

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Someone mentioned that there was some kind of sporting event going on last night. Despite the low attendance at the monthly meeting, we had a wonderful program presented by Keith Ashley on recent archeological activities in North East Duval County water ways.

Keith's presentation gave insight into the life styles of early Indians, their use and types of pottery, trade evidence, seasonal fishing habits and changing inhabitation throughout locations in the North East Florida region. He left us better informed about early Indian culture and the current responsibilities and protective measures being taken to preserve these local discoveries. Keith, Thank you for this presentation. Not only was your presentation visually intriguing, but very educational coupled with your interactive presentation style and extensive knowledge.

In early February we will be scheduling a group trip to the Tellus Museum in North West Georgia. For information about the Tellus Museum, visit their web site at www.tellusmuseum.org. We will also make this a joint dig with a trip to a local spot to collect trilobite impressions. We feel that this will be on the 7th of February, but we'll finalize the date after the January board meeting.

Don't forget to buy those Calendars. The Juniors are counting on you. To get a calendar you only have to email or call someone on the board or a committee members and we'll get them out to you. Proceeds from the sales go to support the Junior scholarship fund. One lucky junior will be able to attend William Holland and take a parent or guardian with them. Let's not let them down.

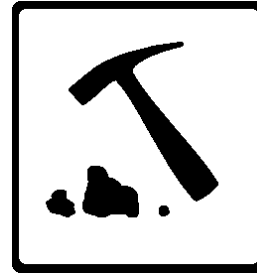
Articles, Articles... Did you do something cool or visit somewhere interesting lately? Well share it with the rest of us; we'd like to know about it. We need your input of articles in the JGMS News Letter!

Love, peace and happiness, looks like there weren't a lot of sign up's for classes this month. If you're interested in doing something at the work shop and you think you can get others interested in forming a class, just call up the instructor and we might be able to put something together.

Have a great month and a better year,

Jason Hamilton

EDITORS PEBBLES



Hey, did you see the great articles by Ed Price and Jason on pages 4 and 5? Way to go guys! Now how about some of the rest of you contributing to this news letter. You don't have to make it fancy - just tell everyone about some of your experiences - on field trips, in the lab, around the food table at the meetings.

Old timers, why don't you tell us about what this club used to be like!

Don't forget, contributions to the new letter will net you points toward prizes and classes at the end of the year.

There are notices elsewhere in this letter, but it bears repeating. Don't forget the silent auction in March. Contributions are needed at least a week in advance.

Finally, please help Jeff and Karen Bee in membership to get our records up to date. We need birthdays! Most of all, we need to make sure that everyone who wants a printed newsletter is properly listed in our membership records. Notice that the date on which you must renew your membership is listed on the front of this news letter, just about and to the right of your name and address. If that is incorrect, or if you need to renew your membership please do so. Happy New Year

INDEX

Page 2	Minutes of 01/08/09 meeting
Page 3	Birthdays and Events
Page 4	Fort Drum Trip Report
Page 5	You Really Do See Stars
Page 6	Mineral of the Month
Page 7	Diamond Hill Mine Field Trip
Page 8	Class schedule for January

JAX GEMS - JGMS Newsletter

VOL. 49

No. 1

January

2009

Page 2.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY '09 MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society was held at the Riverside Christian Church, 2811 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, Florida on January 8, 2008. President Jason Hamilton opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP: No youth group meeting was held. Junior attended the adult meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE: Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Taylor Ganas.

PROGRAM: Program was given by Keith Ashley on the Betz Tiger Point Project. Thank you, Keith for an informative and interesting program.

MINUTES: Minutes were accepted as presented in the newsletter seconded and approved.

TREASURER REPORT (Harriet Rose): \$6,617.22 in the general account. \$4000 was made at the Christmas Party. \$839 was made at the open workshop classes. \$4839 was deposited. \$2,262.36 in expenses.

SOCIAL CONCERS (Amy Johnson and Mary Lou Roberts): Copies of the roster are available.

FAIR & EXHIBITS (Craig Hamilton): Anyone planning on entering display cases in the Fall Show or Jax Fair should begin now to get your exhibits ready. If you need help ask, many members can help. Suggestion made to set up display at Mandarin Library on Corry Road.

CLUB SHOW (Tom Frame): Club show committee meeting 7:30 to 9:30 Thursday, March 15.

PUBLICATIONS (Chuck Sederholm): Need articles for the newsletter.

FIELD TRIPS (Mickey Cecil): DMC Field trip to Alabama cancelled.

REFRESHMENTS (Francis Siver): Sign up for refreshments and bring door prizes. Youth calendars are available for \$15.

EDUCATION (Jacki Jordan): Classes still open sign up for classes.

WORKSHOP (Doug Kryszak): Workshop Clean Up on Saturday, March 7.

MEMBERSHIP (Karyn and Jeff Bee): 2 new family members. Antonio Fabriani and Wayne.& Linda Oestreich

SCHOLARSHIPS (Linn Dew): No report.

LIBRARY (Lynn Hoffman): No Report.

CANCELLED STAMPS (Tina Jacobs): No Report.

COMMUNICATIONS (Jim Robinson): Mayo Foundation scholarships are available for sophomore year college students in earth sciences. Contact Jim or Jason for application

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Silent auction at March meeting. Bring in items for auction. Tamoca Show next weekend at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in Daytona.

SHOW AND TELL: Jason Hamilton, Francis and Melissa Siver, Jean Wydra, Doug Kryszak and Ed Price all shared their wonders with us. Jason Hamilton suggested members attend the Grand opening for the Tulles Earth and Space Museum

DOOR PRIZES: were given out to juniors and adults.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned and all members were invited to enjoy refreshments. Clean up and put chairs away.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Cindy Cascini

JAX GEMS - JGMS Newsletter

VOL. 49

No. 1

January

2009

Page 3.

BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Armstrong	1/28	Sherri Caldreon	1/6
Tracy Fendig	1/12	Sandra Ingersoll	1/17
Jackie Perez	1/30	Kathi Plitt	1/17
Curtis Siver	1/13		

I know we have more birthdays than this, but the membership records don't show birthdays for many of our members. Please update our records with your birthdays so we can let all of your friends celebrate with you.

NEW MEMBERS

Antonio Fabriani
Wayne and Linda Oestreich

SILENT AUCTION COMING UP

Don't forget the silent auction coming up in March. We need items for this event. If you have something of value around the house that you don't need or use anymore, please consider making it available for the silent auction. You can either give it to a board member, or leave it on the shelf at the club house. This is always a great evening, and you can come home with a treasure. The auction is on March 5th. Save the date.

TOMOKA SHOW

Like rocks, minerals, gems, and fine jewelry? Then don't miss the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society Show at the Volusia County Fair Grounds in Deland, FL on January 17th and 18th. More information can be found on line at www.tomokagms.org.

PHOTO GALLERY



Your Board at Work



Cabbing Class



Watch Those Fingers

Fort Drum Trip Report - Nov 08'

By Jason Hamilton

Fort drum still produces good specimens!

A few years ago, the Fort Drum, FL mine called Ruck's Pit, was producing many great specimens of not only excellent fossil shells but top quality calcite crystals. Most of the calcite crystals were grown in the cavities of fossil shells; the best were found in fossil clams.

In the following years mining restrictions imposed on Ruck's Pit by OSHA ended the collection of virgin material from the pit by collectors. The restrictions imposed proved to be cost prohibitive to continue to let collectors access the pit area. To combat this problem and continue to provide collection of this material to collectors the mine owners gathered the remaining material into a common tailings area.

I was invited to return to Ruck's Pit a few weeks ago. This was my first time back after pit collecting was closed. I was very lucky to be invited to camp with my good friends Jeff and Karen Bee and kids Patty and Zack. Secondly, to share the trip with the Curtis and Francis Siver and daughter Melissa. We camped at the Kissimmee Prairie State Park. It's located at the corner of 40th and Plum, plum in the middle of 40 miles of nothing. If you're looking to find a place to get away from it all, we found it!

There was no moonlight that weekend, so the nights were as black as hematite and pyrite cabbings sludge. Interestingly enough, this was perfect for the 9 or so astronomers also camping at the site. So rock hounds meet star gazers once again. This seems to be a growing trend with JGMS. We got to see a couple shooting stars and gaze at near by galaxies, constellations and nebulas. How cool!

Saturday morning we arrived at Ruck's Pit, now Rucks Lake seeing as how it's filled in with water now. There were, I think 14 JGMS members collecting that day so it was nice to be surrounded by friends. The collecting area consisted of many large piles of material with garden hoses at the head of each pile. The hoses really helped while trying to go through dried piles of rock, sand, and shells. Collecting for the most part was nothing like it used to be, but it was a lot easier than pounding in virgin material.

After collecting for two days and getting the material home and cleaned, I was able to assess the outcome of the trip. Over all you can still find a decent specimen or two but the chances of finding a great undamaged specimen are slim. With Edwin Ruck's assistance in bringing in a fresh bucket of material at the end of the day I finally did find one really nice specimen.

In all, the trip was not a total wash. I was able to spend quality time with great friend, all doing what we love to do. If you're interested in a specimen or two from Ruck's Pit, call up some friends and visit Ruck's Pit. Regardless of what you may find, you'll bring home buckets of great memories.

YOU REALLY DO SEE STARS

By Ed Price

1/08/09

This is a true story of a rock hunt/dig and some perils, also pitfalls when looking for quartz crystals. The day started like many before. The miners are Ed, Linda, and Carl, a happy group of devoted diggers focused on the quest for thumb sized, water clear quartz crystals.

The truck was loaded with the supplies, picks, shovels, hammers, back packs, a plastic tarp for shade, food, water, tasty cakes, soda, and newspaper. The place to dig the crystals is 50 miles from my mom's house, called Macadoo, PA., off route 81 N. This is in the strip mine pits near Hazelton, PA. You take a left turn, then a right, and stop at the fence. From here you have to pack your supplies in about half a mine. The whole area is a strip mine pit, not pretty to look at, but a bonanza for crystals and fossils. The crystals outcrop on the surface. They are easy to see against the grey slate and dirt background. Most good ones are found in the white kaolin clay.

We dug the outcrop with some success, a few pounds of assorted sized crystals. Depending upon where you dig, some are clear on one side and black on the other; not smoky, but full of black debris. If oriented correctly, it is in layers: clear-black-clear-black.

After a while, we stopped digging and bagging, to rest. We sat down under the tarp to eat lunch. After lunch we went on a scouting trip for new outcrops to dig. I saw a possible spot. It was on a ledge and I had to climb to get to it. The ledge was thin with lots of water running off ruts. The spot we were working was down the hill and to the right, about 200 feet away..

Now listen up! Always think safety. They don't call it rock hunting for nothing. So keep asking yourself this question: "Hey, does this look stupid?" If you say "yes", don't do it! So here I am on a thin ledge above the rocks below. I turned this rock over and there it was – an angry nest of bees. At this point your body's fight or flight reflex takes over and you fall backward to the rocks below! Fade to black!

I awoke to the words; "Are you all right?" The answer is still up for debate! As I came around, I notices something, the stars going around me head. The kind you see in the Daffy Duck cartoon after he takes a hammer to his head. "WOW! What was that?" I felt like I had gone a round with a first year student from the *LUCKY NUMCHUCK* school of Karate. All of that from a simple fall. I spent the night in the hospital for observations because I went unconscious. I also needed stitches for a deep cut in my hand. Now I always carry a tube of *Superglue* in my bag, to glue up cuts so that I can keep going (It works great!)

So remember, if you don't want **a trip to the stars**, think **Safety First!**

P.S. After all, it was worth the effort. We still have the crystals.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH THE OLIVINE GROUP

The Olivine group is composed of three minerals, with the following formulas:

Forsterite = Mg_2SiO_4

Olivine (Chrysolite) = $(Mg,Fe)_2SiO_4$

Fayalite = Fe_2SiO_4

Olivine is a magnesium iron silicate. The [series](#) ranges from the magnesium end member, Forsterite, through the [intermediary](#) member, Olivine (also known as Chrysolite), to the iron end member, Fayalite

Olivine occurs in a variety of colors: Olive-green, yellow-green, light green, yellow, yellow-brown, brown, gray, white. It has a hardness of $6\frac{1}{2}$ - 7. It forms Orthorhombic Crystals (Any mineral that falls under the following specifications belongs to the orthorhombic [crystal system](#): Three [axes](#), all are unequal in length. All three axes are at 90° to each other.), but most finds are as rounded grains, in dense aggregates.

Varieties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peridot - Green, transparent gem variety
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chrysolite - Yellow or yellow green Olivine. Also a synonym for Olivine.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunite - Solid, grainy masses of Olivine. Usually classified as a rock.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olivinoid - Extraterrestrial form of Olivine found in meteorites

The minerals comprising the Olivine group are chemically and physically similar, and it is very hard to distinguish one from the other. Therefore, these minerals are rarely called by their real name, but are just called "Olivine".

Olivine is a very common mineral, but it rarely occurs in sizes larger than microscopic grains. For this reason, larger specimens are rare and sought after. Only few localities yield large examples of this mineral, although small grains are found worldwide. Olivine is also found in [meteorites](#), and some large grains have been reported in many of them.

The variety Peridot is a famous gem. It creates a distinctive, yellow-green to olive-green gem that is well known. It is the birthstone for August.

Olivine is also used as a [flux](#) for making steel, and is an [ore](#) of magnesium.

Olivine occurs worldwide, but only few places yield large crystals. The finest Peridot comes from St. Johns Island (Zebirget) in the Red Sea off Egypt. Other Peridot localities include Mogok, Myanmar (Burma); Soppat, Kohistan province, Pakistan; the Ural Mountains of Russia; Snarum, Norway; Mt. Vesuvius, Italy; and the Eifel District, Germany.

In the U.S., Peridot is found near San Carlos (in the San Carlos Indian Reservation), Gila and Graham counties, Arizona. Large grains also occur near Fort Defiance (Buell Park and Garnet Ridge), Apache Co., Arizona; in the Kilbourne Hole, Dona Ana Co., New Mexico; in Webster, Jackson Co., North Carolina; and in the volcanic [basalts](#) of Hawaii

JAX GEMS - JGMS Newsletter

VOL. 49

No. 1

January

2009

Page 7.

**An Official Field Trip of Athens Rock and Gem Club - Athens, GA (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society**

9:00 AM EST

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, South Carolina

The Athens Rock and Gem club would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel which finally uncovered the Amethyst deposits that had eluded rock hounds for years. Most recently continued digging has unearthed dark, shiny museum quality smoky quartz as well as several new veins of the famous Diamond Hill skeletal quartz. Come join us!

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

Directions: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 to Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the right (east). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Fees: Adults = \$15/day Children under 16 year of age = \$6/day

Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

Trip Chairman:

Jim Maudsley

Phone: (706) 353-1792

e-mail: jamesm24@charter.net

JAX GEMS - JGMS Newsletter

VOL. 49

No. 1

January

2009

Page 8.

Jax Gem & Mineral Society Class Schedule

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Club Meeting 7:30	9	10
11	12 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	13 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	14 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	15 Beading Ashley 6:30-9:30 Show Meeting 7:30-9:30	16 Ways & Means 7:30-9:30	17 Flameworking Sederholm 9:30-2:30
18 Open Cabbing 2:00-6:00	19 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	20 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	21 Intarsia Robinson 6:30-9:30	22 Board Meeting 7:30-9:30	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 Basic Beading Earrings Jordan 1:00-4:00	2 Silver Copper Overlay Hamilton 6:00-9:00	3 Silver Copper Overlay Hamilton 6:00-9:00	4 Silver Copper Overlay Hamilton 6:00-9:00	5 Club Meeting 7:30	6	7

TEACHERS' PHONE NUMBERS

ASHLEY 731-8180
 ROBINSON 221-5038
 SEDERHOLM 992-7162

JORDAN 352-494-8501
 HAMILTON 294-4744