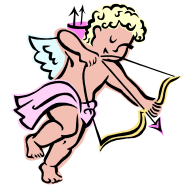




THE GOLDEN NUGGET

February 2007
Number 07 - 02



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

February Program

When: Thursday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Diamonds of War, a video about "blood" diamonds.



Refreshments



The Glovers will provide the drinks and Julie Tatum will provide the snacks for the February meeting.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by the Mary Lou M^cHugh, drinks, and Iris M^cGehee, snacks.

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



Club Officers

President: Frank Rowell - 277-7023
1st V. President: Laura Hirst - 590-6946
2nd V. President: David Sherrod - 285-5537
Secretary: Mary Lou M^cHugh - 272-1817
Treasurer: Iris M^cGehee - 262-7275
Directors: Harold Glover - 285-3501
Terry Fetzer - 271-6849

\$ Membership Dues \$

Once again it is time to renew your membership. The dues remain the same as last year, \$12.00 for individuals and \$18.00 for families residing in the same household. Please give your dues to our Treasurer, Iris M^cGehee, at our January meeting or mail your check to: Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, P. O. Box 3273, Montgomery, AL 36109.

New members are always welcome. Applicants must attend two meetings or functions before submitting applications. See our club secretary, Mary Lou McHugh, for applications.

WARNING -- WARNING

This will be your last issue of *The Golden Nugget*, if your dues have not been paid by February 28th.

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

Quartz: Common Chameleon



If you gaze deep into a crystal ball, you will see a versatile gemstone, one of the most popular gems on earth. Beautiful quartz, the 'rock crystal' used in ancient times to make crystal balls and bowls, is today more often seen set in gold jewelry. Despite the popularity of quartz gems like amethyst, citrine, ametrine, rose quartz, onyx, agates, chrysoprase, rutilated quartz and other varieties, many people in the jewelry industry take quartz for granted because of its affordable price.

Throughout history, quartz has been the common chameleon of gemstones, standing in for more expensive gemstones ranging from diamond to jade. But the incredible variety of quartz is now beginning to be appreciated in its own right.

Purple to violet amethyst and yellow to orange citrine are jewelry staples that continue to increase in popularity. Ametrine combines the appeal of amethyst and citrine, purple and yellow in one gemstone. Different colors and types of chalcedony, from agate to chrysoprase, have grown in popularity with the growing appreciation for carved gemstones and artistic cutting and carving. And unusual specialties like drusy quartz, with its surface covered by tiny sparkling crystals, and rutilated quartz, which has a landscape of shining gold needles inside it, are adding variety and nature's artistry to unusual one-of-a-kind jewelry.

Rose quartz

The pale pink color of quartz, which can range from transparent to translucent, is known as rose quartz. The color is a very pale and delicate powder pink. Transparent rose quartz is very rare, and usually so pale that it does not show very much colour at all except in large sizes. Translucent rose quartz is much more readily available, being used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and architectural purposes.



Smoky quartz

Smoky quartz is a brown transparent quartz that is sometimes used for unusual faceted cuts. The commercial market is limited, because there is a rather limited demand for brown gemstones. This variety was sometimes known as smoky topaz in the past, though the term is incorrect and misleading.



Tiger's eye

Tiger's eye quartz contains brown iron which produces its golden yellow color. Cabochon cut stones of this variety show the chatoyancy (small ray of light on the surface) that resembles the feline eye of a tiger. The most important deposit is in South Africa, though tiger's eye is also found in Western Australia, Burma (Myanmar), India and California.

Rock crystal

The transparent, colorless variety of quartz is still known as rock crystal. Long ago, people believed that rock crystal was a compact form of ice: in fact 'crystallos' means 'ice'. The best rock crystal has the clarity and shimmer of water. Although colorless quartz is relatively common, large flawless specimens are not, which is why crystal balls these days are made of glass, not quartz. Rock crystal has often been used in jewelry,

particularly carved pieces. Many stunning art deco jewelry designs featured the black and white quartz combination of rock crystal and onyx. Colorless quartz crystals have also become popular in jewelry due to the popularity of legends about their powers. Many people believe that wearing quartz crystals benefits their health and spiritual well-being.

Rutilated Quartz and Tourmalinated Quartz



While most varieties of transparent quartz are valued most when they show no inclusions, some are valued chiefly because of them! The most popular of these is known as rutilated quartz. Rutilated quartz is transparent rock crystal with golden needles of rutile arrayed in patterns inside it. Each pattern is different and some are breathtakingly beautiful. The inclusions are sometimes called Venus hair. Less well known is a variety called tourmalinated quartz which, instead of golden rutile, has black or dark green tourmaline crystals.

Chalcedonies

Quartz that is formed not of one single crystal but a number of finely grained microcrystals is known as chalcedony. The variety of chalcedonies is even greater than that of transparent quartz, including cryptocrystalline quartz with patterns as well as a wide range of solid colors. Agates are banded. Bloodstone has red spots on a green background. Moss agate has a plant-like pattern. Jasper sometimes looks like a landscape painting. Another staple of the jewelry industry is black onyx, chalcedony quartz which owes its even black color to an ancient dyeing process that is still used today. Carnelian, another chalcedony valued in the ancient world, has a vivid brownish orange color and clear translucency that makes it popular for signet rings and seals. Chrysoprase, a bright, apple-green, translucent chalcedony, is the most valued. It was a particular favorite of Frederick the Great of Prussia. It can be seen today decorating many buildings in beautiful Prague, including the Chapel of St Wenceslas. Today, chrysoprase is found mostly in Australia. Unlike most other green stones, which owe their color to chromium or vanadium, chrysoprase derives its color from nickel. Its bright even color and texture lend themselves well to beads, cabochons, and carvings.



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

Do You Know That . . .

Karat is a measure of fineness—24 karat is fine gold. 1 karat equals 1/24 (0.0417). Thus 14 karat gold is 14/24 fine gold and the balance (10/24) alloy. The usual alloy metals are silver, copper, and zinc. Nickel is used in white gold.

Colors of Gold – Yellow, green, red, and white – are produced by variations in the alloy. Silver and zinc tend to give a green color; copper – red and nickel – white.

Gold Solders are usually 2 to 4 karats less than gold on which they are used.

Sterling silver is 925/1000 (92.5%) fine silver and 75/1000 (7.5%) copper. Coin Silver is 900/1000 (90%) fine silver and the balance copper. Foreign Silverware contains varying percentages of silver. In some cases it is as low as 700/1000 (70%).

Nickel Silver—so called— is a composition of nickel, copper, and zinc. (it contains no silver) German Silver—a misleading name—the same as nickel silver (it contains no silver). Britannia Metal is a composition of tin, copper, and antimony.

Pewter (original) was primarily a lead alloy. It is now made in a tin, copper, antimony composition similar to Britannia metal.

Grain originally meant the weight of a grain of wheat. It was later standardized for trading purposes, but it's little used now, most weighing being done in ounces and decimal parts or in pennyweights and decimal parts.

--from Outcroppings, Jan 2001 via Gem Cutters News, Nov 2006, via Hounds Howl, Nov 2006

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

January 11th, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Rowell. Visitors were welcomed and given an opportunity to choose a rock specimen.

Frank reminded that the workshop building will be open the first and third Saturday.

The program was Show and Tell. Members displayed and told about a variety of finished jewelry, rocks and specimens.

Refreshments were furnished by Frank Rowell and Becky and Terry Fetzer.

Minutes were read by the secretary, Mary Lou M^cHugh. Minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was read by Iris M^cGehee, which was approved and filed with the secretary. Iris announced that expenses for the Southeast Federation meeting in December did not exceed the amount budgeted.

Frank stated that it was a great show in December, and complimented Linda Griebel and Iris M^cGehee on refurbishing the showcases, Linda on assembling the goodie bags, and Iris' attention to details. Iris expressed appreciation to Becky and Terry Fetzer for their efforts in obtaining the Mann Museum for the Federation banquet. Appreciation was expressed to those who contributed time and effort to make a successful show.

A class on gem trees will be held Saturday, January 27, 9:00-12:00 at the Coliseum Library, Drucilla Hornsby announced the list of supplies needed.

Anyone needing a logo for a T-shirt contact Terry Fetzer.

Frank asked for suggestions for non-collecting field trips, and announced that the Mineral of the Month for February is quartz.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou M^cHugh, Secretary



FAMILY WEEK AT WILLIAM HOLLAND JUNE 10-16, 2007

Tired of your kids spending the summer playing video games? Are theme parks out of the budget this year? Maybe you want to do something special with your grandchildren, nieces or nephews without spending a fortune? Look no further than the June 2007 workshop at William Holland. Classes for juniors as well as adults are being offered in June 2007. Parents, grandparents, and others are encouraged to sign up their juniors for this exciting week. Juniors will take two classes while their accompanying adults choose from a variety of regular classes. A special field trip for juniors is being planned, along with an evening program at the Young Harris College planetarium. Other after-class events and activities are also in the works. Look for details in the *Loadstar* and in your club newsletters. Plan to take advantage of this fun and economical learning vacation with your juniors.

Julia Larson, Incoming SFMS Education Chair, Loadstar, Dec 2006

IS CAVONICS CONTAGIOUS?

by Linda Griebel & Mike Berkman

Yes, Virginia, we now have cavonics. Watch out or you may also get it.

It all started several weeks ago with an innocent enough email entitled “DMC Field Trip for January 2007.” After all, we had never been on a field trip outside of our own club’s journeys. We checked schedules and found out that Mike didn’t have to work that weekend. (Wow – wonders will never cease!) Then we began to plan and communicated with Jim Haege, field trip coordinator, regarding where to stay in Cartersville, Georgia, and the best way to travel to that locale. Information was forthcoming. There were details regarding what possible rocks to seek and what equipment to bring and what else was in store including possible poisonous problems on the cliff walls.

The adventure actually began on Saturday, January 13, 2007. Departure occurred around 8:15 am (CT), going through Tallassee to reach the ever flowing I-85 past Auburn (of all places). Stopped for gasoline in Opelika as well as at the Georgia Welcome Center to get an up to date map. Several road changes took us to Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia (northwest of Atlanta) where we stopped to see the battlefield, making a 1 ½ mile arduous trek up the mountain past the Civil War earthen works. Afterwards, had lunch at a wonderful salad bar named SWEET TOMATOES and really ate lots of goodies!

On to Cartersville where we got a nice room at the Quality Inn, recommended by Jim Haege. We also drove out to the gathering site so it would be easy to locate in the morning. Reset our brains to Eastern Time.

Sunday, January 14, 2007, there was breakfast early. Scuttling off to the rendezvous site, we arrived early and saw familiar faces from our club: James and Steven Easterling (who drove up during the wee hours to be there long before 9 am ET) and John Martin. There were others already parked, but lots more came before the convoy departed for the nearby site. Met lots of new people, but probably don’t remember all their names now. One person was from the Tennessee Valley club and many from various Georgia clubs and some from South Carolina. You could see the cliff of Ladd’s Mountain rising high into the morning light just a short distance from the parking lot.

Jim Haege displayed previous mineral finds from that area and gave very stern instructions regarding the limited gathering area, including the fact that anyone violating the roped off section would endanger future visits, as well as the need to sign in and sign out. He also pointed out safety concerns since there had been several sink holes and slippage from the cliff. We couldn’t go near the cliff itself. That sounded very disheartening! Other rock hounds who had dug there before stated disappointment that the area would be so confined.

The convoy traversed to the site and we each signed in and then drove another short piece. We parked, unloaded buckets, hammers, shovel, gloves, etc. and climbed up a long hill to get to the area marked off for our dig. There was lots of brush to work through to get to our selected spot, but the dig area was fortunately not too terribly far away from the vehicles. Mike picked a section and started pulling rocks out by digging and scraping.

I selected a large white rock and began to chip away and chip and chip with a rock hammer and a small sledgehammer. My location was slightly below a red earth sheer wall and several individuals including children were working higher than I was. I had to be vigilant since they were digging and letting rocks slide down toward my body. Some large chips came off my rock with quite a lot of effort and went into my bucket. More rocks came sliding down toward me and we had to ask one woman to be more careful.

After some time, Mike came to join me and gave the huge rock several good whacks with a big sledgehammer that some very nice man loaned me. We got a large chunk off. There were also smaller pieces that we piled into our two buckets. Mike made a trip back to the car carrying a chunk weighing about 40 pounds and returned while I continued to chip away on my rock. When the buckets were full and heavy and we were worn out and hungry, it was lunchtime. We headed slowly for the car with buckets, etc. stopping frequently to set the buckets down, change hands and shift the bags filled with tools to the other shoulder.

The day had turned out to be wonderfully warm for January – around 70 degrees. Lunch was indeed appreciated. So we dumped the rocks in the trunk and returned to the dig. On the way back, a lady told us to look off to the sides of the road since there were good finds there too. Of course, we had given up our spot and couldn't get back to my big rock because other enthusiasts were tearing apart the hill and working on other large rocks. So we did dig around and I found a different large rock that wasn't quite so massive and we broke it and were able to keep a large chunk. Also, found something we didn't recognize. When I asked Jim Haege, he said it was aragonite and that it might be somewhat crumbly, but to try to keep some more solid pieces.

We put a lot into our buckets again and headed back to the car. Point to remember: "Take some kind of cart next time since we tend to get large rocks and the buckets are always heavy."

We ended the day around 2:30 since there was still the drive back home. But we had a great time and were glad we got cavonics.

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY -

We collected aragonite, dolomite, and flowstone / calcite or cave onyx. Mike had repeated the rock name so often that he ended renaming "cave onyx" = cavonics. Now you know how we got cavonics! And we will keep it! I plan to go to the shop and cut some and try to cab it. Will let you know more as this part develops. As for the large specimens, they have joined my exterior collection already.



Changes in the Campbell's Soup Labels for MacMillan School

In the past the front labels have been requested for redemption. Now Campbell's is requiring that only the UPC Code (you will see "clip and redeem") from the label be submitted. When collecting labels, please be sure the UPC code is included. Thanks for your continued support of the labels for education for our Partner in Education, MacMillan School.

Iris M^cGehee

Lament of a Frustrated Editor

By George "Chic" Cihacek, Editor, *Loup Scoop*



I've threatened, coaxed, begged and pleaded
To try to get articles I needed.
To fill space on a page or two
In this bulletin we print for you.

But in spite of all of my requests
And all of my earnest behests,
When deadline comes, I'm in a flurry
To gather material in a hurry.

I scan each exchange with eagle eye
To find an article or two which I
Hope would of great interest be
To rockhounds just like you and me.

In desperation I choose a few
And hope that what I've picked will do.
But if you think your bulletin is lacking
And you'd like to send your editor packing.
Send me the things you want in print.
A long article or just a hint.

Remember, this is your newsletter
And you can help to make it better.

The above poem was printed in the December 2006
SCRIBE newsletter and in the January issue of
BOULDER BOUNCER.

I know that Terry is our editor, but we should do all
we can to help make his job easier by sending him
something to put in **The Golden Nugget**.
Iris M^cGehee

GEM TREE WORKSHOP

By Iris M^cGehee



Saturday morning, January 27th, brought
twenty people to the Library on Coliseum Blvd.
Some were eager to make gem trees, taught by
Drucilla Hornsby and assisted by Linda Lord.
Others were there to offer support to those making
trees. Hopefully those making trees will bring them
to the February meeting, so there will be a forest of
gem trees for all to admire.

Besides Drucilla and Linda, those attending
were: Harold and Clara Glover, Terry and Becky
Fetzer, Linda Griebel and Mike Berkman, Randy
Hirst, Frank Rowell, Minnie Jerido, Mary Holland,
Julie Tatum, her daughter Mandy Borden and
grandson, Bryton, and prospective members:
Sabrina Hammond, Gail Holloway, May Belle
Nelson, and Latongia Watkins, and of course me,
Iris M^cGehee.



An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga. Gem & Mineral Society, Macon, GA (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society

10:00 AM EST

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Hogg Mine, Troup County, Georgia

FEE SITE

WHERE: The Famous Hogg Mine outside LaGrange, in Troup County, GA

WHEN: Sat., Feb. 24, 2007

TIME: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm EST

COLLECTING: Rose quartz, tourmaline, beryl, mica books, & quartz crystal. The Rose Quartz will star if cut correctly, and some of the beryl can be gemmy [Aquamarine](#).

DIRECTIONS: From Montgomery, take I-85 north to LaGrange. Get off on Hwy. 219 also Whitesville Road (Exit 13) and go south (left) about 2.2 miles from I-85. We will be meeting at Smith's Corner Store (The Citgo on the Left) at the intersection at Whitesville Rd. and Bartley Rd.

FEE: Adults-\$15 & children under 17 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

WHAT TO BRING: Pick, shovel, rock hammer, chisels, scratching tools, screen, buckets and of course plenty of water. [Big'Uns Barbecue](#) will smoke a pig on-site and barbecue plates and drinks will be available for a nominal charge.

There is a Port-a- Potty on site.

JXR T-shirts, field trip guidebooks, and specimens will also be available for sale.

We have been lucky and had beautiful, clear and even warm weather in Feb. but extra clothes and boots might be useful if it's muddy or the weather turns.

There are roads and paths. Cliffs, ditches and new pits have been dug. There is loose material under the leaves that take little effort to recover. Using a rake to push back the leaves might be useful and a crack hammer will help to find tourmaline imbedded in quartz.

WHERE TO STAY: Days Inn, the address is 2606 Whitesville Rd., LaGrange, GA 30240 (also Hwy 219). It's exit 13 off of I-85. Phone 706-882-8881 for reservations. Also at exit 18 (Hwy 109) on I-85 there are many hotels and restaurants Hotels; Holiday Inn Express, Americahost, Jameson Inn, and Comfort Inn.

Restaurants; Applebees, Crackerbarrel, Wafflehouse, and more.

The Hogg Mine was purchased by a man who planned to build homes on it. Fortunately for us, Rodney Moore was able to show this man how important the site is to mineral collectors and acquired permission to manage the site for our enjoyment. Please follow the Code of Ethics to preserve our relationship with our host. For more directions and info on other collecting sites in the area, check out www.dixieuhedrals.net and www.dixieuhedrals.com/page8.html

Upcoming Shows

Feb. 9 - 11, Merritt Island, FL – Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, Inc. Annual Symphony of Gemstones Show. Kiwanis Island Park, 950 Kiwanis Park Rd. Hours: 10am – 5pm. Contact: Glenda Hartpence, (321) 501-4060

Feb 24-25--Jackson, MS – Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Bldg., State Fairgrounds, I-55 and High Street; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-5, contact Sharon McClanahan, (601) 956-9997; e-mail: stan@tomkinsbarron.com.

Mar 9 – 11 Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society & Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Julian Smith Casino - 2200 Broad St. - Augusta, GA. Email contact: wkkw@bellsouth.net, Show flyer: <http://www.homestead.com/aikengms/poster2007.html>.



Happy Birthday!

**Linda Griebel
&
Brittany Mitchell**

Quartz Jokes



- Q.** How did the quartz cross the road?
A. The chicken wore it as a pendant.
- Q.** What did Quartz say after being elected president of the United States?
A. "Let me be crystal clear."



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. 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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