

# Gem, Mineral Show Planned for Weekend

By Skippy Lawson  
Associate Feature Editor

From a day's rock hunting to the process of turning gemstones into jewelry, lapidary arts are fascinating to Middle Georgia's rock hounds, many of whom spend their leisure hours hunting for rocks, minerals and sharks' teeth that abound in the area and turning them into jewelry or exhibits.

"A lot of times it's something a whole family will get into," said Jack Jones, a member of the Middle Georgia Gem and Mineral Society. Jones, who lives in Dry Branch, is an ardent collector of minerals and gem stones. He and his wife also have an extensive collection of sharks' teeth, discovered in the kaolin mines of Twiggs County.



Jack Jones

Middle Georgia's rock hounds will have a chance this weekend to buy and sell rocks and minerals, view jewelry-making demonstrations or just browse among the exhibits at the All Georgia Gem and Mineral Show at Westgate Outlet World. The show is open to the public.

Sponsored by the society, the show will open today at 10 a.m., running until 9 o'clock tonight, Saturday from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

**THE SHOW** will include exhibits of quartz, staurolite and sharks' teeth;

respectively Georgia's official state gemstone, mineral and fossil, and demonstrations of jewelry making and gem tree making.

There will be silent auctions of gems, minerals and other rock-related items at various times throughout the show.

Jones, chairman for the show, wears several pieces of jewelry he fashioned himself from rocks and minerals, including a belt buckle of lace agate and a quartz ring. He became interested in rock arts about nine years ago, he said, after buying a rock tumbler.

"Then I began to want to do something better," he said. It wasn't long before he added wirecraft and silvercraft to his fund of knowledge, and he and his wife, Betty, began taking the field trips with the Middle Georgia society. Now he sometimes goes rock hunting himself between field trips sponsored by the club, traveling to the Monticello area to look for feldspar or digging for 40-million-year-old sharks' teeth in the kaolin mines.

"IT'S NOT an expensive hobby till you get into cutting, polishing and faceting," he said. "Then you have to have machines, and the machinery is expensive."

An employee of Procter & Gamble Co. since 1960, Jones said his wife enjoys wearing the jewelry he makes for her from various rocks and minerals.

The Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society has about 70 members, he said, including junior members and families. The group sometimes travels to other Southeastern states for field  
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