

Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

Atlanta, Georgia

Volume XXXIV/Two

February 2005

President's Message



Why teach earth science to kids? It's not that important, right? It's just rocks and dirt and stuff like that.... Well, as we all saw on December 26, Mother Earth can be VERY devastating, this time with the force of water. And to think that the tsunamis hit places that were sunny and bright, lovely vacation spots. Could there have been warnings? Maybe, but not in time, it seems. We've all heard stories about "tidal waves", and I'm sure we all had our ideas about what one looked and acted like. However, on that fateful day, we received many images and videos of what such a wave looks like, how it acts, and what it does. This was quite sobering.

And what does this have to do with us? Well, it's one of the topics our own Anita Westlake covers in her talks about geohazards (or, I bet it's a topic in that talk now!). It's hardly covered in earth science courses. And speaking of earth science courses.....

I've received several e-mails from individuals and groups in the past month or so regarding the teaching of earth sciences (I have an article further in this bulletin). They deal with teaching high school-aged kids. Why is this important? Because Georgia has decided to put the teaching of earth science at the sixth grade, implying it is not important. In high school, you can take chemistry, biology, and physics; all three are entwined in the earth sciences. The development of mineral resources is based on the earth sciences. The effects of pollution, and the means of cleaning up that pollution, are deeply connected with the earth sciences. On a more positive note, you may have followed the wanderings of the Mars rovers. Those showed us up close some of the geology of another planet for the first time (not just snapshots of one spot). And, just today (January 14), the Huygens probe landed on Titan, a moon of Saturn, the first probe to accomplish such a feat. And it's main purpose? Comes back to "earth" sciences –

we might learn more about our own backyard by investigating those backyards.

Is this a circuitous diatribe? Yes. But, we, as hobbyists, are interested in some aspect of the earth sciences. We can present our interests to the general public, and maybe even get them interested. That can help sway legislation regarding the teaching of earth science. We have many obstacles to overcome, but it can be done when the populace is behind the change. And we can influence that change.

*Doug Daniels,
President*

February General Meeting

7:30 pm, Monday, February 7, 2005
Chamblee Library
4114 Clairmont Road
770-936-1380

Fossils and Fossil Formations of the Southeast Dr. Pamela Gore

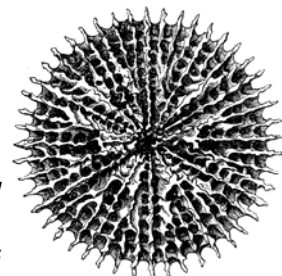
This month's speaker will be Dr. Pamela Gore, a geology professor at GA Perimeter College. She will be speaking on fossils and fossil formations of the Southeast. This is probably a much larger topic than the time we have, but she promised she'd keep it under an hour or two. Just kidding!

Show & Tell: Dr. Gore will try to bring some specimens, but I would really like to see what specimens my fellow GMS members have found in the Southeast. So bring your favorite find or two and show us what can be found!!

Future Meeting Dates – Mark your calendar

March Meeting – 3/7/05 at the Chamblee Library at 7:30 pm

We hope to see you there!
**Dylan Porter,
VP/Programs**





The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.
A Non-Profit Educational Organization

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

President

Douglas P. Daniels
 3660 Prince Way
 Tucker, GA 30284
 770.723.1359

president@gamineral.org

Treasurer

Teresa Curl
 P.O. Box 615
 Rock Spring, GA 30739-9998
 706.764.2291

treasurer@gamineral.org

Junior Section Chair

Roxanne Lopez
 1711 Donna Lynn Drive
 Smyrna, GA 30080
 770.436.0387

juniors@gamineral.org

Trustee to 2006

Frank Decaminada
 795 Nile Drive
 Alpharetta, GA 30022
 770.992.8039

trustee2006@gamineral.org

May Show Chair

Jay Gorday
 1690 Granger Court
 Chamblee, GA 30341
 770.986.0822

mayshow@gamineral.org

Executive VP/Membership

Lizabeth McClain
 378 5th Street, Apt. 3
 Atlanta, GA 30308
 404.872.6310

membership@gamineral.org

Gem Section Chair

Kim Cochran
 2695 Van Court
 Snellville, GA 30278
 770.979.8331

Micromount Section Chair

Dave Babulski
 2677 Colony Circle
 Snellville, GA 30078
 678.580.2475

micromount@gamineral.org

Trustee to 2007

Bill Waggener
 9146 Sunset Drive
 Jonesboro, GA 30238
 770.478.5734

trustee2007@gamineral.org

December Show Chair

Kim Cochran
 2695 Van Court
 Snellville, GA 30278
 770.979.8331

Vice President/Programs

Dylan Porter
 196 High Creek Drive
 Roswell, GA
 770.998.1018

programs@gamineral.org

Mineral Section Chair

Julian C. Gray
 524 Robin Lane
 Marietta, GA 30067
 770.973.3632

minerals@gamineral.org

Immediate Past President

Joan White
 9146 Sunset Drive
 Jonesboro, GA 30238
 770.478.5734

pastpresident@gamineral.org

Tips & Trips Editor

Patricia Joan White
 9146 Sunset Drive
 Jonesboro, GA 30238-4520
 770.478.5734

newsletter@gamineral.org

Webmaster

Jim Flora
 P.O. Box 605
 Hiwassee, GA 30546
 706.896.8040

webmaster@gamineral.org

Secretary

Mary Porter
 196 High Creek Drive
 Roswell, GA
 770.998.1018

secretary@gamineral.org

Fossil Section Chair

Harry Yingst
 3412 Greenfield Drive
 Marietta, GA 30068
 770.565.1630

fossils@gamineral.org

Trustee to 2005

Olin Banks
 119 Eddie Lane
 Mableton, GA 30126
 77.948.4444

trustee2005@gamineral.org

Field Trip Chair

George Libby
 1730 Rhett Butler Drive
 Lilburn, GA 30047
 770.978.2117

fieldtrips@gamineral.org

Education Chair

Anita Westlake
 1253 Spencer Drive
 East Point, GA 30344
 404.761.7849

education@gamineral.org

Committee Chairs

Adopt-A-Highway	Robert Peard	770.936.0180
Assets/Equipment	Open to Volunteers	
Awards	Joan White	77.478.5734
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	Dick Anderson	770.682.9718
Parliamentarian	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Refreshments	Kim Prakash & Nancy Marden	770.879.0476 770.447.8542
Special Events	Bill Waggener	770.478.5734
Sunshine	Joan White Temporary	770.478.5734
Tips & Trips Labels	Joan White	770.478.5734
SFMS Rep.	Frank Decaminada	770.992.8309

The article submittal due date for the March 2005 newsletter is February 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.gamineral.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 e-mail address: gms@gamineral.org.

May Show Committee Chairs

Show Chair	Jay Gorday	770.986.0822
Dealer Chair	Martha Brown	770.448.0876
Exhibits	Jim Flora	706.896.8040
Demonstrations	Anita Westlake	404.761.7849
Hospitality	Anita Westlake	404.761.7849
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
Grab Bags	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Auction	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Set Up/Take Down	Open to Volunteers	

**January 2005 General Meeting
Mini-Minutes**

The January 2005 General Meeting of the Georgia Mineral Society was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Doug Daniels at the Chamblee Library. Approximately 37 people were present, including three visitors.

Dylan Porter introduced the speaker of the evening, GMS's Micromount Section Chair, Dave Babulski, who gave a Power Point presentation about creating mineral art from Micromount specimens. Executive Board members and Committee Chairs gave short reports.

Door prizes were awarded at 8:48 PM and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Porter, Secretary*



Dave Babulski entertains the crowd with his humor and unique perspective. (photograph by Joan White).

**January 2005 Executive Board Meeting
Mini-Minutes**

An executive board meeting was held at the Gorday residence on January 22, 2005. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. by President Doug Daniels. There were eleven board members present. Mini grant applications were presented and voted on for approval. Committee reports were given and a letter from Keith Adams' son was read. Discussions included the May show, the December show and SFMS meeting and banquet financials. An update on the laptop purchase was given. Also discussed was the relocation of the GMS library, and our presence at the GSTA convention. A preliminary committee for additional bylaw changes was selected. The next board meeting was set to be held on April 10, 2005 at the Porter residence. The meeting was adjourned at 1:09PM.

Special thanks to Sue and Jay Gorday for their hospitality and delicious meal they provided.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Porter, Secretary*

GMS Is A Winner

At the 2004 SFMS Banquet, David Tuttle, SFMS Representative to the AFMS Education Committee-All American Club Program, presents a Silver All American Club award to Joan White, Immediate Past President of GMS, for the scrapbook entry in the 2003 competition.



Thank you,
Joan White
(photograph by Jay Gorday)

*Thank you,
Joan White
(photograph by Jay Gorday)*

Grab Bags

It is time again to start thinking about grab bags. The stuffing party in April will be upon us soon. We have some bags left over from last year. I am looking at maybe six hundred new bags. A couple of people have been sewing bags all along. We still need more. We also need goodies to fill the bags. I have ordered shark teeth and quartz crystals. I will be ordering some colorful calcite and maybe pyrite. What arrives by UPS does not touch the amount of material that it takes to fill all of these bags. Please, bring items to the meetings or call me and I will pick them up. Thank you.

*Kim Cochran,
Grab Bags*

A letter from William K. Adams, 01/07/2005, to GMS

Greetings,
This is to inform you of the death of my father, Keith S. Adams, on November 30, 2004. My father was a member of the Georgia Mineral Society (and other Rock Hounding Groups) and enjoyed rocks, minerals, digging (in his younger days), and just BEING with similar-minded folks. I know he missed being with you all and spoke of you often.

"So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun." Ecclesiastes 8:15.

We would like to continue our family relationship with GMS, partly because you often have field trips near our home in North Carolina. Please accept the enclosed check for payment for membership.



*Sincerely,
William K. Adams*

A FEW REQUESTS

Those of us that do any kind of active collecting (be it field collecting or "silver picking") often find our storage space a bit overwhelmed by material. Most of us are always looking for ways to get rid of some of the extra stuff. If you are one of those, I may have some outs for you.

The first is from two teachers in Fayette County, who are working to help stock a school in Equador (!) with science materials and equipment. What they are most interested in from GMS are samples of rocks, minerals, and/or fossils (and, I would say, preferably identified and with location info). The main teacher involved teaches earth science, and knows the importance of having actual samples; she's also seen the quality vs. price of material obtained from the science supply houses. They also feel that, with donated specimens, they can direct what few funds they have towards purchasing things such as microscopes, balances, and other lab equipment. And, they will collect the material and forward it to Equador. This sounds like a worthwhile endeavor. If you are interested in donating material, the contact person is Mikie Emerson; her email is knotmary@earthlink.net, and her evening phone is 404-289-3684. Or, contact me, and we'll arrange something.

The second is from Gregory Bailey, from Dalton, Georgia. He teaches half time, and the other half is spent as the Science Supervisor for Whitfield County. He has some very impressive teaching credentials from his career in Tennessee; in his two years here in Georgia he has started picking up more. He is one of several concerned with the recent decision to drop earth sciences from high school curricula, and drop that teaching down to the sixth grade (do you remember much science from that time?). His main thrust is that he wants to start a Georgia Earth Science Teachers Association at the upcoming Georgia Science Teachers Association meeting, to be held in Columbus, GA this February. What he is asking for is extra samples of identified rocks, minerals, or fossils that anyone has collected (again, give location info also). He also hopes eventually to create "Georgia Economic Mineral and Rock Boxes" and "Georgia Fossil Boxes". Since the GSTA meeting is to be held in mid-February, there would need to be a quicker response to gather the materials at one place, so it would likely be best to contact me; I will then contact Mr. Bailey to arrange to deliver the material to him. If you want more information from Mr. Bailey, his email is geogagreg@alltel.net, his work phone is 706-876-7137, and his home phone is 706-226-6724 (hope he's not inundated with calls).

As always, any help we can provide to such causes fulfills the goals of our society. Thanks to all who are able to help.

Doug Daniels,
GMS President

Don't Miss The Field Trips

I belong to several clubs. There is the Native Plant Society, The Atlanta Aquarium Association and a couple of rock clubs. No mater how well things are run they sometimes go wrong. There are times when a news letter is delivered late simply because the post office sent the mail 3rd class by mistake.

The reason does not matter. I know I just returned from a field trip before I received my copy of Tips and Trips. I was afraid that no one would show but when I arrived I found that most people had received their copy. Could be my mail carrier just doesn't like me and this note is just a waste of time but in case a few people were affected then I want to tell you what GMS has done to help you.

The Georgia Mineral Society has electronic delivery of Tips and Trips. It doesn't cost you anything and actually saves the club money. This edition is always sent out early so you will not only be sure to get the scoop on our field trips but those for the DMC and with the advance notice you will have more time to plan for the trips you want.

All you will have to do is notify our webmaster you would like to be put on the list. I know some people do not have a computer but if you can be a little creative I'm sure you could think of a relative or work place or today even some cell phones can receive e mail.

George Libby, Field Trip Chair

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Thanks to the 2004 SFMS Meeting Committee and Others

A simple "Thank You" does not begin to express my gratitude for all the support from the GMS membership in the planning, preparation and execution of the December Show and the SFMS Meeting, Banquet, and Editor's Breakfast. Olin and Jeannette Banks, serving as Banquet Host and Hostess, were invaluable in selecting the facilities for the housing, banquet, and breakfast. Kim Cochran, serving as December Show Chair, with the assistance of Anita Westlake, Dealer Chair, put on quite a show. These guys are certainly two dynamic duos. Jay Gorday, serving as SFMS Exhibits Chair, worked to solicit and organize some of the best displays at any SFMS Meeting. Julian Gray, our own Mineral Section Chair and Mayo Scholarship recipient, honored GMS by being the guest speaker at the Banquet. Carolyn Daniels assisted with the planning of the Editor's Breakfast. The support of the membership shown by the attendance at the Banquet was overwhelming. Bill and I both thank you for everything. You are all too good !!!



Joan White,
General Host Chair,
2004 SFMS Annual Meeting
and Banquet

May Show News.

The May Show is just around the corner. Martha Brown has already sent out all the contracts out to the dealers and about 1/3 of them have already been returned. It is time to sign the contract and start filling out forms for the Cobb County Civic Center. Perry has already notified the rock magazines and web sites to include our information in their calendars. Teresa is getting set up to arrange our ads in the AJC and Creative Loafing.

Most of the Show Committee Chairs have been filled, but we still need someone to coordinate Set up and Take Down. There are plenty of opportunities for members to volunteer even if you do not want to be a Committee Chair. You can volunteer to help one of the committees by calling the Committee Chair or you can let me know.

It's also time to start thinking about putting in a display case or a giving a demonstration at the show. A display or demonstration is a good way of introducing/sharing our hobby with our visitors at the show.

Jay Gorday
May Show Chair

May Show Committee Chairs

Show Chair	Jay Gorday	770 986-0822
Dealer Chair	Martha Brown	770 448-0876
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Grab Bags	Kim Cochran	770 979-8331
Auction	Kim Cochran	770 979-8331
Set Up/Take Down	Open	

Last Call For Scrapbook Material

Please forward any photographs, announcements, flyers, letters or anything else you can think of to include in our club scrapbook for entry in the **AFMS, Education - All American Club of the Year** competition for 2004. The deadline is nearing and we need more information to include in the scrapbook. If you participated in federation activities, other club activities, were guest speakers, wrote letters to support our hobby, or did anything in the pursuit of our goals, please forward the information to me via email or snail mail to be included. GMS members are some of the most dedicated rockhounds I have ever encountered and GMS deserves to be recognized for all the hard work of its members.

Joan White,
Scrapbook Queen Extraordinaire

SAFETY FIRST

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

FROST-BITE and HYPOTHERMIA

Frost-bite is the cutting off of circulation to, and possibly the destruction of, superficial tissues, especially to hands, feet, ears, and nose, as well as other areas of the body exposed to cold temperatures. The wind (wind chill factor) and moisture can add to the effects of cold temperature, even when above freezing.

Symptoms of frost-bite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of the skin, followed by numbness and waxy looking patches. In more severe cases, these waxy patches get lumpy, redden, blister, followed by the skin dying and falling off or gangrene setting in. Severe pain is associated with advanced frost-bite.

At the first signs of frost-bite, dry the affected area and cover with cloth, or, in the case of hands, place into the armpits to prevent further cooling. Do not rub or apply snow to the frost-bitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature, but not above 104 degrees F. Do not place the affected area under hot running water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so it may become burned. As the frost-bitten area "thaws" it is normal to feel pain or a burning sensation. If blisters form, do not break, and protect them with a loose dressing and seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening. The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin. The person then becomes confused and forgetful, acts tired and wants to sit or lie down. In severe cases the person will become unconscious, have shallow breath, erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows.

At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol). Prevent further heat loss with warm blankets, warm rocks, or a companion in bed with the victim. Get medical attention as soon as possible if the symptoms have gone beyond the shivering stage.

The best protection against frost-bite and hypothermia is to keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry. Dress in loose layers of warm, waterproof and windproof clothing that covers exposed areas. Warm gloves and a hat are essential. Up to 80% of the body's warmth can be lost through an uncovered head. The young and elderly are especially at risk, as are people who have been drinking alcohol, have diabetes, or poor circulation. People taking beta blockers to lower blood pressure are also at high risk. It is best to have someone with you in cold weather who can watch for signs of frost-bite and hypothermia.

Enjoy a safe 2004-2005 Winter season.

From the A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Volume 58, Number 2
December, 2004—January, 2005

Pickled Minerals – A Mineral Cleaning Tip

Recently, a little experimentation led to a wonderfully useful discovery in my home laboratory. I also benefited from a friend (who shall remain nameless) who fouled up some of his/her specimens. We had both collected gorgeous epidote crystals from the Calumet Mine near Salida, Colorado. The only problem was that many of the epidote crystals were covered with calcite. Sounds easy, right? Soak the specimens in muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid). That removed the calcite alright, but it also etched the epidote crystals. After soaking in acid, the epidote crystals were frosted; the lustrous faces we expected were permanently damaged.

I found that using acetic acid or white vinegar (sold in grocery stores for a few dollars a gallon) did the trick. It removed the calcite, but left the epidote crystals unaffected. The results were amazing. An added benefit



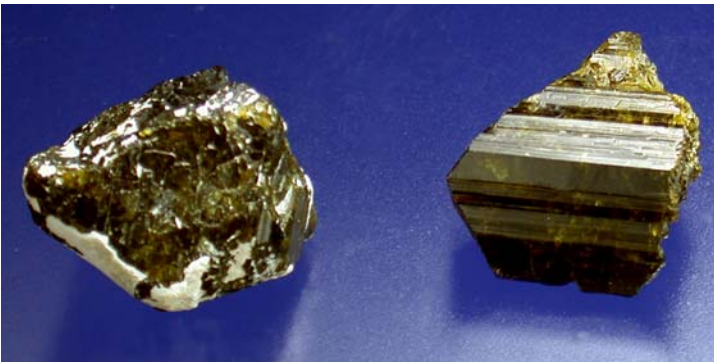
Epidote and quartz crystals in a cavity after calcite is removed with acetic acid. Epidote crystal in front right is 6 mm tall and only a portion of this crystal was exposed before cleaning. Salida Copper Mine, Chaffee County, Colorado. Julian C. Gray, photograph and specimen.

is that vinegar is safe to work with. It is safe enough to drink, doesn't have the caustic vapors of hydrochloric acid, and it can be discarded down the drain. If it appears the calcite has stopped dissolving, replace the vinegar. However, as with any acid, you'll want to use gloves, ventilation, and plastic or glass containers. Don't reuse the vinegar for anything, just pour it out. Oh, and be patient, acetic acid is gentler, but slower than stronger acids.

Last point: flush the finished specimen with lots of clean water – several times the amount of acid used. This prevents weird by-products from re-crystallizing on the newly cleaned mineral. As always, try any new techniques on small and unattractive specimens, like the ones I collect, before using on your best pieces. This also saves you from being an anonymous bad example in my ramblings about minerals.

Julian C. Gray, Mineral Section Chair

Single crystals of epidote before (left) and after (right) dissolving calcite coating with acetic acid. Crystal on right is 13 mm wide. Calumet Copper Mine, Chaffee County, Colorado. Julian C. Gray, photo and specimen.



A Mineral Tale: Grave's Mountain "Update"

Town/City State: Lincoln Co., GA

Location: Grave's Mountain

Date of Collection: January 08, 2004

As you may know, the EPA has been doing some work at "The Mountain." to reduce the acidity levels for the past couple of years. Consequently they've relocated/expanded "the pond" and moved some material around. This has exposed some new areas but not as much as some of us would like.

Mary and I spent most of the day at the "Second Pit" or Saddle area. It's amazing what a couple of people with hand tools can do! At the upper level, a very large amount of material has been "liberated", so there was plenty of iridescent hematite laying around, just waiting to jump into our buckets. I wonder sometimes: If someone left what I consider beautiful specimens laying here, what spectacular specimens did they take home? We were finding very metallic looking iridescent hematite instead of, what I now consider to be, faded iridescents of previous trips. We were able to find some hematite coated quartz crystals; one crystal is actually 1" by 3"! On the second level, there is a boulder that is either completely made of, or just covered in, pyrophyllite. The "sprays" were of various colors, from a pale green, yellow, to a red-brown. I keep forgetting to take my camera to share my observations. I'll try to remember next time.

After a very late lunch, we walked down to the lazulite area. By this time, our energy levels were quite low, so we didn't spend much time there. Mary found some small, under 1/2" perfect lazulite crystals, while I hunted for the "Big stuff". I was very lucky in that I picked up pieces that were obviously lazulite, but didn't concern myself with perfection. Once I got home and washed off my finds, I realized that I had found a nearly perfect, large crystal measuring 1 1/2" long x 3/4" at the middle!

Other finds: George Libby found two small, damaged rutile crystals, and mentioned that, in the past, one GMS member found a +2" rutile crystal along the path to the main pit by (accidentally!) kicking it.

Till next time, keep your eyes open! You never know what you'll find right in front of your face.

Dylan Porter, VP/Programs

Request for Old Tips and Trips

I would like to obtain a complete set of the Georgia Mineral Society Newsletters for my personal library. If you have access to older copies of the newsletter, please contact me.



Julian C. Gray