



April Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
April 01, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Jay Batcha will be the speaker:

Jay will be talking about St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg and what minerals and stone went into building it.

March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Jim Souter with 16 members/guests present.

Old Business

The treasurers' report was read and approved. We signed up a two new members at the meeting. The new member introduced themselves and talked about their experience. There was further discussion about sponsoring a fund raiser at Smiley's Flea market in Macon when the weather is more cooperative.

New Business

This month's mineral was sulfur and several members brought in specimens to share. Our own Mr. Tuell Walters, longtime member and one of our resident experts was our speaker for the evening. He gave a talk on collecting specimens and the qualities to look for depending on what type of lapidary you wished to be performed. The talk primarily discussed weight, color and quality of each of the minerals, with examples of some that

were passed around the membership. His talk was quite informative and provided some insights into why these qualities were desired. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

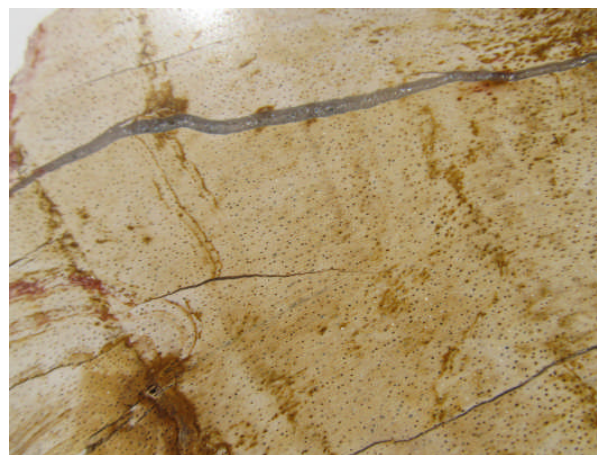
Upcoming Digs

April 5, 2013 Kaolin Mine Sandersville, Ga.
For various fossils, pyrite this is OUR CLUB Dig

April 20, 2013 Burgin Quartz mine Norwood, NC primarily for quartz crystals

April 26,27 & 28 Spring Rock Swap & Dig
Graves Mountain near Lincolnton, Ga for approximately 23 different minerals

By: Richard Arnold



A close up of Petrified Wood from Clio, Alabama

Mineral / Fossil of the Month

Petrified Wood

Petrified Wood is wood that has been fossilized by being turned into stone. Petrification is a natural process that may form fossils from the solid remains of any plant or animal. However, it more commonly happens to wood than to animals and non-woody plants. The process occurs when the substance soaks, over a long period of time, in water containing a mineral (or minerals). Gradually, the mineral either fills every pore and cavity of the organic matter, or the mineral-containing water dissolves the original organic material and replaces it with



mineral matter. Eventually, the mineral forms a perfect copy of the original substance, including cell structure and fibers. The replacement mineral is usually a variety of quartz, ordinarily of the chalcedony type. Sometimes it is opal, calcite (calcium carbonate), or carnotite, a source of uranium. Petrified wood usually is very hard. It may be beautifully colored by chemical impurities such as iron and copper. Cut and polished petrified wood is used for jewelry, paperweights, and lamp bases.

The rate of petrification is not exactly known. In some cases it may be fairly rapid. For example, mine timbers have been partly petrified after a few years' exposure to mineral-laden water. Most petrified wood was formed long ago. For instance, stone logs in Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, are of the Triassic Period and more than 160,000,000 years old.

Petrified forests are found in various parts of the world. They were formed in different geologic periods and the trees in each one are the kind that grew during the period of its formation. Perhaps the oldest Petrified Forest in the United States is that of Devonian trees near Gilboa, New York. There is an abundance of petrified wood in Yellowstone National Park, including a few very rare upright fossilized tree trunks. Ginkgo Petrified Forest is a state park in Washington. Deposits of petrified wood are also found in California, New Mexico, and Utah.



Petrified Oak from Mississippi



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

Mid-Georgia Field Trip

Friday, April 5, 2013

11:00 am

Thiele Kaolin Company, Avant Mine

Note: If rain is in the forecast or if it is raining the day of, the dig will be called off, please call Jay (478-784-1965 or 478-957-5002) to see if Dig has been canceled.

Trip: To Thiele Kaolin Company's Avant Mine in Sandersville.

Meet at: 428 Adams Road in Sandersville, Georgia. It is where the two Adams Roads intersect. If you Google Map it you will understand.

Fee: Free

Collect: Kaolin, Indian Paint pots (Iron Geodes), and Pyrite. Maybe some petrified wood if we are lucky. We will also be touring the mine operations.

Bring: Hammers, chisels, scratching tools, buckets, paper to wrap Specimens, hat, sunscreen, food and drinks, safety glasses, Gloves. Dress for the weather. This should be easy collecting.

Directions: From Downtown Milledgeville head east on E. Hancock



Street also known as GA-22E/Ga-24E towards Sandersville. 3.9 mile slight right onto GA-24 (GA-22 and GA-22 split apart here). Go 10.3 miles and turn right onto GA-272 S. Go 1.7 miles and turn right onto Adams Road. Go 0.4 of a mile and the other Adams Road will be on the left (also this will be the first left). Gary Snow will meet us here at 11:00am.

Travel time from I-16 and Spring St. exit is about 1 hour and 10 minutes.

If Late: Jay's cell # 478-957-5002
(Please try to be on time.)

Note: This is on Friday, April 5, 2013!!!!



Jaw from Museum Collection

You are invited to participate in The Middle Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Tour of the Georgia College Natural History Museum and Planetarium

April 13, 2013

Saturday @ 11:00 am

**Meet at the Museum's West Montgomery Street Entrance
The Museum is at the corner of West Montgomery Street and North Wilkinson Street.**

Searchable Street Address:

**Georgia College Natural History Museum
182 West Montgomery Street
(from Google Earth)**

Milledgeville, GA 31061

Ashley Quinn, Museum Manager

Department of Biological and

Environmental Sciences

Georgia College

Phone: (478) 445-2395

You can visit their website at;

www.gcsu.edu/nhm

Street parking is available on the whole block surrounding the museum; there should be plenty of parking places available on a Saturday morning.

What to bring:

Your kids, grandkids and cameras.

If you would like to bring fossils for review, please do so and we will look at them as time allows.

Guests are invited; bring family members or friends along, we are especially interested in inviting teachers.

From the Museum's website:

The Georgia College Natural History Museum and Planetarium is an academic and research treasure for students, faculty, staff and the public in the southeastern United States. The 2,500-square-foot museum is dedicated to earth sciences, emphasizing paleontology. The museum opened in 2004 and is the official repository for National Park Service specimens. It's also home to a full-dome



planetarium featuring state-of-the-art graphic projection. The mission of the Natural History Museum is to enhance and strengthen the impact of science education and exploration in our audience, which includes students, local and regional communities and visiting professionals, by continued growth of our natural history collections, research, exhibits and planetarium shows.

Beyond the displays, the Museum houses a fossil preparation room, a research center and an excellent research grade fossil collection with 13,000 to 14,000 specimens which will be open to view for club members and guests. Please bear in mind that many of these fossils are extremely valuable and in several instances the only specimens known to exist; they are handled only with express permission of Ashley Quinn, who will lead our tour.

Many Georgia's important paleontological finds have been discovered, described and published through research performed by this facility. These are also housed in the museum's collections.

A few of these include:

- The oldest known North American Auk fossil.
- Georgia's first Titanotheres/Brontotheres fossil
- The youngest known Giant Bison (*bison latifrons*) fossils
- The Florida fossils which showed that the terror bird (*Titanis walleri*) had evolved a new hand/claw from its wing bones.

Directions:

From Macon: Take Highway 49 to Milledgeville and follow it all the way into downtown Milledgeville (Where it turns into West Hancock Street). As you are passing Georgia College on your left, turn left (north) onto North Wilkinson Street. Proceed north roughly two blocks to West

Montgomery Street. Turn Right onto West Montgomery Street. The West Montgomery Street museum entrance is about halfway down this block on the right (south) side of West Montgomery Street. There should be parking all around this block.

Call Jay for more information:

Jay Phone: 478-784-1965

DMC Digs

**An Official Field Trip of Gaston County
Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club
(Gastonia, NC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-GA Gem
and Mineral Society**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM,
Saturday, April 20, 2013
Burgin Quartz Mine
Norwood, NC
Stanly County
Fee Site**

No Pets

**Fee: \$10.00 per person and you
must sign a release.**

**TRIP: Last trip to this site I found
great crystal both in the spoil piles
loose, in vugs and inside of the
quartz boulders.**

**COLLECTING: Quartz crystals, often
clear and sometimes huge up to 4
inches across and a few inches long.
The crystals are found in vugs in a
very large milky quartz outcropping,
though some crystals can be found by
digging through the spoil piles
previously dug out by a backhoe. To
get the big ones, you need to do some
hard rock mining using sledge**



hammers, and chisels to break apart the massive quartz to expose new vugs.

BRING: Sledge hammers, chisels, rock hammers, safety glasses, gloves, dirt sifting tools, buckets, newspaper to wrap specimens, drink and food. (Subway and Bojangles are only a couple of miles away if you prefer to eat out.)

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Where: We will meet at the mine.

When: April 20, 2013 from 9am – 3 pm

Directions to our meeting place: The address is 40764 Old Cottonville Rd., Norwood, NC. Use MapQuest or GPS for exact directions from the area you are coming from. Norwood is due east of Charlotte, NC.

I will be traveling from Gastonia, NC
I will go I-85 North to NC 49 North
NC 49 North to NC 73 East
NC 73 East to US 52 South
US 52 to Chad St
Chad St to S. Stanly School Rd
S. Stanly School Rd to Old Cottonville Rd.

Drive under the railroad trestle and turn left onto a dirt lane.

Follow the lane over a low ridge and watch for the digging area on the right.

There is plenty of parking

Drive Time: An hour and half from Gastonia or 1 hour from Charlotte

Contact: David Long
704-860-1025
david28054@carolina.rr.com
(Field Trip Co-Chair for Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club)



Pyrophyllite on a Goethite matrix from Graves Mountain

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 26, 2013

8 am to 6 pm, Sat., April 27, 2013

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 28, 2013

**"You are invited to field
collect minerals at
Georgia's premiere
mineral location!"**

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during April 2013. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have



trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:
Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the

grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

Contact Information:
Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) -
706.359.3862 (his business) or
706.401.3173 (his cell)

**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL
SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL
PUBLIC!**

**Mark your calendar and tell all your
members about these two great
events!**

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- **CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. **(HAND TOOLS ONLY!)**
- **STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!**
- **NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!**
- **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!**
(The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)



- **EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)**

Jim Flora
 SFMS Webmaster and Field Trip Chair

Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>
 E-Mail jimflora@windstream.net



Iridescent Hematite coating on Kyanite crystal blades from Graves Mountain in Lincoln County, Georgia



Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

April 27-28, 2013
 Memphis, TN.
 Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

"The Earth Wide Open"

Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A-wing 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN
 Saturday, April 27, 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 28 10-5,

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock.

Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00.

web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com,

email info@theearthwideopen.com.

Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058

Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706

April 27-28, 2013, Dothan, AL
 Dothan Gem and Mineral Club 6th Annual Show and Sale.

James Grant Recreation Center at Westgate Park, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL.

Hours: Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 10-4.

Free admission, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, silent auction, kids' activities, etc.

Contact Arnie Lambert 334-792-7116 or e-mail alambert@comcast.net.

See www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

Tidbits

Copper Wire

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion, that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 200 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times



read: "California archaeologists, finding traces of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers".

One week later, The Escanaba Press a local newspaper in Upper Michigan, reported the following: "After digging as deep as 300 feet in his pasture near Flat Rock, Ole Olson, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Upper Michigan had already gone wireless."

Via The Tulip City Conglomerate, April 2010

Before You Buy a Magnifier

By Andrew Alden, About.com Guide

After you get a rock hammer, you'll need a magnifier.

The big Sherlock Holmes type lens is a cliché; instead you want a lightweight, powerful magnifier (also called a loupe) that has impeccable optics and is easy to use. Get the best magnifier for demanding jobs like inspecting gems; in the field, for quick looks at minerals, buy a decent magnifier you can afford to lose.

Using a Magnifier

Hold the lens up next to your eye, and then bring your specimen close to it, only a few centimeters from your face. The point is to focus your attention through the lens, the same way you look through eyeglasses. If you normally wear glasses, you may want to keep them on. A magnifier won't correct for astigmatism.

How Many X?

The X factor of a magnifier refers to how much it magnifies. Sherlock's magnifying glass makes things look 2 or 3 times bigger; that is, it's 2x or 3x. Geologists like to have 5x to 10x,

but more than that is hard to use in the field because the lenses are very small. 5x or 7x lenses offer a wider field of vision, while a 10x magnifier gives you the closest look at tiny crystals, trace minerals, grain surfaces, and microfossils.

Magnifier Flaws to Watch For

Check the lens for scratches. Set the magnifier on a piece of white paper and see if the lens adds color of its own. Now pick it up and examine several objects, including one with a fine pattern like a halftone picture. The view through the lens should be clear as air with no internal reflections. Highlights should be crisp and brilliant, with no colored fringes (that is, the lens should be achromatic). A flat object should not look warped or buckled—move it to and fro to be sure. A magnifier should not be loosely put together.

Magnifier Bonuses

Given the same X factor, a larger lens is better. A ring or loop to attach a lanyard is a good thing; so is a leather or plastic case. A lens held with a removable retaining ring can be taken out for cleaning. And a brand name on the magnifier, while not always a guarantee of quality, means you can contact the manufacturer.

Doublet, Triplet, Coddington

Good lens makers combine two or three pieces of glass to correct for chromatic aberration—what gives an image blurred, colored fringes. Doublets can be quite satisfactory, but the triplet is the gold standard. Coddington lenses employ a deep cut inside the solid glass, using an air gap to create the same effect as a triplet. Being solid glass, they cannot ever come apart—a consideration if you get wet a lot.

Via The Ammonite, May 2011



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.

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: Jim Souter, ph. 478-454-7273,
jgsouter@windstream.net

Vice President: Rene' Smith, 478-788-1766
 Cell 478-719-2413 grawolfvrs@msn.com

Secretary / Photographer, Richard Arnold,
 ph. 678-682-9860

Treasurer: Susan Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd,
 Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-862-5327,
susanbphilh@pstel.net

Editor / Programs / Web: Jay Batcha,
 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216,
 ph. 478-784-1965, Cell 478-957-5002
rocky1s@cox.net

Education Chairperson: Thomas Thurman,
 ph. 478-329-1755, cell 478-293-7302
Tpangan@aol.com

Stamp Program: Ron Davis, ph. 478-788-2616

Club year begins November 1st, a grace period of three months will be given before membership lapses.

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral
Society
Application for Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Adult(18+) \$10.00 Junior \$2.50 New

Renewal _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

List your interests and reasons for joining _____

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**



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Jay Batcha, Editor
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Save Commemorative Stamps