



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

March 2005
Number 05 - 03



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

March Program

When: Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Program unknown at press time.



Refreshments



Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by David Sherrod, drinks, and Elizabeth Corley, snacks.

Next month's snacks will be provided by Mike Berkman, drinks, and Linda Griebel, snacks.

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



Help Wanted Refreshments

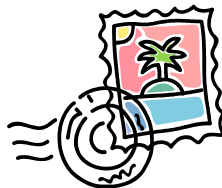


We still need members to sign-up to bring snacks to the July meeting and drinks to the September meeting. If you can do either one of these, please let James know at the meeting.

March field trip to Shark Tooth Creek



The March field trip is tentatively scheduled for Saturday the 19th. We plan on going to Shark Tooth Creek in Aliceville, AL, which is on Hwy 14 near the Mississippi boarder. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Check out their web page at <http://www.sharktoothcreek.com/>.



Don't forget to bring in those stamps!

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 third 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 are looking at putting some money and effort into improving the workshop so that we can use it for classes, etc. Please make any suggestions for something you would like to see done to any of the club officers.

#2 Education projects – We would like to find some ways to use some of our funds to assist schools with their science (mineral) programs, such as grants, donations of money and/or materials. We need your input! Let your officers know any suggestions you may have, or better yet, bring them to the meetings.

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



Upcoming Shows

March 11 - 13, 2005, Augusta, Georgia - Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Gem and Mineral Show, Julian Smith Casino - 2200 Broad Street Augusta, GA 30904. Hours: Fri: 10 AM to 7 PM; Sat: 10AM-7PM; Sun: 11AM-5PM. \$3 Admission; children accompanied by adult are free

March 18 - 20, 2005, Rome, Georgia - Rome Mineral Society, Valley and Ridge Mineral Show, Anthony Recreation Center (Garden Lakes Gym), 2901 Garden Lakes Blvd. NW. Hours: Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Contact Jose Santamaria, (706) 233-9828.

March 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.

March 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 asredden@netzero.com.

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

February 10th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President James Easterling. The following visitors were recognized: Tom Guerra, Michael Keene and Hans Hendricks, program speaker.

Minutes were read by the secretary and approved

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

Field Trip Chairman, David Sherrod spoke of a future trip. Details are to be finalized

The president asked for volunteers to be telephone callers. Those responding are Stephen Easterling, Laura Hirt and David Sherrod.

Iris McGehee asked if the club wanted to continue to support the Creative Living "Best of the Fair". It was approved.

Workshop Building meeting resulted in cleaning and evaluating some of the needs. Some of the needs were: tables and chairs, trash can, air conditioner and heater.

The Show Report was given by Show Treasurer, Mary Lou McHugh. A \$2,500 check was presented to the president by Jane Barkley, Show Chairman. The check was given to Iris McGehee to deposit in the club account.

Sonny Hall announced that the classes he holds are approximately 1- 1½ hours long. Interested schools should contact him for scheduling.

Refreshments were furnished by Iris McGehee and Mary Lou McHugh.

The program was presented by Hans Hendricks, a trained geologist and jeweler. He talked about how microscopes are used in viewing minerals. He explained refraction and other light aspects.

After the program, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh
Secretary

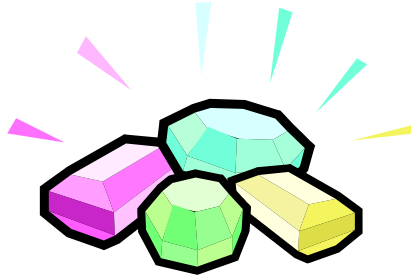


Members Attend Dr. Sereno Lecture

Mike Berkman, Linda Griebel, Annette Graves, Mary Holland, Mel Barkley, and Iris McGehee attended Dr. Paul Sereno's lecture, "Dinosaurs on Drifting Continents," at Huntingdon College on February 17. Dr. Sereno's power point presentation included pictures of his many expeditions and information on how global geographic events enabled dinosaurs to be the first species to inhabit every continent. A question and answer period followed the lecture. It was refreshing to see so many young people (ages 6 - 18) in the audience asking very intelligent questions concerning dinosaurs. This lecture which had a huge audience was very informative and well worth the time.

Iris McGehee

Understanding Your Birth Stone's Ancient Symbolism



JANUARY - The Garnet is known to dispel sadness. This blood red stone used as a necklace ensures friendship and fidelity.

FEBRUARY - The bright purple Amethyst was originally very expensive. Ancient Greeks decorated goblets and other expensive pieces with them. Often worn for protection from contagious disease, the Amethyst was also thought to bring tranquility to the wearer's life.

MARCH - The Aquamarine has been thought to bring intelligence, youth and happiness. The Bloodstone, another March gem, was carried by Roman soldiers to keep them from bleeding to death.

APRIL - The Diamond, stone of April, is known as the "fire of love." Diamonds bring love and protect from evil. They are also thought of as the frozen tears of past princesses.

MAY - The month has several stones, the main one being the Emerald, where value depends on the color and number of flaws. This brilliant green stone reinforces love and creates harmony in the family.

JUNE - The Moonstone protects against danger at sea and is thought to bring financial gain and protect against turbulence. Another present day stone for June is the Pearl, which is said to preserve modesty, chastity and purity.

JULY - The Ruby protects its wearer from fear and financial stress while its strength banishes evil spirits.

AUGUST - The stone of August is the Sardonyx. It is said to create courage and make the most timid brave. A present day addition is the Peridot, a clear, normally green stone of gem quality Olivine.

SEPTEMBER - The Blue Sapphire often heals the body of illness and despair.

OCTOBER - The mystical Opal is filled with all the colors of the rainbow. Historically, this stone was considered to cause disaster to those who wore it; but today it is said to bring only good fortune and happiness. The Tourmaline was added to the list in more current times.

NOVEMBER - The Topaz symbolizes good fortune and longevity. According to legend, this golden stone possesses the power to cure many diseases. Citrine, a transparent yellow quartz gem many of the best of which come from Brazil, is a current day birthstone for this month.

DECEMBER - The vibrant turquoise was believed to be a defender against bad luck to those that wore it. It has been said that cowboys always carry a blue turquoise on their journeys so that they might be blessed with success. A present day addition is the Zircon, who's naturally found brown clear crystals are heated to turn into the beautiful blue gemstone.

Reprinted in part from **Keystone Gems and Jewelry Periodical, January 1994**

Aquamarine *"Gem of the Sea"*

Aquamarine, the "gem of the sea", derives its name from "sea water". The reference is obvious: aqua sparkles like the sea and its color is pale to medium blue, sometimes with a slight hint of green. Aquamarine is the birthstone for March.

Legends say that it is the treasure of mermaids, with the power to keep sailors safe at sea. Aquamarine is said to be a particularly strong charm when immersed in water (which is a good thing, since that is when sailors need its power most!).

Aquamarine was also said to have a soothing influence on land, especially on married couples. Its power to help husbands and wives work out their differences and ensure a long and happy marriage makes it a good anniversary gift. Aquamarine also protects against the wiles of the devil. A dream of aquamarine means that you will meet new friends.

Aquamarine can be found in Brazil, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria, and other countries. It is always a pastel blue but the darker the color, the more valued it is. Connoisseurs also prefer a pure blue, with no green in it. If you prefer a greenish tinge, you will find that these stones are less expensive.

Because the color is generally pale, aquamarine should have a good clarity. These stones are often cut in ovals and emerald cuts. More saturated colors are unusual in small sizes: usually it takes some size for the color to hold in a darker shade. Aquamarine is a durable and lively gemstone that is appropriate for all jewelry uses and its pale fire is flattering to most skin tones.



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.

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information.

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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

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