



March Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
March 02, 2015 at 7:30pm.

Thomas Thurman will be speaking on his new fossil website.

President's Message

Well, we are off to a great start for the new year. With new members and a couple of visitors this past month, we have started steps for another great year. I want to welcome all the new members, and please- you'll have to forgive me if I forget your name as I am awful at remembering them, and I want to welcome all the guests we had. I ask that everybody bring a visitor with you when you come. It is good to see new faces and new people coming to see us so maybe we can get some new members out of them.

Once again, I want to thank Tina and her mother for their hard work on the grab bags. We just need to collect materials to put into the grab bags now. If you have a surplus of materials that you have been stepping over or around in your shop, garage or basement with the notion that you might use them or do something with them one day, the grab bags

would be a good place for them to go. After all, it will be a treasure for some lucky person when they get one of the grab bags. When you go out on a dig, please pick up extra pieces to go into the grab bags. If you aren't sure as to what is needed, feel free to ask Jay.

We have our first club dig coming up in a few days in Cartersville, Georgia and I want to ask everybody to remember the safety rules.

- 1) Wear hard hats
- 2) Wear durable shoes
- 3) Wear safety glasses
- 4) Stay clear of cliff faces and overhangs
- 5) Wear gloves
- 6) Be considerate of those around you- at all times
- 7) Stay in the appointed area.
- 8) Have a first aid kit handy
- 9) Have plenty of food and water for the day.

Remember the cardinal rules of collecting;

1. Respect both private and public property, and do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission. If the area is posted No Standing, No Parking, No Stopping, No Trespassing, No Anything...then don't.
2. Keep informed of all laws, rules, and regulations governing collecting on public lands, and observe them.
3. Research, locate, and observe the boundary lines of property on which you plan to collect.
4. Stay out of old mines.
5. Use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
6. Cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, buildings, signs, etc.
7. Leave all gates as found.



8. Find out if there are any fire restrictions in effect. Build fires only in designated or safe places, and make sure that they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
9. Discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
10. Fill in any holes that you have dug.
11. Do not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
12. Cause no willful damage to collecting material, and take home only what you can reasonably use.
13. Leave all collecting areas free of litter, regardless of how you found them.
14. Cooperate with field trip leaders and those designated in authority in all collecting areas.
15. Report to proper authorities any deposit of material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations.
16. Appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources
17. You are the guest in the site and need to respect it accordingly.

We are still looking for ways we can enhance the club and garner the interests of the young people. Tuell is our new Educational Chair so I ask that if anybody has any ideas to attract young people to contact him (478.922.7200) ([gemmastercomet77\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:gemmastercomet77@gmail.com)), Jay Batcha (478.784.1965)([rocky1s\[at\]cox.net](mailto:rocky1s@cox.net)) or Jim Souter (jgsouter@windstream.net) (478.454.7273).

Thank you for your continued support.

Jim Souter

February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Jim Souter with 25 members/guests present in the museum. Included were several members not seen in recent times including Miss Tina our grab bag sewing phenom and Miss Betty Schwartz.

Old Business

The treasurers' report was read and approved. The federation dues and insurance were paid for the upcoming year. Our club sponsored dig is coming up at the Vulcan quarry in Cartersville and volunteers signed up to help with the dig. The dig will run from 10-2PM on March 7 with blue quartz found in the porphyroblastic granite gneiss being the primary target we will be searching for. Everyone is reminded to bring hard hats, spray bottles and to pick up some extra specimens to help fill grab bags.

New Business

This month's mineral was iron ore and several members brought in multiple specimens to share. Our own Mr. Jay Batcha, longtime member was our speaker for the evening. He gave a talk/slideshow presentation on his most recent trip to the Michigan peninsula area in August 2014. His talk covered all of his various rock hounding trips to that particular area in search of various iron ores. The area is known as the Banded Iron Formation around the Marquette 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 had collected. The discussion concerning the visits to 2 of the 3 mines in the area which was very informative. It included history of the area and explanations of the different ranges. Than a question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. The Vulcan quarry is located off I-75 exit 290 highway 20. Make a right at the exit and go 1½ miles and the quarry will be on your right. We will be guided by a quarry employee and attend a mandatory safety talk when we arrive at the quarry.



Upcoming Digs

February 28 in Due West, South Carolina for beryl and smoky quartz. This is a fee dig.



Where Did Whales Come From?

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Auditorium, Museum of Arts and Sciences

Speaker: Dr. Mark Uhen, Assistant Professor in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences, George Mason University

Admission: \$5 general public; FREE to all students

Reservations suggested; payment not required at time of reservation.

Dr. Mark Uhen, Ph. D. Geology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has focused much of his research on the origin and evolution of cetaceans -- whales, dolphins and porpoises. In 2013 he published specific work on *Zygorhiza*

kochii and the closely related *Durodon serratus*. He brings the new insights gained in his research to bear on the Museum's own *Zygorhiza* fossil.

Uhen currently teaches geology, environmental geology and vertebrate paleontology at George Mason University. He has also served as Curator of Paleontology at the Alabama Museum of Natural History and Cranbrook Institute of Science, Michigan's Museum of Natural History.

Susan M. Mays
Education Curator
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News flash Our Club sponsored DMC dig is even closer!

The DMC dig that our club will be sponsoring is coming up in March at the **Vulcan Bartow Quarry, 5840 Highway 20 SE, Cartersville, 30121**.

It will be on March 7, 2015 at 10:00am to 2:00 pm. I have the dig write up in this newsletter again so all can view. We will need at least 4 or 5 people to help out at the dig. **These 4 or 5 people should arrive by 9:30 am to get their marching orders.** Just at the beginning mostly than you can collect all you want. Remember to collect a little for our grab bags for the fair.



Bauxite Montgomery County, Arkansas

Mineral of the Month

Bauxite

What is Bauxite? Bauxite is a rock. Bauxite is not a mineral, but rather a group of aluminum oxides. Bauxite does not have a specific composition. It is a mixture of hydrous aluminum oxides, aluminum hydroxides, clay minerals and insoluble materials such as quartz, hematite, magnetite, siderite and goethite. The term is generally used to describe the economically important mixture of these minerals, which form a mass of the individually classified members of Gibbsite, Boehmite, and Diaspore. Bauxite does not make aesthetic or interesting specimens as far as collectors are concerned, but it holds importance as being the primary ore of the metal aluminum. Bauxite is named after the French village of Les Baux, where it was first recognized as an aluminum ore.

The History Says: The first aluminum made in the United States was mined in Bartow and Floyd counties in Georgia by the present Aluminum Company of America. A local man, Mr. Gibbons, operated these mines and also deposits in Arkansas, where the town near the deposits was named for him. He became a top official of Alcoa. The American Cyanamid Company mined bauxite to make alum. Large foreign deposits caused local mining to cease.

Uses: About 85% of all the bauxite mined worldwide is used to produce alumina for refining into aluminum metal. Another 15% produces alumina which is used in chemical, abrasive, refractory products, and aluminum compounds.

The lightness, strength, and corrosion resistance of aluminum are important considerations in its application. Metallic aluminum is used in transportation, packaging such as beverage cans, building construction, electrical applications, and other products.

Aluminum, the third most abundant element at the Earth's surface, is apparently harmless to plant and animal life.

Sources: Australia has huge reserves of bauxite, and produces over 40% of the world's ore. Brazil, Guinea, and Jamaica are important producers, with lesser production from about 20 other countries. The United States' production, which was important 100 years ago, is now negligible.

Most bauxite is first processed to make alumina, or aluminum oxide, a white granular material. Sometimes, raw bauxite is shipped overseas for processing to alumina, while in other cases it is



processed near the mine. Alumina is lighter than bauxite because the water has been removed, and it flows readily in processing plants, unlike bauxite which has a sticky, muddy consistency. Australia, the United States, and China are the largest producers of alumina. All the U.S. alumina being made is from imported bauxite.

http://www.minerals.net/mineral/bauxite.aspx#sthas_h.cwlHPVuL.dpuf

<http://scienceviews.com/geology/aluminum.html>

<http://www.mineralszone.com/minerals/bauxite.html>



Bauxite (Oolitic form) from Georgia



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Western

**South Carolina G&MS (Greenville,
SC) (HOST)**

**An Official Field Trip of the Mid GA
Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**

Saturday, February 28, 2015

9:00 am until dark

Amos Cunningham Farm, Due West, SC

Abbeville County

FEE SITE

Children: 12 and under \$10 and must have adult supervision.

Pets: If controlled on a leash.

Fee: \$20 for an adult (over 12)

TRIP: Amos Cunningham Farm, 471 Alewine Rd., Due West, SC 29639

When: February 28, 2015 from 9:00 AM until dark.

COLLECTING: Good sized beryl crystals, amethyst and smoky quartz. This site has the best South Carolina beryl specimens of any site that I know how to get access to. The crystals are well shaped hexagons with flat ends. The color is green though most have a blue cast. The beryl ranges from translucent to opaque. Most crystals are specimen quality though some gem quality is present.

Digging Conditions: The site is flat to rolling land of South Carolina red clay. The digging areas have been machine trenched down to white kaolinite veins that have the



beryl and quartz crystals. Dirt and rock removed from the trenches and piled up, also contain beryl and are good places to search especially after a rain. Beryl is often found by breaking open quartz rocks.

BRING: Bring picks, shovels, rock hammers, scratching tools, and screens. Large hammers will not be very useful. Also bring plenty of drinks and a picnic lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for lunch.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

We will meet at the Amos Cunningham farm between Antreville and Due West, SC. From Anderson, SC drive 18 miles down route 28 East (really south) to Antreville. Turn left on Route 184 East heading toward the town of Due West. Travel for 4 miles and turn left on George Alewine Road. Drive for less than 1 mile. You will pass a trash/recycling site on the right, cross a bridge over a small creek and turn into the first lane on the right. If you pass the Cunningham Backhoe Service on the left you have gone too far.

Lodging can be found around Anderson, SC. There is no lodging in Antreville or Due West.

The next day: In the past people have asked me about going to the nearby Diamond Hill Mine the next day while they are in the area. Diamond Hill will be open on Sunday, March 1. The mine is well known for

quartz crystals, smoky quartz, amethyst, skeletal quartz, and cacoxenite. Cost is \$20 per person, but if 10 or more arrive as a group the cost will be \$10 per person.

Contact info for Amos Cunningham:
cunninghamamos@yahoo.com or 864-379-8918 or 864-992-7843

Contact numbers: 864-404-0025 Bill Wetzel Field Trip Chairman, Western South Carolina G&MS. e-mail address: wwetz14@gmail.com



Beryl Crystals, Amethyst, and Smoky Quartz



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA) HOST
An Official Field Trip of the other clubs.

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Saturday, March 07, 2015
Vulcan Materials Company,
Bartow Quarry, Cartersville, GA
Free Area

Where: Vulcan Bartow Quarry, 5840 Highway 20 SE, Cartersville, 30121

The Quarry began operations in 1995 at this location. They have 797 acres and their pit is approximately 1,200 feet wide and 250 feet deep at this time.

FREE AREA: This field trip is free for all who participate.

Directions: Interstate 75 North to exit 290. Highway 20. At the exit you make a right and go 1 and 1/2 miles to the quarry on the right. This is past the McDonalds. Turn right into the quarry and continue to a small building where we will meet before going to the pit. If you are coming from the North, you would still exit at 290 but turn left, go east and continue to the quarry. When we arrive we will meet a Vulcan employee who will be our guide for this trip.

Collecting: The rock found here is a porphoblastic granite gneiss and is part of the

Corbin Gneiss Complex. These rocks are some of the oldest in Georgia dating back some 1.2 billion years, making it much older than the granites found at their other locations. This quarry is known for the blue quartz found within the granite. While most of the blue quartz is small, you can normally find some large enough to polish into a very nice cabochon. Some may be found with pyrite inclusions as well as other minerals within the granite.

WHAT TO BRING: Clothes that would be appropriate for this time of year in Georgia. That could be almost anything and I would suggest layers that could be removed and something in the event of a shower. A hard hat, safety glasses, and steel toe shoes/boots, or at least a good pair of shoes. We should be finished early enough to go to the McDonalds for lunch but something to drink is always good to bring along.

They are blasting rock every week and, as a working quarry, there are spoil piles all around. No one will be allowed near any of the high walls but with the abundance of material we normally just have to bend over and pick things up. All you really need is a bucket to take your samples home. If you want to chip off a piece of a larger boulder be sure you have all your safety equipment including safety glasses, gloves, hard hat and a chisel and crack hammer.

Field Trip Contact: Jay Batcha.

rocky1s@cox.net

Phone: [478-784-1965](tel:478-784-1965) Cell: [478-957-5002](tel:478-957-5002)



Blue Quartz in granite, Cartersville (photograph wet)

Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

27th annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

March 13–15, 2015

Show Fri & Sat 10–7 ♦ Sun 11–5 Julian Smith Casino 2200 Broad St. / Augusta

\$3 per Adult per day or \$5 Weekend Pass
Children age 12 and under FREE with an adult

Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society:

www.aikengmfs.org

Augusta Gem & Mineral Society:

www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org

Loose Gemstones ♦ Jewelry ♦ Fossils ♦
Mineral Specimens Grab Bags ♦ Hourly Door Prizes ♦ Lapidary Demonstrations Geode Cutting ♦ Mineral Panning

For group reservations & more information: C. Glass (706) 284-9239

The 36th Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show Sponsored by the Rome Georgia Mineral Society

March 20, 21, and 22, 2015

Friday and Saturday – 10 am – 6 pm
Sunday 11 am – 5 pm

The Forum
301 Forum St.
Rome GA

FREE ADMISSION!

Free Admission! Minerals, Gems, Fossils, Meteorites, Jewelry, and Crystals for Sale. Lapidary rough. Free Mineral and Fossil ID, Door Prizes, and Exhibits! Free registration for grand prize – Amethyst and Calcite from Brazil!

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

For Dealer Information:
770.655.2298
Jeff.Deere@brownind.com



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 / Web Master: Jim Souter,
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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