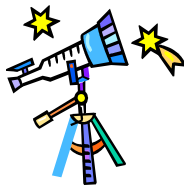


Geology and Space Science Class at Wildacres*By Anita D. Westlake*

It was recently my pleasure to be among the first people to attend the new "Geology and Space Science" class taught by Dr. Mike Reynolds at Wildacres. This is one of the first of its kind: a non-lapidary class at a lapidary retreat.

Initially, I was worried that the class wouldn't fill up. I was concerned that people would say "If I take that class I won't have anything to show for my week in the mountains." I must admit, I thought the same thing. Other than amazing views of the North Carolina mountains, clean air, amazing sights in the sky, fun field trips, great friends, great food and brain cells that were shaken from their long, dusty naps, there was nothing to show for it.

Dr. Mike Reynolds, an astronomy professor, and award-winning science teacher, had just returned from a cruise to Tahiti where he led a group of folks on a total solar eclipse watch. Just before that, he had led an expedition to Antarctica to look for meteorites. We considered ourselves lucky to have him for a week on a mountain top looking at the crystal clear night skies over Wildacres.

This was his first time at the mountain retreat, and his first time teaching this class. He kept referring to us as his guinea-pigs but I felt more like a primitive cave-dweller seeing amazing things in the sky for the first time. I think everyone in the class (there were 8 of us) rushed right out and bought a telescope as soon as we got off the mountain. There's a real fancy type that's called a "Go-To" telescope. You just tell it where you are in the world and what you want to see. Its on-board computer and GPS system cranks up and the whole apparatus revolves on its base until it's pointing at just the star or planet you told it to find. Wouldn't Galileo have been proud?

I had never seen Jupiter through a telescope, much less its moons. There were 4 of them just trailing behind the big planet like baby chicks waddling after their mommy. And you haven't lived until you've seen Saturn's rings through a telescope. It's like looking at a National Geographic photograph, but you have to remind yourself you're seeing the real thing in real time. It brought some people to tears. Okay, I was one of them.

I was so inspired by the class and the caliber of Dr. Reynolds, that I wrote a poem to commemorate his first class. (By the way, they have already asked him, and he's already agreed to teach the class next April.) I read this poem aloud to the whole assembly at our "Show and Tell" night at Wildacres. Mike told me later in an email that he shared it with his home mineral club in Jacksonville, Florida. By the way, the thing about the "grommet" is an inside joke. You'll have to take the class to find out what I'm talking about in the poem:

**"Ode to Dr. Mike and His Space Cadets"
Wildacres, 2005***By Anita D. Westlake*

I must confess I didn't know
Binoculars were fun
We talked about them that first class
Until the day was done.

The second day was telescopes
The big, the bad, the "Go-To's"
It's amazing what I didn't know
That just goes to show you!

Next we played with our planispheres
And it's here that I must lament,
I looked in the sky both day and night
And never found the grommet.

The things we saw that first clear night
The Moon! Jupiter! Saturn!
The oohs and ahhs that issued forth
Were to become a pattern.

The moon was full and shining bright
And Saturn wore its rings
But Jupiter's four trailing moons
Was the most amazing thing!

And then we learned of meteorites
Those visitors from space
Dr. Mike says "Keep Looking Up!"
They'll land right on your face!

Ataxites, Achondrites
Who knew there were such words?
There's one called "Camel Donga"
That sounds just like a.....bird

We learned what makes stars twinkle
It's written down in song
But you haven't lived until you've learned
A meteorite from wrong.

How could I live this long on Earth
Not seeing the stars so boundless?
I've always looked down at the ground
In my life as a Rockhoundress.

So now I'm really troubled
With this new love that I've found
When I leave the comfort of my home
Should I look up or down?



June 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

Providence Canyon State Park Georgia's Little Grand Canyon

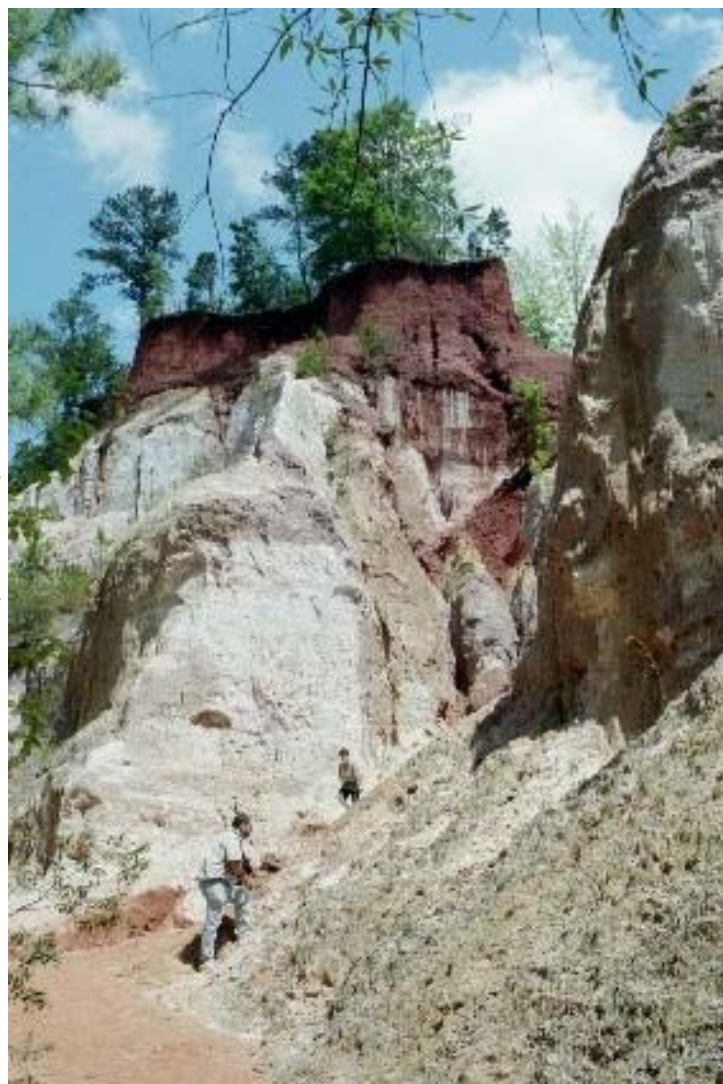


I had a reoccurring dream when I was young about a big hole in the ground that my family went to on outings. I remember my grandmother holding my hand tightly while my father, mother, and older brothers go climbing down into this deep hole. It was a mystery to me. I could not explain what this dream was about. Well, not until I was about 9 years old. My father is Army. We moved a lot. My mother's home was Georgia. So, for a period of time we lived other places. When we visited my grandparents, they took me to the grand opening of Westville (1850's Southern Town) in Lumpkin, GA on Aug 31, 1968. It was a fun place to go and still is. I even got to dance with Governor Lester at the festival. On the way home, my grandparents took me to Providence Canyon. It was a bumpy ride. It was seven miles of dirt road to get there. When I saw the canyon, I turned to my grandmother and asked had they taken me here when I was younger. They said yes. It was like coming home. I knew what my dreams were all about.

Since then, I have traveled to Providence Canyon almost every other year. In college, we would climb the sides of the canyon (which is illegal now due to erosion problems). I have pictures of the canyon since the 70's. This is a current picture. It is amazing how bad the erosion is. I have seen the road reconstructed several times because of the erosion and a church moved back at least a 100 yards. It became a state park in 1971. I have seen the park service put kudzu plants on the sides of the canyon in an attempt to slow down the erosion. Now, they are growing pine trees and vegetation. I have brought all my kids and scouts to this place. It is like seeing a small version of the Grand Canyon out west. It is a good place to climb down into the canyon and walk the creek beds. You need water shoes in some areas. It is about 3 hours south of Atlanta going through Columbus, GA. Nearby attractions include Westville Historic Village, Kolomoki Indian Mounds State Historic Park, and Florence Marina State Park. There is a four lane highway almost to the park now, and no more dirt roads. Times have changed.

The eroding and washing away of the sediments to form Providence Canyon has occurred within the last 170 years. It took 65-100 million years for these sediments to be deposited. The presence of fossilized remains of marine organisms like Coccoliths suggests that portions of this area were once a part of the shallow ocean bottom or shoreline. There are two major formations that can be seen. The upper red color is the youngest layer of sediment and is known as the Clayton Formation. The red color is caused by Iron Oxide (FeO). The middle and lower layers of sands are known as the Providence Formation. This formation has two sections. One is the white layer of very fine sand almost like talcum powder. The lower section is known as the Perote Member. It is dark gray in color. There are striking hues of different colors sands in the Providence Sand. The colors of tan, buff, pink, and salmon are a result of the iron contained in the Clayton. The lavender color is caused by the presence of manganese in the sand.

*Chris and Alex Lopez
(all photos courtesy of Roxanne Lopez)*



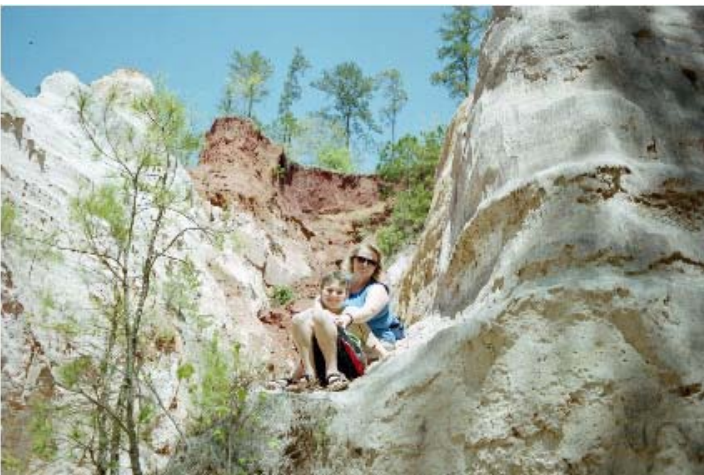
Two different types of erosion are at work in the Providence Canyon. One is surface water runoff and the second is the undercutting force of underground water. You can see headward erosion which is lengthening the canyon. You can also see lateral erosion which transformed small, narrow gullies into wide canyons.

Providence Canyon is a very dynamic system. In my lifetime, it has changed immensely. It is amazing what a little water can do (or a lot). The different types of vegetation during the seasons of the year can make this canyon very beautiful. There is a surprise at every bend in the canyon. Take time to visit this unique Georgia Park.

Roxanne Lopez

References

Joyce, L. (1995). *Geologic Guide to Providence Canyon State Park: Geologic Guide 9*. Department of Natural Resources. Atlanta, GA.



*Roxanne and Alex Lopez
2005*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to GMS: David and Betty Botts of Atlanta, GA; Bonnie Derrer, Dr. David Derrer, and Sophia Freaney of Marietta, GA; Janice Erickson of Maryville, TN; Eric and Nancy Fritz of Taylorsville, NC; Leslie, Dennis, and Katie Gulley of Lawrenceville, GA; Doris R. and Mariama Konneh of Decatur, GA; Bill Mayer of Newnan, GA; Richard H. McCullough of Lawrenceville, GA; Samantha and Dr. Christopher Parks of Atlanta, GA; Michelle, Ronald, Katie, and Connor Peavy of Jonesboro, GA; Kevin J., Karen, and Eric J. Phillips of Newnan, GA; Samuel C. Snipes, Sr., Samuel C. Snipes, Jr., and Samuel C. Snipes, III (Cody) of Atlanta, GA; Deneane Taylor and Ken Blackstone and Ashley Taylor of Powder Springs, GA; Robert and Gwynnell Vessell of Woodbury, GA; Stanley and Joyce Willis of Hamilton, GA; and Adrian Woulfe, Heather Smith, Patrick Woulfe, Katie Woulfe, and Kim Lawson of Lilburn, GA. Hopefully we will be meeting them in person very soon.

Happy Rockhounding!

**Lizbeth 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**

GEM SECTION NEWS

The next Gem Section meeting will be on Monday, June 27, 2005 at 7:30 PM.



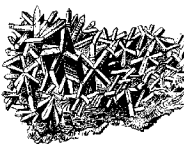
**Margaret Ronan's Home
1224 Beechhaven Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30324**

We will be talking about Gemstones of Australia. Hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to Margaret - 404.636.0720.

**Kim Cochran,
Gem Section Chair**

MINERAL SECTION NEWS



Many thanks go to John Trimble for hosting the May Mineral Section meeting. There will be no Mineral Section Meeting in June. Our next meeting will be held on July 19 at the home of Kim Cochran. Further details will be announced in the next Tips and Trips. If you would like to volunteer your home as a meeting place or if you have a topic that you would like to share, please contact me.

**Thank you!
Julian C. Gray, Mineral Section Chair**

JUNIOR SECTION NEWS

**Junior Section Meeting
June 18, 2005
10 a.m.**

**Right before Picnic
Jonesboro Park
Meet at the Picnic Shelter**



Our state is famous for gold. We will talk a little about our history and where you can pan for gold. There will also be a demonstration on how to pan for gold. So, bring a change of clothing, just in case, you get completely soaked. Just after our meeting, there will be the yearly picnic and auction. So, plan to stay most of the day.

**Roxanne Lopez,
Junior Section Chair
Home: 770-436-0387
Work: 404-814-4031
Cell: 678-491-7175**

SUNSHINE NEWS

Happy Birthday to the following GMS members:



- Joan White 06/04
- Anita Rouner 06/09
- Marcella Wood 06/13
- Jim Pruckler 06/25
- Deborah Parkman 06/26

If your name is not listed, it is because you have not sent your birthday information to Lizabeth McLain, Executive Vice President, Membership.

Please remember, George Libby (a.k.a. Liblick), GMS Field Trip Chair, is still in the hospital at Beverly Care next to Northside Hospital. George gave so much of his time to organizing field trips for us, try to make a little time for him. When you go to visit or telephone him, remember the last name the hospital is looking for is Liblick, or they won't let you see him or talk to him.

Doug Daniels, President, lost his father on May 20th. Please keep Doug and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Bill Waggener continues to improve with his Graves disease. I believe that he has it licked at this point.

Congratulations to Kim Cochran - he has retired from the DeKalb County Fire Department.

**Joan White,
Temporary Sunshine Chair**

**SFMS 2005 William Holland Workshops
at Young Harris, Georgia**

WILLIAM HOLLAND UPDATE

As of the first week in May, both SFMS William Holland Workshops have openings in a number of classes and a few classes are full or almost fully enrolled.

The June 12-18 Session has the most openings. We would particularly like to point out that Channelwork and Stained Glass have been brought back into our curriculum at the June session and space is available at present.

The October 9-15 SFMS session at William Holland is always popular since it combines a week of classes with a week in the mountains when the leaves are turning. At the present time there is only one space available in Seed Beading, while Chain Making, Fused Glass, Opal Cutting, and Beginning Wirecraft are close to full. We would particularly like to draw your attention to the Mineral Identification class which has not been offered for some time. Jewelry Repair is also a new class with several openings.

For SFMS members unfamiliar with the William Holland School, it is worth pointing out that the Retreat features a campground with full RV hookups. Bedrooms and classrooms are air-conditioned and an elevator has recently been installed to permit easy wheelchair access to all areas.

Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chairman
(from SFMS Lodestar May/June 2005)

Workshop Director

Pat Davis
4642 North Street
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
Phone: 727-323-2147
Email: rocksnbeads@hotmail.com

Workshop Registrar

Dana and Ray Gonzalez
6226 Seaton Drive
Columbus, GA 31909
Phone: 706-327-4474
Email: drg@mchsi.com

Attend a Workshop

If you have the opportunity to do so, please consider attending one of the SFMS workshops offered at William Holland or Wildacres. These workshops offer classes to meet the needs of the beginner up to the expert in the Lapidary Arts. Come learn new skills or practice your favorites. This is an excellent way to meet others with similar interests.

**Bill Waggener, GMS Member
Past President, SFMS**

EDUCATION NEWS

Requests from schools for GMS speakers have slowed down now that summer is almost here. That's a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing because we have many activities taking place over the summer and sometimes it's hard to choose between two or even three possibilities. It's a curse because we're not getting the word out about the wonderful world of earth sciences to folks that desperately need to hear it!

Bill Waggener and Mickey McClain volunteered to help with the elementary Science Olympiad held May 7th at Kennesaw College. Thank you guys for agreeing to do this with such short notice from the requestor!

Kim Cochran was the guest speaker at the Jacksonville Mineral Society on May 5th. I can't remember the topic, but I'm sure it was something enchanting and entertaining.

John Iacullo was the featured speaker at the May meeting of the Cotton Indian Gem and Mineral Society. He spoke about "The Art of Lost Wax Casting".

I appreciate each and every one of you.

If I forgot to put you in this column, please send me an email, and I'll get it in next month. I remember things better when I see it in writing! (libawc@emory.edu)

*Anita D. Westlake,
Education Chair*

Workshops are available at Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

These lapidary workshops are sponsored by the Southeast Federation. The cost is \$280 for the week. This includes room and board. Some classes have a lab fee and supplies, if needed, can be purchased from the instructors.

Some classes are still open for the August 22nd - 28th session: Bead Design, Lost Wax Casting, Opal Cutting, Raku Pottery, Beginning Wire and Intermediate Wire.

Classes open for the September 19th - 25th session are: Faceting/Intarsia, Gem Appreciation, Glass Bead Making, Goldsmithing, PMC, Raku Pottery, Beginning Silver, Stained Glass and Beginning Wire Craft.

Some classes require a pre-requisite so you'll need to check with either the Registrars or Directors.

For further information contact:
SFMS Wildacres Registrars
Bill & Kerri Wetzel
5010 Sunset Drive
Easley, South Carolina 29642
wwetzel@earthlink.net

or
SFMS Wildacres Directors
David & Barbara Tuttle
85504 Blackmon Road
Yulee, Florida 32097
dt@net-magic.net

See the web page at: www.amfed.org/sfms and click on the Wildacres site.

Thank you for helping your Federation.

*David and Barbara Tuttle
Wildacres Directors*

Adopt-A-Highway Report

Members participating in our 8th Annual Litter Pick-Up and Egg Hunt held on Saturday, April 16th 2005 In Ball Ground, Georgia were greeted with sunny skies, perfect temperatures, and lots and lots of litter. As a group we collected over 40 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: Margaret Ronan, Joel Woodin, Wayne Hooper, Mary and Dylan Porter, Lori and Charles Carter, Sebastian, Sandrine, Sarah, and Samuel Fuchs, Cindy and Tom Peard and their dog Dingo, and Rob Peard.

Thanks for volunteering your Saturday morning 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, and join us to help keep Georgia's highways litter free.

*Rob Peard,
Adopt-A-Highway Chair
Talkin' Trash (770) 936-0180*

*View of Mountains from porch at
Wildacres Retreat*

Photo from <http://www.wildacres.org/images/porch.JPG>



June 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the
GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY

10 am, Saturday, June 18, 2005
CHUNKY GAL MOUNTAIN
Clay County, North Carolina

Free site

COLLECTING: We will be collecting zoisite with ruby and two different kinds of sapphires, There have been very good examples of sapphire found during these trips. Also, some rubies have been found here. I may also take people to a close by site for crystal clear garnets that make beautiful gem trees.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: There are no facilities, this is a wilderness area and not suited for small children. Also, everyone must attend a safety briefing before going on their own. This is a requirement because of the terrain we will be collecting at. Please extend our warmest invitation to all to join us for a beautiful day in the N. C. Mountains.

BRING: People should bring a garden shovel or hand rake, a sifting screen, buckets. The best finds come from digging around the tree roots. *(As always, bring your picnic lunch, plenty of fluids, some bug spray, sunscreen, a hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. You may also need to bring a pick, large hammer, and chisels if you want to work on the boulders. - DMC)*

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Where we will meet: We will meet at the Huddle House restaurant in Hayesville N.C. at 10 a.m. I will be there about 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and will be wearing our club vest so people can find me. The Chunky Gal site is a 20 minute drive from Hayesville toward Franklin N.C.

When: 10 am, Saturday, June 18, 2005

Directions to our meeting place: The Huddle House is located of the south side of US 64, just west of the intersection of US 64 and SR 69 and adjacent to the Ingles shopping center. *(Remember - everyone must meet and proceed to the collecting site together! - DMC)*

Contact:

Jack Weaver
Field Trip Chairman,
Tennessee Valley Rocks and Mineral Club
(Chattanooga, TN)
Email: Madjack711@aol.com

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 its 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."