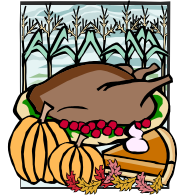




THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Nov/Dec 2005
Number 05 - 11



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

November Program

When: Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Show planning and preparation.
Election of club officers.



Refreshments



Refreshments for the November meeting will be provided by Drucilla Hornsby, drinks, and Linda Lord, snacks.

There will be a sign-up list for refreshments for next year at the meeting.

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

Field Trip Report

The weather cooperated on October 22nd as twelve members met at Ruby Ellington's home on Woodley Road for a "field trip" and cookout. Ruby is a long time club member and was active for many years, however failing eyesight has hindered her from attending club meetings and working in the hobby of lapidary arts she so dearly loves.

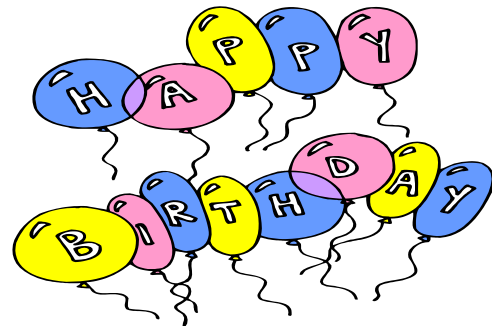
Ruby has many rocks and minerals that she is being forced to part with in order to make a move to be closer to her children. Several members attending bought some of her specimens, but she still has many more she would like to sell.

David Sherrod had the honor of cooking the hot dogs on a huge barbecue pit, which was built over 50 years ago when Ruby's house was built. David did a great job with his cooking, and Terry Fetzer did an outstanding job making a big pot of baked beans, which went so well with the hot dogs and fixings, chips, cookies and drinks.

Members who brightened Ruby's day by attending were: Terry and Becky Fetzer, Harold and Clara Glover, Mike Berkman and Linda Griebel, David Sherrod, Linda Lord, Drucilla Hornsby, Mary Lou McHugh, John Martin, and of course yours truly.

I believe I can truly say that all who attending had a very good time.

Iris McGehee



to

**Paul Corley, James Easterling,
Monica Hendricks, Ramona
Simpson & Betty Stevens.**



ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



The November meeting will be devoted to finalizing plans for the Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. The show begins with the set up of the dealers' dinner and the showcases on Thursday morning, December 1, at 9:00 a.m. and concludes after the show ends on Sunday night, December 4. Each member is expected to commit work time, not only at the dealers' dinner, but also at least 2 hours, preferably more (if possible, and doesn't have to be consecutively) during the weekend at the information table and/or the demonstration table. This is our primary source of income, and we need everyone's cooperation in making it a success.

The hours of the show will be: Friday - 9:00 - 6:00 (Students' Day - 9:00 till 2:00); Saturday - 10:00 - 6:00; and Sunday - 11:00 - 5:00. Please choose the hours you will agree to work and be prepared to sign up for the information and/or demonstration tables at the meeting. **IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING**, please notify Iris McGehee at 262-7275 when you can work. Also, write the time down when you agree to work (forms will be available at the meeting). Everyone involved is too busy during the weekend to phone you to remind you of your obligation.

Becky Fetzer will again be handling the dealers' dinner this year. The dinner will be at 6:00 on Thursday, December 1. The club will provide the meat, cole slaw, potato salad and bread. We will be serving approximately 150 people, so plan to prepare large enough servings to accommodate this number. Plan to bring a casserole or desert. If you cannot cook a casserole, Sunday Dinner has a large variety at reasonable prices that you might purchase. We naturally need more casseroles than deserts. Also, if you cannot cook and do not want to purchase something to bring, we will need tea (both sweetened and unsweetened) and lemonade. Sign up at the meeting what you will bring. Here again, **IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING**, call Becky at 271-6849 and let her know what you can be depended on to bring. **THESE DISHES NEED TO BE AT THE COLISEUM NO LATER THAN 5:30 ON DECEMBER 1.**

We have 15 showcases but will take only what will be filled. We do not want an empty show case at the show. Make plans to put something in a case. These will be judged during the show and ribbons will be awarded. The size of each showcase is: 31" long, 12 1/2" high, and 11 1/4" deep. Some of you have beautiful mineral specimens, beading, wire wrapped jewelry, gem trees, cabbing, or any lapidary art items, fossils, arrowheads, etc., so plan to display to the public what you can do. (When others see these items on display, it might create an interest in joining the Club.)

Hope to see you at the meeting on November 10.

Iris McGehee



SPECIAL THANKS!

Thanks to all who demonstrated at the Alabama National Fair and to those who entered something in the category of Gems and Minerals. Congratulations to those who won ribbons, and a special congratulations goes to Drucilla Hornsby who won the "Best of the Fair" award for her set of wrapped quarters acknowledging states affected by hurricanes this year.

Iris McGehee

November Birthstones



Topaz, one of two traditional birthstones for November, may have derived its name from the Island of Topazios in the Red Sea but some authorities think the name may have come from the Sanskrit word "topas" that means "fire." In ancient lore, it was believed that topaz could be used to control heat. It was said to have the power to cool boiling water, as well as excessive anger. As medication, topaz was used to cure fever.

Although yellow topaz is the accepted color for November's birthstone, it can be found in many colors including pink, blue (which is one of two traditional birthstones for December), lavender, yellow, orange, orange-yellow, brownish yellow, yellow-brown, red, and colorless, which is pure topaz. Pure topaz, when properly cut and faceted, can be often mistaken for a diamond. Because of its rarity, topaz is an expensive gem. The most valued and rarest color is red. Topaz crystals may become quite large. In fact, the largest uncut specimen was found in Brazil and weighs almost 600 pounds. It is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Brazil is the largest producer of topaz. However, it can also be found in Russia, Ukraine, Pakistan, Scotland, Japan, Sri Lanka and the United States.

Topaz has many lower priced imitators that include synthetic corundum and synthetic spinel as well as citrine quartz, the latter, which is the other birthstone for November.

Citrine, which is derived from the French word for lemon, is a quartz crystal that is yellow to brown in color and is the most valuable quartz gem. Natural citrine, which is yellow to orange, is actually somewhat rare in nature. Most citrines on the markets have been heat-treated. Specimens of low grade, inexpensive amethyst or smoky quartz are often heated at high temperatures to produce the more profitable orange yellow citrine. Citrines whose colors have been altered by "cooking" tend to have more of red tint than those found in nature, which are usually a pale yellow and have much lighter hues. Citrine, if left in the sunlight for several hours, often permanently changes color.

Citrine can be found in Brazil, France, Spain, Madagascar, and the former USSR.

December Birthstones



If you were born in December, you have the choice of two birthstones, turquoise and blue topaz. Turquoise has been mined for ages. It has been found among Egyptian artifacts over 8000 years old, including jewelry and decoration on tombs. The word turquoise is probably derived from the French *pierre turquoise*, which means "Turkish Stone" because Venetian merchants who first acquired it in Turkish bazaars brought turquoise to Europe. Turquoise can be spelled both with a final "e" (turquoise) and without the final "e" (turquois). Turquoise was highly valued in the Old World by the Egyptians, Persians and Mongols. The Persians were extremely fond of fine, sky blue turquoise and the name "Persian Turquoise" is now applied to these stones as a color grade rather than as an indication of source area. In the America's, the Aztecs and Incas also prized turquoise but it has been the American Indians of the Southwest that have brought more attention to this stone in recent years than any other culture. All one has to do is visit jewelry stores, art and craft shows and gem and mineral shows to see many examples of squash blossom necklaces and thunderbird motifs.

Turquoise is a relatively soft gemstone, and can be easily scratched and broken. Because it is porous it is easily discolored by oil and pigments, and changes color when it loses some of its water content. Poor quality grades of turquoise are often dyed or color stabilized with coatings of various resins. High quality grades are usually blue-to-blue green and names such as "robin's egg blue" or "sky blue" have been used to describe these stones.

There are many superstitions associated with turquoise. It was also believed to bring happiness and good fortune to all. It has been thought to warn the wearer of danger or illness by changing color, turning pale in illness and regaining its original color when health returned. It was also believed to protect the wearer from falling especially from horses. The Arabs thought that its color changed with the weather. The Apache believed that if pieces of turquoise were affixed to a bow, the arrows shot from it would always hit their mark. The Navajo believed that pieces of turquoise thrown into a river while praying to the rain god would bring much needed rain.

Turquoise can be found in the American southwest Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Australia, Tibet, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Egypt. In Iran, where some of the best stones are found, turquoise is the national gem.

Terry Fetzer

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

October 13th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President James Easterling.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget with correction to visitors' name.

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

Field Trip cookout was announced. Be at Ruby Ellington's house on 2443 Woodley Road, Saturday, October 22, at 11:00.

Iris told about the three schools presented gem & mineral kits. A thank you note has been received from St. Bede's School, and a nice write-up was published in the Wetumpka Herald on the presentation to the Wetumpka School. The third kit was given to a small private school in Auburn.

Drucilla Hornsby was awarded Best of the Fair for her necklace. Drucilla requested prayer for Linda Lord who has dizziness that prevents her from working or driving.

The President announced it was time for the Nominating Committee. No one volunteered, but several current officers indicated that they would be willing to serve another year. Members made suggestions for other positions. The President said a slate of officers would be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Iris will be going to the annual meeting in Melbourne, Fla. It was discussed that the \$200 usually allocated should be increased. The amount was not determined.

Iris announced that the annual Christmas party would be held at the Capitol Heights Baptist Church. Exact date to be announced later.

Refreshments were provided by Steve Easterling and Monica Hendricks.

The program was a video on gold panning.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh
Secretary

Upcoming Shows

Nov 25th – 27th, Mobile, AL – Mobile Rock & Gem Society. 10th Annual Rock & Gem Show, Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Zeigler & Cody, Mobile, AL. Hours: 25th, 2PM-9PM; 26th, 9AM-6PM; 27th, 10AM-5PM. **Admission:** \$3.00, Children under 12 free with Adult.

Dec 2rd – 4th, Montgomery, AL – Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society. 35th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Garrett Coliseum. Hours: 2nd, 9 am – 7 pm; 3rd, 10 am – 6 pm; 5th, 11 am – 5 pm. Contact: Jane Barkley, 334-277-2722. **FREE!**

Dec 9th – 11th, Norcross, GA – Georgia Mineral Society. 12th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. N. Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Ct. Hours: 9th & 10th, 10 am – 6 pm; 11th, 12 noon – 5 pm. **FREE!**

Dec 10th – 11th, Nashville, TN – Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. 25th Annual Earth Treasures Show. Creative Arts Bldg, Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Hours: 10th, 9 am – 6 pm; 11th, 10 am – 5 pm. **Admission:** \$3.00, Children under 12 free with Adult.



Club Officers

President:	James Easterling, 875-3089
1st V. President:	Open
2nd V. President:	David Sherrod, 285-5537
Secretary:	Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817
Treasurer:	Iris McGehee, 262-7275
Directors:	Minnie Jerido, 724-9125 Harold Glover, 285-3501



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.

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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