

Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

Atlanta, Georgia

Volume XXXIV/Ten

October 2005

President's Message



October already. Seems like just a few months ago when I was installed as President (kinda sounds like I'm a car part, doesn't it?). That means we will be installing a new slate of officers for the coming year at our October banquet.

Please join us as we install the new officers for 2005-2006: Kim Cochran, President; Lizabeth McClain, Executive Vice President, Membership; Dylan Porter, Vice President, Programs; Mary Porter, Secretary; Teresa Curl, Treasurer; and Joan White, Trustee to 2008. We will also be honoring others who contributed freely of their time and efforts.

As always, GMS is offered new and different opportunities. This past year, we hosted our first Southeast Federation Annual Meeting, in conjunction with our December show. We were given great reviews by the attendees. I, as President, cannot take any credit for that success; that was due to the efforts by many who were in place well before my tenure. On the GMS show side, that includes Kim Cochran and his able crew of volunteers. For the SFMS part, we may thank Joan White, General Hostess; Olin & Jeanette Banks, Banquet Host/Hostess; and Carolyn Daniels, Editor's Breakfast Hostess. Also, I thank all the members who attended the SFMS banquet – it's a small gesture, but it shows the other clubs the interest we have in both our club and the SFMS.

GMS also participated in the Earth Day activities at the Fernbank Science Museum in April. You might think that there would be little public response to such an event. However, those of us who "worked the bench" know how busy we were. Most had little prior knowledge of rocks and minerals and fossils; we did our best to enlighten them, if only a little.

GMS also helped with the Science Olympiad competition held at Emory University in April. This was basically a last-minute deal, yet our crack Science - Olympiad crew came up with a quality test to tax the students' minds. Seems our

volunteers keep coming up with better and better questions.

Did I accomplish all that I wanted? No. We still have some by-law revisions to tidy up. I didn't follow up on that. We still don't have our own place (but, that's a common grievance with us Presidents). Yet, we move on. We still have things to do.....many things. New opportunities will appear, and, as always, the membership will step up to accomplish them. Will you be one of those members?

I've been honored to have served as your President for the past year. Although many believe the President has the hardest job, let me tell you that is not so. Instead, my thanks go out to the other officers, section chairs, and other volunteers who have done the majority of the work. It is those members that make GMS the successful society that it is.

**Doug Daniels,
President**



(photo courtesy of Joan White)
**Doug at the Fernbank Earth Day activities.
Adios amigo !**



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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Adopt-A-Highway	Robert Peard	770.936.0180
Assets/Equipment	Open to Volunteers	
Awards	Joan White	77.478.5734
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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	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 November 2005 newsletter is October 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:
gms@gamineral.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	

October General Meeting

**GMS Annual Banquet
7:00 PM, October 3, 2005
Fire Mountain Grill**



The GMS Annual Banquet and Officer Installation will be held at Fire Mountain Grill, 7045 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross, GA, (770) 840-9096. The festivities will begin on 3 October at 7:00 PM in the banquet room. Service will be self-serve at the Fire Mountain buffet and grill with individual bills (everyone pays for themselves). The meal charge is \$8.59 plus tax plus 15% gratuity per person. There will be no reservations nor advance payment needed. I have eaten at two Fire Mountain Grill restaurants and the food is excellent with a good choice of meats, vegetables, and desserts. Please join us to celebrate the successes and accomplishments of the past year and to welcome the new officers of the Society.

Directions: Yahoo and Mapquest have good directions to the restaurant.

The URL is <http://www.firemountaingrill.com>.

From I-85 and Jimmy Carter Boulevard, go west on Jimmy Carter Blvd. (GA 140). 4 miles. Fire Mountain is located on the right.

From I-285 and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, go north on Peachtree Industrial Blvd. to Jimmy Carter Blvd. (GA 140), turn left and Fire Mountain is located on the right.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bill Waggener,
Special Events Chair**

**September 12, 2005 GMS
General Meeting Program Review
The Fossil Timeline: An Overview**

By Kim Cochran

GMS member that wears numerous hats.

Once again, Kim has provided us a very informative presentation, with handouts!

The Fossil record for multi-cell organisms only starts about 635 Million Years Ago (Mya), with the appearance of soft-bodied invertebrates (Jellyfish and Sponges). Before that time, only single-cell organisms like stromatolites and other algae's are found in the rock strata. For 9/10th of this planets "life" there has been little to no life.

The boundaries of the Eras, Periods, and Epochs are usually marked by either minor or mass extinctions of the dominant species, followed by a population explosion of a previously "minor" species. For example, at the end of the Permian period, ~230 Mya, a time when fish and swamp forests were the dominant species, 96% of all life died. The Mesozoic Era begins the age of Dinosaurs, that lasts 170My. Then at 65Mya, 25% of Birds, 2/3rds of Corals, Ammonites & Dinosaurs went extinct, allowing mammals to flourish.

The Fossil record timeline may be short, relative to the life of our planet, but is quite diverse and can be very abundant, when the appropriate conditions are available for their preservation.

Happy Hunting!

**Dylan Porter,
GMS Member**

Articles for Tips and Trips



The newsletter for any group is a reflection of the participation of everyone in the organization. Please consider submitting original material for publication in the **Tips and Trips**. Everyone enjoys reading about the experiences, trials and tribulations, interests and knowledge of fellow members.

Tell us about your most memorable field trip or favorite collecting spot. Maybe tell a funny story about collecting challenges. Rockhounds can get into some very interesting situations.

Stories, scientific articles or poems are welcome. Tips on safety, tools, etiquette, collecting or cataloguing are of great interest to the novice collectors. Many of you have several years of experience under you belts. Share what you know. Thank you.

**Joan White,
Editor**



(Photo courtesy of Joan White)

Kim Cochran teaching the GMS members about the fossil timeline. His colorful chart and excellent handouts were sources of invaluable information to the general membership at the September meeting.

October 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

**September 12, 2005
GMS General Meeting Minutes**



The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Doug Daniels at the Chamblee Library. Approximately 36 people were present, including 1 visitor, and 1 new member (Jason McIntosh). At Kim Cochran's request, the business end of the meeting was conducted before the evening's program.

micromounting. Bring a microscope and specimens if you have them.

Roxanne Lopez – Junior Section – possibly have juniors attend the micromount meeting. Announced she will be going to China for 8 months and needs volunteers to coordinate activities in her absence.

Joan White – Temporary Sunshine Chair – Louis Eldridge is in rehab in Athens, Joan's son is in New Orleans on a search and rescue operation, Bill Waggener is no longer "glowing". Please submit anniversary dates.

Anita Westlake – SFMS – not present, no report available.

Anita Westlake – Education Chair – not present, no report available.

Rod Peard – Adopt a Highway – not present, no report available.

Kim Cochran – December Show – going well so far, if dealer contracts are not submitted on time they will be replaced, committees will soon be recruiting volunteers.

Bill Waggener – Special Events - annual banquet October 3rd, buffet dinner at 7:00 followed by business meeting.

Kim Prakash/Nancy Marden – Refreshments – provided by Mary Porter.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

SPEAKER (7:55)

Doug announced GMS member Kim Cochran who gave a presentation on the ages of fossils. He began by distributing a chart of the geological time scale. Kim also provided numerous photocopies containing details and pictures of specific plant and animal species of the ages. He then proceeded with an extensive oral presentation of epochs and periods of each age, providing some examples of fossils.

DOOR PRIZES (8:40) – Margaret Ronan – Kim Cochran and Martha Brown were recognized for donations. Door prize numbers were called.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 8:50PM. It was seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Mary Porter,
Secretary**



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lizabeth McClain – VP Membership – members have been good about renewing on time, and updating e-mail addresses.

Dylan Porter – VP Programs – (not yet present) Doug – next meeting is October 3rd (banquet).

Mary Porter - Secretary – minutes from August general and board meeting available and in T&T. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to dispense of reading minutes.

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

Joan White – Tips & Trips – asked for all articles to be submitted by the 15th. Requested articles/pictures of any field recent field trips. Carolyn Daniels (former editor) announced Doug Daniels as recipient of AFMS (4th place) and SFMS (3rd place) awards on one of his articles.

George Libby – Field Trips – (now recuperating at home) Doug – Glendon, NC - October 8th, Harleyville, NC - October 15th (limited to first 50 to sign up), Graves Mountain - October 7-9, Weinman tour of mines – September 24th, and Hogg Mine hosted by JGMS in October.

Harry Yingst – Fossil Section – not present. Doug – future meeting TBA to have a new chairperson elected.

Julian Gray – Mineral Section/Librarian – not present. Doug – next meeting September 20th at Anita Westlake's, topic is minerals in our daily life. Library – tentative move date (September 25th) has not been confirmed.

Kim Cochran – Gem Section – next meeting (annual quiz) September 26th at Kim's, supper at 6:30 (RSVP), meeting at 7:30.

Dave Babulski – Micromount Section – next meeting September 22nd at the Fernbank about getting started in

A FIELD TRIP TO WOODBURY

On September 10th the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society hosted a DMC field trip to Woodbury, Tennessee, to hunt quartz geodes. Many rockhounds arrived at the meeting place early and ate breakfast on the square in Woodbury. We then gathered to sign in and pay our \$5.00 and get directions to the site. There were an estimated 40 attendees, approximately 15 of which were GMS members.

We drove a short distance to the property owner's land and parked. About 25 folks climbed on the back of a utility truck with the remainder taking their own vehicles, and up the hills we went. The property owner had recently cleared a large hilltop, and we were free to wander hither and yon searching for geodes. There were a good number of geodes lying about, and a few were partially buried. Everyone got several bucketsful and was very happy.

Some of us returned to town to eat lunch at Joe's, a locally famous restaurant. After lunch we were treated to a visit to the brand-new Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Museum in Murfreesboro. The museum is on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University. We were the first guests of the museum, with the exception of a couple of deans who had come by. The museum was very impressive, and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. We highly recommend readers visit the museum.

Our thanks to host Lewis F. Elrod, CFE and museum curator Albert E. Ogden, Ph.D. for allowing us to tour the museum and their beautiful collections held within. And thanks also for the lively discussion we had. All in all it was a terrific field trip and excursion.

*Lizabeth and Mickey McClain,
GMS members*

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New members Bob, Linda (hidden by car) and son Robbie Kay looking over their first field trip's collection while GMS Executive Vice President of Membership, Lizabeth McClain (floppy hat) looks on.

(photo courtesy of Mickey McClain)



(photos courtesy of Mickey McClain)

Above: A view of the unloading of the rock-collectors from the back of the truck. It was a full load!

Below: The collectors hard at work. The hillside is littered with geodes and the collectors.



New Library Location

Soon the GMS library will be located in the home of Julian Gray. There will be an upcoming announcement regarding the date for moving the cases and books to their new home. Please contact Julian if you wish to volunteer help with this project. Please watch your email for the possibility of a move in late October or the next issue of **Tips and Trips** for a November date. We will need strong backs and trucks. Thanks go to Julian to opening his home to GMS members and to house the GMS library. We are grateful for the move.

**Thank you,
Joan White,
Editor**



December Show News

Everything seems to be going along smoothly. We have received contracts from the bulk of our usual dealers. Anita is working toward signing up additional dealers to fill the voids. This is one of the most difficult jobs of putting on a gem show. Not only does Anita locate and sign up dealers, but she is the first person to receive any fallout if the dealers are not happy about something during the show. Jay will soon be signing up people to exhibit. As in past years, the public will vote on what they consider to be the best case.

Margaret will be looking for people to demonstrate their talents and knowledge. You might show the visitors how to make a piece of jewelry. You can demonstrate how to prepare fossils. You can do mineral identification or facet. You can even put out some specimens and just talk about rocks or fossils. It is really easy and a great way to educate the public.

Nancy will be signing up people to work the front table. These volunteers welcome visitors, direct them to certain dealers, answer questions and give out door prizes. Again, it is easy, and if you are new, it is a great way to get to know your fellow members who are working the table with you.

Teresa does a job that is very difficult. She takes in money (including at the auction) and keeps track of how much we spend. Along with this, both she and Perry handle all of our advertising. We are in many mineral and lapidary publications which cost us nothing. However, we still spend over \$ 5,000.00 in advertising in newspapers. Work on advertising begins many months before the show opens. Joan enters the door prize slips into our database. She keeps the list current for our post card mailings.

Joan has also agreed to handle the dealer dinner. We will have forty or so dealers. There is usually between one and four people in each booth. Not only do we feed the dealers, we feed ourselves and usually some of the trade center helpers. This can be a nerve-wracking job. There have been many times where it appeared that we might be short on food and at the last minute, the food pours in. It is a good way to get an ulcer.

I will be handling the auction on Saturday and will accept donations. At this time it appears that no one wants to handle set up/take down. This is actually an easy job. All you do is line up people to help and coordinate their efforts.

We also need our members to roam around as extra security. A show does not just happen. There are months of preparation involved. And, without your help, the show will not be successful. Please help out as best your can. We work hard but we also have fun doing it.

**Kim Cochran,
December Show Chair**

December Show Committee Chairs

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Set Up/Take Down Open to Volunteers

Calling All Cooks - Again !!!



It is once again time to start thinking about your favorite dish to cook and bring to the dealer dinner for the December Show. Everyone looks forward to this meal - all the dealers and the members working the show. Take a moment to email or call to volunteer to bring a dish.

For those of you too busy to cook (I can certainly understand that concept), a cash donation to off-set the cost of the meat or a purchased item will be equally appreciated. And never forget, it takes a lot of hands to get everything organized and everyone fed. If you would like to help with the dinner organization or serving, please just let me know. Thanks in advance for all you help and the yummy food.

**Joan White,
Dealer Dinner Chair**
jowhite@bellsouth.net or 770-478-5734

Upcoming Activity

Georgia State Parks

Geology Day

Saturday, October 8th, 10:00 AM.-1:00 PM

Panola Mountain State Park - Stockbridge

A professional geologist will lead this hike, teaching visitors about the geology, plants and animals found near this unusual granite mountain. Register in advance. \$3.00 parking. Phone 770-389-7801.

(from the Mid-Georgia Gem Clips, October 2005)

