

Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

Atlanta, Georgia

Volume XXXIV/Five

May 2005

President's Message



As you read this, our May show is only weeks away. What does that mean? You guessed it, what can you do to help out? Jay Gorday has an article covering what help he needs. A big one is the need for covered dishes for the dealer dinner, held on set-up night (Thursday). This is not only a great time for the members to get together, but, more importantly, it helps the dealers out immensely in that they don't have to stop work, go out for dinner (and we all know what traffic is like at that time of day), then come back and finish setting up. GMS provides the meat (s), drinks, plates, cups, plastic ware, and such; members are asked to bring a salad, vegetable dish, bread, or desert. I'm sure Joan White, Dealer Dinner Chair, has a request further in. Please think about what you can do to help, and, like the rest of us, just jump in and help.

On another note, most of you know that GMS has been looking for a permanent clubhouse location where we can hold our various meetings, set up our equipment, hold workshops, etc., etc. Oh, you didn't know that? Well, we are, and have been for over 10 years now, if my memory serves right (I know, that's an iffy subject). Why do I mention this? One of our sharp-eyed members, Dennis Buchanan, recently spotted a church property for sale in the Northlake Mall area. This location is sort of central to our "local" membership base, and is in a nice area overall. I took a visit to the location to scope it out, and take some pictures and rough measurements. I presented this data to the Executive Board at our recent meeting.

My first impressions were that the site and buildings may be too large overall, although that gives ample parking space. That can mean somewhat high operating costs (i.e., utilities). On the plus side, all buildings are fairly recent, meaning they have handicap access already (this is important for any property we would consider). Access to the site is also rather easy, and is not in a very busy area. In spite of my impressions, most of the Board members thought it may be a viable location.

Are we jumping in and buying this property? No, certainly not yet. There is much that needs to be considered and found out. Joan White has graciously volunteered to do some of the basic research into the property. This will take time to sort out. I will have the photos, and other data I gathered, at the next meeting for members to look at. The Board members solicit your opinions on this location. This may be just what we want; maybe not. And, if anyone sees something similar available elsewhere, let us know so we can check it out. It's every president's dream to obtain a club building on his/her watch. I really don't care whether it happens on my watch or a later president's watch; we simply need a dedicated building. But, we won't have one without possible locations to evaluate.

Doug Daniels
President



(photo courtesy of Doug Daniels)

The Potential Property



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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Committee Chairs

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|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 | 770.888.9331 |
| 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 June 2005 newsletter is May 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 | Jay Gorday | 770.986.0822 |
| 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 | |

May General Meeting
7:30 PM, Monday May 2, 2005
Chamblee Library
4114 Clairmont Road
770-936-1380

Mothers Day Show Meeting

Traditionally, we discuss the Mother's Day Gem and Mineral Show for our May Meeting. This gives us a chance to finish getting all our volunteers lined up as well as any other items that need addressing.

We will give all the committee chairs a chance to tell what they have planned and lined up for the show. They will also have their sign up sheets so we can fill in the needed slots. Come and join us for this final meeting to get ready for our Mother's Day Gem and Mineral Show.

After door prizes, I have show & tell of my trip along I-81 in Virginia, and a few pieces of limestone and Dillsburg Dike (Iron intrusion into limestone) specimens from Carlisle, PA.

Until then: Let everyone you know the fun of being able to shop at an ever changing (dazzling even) rock, gem (remember the December show's Pakistan Aquamarine Crystals or Georgia Amethyst crystals?), and fossil (fellow rockhounds whale shark vertebrae display!!) "exhibit"!

Dylan Porter –VP/Programs

April 2005 General Meeting
Mini-Minutes



The April 2005 General Meeting of the Georgia Mineral Society was held on April 4th at the Chamblee Library and called to order at 7:38 PM by President Doug Daniels. Approximately 37 people were present, including 2 visitors.

Dylan Porter introduced the speaker of the evening, fellow GMS member Jim Haege, who talked about the importance of salt throughout the history of mankind. Afterwards, executive board members and committee chairpersons gave reports. Bill Waggener announced that the annual picnic will take place on June 18th at Jones Bridge Park. Jay Gorday gave an update on the May show, and sign up sheets were passed around for hospitality, demonstrations, and the dealer dinner. Doug Daniels announced that a nominating committee for new board members is needed, and must consist of 2 board members, and 3 general members. Bill Waggener, Anita Westlake, and Mickey McClain volunteered, leaving two general member openings. And saving the best for last, GMS member Dennis Buchanan may have found us a home. A small church, which is located near the Daniels' residence, is for sale, and Doug will "check it out".

Door prizes were awarded at 8:47 PM and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54PM. The meeting was reconvened to announce that Nancy Marden and John Trimble would complete the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Porter, Secretary

April 2005 General Meeting
Presentation Review

Halite: The History of Mankind

Jim Haege, a fellow GMS member, gave a presentation on how salt has been an important commodity throughout human history. Evidence of salt mining, mining tools dating from 6000 BC (at end of the last Ice Age), attests to the importance of acquiring salt in quantity, even in early times. Natural salt licks are one of the ways early people collected salt and started domesticating animals. Besides the human body's daily requirement, using salt to preserve food allows for: long winter survival, extended trips to colonize new lands, even allows empires to stand (Romans, Britain), or armies to fall (Napoleon, Confederate).

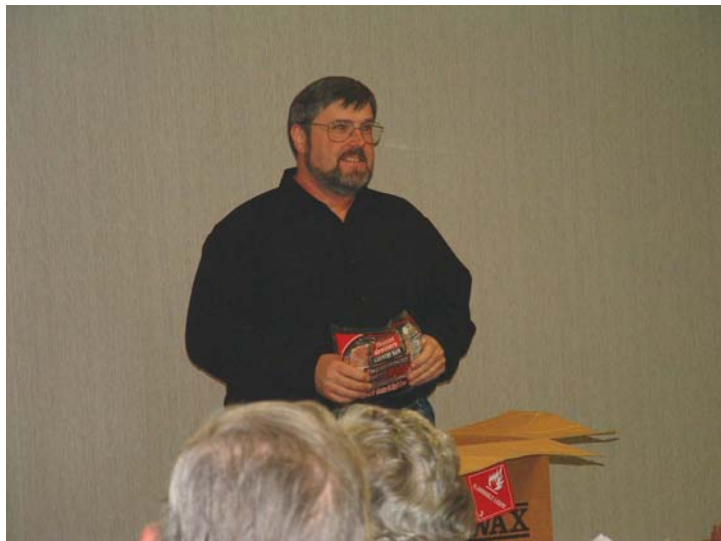
The Wieliczka Salt Mine, located outside Krakow, Poland, is the oldest continuously active salt mine and started in mid 13th century. As with other carvings in the mine, the late 1600s' Chapel of St Anthony Cathedral, the oldest surviving underground chapel in the world, was carved by miners from the green or bronze rock salt. Salt collection, in the Wieliczka area, started in about 3500 BC by exploiting local salt springs.

Jim showed us several examples of cooking salt, some quite expensive. He also showed us other food products created by processing (crushing mustard seeds) or preserving (cheese, fish, meat) with salt. Jim's various personal specimens of halite crystals (some collected by Jim from the Oklahoma Salt Flats) were very beautiful.

Learn more:
<http://www.kopalnia-wieliczka.pl/english/>
<http://www.saltinstitute.org/>

Dylan Porter, GMS Member

Jim Haege shares his knowledge and his humor with fellow members at the April meeting. (photo courtesy of Joan White)



**APRIL 2005 BOARD MEETING
MINI- MINUTES**



The executive board meeting, held at the Porter residence on April 10, 2005, was called to order at 2:17 PM. There were 10 board members present (representing 11 positions), and 2 general members. Updates provided by board members included the May show, education events, and the picnic. The question of where to have this year's banquet was discussed, and alternatives to the previous location were suggested. Doug provided pictures and specs of the church for sale, and discussion included cost of maintenance and utilities, zoning laws, and size of the building. The price of the property is unknown, but realtor information was provided. A suggestion was made to hold a trustee board meeting to discuss GMS finances and investments. Possible donations to rock/mineral magazines' color funds, which provide color pictures in articles, was suggested and will be researched. Time and place for the next board meeting will be determined at a later date. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Porter, Secretary**

**A Special Announcement to the
Georgia Mineral Society and the
Friends of Mineralogy, Southeastern Chapter**

All of you know David Babulski as the Micromount Section Chair at GMS, as the President of FM-SE, and as an accomplished mineral artist. The Weinman Mineral Society is pleased to announce that Dave has agreed to exhibit his mineral art at the museum in a temporary exhibit titled **Micromineral Art: Paintings from the Microscope** from September 5, 2005 through January 14, 2006. The Weinman will present a preview of the exhibit on Thursday evening September 1 at 6:30 p.m., with Dave as the featured speaker. All GMS and FM members are invited.

**Jose Santamaria, Director and Curator
Weinman Mineral Museum (and GMS Member)**

PO Box 3663
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
Ph: 770.386.0576 x401
Fx: 770.386.0600
www.weinmanmuseum.org

At Right: Julian C. Gray sharing his love and passion for geology and mineralogy with friends and colleagues. Julian is the current Mineral Section Chair for GMS, was the guest speaker at the SFMS Annual Meeting and Banquet hosted by GMS in December, has given several talks to the GMS members at general meetings and has served GMS diligently for several years. He was one of the SFMS Mayo Scholarship recipients in 2003.

(photo by Joan White)

Congratulations! Julian C. Gray

(Editor's Note: I had planned on writing this into an announcement. I tried several times, but the message lost the excitement in the translation. I have decided to publish it in its original format.)

From an email received 04/18/2005:

Hi Joan,

Just got back from Rochester. I need to get you caught up on my talks etc. so you can get that in the Sunshine news (you are still doing that, right?).

The talks include:

"A History of Micromounting", presented February 26 at the 4th annual Winter Gathering of Micromounters, in Dowling Park, Florida;

"The Cartersville Mining District: An Historic Perspective", presented March 2 at the Weinman Mineral Museum;

"Mineralogical Applications of Synchrotron Sourced X-Rays", presented April 15 at the 32nd Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, New York.

Also, I was honored by being chosen to receive the Mandarino Prize for my talk at Rochester. The Mandarino award is given to the best presentation by a graduate student. Joe Mandarino, for whom the award is named, was present and personally made the selection. Dr. Mandarino is the coauthor of the Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species. He is a retired mineralogist from the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and has been active for many years with the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, the body that approves new mineral names. Dr. Mandarino is now completing the third edition of the Encyclopedia of Minerals to be published very soon. Since Dr. Mandarino is one of my idols, it was truly an honor to be selected to receive this prize, which bears his name; especially considering that he personally chose my paper!

Cheers,
Julian C. Gray





May Show News

As I write this article, we have about a month to our Mother's Day Show. The Cobb County Civic Center has been paid, the newspaper ads are placed, the fliers are addressed and mailed, and the grab bag party is on the calendar for the end of April. What is left to do? VOLUNTEER!!! We need your time, talents and collections to share with fellow rockhounds and the general public:

We need helpers to greet people, answer questions, sell grab bags and give out door prize slips and prizes at the Hospitality Table. There are still many slots to fill. Anita will have her list at the next meeting.

We still need displays. So far, we have about 6 cases spoken for. It's easy to put in a display, call or email me if you would like to put in a case. Remember that we are having our contest again. The public votes on their favorite display and the winner gets \$50 dollars to spend at the show, second place gets \$25 to spend and there is a special \$20 award for the favorite junior case. Call or email me if you have any questions. It's fun to show off your collection, and you get a chance to win money to add to your collection as well.

If you are willing to demonstrate some facet of our hobby let Anita know.

Kim can use help and donations for the auction. The money from the auction goes directly to our building fund.

We always welcome a hand in setting up and tearing down the club's portion of the show. If you can help with set up, meet us at the Civic Center at 10AM on Thursday.

Joan is looking for donations and food for the Dealer Dinner. This is an important part of our show. By feeding the dealers and club members helping set up the show, this makes things a lot easier for all of us. If we did not have the dinner, dealers and members would have to stop their set up, secure their booths, go and find dinner and then come back and continue the process. This would take a lot of time and not be very productive. We still need people to sign up to bring salads, vegetables and deserts for the dealer dinner. Joan will pass the sign-up sheet around again at the May meeting.

If you missed the grab bag stuffing party at Kim's house you missed another great get-together. A big thanks to Kim for hosting the stuffing party, feeding us and collecting and storing all the material for the grab bags. Thanks also goes to everyone who sewed the gab bags, to everyone who donated material to place in the grab bags and all the volunteers who stuffed the grab bags.

In closing I would like to invite all our members to attend the show. Bring your check books and support our dealers. Also, keep an eye out for anything that is not right and let me know. We are all part of the security and hospitality as we go around the show. If you do not see me, let the hospitality table know and they can page me. Enjoy the show!!

Jay Gorday
May Show Chair

Important Dates:

- 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

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| Exhibits | Jay Gorday | 770 986-0822 |
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| Hospitality | Anita Westlake | 404 761-7849 |
| Treasurer | Teresa Curl | 770 751-7313 |
| Advertising | Perry and Teresa Curl | 770 751-7313 |
| Dealer Dinner | Joan White | 770 478-5743 |
| Database | Joan White | 770 478-5743 |
| Grab Bags | Kim Cochran | 770 979-8331 |
| Auction | Kim Cochran | 770 979-8331 |
| Set Up/Take Down | OPEN | |

Calling All Cooks (and others)



GMS will once again be hosting a Dealer Dinner at the May show on Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 6:00 PM for all dealers and GMS members working the show.

We need **A LOT OF FOOD**. Everyone agrees that home cooked items are always the best, but if your schedule doesn't allow time for such – please donate purchased items or cash contributions to offset the costs of the meats. Please volunteer to help. Email jowhite@bellsouth.net or telephone 770.478.5734 to let me know what you will bring/ buy/donate.

For this dinner to be successful, GMS needs your support. The sign-up list was circulated at the general meetings in March and April. We now have eight volunteers. We need more help, please help.

We have kitchen facilities available for our use at the May show. In an effort to simplify matters, if you are bringing a hot dish, please send it in a crock pot/roasting pan. A refrigerator and coolers will be available for cold dishes.

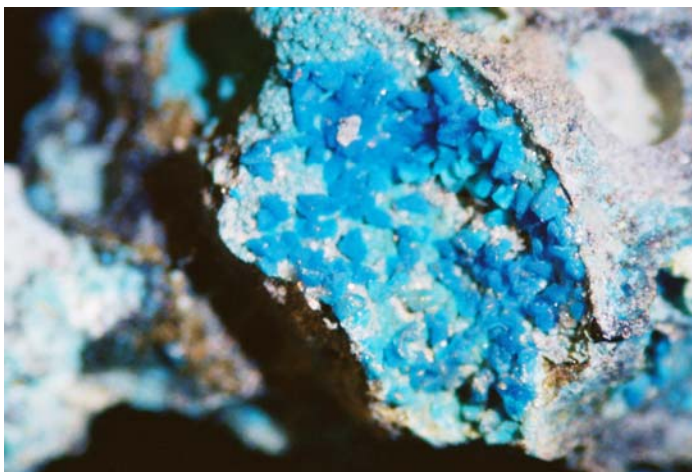
Thank you,
Joan White, Dealer Dinner Chair, May 2005



THE MICROMOUNT CORNER

Dr. David Babulski
GMS Micromount Section Chair

Greetings everyone, this month we will look at another rare mineral that is a real treat for micromounters. The mineral is posnjakite, a rare hydrated copper sulphate hydroxide. This mineral was first discovered in 1967 at the Nura-Taldy W deposit, Dzezkazgan Oblast, Kazakhstan. Posnjakite is named for E.W. Posnjak (1888-1949), U.S. geochemist. You will most likely have a difficult time finding specimens of this mineral at mineral shows; at least that has been my experience. I have found the best specimens from David Shannon Minerals. These specimens are gas cavity fillings from the volcanic host rock in the Harz Mountains mining district in Germany. A photomicrograph of posnjakite crystals lining a gas cavity in volcanic host rock from the Harz Mountains, Germany, locality is shown below: (25X, four second exposure with Kodak 400 color print film. White LED illumination)



*(photo and specimen courtesy
 Of Dave Babulski*

From a mineral chemistry viewpoint posnjakite is essentially hydrated brochantite with an attendant color change. Brochantite is a deep green color. I found it interesting that the color of posnjakite is almost the same hue (light sky blue to a deep blue) as the vanadium bearing zeolite cavansite. Several unique crystal morphologies are exhibited by this mineral; everything from a blocky form shown in the photomicrograph to delicate platy crystals. Each locality seems to exhibit its own unique crystal form for this mineral species.

A check with mindat.org shows quite a few localities for the mineral posnjakite. However this is one of minerals that you will have a hard time finding from most mineral dealers. I know I will be on the lookout for posnjakite at the Spring show. Until next time, may all your skies be blue and all your vugs be crystal filled.

Bubba Saurus Roamed the South Scientists Christen New Dinosaur Species

By MIKE TONER

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 04/13/05

Via Mid-Georgia Gem Clips, May 2005

A NEW DINOSAUR SPECIES - and early relative of the toothy Tyrannosaurus rex - has been identified from fragments of 77,000,000-year-old bones unearthed in southwest Georgia and other Southeastern states.

Even with hundreds of fossil fragments in hand, scientists don't have enough of the creature to piece together a single dinosaur. But from a tooth here and a vertebra there — much of it found in a road cut in Montgomery County, Ala. — they've got enough to give it a whopper of a name.

THE DINO FILE

- Name: *Appalachiosaurus montgomeriensis*
- Size: 25 feet, head to tail
- Age: 77,000,000 years old
- Range: Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina

It's *Appalachiosaurus montgomeriensis*, Latin for the Appalachian lizard from Montgomery County.

The name was formally conferred in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* by co-discoverers David Schwimmer of Columbus State University, Thomas Carr of Carthage College of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Thomas Williamson of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

"We've been finding teeth and odd bones — lots of little pieces — from this animal for more than 20 years, so it's nice to finally have a name for it," Schwimmer said.

The researchers used computer analysis of the evolutionary differences between the dinosaur fossil fragments to conclude that the Appalachian lizard was a unique creature — the newest of the hundreds of dinosaur species scientists believe remain to be discovered.

Ten million years before T. rex roamed the Earth, its smaller, more primitive and slender-snouted relative appears to have been widespread in the Southeast at a time when North America was divided by a vast seaway.

Until now, Schwimmer says, the fossil remains of *Appalachiosaurus* have been mistakenly identified as those of a genus of dinosaurs called *Albertosaurus*.

"It looks like a couple of regional museums — including the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, which has a cast of *Albertosaurus* — will now need to change the labels on their displays to reflect the new name," he said.

In the tightly knit world of paleontology, it doesn't take that long for a new name to catch on.

Although the new name is only weeks old, a Google search of *Appalachiosaurus* turned up at least 28 listings on the Internet.