



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

MARCH 2011
11-03



PROGRAM CORNER

When: March 10, 2011
Where: **NEW LOCATION FOR MEETING:**
1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive (U.S. 231),
Montgomery, AL 36109**
Time: 7:00 P M
What: **DANGEROUS DUST AND ROCK AWARENESS WHEN USING
SHOP MACHINES**
Who: Thad Cheatham



**Link to mapquest in case you don't know how to get to the new location
<http://classic.mapquest.com/maps?city=Montgomery&state=AL&address=1751+Cong+W+L+Dickinson+Dr&zipcode=36109-2601&country=US&latitude=32.407482&longitude=-86.262472&geocode=ADDRESS>



First meeting in new location on February 10th



REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Frank Rowell

Snacks: Terry & Becky Fetzer

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
Apr	Leslie Amato	the Randalls & Jeremy Towns
May	Harry Corbin	Iris McGehee
June	Linda Boyd	Frank Rowell
July	Drucilla Hornsby	Griebel/Berkman
Aug	the Sherrods	the Sherrods
Sep	Debbie Herbert	Ardis Cecil
Oct	David Bohon	VACANT
Nov	Stan Stevens	VACANT



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY

13 Mary Lou McHugh

20 Clara Glover

17 James Anderson

31 Michael Amato



FIELD TRIPPIN'

Field Trip Coordinator, Jeff Edwards, has a treat in store for members this month.

Date: March 19, 2011

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Our Shop

Features:

1. Orientation and use of rock saws and cabochon devices
2. Safety and proper maintenance of equipment
3. Organization, repair, and clean up of shop

What to bring: Rocks, mechanic tools, work clothes



Thar's Gold in Them Thar Hills by Terry Fetzer

Although it is generally accepted that the Spaniards and Indians didn't find gold in Alabama, the early settlers did. It is agreed upon that gold was discovered in Alabama a couple of years after its discovery in Georgia in 1828.

The "Gold Triangle" of Alabama measures approximately 100 miles on each side and encompasses all or parts of Chambers, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Randolph, Talladega and Tallapoosa counties. Official state and federal geological records show well over 100 gold mines and prospects in this "triangle."

Gold prospecting in Alabama has gone through many up and down cycles. At its height, from 1836 to 1849, 2 areas known as Arbacoochee and Goldville had upwards of 5,000 and 3,000 inhabitants, respectively. The hunt for gold in Alabama took a down swing in 1849 when gold was discovered in California. It peaked a few more times, in 1853 – 1854 when copper miners came to Alabama from Tennessee, again in the 1880's and then once more with the introduction of cyaniding. The last peak for gold mining occurred during the Great Depression, when the price of gold was increased to \$35 an ounce. Active mining in Alabama continued until World War II, but little has been done since. From its discovery around 1830 until 1990, Alabama has produced nearly 80,000 ounces of gold.



Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes February 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Stauch who welcomed visitors. The President explained that this is our first meeting at the new facility on Congressman William Dickinson Drive. Although, the building is not officially open due to the extensive renovation going on, our meeting place was made available. A television provided by funds from the club should be installed by next meeting.

It was suggested that comments and suggestions be submitted to board members or directors-at-large, preferably in writing, prior to the board meeting regarding the meeting place.

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 .

It was announced Stephen Easterling is receiving the Eagle Scout Award this month.

We congratulate Stephen on this achievement.

Refreshments were provided by Mary Lou McHugh and Kate and Ray Goodall.

Chad Cheatham introduced Mr. Stan Tew, President of the Montgomery Grotto & Spelunking Society, who proceeded to explain equipment he had brought with him and the pitfalls in visiting caves. Mr. Tew brought along a friend geologist, Mr. Robert West, who added to the program his knowledge of the rocks and mineral formations to be found.

The secretary noted only 13 persons had signed in. Points for attendance is given toward eligibility for a Southeast Federation Workshop scholarship. A drawing for a mystery prize will held for those signing in at the next meeting. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

REMINDERS>>>

- ✓ Bring cancelled stamps to meetings.
 - ✓ 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.***
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“CAVERS RESCUE SPELUNKERS”

Our February 10th presenter, Stan Tew, began his presentation by displaying and discussing his well used caving equipment:

- ✓ His hat with bat sticker (symbol of a caver)
- ✓ A helmet with lights attached (stated that incandescent lights eat batteries)
- ✓ Gloves (mostly to protect the cave since human hands have oil that damages formations, but they also protect hands from abrasion and grit when crawling on knuckles)
- ✓ Knee pads (good friends)
- ✓ Elbow pads (hard to find; his were patched up and used over and over)
- ✓ Ropes (for use in horizontal caves or pits)
- ✓ Devices such as ascenders / jumars, harnesses, bars (because gravity is always on)

He explained how the harness and the bars control the speed of descent which creates friction. The bars get hot and can burn you. A roller holds your chest to the rope so you don't flip over. Even the most fit individuals are not strong enough without something to hold you to the rope. (“Just makes it a lot more fun when down in dark and muddy conditions.”)



Accompanying Mr. Tew was Robert West, geologist and fellow caver. Mr. West spoke about the geological time expanse which created caves and where certain minerals could be found. All of the big caves are located in Chattanooga shale from the earliest Mississippian era. Ft. Payne, Tuscumbia, Glendine, Bangor limestone are in the deepest caves. There are vast carbonite caves. The limestone is compacted and lithified. There are fossils, rhodoliths, crinoids, nataloids, and crystals in some caves. Calcite is the most common mineral in caves. There is 90% or more humidity all the time in caves. However, removing rock material from caves is illegal and destroys the fragile ecological system inside of the cave. And don't purchase cave minerals since vandals have damaged the caves from which they got the items. You can get permission to secure rocks from quarries. Bats in caves are becoming endangered due to a disease and it can be spread by humans. There are many caves being closed due to this problem.

In closing, Mr. Tew mentioned how people do stupid things that endanger them inside caves: "Cavers rescue spelunkers" who are individuals who just wander into a cave unprepared. He further stated that there are caves on every continent. The longest cave known is Mammoth Cave. His enjoyment when caving is to look at the cave and wonder "How did it get here?" Mr. West recommended the book "Cave Minerals of the World" and you can go to www.caves.org for more information.



A glossary of caving terms can be found at <http://wasg.iinet.net.au/glossary.html>



ALLERGIC TO YOUR JEWELRY?

The mildest skin reaction to jewelry is a greenish stain on the skin which as it turns out has nothing to do with allergies or even skin sensitivities. "It's the oxidation process of jewelry, other than gold, that causes skin to turn green," says David Herschthal, MD, a Ft. Lauderdale dermatologist. "Fine jewelry, such as 18-karat gold, oxidizes far less, so the discoloring usually doesn't occur with those pieces."

Sweating, he adds, exacerbates the problem because salt, or sodium chloride, contained in perspiration slightly corrodes the metal. "So if you really love that copper necklace," he says, "don't wear it to the gym!"

More severe skin reactions to jewelry are usually caused by nickel contained in the metal. A nickel allergy can occur at any age, and typically manifests a few days after first contact as eczema, which appears as an itchy, dry, crusty, and red pigmented skin rash with watery blisters. The affected area is usually restricted to the site of contact, although it can sometimes be found on other parts of the body. Once a nickel allergy has developed, it is usually a chronic, life-long condition.

Nickel is a silvery-white metal found in nature. It is usually mixed with other metals to produce alloys. For example, nickel-iron, which is used to manufacture stainless steel, is the most common nickel alloy. Other nickel alloys are used to make: coins, costume jewelry, bra or girdle fasteners, zippers, snaps, buttons, suspender clips, hair-pins, studs, eyeglass frames, pens, handles, utensils, paper clips, keys, tools.

One way to sleuth out a nickel allergy is to figure out if you have reactions to these items as well. If you do, you can use substitutes made of plastic, coated or painted metal or some other material.

"It's difficult to know if a piece of jewelry contains nickel without actually testing the metal," says Nicole Teague, a jewelry artisan in Berkeley, California. "That little authenticity stamp that says "sterling" or ".925" is a non-regulated steel stamp that anyone can use if they know where to find it. Even the most reputable department stores can be duped." Wonder whether your favorite opal ring contains nickel? You can test it yourself, using a dimethylgloxime spot test, which is a nickel-testing kit that safely tests your jewelry and other suspected metallic items for the presence of nickel. You can obtain one from a dermatologist, pharmacist, or from a number of different testing labs.

Read more: <http://www.thirdage.com/allergies/are-you-allergic-to-your-jewelry-0#ixzz1FbPEbEh2>



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/>)

March 12—BATON ROUGE, LA: Baton Rouge Recreation Commission; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.; Sat. 9-4; adults \$5, children \$4; Claire Coco, (225) 757-8905; ccoco@brec.org

March 18-20—HICKORY, NC: 41st show, Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Hickory Metro Convention Center, I-40 Exit 125; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children and school groups free; Baxter Leonard, (828) 320-4028; gailandbaxter@aol.com

March 25-27—ORLANDO, FL: Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$2, children free; Gordon Oakley, (407) 592-4358; oakleysmall@gmail.com; www.cfmg.org

Dothan Gem & Mineral Club

4th Annual Show

April 9th & 10th 2011

Time: 9-5 Sat. & 10-4 Sun.

Address: Westgate Park (James Grant Recreation Center Gym.)

501 Recreation Road

Dothan, Alabama

Free Admission & Parking,

Door Prizes, Silent Auction,

Mineral Display,

Flint Knapping Demo,

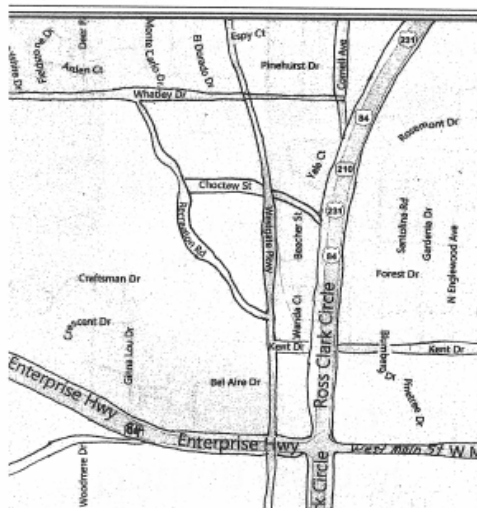
& Much More

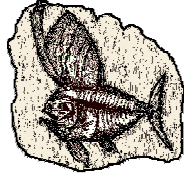
Contact: Arnie Lambert (334)792-7116
or email (arlambert@comcast.net)

From Rt. 231 S., turn left on Ross Clark Circle, then left on W. Main St. (Hwy 84 W.), then right at next light (Westgate Pkwy), then left at the big water tower (Recreation Rd).

From Rt. 231 North, turn right on Westgate Pkwy., then right at the big water tower.

All other Rts: When you reach Ross Clark Circle, proceed to the W. Main St intersection and turn west on Main (Hwy 84 W.) then north at next light (Westgate Pkwy), then west at the big water tower





Southeast Federation Field Trips

April 30, 2011, Girard, Burke County, GA, 10:00 AM ET; Leave from Girard Post Office on Hwy. 23 at 10:30 ET. Children and pets are welcome but need to be supervised as we will be hunting on a dirt road.

Collecting: Savannah River Agate, fossils and micro minerals - conglomeration of agate, jasper, chert, and opalite all mixed together to form a layered specimen that will tumble or cab into beautiful display pieces. This rock occurs as black and brown mottled agate and in a large range of pastel colors from greens to yellows to violets. The fossils you may find are from 30-35 million years old Oligocene age deposits. The micro minerals are located in vugs of the agate/chert rock.

We will be hunting in the roadway and road cuts only. Do NOT leave the road cuts. Please stay off of private property. Please do not go to the collecting site ahead of the group.

TOOLS: rock hammer and scratching tool to collect the agate. You can dig if you want but make sure you fill in your holes after you're finished. If you plan to look for micro-minerals by busting the larger agate/chert specimens, you will also need some chisels and a sledge. More importantly you NEED eye protection (face shield would be best) and long heavy pants as this agate can act like shrapnel when cracked with a rock hammer or sledge! As always, bring your lunch, plenty of fluids, some bug spray, sun screen, a hat, gloves, sturdy shoes and lots of 5 gal. Buckets (Trust me - you will need them!). From I-20 take Hwy. 520 (west of Augusta) south to Hwy. 56 and travel south. Go through McBean (do not take Hwy. 56 Spur). Turn left on Hwy. 23 to Girard and meet at the Post Office at 10:30 AM. Contact: Harry Hyaduck 678-464-4462 Email hyaduckh@yahoo.com or Kim Cochran 770-979-8331



Club Officers for 2010

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.

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.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK DAY



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

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