



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

JUNE 2011
11-06



PROGRAM CORNER

When: June 9, 2011

Where: **NOTE LOCATION FOR MEETINGS**

1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery, AL
36109

BE SURE TO PARK AND ENTER IN THE BACK OF THE BUILDING!

Time: 7:00 P M

What: What You Need to Know About Alabama Paint Rock Agate



Upcoming meetings: on July 14 Kim Cochran presents Gold's Movement from Georgia into Alabama and on August 11 Anita Westlake talks on GEO-HAZARDS!



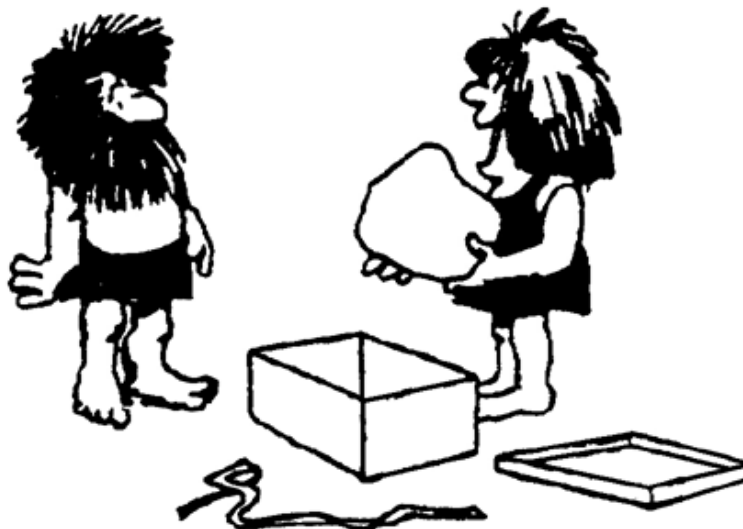
REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Linda Boyd Snacks: Frank Rowell

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
July	Drucilla Hornsby	Connie & Trey Randall & Jeremy Towns
Aug	the Sherrods	the Sherrods
Sep	Debbie Herbert	Ardis Cecil
Oct	David Bohon	VACANT <i>(really need someone to sign up here)</i>
Nov	Stan Stevens	VACANT <i>(really need someone to sign up here)</i>



"How Sweet... My Birthstone!"

From Rock Chips 1/99

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY

4 Becky Fetzer
24 Terry Fetzer
24 Lisa Morrow

28 Frank Rowell
28 Gerald Threadgill



FIELD TRIPPIN'

Yes, Jeff Edwards has scheduled a terrific field trip for June.

DATE: June 25, 2011

LOCATION: Mel and Jane Barkley's property

TIME: 10:00 am

DETAILS: Full day of fun for the whole family. Adventure, acres of woods, running streams, stocked ponds, a hunting lodge, and rocks (of course). Mel is a wonderful host and very competent guide to finding petrified wood and other treasures. Lots to do or you can just enjoy nature. Some members have even stayed inside and socialized.

IMPORTANT: **Reservations required by June 20th**

Geology Word Puzzler

What terms are used by geologists to describe the appearance of a mineral, and what do they mean? **Luster:** the appearance of a mineral in reflected light. A mineral is often labeled with more than one descriptive term, and lusters may be combined (e.g., adamantine-metallic, resinous greasy) for minerals that don't fit clearly into one category.

Metallic: having the brilliant appearance of metal—pyrite/hematite/(polished)

Vitreous: having the luster of glass—quartz

Resinous: appearing like resin—smithsonite, amber

Pearly: having the iridescent appearance of a pearl—lepidolite

Greasy: appearing to be covered with a thin layer of oil—talc

Silky: looking like silk—serpentine

Adamantine: having a hard brilliant luster—diamond

Waxy: having the appearance of wax—turquoise

Earthy: looking like dirt or dried mud—hematite (rough)

Fibrous: appearing to have fibers—malachite

Dull: having a non-reflective surface—tektite, goethite

From The Rockhound Record, Phoenix, via the Sooner Rockologist, Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.



Stabilizing Soft Turquoise with Sodium Silicate by Ed Ashton

In September's 1993 Lapidary Journal, June Culp Zitner reported that Rock Rustlers (Minnesota Mineral Club) had a recipe for hardening chalk-soft turquoise. Thanks both to June and the Rock Rustlers for information that allowed me to add just one more method to stabilizing Turquoise. After several times through the process I will tell you how I use the process with great success.

Step 1: Use a quart wide-mouth canning jar. Soak pieces of soft and chalky turquoise in a solution of sodium silicate (water glass and water at a 50/50 strength. The pieces should not be larger than 2" in diameter. Be sure all pieces are covered. Soak the material from 7 to 10 days.

Step 2: Dry in the sun for 10 days. I place a piece of waxed paper on a sunny windowsill; it works well.

Step 3: Use a 2-quart Pyrex bowl, place a 1-inch layer of sand in the bowl. Lay a layer of the soaked material on the sand so they don't touch. Add another 1-inch layer of sand on top of the first layer of materials. Repeat until all the material is covered with sand including the last layer.

Step 4: Cure by baking in the oven starting at 150 degrees Fahrenheit for 2 hours. Turn the oven up to 225-250 degrees for another hour. Then turn the oven off. DO NOT open the door. Allow it to cool slowly overnight and you are ready to work the material.

HINT: Buy the Sodium Silicate at your drug store. Get the near quart bottle size, which will cost about \$6.00 (probably more in 2004) for the quart. Used over and over it will cure a bushel of turquoise. As long as you pack the material in sand it will not be liable to cracking. You can also bake the material in sand in a coffee can or baking pan.

From the Deming club's "Rock Chips" of Aug. 2004



Do You Have Marcasite That's Going to Pieces?

Try mixing one heaping tablespoon of baking soda in one quart of water. Let it effervesce and wash the marcasite in it. Rinse well with water and dry. Then dip the marcasite in medium-weight oil and drain well. Check the boxes in which marcasite specimens are stored, as they form sulfuric acid and can eat through their containers. (*author unknown: source Osage Hills Gems May 2003*)

Recipe from Iris McGehee = Caramel filled chocolate candy

(Rollo, come in rolls or in bags -- best to get bag. They can be found in the candy section at Walmart)

Square pretzels (Snyder's - the only place I could find them was at Publix's -- Sometimes Winn Dixie carries them)

Whole pecan on top of candy (One suggestion, lightly toast your pecans before placing them on candy, but make certain the pecans are cooled before placing them on the Rollo.)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, cook about 4 minutes. Push pecan down into the candy and put in refrigerator to harden.



Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society MINUTES May 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Stauch and he then welcomed guests.

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 motion was made and seconded to sponsor the Alabama Fair in the amount of \$50.00. This was approved.

Iris stated that The Southeast Federation Stamp program will be discontinued after July when Jim Robinson who has made it possible will resign. She urged that any stamps you have should be brought to the June meeting.

With the devastation wreaked by many tornadoes in the state and the empathy we all feel for the victims, the Board has recommended a donation of \$500.00 to be sent to the Elmore County Disaster Relief Management. This was approved.

Refreshments were furnished by Harry Corbin and Iris McGehee.

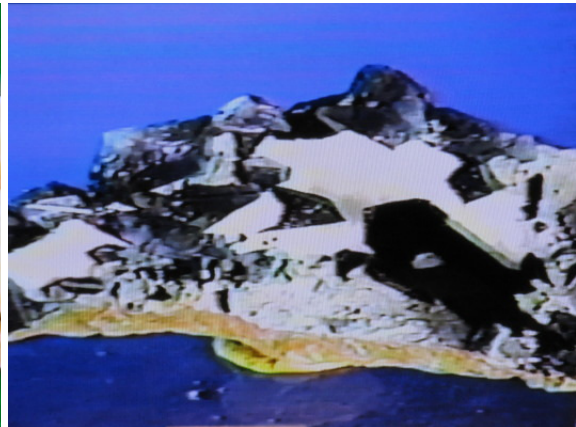
The program was a video Treasure Box #5 which showed a display of unusual and beautiful crystals.

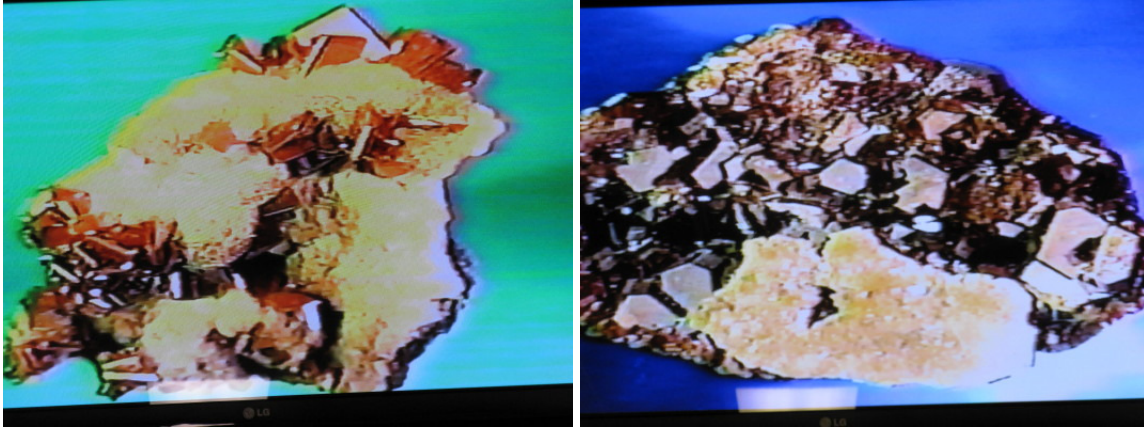
It was announced that June Field trip will be at Mel's Place in Macon County beginning at 10:00 am on June 25. Reservation is necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

PHOTOS FROM MAY MEETING VIDEO





REMINDERS>>>

- ✓ **Bring cancelled stamps to June or July meetings.** As of this time, the stamp program will end August 1!
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The shop will be opened **only by appointment**. Please email or call any of the following individuals ahead of time to set up a shop work date: Frank Rowell, Terry Fetzer, Iris McGehee, or Harold Glover. **NOTE: the shop will no longer be open on a regularly scheduled basis.**



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

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

AI 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.greatdanepro.com/somewhere%20in%20time/index.htm>

Where to find treasure: http://www.treasureplaces.com/index.php/Main_Page



SE SHOWS

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

July 1-3—FISHERSVILLE, VIRGINIA: Augusta Expoland, 277 Expo Rd., I64 Exit 91; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$3 (3-day ticket), children under 16 free; contact Van Wimmer Sr, (540) 384-6047; van@toteshow.com; www.toteshow.com

July 15-17—CENTERVILLE, TENNESSEE: Hickman County Fairgrounds; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Dick Dixon, (304) 825-6421



Club Officers for 2011

President:	Lynn Stauch 386-7330	1 st V P/Programs:	Thad Cheatham 462-3254
2 nd 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.

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, 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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STAY COOL



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

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