



**June Meeting  
At the Museum of Arts and  
Sciences on Monday,  
June 05, 2017 at 7:30pm.**

The speaker for the June meeting will be Bonnie Sams. Bonnie Sams is a former student of Tina Perkins (and a former member of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral society). Bonnie is currently a masters student in Geological Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. She is part of a team working in Crested Butte, Colorado where she is working on carbon flux through the Mancos shale and the effect on the East River system.

**President's Message**

We had a great picnic this year. It was good to see our new members there and their excitement. It was also good to see Betty Sue and Jack there as well. The weather started off cool but it soon warmed up to where some of us were comfortable. I want to thank everybody for their efforts and participation this year. We had a few new members at our last meeting who were there at the picnic. It was good seeing them there as well.

As we rapidly approach the summer months when we will not be meeting, let's all remember the rules of collecting and AFMS Code of Ethics;

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.



- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

The first major mention of mineral riches in Georgia come from the sixteenth century when the American Indians told the European explorers that the small amounts of gold they had came from the interior of the mountains to the north. Hernando DeSoto was told of the gold by the former Cherokee Chief *Ozley Bird Saunook*. There are some poorly documented accounts of gold mining from the Spanish and French in the fifteen hundreds and sixteen hundreds but nothing really spectacular or significant. It wasn't until 1828 that the first gold rush in Georgia took place when gold was found in the Dahlonega area. It is estimated that by the mid-20th century, more than 870,000 ounces of gold had been mined in Georgia.

The Georgia Gold Rush was the second significant gold rush in the United States. It overshadowed the previous gold rush in North Carolina. It started in 1828 in what is present day Lumpkin County near Dahlonega. It soon spread throughout the north Georgia mountains in what is now called the Georgia Gold Belt. This extended from eastern Alabama to Rabun County. The largest concentrations were found in *White*, *Lumpkin*, and northern *Cherokee* counties. The gold was close to 24 karat in purity. Most of the gold was found in eroded rock and mixed in with quartz.

Two cities became the primary beneficiaries of the gold discovery, *Auraria* and *Dahlonega*. During the height of the gold rush, Dahlonega had a population of over 15,000 miners. *Placer* mining was common along the *Yahoola Creek*, *Chestatee River* and the *Etowah River*. At the height of the gold rush, it is estimated that there was close to 30,000 miners in the North Georgia mountains. During this influx of miners, tensions with the Cherokee Indians increased. The culmination of tensions between the Cherokee and various states, including Georgia, led to the forced migration of the Native Americans by the passing of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and signed by President

Andrew Jackson. Even though this was reversed the next year by the US Supreme Court, President Jackson ordered the military to remove the Indians to lands in the west. The Indian Removal Act was used as a tool by the state of Georgia to remove the Indians from gold bearing lands so that it could be turned over to the white citizens of the area. The land was portioned off in lotteries where 40 acres tracts went to the winners. In 1832, 133,000 people competed for 35,000 parcels of land in the Georgia Gold Belt.

By the time the lottery was over, efforts had shifted from panning and other gold-washing machines to working lode deposits or gold-bearing quartz vein mining. This involved digging shafts and tunnels, 3 to 7 feet tall, braced by timbers and beams. Most mines stayed above the water table, which was about 30 feet deep. The deepest mine was the *Loud Mine*, in White County which was 130 feet deep.

In 1833, large stamp mills began to appear, the first being at the *Columbia Mine* in McDuffie County. Then they began appearing at the other major gold mines including *Calhoun Mine*, *Sixes*, *Logan*, *Elrod*, *Battle Branch*, *Pigeon Roost*, *Turkey Hill*, *Free Jim*, *Holt*, *Loud*, *Cleveland*, *Gordon*, *Horshaw*, *Lumsden*, and *Richardson*. But by the 1840's, the gold mining saw a sharp decline as the gold was being played out. With the advent of the *California Gold Rush 1848*, the miners began making their way towards the west coast so they could seek their fortunes out there.

It is estimated that Georgia produced about 870,000 troy ounces of gold between 1828 and the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Commercial gold production has virtually ceased now. But you can still find people who will go out and pan the creeks for gold to this day.

If anybody has any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact;

Jim Souter, president, 478.454.7273  
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Phil Hargrove, vice-president, 478.862.5327  
[susanbphilh@pstel.net](mailto:susanbphilh@pstel.net)



Jay Batcha, Editor of Mid-Georgia Gem Clips, 478.957.5002  
rocky1s@cox.net



## Annual Picnic follow up

The picnic went great. We had 23 members attending and the silent auction raised \$470.00 dollars, a new record for the auction. It started out chilly in the morning with the wind blowing all day long. We had to keep chasing auction slips throughout the day. It warmed up to about 72 by the time the picnic ended.

## May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Jim Souter with 15 members/guests present.

### Old Business

The treasurers' report was read and approved. We signed up two new members. We are looking to fill one last spot on our savannah river dig coming up June 3.

### New Business

This month's mineral was obsidian and several members brought in specimens to share. There were many different examples such as: snowflake, mahogany, black, midnight lace and silver sheen. The annual mother's day weekend show for the Georgia Mineral Society takes place in the Cobb county civic

center. The Weiman museum show is also during the mother's day weekend. There are also several shows going on in Franklin, NC that weekend.

Our own Jay Batcha was our speaker for the month. He gave a presentation on everything you need to know about collecting Fossil Fish in Wyoming. His talk included some of the mines that allow you to dig near Kemmerer, Wyoming. Kemmerer was the home base for the JC Penney company (1902). This area is part of the Green River Formation primarily encompassing three lake areas: Gosiute, Uinta and Fossil in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. The formation spans about a 5 million year period from 48 to 53 million years ago. These locations include: the Warfield mine (Fossil Safari), Blue moon quarry, Ulrich fossil gallery and U Find it U keep it mine. He was able to find some very nice specimens which he shared with us. Fossil Butte National monument is also part of the Fossil lake area. The talk also included some of the steps necessary to preserve your fossils: 1) remove the matrix with a tool or electric engraver, 2) brush away the matrix, 3) optional paint the fossil with a mixture of polyvinyl beads and acetone, 4) dip entire fossil into a mixture of 10 parts water and 1 part elmer's glue for about 1 minute. The talk was quite interesting and provided some information on an excellent dig locations if you happen to be in the neighborhood. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM. By: Richard Arnold



Rhodonite Humboldt County, Nevada



## Mineral of the Month Rhodonite

Formula:  $(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Ca})\text{SiO}_3$

Rhodonite is a manganese inosilicate and a member of the pyroxenoid group.

Hardness: 5.5- 6.5

Specific Gravity: 3.4-3.7

Luster: Vitreous

Color: Rose pink to brownish red, gray or yellow

Streak: White

Common with the pink rhodonite are black manganese oxides.

It used to be mined in India as a source of manganese. Today, it is mined primarily as a lapidary mineral and mineral specimens.

Rhodonite is usually found in metamorphic rocks associated with other manganese minerals. It is also found in rocks that have been altered by contact metamorphism, hydrothermal and metasomatic processes. It is usually massive to granular in occurrence with crystals being rare.

It is the state gem of Massachusetts.



Rhodonite Bowl



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



Coral samples from Hammett Gravel pits

An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Florence, MS) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society

**Saturday, June 10, 2017  
Hammett Gravel Pit  
Redwood, Mississippi (Rescheduled)**

**Meet no later than 8:00 a.m. Central Time  
Depart meeting site at 8:15 Central Time in caravan  
Collect approximately 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE LIMITED to 100 People**



Francois Mountain rhyolite.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Register by Tuesday, June 5**

A waiting list will be established when the attendee limit is reached. Those planning to attend this trip must register with the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society registration contact Rosina Echols: [601-825-5752](tel:601-825-5752) (landline) or <mailto:fieldtrips@missgems.org?subject=DMC%20Hammett%20Trip>. Email registration preferred. Please reference DMC Hammett Trip in the subject line; provide your club affiliation and a contact phone number. Those who register via email will receive a confirmation reply.

**If your plans change after you register, please cancel so another person can attend.**

**TRIP:** This is an active gravel pit producing sand and gravel for industries. The site has igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. The hunt site includes "oversize" rocks culled from commercial gravel. Citronelle gravel is mined from a layer 40 feet below Ice Age loess soil. The abundance of agate, coral and other fossils made this site a favorite last year.

**COLLECTING:** Expect to find agates, coral and other fossils, geodes, chunks of petrified wood and Sioux quartzite. A few unusual finds included a magnificent Petoskey stone and a piece of St.

**BRING:** We'll hunt around and on tall piles of gravel. Bring a bucket, bag or backpack for collecting as you climb on the gravel piles. A walking staff is helpful but not necessary. Wear close-toed shoes to protect feet. If you need ankle support, wear hiking boots. If you have allergies or require medication, please bring your medication. Expect heat and humidity. Wear lightweight, loose fitting clothing and a light-colored, wide-brimmed hat if possible. Bring snacks and plenty of water, sports drinks, and/or non-alcoholic beverages. Pack a lunch if you expect to stay until 2 p.m. Bring gloves, hat, sunglasses, bug spray, sunscreen and a chair.

**SITE REQUIREMENTS:** The collecting area will be limited to specific gravel piles that will be announced on site. Participants must stay off equipment, away from slopes adjacent to ponds, out of ponds and away from loess walls.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** We will not park close to the hunt piles. Unless you are very selective, you will make multiple trips to your auto to deposit your finds to avoid potential injury. Footing on the gravel piles can be tricky. People who have stability issues should stay at the bottom of the gravel piles. It will still be good hunting. Walking and digging on steep slopes can lead to slides. Be aware that gravel slides are possible. Care must be



taken when around the ponds. Stay away from the edge of rock piles against the ponds. This is a remote area and there will be little or no cell phone reception.

**EXPECT TEMPERATURES IN THE MID TO HIGH 90'S:** High humidity can make it more uncomfortable and increase the chance of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It will be important to drink plenty of fluids. Don't wait until you feel thirsty to drink. Take water breaks every 20 minutes. There will be no shade in the gravel pit except man-made shade such as the safety tent.

**CHILDREN:** Children are allowed - minimum age 8 years. Adult supervision is required at all times. Children may not throw rocks or run at the site, especially on the gravel piles. Care should be taken when around the ponds. No climbing on equipment is allowed.

**PETS:** No pets are allowed.

**FACILITIES:** No stores or facilities are close to the collecting site. A portable toilet will be on the site. At the meeting place before the convoy goes to the site, there will be drinks, snacks, some prepared breakfast/lunch food items, and restrooms.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The meeting place is nearly midway between Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. Vicksburg is a historical area with casinos,

hotels, and restaurants (I-20 Exits 1 to 5). If you would prefer to stay in the Jackson area, there are a variety of hotels and restaurants available at I-20 Exit 48 (Pearl) or I-20 Exit 36 (Clinton). Clinton will be the closest to meeting place.

### **IN THE EVENT OF TRIP**

**CANCELLATION:** All who have registered will be notified by email or, if the registrant has no email, by telephone. It will be the responsibility of all who register to check for messages. Please note that if the field trip is cancelled, there will not be someone at the meeting place "just in case" someone shows up.

### **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

Meeting location and directions will be provided after registration to those on the attendee list.

### **CONTACT:**

Registration Contact: Rosina Echols — [601-825-5752](tel:601-825-5752) (landline) or <mailto:fieldtrips@missgems.org?subject=June%20DMC%20Field%20Trip>  
Trip Leader: David Kraft — [601-613-7360](tel:601-613-7360) or <mailto:david@truckservicesms.com?subject=June%20DMC%20Field%20Trip>



**Hammett Gravel pit**



**An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club (Winston-Salem, NC) (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society**

**Saturday, June 17, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m. Eastern**  
**Earthen Paradise**  
**Prospect, VA**  
**Fee: \$20**

**TRIP:** Earthen Paradise is located in the very Heart of Virginia between the Historic towns of Appomattox and Farmville only a short distance from the famous High Bridge Trail.

**COLLECTING:** Gemmy blue kyanite, garnet, and black tourmaline.

**BRING:** Picks, shovels, rock hammers and scratching tools. Screens could also be helpful. Bring plenty of drinks and lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for food.

**FEE:** \$20 per person / \$10 for children 12 and under.

**REGISTRATION:** No need to register.

**CHILDREN (Yes):** Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who is at least 18 years old.

**PETS (NO):** No pets allowed.

**FACILITIES:** A port-a-potty will be available onsite. Several fast food restaurants are located approximately 10

minutes away in Farmville, VA.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

Address of Earthen Paradise is 599 Browntown Rd. Prospect, VA 23960

**From Eastern VA:**

Get to Hwy. 460 west and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 608 (Prospect, Rd.) on your left in the town of Prospect, VA Turn left again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your left and go to the very end of the road.

**From Western VA:**

Get to Hwy. 460 east and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 627 (Prospect, Rd.) on your right in the town of Prospect, VA Turn right again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your right and go to the very end of the road.

**CONTACT:**

Contact Stephanie Myers ([witchmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:witchmyers@yahoo.com)) or Jessica Callan ([Earthenparadiseinc@gmail.com](mailto:Earthenparadiseinc@gmail.com)) with questions.





**A Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society  
Field Trip**  
**Fossil collecting on an Island in the  
Savannah River.**  
**Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

**8:30am to 3:00pm  
Savannah, Georgia**

**Collecting:** sharks teeth, turtle shell, misc. bone, possible horse teeth, and teeth of other animals and more. Will be digging in dredged dirt/sand from the Savannah River.

**Cost:** \$30.00 a person plus a tip for boat hands (If we have 6 people). Boat can only take 6 people! The first 6 to call and RSVP will get a place on the boat. Once the first 6 people RSVP, I will start a waiting list in case someone backs out.

Also, would like to see if we can setup a ride share to Savannah in 2 or 3 cars maximum. Will meet at the Marina at 8:15am

**BRING:** You need to bring a hand tool, towel, and small shovel. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying, something to wrap your finds in. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet will get wet. Also nothing on the island so bring everything you need like sunscreen (no shade), bug spray, water, food, and towels. I will send out meeting place directions to the people going.

Call Jay's cell to RSVP at 478-957-5002 or if you have any questions.



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

**June 3 - 4, 2017**  
**McCalla, AL**  
**Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, &  
Jewelry Show**

The Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society presents their 44th annual show. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park  
12632 Confederate Parkway  
McCalla, AL 35111

The show is free with paid admission to the park. Take I - 20/59 to Exit #100 or I - 459 to Exit #1 and follow the signs. Contact: Cathy Kellogg [tannehillgemshow@gmail.com](mailto:tannehillgemshow@gmail.com)

**Tellus Museum - RockFest 27**

**Saturday, June 10 & Sunday, June 11,  
2017**

**10 AM – 5 PM**

**Suitable for all ages.**

**Members: FREE**

**Non-Members: Regular Admission**

GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL, AND JEWELRY DEALERS from across the country will be set up in the Banquet Room and outside on the back lawn. See rare and exotic jewelry, ancient fossils, and rocks from around the world that you can purchase for your own collection.

Susan has a few free entry tickets and some 50% off admission tickets if you are interested in going, contact Susan Hargrove (contact info below).



**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](mailto:jgsouter@windstream.net)

**Vice President:** Phillip Hargrove, 478-862-5327  
Cell 478-550-8199 [susanbphih@pstel.net](mailto:susanbphih@pstel.net)

**Secretary / Photographer:** Richard Arnold,  
ph. 678-682-9860 [rarnold216@charter.net](mailto:rarnold216@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Susan Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd,  
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**Education Chairperson:** Tuell Walters,  
ph. 478-922-7200  
[firecomet46@gmail.com](mailto:firecomet46@gmail.com)

Club year begins November 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

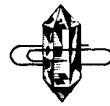
Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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