



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Jun 2005
Number 05 - 06



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

May Program

When: Thursday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Video "Gemstones of America"
(James says he actually has the tape!)



Refreshments



Refreshments for the June meeting will be provided by the Stevens, drinks, and the Hirsts, snacks.

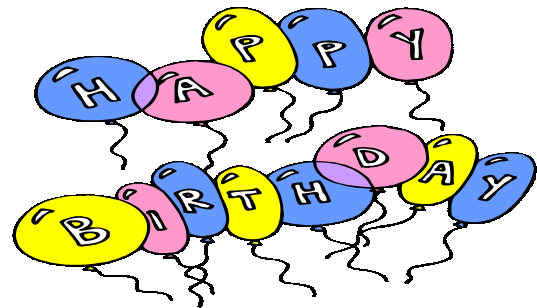
Next month's refreshments will be provided by Clara Glover, drinks, and Iris McGehee, snacks.

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

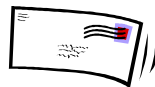


A Critical Alert from the Field Trip Chairman

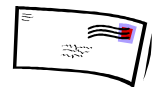
The article in last month's *Golden Nugget* by Herb Whittington was a belated April Fools joke. Hope you enjoyed it and didn't soak your rocks in that weird concoction!



to
Becky &
Terry Fetzer



SFMS Stamp Program



Please continue bringing in stamps to be sent into the SFMS Stamp Program Chairman. The program can only be successful if we and other SFMS clubs make it successful. To be eligible for your name to be put in a drawing (if our club is chosen as a winner of the scholarship at the annual meeting), you must bring in stamps. So please do your part in helping our club to have a chance for a scholarship to William Holland or Wild Acres. Iris McGehee

June Gemstones: Alexandrite & Pearl



The month of June has two birthstones. Alexandrite was the traditional birthstone, but due to its scarcity and cost, the pearl has become June's common birthstone.

Alexandrite was named after the Russian Czar Alexander II and is one of the most desired gems. Its color changes with the lighting surrounding the stone, which is called its phenomena. Depending upon the light, the alexandrite phenomena can have a greenish, reddish or purplish hue. It is mined mainly in Sri Lanka and Rhodesia and has a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs' scale.

The more common birthstone for June is the pearl. Pearls are produced oysters. Depending upon the type of oyster and the condition of surrounding water, pearl's color can range from pink, silver, cream, golden, green, blue, gray to black. Pearls are sensitive to acids, perspiration, cosmetics and hair spray so care must be taken with them. Today, almost all retail pearls are cultured pearls, or pearls that have been placed into oysters by man in oyster farms.

SFMS Wildacres Update

Workshops are available at Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, North Carolina. These lapidary workshops are sponsored by the Southeast Federation. The cost is \$280 for the week. This includes room and board. Some classes have a lab fee and supplies, if needed, can be purchased from the instructors.

Some classes are still open for the August 22nd - 28th session: Bead Design, Lost Wax Casting, Opal Cutting, Raku Pottery, Beginning and Intermediate Wire Craft.

Classes open for the September 19th - 25th session are: Faceting/Intarsia, Gem Appreciation, Glass Bead Making, Goldsmithing, PMC, Raku Pottery, Beginning Silver, Stained Glass and Beginning Wire Craft.

Some classes require a pre-requisite so you'll need to check with either the Registrars or Directors.

For further information contact:

SFMS Wildacres Registrars
Bill & Kern Wetzel
5010 Sunset Drive
Easley, South Carolina 29642
wwetzel@earthlink.net

or

SFMS Wildacres Directors
David & Barbara Tuttle
85504 Blackmon Road
Yulee, Florida 32097
dt@net-magic.net

See the web page at: www.amfed.org/sfms and click on the Wildacres site.

David and Barbara Tuttle
Wildacres Directors

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

May 12th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President James Easterling.

The minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

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

Iris reported that three rock and mineral kits were being assembled to be made available for the next school year due to the fact that this school is near the end. Two kits will go to elementary schools and one to a primary school. Examples of kit contents were exhibited.

Stan Stevens announced a bead design class to be held after the June meeting. The day, time and place will be announced at the next meeting.

The President stated that an air conditioner would be installed in the workshop building, and the roof needed some repair.

Several members received an E-mail request from a 17-year-old boy from Argentina for rock and mineral samples. He would like to start a museum. It was agreed that members would bring samples to the next meeting.

Refreshments were furnished by Terry Toney and Harry Corbin.

After a video on the eruption of Mt. St. Helen showing the devastation and the recovery of the area, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh
Secretary



Don't forget to bring some rock and mineral samples for Andrés Nadal, in Argentina.
(Read his emails on page 6.)



Flag Day, June 14th
Father's Day, June 19th



Trip to Opelika



Mary Lou and I went to the East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society in Opelika on May 24. Since so many of their members live in the Eastern Time Zone, the meeting started at 6:00. Ron Denton, past president of Southeast Federation, is president. East Alabama is a small club, but the membership is faithful in attending. Several of the members are elderly, but they were there. Each member and we received a calcite crystal collected by Anna and Ron Denton at Ruck's Pit in Ft. Drum, Florida in February. Also, Frank Fallis, one of the elderly members, provides each meeting with door prizes for everyone attending. He takes great pride in passing out tickets and calling numbers of winners. The program was led by Mac McAllister and was a very interesting video on diamonds. All in all everything was great, and the hour drive was well worth the effort.
Iris McGehee

Leaverite - What to Do with It



New rock hounds soon learn what Leaverite is. It's any unidentified mineral which, when you pick it up and ask a veteran collector whether you should keep it, the reply is, "No, leaverite there."

Of course some mysterious force often prompts collectors to take leaverite home anyway, and the question then becomes what to do with it. Below are a number of suggestions attributed to "Clip & Lock", the Roadrunner (who or whatever that is), via RRC Newsletter, 9/98, reprinted in the December 1999 Paleo Newsletter, Austin Paleontology Society, reprinted in the Rocket City Rocks and Gems, March 2005.

Nine Ways to Get Rid of Leaverites

1. Fix the chuck holes in your driveway
2. Throw them at bill collectors or door-to-door salesmen
3. Take them to club displays and leave them.
4. Donate them to grab bags.
5. Slip them into your competitor's case when nobody is looking.
6. Throw them over the fence into your neighbor's garden.
7. Fix a large label... "This material insured by Pinkerton's" and leave them unwatched at the shopping mall.
8. Fill up your car trunk to get you through the winter ice.
9. Best of all, don't take them home in the first place!

FROM THE PRESIDENT:



For starters, I would like everyone to know that my email address has changed. It is now jeast3028@yahoo.com.

We are going into the sixth month of 2005, and have several projects going. We need your help in getting these done. Remember, the Club is a group effort. It will not run well if there is no input from the membership.

#1 Workshop - we have purchased air conditioners and other supplies. We now need volunteers to commit to work one Saturday and install them, plus fix the leak in the roof. I will bring this up at the meeting on June 9th. Please make any suggestions for something you would like to see done to any of the club officers.

#2 Beading Class – Stan would like to have a class on beading, but we need to make sure that we have enough people attend to make it worthwhile. There will be a sign-up sheet for this class at Thursday's meeting.

#3 Mineral Samples – at last month's meeting we talked about the e-mail from Argentina requesting samples for a project. It was decided that those who wanted to could bring samples to June's meeting for collection and shipping.

#4 Programs – we need some volunteers to help present programs at the meetings since we are short a vice-president. I have June and July covered, but that still leaves Aug, September and October open. Please contact me with any suggestions.

Please let me know of anything you feel would make the Club better. We need participation. Speak out about any programs you might want to see. We need ideas about field trips, workshops, etc. Bring items for show & tell. Donate items for door prizes.

Just remember, you cannot expect to get any more out of the Club than you are willing to put in.

James Easterling
President

Emails from Andrés Nadal

Initial email from Andrés.

Hello Terry,

I write to you from San Rafael, Mendoza (Argentina). I'm 17 years old and for 5 years I have been a minerals collector. My collection counts with more than 400 samples ordered according to Strunz's classification. I investigate very much in books, they lend me in the museum of natural sciences of my city and in the Internet.

I am interested in getting new minerals, but by the economic situation of the country It is impossible to do it.

For that reason I write to you, to know if you can send some minerals samples to me since mineralogy interests much to me and often I do not have the average ones to satisfy these requirements. I read about your country's mineral riches and I am astonished for the excellent pieces from there. I would be very grateful if you may send me something.

I don't know another collector in my city, neither there are clubs dedicated to this wonderful activity here (for this reason sometimes I feel somewhat alone), probably owing to the little diffusion of the mineralogy in Argentina. For that reason I want to divulge mineralogy, that's why I have 2 projects in mind:

- 1- Create a little "museum" to rouse curiosity and to motivate the collecting.
- 2- Organize a group of people and create a collectors's club.

My English isn't very good and I help myself with a translator computer program, pardon for the errors. I also sent this e-mail to another people of your club. I wait your answer.

Thank you. Best regards.

Andrés Nadal

andresnadal@speedy.com.ar

Follow-up email from Andrés after I told him I would pass his request on to the club and suggested he contact the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the regional federations.

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your mail.

I cherish your will to help me very much, I will thank that you pass my request to the club president. I hope that somebody may send me something, I will await eager that they get in touch with me. Thanks for the information about American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Let me tell you that I collect all kinds of minerals (of the 9 classes of Strunz), any size (with the exception of Micromount because I don't have microscope) and locality. Well then, any material that you may supply me will be very useful for to go on with my projects to study, diffuse and collect minerals.

USA is very mineral rich, I have read about this and I see many photos of pieces from your country's and I am astonished for those excellent pieces, very esthetic!!!

You are lucky to live in USA where the mineralogy is given the importance that this has. In Argentina mineralogy is a little abandoned, most people knows not the existence of this important science. San Rafael has 270,000 habitants and don't have a mineralogical club here, neither in the nearby large cities. I know existing 1 club but is in Buenos Aires that is far away.

The minerals fascinate to me, I admire the great colors variety and forms, the well formed crystals and the associations, etc.

I appreciate your goodness very much.

Thank you again. Sincerely,

Andrés Nadal

Upcoming Shows

June 4 - 5, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 32nd Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show. From Birmingham, take I-20/59S to Exit 100 or Exit 1 off I-459 and follow the signs. Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Rick Kittinger, 1612 Colesburg Circle, Hoover, AL 35226, rickkittinger@bellsouth.comT.

June 10th – 12th, Charlotte, NC –Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. 37th Annual Gem Jewelry, Mineral Show and Sale. June 10th 10 am till 7 pm, June 11 10 am till 7 pm, June 12th 10 am till 5 pm. Show will be held at the Oasis Shrine Center, exit 45 Harris Blvd. off of I-85 north. Go south on Harris Blvd, first light after interstate turn left, go through two more light, then the next turn to the left, just beyond the Sam's club. Admission; \$3.00 for Adults, Seniors & Students \$1.50. Club displays and exhibits with demos, free parking Geode Cutting outside.

June 11, Carthersville, GA - Weinman Mineral Museum. 17th Annual RockFest, Weinman Mineral Museum. 51 Mineral Museum Dr. 10-5. 770-386-0576, info@weinmanmuseum.org, www.weinmanmuseum.org.

July 27-31, 2005, Franklin, NC - The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc. Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Macon County Community Building on 441 South. Hours: 27th - 30th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 31st, Noon - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Fred Plesner at 828.349.4224.



Club Officers

President:	James Easterling, 875-3089
1st V. President:	Open
2nd V. President:	David Sherrod, 285-5537
Secretary:	Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817
Treasurer:	Iris McGehee, 262-7275
Directors:	Minnie Jerido, 724-9125 Harold Glover, 285-3501



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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