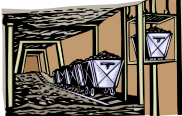


Safety First - Safety Rules For Field Trips

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair



Field trip season is upon us and we need to pause and review appropriate safety rules. Field trip leaders need to review these rules before every field trip.



10. Avoid old mine tunnels. Never go into a mine alone. Carry a flashlight and a candle with you. Carbon dioxide or other gases, such as methane, may be present. There may even be a lack of oxygen. Mines are also havens for snakes, scorpions, spiders, rodents and their feces which can carry disease. Mines also may contain uncovered shafts and pits. Also be extremely cautious around abandoned buildings. You may stumble into old deep wells or cesspools not properly covered.



1. Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help if necessary. Make sure someone knows where you have gone and when you will return. Carry a cell phone with spare battery to expedite your communications. Call someone if you are going to change your routine or are going to be late.

Should you leave a field trip early, notify the person in charge.

11. Respect property rights and signs. Obtain permission to enter property if owned by private individuals or corporations. Attend Company safety briefings required by MOSHA and sign releases. Pay attention to and practice the Companies safety policies. Adhere to government regulations and restrictions if collecting on public lands or parks. Pay any collecting fees required and do not exceed collecting limits where established.

2. Should there be children on the field trip, have them within sight or talking distance at all times. A child could not only become lost, but could encounter a snake, scorpion, etc., or have an accident of some sort.



12. Inquire if there are any dangerous animals on the property. Close all gates you open.

3. Do not collect directly above or below other people or below unstable rock piles, cliff walls or overhangs where there may be danger of falling rock.

13. Refill any holes you dig so people or animals will not fall in. Do not dump dirt or other debris into streams.



4. Park so that all cars can get out. Do not block the roadway. Do not drive cars, SUV's, or RV's, such as "4 wheelers", across fields to avoid damaging property, setting grass fires with catalytic converters or damaging the vehicle. Do not drive across or walk on newly planted or cultivated fields without special permission.



14. Respect another's diggings. If a person has left for lunch or for any other reason with the intent of returning, and has left a pick, coat, or definite marker, find another spot.

15. Leave any place in good condition. Don't leave paper, cans, and other litter lying around to mar the beauty of the place, and to tell others that you have been there. Take your litter with you, do not bury it.



5. Have your vehicle in proper working order with appropriate emergency equipment and supplies as outlined in last months Safety First article.



16. Never eat wild berries or anything else unless you are absolutely sure they are safe. Carry bottled water or other drinks and do not drink from streams or wells that have not been recently tested.



6. Make sure that all fires are completely out and wet down the ashes with water, stir to make sure there are not any buried embers and then smother completely with dirt. Adhere to local fire regulations and warnings.



17. Be able to recognize poison ivy, poison oak, etc. Should there be any doubt, don't touch.



7. Break all matches and shred all cigarettes before discarding and be careful where they are disposed of. Take them with you rather than leaving them as litter.



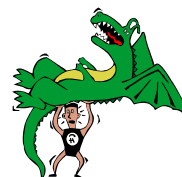
18. Always be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, spiders, rodent infestations, etc. Be very careful where you place your hands and feet.

8. Do not throw rocks or engage in "horse play" and do not allow children to do so.

19. Bring and properly use the appropriate well-maintained and inspected tools. Don't expect others to provide tools for you.



9. Do not over exert or stay in the direct sunlight or heat too long. Take a rest in the shade from time to time and drink plenty of electrolyte replacing fluids, such as sports drinks. Properly wear appropriate safety equipment, sunscreen, and clothing.



20. Use proper lifting and carrying techniques to bring home your finds. Do not overload your vehicle.

Many of these safety rules are covered in greater detail in the AFMS Safety Manual and on the AFMS web site. Have a safe field trip season in 2005.

(From the AFMS Newsletter - June- July - August, 2005)

**Junior Field Trip
August 14, 2005, 2 PM
Helen, GA
Cool Tubing Headquarters**

What do you do with kids in the heat of summer and you want them to learn something. What about a tubing trip down the Chattahoochee River in Helen, GA?

Bill Waggener will float with our juniors and parents down this fun part of the river and point out rocks and features of the river. Bring sun screen and towels.

Parents must accompany the kids on the trip. You will get thoroughly wet so bring your swimsuit. Park and purchase tickets at the Cool River Headquarters, located behind the Alpine Village Shops in Helen, GA. It is about 90 miles north of Atlanta and the drive time is just under 2 hours. Get direction from mapquest.com to get there. We will meet in front of the Headquarters at 2 pm. If your family wants to come earlier, you can buy a day pass. The company will shuttle us up river to the long trip length and we will float down the Chattahoochee back to Headquarters where we are parked. The longer float will take 2-2.5 hours. Actual time depends on water level of river. Tubing Prices: \$5/person, Kids 5 & under tube free (apply to either trip length). Combine with a Waterslide Pass for only \$10/person. An All-Day Tubing Pass is \$9/person. Please call if you are coming, so we will look for you.

**Roxanne Lopez,
Junior Section Chair
Home: 770-436-0387
Cell: 678-491-7175**



AFMS Code Of Ethics



I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.



I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



Gem Section News



Gem Section Meeting
Monday, August 29, 2005, 7:30 PM
Kim Cochran's Home
2605 Van Court
Snellville, GA 30078

I would like to thank Gracia Evins for hosting the July Meeting and also for the delicious meal.

This month we will discuss quartz gems. Supper will be at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP to 770-979-8331.

Kim Cochran,
Gem Section Chair

Membership News

Let's all welcome our newest members to Georgia Mineral Society: Tom Beyer of Atlanta, GA; Linda Kay Davis of Marietta, GA; Roger and Aimee Lorts of Decatur, GA; Peter and Denise Mailman of Columbus, GA; and Robert, Alecia, Andrew, and Sarah Redmond of Savannah, GA. We look forward to meeting each of you in the near future.

Happy Rockhounding!

Lizabeth McClain,
Executive VP/Membership

Fossil Section News



There will be no fossil section meeting this month. Please keep an eye on future issues of Tips and Trips for an announcement regarding the next meeting.

Friends, like fossils, are forever,
Harry Yingst, Fossil Section Chair

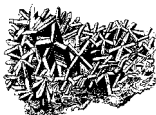
Micromount Section News



There will be no Micromount Section meeting this month. Upcoming meeting dates and locations will be posted in the **Tips and Trips**. Keep your eyes open for the announcements.

Dave Babulski,
Micromount Section Chair

Mineral Section News



Many thanks to Kim Cochran for hosting the July meeting of the mineral section. There will be no meeting of the mineral section in August. Details of the next meeting in September will be announced in upcoming Tips and Trips and on the GMS web page. If you have an idea for a topic or would like to host a meeting at your home, please contact me!

Thank you!
Julian C. Gray,
Mineral Section Chair

Education News



Kim Cochran spoke to the Chattanooga Club on Gold in July. Anita Westlake taught two classes at Emory on "coaching the coaches on rocks and minerals" for next year's Science Olympiad.

If you gave a talk, please let me know so I can make you famous. Please email me - I remember things better when I see them in writing! (libawc@emory.edu).

Anita D. Westlake,
Education Chair

Executive Board Meeting

1:00 P.M., August 27, 2005
Home of Irving and Eva Ostrofsky
1402 Arbor Lake Court
Hoschton, Georgia 30548

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at Irving and Eva Ostrofsky's home in Hoschton, Georgia.

Please RSVP with Eva at 678-425-2573 if you plan to attend. The main topic for discussion will be developing the budget for next year.

Hope to see you there.
Doug Daniels, President



International Directory of Micromounters

from the Baltimore Mineral Society

The Baltimore Mineral Society, sponsors of the annual Desautels Micromineral Symposium and Micromounters Hall of Fame, is pleased to announce the availability of the 20th edition of the International Directory of Micromounters.

The cost per copy is \$6 plus postage of \$2.50 for up to 3 copies mailed to the same U. S. address.

For foreign addresses, visit the BMS website <http://edisk.fandm.edu/mike.seeds/BMS.htm>.

The Directory lists those interested in microminerals from around the world and is a useful tool for those who wish to contact others in the field. It also lists micromineral clubs, museums housing micromount collections and annual micromineral symposia. Copies can be obtained by sending a check, payable to "Directory of Micromounters" to Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

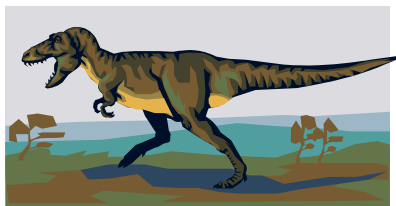
(From the AFMS Newsletter - June- July - August, 2005)

HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

TAKE YOUR KIDS SURFING ON THE WEB!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Jr. Activities Chair

Kids have always been hard-wired, metaphorically, for learning, but with the advent of the Internet, today's kids are literally wired-to-learn. If given a research assignment in school when I was a kid, my first stop was the library, but my kids run immediately to the Internet and Google. They play video games, they chat with friends via instant-messaging, they write their papers on the computer, and they surf the Web for both school topics and personal interest. To help youth leaders capitalize on this now-natural proclivity of today's kids and teens, I've recently concluded a 4-part series for the CFMS Newsletter that provided annotated listings of Web sites organized around various aspects of the rock-hounding hobby: 1) Fossils, 2) Minerals & Earth Resources, 3) Lapidary Arts, and 4) Museums. Following are abbreviated highlights from those four articles:



Fossils

www.isgs.uiuc.edu/dinos/

This site is maintained by Russell "Dino Russ" Jacobson, an associate geologist at the Illinois State Geological Survey and a "certified dinomaniac." It collects info on dinosaur digs, exhibits, societies, publications, dinosaur artwork, and more. A truly wonderful site and easy to navigate!

www.paleoportal.org

The Paleontological Portal (produced by the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the PaleoSociety, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists, and the USGS) is a central entry point to paleontology resources for audiences of all levels. Topics for exploration include Exploring Time & Space, the Fossil Gallery, Famous Flora & Fauna, Careers, Resources, Collections, and Calendar.

Minerals & Earth Resources

www.usgs.gov

Go to the "Education" section on this, the official web site of the U.S. Geological Survey. They have a nice link to the "Earth Science Information Center" where experts will answer kids' earth science questions via the USGS education web site.

www.mii.org and www.womeninmining.org

The Web sites of the Mineral Information Institute and the Women in Mining organization provide a wealth of info and resources on minerals, uses of minerals in everyday life, and careers in the earth sciences. Both also offer links to other interesting earth science sites.

www.theimage.com

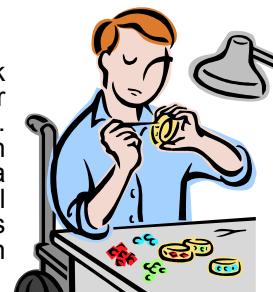
This site allows you to wander through a Mineral Gallery of gorgeous gemstones to learn about the chemical properties of nearly 200 different types of minerals.



Lapidary Arts

www.rockhounds.com

Brought on-line in 1995, "Bob's Rock Shop" is the Internet's first 'Zine (or on-line magazine) for rock-hounds. This noncommercial site teamed with Rock & Gem magazine to provide a first-class resource on topical information for hobbyists. It includes excellent reference lists of books on all aspects of lapidary arts.



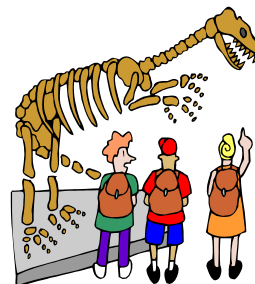
Socrates.berkeley.edu/~eps2/

Together with Hanna Cook-Wallace (a professional gemologist with a jewelry studio in Madison, Wisconsin), Jill Banfield of the UC-Berkeley Department of Earth & Planetary Science provides lessons on Gems & Gem Materials from an on-line course she offers. This is a terrific site, packed with useful lapidary info.

www.tradeshop.com/gems/

These pages provide a comprehensive introduction to gemology and the lapidary arts for the general public and a handy resource for the jewelry trade.

Museums



www.lib.washington.edu/sla/natmus.html

Rated a "Top Site" by Education Index, here you'll find direct links to local and regional museums, large and small museums, and university collections across the U.S. and around the world. One of the most comprehensive collections of museum links I've seen!

Paleo.cc/kpaleo/museums.htm

"Kuban's Guide to Natural History Museums on the Web" features annotated links to the larger, more famous museums and virtual museums that feature displays of fossils, paleontology, and related subjects.

www.amnh.org/education/resources/

On-line activities and resources are available through the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Lessons are written for elementary through high school levels (and divided by grade levels) in 5 areas, including Earth Sciences, Paleontology, and Astronomy. You'll find 17 lessons on minerals, 6 on meteorites, and more than 25 on various aspects of paleontology.

If you would like to receive the full listing of sites or all four of my CFMS columns, feel free to email or call (jbraceth@adelphia.net; 805/659-3577). These sites scratch just the surface of what's out there. You can make this into a fun activity for your juniors by encouraging them to surf the Web themselves for interesting sites related to our hobby and having them share and report on what they find with their fellow members at your next meeting. Let's capitalize on the tools today's kids use for learning while—as always—having fun!

(From the AFMS Newsletter - June- July - August, 2005)

PALEO BILL NEWS — SENATE BILL S-263*from Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson*

The Paleo Resources Bill is still floating around in the Senate. If you've not done so, it is imperative that you and your club members write to your Senators and Representatives expressing your views on a) the effort to fast track the legislation without debate and b) the legislation itself. If we remain silent on this legislation all of us will lose our right to collect. Although this bill deals with fossils, other collecting possibilities may be threatened next. One important note: In the last AFMS Newsletter, Jon Spunaugle gave an incorrect bill number in his "Truth and Some Consequences" article. The correct number for the bill is S-263. Here is a good sample letter that might serve as a guideline for your own letter to your legislators:

Honorable _____

United States House of Representatives (or Senate)

Washington, DC

Dear Congressman _____:

As one of your most loyal and long-time supporters, and a resident of Congressional District Number *** of Georgia, I am writing to ask for your help to defeat **Senate Bill S-263, a supposed Paleontological Resources Preservation Act**. It has already passed through committee without amendment for action on the floor of the U.S. Senate. As a (Registered Geologist) and amateur gem and mineral collector, I can attest that S-263 is a very bad piece of legislation, and I ask that you do what you can to block passage of this Bill by a no vote or any other means available to you. There are many good reasons why this poorly conceived legislation is a detriment to this country and it's citizens, and they boil down to these:

1. This bill masquerades as protecting fossils and academic inquiry. IT DOES NOT. To the contrary, it inhibits knowledge and inquiry. The majority of what is known about fossils has been gathered by non-commercial and amateur collectors, and most museum collections are the result of non-commercial or amateur finds.
2. The Secretary of the Interior asked that academic, amateur and commercial fossil collectors be consulted in the preparation of potential legislation regarding fossil resources on public lands. To my knowledge, the commercial collectors were not consulted, input from amateurs was not solicited, and there was never an opportunity for any to testify.
3. This legislation is the product of a few academics alone, in concert with a small group of managers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service. Such collegiate and government personnel have, through aggressive tactics pushed their own skewed agenda. An agenda that is not good for the true science of paleontology, and would be a tragic mistake if enacted.

This Bill (S-263) must be stopped, or at the very least scrapped, as it serves neither the resource nor the public. I believe I can speak for all amateur collectors, and ask that our rights as citizens not be infringed upon, nor should we live under the fear of being arrested simply because we picked up a bone, shell, or fossil of some sort. Please do what you can to shut down and eliminate Senate Bill 263.

Best regards,

(signature)

[adapted from the A.F.M.S. Newsletter (6/05)]

(Editor's Note) Please take the time to protect our rights to collect. If you do choose to contact your local Representative or a Georgia Senator, please send a copy of your letter to Joan White to add to the GMS scrapbook. Although the club as an entity cannot lobby any piece of legislation, each member has the right to voice his opinion. To assist you in locating your local representative and the addresses of the Georgia Senators visit the websites:

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/> and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

August 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
 The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the
GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY (Host)

9:00 AM, Saturday, August 20, 2005
Ladd's Mountain, Cartersville, GA
Weinman Mineral Museum, Cartersville, GA

This mountain is "THE PLACE" in the state of Georgia and the southeast to collect Cave Onyx (flow stone). In the process of mining this mountain for limestone, caves were exposed that contained beautifully banded calcite ranging in colors of orange-red to creamy white and yellow. This type of calcite formation is called "Cave Onyx." The material is very beautiful and can be cut and polished with ease. It also brightly fluoresces white in short-wave ultraviolet light and phosphoresces blue when you turn off your UV light.

At the mountain we will all need to sign a release form at the Bartow County Maintenance shop before being allowed to enter. We are also required to sign-out before we leave so that they will not lock the gate until everyone is accounted for. Dogs are allowed if necessary, but must stay on a leash. Children are welcome under adult supervision.

COLLECTING: Cave Onyx, black flint nodules, Dendrites, Calcite crystals (botryoidal and stalactic), Aragonite, and Dolomite. Cave formations and onyx can be found loose in the dirt as well as in pockets in the rock. The flint has been washed up in a large graded area next to the pit and is easily collected on the surface. There is also onyx in this area but most of it appeared to be weathered.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: The high walls are dangerous and covered with poison ivy. Please do not enter the caves in the walls due to bat inhabitation and the diseases they carry. The pit is being used as an inert landfill and had about 15 feet of water in it when I checked it out so I would appreciate everyone staying out of the pit. Access to most of the better collecting area is very overgrown so come prepared to knock down some weeds.

BRING: You will need to bring a rock hammer and chisel, Ziploc bags, and a scratching tool to work the dumps. If you want to work a little harder, bring a sledge hammer and a smaller crack hammer for the larger boulders. You may also want to bring a pick and shovel to try and dig out any buried Onyx slabs that have come off the face of the cliffs. As always, bring, sunscreen, a hat, gloves, sturdy shoes, newspaper, 5 gallon buckets, bug spray and plenty of water, both to drink and to wash down any skin areas exposed to poison ivy. This being stated, I would recommend saving the shorts to wear later in the day at the museum.

SPECIAL TRIP: When it gets too hot to collect at the quarry, we will travel back through town to the Weinman Mineral Museum for the air-conditioning and some great minerals/fossils! The museum has a new exhibit on Georgia Gold! We will be able to view the largest discovery of Georgia gold in recent times - over 300 nuggets plus the largest gold matrix specimen on public display! Our group will receive a special reduced entrance fee to the museum.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Where: We will meet in the corner of the Ingles parking lot next to Highway 113 (West Avenue) and the light. Ingles is on your right on 113 about 1.5 miles west of downtown Cartersville.

When: 9:00 AM, on SATURDAY, August 20, 2005

Contact: Jim Haege, jim.haege@chart-ind.com, 706-253-5920

DMC Field Trip Policies: (DMC Field Trip Sharing Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee)

All societies which have agreed to host a field trip and join the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee will be called an "**associated**" club. Only associated clubs will be allowed to publish DMC program field trips as their official monthly field trip. (Benefit of membership!)

Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance.

For **insurance purposes**, all associated clubs **must** publish all DMC program field trips as "officially recognized" field trips of their society. It is required that all persons who attend a DMC program field trip be a member, in good standing, of an SFMS club. Since a family membership covers everyone in a family who can attend, your SFMS club will need all family member names on their membership roll.

All sites visited by the DMC field trip sharing program are **not to be revisited** unless they are on public domain property - road cuts, national forests, etc., or on privately owned land with the owner's permission. This is the quickest way to lose access to a host club's field trip location. Therefore, if an associated club or one of its members breaks this crucial DMC field trip policy, their future DMC program field trip information will be **forfeited!**

Please do not visit a site immediately before a DMC program field trip. Also, do not go to a site ahead of the group on the day of the field trip. Meet and convoy with the rest of the group so that everyone will have equal access to the site.

Do not park your vehicle where it is blocking the road, a gate, or another vehicle.

Always fill in all your holes.

Don't litter.

Never disturb buildings or other facilities at a collecting site.

Only take home what you can reasonably use!

PLEASE keep your vehicle locked at all times!

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:
To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips. Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gamineral.org
World Wide Web site for the DMC is:

<http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."