizes. By: Jay B.



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

DMC Dig

An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Mobile, AL) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society

**Sunday, February 11, 2018
9AM - 2PM Eastern Time
Patty Construction Quarry
7525 Hwy 27
Summerville, Ga
Unlimited number
No Fees**

TRIP: The February 2018 SFMS DMC Field Trip is sponsored by the Mobile Rock & Gem Society to collect Summerville Agate at the quarry in Summerville Georgia. This site has been a long time favorite of many collectors. The agate forms within Mississippian age chert as delicate concentric bands. Colors are predominantly gray and red. Sometimes you can find stalactic formations, or pieces covered in druzy quartz.

COLLECTING: Material is generally



found by simply surface collecting, although there are plenty of large pieces and boulders for those so inclined to break them apart. A couple of guys from Georgia found a huge (about 3 feet diameter) boulder with good pattern and figure throughout and briefly contemplated how they might get it loaded into a truck, but eventually gave up on the idea.

BRING: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge, or are nearby someone else doing so! Things, such as a hammer, chisels, scratching tools, pry bars, buckets, small ground shovels and rakes, paper to wrap specimens, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pail of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER OF THE DAY. This will be in February, so the temp could range from 70's to the teens. Also, be prepared for rain if forecasted.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY

JEOPARDIZE FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.

REGISTRATION: Register upon arrival at the MRGS tent for insurance purposes and for additional information.

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children.

PETS: Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

FACILITIES: In town about 2 miles away. Bottled water and limited snacks will be available at the MRGS tent for a reasonable fee.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

From downtown Summerville (Commerce St.) take U.S. 27S. There will be a left curve, then a right curve. Just past the right curve is the mine (7525 Hwy 27). Look for the Mobile Rock and Gem Society signs.

[7525 Highway 27
Summerville, Georgia 30747](http://7525 Highway 27, Summerville, Georgia 30747)



CONTACT: Larry Landry, Field Trip
Chairman, (251) 591-5682

CHECK <http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/field-trips/> **FOR PHOTOS OF OUR PREVIOUS DIG AT THIS LOCATION.**

This field trip is for **DMC members only**.
No visitors. Children are welcome.



Summerville agate with polished face



Summerville Agate

**An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem & Mineral Society
(Macon, GA) (HOST)**
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga GMS

**Saturday, March 10, 2018
Clarkesville, GA
10:00 AM Eastern (9 am Central)
Fee: \$10 per person**

TRIP: This location is located in a band of kyanite bearing material. The material has been moved around so the kyanite is not in situ. Small blades are easy to find, but digging and some perseverance is required to find the larger specimens. This site is fun and productive site for all ages.

COLLECTING: Kyanite blades and cobbles, small mica books, and graphite specimens (rare). The kyanite ranges from gray to pale blue and may contain graphite. Some of the blades can be polished and, because of the graphite, they have a curious depth and shimmer when they are polished.

FEE: \$10 per person

BRING: Small blades can be found weathering out onto the surface. Bigger blades and cobbles are found by digging 8" to 24" deep. You will need scratching tools and baggies for surface collecting, and a shovel and pick for digging. **All holes must be refilled.** This site can be



muddy at times, so a change of clothes would be good too.

FACILITIES: There are no bathroom facilities at the site, but there is a McDonald's Restaurant in Clarksville and also restrooms at a public park a few miles from where we will be collecting.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

PETS: Because this is a working farm, pets are not allowed.

SAFETY: There are electrified fences on the farm so **do not** touch any fences. Field trip leads will open and close gates. This is a working farm and there may be animals present – **do not** approach any of the animals. **Do not** enter pastures where animals are present.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

We will be meeting at 10:00 am Eastern time at Ingles Market (the only Ingles in Clarkesville) 199 East Louise Street (US Old/Historical 441) Clarkesville, GA 30523

Coordinates: 34.603124, -83.517801

- 1) From Macon, GA,** take I-75 North towards Atlanta, GA (From I-475 / I-75 interchange North of Macon is 50 miles to I-675)
- 2) Take I-675 North (exit 227)** it will end

at I-285. Take I-285 East. (Keep Right to Greenville). (I-675 to I-285 10 miles)

- 3) Continue on I-285E to I-85 North (19 miles)**
- 4) Take I-85 North (exit 33 to Greenville)**
- 5) Continue on I-85 North to I-985 North (17 miles)**
- 6) Take I-985 North (exit 113 to Gainesville, left lane on I-85)**
- 7) Follow the rest on direction **From Atlanta** below!**

Total travel time from Macon, GA = 2 hours 12 minutes (148 miles)

- 1) From Atlanta,** take I-985 North towards Gainesville
- 2) I-985 North will transition to GA 365/US 23 (49 miles)**
- 3) Continue on GA 365/US 23 to GA 197**
- 4) Take GA 197 north to Clarkesville (about 3.5 miles)**
- 5) Ingles is on the right, we will meet in the parking lot close to the highway.**

CONTACT: Jay Batcha: cell: 478-957-5002, home: 478-784-1965





Check website

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

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

February 24 – 25th 2018
Jackson Mississippi
59th Gem Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 24 from 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, February 25 from 10 am to 5 pm

Mississippi Trade Mart on the State
Fairgrounds
1200 Mississippi Street
Jackson MS 39202

Admission:

**Adults \$6 Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in
Uniform \$2, Children 5 & under—Free**

Other details :

- ★ Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, lapidary tools, beads, and more.
- ★ Demonstrations of lapidary art including flint knapping, cabochon cutting, and jewelry making.
- ★ Exhibits and educational opportunities by colleges and state organizations
- ★ Children's activities (adults are welcomed too).
- ★ Touch and See Table.
- ★ Displays by MGMS members of their own collections or lapidary work.
- ★ Hourly door prizes, and a "GRAND PRIZE" drawing.

Additional information: rock2lanes@gmail.com
Club website: www.missgems.org

FEBRUARY 24, 2018
Lakeland, Florida

**Annual Show and Sale - last Saturday in
February**
Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society

Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL
33801
Hourly door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids Treasure Dig, demonstrations and educational displays, Silent and Chinese auctions and over 25 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies.

Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156, or email kprice1105@gmail.com.
Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club.
Website: www.bonevalley.net





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, 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.



Tidbits

Say what ??

You may be a rock hound if you scan field trip photos and recognize your friends by their rumps sticking up in the air.

You think that highway roadcut is there for your rock hunting convenience?

You may be a rock hound if your field trip attire cost more than your wedding outfit.

You are DEFINITELY a rock hound if you can properly pronounce Chalcedony and Molybdenum!

You MUST be a rock hound if you flunked high school geology but you now lecture at the local Junior College on rock hounding and lapidary arts.

You may be a rock hound if your primary interior décor consists of stones.

You may be a rock hound if someone says Tucson and you automatically think February 8.

You may be a rock hound if your most cherished jewelry consists of cut and polished rocks.

Or if you can give a stranger good directions on finding their way around Quartzsite?

You may be a rockhound if you can name every good rock picking site in eleven western states, but you can't name their capital cities.



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: Phillip Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd,
Butler Ga. 31006, cell. 478-550-8199,
susanbphilh@pstel.net

Secretary / Photographer: Richard Arnold,
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

Education Chairperson: Tuell Walters,
ph. 478-922-7200
firecomet46@gmail.com

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**



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

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