



# The Golden Nugget

The official Voice of the Montgomery AL Gem & Mineral Society

Editor: Linda R. Griebel

Volume No. 08 - 02

February 2008

## February Program

**When:** February 14, 7:00 pm  
**Where:** Mureal Crump Community Center, 1735 Highland Ave. Montgomery, AL  
**What:** **ANCIENT MONSTER HUNTERS**

*Membership Dues are now overdue*  
The dues remain the same as last year.  
\$18 family membership  
\$12 individual membership  
Please give your payment to Iris McGehee at the February meeting or mail your check to Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society  
P. O. Box 3273



## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

Latongia Watkins on 1<sup>st</sup>  
Linda Griebel on 21<sup>st</sup>  
Brittany Mitchell on 22<sup>nd</sup>



## REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Sandra Boyer  
Snacks: Frank Rowell

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

## Refreshments for the rest of 2008

Mar	Mary Lou McHugh	Iris McGehee
Apr	Elise & Terry Toney	Harry Corbin
May	Drucilla Hornsby	Linda Lord
June	Frank Rowell	the Easterlings
July	Harold Glover	Griebel & Berkman
Aug	Linda Boyd	vacant
Sep	David Sherrod	Morning Sherrod
Oct	Julie Tatum	Julie Tatum
Nov	Jim Gaines	vacant

If you haven't signed up yet, there are several open slots. Add your name at the meeting.

*Those who trust us educate us. T. S. Eliot*

Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes – January 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Rowell. The following visitors were welcomed: Bob, Will, and Erin Cochran as and Jim Gundlach. The program was "Show & Tell." Club members participating showed their treasures and gave information about them. John Namias and Terry and Becky Fetzer provided refreshments. November minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget. Julie Tatum was nominated and approved to fill the vacancy of first vice-president. The treasurer's report was read by Iris McGehee, approved, and filed with the secretary. Iris McGehee gave a report on the activities during the past year. Submitted by Mary Lou McHugh



**Real life 'Kryptonite' Discovered But Turns Out To Be Fairly Dull**

The discovery of a new mineral named Jadarite was voted No.10 in Times Magazine 'Top 10 scientific discoveries of 2007' This white powdery mineral was found in Serbia in April 2007 and sent to the Natural History Museum, London for identification. It turned out to be a new to science with the chemistry: sodium lithium boron silicate hydroxide, however, it also turned out that it was not new to the fictional world. Apparently in the 2006 film *Superman Returns* the villain Lex Luther writes this formula onto a box of the fictional 'kryptonite' that he has stolen from a museum. Unfortunately the new mineral can't be called kryptonite as it has nothing to do with the real gas krypton, it also does not glow green, and probably does not affect superheroes – but who can tell? To try to make the white powdery Jadarite (named after the area of Siberia in which it was discovered) a bit more exciting it has been placed on display in Belgrade under a green light. See [http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/top10/article/0,30583,1686204\\_1686252\\_1690961\\_00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/top10/article/0,30583,1686204_1686252_1690961_00.html)

**ANCIENT MONSTER HUNTERS DVD**

The Greek myths are filled with magical tales of transformation, tragic episodes of human pettiness and jealousy, inspiring accounts of courage and valor, and legions of gods and heroes. But perhaps the most compelling stories are those of creatures like the one-eyed Cyclops and the ferocious half-lion, half-eagle known as the griffin. ANCIEN MONSTER HUNTERS follows a group of paleontologists as they explore newly translated evidence and examine remains that just may have inspired tales of these legendary monsters. Travel to the island of Samos, said to be the site of an Amazon battlefield, and analyze the gigantic bones found there. New data suggest the ancients actually searched for, excavated, measured and displayed these massive fossils. **Meet the monsters that just might link the Greek classical age with earth's prehistoric past.**

Hello Rockhounds,



Since February is the month for love, and especially young love at that, let's talk about the thing we all love in common: *ROCKS, MINERALS, and GEMSTONES!*

My fascination with the mineral world began when I was just an eight-year-old boy. Although I had never given a passing glance to a rock, all that was about to change. My best friend Steve lived just a few houses down from me. Wherever you saw one of us, the other could not be far away. Steve's father had just returned from working the trans-Alaskan pipeline in those early years of construction. Among the things he carried home was a dirty old canvas sack filled with garnets! **Garnets!**

Quite a good many were loose crystals that ranged in size from peas to marbles to a few nearly as large as ping pong balls, all with smooth, flat, flashy faces. Many were still in their matrix = fractured red rhomboids jutting out of the gray-white quartz, that glittered and sparkled in that long ago Alabama sun.

***What treasure!***

I had never seen anything like it! The intensity of the dazzling red color against the bright quartz! The weird, almost alien shape of the flashing larger crystals!

After over forty years I still recall how their beauty literally stopped my breath. They were like something from a movie: King Solomon's Mines with Deborah Kerr and Stewart Grainger! Surely even old King Solomon had never had anything like this..

Steve's father gave him most of the contents of the bag and, true to form; he shared a portion of the treasure with me. (*Good ol' Steve.*) He gave me a larger sized crystal, several pea-sized ones, and a small fist full of matrix pieces that were secretly my favorites.

That day started a lifelong love affair with earth treasures. I have been an admirer, an occasional collector, and I have never looked at a rock, ANY ROCK, the same way since. Over the years I have followed Steve's example. I have shared one of those crystals or a piece of garnet peppered matrix with anyone whose eyes and mouth have opened wide in sheer appreciation. That original little trove has dwindled to a single crystal and one piece of matrix, which remain my most prized possessions.

So take a minute. Close your eyes. And remember the time, that **FIRST TIME**, when you fell in love with a rock.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!



Frank Rowell



**Note of Interest** The following is a note I received. Thought you might be interested in hearing. Iris McGehee

*Dear Iris,*

*Please find enclosed dues for Helen Kerbey. Helen is currently working in London, England; so obviously is not able to attend any meetings/events. She will be back in Montgomery in April.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Mark Kerbey*



## METEORITES ARE GOING TO FALL ON MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY!

A speaker extraordinaire will present an exciting program on meteorites on March 13<sup>th</sup> – don't miss this meeting. INVITE YOUR ROCK LOVING FRIENDS. Anita Westlake will come to us from Emory University in Atlanta, GA where she works. She is President of the SE Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, President and co-founder of The Meteorite Association of Georgia, and Georgia State Director of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Interested in rocks for over twenty years, she caught the meteorite bug about 5 years ago. **(There is no known cure.)** Anita has over 120 meteorites from around the world in her personal collection. She recently published an article in *Meteorite* magazine entitled "Etching Meteorites: A Cautionary Tale" in which she describes almost blowing up her home in East Point and having to call a Hazmat team to rescue her house and dogs.

Personally related by Ms. Westlake

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND  
THE MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.**

## WARNING -- WARNING

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

### **Watch Cash & Treasures**

Kirsten Gum and the crew travel to mines and remote areas of the world on 'Cash and Treasures' every Wednesday at 10 p.m. ET on The Travel Channel.

**Treasure Hunt Toolkits** - Check out video toolkits and plan your next treasure hunt.

**click on**

[http://www.travelchannel.com/TVShows/Cash\\_and\\_Treasures](http://www.travelchannel.com/TVShows/Cash_and_Treasures)

Link to William Holland 2008 classes

<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/schedule.html>



Terry Fetzer says check out **Pamukkale** at <http://www.kusadasi.biz/pamukkale/>

An unusual natural and historical site with the sparkling white castle-like cascades, Pamukkale is one of the most important highlights of Turkey, unique in the world. The site is named in Turkish as "Pamukkale", that means "cotton castle", parallel to the glorious and spectacular view of the site. The dazzling white calcareous castles are formed by limestone-laden thermal springs, creating the unbelievable formation of stalactites, potholes and cataracts...

### **Southeast Federation Field Trip**

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig" **Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)**

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 25, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 26, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 27, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 3, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 4, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 5, 2008

**Lots of Graves Mountain information, including reports and pictures, may be obtained on the Georgia Mineral Society website:**

<http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

Link to Wildacres Retreat 2008 classes

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html>

Upcoming shows

>Feb 22-23 Vero Beach FL – Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society (772) 581-0515 - [aastainedglass@bellsout.net](mailto:aastainedglass@bellsout.net)

>Feb 23-24 Jackson MS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show (601) 914-6747

>Apr 26-27 Memphis TN Archaeological & Geological Society - Mid America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show (901) 743-0058 – [rockclub@earhtlink.net](mailto:rockclub@earhtlink.net) or website

[www.memphisgeology.com](http://www.memphisgeology.com)

Remember to bring your stamps to the next meeting for the cancelled stamp program.



## Club Officers

President: Frank Rowell - 277-7023      Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh - 272-1817  
 1st V. President: Julie Tatum - 244-9462      Treasurer: Iris McGehee - 262-7275  
 2nd V. President: David Sherrod - 285-5537  
 Directors: Jim Gaines - 285-1988      Mel Barkley - 277-2722

### 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. 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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# The Golden Nugget

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