



STAR-O-LITE

Augusta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Volume 48 No 1 January 2012

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The Augusta Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. meets at 7:30 PM the third Friday of every month at the Georgia Military College Annex located at 3836 Washington Rd, Suite 10, Martinez, GA. Visitors are welcome! Annual dues are \$20 for a family membership, \$15 for singles, and \$1 for junior members ages 8 to 18.

Newsletter article submissions should be emailed to rmcnutt9@comcast.net or sent through traditional mail to AGMS Editor, 4 Woodbridge Way, Evans, GA. 30809.

Message from the Editor



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, with lots of great food and good times with family and friends.

Is everyone ready to participate in club activities this year? The Officers are the same as last year and all are ready to make this year even better than 2011. We are all looking



forward to a great year with all of you, a great show, along with great monthly programs, speakers and field trips.

Wishing each and every one a successful 2012!!!

Thank you, Patricia

Welcome New Members

Jane Hightower – Martinez GA

Augusta Gem and Mineral Society August 2011 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 16, 2011
Meeting Time: 6:40 pm
Presiding Officer: Chris Wisnieski (Pres.)
Attendance: 35 Members, 1 Guest

November Meeting Minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Report approved. Wayne requested any Rock & Gem Mag subscriptions to send.

Old Business: 1.) Dues are due. 2.) 2012 officers installed 3.) Collector of the Month plaques awarded. 4.) Maurine to contact college about scholarship awards.

New Business: 1.) Christmas meal and gift exchange went well. 2.) Members requested to bring Collector of the month from 2011 for Collector of the Year vote in January.

Field Trip Report: 1.) Collector of the Month for November – Steve Huffman won for beryl from Cunningham Farm.) 3.) Steve encouraged 2012 membership in MAGMA; you just have to sign up online. They go places we are unable to get entry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

2012 Dues are Past Due

If you still haven't paid your 2012 dues, please see our Treasurer Wayne Parker or use the membership form and mail your dues. "We usually "clean up" our member email distribution list in February or March. Please renew your membership before you miss any future communications.

Next Meeting
Friday, January
20th at 7:30
p.m.

Program
Michael Parton –
William Holland
scholarship
workshop show

Field Trip
Diamond Hill

Dates / Things to Remember

Next meeting: Friday, January 20th - 2012 (7:30pm)

2012 - SHOW MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each Month at 7:00 pm

Georgia Radiation Therapy Center
821 St. Sebastian Way
(Across from University Hospital ER entrance)

SHOW Dates - MARCH 9TH -11TH

All members who are interested in planning the next show and wish to contribute their talents for its success are cordially invited. If any questions, please contact Show Chairman – Herman Kunis at home 706-855-7357

lapidary exhibits. Contact show chair Ray Huntington 321-799-8536.

- **February 25, 2012: Polk County, FL** – Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society. Sat: 10am – 4pm – First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland FL 33801 – Children's sandbox and activities, demos, raffle and silent auction 20+ dealers. Show Information: Jim Reed 863-644-6665, email: rocks57@tampabay.rr.com or <http://www.bonevalley.net/Show.html>

March 2012

- **March 2-4 2012 St. Petersburg, FL** - The Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society. 42nd Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale, Minnreg Building 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free parking. Contact Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279 or e-mail contact SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com. See <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html>

Regional Club Shows:

January 2012

- **January 13-15, 2012 Largo, FL** - 36th annual show; Pinellas Geological Society; Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room; 105 Central Park Dr.; Sun. 11-2; free admission; contact Hugh Sheffield, (727) 894-2440 or (727) 707-3236
- **January 28-29, 2012 Panama City, FL** – 21st annual show; Panama City Gem & Mineral Society; Bay County Fairgrounds; 2230 E. 15th St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; exhibits, door prizes, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, lapidary art, wire wrapping, silversmithing; contact Joseph Schings, 224 Collinfurst Square, Panama City, FL 32404-8530, (850) 871-1846; e-mail: mojo3002@comcast.net
- **January 28- February 11 — Tucson, Arizona** Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; Ramada Ltd.; 665 N. Freeway; Thu. 10-6 daily; free admission; more than 400 dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artists' Gallery at the Hotel Tucson City Center; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

February 2012

- **February 11-12, 2012: Merritt Island, FL**. - The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Symphony of Gemstones Festival, Kiwanis Island Park, 951 Kiwanis Island (on Hwy 520 west of Wal-Mart). Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5. Adult's \$4/day. Demos, door prizes, &

- **March 9-11 2012 – 24th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show - Augusta GA** – Julian Smith Casino – 2200 Broad St. – Fri. & Sat. 10am – 7pm and Sun. 10am – 4pm. ** Fri. March 9th from 10am —1pm is School Tours Admission: \$3 Adults; Children under 16 Free with an Adult. There will be 50cent Grab Bags, Hourly Dorr Prices, 25cent Kid's Treasure Dig, Geode Cutting, and Great Prices on Gold & Silver Jewelry, Loose & Set Gemstones, Gorgeous Fossils, Mineral Specimens and More...
- **March 16-18, 2012 – Rome, GA** – Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show, Rome Georgia Mineral Society, Fri—Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun 11am-5pm, The Forum, 2 Government Plaza, Rome GA. I-75 exit 290 (GA20) to Rome, left on Broad St, right on Third Ave. to parking deck (or park on the streets). Minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, crystals, demonstrations, door prizes, exhibits. Show contact: Jose Santamaria 770-606-5700 ext. 401; Email contact: rogams.show@gmail.com; <http://rogams.wordpress.com/gem-and-mineral-show/>

April 2012

- **April 28-29, 2012 Memphis, TN** - Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show —*The Earth Wide Open*". Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A and B-wings 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN. Hours: Sat 9-6 and Sun10-5. Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00. Scouts free. Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis. Contact W.C. McDaniel 901-274-7706 or email w.c.mcd@att.net

Last Month's Program

Patricia – Editor



The club's annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange was as usual filled to the brim with good food and was a fun evening for everyone



who attended. Thanks go to everyone for the food, gifts and activities – it was an excellent way to end the 2011 year.

2012 AGMS Field Trips

By Steve Huffman

Sat. 1/28 – Diamond Hill – Meet at McCormick Huddle House at 8am - Dig 9am – 5pm.

Sat. 2/25 – Girard

Steve encourages 2012 membership in MAGMA, it's free, and you just have to sign up online. They go places we are unable to get entry.



Notice to all 2011 Collector of the Month Winners

We request the below members to please bring your Collector of the Month Winning Specimen's to the January 2012 Meeting so that we can vote on the Collector of the Year for 2012...

- January - Maurine Resch - Sea Urchin, Girard, GA
- February - Oliver Huffman - Whale bone, Edisto SC
- March - James Dale- Amethyst/Quartz, Diamond Hill SC
- April - Sebastian Prowse- Goethite, Graves Mtn, GA
- May - Steve Huffman - Smoky Quartz, Diamond Hill, SC
- June - Phillip Yarborough - Stingray Stinger, Tennille GA
- July - Ardith Verrechio - Green Agate, Hiddenite, NC
- August – None
- September - Steve Huffman- Pyrite, Glendon Mine,
- October – Steve Huffman - Turtle shell fragment Harleyville, SC
- November – Steve Huffman – Beryl, Cunningham Farm
- December – None



Grab Bag Material

Time is growing short to collect and bring in grab bag material for our spring show. This is important part of our show preparedness, one in which all of us can participate. Please get the material to Chris Glass as early as possible

Collector of the Month

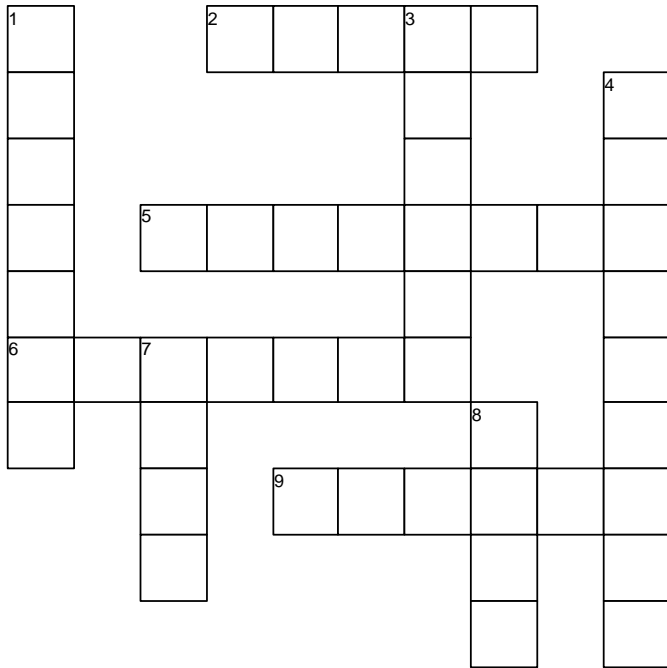


Steve Huffman

November, Cunningham Farm
BERYL



**Crossword Fun
January**



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

**Word Search
January**

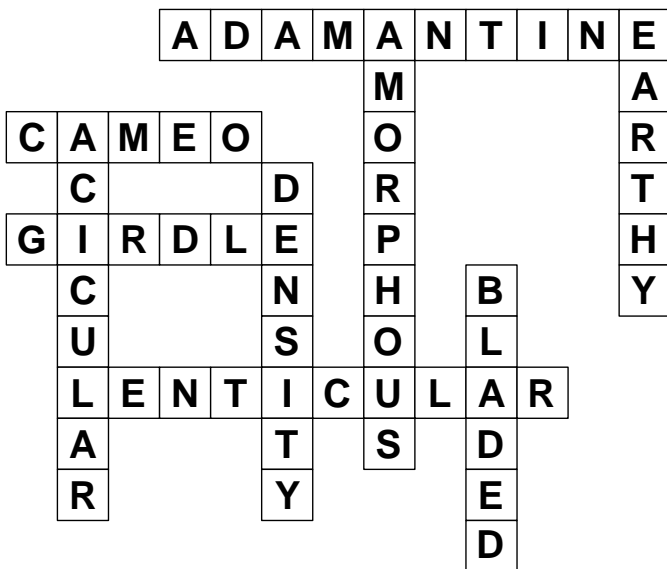


Word List:

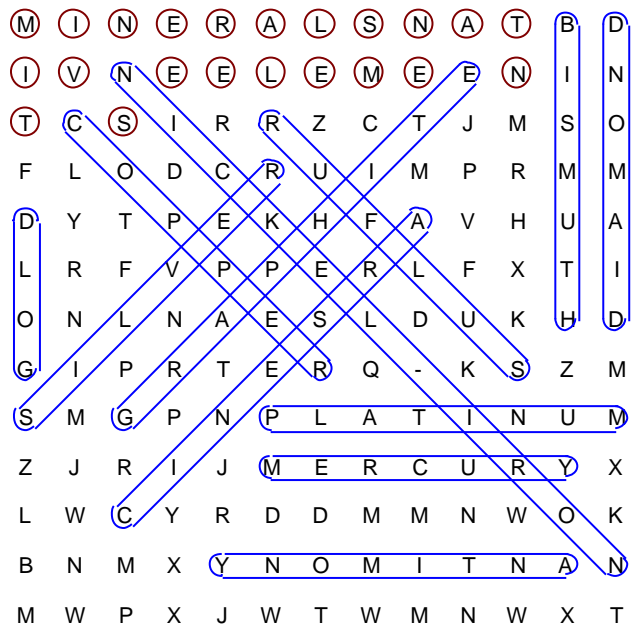
Origin, Fossil Content, Grain Size, Grain Shape, Classification

Find the words in the grid, when you are done, find the hidden message in the unused letters in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all directions.

December CROSSWORD SOLUTION



December Word Search Solution



“Jurassic Pick”: The American Pickers pick a winner!

by

George Philips, Paleontology Curator, Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, Mississippi

Ever pick a bone with someone? In 2011, a now famous TV dynamic duo ‘picked a bone’ for the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi. On November 28th, a very popular



reality television series revealed an noteworthy discovery about Mississippi’s ancient past. Most readers of this newsletter are pretty savvy and know that dinosaurs once lived in Mississippi and Tennessee (during the Cretaceous Period), but now so do millions of American Pickers™ viewers!

Season 4 of American Pickers began with dynamic hosts Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz picking a couple of collectibles shops in Henderson, Tennessee. Who knew that within one of the shops, among the recently historic bric-a-brac, the Pickers team would unearth an important prehistoric fossil from Mississippi? The bone in question consists of most of the tibia, or shin bone, of an ornithomimid dinosaur, most likely a hadrosaur, or duckbilled dinosaur. The owner of the shop from where the bone was ‘picked’ had purchased the bone at the First Monday Trade Day in Ripley, Mississippi. Recognizing its ancient appearance and heavy, mineralized condition, the shop owner, Bobby Howell of Henderson, learned from the original seller only that the bone was found in “north Mississippi.” The bone lay ‘reburied’ among many of Mr. Howell’s sundry (and considerably more recent) collectibles for ten long years, that is, until the American Pickers arrived on the scene in June of last year.



After purchasing the dinosaur bone from Mr. Howell, the Pickers called me at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science for an opinion about a more precise identity and age for the fossil. Toward the end of the televised consultation, I urged Mike and Frank to repatriate the bone to Mississippi by donating it to our state natural science museum, which they and their parent company Cineflix Corporation did very gladly. Unfortunately, however, as is so often the case with merchandised collectibles, the exact origins of the bone still remained a mystery, so the fossil was of limited scientific value...for the time being anyway. Both the Pickers crew and I were hopeful that the collector(s) would see the show and come forward with more specific information on the fossil’s provenance...which occurred within 24 hours of the original broadcast! We now know that the bone was found near Baldwin, Mississippi, in an approximately 82 million year old marine deposit called the Coffee Sand. It was collected by Eldon Boman and Karan Riffle, who now reside in Alabama, and they were very excited to have learned about the ultimate fate of the bone, which is slated for display at the Museum of Natural Science by January. Having hoped the mystery of its origins might possibly be solved in the wake of a national broadcast, I was comfortably reassured of my original appraisal of the fossil, which was a bit out of the ordinary for a Pickers episode—that such a discovery is absolutely “priceless.”

Many thanks to the wonderful folks of American Pickers!
Editor’s Note: MAGSters can see the relevant segment of the History Channel show on You-Tube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUJN19rZuUw.

MAGS Rockhound News Volume 58 ♦ Number 01 ♦ January 2012

TANZANITE



When you think of a brilliant blue gemstone what comes to mind? For most people the answer is likely sapphire, which is a good answer. Another good answer would be tanzanite, which is a brilliant and iconic blue gemstone. Tanzanite was discovered in 1967, and it was eventually identified as a variety of zoisite. It is, therefore, a relatively new gem with a short glorious history. Part

but of the mystique of tanzanite is the fact that it is only found on one local, for which it is named Tanzania, which is located on the south-eastern side of Africa. Adding to the allure was the interest shown in the gem by none other than Henry Platt of Tiffany and Company, who immediately appreciated the beauty of the gem and subsequently coined the name "tanzanite", an obvious allusion to its country of origin. Tiffany's helped publicize and popularize the gem, and it has been well known and well regarded ever since.

Tanzanite is a variety of zoisite, which is a hydrous calcium aluminum silicate mineral that forms in high temperature and pressure metamorphic environments in association with schists, gneisses, and quartzites. It can also form in hydrothermal vents and is associated with sulfides and can be an alteration product of calcic plagioclases. The mineral has elongated and prismatic crystals, but can be found in formless and granular masses. It has a respectable hardness (Mohs scale 6-6.5), vitreous luster, and gem grade zoisite is transparent. Tanzanite is a best known as a vivid violet blue which is due to trace amounts of chromium and strontium, although in lesser stones the color can grade to brown or green. Other varieties of zoisite can be white, pale green, or pink.

So what makes tanzanite special? Part of the answer is the mystique of Masai tribesman finding the beautiful crystals in the one place they are found in the world – Tanzania. There is also the brilliance of the gem and the characteristic deep blue with a hint of violet. Moreover, the best tanzanite crystals have a strong trichroism, which means they can show three colors depending on orientation. Some gems will be blue, violet and sage green depending direction of view. Most tanzanite (and especially lower grades that are less blue) is heat treated to improve its color, and this heat treatment can diminish or destroy the trichroism. Heat treatment can easily cause fissures to form if inclusions are present, or the color can be destroyed by a moment of inattention. For the cutter the crystal's strong cleavage in Tanzanite rough and one direction can be a challenge, as cut gem can trying to highlight the trichroism while retaining the best color. That said, tanzanite can be cut into almost any form, from a classical round to a more fanciful shape.

by Erik Spande May 2008 *The Opal*

AMBER & COPAL

The subject of amber can be approached from three different but interlocking aspects. First, it is often a beautiful stone that can be mounted in jewelry, carved as a display piece, or strung as beads in necklaces. Secondly, it has chemical characteristics that help in its identification and/or separation from fakes. Third, it is often formed with the inclusion of specimens from fairly well defined time periods, so it is of interest to paleontologists.



The ultimate of amber jewelry is to have a richly colored amber piece that has a well-defined insect with a beautiful setting as a pendant. The color of amber ranges from colorless to yellow to orange to brownish red to brown. It is transparent and inclusions or air bubbles can often be seen. Most often it is carved or presented with a smooth surface (such as cabs) to bring out its transparency. It may be somewhat fluorescent, particularly at breaks. From a jeweler's point of view, amber is soft (2 - 3 Mohs scale) and easily scratched (white streak test). It is also brittle and can easily break, particularly after aging. There is a wide range of amber prices depending upon its color, clarity, inclusions, and mounting.

Amber is also often imitated at the inexpensive price level using plastics, resins, colored glass. As the potential price gets higher, the sophistication in making fakes increases. When I was at the library, the librarian commented about getting a beautiful pendant from a friend who visited South America. Another friend, who was an entomologist, told the librarian that it contained a modern insect. Even a number of museum pieces have been shown to be fakes. Specifically, a piece of good amber had been drilled out, an animal inserted with an amber-like resin, and the plug replaced.

Amber is fossilized tree sap that is typically about 10 to 140 million years old. As a note, copal is also a semi fossilized material with an age of about one to five million years. Amber has been found in numerous places throughout the world, such as the Baltic, Dominican Republic, Mexico, & China. Each has its own typical age range. Amber formed as the sap that flowed from a tree wound, and it collected plant remains such as bark, seeds, pine needles, leaves and the like. In some cases, it also collected insects such as flies, ants, spiders, beetles, etc. Even some small animals were trapped in the sap. Much of this collected debris was effectively sealed in and preserved during the fossilization process. In many cases these trapped specimens have become extinct or have undergone mutations such that these species are no longer found today. As a note, not all tree sap could have been converted to amber. The sap had to age under pressure, temperature, the presence of the right microorganisms, and the right rate of decay prior to burial.

A series of tests has been suggested for amber, as follows (note the following section for references):

1. Hardness: Mohs scale of 2 - 3. ►

Lapidary Tips

►2. Hot Needle: a glowing needle when pushed into the sample in a hidden area will melt copal and many plastics faster than amber. Copal has a light fragrant odor and emits sooty fumes while amber may only soften and the smoke is usually dark with an acrid odor.

3. Solubility: Acetone will soften or dissolve copal, but not amber.

4. UV (short wave) light: Amber fluoresces a pale shade of blue while copal shows little change.

5. Friction: On rubbing, copal may soften and become sticky while amber may only emit a slight fragrance of a resin.

6. Flotation (Specific Gravity): Various salt solutions of differing densities will sink or float various plastics, copals and amber. It is best to check references for good guidelines.

7. Inclusions: Check the trapped insects for authenticity.

8. Polarized light: Place the amber between two sheets of polarizing glass or plastic. Rotate the sheets and observe the internal rainbow of colors of the light.

Again check the following references and establish a reasonable level of experience before using this as criteria for grading.

References and Suggestions: A search of the internet gives a wide range of background literature. The above discussion is a combination of information derived from the following references: 1. Poinar, G. O., Life in Amber, Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA, 1992. 2. Anderson, K.B., 3The Nature & Fate of Natural Resins in the Geosphere - IV,5 Org. Geochem. Vol. 21, No.2, pp.209-212, 3. Platt, G., 6Identifying True Amber (Succinite)5
<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/trueamber.html> 4. - ,
 6The Mineraloid Amber5,
<http://www.galleries.com/minerals/mineralo/amber/amber.htm>

by Don Cronauer May 2006 The Opal

SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawkbill shaped. I find the hawkbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

USE YOUR THUMB



When using multiple bits in your Freedom, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.

There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft. Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Freedom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/> or
<http://facebook.com/BenchTips> [Brad Smith's Bench Tips published with his permission]

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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**FIRST CLASS
TIME DATED MATERIAL**



PURPOSE OF THE AUGUSTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY INC.

1. To encourage interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, and related subjects of the lapidary craft.
2. To sponsor educational programs within the membership, to increase the knowledge of its members in the properties of identification and evaluation of rocks, minerals, fossils and related subjects.
3. To cooperate with other mineralogical and geographical clubs and activities.
4. To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of specimens and minerals.
5. To provide an opportunity for the exchange and exhibition of specimens and minerals.

The Augusta Gem and Mineral Society Inc. is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies via its membership in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies. Please visit our web-site at: [Http://www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org/](http://www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org/)