



**March Meeting  
At the Museum of Arts and  
Sciences on Monday,  
March 03, 2014 at 7:30pm.**

We will be watching a tape on Oregon Rockhounding this time - No speaker for this meeting. Bring any Oregon rocks, minerals, and fossils. So we can see what Oregon has to offer.

**Speakers needed for meetings!**  
I need some help finding speakers! If anyone knows anyone we can have speak at one of our meeting or if you would be willing to speak at one of our meetings about anything. Please contact me (Jay), my cell # 478-957-5002.

**President's Message**

We had a good meeting this past month. We met in the planetarium instead of the auditorium due to double booking by the museum. It was all good. Jay had a good presentation of his trip to Quartzite. A friend of mine who has a booth at the Electric Park in Tucson says he and about 70% of the vendors there go to Quartzite first and buy up a lot of the material just to sell it in Tucson. But we enjoyed that presentation Jay. Also, we were

treated to a small show inside the planetarium afterwards by the curator of the planetarium. It was very entertaining and enlightening. This world isn't as big as we think when we look at the big picture of everything. Our thanks to Paul Fisher and the events that put us in there Monday evening. A good time was had by all. It was good to see Betty and Renee and we pray for a full and speedy recovery. As I was reading this month's Rock & Gem magazine, I came across a new product that I see as something that destined to aid rockhounds in the future. It is a product called Dexpan which is a non-explosive demolition agent that when poured into a hole that is drilled in the rock, expands and fractures around it so it can be removed. There are videos online of a man using a rotary hammer drill to bore holes into the New Hampshire rock where he fills the holes with Dexpan and it swells inside the holes causing the ground to fracture between the holes.

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K55dbk7zjuc>
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT6AojG-2Ho>
3. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Nvn8mZ6-tA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nvn8mZ6-tA)

I just wanted to share that with you guys since this is a relatively new product that is just starting to make head ways into the rockhounding world.

Let's all be safe. I don't think I can or ever will stop emphasizing that and remind people to be careful.

Bring a friend with you to the next meeting and let's all have fun.

*By: Jim Souter*



## February Meeting Minutes

**The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Jim Souter with 14 members/guests present in the planetarium.**

### Old Business

**The treasurers' report was read and approved. The federation dues and insurance were paid for the upcoming year.**

### New Business

**This month's mineral was talc and several members brought in specimens to share.**

**Our own Mr Jay Batcha, longtime member was our speaker for the evening. He gave a talk/slide show presentation on his most recent trip to Quartzite Arizona. His talk covered all of his various rock hounding trips to that particular area. His talk was quite informative and provided some insights into**

**what activities and facilities were available in the immediate area. He brought in a multitude of samples that he collected through the years. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

**Paul Fisher who runs the planetarium programming was on hand and shared a nice presentation with the club following the meeting that was really spectacular. Our many thanks to the staff at the museum.**

### Upcoming Digs

**March 8, 2013 Cemex quarry in Clinchfield, Ga. For fossil sea urchins, shells, sharks teeth and assorted other fossils.**

**By: Richard Arnold**



## A Request for Fossil Material

The Museum of Arts and Sciences has asked if anyone has any kind of fossil material that they may be able to donate to the museum. They

have an area where children can dig and screen for fossils. The children get to keep what they find. The Museum needs the fossil material to replenish the hunting grounds. They do not care what type of fossil material it is any kind will do.



Smithsonite - Choix, Mexico

## Mineral of the Month Smithsonite

Smithsonite belongs to the calcite group of minerals, a group of related carbonates that are isomorphous with one another. They are similar in many physical properties, and may partially or fully replace one another, forming a solid solution series. All members of the calcite group crystallize in the trigonal system, have perfect rhombohedral cleavage, and exhibit strong double refraction in transparent rhombohedrons.

Smithsonite rarely occurs in visible crystals. The only two locations to produce large crystals of significance are Tsumeb, Namibia, and Broken Hill, Zambia. Virtually all other findings of this mineral are in globular or botryoidal-like forms. Many of the rounded forms have a feathery or sparkling light effect.

Smithsonite is essentially zinc carbonate, but the zinc may be partially replaced with other elements. This is responsible for the color variations this mineral exhibits. Copper is responsible for green to blue coloring, and cobalt causes a pink to purple color.



Cadmium makes Smithsonite yellow, and iron gives it a brown to reddish-brown color.

Botryoidal Smithsonite aggregates are occasionally lubricated with oils to enhance luster and appeal to collectors. Smithsonite is named in honor of James Smithson, the founder of the Smithsonian Institution.

**Uses:** Smithsonite is an ore of zinc. It is sometimes polished and used as an ornamental stone, which is known as Bonamite in the gem trade. It is a minor gemstone.

**USA Noteworthy Locations:** The U.S. has many fine occurrences; perhaps the most famous being the Kelly Mine, Magdalena, Socorro Co., New Mexico. The No. 79 Mine, Hayden, Gila Co., Arizona is famous for its dark and apple-green Smithsonite. Bright yellow and orange-yellow specimens have

come from Rush, near Yellville, Marion Co., Arkansas. A large industrial zinc deposit is in Leadville, Lake Co., Colorado. Other localities are Cerro Gordo, Inyo Co., California; the Hidden Treasure Mine, Ophir Hill, Tooele Co., Utah; and Mineral Point, Iowa Co.

#### **SIMILAR MINERALS:**

Hemimorphite - Lighter in weight (2.4 - 3.5), otherwise very difficult to distinguish.

Prehnite - Harder (6 - 6½), doesn't effervesce in hydrochloric acid.

Wavellite - Softer (3½ - 4), lighter in weight, doesn't effervesce at all  
Calcite - Softer (3), strongly effervesces in hydrochloric acid, even if acid is cold and diluted.

Chrysocolla - Softer, usually has a deeper color. Otherwise difficult to distinguish.

**From:**  
<http://www.minerals.net/mineral/smithsonite.aspx>



Smithsonite – Kelly Mine, Socorro County, New Mexico



**DMC Program of the SFMS Field  
Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Memphis  
Archaeological and Geological  
Society (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga  
Gem & Mineral Society**  
**9:00 AM TO 3:00PM(CST)**  
**Saturday, March 29 , 2014**  
**Sugar Creek near Millington, TN**  
**Where: Sugar Creek near Millington, TN**



**Assembly Time: 9:00 am (CST) Popeye's is located in front of Walmart at 8845 U.S. 51, Millington, TN. Corner street is Wilkersville Blvd.**

**Sugar Creek** is located about 20 miles north of Memphis, TN and 10 miles north of Millington. We will assemble and depart Popeye's parking lot at 9 am Central Standard Time. We will caravan to the collecting site. There are multiple motels located on Highway 51 in Millington. Majority within one mile of meeting place.

**Collecting:** This will be the DMC first trip to Sugar Creek. The creek begins at the Mississippi River and meanders around 5-6 miles through West Tennessee loess hills. Along the creek are multiple gravel bars. Primary collecting will be at these gravel bars. Material will be agate, jasper, chert in multiple colors and banding, fossil chert and petrified wood. Rare finds include Lake Superior Agates, Ice Age fossils such as horse and bison, and mastodon has also been found in area. Material is excellent for tumbling and lapidary work,

**Collecting Conditions/ Tools:** Creek collecting. You must wade(get wet) in order to access many of the gravel bars. Recommend boots or water proof shoes or a change of shoes/socks. No digging required. Recommend walking stick. Stick with a metal point is good for checking for petrified wood as it will sound like glass when poked. Also recommend backpack, fanny packs and/or plastic buckets although five gallon buckets can be cumbersome in creek collecting. Children are ok. However, they must be supervised and in direct contact/site of an adult at all times.

**Weather** - Weather in late March is unpredictable and may vary. Be prepared. If there is adverse conditions. The host club will make ever effort to inform attendees. Check club site [www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org) for updates. **IMPORTANT NOTE.** If heavy rains make the creek inaccessible or unsafe for collecting we will move the collecting trip to the Memphis Stone and Gravel pit which is near Millington. It will not change or alter the meeting time or location

**Special note:** The host club, The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. will

provide drinks, snacks, dry socks and special awards/prizes for your creek finds.

**Directions:**

**Traveling west 1-40 from Nashville**

- Take TN-385/TN-205 exit, EXIT 24-25, toward Millington/Arlington/Collierville
- Take Exit 24 toward Millington 17 miles to Highway 51
- Merge -51 N/US-51 N/TN-3 N toward Millington
- Travel 3.6 miles to Popeye's is on the left

**Traveling north I-55 from Mississippi**

- Travel north on 1-55
- Follow directions to 240 north
- Take exit 2A on the left toward US-51/Millington.
- Travel 15 miles to Popeye's is on left

**Field trip leaders Charles Hill [901-626 4232](tel:901-626-4232), WC McDaniel [901 490-3575](tel:901-490-3575). [w.c.mcd@att.net](mailto:w.c.mcd@att.net).**



**Sugar Creek Agate**



## Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society field trip to Cemex Quarry, Clinchfield, Ga. March 8, 2014

Fossiliferous Ocala Limestone Formation,  
exposed in the pits of the Cemex Clinchfield  
Quarry

9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Saturday, March 8, 2014

**Important Note:** If it has rained a lot in the days ahead or is raining on the day of this field trip it will be cancelled due to being too muddy to get to pits. Call if unsure on status of field trip.

Collecting Fossils: Sand dollars, scallops, barracuda and shark teeth, fossil bone, and other shells.

Found in Tivola Limestone which part of Ocala Limestone formation, and the geologic age is Upper Eocene, or somewhere around 40 million years before present.

Bring: Hard hat, steel toe shoes, safety glasses, hammer, chisels, buckets, gloves, and a drink. Also bring some newspaper to wrap your finds. Also please carry all your trash out with you.

Safety: The quarry requires a hard hat and safety glasses to be worn at all times in quarry. Wear hard toe shoes, preferably steel toe. If you don't have a pair of steel toe shoes, wear a pair of leather boots or leather shoes. No sneakers or flip-flops. Please stay off the walls of the pit and also away from the edge of the pit. Wear safety glass to protect your eyes. PLEASE BE CAREFUL! You will be required to sign a release form.

Notes: No Pets

**A change from earlier print in newsletter:**

**Children 4 and over only and must wear safety equipment at all times. Also parents must keep a close eye on their children.**

Directions: Take I-75 south to Perry Ga., Take exit # 135, Highway 224 (Larry Walker Pkwy, also the Perry Ag. Center exit). Turn left (back over Bridge). Stay on 224 (Larry Walker Pkwy). About 1/2 mile from I-75, turn right into the Perry Ag. Center, we will meet in the first parking lot on the left.

Call Jay Batcha home: 478-784-1965 or cell: 478-957-5002 for more information.



Fossil Sand Dollar from Cemex Quarry

## Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

**Always Held: 2nd Weekend in  
March**

**March 7-9, 2014 Augusta, GA  
25th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem,  
Mineral & Fossil Show**

Dealers, Gem Dig, Geode Cutting,  
Treasurer Dig, Hourly Door Prize, Grab  
Bags, Grand Door Prize, Demonstrators.

Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, mineral and  
Fossil Society and Augusta Gem and  
Mineral Society



Fri & Sat 10AM-7PM / Sun 10AM-4PM  
Julian Smith Casino / 2200 Broad St. /  
Augusta GA  
Admission: \$3/Adults; Children under 16  
Free with an Adult  
Co-Chair: Richard McNutt and Chris Glass

**The 34th Annual  
Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral  
Show  
Sponsored by the Rome Georgia  
Mineral Society**

March 15, 16, and 17, 2013  
Friday and Saturday – 10 am – 6 pm  
Sunday 11 am – 5 pm

The Forum - Rome GA

FREE ADMISSION!

Gems, Jewelry, Minerals, Crystals, Geodes and  
Fossils. All visitors will be eligible for free  
Door Prizes and a Grand Prize drawing. Club  
members will offer mineral and fossil

Identification, exhibits, and demonstrations.  
Hope to see you there!

For more information:  
Jose Santamaria, Show Chair 678.488.9560 \*  
rogams.show@gmail.com

For Dealer Information:  
Bob and Dori Madden, Dealer Chairs  
706.853.1748 or 706.767.5759 \*  
kyanite325@gmail.com

Jose Santamaria, Show Chair  
Rome Georgia Mineral Society

## Tidbits

### HOW THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN GETS IN

Inside the seashell there are some rooms and compartments with curved and shiny walls. Their graceful iridescence was created by a small animal how belonged to the sea. He extracted dissolved minerals from the water to build his shell, and his durable home survived after the animal died. If you hold the wide open end of a seashell to your ear, you hear a sound that certainly sounds like ocean waves, but this is not really so. Those inner compartments are cunningly shaped to catch and echo the slightest sound vibrations. They even catch and amplify the sound of your pulsing blood stream. What you hear when you put the seashell up to your ear is not the waves, but the echoing of your own heart beating.

*(From Chips & Facets & CABBER GABBER)*

### **YOU MAY BE A ROCKHOUND IF...**

*You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.*

*Your rock collection weighs more than you do.*

*Your rock garden is located inside your house.*

*You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.*

*You don't think of "cleavage" the same way everyone else does.*

*You have ever uttered the phrase "Have you tried licking it"?*

*You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.*

*You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.*

*You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.*

*Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.*

*You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type of rock as the side you're parked on.*

*Panama City Gem & Mineral Society, May 2005 (Contributed by Terry Fetzer)*



**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:**

**President:** Jim Souter, ph. 478-454-7273,  
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**Vice President:** Phil Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-862-5327  
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**Stamp Program:** Ron Davis, ph. 478-788-2616

Club year begins November 1<sup>st</sup>, 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**

Jay Batcha, Editor  
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle  
Macon, Ga. 31216

Save Commemorative Stamps