



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

October 2011
11-10



PROGRAM CORNER

When: October 13, 2011
Where: 1751 Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery, AL 36109
Time: 7:00 P M
What: Fossils of Central Alabama to include field trip collecting
Who: Thad Cheatham



REFRESHMENTS



Drinks: David Bohon

Snacks: ??

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
Nov	Stan Stevens	VACANT



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

2 Wilburn Sharp
3 Steven Easterling
6 Jasmine Edwards
7 Ardis Cecil

9 Mel Barkley
26 Alton Hall
28 Linda Boyd
31 Mike Berkman

Hello Everyone!

I hope this note finds all well and I am looking forward to our meeting on the 13th. If in the next few weeks I may seem preoccupied with other things please overlook it as I am, as some of you know, "on the down-hill side" only 5 weeks from retirement. I had no idea what all needed to be done to get ready for such a life change.

I would like to encourage everyone to be thinking about our up-coming show and signing up for next years' refreshment list. I sincerely thank each person who has so generously furnished refreshments and drinks at our meetings. At each meeting, I become more and more impressed with the open heartedness of our members and of the knowledge they are willing to share. It is an easy task to serve as the society's President with the support that you all give.

I will be taking several "short" trips this next spring to North Carolina and will let everyone know when I do in case you may want to meet up at the destination or if you may want to share a ride.

Hang in there and keep on digging!
Sincerely, Lynn Stauch, President



JET, also known as Black Amber, is typically made from a compact velvet lignite coal that was formed from tree fossils. The chemical composition is mainly carbon with touches of oxygen and hydrogen. It is used as a gemstone due to its ability to be well polished. Jet was worn by the people of the Victorian era as a gemstone of mourning due to the loss of Prince Albert. From that time on, Jet has been the primary gemstone for almost all mourning jewelry. Jet can be naturally found in England, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the U.S. (contributed by Mary Lou McHugh who stated: After I had identified jet beads for a lady who strings a lot of beads (not for sale), I told her it was made from coal and used as mourning jewelry a long time ago. I went on the internet and found this. I also found some someone had made "jet" from hardwood, sawdust, and blood. Glass is sometimes sold as "jet".)

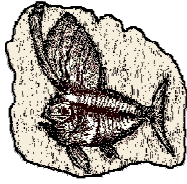


FIELD TRIPPIN' FROM JEFF EDWARDS

DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2011
TIME: 8:00 AM
LOCATION: CATOMA CREEK WATERFALL
COLLECTING: FOSSILS AND PETRIFIED SHARK TEETH
MEET: PARKING LOT AT KANGAROO GAS STATION ON CORNER OF SO BOULEVARD AND I-65.
TOOLS: WATER BOOTS, SMALL SIFTER, SMALL SHOVEL, SMALL BUCKET OR PLASTIC BAGS OR BACK PACK, SMALL BOTTLE FOR FINDS
BRING: DRINKS & SNACKS
NOTE: CARPOOLING ENCOURAGED PARKING LIMITED
** IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION AT MEETING



CATOMA CREEK WATERFALL BY THAD CHEATHAM



Fossil From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Fossils (from Latin *fossus*, literally "having been dug up") are the preserved remains or traces of animals (also known as **zoolites**), plants, and other organisms from the remote past. The totality of fossils, both discovered and undiscovered, and their placement in **fossiliferous** (fossil-containing) rock formations and sedimentary layers (strata) is known as the *fossil record*.

The study of fossils across geological time, how they were formed, and the evolutionary relationships between taxa (phylogeny) are some of the most important functions of the science of paleontology. Such a preserved specimen is called a "fossil" if it is older than some minimum age, most often the arbitrary date of 10,000 years ago. Hence, fossils range in age from the youngest at the start of the Holocene Epoch to the oldest from the Archaean Eon, up to 3.4 billion years old. The observations that certain fossils were associated with certain rock strata led early geologists to recognize a geological timescale in the 19th century. The development of radiometric dating techniques in the early 20th century allowed geologists to determine the numerical or "*absolute*" age of the various strata and thereby the included fossils.

Like extant organisms, fossils vary in size from microscopic, such as single bacterial cells only one micrometer in diameter, to gigantic, such as dinosaurs and trees many meters long and weighing many tons. A fossil normally preserves only a portion of the deceased organism, usually that portion that was partially mineralized during life, such as the bones and teeth of vertebrates, or the chitinous or calcareous exoskeletons of invertebrates. Preservation of soft tissues is rare in the fossil record. Fossils may also consist of the marks left behind by the organism while it was alive, such as the footprint or feces (coprolites) of a reptile. These types of fossil are called trace fossils (or *ichnofossils*), as opposed to *body fossils*. Finally, past life leaves some markers that cannot be seen but can be detected in the form of biochemical signals; these are known as *chemofossils* or biomarkers.

Ever since recorded history began, and probably before, people have noticed and gathered fossils, including pieces of rock and minerals that have replaced the remains of biologic organisms, or preserved their external form. Fossils themselves, and the totality of their occurrence within the sequence of Earth's rock strata, is referred to as the fossil record.

The fossil record was one of the early sources of data relevant to the study of evolution and continues to be relevant to the history of life on Earth. Paleontologists examine the fossil record in order to understand the process of evolution and the way particular species have evolved.

Various explanations have been put forth throughout history to explain what fossils are and how they came to be where they were found. Many of these explanations relied on folktales or mythologies. In China the fossil bones of ancient mammals including *Homo erectus* were often mistaken for "dragon bones" and used as medicine and aphrodisiacs. In the West the presence of fossilized sea creatures high up on mountainsides was seen as proof of the biblical deluge.

Due to the combined effect of taphonomic processes and simple mathematical chance, fossilization tends to favor organisms with hard body parts, those that were widespread, and those that existed for a long time before going extinct. On the other hand, it is very unusual to find fossils of small, soft bodied, geographically restricted and geologically ephemeral organisms, because of their relative rarity and low likelihood of preservation.

Larger specimens (macrofossils) are more often observed, dug up and displayed, although microscopic remains (microfossils) are actually far more common in the fossil record.

Some casual observers have been perplexed by the rarity of transitional species within the fossil record. The conventional explanation for this rarity was given by Darwin, who stated that "the extreme imperfection of the geological record," combined with the short duration and narrow geographical range of transitional species, made it unlikely that many such fossils would be found. Simply put, the conditions under which fossilization takes place are quite rare; and it is highly unlikely that any given organism will leave behind a fossil. Eldredge and Gould developed their theory of punctuated equilibrium in part to explain the pattern of stasis and sudden appearance in the fossil record. Furthermore, in the strictest sense, nearly all fossils are "transitional," due to the improbability that any given fossil represents the absolute termination of an evolutionary path.



NEW MEMBERS

HELEN AND CHARLES HOLSTON
TOMMY AND BONNIE SHANKS
TONYA, RICK, AND LYDIA WILLIAMS



Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes September 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Strauch. Visitors were welcomed. Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

The Treasurer's report was read by Iris McGehee. It was approved and filed with the secretary.

Iris McGehee reported on the Annual Southeast Federation Meeting, which she attended representing the President.

Refreshments were furnished by Debbie Herbert and Ardis Cecil.

Nominations for 2012 officers will be presented at the October meeting.

Family memberships were approved for the following:

Tonya Williams
Tommy Shanks
Helen Hyden Holston

Iris McGehee reported that the Kwanis Club has reached an agreement with the state to allow them to operate the Coliseum for one year only. This means our Gem Show will be held as planned.

After Bingo, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

Correction to my article on August meeting speaker Sonny Hall. He certainly does not take 5 years to create a difficult point; it should have been 5 hours. Sorry for the typo.



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Fakes, Forgeries and Misrepresentations

<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.html>



LONG TIME MEMBER JAMES MALLONEE SHARES HAPPY NEWS

Raymond and Jayme Mercer (formerly Jayme Mallonee - my oldest daughter) had a little girl, Morrigan Andrea Mercer, 25 September 7:21 AM, 6lbs 13oz, 18.5 inches. I've already got a little gold pan for my granddaughter - she's going to be a pebble pup.



Submitted by Ardis Cecil

Beryl found at High Mine, LaGrange, GA, 24 Sept 11. Digs about every 2 wks

REMINDERS>>>

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Bring cancelled stamps to monthly meetings.
- ✓ **NOTE: the shop will no longer be open on a regularly scheduled basis.** The shop will be opened only by appointment. Please email or call any of the following individuals at least one week ahead of time to set up a shop work date: Thad Cheatham, Jeff Edwards, Iris McGehee, or Harold Glover.



✓

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>

Al Mineral Locality Index

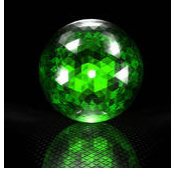
<http://www.mindat.org/rloc.php?loc=Alabama%2C+USA>

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





SE SHOWS

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

Oct 13-16—FRANKLIN, NC: Whistle Stop Mall Parking Lot, 1281 Georgia Rd. (Hwy. 441N); Thu. 9-6, Fri.9-6,Sat. 9-6,Sun.9-4; free admission;Mark or Patricia Smith, (706) 490-4550; segems@ymail.com

Oct 15-16—DAHLONEGA, GA: Historic Smith House on the Square, 84 S. Chestatee St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission: Tommy Folger, , (706) 973-0003; tfolger@windstream.net; www.dahlonega.org

Oct 15-16—SOUTH CHARLESTON, W VA: South Charleston Community Center, 601 Jefferson Rd.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children 12 and under free with parent; Kanawha Rock & Gem Club, (304) 657-7089; frankoz@juno.com

Oct 29-30—STUART, FLORIDA: Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy. (A1A); Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children under 12 free with adult, coupon on Web site; Norman Holbert, (772) 873-0787; normholbert@bellsouth.net; slrockandgem.org

Nov 5-6—MELBOURNE, FA: Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4; Dave Wayment, (772) 532-6432; cmgs.show@att.net

11-13—KINGSPORT, TN: Mystery of Natural History Museum, MNHM Bldg., 321 Broad St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children 3 and up \$1, under 3 free; Mary McNabb, (423) 765-9900; kptmuseumassn@usa.com

11-13—MORGANTON, NC: Morganton Parks & Recreation, Collett Street Recreation Center, 300 Collett St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$3, students \$2; Gary Leonhardt, (828) 439-1866; recreation@ci.morganton.nc.us

Franklin, TN - "Earth Treasures" Show: Ag Expo Park; December 10-11; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm; Adults \$4; 2-Day Faceters' Frolic, jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, collectibles, tools, equipment, silent auction, demonstrations, and door prizes. Over 30 dealers. www.MTGMS.org & www.FacetersFrolic.org.



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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