



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

September 2009
09-09



PROGRAM CORNER

When: September 10, 2009
Where: Muriel Crump Center, 1735 Highland Ave, Montgomery, AL
Time: 7:00 P M
What: Alabama Gold and Gold Harvesting Techniques
Who: David Sherrod



REFRESHMENTS

Drinks: Drucilla Hornsby

Snacks: Linda Lord

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

List for remainder of the year:

Oct Thad Cheatham

Nov Harold Glover

Jean McDonald

Chela & Cathy Kirkland



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

3 David Sherrod
10 Drucilla Hornsby

20 Harold Glover
23 Terry Toney



Wheel of Fortune: We need rock material suitable for the bags we are making up for the December show. Plans are to get 1000 ready long before December. Please bring items to the September meeting. (Suggestions: crystals, polished rocks, etc. - things that get children enthused about rock collecting.) This can be an excellent fund raiser for future club projects. Thanks. Frank



IT'S ALMOST FAIR TIME AGAIN by Iris McGehee

This year the Alabama National Fair will be held October 9-18. As in the past, the Club has been asked to have its members demonstrate their lapidary skills sometime during the week. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting in order for those interested to pick a time for demonstrating. If you have done this in the past, you know what fun it can be meeting people and showing what our Club is all about.

Also, if you would like to display what you have made, there is a "Gem & Minerals" category. Remember we purchased a "Best of Fair" plate to be awarded to a winner in that category. Let's have someone in our Club win it this year. There will be exhibitor's catalogs at the meeting which will give all the rules for entries. If you are interested, please pick up one.

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## FIELD TRIPPIN'

Jeff Edwards has another interesting adventure planned for field tripping members!

WHEN: September 19, 2009

WHAT: Panning for Gold (or dredging, etc)

TIME: 10:30 am - meet at the main building.

WHERE: Alabama Gold Camp, near Lineville

EQUIPMENT: Gold pan, extractor, 5 gallon bucket, shovel. If you don't have a gold pan, they sell a variety of equipment there. Be prepared to get wet. Bring snacks and drinks. There will be someone there to instruct you if you have never panned before.



FEES: \$5 for 12 yrs and over; 11 & under free

If you bring your own dredging equipment, there is a \$15 charge for a 2" dredge; \$20 for a 4" dredge. You can rent a highbanker @ \$30 for 4 hrs; a dredge @ \$50 for 4 hrs.

WEBSITE: <http://www.alabamagoldcamp.com/>

DIRECTIONS: From Montgomery, take US 231 n to Wetumpka.

Turn right onto AL 9 to Lineville.

Approximate travel time 1 hr 51 minutes / 87 miles.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: Do not use mapquest directions after getting to Lineville - instead use the following directions specifically given by Gold Camp.

- *Once in Lineville on AL 9, leave town on Blakes Ferry Rd. It is across at an angle from the Dollar General on AL 9. Gail's Flower Shop will be on the right as you leave town on Blakes Ferry Rd. Go approximately 8 miles on Blakes Ferry Rd. until you reach a 4-way stop. Take a right; go approximately 2 miles until you cross a long bridge. Take an immediate left at the bottom of the hill. The camp will be one mile on the right.*



## **CHRISTMAS PARTY** by Iris McGehee

The Club's Christmas party will be on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at Capitol Heights United Methodist Church. This is the week after our show; so mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More details will follow at a later date.

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## **THE WOW FACTOR**

At the August 13th meeting, Carl Davis of Davis Fine Jewelry dazzled us with a wide variety of information about current stone setting equipment and adaptability in the jewelry business. He began his presentation by relating his training experience at Homer Holland's school in Selma where students were asked to bring any tools they already used. The tools he had been using on his own included a torch and a ball peen hammer. Seems the instructor was amazed and required a demonstration using the torch and Mr. Davis obliged. That was when he entered the business on a professional level. After 40 years in the jewelry field, he continues to learn and keep up with changes in the industry. He says that he will attempt to repair a variety of jewelry, but needs to be given time to meet the challenge if it is a difficult item.

Today's technology has really changed. Design is done on computers with cad cam programs and laser machines automate the production of the pieces. No longer do we have a master craftsman doing it by hand. He can build a piece of jewelry to fit around a stone. On the computer, you have the option of making mistakes and correcting them harmlessly. He can even put pictures on stone with a laser!

Other facts mentioned in Mr. Davis' talk:  
Silver requires more specialized attention than gold. If you have skin oil on silver, it keeps it from heating properly.  
Use muriatic acid to clean gem stones and silver.

Or you can use cyanide pellets to clean silver - it's more dangerous to clean. He can take gold as thin as an eyelash and put it back together. Platinum and white gold require more heat to shape; if you are using something like opal, you can damage the stone with extreme heat. Argon gas is used to weld aluminum, becomes surgically clean, eliminates dust, and makes it easier to do. They can repair metal eyeglass frames. There is no such thing as white gold - you reduce the intensity by adding other metals (nickel, zinc, designer metals). All white gold has a rhodium coating when manufactured and rhodium wears off. Davis Fine Jewelry even sponsors an apprenticeship program for 15-18 year olds to acquire the skills to become a master jeweler.

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**REMEMBER to bring recent acquisitions to the monthly meeting so other members can experience a variety of different materials.**

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### **SHOP REMINDER**

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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### **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.

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### **REALLY BIG TOOTH**

Jeff Edwards brought a very large shark tooth to the August meeting that he dug out at Point A Dam field trip in July.





## **Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Minutes August 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Iris McGehee, who presided in the absence of the president.

Mr. Carl Davis, Owner of Davis Fine Jewelry, program speaker, gave his history from his boyhood in Chicago to his location in Montgomery. He explained properties of jewelry metals and a few facts that were perhaps new to some of us. A question and answer period followed.

Refreshments were furnished by John and Sandra Namias.

Minutes were approved as published in the Golden Nugget.

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

The workshop will be open by request and the rule still applies that there must be at least two in the shop.

We were reminded that donations for the Wheel of Fortune are being accepted. It was suggested that they may be brought to the next meeting.

Iris remarked that it was time for a Nominating Committee. Jeff Edwards offered to continue as Field Trip Chairman.

Sonny Hall is at home recovering from an automobile accident. A call or a visit would be appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lou McHugh, Secretary

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### **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.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://www.treasureplaces.com/index.php/Main_Page)



## SE SHOWS

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

\*Sept 11-13--MARIETTA (ATLANTA), GEORGIA: Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.; Fri. 1-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Frank Cox Productions, 755 S. Palm Ave. #203, Sarasota, FL 34236, (941) 954-0202; [frankcox@comcast.net](mailto:frankcox@comcast.net); [www.frankcoxproductions.com](http://www.frankcoxproductions.com)

\*Sept 11-13--WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA: Coliseum Annex Bldg., Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate #9 from 27th St.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5; W. A. Marion, 1163 Bear Creek Church Rd., Mocksville, NC 27028; [MarionA1@yadtel.net](mailto:MarionA1@yadtel.net)

\*Sept 18-20--JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA: Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd.; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; rock, gem and mineral displays; contact Tom Frame, 3133 Chapelwood Ln., Jacksonville, FL 32216, (904) 400-3818; [jgms\\_show@hotmail.com](mailto:jgms_show@hotmail.com); [www.jaxgemandmineral.org](http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org)

\*Oct 2-4--SARASOTA, FLORIDA: 801 N. Tamiami Tr. (Hwy. 41); Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4 (3 days), under 16 free; Frank Cox Productions, 755 S. Palm Ave. #203, Sarasota, FL 34236, (941) 954-0202; [frankcox@comcast.net](mailto:frankcox@comcast.net); [www.frankcoxproductions.com](http://www.frankcoxproductions.com)

\*Oct 9-11--FORT MYERS, FLORIDA: Show; Frank Cox Productions; Harborside Convention Center, 1375 Monroe St. (downtown); Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; contact Frank Cox Productions, 755 S. Palm Ave., #203, Sarasota, FL 34236, (941) 954-0202; [frankcox@comcast.net](mailto:frankcox@comcast.net); [www.frankcoxproductions.com](http://www.frankcoxproductions.com)

\*Oct 10-11--ORLANDO, FLORIDA: Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children \$1; Valerie First, 223 Ringwood Dr., Winter Springs, FL 32708, (407) 699-9274; [vjfirst@aol.com](mailto:vjfirst@aol.com); [Floridafossilhunters.com](http://Floridafossilhunters.com)

\*Oct 16-18--KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE: Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4 (weekend pass \$7), children under 12 free; Sat.; Jim McCutcheon, 1519 W. Woodshire Dr., Knoxville, TN 37922, (865) 966-5468; [jdmccut@tds.net](mailto:jdmccut@tds.net)

\*Oct 16-18--TAYLORSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA: Taylorsville Lions Club Fairgrounds; 170 Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 12-5; free admission; Tom Winslow, 2843 Devonshire Rd., Newton, NC 28658-9799; (828) 302-1714; [TomWinslow@Charter.net](mailto:TomWinslow@Charter.net)



## Southeast Federation Field Trips

>October 10 - Nantahala Talc and Limestone Quarry, Hewitt, North Carolina, 9 - 5B  
Banded pink, gray and yellow marble, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, travertine and talc.  
Hard hats and safety glasses required.

Mike Streater: mcstreater@charter.net (828)667-8290

>October 17-18, Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky - Lower Kentucky River Falls of  
the Ohio State Park - Ordovician rocks and fossils - Charles Oldham, KYANA Field  
Trip Chairman.

[502] 241-8755 catsmeowstudio1@yahoo.com

> October 2, 3, 4 8-6 - Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 business or 706.359.2381 home

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## Club Officers for 2009

|                                  |              |          |                               |                 |          |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| President:                       | Frank Rowell | 277-7023 | 1 <sup>st</sup> V P/Programs: | Thad Cheatham   | 462-3254 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.

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## 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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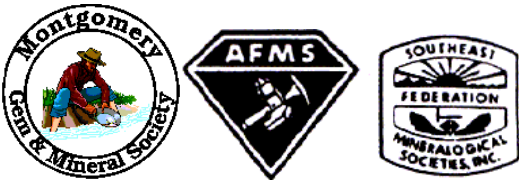
Meetings of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mureal Crump Adult Center, 1735 Highland Avenue, Montgomery, AL. The annual gem show replaces the December meeting. Anyone interested in gems and minerals is invited to attend. Field 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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Linda R. Griebel, Editor  
thegoldennugget@hotmail.com



**The Golden Nugget**  
**P. O. Box 801**  
**Wetumpka, AL 36092-0801**