



Happy Holidays Rock Hounds Christmas Party

December 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Museum of Arts and Sciences

Please bring a \$5-10 gift that is hobby (rock) related for each person in your family to exchange, a drink for each person, and a side dish for all of us to share. The Club will provide ham and Jay is picking it up.

President 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
Let's Go Diggin'	page 4
Shows	page 5
Fairy Crosses, etc.	page 6
Mark your calendars	page 6
Junior Members	page 6
Dues	page 6
Blast From the Past	page 7
Club Information	page 9

Upcoming Events

Meeting (Party)	Dec. 4
Rocks and more at	
Cross Roads Christian	Dec. 8
Restless Earth MOA	Jan. 6
Teacher Workshop-Tina	
STEAM at Heritage	Feb. 6

President's Message

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be President this year and hope I do well for you. It's that time of year again when the weather is turning cold and we are getting ready for our Christmas Party. Tina will have plenty of information about the party and the scholarship in this newsletter so read carefully.

As your new president I want to know what you want so be prepared for a survey at this Christmas Party. Please let me know if anyone is interested in having a Gem and Mineral show in the spring/summer, I am working on a venue for this. There are two things I would like us as a group to focus on; 1) Growth- what are things we can do to help the club grow? 2) Field Trips- where and what would you like to go dig for? What prevents you from attending a field trip?

We filled three positions at the November meeting; Andrew Warnock will be the new Sunshine Person and Tim Brotzge has agreed to help Jay with Field Trips. George Ruff is going to do some cold calls to local mines to see if we can get in to dig. George is also going to continue doing the Mineral of the Month and the Fossil/Rock of the Month. Tina is going to head up getting a junior group started with meetings one Saturday a month starting in March if not February. Stay tuned for more news.

So, some information about me, I was born in Wenatchee Washington, and at 6 months old my parents moved to British Columbia. I spent 13 years growing up there. We finally ended up moving back to Washington State to my dad's home town called Oroville. Oroville began as a mining camp near the Canadian border in Okanogan County, Washington. Initially known as "Oro," the town's name was lengthened to "Oroville" by the local Post Office when it was established in 1893 to avoid confusion with the Snohomish County city of Oso. After graduating high school, I spent 5 years in the Army as a helicopter mechanic stationed in Germany. I would get a 3 day pass



once a month and go visit different locations in Europe. I was deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm/Shield. I left the military and moved back to Washington State. After 6 years I moved to Alaska and was there for 6 years, coming back to Washington. In 2007 I joined the Army National Guard. I was deployed to Balad Iraq from 2008-2009. While there I was severely injured and still managed to complete my tour. Once home I got married in October of 2009, my daughter in born in June of 2011, and my son was born in September 2012. In 2016 we moved down to Georgia for me to start working at the middle Georgia airport as a composite mechanic. I learned of the Mid Georgia Gem Mineral Society at the 2021 fair and became a member in November. To be continued.....

November Meeting Minutes

Mid Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Club President Jay Batcha called the November 6, 2023 meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with 25 in attendance.

Programs: Tina Perkins introduced our speaker for the night Greg Lewis speaking on Native Plants of Georgia mainly focusing on plants from the Coastal Plains Region. He is a Veteran and owner of Flat Creek Native Nursery in Perry, Ga. selling trees, wildflowers, shrubs, vines, and grasses to increase the host plants and habitats of many Birds, Butterflies and Bees. He had a slide show explaining their practices of Recycling, Reusing, and Repurposing old nursery pots, propagation of seed and cuttings and how to migrate your landscape into a Native Plant Habitat. He also showed how planting host plants plays an important role in attracting specific pollinators giving the example that Milkweed is the only larval host plant for the Monarch Butterfly. Greg regularly takes field trips to observe the beautiful wildflowers and plants saying he was at Sheffield Wildlife Management area with a group recently. He also showed pictures of a

wildflower prairie he was at this week in Oaky Woods (which is also home to fossils of sand dollars, sea urchins, and scallops to name a few) and how they use mowing and controlled burns to manage the area. He talked about being a member of Fringed Campion Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society and their activities of weeding and the removal of invasive species, planting and establishing native plant habitats and promoting conservation by protecting plants and their pollinators. There was a question and answer session after the presentation.

Jay welcomed visitor Lee Paquet, Shawn's friend from the Fine Arts Club. He also welcomed new members Tate Piper; Oliver and Amber Jorden; Bryan, Casey, and Clay Eddins; Heather and Dianna Clem and Xandrya.

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 receiving club yearly dues from some members and there were no expenses other than the Christmas Party coming up. She said \$1180.00 was raised from last Saturday's auction of donated items from club member Tuell Walters.



She mentioned 1674.00 dollars came from sales at the Club's Booth at the Perry Fair last month with 415 Grab Bags sold.

Programs: Tina Perkins said tonight's Speaker was Greg Lewis speaking on Native Plants and



the Clubs Christmas Party in December. She also said Al or Virginia would do February and the other would do May.

Field Trips: Jay said there was a Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip November 11, 2023 in Abbeville, SC. collecting Smokey Quartz and Amythyst with a 20-dollar fee. He mentioned possibly having a Club Field trip to Monticello, Ga. in February collecting Smokey Quartz, Garnets, Amazonite and Feldspar.

Newsletter: Tina said the deadline to put something in the Newsletter is November 12.

Web Master: Pam Mayer said the Club's Webpage had 470 visitors compared to 415 in 2022. She said the web page had 1536 views. She also said during the Fair posts were made daily and one post of an artist in resident who used gemstones in her work had 576 visitors while two other posts had 303 and 254. The average Facebook post reaches 41. We have 184 likes and 223 followers.

Old Business: Jay talked about how the Grab bag sales were down from last year because of the rain and the booth's new location. He said there was some Club T-Shirts left and there was a smaller amount going to made in the future.

New Business: Jay said the Club's Christmas Party in December would have a meat provided by the Club with members bringing a side and their drinks. Members agreed on a Spiral Ham, and he said those attending that wanted to participate in the Gift Swap should bring a \$5-10 gift. He also talked about the scholarship, but said details would be in the newsletter. Tina proposed the Club start a Junior Group Program meeting once a month on Saturdays. Members asked questions and volunteered to help. A motion was made and the club members agreed to have a one-year trial period. She also told everyone the Club's outreach programs at elementary schools to students, programs at the Museum of Aviation for teachers, our display case at the Museum of Aviation, Community Night at Middle Georgia State University, STEAM night at Heritage

Elementary and other events were touching the lives of many children and adults (500+ in the last year). She has presentations scheduled through February and has members already lined up to help. These are all ways to promote the club and the study of geology and earth science.

Mineral of the Month: Aragonite is the M.O.M and George Ruff said it's a Carbonate material of Calcium Carbonate and Calcite. It can be white or colorless with a white streak. Has a MOHs Hardness of 3 ½ to 4 and Specific Gravity of 2.95. Forms in Stalagmites of Sedimentary Rock and is found in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee with uses as Cement and building materials. Members had specimens on display and a raffle was drawn with prizes awarded.

Fossil of the Month: Crinoids is the F.O.M. and George said it's an ancient Marine Animal appearing in the mid Cambrian 200 million years before the dinosaurs. They were referred to as Sea Lillies and are related to Sea Cucumbers and Star Fish. They are found in Indiana, Missouri, and roadcuts in Oklahoma with deposits also in the walls of the Grand Canyon. Members had displays and a raffle followed.

Jay introduced **Shawn Ripley** our newly elected Club President with a passing of the Club's Presidential Briefcase. He also said the club is needing Committee Positions to be filled. Andrew volunteered to be our new Sunshine Chairperson, George said he would be able to make cold calls and will be the Educational Chairperson, and Tim said he would not mind helping with Field Trips.

Shawn introduced himself with a short history of joining the Club and said he would have a survey to pass out at the Christmas Party for members to give their ideas for the Club to move forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



Let's Go Digging

An Official Field Trip of the Rome Georgia
Mineral Society, Rome, GA (HOST)

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

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:00 AM to 2:30 PM Eastern Time

Summerville Crazy Lace Agate

Chattooga County, GA

Limit: 50

Registration Required (link is below)

Fee: None



Specimens collected at Summerville by Jose Santamaria, now part of the Tellus science museum collection

TRIP: This is a great site for children and adults of all skill levels. Everyone will need to sign a release upon arrival.

COLLECTING: This location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. You can also find some druzy quartz and oolitic material.

Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it makes great specimens

BRING: Rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools for (example a small hand rake), buckets, and a spray bottle or bucket with water to wet or rinse the rocks to see the color better. You will also need a hat, safety glasses, sunscreen, and gloves. A small cart or hand truck is great for hauling larger pieces. Also bring fluids and lunch.

IMPORTANT: This is an active quarry. **STAY AWAY** from all heavy equipment and quarry machinery and any places that the trip lead has declared off limits. Anyone who violates these

rules will be asked to leave because any violation could jeopardize future access to this site.

FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children but they will need to be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

PETS: No pets.

FACILITIES: There are NO facilities. Food and restrooms are several miles away in the city of Summerville about 2 miles away.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are not many hotels in the Summerville area, but there are several in Rome and Adairsville.

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: Jose Santamaria at joses@tellusmuseum.org 678.488.9560 or Jeff Deere at jeffdeere1961@gmail.com 770.655.2298.

Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Dig
Saturday, January 13, 2024

Buena Vista, Georgia

10:00 AM- No Fee (Members only)

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 January 13, 2024. 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 from I-75. Turn 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 the 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.



Shows

Please remember that shows as well as field trips can be cancelled. Always check with the sponsors before you head out.

DECEMBER 1-3

DULUTH, GEORGIA:

Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Gas South Convention Center (New Location), 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy; Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; Admission \$8 Cash Only at Door; Select dealers from near and far selling extraordinary minerals, jewelry, gem, fossils, healing stones, beads, crystals, rocks; contact BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com

DECEMBER 1-3

HUDSON, FLORIDA:

Annual show; Withlacoochee Rockhounds; Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$5 Adults. 14 and under FREE; contact Janice Wojcik, (813) 677-6263; Email: jfwojcik@verizon.net

DECEMBER 8-10

SWANNANOVA, NORTH CAROLINA:

Show; MAGMA and Jacquot & Son Mining; Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 39 Spring Cove Road; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; MAGMA, Land of the Sky, Christmas Gem Show! Top vendors offering anything and everything you could want in the mineral/treasure hunting world. Free admission. Open to the public. Food and drink available daily. Clean restrooms. Climate controlled. Come get that perfect Christmas present; contact Richard Jacquot, (828) 779-4501; Email: rickjacquot@gmail.com

DECEMBER 9-10

MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS:

Annual show; Ozark Earth Science Club; Baxter County Fairgrounds, 1507 Fairgrounds Dr, Education Bldg; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$2, Boy scout uniform \$1; Demonstrators, Minerals, fossils, gems, Jewelry. Kids' corner with lots of games; contact Allison; Email: OzarkEarthClub@gmail.com



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.



Fairy Crosses, Rocks, Gems, Minerals, Fossils and Meteorites

Tina and George spent from 7:30-3:00 at Heritage Elementary talking to the students about everything geology including those from outer space. The kids were so excited. One fifth grade student who saw the presentation 2 years ago stopped by to say hello and told Tina that she still had her rock samples. Below are a couple of pictures.



Tina talking about Fairy Crosses (Stauroilite) Presentation shows location where it is found. The students knew about erosion and deposition. The teachers are really getting into geology.



Tina also did properties of minerals. The teachers now want Mohs Hardness Boxes. A big thanks to George who took pictures and did the Meteorite part of the presentation.



Mark your calendars

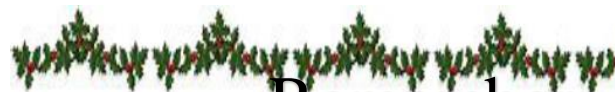
Heritage Elementary STEAM night is February 6th, the day after our first meeting of 2024. George will be out with the telescopes, Tina will be doing science experiments, and James will be showing off rocks. If you would like to volunteer to help, let Tina know.



Junior Meetings

It was approved by the membership to begin a junior version of our club with junior members learning about rocks, minerals, gems, and fossils and being able to do activities. Parents or sponsors of juniors will receive information in January for the first activity which may be a scavenger hunt and dig February 17, 2024 if we can get it arranged. Otherwise, we will start in March. Meetings will be on Saturday mornings for either 2 or 3 hours. Parents are welcome to help. Thank you to Andrew who has already sent his schedule so he can be available to help. I have been wanting to do this since I began going into classrooms doing rock presentations 3 years ago.

Tina



Remember
to pay your
dues by
2/1/24!

Just one important note: There is no meeting in January. Our next meeting is February 5,



2024. There will be no newsletter sent until January 17, 2024. If a field trip comes up, I will send it out by e-mail.

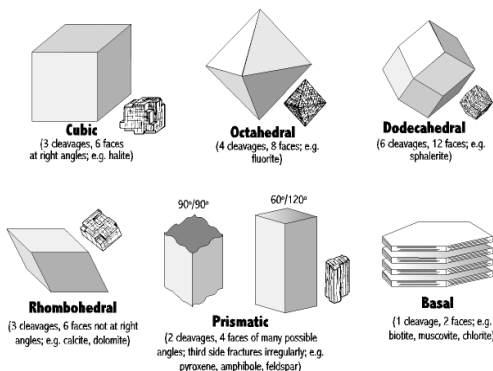
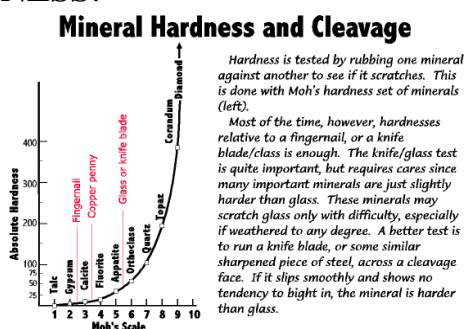
Blast from the Past

The following is from December of 2011 when Jay Batcha was editor.

Hardness and Acid Reaction Tests for Minerals and Rocks

The heart of science is the ability to make accurate observations about the natural world. Two of the most common properties we measure in mineral and rock identification are hardness and reaction with dilute hydrochloric acid. It is very difficult to avoid these two tests. Some guidelines and suggestions are below.

HARDNESS:



The technical tool is the Moh's hardness scale which divide minerals and rocks into ten hardness steps. Practically, though, we

can get away most of the time with harder or softer than glass, and harder or softer than a fingernail (click image for pdf file). For the glass hardness test we use glass plates about 2 inches square, purchased from any hardware or glass supplier. Students place the glass on a hard, flat surface, and then firmly run the specimen across the glass - sometimes several times to make sure the test is accurate.

The cautions are: One, sometimes a specimen will rub off on the glass rather than scratching it. Run a fingernail across the glass to feel for a nick.

Two, some specimens softer than glass are contaminated with things harder than glass and will give a false test. Rub several times in several places to be sure.

Three, many important minerals are just slightly harder than glass, so it takes care to do a good hardness test. (And frustratingly, if the specimen is weathered it will give a false test.)

HCl ACID REACTION:

Carbonate minerals and rocks (in example those that have calcite and/or dolomite in them, such as limestones, dolostone, and marble) are very common, and the quickest way to identify them is with an acid reaction.

The acid used is dilute hydrochloric acid. Just a few percent solution is good enough, and never more than 10 percent. We keep it in a squeeze or dropper bottle so that just a drop at a time can be placed on the specimen. And we wash the specimen well each time. Acid this weak will not hurt you, but it will eat holes in your clothes.

Any rock with calcite reacts quickly



with large bubbles. Dolomite, however, reacts very slowly, and pure dolomite must be powdered to get even a weak reaction, very fine, slow bubbles. Calcite and dolomite are a solid solution series; that is, there is a complete intergradation from 100% of one to 100% of the other, so in between there are intermediate reactions.

The biggest caution, aside from safety, is that many non-carbonate rocks are contaminated with more or less small amounts of calcite. These contaminated rocks react just as well as pure carbonate rocks, sometimes better. It takes careful observation to be sure, but look for a residue that did not react with the acid. This is a good indication that something else is in the rock, or may even be most of the rock.

Lynn S. Fichter © 2000
(Fichtels@Jmu.Edu)

Department of Geology and Environmental
Science

James Madison University, Harrisonburg,
Virginia 22807



Hope you have been good this year!!!
Coal is a sedimentary organic rock.

**December 2013 article about what to use to clean rocks. Jay Batcha was editor at this time.

**Household Products That Can Be Used as
Rock Cleaners
by Betsy Martin**

Safety Note: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud® or Barkeeper's Friend® cleansers.

Both contain oxalic acid. Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.

2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) - dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything in acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for awhile to leach out any acid remaining in crystals seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex® to neutralize remaining traces of acid.

3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) - dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments. See above.

4. Calgon® - Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.

5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above).

6. Iron Out® (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.

7. Bleach - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in area used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.

8. Hydrogen peroxide - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.

9. Citric acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.

10. Windex® (with ammonia) - A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.

11. Distilled water - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment. Removing Thin Coatings: On moderately hard minerals use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive)



and a toothbrush. On hard minerals use a toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On Calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away® and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acids from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto® knife, single edge razor blades, inexpensive small stiff bristle brushes.

[The Collecting Bag, date unknown via The RockCollector 10/2010]

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: Shawn Ripley, phone: 509-499-5946
ripleystudio@yahoo.com

Vice Pres./ Programs/ Field Trips: Jay Batcha, 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216, ph. 478-957-5002 rocky1s@cox.net

Secretary: Al Steffanini, ph. 478-396-4279,
aldosteffanini@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Susan Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-837-5327,
susanbphilh@pstel.net

Editor/ Programs/ Jrs: Tina Perkins, ph. 478-542-0388, fossilhunterofgeorgia@gmail.com

Education Chair/ Field Trip Helper: George Ruff, 706-648-6986 gsruffsr@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair: Andrew Warnock, 478-230-0803
aswarnock@gmail.com

Field Trip Helper: Tim Brotzge.
tim.brotzge@gmail.com 770-772-8644

Web Master/ Facebook: Pam Mayer,
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

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