



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Aug 2006
Number 06 - 08



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

Aug Program

When: Thursday, August 10th, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Video – The Amazing World Below



Refreshments



The Toney's will provide the drinks and Elizabeth Corley will provide the snacks for this month's meeting.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by Minnie Jerido, drinks, and David Sherrod, snacks.

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

Happy Birthday!



Minnie Jerido - 16th

BITS OF BRICKLE COOKIES

Here is the recipe for the Bits of Brickle cookies that I served at the July meeting. They are really easy to make, and everyone seems to enjoy them. Warning: They are like chips - you can't eat just one. Iris

1 Box Duncan Hines Butter Cake Mix (Golden Recipe)

1 Egg

2/3-cup vegetable oil

Mix all ingredients together

Add 1 cup finely chopped pecans

3/4-cup Bit of Brickle (Heath Toffee Bits)

Shape into small balls and flatten with fork.

Bake at 325 - 350 degrees for 8 - 11 minutes

Start earning those points to be eligible for a scholarship to William Holland or Wild Acres! Write an article for the Golden Nugget.

I've got the Fever!

I just wanted to write up a little article about my very first field trip with the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society.

PLUS! This would be like 2 points to enable me to be eligible for a scholarship to a workshop at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or Wild Acres Retreat! (I only have 6 so far.) I do have a really long way to go to compile 25 points, and I won't be able to attend the August field trip due to a PMC class I signed up for on the same day. I'm sad to say that the deposit to that class is non refundable. I'm going to miss not being there.

On June 10, 2006, Frank Rowell and I met up with some folks at the McDonalds in Wetumpka. We then convoyed up to a sweet little creek (Sougahatchee) in the area of Reeltown, just north of Tallassee.

When we got there we trekked about a ¼ to ½ a mile to a prime spot for gold panning and dredging. We used several techniques to find our gold the first was simply panning, the really old fashioned way. A skill I must admit is not as easy as it looks. I spent most of the day trying to master that skill. Terri Toney applied the sluice method, and David Sherrod made use of a gas-powered dredger with an attached sluice.

With all the equipment we were carrying to the site I was thinking that we were going to be carrying gold boulders home, if not some nice size nuggets to fill the 5 gallon buckets that were brought. I was not the slightest disappointed that all we were able to find were salt size grains of gold. (I did manage to PAN a single grain on my own! It was very exciting. It was the first gold of the day! lol) It's just so surprising that we could find any gold in Alabama at all.

I had a grand time getting to know the panning techniques and other members of the club. We were there for most of the day, but the time just flew past. By the end of the day everyone got to experience the thrill of finding some gold for their trouble. I for one had a blast playing in the creek.

Other members of the club in attendance included David Sherrod, the trip coordinator, and his son Tyler, Terry Toney, Linda Griebel, Mike Berkman, Mary Holland, along with Frank Rowell and me, Julie Tatum.

Thanks to David for coordinating and leading this expedition. As well as thank you all for not voting against my club membership, even though it was Frank Rowell who recommended me. (I don't care what they all say about you Frank; I don't think you smell funny, and I LOVE your GREEN hat!) I look forward to attending more field trips with the club, especially another gold panning trip.

I'VE GOT THE FEVER!

Julie Tatum



Morganite



Besides [Emerald](#) and [Aquamarine](#), Morganite is probably the best-known member from the fabulous multi-colored [Beryl-group](#). Women all over the world love it because of its very fine pink color, which emanates charm, esprit and tenderness.

Also Gemstones Change their Names: Pink Beryl, aka Morganite

Although it came into existence millions of years ago, Morganite found its name less than a hundred years ago. To be precise, only in 1911, for before this the gemologists considered "Pink Beryl" simply a variety of Beryl in general, and not as an individual stone. However, it is not only people but also stones that sometimes change their names. Thus in the year 1911 New York gemstone expert G.F. Kunz suggested to give Pink Beryl the status and standing of an individual kind of gemstone, and it was named in honor of banker and minerals collector John Pierpont Morgan, thus receiving its current name: Morganite.

Beryls are hard minerals consisting of beryllium aluminum silicate. Pure Beryl is colorless. However, due to its hexagonal structure it is able to integrate other elements such as, e.g., iron, manganese, chromium or vanadium. If manganese is embedded in Beryl, the plain and unexciting gemstone is turned into a pink and precious beauty: Morganite. Today this gemstone is mainly mined in Brazil, Madagascar, Afghanistan and California. Its excellent hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs' scale is the reason why it is so ideally suited to being worn.

La vie en rose....

Morganite comes in many fine shades of pink. Some are clearly pink, others tend more towards purple. Even a slight orange hue may be sometimes discerned – after all, Mother Nature created the ideal gemstone color to complement any shade of complexion. But no matter which shade and hue, Morganite always radiates charm, esprit and certain tenderness. This gemstone is endowed with a wonderful gift: even in times of high stress it will manage to let you focus on the bright side of life. Just give it a try and see for yourself. The sight of a Morganite cannot fail to cheer you up. A person who decides for this stone, will be able to see "la vie en rose" even in the grey monotony of everyday routines. Therefore, then, it is easy to understand that for the stone healers, Morganite is considered the typical stone to be used as the antidote to cure the problems caused by hectic modern life: to relieve stress and provide clarity. It will provide a pleasant feeling of relaxation, peace and joy of life.

Color and Cut Determine the Quality

When determining the quality, color is the most important criterion. Please note: This gemstone should be selected as large as possible, for it requires a certain size to best bring out the beauty of the stone. The rule that a higher clearness equals a higher value can only be applied with restrictions, since a Morganite showing fine inclusions like pure silk is also quite coveted by gemstone lovers. The main decisive factor, then, is definitely the quality of the cut, because it needs an expert's cut to enhance the fine beauty and bring out the brightness of Morganite.

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Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society
July 13, 2006

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Iris McGehee. Debbie Berkman, who was visiting, was welcomed.

Laura Hirst introduced Sherron Schaefer and her sister, Pam Barnes, who presented an interesting program on bead design. Sherron is owner of High Strung Beads Shoppe.

Minutes were read by Mary Lou McHugh, secretary, and were approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Iris McGehee, which was approved and filed with the secretary.

David Sherrod announced that eight members participated in the Sougahatchee Creek field trip. He also said that a trip to the Hurtsboro area for fossilized coral is possible. Details will be announced later.

Iris expressed dismay over trash being left in the workshop and stated that it is the responsibility of those who use the shop to see that it is left in an orderly condition.

The workshop will be open Saturday, and it was discussed that a fan be bought to make the building more comfortable.

Terry Fetzer requested slabs (not agate) to be made into favors for the Southeast Federation banquet in December. Slabs can be left at the workshop building.

Julie Tatum's membership application was approved.

Iris reminded the group to be thinking about exhibits for the Fair in October.

Randy Hirst announced that the website is up and going. The web address is:
<http://www.MGMGemAndMineralSociety.bravehost.com>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh,
Secretary



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



Upcoming Shows

Aug 12-13--BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society; Fraternal Order of Police Baton Rouge Lodge Number One, 10777 Greenwell Springs Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children \$2; contact Paul Broussard, (225) 687-3864 or (225) 939-3293; e-mail: Paul_Broussard@MSN.com.

Aug 19-20--BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: 33rd annual show; Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; rock food table, displays, demonstrations, youth activities, dealers, jewelry, colored stones, cutting rough, minerals, mountings, supplies, equipment; contact Bill Hart, 1610 Success St., Bossier City, LA 71112, (318) 746-8735.

Sep 1-4--HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA: 25th annual show, "Gem & Mineral Spectacular and Sale"; Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society; Whitmire Activity Bldg., Lily Pond Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, programs; contact Richard Jacquot, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28793, (828) 683-1048, or Margaret L. Johnson, 414 E. Pine Hill Ln., Hendersonville, NC 28792, (828) 692-1249.



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.

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Director: Harold Glover, 285-3501
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