

It's time for a Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Museum of Arts and Sciences and a Picnic/ Silent Auction May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Amerson River Park.

Come join the early birds to chat. Bring your Rocks to be Identified and some to swap with other members. Bring your favorite gem, mineral or rock and be prepared to talk about your specimen. Your specimen is the rock, mineral, fossil, or gem of the month. Al Steffanini will be talking about Elberton Granite.

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## Upcoming Events

Rock Swap/ Rock ID May 1

Al Steffanini

Picnic and Auction May 6

Amerson River Park

Meeting June 5

Ryan Roney- Tellus

## President's Message

Hi to everyone,

I hope everyone had a great Easter weekend, it was a little cold and rainy.

There has been a change in the location for the club picnic this year. The picnic will be at the Amerson River Park on Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 10:00 am to 1:00pm (this is an hour earlier than normal). The address for Amerson River Park is 2551 N. Pierce Dr. in Macon, GA. and you can find a map of the park at <https://amerson.maconbabb.us/park-map/> We are at the Overlook Pavilion (the pavilion going to the overlook on the map). It is a covered pavilion so we should be ok if it rains. If you have a folding table please bring it for our auction items, there are not enough tables to put all the auction items on. Also please bring a chair just in case there is not enough seating. Then bring the regular stuff like a cover dish, your drinks, something for the auction, money to buy items, and your family. The club will supply barbecue and buns from Fincher's along with plates and eating utensils. Come and have a great time with each other, we can talk rocks and everything else! If you cannot make the meetings now is your chance to hang out with your fellow club members. See you there.

Please come and help stuff some grab bags on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at my house 10:00am to 2:00pm or less. We need to start getting ready for the state fair in October. We want to have 500 bags for the fair.

Planning to do 200 bags this time around. If you need directions, please call me 478-957-5002.

I would like to give Al Steffanini a big thank you! He has been the club's Secretary for a few years now, doing the minutes for the meetings each month. He helped with the DMC dig we just sponsored. Al has been visiting with our friend/member Tuell at Warner Robins Rehab Center. He helps the club in so many ways. Thanks again.

Pres Jay



## **April Meeting Minutes**

Mid Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Club President Jay Batcha called the April 3 ,2023 meeting to order at 7:06 with 22 in attendance. He welcomed New Member David Sutton and visitors Jennifer Pritchard, Will Haggard, and John and Teresa Barber.

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 bank C.D. and savings balances. She also mentioned paying the Liability Insurance.  
Programs: Jay filled in for Tina Perkins tonight saying Club Secretary Al Steffanini would give a presentation on Elberton, Ga Granite in May and Ryan Rooney Curator at the Tellus Museum would speak in June on What it takes to get a Triceratops to a Museum and set up. Field Trips: Jay Batcha talked about the Graves Mountain Dig on April 28, 29 and 30, 2023 saying there would be Rock Swap, Vendors, and Food available. He mentioned golf carts would be shuttling attendees in and out for a fee. He said there is a DMC field trip to Savannah River Agate on 4-15-2023 and gave highlights of the March 19,2023 DMC Summerville Agate dig our Club had sponsored. He said 42 attended including members from our Club also saying our Club would host again in couple years. Jay asked Vice president Bill Mayer to give a report on the April 1,2023 Hogg Mine trip. Bill said he and 3 others collected Rose Quartz, Smokey Quartz and a big piece of Beryl Tim found.

Old Business: Jay said he has reserved the Overlook Pavilion at Amerson River Park in Macon, Ga. for the Annual Picnic on May 6, from 10 AM to 1 PM. He asked members to bring items to donate to the silent auction one of our club's fundraising events. He mentioned needing some more tables and said everyone should bring a covered dish, drink and there may be a need to bring a chair. Members asked

could Shawn Ripley make some sample t-shirts using the Clubs Digital Logo and he said that he would. Jay asked members if anyone was interested in setting up a tent and Club display for the April 22-2023 Earth Day Event at Amerson Park 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. He also said Tina Perkins would be making grab bags this week for the Club's Booth at the Fall Perry Fair and said there could be a bag stuffing party at Jays on April 29,2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM.

MOM: George Ruff said the Mineral of the Month is Wulfenite a beautiful and colorful Crystal Lead Molybdate. It has Mohs hardness of 3 with colors of Orange, Yellow, Red and Green. It has a melting point of 1065 Degrees Celsius, a Specific Gravity of 7, with square to rectangular shape. Some are U.V. Light Fluorescent and its the State Mineral of Arizona. Members had specimens on hand and a raffle followed with prizes.

FOM: Fossil of the Month was anything Dinosaur with Members having displays and stories. A raffle followed with prizes. Jay also said the Moroccan 16 lb. Fossil for sale from last month meeting was now reduced from 250 dollars to 50 dollars.

Speaker of the month: Jay introduced past club member, friend, and owner of GeorgiaFossils.Com Website Thomas Thurman. He had a slide show presentation of The Tivola Whales saying in the past 125 years 3 Big whales have been found in the Limestone Quarries around the South Houston County extinct Tivola village and train station. He showed on maps the old #3 pit on Elko Road, The Clinchfield Cemex Quarry and Plant and old unreclaimed pits south of Cemex. These whales found in middle Georgia and exhibited in museums are of the Basilosaurus family with our own Macon, Ga Museum of Arts and Sciences "Ziggy." Ziggy found in the Twiggs Clay Formation at Huber Kaolin Mine east of Macon, Georgia, was previously identified as a Sub Family Dorudontinae Zygorhiza Kochii. A few years back Smithsonian Paleontologist Mark Uhen reclassified Ziggy as Durodon



Serratus. These whales have breathing nostrils, gripping front teeth, shearing molar teeth and are the ancestors of modern whales. Thomas said in 1932 one of the whales a Basilosaurus Cetoides was found in a Perry Quarry and Dean Leon Smith of Wesleyan Collage went and recovered half of the whales remains to display at the Collage. He also said a whale tail bone was found in Oaky Woods in 2008 and in a soon to be released article the Southeast's oldest and Georgia's first Oreodont was found in 2012 in an old Tivola pit in Houston County. Members asked questions and Jay told how he remembered going with Thomas and Club Members collecting Shell and Vertebrate Fossils at these pits many years ago.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



#### ***Speaker this month***

Al Steffanini will be speaking about a camping trip to Richard B. Russell State Park and exploring the surrounding areas history, mining, and manufacturing of Elberton Granite. Al grew up in Warner Robins and worked in the metal fabrication, pipe fitting and pipe welding trades. Worked in the Texas and Louisiana oil fields in the early 80's. Moving back to Georgia, he continued mechanical HVAC, piping and fabrication on the base as a contractor thru the 90's. He married his wife Sherrill in 2002 and recently retired after working 26 years at GPI Macon Papermill. Al and Sherrill have camped and hiked in the Georgia mountains prospecting gold and collecting rocks for fun not knowing much about geology or fossil history. In 2018 they joined the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society to dig deeper in the learning and activities of the great hobby of rockhounding. Al and Sherrill have enjoyed the fellowship and meetings. Al has served as club secretary for the last 2+ years.

#### **Note from the Editor/ Program:**

I am sorry I was not able to be with everyone at the last meeting nor will I be with you in May. I had always heard that when the knee joint goes you will know it. Mine will be replaced in May and as of now I am limited to what I can do and my ability to drive. Summer is fast approaching and I would love for all of you to think about sending me a picture from your rockhounding journeys along with a small blurb that I can put in the newsletter. If you would like to write an article that would be awesome. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, you have May and June to attend before the summer break. Remember that there are no meetings or newsletters in July or August, but look out for dig information since I will still be sending it out as a separate e-mail.

## **Highlights From Summerville**



**All the attendees ready to dig!**



**Jay, Susan, Bill, and Shawn at our Club Table.**



Although Jay had 70+ people not counting our club to sign up, the cold temperatures kept the number down to 42 including our club members. Looks like they are dressed for the weather. All pictures are from Al Steffanini our secretary.



**A picture-perfect specimen of Summerville Agate.**



**Bill and Susan digging.**



**Lots of door prizes donated by club members for those who came to hunt Summerville Agate.**



**Piles and piles of stuff to go through and just a hop, skip and a jump from the parking lot.**



**Lets Go Diggin'**  
**Remember that times are still strange and field trips can be canceled.**

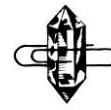
**Graves Mountain,  
Lincolnton, GA**

Collecting Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Iridescent Hematite, Pyrophyllite, Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite, Sulfur, Variscite, Woodhouseite, Crandallite, Strengite, Phosphosiderite, Cacoxenite, blue quartz, quartz crystals, etc.

**Rock Swap & Dig**  
8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 28, 2023  
8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 29, 2023  
8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 30, 2023

**Graves Mountain Dig**  
**April 28-30, 2023 Confirmed**  
**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 April 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 do visit the website. It has tons of history and directional information: <https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>



**An Official Field Trip of the Middle  
TN Rockhounds (Nashville, TN)  
(HOST)**

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

**Saturday May 20, 2023**  
**10:00 am. to 3:00 pm. Central Time**  
**Cumberland Furnace, TN**  
**Limited to 35 people**  
**Registration Required**  
**Free!!**



**TRIP:** We are heading to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quite colorful in shades of blue and green... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants.

**COLLECTING:** Our target is a dump pile on the banks of the stream that runs through Cumberland Furnace (access by crossing a large field owned by the community). This dump pile is located about a ¼ of a mile from the parking area. Although the dump pile has the greatest potential, slag can be found anywhere along the banks (both upstream and downstream). Another way to search is by wading downstream from the



furnace if the creek is low. I am not sure if conditions will permit - bring wading shoes (no open toe shoes, flip flops, Crocs, etc.) just in case if you wish to collect in the stream.

**BRING:** You need to bring a hand tool, trowel, small shovel, etc. to dig in the slag pile and gloves to protect your hands. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying your finds. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet may get wet otherwise.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Bring sunscreen and bug spray but most importantly a good attitude and have fun!!

#### TERRAIN AND SPECIAL

**CONDITIONS:** Collecting in an old dump pile and in a creek. It's about a quarter mile hike through the woods to the site, the path will be slightly overgrown. There is creek and some small streams, so your feet might get wet. Stream should be low this time of the year.

**FEE:** Free, as in free!!

**CHILDREN:** Children are allowed but must be at least 6 years old and must be always supervised by an adult.

**PETS:** Pets are allowed but must be always leashed and under control.

**FACILITIES:** There are no facilities at the site unfortunately. Closest facilities are at a service station about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** TN does not have any Covid-19 restrictions currently. Use your own judgement on the use of masks and

other Covid-19 guidelines while on this field trip. I'll have liability forms available on site to be signed before we begin collecting.

**REGISTRATION:** Click here to fill out a registration form. If you are unable to attend the trip, please be considerate to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

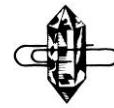
**CONTACT:** For additional information or last-minute issues, contact Randy Gentry @ (615) 566-8482 or [fieldtripchair@rockhound.org](mailto:fieldtripchair@rockhound.org).



#### SHOWS

**Be mindful that shows may be cancelled due to Covid-19. Please call before you go and check the websites.**

MAY 26-28  
MELBOURNE, FLORIDA:  
H & R Gem shows  
Melbourne Auditorium,  
625 E Hibiscus Blvd  
Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$5 Adults, kids  
12 and under Free,  
Teens/Veterans/Military/First Responder \$1  
off. Admission good for all three days  
Over 16,000 square feet of fabulous vendors  
featuring Jewelry, gemstones, crystals,  
minerals, beads, fossils, rough rock and more.  
contact Jerri Heer, (419) 344-9999  
Email: [hrgemshows@gmail.com](mailto:hrgemshows@gmail.com)



MAY 26-28

SALEM, VIRGINIA:  
 American Gem, Mineral  
 And Jewelry Shows LLC  
 Salem Civic Center,  
 1001 Roanoke Blvd

Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; Adults \$7, Ages  
 11-17 \$2,

Free admission for age 10 and under;  
 Vendors offering Gems, Minerals, Jewelry,  
 Beads, Fossils and Meteorites  
 contact Alan Koch  
 Email: [agmjs3@gmail.com](mailto:agmjs3@gmail.com);

Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Miner,  
 Jewelry, and Fossil Show  
 Georgia Mineral Society  
 May 12-14, 2023  
 Cobb Civic Center  
 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE  
 Marietta, Georgia 30060  
[GMS Annual Show \(gamineral.org\)](http://GMS Annual Show (gamineral.org))

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Show  
 May 19-21, 2023  
 The Robert C. Carpenter Community Building  
 1288 Georgia Rd.  
 Franklin, NC 28734

### Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Apr 22 – 23, 2023  
 Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis  
 38114

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Sponsored by  
 the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society  
 Saturday, April 22 9-6:00 pm(Central) and Sunday, April  
 23 10-5pm. Adults \$6.00. 2- day pass \$8.00. Children 12  
 & under \$2.00. Scouts in uniform free,  
<https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>, email  
[info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com).

Contact WC McDaniel 901-490-3575  
<https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>



### Blast from the Past

This month's blast is from May 2012 when Jay Batcha was editor of the newsletter. This is a good bit of interesting reading. Enjoy.

### Meteorites of Arizona

*By: Leonard Deutsch*

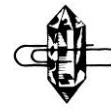
Arizona: Some meteorites come from the Diablo Canyon, Meteor Crater. The main crater is located about 35 miles from Flagstaff. The crater is about 4000 feet across and around 700 feet deep. The meteorites are oxide and composed of 92% Iron, 7% Nickel, and 1% other. The asteroid fell about 50,000 years ago. The meteorites have been collected since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and were known and used by pre-historic Native Americans. The Barringer Crater, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, was the center of a long dispute about the origin of craters that showed little evidence of volcanism. That debate was settled in the 1950's, thanks to Eugene Shoemaker's study of the crater. The biggest fragment ever found is the Holsinger Meteorite, weighing 639 kg, now on display in the Meteor Crater Visitor Center on the rim of the crater.

### A Rock Makes an Excellent Puppy

by Kenn Nesbitt

A rock makes an excellent puppy.  
 They're practically almost the same.  
 Except that a puppy's rambunctious;  
 A rock is a little more tame.

It's true that a rock's not as hyper.  
 It may not chase after a ball.  
 And, often as not, when you call it,  
 It won't even hear you at all.



And maybe it doesn't roll over,  
 and isn't excited to play,  
 but rocks always sit when you tell them,  
 and rocks really know how to stay.

It may sleep a little bit longer.  
 It probably eats a bit less.  
 But rocks never pee on the carpet.  
 You won't have to pick up their mess.

So go ask your folks for a puppy,  
 and possibly that's what you'll get.  
 But, still, if you can't have a puppy,  
 a rock is a pretty good pet.

It doesn't annoy you with barking;  
 it sits quietly on a shelf.  
 A rock makes an excellent puppy.  
 That's what I keep telling myself.



### Fun Activities

#### Match the mineral with its shape!

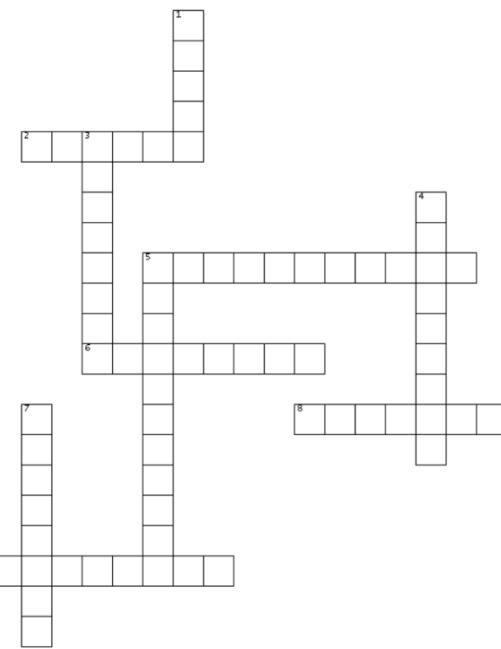
**One is done for you.**

Cubic	Cassiterite
Monoclinic	Calcite
Trigonal	Halite
Orthorhombic	Axinite
Triclinic	Chrysoberyl
Tetragonal	Selenite

**What's a rock's favorite type of pizza?**  
**Extra Olivine**

### Geology Terminology Puzzle and Information

**Transparency** refers to the way in which light passes through a mineral specimen. The **habit** is the characteristic appearance of a crystal which has been determined by the predominate form. All the clues for this puzzle relate to these two ideas.



#### ACROSS

- 2. light does not pass through the specimen even if it is cut very thin.
- 5. objects can be seen through the specimen.
- 6. round kidney shaped masses.
- 8. indicates no definite shape.
- 9. shows a uniformed cross section.

#### DOWN

- 1. looks like the blade of a knife.
- 3. slender needle like masses
- 4. plant like shape.
- 5. light passes through the specimen, but the object cannot be seen clearly.
- 7. non-parallel symmetrical intergrowth of two or more crystals of the same species.



## **Remember as the weather warms up:**



**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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**Treasurer:** Susan Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-837-5327, [susanbphilh@pstel.net](mailto:susanbphilh@pstel.net)

**Education /Sunshine Chairperson:** Tuell Walters, ph. 478-922-7200, [walterstuell1@gmail.com](mailto:walterstuell1@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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.



## **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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