



# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

August 2011  
11-08



## PROGRAM CORNER

When: August 11, 2011  
Where: 1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery, AL 36109  
Time: 7:00 P M  
What: Knapping Demonstration \*\*  
Who: Alton "Sonny" Hall - renown for practicing knapping, the ancient art of creating stone tools



\*\* **Knapping** is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian or other conchoidal fracturing stone through the process of lithic reduction to manufacture stone tools, strikers for flintlock firearms, or to produce flat-faced stones for building or facing walls, and flushwork decoration. Modern American interest in knapping can be traced back to the study of a California Native American called Ishi who lived in the early twentieth century. Ishi taught scholars and academics traditional methods of making stone tools and how to use them for survival in the wild. Early European explorers to the New World were also exposed to flint knapping techniques. Additionally, several pioneering nineteenth century European experimental knappers are also known and in the late 1960s and early 1970s experimental archaeologist Don Crabtree published texts such as "Experiments in Flintworking". François Bordes was an early writer on Old World knapping; he experimented with ways to replicate stone tools found across Western Europe. These authors helped to ignite a small craze in knapping among archaeologists and prehistorians. English archaeologist Phil Harding is also an expert, having learned the skill as a boy from his uncle. Many groups, with members from all walks of life, can now be found across the United States and Europe. These organizations continue to demonstrate and teach various ways of shaping stone tools. (excerpts from Wikipedia)

For more information on the ancient art of knapping, check out the following links:  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/learn/ancient/flint.htm>  
<http://bama.ua.edu/~alaarch/prehistoricalabama/flintknapping.htm>  
<http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/OKArtifacts/knapping.htm>  
<http://www.buckmasters.com/back-in-time.aspx> **(this one mentions Sonny by name)**  
[www.knapperscorner.com](http://www.knapperscorner.com)



### REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Morning and David Sherrod      Snacks: Morning and David Sherrod  
 Please remember to bring paper plates, napkins, and cups. Ice is available at the community center. ***It is your responsibility to find another member to substitute in the event you are unable to fulfill a month for which you signed up.***

List for remainder of the year:

|     | drinks         | snacks                                 |
|-----|----------------|--|
| Sep | Debbie Herbert | Ardis Cecil                            |
| Oct | David Bohon    | VACANT (we need <b>you</b> to sign up) |
| Nov | Stan Stevens   | VACANT (we need <b>you</b> to sign up) |



### HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 8 Linda Trotter  | 29 Stan Stevens  |
| 16 Minnie Jerido | 30 Douglas Amato |
| 17 James Wofford |                  |
| 29 Phillip Baker |                  |

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:  
 Dan Woods, Sandy Woods, Austin-Bailey Woods**



Following Article contributed by Terry Fetzer

Primordial rocks are those that initially formed in outer space as the solar nebula collapsed to form the Sun (and ultimately the planets). These objects coalesced to become comets, asteroids, meteoroids, and ultimately the planets. Their characteristics vary according to where they formed, how large they became (which affects subsequent processing of the primordial material), and their history of collisions and proximity to the Sun.

The solar nebula began as clouds of cold gas and dust collapsed under the weight of gravitational self-attraction to form a spinning disk with a thick, dense core. The core contracted quickly until fusion ignited in its center, forming the Sun, and the dust and ices clumped together into millimeter-scale bodies called arrayed into a nearly flat disk spinning around the Sun.

Then things started to get interesting. The heat of the new Sun vaporized volatile materials, providing a strong gradient of composition. Only the most refractory of minerals could survive near the Sun, while ices such as methane, ammonia, and water could only condense near the orbit now occupied by Jupiter or beyond. Gasses vaporized near the Sun, however, were blown out by the radiation pressure of light (and the early solar wind), only to condense again as they moved far enough away from the Sun. Meanwhile, friction in the disk caused a gradual spiral of material toward the Sun. Radiation pressure and the solar wind would have pushed smaller particles away from the Sun while having little effect on larger ones, although near the plane of the disk the volume of dust would tend to shadow the matter further out. All the while gravity tended to draw these particles together into larger bodies we call planetoids. These planetoids (typically one to several kilometers wide) would not be affected by solar radiation, but would collide into larger bodies called planetesimals (several to dozens of kilometers wide), which in turn would collide into planetary embryos (hundreds of kilometers wide), which in turn collided leaving the current planets in the solar system. The bottom line was that the early solar nebula was a churning caldron stirred by the heat and light of the Sun, pushing volatile materials outward while gravity and friction pulled material toward the sun.

While the bulk of many asteroids is composed of chondrules, there are light-colored inclusions (especially common in carbonaceous chondrites) called CAIs, or Calcium-Aluminum-rich Inclusions. These may also pre-date the formation of our solar system by a few million years.

There are many meteoric minerals found in meteorites (and thus asteroids) which are extremely rare on Earth, including moissanite (SiC), Schreibersite (a rare iron nickel phosphide mineral,  $(\text{Fe,Ni})_3\text{P}$ , common in iron-nickel meteorites), and xifengite ( $\text{Fe}_5\text{Si}_3$ ).

Some of the rare minerals are found as presolar grains, likely formed well before our Solar System.

Tiny diamonds (C) have been found in meteorites, but the most common gemstone found by far is peridot olivine; some stony-iron meteors may be sliced and polished resulting in a beautiful stained-glass-window appearance of transparent green peridot crystals in an iron matrix.

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### **KIM COCHRAN TELLS ALL ABOUT GOLD**

At the July 14th meeting, one of our favorite presenters Kim Cochran gave a great presentation which included many gold facts:

- ✓ Aurum was the original term which later became the element AU.
- ✓ Pure gold is 2 ½ to 3 on the hardness scale which is equal to your fingernail.
- ✓ Gold is a native element.
- ✓ It is a precious metal in the gold group which also includes copper and silver.
- ✓ Size can range from dust to nuggets of 1 gram to over 200 lbs (found in Australia)
- ✓ Since gold can be transported by water, you can usually trace it to the source (also known as the LOAD)
- ✓ Gold sometimes crystallizes, but is rarely in cube form (generally distorted) (can be wires or feather-shaped crystals)
- ✓ May be an impurity in other minerals (celestite)
- ✓ Gold doesn't like to combine with other minerals, but will with tellurium
- ✓ Can be found in veins in milky quartz, with sulfide veins, in igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic rock
- ✓ 4 properties: inertness, malleability, ductile (conductor of electricity), resistant to corrosion
- ✓ While pyrite appears brassy in color, gold is orangey yellow
- ✓ Gold is mentioned in the book of Genesis in the Bible
- ✓ South Africa has the deepest gold mines, going 2 miles underground
- ✓ 1829 gold was discovered in Georgia, producing 870000 oz from 1829 to 1920





### Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes July 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Stauch, who then welcomed visitors. The minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Iris McGehee, which was approved and filed with the secretary. A family membership for Dan Woods was approved.

Thad Cheatham, Program Chairman, introduced the speaker, Kim Cochran. Kim related the history of gold in the United States, where it's found, the difficulty of mining, and the various alloys used. He mentioned an excellent museum in Dahlonega, Ga. and also warned about consequences in trying to collect in National Forests.

Refreshments were provided by Drucilla Hornsby, Connie & Trey Randall & Jeremy Towns.

Kim brought rock specimens (no gold) to be given as door prizes. Mary Lou McHugh also brought a door prize a gold pan and an Alabama gold map drawn and published by charter member James Miller Davis.

Thad reminded the field trip at Point A Dam in Conecuh County. Details are published in the Golden Nugget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

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### REMINDERS>>>

- ✓ Bring spare rocks, gems, minerals to any meeting in order to prepare for the Wheel of Fortune.
- ✓ Show your recent acquisitions at the monthly meeting so other members can experience a variety of different materials.
- ✓ **NOTE: the shop will no longer be open on a regularly scheduled basis.** The shop will be opened **only by appointment**. Please email or call any of the following individuals *at least one week ahead of time* to set up a shop work date: Terry Fetzer, Iris McGehee, or Harold Glover.

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### Links to check out

International Colored Gemstone Assn newsletter <http://www.gemstone.org/>

Georgia Meteorite Association <http://www.meteoriteassociationofgeorgia.org/>

William Holland [www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org)

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)<http://www.greatdanepro.com/somewhere%20in%20time/index.htm>

Where to find treasure: [http://www.treasureplaces.com/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.treasureplaces.com/index.php/Main_Page)



## SE SHOWS

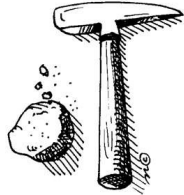
(for other areas, click on <http://rockngem.com/showdates/>)

Aug 12-14—DALTON, GA: Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., I-75 Exit 333; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$3 (3-day ticket), children under age 16 free; Van Wimmer Sr., (540) 384-6047; [vawimmer@verizon.net](mailto:vawimmer@verizon.net); [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

Aug 12-14—PASS CHRISTIAN, MS: West Harrison Community Center, 4470 Espy Ave.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children under 12 free with adult; Tomsey Westermeyer, (228) 586-5279; [tomsey@cableone.net](mailto:tomsey@cableone.net); [www.gulfportgems.org](http://www.gulfportgems.org)

Aug 20-21—BOSSIER CITY, LA: Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students \$1, children under 6 free; Charles Johns, (318) 687-4929; [cwsejohns@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwsejohns@bellsouth.net); [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)

Sept 9-11—WINSTON-SALEM, NC: Educational Bldg., Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, 27th St., gate #9; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5; W.A. Mario; [MarionA1@yadtel.net](mailto:MarionA1@yadtel.net)



## Southeast Federation Field Trips

>>9:00 AM, Saturday, August 13, 2011 Thermal City Gold Mine – Union Mills, NC

Panning for gold for genuine placer mining site in Rutherford County, NC. Panning material is brought from the river by backhoe for you to pan. The gravel is not “enhanced or enriched”. The gold found in the natural state; right where nature deposited it. Gold found as flakes and maybe small nuggets. Ample shade, parking and instruction in panning are always available when needed. The fee is \$5.00 to pan all day. The fee is \$50.00 for a front-end load. Shovels and pans are furnished or you can bring your own. Other equipment is available for rent or purchase For additional information on the site, including details about a “front-end Road” or overnight stay contact the mine at 82-286-3016 or visit the website at <http://www.thermalcitygoldmine.com>. From Ashville take I-40 east to exit # 85 Marion/Rutherford); proceed south on US-221 for 8.5 miles to the Rutherford County line; the entrance to the mine is on the left (look for signs along the way). The mine address is: 5240 US-221 N Hwy, Union Mills, NC 28167.

>>Sept 17, 2011: Vulcan Materials Company, Bartow Quarry, Cartersville, GA, Free Area

Vulcan Bartow Quarry, 5840 Highway 20 SE, Cartersville, 30121

Interstate 75 North to exit 290. Highway 20. At the exit you make a right and go 1 and 1/2 miles to the quarry on the right. This is just past the McDonalds. Will meet Edith, a Vulcan employee who will be our guide for this trip. Rock found here is a porphoblastic granite gneiss and is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. Known for the blue quartz found within the granite. While most of the blue quartz is small, you can normally find some large enough to polish into a very nice cabochon. Some may be found with pyrite inclusions as well as other minerals within the granite. They are blasting rock every week and, as a working quarry, there are spoil piles all around. No one will be allowed near any of the high walls but with the abundance of material we normally just have to bend over and pick things up. All you really need is a bucket to take your samples home. If you want to chip off a piece of a larger boulder be sure you have all your safety equipment including safety glasses, gloves, hard hat and a chisel and crack hammer. George Libby. GMS Field Trip Chair, [Onsiteinatlanta@yahoo.com](mailto:Onsiteinatlanta@yahoo.com), Phone 770-978-2117 , Cell- 678-910-7476

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Club Officers for 2011

President: Lynn Stauch 386-7330 1<sup>st</sup> V P/Programs: Thad Cheatham 462-3254  
 2<sup>nd</sup> V P/Field Trips: Jeff Edwards 312-0572 Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh 272-1817  
 Treasurer: Iris McGehee 262-7275 Directors: Jim Gaines 285-1988  
 Mel Barkley 277-2722

Board meetings are at 6:30 pm immediately before the monthly meetings.



SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION

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, 1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive (U.S. 231), Montgomery, AL 36109, 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 \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 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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**THE GOLDEN NUGGET**  
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