



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE MONTGOMERY AL GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Editor: Linda R. Griebel

Volume No. 08 - 03

March 2008

PROGRAM CORNER

When: **March 13, 2008**
 Where: Muriel Crump Center,
 1735 Highland Ave, Montgomery, AL
 What: **METEORITES:
 A CAUTIONARY TALE**
 Who: *Anita Westlake*
Emory University



REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Mary Lou McHugh
 Snacks: Iris McGehee
 Please remember to bring paper plates,
 napkins, and cups. Ice is available at the
community Center.

Refreshment list for remainder of 2008

Month	drinks	snacks
Apr	the Toneys	H. Corbin
May	D. Hornsby	L. Lord
June	F. Rowell	the Easterlings
July	H. Glover	Griebel/Berkman
Aug	L. Boyd	<i>vacant</i>
Sept	D. Sherrod	M. Sherrod
Oct	<i>vacant</i>	J. Tatum
Nov	J. Gaines	the Kirklands

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!



Mary Lou McHugh on 13th
Clara Glover on 20th

□

HARDNESS is a way of describing how easy or difficult it is to scratch a mineral. It is used in combination with other physical properties to help identify a mineral specimen. In 1824, a mineralogist, Friederich Mohs, chose 10 common minerals and arranged them in order from softest to hardest. (from *Mini Miners 03-08*) Minerals Arranged According to Hardness

Mohs Scale

- 1 Talc
- 2 Gypsum
- 3 Calcite
- 4 Fluorite
- 5 Apatite
- 6 Feldspar
- 7 Quartz
- 8 Topaz
- 9 Corundum
- 10 Diamond

Minerals of Approximately Equal Hardness

- Graphite, clay minerals, chlorite, pyrolusite
- Sulphur, halite, muscovite, stibnite, galena, cinnabar, realgar, orpiment
- Anhydrite, barite, biotite, copper, silver, gold, bormite
- Siderite, dolomite, rhodocrosite, aragonite, sphalerite, phyhotite
- Serpentine, limonite, chromite, scheelite, wolframite, kyanite (parallel)
- Nepheline, leucite, sodalite, pyroxenes, rutile, pyrite, hematite
- Kyanite (across elongate), andalusite, garnet, olivine, staurolite
- Beryl



Hello, Rockhounds,

Since March is Women's History Month, I've been reflecting on ... well ... *women in history!* Or more particularly, I've been reflecting on the history of women, rocks, gems and minerals. Whether we are a man or a woman, either way I'll bet most if not ALL of our rock, gem or mineral creations (and purchases) are for the women in our lives. How can anyone even THINK of gemstones without thinking of our ladies?

Go ahead. Think of any priceless jewel, either real or imagined. Don't you picture it hanging from the lovely throat or sitting on the shapely hand of an equally lovely, shapely woman? Of course you do. I guess everyone does. It can come as no surprise that membership in most gem and mineral societies are mostly female. It is true in ours.

But these are all fairly superficial observations concerning ornament. (I have some theories on that too, but that will have to wait for some other month.) So I'll try to dig a little deeper. The history of women and rocks must go back virtually to the very beginning of time and certainly not only in terms of ornament.

A longtime favorite theory of mine is that the first primitive lapidary must have been a woman. Whether you subscribe to creationism or evolutionism, one must generally admit that, at some point in time, humankind had to teach themselves pretty much everything we ever knew. Primitive societies, then as now, separated the work of men from the work of women.

In the beginning, men would have hunted using their superior strength and not much else. Women, the child bearers, would have been hunter-gathers seeking out greens, roots, fruits and nuts, selecting each for the best shape, size or color. (Sounds like *shopping*, doesn't it?) Surely, while some ancient grandmother of ours was cracking open her haul of nuts between two stones, eventually one of those stones would have broken, revealing a flake of stone harder and sharper than her own teeth and nails. The first lapidary!

The rest is history.

See you soon,

Frank Rowell, President



Upcoming shows

>April 19 9:00-5:00 Dothan Gem & Mineral Club . 4329 S. Brannan Stand Rd & W. Hwy 52, Dothan - JoAn Lambert 334-792-7116

>April 26-27 Memphis TN Archaeological & Geological Society - Mid America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show (901) 743-0058 – rockclub@earthlink.net or website www.memphisgeology.com

>June 7 & 8 Birmingham Gem & Mineral Club @ Tannehill State Park

>June 14 & 15 Wind Creek State Park



Geology Humor

(excerpts courtesy of Rockhound Roundup Jan 2008 newsletter)

- *You own more pieces of Quartz than underwear.
- *Your rock garden is located **in** your house.
- *You're planning on using a pick and shovel on your vacation.
- *You don't think of cleavage the same way everyone else does.
- *You find yourself compelled to examine **individual rocks** in driveway gravel.
- *You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attraction.
- *You have to respond "**Yes**" to the question "**What have you got in here, rocks?**"

The journey is the reward.

Chinese proverb

Southeast Federation Field Trips

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. 706.359.3862 (w), 706.359.2381 (h)

8 am to 6 pm, April 25, 26, 27, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, October 3, 4, 5, 2008

<http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

5th Annual Western North Carolina Rockhound Roundup

July 30th-August 3rd, 2008 by Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Association & DirtyRockhounds"

Jacquots Rock Ranch, 3897 Leicester Hwy. Leicester, North Carolina 28748.

Coincides with Grassy Creek Gem and Mineral show in Spruce Pine N.C. July 30 field trips to various mines and to gem show in Spruce Pine. Demonstrations on wire wrap, gem cutting etc. Cookout in the evening. Tables to sell and trade rocks and minerals, gems and jewelry. Each evening an outdoor theater showing movies related to rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Saturday field trip to local mine. A meal at 3:00 pm includes pulled b b q, hotdogs, hamburgers, turkey burgers, etc. Soft drinks provided. Attendees should bring side dish or desert and other drink if prefer.

Portable toilets on site. \$10.00 per person covers all 5 days of the Roundup. Free camping on the Jacquot property for the first 5 RV's and numerous tents. No hookups, but electric panel for campers.

Large campfire pit & outside shower for campers. Other accommodations:

E Asheville KOA 1-800-562-5907, W Asheville KOA: 1-800-562-9015 or

<http://asheville.hotelguide.net/>

Open to all clubs. Bring rocks and minerals to trade, sell, and show.

www.wncrocks.com click on the "MAGMA" link. Contact Rick Jacquot at: 828-683-1048 or email

rick@wncrocks.com

When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained.

Mark Twain

From Wikipedia.com

A birthstone is a gift of a precious material (jewelry, mainly gemstones; themselves, traditionally associated with various qualities) that symbolizes the month of birth (in the Gregorian Calendar). There have been many different sets of birthstones used throughout history and in different cultures. In 1912, in an effort to standardize them, the American national association of jewelers, Jewelers of America, officially adopted the following list; currently the most widely used list. Some alternates have been adopted to be a less expensive substitute for a cut stone.

Month	Traditional stone	Modern Stone
January	garnet	garnet
February	amethyst	amethyst
March	bloodstone	jasper, aquamarine
April	diamond	sapphire diamond
May	emerald	agate emerald
June	alexandrite	emerald moonstone, pearl
July	ruby	onyx ruby
August	sardonyx	carnelian peridot
September	sapphire	peridot sapphire
October	tourmaline	pearl opal, rose zircon
November	citrine, topaz	topaz, citrine
December	zircon, ruby turquoise, blue topaz	

There is a separate list according to the days of the week:

Monday	Pearl (the only organic gem)
Tuesday	Garnet
Wednesday	Cat's eye (Chatoyant Chrysoberyl)
Thursday	Emerald
Friday	Topaz
Saturday	Sapphire
Sunday	Ruby

Remember to bring your cancelled stamps to the next meeting.

Club Officers		Secretary: Mary Lou McHugh	272-1817
President: Frank Rowell	277-7023	Treasurer: Iris McGehee	262-7275
1 st V P: Julie Tatum	244-9462	Directors: Jim Gaines	285-1988
2 nd V P: David Sherrod	285-5537	Mel Barkley	277-2722

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. Membership dues are \$12.00 for individuals and \$18.00 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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