APRIL 2004 GMS GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION REVIEW

GMS member Jose Santamaria gave a talk based on his research for an upcoming article in Matrix magazine on Graves Mountain, known as a mineral site for about 145 years. Jose gave an overview of the minerals, geology, possible formation, and some interesting stories (in the early 1900s, locals thought the mountain was another Mt. Pelee erupting after a campfire got out of hand on the top of the mountain). Professor Charles Sheppard, in the late 1830’s, introduced the world to specimens of Graves lazulite, rutile, pyrophyllite, and kyanite. Although famous for rutile, it was specimens of lazulite that first got his attention. He also thought that the quartzite present in the mountain would host diamonds. Later, George Kunz (of Tiffany’s fame) and a partner bought part of the mountain and worked it for specimens. The mountain was a common destination for picnickers and collectors into the 1930’s; in fact, GMS started having field trips there in 1935 (they used to meet at the Varsity, then caravan east). In 1938 Gilbert Withers did extensive collecting; in 1939 Peter Zodac (Rocks & Minerals magazine) predicted that by blasting and digging many excellent specimens could be found. Around the turn of the century, kyanite was determined to be an excellent raw material for high-temperature ceramics. The mountain was bought by Joel Watkins in 1940, who showed the site to be an economic kyanite deposit; however, WW II prevented the development of mining here. In 1963 Paul Bennett actually started mining; he sold his interest to Combustion Engineers (CE), the present owners, in 1965. Mining by CE ceased in 1984; Bennett continued afterwards until 1986. At one time Graves Mountain produced half the kyanite consumed in the U.S.; uses included making tiles for the space shuttle. Rutile, although the most famous mineral from here, was never an economic material from here. Reclamation of the tailings and acid waters started in 1990; however, it is unlikely that the entire mined area will ever be refilled. We are fortunate to have this famous, old locality still available as a collecting location; common sense and being considerate of present rules should allow us collectors continued access to this interesting site, which still produces excellent specimens (with hard work, of course).

Jose and Maia Santamaria before the April GMS General Meeting. (Photograph by Joan White.)

APRIL 2004 GMS GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION REVIEW

Adopt-A-Highway Report

Members participating in our 7th Annual Litter Pick-Up and Egg Hunt held on Saturday, April 10th, 2004 in Ball Ground, Georgia were greeted with sunny skies, pleasant temperatures, and lots and lots of litter. As a group we collected over 38 bags of trash while having fun searching for the eggs hidden in the litter, which were redeemed for mineral, fossil, and gem related prizes. All but one egg was found this year as we gave our adopt-a-mile a great Spring-cleaning.

A special thank you goes out to all this year’s crew: Kelsey Hopper and her dad Wayne Hopper, Roynan Krebs and her dad John Krebs, Cindy and Tom Peard and their “girl” Dingo, Karl Everett, Frank Decaminada, Cheryl Cornell, Jim Flora, Joel Woodin, Perry Curl, Kim Prakash, Kim Cochran, Joan White, Bill Waggener, and Rob Peard.

Thanks for volunteering your Saturday morning on Easter weekend for such a worthy cause. Your concern for the environment should be an inspiration to all club members. For those who have not yet participated in a litter pick-up you’re missing out on all the fun, so watch the newsletter for details of a future clean-up announcements, and join us to help keep Georgia’s highways litter free.

Rob Peard, Adopt-A-Highway Chair
Talkin’ Trash at 770.936.0180

People attending the Adopt-A-Highway 2004 Egg Hunt got together after the cleanup and had lunch at the Two Brothers Bar-B-Que in Ball Ground, GA. On the left, front to back, are: Cheryl Cornell, Jim Flora, Perry Curl, Kim Cochran. On the right, front to back are: Joan White, Frank Decaminada, Karl Everett, and Kim Prakash. Holding the camera is Bill Waggener. (Photograph by Bill Waggener.)

Rob Peard, Adopt-A-Highway Chair
Talkin’ Trash at 770.936.0180
Weinman Mineral Museum
Cartersville, Georgia

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT
Extended Through August 15 - Big Bones!
See a complete skeleton of Platybelodon, a Shovel Tusk Elephant on loan from the Fernbank Museum of Natural History! The fossil is an exact replica of the 15-million-year-old original excavated in China. The Tusker will be on exhibit with other ancient mammal fossils from the Weinman collection.

Through May 23 - NASA Moon Rock
A real Lunar sample brought back by the Apollo 15 mission is now on exhibit alongside the Weinman’s meteorite collection.

COOKIES AND COKE LEARNING SERIES
Cookies and Coke at 6:30 P.M., Lecture at 7:00 P.M.
Free Admission

Thursday, May 6 - Mark Issenberg
Pottery Glazes from Georgia Minerals. Mark Issenberg is an award-winning potter from Rising Fawn, Georgia. His work can be seen at his studio, Lookout Mountain Pottery. Mark will present a lecture and demonstration showing how he makes his unique pottery glazes using local minerals and clays.

Future Speakers
Thursday, June 24, 2004: Bob Jones, senior consulting editor for Rocks and Gem Magazine will speak on Kartchner Caverns.

Thursday, August, 2004: World-renown mineral photographer, Jeff Scovil, will be back at the Weinman to show the latest from the mineral world and to share his techniques for successfully photographing mineral specimens.

SPECIAL EVENT
Saturday, June 12, 2004
16th Annual Rockfest!
This popular event features mineral, gem and fossil dealers showcasing their wares on the grounds of the museum. Free admission to the museum, a silent auction, a sale in the gift shop, door prizes, mineral identification, food and family fun add to the festive atmosphere.

Weinman Mineral Museum
I-75 Exit 293 at Hwy 411 * 770.386.0576 *
www.weinmanmuseum.org

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
767 Clifton Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA
404.929.6300

For more information, please visit our website at: www.fernbank.edu/museum

Now on Exhibit:

Beauty from the Earth, a mini-exhibition located within the Cultures of the World Gallery.


Now Showing in IMAX:
Opening May 1, 2004: Ghosts of the Abyss

Jane Goodall’s Wild Chimpanzees

Martinis and IMAX on Friday nights only. Enjoy films, live music, and cocktails in a spectacular setting. Special screenings of Dolphins on Friday nights in May and June. For advanced tickets, call 404.929.6400.

Upcoming Public Programs and Events:
Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale. Family activities, seminars and a terrific assortment of live plants for sale. Saturday, May 8, 2004, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Held at Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Drive, 678.874.7102.

Archaeology Day. Saturday, May 15, 2004, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Demonstrations and activities for all ages. Co-sponsored by the State Archaeologist’s Office, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Free with Museum admission or membership.

Touching Georgia’s Past: Archaeology as a Time Machine. Dr. Dave Crass, State Archaeologist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Tuesday, May 25, 2004, 7:00 P.M. Free, but reservations are required, 404.929.6400.

Star Talks. Every Wednesday, 3:00 P.M., Star Gallery.
APRIL 2004 GENERAL MEETING MINI-MINUTES

The April 2004 General Meeting of the Georgia Mineral Society was called to order at 7:33 P.M. by President Joan White at the Chamblee Library. Approximately 43 people were present.

Frank Decaminada, in Jay Gorday’s absence, introduced the speaker for the evening, GMS member Jose Santamaria. Jose spoke about the mineral history of Graves Mountain.

Executive Board members and Committee Chairs gave short reports. Door prizes were awarded at 8:55 P.M., and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Daniels, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please help welcome the following new members to the Georgia Mineral Society: James M. Brown of Lawrenceville, GA; Brian E. Harriss of Harlem, GA and Atlanta, GA. And welcome back, Robert S. and Dianna Fousek of Auburn, AL, who have been away from GMS for a couple of years. We’re glad to have you all with us and hope to see you soon.

Thank you very much to all the members who are diligently sending in renewals. I really appreciate your attentiveness. Anyone who is unsure of his membership expiration date can feel free to contact me for assistance.

Thank you,
Lizabeth McClain
Executive VP/Membership
404.872.6310

HOW WILL YOU FARE?

Try your hand at one of the stations at the State Science Olympiad Fossil Competition:

1. In what Kingdom did the organisms represented by these fossils belong? (1 point)
2. In what Class (your official Science Olympiad list call is a Genus) did they belong in? (1 point)
3. In what Order did the organism represented by Fossil “A.” belong in? (1 point)
4. What Genus is represented by Fossil “B.” (1 point)
5. Was the test of the organism represented by Fossil “B.” chitinous, agglutinated, calcareous or hyaline? (1 point)
6. What does Fossil “B” have in common with the pyramids of Egypt? (1 point)
7. Is Fossil “B” microscopic or macroscopic? (1 point)

The answers will be in the June 2004 issue of Tips and Trips.
Questions by Carolyn Daniels and Kim Cochran
(see associated article on page 13)
Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"
8 A.M. to 6 P.M., Friday, May 14, 2004
8 A.M. to 6 P.M., Saturday, May 15, 2004
(HOT FOOD/drinks, Saturday, May 15, 2004)
8 A.M. to 6 P.M., Sunday, May 16, 2004

"Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has recently been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Junior Norman, in regard to his plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during May 14 through 16, 2004. He has confirmed that the mountain will be open to collecting from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. each day. All participants must stop at the gate to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf carts available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 P.M. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:
Junior will set aside an area in the parking lot for tables to be setup for a daily rock swap. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill or BBQ will be available for purchase on the mountain during Saturday, May 15, 2004. Cold drinks will also be available for purchase.

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL MINERAL COLLECTORS
Mark your May calendars and tell all your members about this great event!

Contact Information:
Junior Norman - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)
SFMS Field Trip Committee: DMC Field Trip Sharing Program
Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gamineral.org

Jim Flora - Field Trip Committee Chair

Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.
- ALL pets must be under control and on a leash.
- The Graves Mountain caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO RAPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!
Report Violations to: Junior Norman
706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)
All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.

SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES REPORT

Youth SFMS Workshop Scholarships
Elizabeth Siegfried and Chelsey Tyler

CONGRATULATIONS to our recipients of the Youth SFMS Workshop Scholarships for 2004, Elizabeth Siegfried and Chelsey Tyler.

Elizabeth is greatly respected in her community for her many areas of involvement in her gem club. She is a collector, especially at field trips, and also loves the lapidary arts. She facets and wire wraps and is eager to learn new skills that the workshops provide. Elizabeth also teaches classes in wire wrapping and goes to area schools to tell about her hobby. She works at the club show and also in the club museum. The skills and interpersonal relationships learned at the workshops will greatly enhance her life and interest in this lifelong avocation. The letter from the president of her club is very descriptive and complimentary. Elizabeth wrote an article and submitted a photo, both of which were published in the January 2004 issue of Lodestar. The article relates her enthusiasm about her hobby and the workshop experience.

Chelsey is an active member of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. She participates in the stamp collecting program and has helped at the club meetings by setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs and serving refreshments. She has also worked at the club show in the ticket booth and demonstrating cabbing. Chelsey has attended several workshop classes and has set up a silver studio in her home. She recently designed and crafted a bracelet for her school auction. She would like to take a casting class in June at William Holland to enhance her jewelry making skills. The president of Chelsey’s club has written an enthusiastic and comprehensive letter as a recommendation for Chelsey to receive a scholarship and we know she will greatly benefit by the workshop she attends.

CONGRATULATIONS, ELIZABETH and CHELSEY!!

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairs
from Lodestar (SFMS newsletter; 4/04)