



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

May 2009
09-05



PROGRAM CORNER

When: **May 14, 2009**

Where: **Muriel Crump Center, 1735 Highland Ave, Montgomery, AL**

Time: **7:00 P M**

What: ***Amber: Ancient Myths, Modern Fakes***



Amber has been collected since pre-historic times. Throughout the centuries, people have attributed magical properties to this organic gem as well as used it for personal adornment.

Who: ***Anita Westlake***, a member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. will present a talk on amber through the centuries. You will learn superstitions surrounding amber and how people have been faking amber and selling it to the unsuspecting public for years. Bring your own amber to the meeting if you're curious about its authenticity or just want to show it off.



REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Harry Corbin

Snacks: Linda Boyd

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

List for remainder of the year:

Jun Elise & Terry Toney

Minnie Jerido

Jul Mike Berkman

Linda Griebel

Aug John & Sandra Namias

John & Sandra Namias

Sep Drucilla Hornsby

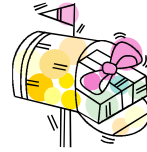
Linda Lord

Oct Thad Cheatham

Jean McDonald

Nov Harold Glover

Chela & Cathy Kirkland



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6 Sandra Boyer

25 Morning Sherrod

11 Harry Corbin

27 Mary Nelson

15 Myra Lewiski

30 John Namias

25 Iris McGehee

31 Jeff Edwards



Hello Rockhounds,

Please join me in extending appreciation and much kudos to our 1st Vice President and Program Chair Thad Cheatham for the many excellent programs he has provided this year. I happen to know that Thad has nearly filled his calendar for the year; that's quite an accomplishment!

In March, Thad provided our own Dr. Helen Kerby and her helpful assistant (and husband) Mark who gave a very lively and informative talk on both silicate minerals and silicon production with many slides and live examples of both. I'd always envisioned silicon wafers, computer chips and the electronics industry whenever the topic arose but after Mark's excellent presentation he went on with many unexpected examples of everyday items containing silicon; like toothpaste, cooking spray and shampoo. Thanks to both Helen and Mark, that was one of the best talks I've seen!

Also, I would like to thank last month's speaker Dr. Robert Cook who talked and presented an excellent slideshow on specimen gold and the sites

producing it that he himself has visited and worked. Specimen gold is far more valuable than merely the gold it contains but has the added desirability of the aesthetic beauty of its shapes and formations, oftentimes crystalline. I'd never known gold could exist as a crystal and to see one was a great pleasure.

For the month of May, Thad has lined up a well known and much admired presenter, Anita Westlake. As I'm sure you will recall we've been lucky enough to have had Anita talk to us twice previously on fused glass and then meteorites (my favorite). She will be coming all the way from Atlanta again to speak to us about amber this time and I look forward to her return with relish.

See you then,

Frank Rowell



Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes April 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Rowell. He announced that Jim Gundlach is recovering from accidental monoxide poisoning.

The field trip for sharks' teeth at Point A Dam is scheduled for April 19.

The guest speaker was Dr. Robert Cook, formerly from Auburn University. His subject was gold mining mainly in California and Colorado. He stated that most mining was done by large corporations and small family businesses. It was evident that he had long-standing contacts in the field.

Refreshments were furnished by Jim Gaines and Frank Rowell.

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.

Iris gave an explanation of the Southeast Federation Insurance and what it covers.

Participation in the Fair to be held October 9-18 was approved in the amount of \$50.00. This is to cover the award in Creative Living "Best of the Fair" Gem and Minerals Division.

A jewelry workshop will be held in May. Details are to be supplied later.

Thad Cheatham announced the May program will feature Anita Westlake speaking about amber.

Arrangements for the Christmas party to be held at Capitol Heights Methodist Church was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary



JEWELRY MAKING CLASS

DATE: May 23, 2009 9:00-12:00

LOCATION: Bell Road Library

WIREWRAP: Pin / Pendant

List of items needed: 21 inch square wire - 18-22 gauge, 3 inch half round wire, small piece of sand paper (file), sharpie, masking tape, ruler, small to medium , cabochon (optional), wire twister (optional), pin back (optional), wire wrapping tools

If haven't already, **call Minnie Jerido at (334) 724-9125** to reserve your spot in the class.



Alabama State Gemstone or Gem Star Blue Quartz (SiO₂ , Silicon dioxide)

Alabama's state gem is the Star Blue Quartz, *SiO₂, Silicon dioxide*. It is one of the most beautiful gemstones on earth, and the cheapest because there are so many. There are also other states with quartz. The Star Blue Quartz was named in 1990.

Most quartz is a souvenir of volcanoes, which melt silica, which is then carried by water into crevices, where it crystallizes. Such quartz often includes traces of other minerals picked up by water flowing underground.

Crystalline form of silica SiO₂, is one of the most abundant minerals of the Earth's crust (12% by volume). Quartz occurs in many different kinds of rock, including sandstone and granite. It ranks 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness and is resistant to chemical or mechanical breakdown. Quartzes vary according to the size and purity of their crystals. Crystals of pure quartz are coarse, colorless, transparent, show no cleavage, and fracture unevenly; this form is usually called rock crystal. Impure colored varieties, often used as gemstones, include agate, citrine quartz, and amethyst. Quartz is also used as a general name for the cryptocrystalline and non-crystalline varieties of silica, such as chalcedony, chert, and opal.

There is different colored quartz. New Hampshire has smoky, South Dakota rose, Arkansas and Georgia star blue. Quartz is made into glass, eyeglasses, electrical components, abrasives, and gemstone and building stone. There is a little bit of quartz in every rock. Quartz is made of silicon dioxide (SiO₂).

Blue (Or gray/lavender): A good healing stone for linking heart with throat and brow Chakra. to expand self expression and creativity, plus refining communication skill to new levels. Eases throat tension. Immune system, thyroid, iodine and B Vitamin use. Some say shining light through Blue Quartz can help reduce need for glasses. Still evolving. Yin.

Became the state gemstone in 1990 by Act No. 90-203

Source: Acts of Alabama, March 29, 1990

(If anyone knows where to find Star Blue Quartz, we'd all like to go there on a field trip.)



FIELD TRIPPIN'

Jeff Edwards, Field Trip Coordinator, stated that no field trip is planned for May. Due to heavy rains which thwarted getting to the river bank, the April sharks' teeth trip was unproductive. Not much we can do about the weather. Watch for some interesting plans for June...



SHOP REMINDER

To ensure that someone will be at the shop on the first or third Saturday of each month, please email or call any of the following individuals ahead of time if you plan to go to the shop: Frank Rowell, Terry Fetzer, Iris McGehee, or Harold Glover.

to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

DAMM-IT TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'DAMM-IT' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTALS

Remember to send articles or information for *The Golden Nugget* by the **25th of the current month** for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

Links to check out

International Colored Gemstone Assn newsletter <http://www.gemstone.org/>

Georgia Meteorite Association <http://www.meteoriteassociationofgeorgia.org/>

William Holland <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/schedule.html>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-retreat.html>

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

Al 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



SAD NEWS

The chapter acknowledges and mourns the death due to a heart attack of Jim Russell of Russell's Trees & Treasures, a long time vendor and friend of Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society. Condolences can be sent to his wife Mrs. Sherry Russell, 27911 North Street, North Liberty, Indiana 46554

SE SHOWS



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

June 6-7--BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA: 36th annual show; Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; contact J.B.

Blackerby, 155 Hwy. 69, Chelsa, AL 35043, (205) 678-6564; black2200@aol.com

June 7--FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Embassy Suites, Fort Lauderdale (Ballroom), 1100 S.E. 17th St. Cswy.; Sun. 1-5; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/

June 13--NORCROSS (ATLANTA), GEORGIA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn Select - Peachtree Corners (Ballroom), 6050 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. NW, , GA 30071; Sat. 12-4; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/



Southeast Federation Field Trips

June 13, 2009 8:00 am -12:00, Saturday Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry, Morganton, Burk County, N.C. This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. BRING: Hard hat, safety glasses, rock hammer, and something to carry and wrap samples. We will meet at the quarry at 8:00 am and be allowed to collect until 12:00. Quarry's phone number (828)437-2616. Jim Stroud, if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip.

phone: 336-744-2940 e-mail address: stroudj@vmcmail.com PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

Friday, July 3, Saturday July 4, 2009 at Hogg Mine. **Sunday July 5, 2009** at Crystal Mine. FEE: Adults - \$17.00 each day. Children under 18 free. Sign-in is from 9:00 to 10:00 at Smiths Corner Store, 1231 Bartley Road, LaGrange, GA 30233 each morning to sign release, pay fee and get the ticket which is necessary to get through the gate. (DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO MINE - MUST HAVE TICKET).



Club Officers for 2009

President: Frank Rowell 277-7023 1st V P/Programs: Thad Cheatham 462-3254
2nd 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, 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 \$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.

THE GOLDEN NUGGET

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