



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

May 2011
11-05



PROGRAM CORNER

When: May 12, 2011
Where: 1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive (U.S. 231),
 Montgomery, AL 36109
Time: 7:00 P M
What: Surprise Subject
 (Thad Cheatham has lined up favorites Kim Cochran and Anita Westlake for
 June and July.)



REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Harry Corbin **Snacks:** Iris McGehee
 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
June	Linda Boyd	Frank Rowell
July	Drucilla Hornsby	Connie & Trey Randall & Jeremy Towns
Aug	the Sherrods	the Sherrods
Sep	Debbie Herbert	Ardis Cecil
Oct	David Bohon	
Nov	Stan Stevens	



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

1 Lynn Stauch
6 Sandra Boyer
11 Harry Corbin
25 Iris McGehee

25 Morning Sherrod
27 May Nelson
30 John Namias
31 Jeff Edwards

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: JACKIE BRICKEN AND LINDA TROTTER!

- Long time member Alton “Sonny” Hall demonstrates his knapping techniques at: Prattville April 16 Indian Artifacts Corporation; Hayneville Baptist Church May 1; Citronelle museum May 7; Atmore/Little River State Park May 14; Altoona Lake, GA May 21-24 - good work, Sonny



Hello Everyone!

I hope and pray that this finds you all safe and without loss after all of the bad weather that we have been having. I have been working in the north part of the state and came up close and personal with three funnel clouds and managed to avoid all

three. One early in the day in Colbert County, the second between Coxe and Athens on US Highway 72, and the third which was really a close call at Tanner just north of Decatur. I managed to get into shelter before the storm overtook my van. However, I had no damage to the vehicle or to myself.

This has made me very aware of how the weather can turn on us in just a few minutes and thought it would be good to bring this up for all of our safety. When I am looking for rocks and fossils, I get really focused on what I am doing and forget to check the weather report or to look around me at what might be happening with the weather. Let's all keep this week in mind and let's use this experience to help us be safe when out in nature.

Mike Eveleth, the General Manager at the Renaissance Hotel downtown, needs to hire someone in the club to cut a Geode in half for his daughter who is getting married in June. I bring this up because it will be a father-daughter gift for her since the Geode came from her great Grandparents who were rock hounds. You can contact him at the Renaissance Downtown.

Also I have received an email from a James Hargreaves who is representing an Estate. It contains a Mineral collection, obtained over 60 years, owned by a 92 year old man. I will have all of the contact information including phone numbers and email addresses at this month's meeting.

God Bless! Keep on Digging! Lynn Stauch, President



FIELD TRIPPIN' with fearless field trip coordinator Jeff Edwards

No field trip in May. However, be sure to save June 25th for a fun filled trip to Mel Barkley's property in Macon County. A full day starting at 10:00 am: walking the creeks to find various specimens, hot dog lunch at the cabin, fishing in stocked ponds, etc. Be sure to watch the June issue for more data on the June adventure for the whole family.

Stringing Materials & Methods - Wire Cable

(contributed by Terry Fetzer)

Tigertail is one of the easiest stringing materials to use. It doesn't need a needle, and the ends are easy to finish with crimp beads. However, tigertail kinks easily and is weakened where it has kinked.

Beadalon®, Soft Flex® & Soft Touch™ Beading Wires are similar to tigertail, but are stronger (often made of more strands) and have a soft-feeling plastic coating. These stringing cables do not kink unless extremely abused. The more strands they have, and the thicker the diameter, the more durable they are. Use crimp beads to finish the ends.

Beadalon Jewelry Cable is similar to standard Beadalon, but is thicker and has no plastic coating. Cable can be separated, giving three to six wavy strands. Finish ends with crimp tubes w/ loops or sterling crimp-on ends.

(c) Rings & Things, Web site: www.rings-things.com



Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes April 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Stauch, who welcomed visitors. Everyone was pleased to see James Easterling and son Stephen. James seems to have made a remarkable recovery since emergency surgery.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget. Treasurer's report was read by Iris McGehee and filed with the secretary. Applications for membership for Linda Trotter and Jackie Bricken were approved. It has become necessary to file forms with the IRS even though in the past the club has tried to do so and the effort was rejected. A \$300.00 fee is required to file an application 501C. Iris is working with an accountant to accomplish this.

Refreshments were furnished by Leslie Amato and Linda Griebel and Mike Berkman.

A gem tree workshop will be offered if there is enough interest. A sign-up sheet is available and pre-payment for supplies will be required.

Sonny Hall has offered to cut slabs for a fee to offset wear and tear on equipment.

Shop Safety Rules have been set up and will be published in the Golden Nugget.

Suggestions are welcomed. Thad Cheatham and Jeff Edwards reported that they have contacted the Director of the Archives and History Dept. They have contributed rocks, minerals and fossils found in Alabama. The director expressed a desire for a sample of Alabama gold. Tonight is the last night the Goodalls will be with us. They are returning to England and we wish them well.

Thad Cheatham presented a program on Alabama topography using a rather large map.

As he explained what was shown on the map he said that would not begin to explore what was below the surface.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

If you haven't checked out the club's webpage lately, you should! Go to the "Noteworthy News" tab and check out the PowerPoint presentation of "Weird Rock Formations Around the World" and two YouTube videos of "Hang Son Doong Cave," perhaps the world's largest cave.

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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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The Washington, California Nugget - A New Discovery!

By Fred N. Holabird, copyright 2010, all rights reserved (contributed by James Mallonnee) - Extract from original with permission of the author

Every now and again something really fun happens. The other day a fella walked into our office and told me about a 100 ounce nugget he found near Nevada City. Ha! While 100 oz nuggets are known from Australia and Mexico, I couldn't think of a single specimen still in existence from California. Or at least any that I had seen or known of in museums, including the Smithsonian and the Mariposa Gold Museum.¹

Then something even more special happened. He opened up his box and got out the nugget. After I screamed and got back up off the floor from shock, he said he had been told to clean it and what did I think? I said "heck no, that rock, sand and gravel attached to it is proof positive of where it is from." He, like you are now, was in complete puzzlement. You see, the proof is in the pudding, and the pudding was still attached to

the nugget, It was a verifiable, real authentic gold nugget from the “blue lead”, or bottom most layer of the Tertiary gold channels in California. The natural rock still attached was he absolute proof. This large nugget may be the sole remaining large nugget from California. It was standard practice to melt large nuggets into ingots, and thereby convert the prize into cash. No such nuggets have been found by the author at the Smithsonian or the California State Collection at Mariposa.

So when our new friend with the big nugget opened his box, there in front of me were thirty year old memories of my work on the “blue lead” and other basal conglomerates of the Tertiary section of California gravel deposits. The texture, content, and color is unmistakable, and I’m sure there are other geologists out there with the same memories. You never forget it. It was the real McCoy.

I can think of at least three other geologists who have spent more time on the central mother lode Tertiary gold deposits than me, and I think we all secretly share the same quest- to find that giant gold nugget. To have one sitting in front of me at that moment was special beyond words.

What is a nugget? Today, as well as in the nineteenth century, there is confusion about the definition of the word nugget. Non-geologists view a nugget as a piece of visible gold of nearly any size. They generally do not have the background to differentiate between a naturally occurring crystalline gold in quartz specimen versus the erosional product of the same rock. A true nugget is just that- the erosional stream or river cobble produced from crystalline or massive gold.

*The nugget sold at auction for \$460K as a specimen, significantly more than its gold value the day of the auction (approximately \$1400/ozt). The owner currently has the 180 acre property it was found on for sale for a minimum bid of \$1.5M. Although no other “monster” nuggets are expected to be found, the property is guaranteed to contain gold. At least two other nuggets were found and also auctioned - 10 and 8 ozt.

¹ The largest California nugget at the Smithsonian is about 80 ounces, per Jeffrey Post, Curator of gems and minerals.



The 100-ounce Washington Nugget was found in a creek bed in the Sierra Nevada in last March. Image courtesy of Holabird-Kagin Americana.

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

<http://montgomerygemandmineralsociety.org>



Free tutorials on how to make a gem tree (contributed by Terry Fetzer)

[Wire Gemstone Bonsai Trees](#)

I've always wanted a gemstone tree. I first saw one in a specialty store when I was a child. It was so beautiful, and looked so fragile, I was afraid to touch it. Yet, I did - gently, watching the way the little tree arms moved and the little leaves swayed. Here are my Wire Gemstone Bonsai Tree Directions

[How to Make a Gem Tree](#)

My husband and I teach and demonstrate gem tree design, so what would be more appropriate than a guide to make one. There are several types of gem trees and I prefer the kind where you don't glue the gems to the wire, but use gems or beads with holes and twist the wire with the beads in it to make the leaves and branches. The shapes are varied and is totally up to your imagination. This is a great hobby for children and those with limited resources.

[Gem Tree Instructions](#)

If you would like to download a pdf. version of these instructions with more pictures, this is now available.

[2 Leaf Branch Tree Instructions](#)

For another style of tree, try these instructions for a 2 leaf branch tree.

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<http://www.squidoo.com/gemtree>



SE SHOWS

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

June 4 & 5 - Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show; 9-5. Tannehill Ironworks State Park. Show free with paid admission to park. Gene Blackerby
gene@lapidaryclub.com or <http://lapidaryclub.com>.



Southeast Federation Field Trips

**May 28, 2011 10:00 AM EDT, Cotton Patch Gold Mine & Campground, Stanly County, New London, NC 41697 Gurley Road, New London, NC (<http://www.cottonpatchgoldmine.com>)

COLLECTING: PLACER GOLD FEES: The following group rates are for the DMC club members only: Rate discount will be 10% on cabins or camping for our members and their guests. Panning for gold- pan for gold at our troughs. \$ 10.00 for 3/ 2 gallon buckets OR \$ 14.00 for 5/ 2 gallon buckets. Gold wheel rental with panning material (automatic panner) \$ 8.00 for 4 hour rental Gold sluicing- more productive than panning, loads of material are brought to you to run at a live flume. 1/4 load (+/- 5 five gallon buckets) \$40.00 2-3 hours; 1/2 load (+/- 10 five gallon buckets) \$ 75.00 3-5 hours; full load (+/- 22 five gallon buckets) \$ 140.00 6-8 hours Jack King, Charlotte G&MC - 704-892-7608, jackkretired09@gmail.com

** June 4, 2011 10:00 AM, Corundum Knob (also known as Chunky Gal Knob), Clay County, NC.

COLLECTING: Ruby corundum (pink to red), Spinel (black to brown "galaxite" and magnesio-chromite), Sapphirine, Talc, Serpentine, Brucite (white to blueish chalky chunks), Tremolite, Actinolite, Smaragdite (chrome-emerald green amphibole), Pyroxine (chrome diopside/sparse green micro-crystals of weathered amphibolite matrix), Fuchsite and Dunite.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: This is a Forest Service site: surface collecting only, no screening. Watch for fall hazards. BRING: Rock picks, crack hammers, wedges, chisels, gloves, heavy shoes, bug spray, drink. Meet at the intersection of Buck Creek Rd. and Hwy. 64 (no sign at Buck Creek Rd. which is 2 mi. east of overlook). From Atlanta take I-75 north then follow I-575 to St. Rd. 5 & US 76. Follow past Young Harris then left on St. Rd. 17 into NC. In NC changes to Hwy. 69. Turn right on Hwy. 64 to Chunky Gal Mtn. Kim Cochran at 770-979-8331



Club Officers for 2011

President: Lynn Stauch 386-7330 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, 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.

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