

Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

Atlanta, Georgia

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December 2005

President's Message



When you look back at the first time that you attended a meeting of the Georgia Mineral Society, how were you received? I hope that people came up to welcome you.

It can be very awkward to enter a room full of strangers. You don't know anyone. You don't know the procedures of the meeting. You are not fully sure about what is being discussed during the business meeting.

I had a very warm reception. I knew that I was part of an organization in which I could grow. I hoped to become an active member. During the next couple of months, I made many friends. Within six months, I was Field Trip Chair. When I look at our committees and Executive Board, I see several names of people who were fairly new to our group when they were asked to take a position.

It is not the place for a visitor or new member to have to try and get people to talk to them. It is our place to go to them. When you see someone new, please go up and welcome them. Without new people GMS would die in a few years. We need new blood, new workers and new ideas. That person who might have left feeling unwelcome may have been someone who could have taught you how to cab or make a piece of jewelry. They may have been someone who would lead you on a fantastic field trip. They may have been someone who would have made a great President. Or, they may have been someone who just loved minerals or fossils and wanted to be with those who shared the same interest. They may have been someone who would have become your friend.

It doesn't take much effort to say hello and welcome someone new. It is just common courtesy.

On another note, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. No matter which one you celebrate, it is a time of warmth and family. I wish you each the best and hope that 2006 will be a very special year for everyone.

**Thank you,
Kim Cochran,
President**

Holiday Party

7:30 PM Monday, December 5, 2005

**Chamblee Library
4114 Clairmont Road
770.936.1380**

Come join us for our annual Holiday party: good food, presents, and lots of good rockhound friends. GMS will provide ham and turkey, drinks and paper goods. You bring finger-foods as covered dish, snacks, or dessert, enough for yourself and family plus another family. Presents will be swapped after the meal and a SHORT Show/Business meeting. If you would like a present, then please bring a rock or lapidary related present that costs \$10 or less to swap. If you know someone who hasn't come to a meeting in a while, invite them to join us for party time with good friends.

**Bill Waggener,
Special Events**



The tables are loaded at the Holiday Party in 2004.
(Photo courtesy of Joan White)



The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.
 A Non-Profit Educational Organization
 Seventy Years of Tradition
 Objective and Purpose
 To Educate the Youth of the State
 and the Members of this Society
 In the Field of Earth Science



AFMS Education - All American Club 2003

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Committee Chairs

Adopt-A-Highway		
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Curator/Gem Box	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Facilities	Open to Volunteers	
Historian	Roxanne Lopez	770.436.0387
Hospitality	Margaret Ronan	404.636.0720
Librarian	Julian C. Gray	770.888.9331
Parliamentarian	Joan White	770.478.5734
Refreshments	Kim Prakash & Nancy Marden	770.879.0476 770.447.8542
Special Events	Bill Waggener	770.478.5734
Sunshine	Barbara Libby	770.978.2117
Tips & Trips Labels	Joan White	770.478.5734
SFMS Rep.	Frank Decaminada	770.992.8309

The article submittal due date for the January 2006 newsletter is December 10, 2005.

GENERAL MEETINGS
 General meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. In the event that the first Monday is a holiday and/or the facilities are not available, the meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month. General meetings are currently held at the Chamblee Branch of the DeKalb County Library System. Any deviations from the above schedule will be announced in Tips and Trips.

The Georgia Mineral Society on the Internet:
<http://www.gaminerol.org>
 E-mail Early Notification Program: A field trip and club news update service. To join, members are requested to send in their current e-mail address to:
gms@gaminerol.org.

December Show Committee Chairs

Show Chair	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Dealer Chair	Anita Westlake	404.761.7849
Exhibits	Jay Gorday	770.986.0822
Demonstrations	Margaret Ronan	404.636.0720
Hospitality	Nancy Marden	770.447.8542
Treasurer	Teresa Curl	770.751.7313
Advertising	Perry & Teresa Curl	706.764.2291
Dealer Dinner	Joan White	770.478.5734
Database	Joan White	770.478.5734
Auction	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Set Up/Take Down	Open to Volunteers	

Looking Ahead

December Events

Holiday Party - Monday, December 5, 2005
GMS Gem & Mineral show – 9th, 10th, 11th



January 9, 2006. General Meeting at the Chamblee Library. Speaker: Dr. Tim Chowns – His recent research on Geodes & Agates.

February 6, 2006. General Meeting at the Chamblee Library. Speaker: To be announced

Dylan Porter, VP/Programs



What an honor it was to be named "Member of the Year" at the GMS awards banquet. The plaque is beautiful and I really appreciate the donation sent in my honor to the Mayo Educational Foundation. Thank you Joan White, awards chairman, and

GMS members who contributed to the SFMS annual meeting and especially to all of the 46 GMS members who attended the banquet.

Sincerely, Jeanette Banks

November 6, 2005

GMS Executive Board Meeting Mini Minutes

Board Members Present: Kim Cochran, Lizabeth McClain, Dylan Porter, Mary Porter, Jay Gorday, Martha Brown, Joan White, Bill Waggener. **Teresa Curl and Frank Decaminada** were available by phone. **Others present:** John Trimble.

President Kim Cochran called the meeting, held at his residence, to order at 2:04 PM. A quorum of board members was present.

Minutes from the August meeting were read and accepted. Reports given included the progress of the December and May shows, new chairpersons for Sunshine and Fossil Section, the holiday party in December, and future program speakers. Job descriptions were provided for board members present. Topics of discussion included possibly dropping to one show per year, and the improvement hospitality to visitors and new members. Committees were appointed for bylaw changes and finding a "home". The date will be set for a meeting in January at a later date. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.



Respectfully submitted, Mary Porter, Secretary

A Trip To FT. Drum

On November 12-13, 2005, SFMS hosted a field trip to Ft. Drum in Florida. About 100 people, including a lot of first-timers, traveled down to South Florida with visions of amber-colored crystals dancing in their heads. The weather was perfect, and everyone left happy with lots of good-quality material in their buckets. Eddie Rucks was an excellent host, as usual. Everyone should go to Ft. Drum when the opportunity is offered. It's a great trip.

Mickey McClain Member, GMS



Jay Gorday, GMS member, in the pit at Ruck's. (Photo courtesy of Mickey McClain)

SFMS Workshops - 2006

Please visit the following website to locate the November issue of the Lodestar for a full supplement on the 2006 SFMS workshop information. If you have never attended a workshop, plan to do so next year.

Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

Joan White, Editor

Announcement

At the SFMS Annual Meeting, held in Melbourne, Florida, November 11th, Joan White, GMS member, was elected to the position of Membership Secretary for the federation. Bill Waggener was elected President of the Mayo Educational Foundation. Jeannette Banks remains a director of the Mayo Educational Foundation. Carolyn Daniels is the Editor of the SFMS publication the Lodestar. Anita Westlake is the Georgia State Director to the SFMS. Other members holding positions include Jim Flora as webmaster and DMC Chair and Frank Decaminada is Chair of the Ways and Means committee.

Bill Waggener, GMS Trustee to 2007

December 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

**November 7, 2005
GMS General Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Kim Cochran at the Chamblee Library. Approximately 38 members were present. There were no known visitors or new members present.

SPEAKER (7:36)

After providing a short bio, Dylan Porter introduced Hal Povenmire, author of the book Fireballs, Meteors and Meteorites, as the speaker of the evening. Mr. Povenmire gave an extensive lecture regarding his 35 years of research on Georgia tektites, or Georgiaites. In his quest of proving the theory that tektites originate from lunar volcanoes, Mr. Povenmire has accumulated 2,000 specimens found within 19 counties of Georgia that covers 7,800 square miles. Upon closing, Mr. Povenmire offered to lead a field trip in search of Georgiaites for interested members. Dylan presented Mr. Povenmire with a specimen of barite from Cartersville, and a book on meteorites (provided by Anita Westlake), as a gesture of appreciation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (9:00)

Mary Porter - Secretary – minutes from October meeting available, Sue Gorday motioned to dispense with reading of minutes. The motion was seconded by Doug Daniels and was passed.

Lizabeth McClain – VP Membership – she and Joan will be putting together a packet for new members, and announced that she brought stickers with her if anyone needs any.

Dylan Porter – VP Programs – December 5th - holiday party. January 9th - Dr. Tim Chowns will be speaking about geodes and agates. February's meeting will be on the 6th.

Teresa Curl – Treasurer – not present, no report available.

Joan White – Tips & Trips – asked to please submit articles before Sunday, November 13. December will be Joan's last newsletter, Carolyn Daniels will resume as editor.

Kim Cochran – Field Trips – DMC trip details are in T&T.

Martha Brown – Fossil Section – Martha was elected chairperson at last meeting. Next meeting held at Martha's on December 13th, the topic will be fossilized teeth and the direction of the section.

Julian Gray – Mineral Section – next meeting will be combined with Micromount section on November 15th at Martha

Brown's discussing feldspars.

Library – has not been moved yet, will be scheduling a date to do so.

Weinman Museum – open house on December 3rd will include new exhibits and a gift shop sale. Hosting Friends of Mineralogy annual synopsis this weekend (Nov 11-12). The topic is pegmatites.

Dave Babulski – Micromount Section – not present. Kim - November meeting to be held with mineral section.

Kim Cochran – Gem Section – next meeting November 28th at Gracia Evan's going over GIA lessons. Please RSVP.

Gem Box – described the three parts (loose stones, jewelry, specimens), and explained that they can not be brought to the general meetings since the library does not allow sales.

December Show – sign up sheets for dealer dinner,

hospitality, and demos are available, and help is needed with set up/take down. If attending the show, please act as extra security while there. **Anita** – 43 dealers are signed up for the show.

Anita Westlake – Education Chair – will be taking November and December off to focus on the show; needs help with coordinating speakers with requests.

Roxanne Lopez – Junior Section – not present. Kim - there may be a volunteer available to help while Roxanne is teaching in China.

Bill Waggener – Special Events – holiday party here on December 5th, GMS will provide meat, drinks and paper products. Members are asked to bring a side dish, preferably finger food, and a rock related gift for \$10 or less if they want to participate in the exchange. After eating and exchanging gifts a short business meeting will be held.

Frank Decaminada – SFMS – annual meeting in Melbourne, FL this weekend, in conjunction with the Canaveral Gem & Mineral show, and a field trip to Ft. Drum. Friday PM – Mayo Foundation meeting, Saturday AM – SFMS meeting.

Rob Peard – Adopt a Highway – not present. Kim - announced Rob's resignation due to health reasons, and is looking for a volunteer to take over.

Nancy Marden – Refreshments – provided by Lizabeth and Mickey McClain. Has sign up sheet for next year.

Kim Cochran – President - Executive Board Meeting – held yesterday (Nov. 6); discussed having only 1 show per year, formed a new building committee, talked about how to make visitors and new members feel more welcome. Stressed that board meetings are open to all members, please attend if you like.

October Banquet – one award was left out; presented Patricia Joan White with a Special Recognition award.

Paint Day/Auction – held October 30th; shed 1 is good, 3 is ok. Shed 2 just soaked up the stain and there will be another day planned in the spring. The auction brought in \$565 with 100 lots. Three kids from the neighborhood helped out and were given credit of \$10 each to use in the auction.

Show fliers – are available to take with you, as well as bulletins from other clubs. Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society is having their show November 18 – 20 at the Cobb County Civic Center.

OLD BUSINESS

Frank Decaminada – Julian C. Gray's picture appeared in Rocks and Minerals magazine announcing his position of Curator at the Weinman Museum.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Camp – made a vague announcement referencing an event that occurred one year ago. He requested that board members, and anyone else interested, please see him after the meeting, stating that an answer is needed within 2 weeks.

DOOR PRIZES (9:20) – Margaret Ronan – Marcella Wood, George Prince, Jay Gorday, and Dylan Porter were recognized for donations; door prize numbers were called.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 9:28PM. It was seconded, and approved.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Porter,
Secretary*



**Jose Santamaria, Executive Director
Weinman Mineral Museum**

I sometimes forget to look beyond my cluttered desk to marvel at the wonderful things we do here at the Weinman Mineral Museum. For example, during our recent mineral symposium, we hosted some of the top mineralogists in the southeast, including Dr. Michael Wise from the Smithsonian. During the same week, we taught hundreds of school children the basics of rocks. The week before that, paleontologist George Phillips lectured to a full house on shark teeth. As I write this, we are planning our upcoming open house, the next exhibit, and even the future of our institution. You've got to love rocks to love this stuff!

When Joan asked me to contribute a piece to this, her last newsletter, she touched a spot in my heart. Having previously edited Tips and Trips, I know how gratifying it is to have members contribute. She also made me think of the circuitous route I took to get to where I am today. Every day I feel blessed and privileged to lead the Weinman, the best mineral museum in the state and I think one of the finest in the southeast.

Some years ago, my parents gave me a photo of me, a three year old in Cuba with a box of rocks I "collected". I may possibly have been drawn to rocks and minerals at that early age, but honestly, I was probably just picking up stuff. The real spark happened when I was ten years old in an Atlanta elementary school where I got introduced to rocks. Soon I was identifying mica schist from the playground, and tourmaline I collected when my parents took the family to Stone Mountain. And yes, I also collected "lava" (slag) and "meteorites" (magnetite)—I still have one of my "meteorites" in my collection to keep me humble.

My interest waned during my teenage years but never left. I resumed studying and collecting minerals and fossils during and after college, and, like many hard-headed collectors, tried to reinvent the wheel numerous times by studying topo maps, researching Geologic Survey literature, etc. trying to find sites.

Then, I joined GMS.

I can't say enough about the impact this mineral club had on me. Yes, it gave me the opportunity to show off how much I knew, but mostly I listened and learned. The society provided an environment that allowed me to focus my interests, participate in field trips and attend excellent programs. My wife Maia and I became involved at various levels and enjoyed every minute of it. Eventually, I began to share my knowledge, first to school kids and club members, then, to a wider audience. One thing led to another, then led me to this rock museum.

We all share an interest in the earth sciences, either for our own personal enrichment or to educate others. Hopefully, both. If you want to grow in this fascinating field, I sincerely recommend become involved with your mineral society. Listen, learn, and most importantly, share your knowledge. You will never know where that will take you.

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE SHOWTIME

**By Elizabeth McClain,
with apologies to Clement C. Moore and/or Major Henry
Livingston, Jr.**

**'Twas the night before showtime and all through the
hall**

**Not a creature was stirring, no one large or small.
The tables were loaded, displays were all filled.
The dinner was eaten; not one crumb was spilled.**

**The dealers had labored for hours it seems
And now were all sleeping, large sales in their dreams.
And Kim as the show chair had done all he could
To make things run smoothly; his team is quite good!**

**Then out of the darkness rang forth a loud noise.
What could it all be, just some rowdy young boys?
The doors flew wide open, a figure appeared,
Reflecting the light from the jewels in his beard.**



**His coat was encrusted with diamonds and pearls.
His cap bore a gem tree that covered his curls.
A bag for collecting he wore at his side
Filled with treasures so fine not a one would you hide.**

**He strode through the tables and saw the array.
"I'll leave some small gifts; that will just make their
day."**

**+He flung out his arms to the left and the right
And light flashed on treasures that burst into sight.**

**"Now barite! Now pyrite! Now calcite and beryl!
On, gypsum! On, fluorite! On, opal and schor!
Into the display case as fast as you're able,
And for all the dealers, now cover the table."**

**He left many prizes for giving away,
A display for Anita to carry the day.
Malachite, trilobites, petrified wood,
To collectors of rocks they always look good.**

**He left as he entered, moving out quick
In a way reminiscent of Jolly St. Nick.
As he sprang out the doors he was heard to exclaim,
"Hope your show's the best ever, deserving of fame!"**

**“Science Night” at Peachtree Elementary
Isn’t Fright Night
By Anita D. Westlake**

Every October, while most kids are gearing up for Trick or Treating, the kids at Peachtree Elementary are all wound up for “Science Night”. It’s a real treat when parents and kids come together to learn and experience science in a non-intimidating, fun way.

The school has been putting this event together for many years, and it just gets bigger and better each time. With presentations ranging from “BUGS in Your Backyard” to “Weather” to “Rocks and Minerals” one is sure to find something of interest. Twenty “tickets” are allotted to each class, and the parents and students pick which ones they want to attend throughout the evening, all free of course.

The Georgia Mineral Society was well represented that night: Carolyn and Doug Daniels gave two talks on “Fossils” and I presented two back-to-back sessions on “Rocks and Minerals”.

I was told that my classes would be comprised of kids from kindergarten to 3rd grade. Now how was I going to make the talk interesting to the little ones without “dumbing it down” too much for the older kids? Really, the best I could hope for was to keep the big kids interested and the little kids quiet.

As it turned out, my pre-presentation palpitations were completely unwarranted. The kids were amazingly quiet and respectful. I even had one little girl look at the specimens I had laid out on the table with such awe and glee, she immediately reached out to touch one. What she did next was the amazing part: she asked me if she could touch the rock before she actually did so. Such self-correcting behavior in one so young was a joy to see. I know adults who won’t even ask permission first! What could I tell her except “Sure, go ahead?” (One word of caution here: never bring your best specimens to these events: you’re just asking for heartbreak as well as rock break.)

Though I came prepared with colorful posters, charts and notes, I didn’t use them. The rocks spoke for themselves and held the attention of the group better than I could.

I began by introducing myself (which took all of 5 seconds) but I could see the light starting to go out in the kids eyes. They were probably thinking “Here comes another boring talk by another boring adult.” But I quickly dispensed with the formalities and got down to rocks. I said “I’m going to tell you about some of my favorite rocks and why I think they’re so special.” Then I just dove in with both feet, and didn’t come up for air for 20 minutes. The bell sounded for the next class and they were all still gathered around my table asking the most delightful and intelligent questions.

I told them about the first rock I ever found (which I collected some 40 years ago, and had with me that night.) I said “It’s not that pretty on the outside, but what it

represents is something quite beautiful indeed: a life-long love of rocks which started from this one right here in my hand.” I talked about the state mineral of Georgia: Staurolite and the state rocks: Marble and Granite. I showed them an unopened geode that rattled and asked them to tell me what they thought might be on the inside making all that noise. Whenever possible, I asked them questions, rather than just “giving away” the information.

I’ve found one way to present material is similar to what writers use: tell them you’re going to tell them something, then tell them. Then tell them you’ve told them. This just reinforces the concepts without pounding it into their still-forming skulls. And it brings the material full circle: “Tonight I’m going to tell you about my favorite rocks.” Then, “This is one of my favorite rocks because it rattles.” Then, “I have shown you some of my favorite rocks from my own collection. Maybe you’d like to start your own collection.”

Once you get started talking about a subject that truly interests you, you don’t have to worry about what you’ll say next. It just comes naturally like water flowing over a stone.

This year, as in years past, Peachtree Elementary “treated” the speakers to gift certificates from Barnes and Noble. The only “trick” was trying to figure out how to spend it!

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The Rock Man of Ball Ground is Gone

Oscar Robertson, the Rock Man of Ball Ground, Georgia, died on October 28, 2005. Many of the GMS members were very familiar with Oscar. The GMS Adopt-a-Highway mile is the stretch of highway leading into Ball Ground.

I am one of the ones fortunate to have met him. He was a most unusual individual. After my first Adopt-a-Highway clean-up, Bill drove us into Ball Ground so I could see the town. Oscar was sitting in his red pickup in front of one of the buildings. Of course, all the shops were closed which made no sense to me as it was a beautiful fall Saturday in North Georgia. Bill explained the way business was conducted with Oscar. You may get lucky and have the opportunity to make a purchase. Most people didn’t.

We parked and walked along the storefronts ogling the contents. I was amazed. Oscar came out of his truck and approached us - me, actually. He asked if I were interested in making a purchase. I told him that I was interested in buying a tourmaline specimen. He let me into the showroom with him and allowed me to follow him to the area with the tourmaline. He offered a basket of material. He said it was “fire” (pronounced FAR by Mr. Robertson) tourmaline. I don’t remember the source he gave for the piece, but it wasn’t quite believable. I was just happy to have the chance to purchase something from him. Regrettably, no one will have that opportunity again.

Joan White, Editor