



# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

April 2006  
Number 06 - 04



*The Official Voice of the Montgomery, Alabama Gem & Mineral Society*

## February Program

**When:** Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Mureal Crump Community Center  
1735 Highland Ave.  
Montgomery, AL  
**What:** Ronnie Williams will give knapping  
Demonstration.



## Refreshments



Drucilla Hornsby will provide the drinks and Linda Lord will provide the snacks for the April meeting.

**We still need people to sign up to provide either snacks or drinks for future meetings. Please see Mary Lou or Iris to sign up.**

## Happy Birthday!



Vijaya Chava - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Charles Cummings - 26<sup>th</sup>

## Item of Interest



Dr. David King will speak on "The Wetumpka Impact Crater" at the Archives and History Building on Thursday, April 20 at 12:00 noon - 12:50 p.m. Architreat is held every third Thursday of the month and features lectures of a variety of interesting topics. If you would like to take a sack lunch and eat while you listen to Dr. King, you can do so. The Archives will provide the drinks.



## Workshop Saturdays

Remember the workshop is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month. It's your workshop, so take advantage of the opportunity to utilize the facility. You just might enjoy it!

Iris McGehee



Do you know Alabama's official nut?  
No not him, it's the pecan!

## New Mineral Discovery



Former Rockhound of the Year, Peter Rabutt, has done it again. Well-known for his spectacular finds and discoveries, he is again responsible for an absolutely stunning discovery in the gem/mineral world.

The material found was sent to Mindat.com for confirmation and testing. After several months of microscopic thin section analysis, single crystal X-ray diffractometer tests and crystallographic investigation, Mindat.com has confirmed that this is indeed a new mineral find. The location of this new find is in South Central Alabama near the town of Andalusia in the community of Babble along the Louisville & Nashville Railroad track heading to Lightwood Knot Creek. Accordingly, Mr. Rabutt has named it 'Alabamethyst'. Similar to amethyst, this unusual mineral is so deep and rich purple that it makes amethyst look cheap by comparison. The hardness of this non-diamond stone approaches the "perfect ten" with a consistent 9.9 on the Moh's scale. The birefringence is exquisite. He cut off a number of pieces and sent them to major stone cutters in New York, as well as two different faceting experts located in Chicago and Los Angeles.

The owner of the property where Rabutt made the discovery has made him a partner in a mining venture to work the site. Samples were also sent to Antwerp, Belgium, South Africa and Bolivia. It is rumored that the Smithsonian requested a 5-7 pound chunk and is currently preparing space to announce this valuable find to the world.

The scientific/academic community is abuzz with details of the discovery. News should be published in scientific journals beginning next month. The head of one of the major gem/mineral laboratories, Dr. Rufus Pinklestein, has been quoted as saying, "This new mineral specimen found in Alabama represents almost as much importance as man's first step on the moon's surface. It, in fact, represents far more than we presently know since the hardness of this colored stone specimen nearly equals the hardness of a diamond. I believe when all testing has been completed, it will be closer to an eleven on the Moh's scale than a diamond's ten, according to the microscopic thin-section analysis." Meanwhile, Mindat.com is reporting that thin-section hardness tests exceeded the hardness of diamond. The new gem material may be introduced to the international mineralogical community at the Tucson show in February 2007.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the world's most influential jewelry designers are eager to get their hands on the new stone. Italy's famous designer Ima Fulovit has been quoted as saying, "This new 'Alabamethyst' will shake the designers up, just what we've been needing. 'Alabamethyst' will be recognized as a mineral of unusual gemological properties not referenced in world literature as of yet."

Last but not least, will be the product trading on the open market. Once registered with the New York commodities market, stock in the mining venture is expected to sell for \$70.00+ per share with an initial offering of 1,000,000 shares. It is rumored on Wall Street that a particularly large investment group, which now controls the diamond cartel, is strongly considering buying the entire IPO as a block purchase, thereby capturing another highly marketable stone in its entirety, direct from origin. If this strategy is successful, expect to see 'Alabamethyst' fetch upwards of \$300 per carat. April Fools!

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Editors of the Rockhounds Flimflam Journal

## Upcoming Shows

**April 22-23, 2006**, Memphis, TN - Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. 27th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Pipkin Building Midsouth Fairgrounds (corner of East Parkway and Central Avenue. Hours: 22nd, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 23rd, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: James Butcko, 901.743.0058 or email at rockclub@earthlink.net. Website: [www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org).

**May 12-14, 2006**, Marietta, GA - Georgia Mineral Society. 38th Annual Mothers Day Weekend Gem and Mineral Show. Cobb County Civic Center, 548 Marietta Parkway (at the intersection with Fairgrounds Road). Hours: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 14th, Noon - 5:00 P.M. Auction on 13th at 2:00 P.M. Jay Gorday @ 770.986.0822 or mayshow@gamineral.org. Website: gamineral.org.

**June 3-4, 2006**, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society. 33rd Annual Tannehill Gem and Mineral Show. From Birmingham: Take I-20/59S. To Exit 100. From I-450: Take Exit 1 and follow the signs. Hours: Both days, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Rick Kittinger at rick.kittinger@bellsouth.com.



### **Southeast Federation (Phase 1)/AFMS Convention**

Hosts: Middle Tennessee Gem Society  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Show: August 18-20, 2006  
Convention: August 15-20, 2006

### **Southeast Federation (Phase 2)**

Hosts: Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society  
Montgomery, Alabama  
December 1-3, 2006



## **GEMSTONE MYTHS AND STORIES**

### **Part 2**

Lists of gems that can heal read like a doctor's prescription. Acne can be aided by rose quartz while anemia can be treated with hematite, garnet, or bloodstone. Pain can be eased by peridot, smoky quartz, or amber. Mystics will use the stones to rub the body to help cure the illness.

Many stones have stories of how they help calm the mind. For example, amethyst is used by healers in meditation and spiritual enhancement. It is used to scare away nightmares when placed in one's pillow. Amethyst lends courage and strength to the wearer and sometimes exchanged between lovers and is a symbol of love.

Other stories relate how the gem can cure illnesses. For example aquamarine is said to reduce fluid retention and calms coughs, while protecting the liver. It can prevent baldness. It can be placed in water and allowed to sit in the moonlight, creating a liquid used for purification and psychic enhancement.

Many of these stories are not true, but sometimes you can look at some gems like a black opal, and imagine the energy within. The multicolored tourmaline is a bizarre, oddity of nature, so it must have special powers.

Source: "Rocket City Rocks and Gems" August 2005

# An Official Field Trip of Mobile Rock and Gem Society, Mobile, AL (HOST) An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society

**9:30 am Central time**  
**Saturday, April 22, 2006**  
**Epes, Alabama**  
**Sumter County**

Children are allowed under adult supervision.  
Pets are allowed on leash.

**Fees:** There is no fee for collecting at this site.

**Contact Numbers:** Larry Landry, Field Trip Chairman (251) 653-8459  
email address: maryloulandry@aol.com

**Collecting:** The finds are marcasite, pyrite nodules and fossils from the cretaceous period.

**Bring:** Buckets or bags, small hand shovel and scraper, newspaper for wrapping fossils. There is no restaurant nearby, so bring food, water and drinks. Wear layered clothing for our unpredictable Alabama weather.

**Directions:** Epes is on U.S. Highway 11 which runs parallel with Interstate 20 and 59. We will meet at or near the R&E Quick Stop County Store and Service Station on Highway 11 at the intersection of Highway 21, which is approximately 1/4 mile west of the Tombigbee River bridge.



## General Information

The purpose of the Golden Nugget is to inform members of news about gems and minerals along with news about club, state, and regional activities of interest to our members. Most important, the Golden Nugget provides a way for each of us to share information about projects and to pass on tips that will help others enjoy our hobby. Unless members are willing to contribute, *The Golden Nugget* cannot meet this latter purpose.

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Meetings of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mureal Crump Adult Center, 1735 Highland Avenue, Montgomery, AL. The annual gem show replaces the December meeting. Anyone interested in gems and minerals is invited to attend. Field trips, workshops, and classes are held at various locations. These are announced at monthly meetings.

The Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information.

# MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Iris McGehee.

Minutes were approved with correction on scholarships. (noted in February Minutes)

Treasurer's report was read by Iris McGehee and filed with the secretary.

Iris reported that show contracts had been sent out and she is working on the Southeast Federation banquet. A speaker has been located. She stated that she needed everybody's help. Jean McDonald has agreed to look into items for welcome bags.

Workshop equipment. Harold Glover reported tentative purchase prices on needed equipment:  
Genie - \$1,325 Graves Faceting - \$165 parts 75 laps  
This does not include shipping, insurance or price changes.  
Purchase of the equipment was approved.

Iris stressed participation in the cancelled stamp program, remarking that one of the scholarships was the result of our participation. She urged that we not turn in over-cancelled stamps, as they cannot be used.

The following applicants were approved for membership: Frank Rowell and Diane Slaughter.

It was announced that Becky Fetzer's mother died and an appropriate memorial would be made.

Refreshments were furnished by Iris McGehee and Mary Lou McHugh.

Laura Hirst introduced Mr. Lyle Fields of Alabama Gemology Laboratory. Mr. Fields and his assistant, Amy, presented an interesting program on colored gems.

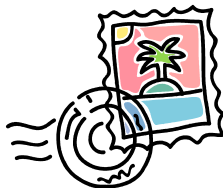
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



## Club Officers

President: James Easterling, 875-3089  
1st Vice Pres.: Laura Hirst, 590-6946  
2nd Vice Pres.: David Sherrod, 285-5537  
Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817

Treasurer: Iris McGehee, 262-7275  
Director: Harold Glover, 285-3501  
Director: Terry Fetzer, 271-6849



**Don't forget to bring in those stamps!**

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