



### Time for a meeting!

#### June 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Museum of Arts and Sciences

Come early to chat with the early birds. Don't forget this month is your favorite rock, gem, mineral or fossil. Be prepared to talk about it. We will also be having a rock swap, snacks (bring your favorite), and rock ID (no more than 5 please).

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#### Upcoming Events

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Meeting                    | June 03 |
| June Juniors Meeting       | June 08 |
| Hogg Mine                  | June 08 |
| Flag Day                   | June 14 |
| Grab Bag Stuffing at Jay's | June 22 |

#### *President's Message*

Hello to all! First off, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be club president. I have enjoyed the experience and hope that I have brought some positive changes to the club. As we move into the summer months and have a break from the meetings remember to stay safe

and stay hydrated. Take the time to go out and explore, turn over some rocks, spend time with the family. Don't forget to look up and enjoy the beauty of the world around us.

Thank you to Virginia for the great presentation on her and Nathan's trip to Scotland. They managed to get a lot done on their trip.

We will be setting up another auction August 23, 2024 for the material from Tuell's estate. There will not be a speaker for the June but we ask for you to bring your favorite specimen and give a small talk about what it is and why you like it. We will also be doing a rock swap; do you have a lot of something? Bring some in and trade with other for material they have. We will be doing a rock ID, but keep it down to 5 or less, remember others will be bring material to have ID as well. Juniors it is time to stump Jay again. Please bring in a simple side dish to add to the snacks. Juniors who have completed the collection portion of their first badge will also talk about their specimens. There will also be a grab bag stuffing party at Jay's house on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 as we try to fill 300-415 bags.

President Shawn

#### *May Meeting Minutes*

Club President Shawn Ripley called the May 6, 2024 meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with 22 in attendance.

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

**Treasurer Report:** Susan Hargrove gave bank C.D. and savings balances. She mentioned paying the bill for the food at the picnic and said approximately 1200 dollars was raised from the auction.

**Programs:** Tonight's Speaker is club member Virginia Kring. Bring your favorite rock, mineral, or Fossil to the June Meeting. Also, a rock I.D., rock swap and JR Rockhounds will present some of the stuff they're working on. Jay also said if we had time, we would dig



through some gravel in the Museum picnic area that has some fossils and rocks of interest.

**Field Trips:** Jay Batcha said the Club Dig at the Kaolin mine in Irwinton, GA. was good with 16 diggers and had a sample case of collected items on display. He also said there was great weather, lots of material to dig and Members finding many Fossils. Jay also talked about the picnic /auction saying 31 were in attendance with good food and approximately 1200 dollars was raised for Tuell Walters and the Club from auctioning some of his collection. He mentioned two DMC Digs, Chunkey Gal Mountain May 18<sup>th</sup> and Hogg Mine June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter:** Tina Perkins said the deadline to put something in the newsletter was May 12, 2024. No newsletter in July or August.

**Mineral of the Month:** Jay said Corundum was used in industrial bearings, sandpaper, and jewelry. It is the 2nd hardest mineral with a Mohs of 9 (Diamond is hardest with 10). In the gem form Ruby is red in color from chromium and Sapphires are blue from titanium. He mentioned the first working Laser was from synthetic Ruby Crystals.

**Fossil of the Month:** Tina said Fossil Bi-Valves are a type of Mollusks, Clams, Scallops, and Oysters have two sides with a hinge. Found in Chert and in Limestone between 28 to 37 million years old in our area. They are found in the Georgia Counties of Houston, Pulaski and Wilkenson Some especially those in Florida usually have Calcite in them.

**Makers Challenge** this month was anything Lapidary related and there were 10 members with entries four from JRs.

Members had many specimens on display. A raffle was held for each one, and prizes were awarded.

**Old Business:** Shawn talked about the club's purchase of first aid kits. He had printouts of several kits and members chose one and approved the purchase.

**New Business:** Shawn asked if there was a date for a Grab Bag Stuffing get together. Jay said it

could be at his house maybe in June and Tina would have 300-415 bags ready. A conversation came up for raising the price of the bags at the Fair and was tabled till next meeting.

Shawn also said he would be stepping down as Club President after June because of a Job opportunity up North.

Speaker of the month: Shawn introduced Club Member Virginia Kring speaking on her family's 10-day trip to Scotland in 2023 with a slide show of all the Castles, Bridges, Lochs, Events and Museums they visited. Her Clan gathers every year to participate in Family Events such as Wool Waulking, Bag Pipe Piping Ceremonies, and Traditional Scottish Highland Games.



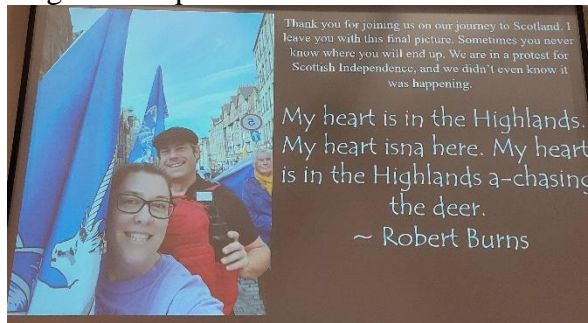
Virginia and her husband renewed their wedding vows with family on their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary while there. Her husband also actively participates in the Highland Games of pole tossing, foot race and tug of war in Scotland and in the States. Her pictures showed amazing mountain and countryside views and said that everything was made from stone and had collected small souvenir stones from each location they visited. She talked about the History of these places and their wars and Royal Families.



Her pictures of the inside were of Art, Tapestries, Swords, Guns, Gemstone Jewelry, and her favorite the Tusk of the Narwhal



Whale. She talked about the Film Industry in Scotland with movies shot at iconic sites they visited such as, Outlander, Brave Heart, James Bond, and Harry Potter saying they rode the Hogwarts Express Train.



She had a table display with books, kilts, maps, a sword, medals her husband had won in the games, and a four-leaf clover. A question-and-answer session followed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



## Let's Go Digging

An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL) (Host)

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

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Meet at 8:30 AM Eastern Time

Collect from 9:00 AM until 5 PM

Hogg Mine

LaGrange, GA

Registration Required (link is below)

Fee: \$35 per person over 16

TRIP: The Hogg Mine started out as the Oxford Mine in 1942 to mine beryl to produce beryllium. Commercial operations shut down in 1960. The site has been opened off and on since then for specimen mining and is currently

managed by Chris Painter. The site is a surface mine pit approximately 650 feet long with an east – west orientation. This trip will proceed rain or shine!

COLLECTING: The parking area is at the east end of the pit. As you enter the pit from the parking area there is a trench approximately 150 feet long and to your right. Large green aquamarine beryl and pockets of green aquamarine beryl have been found here. As you enter the main pit area, there is a tailing or spoil pile to your left that came out of the pit in front of you. There have been several large nice gemmy aquamarine beryl specimens come from this area. The main pit in front of you has a plethora of treasures: rose quartz, smoky quartz, banded quartz, beryl in matrix with the quartz, tourmaline in matrix with the quartz, etc. The last area of note is at the western end at the back of the pit. A new smaller pit has been dug in the last year and some very nice blue aquamarine beryl has been found. The new pit was dug because an old drilling report had indicated that amethyst was found. There are pieces of amethyst coming from the new pit.



BRING: Bring all the tools you have: pick, shovel, screen, rock hammer, hand sledge, rock chisel, bucket, hand cart, etc. The Hogg does sell some tools in limited quantities. It would be a good idea to bring an extra change of clothes. The pit can be muddy and wet.

REQUIREMENTS: Arrive at the mine before 9:00 AM Eastern (8:00 AM Central) to pay,





complete paperwork, and receive a safety briefing. The mine crew will direct you where to park. Follow directions of the on-site crew. Practice social distancing from groups you are not part of. For more information visit <https://www.hoggmine.com/?adlt=strict>  
FEE: \$35 per person 17 years and older. 16 and under dig free

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).

CHILDREN: Yes, bring the whole family. Please supervise your children. There must be one paying adult for every four children under 17.

PETS: No.

FACILITIES: There are stores and fast-food restaurants within about 3 miles of the mine site.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are several hotels in LaGrange within 4 miles of the mine.

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: Anthony Zwilling (256) 541-8894; [afzwillling@gmail.com](mailto:afzwillling@gmail.com)

## ***Shows***

As always check before you go to make sure everything is a go for the show.

Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club  
Saturday June 1, 2024

Piedmont Triad Farmers Market  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Colfax, NC  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Piedmont Outdoors Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show with 40 vendors. Gem mining sluice, handmade jewelry and wire wrapping, free geodes cut on site for kids 12 and under, g4em trees, mineral specimens, cabochons, beads, fossils, crystals, books, t-shirts, and ball caps, grand prize raffle, half hour prizes. Free admission and free parking. Attendance ranges from 2500-4000.

[www.ggmc-rockhounds.com](http://www.ggmc-rockhounds.com)

Gaston Co. Gem and Mineral Club  
June 8-9, 2024

Johan Newcombe Event Center  
1840 E. Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
Summer Gemboree

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show  
Saturday 10-6  
Sunday 10-4

Rocks, Minerals, gems, fossils, sluice mining and geode cracking outside!  
Fun for the whole family!  
No Admission Fee

[gastongemclub.weebly.com](http://gastongemclub.weebly.com)

## **Irwinton Dig Pictures KaMin Kaolin Mine**



Checking out the mounds



Large shells



Beautiful Day to play in the dirt



Sample finds- they also found shark's teeth, coral, and bauxite.



Fun time for all

## Junior Meeting

June will have Juniors who are ready with 10 specimens identified to present either June 3<sup>rd</sup> or June 8<sup>th</sup>. Juniors bring your specimens June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 to present. Also bring 5 specimens to be identified and let's see if we can stump Jay again. We will meet from 10:00-1:00 on June 8<sup>th</sup> at my house. We will work on badge materials, wire wrapping shark's teeth for the fossil tree and dying grab bags for the fair. A light lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there. These are the new rules for the photo contest for the juniors. Entries will be submitted to me. The Club officers will decide which two are submitted to the contest.

### Jr. Photo Contest Rules:

We are holding a contest for the clubs' juniors to submit a photo of rock, minerals, gems, and lapidary items in the form of the year "2025" to be used on the officer's page of the SFMS website. The following are the rules for the contest.

1. Each submission by a club Junior (1<sup>st</sup> thru 12 grade).
2. Photo submission deadline – TBD
3. Two submissions per club, max
4. Each submission by individual, not club.
5. Each submission must have a description of the items used to build the numbers in the year. Please have a look at this year's page:  
<https://www.southeastfed.org/officers>
6. Winner's picture will be used for all of 2025.
7. All submissions will be added to a website gallery (carousel).
8. The winner will be selected blindly by the State Directors.
9. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting.
10. The image must be at least 1200 pixels across.
11. If taken with a cell phone, hold the cell phone horizontal to aid in the resolution.
12. The image must show 2025 clearly.





### SFMS junior chairs will

1. receive the entries (all untried submitted to youth@southeastfed.org and youth1@southeastfed.org)
2. Youth Chairs will save them on the SFMS Google Workspace in a 2024 Contest folder.
3. Youth Chairs will send a link to that folder to the SFMS judges (State Directors)

### The State Directors will

1. Download the score sheet and tally spreadsheet.
2. Judge by score sheet and tally each submission to the spreadsheet.
3. Send their completed score sheet/spreadsheet to the SFMS junior chairs to total. 3. SFMS Juniors chairs will compile a master spreadsheet so it would be easier to add up the scores.
4. Announce the winner at the Annual SFMS meeting.

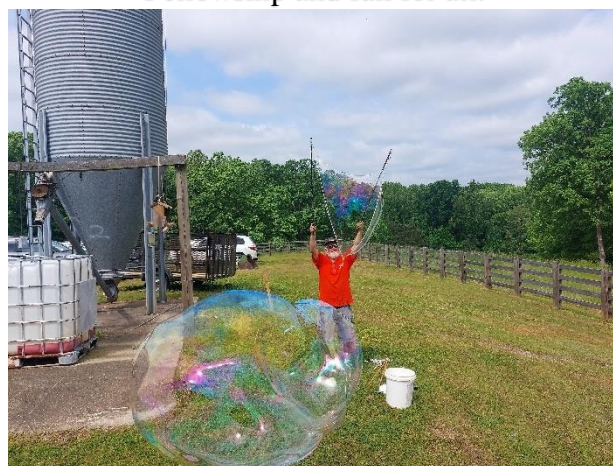
## Club Picnic and Auction Pictures



Lots of food to fill us up.



Fellowship and fun for all.



Bill showing the kids how to make bubbles.



Anyone for a game of corn hole?





Let the Auction begin with everyone bidding from a seated position.

Setting up for the mineral of the month, fossil of the month, and the Master's Challenge.



Virginia setting up for her presentation.

## May Meeting Pics



Junior Meeting to discuss their first badge assignments taking place at 6:30 before the regular club meeting.

## Member Update

Tuell is still in rehab at Warner Robins Rehab and would love to have visitors. Take some rocks and he will ID them for you. Betty Sue is home. Glad she is better. Shawn was in and out of the hospital before the picnic and is doing better.

## Look up as well as Down

Most of the time my eyes are on the ground when I am out walking in the woods or on the beach. I am always looking for a unique rock, gem, mineral, fossil, shell, or plant even. This past weekend has been a little different (I even got my telescope out).

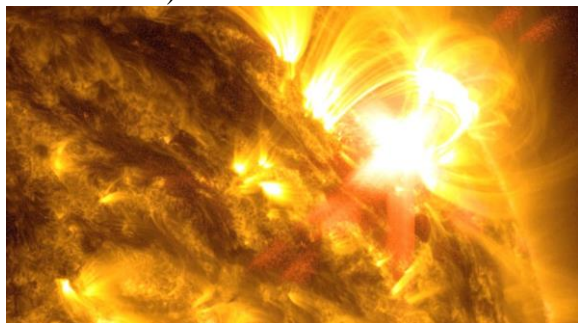
May 10-12 has been special for many of us who have never seen the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). I never thought I would see them in Georgia. The Auroras (Aurora Australis in the south) are a natural display in the earth's atmosphere caused by a disturbance in the earth's magnetosphere caused by the solar winds. Major disturbances are caused by coronal mass ejections. CME's are often associated with solar flares and other forms of solar activity. These disturbances in the magnetic field of the earth can also cause



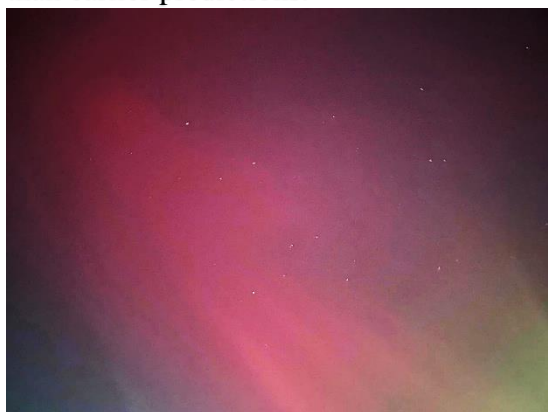


damage to the power grids. The largest on record occurred in 1859 and it was a disaster for the newly created United States telegraph network. It started fires and gave electrical shocks to telegraph operators.

The picture below of a strong solar flare was captured by NASA on May 8, 2024(credit: NASA/SDO).



The sun goes through periods of low solar flare activity and high activity every 11 years. NOAA predicted that the solar maximum would occur between January and October 2024 and is expected to be longer and stronger than earlier predictions.



This was at my house on May 10, 2024. Even the stars were shining. Have a great summer.  
Editor

## **Blast from the Past**

**Safety Hints for the summer by Jay Batch June 2015 when he was editor of the newsletter.**

As we go out in this warmer weather, let's keep in mind some basic safety issues so that we don't get hurt.

- 1) Be aware of where you step, reach in to, or grab as there are snakes everywhere and not all of them are friendly or non-poisonous.
- 2) Wear a good sun block when outside to protect your skin.
- 3) With the warmer weather, we need to be aware of the dangers of dehydration. So keep plenty of water on hand for drinking.
- 4) Be aware of the weather and if a thunderstorm were to occur while on a dig, return to your vehicle and wait for it to pass. Do not congregate under trees as there is always a risk of lightning strike.
- 5) Wear a hat to protect your head from the sun, if you are in a mining pit, always wear a hard hat and safety glasses.
- 6) As always, wear steel toe or hard sole, sturdy shoes when digging.

Like I said, with the warmer months we must be aware of not only the snakes, but the insects as well. Keep a good insect repellent with you. Also, watch out for brown recluse spiders. They are common in our area. Another insect to keep an eye out for are the fire ants. Other insects to watch out for are bees, hornets and yellow jackets. If you steer clear of these, you will have a successful dig.

So, have a great summer!!! Be safe!!! Have fun!!!  
Dig up lots of rocks!!!



## **A note to remember**

After the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, we do not have any club meetings in July and August (off for the summer) nor will you receive a newsletter. The next newsletter should be the September Newsletter at comes out in the middle of August. I will send everyone an e-mail for the digs and important news during these months.





The next meeting will be on Tuesday,  
September 3, 2024. Kim Cochran is scheduled  
to be our speaker.

**Have a great summer!**

**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.

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

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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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