

Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

Atlanta, Georgia

Volume XXXIV/Three March 2005

President's Message



As this is written, one doesn't know whether it's winter or spring. A few days are colder than an icebox, followed by a few days of shirt-sleeve weather. We wonder whether we want to be out collecting in such weather. And yet many of us suffer (or enjoy)

what ever Mother Nature doles our way.

And others share our hobby in other ways. As this issue is being printed, Joan White, assisted by Bill Waggener (and perhaps others), is representing GMS at the Georgia State Teachers Association meeting in Columbus. GMS participated in this event two years ago, with positive results. We hope to build on those results this year.

Looking ahead, GMS has been invited to participate in Earth Day activities to be held at the Fernbank Museum on April 16 (a Saturday). I, for one, intend to volunteer for this. I need to obtain further details. However, if any other members are interested in sharing their knowledge of the hobby on this day, please let me know.

You may ask, are such events really worth the effort? I would say a resounding "YES"! GMS was asked to participate at the Celebration of Rocks and Mineral at Stone Mountain this past Labor Day. Labor Day – a day off for most everyone, go out and do fun things with the family. Well, several GMS members volunteered and presented various aspects of our hobby to anyone that showed up. And show up they did (well, OK, some were refugees from Hurricane Frances). We "wowed" quite a few kids, and quite a few adults, as well. And, we also put in a few plugs for GMS. I do believe we gained some new members because of that effort.

That is why, when asked to participate, GMS almost always says "yes". No, not to gain new members, but rather to get the general public interested in the earth sciences. Not to make professional geologists out of each and every one, but to open their eyes to the beauty and wonder that lies under their feet every day.

Doug Daniels, President

March General Meeting

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

Geo-hazards:

Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Tsunamis

This months speaker will be fellow GMS member and Mineral Section chair, Julian C. Gray. We had originally discussed a talk on his trip to Mount St. Helens (plus some pictures of our Secretary [Mary Porter] in the Ape Cave lava tube at Mt. St. Helens), but in light of the ongoing tragedy in the Indian Ocean, Julian's suggestion of the additional material ties into a theme of nature's *awesome* beauty and power very nicely.

Show & Tell:

I have some pieces of volcanic rock from Greenland, which a friend of mine sent me. Anyone else with specimens of the awesome power of nature, we would love to see them!

Until next time: Be safe and aware of your surroundings!

We hope to see you there!

**Dylan Porter,
VP/Programs**



**Mount St.
Helens,
September,
2004
(Photo by
Julian C.
Gray)**



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

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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	770.888.9331
Parliamentarian	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Refreshments	Kim Prakash & Nancy Marden	770.879.0476 770.447.8542
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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 April 2005 newsletter is March 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.gaminerall.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@gaminerall.org

May Show Committee Chairs

Show Chair	Jay Gorday	770.986.0822
Dealer Chair	Martha Brown	770.448.0876
Exhibits	Open	
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	

**February 2005 GMS General Meeting
Program Review**



*Dr. Gore captivates the crowd
(Photo by Joan White)*

Dr. Pamela Gore, a Geology professor at GA Perimeter College and GMS member, gave a PowerPoint presentation on fossils and fossil formations of the southeast.

She began with an overview of the geology of Georgia by introducing the different geological regions. Fossils can be found only in the Coastal Plain in the southeast, and the Appalachian Plateau and the Valley and Ridge region in the northwest. Pam showed pictures of different specimens found in

these regions. The youngest fossils are found in the Coastal Plain dating from the Cretaceous period, and the Eocene, Miocene and Pleistocene epochs. Bird-hipped and lizard-hipped dinosaurs, scallop shells, Mastodon teeth, and the giant ground sloth are some of the species found here.

The Appalachian Plateau and Valley and Ridge regions contain fossils from the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian periods and are mostly plant varieties. Dr. Gore then shared some "hot spots" for finding fossils from the early Devonian and Pennsylvanian periods, and the Pliocene and Miocene epochs, in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. After the meeting, we all enjoyed the fossils that Dr. Gore and other members brought for "show and tell".

**Mary Porter
GMS Member**



*GMS members Frank Decaminada, John Trimble, Caroline Decaminada and Cheryl Cornell enjoy the fares at the Tucson Show.
(photo courtesy of Jim Flora)*

**Mini-Grant Awards
2004 - 2005 Academic Year**

The recipients of the Holly Camp Memorial, Earth Science Education Mini-Grants for the 2004-2005 school year are: Lynn Akin, Taylor Street Middle School, for an Alpine Glacier Model; Tami Corley, Glenn Hills Elementary School, for GPS equipment for a "Lost and Found" project; Valeria Gladney, Flynt Middle School, for GPS equipment for her project "Where on Earth am I?"; Bill Waggener, Flynt Middle School, for GPS equipment, for another "Where on Earth am I?" project.

A total of \$1034.80 was awarded in mini-grants for the 2004-2005 school year. Updated 2005 - 2006 forms will be available at the GMS website to download. Please share this information with your area Earth Science teachers.

Joan White, past Temporary Education Chair

Georgia Academy of Science

Dave Babulski will be presenting two papers at the Georgia Academy of Science annual meeting at Gordon College in Barnesville, Georgia on April 2, 2005. The titles of the papers are: THE MINERAL HERITAGE PROJECT - A CALL TO ACTION TO PRESERVE MINERAL OCCURRENCES IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA and A UNIQUE OPEN FRAME GIMBAL VARIATION OF THE MICROSCOPE UNIVERSAL STAGE FOR USE WITH MINERAL PHOTOMICROGRAPHY AND MINERAL ANALYSIS. He is listed as an affiliate of the Georgia Mineral Society and is the only citizen (non-student/academic) presenter.

Joan White, Editor

**February 2005 General Meeting
Mini-Minutes**



The February 2005 General Meeting of the Georgia Mineral Society was held at the Chamblee Library and called to order at 7:35 pm by President Doug Daniels. Approximately 40 people were present, including one new member.

Dylan Porter introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Pamela Gore, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on fossil formations of the southeast. At 8:21 pm, the business portion of the meeting commenced with reports from executive board members and committee chairpersons. Announcements were made requesting volunteers for the May show, the recently formed by-law revision committee, and anyone wanting to participate in the Fernbank "Earth Day Celebration" in April.

Door prizes were awarded at 8:39 pm and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Porter, Secretary**

A Note From the Education Chair

It is my distinct pleasure to be back as Education Chair for the Georgia Mineral Society. I'd like to thank Joan White for filling in for me for so many months in this important position as I immersed myself in the duties of Dealer Chair for our December Show. I was getting so many calls from people wanting speakers and others who wanted to be dealers in our Holiday Show, I was getting overwhelmed (and a bit cranky!) Joan stepped in and calmly got the job done for me.

For those of you who are new to GMS, or would simply like a reminder about what the Education Committee does, please read on:

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The mission statement of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. stresses the importance of **educating** the youth of this state, and others in the field of earth sciences. Sure, we educate ourselves whenever we come to a meeting, read our Tips and Trips, or go on a fieldtrip. But what can we do as a society, and as individuals to reach and teach the youth of this state? A few years ago we developed a "Speakers Bureau" that is designed specifically to offer our free services as speakers and educators to local schools, libraries, scout troops, etc. On our website we list topics and speakers who can cover a wide range of subjects in the field of earth sciences. We are proud to have folks who can talk about lapidary art, weather, gold panning, dinosaurs, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, etc. See our webpage at: <http://www.gamineral.org/speakers-bureau.html> for more information.

MINI-GRANTS

We also provide a "Mini-Grant" program whereby schools can apply for a grant up to \$300.00 to enhance an earth science related project. The Education Committee reviews proposals and awards monetary grants based on criteria such as a) how many students will be affected by the project b) how the project ties in with subjects currently being studied and c) the desired outcome of the project. See our webpage at: <http://www.gamineral.org/minigrant.htm> to learn more. Examples of projects likely to be funded include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Purchase of Mineral/Rock samples or collections
- Purchase of software for Earth science subjects
- Materials and expenses for classroom experiments
- Computer or GPS hardware purchases

Limited on-line service fees to provide geological research access to Internet resources

The Georgia Mineral Society is out there doing great things. If you would like to be a part of it (and maybe lose your fear of public speaking like I did!) then give me a call or send me an email. I'd love to add your name to the list of dedicated, knowledgeable educators who give back to our community in positive, long-lasting ways. As we teach, so we learn.

Anita D. Westlake, Education Chair

By-Laws Revisions



One of my goals as your new President was to get proposed By-Laws revisions passed. These had been in the mill for about two years; the number of proposed revisions counted around 109 or so. Thankfully, the members present at the January meeting approved the proposed revisions. Joan White, chair of that committee, thanks you all. Her work there is done.

Unfortunately,..... After the proposed revisions were printed, a few other possible revisions were pointed out. Thus, reluctantly, a new Revision Committee was appointed at the last Executive Board meeting. This Committee consists of myself, Anita Westlake, Olin Banks, Frank Decaminada, and Kim Cochran. This covers the requirement of two Executive Board members, two Trustees, and the Parliamentarian. However, as per the requirements in the new By-Laws, I need two general members to complete the committee. If you would like to be part of this committee, please let me (or one of the other members) know.

This should not be a difficult task. The majority of the big problems have been resolved. We all hope to complete these revisions within the next few months. Please volunteer and help us out. If you're not sure what to do, don't worry, we'll explain it all. Thanks in advance.

Doug Daniels
President and Chair, By-Laws Revision Committee

Grab Bag Donations

The grab bag stuffing party in April will be upon us soon. We have some bags left over from last year. We need approximately six hundred new bags. We need people to sew bags. We also need goodies to fill the bags. I have ordered shark teeth and quartz crystals. I have ordered some material but what arrives by UPS does not touch the amount of material that it takes to fill all of these bags. Now is the perfect time to high grade your collections and donate the leftovers for the grab bags or, possibly, for the auction. Please, bring any items for donation to the meetings or call me and I will pick them up. We need everyone's help. Thank you.

Kim Cochran,
Grab Bags

A Note from the Editor

Thanks to everyone submitting articles and information for publication in the Tips and Trips. As most of you know, Carolyn Daniels, our previous editor, won national recognition for our newsletter as being the best in the AFMS Bulletin contest. In the effort to continue at this level of excellence, please continue to submit your articles and poems and encourage your juniors to participate.

Thank you,
Joan White, Editor

May Show News

The May Show plans are proceeding well. Martha Brown is getting back contracts from the dealers. The contract for the Civic Center has been signed and the deposit has been paid. 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 are filled, but we still need someone to coordinate Set Up/Take Down and Exhibits. 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. You will be seeing sign up sheets at upcoming meetings to volunteer to help and to provide food for the dealer dinner.

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.

Important Dates:

- 4/1/05 Mail Post Cards
4/26/05 Grab Bag Party at Kim's
5/4/05 Load Up Trailer at Kim's
5/5/05 Show Set Up starting at 10AM
5/5/05 Dealer Dinner at 6PM
5/6/05 Show 10AM - 6PM
5/7/05 Show 10AM - 6PM
5/8/05 Show Noon - 5PM
5/8/05 Show Take Down
5/9/05 Unload Trailer at Kim's

Jay Gorday

May Show Chair

May Show Committee Chairs

Table with 3 columns: Chair Role, Name, Phone Number. Includes Show Chair (Jay Gorday), Dealer Chair (Martha Brown), Exhibits (OPEN), Demonstrations (Anita Westlake), Hospitality (Anita Westlake), Treasurer (Teresa Curl), Advertising (Perry and Teresa Curl), Dealer Dinner (Joan White), Database (Joan White), Grab Bags (Kim Cochran), Auction (Kim Cochran), Set Up/Take Down (OPEN).

Thought for Food

Please give some thought for assisting with the dealer dinner this May. The donation of a dish, cash contribution, or time will be greatly appreciated. All of the dealers and volunteers at the show look forward to this meal. Let us make it the best yet! Thank you.

Joan White, Dealer Dinner Chair

Dave Babulski
Recognized by International Nature Artists Group

Our own Dr. Dave Babulski has been accepted into the prestigious Worldwide Nature Artists Group (WNAG), a nonprofit group of international artists featuring the best nature, wildlife and conservation artists. Dave is the only signature WNAG artist specializing in mineral art. The WNAG provides a web presence for the world's best artists (http://www.natureartists.com/). There is a great write up on Dave and many of his paintings are featured. In addition to seeing his work on the WNAG web page and Dave's own Crystal Pocket Studio web page, you can see Dave's art currently on display at Crystal Blue in Little Five Points; Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus; and at the Phoenix and Dragon Bookstore in Roswell. He will also be featured in an upcoming exhibit at the Weinman Mineral Museum later this year. Congratulations Dave!!

Dave has also had two abstracts accepted for the upcoming Georgia Academy of Science meeting in Barnesville on April 2. He will make presentations on the Mineral Heritage Project and the design and use of his self-constructed Gimbal Stage for use during micro-mineral research. Dave Babulski was also recently reelected as President of the Southeast Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy.

Julian C. Gray

Collecting Tips for the New Rockhound

You walk along with the rest of the collectors and get more and more frustrated as your immediate neighbor slows and picks up the best or biggest crystal that you have ever seen time after time after time.

You sit in your freshly dug hole and watch the hole 3 feet away from yours produce exactly what you are hunting.

Don't get discouraged. That expert next to you started their collecting career with no more luck or skills than you have. They have just been collecting longer than you.

TIPS:

Talk to the experienced collectors on the trip and ask them "where is the best place to look?"

Look at samples of the desired materials that were collected at the site. Recognition is easier where you know what to look for.

Watch the GROUND. A number of my good specimens were found on the trail or road after others had stepped over them. Do check the road or trail ahead occasionally, no one wishes to be run-over.

Don't be afraid to poke at any interesting rocks you see. Most of the others are doing the same.

Keep coming back...you will probably have better luck next trip.

And finally, YES, Luck does help!!

Bill Waggener, Rockhound

The Micromount Corner

Dr. David Babulski

This month we will investigate the mineral **CAVANSITE**. As mineral species go, cavansite is a relative newcomer, being officially recognized as a mineral species in 1967. The type locality is the Owyhee Dam, Lake Owyhee State Park, Malheur County in Oregon. The host rocks in this area are Miocene volcanics consisting of massive rhyolite and andesite.

The cavansite occurs as minute, rather unimpressive, crystals in gas cavities in the volcanic rocks. As this mineral occurrence was rather unimpressive, cavansite was relegated to the status of a mineral curiosity until the early 1970's when the mineral was discovered in the Deccan trap basalts in the Poona district in India. At this locality, cavansite occurs as well developed spherical aggregates of deep blue crystals associated with large crystals of stilbite in gas cavities in the basalt. This mineral occurrence created a sensation in the mineral collecting world. At mineral shows these days it is not uncommon to see rather awesome large specimens of stilbite festooned with spherical groups of deep blue cavansite from the Poona, India locality. The name of this mineral is derived from its chemical composition of calcium, vanadium and the silicate radical. The deep blue color is a result of the vanadium content. Good micromounts of cavansite from the Poona, India locality are very hard to find. You have to break down some thumbnail size specimens to get at the "Good Stuff". The "Good Stuff" is relatively open radiating clusters of deep blue transparent crystals that occur in the void areas between large crystals of stilbite. Shown below are some photomicrographs of some of the "Good Stuff" extracted from thumbnail size specimens purchased from dealers at the December GMS show. Magnification is 25X.



An interesting aspect that micromounters have is a visual examination of change in the intensity of color as the vanadium content in the mineral varies. Pale blue crystals with deep blue tips are just awesome things to look at. An examination of the recent mineralogical literature indicates that most geologists agree that vanadium in cavansite

comes from the host volcanic rocks. Reports of vanadium content as high as 600 to 750 ppm in the basalts near Poona have been presented by several geologists working in the area.

Another interesting observation is the sequence of mineral deposition. Stilbite appears to have been deposited first, followed by cavansite. In some cases a third depositional phase of heulandite or calcite is observed as tiny crystals deposited on crystals of cavansite. All in all, some superb micromounts can be had by having the courage to break down thumbnail size material. I for one will be looking for some good thumbnail size specimens of cavansite at the



upcoming spring gem and mineral show. There is a real thrill when you break down a larger specimen and find some of the "Good Stuff". Until next month, may all your skies be blue and all the vugs you find are crystal filled.

(photos by Dave Babulski)

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Ultraviolet Light Maintenance: Rejuvenating Your Shortwave UV Source

A while back I bought a used Raytech ultraviolet lamp; the dual wavelength (short and long) kind that I believe was manufactured in the 1960s or 1970s. Minerals fluorescing in shortwave light were not as bright as with my other sources. The cause was a solarized filter, the normal degradation of the filter produced by extended use with the intense shortwave light source. I recently found a source for replacement filters, which I knew would cure this problem. I ordered the filter and a few days later I was back in business. Since the newer filter is produced by a different and better manufacturer, my ultraviolet lamp actually had a better than new performance.

I'm sold! I highly recommend replacing the shortwave filter. In addition to dull luminescence in minerals, you can recognize solarization by a weird swirl pattern on the glass filter. If the bulb is bad, you won't get any light. Long-wave and mid-range output is not affected as much as shortwave. Now the bad news – this filter is the most expensive part of the UV lamp, often half the cost of a new lamp. But this is still better than buying a whole new unit. Here is the source and this guy has filters for all UV lamps out there:

Don Newsome, President
UV SYSTEMS, Inc.
16605 127th Avenue SE
Renton, WA 98058-5549
info@uvsystems.com
Voice: 425-228-9988
Fax: 425-793-8712
To order call toll free 1 877 689-5142

Cheers!
Julian C. Gray,
Mineral Section Chair