



It may be Halloween,
but I want crystals not candy!!!

Monday October 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Museum of Arts and Sciences

Come early to chat with the early birds. This month is about getting to know each other and showing off some of our finds. Bring the mineral of the month Sand (read it carefully because you may have something to bring) and the rock of the month Obsidian to the meeting. For the Maker's challenge bring 15+ ornaments for the tree (see note on page 4). Pam Mayer will be talking about her experience at William Holland and will be showing off some of her work. She is keeping Bill busy making cabochons.

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Prez box October 2025

We certainly had a good meeting in September. There was plenty to talk about and discuss as this is an active time of the year for the club.

Many good ideas were brought forward concerning the Fair, elections, and our Christmas Tree.

What all do you think of our 'zoom' meeting? Is it something you would like to see more of? Jay is considering doing more of these as it would definitely expand our program base. We are still working on our filling the President position for 2026. It is the last piece of the nomination slate. Standing up in front of everyone is certainly uncomfortable for most folks, with me included, but we all know each other now, which makes it so much easier. Just a reminder, all chairs and committee members are appointed by the president and the board of directors. If there is a position you would like to do or participate in, please let a board member know. In addition, if you are good with finances, we will need a new board of trustee to serve a 3-year term. Please notify the nomination committee if so interested.

I am looking forward to seeing Pam's presentation on her new found wire wrapping skills. My cabochon supply has been dwindling dramatically since she has started. She is eager to share what she has learned at the William Holland workshop.

See you at the meeting!!

Prez Bill

SPECIAL NOTICE: Bylaws revision

This revision to the Constitution has been delayed for quite a while now. It is time to finally bring it to the membership for review and comment. The board needed to come up with a solution in writing to finalize who had the authority to sign our club's checks. This is what we came up with and how it will appear in the Constitution.

We will add to Section 7 nominating committee.:

"The Nominating Committee shall also select one Board of Trustee and one Member-at-large to serve as the clubs financial check co-signer. Member-at-large term as signer shall be one



year, The trustee term shall end when his board position expires.

Add to the duties of the treasurer, Section 4.

“All checks require two signatures with one being that of the treasurer, and the other being either the President, the Selected Board of Trustee member, or the selected member-at-large. Second signatures shall be members in good standing recommended by the executive board to the board of trustees for approval. The Treasurer and approved second signature shall execute documents for a Certificate of deposit.” In addition...

Adding to the By-laws, Article 3 Duties of the Board of Trustees

(new) Section 6. Executive committee shall, no less than annually during the month of February, provide an accounting of all expenditures and income sources to the Board of trustees. The same accounting shall also be made available to the membership for review. Board of Trustees shall work in Conjunction with the executive committee regarding any recommendations or adjustments to the Society's typical financial operating methods.

The Constitution requires a two-thirds member vote if a quorum is present, (eight members and two elected officials). Bring your thoughts on this to the meeting as we will have this for discussion under new business.

September Meeting Minutes

Mid Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Club President Bill Mayer called the September 2, 2025 meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with 20 in attendance. Bill welcomed new member Stephanie Avery.

Speaker: Bill said tonight's speaker was Charles Carter via a Zoom Call speaking on - Gypsum. He had a slide show and said Gypsum was a Mineral composed of Calcium Sulfate with a MOHs hardness of 1.5 to 2 and is used widely as fertilizer, drywall, and carving. Also, saying there were 3 types- Alabaster, Selenite

and Satin Spar with examples of Desert Rose, Gypsum Needles, and Rams Horns. Charles and his wife Lori have collected Gypsum in Arkansas and said it was also found in New Mexico, Oklahoma and in the Oceans. He showed a picture of Selenite Crystals from a cave in Mexico that are 40 feet tall and saying in that area there was Selenite growing in the sewers from sewage. 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 said there was no activity in June and August with a couple of checks in July. Programs: Bill said tonight's speaker was Charles Carter on Gypsum, Pam Mayer in October giving a presentation on her Club Scholarship Wire Wrapping Class at William Holland. Tina said Eddie Williams had volunteered for November and George Ruff would talk about his Ohio trip in February.

Field Trips: Bill said we need to plan for our Club Sponsored DMC dig we are hosting in March 2026 saying we need suggestions on a location. Jay Batcha is working on one location, and members suggested some others to investigate.

Outreach: Tina Perkins and Katelyn Cline are representing the Club September 6, 2025 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences on Georgia Day also Shawn Ripley and Jason Boan are at the Museum October 4, 2025 on Fossil Day. Tina also mentioned a STEM event in February 2026.

Web Master: Pam Mayer said there was 8366 views for the year with 617 followers on Facebook. She also said Virginia Kring will be the new social media and Webmaster for the Club.

Sunshine: Andrew Warnock asked for names of any Club Members needing cards. Bill said Kim Cochran was our scheduled speaker tonight but he could not make it due to having



surgery. Tina said Andrew had already sent a card.

Old Business: Bill said Club members put on a Gold Recovery Demonstration, 2 STEM activities, a Rock display, and Fossil display with 12 Members volunteering at St. Josephs School in July. He said there was 435 grab bags stuffed at Jays house for the Fair with 8 volunteers and mentioned there were Club Logo T-Shirts on the table for members who haven't got one. We have a total of 504 bags this year.



Loaded down table of grab bag minerals, rocks, gems, shells, and shark's teeth. (Picture by Al)



Club members filling bags and tying bags. Pic by Al

New Business: Bill said the Club's Booth at the Ga National Fair, will be setup on September 27, 2025 10 AM to 4 PM and had schedules on the table of member's dates and times for working the booth. He also had a signup sheet for members to guess the number of grab bags sold at the fair this year with the

winner getting a free one-year membership. He talked about the Elections in November saying there was an opening for President (Shawn volunteered). There will also be a Club Auction on October 25, 2025 for some more of the Milner Collection. He asked did the Club want to have another Christmas Tree entered in the Museum of Arts and Sciences Festival of Trees and members agreed. The theme would be Gems, Minerals, Rocks, and Fossils, saying 150 ornaments were needed. Many volunteered to make and bring ornaments (maker's challenge) to the October Club meeting.

M.O.M. and F.O.M.: Rutile was the mineral of the month and anything Dino was the Fossil of the month. Tate Piper discussed each entry and a Raffle followed with prizes awarded.

Makers Challenge: Anything members made during the summer break was the challenge and many entries were submitted. Virginia Kring talked about the entries and a Raffle with prizes followed. Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini

Pictures from the meeting!!!



First zoom presentation on Gypsum. Pic by Al



Setting up the tables for be to look over. Pic by Al



Juniors and others looking over the Maker's Challenge. Pic by Al

Maker's Challenge for October

For this month we want you to bring in 15 or more decorations for our Gem, Mineral, Rock, and Fossil tree that will help decorate for the Festival of Trees at the Museum. The tree needs to be different each year so if you would like to have your ornaments back, they will be photographed and put in a bag with your name. You will pick them up at the February meeting.

Mineral of the Month

SAND

(Silicon dioxide- quartz)

(Calcium carbonate- aragonite)

(Calcium sulfate- gypsum)

Sand is a complex material, but if we break it down into its different categories then everyone probably has some form of sand. People who collect sand are called Arenophiles. According to a 1921 Georgia Geological Survey Bulletin, there are 3 types of sand; silica, calcite, and black, but then others go into much greater detail.

Sand is a non-renewable resource over human time scales; some sands took millions of years to form. Sand is in a high demand for concrete and not all sand can be used for

concrete. 50 billion metric tons of beach sand and fossil sand are used each year.

Let's look at some of the descriptions. Sand can be characterized by origin. Residual sand is sand that stays right by the rock it was weathered from. Aqueous sand is found in streams, lakes, lake beaches, and old lake beds. Glacial sand is that left behind by glaciers and is found in the northern most states. Aeolian sand is windblown and the Sahara Desert is a good example. Sands that are of organic origin make up oolites and are found around the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Volcanic sand originates from active volcanoes that emit lapilli. These are found in the Western US. Concentration sand is formed with sand is left behind during the evaporation of water leaving behind minerals such as Gypsum in New Mexico. Erosion breaks down rocks. When granite breaks down it forms a sand which contains quartz, feldspar, mica, and hornblende. Sandstone and arkose produce quartzose and feldspathic sand. Limestone and marble rarely produce calcareous sand. Shales and slates produce clay and silt but not sand.

Sand size- USCS (Unified Soil Classification System) Particles with a diameter between 0.074 and 4.75mm. Geologists use 0.0625mm to 2mm according to what I read. Sand is between gravel and silt. Sand always feels gritty between your fingers and silt feels smooth.

The most common type of sand consists of eroded particles from the continental rocks which are mainly silicon dioxide or quartz.



Quartz sand- Wikipedia

Quartz is resistant to weathering and is bright white although there can be iron staining.



Chlorite and glauconite sands are green from basaltic lava with olivine.



Olivine sand above and Magnetite below- Wikipedia

Magnetite sand is dark black from basalts and obsidian.



Southern Europe has beaches with yellow sand from impurity of iron compounds. Sand in some areas have gemstones such as garnet. The white sands of New Mexico are made of gypsum. It was once a shallow sea and with evaporation gypsum deposits were left behind. This is also one of our newest national parks as of December 2019.



Pic from Travelusa.com

Article by editor

Rock of the Month OBSIDIAN

Obsidian is chiefly composed of silica (65 - 70 percent), together with a significant amount

of various impurities. It is these impurities which are responsible for the various colors and patterns which distinguish the more valuable varieties. Like glass, it is an amorphous solid - that is, the volcanic material cooled too rapidly for crystalline structures to form.

Some Obsidian contains trapped gas bubbles. These are sometimes stretched into threadlike inclusions. Examples are also known which contain visible bubbles that hold water. Yet others have various other minerals mixed into the stone.

Obsidian is found in volcanically active regions worldwide. Important sources for gem varieties are in Italy, the Caucasus Mountains (Georgia, Armenia, Russia), Mexico, Italy, and the western United States. The world's largest Obsidian flow is located at Newberry National Monument, in Oregon.

Forms found in the marketplace...

Americanite or **Columbianite** - a grayish-pink variety from Columbia.

Apache Tears - small translucent to transparent nodules of brownish color, found in Arizona in Pumice/Perlite deposits. These stones are usually offered tumbled smooth, due to the difficulty of cutting with saws or other tools.

Banded (aka *Onyx*) **Obsidian** - applied to varieties exhibiting stripes of different colors.

Burns Green - an opaque form found near Burns, Oregon. The color is generally a mossy green, some of which contain areas of aqua. Many examples display a velvety sheen. Burns Green is a rare variety which sometimes appears in high end items and collectors' pieces.

Fire Obsidian - an ultra-rare, expensive variety from Oregon which has extreme, multi-color flashes in layers. The colorful effect is sort of a cross between a *Black Opal*, *Spectrolite* and *Fire Agate* - though the material is much rarer than any of these. Usually made into cabochons, but also



occasionally seen in high-end flaked collectors' arrowheads and blades. Mahogany and Sheen types are sometimes mistakenly labeled as "fire obsidian" - make sure that the photo shows the more colorful rare variety when you encounter a listing for Fire Obsidian.

Flower Obsidian - a variety of *Snowflake Obsidian* in which the crystals have coloring (due to mineral staining or minerals present in the obsidian itself).

Leopard Skin and Lizard Skin - multi-colored, mottled types, usually reddish-brown, brown and black.

Mahogany Obsidian - reddish orange to reddish brown streaked with black. Some of this resembles wood grain or burl and others have bolder patterns. All of it is spectacular.

Marskanite - a gray to gray-brown variety from Siberia.

Midnight Lace Obsidian - shows a mixture of black and clear layers in a somewhat contorted, lace-like pattern. Some *Lace* Obsidians contain multiple colors.

Peanut Obsidian - a somewhat rare and unusual grayish Obsidian from Mexico which contains round, orange to reddish-brown inclusions (composed of *Labradorite* and *Iron*) which appear as spheres radiating lines.

Pitchstone - this variety has a dull surface, due to the growth of small crystals which form as the Obsidian begins to degrade (i.e., either through great age, or because the molten stone did not cool as quickly as do other Obsidians).

Pumpkin Obsidian - an orange-brown, sometimes mixed with streaks of black or other color

Red Obsidian - this term usually refers to *Mahogany* Obsidian which is a reddish brown. A fairly strong red variety is known from Mexico, though fairly rare. Colored glass or treated (remelted and enhanced)

manufactured reds are also seen being sold as "natural" Obsidian.

Sheen Obsidian - this is a family of valued types which consists of sub-types categorized according to the effect or color displayed. Microscopic bubbles and/or crystals of *Feldspar* or *Mica* trapped in the Obsidian result in a chatoyant (iridescent) sheen when the stone is viewed from certain angles.

There are several types. As gemstones, these are usually cut into rounded cabochons or carved to show the optical effect to advantage. They are also occasionally found in high-end knapped arrowheads and blades. The background can vary in color from black to brownish with the glow flashing across the surface as the stone is turned in the light...

- *Golden Sheen* or *Cat's Eye* - reddish to gold, metallic flash. This variety is often seen in stones which have a brown or mottled brown and black background. When properly cut, it makes a very interesting display.
- *Green Sheen* - olive-green to slightly sea-green iridescence.
- *Plum Sheen* - rose to reddish-purple glow.
- *Rainbow* - layers of differently colored sheen are exposed by careful cutting. Quality stones come from Mexico, California and Oregon.
- *Peacock* - similar to *Rainbow*, but somewhat softer and usually with a less glossy polish
- *Royal Blue* and *Royal Purple Sheen* - this particular variety is from California, and the colors in good quality stones can be quite intense.
- *Silver Sheen* - silvery gray shimmer which, in the more desirable specimens, displays an almost metallic effect.
- *Velvet* - microscopic bubbles give the stone a matte surface (California and Mexico) in several shades.



Snowflake Obsidian (aka *Flower Obsidian*) - the snowflake (or flower) pattern is caused by areas of the glass which have begun to crystalize during the cooling process. These crystals can range widely in size.

Article by Jay Batcha 8/ 2 /2011

Junior Rock Hounds

Our meeting on September 13 was cancelled due to all the germs that go around when kids go back to school. Next meeting and it will be a long one to catch us up will be October 18th from 10:00-1:00. If you have not presented 10 specimens, bring your 10 and we will see if we can get you ready to present in November. We will also be doing some wire wrapping and learning about crystal structure. We still have drinks. I will get the meat and bread for sandwiches. Parents add to it as you see fit. I will be more specific at the next club meeting.

Thinking ahead:

* Mark your calendars for October 25, 2025 for our next auction. It will start with item preview at 9:30AM followed by the auction at 10:00AM.

* Nominations: Pres. Shawn Ripley, VP Tate Piper, Sec. Al Steffanini, Treasurer Susan Hargrove. If you would like to serve as a trustee contact Tina, Shawn, or Tate.
Editor



**Let's Go
Digging**

An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society (Columbia, SC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid. Ga. Gem and Mineral Society
Saturday, October 4, 2025
8 a.m. Eastern Time arrival (8:30 am departure)

Morris Island
Charleston, SC
Limit: 48 People

Fee: \$61 per person

TRIP: Hop aboard for a family-friendly adventure that takes you straight to the sandy shores of a wild barrier island. This tour is part boat cruise, part beach day - all fun. It's a 4-hour trip ending at 12:30. The boat leaves the dock at 8:30 am. DO NOT BE LATE.

Shows

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society
October 17 – 19, 2025

[8807 Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN](#)

Knoxville Gem and Mineral 34th Annual Show located at Rothchild Conference Center at 8807 Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN Eastern Time Zone. October 17th Friday 10AM- 6PM, 18th Saturday 10AM - 6PM and 19th Sunday 11AM - 5PM, Admission Adults \$8.00, 3 day pass \$ 15.00, Children under 12 Free. Grand Prize Drawing Link(s): [Facebook Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society](#)

St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club
October 18 – 19, 2025

[MidFlorida Event Center 9221 SR Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952](#)

Our 48th annual club show, featuring rocks and gems, minerals, hand crafted jewelry, tools and supplies, specimens, fossils and much more!
Saturday October 18th 2025 9:00 -5:00 and
Sunday October 19th 10:00 - 4:00. Admission is \$6.00, children with an adult are free. There will be displays, demonstrations and raffles.



Schedule for 2025-2026

Date	Mineral	Rock	Fossil
10/6	Sand	Obsidian	
11/3	Rhodochrosite		Crinoids
2/2*	Native element	Granite	
3/2	Chalcopyrite		Fish
4/6	Fluorite	Marble	
5/4	Opal		Shark

*Gold, Silver, Platinum, Copper, Bismuth, Antimony, Sulfur, Diamond, Graphite, etc.

Outreach- Tina

Georgia Day at the Museum- pics by Tina



Gave away 24 coloring books with our brochure as the cover and 8 brochures. Made 24 fossil imprints with kids. Had a display of Graves Mountain Material and gave out handouts about it. Sold 10 grab bags.



Geology of the regions of Georgia (coastal plains, Blue Ridge, Appalachian Plateau, and ridge and valley with students from Purdue Primary in Warner Robins. This is in their curriculum this year.



Students checking out various rocks.
Pics by Dawn Hardy



Rock Club at Heritage Elementary
Starting our rock boxes. The six students in the club this year received lepidolite as their first mineral. Thanks Jay, for the left-over materials.



Pic by Tina



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:

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Web Master/ Facebook: Pam Mayer, [pam5mayer at 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.



Rockhound

Don't forget Dues will be due in November!!!

Thanks Shawn, for letting me use the Rockhound.



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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