



**May Meeting
 At the Museum of Arts and
 Sciences on Monday,
 June 01, 2015 at 7:30pm.**

Everybody will be speaking about their favorite Rock/Mineral/Fossil which is the Mineral of the Month. **So everyone should have a Mineral of the Month this time!!!**

Bring an unidentified Rock/Mineral/Fossil that you would like to try to get identified, who knows maybe we can brainstorm together and identify the unknown. Be sure to have on your thinking cap. Bring a light, loupe, mineral/fossil books, magnified glass, and whatever can assist us in this challenge!

Rock/Mineral/Fossil Swap!!!
 Everyone bring some of your extra surplus stuff and we will try to get it swapped for something you don't have. The more selection you can bring the better the chance we can

get a good swap going. We might do this in the parking lot if it is a pretty evening to do so! Sort-a-like a tailgate party.

We should call this a 3 for 1 night! So come enjoy the last meeting before the summer break.



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1st, 2015 Summer break for July and August, also the next newsletter will also be the September newsletter, but I will email you any field trips and important news that comes up.

By: Jay Batcha

President's Message

Well, once again summer time is upon us and we are getting ready to shut the meetings down for July and August. I think we have had a pretty good year so far. Our membership has grown this year and we have had a few visitors. Already, we have a goodly portion of our grab bags ready for the Perry State Fair in October, we only have another hundred or so to do at Jay's house.

As we go out in this warmer weather, let's keep in mind some basic safety issues so that we don't get hurt.



- 1) Be aware of where you step, reach in to, or grab as there are snakes everywhere and not all of them are friendly or non-poisonous.
- 2) Wear a good sun block when outside to protect your skin.
- 3) With the warmer weather, we need to be aware of the dangers of dehydration. So keep plenty of water on hand for drinking.
- 4) Be aware of the weather and if a thunderstorm were to occur while on a dig, return to your vehicle and wait for it to pass. Do not congregate under trees as there is always a risk of lightning strike.
- 5) Wear a hat to protect your head from the sun, if you are in a mining pit, always wear a hard hat and safety glasses.
- 6) As always, wear steel toe or hard sole, sturdy shoes when digging.

Like I said, with the warmer months we have to be in mind of not only the snakes, but the insects as well. Keep a good insect repellent with you. Also, watch out for brown recluse spiders. They are common in our area. Another insect to keep an eye out for are the fire ants. Other insects to watch out for are bees, hornets and yellow jackets. If you steer clear of these, you will have a successful dig.

So, have a great summer!!! Be safe!!! Have fun!!! Dig up lots of rocks!!!

I want to thank everybody for their efforts in helping us grow into a bigger and better club. As usual, if you have any suggestions or ideas for the club, feel free to contact me at jgsouter@windstream.net or call me at 478-454-7273.

Your president.....
 Jim



Annual Picnic has come and gone!

The club annual picnic was on **May 02, 2015**. It started at 11:00 am at the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds on a cool Saturday morning, and turned into a beautiful day. We had 19 members present at the picnic. With an overabundance of food to eat and boy did we eat some good food!

We had a lot to choices of items with the silent auction, which was stopped at 1:00 with people still trying to get that last bid in. We raised \$156.00 dollars with the silent auction. Everyone went home with some really good deals!

By: Jay Batcha

May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Jim Souter with 13 members and one little one present.

Old Business

The treasurer's report was read and approved. Our club trip to the KaMin Quarry in Twiggs County was delayed due to rain and has been rescheduled for May 22, 2015. Contact Jay, our trip chairman, if you are interested in a tour of the quarry and looking



for sand dollars. Space is limited so time is of the essence.

Susan has 10 half price tickets for entrance to the Tellus Museum show on May 13th & 14th. Maxine and Jay will use the two free tickets.

Jay needs more fill for the bags to sell at the GA National Fair October 8-18th.

Each member is asked to bring the following to the June 1st meeting: a favorite rock/mineral/fossil which they will discuss; an unidentified rock/mineral/fossil which we will try to identify; and some of your extra surplus stuff to swap with another member.

New business

This month's mineral was copper. Our own Program Coordinator, Jay Batcha, presented a fascinating power point presentation titled Continuation of Jay and Tom's Trip in Upper Michigan to Keweenaw Peninsula. Dan Roblee of *The Daily Mining Gazette* wrote an article dated August 11, 2014 picturing Jay at the Baltic mine titled "Rocking and Rolling-two dozen people spread across a massive rock pile Friday focused on the rocks and potential treasures beneath their feet." The Baltic mine closed in 1931. The company uses a track hoe to spread out the dump so people could look for copper and other as yet undiscovered artifacts. From the Baltic dump which was Jay's favorite they found hand-made nails, railroad spikes, tools and even animal teeth covered in some copper. Jay gave a fascinating look into the mining operations explaining the history, process of extraction, equipment, building, safety and human resources needed until the demise of the industry. In fact the Quincy Smelter which processed ore from 13 mines from 1898-1972 is now on the EPA's Superfund list for clean-up.

At the Quincy mine when a 300 ton discovery of solid copper at a depth of 4,000 feet was found, it required the miners to break

it into smaller pieces which took 30 skip cars to bring to the surface.

Jay and Tom also visited the A E Seaman Mineral Museum where they saw a 378 pound mass which was 98% pure copper. This had been used to test drill bits.

In addition to the fascinating power point presentation, Jay had his photo album showing the dump sites, historical buildings and the beauty of the area on Lake Superior. He advised that this is also the end of US Highway 41. Jay had multiple samples collected on this trip to share with us.

After a discussion of the properties and uses of copper with all the members present and an opportunity to ask questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 P M.

By: Carol Glasgow



**Mineral of the
Month**
**Bring Your Favorite
Rock/Mineral/Fossil**



The Mineral of the Month is a little different this month and everybody should have one to bring to the meeting in June. It is your favorite Rock, Mineral, or Fossil that you own. Please bring your specimen or specimens (if you have more the one of that favorite) in to share with the other members. I would like you to share with everyone where and how you acquired it. What it is and why this specimen has fascinated, captivated, engrossed, enchanted, transfixed, and mesmerized you so much! And get any other information you know of about that Rock, Mineral, or Fossil.

What catches ones attention to gravitate to a particular rock, mineral, or fossil? It can be as simple as its beauty, to as complex as the chemical makeup of a mineral fascinating the person. Another reason could be the location that a fossil was collected at. To some it is the power or healing ability of the crystal. An awesome piece of jewelry made with a gemologist's favorite gemstone. There are as many reasons as there are rockhounds.

Most likely that favorite item is close at hand. It could be sitting on the table next to you as you read this. You may even be wearing it now! But grab it and carefully bring it in and show it off to everyone you might convince someone to switch their favorite rock, mineral, or fossil.



Mid-Georgia Field Trip May 22, 2015

8:30 am

Fossil dig at KaMin Freeport Mine and tour their Operations

The April 17th trip was rained out trying again. Some members that were going on April 17th can't go on this we have opening for the dig.

Trip: Freeport Mine near Macon, Ga. This is a first time to this site; thank Carl Joyce for getting this together. We will be digging on private property so fill in any holes and pickup your trash, so we can come back.

Meet at: Marathon Gas Station parking lot. At 08:30am on Friday, May 22, 2015, in Macon on Sgoda Road. Store on right side of the road.

Fee: Free

Important: You must RSVP to go on this dig it is limited in the number of people (First to signup will make the list but I will keep a backup list if someone backs out). Please call Jay Batcha to reserve you a spot. Home #478-784-1965 or Cell #478-957-5002 or e-mail at batcha.jay@gmail.com. We are also limited on the number of vehicles to three, going into the mine so we will need to buddy up on this part of the trip.

To Collect and do: We will see a KaMin presentation. We will tour the mine to see Cretaceous Clay mine operation, visit the Degritting Plant in the Mine, and Collect Fossils @ our Freeport Mine. Fossil types: All Eocene marine to near shore mollusks, corals, pelecypods, bryozoans, oyster shells and others.



Bring: Must bring: hard hat and safety glasses! And others things like hammer, chisels, scratching tools, pry bars, buckets, paper to wrap specimens, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks, sturdy shoes, and gloves.

Directions: Go to I-16 east in Macon take the Sgoda Road exit (Exit 12 on I-16). If going west on I-16, exit and turn right, if going east on I-16 exit, turn left on to Sgoda Road. The Marathon Gas Station (Qwick Way Foods) is on the right. We will then travel to KaMin plant from here.



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

**An Official Field Trip of Mid-Tennessee
Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga
Gem and Mineral Society**

**11:00AM until 3:00PM CDT
Saturday – May 30, 2015**

WHERE: Cumberland Furnace, TN

WHEN: Saturday – May 30, 2015

DIRECTIONS: From Nashville, TN off of I-40 take exit 196 for US-70 S (Bellevue/Newsom

Station) go 0.2 miles. Turn right at TN-1 W/US-70S W go 1.8 miles. Turn left at TN-1 W/US-70 W/Charlotte Pike go 16.1 miles. Turn right at TN-47 (White Bluff) go 9.6 miles. Turn right at TN-48 (Charlotte) go 6.8 miles. Take a slight left at Earl Leech Rd go 0.2 miles. Turn left on Cinder Road. You will see a log cabin (Starks Cabin) on the left hand side of the road. You can park in the field next to the cabin.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 11:00 AM at Cinder Road, Cumberland Furnace, TN

For those meeting as at Cumberland Furnace, we should arrive about 10:00. Meet near the old log cabin on Cinder Road.

COLLECTING: We are heading to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quit colorful in shades of blue and green ... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants – it is too soft for rings.

Our target is a dump pile on the banks of the stream that runs through Cumberland Furnace (access by crossing a large field owned by the community). This dump pile is located about a ¼ of a mile from the parking area. Although the dump pile has the greatest potential, slag can be found anywhere along the banks (both upstream and downstream). Another way to search is by wading downstream from the furnace if the creek is low. I am not sure if conditions will permit - bring wading shoes just in case if you wish to collect in the stream.

AGE LIMIT: Everyone is welcome but children must be 6 years or older. They will not be allowed to roam around unattended and must obey all safety requirements and have all safety equipment. All pets must be under control at all times.

EQUIPMENT: You need to bring a hand tool,



trowel, small shovel, etc. to dig in the slag pile and gloves to protect your hands. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet may get wet otherwise.

SEVERAL LODGING SUGGESTIONS:
 Depending on which direction you are coming from, I would recommend staying in the Nashville area, Clarksville (north of the furnace) or Dickson (south of the furnace). If you are going to meet us and go as group, then Nashville is the best choice.

CONTACTS: For further information or alternative directions contact: John Martin, MTGMS Vice President at info@mtgms.org call my cell phone 615-210-5385 Visit our website www.mtgms.org and visit us on Facebook.



Cabochon made of Slag



Summerville Lace Agate

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Host) Mobile, Alabama

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

JUNE FIELD TRIP - PATTY CONSTRUCTION QUARRY SUMMERVILLE LACE AGATE CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GA Saturday, June 6, 2015

MEET: PATTY CONSTRUCTION QUARRY on US 27 in Chattooga County GA. This is in the NW corner of the State of Georgia.

**WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 2015
 TIME: 9:00 AM Eastern Time - 3:00 PM Eastern Time**

Directions: From Summerville, GA follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry Office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

Collecting: Lace agate/chert.

Tools. Rock hammer, scratching tools, buckets, chisels and paper for wrapping specimens. You will also need gloves,



protective eyewear, hat, sunscreen, and sturdy boots with ankle support (hiking boots). A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pale of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material.

Other: Bring plenty of fluids and some snacks. This is a good site for children of all ages but they must have adult supervision at all times. Any pets **MUST** be on a leash at all times.

Fee: None

Special: **THIS IS ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.**

Contact:

Larry Landry

Field Trip Chairman

Mobile Rock and Gem Society

251-591-5682

maryloulandry@aol.com



Lots of Summerville Lace Agate

Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

June 6 & 7, 2015

Tannehill Historical Ironworks State Park, Alabama

The 42nd Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show
Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7,
9am to 5pm

12632 Confederate Pkwy, McCalla, AL 35111

The show is free with paid admission to the park.

I-59/20 to exit #100 or I-459 to exit #1 and follow the signs to Tannehill.

Showchairman: Cathy Kellogg
tannehillgemshow@gmail.com

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



June 13 and 14, 2015
Cartersville, GA
Tellus Science Museum
Gem & Mineral Show and Sale
Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM
– 5 PM
Tellus Science Museum

I-75 at exit 293, directly behind the
Clarion Inn

Calling all rock hounds, jewelry
collectors, families and everyone
fascinated by the Earth's treasures!
RockFest returns to Tellus for two
full days that will delight the whole
family. Mark this indoor/outdoor
event as a summer "must-do" on
your calendar.

Dealers from all over the country will
bring their wares for you to browse .
Some will feature rare and
exotic jewelry, while others will
showcase ancient fossils or colorful
specimens. You will have an
opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-
kind find at this unique festival of
merchants. And what's even better?
Most dealers will also honor the
Tellus member discount – that
means members save 10% off your
purchase! Dealers will be set up
outside on the back lawn and inside
the Museum in the Banquet Rooms.
Hourly door prizes
Free mineral specimens for the first 200
guests each day

Bring your mystery mineral specimen
for free mineral or fossil identification
Kid's activities
Show contact: Mary Vinson, Event
Coordinator, (770) 606-5700 ext 402
Email
contact: maryv@tellusmuseum.org

TIDBITS

Talents and coppers: counting rocks

Way back in the days of the ancient Greeks, before the modern Geeks invented of the electronic calculator, early clerks used a "counting board" to tally up their accounts. One of the few surviving ancient counting boards is the "Salamis Tablet." Made of polished marble, the Salamis Tablet has letters chiseled into it corresponding to the denominations of ancient coins, ranging from "T" for the talent down to "X" for the chalkós. (A chalkós is one-eighth of the obol, which is one-sixth of the drachma, which is one-six-thousandth of a talent. Thus, there are 288,000 chalkós in a talent.) The counting board was used by placing small rocks as counters above the various symbols for the various currency values. As one added or subtracted values, the counters would be rearranged. The counters were called pséphoi ("pebbles") and the word pséphizein meant "to compute" or "to calculate," but its literal meaning is "to pebble." Thus, an accountant is really a pebbler! What is interesting to the mineralogist about this early system is that the word chalkós means "copper" or "ore." Is it just a coincidence that the smallest currency unit in ancient Greece was the "copper" and that today in the U.S., we use the copper penny as our smallest coin? It is also interesting to note that some African societies traditionally used a form of copper money in which the copper metal was cast not into a coin but rather into a large "X"-shape about 10 inches (25 cm) across. Is this shape the source of the "X" symbol used for the chalkós?

Ref: Menninger, Karl, 1969, Number Words and Number Symbols, Dover, New York, p. 299-300.



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

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:

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

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

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

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Save Commemorative Stamps