



# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Aug 2007  
Number 07 - 07



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

## August Program

**When:** Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Mureal Crump Community Center  
1735 Highland Ave.  
Montgomery, AL  
**What:** Mystery video! (Actually, we weren't sure which one will be shown!)



## Refreshments



David Sherrod will provide the drinks and Morning Apperson will provide the snacks for this month's meeting.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by Randy Hirst, drinks, and Jean McDonald, snacks.

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**Minnie Jerido - 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Joyce Ewing - 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Phillip Baker - 29<sup>th</sup>**

## Proposed Fieldtrip



On September 15<sup>th</sup>, our club will be hosting the DMC field trip. We will be going to the Douglas property, located near Dothan, and will be collecting intercostal plain flint. We will meet at the Kmart at 2185 Reeves St (Hwy 431 and Ross Clark Circle) and will depart at 10:00 AM.



## Workshop Saturdays

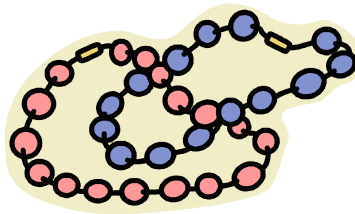
Remember the workshop is scheduled to be opened on the first and third Saturdays of each month. It's your workshop, so take advantage of the opportunity to utilize the facility. This month the workshop will be open the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. **Please remember to call a board member if you plan on coming out.**



**The workshop is now insulated! Thanks to Frank and his many helpers!**



## Beading Workshop



Clara Glover arranged for us to have a workshop on Saturday, July 28, to learn how to make a beaded bracelet. Ten interested members were there to receive instructions from Sue Medina, a beading expert.

We learned the technique to use in making the bracelet and worked to make one, however Clara Glover was the only one who completed the finished item. Let Clara tell you how she managed to finish hers. Those in attendance were: Laura and Randy Hirst, Becky Fetzer, Sandra Boyer, John Namias, Julie Tatum, Mandy Borden, Heather Tatum, and Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee. Hopefully someone from the class will have a finished bracelet at the August meeting.

Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee, Roving Reporter



## Comfort for All of Us



On July 14th while washing dishes, I looked out my kitchen window only to see a vehicle there that I had never seen before. As I began investigating further, I saw a big truck with Berney Office Equipment printed on it. I knew at once that Frank Rowell had borrowed the truck in order to get the material necessary to insulate the workshop. David Echols was there to help Frank. Jeff Edwards and Phil Baker soon joined them to help in the endeavor. They worked all day long, taking off only long enough to have lunch. Frank and Terry Fetzer finished the job the next day.

These men deserve a pat on the back and a big thank you for giving their valuable time to insulate the workshop and make it much cooler for working in there on those "Workshop Saturdays".

Thanks, men, we love and appreciate you very much.

Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee, Roving Reporter



## The Six Mistakes of Man

1. The delusion that personal gain is made by crushing others.
2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected.
3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it.
4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences.
5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind, and not acquiring the habit of reading and studying.
6. Attempting to compel others to believe and live as we do.

Via "Bits & Pieces", Vol.R/No.52

# Thanks so much!

I would like to thank Geri Cronier of Cronier's Fine Jewelry for her time and informative talk at last month meeting. I greatly appreciated her sharing her knowledge on education opportunities in gemology through the GIA. I personally took her upon her offer to come by the store and just look and see all they have to offer. I had a wonderful time and loved all the different machines as well the vast inventory they possess.

Laura Hirst, 1st Vice Pres.



## What is "Puzzuolan"?



The Romans discovered that quick lime (Calcium Oxide, CaO) added to volcanic ash at Puzzuoli yielded cement that set under water. The Pantheon, aqueducts, baths and other structures were made from it. In the U.S., Puzzuolan is generally made with blast furnace slag instead of volcanic ash, and is often referred to as "slag lime cement."

Information taken from "1001 Questions Answered about the Mineral Kingdom," by Richard M. Pearl, via the Rollin Rock Club Newsletter, Vol 42. No. 1 (Spring 1997)



## Are Some Gems Only Half Precious?

The gemstone business in the past was dominated by the "big three," ruby, emerald, and sapphire. These gemstones have always been the most popular and the market for these stones is different than the market for other gemstones in many ways.

When other gemstone varieties began to be popular in jewelry, the jewelry industry got tired of calling them "colored gemstones other than ruby, emerald and sapphire." People needed a term to distinguish these other gems from the big three, since all of them can be called colored gemstones. Unfortunately, the term they made up was "semi-precious" since the big three were often called precious stones, probably from the French "pierres precieuses." Unfortunately the French terminology was not followed for the other stones or they would be known as "fine gemstones," which is much better than that semi word.

The problem with semi-precious, and the reason why the jewelry industry has banned its use, is that it is quite misleading. Rubies, emeralds, and sapphires can sell for less than \$100 per carat and a fine Paraiba tourmaline, for example, can sell for \$20,000 per carat. That seems pretty precious, doesn't it?

Despite the fact that everyone in the jewelry industry now agrees that the term semi-precious is not fair, they still need a name to call those gemstone varieties other than ruby, emerald and sapphire. Semi-precious has a way of creeping back into the vocabulary.

But we can't give up the fight! Give these fine, less well-known gem varieties their due and let us stop calling them semi-precious.

© International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) (<http://www.gemstone.org/index.html>)

**Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Minutes**  
**July 12, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Rowell who asked Laura Hirst to introduce the speaker. The speaker was Geri Cronier who spoke about diamonds, and colored stones. She has special interest in colored stones.

Refreshments were provided by Frank Rowell and Harry Corbin.

Al and Sue Medina were present to promote their class on making a beaded bracelet July 28, from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Lowder Library on Bell Road. Sign-up sheet and list of supplies available.

It was announced that the workshop building will be open July 21 and August 1 beginning at 9:00 am.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

The Treasurer's report was read by Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee and filed with the secretary.

Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee explained that it would be more convenient to have a Partnership School in a closer location, and suggested Morningview School. Approval was made to partner with Morningview School.

Frank explained the point system to be eligible for scholarships at Southeast Federation Workshops.

The 24" saw is back at the workshop and will be installed within two weeks.

The need for insulation in the workshop has been explored and the executive board has recommended that \$1,500 be made available for this purpose. This was approved. Frank asked for volunteers to install the insulation. There were several responses.

David Sherrod said that a final date had not been made for the Dothan field trip. David announced a September date for his marriage to Morning Apperson. Congratulations were heard all around.

Membership applications for Charles C. Deacy and Heather Tatum were approved,

Terry Fetzer thanked all those who contributed to the Golden Nugget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou M<sup>c</sup>Hugh,  
Secretary

## Upcoming Shows

**Aug 18-19--BOSSIER CITY, LA:** 34<sup>th</sup> 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 Charlie Johns, 9314 Overlook Dr., Shreveport, LA 71118, (318) 687-4929; e-mail: cwsejohns@bellsouth.net; www.larockclub.com.

**Aug 31 - Sep 3--HENDERSONVILLE, NC:** 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Margaret L. Johnson, 414 E. Pine Hill Ln., Hendersonville, NC 28792, (828) 692-1249.



**Don't forget to save and bring in those stamps and Box Tops for Education too!**



## 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.

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## Club Officers

President: Frank Rowell, 277-7023  
1st Vice Pres.: Laura Hirst, 590-6946  
2nd Vice Pres.: David Sherrod, 285-5537  
Secretary: Mary Lou M<sup>c</sup>Hugh, 272-1817

Treasurer: Iris M<sup>c</sup>Gehee, 262-7275  
Director: Harold Glover, 285-3501  
Director: Terry Fetzer, 271-6849

Terry L. Fetzer, Editor  
The Golden Nugget  
Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society  
1837 Heatherton Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
Email: GoldenNugget@Knology.Net

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