



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE !



**February Meeting
 At the Museum of Arts and
 Sciences on Monday,
 Feb. 04, 2013 at 7:30pm.**

The speaker will be Jack Jones. He will be speaking on his week at William Holland last year, that he won at the annual picnic this past June.

President's Message

I hope everybody had a merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. We have had a great year and are looking towards a better one coming. I do have one thing to ask for the coming year, bring a new friend, an old friend who hasn't been here in a while, new ideas or your knowledge as to how to do something. Be it in cleaning specimens or cutting the cabochons, faceting, or wrapping it in silver. Regardless of the skill you have, it is a valuable skill and worthy to be shared with your fellow club members. I know for a fact that we all have different styles and methods of doing things and so when we share our knowledge,

we become better at what we do. There are some people who are only interested in collecting the material, how do you set up your collection? How do you display it? How do you label it? We all have something to learn and I for one am eager to learn what you do.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Jay Batcha for his work with the newsletter, for his efforts with the *Gem Clip* is the only connection some of our members have with the club. Some of our members do not drive after dark and so it is not possible for them to attend the meetings and the *Gem Clip* is their only connection with us. We even have new members from out of state that joined to attend the field trips. Once again, **THANK YOU!!!** Jay for all you do.

Jim

Ps. those who missed the Christmas party, you missed some great food!!! See you in February 2013.



Dues are Due

*** Important Note ***

**This will be your last
 newsletter if your dues are
 not paid by 1-31-2013**



GALENA Picher, Ottawa County, Oklahoma

GALENA

Galena is a common and popular mineral for rock hounds. Its characteristic cubes, distinctive cleavage and high density make it easy to identify and a favorite in high school geology labs. The structure of Galena is identical to that of halite, NaCl. The two minerals have the same crystal shapes, symmetry and cleavage. Some Galena may contain up to 1% silver in place of lead. The large volume of Galena that is processed for lead produces enough Silver as a by product to make Galena the leading ore of Silver.

Galena Uses:

One of the oldest uses of galena was as kohl, which, in Ancient Egypt, was applied around the eyes to reduce the glare of the desert sun and to repel flies, which were a potential source of disease.

Galena is the primary ore of lead which is mainly used in making lead-acid batteries; however, significant amounts are also used to make lead sheets and shot. Galena is often

mined for its silver content (e.g. the Galena Mine in northern Idaho).

Galena is a semiconductor with a small bandgap of about 0.4 eV which found use in early wireless communication systems. For example, it was used as the crystal in crystal radio sets, in which it was used as a point-contact diode to detect the radio signals. The galena crystal was used with a safety pin or similar sharp wire, which was known as a "cat's whisker". Making such wireless sets was a popular home hobby in Britain and other European countries during the 1930s. Derbyshire was one of the main areas where galena was mined.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Chemistry:** PbS, Lead Sulfide
- **Class:** Sulfides
- **Group:** Galena
- **Uses:** Major ore of lead and silver
- **Color** is lead to silver gray sometimes with a bluish tint.
- **Luster** is metallic to dull in weathered faces.
- **Transparency** crystals are opaque.
- **Crystal System** is isometric; 4/m bar 3 2/m
- **Crystal Habits** include the cube, octahedron and combinations of the two. Spinel twining is possible forming flattened crystals. Also massive and granular.
- **Cleavage** is perfect in four direction forming cubes.
- **Fracture** is uneven and rarely seen because of the perfect cleavage.



- **Hardness** is 2.5+
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 7.5+ (heavy even for metallic minerals)
- **Streak** is lead gray
- **Associated Minerals** are calcite, dolomite, sphalerite, pyrite and other sulfide minerals, also lead oxidation minerals such as cerussite and anglesite.
- **Other Characteristics:** brighter metallic luster on cleavage surfaces than on crystal faces.
- **Notable Occurrences** include Texas-Oklahoma-Missouri area, USA; Germany, Peru, Mexico, Zambia, and England.
- **Best Field Indicators** are crystal habit, cleavage and, perhaps most importantly, density.

From: Amethyst Galleries' <http://www.galleries.com/>.
 and Wikipedia www.wikipedia.org/wiki/galena



Galena
 Ramsbeck, Sauerland, North Rhine-Westphalia,
 Germany



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

Mid-Georgia Field Trip
Friday, February 22, 2013
11:00 am

Thiele Kaolin Company, Avant Mine

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 Adam 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, February 22, 2013!!!!

DMC Digs

An Official Field Trip of The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society

**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM,
Saturday, January 26, 2013**

Jackson Crossroads

Amethyst Mine

Tignall, GA

Fee Area

Where: Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine, Tignall, GA – see below for directions.

FEE AREA: \$15 per person, per day (as long as we have more than 10 people). All persons are required to sign a release form upon arrival. I will be close to the entrance collecting the fee and having you sign waivers.

Children: No one under the age of 12 allowed on the property even with an adult guardian accompanying them. Minors over 12 years old must be accompanied by paying adult.

Pets: Well behaved dogs may join their owners at the site, please keep on a leash.

Collecting: Amethyst – working the dump piles. No one is allowed in the pit.

WHAT TO BRING:

Clothing appropriate for this time of year in Georgia. That could be almost anything and I would suggest layers that could be removed and something in the

event of a shower. Gloves (gems can be sharp), safety glasses (for breaking up rocks), and at least a good pair of shoe. Hand tools (Shovel, pick, hammer and chisel are examples) are allowed, no power tools.

Be aware that this site is very rustic, which means no electricity, running water or bathroom facilities on the property (other than the woods) The closest restroom is 8 miles away in Tignall, so come prepared for that.

General info for dig:

Gates will be unlocked at 9 am by caretaker. Due to liability issues and government regulations, please do not enter areas that are roped off; this is the pit area which is being worked commercially. You are welcome to work the many dump piles all over the property.

Please keep the property clean.

Directions from the North:

Take I-85 south to the second exit in Georgia. Turn right at the top of the ramp. This is 17 South. Follow through Elberton. Take 17 south all the way to Tignall (there is a town limits sign as you enter the town). Turn right at the first (and only) signal in Tignall (Independence). Stay on this road for about 8 miles. You will see a cemetery opposite the Clark Station Church. Turn right onto Hollis Norman Road, just across the road from the church. Go a short distance and you will see a metal gate on the right. Drive past it and turn into the first dirt road you come to. There is a metal gate at this point. If the gate is open, drive in to sign in.

This road leads straight to the mine through the woods. It is very bumpy, so go slow –



even on the short gravel part. Park wherever you can without blocking the entrance road.

Directions from the South:

Take 17 north from the town of Washington into Tignall. Turn left at the only traffic light in Tignall, then follow the directions above to get to Jackson Crossroads.

Local Accommodations:

Many visitors stay at the Jameson Inn in Washington, GA, which is about 25 minutes south of the mine on Route 17. They offer a "cleaning station" at the back of their building where guests can rinse off their finds at the end of the day.

Elberton, GA has a wide variety of hotels, restaurants and stores and is about 30 minutes north of the mine.

Closest decent campground is Bobby Brown State Park which is about 25 minutes away. They have RV hookups, showers, bathroom facilities and sites with electricity.

Field Trip Contact: Lucy Miller.

LucyAnn323@aol.com

Phone: 904-838-5026

Please leave a message as I am often somewhere where I don't get a signal....



Amethyst and Quartz Crystals from Jackson Crossroads

**An Official Field Trip of The Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM,
Saturday, February 9, 2013
Vulcan Limestone Mine
Brooksville, FL.**

The February 9, 2013 field trip hosted by the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club will be to the Vulcan Limestone Mine to collect echinoids (fossil sand dollars and urchins), druzy calcite crystals and chert for cabbings. [\[Link to the fossil flier PDF\]](#)

The meeting time will be 8:45 AM as we go into the mine in convoy at 9:00 AM. **The gates are locked behind us so don't be late.** If you are unavoidably detained, call Fred Hendershot (**813-892-5864**) or Carolee Boyles (**813-431-4304**).

Vulcan is located 10 miles north of Brooksville Florida on the west side of HWY 98. Their partner is CEMEX an the CEMEX sign is larger and easier to spot. Park in the large field and sign the waiver circulated by Carolee. For Google Maps and GPS units, the address is 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34613.

Dress code is sturdy closed shoes or sneakers, no sandals or open toed shoes. Jeans or long pants are preferred to protect your knees and long sleeve shirt or sun screen. If it is a bright day, a hat or ball cap would be useful. The one thing they do not have is a restroom, stop at the gas station in Brooksville before you arrive.

Equipment is simply a bag or bucket for rocks, a rock hammer for chert and a small garden



shovel or butter knife to pry fossils from the dirt. This is primarily surface hunting, no digging required. Bring drinks and snacks as we stay until 12:00 noon and/or 2:00 PM. You can leave your cooler etc. in the car as we park where we hunt.

Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

February 2nd & 3rd 2013

22nd Annual Panama City Gem & Mineral Show

American Legion Bldg at the Bay County Fairgrounds
 2230 East 15th St and Sherman Ave
 Panama City FL 32404

Sat 2 Feb 9AM to 5PM
 Sun 3 Feb 9AM to 4PM

Exhibits, Minerals, Fossils, Cabochons, Wire Wrapping,
 Gems, Crystals, Lapidary, Jewelry, Beads, Faceting Demonstration

Free Parking and Free Admission
 Chairman Joe Schings 1-850-871-1846

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society

Saturday, February 23, 2013 Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Location: 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33801

Admission: Adults \$3.00,
 Children and Teachers Free
 Hourly Door Prizes, Spin & Win Game, Kids Treasure Dig, Demonstrations and Educational Displays, Silent and Chinese Auctions
 Show Chair: Kim Price 863-412-9156,
 email contact IBVGMFS@gmail.com
 Website: www.bonevalley.net

Tidbits

Fossil Identification

by Debbie Bunn – Fossils for Fun Society

TEETH: Enamel preserves very well and is distinctively shiny. It is rarely preserved as a cast or an impression. Ivory shows crosshatching

WOOD: The presence of grain and/or cell structure is needed. A lot of "wood" is just "probably wood". Bark is very rarely preserved.

BONES: Full of holes in 3-D. Irregular holes, not dots. If petrified, bones clink against your teeth. They should match known bones in the body--scapula, toe bone, etc.

LEAVES: Veins should be visible. Be suspicious of discolorations along a crack. There should be some depth to the leaf, not just a surface feature.

In general fossils should look like a known something. You should be able to find a picture, or other people should recognize it. Be conservative, it is not a fossil until you prove it is a fossil.

Know your "false fossils" --- dendrites, Mojave agate/bone, "petrified Chihuahuas". Soft tissue only preserves in very special circumstances.

Fossils are found almost always in sedimentary rock. So know your matrix. Fossils may be found in the heart of a concretion, but not geodes or thunder eggs. Fern fossils do not occur in the middle of agate. Moss agate is not a fossil. Neither is "chicken track"! ----

From Dinny's Doin's 9/02



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

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 ph. 478-329-1755, cell 478-293-7302
Tpangangan@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**



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

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Save Commemorative Stamps