



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Aug 2005
Number 05 - 08



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

August Program

When: Thursday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Fluorescence in minerals presented by
James Easterling.



Refreshments



Refreshments for the August meeting will be provided by the Joy Matthews, drinks, and the Annette Graves, snacks.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by Michael Keen, drinks, and Jean Mc Donald, snacks.

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

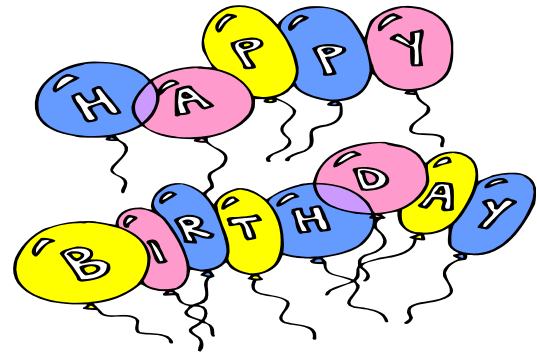


SFMS STAMP PROGRAM

Please remember to keep saving those cancelled stamps and bring them to the meeting and give them to our stamp person Iris.

BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION

Also remember to save the "Box Tops for Education" from General Mills packages and Ziploc Bags.



to

Minnie Jerido & Stan Stevens



Thanks to Sonny Hall one of the air conditioners has been installed in the workshop. On July 23, he arrived around 10:30 and worked until he got one unit in and ready for use. We are really luck to have Sonny as a member of the club. Be certain to thank him whenever you see him.

Iris McGehee

We also want to thank Sonny for his knapping demonstration at the July meeting!

New Corundum Discoveries Reported in Madagascar

New York, July 27, 2005

ICA Ambassador to Madagascar, Tom Cushman, reports that Madagascar is once again the site of new corundum discoveries. Word has been out on a discovery of a new source for a very rich color pink sapphire since last December and now Cushman reports that a new ruby discovery was found in the Andilamena mining district.

Andilamena has produced ruby since 2000 and is most recently famous for the “ruby star” material so often being lead glass filled. For the first two years the Andilamena rubies were mined from the riverbed and adjacent banks. In late 2003/early 2004 shaft mining reached the level of the primary deposit of the “ruby star”. The March find was the primary deposit of another type of ruby being found in Andilamena. This ruby is usually small, dark red, well-formed, hexagonal platelets. “This deposit contains much more gem quality material than the “ruby star” and should be appearing in quantity in the marketplace right about now”, stated Cushman.

Another new corundum find about 100 km south of Mahajunga was recently reported, however, its quality and quantity were not appraised at the time of this report. ICA member Vincent Pardieu, director of the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences Laboratory in Bangkok, and member of the ICA Communications Committee, is currently in the field in Madagascar visiting the new finds and studying the gem material found. He has plans to publish his findings when he returns from his tour of Madagascar and other mining areas in Africa.

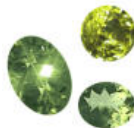
Cushman reports that Ilakaka/Sakaraha is still producing in quantity but the industry has matured a great deal since the big rush a few years ago. Reports from the Service des Mines state large quantities of both pink and blue sapphire are being exported from the Ilakaka region.

Speaking about the mining situation in Madagascar Cushman said, “There seems to be no end in sight for new corundum deposits and production”.

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August's Birthstone - Peridot



Peridot is a variety of mineral olivine; it ranges in color from a transparent lime to olive green and has a hardness of 6.5 – 7.0. Historically, Peridot has caught the fancy of humans for thousands of years. Egyptians enslaved the people of the Red Sea island of St. John's and forced them to mine Peridot for use in ornaments and jewelry. Some historians suspect that at least some of the "emeralds" worn by Cleopatra were actually Peridot. The Romans called Peridot "evening emerald," since its green color did not darken at night but was still visible by lamplight. Later, it was often used to decorate medieval churches. Large Peridots, close to 200 carats in size, decorate the shrine of the three magi at the Cologne Cathedral. Legend has it that pirates favored Peridot to protect them against evil. The current popularity of Peridot can be explained by its being recognized as the birthstone for the month of August. Peridot is said to bring the wearer success, peace, and good luck.

Peridot is found in Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Norway, Pakistan and USA. As with all gemstones, protect Peridot from scratches and sharp blows and do not clean it in an ultrasonic cleaner. Also avoid large temperature changes (such as leaving it be a heater vent or in a hot car).

Terry Fetzer

Since we have been having so many thunderstorms lately, I thought I'd dust off this old article!

Lightning Safety



When a storm cloud comes into sight several things may happen. Lightning, thunder, wind, tornado, flood, or a combination of several of these. This article will deal with lightning.

Lightning in the west and sometimes here in the South may start a fire that may burn a lot of forest. My concern is about what happens if a person is struck by lightning. Most people who are hit by lightning are killed. I had two relatives killed by electrical storms.

Where is lightning a danger to us?

1. In an open field if a person is the tallest thing around.
2. On the open water, pond, lake, river, sea, or ocean when a person or persons or a boat is the tallest thing on the water.
3. Under tall trees. (Lightning usually is attracted to one of the taller trees, electric near poles and bushes.
4. In a house or barn that is not grounded either by lightning rod or by electrical wiring.
5. In a house as we use a telephone, electric appliance, or take a shower.

Where is it safe to be?

1. In a house that has grounded electrical wiring (not using any electric appliance or taking a bath.
2. In a car with the doors closed.
3. If you are on open water see if you can find a place to stop near some short bushes (not close to tall trees).
4. Under electrical lines not near the support poles.
5. If you are in an open field try to get to a low place and sit or lie on the ground until the storm passes.

Lightning is dangerous enough that we should be very careful on field trips and do not work with electrical tools or any metal tools (hammer, shovel, pry bar, etc.) during a storm.

Be safe, enjoy life and do something worthwhile.

Bill Buckner, SFMS Safety Chair
Lodestar, 08/09 2002



August Program Note!

Anyone that wants to bring a UV lamp and any rocks or minerals that exhibit fluorescence is welcome to bring them.

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

July 14th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President James Easterling.

There were no guests present.

The Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

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

Field Trip Chairman David Sherrod announced that no field trips would be scheduled until the weather is cooler.

Michael Keene told of discovering a rock shop called the Fossil Site off I-65 on Highway 119. He said no jewelry is sold there. Complete directions will appear in the Golden Nugget.

Inclement weather prevented the installation of air conditioning in the workshop. Installation is rescheduled for Saturday, July 23.

An invitation to the East Alabama Club to visit our workshop building has been postponed until after the installation of air conditioning.

Refreshments were furnished by Harold and Clara Glover and Iris McGehee.

Sonny Hall presented a program on knapping.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh
Secretary



Directions to “The Fossil Site”

(205) 620-6811

Take I-65 north to exit 238. Turn left onto US 31. Turn left onto Hwy 119. Go through 3 to 5 traffic signals until you see a Publix supermarket on your left. About 100 yards past the Publix you will see a strip mall on the right. The shop is located in the strip mall.



Help wanted!

If you want to teach a workshop or put on a program, please contact James.

If you have a suggestion for a field trip, please contact David.

If you have an article or item of interest for the newsletter, please forward it to Terry.

ONLY YOU CAN MAKE OUR CLUB A SUCCESS!

Upcoming Shows

Aug. 12-14, Atlanta, GA - Bead Fest Atlanta. Georgia International Convention Center, 2000 Convention Center Concourse, 30337. 12th, noon-7; 13th, 10-7; 14th, 11-5. 610-232-5700, lapidary.journal@primedia.com, www.beadfest.com.

Aug. 12-14, Dalton, GA - Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows. 14th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Bead Show. Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd. 12th & 13th, 10-6; 14th, 11-5. Van Wimmer, 540-384-6047, van@toteshows.com, www.toteshows.comT.

September 2-5, 2005, Hendersonville, NC - S Hendersonville, NC - Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society. 24th Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular & Sale. Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road. Hours: 2nd-4th: 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 5th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28739-6391, 828.692.1249, and email at mgt.j.ed@brinet.com. The summer SFMS board meeting is associated with this show.



Club Officers

President:	James Easterling, 875-3089
1st V. President:	Open
2nd V. President:	David Sherrod, 285-5537
Secretary:	Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817
Treasurer:	Iris McGehee, 262-7275
Directors:	Minnie Jerido, 724-9125 Harold Glover, 285-3501



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 2nd 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.

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