



April 2008  
Number 08-04

# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

## PROGRAM CORNER

When: April 10, 2008  
Where: Muriel Crump Center, 1735 Highland Ave, Montgomery, AL  
What: Surprise Topic  
Who: **Kim Cochran, President GA Mineral Society**



### REFRESHMENTS

*Drinks:* Elise & Terry Toney



*Snacks:* Harry Corbin

Please remember to bring paper plates, napkins, and cups. Ice is available at the community center.

#### Refreshments for remainder of 2008

Month	Drinks	Snacks	May	D. Hornsby	L. Lord
June	F. Rowell	the Easterlings	July	H. Glover	Griebel/Berkman
Aug	L. Boyd	<b>VACANT</b>	Sept	D. Sherrod	M. Sherrod
Oct	<b>VACANT</b>	J. Tatum	Nov	J. Gaines	the Kirklands



## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

Mike Keene on 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Gaines on 6 <sup>th</sup>	Vijaya Chava on 15 <sup>th</sup>
David Echols on 19 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Mann on 29 <sup>th</sup>	

### WELCOME to New Members

Jim Gundlach	Deirdra Hahn	Bob Cochran
James and Betty Anderson		Tyler Lewis

# THE MONSTER FACETING MACHINE

(Excerpts courtesy of Bob Keller Bob's Rock Shop [www.rockhounds.com/bkeller](http://www.rockhounds.com/bkeller))

Displayed at this years Old Pueblo Lapidary Club Faceters Hobnob was special faceting machine which has been newly created to facet very large gemstones. The "Monster Faceting Machine" is the product of collaboration between Old Pueblo Lapidary Club members Art Kavan, Billy Bob Riley and Tom Miller. Art is a former OPLC president, current president of the United States Faceter's Club and is well known to the world-class competition faceting community. Billy Bob is an OPLC lapidary and smithing instructor and faceter, and Tom Miller is a current OPLC board member. Billy Bob and Tom also happen to be machinists and fabricators.



< Art Kavan provides some scale as he proudly poses with the Monster

## By Art Kavan

Why would anyone want a large faceting machine? A few reasons are that there are very few of them and our group is going to find out why. Another reason is that you need to keep stretching the perimeters in order to keep life interesting. And third there is a practical reason for museum and exhibition stones, not to dismiss the fun of doing it.

Sometime in 2005 I decided to build a machine and experience cutting large stones. I got pictures of the Dare Devil machine and equipment and talked to Ed Romack a few more times and started talking to others and getting ideas. I got Billy Bob Riley and Tom Miller both machinists to help with the project and I did all the financing. Billy did the machine and Tom did the platform and laps.

So here is what we have. The base plate weighs 97 pounds by itself; it is 1 1/4" thick, two feet wide and 3 feet long with double "T" slots to hold the 33-inch mast. The facet head looks like a tank turret with a 6" 96 index gear. We have 1" dops, a mechanical protractor for now, maybe digital in the future, a dead stop. The plenum is 9 1/2" with two wheel bearings. There is a one-horse DC motor with variable speed to power it.

We are still working on laps, we have they finished they are made out of 1/2" steel 20" in diameter with two 20" diameter 1/8" solid copper disks bonded on each side. We plan to use 100 diamond to start after using a chop saw to pre shape (notice I did not say pre-form) the large stone. We are working on corian 3/4 inch bonded on 3/8" aluminum to use oxides and one dished out and poured with black cabbing wax, which will be charged with diamond for polish.

Billy Bob has volunteered to field further questions regarding the Monster and can be emailed at [stonefaceter@yahoo.com](mailto:stonefaceter@yahoo.com) or phoned at (520) 408-3074.

The remarkable accomplishments of the Dare Devils group included the 7,597 carat Lucky Stone CZ, the 3,444 carat Duchess Quartz, the 12,678 carat Countess CZ and the 5,280 carat Milestone Citrine Quartz, which are depicted in my report on the Faceter's Guild of Southern California **Faceters Symposium 2000**.

More information: <http://www.tucsonshow.com/reports/tucson2006/p6.shtml>

*Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else. Will Rogers* □

# ONYX

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Onyx is a cryptocrystalline form of quartz. The colors of its bands range from white to almost every color (save some shades, such as Purple or Blue.) Commonly, specimens of onyx available contain bands of colors of white, tan, and brown. Sardonyx is a variant in which the colored bands are sard (shades of red) rather than black. Pure black Onyx is common, and perhaps the most famous variety, but not as common as Onyx with banded colors. The agate-like sardonyx (banded agate). The specimen is 1 inch wide. It is usually cut as a cabochon, or into beads, and is also used for intaglios and cameos, where the image is contrast with the ground. Some onyx is



natural, but much is produced by the staining of agate. The name has sometimes been used, incorrectly, to label other banded lapidary materials, such as banded calcite found in Mexico, Pakistan, and other places, and often carved, polished, and sold. This material is much softer than true onyx, and much more readily available. Onyx is originally an Assyrian word meaning ring, and so could refer to anything used for making rings. Onyx should not be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner or cleaned with abrasive or ammonia based cleaner as using such types can cause discoloration of the stone.



## Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes March 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Rowell. Visitors were welcomed.

The president called on Program Chairman Julie Tatum to introduce our program speaker. Anita Westbrook from Atlanta entertained us by letting us know of some of the misconceptions we have about meteorites. She also shared samples from her collection. Refreshments were furnished by Iris McGehee and Mary Lou McHugh.

The business session convened after refreshments. Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget. The Southeast Federation field trip which announced last month has been corrected in the Minutes to show the year 2010. The treasurer's report was read by Iris McGehee, which was approved and filed with the secretary.

Frank emphasized the need to use the point system to apply for scholarships to the Southeast Federation Workshops. Frank announced that parts for a club's machine were stolen from his porch after delivery.

The company from whom the parts were ordered have offered to replace for half-price. The club voted to accept this offer. The amount of \$50.00 was approved to sponsor an award at the Fair October 3-15.

The amount of \$150.00 was approved to sponsor a Little League Team. Membership was approved for the following: Jim Gundlach, Deirdra Hahn, Bob Cochran and children Elizabeth, Erin, and Will, James and Betty Anderson, and Tyler Lewis. Gold Prospectors are meeting in Talladega on April 12.

Frank reminded that the workshop building will be open Saturday and he asked for help in assembling the cabber. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary



## HELLO ROCKHOUNDS,

Our very interesting March speaker, Anita Westlake, was a real treat. So sorry to have missed so many of you at that meeting, although we had a very good house. Attendance was made by very nearly as many visitors as members. I've had several requests to write a synopsis of Anita's talk on meteorites. Since I cannot possibly match the wit and charm of her presentation, I've decided to just concentrate on the facts.

There are two kinds of asteroids: stone aggregates called "stonies" and nickel-iron called "metallics." When any asteroid enters Earth's atmosphere, it becomes a meteor. When it hits the ground, it becomes a rock (our favorite) and is then called a "meteorite." Literally, tons of this material falls to earth every day. They range in size from tiny grains to boulders. All are highly collectable and may be sold by the piece or may be sold by weights as low as a gram.

Meteors fall evenly over the earth's entire surface, but meteorites are more easily found in areas of sparse vegetation (deserts, Polar regions, etc.) not only because they are more easily seen there, but also because the same conditions that retard plant growth (cold and/or lack of moisture) preserve the meteorites themselves. "Stonies" are the most common cosmically and fall most commonly, but degenerate quickly due to climate. For this reason, nickel-iron meteorites are the most commonly found.

All *metallics* will attract a magnet and will usually have telltale surface indentations called "thumbprints," because they look as if someone repeatedly pressed the ball of their thumb into the metal while molten. Metallic meteorites have a definite internal crystalline structure that can be revealed by acid etching. Olivine is sometimes found among this structure making peridot the only known gemstone of extraterrestrial origin ever found (as if being one of the only two gemstones not formed in the earth's crust wasn't enough).

Due to peculiarities of their composition and descent, some meteorites can be frosty upon falling to the ground. Others heat up fiercely. Some impact the ground with so much force that they generate great heat and blast molten earthy materials up into the atmosphere and sometimes beyond! Some of the material that falls back to earth as little globs of molten glass called tektites, which are also collectible; some have even been faceted.

Not merely the meteorites themselves are collectible, but the very, very rare objects that they may have hit become highly sought after. A young woman of modest means had her old beaten-up, junker automobile struck by a metallic meteor in the early seventies (in New York state?). Not only did the meteor bring the young woman great prices, but the nearly worthless auto brought thousands of 1970s dollars. Even fence posts become valuable collector's pieces once struck by a meteor. The only known instance of a person being hit by a falling meteor was in Sylacauga, Al in the 1950s. The meteor fell through the roof and hit her as she lay resting. Everything associated with that fall is still being sought after.

Anita Westlake showed us a lump of native silver that, although found not to be a meteorite, was even more valuable. She brought many meteorite specimens to share; tiny granular ones collected using a magnet along the tops of ant hills. One larger than both my fists and covered with "thumbprints; etched slabs of metallics showing beautiful crystal growth; slabs from stonies and many, many others.

She told many delightful stories. One involved a phone conversation at work as overheard by her boss and co-workers. "How much can he get? Oh that much! How

much is it a gram? A HUNDRED DOLLARS?! ... Ok...I'm addicted ...I'll buy a couple of grams." Another story, a cautionary tale, involved using alcohol and acid to etch a meteorite slab. Then accidentally pouring the conserved ACID back into the ALCOHOL bottle. The ensuing explosion brought the fire department and a hazmat-suited government team to her door. In true meteorite collector fashion, the damage to her kitchen has become a local sightseers' spot and she has decided to leave it that way. Again, I send my condolences to anyone who missed Anita and her very enjoyable presentation. Better luck next time.

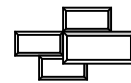


See you soon,  
Frank



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### **UP TO DATE REPORT CONCERNING THE STAMP PROGRAM**



The following is from a report to the SFMS Board meeting from Jim Robinson, Chairman of the Stamp Committee:

"What is bringing the most money now are the Commemorative stamps; yet we rarely receive any of them that are not damaged. Currently there are 42 of the most recent stamps issued that cannot be soaked off paper without damaging them, and soon none will have soak ability. The US Postal Service's stamp paper suppliers are eliminating the water-soluble layer in the self-adhesive laminate of recent issues. The water-soluble layer allows a stamp to be soaked in water to remove it from the envelope paper. The stamps cannot be removed without damaging them in the process. This is the reason I asked the clubs to NO LONGER TRY AND SOAK THEM. There is a way to remove them without damage but it is complicated and difficult. From now on just send them to me on paper. I will remove the more expensive ones, the rest we will just sell on paper."

PLEASE BE REMINDED: If a stamp is over canceled (you can hardly see the images on the stamp), there is absolutely no need to include it. Also, any damaged stamp should not be included. I just have to throw any that are over canceled or damaged. If any happen to pass my inspection, Jim will throw any away when he goes through them. Stamps should be cut from the envelope leaving a small section of the envelope on them. Thanks for continuing to support the Stamp Program. Iris McGehee

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### **TRIP TO THE SFMS BOARD MEETING IN NASHVILLE**

*Mary Lou McHugh and I went to the SFMS Board meeting in Nashville on March 28. We left Montgomery early and were making real good time until we got up above Athens, Alabama. Unfortunately we experienced car trouble. We found when that happened that there are really good Samaritans everywhere. There were four or five cars that stopped to ask if we needed any assistance. One man and his wife really helped by calling AAA for me and let them know where we were located and even told them what the problem was. We were pulled into Morris's Garage just off of I-65 and Mr. Morris was very kind to us as he took care of the problem. The charges for the repair were less than \$100.00 which was a blessing. We were soon on our way and got to Nashville in time to fight the Friday afternoon traffic.*

*The meeting was a good one, and we enjoyed seeing old friends. One particular friend continued complementing us on our show and the Annual meeting we hosted in December 2006. He was very impressed with the Mann Museum and the facilities provided during that meeting. It was nice to know that others think Montgomery is a great place.*

*Iris McGehee*

# **The Adventures of the Stone Hunter**

The month of March took me to the Walter Bolden Dam. When I first joined the club, Harold Glover told me about the petrified wood he and others have found there. This was my eighth adventure there and it was to be *very* different because I went in on a boat. My neighbor came over to visit one day. Knowing that he has a bass boat, I asked if he could take me to the dam. It turns out that he has fished that area for ten years and knew it very well and was more than happy to take me.

Well, it finally worked out for us to go. The plan was that he would drop me off at the end of the canal and fish until I was ready to try a different spot. We slowly worked our way toward the dam and I collected some grand pieces. Every time I go there, I find a lot of pieces, but the highlight of this adventure turned out to be the biggest piece I have ever found.

About 200 yards from the dam, I found a piece that was 2 feet long and as big around as a small car tire. If you have ever been there, then you know that some spots are hard to get around. At that particular spot, I went uphill until a large patch of briars blocked the way. As I prepared to turn around and go back down, I saw the tip of the iceberg sticking out of the cliff. I stomped through the briars like a madman and grabbed my shovel and got to work.

An hour passed before I finally freed it from the clay and gravel. It was going to be tuff to get it out. But I was determined to get it. I rolled it down the eroded cliff side and got it stuck between two small trees. I knew then I would have to come back another day to get it. I accepted temporary defeat and moved on. When I got back in the boat and we headed out, I told my neighbor what I had found.

He slowed the boat and said to me “ I’m a pretty big boy. You want to give it a try?” I quickly said “yes.” When we got there, we got it unstuck and moved it about 10 feet from the boat. We tried and tried, but it was too big. I then decided to break it in half. When I hit it the third time, it cracked like an egg revealing huge vugs \* of brown smoky quartz crystals. It broke into six large pieces and several little pieces. Needless to say, I got it home and cleaned it up.

I will have some pieces of it at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting if you would like to see it. I hope you enjoyed my initial column. Look for more to come.

Thanks for reading,  
**Jeff Edwards**

\*(A small cavity in a rock or vein, often with a mineral lining of different composition from that of the surrounding rock.)

Check out these links

William Holland <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/schedule.html>  
Wildacres <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html>  
Al Mineral Locality Index <http://www.mindat.org/rloc.php?loc=Alabama%2C+USA>  
GIA [http://www.gia.edu/3954/gia\\_home\\_page.cfm](http://www.gia.edu/3954/gia_home_page.cfm)

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### **Upcoming shows**

>April 19 9:00-5:00 Dothan Gem & Mineral Club . 4329 S. Brannan Stand Rd & W. Hwy 52, Dothan - JoAn Lambert 334-792-7116

>April 26-27 Memphis TN Archaeological & Geological Society - Mid America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show (901) 743-0058 – [rockclub@earthlink.net](mailto:rockclub@earthlink.net) or website [www.memphisgeology.com](http://www.memphisgeology.com)

>June 7 & 8 Birmingham Gem & Mineral Club @ Tannehill State Park

>June 14 & 15 Wind Creek State Park



Flowers... are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty out values all the utilities of the world. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1844

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### ***Southeast Federation Field Trips***

**Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"** Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr.  
706.359.3862 (w), 706.359.2381 (h) 8 am to 6 pm, April 25, 26, 27, 2008  
8 am to 6 pm, October 3, 4, 5, 2008  
<http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

### **5th Annual Western North Carolina Rockhound Roundup**

July 30th-August 3rd, 2008 by Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Association & DirtyRockhounds" *Jacquots Rock Ranch*, 3897 Leicester Hwy. Leicester, North Carolina 28748. \$10.00 per person covers all 5 days of the Roundup. Free camping on the Jacquot property for the first 5 RV's and numerous tents. No hookups, but electric panel for campers. Large campfire pit & outside shower for campers. Other accommodations: E Asheville KOA 1-800-562-5907, W Asheville KOA: 1-800-562-9015 or <http://asheville.hotelguide.net/> Open to all clubs. Bring rocks and minerals to trade, sell, and show. [www.wncrocks.com](http://www.wncrocks.com) click on the "MAGMA" link. Contact Rick Jacquot at: 828-683-1048 or email [rick@wncrocks.com](mailto:rick@wncrocks.com)

## CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	FRANK ROWELL	277-7023
1 <sup>ST</sup> V P:	JULIE TATUM	244-9462
2 <sup>ND</sup> V P:	DAVID SHERROD	285-5537
SECRETARY:	MARY LOU MCHUGH	272-1817
TREASURER:	IRIS MCGEHEE	262-7275
DIRECTORS:	JIM GAINES	285-1988
	MEL BARKLEY	277-2722

### 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. Membership dues are \$12.00 for individuals and \$18.00 for families residing in the same household.

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

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