



May Meeting  
 At the Museum of Arts and  
 Sciences on Monday,  
 May 05, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Thomas Thurman will be the speaker this month. The subject will be the history of the Museum's Ziggy whale fossil and why it has been reassigned from *Zygorhiza Kochii* to *Dorudon serratus*.



**Annual Picnic coming soon,  
 DATE CHANGED!**

The club annual picnic will be on **May 03, 2014**. We decided and voted at the March meeting to move it this year to the first of May to see if it would work better. It has been so hot the past

couple of years during the picnic. Also, we are hoping the cooler weather would mean more members would attend the picnic. 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

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!

**April Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by our president Jim Souter with 14 members/guests present.

**Old Business**

The treasurers report was not available due to a personal commitment. Everyone is reminded that the Annual Picnic is upcoming on May 3 at the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds in Macon. All members are requested to bring a covered dish and whatever beverage they choose to drink.

**New Business**

The mineral of the month is Sulphur. It is a widely used in many different industries in the manufacturing process of various materials. The members presented some specimens which stimulated a nice discussion with several of the members contributing their knowledge.

Our own Jay Batcha was our visiting speaker. He gave a talk covering the



Gem Trails of Oregon collecting guide for rockhounds. He presented a CD of a retired couple and their rock hounding exploits while utilizing this guide. The CD was quite recent and provided some interesting insights into their recommendations on several of the locations from the guide. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. Several members brought in various specimens that were discovered in Oregon over the past years. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem & Mineral show is May 9, 10, and 11 at the Cobb County Civic Center.

**By: Richard Arnold**



Capillitas Mine, Andalgalá, Catamarca, Argentina

## Mineral of the Month RHODOCHROSITE

Rhodochrosite is one of the prettiest and desirable of all minerals. Its deep red and hot pink crystals are extremely sought after and good crystals command extremely high prices. Especially desirable are the beautiful intensely colored rhombohedrons from the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado. This mine provided a fascinating discovery in the 1960's of some of the largest and most stunning Rhodochrosite crystals ever found. The largest Rhodochrosite

crystal, called the "Alma King", is a single 15 cm crystal that was found in the Sweet Home Mine in 1992.

South Africa and Peru also produce intense red transparent scalenohedrons that are extremely desirable to collectors and very highly priced. These Rhodochrosite specimens are considered by many to be the most beautiful of all minerals.

A very interesting occurrence of this mineral is in Argentina, where Rhodochrosite forms stalagmites and stalactites in the 13th century Inca Silver mines. They formed from precipitating water dripping from the manganese-rich rock inside the ancient mine tunnels, and kept on growing over the centuries into large stalagmites. These stalagmites are beautifully banded with concentric growth layers and are often sliced and polished into slabs for collectors.

Rhodochrosite 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.

When Rhodochrosite is exposed to the atmosphere, it may develop a thin film of manganese oxide on its surface. This may slightly darken the color of a specimen. Rhodochrosite sometimes alters into black manganese oxides (such as Pyrolusite, Manganite, and Psilomelane), and black manganese oxide stains are usually associated with Rhodochrosite.

**Uses:** The banded stalactitic material from Catamarca, Argentina is used as a gemstone. It is carved into ornaments and figures, and



polished into cabochons and beads for jewelry. Clear transparent Rhodochrosite is faceted into cut gems, but only for collectors. The deeply colored Rhodochrosite specimens are extremely desired by collectors and it is one of the most popular minerals among mineral enthusiasts. Rhodochrosite is also used as an ore of manganese. - See more at: <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/rhodochrosite.aspx#sthash.JtqDfBPL.dpuf>

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Rhodochrosite, from the Sweet Home Mine, Colorado



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

**An Official Field Trip of the GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. - Atlanta, GA (HOST)**

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

**10:00 a.m. Eastern (9 a.m. Central)**

**Saturday, May 17, 2014**

**Walker County, AL**

**Fossil Tracks and**

**Pennsylvanian Fossils**

**WHERE:** The Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site in Jasper, AL. Also known as the Union Chapel Mine, this location was days away from being reclaimed when the significance of the fossils found there were realized and reclamation was halted. The site is named for the geologist who led the effort to preserve it for future study. The Alabama Paleontological Society has been instrumental in preserving the site.

**COLLECTING:** Pennsylvanian fossils, e.g. lepidodendron and calamites plus vertebrate and invertebrate tracks. An excellent field trip guide is available at the Alabama Paleontological Society's website:

[http://www.alabamapaleo.org/Alabama\\_Paleontological\\_Society\\_files/Minkin%20Guide%20-%20optimized%20Apr%206%202012.pdf](http://www.alabamapaleo.org/Alabama_Paleontological_Society_files/Minkin%20Guide%20-%20optimized%20Apr%206%202012.pdf)

**IMPORTANT!!!** One of the conditions for collecting fossils here is that you must agree not to sell them. Also, some fossils may be retained by the Alabama Paleontological Society for study.

**BRING:** You will need to bring a chisel, rock hammer, small sledge, a tool for

splitting shale (e.g. heavy duty paint scraper), paper for wrapping specimens,



and flats for transporting specimens. Sturdy boots with ankle support (hiking boots) for climbing around rocks, gloves, and protective eyewear should be worn. There are no facilities at the site so bring your lunch, plenty of fluids, and sunscreen.

**CHILDREN:** This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

**PETS:** Pets are allowed if good with strangers and kept on a leash at all times.

All participants must sign a form agreeing to the collecting rules.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

We will be meeting at the Wal-Mart in Sumiton, AL at 10:00 am Eastern time, 9:00 am Central Time

**Approximate Coordinates: 33.744071,-87.04242**

From I-20 in Birmingham:

1) Go North on I-65 and take exit 264, 41st Ave N, (Sayreton Road or Daniel Payne Dr.)

2) Take a left and go west for about 1 mile and turn right (north) onto Coalburg Road.

**Note:** This area has been under construction so there may be detours.

3) Go about 2.2 miles and turn left onto US 78 (Future I-22) and go west

4) Go 8.5 miles and turn right (north) on **OLD US 78.**

5) Go 9 miles to Wal-Mart on the right at Sumiton, AL

6) We will meet near the gas station there (look for a white Subaru Forester with a license plate on the front that says "Run Forrest Run")

Everyone must sign in before we can caravan to the site.

**Charles Carter, GMS Field Trip Chair**

Telephone: 770-998-7949

Cell Phone: 770-891-5947

email: [fieldtrips@gaminal.org](mailto:fieldtrips@gaminal.org)

**IMPORTANT!** Field trips are open to **GMS members and invited clubs only.** Failure to comply with GMS and DMC field trip leaders can/will result in immediate dismissal from the field trip site as well as potentially lead to revocation of membership.



Vertebrate or invertebrate tracks



Vertebrate Track (note Quarter in photo)



## **Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows**

**May 3-4, 2014: North Charleston, SC.**

Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show,

“Art by Nature”. Charleston Area Convention Center; Exhibit Hall A.

Hours: Sat. & Sun 10-5.

FREE admission and FREE parking; hourly door prizes, demonstrations, fossil dig, geode cracking.

Contact Karen Havenstein of Charleston, SC at (843) 795-2956;

e-mail: [fossils@comcast.net](mailto:fossils@comcast.net);

Web site:

[www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org](http://www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org)

**Mothers' Day Weekend  
Rock, Gem & Arts Show**

sponsored by The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC.

May 9, 10 & 11, 2014 at the Macon County Community Center,  
1288 Georgia Road (US441).

Free admission, open

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily.

Rough, findings, finished jewelry, pottery, artwork and much more.

Contact: Norman Holbert at 828 634-0350 or [normholbert@comcast.net](mailto:normholbert@comcast.net)

**May 9-10-11, 2014 Marietta, GA**

**Gem and Mineral Show, Auction**

**THE GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY**

**Fri: 10 AM to 7PM; Sat: 10AM-7PM;**

**Sun: Noon-5PM**

**The Cobb County Civic Center,**

**548 So. Marietta Parkway and**

**Fairground St., Marietta, GA**

**Exit I-75 at Exit #263 and turn west onto Marietta Pkwy/SR 120 Loop.**

**Drive 2 miles and turn left onto S Fairground St. and then**

**immediately**

**right to the Cobb Civic Center's parking lot.**

**SATURDAY AUCTION at 1PM!**

**HOURLY ADULT AND JUNIOR**

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**\$2.00 GRAB BAGS!**

**30+ Dealers**

**Club Hospitality table, Educational exhibits, Demonstrations**

**Show contact: Shelby Stubbs,**

**Show Chair**

**Email address: [realgem7@aol.com](mailto:realgem7@aol.com)**



## GMS Website:

<http://www.gamineral.org>

May 23 - 25, 2014

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.'s  
35th Anniversary Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show;  
Courtyard Marriott; 1600 E. Beach Blvd.;  
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4;  
adults \$5, children (10 and under) free with adult;  
demonstrations, displays, Stump the Expert, hourly door prizes;  
contact Karen Johnston at (228) 467-5465;  
or e-mail: johnstonkaren@bellsouth or Kathleen Becnel at kgbecnel@gmail.com.

## Tidbits

### A ROCKHOUND'S RAMBLINGS

#### DID YOU KNOW...

**TALC** is used in eye shadow, liquid make-up, rouge, blushes and pressed powders.

**IRON OXIDES** (magnetite, black oxide, hematite, red oxide, limonite, yellow oxide, goethite) are used in liquid makeup.

**ZINC OXIDE** is used in creams to protect skin from the sun.

**MICA** is used in eye shadows. If coated with rutile or anatase, it makes pearlescent shades of lipstick, eye shadow, hair gel, body lotion, rouge and blush.

**CALCITE** is a binder in eye shadow and pressed makeup, in chewing gum bases, antibiotics, antacids and dentrifices.

**QUARTZ** is used in scouring soaps and toothpaste, in coatings for pills and capsules and in ointments, suppositories and lotions.  
*Source: Golden Spike News—8/2012*

### ROCKHOUNDS ARE FUNNY

The price of a steak may dismay them, and they may often pass it by, then turn around and spend more per pound on a rock! A Rockhound can't eat the rock, but will proudly display it, dust it, brag about it and then saw it up and polish it to perfection.

Rockhounds have been known to move dirty dishes out of the sink so they can wash their rocks. They seem to find rockhounding therapeutic. If they feel droopy or are moping around their house, if you ask them, they'll go rock picking with you because no matter what is ailing them, all the ailments are miraculously gone and they feel much better when they're out amongst the rocks!

Rockhounds will walk for miles in search of a good specimen, climb mountains and go down into gullies. They get hot, tired and bug-bitten but still continue on for that one special rock. Sometimes they will find their best specimen right next to the tire of their car at the end of the day.

Rockhounds are geologist, mineralogist and paleontologist wannabe's. They are interested in everything and are interesting themselves. They are curious, humorous, talented, skillful and all around wonderful people, who wear old shoes, fantastic hats, worn out jeans, and a big smile!  
*Source: White Mountain Gem & Mineral—2//2013*



**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 / Webmaster:** Jim Souter, ph. 478-454-7273, [jgsouter@windstream.net](mailto:jgsouter@windstream.net)

**Vice President:** Phil Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-862-5327  
[susanbphilh@pstel.net](mailto:susanbphilh@pstel.net)

**Secretary / Photographer,** Richard Arnold,  
 ph. 678-682-9860

**Treasurer:** Susan Hargrove, 86 Clear Branch Rd, Butler Ga. 31006, ph. 478-862-5327,  
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**Education Chairpersons:** Thomas Thurman,  
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 also Tuell Walters, ph. 478-922-7200,  
[supernova1346@gmail.com](mailto:supernova1346@gmail.com)

**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  
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Save Commemorative Stamps