



June Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
June 03, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Speaker for the June Meeting will be Tom Batcha. He will be speaking on cataloging and labeling your rock, mineral and fossil collections. Your collection will be enhanced in value if you follow these simple steps!

President's Message

We had a good turnout this past month and I was glad to see everybody. I ask that you remember Rene and Betty Sue in your thoughts and prayers as she is still in the Medical Center in Macon. I just spoke with her on the phone and she says she is missing us and the meetings and she can't wait to return so she can go on some more trips.

I would like to remind everybody of our upcoming annual picnic and auction. It will be held at the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds on June 29, 2013 at 11:00am. I ask that you dust off your old specimens and tools; books and magazines that are lapidary related and bring them with you for the auction. Also, bring your favorite covered dish items to be shared by all at the picnic. Following the eating, there will be an auction and a drawing for the scholarship to

William Holland. Please submit your intention to be considered for this drawing if you are interested, in writing to me, Susan and/or Jay prior to the drawing. Last year's winner was Jack Jones and the year before was Gayla Jackson. Both have given us a great program on what they learned.

We have another chance to sell at Smiley's on May 18, 2013 so we can raise some more money for the club. Since we were rained out last weekend, we can only hope that the weather will cooperate with us this next time so we can be successful.

When you go out on a dig, what do you take with you? I have a "kit" which contains equipment that I consider fundamental to rock hounding. Everybody probably has a kit of some sort, whether they realize it or not. My kit is fairly simple, a rock pick, notebook, knee pads, gloves, chisels, cracking hammer and folding shovel. Also, I have sun screen, water, glucose tablets (in case my sugar crashes while in the field since I am diabetic), first aid kit. What I recommend is that everybody have a basic kit similar to the following;

1. Rock hammer/pick
2. Gloves
3. Safety glasses
4. Notebook, to make notes of where you find your specimens so you can return later if you like.
5. Water
6. Sun screen/insect repellent
7. Kit bag to contain everything as well as carry your specimens
8. First aid kit
9. Magnifier or loupe

You can add or subtract things to the list as you like. I keep my kit in my truck most of the time because I never know when I will find something that looks interesting.



I try to cover most eventualities for what I might find. With the summer quickly approaching, keep in mind to wear comfortable, cool clothing and to drink plenty of fluids. If you have a hat, wear it to keep the brain nice and cool too. And be aware of where you put your feet and hands as there are snakes out there that become more and more active as the summer progresses. We don't need anybody getting bitten by snake, scorpion, spider or any other insects.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for improving the club, feel free to call, write, email me at 478.454.7273, 135 Meriweather Circle NW, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061 or jgsouter@windstream.net.

May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Jim Souter with 12 members 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 follow up presentation at a future meeting
 - 4) Courses must be lapidary related at William Holland or Wild Acres
- Unfortunately mother nature did not cooperate and our fundraiser at Smileys flea market was rained out with a future date of May 18, 2013. The mineral of the month was chalcopyrite and several nice specimens were brought in and

discussed. Also an informal rock swap was conducted with some nice pieces being exchanged between members.

New Business

Picnic is scheduled for June 29 at Ocmulgee Indian mounds National Monument in Macon. Everyone is reminded that the state fair is upcoming and volunteers should sign up by the September meeting if at all possible. Our own Jim Souter was our visiting speaker. He gave a talk on making jump rings and their significance in all of the jewelry lapidary arts which was accompanied by video instruction. The talk was quite informative and provided some interesting insights into how they are made showing different techniques. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

By: Richard Arnold

Grab Bag Update

We meet at Jim Souter's house after the Georgia College Museum Field trip in Milledgeville. Doug and Carol Glasgow brought some great material for the grab bags. Susan and Phillip Hargrove brought some material to fill the bags and they sew the bags. Tuell Walters trimmed the bags and Doug cut out and ran the string for the bags. Carol and I filled the bags. Tina Perkins had already made 75 bags for us. Jim served us lunch, some homemade Bar-BQ pork and sauce. Boy was it oh-so good. We ended up with 158 grab bags already to go. I just want to say **thank you** everybody that help supply everything to get these grab bags done!

By: JayBatcha



Lapidary Scholarship Information

This will be our third annual Club drawing for a Lapidary Scholarship for one week at William Holland or Wildacres. The drawing will be held at the Club picnic on Saturday, June 29th.

To be eligible you must be a member as of February 1, 2013. You cannot be a recipient of the Scholarship more than once in a three year period. You must be present at the drawing or notify the President or Vice President via email or regular mail by June 15, 2013.

The Club will pay for a double occupancy room and provide \$50.00 for travel expense. The Scholarship is not transferable and must be used by June 30, 2014. The course must be lapidary related. See the web site: <http://www.sfmsworkshops.com> for currently available courses.

The 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!



Annual Picnic coming soon!
 The club annual picnic will be on **June 29, 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!

Fair News

We have confirmed with the Director of Georgia Living (the Home Arts & Fine Arts) that the Club is invited back for this year's Georgia National Fair in Perry. The Fair will be October 3-13.

The Club is fortunate to be able to participate and we are reminded of a few things. We will be located in approximately the same place as in the past two years. The primary purpose of what goes on in this building is to promote the Arts and hobbies of Georgia artists and residents. We use this time to educate the public about gems, minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts and to promote the Club. The Fair's expectation is that we will be demonstrating as much as we can manage. Since we are demonstrating we are allowed to sell on a limited basis. As in prior years we may sell lapidary related items we have made; things that require some level of skill to produce. The only other people in this building



allowed to sell are the artists in residence (in the Georgia Living section, not referring to the adjoining Fine Arts.) If anyone is planning on selling, remember that the space allowed for your display is approximately 3 x 3 feet. If you plan on selling you must also be demonstrating. Please arrange for any equipment and tools you will need; do not assume any equipment will be provided. It is not necessary that you demonstrate – we need docents to talk with the public. People are generally eager to talk about gems & minerals, etc. and interested in the Club. If you would like to bring some of your collection to display while you are there, please do.

We will arrange a Saturday morning in late September to set up the display. The date & time will be published in the Bulletin and we'll ask Jay to send out a reminder email of the date & time when we get closer. If you have any specimens you would like to display, bring them that morning or you may get them to Jay or bring them to the September meeting. Please mark all your items in some way if you cannot be at the display setup.

If you would like to docent please contact Susan or Phil Hargrove as soon as possible so we can arrange the schedule. The absolute deadline to sign up is our September meeting. The Fair needs the name and addresses and how many days (parts of) you commit to. The Fair will mail the tickets and parking passes directly to you. We need to be conscious of keeping our space neat and orderly and the display fully accessible to the public. Remember that no open drinks are allowed in this building and no eating. There is a dining area in the back of the building that we can use.

Contact Susan at 478-837-5327 or Phil at 478-550-8199 or email susanbphilh@pstel.net.

Thanks and see you at the Fair!



Staurolite twins, Fannin County, Georgia

Mineral of the Month **Staurolite**



It is the official state mineral of the U.S. state of Georgia.

Staurolite is a regional metamorphic mineral of intermediate to high grade. It occurs with almandine garnet, micas, kyanite; as well as albite, biotite, and sillimanite in gneiss and schist of regional metamorphic rocks. Staurolite is one of the index minerals that are used to estimate the temperature, depth, and pressure at which a rock undergoes metamorphism.

The name is derived from the Greek word for cross, *Stauros*, and rock, *lithos*. This refers to the twinning it is commonly found in. Staurolite is not uncommon worldwide. Large deposits of good crystals can be found in Monte Campione, Switzerland, Brittany, France, Scotland, and Taos, New Mexico. Also some large deposits are present in Maine, New Hampshire, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, New Mexico, and Montana. Staurolite twins, especially the 90 degree crosses are sold as “fairy stones” for amulets and charms.



Physical Properties: Staurolite is a semi-translucent dark brown to reddish mineral. It has a hardness of 7 to 7.5. Crystals are frequently twinned joining at either 60 or, less commonly, 90 degrees. It has a dull or resinous luster and a grey or white streak. It has a specific gravity of 3.65-3.75 and a hardness of 7-7.5. It is usually found in crystal habit, but is sometimes massive.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staurolite>

<http://www.cas.umt.edu/geosciences/faculty/baldwin/geos226/Staurolite.html>



Staurolite, Keivy Mountains, Kola Peninsula, Russia

Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!



An Official Field Trip of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. (HOST)

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

9:00 AM EDT to 2:00 PM
Saturday, May 25, 2013
Boxley Aggregates, Piney River Quarry (Amherst County)
739 Warrick Barn Road, Arrington, VA.

COLLECTING: According to the mindat.org Website, the following minerals are listed from Minerals of Virginia, 1990 edition. Some on this list have not been found on our past field trips. (An (*) indicates those known finds on past field trips)
Anatase: A greenish-brown replacement of ilmenite.
Ilmenite: Black metallic or highly weathered masses. (*)
Kaolinite: White powdery masses from the alteration of feldspar. (*)
Quartz: Light blue to white (*)
Rutile: Reddish-brown metallic to highly weathered masses. (*)
Tacharanite: White, dull to pearly. Occurs with the weathered anatase, rutile and ilmenite.
Zoisite var: Thulite: Veins of pink thulite occur in the feldspar. (*)

Additional minerals: **Pyrrhotite:** (has been verified) (*) Silvery metallic when fresh but weathers to a dark rusty color when exposed to the weather. **Pyrite:** Small crystals and masses (*)

The main rock mined here is called APLITE. It is very hard, light-colored, and fine-grained and consists primarily of sodic plagioclase feldspar and quartz in the groundmass and, in some cases, orthoclase feldspar phenocrysts. Like pegmatites, aplite dikes may represent a residual fraction on silica-rich magma after most on the magma has crystallized.

Remember that the availability of these minerals



depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and how many stock piles are available. Note that some of the occurrences are very small.

DIRECTIONS: From Lynchburg, VA., follow US 29 By-pass north to Amherst. Continue on the US 29 by-pass for about 2 miles until you come to Rt.151 (Patrick Henry Highway). Turn Left on Rt. 151 and continue for about 6 miles and turn left on RT. 665 (Warrick Barn Road). The entrance road to the quarry will be in about 1 mile on the right.

MEETING LOCATION & ASSEMBLY TIME: 8:00 to 8:45 AM. At the quarry scale house / office. You will need sufficient time to read the required Boxley Hazard Training information, fill out and sign the Hazard Training Certificate and sign the required Boxley waiver of liability form. There will also be a review of the site specific hazard training and safety regulations by the quarry Superintendent. Everyone must be present for this presentation. If you are late, you will not be permitted to enter the quarry. We all will enter the quarry as a group about 9:00 AM.

All safety rules will be strictly enforced or you will be escorted out of the quarry and barred from future field trips.

EQUIPMENT: The Boxley Quarries are very safety-conscious. Standard quarry PPE (personal protective equipment) gear is required or you will not be permitted to enter the quarry. **Hard hat (see mfg. date below), steel-toe boots, safety glasses, good protective clothing and gloves must be worn.** It could be very cold, wet or hot in the quarry, so dress according to the weather forecast that morning. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. Bring your own collecting equipment such as rock hammers, chisels, buckets and newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry. Bring rain gear in case of bad weather. **HARD HAT NOTICE: CHECK THE MANUFACTURE DATE, LEFT SIDE, UNDER THE BRIM IN THE SMALL CIRCLE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ARROW.** If you see a 1 on either side it was made in 2011, a 0/7 is 2007. If it's older than 5 years, it must be replaced. This is a New Federal rule enforcement. You must comply or be rejected.

AGE LIMIT: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parent's responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all

the safety requirements. The same dress and PPE requirements apply.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call me to confirm the trip.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman. The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
Web site www.LynchburgRockClub.org Home Phone [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) Cell [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201) (the day of the trip please)
Email dbcall1@aol.com

An Official Field Trip of Henderson
County Gem & Mineral Society
(Hendersonville, NC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-GA.
Gem and Mineral Society.

9:00 AM EDT til Dusk
Saturday, June 8, 2013
Mason Farm Staurolite
Prospect
Brasstown, North Carolina
FEE Site

Collecting: Staurolite crystals (Maltese and St. Andrew's crosses)---these are also known as Fairy Crosses (brown/gray to red-tinged well-formed crystals)
Gold (pan for it in small stream)

You will be digging in red clay, then sifting for the Staurolite crystals. This appears to be an alluvial wash with lots of loose crystals, mostly whole, as well as some crystals in matrix. Many of



these are found within the first foot of soil, but they can be found as deep as three feet (especially the bigger ones). Crystals range in size from 1/4" up to over 2". Digging is allowed on the hillside and in the field. The boundaries are marked with flagging tape. There is a lot of room for digging.

The St. Andrew's crosses form an X and are plentiful. The Maltese crosses look like a large plus (+) or perfectly equal-sided cross. Single Blades are also found. Clusters of crystals are uncommon. Crystals on matrix can be found, but are much less common than loose crystals. Black sands are found in the small stream. Gold has also been found within the quartz. (I have NOT personally found any GOLD yet---too busy digging for Staurolite, but have seen some BLACK SANDS while washing the Staurolite crystals. The owner HAS found some GOLD, but I have not personally seen it).

For a site report, visit
<http://wncrocks.com/magma/masonfarm/staurolite-1.html>

Cost: \$20 per person; children 12 and under are free. Everyone will be required to sign a liability release form when you pay your fee OR you can print and fill-in your own release form from this link --->>> [LIABILITY RELEASE FORM](#)

Field trip will go on RAIN or SHINE!!



Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

June 1 - 2
Birmingham AL area

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society 40th Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show located in the Tannehill Historical Ironworks Park, 12632 Confederate Pkwy. Mc Calla, AL. 35111.

Sat. - Sun. 9 am to 5 pm.

Admission to the show is free with paid admission to the park. Dealers offer mineral specimens, fossils, beads, slabs, geodes, jewelry, loose stones, jewelry repair and all things rocks. Door prizes, club demonstrations, and Kids Korner games near our club booth.

Contact Gene Blackerby
geneblackerby@labidaryclub.com
or 205-807-6777.
www.lapidaryclub.com



Tidbits

Hints for Surface Collecting

When searching for translucent material, like agate, walk towards the sun, you will see the sun shine through the stone. When looking for reflective material like crystals, have the sun behind you and the material will shine or sparkle in the sun. If you walk sideways to the sun, look side to side for both translucent and reflective material. If you find something good or unusual, stop and mark the spot, look up the slope and down the slope to find the source of the material. I like to pile rocks every time I find something unusual, that way I can see the fall-line of the material.

via Hard Rock News, 3/11

via The Tumbler 5/11

Rockus Collectralus:

A Case Study

**By Chris Lee (17) Georgia Mineral Society
 (1st Place - AFMS Junior Articles, 12 - 17)**

It is a horrible thing to be addicted to rocks. In the middle of the night you wake up, contemplating more purchases to make. The

shelves in your house are overloaded, sagging under all the weight - 30 percent of the earth's crust sitting on them. You don't even bother showering any more, as the fine dust left on your hands from carrying rocks has built up to unmanageable levels. All but your best friends have abandoned you; they do not want to be seen in public with someone so dirty.

This is a glimpse into the life of a person affected by rockus collectralus, a horrible disease that causes compulsive rock collection. Sufferers of this disease can be easily identified by their bulging pockets, their vest covered in dust, and their beat-up hat. Many sufferers also can be seen at any place that rocks, minerals, or fossils are sold. They can be differentiated from other patrons by lack of the phrase: "How much?"

Unfortunately, there is no way to treat rockus collectralus. However, there are ways of making it more livable. One way is to provide frequent exposure to others with this disease; this will help the sufferer to maintain their sanity. Another way is to provide frequent opportunities and finances to purchase as many rocks as needed. This keeps everyone happy, except your accountant and spouse. Finally, the most important way to treat rockus collectralus is to have more social contact than just your rock dealer, and not to spend all day organizing, tagging, gazing.

If all of the above steps are followed, sufferers of rockus collectralus can have some of their lives back and be on their way to recovery.

Via Tips and Trips 01/08, via THE ROCK COLLECTOR 10/10,

via Strata Gem 11/10, via The Rockhound Record 03/11



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

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 Cell 478-719-2413 grawolfvrs@msn.com

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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

Jay Batcha, Editor
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle
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Save Commemorative Stamps