



## Happy Holidays Rockhounds

December 5 at 7:00 PM.

### Museum of Arts and Sciences

Come join the early birds to chat. Don't forget that dues are due and that if not paid by February's Meeting you will be dropped from the roll. This meeting is the Christmas Party so bring your covered dish and a gift of \$5-10 for each person in your group.

### Table of Contents

Upcoming Events	page 1
President's Message	page 1
Meeting Minutes	page 1
Road Trip	page 3
Festival of Trees	page 4
Shows	page 4
GEODE for sale	page 4
Tee-shirt information	page 5
Blast from the Past	page 6
Heritage Elementary Info	page 6
Club Information	page 7

### Upcoming Events

Dues are Due	February 1
Christmas Party	December 5
Dig in Buena Vista	December 10
February Meeting	February 6
STEM night at	
Heritage Elementary	February 7

### *President's Message*

Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral has our sponsored DMC field trip coming up in March 2023. Need to find a dig location! Anyone have any ideas; it is getting harder to find locations to dig at these days. Having a hard time getting back into quarries and mines since Covid. Does anyone have any locations that could be possible for a dig for around 40 people to attend, please let me or Bill know. I would hate to have not sponsor this DMC dig because that would lock our club out of those field trips around the Southeastern USA. The Hogg Mine in Troup County is a possible dig. It is always open to the public so you can go on digs there most Saturdays, it's not the best choice. The club will be buying ham for the Christmas Party. Please bring a covered dish (veggie or sweets) and a drink. We will also be doing our club gift exchange so bring a gift that deals with rocks, gems, minerals, fossils or lapidary arts of \$5-10 dollars to participate. If you would like your name to go into the scholarship drawing and can not be at the party, send your name to Jay, Bill, Susan or Al.

President Jay



### *November Meeting Minutes*

President Jay Batcha called the November meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. with 15 in attendance. He welcomed visitors Tim and daughter Andrea.

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.

Treasurer Report: Susan Hargrove gave the Bank C.D. and savings account balances. She mentioned collecting some dues and money from selling all the 500 grab bags and some

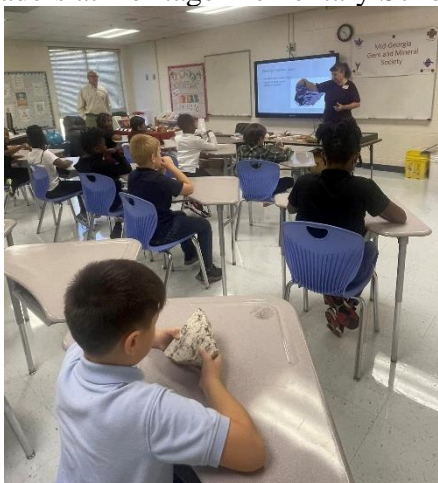


teacher kits at the Fair. She also said everything was paid up.

**Programs:** Tina Perkins said she was speaking tonight on Geological Features of the South Eastern United States and for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting our Club Christmas Party. She also mentioned the February / March Speakers would be Bill Mayer and Jay Batcha.

**Newsletter:** Tina Perkins said the deadline for members to send in input was November 12th.

**Old Business:** Jay Batcha thanked everyone for helping at the Fair and mentioned the upcoming Christmas Party on December 5th at 7 P.M. He said the Club would furnish the meat (ham) and members are to bring a side or dessert and drink. He proposed the Club getting a Honey baked Ham and Members approved. A scholarship will be drawn for eligible members who would like to go to the William Holland or Wild Acres Schools of Lapidary Arts. Details of the classes were discussed and he said to let Club Officers know if you are interested to be in the drawing and not able to attend the Party. Tina Perkins gave a report on the educational presentation she and George Ruff put on for 3rd Graders at Heritage Elementary School.



Shawn Ripley said there was an Arts and Craft Show November 12th 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia Gallery on Commercial Circle Warner Robins, Ga.

**Field Trips:** Jay said there was a Roadside Dig Trip collecting Hematite, Goethite and

Limonite in Buena Vista, Georgia on December 10th. He had some information on the meeting place and times which will also be in the Newsletter. Susan Hargrove mentioned the upcoming Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual meeting November 18-20, 2022 at the Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta, Ga. She said anyone wanting to go and represent the Club would have paid lodging and per diem. She also mentioned the Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society show would be going on there also. Tina gave information on a DMC (Dixie Mineral Council) field trip on December 3rd to Morris Island in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina to collect Fossils. This is a Dredge Pile and requires a \$50.00 boat ride fee. Jay said he met a man at the Fair that wanted to sell his dad's collection of Lapidary Equipment consisting of trim saws, tumblers, faceting and polishing machines. He had slide show of pictures and an E-Mail address to contact seller. Tina had a slide show of different designs of T-Shirts for the Club using the Clubs new Digital Emblem. She asked for ideas and suggestions as members voted on the styles they like. Discussion was had and it will be decided on later.

**Mineral of the Month:** Jay said the MOM is Zircon and asked George Ruff to stand in for Tuell Walters as Educational Chairperson. George said Zircon was small common crystals found in Igneous Rocks and some Metamorphic Rocks. Found in many colors with a Mohs Hardness of 7.5. Several specimens were on display and a raffle followed with prizes.

**Rock of the Month:** Pegmatites general composition are of Feldspar, Quartz and Mica with interlocking Crystals and Minerals. Found worldwide in Igneous Rock with deposits in Georgia. Members had rocks on display with a drawing for prizes following.

**Speaker of the Month:** Club Newsletter Editor Tina Perkins was speaking on Geological Formations of the South Eastern



United States. She had a slide show with information and pictures on these Topics of interest. Sink Holes - Are numerous in Florida and some in other States. Caves and Caverns - Formed from Limestone with many in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. Monadnocks - Are isolated dome shaped Granite outcroppings. Georgia Monadnock mountains are Arabia, Kennesaw, Panola and Atlanta's Stone Mountain Georgia. Stone mountain features depression ecosystems that are unique to the area and found nowhere else in the world. Blue Holes can be Freshwater or Marine Caverns or Sinkholes near river banks coral reefs. There is one on the Flint River. Gorges and Canyons - Many are located in Georgia, North Carolina and West Virginia. Tina mentioned traveling to Tallulah Gorge in northeast Ga., Providence Canyon in Lumpkin Georgia was formed from poor farming practices (erosion), Cloudland Canyon in North West Ga., and one of oldest on the Continent, New River Gorge in West Virginia which allows for plants and animal to move from the east side of the Appalachians to the west and into the mid-west. She also showed plants that were common in each area. Mountains and Waterfalls - The Appalachian Mountains run from Maine to Alabama but in the southeast, they consist of the Smokey Mountains, the Cumberland Plateau and the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Blue Ridge Mountains have thousands of peaks formed from Granitic Charnockite, volcanic formations, and sedimentary limestone. Along this chain of Mountains are many Waterfalls with the Cumberland Falls in Kentucky being noted for Moon Bows. Sea Islands - Also known as the Barrier Islands, they were formed 35-40 thousand years ago and 18,000 years ago as ice sheets melted. She showed a cross section picture explaining the Islands makeup of sandbars, beaches, dunes, shrub Zones and Maritime Tree Forests. There are 35 Barrier Islands in South Carolina and 24 in Georgia.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Dig  
Saturday, December 10, 2022  
Buena Vista, Georgia  
10:00 AM- No Fee

Trip: To south of Buena Vista, we will be digging/ looking along a dirt road for Goethite, Hematite, and Limonite be sure to fill in any holes and pickup your trash.

Meeting Location: At the south side (East 6th Ave) of courthouse in the square in Buena Vista at 10:00am Georgia time on Saturday December 10, 2022. Will wait no later than 10:05am before heading to dig site. Call Jay if running late.

Bring: Hammers, chisels, scratching tools, pry bar, buckets, paper to wrap specimens, hat, sunscreen, food and drinks, safety glasses, and gloves (most of the material is laying in the ditches along the dirt road so tools are not required).

Directions: At Byron, Ga. Take Exit 149 off of I-75. Turn left onto GA-49 and continue towards Fort Valley. Turn right onto GA-49 Connector W/GA-540 (Fort Valley bypass). Continue on Ga-540/Ga-96 west to Butler, Ga.; Turn left onto Ga-137W to Buena Vista. In Buena Vista turn right onto E 3rd Ave. Then turn left onto Broad St. Turn left onto E 6th Ave. and park at court house. Travel time from Byron to meeting location is 58miles and 1hr 5 minutes. We will then drive about 11 miles to the collecting site south of Buena Vista, Ga. Please RSVP to Jay if you are planning on coming.







## Festival of Trees

We again have a tree in the festival of trees thanks to Anita Hortman, Jay Batcha, and Tina Perkins. Kyrie who does the work for the festival at the Museum so loved one of the Christmas Spiders that Tina gave it to her. If you would like to make ornaments for next year let us know and start making them. Jay has challenged Tina to make some more angels.



Tina loves decorating the tree and making ornaments. The tree contains spiders, geodes, crabs, agates, fluorides, crystal quartz, guitar picks, cabs, beaded garland, a wagon full of turquoise, a shovel of turquoise, a miniature screen, alcohol inked shells, crystals points of lots of different minerals, and bows. The tree skirt is covered in large specimen rocks and gem trees.



## SHOWS

Be mindful that shows may be cancelled due to Covid-19.

Bellpoint Gem Show

12/09/2022-12/11/2022

Hours: Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00

Venue: Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

Address: 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Website:

<https://bellpointpromotions.com/bellpoint-promotions-shows>



## GEODE FOR SALE



The weight of the geode (and the walnut boards it is mounted on) is 30.5 lbs. The geode is approximately 29 lbs of this. The length of the geode is 15.5", major diameter is 7.5", and minor diameter is 6.75". The geode came from Brazil.



It has a light inside to highlight the crystals.



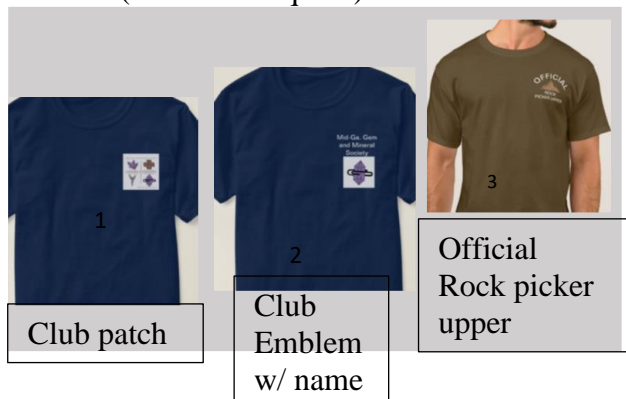
If you are interested in talking to the owner, Bill Mayer has his information. E-mail.



### Tee-Shirt Dilemma

Starting last February, the club was looking into tee-shirts, a club tee-shirt. At the last meeting I had samples of what people wanted on the shirt and I had small ballots for people to give me their opinions. To my surprise, 5/15 people didn't want the club's name on the front, 9/15 didn't want it on the back and five people picked shirts that didn't have the name of the club anywhere on them. So, then my question was: Do we want a rock shirt or a club shirt? I have tried to get a club shirt made now 4 times since I joined in 2009. Jay has one I did. I have one I made. Susan has one I did for the auction one year. This time we had a committee and the committee asked for input and four people gave us their input which I presented in a power point. I am putting the shirts on here, but understand they are only ideas and the final shirt if we get one might look different.

The following designs would be on the front of the shirt (3-4 inches square):



These are the back designs. Send Tina the number of the front you like and the number of the back along with choice of black, blue, or brown shirts. Thanks for your help. Tina, Bill, and Virginia- Shirt Committee



### Scholarship Rules

#### Wild Acres or

#### William Holland School of Lapidary Arts:

1. Must be a member of the club as of February 2022.
2. Not have won this drawing in the last two years.
3. Be 18 years or older.
4. Be at our club Christmas Dinner or have spoken to one of the officers to enter the drawing.
5. You will give a presentation at one of our monthly meetings on your experience/learnings at the school.





## Blast from the Past

I am pulling this month's blast from the past from November of 1988. I decided to start looking at the minutes to see what was going on in the club at the time so here are the Secretary's Report and some other interesting articles.

*The October meeting of the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society was held October 3, 1988 with 26 members and 4 guests. Dan Waltrip, Field Trip Chairman, reported on Georgia Tektites. He hopes to plan a trip around Dodge County. He also plans to have tektite examples at the next meeting. Also, possible trips to Bridgeboro near Albany for fossils, calcite and jasper and Hillsboro for blue quartz when the weather cools off. A motion was made to buy 25 of the Rockhound License patches at \$1.90 each. On Friday October 14<sup>th</sup>, the fair cases will be moved from storage at Dr. Johnson's and taken to the fair site. John Wilson spoke on Barnes Swamp (should have been Bond Swamp) and Brown's Mountain and the surrounding ecology. He showed an interesting and beautiful video tape of the area.*

### From Rock Chips, Oct. 88:

*You can tell a manmade diamond from a synthetic one by the use of a magnet. Synthetic diamonds will stick to the magnet; natural ones will not. (Never tried that one)*

*Many professionals use ultrasonic cleaners and like them. In case you are not aware, some stones should not be cleaned in them including tanzanite, opal, malachite, lapis, agate, pearls, turquoise, topaz, coral, mother of pearl, tourmaline, and emerald.*

*There once was a man who liked rocks, but stored them in the attic. His wife was puzzled and asked, "What good are your rocks just stored in the attic?" The man replied that when he died, he planned on picking the rocks up on his way to heaven. The man died and his wife*

*went to the attic and saw all the rocks still there. She said, "That's what I thought, he went the other way."*

### The Coral Geode

October 1988

From Fossil Trails Bulletin 4/86  
Alberta Canada Fed. Of Rock Clubs via:  
Exchangite and the Petroskey Stone

### THE EMPTY CHAIR

The strength of a Rock Club lies first of all  
In occupied chairs at the meeting hall.  
The empty chair breeds an air of unrest  
Discouraging your officers from doing their  
best.

What better way to learn first hand  
The pros and cons and make a stand?  
You agree or reject, that's your solemn right,  
The important thing is you came tonight.

The rabble rouser and rumor clown,  
Will desert the fight when the chips are down.  
The sound-off guys pretend to care  
But are largely responsible for the empty chair.

The monthly meetings are the practical way  
To voice your opinion and have your say.  
Decisions are reached; and in your heart  
You have found the truth by doing your part.



**Mark, your calendars. We need help for a rock, gem, mineral, and fossil display table on February 7 from 6-7:30 at Heritage Elementary's STEM night. George will be showing off his telescope, Tina will be doing science demonstrations and we need someone to do a display table. Jay may be talking about what all the cell phone has replace (?) so we need some others to step up for the students.**





**Remember  
to pay your  
dues!**

**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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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your interest(s):

Gems and Minerals      Lapidary      Fossils

Education      Rocks

Make checks payable to:  
 Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society  
 Mail to the Treasurer (listed on this page) or  
 bring to a meeting.



**Even elves have rock hammers!**



## **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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