



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

January 2005
Number 05 - 01



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

January Program

When: Thursday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Monica Hendricks will present a program on PMC silver clay.



Refreshments



Terry & Becky will provide the drinks and Annie Easterling will provide the snacks for the January meeting.

We still need people to sign up at the January meeting to provide either snacks or drinks for future meetings



New Officers for 2004

President: James Easterling
1st V. President: Monica Hendricks
2nd V. President: David Sherrod
Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh
Treasurer: Iris McGehee
Directors: Minnie Jerido
Harold Glover

Please congratulate our new officers and give them your support throughout the coming year.

\$ 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 McGehee, 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.

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

Many thanks to all who helped during our 34th Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show in December. From the set-up on Thursday to the take down on that rainy Sunday, members willingly gave valuable time to contribute to the success of the show. Even the power failure on Saturday afternoon did not dampen the spirits of the dealers, and most of them reported a very profitable show. Thanks again for all who helped.

Jane Barkley & Iris McGehee

Upcoming Shows

January 28 - 30, 2005, Largo, FL - Pinellas Geological Society. 29th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive, Turn south off East Bay Drive just one block east of Seminole Boulevard. Hours: 28th - 29th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 30th, Noon - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Hugh Sheffield at 727.894.2440.

Feb. 5 - 6, Panama City, FL - Panama City Gem & Mineral Society. 14th Annual Show. American Legion Fairgrounds, 15th & Sherman Ave. Hours: 5th, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 6th, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Contact: Al Zar, 850-763-0109, aquezpie@aol.com.

February 18 - 20, 2005, Vero Beach, FL - The Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society. Gem and Jewelry Show, Vero Beach Community Center, 14th Avenue and 23rd Street, Downtown Vero Beach. Hours: 18th, 12 Noon - 5:00 P.M.; 19th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 20th, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Contact: Pedro Araoz, 608 Arcacia Road, Vero Beach, FL 32963 or 772.231.0005.

February 26 - 27, 2005, Jackson, MS - Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show, A&I Buildings, State Fairgrounds at High Street. Hours: 26th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 27th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact Ashley Redden, 601.925.8272 or asredde@netzero.com.



January's Birthstone



January's birthstone is the garnet. The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the gems resemble the red seed-like form of this fruit. Although they are often thought of as only red, garnets range in color from colorless, to the very rare and highly prized green garnet, to black. Garnets derive their colors from metals such as manganese, iron, calcium, and aluminum. Garnets are also one of the harder gems, with a hardness ranging from 7 - 7.5 on the Mohs scale.

Ancient warriors believed that garnets brought victory. In Medieval times, it was believed that garnets protected the wearer against poisons, wounds and bad dreams, and cured depression. Because of their color, red garnets relieved fever, hemorrhages and inflammatory diseases. The Crusaders used them as protection against wounds and accidents during their journeys. In contrast, Asiatic warriors believed that glowing garnets, used as bullets, inflicted more severe wounds. In 1892, during hostilities on the Kashmir frontier, the Hanza tribesmen fired on British soldiers with garnet bullets, believing them to be more effective than lead bullets. Today, the garnet symbolizes a light heart, loyalty and enduring affections.

Garnets have been used in jewelry since the Bronze Age. They have been found in jewelry from ancient Egypt and Samaria, 3rd and 4th century Greece, ancient Roman times. Garnets were also used in the ornaments of the Aztecs and Native Americans. They're found in many places around the world, including North and South America, Australia, Africa, Asia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Spain.

Terry Fetzer

Refurbish Diamond Grinding Belt

by Steve Newstrom reprinted with permission of author



The following discussion is for a 6"x1 1/2" belt.

The first thing you need is a used belt in relatively good physical condition - no holes or delaminations. I have been using Raytech True Circle Bands (TC's) because they are smooth, have relatively long life and are inexpensive. And they are easy to resurface.

The second thing you need is a good epoxy. I have been using Hughes Associates Epoxy 220. It seems to hold up well under use and bonds the diamonds to the belt in an appropriate manner.

The third thing is a used diamond grinding wheel, to place the belt on as a jig, when resurfacing.

I mix about a teaspoon to a teaspoon and one half of the epoxy together in a small container. I then mix in 5 carats, of the same diamond powder grit that was on the belt originally, with the epoxy in the small container. Mix it in well. You have plenty of time because this epoxy takes about 1 hour to set up.

I place the used belt on the used diamond wheel and place the diamond wheel on a dowel placed over two piles of books so the wheel will turn freely and nothing will touch the surface of the belt. Begin applying the epoxy diamond mixture on the belt with a screwdriver tip, Popsicle stick or maybe a stiff flux brush (haven't tried the flux brush but it sounds like it should work). Apply it as uniformly as possible over the belt. It doesn't seem like it goes on very well, but after a while the epoxy begins to flow over the belt and it smoothes out with time. That is also why you need to have the wheel over the dowel. You need to turn the wheel every couple of minutes to keep the epoxy from dripping down and forming thick spots. Keep turning that wheel and the epoxy box says if you have a heat lamp on it should only take 30 minutes to harden but I don't have a heat lamp and have not tried that.

I usually let the belts cure for a couple of days before putting them on the grinder. The resurfaced belts with 5 carats of diamond powder on them seem to last longer and cut faster than the original TC's. The only downside here is that they aren't as smooth as the original belts and now it seems we have exceeded the life of the belting material in the belts and they eventually will come apart. Be careful when using these belts and be sure to use eye protection!!

Has anyone else tried this and had luck with a different technique or using different epoxy or different types of belts or different amounts of abrasives. Has anyone had any bad experiences when trying to resurface belts? Thanks in advance for any discussion on belt resurfacing. By the way Kingsley North has been my source for the diamond abrasives as well as the epoxy 220.

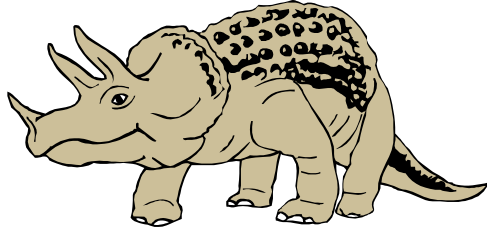


Fun Time at Christmas Party

Twenty-one members attended the Christmas party held on December 17. The food was scrumptious, and the fellowship was great. It was like one big happy family celebrating together, and those attending seemed to enjoy it.

Iris McGehee

Item of Interest



On Thursday, February 17, at 7:30 P.M. Paul Sereno, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and dinosaur expert, will present "Dinosaurs on Drifting Continents" in Ligon Chapel, Flowers Hall at Huntingdon College. The lecture is free and open to the public. Sereno is recognized as "one of the most respected dinosaur hunter of his time" who documented one of his many paleontology expeditions. He and his team are credited with discovering some of the most important paleontological finds of the 1990s. He is a professor at the University of Chicago and president and co-founder of Project Exploration. Mark your calendar for this event if you are interested.

Iris McGehee



2003 SFMS Wildacres and William Holland Workshops



Now is the time to schedule your trip(s) to Wildacres Retreat and William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Applications for the first sessions will be accepted beginning February 15th. Applications and schedules for both workshops are available at the SFMS web site at <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/pdf/WorkshopSupplement12-10-04.pdf>. The cost per person is \$280 and includes lodging, meals and class. Some classes may have an additional charge for materials.



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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MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

November 11th, 2004

The usual meeting place was closed due Veteran's Day holiday. The meeting was held at Capitol Heights Methodist Church.

President James Easterling called the meeting to order and recognized Tina Nelly, a visitor.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

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

A letter of thanks was received from the Baldwin County Board of Education for the donation sent after hurricane Ivan. It was used to buy uniforms for children who had none.

Nominating Committee report was as follows:

President: James Easterling
1st V. President: Monica Hendricks
2nd V. President: David Sherrod
Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh
Treasurer: Iris McGehee
Directors: Minnie Jerido & Harold Glover

Nominations were closed. A vote approved the slate of officers 2005.

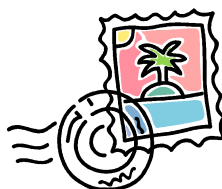
At break Stan and Betty Stevens and Ronnie and Joy Matthews furnished refreshments.

Christmas party was announced for December 17. Please bring finger foods and a \$5.00 gift.

Iris gave a run-down on advertising for the show. Becky Fetzer will be responsible for set-up for the dealers dinner. Sign-up sheets were available for volunteers to take care of other details for the show.

Veteran's Day was recognized.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Don't forget to bring in those stamps from your Christmas cards!

Constitution of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Amended August 2001

ARTICLE I

Name: Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Incorporated, referred to hereafter as the Society.

ARTICLE II

Objectives

1. To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions or other groups engaged in increasing the knowledge and popular interest in Geology, Mineralogy, the Lapidary Arts and related subjects.
2. To foster the cultural aspects of, and the comradeship engendered by the study of subjects listed in Section 1.
3. To cooperate or affiliate with similar clubs and societies.
4. To provide means and make arrangements for the exhibition of collections at exposition, fairs, and other public gatherings.
5. All the assets, property and funds of the Society shall be devoted to the furtherance of the primary objectives and purposes of the Society. Its works, purposes and objectives are primarily educational, recreational, and social; and are solely in the interests of the advancement of its members, and of the public along scientific and educational lines.

ARTICLE III

The Society shall be nonpolitical, nonprofit, and non discriminatory as to sex, race, color, religion, creed, or national origin.

ARTICLE IV

A. Membership in the Society shall be as follows:

1. Single: Persons 18 years old and above.
2. Family: A husband and wife and all children living in the same household, or a Family may consist of a mother and/or father and any adult children living in the same household. (Dues will be equal to one and one-half times the dues established for an individual member.)
3. Honorary: Persons suggested to the Society may be elected to honorary membership as follows: the suggestion is referred to a committee appointed by the president; the committee shall report its findings to the executive board, if approved by the executive board, the proposed honorary membership may be submitted to the Society and will be granted upon the vote of two-thirds of the membership present. This honor is available to only one person per year. Honorary memberships shall have all the privileges and powers of this constitution and by-laws.

B.

1. Membership must be requested on a written application in a form to be prescribed by the board, signed by a member in good standing as sponsor, and accompanied by the prescribed dues for the first year.

2. The request for membership is given to the treasurer who will submit the application to the executive board for approval; upon approval of the board, the application is presented to the membership at the regular meeting where a two-thirds vote will elect the applicant to membership. All applications shall be presented individually for action by the board for membership.

C.

1. The dues shall be set by the membership each year at the regular meeting in the month of November for the next year, and shall include an assessment for Federation dues.

2. The dues will be prorated semiannually if application is made and applicant is accepted after the first half of the Society year.

3. To remain in good standing, a member must pay his dues no later than the second meeting of each year. If payment of dues is not made by the second month of the Society year, the member is automatically suspended from membership, and the Society notified of this fact.

D. All members shall be urged to display each year examples of their current lapidary work or recent additions to their collections.

E. Termination of membership may be made at the member's request, by resignation, or at the Society's request for activities detrimental to the Society's interests. No person shall continue as a member of the Society who dues are not current. Except for nonpayment of dues, where termination is automatic, a member whose termination is being considered at the request of the Society shall have a hearing, if he/she so desires, before the executive board. Termination shall not be come final until concurred in by two-thirds of those present at a regular business meeting.

ARTICLE V

All regular members over sixteen are entitles to vote, and children under sixteen shall be allowed to vote upon matters which are not controversial. Any member over sixteen, or the chairman may raise the point that an issue is controversial; the presiding officer's determination of this point shall be final. A member must be present to vote.

ARTICLE VI

The Society shall have the following officers who shall be nominated by a nominating committee supplemented by nominations from the floor and elected by majority vote at the regular business meeting in the month of November, and who shall hold the office for a period of one year commencing with the regular business meeting of January.

1. President - The President shall be the chief official representative of the Society at official functions, preside at meetings of the Executive Board and General Membership, appoint committees or designate committee chairmen, oversee committee activities to expedite society business, provide leadership in accomplishing the objectives of the Society, and perform other duties set forth in the by-laws.

2. First Vice-president - The First Vice-president shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the same and shall work closely with the President at the President shall direct. That person shall be Chairman of the Program Committee.

3. Second Vice-president - The Second Vice-president shall perform the duties of the First Vice-president in the absence or incapacity of the same and shall work closely with the President as the President shall direct. That person shall be Chairman of the Field Trip Committee.

4. Secretary - The Secretary is responsible for the archives of the Society, recording and maintaining minutes of meetings and for communication, oral or written, within or without the Society. The Executive Board at the request of the Secretary may appoint assistants.

5. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, safekeeping, accounting for, reporting on, and disbursement of all Society funds in strict accordance with the by-laws of the Society and rules adopted by the Executive Board, and such additional duties as may be set forth in the by-laws.

6. Directors - In addition to the five Society officers listed above, the Executive Committee shall comprise the past Presidents for the two preceding years and two Directors elected from the membership. A Director shall have the duties of keeping in touch with the needs and desires of the membership and making these known at meetings of the Executive Board. They shall perform other such duties as requested by the President or as set forth in the by-laws.

The above listed officers shall constitute the Executive Board which shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Society and for the preparation of proposals to present to the general membership.

An office may be held by any member in good standing over 21 years of age. If an office becomes vacant between June and October, inclusive, it shall be filled by the Executive Board, other it shall be filled by a special election following the regular election procedure.

An officer may be impeached for inactivity in his duties or conduct detrimental to his position or to the Society at the written petition of one-third of the entire membership or one-half of the entire Executive Board. He/She shall be given a hearing before a quorum of the general membership and if three-fourths of those present concur, he shall be removed from office.

ARTICLE VII

The Society shall have a general business meeting once each month. A special meeting may be called at any time the President deems it necessary and shall be called upon the request by written petition of ten percent of the membership. Meetings shall follow a standard agenda set forth in the by-laws. The place of each meeting shall be announced in advance of the meeting.

A quorum shall be not less than six persons and the presiding officer, or ten percent of the members in good standing, whichever is greater.

ARTICLE VIII

This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special business meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present constitution a quorum provided that written advance notice of the proposed amendment has been furnished to the membership not less than one week in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

This Constitution shall be adopted upon acceptance by two-thirds of the membership present at a regular business meeting.

Farewell Fearless Leader & Family!



You are all invited to come out to Moving Days for the Mallonee Family (15-17 January). Pizza and drinks will be provided every day whether you lift one box, many boxes, or just come out to say, "Come back home soon."

Directions: From Wetumpka go east toward Tallassee on Highway 14. After mile marker 178 (the little green stakes) start looking on the right for Jug Factory Road. It is the first paved road after the curve. Take the right on Jug Factory and then approximately 1/10 of a mile you will make a left on Cleveland Drive. It is a dirt/gravel road, but it should have a road sign. I own the 2nd house on the right side of the road. The address is 212 Cleveland Dr (see map).

James Mallonee

Map to James' House



Note: The pin does **NOT** mark the location of his house.

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