



February Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
February 01, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Jay Batcha will be talking about
 Glaciers and their formation and
 everything else you ever wanted to
 know about them.



**The winner of the drawing for a
 free week of a lapidary class at
 Wild Acres or William Holland
 School of Lapidary Arts is:
 Bill Mayer.**

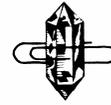
President's Message

Hello 2016!!! Here we are at the start of another great year. I hope everybody had a great Christmas season and are ready to start working on the new year. As we go through this new year, we will be going on trips where we will probably get muddy, dirty, and have all kinds of fun. Once again, we owe a world of thanks to Tina for sewing the grab bags for us. I am hoping that we can start this new year with new ideas for growing the club. I ask that if you have any ideas, you let me know. You can always email or call me with your ideas, or you could call Phil or Jay, or all three of us.

I want us to keep in mind some of the basic safety rules when we are in the field;

- 1) If a gate is closed when you get to it, leave it closed when you depart.
- 2) If you dig a hole, fill it back up when you are done.
- 3) If you find trash, take it out with you.
- 4) Do not depart from the land you are cleared to dig on.
- 5) Do not dig where you are not invited.
- 6) ALWAYS wear safety glasses when digging, even if you are not swinging the hammer, someone could be nearby.
- 7) Always be mindful of your language and be courteous to everybody.
- 8) In a mine area, hard hats are MANDATORY, not a suggestion.
- 9) Wear gloves when digging because so many rocks have sharp edges when broken or cracked.

Other things for us to remember always have plenty of water or other fluids to keep you hydrated. We don't need anybody



getting light headed if get dehydrated. Do not bring alcohol as a hydration as it is counter productive. Also, bring snacks if you are prone to low blood sugar.

I know some people will say this is the same old stuff from last year but we need to keep our rules and safety guidelines fresh in everybody's minds. But I keep with me a tool bag with my hammer, chisels, safety glasses, hard hat, knee pads and gloves. I suggest that everybody keep a similar bag with them in their vehicle because you never know when you will see something, along the roadway or in a friends yard. It is good to have them on hand.

I look forward to serving you all this next year and I hope and pray to make this the best year so far for the club. I ask everyone to bring a friend to the meetings and make them feel welcome. Remember, you do not have to be a member to attend the meetings, only to go on the field trips.

Thank you,
Jim Souter, president
jgsouter@windstream.net
478.454.7273

Phil Hargrove, vice president
susanbphilh@pstel.net
478.550.8199

Jay Batcha, editor/field trip coordinator
rocky1s@cox.net
478.784.1965



Amethyst from Brazil 14 cts

Mineral of the Month

Amethyst

Amethyst is a member of the quartz family of stones. It is a semi-precious gemstone and comes in a beautiful range of colors varying from rose, lavender and light mauve to deep purple and violet hues. The darker the shade of the Amethyst, the more valuable it is likely to be.

Citrine is also a member of the quartz family and has a similar consistency to Amethyst. When Amethyst is heated, it turns into Citrine – which has beautiful orange and yellow hues.

Amethyst is a relatively hard substance. It is rated a 7 on the Moh's scale which means it is a great stone to make ornamental jewelry out of. The range of colors and natural



markings make this a very attractive gemstone and one which is very popular. Although it is a hard gem, Amethyst can fracture under pressure, so it has to be handled with care. Although it has a rating of 7 on Moh's scales this is still only 1/15 of the hardness of a diamond.

Brazil is the largest producer of Amethyst. It is found there in the states of Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Maraba and Bahia. Other important deposits are in Uruguay (in Artigas), Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Namibia, Zambia, South Africa, Madagascar, Canada (Ontario), and the United States (Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, and Maine). A specific deposit of Amethyst known to produce the greenish Prasiolite variety upon heat treatment is the Montezuma Mine in Minas Gerais, Brazil.

People born in the month of February will inherit amethyst as their birthstone. Amethyst is a handsome crystal of the quartz variety, with rich and seductive purple hues. This proud stone was a symbol of royalty and has an interesting history.

Ancient Greeks and Romans, believed amethyst to be a source of clarity and wisdom. They would decorate their wine goblets with beautiful amethysts in hopes that the stone would protect them from a drunken stupor and overindulgence. This belief, came from a legend in which the Greek god of wine Bacchus, in a rage

induced episode, decided to sentence the first mortal in sight to death. The mortal happened to be a stunning young girl named Amethyst who was on her way to worship a goddess. The goddess protected Amethyst from imminent death, by turning her into a colorless crystal. After the incident Bacchus felt guilty and poured his wine over the stone giving it, its gorgeous purple tone.

The belief that Amethyst could help improve mental clarity, continued throughout history. Catholic Bishops would wear amethyst rings to shield themselves from bewitchment and seduction. During the middle ages, travelers would wear amulets as a psychic shield to protect themselves against witchcraft.



Amethyst, Jacksons Crossroads, Wilks County, Georgia



The Jones Pit field trip, Follow up from December – 2015

We had 11 people to attend our field trip to Jones Pit. It was a cloudy, windy, and cold day at the start. But it warmed up enough once we started looking for rocks/fossils for our collections. Mr. Jones was not at home while we were digging so we left our gift basket and a card signed by all who attended the dig as a big thank you.



The Jones Pit Group



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

An Official Field Trip of the Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society (HOST)
 An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 6, 2016
Ruck's Pit The Fort Drum Crystal Mine
28329 NE 55th Ave., Okeechobee, FL
Okeechobee County
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
FEE SITE



Calcite on Clam shell, Ruck's Pit

TRIP: The Fort Drum Crystal Mine
 (formerly Ruck's Pit)
 28320 NE 55th Ave., Okeechobee, FL

COLLECTING: Calcite Crystals, Shells,
 Fossils, etc

FEE:
Adults: \$60
15 & Under \$35, 12 & Under \$25
7 & Under \$15, 5 & Under Free

BRING: Change of clothes, water, snacks
 or picnic, boots, newspaper to wrap
 specimens, beer flats for storage.



CHILDREN: Under adult supervision

PETS: Allowed on a leash

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:
 Where we will meet: Ft Drum General Store & Gas station in Fort Drum on Hwy 441

When: 9:30am

Directions to our meeting place: From SR 60 to Yeehaw Jct go south on Hwy 441 to NE 304th St at Ft Drum Cemetery Sign and go about 3 miles to 55th Ave.

Alternative Route: From Vero Beach take 713 to Ft Pierce take HWY 68 to NE 48th Ave and go north NE 304th St and turn right to 55th Ave.

If you miss us at the Ft Drum General Store & Gas station, directions to the mine are... about a mile past the store take a left on 304th st , go to NE55th ave and turn right , go to the end of that road and you are there!

Drive Time: About 1 hr from Vero Beach, Florida

Campsites are available \$25

CONTACT: Darryl Taylor

772-633-4423

rockhound531@yahoo.com

An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock & Gem Club (HOST)

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

Saturday, February 27, 2016
 Stoney Bluff, Girard, GA
 9:00 AM

TRIP: 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.

COLLECTING: “Savannah River Agate”

BRING: Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site, but many people usually bring light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves are recommended. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

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.

CONTACT: Trip chairman: Jim Maudsley
 706-353-1792 or jamesm24@charter.net



Savannah River Agate, Girard, Georgia



Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

Feb. 6- 7, 20156

Merritt Island, Florida

39th 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 and in local papers)
 children under 12 are free when accompanied by adult.

We will have over 20 vendors offering both finished and handmade fine jewelry, beads, pearls, rocks, slabs, minerals, specimens, tools, silent auction, sluice and children activities. There will be demonstrations by club members.

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

Flyers for \$1 off admission can be found on our



website: centralbrevardgems.org and local newspapers.

Contact information: Roz Mestre
 email: roz.mestre@att.net, (321) 431-0159.

club website: www.centralbrevardgems.org

FEBRUARY 27, 2016
Lakeland, Florida

Annual Show and Sale
Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society

Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm
 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801

Door Prizes
 Spin & Win Mineral Wheel
 Kids' Treasure Dig
 Demonstrations on Wire Wrapping, Cabochon Making and Lapidary
 Educational Displays
 Silent and Chinese Auctions
 Gem Flume with genuine NC gemstones
 Featuring more than 30 dealers, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts, hobby supplies

Show Contact: Kim Price, (863) 412-9156
 e-mail: IBVGMFS@gmail.com
 Web site: <http://www.bonevalley.net>

February 28, 2016
Sunday: 10AM to 4 PM

The Villages Gem & Mineral Society
4th Annual Show
The Villages, FL

Sea Breeze Regional Recreation Center
2374 Buena Vista Blvd
The Villages, FL 32162
Latitude 28.875029 Longitude 81.992828

Admission is FREE
 FREE parking
 Almost 100 tables featured so there is something for everyone.
 Rough, slabs, fossils, minerals of all kinds for sale.
 Gemologist, Faceters, Silver smith, jewelry creations made to order, Jewelry craft suppliers, findings, loose beads and chains of all kind sold by the foot.
 Hourly door prize drawings
 Additional show artisans include: handmade glass bead, glass fusion, hand carved wood sculptures, basket weavers and much more.
 Club displays and exhibit tables.

Show contact: Christine Courtwright, Show Chair, 352-753-6139
 e-mail address: number1cc@gmail.com
 Society website:
<http://thevillagesgemandmineralsociety.com/>



Tidbits

Fast facts - Glacier retreat in all continents

- Nearly all glaciers surveyed in Alaska are melting. Thinning rates in the last 5 to 7 years are more than twice those seen in previous years. Half of the water flowing into the oceans, globally, due to melting glaciers, is a result of melting in Alaska.
- The northern Andes contain the largest concentration of glaciers in the tropics, but these glaciers are receding rapidly and losses accelerated during the 1990s.
- Glacier melting has accelerated in the European Alps since 1980, and 10 to 20% of glacier ice in the Alps was lost in less than two decades. Half the volume of Europe's Alpine glaciers has disappeared since 1850. By the end of this century, half of those left will have gone as well.
- Tropical glaciers in Africa have decreased in area by 60% to 70% on average since the early 1900s.
- The vast majority of all Himalayan glaciers have been retreating and thinning over the past 30 years, with accelerated losses over the last decade.
- The tropical glaciers in the Pacific have retreated, although in New Zealand some glaciers grew due to increased precipitation.
- Arctic glaciers have been receding, with the exception of Scandinavia and Iceland where increase in precipitation resulted in glacier growth. Greenland alone contains 12% of the

world's ice; entire portions of the Greenland ice sheet appear to be sliding towards the sea.

- In Antarctica the center of the continent is currently cooling so it won't be melting soon. However, coastal glaciers and ice sheets in the Antarctic are melting. The melting of ice sheets and ice shelves that sit on top of land, will result in higher sea levels.



Kayaking the melt-water, Petermann Glacier.

What's the World's Biggest Glacier?

The world's largest glacier is the Lambert glacier in Antarctica, according to the United States Geological Survey. The glacier is more than 60 miles (96 km) wide at its widest point, about 270 miles (435) long, and has been measured to be 8,200 feet (2,500 meters) deep at its center. The Lambert glacier flows at a rate of about 1,300 to 2,600 feet (400 to 800 meters) each year.



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

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society
Application for Membership

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.

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.

Club Officers:

President / Web Master: Jim Souter,
 ph. 478-454-7273, jgsouter@windstream.net

Vice President: Phillip Hargrove, 478-862-5327
 Cell 478-550-8199 susanbphih@pstel.net

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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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Save Commemorative Stamps