



# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

March 2006  
Number 06 - 03



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

## February Program

**When:** Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Mureal Crump Community Center  
1735 Highland Ave.  
Montgomery, AL  
**What:** Lionel Field, of the Alabama Gemology Laboratory, will give a presentation on "Colored Stones."



## Refreshments



Mary Lou McHugh will provide the drinks and Iris McGehee will provide the snacks for the March meeting.

**We still need people to sign up to provide either snacks or drinks for future meetings. Please see Mary Lou or James to sign up.**

## Happy Birthday!



Clara Glover - 03/20  
Mary Lou McHugh - 03/13

## A Note From The President

I am sorry that I have only been able to be there sporadically for the club. This is a very stressfull and hectic time for me. Right now I have an employees meeting next Thursday night and will not be able to attend the club meeting again. As you may know, Globe has announced the shutdown of the Selma plant, as early as April 1st, but possibly May or June. It may be necessary to get someone as acting president for now. I still plan to do what I can.

James Easterling

## IRISH WIT AND WISDOM

We attract what we love & what we fear.

In the long run, men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, they had better aim at something high.

The best way to get rid of your enemies is God's way, by loving them.

A nation's greatest enemy is the small minds of its small people.

Better fifty enemies outside the house than one inside it.

Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes.

If you're the only one that knows you're afraid, you're brave.

He that is of the opinion that money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.

Iris McGehee

# LAPIDARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

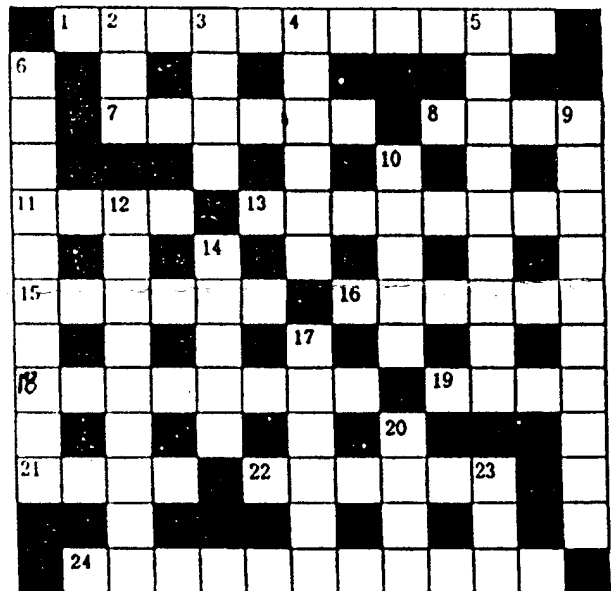
*The Great Britain Faceting Guild introduced a series of lapidary crossword puzzles in its regular newsletter. Here, by permission is one clever crossword puzzle. The solution appears last and upside down*

## ACROSS

1. Mineral named after a maker of arrows perhaps.
7. The color of amethyst.
8. Part of a necklace.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ agate. Variety of chalcedony with dark greenish markings.
13. Memorial mountain in South Dakota with carved heads.
15. Mineral named after German mineralogist K. W. Nose.
16. Any coarse grained meta-morphic rock.
18. Alternative name for noble gas. (two words)
19. Place beryllium and erbium on Devon coast and drink!
21. Hop \_\_\_\_\_ and jump for the miners' lift.
22. Another name for sphalerite.
24. Rust. (two words)

## DOWN

2. Disk for polishing gemstones.
3. Hay and hound on Dartmoor.
4. An "18" across.
5. Mineral of the amphibole.
6. Small specimens
9. Sir Ted Rees (anagram, Mineral correctly turned out)
10. Porcelain country.
12. To arrange in accord with a definite plan or scheme.
14. 3rd planet from the sun.
17. Containing gallium in the trivalent state.
20. Another variety of chalcedony.
23. Lands \_\_\_\_\_. Granite headline in S. England.



ACROSS: 1. Fletcherite; 7. Purple; 8. Bead; 11. Moss; 13. Rushmore; 16. Nosean; 19. Gneiss; 18. Inert Gas; 19. Beer; 21. Skip; 22. Blend; 24. Ferric oxide;  
 DOWN: 2. Lapp; 3. Tors; 4. Helium; 5. Tremolite; 6. Thumb Nails; 9. Dresserite; 10. 12. Systemize; China; 14. Earth; 17. Gallie; 20. Onyx; 23. End

## Upcoming Shows

**March 10-12, 2006**, Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC) and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society (Augusta, GA). 18th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA. Hours: 10th and 11th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.; 12th, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Websites: [www.homestead.com/aikengems](http://www.homestead.com/aikengems) and [www.homestead.com/augustagems](http://www.homestead.com/augustagems).

**March 17-19, 2006**, Rome, GA - Rome Georgia Mineral Society. The Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show. New locality: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Kingston Road (GA Hwy 293). Hours: 17th & 19th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 20th, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Jose Santamaria, 706.233.9828.



### Gemstone Myths And Stories

The practice of crystal healing claims to use the "power" of gems to aid in physical, metal, emotion, and spiritual healing. There is no scientific evidence that gems have any healing powers. However, there are many people around the world that believe in their mystic powers.

There is no scientific proof that crystals and gems have any supernatural power. However, some interpret a minerals use, for its power. For example, quartz crystals were used in radios to concentrate the radio signals. This was magic to most people, and hence quartz can do extraordinary things. Stories grow into myths and then into wildly exaggerated stories. For example, Vogel crystals are claimed to be "specially tuned" quantum converters designed to assist in utilizing energies. **(Continued next month)**

Iris McGehee



### Workshop Saturdays

Remember the workshop is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month. It's your workshop, so take advantage of the opportunity to utilize the facility. You just might enjoy it!

Iris McGehee



### Shop Hints

#### Dopping Small Stones

Using nails and Superglue\_ for dopping, sometimes a finishing nail for smaller stones needs to be used. There often isn't much bonding area and sometimes they don't seem to hold plus the nails are hard to hold as you work. The best way is to drive the finishing nails into wooden dowels (1/4 ") which gives you good control. Using either red or black "faceters" dop wax is a little stronger than the green. Wooden shish-kabob skewers purchased at the local grocery store also work well. Cut the skewer to a comfortable length and apply enough dop wax to hold the stone. For heat sensitive stones like opal, paint the opal with nail polish and only warm the stone. The nail polish creates a good bond to the dop wax.

--from Lapidary Digest #189 via Rock Buster News, 04/2002 via Hound's Howl, 03/2006

#### Polishing Amber

Several recent rockhound postings (January 2006) have recommended the use of Brasso (Brass polish) on denim jean as just about the best way to get a glassy finish on amber. The process starts with sanding with successive grits of 180, 240, 400, 600, and possibly 1200, to insure a really superior polish. Then you're ready for the Brasso. It is fast working and will quickly give a beautiful polish, even taking out any possible small scratches you managed to leave.

Thanks to Michael Haas [dave8r2@yahoo.com](mailto:dave8r2@yahoo.com) and Kathlene Maas [ekegems@poetworld.net](mailto:ekegems@poetworld.net) for this suggestion.

--from Arrowhead News, 02/2006 via Hound's Howl, 03/2006

## Some safety issues in our workshops:

I. **Ventilation** -Sawing, cutting, sanding, buffing, soldering, and polishing requires us to have good ventilation. All of the above activities can cause tiny bits of rocks, polish, oil, or other chemicals to get into the air we breathe and possibly into our lungs and cause damage. We need to keep our breathing space as clean as we can. One way to do that is to have good ventilation. Exhaust fans help.

II. **Eye Protection** -We should wear eye protection for most everything we do. Our eyes are very important, so let us wear eye protection especially when we chip or break rocks and when we cut metal wire. Little pieces of wire or solder can jump from the cutting device several feet and could cause a painful and/or blinding experience.

III. **Dangerous Materials** -Several kinds of shells and a few kinds of rocks can be toxic to breathe. If you are not sure wear a good mask as you work with these material.

IV. **Machines** -The polishing machines are usually operated a fairly high speed and sometimes grab a stone or piece of jewelry and fling it. It could hit you, so be extra careful.

V. **Chemicals** -The chemicals that I have in my shop include: acids, pickle, flux, borax, adhesives, oils, coloring agents, copper cleaning chemicals, rock cleaning materials, and who knows what else. There is a need to keep these in a safe place and to follow directions when we use them. Always read the labels and warnings and heed them.

Keep safe and enjoy our hobby.

Bill Buckner, SFMS Safety Chairman  
Loadstar June/July 2002



## 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.

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

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Iris McGehee presided and called the meeting to order. The following visitors were welcomed: Frank Rowell, Connie Duncan, Lauryn Morgan, Diane Slaughter.

Drucilla Hornsby was applauded for her return after illness.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget with a correction on days workshop would be open.

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

David Sherrod reported on the field trip to Sylacauga and the marble quarry. He stated also that a Federation trip is being conducted Saturday at LaGrange, Georgia at Hog Mountain. A fee is charged. No field trip is planned for March.

It was announced that Dr. David King will be lecturing on the Wetumpka Crater April 20 at the state archives building. He will be conducting tours at the crater. A fee of \$20.00 is charged for the tour.

The club was awarded a scholarship by the Federation Stamp Collecting program to either William Hollland Retreat or Wildacres. A drawing awarded David Sherrod the scholarship. Alternate is Terry Fetzer.

The club had a drawing for two scholarships as follows: James Easterling and alternate Terry Fetzer, Stephen Easterling and alternate Laura Hirst.

Refreshments were provided by Mike Berkman and Linda Grieble.

Rock Bingo was called by Iris McGehee and Laura Hirst. Prizes were an assortment of rough rocks, mineral specimens, slabs and finished jewelry.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh  
Secretary



## Club Officers

President: James Easterling, 875-3089  
1st Vice Pres.: Laura Hirst, 590-6946  
2nd Vice Pres.: David Sherrod, 285-5537  
Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817

Treasurer: Iris McGehee, 262-7275  
Director: Harold Glover, 285-3501  
Director: Terry Fetzer, 271-6849



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