



It's time for a Meeting on May 2 at
7:00 PM and a Picnic/ Silent
Auction May 7 at 11:00 AM

Come join the early birds to chat and
don't forget to bring your favorite
specimen from your collection, some
gems, minerals, rocks, and fossils that
you might need to have identified by our
resident experts and anything that you
might like to swap with someone else.

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Upcoming Events

Savannah River Agate Dig	April 23
Corbin Gneiss Dig	April 30
May Meeting Rock ID & Swap	May 2
Picnic and Silent Auction	May 7
Georgia Mineral Society	May 6-8
Graves Mountain	May 20-22



President's Message

Hi to all! First off, I just want everyone know that Jim Souter our President for five years before Bill Mayer was president. Had to have his leg amputated and is in rehab at Piedmont Hospital. Please keep him in your prayers. Our club needs a Sunshine Chairperson to checkup on people that are under the weather. Also, to call new members to greet them to the club. If anyone is willing to volunteer for this position, please let me know.

Be sure to come to the Picnic on May 7th, 2022. Moving the picnic back to our original time and starting back with the potluck dinner, so bring a dish to share with everyone and your drink. The club will supply the meat, BBQ from Fincher's and paper plates and plastic silverware. Bring some items for the silent auction if you can. Oh, and lets, have some fun!

Hope everyone enjoyed my presentation on petrified wood at the April meeting.

President Jay

April Meeting Minutes

President Jay Batcha called the April meeting to order at 7:07 with 21 in attendance and welcomed visitors Tarrah Graves, Keith Deleon and Tia Tyler.

Adoption of the minutes: The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting to be taken from the newsletter. A motion was made and the members approved.

Programs: Tina Perkins said tonight's speaker was Jay Batcha talking about Petrified Wood. A Rock I.D. and Rock Swap Program along with snacks and drinks is scheduled for the May 2nd meeting. June's Monthly meeting speaker will be David Swimmer from Columbus State University with a Fossil Presentation.

Field Trips: Jay mentioned three upcoming Digs with the Savannah River Agate trip on April 23, Graves Mountain May 20 - 22 and a DMC sponsored Blue Quartz Dig in Cartersville on April 30.



Newsletter: Tina Perkins said the deadline for submitting information in the newsletter was April 12.

Webmaster: Pam Mayer said she had been updating and posting on the Club's Facebook page.

Old Business: Jay showed a slide of the proposed Club banner with the sizes, prices and features. Members voted to purchase a 4 by 6 and a 2.5 by 4 to be used at the Fair and other Club Events. Also, club member Shawn Ripley mentioned the April 23, 2022 on Commercial Circle in Warner Robins, Ga.

New Business: Jay said the Club's Annual Club Picnic and Silent Auction will be May 7, 2022 from 11 -2 P.M. at the Museum's Pavilion. The Club will provide the Meat and members are to bring their drinks, a side dish, rocks to donate to the auction and money to spend on rocks. He mentioned the Georgia Mineral Society will also be having their Mother's Day Show on May 6-8. (Details in Newsletter).

Mineral of the Month: Tuell Waters said Opal is formed from Silica and there are two types Common Opals and Precious Opal. Opal has a MOHs hardness of 5.5 to 6 with many colors and has water in the structure making it brittle. He also said it is found in 30 of the 50 states with common Opals being found in Georgia Shale. He also mentioned Precious Opals are found in Australia, Ethiopia, Brazil, Nevada and Idaho.

Fossil of the Month: Tuell said Brachiopods are a bi-valve sea creature once living in oceans 300 to 500 million years until a mass extinction event ended most ocean life. They have no bilateral symmetry with no two halves exactly the same. He also said the lamp shells are the modern-day variety. Members had specimens on display with information and a drawing for prizes followed.

Speaker of the Month: Jay Batcha is our speaker of the month and he is talking about petrified wood. Jay had a large selection of petrified wood that Richard Arnold and he

collected. He also had a slide show of the formation process and locations of the forests. He said there were two types permineralization and limb cast.



Permineralization is when fallen trees fall down and are washed down rivers under layers of ash and debris from volcanoes delaying the decay from lack of oxygen. This allows dissolved minerals such as Silica to crystalize replacing the wood fibers by capillary attraction thus fossilizing whole trees and some still partially standing. He said Limb Cast is a pseudomorph where the original wood has been replaced by chalcedony. These pieces form when a tree was buried by ash. The wood is burned away by the hot ash and a "cast" is left. The different colors in petrified wood are caused by the concentration of minerals such as Carbon, Iron, Chromium, Copper, Manganese and Cobalt. The Mohs hardness of the petrified wood ranges between 7 and 8 because of the Quartz content.



He showed slides of the famous Petrified Forest National Park at Holbrook in N.E. Arizona with



some trees there measuring 9ft in diameter by 180ft. long. He also noted some Petrified Wood is collected in Georgia and Alabama. Jay had a treat for all in attendance, he donated four pieces of the collection to be given away to members by raffle.



Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 P.M.
Respectively submitted
Al Steffanini

May Program

The May Meeting is a little different in that we will be having an open style meeting with Gem, Mineral, and Rock ID, Specimen swap (whatever you would like to swap be it mineral, gem, rock, or fossil), and drinks/ snacks along with some fun stuff for the young and the young at heart. So, bring a specimen that is your favorite from your collection to talk about, something to have identified by our resident experts (limit it to no more than 5-10 specimens), and something to swap. Hope to see you at 7:00 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences on May 2nd.



Time for DIGS

This is a replacement trip. The club that was to do the April dig is not able to do so. Remember that with Covid all digs are subject to cancellation.

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Meet no later than 8:30 AM EST

Caravan into Quarry at 9:00 AM

Bartow County, GA

Registration Required

TRIP: This location is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. The quarry is mining porphyroclastic granite gneiss, so the rock there has large crystals, e.g., quartz and feldspar. The rocks here are some of the oldest in Georgia - approximately 1.2 billion years.

COLLECTING: We will be collecting granitic gneiss with blue quartz. Small pieces can be collected by hand and larger pieces can be collected with hammer and chisel. This material can be cut and polished and it also makes nice specimens.

BRING: Tools needed include rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools, buckets, and a spray bottle with water to wet the rocks so you can see the color better. You will also need sunscreen and gloves.

REQUIREMENTS: Gloves, safety glasses, hard hat, and steel toed or sturdy boots with ankle support (e.g., hiking boots). No open toed shoes allowed.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: This is an active quarry. STAY AWAY from all heavy



equipment, high walls, ponds, and quarry machinery.

TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: There are flat areas and areas with loose rock. People with mobility issues may have some difficulty navigating over and around boulders. There may also be soft, muddy areas if it rains before or during these trips. Collecting areas are within 100 yards from where we park.

REGISTRATION: Participants must register with the online form [here](#).

CHILDREN (Yes): The quarry allows children, but they must have adult supervision at all times. And, they must have all of the required safety equipment.

PETS (Yes): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are **NO** facilities at this location. Food and restrooms are several miles away.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are many hotels in Cartersville, GA, which is less than half an hour away from this location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions. There will also be a sign-in table with examples of collecting material.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Registered attendees will receive directions via email.

Quarry employees will escort a caravan into the quarry. You are **not** allowed to

drive around the quarry un-escorted. Everyone must enter and leave the quarry together.

If you arrive late, you will not be able to enter the quarry!

CONTACT: Charles Carter, 770-998-1127, fieldtrips@southeastfed.org



**Graves Mountain Dig
May 20-22, 2022**

Mask must be worn in the common areas.

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during May and October. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart-type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

For more information:

<https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

"FIELD TRIP to GIRARD, GEORGIA"

Saturday, April 23, 2022

10:00 am

"SAVANNAH RIVER AGATE"



(Chert, Agate, Druzy Lined Vugs, Fossils)



Girard, about 30 miles south of Augusta.

Directions: To get there from Augusta, GA... go south on Bobby Jones Freeway - I-520 to State Hwy 56. From here go south 13.8 miles and turn left onto State Hwy 23. From here go 18.2 miles to the "Jenkins Corner Express/Zip n Go", when you find this point, you're 1.6 miles north of the center of Girard. Not a big place. We will meet at the Jenkins Corner Express/Zip n Go (155 Claxton Rd. Girard, Ga.) at 10:00 am. Girard, is about 150 miles from Macon. About 3 hours travel time.



Directions: From Macon, Ga... go east on 22 (Gray highway) continue to Milledgeville once you get through Milledgeville route 22 and 24 split take route 24 to Sandersville, Louisville, and Waynesboro continue to Sardis on route 24. Once you get into Sardis turn left onto route 23 to Girard. Once you get into Girard, on route 23 you come to a stop sign, turn left continuing on route 23. The Girard Post Office will be on your left. Continue north 1.6 miles on route 23 to Jenkins Corner Express/Zip n Go on the left. Meeting at

Jenkins Corner Express/Zip n Go (155 Claxton Rd. Girard, Ga.) at 10:00 AM.

If Late: If you get there late here is the way to the site. From the "Jenkins Corner Express/Zip n Go", turn right out of parking lot (route 23 south) and continue on for another 1.9 mile and turn left onto Stoney Bluff Road. Go eight miles and bare left onto the dirt road, Stoney Bluff Landing. From here, go two-tenths mile and turn left onto River Road. Go about two-tenths mile and stop. You should see the rest of the group. You can start collecting here. **Call Bill Mayer cell 678-621-3457**

You won't have any trouble finding the material, even pieces with nice color. There's plenty here. You can fill a bucket as you wish. **Please follow rules:** So, stay in the road and ditches on either side of the road. But don't worry, you'll find more material than you can say grace over. And, for goodness' sake, if you pry chunks out of the dirt road, take the time to fill the holes. The local folks will raise cane about potholes in their road if you don't and the County may put a stop to collecting at this site!

Looking for: This material is a microscopically grained Quartz, or Chert, and can rightly be called a fossiliferous chert. This material is excellent for cabbing, tumbling, and other lapidary work and takes a nice polish. However, this material is full of vugs, or small cavities, and that can be a problem but it usually can be worked around. The material here will vary from brown, red, green, blue, yellow, white, etc. in various shades. You will find fossils at this site also, not common. Corals, shells, bryozoans, barnacles, turritellas and other marine critters may be found in this chert. So, when you pick up the chunks of chert lying about, inspect them closely for fossils. They're there but hard to find.

Side trip: If you were to go back up River Road to Stoney Bluff Landing, turn left, and follow it for 1.9 miles you'd come to the Landing itself at the Savannah River. So, when visiting this site, plan on taking your camera. You'll want to take some pictures here. And



take your lunch... go on down to the Landing and have a picnic. You'll enjoy it. I saw one picnic table at the landing. Lots of beautiful old oaks with lots of shade. There's swimming, fishing, boating available at the Landing. So go on down to the Landing when you go and include it in your trip.

To Bring: Take your safety glasses, scratching tools, crack hammer, your rock pick, and a pry bar or long crowbar. Be sure and wear your safety glasses and gloves when hammering on rocks. It's too late to put them on after you have that thing in your eye or cut a finger and it has ruined your trip! Take your lunch, something to drink and bug spray.

Call Jay cell#478-957-5002 or Bill cell#678-621-3457 for more information.

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

An Official Field Trip of Mid- Georgia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, May 14, 2022

8 a.m. Central Time

Bayou Pierre

Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS

Registration Required

No Fee

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: The Bayou Pierre River is a tributary to the Mississippi River, joining the mighty muddy near Port Gibson. The May 14 field trip site is on the eastern portion of the river. Don't be misled by the name "Bayou." It's a free-flowing river. Native Americans lived in

villages near the river before European settlers migrated to the area.

COLLECTING: Extensive deposits of Citronelle Formation gravel are exposed in the streambed and along the banks of the Bayou Pierre River as it meanders through rural Copiah County, Mississippi. Expect to find agates, petrified wood, fossil brachiopods, bryozoans, coral, crinoid stems and other gravel.

BRING: Bring lunch and plenty of water. Bring a bucket, backpack or bags in which to collect rocks. A garden wagon or bucket on wheels will make it easier to haul your collected rocks back to your vehicle. Bring a lightweight chair and beach umbrella for shade during breaks. Wear shoes or boots suited for walking on sand and, if you go near the river bank, mud. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent, and wear a hat. There are no facilities at the river.

BOUNDARIES: This location is private property. There's 20 acres of gravel and sand to hunt. The point where we will enter the gravel bar is near the property line on the left side. The boundary on the right is a bluff a long way down the river. Please DON'T cross the river. Someone else owns the land across the river. We don't have permission to go there. Please respect all property boundaries.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It's the participant's responsibility to monitor weather conditions for the hunt area the morning of the trip and decide whether to go. Participants will walk along an ATV trail through the woods to the river. One truck will haul ice chests and gear to the gravel bar if the trail is not too muddy. It gets hot on the gravel bar. Please stay well hydrated and be careful not to overheat. Ask for help if heat stress becomes a problem. There is not much shade. If you seek shade among the willows, beware that there may be snakes.

FEE: There is no fee.

REGISTRATION: Advance registration is required. Click [HERE](#) for the registration form. Please provide a "day-of-trip" phone number



when registering. If you have trouble or need to cancel, please let MGMS President Vonda Echols know by sending E-mail to fieldtrips@missgems.org or call or text 601-259-8801.

CHILDREN: Children must be at least 6 years old and supervised by a relative at all times. The hunt site is beside a river. Please keep close watch on children around the river at all times. The current is swift.

PETS: No pets, please.

FACILITIES: There are no restroom facilities at the site. Recommend taking a restroom break at the meeting location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: No firearms allowed. Contact a club member for recommendations about lodging accommodations.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered attendees will receive directions via email.

CONTACT: Vonda Echols, 601-259-8801, fieldtrips@missgems.org

SHOWS

Georgia Gem and Mineral Society

May 6-8

Cobb County Civic Center

Details can be found at this location:

<https://www.gamineral.org/showmain.html>



Resources

Being a retired educator, I am a life-long learner and I love reading articles that might help in working with gems, minerals, rocks, and fossils. I have compiled a small list of items that you might find interesting:

[If your gemstone is cracked can you repair it? | Q&A | Sunnyray.org](#)

My favorite Epoxy is Epoxy 330 and can be found along with an article at: [Jewelry Glue](#)

[and Epoxy for Gemstones and Metal \(rocktumbler.com\)](#)

This same site has some awesome instructions for rock tumbling and what specimens to put together.

Brad Smith also talks about coloring epoxies in his Bench Tips and How-To Books.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive
With Brad's "How-To Books"



There are also some free chapters on-line at

<http://amzn.to/2KCygH4>

<http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>

Books can be priced from \$14.77 up



Blast from the Past

May 2017

Jay Batcha, Editor

Tidbits A Petrified Fact by Ed Wengerd

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially those from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the cast and the wood were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood. *From MOROKS Newsletter, to SCFMS by The Redstick Rockhound News, Feb 2013, via SCFMS Newsletter Nov/Dec 2013; via Fredericksburg Rockhounds news, Dec 2013*

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
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Education Chairperson: Tuell Walters, ph. 478-922-7200, walterstuell919@gmail.com

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

Find the words related to our fun and list them A-Z. Bring the list to the meeting with your name for a door prize. There will be another activity at the

meeting like the one listed below. Try this one for practice.

Who is the person described by these clues?

Clue	Gem, Mineral Or Rock	First Letter
Best green from China or Japan		
Banded from Brazil		
Synthetic precious stone		

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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