



Don't forget about the meeting or  
that dues are due.

November 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

**Museum of Arts and Sciences**

Come join the early birds to chat. Greg Lewis will be talking with us about Native Plants. The Mineral of the Month is Aragonite and the Fossil of the Month is Crinoids.

**President elect, Shawn Ripley wants you to put your thinking caps on. At the December meeting he will pass out a survey to be completed so he can get an idea of where club members want the club to go.**

**Table of Contents**

Upcoming Events	page 1
President's Message	page 1
Meeting Minutes	page 2
About the Speaker	page 3
Editor's Note	page 3
A Time for Youth	page 3
Let's Go Diggin'	page 4
Shows	page 5
Mineral of the Month	page 6
Fossil of the Month	page 6
Nominations Committee	page 7
Ga. National Fair	page 7
Club Information	page 9

**Upcoming Events**

Fair Take Down      Oct. 17

Auction	Nov. 4
Meeting	Nov. 6
Native Plants	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade at HES	Nov. 8

***President's Message***

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to be your president for the last two years.

We are in the middle of the fair in a different place and although it is smaller, we are having a great time talking to lots of people who also love rocks. We have sold a few bags and made a few new contacts including one for a possible field trip. Check out the daily pictures on our Facebook page.

We will be meeting in the planetarium so make sure you use the lobby entrance and not the side door as we usually do. Our speaker is Greg Lewis from the Native Plant Society. He does tours of Oaky Woods once a month for those interested and he will probably tell us more about it.

Our auction is on for the 4<sup>th</sup> of November at Tina's house (back yard). She will be sending out the information and you will need to RSVP if you are coming for directions before November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Auction information will be sent out October 19<sup>th</sup> by e-mail and snail mail. The Auction will begin with everyone getting a chance to look over the items (10:30- 11:30), lunch at 11:30 and bidding at 12:30. We are hoping to end it by 2:30 or 3:00. This is a members' only auction and you will be able to pay by check or cash. Be looking for more information.

As of right now we need someone to volunteer to chair fieldtrips for the club, an education chairperson to talk about the mineral, fossil or rock of the month, and a sunshine person to send cards to members who are under the weather. Please step up to the plate. We need more participation from club members. Shawn who is president elect would greatly appreciate it.

As for the fair, I would like to thank Tina, George, and Susan for helping set up our booth. I would also like to thank all of you who showed up to help-out in the booth. We will be taking down the booth October 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. If you can help Tina and I please let Tina know by e-mail.

Lastly, keep bringing me stuff for the grab bags since we may need to fill 500 more if we sell out of bags at the fair.



Hope to see you at the meeting,  
Jay Batcha (President)

## *October Meeting Minutes*

Club President Jay Batcha called the October 2, 2023 meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with 27 in attendance. Jay welcomed visitors Brooklyn, Andrew Warnock's niece and Dianna, Lorelei's granddaughter. He also welcomed two new members, Sherry Smith, Betty Sue's niece and Jake Hammonds, Tims's nephew.

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 mentioned the Museum Rent was paid.

Programs: Tonight's Speaker is Tina Perkins speaking on Mica Mining in Georgia and Greg Lewis in November speaking on Native Plant's. He said the Club Christmas party was December's Program and further out Al Steffanini would speak in February and Someone from Satterfield's Jeweler's in March.

Field Trips: Jay said no club trips in October because of the Perry, Ga. Fair and that there was a Graves Mountain Public Dig, October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. He had a couple of display boxes of Graves Mountain material for viewing.

Old Business: Jay talked about the sign-up sheet for volunteers at the Club's Display Booth at the Fair and that parking passes and entrance tickets were not available yet. He also had a diagram showing that this year's booth was smaller and moved to another location. Members were asked did everyone get their Club T-Shirt and he had a sign-up sheet for any new orders. Jay also said club elections for 2024 were here and did anyone want to fill the two open positions of President and Vice-President. Shawn Ripley volunteered to be President and the members agreed, and Jay said he would fill the Vice President position. Susan Hargrove will be Treasurer and Al Steffanini will be Secretary.

New Business: Tina Perkins asked the club if we were still doing the Fossil Decorated Christmas Tree at the Museums Festival of Trees this year. After discussion, members agreed not to have a tree this year because a lot of things were going on but would have one next year. Tina also mentioned she had a presentation event coming up with George Ruff volunteering to help at Heritage Elementary.

Web Master: Pam Mayer said the Club's Facebook page had 175 likes and 211 followers with 401 people looking at the page in 2023.

Mineral of the Month: Alunite is the M.O.M and George Ruff said it's an aluminum potassium sulfate mineral with a hardness of 3-4, a specific gravity of 2-3, and a white streak. Was mined as Alum in Rome, Italy and found in Utah and Arizona also. It is formed under Limestone with Volcanic heating and is used in Fire Extinguishers and as Baking Powder. Members had specimens on display with their stories. A raffle was drawn, and prizes were awarded.

Rock of the Month: Skarn is the R.O.M. and George said it's a metamorphic rock formed under low pressure and high heat from contact aureoles. It is calcite rich with a variety of other minerals including olivine, periclase, wollastonite, diopside, garnet, serpentine, and tremolite that are typical of metamorphosed limestones. Specimens were also on display with a drawing and prizes awarded.

Speaker of the month: Jay introduced Tina Perkins our club newsletter Editor, Publicity Director and Programs Chair speaking on Mica Mines in Georgia During WW2 and More. She had a slide show with information and said Mica Mining started in WW1 and lasted through 1962. Georgia had 70 mines in the counties of Hart-Elbert, Pickens- Cherokee, Lumpkin-Union-Towns, Rabun County and Upson-Lamar-Monroe with 33 mines in Upson County alone. During WW2 when men were called to service women for the first time worked in the mines. The Mica was formed in



the Pegmatites, Gneiss and Schist Rock with accessory minerals of Garnet, Feldspar, Pyrite, Tourmaline, Apatite, Biotite, Quartz, and Beryl. The mining was done in pits, ditches, cuts, and shafts with one slide show picture showing a dragline pulling material up steep walls. She had numerous excerpts from Geological Survey Bulletins describing the name, size, location, type, and amount of material collected from each mine. A lot of the Mica was in large sheets and books of all sizes with one piece found in 1932 of 500 pounds. The Mica was used primarily for the war effort in aircraft, telephones, insulators, clear lenses, and gaskets were made from Punch Mica sheets. Mica was imported from India before WW2 and Georgia Mines were a leader in production for not only the war products, but for lip gloss, toothpaste, and eye liner which are commercially produced commodities. There was a question and answer after the presentation. Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



### *About the Speaker*

Greg Lewis serves as a Director-at-Large of the Fringed Campion Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society and as a Director of the Georgia Native Plant Society. Greg is currently the owner of a native plant nursery (Flat Creek Natives) located in Perry, Georgia, a “third career” of sorts. Before retirement from the U.S. Air Force and federal civil service, Greg earned a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership and taught numerous classes to Department of Defense employees seeking certification in the acquisition field. After serving almost 30 years in the DoD, Greg discovered an interest in and love for propagating native flora to keep our environment clean and healthy. What began as a hobby soon developed into a business as he studied and learned more about local plants and wildlife and became convinced of the need to “go native.” Now he spends his days planting,

propagating, cultivating, and just generally getting his hands dirty as he tends the multitude of plants in his native nursery. Flat Creek Natives focuses on native azaleas, wildflowers, trees, and many other pollinator friendly items native to Georgia's Coastal Plain. Greg previously served on the Coastal Plain Chapter Board of Directors. Greg lives in Perry, GA with his high school sweetheart, Juanita.

### *Editor's Note*

I have been asked if I could put a list of the mineral of the month, fossil of the month and/or rock of the month for the year so that people can find specimens. I had it last month's newsletter but thought I would include it one more time.

MONTH	MINERAL	FOSSIL/ ROCK
FEBRUARY	SILVER	GARNET SCHIST
MARCH	DIOPTASE	SEA URCHINS/ SAND DOLLARS
APRIL	PHENAKITE	GRANODIORITE
MAY	CORUNDUM	BIVALVES- MOLLUSKS



### *A Time For Youth*

At the fair I told Jay that there was something weighing on my heart. As editor of the newsletter, I am always thinking of new ways to get people involved in the club. When I joined the club, there were no youth. Now we have quite a few. I would like to propose and will bring it up at the November meeting, that we have a junior club members' meeting on Saturday once a month during the months of March, April, May, September, October, and November. I will even host some of the meetings at my house with activities planned. We may also meet at other members' houses for activities including field trips and scavenger hunts. When I spoke to Jay, I did not know he



would start talking to others about my idea. Starting in March gives us plenty of time to think about activities although I have already got some things lined up as I will share below. Each meeting would be from 10am to 12 noon and have light snacks or for some activities from 10am- 1pm with lunch. Ideas for activities include gem tree making, scavenger hunts, field trips, ID sessions and even guest speakers geared toward their ages. Club members could volunteer to help out at any time since so many of you are very knowledgeable. As of right now these are my thoughts:

March: Bring your rocks that need identification. (10-12) Snacks will be included. Jay and James could help with this.

April: Science Olympiad Competition with rock prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. (10-12) Snacks included. (I can do this one.)

May: Gem Trees Class (10-1) Light lunch included (\$5.00 for supplies) Jay, Shawn, Pam and I could help with this.

When I bring it up at the meeting if you think it is worth it, please help me get this going.



## **Lets Go Diggin'**

**Remember that times are still strange and field trips can be canceled.**

**An Official Field Trip of the Western South  
Carolina Gem & Mineral Society,  
Greenville, SC (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Mid Georgia  
Gem and Mineral Society**

**Saturday, November 11, 2023**

**9am to 5pm Eastern Time**

**Abbeville, SC**

**Limit: None**

**Registration Required (link is below)**

**Fee: See Below**

TRIP: This is a well-known site for collecting. The 400-million-year-old granitoid gneiss was formed by the metamorphism of the Antreville Pluton. The pluton was later fractured and hydrothermal fluids moved through the fractures depositing silica.

COLLECTING: The site is known for quartz crystals. Amethyst, smoky quartz, skeletal quartz, angle plated quartz, beryl, garnet, and epidote have been found.

BRING: Bring shovels of different sizes, small rakes, chisels, brushes, and a spray bottle. Also bring water and food.

REQUIREMENTS: Bring safety glasses in case you plan to break rocks.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Easy site to access. Can be muddy at the site due to rains.

FEES: Adult 18+ \$20

Teen 13-17 \$10

Senior 65+ \$10

Children 6-12 \$5

5 & under Free

Veteran \$15

CHILDREN (Yes): Children need to be supervised.

PETS (Yes): Well-behaved pets on leash are allowed.

FACILITIES: Porta potty, there is a store a few miles away.

REGISTRATION: Click here to fill out a registration form. If you register and 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: Registered participants will be sent a



confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

**CARPOOLING:** The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you need a ride; if you can offer a ride; or if you would like to drive or share a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.

**CONTACT:** Chris Cothran, 864-238-6054,  
[Cothran\\_chris@yahoo.com](mailto:Cothran_chris@yahoo.com)



**SHOWS**

**Cobb County Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show**

11/17-11/19/ 2023

10:00-6:00 Fri./ Sat.

10:00-5:00 Sun

548 South Marietta Pkwy

Cobb County Civic Center

Marietta, Ga. 30062

<https://www.ccgms.org/>

---

**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tampa Mineral, Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show**

11/04-11/05/23

Hours: 10-5

Florida State Fair Grounds

Special Events Center

4800 US-301

Tampa, FL

<http://tampabayrockclub.org/>

---

Nov 10 – 12, 2023 Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. The 34th annual “Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show” hosted by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society Inc. will be at the Jackson County Fairground Civic Center in Pascagoula, MS

November 10, 11, & 12.

Friday and Saturday from 10-6:00

Sunday 10-5:00

There will be vendors selling gemstones, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from all over the world. Fun for the whole family. There will be a coloring contest for the kids. There will be a sand bags for kids to purchase and search for their own gemstone treasures! Our members will demonstrate how to make cabochons (shaped and polished gemstone). Our gem club members will be demonstrating many different jewelry making skills including Faceting, Cabbing, Pearling, Beading, Wire wrapping and more. Cost to get in is \$5. Kids 12 and under get in free with a paying adult. Door prizes will be given out hourly! There is a Raffle full of wonder prizes of jewelry, gemstones, art, mineral specimens and more. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at the Show and on our website. [www.mgcmgs.org](http://www.mgcmgs.org). The winner will be drawn at the end of the show. Winner need not be present to win. No need to leave hungry. The concession stand will be open, offering hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken gumbo, red beans and rice, potato salad and coleslaw. There will snacks available as well. If you get thirsty, we will have iced tea, coke products or a fresh glass of lemonade. Be sure to check our displays of fossils, minerals, and gemstones from around the world. Come join the fun and shop for some treasures of your own! Link(s): [https://www.mgcmgs.org/gem\\_show](https://www.mgcmgs.org/gem_show)

---

Nov 11 – 12, 2023

Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society

Melbourne Auditorium

625 E Hibiscus Blvd,

Melbourne FL 32901

\$5.00 entry fee for the whole weekend!

SATURDAY 10-5 pm

SUNDAY 10-4PM Link(s):

<https://www.facebook.com/Canaveralmg>

---



## *Mineral of the Month*

### *Aragonite*

Aragonite is a carbonate mineral. It was first identified in Molina de Aragon in the province of Guadalajara in Castilla-La Mancha, Spain for which it was named in 1797. It is one of the three most common naturally occurring crystal forms of calcium carbonate; the other two being vaterite and calcite. The prismatic and elongated crystals formed by aragonite are often twinned. If twinning occurs, they form pseudo-hexagonal structures. They can also form stalactites, fibrous forms, radiating, and coral forms. It is in the carbonate family of minerals. It can form what is called a “flos ferri” meaning flower of iron. Aragonite can be white, colorless, gray, yellowish, green, blue, violet, reddish, or brown. It has a white streak and can be translucent or transparent. It has a vitreous luster. It has a 3.5-4.0 on the Mohs hardness scale and a specific gravity of 2.94-2.95. It is soluble in cold, diluted hydrochloric acid with effervescence and often fluorescence under UV light. It is said to fluoresce a pale rose, yellowish, white, or bluish, and greenish. It has a distinct pinacoidal cleavage. Widespread forming in metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, in caves in limestone areas, in mineral veins, and around hot springs. It is formed by biological as well as physical processes including precipitation in marine and freshwater environments.



Gallo river, Molina de Aragon, Spain  
<https://www.mindat.org/min-307.html>

It can be found in Georgia in Bartow County at the Ladd Lime and Cement Co. Quarry, and at Porter's Landing, Effingham County, Georgia. Other places in the southeast are Carter Mine, Mars Hill, Madison County, NC, Tri-Cities Airport quarry, Sullivan County Tennessee, Nidifer Branch Barite Prospect, Stony Creek Mining District, Carter County, Tennessee, Abernathy Mine, Spruce Pine, Mitchell County, NC, and Nantahala Talc and Limestone Mine, Hewitt, Swain County, NC to name a few.

Aragonite is used in jewelry making as well as the production of cement and other building materials. Aragonite is used in aquariums to help maintain the pH balance of water and to provide essential nutrients for salt water life forms. It is also believed to have spiritual and healing properties.

It is often given a second name which is the type of rock it is found in: aragonite- mudstone, aragonite- wackestone, aragonite- packstone, etc. When heated in dry air to 400 degrees Celsius, it converts to calcite.



Marble Products Corporation Mine, Taylor Ridge, Summerville, Chattooga County, Ga.

<https://www.mindat.org/gallery>



## *Fossil of the Month*

### *Crinoids*

Crinoids are marine animals that make up the class Crinoidea. They are often referred to as sea lilies. Crinoids are in the phylum Echinodermata which also includes star fish, sea urchins, brittle stars, sea cucumbers and others. This ancient fossil group, first appeared in seas of the mid Cambrian some 200 million



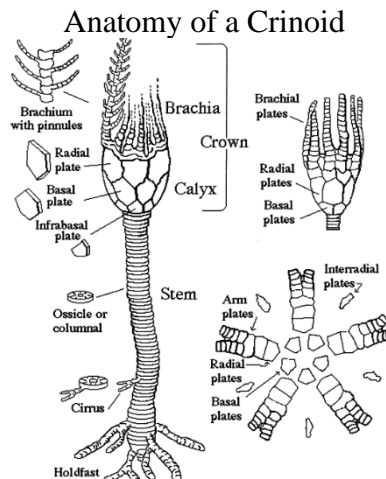
years before the dinosaurs. They flourished in the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras and some survive to the present day. Although sometimes different in appearance from their fossil ancestors, living forms provide clues to how the fossil forms lived.



Fossilera.com  
Scyphocrinite crinoid from Morocco

Crinoid fossils, such as disarticulated crinoid columnals can be so abundant that they are the primary materials in a type of sedimentary rocks called encrinites. Some fossil crinoids seemed to have lived attached to floating driftwood. The stem of Pentacrinite can be several meters in length. The largest found was 130 ft in length.

Several diverse crinoids are preserved within the rocks of the USA. The Crawfordsville Limestone of Indiana is full of stalks and calyxes that were deposited in quiet low level oxygen waters. The Mississippian Burlington Limestone of Missouri had crinoids with strong flexible stems allowing the crown to move with the flow of water. The most diverse crinoid population is found in the Middle Ordovician Bromide Formation of Oklahoma. Crinoids here lived in shallow warm water environments. Crinoids with long stems were able to take advantage of food resources at different heights from the sea floor. Crinoid fossils are prominent in the walls of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Crinoids have been found in Kansas City, Mo., eastern Kansas, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Arizona, Georgia, and several others.



Complete crinoid fossils are rare because once they died, they were at the mercy of the waves and were easily broken apart. Some Mississippian limestones are made of crinoid plates and ossicles. For a fossil to be complete, the organism needed to die and be buried quickly in an oxygen poor environment to keep bacteria from breaking down tissue that held the crinoid together.

Crinoids are used by geologist because they can be helpful in determining geological time especially in the middle part of the Paleozoic. Here they evolved quickly. Short periods of time were characterized by only one or two species helping to identify the geological time period.



### *News from the Nominations Committee*

At the October Meeting, nominations were made to elect Shawn Ripley as president, Jay Batcha as vice-president, Susan Hargrove as treasurer, and Al Steffanini as secretary. They were then elected to office with the swearing in ceremony during the November meeting.

### *Welcome to the Fair*

We all had lots of fun at the fair and some of us will still be working through October 17 when it comes down. For those of you who could not attend, we have some photographs to share with you. To see more than what is below, go



to our Facebook page. Hope to see you at the meeting.





**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)

**Vice President:** Bill Mayer, ph. 678-621-3457, [orebilly@gmail.com](mailto:orebilly@gmail.com)

**Editor/ Publicity/ Programs:** Tina Perkins, ph. 478-542-0388, [fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Al Steffanini, ph. 478-396-4279, [aldosteffanini@hotmail.com](mailto:aldosteffanini@hotmail.com)

**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)



In this club we always have something to crow about so let's get digging.



**Remember  
to pay your  
dues!**

**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**

Tina Perkins, editor  
106 Brown Dr.  
Warner Robins, Ga. 31093