



October Meeting
At the Museum of Arts and
Sciences on Monday,
Nov. 05, 2012 at 7:30pm.

The speaker will be Burt Carter. He will be speaking on Bridgeboro Limestone and the Suwanne Current.

Burt is a professor of Paleontology at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Georgia National Fair /
Grab Bag Fund Raiser
Information

We sold all of our grab Bags that we had made up at the fair for \$2.00 each. We could have sold many more if we had them made up. We had some 140 bags to sell. Next year if we sell bags at the fair we should have at least 300 bags made up. We would like to thank everyone that help with the Fair, like manning the booth, display cases, grab bags, and more...

Thank You!

Officer Election Results

Please welcome our new Officers: President: Jim Souter, Vice-President: Rene' Smith, Secretary: Richard Arnold, and Treasurer: Susan Hargrove.



Dues are Due

Another year has gone by in no time. It's that time of the year to pay dues. They remain the same 10 dollars for each adult and 2.50 for children under 18 years of age. They are due by November 1st.

October 1, 2012 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Jim Souter with 12 members/guests present.

Old Business

The treasurers' report was read and approved. Everyone was reminded that our club sponsored dig is coming up in Cartersville at the Vulcan materials Bartow quarry on November 3.

New Business

Everyone is reminded that the state fair is beginning this week. This month's mineral was tigereye and several members brought in specimens to share. The elections for the club officers for the upcoming year were conducted this night. Nominations were presented, seconded and voted on with the members present. The new officers are President Mr Jim Souter, Vice President Mr Rene Smith, Secretary Richard Arnold and Treasurer Mrs Susan Hargrove. Steve Binkley was our visiting speaker who is an amateur astronomer. He gave a talk on astronomy which included his own observatory. He talked about his fellow astronomers and some of their own photos that were presented in a slide show. He also talked about the various networks that are involved in day to day observation for



various objects. The talk was quite informative and provided some insights into how they built their observatory. There were some excellent photos of various galaxies, star clusters, comets, planets and other visible phenomenon in the night skies. A question and answer session was provided at the end of his talk. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

By: Richard Arnold



Badakhshan province of Afghanistan

Mineral of the Month
THE GEMSTONE
Lapis lazuli

Lapis lazuli is a gemstone of the kind that might have come straight out of the Arabian Nights: a deep blue with golden inclusions of pyrites which shimmer like little stars. This opaque, deep blue gemstone has a grand past. It was among the first gemstones to be worn as jewelry and worked on. At excavations in the ancient centers of culture around the Mediterranean, archaeologists have again and again found among the grave furnishings decorative chains and figures made of lapis lazuli – clear indications that the deep blue stone was already popular thousands of years

ago among the people of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. It is said that the legendary city of Ur on the Euphrates plied a keen lapis lazuli trade as long ago as the fourth millennium B.C., the material coming to the land of the two great rivers from the famous deposits in Afghanistan. In other cultures, lapis lazuli was regarded as a holy stone. Particularly in the Middle East, it was thought to have magical powers. Countless signet rings, scarabs and figures were wrought from the blue stone which Alexander the Great brought to Europe. There, the color was referred to as 'ultramarine', which means something like 'from beyond the sea'.

The most expensive blue of all time

The euphonious name is composed from 'lapis', the Latin word for stone, and 'azula', which comes from the Arabic and means blue. All right, so it's a blue gemstone - but what an incredible blue! The worth of this stone to the world of art is immeasurable, for the ultramarine of the Old Masters is nothing other than genuine lapis lazuli. Ground up into a powder and stirred up together with binding-agents, the marble-like gemstone can be used to manufacture radiant blue watercolors, tempera or oil-paints. Before the year 1834, when it became possible to produce this color synthetically, the only ultramarine available was that valuable substance made from genuine lapis lazuli that shines out at us from many works of art today. Many pictures of the Madonna, for example, were created using this paint. But in those days, ultramarine blue was not only precious and so intense that its radiance outshone all other colors; it was also very expensive. But unlike all other blue pigments, which tend to pale in the light, it has lost none of its radiance to this very day. Nowadays, the blue pigment obtained from lapis lazuli is mainly used in restoration work and by collectors of historical paints.



The stone of friendship and truth

Lapis lazuli is regarded by many people around the world as the stone of friendship and truth. The blue stone is said to encourage harmony in relationships and help its wearer to be authentic and give his or her opinion openly.

Lapis lazuli is an opaque rock that mainly consists of diopside and lazurite. It came into being millions of years ago during the metamorphosis of lime to marble. Uncut, lapis lazuli is matt and of a deep, dark blue color, often with golden inclusions and whitish marble veins. The small inclusions with their golden shimmer, which give the stone the magic of a starry sky, are not of gold as people used to think, but of pyrites. Their cause is iron. The blue color comes from the sulphur content of the lazurite and may range from pure ultramarine to a lighter blue. At between 5 and 6 on the Mohs scale, this stone is among the less hard gemstones.

When the cutter turns up his nose...

Many a cutter 'turns up his nose' when cutting lapis lazuli, for as soon as the stone comes into contact with the cutting-disc it gives off a typical smell. An experienced cutter can even tell from the odor how intense the color is. When polishing this stone, he must handle it gently on account of its modest hardness and not subject it to much pressure. But there is no need for the wearer to worry: a lapis lazuli that has grown matt from having been worn too much can easily be repolished at any time. Lapis lazuli is often sealed with colorless wax or synthetic resin. As long as these substances are not mixed with any coloring agent, this sealing process simply has the effect of improving the stone's wearing qualities. Having said that, the stone should always be protected from acidic substances, and it should not be exposed to too much sunlight.

As they did more than 5000 years ago, the best raw stones still come from the steep Hindu Kush in the north-east of Afghanistan. The

lumps of blue rock, extracted from the inhospitable mountains by blasting, are brought down into the valley in the summer months by mules. Nature also created deposits in Russia, to the west of Lake Baikal, and in the Chilean Andes, where the blue rock often has white or grey lime running through it. In smaller amounts, lapis lazuli is also found in Italy, Mongolia, the USA and Canada, Myanmar and Pakistan, but in really good qualities it is rare all over. That is why the prices of jewelry with lapis lazuli vary very widely, from luxurious to quite inexpensive. The prices of this gemstone are largely dependent on the beauty and intensity of the color. The most popular is an intense, deep blue. Women with a pale complexion, however, often prefer the lighter shades of blue. Finely distributed crystals of pyrites which shimmer in gold and look like sequins will increase the value of the gemstone, whilst a restless, rough or blotchy grain will reduce it.

Lapis lazuli is a versatile and popular gemstone which has shown extraordinary stability in the turbulent tides of fashion. No wonder, since it has fascinated both men and women for thousands of years with its fabulous color and those golden points of light formed by pyrites.

From: International Colored Gemstone Association

http://www.gemstone.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117:sapphire&catid=1:gem-by-gem&Itemid=14



Badakhshan province of Afghanistan



Help needed at the upcoming DMC dig

Our DMC required Dig is November 3rd, 2012 at Vulcan Bartow Quarry in Cartersville, Ga. between 9:00am and 12:00am. We need 4 or 5 people to help at the being, once we get to the pit to dig everyone can dig away to their hearts content.

We need couple of people to direct cars to gathering area. Also a couple of people for the sign in sheet and release forms.



Field trips coming up, lets go digging!!!

**NOTE: THIS IS OUR CLUB
SPONSORED DMC DIG BELOW**

**An Official Field Trip of The Mid-Ga
Gem and Mineral Society Macon,
GA(HOST)**

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

**9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon,
Saturday, November 03, 2012
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 just past the McDonalds. Turn right into the quarry and continue to a small building were 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. At the very least- Bring your camera.

Field Trip Contact: Jay Batcha.
rocky1s@cox.net
 Phone: 478-784-1965
 Cell: 478-957-5002

Southeastern Gem & Mineral Shows

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2012
Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society's 27th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

November 16 & 17th: 10 am—6 pm
November 18th: 10 am—5 pm

Location: Cobb County Civic Center, 548 Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA.

Find amazing rocks, gemstones, minerals and fossils from all over the world! Choose from a large

selection of beautiful beads, jewelry and jewelry making supplies. Event provides fun for the whole family, with faceting and jewelry making demonstrations, mineral identification sessions, a fluorescent mineral room and many interesting displays. Hourly Door Prizes. Free Admission and Free Parking. e-mail: tsmith@erc-incorporated.com



Items for sale

Announcing "**Bench Tips for Better Jewelry Making**", a new book for beginning and intermediate jewelers by Bradford Smith. It contains 101 useful Bench Tips to help improve skills and increase quality at the bench. The 96 page book is filled with close-up photos to explain the techniques and makes a great gift for the holidays - Just \$16.95 for more details, see: <http://CreateSpace.com/3976439> or <http://Amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

Faceting Machine for Sale

Ron Davis is selling a nice faceting machine he has 2 and wants to sell one of them. He is asking \$375.00 please contact him for more details on the model and what comes with it. Cell#: 478-737-9796



Tidbits

Bench Tips by: Brad Smith



TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic, copper or brass. The brass template let's me quickly trace the design of these ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet, and the nickel template makes it easy to drill the pin inlay pattern into the ironwood. After finding a poor selection of stock templates for ovals at my local art store, I was pleased with the wide selection on Cool Tools at

<http://www.cooltools.us/> If you order, be sure to look for the 10% off code each month on their Home page.

Kingsley North also has some nice templates at <http://www.kingsleynorth.com/>

BenchTips by: Brad Smith can be found at [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips) or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort. A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot. And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.

FAKES & FRAUDS

Unfortunately, there's a growing amount of deception and outright fraud these days at gem and mineral shows and in some of the online venues that sell these items. Often "genuine turquoise beads" turn out to be dyed magnesite, and I've been told that the majority of colored stones being sold typically have had some "enhancement" done to them.

If you're interested in what kind of fakes and frauds have been uncovered, there's a well-done page at:

<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.htm>



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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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**

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**Member of Southeast Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies
Member of American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**



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Save Commemorative Stamps