



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!



February Meeting
 At the Museum of Arts and
 Sciences on Monday,
 Feb. 03, 2014 at 7:30pm.

We will not be meeting in the Auditorium as normal due to another event going on. We are going to be meeting in the planetarium. Please go to the "new" entrance to the planetarium up by the picnic area.

Jay will be speaking on his trip to Quartzsite, Arizona.

President's Message

We need to keep in mind that as time goes forward, we will find ourselves, unfortunately, being barred from collecting in more and more places. Due to the abuse of privileges and/or rights to dig, we are finding prohibition being imposed upon us. Make sure you respect the land, respect the owners, and respect each other

when digging. Common sense is the best approach when out on a trip-

- 1) Do not go onto property unless you have permission from the owner(s) to do so.
- 2) Do not cross any fences or gates that are closed as they usually mark the boundary of the property and as such, permissions end at that point.
- 3) Clean up after yourself when you are on said property.
- 4) It is highly recommended that you do not smoke on said property as we do not want an accidental fire. You can smoke in your vehicle.
- 5) Take plenty of water to maintain hydration.
- 6) Do not dig under cliffs, overhangs, or other risky places.
- 7) Be mindful of those around you and check before you begin hammering on rocks with your hammers and chisels.
- 8) We safety equipment when in the field; i.e. Safety glasses, gloves, knee pads, proper shoes/boots, hard hat (if in a mine area)
- 9) Have a first aid kit handy and know how to use it.
- 10) Relax and enjoy yourself and those around you.
- 11) If you dig a hole, fill it up.

Remember: Save the Earth first, it is the only planet with Chocolate!!!

By: Jim Souter

On a Sad Note

LaVerne Binkley passed away on 11-23-2013. She is the mother of Susan Hargrove. She has been a member of Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society since the 1960's. LaVerne and her husband Howard and family traveled throughout United States collecting rocks and minerals. She was fun to be around and will be sadly missed.

By: Jay Batcha



Dues are Due

* Important Note *

This will be your last newsletter if your dues are not paid by 1-31-2014

Mineral of the Month Talc



Talc pseudomorph after Quartz - Gopfersgrun, near Fichtelgebirge, Bavaria, Germany

Talc is an important industrial mineral. Its resistance to heat, electricity and acids make it an ideal surface for lab counter tops and electrical switchboards. It is also an

important filler material for paints, rubber and insecticides. Even with all these uses, most people only know talc as the primary ingredient in talcum powder. Mineral specimens are not very common as it does not form very large crystals. However, it often replaces other minerals on an atom by atom basis and forms what are called pseudomorphs (false shape). The talc takes the form of the mineral it replaces. A specimen of what looks like milky quartz is quite a surprise when it not only has a soapy feel but can be scratched by a fingernail.

- **Color** is green, gray and white to almost silver.
- **Luster** is dull to pearly or greasy.
- **Transparency** crystals are translucent and masses are opaque.
- **Crystal System** is monoclinic; 2/m
- **Cleavage** is perfect in one direction, basal.
- **Fracture** is uneven to lamellar.
- **Hardness** is 1 (can leave mark on paper)
- **Specific Gravity** is 2.7 - 2.8 (average)
- **Streak** is white.
- **Other Characteristics:** cleavage flakes are slightly flexible but not elastic and talc has a soapy feel to the touch.

Substitutes and Alternative

Sources: Clays and pyrophyllite can be used in place of talc in the manufacture of ceramics. Kaolin (a clay mineral) and mica can be substituted for talc in the production of rubber, paint, and plastics. Kaolin can be used in place of talc in paper production. The available reserves of talc are sufficient for many decades to come so such substitutions are not necessary, though they may be cost-effective depending on the relative costs of talc, mica, pyrophyllite and kaolin.



Background: Two different minerals with similar physical properties are talc and pyrophyllite. Their physical properties are nearly identical. Both are very soft: talc is the softest mineral on the Mohs' hardness scale at 1, and pyrophyllite is 1 to 2. Because they are so soft, they can be easily cut and crushed. Archaeological discoveries have shown that talc was carved in ancient Babylonia to make signature seals. Chinese "soapstone" carvings are carved from fine-grained pyrophyllite.

Both talc and pyrophyllite have perfect cleavage in one direction. This means that these minerals break into thin sheets. As a result, both feel greasy to the touch (which is why talc is used as a lubricant). They are both formed in metamorphic environments as the result of changes in silica-rich dolomite.

Steatite and soapstone are impure, massive forms of talc that lack the distinctive cleavage mentioned above.
From: *Amethyst Galleries* -
URL <http://www.galleries.com/>
Also From: *MEC* - URL
<http://www.mineralseducationcoalition.org/minerals/talc>



Talc from Holly Springs, Cherokee County, Georgia, USA



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga. Gem and Mineral Society

9:00 AM TO 5:00PM
Saturday, January 18, 2014
Stoney Bluff near Girard, GA
"Savannah River Agate"

Where: Stoney Bluff outside of Girard, GA

Assembly Time: 9:00 am. at the vacant lot just south of the Post Office in Girard, GA

Stoney Bluff is located about 30 miles south of Augusta, Ga and just east of the small town of Girard. We will assemble in Girard at 9 am in the vacant lot just south of the Post Office (do not park in the Post Office parking lot). The collecting site is only a few miles away at the end of Stoney Bluff Rd. Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather.



Collecting: Beautiful "Savannah River

Agate" fossils and micro minerals. This material is actually a conglomeration of agate, jasper, chert, and opalite all mixed together to form a layered specimen that will tumble or cab into beautiful display pieces. This rock occurs as black and brown mottled agate and in a large range of pastel colors from greens to yellows to violets. The fossils you may find are from 30-35 million years old Oligocene age deposits. The micro minerals are located in vugs of the agate/chert rock.

Tools: light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves are recommended. If you plan to look for micro-minerals by busting the larger agate/chert specimens, you will also need some chisels and a sledge. More importantly you **NEED** eye protection (face shield would be best) and long heavy pants as this agate can act like shrapnel when cracked with a rock hammer or sledge!

Directions: from I-20 in Augusta, GA.

From I-20 in Augusta get onto I-520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) and head toward the south end of the expressway. When you reach Exit 9 (Mike Padgett Hwy), exit and head south (most likely Hwy 56 at that point) approx. 15 mi. to McBean, GA. Just beyond McBean turn left onto Hwy 23 and follow it SE about 14 mi. to Girard, Ga.

Directions from I-16 just west of Savannah, GA

Exit I-16 at US301/US25 (Exit #116) and head north approx. 10 mi to Statesboro, GA Continue north on US 301 from Statesboro approx 20 mi to Sylvania, Ga. Continue north on US301 from Sylvania about 5 miles to junction with Hwy 24. Turn left onto Hwy 24 and drive 14 mi to Sardis, GA. In Sardis pick up Hwy 23 and drive 6 miles to Girard, GA.

Field Trip Leader: Contact: Jim Maudsley 706-353-1792 or jamesm24@charter.net.



Savannah River Agate

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST)

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

**9:00 AM CST, Saturday,
February 15, 2014
Gravel Pit/Coal Mine,
Brookwood, Alabama**

**TO: GRAVEL PIT /COAL MINES,
BROOKWOOD, ALABAMA**



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

Official Bulletin of the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society

www.midgagms.org

Vol. 14, Issue 1, February, 2014



DATE: FEBRUARY 15,

2014

MEETING TIME: 9:00 A.M. (Central Time Zone)

MEETING PLACE: AT THE SITE 33⁰
15'31.77" N 87⁰22'10.30" W

DIRECTIONS: From Birmingham, AL. Get onto I-20 / I-59 and go south to the Brookwood Exit (Exit 86) Exit and turn right onto Tuscaloosa County Hwy. 59. Go north until you come to Hwy. 216. Turn left onto Hwy. 216 and go approximately 2 ½ miles. After crossing the railroad tracks (via a concrete bridge), turn onto the first paved road to the right. The site entrance is past the office buildings and through the pipe storage yard. All attendees must sign in, sign a release and sign out.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets, hammer, appropriate dress, and good gloves.

NOTES: We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz pebbles shaped like a double sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field. All equipment, materials and ponds are strictly off limits. The SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed. The property owner has been generous to

let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

CONTACT: REGGIE and BUNNY BOLTON reggie@newenvirons.net
205-870-7721 or 205-410-9455

Please let us know if you are planning on attending. This is a large site but we can not manage more than about 75 visitors.

33⁰ 15'31.77" N 87⁰22'10.30" W
elevation 483 ft.

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society field trip to Cemex Quarry, Clinchfield, Ga. March 8, 2014

Fossiliferous Ocala Limestone Formation, exposed in the pits of the Cemex Clinchfield Quarry

9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Saturday, March 8, 2014

Important Note: If it has rained a lot in the days ahead or is raining on the day of this field trip it will be cancelled due to being too muddy to get to pits. Call if unsure on status of field trip.

Collecting Fossils: Sand dollars, scallops, barracuda and shark teeth, fossil bone, and other shells.

Found in Tivola Limestone which part of Ocala Limestone formation, and the geologic age is Upper Eocene, or somewhere around 40 million years before present.

Bring: Hard hat, steel toe shoes, safety glasses, hammer, chisels, buckets, gloves, and a drink. Also bring some newspaper to wrap your finds. Also please carry all your trash out with you.



Safety: The quarry requires a hard hat and safety glasses to be worn at all times in quarry. Wear hard toe shoes, preferably steel toe. If you don't have a pair of steel toe shoes, wear a pair of leather boots or leather shoes. No sneakers or flip-flops. Please stay off the walls of the pit and also away from the edge of the pit. Wear safety glass to protect your eyes. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL!** You will be required to sign a release form.

Notes: No Pets
 Children 12 and over only

Directions: Take I-75 south to Perry Ga., Take exit # 135, Highway 224 (Larry Walker Pkwy, also the Perry Ag. Center exit). Turn left (back over Bridge). Stay on 224 (Larry Walker Pkwy). About 1/2 mile from I-75, turn right into the Perry Ag. Center, we will meet in the first parking lot on the left.

Call Jay Batcha home: 478-784-1965 or cell: 478-957-5002 for more information.

Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

Feb. 8,9 2014, Merritt Island, Florida
37th Annual Symphony of Gemstones show and sale.
Sponsored by Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club

Kiwanis Island Recreation Center
 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd. off SR 520 Exit on I95 going East, entrance is just east of the Merritt Island Mall, turn at the sign.

Sat./Sun 10AM - 5 PM adults \$5 (\$1 discount coupon on Website) children under 12 are free accompanied by adult.

Hand-crafted and fine jewelry, rough and cut gems, fossils, minerals, beads, slabs, cabs,

equipment and tools.
 Demonstrations, hourly prizes, grand prize, children's activities and silent auction.

Contact: Roz Mestre, (321) 431-0159/ (321) 632=8281
 email: roz.mestre@att.net
 club website: www.centralbrevardgems.org

FEBRUARY 22, 2014, Lakeland, Florida
Annual Show and Sale
Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society

Saturday 9:30am - 4:30pm
 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33801

Hourly door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids Treasure Dig, demonstrations and educational displays, Silent and Chinese auctions and over 30 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies.

Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156, or email ibvgmfs@gmail.com. Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society.
 Website: www.bonevalley.net

Tidbits

Qualifications for Being a Rockhound

(via Hatrockhound Gazette, 8/01, Clackamette Gem, 6/01)

1. Love of the outdoors - where else can you find rock.
2. Strong Back or Good Judgement - rocks gain weight with every step.
3. Sense of Humor - being able to appreciate someone else's find after you just stepped over it.
4. Cheerful - smile even if every muscle and bone in your body aches.
5. Adventurous - daring to take a road, even if it looks like it goes straight up.
6. Persistent - not satisfied until you have turned over every rock twice.
7. Determination - visualizing a beautiful gem cut out of a plain rock.



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips
Official Bulletin of Mid-Georgia Gem
and Mineral Society
Macon, Georgia

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

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

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,
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 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

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

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Macon, Georgia**

**Member of Southeast Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies
Member of American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**



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Save Commemorative Stamps