



**February 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

Come early and join the early birds to chat. The meeting this month is at 7:00 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. The speaker for the evening will be Aaron Warnock (a junior member). Aaron will be speaking on the planets. Don't forget to bring a sample of the mineral of the month...lazulite and fossil of the month... Mammoth/ Bison fossils.

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### **Upcoming Events**

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Monticello Dig | 02/12 |
| Club Auction   | 02/12 |
| Ross Creek Dig | 02/19 |

### **President's Message**

The club was given a donation of equipment, rocks, tools, faceting rough, and more. We are holding an auction for our members only to give everyone an opportunity to get stuff at a good price. The money from the auction will go

to the club operating fund. Details about the auction will be sent out separate from this e-mail and only to members. The auction will be north of Monticello, Ga. We are incorporating a field trip with the auction. The field trip is enroute to the auction site. The field trip will be two locations south of Monticello, Ga. Off of Hwy 83. Be sure to check out the information on the field trip and Auction on Saturday February 12, 2022.

If you don't want to do the field trip, then you can meet us at the auction site (location to be relayed later). The auction will take place outside in a barn. This should be a fun day!

I also would like to congratulate Bill Mayer for winning the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Scholarship to William Holland or Wildacre for 2022, at the Christmas party.  
Jay

### **Resources**

If you collect small specimens or like collecting faceted stones, the small boxes below make an excellent way to display your treasures. I have use them also to give collections to junior members of unusual and delicate specimens.



They can be ordered with the foam inside the containers, but you have to also purchase the case separately. I usually get mine at Hobby Lobby and put a cotton ball in the bottom and cover the cotton ball with a small piece of craft foam in white or blue. The ones at Hobby Lobby are \$9.99 and come with 24 containers.



### **Christmas Party Highlights**

The Christmas Party was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of Arts and Sciences with 18 people in attendance. All had a wonderful time and plenty of food and fellowship. Gifts were exchanged.



Andrew, Jay, Tuell, Richard, and George



Picking a present- hard decisions!



Tina, Sophia, Violet, and Al



Sylvia, Josh, Heather



Sylvia, Jay, and Susan



George, Richard, Maxine, and Tuell

## Mid Georgia Meeting Minutes

(No official minutes were taken- from Al and Tina's memory so we hope they are correct)

Jay welcomed everyone to the Christmas Party. We had two new members join. Al asked the blessing. There were 18 people in attendance. Jay talked about the dig in Monticello coming up in February. He also mentioned the Graves Mountain Dig for the upcoming weekend and getting people to share rides. Bill was the only person to enter the scholarship. As of now we have Jay, Bill, and Pam going due to the fact that no one has been able to attend the last three years because of Covid-19. Everyone had a good time. Jay said that he hoped that next year we can go back to having a covered dish with the club providing the meat. That will also depend on Covid-19.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Steffanini

## Mineral of the Month

### Lazulite

Lazulite is a member of the phosphate group of minerals. Its name is of Arabic origins. It can form pseudo-dipyramidal crystals, though tabular crystals also form. The crystals can be large and are usually twinned. The mineral also can be found in massive, granular and compact forms. Its streak is white. It has a hardness of 5.5 to 6 and a specific gravity of 3.1. Its color is listed as blue but ranges from rich azure blue to light blue and even a bluish-green. The mineral is translucent to opaque and may have a vitreous to dull luster.





Graves Mountain, Lincoln Co., Georgia  
<https://www.mindat.org/min-2356.html>

Lazulite forms in quartz veins, granite pegmatites, and metamorphic rocks such as metaquartzite. If it is pegmatic in nature, it may be found with andalusite and rutile. In metamorphic areas it is found with quartz, garnet, kyanite, muscovite, pyrophyllite<sup>3</sup>, sillimanite and corundum. If heated in a closed tube, water droplets will form.



Rapid Creek, Dawson Mining District, Yukon, Canada  
<https://www.mindat.org/min-2356.html>

One of the most famous localities for Lazulite is Graves Mountain, Lincoln Co., Georgia, where most of us have been hunting on more than one occasion. Graves Mountain produces well-formed blue crystals embedded in a crumbly Quartz matrix. The locality of Rapid Creek (and nearby Crosscut Creek), in the Yukon Territory of Canada is also well-known for its outstanding transparent dark blue Lazulite crystals which are of gem quality. Other U.S. occurrences are the Champion Mine, Mono Co., California; and North Groton, Grafton County, New Hampshire.

## Fossil of the Month Mammoth / Giant Bison

This month's fossil information comes from Georgiafossils.com site which is maintained by Thomas Thurman a former club member. Some of the first mammoth bones were found in what is known as Clark Quarry, so let us begin with the story here. Don't go looking for the Clark quarry on Goggle Earth, you won't find it. This is not a mining quarry in the traditional sense and it doesn't exist in the industrial sense.

Dr. Al Mead from Georgia College Natural History Museum relates the story on how Clark Quarry came to be. The Clark brothers, twins, in Brunswick were looking for amphibians in the swampy area of their family's property. They were near the site where from 1838-1839 a canal had been constructed connect the Altamaha River with the Turtle River. The Clark boys weren't aware that during the construction of the canal fossils of several large mammals were unearthed. The Clark brothers also stumbled across large fossils.



Dr. Mead with Bison latifrons specimens and reconstruction painting, at Georgia College and State University Natural History Museum in Milledgeville, GA. Image: Ashley Quinn

As Dr. Mead explained during a talk to the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society, the Clark family is very science oriented so fortunately the fossils made their way to university paleontologists and eventually found Dr. Mead who recognized them as juvenile mammoth remains.



“The fossil site is beneath a small rise.”

Dr. Meade relates that to gain access to the quarry you usually had to wade through a swampy area, actually floating the wheelbarrows at one point. On-site they dig down vertically with hand-held shovels, through several feet of the typical dense mud found in the area until they strike the sandy layer holding the fossil bed. They then follow the fossil bed horizontally. As quarrying progressed, they backfill behind them so that the actual work area, the quarry, is never more than a few meters square.

The giant bison; *Bison latifrons* is well represented in the Clark Quarry deposits. This was a large animal standing 8.5 feet at the shoulders; maybe 20% larger than the modern bison (*Bison bison*) which are large animals by any standard. In life horn spreads are seven feet and more. It was closely related to modern bison and would have looked very much the same except for the larger size and more prominent horns.

The modern *Bison bison* has a horn spread of about 2 feet. *Bison latifrons* remains from Clark Quarry include a nearly complete skull with intact left horn core and a partial right horn core. The estimated horn core spread is 5.31 feet. In life these would have been sheathed in keratin horn material and Mead estimates a 7-foot spread of horns for the living animal. Numerous vertebrae were found as well as ribs, leg bones and other material. Up to six individuals are represented in the recovered finds. The remains have been dated to about 21,000 years ago.

The Columbian Mammoth occurs while giant bison walked Georgia 21,000 years ago and while humans walked Georgia 17,000 (possibly) years ago. The species was established in Georgia in 1863 in Brunswick. Dredge islands at both Savannah and Brunswick to name a few may contain fossil bones and teeth.



Teeth may sell for as much as \$800 or more for specimens in good condition.

## DIGS

### Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society Field Trip and Auction February 12, 2022 9:00am – until Monticello, Georgia

**Trip:** Stopping and collecting at 2 old Feldspar mines off of Hwy 83 on the way to Monticello. Following the digs, we will head to the auction site. We will be auctioning of used equipment and rocks, minerals, and fossils. Also, Silversmithing tools, jewelry supplies, faceted stones, cabochons, faceting rough and more. More information in a second e-mail.

**Fee:** Free

**Meet at:** “Save More” convenient store at the intersection of Hwy 83 and Hwy 23. Meet at 9:00 am on Saturday February, 12, 2022 in parking lot of the store.

**Collecting:** Milky and Smoky Quartz (massive only no crystals), Feldspar, Mica, maybe garnets (small).

**Bring:** Hammer, chisels, buckets, safety glasses, gloves, food and drink, and dress for the weather. Also bring money or check for auction.

**Directions:** From Macon, Ga. take I-75 north to Forsyth, Ga. Take exit #187 / Hwy 83 in Forsyth; turn Right onto Hwy 83 (north). When you get to Hwy 23’s “4 way



stop sign" the store is on the left across intersection.

You can also take I-75 exit #171/ Hwy 23 (north) / Riverside Drive, in Macon, Ga. to Hwy 83 intersection. When you get to Hwy 83's "4 way stop sign" the store is on the right across intersection.

**If late:** Call Jay's cell phone at: 478-957-5002

**Note:** We will stay at each dig site for an hour each. Then we will go to the auction site.

An Official Field Trip of the Tennessee Valley  
Rock and Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN)  
(HOST)



An Official Field Trip of Mid Ga. Gem and  
Mineral Society  
Saturday, February 19, 2022  
9:00 am CST  
Ross Creek  
Gruetli-Laager, TN

**NOTE:** DMC field trips will continue to be planned and scheduled, but may be cancelled or rescheduled pending COVID-19 status. If there are any changes to a trip, all contacts listed for DMC member clubs will be notified via email as soon as possible. The DMC trip schedule page on the SFMS website (<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program/dmc-field-trip-schedule>) will also be updated with the current status of trips. Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator

**TRIP:** Day trip to a Pennsylvanian/ Mississippian scale and fern tree fossil site. The site is easily accessible by auto and is not a strenuous site. The site is a shallow creek that is wet year-round. This time of year, snakes and poison ivy are probably not a problem. Our club has been collecting at this site for 15 years.

**COLLECTING:** Collecting will include various genus and species of Pennsylvanian and Mississippian carboniferous plant fossils. Extensive digging is not required as most

specimens are readily picked up in the creek or in the creek bank wash.

**BRING:** Bring a bucket, digging trowel, geology hammer, magnifying lens, packing material to protect finds, wet weather gear especially boots, gloves, change of shoes and pants as you will get wet. It will be cold this time of year and you will be on top of a mountain, so bring warm dry clothes to change into and check weather for Monteagle, TN for forecast.

**REQUIREMENTS:** There are no age restrictions but must be able to negotiate uneven terrain and cross a creek. It may be muddy and slippery. Remember this is undeveloped land and has many roots and vines on the ground. Loose rocks everywhere.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Parking will be ample on a dirt road. It may be muddy depending on the weather. There are no facilities in the area, so bring water, food and first aid meds if needed. Cell phone reception at best is unreliable.

**FEE:** There is no fee.

**REGISTRATION:** No limit on participants, will register at meeting site: contact is Charlie Jones 423 653 4479

**CHILDREN:** Children encouraged, but must be able to walk on uneven terrain. Adults are expected to supervise your children.

**PETS:** No pets allowed.

**FACILITIES:** There are no adjacent facilities for this site, this is a remote site, very primitive.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** A brief safety/orientation meeting will be held at the rendezvous site. Samples of collection material will be available for inspection.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** We will meet at the Hardee's parking lot on top of Monteagle Mountain, exit 138 on I-24 W 50 min from Chattanooga. Meeting time is 0900 CST, departure to site at 0920 CST, we will caravan to site. If late call ahead to Charlie Jones cell at 423-653-4479, or before the trip





date at 423-843-6441. Cell service at site is not dependable.

**CONTACT:** Charlie Jones C-423 653-4479,  
LAND 423-842-6441



## SHOWS

As with everything else during the pandemic, please make sure the show is still on before driving to it. Some may be cancelled due to Covid-19 and only be posted on their websites.

Imperial Bone Valley Gem,  
Mineral & Fossil Society, Inc.  
First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland  
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.  
Lakeland, FL 33801

February 26, 2022, 9am-4:30pm.

\$3 for adults;

Children and Teachers (with ID) are free.

Finished Jewelry, Loose Gemstones, Lapidary

Rough, Cabochons, Fossils, Mineral

Specimens, Decorative Items

Sand Box for Children to dig

Spin & Win Wheel

Link(s): [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

The Villages Gem & Mineral Society  
Sunday, Feb 27, 2022

Sea Breeze Recreation Center,

2384 Buena Vista Blvd.,

The Villages, FL 32162

Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, 10 am to 4 pm,  
jewelry show of lapidary arts, faceting, wire  
wrapping and more.

Link(s): [tvgemandmineralsociety.com](http://tvgemandmineralsociety.com)

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society

51st Annual Show and Sale

Largo Event Center

126 Ave N Largo, FL

Hours: 10-6 Fri (March 4)/Sat (March 5)

10-5 Sun (March 6)

Admission: Donations-\$5/adult good for all 3  
days, children under 6 free, student with parent  
or ID card \$4, \$1 off with coupon/ad (see  
website) Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils,  
Beads, Door prizes, Exhibits and more!

Contact: Pat Davis 727-686-5680

Email: [sgamsgemshow@gmail.com](mailto:sgamsgemshow@gmail.com)

Dothan Gem and Mineral Club

Mar 12 – 13, 2022

Houston County Farm Center

1701 East Cottonwood Road,

Dothan, Alabama

(South side of Dothan at the corner of Ross  
Clark Circle and Hwy 53)

14th Annual Gem and Mineral Show has fun  
for the whole family! Enjoy minerals, fossils,  
lapidary, jewelry and other fun stuff, as well as  
a silent auction and other prizes.

Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: 10am to 4pm,

Admission and parking are both FREE!

**Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society  
Auction of equipment, rock, tools,  
supplies, and more**

**February 12, 2022 at 12:15pm**

The club received a donation of equipment and  
much more from a family in Ashburn, Georgia. We  
will have an auction to sell off most everything that  
was given to the club. We have 47 lots to be  
auction off. We will have lunch before the auction  
and viewing to give everyone a chance to look at  
the Lots before the auction starts around 1:15. Tina  
will be e-mailing /mailing a detailed write up on



the auction along with an auction lot listing and a few pictures of some of the lots to club members only.

## Fossil Word Search

A N W Y F S M K P P K H W U F M X O J W D P F P  
A G O W V X Q A O G U Y N E G I T T J B H P R T  
Q V Z M A K G R G F Y K W D T L S J N Q O F D T  
K U R T X Q D P C Z S V Z T Y L W K Q D U E X R  
H F E P A J A R G Z A S K I N I N E F F G S K D  
X I I C L I F J F Z R D S U Y O N C C B A D W A  
N I R U A S O N I D O A I W F N O Q Z C K T T W  
V J T H A W A K T X O A V C W S I N P T I S U E  
P R E W Z O E X T I N C T Y C L B O N E S A C D  
A E U R M Q J W O O L Y M A M M O T H T W C D S  
L B N F A J R T Z G E K D Q I V B K H E R K H C  
E M C A U Y L I S S O F I M P R I N T N O E J Z  
O A I K L F M G O X J D I A N I M A L S C N S Y  
N I K E X S S P P R E S E R V E D S S R K X S P  
T Y N Q F A W J N B V S N I A M E R Q K U B Q J  
O C V M F H P W P E T R I F I E D W O O D Q Y A  
L C N F W J L E E M G L A N R V Y R S S B T C V  
O W M T H C A F Z O U K G U S P V V E Y S G X X  
G R J L E M N I K P I W Q M Z G T W A G T Y I W  
I K O S I R T W B J U V O I Z A K D F H W S L B  
S N E U B G S Q H G V J M V R T A R X D L O M H  
T X A I A C N W K C O R Y R A T N E M I D E S F  
K O H J C X C P I Q H G Q L H Q W Z O V V T R V  
T G Y E O E Z E L H T H V V Z V A S Z X M K O G

|                  |                |          |                |
|------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| remains          | millions       | bones    | animals        |
| plants           | rock           | dinosaur | preserved      |
| wooly mammoth    | petrified wood | amber    | paleontologist |
| sedimentary rock | extinct        | imprint  | fossil         |
| cast             | mold           |          |                |

## 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 at 7:00 PM.

**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/ Field Trips:** Jay Batcha, 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216, ph. 478-957-5002  
[rocky1s@cox.net](mailto:rocky1s@cox.net)

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**Education Chairperson:** Tuell Walters, ph. 478-922-7200, [walterstuell919@gmail.com](mailto:walterstuell919@gmail.com)

**Web Master:** Pam Mayer, [pam5mayer@gmail.com](mailto:pam5mayer@gmail.com)

### 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**



## **Mid-Georgia Gem Clips**

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