



STAR-O-LITE

Augusta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Volume 47 No 9 September, 2011

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Next Meeting
Friday,
September 16th
7:30 p.m.
Room #114

Program
Ann Neilson's
Jewelry
Field Trip
Sat. 24th Glendon
Mine, NC - Pyrite

The Augusta Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. meets at 7:30 PM the third Friday of every month in room 114 of the Georgia Military College facility at 115 Davis Road, Martinez, GA. (Use rear parking lot and rear entrance.) 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



Dear Members of the AGMS,

If you haven't been to a meeting or field trip lately, I encourage you to come and join us. We are having informative programs and enjoyable trips which are reflective in the great attendance - last month's meeting 51 members and 3 Guest and 34 members at our field trip.

If you or someone you know that should be receiving the newsletter by email, is not; please let me know or email me at rmcnutt9@comcast.net with the correct email address, along with your first and last name and a phone number.

Thank you, Patricia

Welcome New Members

Thomas Wood & Cathy Tanner
Glenn Treadwell and daughter, Sadie
Scott & Jeanene Hunnicut

Augusta Gem and Mineral Society August 2011 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 19, 2011
Meeting Time: 7:35 pm
Presiding Officer: Chris Wisniewski (Pres.)

Attendance: 51 Members, 3 Guests

July Meeting Minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Report presented by Wayne Parker.

Old Business: 1.) Hats are for sale-\$10 each;

New Business: 1.) Members voted to Award a \$500 Science Scholarship to Georgia Military College in appreciation for their support of our club. Maurine Resch to coordinate with the school to possibly do the presentation at one of our meetings. 2.) Chris received a letter that the Hogg Mine is under new ownership and will give contact info to Steve Huffman. 3.) Ralph Cavaliere announced he is selling his lapidary equipment and opal material. Members can call him at 706-830-1715 or 706-868-6522 for info.

Field Trip Report: 1.) Collector of the Month for July--Green agate specimen discovered by Ardith Verrecchio at Hiddenite, NC. 2.) August 27th field trip will be to visit Richard and Janice Hightower's home to view their extensive collection of fossils. Please bring folding chairs with you. We will meet at Georgia Military College parking lot at 8:30am and caravan to the location. 3.) Steve will be setting up the October dig for the Hogg Mine in Lagrange for Black Tourmaline, Beryl, and Rose Quartz.

Door prizes were awarded to ALL in attendance. Members are requested to bring give-a-ways for next month's door prizes.

Program Report: Our program was a show and tell by some of the members, including Mary Granade, Steve Huffman, and Fred Boyd. Upcoming programs: Ann Neilson's jewelry in September, Silent auction in October, Shirley Chipman's copper jewelry in November, and Jim Knight's paleo digs in the southeast in January or February.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maurine Resch, Secretary.

Dates / Things to Remember

**Next meeting: Friday, September 16, 2011
(7:30pm)**

Regional Club Shows:

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2011:

- **Sept. 3-5, Brunswick, GA** – Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show Golden Isles Gem and Mineral Society. Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., 12 noon-6pm; Monday, 10am-5pm. Glynn Place Mall, I95- exit 38, GA Spur 25/Golden Isles Parkway; 2 miles. Exhibits, Demonstrations, Education Resources, Gold, Silver, Gemstones, Mineral Specimens, Fine Jewelry, Wire-Wrapped and Hand-Crafted Jewelry, Beads, Findings, Tools & Equipment and More! Contact: Patricia Cox, Show Chairmen, 912-265-4259, hepacox@comcast.net
- **Sept. 3-6, Hendersonville, NC**—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. 29th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show & Sale, Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road, Hendersonville.
- **Sept. 9-11, Winston-Salem, NC** - 40th annual show; Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club; Educational Bldg., Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, 27th St., gate #9; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5; contact W.A. Marion, 1163 Bear Creek Church Rd., Mocksville, NC 27028; e-mail: MarionA1@yadtel.net
- **Sept 30—Oct 2, Dallas, NC.** - Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Show & Swap, Resource Center, 1006 Biggerstaff Park, Dallas/Cherryville Highway, Dallas. Free admission. Hours: 9-6 each day. Contact Showchair Jackay McDaniel at (704) 865-6748
- **October 1-2, Lexington, KY**- Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 21st Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road, Lexington. Adults \$1, children 6-12 50¢, max \$3/family. Scouts in uniform free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Contact show chairs Allen Ferrell (859) 277-2469 or Lamon Flynn (606) 726-9237.

NOVEMBER 2011:

- **Nov.5, Athens GA** – Athens Rock & Gem Club. Sandy Creek Nature Center END, 205 Old Commerce Road, Athens, GA – Contact Jim Maudsley at 706-353-1792 for show details.
- **Nov.11-13, Pascagoula, MS** - The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society. Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. \$3 admission, children under age 13 are free. Contact Jim Darnell @ (228) 806-1039 [cell] or (228) 875-2310 [home].
- **Nov. 18-20, Columbia, SC** - 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2011 - Friday November 18,

10:00 - 7:00 - Saturday November 19, 10:00 - 6:00 - Sunday November 20, 12:00 - 5:00
Jamil Temple 206 Jamil Rd. Exit 106A off I -26 Columbia, South Carolina 29210 - 24 Retail Vendors- - Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale; Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Lots of fun for the whole family. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, children twelve & under are free. Sunday all military & their dependants are free. Contact information is Sue Shradler...Publicity...803-736-9317
ashrader@mindspring.com Fax 803-736-2578 Harry Thurston...Dealers...803-736-3236
lotsffit42@hotmail.com

- **Nov. 19-20, West Palm Beach, FL** - 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East: West Palm Beach, FL
- **Nov.25, Mobile, AL** - Mobile Rock and Gem Society. Mobile County Fairgrounds, Cody Rd & Zeigler Rd. Hours: Friday 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 10-5. Admission \$3. Contact Jerry Shirey @ (251)458-2867.

DECEMBER 2011:

- **Dec. 2-4, Montgomery AL** – Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. – Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL. Contact Jane Barkley at 344-277-2722 for show details.
- **Dec. 2-4, Spring Hill FL** – Withlacoochee Rockhounds, Inc. – Slovene American Club, 13383 County Line Road, Spring Hill FL, Contact Ralph Barber at 352-200-6853 for show details.
- **Dec. 10-11, Franklin, TN** - Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society Sat: 9AM to 6PM; Sun: 10AM to 5PM Williamson County AgExpoPark, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064. NEW LOCATION! - formally at the TN State Fairgrounds in Nashville Exit I-65 at exit #61 (20 miles south of Nashville) and turn east onto Peytonsville Road. Drive 1/3 mile and turn left onto Long Lane and then right into AgExpoPark's parking lot. Demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, hourly door prizes, grand prize, and over 30 dealers. Beads, crystals, geodes, rough, cabochons, gem stones, finished jewelry, tools, supplies, mineral & fossil specimens, stone carvings and home accents. Admission \$4 (2-Day Pass \$6.00), students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult. For additional information and maps visit www.MTGMS.org. Show contacts: John Stanley, Show Chair, (615) 885-5704 or Steve Henegar, Dealer Chair, (615) 714-3194 Email contact: show@mtgms.org <http://www.MTGMS.org/Show.htm>

Last Month's Program

Patricia – Editor

Jana Rollins & Pete Hakelli were unfortunately unable to attend and present a program on Janas Collection.

Our Program for August was **Show and Tell by some of the members.**

Thank you, to each for a wonderful presentation. **Mary Granite**, on specimens from her ventures on the MAGMA Rock Hound Roundup which included Little Pine Garnet Mine; Ray Mine and Sinkhole Mine where they found beryl in matrix, nice crystal of apatite, feldspar, and hyalite.; Crabtree mine for emeralds and beryl. **Michael Parton** showed us some nice quartz specimens from a prior dig to Diamond Hill;



Fred Boyd showed us a nice Rose Quartz specimen from Hogg Mine, along with some other specimens from his collection;



Amanda Maddox talked about her Diamond Hill Specimen; and **Steve Huffman** showed us some garnets' he and son Theo collected in the creek while camping during our Hiddenite trip; as well as had each of the



younger members come up and pick a specimen and explain something about it to the members after which they were allowed to keep the specimen.



NEW - SHOW & TELL

**My Striped Flint Project
Member - Richard McNutt**



Striped Flint is a composition of Chalcedony and Opal and can only be found in one location on the earth- Poland, on the Vistula River, near the town of Sandomierz.

Striped flint can boast of the three salient features of a jeweler's stone – it is rare to be found, it is ornamental, and it is hard (6.5 Mohs scale).



Collector of the Month **UROCKY**

July, Hiddenite, NC
Green Agate
Ardith Verrecchio



Last Month's Field Trip - Richard Hightower's Private Collection
 By Patricia - Editor

Around 34 members made the trip and it was well worth the drive. Mr. Hightower has the most amazing collection of Museum Quality Fossil and Mineral Specimens. The



ammonites, trilobites, minerals, amber and petrified wood were spectacular. Mr. Hightower and his family welcomed us with a wonderful lunch followed by the most interesting presentation about his

trips to a Coal Mine in Letcher County Kentucky to collect Carboniferous Plant Fossils such as Calamites Stalk, Fern Imprints in Matrix and the Large Fern Tree Trunk in Matrix (pictured above & to the right).



He allowed us to view his private collection which was like visiting a Museum. It included mentioning just a few: Large Fossilized Echinooids, Fossilized Crab, Fossilized Green River Fish, Dinosaur Footprints, as well as



Articulated Reptiles (below right; & Early Land Reptile Captorhinus Aguti (below left)



It was a wonderful and educational day.



A special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hightower, for their hospitality. We look forward to seeing them at our show in March.

Remaining 2011 AGMS Field Trips
 By Steve Huffman
September - Sat. 24th - Glendon Quarry, NC - Pyrite
 - MAGMA - Pre-registration and space limited to the first 120. If you are not one of the 120 notified by MAGMA you will not be allowed into the dig. Dig is Full at this time...
October - Sat. 29th Hogg Mine in Lagrange for Black Tourmaline, Beryl, and Rose Quartz
November Sat. 19th - Cunningham Farm - Emerald and Quartz (Meet at McCormick Huddle House 8:00a.m)
December - Christmas Party

Sign up Space is Limited**Glass Fusion Workshop**

with Sue Shrader

Saturday, September 10 at 1 pm

Artist and former President of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Sue Shrader will teach the art of designing, assembling, and sandwiching several types of colored and dichroic glass with a special glue to form beads, earrings, and even larger objects such as plates before being fired. Dichroic glass is titanium coated, giving it an iridescent appearance.

Expect to craft your own pair of earrings and a pendant during this workshop. All glass, tools, and firing of your pieces are included in the cost. She will take your work to her kiln in Columbia for the firing and they will be available at our October GMF meeting. The small class size assures that every student will receive individual attention. An array of her pieces also will be displayed for sale.

Sue learned how to fuse glass several years ago and immediately incorporated it into her beaded jewelry. She is now a featured artist in boutiques and regional area art events.

Limit: 6 people (must be an Aiken GMF or Augusta GM member)

Cost: \$25 (includes all instruction, materials, tools, and firing)

Location: Shellie's house [call or e-mail ASAP to reserve your space and get directions]

(803) 663-7752 / shellienewell@att.net

Iolite

Iolite is gem quality blue cordierite that forms when aluminum sediments mix with magma before it cools. It is also found in schists, gneisses, and less commonly in pegmatites and quartz veins. The stone is clear and its color ranges from violet to a light blue. The name comes from the Greek word "ios," meaning violet.



Iolite is a pleochroic gemstone, its color shifting as the stone is rotated. As light passes through one side of the stone, not all of the wavelengths are absorbed causing that side to show the color of the unabsorbed wavelength. In a pleochroic gemstone like iolite, shifting the stone changes which wavelengths are absorbed. Most pleochroic gemstones show two colors, but iolite shows three (blue violet, grey and nearly colorless). When cutting iolite it is important to take into account its tricolor properties and orient the rough stone carefully in order to achieve an attractive "face up" color.

Iolite deposits are found Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Madagascar and India. In the Americas deposits are found in Brazil, Canada and the Laramie Range in Wyoming. Iolite has measures 7 to 7.5 on the Moh's scale of hardness. Because of the possibility of cleavage it is prone to splitting if knocked into something so a necklace or earrings may be preferred over a ring or bracelet.

Iolite can be shaped into a cabochon or faceted. It is occasionally carved. Color is the biggest factor in the value of the gem. Medium dark blue violet is considered the ideal "face up" color. Because of its pleochroic nature the gem will lighten and show grayish tones as it is turned, but muddy, washed out or inky colors are an indication of a poorly oriented stone.

The Vikings used the stone as a navigational tool. They determined the exact location of the sun by looking through a thin lens of iolite. The iolite lens served as a filter, reducing the glare of the sun off the water, allowing the Vikings to navigate the ocean instead of using the coastline as a guide.

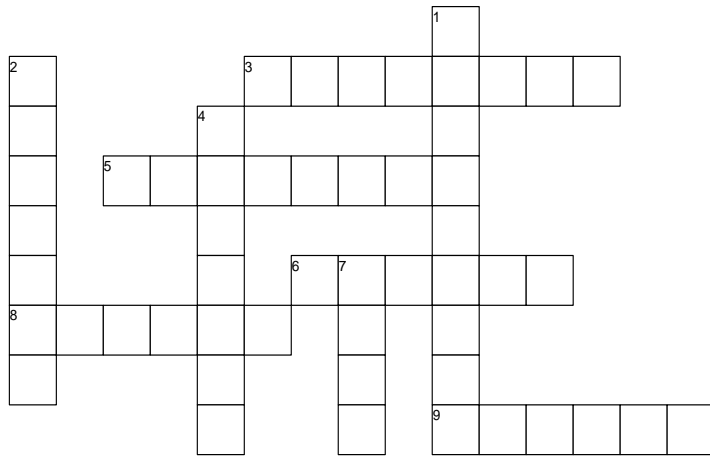
Iolite has been used to treat a wide variety of digestive tract disorders and high blood pressure. It is said to reduce depression, anxiety and stress and has been associated with heightened intuition and psychic abilities

Sources:

<http://www.acstones.com/gemofmonth/1998/gemofmonth9.98.html>; http://www.gemaffair.com/content/Iolite_Jewelry.htm; Smithsonian Rock and Gem Healing Crystals and Gemstones by Dr. Flora Pescheck-Bohmer/Gisela Schreiber; Photographs www.all-that-gifs.com/se/iloite.html.

WGMS Quarry Quips Dec. 2009; The Quarry Dec. 2010

**Crossword Fun
September**



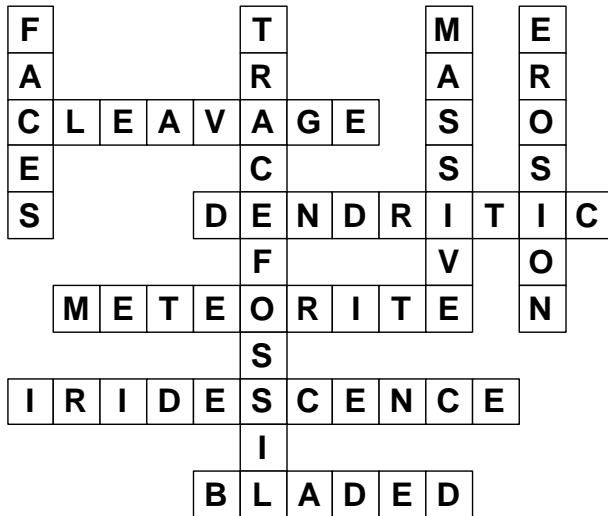
ACROSS

- 3 A star-like effect exhibited by some polished stones
- 5 Generally valueless waste rock from a mining operation
- 6 A common, dark, igneous rock
- 8 Will not allow light to pass through
- 9 A hollow area in rock

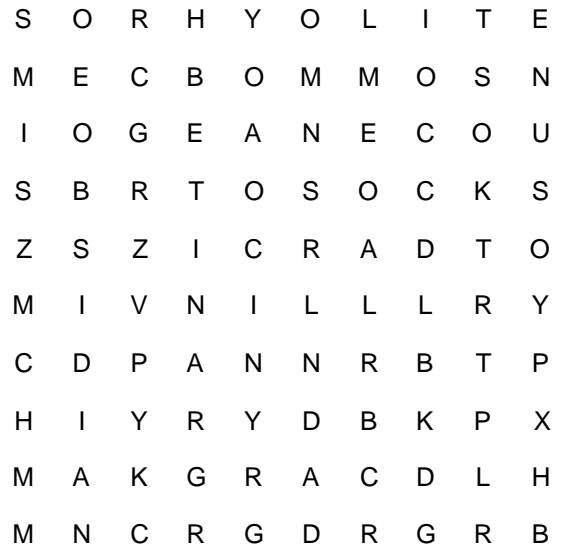
DOWN

- 1 Referring to a crystal structure of a prism
- 2 Dopping a temperature-sensitive stone with cement rather than heated wax
- 4 A separation along a fracture or break in rock
- 7 In a faceted stone, the bottommost point

August CROSSWORD SOLUTION



**Word Search
September**

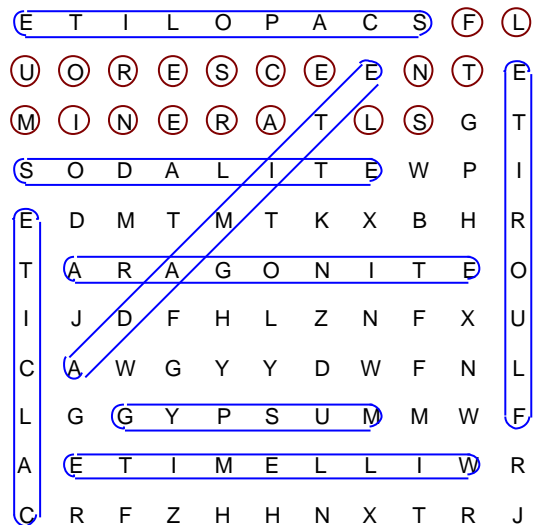


Word List:

Basalt, Gabbro, Granite, Obsidian, Rhyolite, Scoria

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.

August Word Search Solution



Lapidary Tips

Unknotting Knotty Chains

A fine chain can be very frustrating when it knots. Put a drop or two of salad oil on a piece of waxed paper. Lay the knot in the puddle and work at it with two straight pins. The knot should come apart quickly.

Snoopy Gems, 7/2010; Canaveral Moonstone 9/2010

Remove Carbonates

One way to remove carbonates, such as calcite, from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow it to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing type ammonia for 8 to 12 hours. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry.

Snoopy Gems, 7/2010; Canaveral Moonstone 9/2010

Tip regarding Poison Ivy

If you plan to collect in an area where poison ivy is known to occur, take along a spray bottle filled with Windex. Before you enter (walk in) the area, spray your clothing and any bare skin. When you're through, and before entering your vehicle, respray yourself and clothing. Donnie says it works; it seems to dry out the ivy oils which are so toxic to many people.

(Courtesy of Donnie Heffley from The Sooner Rockologist, 2/2002 via The Post Rock, 4/2002)

Consistent Cut Wires

To cut many wires of the same length cut a tube of brass or copper in that length. The diameter of the tube should be just slightly larger than the wire. Holding the tube with your index finger against one end to stop the wire, push the wire into the tube and cut at the edge of the tube. No more measuring and marking with ruler.

Crystal Towers

Young Members with Adult Supervision - Try this at home - This demonstrates how cave type stalagmites are formed.

Ingredients:

2 pint jars, 1 jar lid, 10 tablespoons Borax (washing soda), a strip of old towel (1 x 18 inches), a measuring spoon and cup, a stirring spoon, hot tap water, and a cookie sheet.

Place two jars on a cookie sheet next to each other separated by the jar lid. Fill each jar with a solution of Borax and water – 12 ounces of hot tap water to each jar with 5 tablespoons of Borax in each jar. Stir until dissolved. Put one end of the towel in each jar with a dip in the center between the jars so the solution will travel along the towel and drip in between the jars onto the jar lid. It will drop one by one drop and create a pillar of crystals. If let go long enough, the pillar will grow down from the towel and up from the lid until it meets in the middle, just like a real cave.

The original source is unknown. Via Quarry Feb. 2010



Photo added by Editor from Wikipedia

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Patricia McNutt, Editor
4 Woodbridge Way
Evans, GA 30809



**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/)