



**June Meeting**  
**At the Museum of Arts and**  
**Sciences on Monday, 6-04-2012**  
**at 7:30pm.**

Speaker will be Tom Batcha will be speaking on the mineral Barite.

**May Meeting 2012 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Jim Souter with 13 members/guests present.

**Old Business**

The treasurers' report was read and approved. The guidelines for the scholarship winner were determined as follows:

- 1) Present member in good standing, paid up as of February 1
- 2) Present at the picnic or notify president or vice president prior to
- 3) Winner must give a followup presentation at a future meeting
- 4) Courses must lapidary related at William Holland or Wild Acres

**New Business**

Picnic is scheduled for June 30 at Ocmulgee Indian mounds National Monument in Macon. Everyone is reminded that the state fair is upcoming. Susan Hargrove gave a show and tell from her recent visit to the dig at the Glendon, NC mine. She had a nice selection of pyrite that her and her husband Phil had collected.

Gary Snow was our visiting speaker who is a mining engineer from the Thiele Mining Company. He gave a talk on kaolin mining and the part it plays in the development of paper products while accompanied by a slide show. The talk was quite informative and

provided some interesting insights into how the kaolin affects a lot of different areas of ordinary life. He provided some very nice handouts that explained the kaolin mining process in great detail up to and including the recovery process of the land at the end of the mining sequence. He had also extended an invitation for our club to come and visit his mining locations. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. A great thanks once again goes out to Mr. Tom Batcha for his generous donations to our door prize cache and he will also be our guest speaker for the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.  
 By: *Richard Arnold*



**Annual Picnic coming soon!**

The club annual picnic will be on **June 30, 2012**. It will be starting at 11:00 am at the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds. It will be held at the picnic tables by the museum parking lot. We will be having a silent auction during the picnic. We had a lot of fun with the silent auction in the past years. Also we will be drawing for the Lapidary Scholarship to William Holland or Wildacres, more information in this newsletter.



The club will furnish the barbeque and paper products. Everyone should bring a covered dish, your drinks, and a couple of items (more if you want to) to put in the silent auction, it can be rock related or not. So everyone come and have a good time. See you there and may the high bidder win!

Be present at the drawing which will be held at the annual club picnic (which is 6-30-2012) or notify the president or vice president via email or regular mail by 6-15-2012 if not able to be present.

The club will pay for Double Occupancy Room and provide \$50.00 dollars for Travel expenses.



**A note to remember**

After the June meeting, we do not have any club meetings in July and August (off for the summer) nor will you receive a newsletter. The next newsletter should be the September Newsletter at comes out in the middle of August. I will send everyone an e-mail for the digs and important news during these months.

Course taken must be lapidary related and taken at William Holland or Wildacres. See this web site for class details:

<http://www.sfmsworkshops.com/> .

Also scholarship must be taken within one year of receiving the scholarship or it will be forfeited back to the club.

Recipient is asked to make a presentation to the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting within one year of taking the class.

Good Luck to all.....

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2012. Kim Cochran will be the speaker at the September meeting.

**Have a great summer!**

**A Big Thank You**

To Tom Batcha and also Ben and Marjorie Harrison for donating minerals and fossils for our door prizes that we give a way at our meetings.

**Lapidary Scholarship Information**

This is our second annual club drawing for Lapidary Scholarship for one week at William Holland in Georgia or Wildacres in North Carolina. Following are the terms to enter the drawing and a little information to boot.

Must be a member as of: 2-1-2012

Cannot be a recipient of the Scholarship more than once in a three year period.



**The whole group except for me at Jones Pit dig**



## **Jones Pit Field Trip Follow up**

Everyone arrived at the meeting site and checked out the samples Tuell and I brought from earlier digs. We had 8 adults and 4 junior members. For an April day it was sizzling hot by the time we arrived at the pit. We went through the safety precautions then took a few pictures and away we went. To all the people that have been to the pit in the past years it has changed considerably. I believed we been coming here for 10 years now. Pines are growing through out the pit and a lot of bank erosion is covering up some of the boulders. You can still find some good material you just have to look and work harder at it. The pit was completely dry in the bottom. Everyone found something to bring home.

*By: Jay Batcha*



**In the Pit Upper end towards House**



**View looking towards deep end of pit.**



**Barite, Paga Mine, Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia**



## Mineral of the Month

### Barite

**Barite** is a common mineral and makes very attractive specimens. It often is an accessory mineral to other minerals and can make a nice backdrop to brightly colored crystals. At times bladed or tabular crystals of Barite form a concentric pattern of increasingly larger crystals outward. This has the appearance of a flower and when colored red by iron stains, these formations are called "Desert Roses". Controversy exists in regards to the spelling of Barite. For the last 100 years or so, this mineral has always been spelled "Barite" in the United States. In the United Kingdom, the spelling has traditionally been "Baryte". The IMA has recently changed the official spelling from "Barite" to "Baryte", and this has been a very controversial move, with many questioning the IMA's logic behind this change. Most U.S. mineral collectors and mineralogists still prefer the spelling Barite, and we reflect that spelling here in this guide as well.

Because Barite is so common, it can be confused for other minerals. **Celestite** ( $\text{SrSO}_4$ ) has the same structure as barite and forms very similar crystals. The two are indistinguishable by ordinary methods, but a flame test can distinguish them. By scraping the dust of the crystals into a gas flame the color of the flame will confirm the identity of the crystal. If the flame is a pale green it is barite, but if the flame is red it is celestite. The flame test works because the elements barium (Ba) and strontium (Sr) react in the flame and produce those colors.

Some 77% worldwide is used as a weighting agent for drilling fluids in oil and gas exploration to suppress high formation pressures and prevent blowouts. As a well is drilled, the bit passes through various formations, each with different characteristics. The deeper the hole, the more barite is needed

as a percentage of the total mud mix. An additional benefit of barite is that it is non-magnetic and thus does not interfere with magnetic measurements taken in the borehole, either during logging-while-drilling or in separate drill hole logging. Barite used for drilling petroleum wells can be black, blue, brown or gray depending on the ore body. The barite is finely ground so that at least 97% of the material, by weight, can pass through a 200-mesh (75- $\mu\text{m}$ ) screen, and no more than 30%, by weight, can be less than 6  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter. The ground barite also must be dense enough so that its specific gravity is 4.2 or greater, soft enough to not damage the bearings of a tricone drill bit, chemically inert, and containing no more than 250 milligrams per kilogram of soluble alkaline salts.

Other uses are in added-value applications which include filler in paint and plastics, sound reduction in engine compartments, coat of automobile finishes for smoothness and corrosion resistance, friction products for automobiles and trucks, radiation-shielding cement, glass ceramics and medical applications (for example, a barium meal before a contrast CAT scan). Baryte is supplied in a variety of forms and the price depends on the amount of processing; filler applications commanding higher prices following intense physical processing by grinding and micronising, and there are further premiums for whiteness and brightness and color.

Historically baryte was used for the production of barium hydroxide for sugar refining, and as a white pigment for textiles, paper, and paint.

Although baryte contains a "heavy" metal (barium), it is not considered to be a toxic chemical by most governments because of its extreme insolubility.



**Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!**

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**

**An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS.)(HOST)  
 An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society**

**8:30 AM, Saturday, May 26, 2012  
 Bayou Pierre  
 Utica, MS**

**Place: Bayou Pierre near Utica, MS  
 Time: Saturday, May 26, 2012 from  
 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

**What to find:** Jasper, chert fossils, agates, petrified wood, and sometimes (although rare) palmwood.

**Lodging:** There are motels a few miles north in Clinton (mostly on Springridge Rd), please don't stay in Jackson. There are no motels in Raymond or Utica.

**What to bring:** Buckets or bags for putting rocks in, a stick or tool to stir rocks with, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, drinks and snacks. Also bring lunch to eat under the trees, and we often share with each other.

**What to wear:** Light clothing, hat, sturdy shoes (you might want to wade).

**Meeting Place:** Hubbard's Truck Stop, Corner of Hwy 18 and Hwy 27E.  
**Directions:** Off I20 at Jackson, take Hwy 18 (26.7) miles toward Raymond. Hubbards will be on the left, just before Highway 27 E going toward Crystal Springs.

For further information call Janie Hand at 601-706-4629 or email [rockngranny49@aol.com](mailto:rockngranny49@aol.com)



Paint Rock Agate, Alabama

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**

**An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL) (HOST)  
 An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem and Mineral Society**

**9:00 AM CT, Saturday, June 9, 2012  
 Trenton, AL**

**FEE SITE**

**Place: Trenton, AL  
 Time: Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**



**Fee: \$17 adults, \$5.00 children for ages 12-16. Really not recommended for younger than 12 years old.**

**What to find:** Paint Rock Agate and various fossils. (Paint Rock agate is usually red and yellow. It can sometimes have other colors and even fortification lines. On occasion large agate nodules are found with hollow places that may have druze quartz crystals. Sometimes these crystals can be quite large, and can even be smoky or amethyst colored. The material is very good for making cabochons or any other type of lapidary processing and polishing, even tumbling!)

**Lodging:** Paint Rock Valley Lodge & Retreat, 865 Co Rd 9, Estillfork, AL, 35745 (256) 776-9411 (Other lodging in Scottsboro, AL or Huntsville, AL)

**What to bring:** Backpack, lots of water and/or Gatorade, lunch, rock hammer, safety glasses, insect repellent, potato rake or pick mattock, and release form.

**What to wear:** Light hiking clothing, hat, sturdy shoes / hiking boots.

**Meeting Place:** Holly Tree Grocery, 11620 AL Hwy 65, Holly Tree, AL 35751.

**Directions:** From Montgomery, take I-65 N. Near Decatur, take Exit 340 / I-565 E and go through Huntsville. I-565 becomes US 72 E. Continue on US 72 E. Turn left onto AL 65 and drive to Holly Tree Grocery. (Total drive is approximately 219 miles.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** This is on a mountain and requires moderate physical activity including hiking from the base to the top. It is not easy for beginning hikers and is NOT recommended for children unless

strictly supervised! There is plenty of shade on this tree covered mountain; so it is not as hot as most places.

**(Georgia Mineral Member responds)**  
I wanted to say something about this location. My wife and I did this about a year and a half ago and had a rough time. This is NOT a gentle mountain slope. This path is steep in places. We aren't in the best of shape, but do exercise regularly and the climb up took us an hour. The climb down took an hour and a half as we were carrying about 50 pounds of rock. I would warn the older members that this is not an easy location to collect. DMC

**For further information call field trip coordinator Jeff Edwards at (334) 312-0572**

**ATTACHED FORM: Field trip letter of agreement and release form.docx**



Paint Rock Agate, Alabama



## Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

June 6/2 - 6/3

The Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Club will be Hosting their 39<sup>th</sup> annual rock, gem, mineral and lapidary show June 2 and 3, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Tannehill Ironworks State Park. Admission to the show is free with paid admission to the park.

### RockFest 2012 June 9 -10

Tellus Science Museum - I-75  
Exit 293, Cartersville, Georgia

- **Gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry and more.**
- **Hands-on Xploration Stations for the whole family.**
- **Mineral and fossil identification.**
- **Hourly door prizes plus a special grand prize.**
- **Indoor and outdoor dealers.**
- **A great weekend of food and family fun!**

## Tidbits

### E-Book on Blacksmithing

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For those interested in the field of blacksmithing and ornamental ironwork, a free downloadable book called "The Blacksmith's Craft" has been prepared by Herefordshire College of Technology in England. The book, first published in 1952, was written for craftsmen, technical schools and apprentice training programs. Though 60 years old, the book continues to be a good introduction to the blacksmith's craft. It can be downloaded from [http://www.hct.ac.uk/Downloads/cp\\_blacksmith.html](http://www.hct.ac.uk/Downloads/cp_blacksmith.html)

### GARNET BULLETS

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A cool fact about garnets is that they were actually used in ancient Asia and the American Southwest as bullets in guns. The strong, deep red of the stone was said to cause wounds worse than bullets. Read more about it on the Omnigems Blog – <http://omigems.com/blog/category/gemstones/>

*From: More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)*



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

**Club year begins November 1<sup>st</sup>, 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:** Phil Hargrove, ph. 478-862-5327, [susanbphilh@pstel.net](mailto:susanbphilh@pstel.net)

**Vice President:** Jim Souter, ph. 478-454-7273, [jgsouter@windstream.net](mailto:jgsouter@windstream.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](mailto:susanbphilh@pstel.net)

**Editor / Programs / Web:** Jay Batcha, 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216, ph. 478-784-1965, [rocky1s@cox.net](mailto:rocky1s@cox.net)

**Education Chairperson:** Thomas Thurman, ph. 478-329-1755, cell 478-293-7302 [Tpangangan@aol.com](mailto:Tpangangan@aol.com)

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

**Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Application for Membership**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List your interests and reasons for joining \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

Jay Batcha, Editor  
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle  
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Save Commemorative Stamps