

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



June marks the official start of summer and the first of three months of pre-meeting tail gating. Our society is given permission to tail gate one hour before each meeting in the months of June, July and August in the parking lot. This is an opportunity for you to sell, trade, or buy rocks, gems, jewelry and lapidary orientated items with your fellow JGMS members. There is usually something for everyone.

Get out there and talk rocks! In the last few months I've been investigating collection sites throughout the lower 48 and was surprised with what I was able to find. I e-mailed all the rock clubs in the U. S., I've spoken with members from many other clubs and even contacted rock quarries that don't currently allow collectors. I will be sharing what I've found with our Field Trip Chairman to organize some future group trips. The types of sites I was most interested in are the not so well known sites or sites that have been closed for more than 20 years.

If you know of such a place, do a little research and start contacting people to reopen these lost sites. You may be surprised at what you find and what you'll be able to accomplish. Most of all, you'll create great networks of contacts and before you know it we'll all have more sites than you can shake a rake at. So if you enjoy going on digs, how about doing a little research and contacting land owners to come up with a few new site to go to. I've had a lot of fun getting to know people from all over the south and learned about some really interesting sites to collect from.

Respectively, Jason Hamilton

## EDITORS PEBBLES



Things are getting exciting around the club. We are starting to see a whole group of new faces taking major parts in the club activities. Our meetings are being well attended, and we are starting to get quite a few contributions to this news letter from our members. The picnic was a grand affair - even though we couldn't figure out which site we were at. Lots and lots of stones to swap. Great amounts of food to eat. I ate way too much!

Our junior members are becoming much more active. - thank you Amy Ellis and thanks also to Frances and Melissa Siver.

Sad news with the death of Robert Thompson and with Ed Johnson's diagnosis of cancer. Great news that Ann Dagenais is cancer free.

Also congratulations to Arden on her 2nd and 3rd place showings.

The class schedule is starting to taper off for the summer - but will revive again in the fall. Take advantage of what is there.

Finally, get ready for the tail gating during June, July and August. Happy summer! Chuck

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# JAX GEMS - JGMS Newsletter

**VOL. 49**

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**May**

**2009**

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## **MINUTES FOR THE MAY 09 MONTHLY MEETING.**

Monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society was held at the Riverside Christian Church, 2811 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, Florida on May 7, 2009. President Jason Hamilton opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:** Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Jason.

**WELCOME GUESTS:** Guests were welcomed.

**YOUTH GROUP:** Youth group was dismissed.

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

**TREASURER REPORT** (Harriet Rose): \$933.31 deposits, \$600 from class fees, \$2360.94 expenses, \$4385.73 balance.

**MEMBERSHIP** (Karyn and Jeff Bee): New Members Handbook available. 7 new members, 3 guests.

**MEETINGS:** Ways and Means committee meeting will be held on 21 May at 7:30. No board meeting.

**SOCIAL CONCERS** (Amy Johnson and Mary Lou Roberts): Ed Price wrote a thank you for Ed Johnson. Your wishes are heart felt. Thank you Ed. Condolences and well wishes to members.

**FAIR & EXHIBITS** (Craig Hamilton): The September show will be upon us sooner than you think. Get your case ready now for the show.

**CLUB SHOW** (Tom Frame) No report.

**PUBLICATIONS** (Chuck Sederholm): Articles for newsletter are coming in, keeping them coming.

**FIELD TRIPS** (Jeff Bee): Field trip will be to LaGrange, Georgia on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Check web page for more info.

**REFRESHMENTS** (Francis Siver): Sign up for refreshments and bring door prizes.

**EDUCATION** (Jacki Jordan): Class sign up will be at the end of the meeting. Clip boards are being used.

**WORKSHOP** (Doug Kryszak): New sponges and fire bricks are in shop.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** (Linn Dew): Mayo scholarship container is on back table for donations.

**LIBRARY** (Jerry Opel): Library is being inventoried and updated, Up and running for June meeting.

**CANCELLED STAMPS** (Carla Johnson): Stamps program is still active, bring in your stamps.

**COMMUNICATIONS** (Jim Robinson): No report

**OLD BUSINESS:** Great time was has by all at spring Club Picnic. Fall picnic is in October. Tailgating is June, July and August from 6 to 7 pm in church parking lot.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Cindy Cascini brought in photos for Junior's field trip to Cumberland Island, Georgia.

**PROGRAM:** Cheryl Ashley did a seed beading program. Thank you Cheryl.

**SHOW AND TELL:** Jae Shactor, Francis Siver, Harriett Rose, Lois Fitzpatrick, Arden Sederholm, Jean Singletary, Doug Kryszak, Cindy Cascini, Jeff Bee, and Peter Chu all shared their wonders with us.

**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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**ROBERT THOMPSON** passed away during the last month. He is survived by his wife Inge. Our condolences to Inge and their family. Inge has promised that she will continue to be an active member

**ANN DAGENAIS** has informed us that she has been cleared of all cancer. This is definitely a GOD thing. Continued good health, Ann!

**ED JOHNSON** has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Ed Price has provided us with the following poem giving our thanks to Ed for all of his contributions to our club.

### THANK YOU ED JOHNSON

By: Ed Price

Club presidents come and go  
Quite a lot of them I have come to know  
Their life stories are really neat  
As personal friends, they can't be beat  
Sometimes, we didn't agree  
But all was resolved over a cup of tea

We would like to thank you, Ed Johnson  
For all you have done  
That made our club  
Number one!

You are in our thoughts and prayers  
We hope this little note  
shows you that we really do care.

Thanks again, Ed Johnson  
From all of the JGMS members or 2009..

ED JOHNSON - President JGMS, 2005-2006

**ARDEN SEDERHOLM** entered the international Delphi Art Glass Festival for 2009. In the category of flame working, she took second place with a Gladiolus bead, and third place with a necklace of amethyst beads. Way to go Arden!

**TAIL GATING** - For the months of June, July, and August, our club will hold tailgating in the church parking lot on the nights of our monthly meeting. This will occur from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Come and display your lapidary oriented wares and enjoy looking at other's offerings.

**PICNIC PICTURES:** There are a nice set of pictures of our recent picnic on the club web site - <http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org>. Check them out!

## What's New in Membership?

Our group continues to grow and expand. You are probably seeing many new faces at the meetings now.

New this month are: Byron Cassell & Mrya Schick

Sharon Carter

India Hendley

Brenda Johnson

Kellie Metzen

MaryAnn Palmer

Jean, Aiyana & Gracie Singletary

Tommy, Francis & Rebecca Shaw

If you see a face you don't know, please introduce yourself! You may learn about something new.

Recently, we had the pleasure of spending some time with Dawayne Batten. He has a different

hobby....want to know what it is? Find him and ask him!

Here's to our new members! See you next month.

Jeff and Karyn Bee

## Cookbooks are coming....Cookbooks are coming.....

But they really need some of your recipes to complete them! The Junior Program is working toward printing cookbooks to use as a fundraiser for our annual show. We need to get moving on them soon.

Please send any special recipes you have to [webee7@aol.com](mailto:webee7@aol.com). We welcome them all!

To pay for the cookbooks, we were recently given a lot of bread crates. What good are bread crates, you may ask? Well....they are great for storing rocks and stacking them instead of having them spread out everywhere. You can use them for slabs or fossils as well! We will be selling them at the monthly tailgating parties for \$3 each.....please stop by and pick a few up! The kids really can use the money to start up.

Karyn Bee

## May Birthdays

5/1	Bill Taylor	5/3	Kathy Wright	5/6	Donna Garland
5/8	Dawayne Batten	5/8	Heinz Garland	5/9	Bobbie Brown
5/10	Marian Fogg	5/11	Ann Dagenais	5/11	Robbin Batten
5/12	Josh Batten	5/14	Doris Collins	5/16	Tobin Halas
5/18	Gretchen Alter	5/19	Scott Jackson	5/19	Austin Pisula
5/22	Cindy Cascini	5/24	Lynne Bratcher	5/24	Lynne Bullard
5/24	Pam Hamilton	5/30	Amy Johnson	5/31	Melissa Siver

## The Hues of Blue

Blue Gemstones are my favorite of all gemstones. There is something wonderful about the various hues and tones of blue. It probably has something to do with being Cherokee, but blue never fails to get my attention. Let me introduce you to some of my favorites.

Lapis Lazuli- a deep blue from Afghanistan has been highly prized since antiquity for depth of color. It is chemically composed of.  $(\text{Na,Ca})_8(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6(\text{S},\text{SO}_4,\text{Cl})_{1-2}$  The predynastic Egyptians used it for their royal necklaces, Neolithic man as burial beads, and even into Mauritania as jewelry. Lapis is a rock, not a mineral and has many elements in it. The main component is lazurite, a feldspathoid silicate composed of sodium, aluminum, silicon, oxygen, sulfur, and chloride. The deeper the blue, the more prized the Lapis.

Next on my list is Azurite. It is chemically made up as  $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$  It is a soft deep blue copper mineral produced by weathering copper ore deposits. It was actually used as pigment for paintings during the Middle Ages. It is often in the company of Malachite and makes a stunning stone with the mixture of the deep blue and the bright green, or just the blue alone.

Then we have Sapphire. Sapphire is in the gem family of corundum. It is an Aluminum Oxide ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) when it is a color other than red. Sapphires go back to Roman times with references to heating Sapphires. The Star of India is thought to be the largest sapphire in the world so far. The Star of Bombay, housed in the National Museum of Natural History, 182 carats, is a good example of a blue star sapphire. Sapphire is very hard unlike Lapis and Azurite. It is used in infrared optical components, watch crystals, and high-durability windows besides jewelry. There are different hues of blue in the Sapphire. You have light blue, cornflower blue, midnight blue, and deep blue just to name a few.

Next is delicate Blue Topaz. They come in Light blue, Medium blue, and London blue. Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminum and fluorine with the chemical formula of  $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_4(\text{F},\text{OH})_2$  It has a hardness of 8 and it has a specific gravity of 3.4-3.6. I love the Silver Topaz but the blue shimmers if it is cut right. The London Blue by far is my favorite color of blue in the Topaz family.

We could never leave out Blue Opal. SIGH! The lovely sparkles of blue in opal just can't be beat, especially if it is medium blue flashes. The chemical makeup is  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-nH}_2\text{O}$ . The water beads in silicate to give it the fire and luster. My personal favorite is a black opal with deep blue flashes and I happen to have one. It is from Coober Pedy, Australia. But the opals from around the world are all quite exquisite. It truly is a matter of taste.

Turquoise is definitely next on the list. That gorgeous teal blue or baby blue gets me every time. The chemical makeup is  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . It can be green to the bluest baby blue to yellow to waxy white and the max hardness of 6. Despite its softness, it takes a good polish and glows in brilliance.

Aquamarine makes a lovely next on the list. How could I not like the "water of the sea" which is what aquamarine means? The chemical composition is  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$ . It has a Mohs hardness of 7.5 to 8. This gem goes from silvery white to a light medium blue. It is a very soft blue. The biggest aquamarine ever mined was found at the city of Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm long and 42 cm in diameter. I can just see our president of the club and his dad trying to haul this in his truck- can't you? People in the middle ages thought that aquamarine could magically overcome the effects of poison. Ancient sailors traveled with aquamarine crystals, believing that it would ensure a safe voyage, and guarantee a safe return; they slept with it under their pillows.

There is Blue Zircon, Blue Hawk's Eye, Paraiba Blue Apatite, Labradorite, Larimar, and I could go on and on. But I will end my blues article here. What ever hue of the rainbow you love -there are tons of that color in different stones available to you. You only have to go mining one time to be hooked for life. Enjoy the rainbow!

Ann Dagenais

## **CUMBERLAND ISLAND**

By: MATTHEW OPPEL

I went with the Youth Group to Cumberland Island on Saturday, April 11th. Everyone met at St. Mary's, Georgia and we took a ferry boat to the island.

We walked along the beach, climbed a huge tree, saw many wild horses, collected many shells, rocks, and shark's teeth.

After leaving the island, we went to Trolley's restaurant. I tried gator tail for the first time and it was good!

The weather was nice. I enjoyed being with my dad and having fun with new friends. I can't wait 'til the next field trip.

## **SLUCING AWAY**

By: Ann Dagenais

My mom made me do this for something new to do,  
Good grief here we go! If she only knew!

I feel like a goofball sitting on this bench  
my back isn't the only thing that feels like a wrench!

The dirt and the mud are gross and yucky  
it's hot and sweaty and I feel icky

But wait! What the heck just hit my hand?  
THAT is a sapphire! Yeah right. It's grand.

This can't be a sapphire. It's just a rock!  
It's supposed to look like that! Poppycock!

You have to be kidding! It's so ugly and gross!  
What do you mean that it's worth the most?

This ugly thing? You have got to be kidding!  
Hey! You mean people actually have these in a ring?

My behind is hurting just for this?  
You mean we spent hours for this silliness?

Hmmmmmm. Maybe this isn't so goofy after all.  
If I find the big one-Guinness might give me a call!

Thanks! Have a good day!

## MINERAL OF THE MONTH THE GARNET GROUP

The garnet group is made up of a large number of minerals with a common general formula of  $X^{2+}_3 Y^{3+}_2 Si_3 O_{12}$  where **X** stands for Ca,  $Fe^{2+}$ , Mn, and Mg and **Y** stands for Al, Cr, and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

The common members of the garnet group are:

**Pyrope** -  $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$

**Almandine** -  $Fe^{2+}_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$

**Spessartine** -  $Mn_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$

**Grossular** -  $Ca_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$

**Andradite** -  $Ca_3Fe^{3+}_2Si_3O_{12}$

**Uvarovite** -  $Ca_3Cr_2Si_3O_{12}$

Garnet occurs in shades of all colors except for blue. Each garnet forms in the following particular colors:

**Pyrope** - Deep red to nearly black

**Almandine** - Deep red to reddish-brown, sometimes with a violet or brown hue

**Spessartine** - Brown, orange, and pink

**Grossular** - Colorless, white, green, yellow, pink, brown, orange and orange-red

**Andradite** - Red, green, yellow, brown, black; rarely colorless

**Uvarovite** - Emerald-green

They generally range in hardness from  $6\frac{1}{2}$  -  $7\frac{1}{2}$ . Almandine from one locality can be as hard as  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

The crystalline form is isometric. Garnets occur in well-formed, distinct, [dodecahedral](#) and [trapezohedral](#) crystals. They also occur in compact crystal groupings, [grainy](#), [massive](#), as rounded crystals, and as groups of small crystals.

Garnet as a group is one of the most common minerals. However, some individual members or varieties of individual members are quite rare, and are in high demand by collectors and for their use as gems. In the gem trade, when the term "Garnet" is used, it refers to a garnet of dark red color, and usually to Pyrope or Almandine. The most valuable garnet gem, however, is the [Demantoid](#) variety of [Andradite](#). The definition of *Carbuncle* is a deep red Garnet cut into a [cabochon](#).

Garnets have many practical uses. Transparent varieties of cuttable size are faceted for jewelry, and dark red Garnet is the most popular form. The harder garnets are used as an [abrasive](#), from which [Garnet paper](#), a popular sandpaper, is made. Well formed crystals and interesting aggregates are very popular among mineral collectors.



Almandine Garnet (red)



Tsavorite Garnet (green)



Spessartine Garnet (orange)

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of The Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society (HOST)**  
An Official Field Trip of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society  
9:00 AM, Saturday May 16, 2009  
Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, Lincoln Co., GA

**Children:** Allowed only under close adult supervision.

**Fee:** There is no fee to visit the mountain but a donation for the caretaker is recommended.

**Collecting:** Rutile, lazulite, prophyllite, iridescent hematite, pyrite, ilmenite, muscovite, fuchsite and various micro-minerals.

**Directions:** Take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, Ga. SR78 (SR10, SR17) and turn left. Travel North to Washington. Turn right onto SR378 and drive about 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is about ½ mile east of the Lincoln County Line and on the south side of the road. Liability release forms will be signed and donations made at the entrance to Graves Mountain. Parking will only be allowed at the parking area at the end of the paved entrance road.

**Safety:** The quarry contains high and unstable walls and loose rock can become dislodged creating a hazard. Stay away from all highwalls. Wear sturdy footwear to prevent injuries. Safety glasses when using hammers.

**Tools:** Rock hammer, chisels, sledge, pry bar, storage containers and a hand truck to take items to and from the collecting areas.

**Other Essentials:** Pets must be kept under control and on a leash. Bring plenty of water and food since none is available at the mountain. Everyone needs to be off the mountain by 8:00 pm.

**Contact:** Jim Stoops

Phone 706-860-4608

Email [jirout\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:jirout_2@hotmail.com)

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"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.

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Please reply by e-mail to:

[dmc@gamineral.org](mailto:dmc@gamineral.org)

World Wide Web site for the DMC is:

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

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DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of The Forsyth County Gem & Mineral Club  
8:00 am -12:00, Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry  
Morganton, Burk County, N.C.**

**TRIP:** Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

**COLLECTING:** This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. The majority of these minerals are found in the pegmatite zones. Garnets are almandine variety and have been found up to silver dollar size. However, the majority of them are 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter imbedded in the pegmatite.

**CHILDREN:** Over 12 years old can attend if supervised closely by parent or guardian. Must wear appropriate safety gear. **No Pets**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS** This is an operating mine. All persons attending the field trip will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement, take 15 minute hazardous training, and wear the required safety gear at all times. This includes a hard hat, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots. We will meet at the quarry office at 8 a.m., sign releases, receive instructions on boundaries and safety, and be led into the collecting area. We must leave the quarry by 12 noon! In addition, all persons are asked to stay away from the quarry walls. There is plenty of material loose on the quarry floor. **VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE QUARRY ON THIS TRIP** and parked until leaving.

**BRING:** Hard hat, safety glasses, rock hammer, and something to carry and wrap samples.

**DIRECTIONS** We will meet at the quarry at 8:00 am and be allowed to collect until 12:00. Quarry's phone number: **(828)437-2616**. From Interstate 40, take Highway 18 North at exit 105. At the fourth traffic light, turn right on Fleming Drive. Continue to end of road at Route 64/70 (dead end at Bi-Lo Food Store). Turn left on Route 64/70, travel under the railroad bridge. Immediately after crossing under bridge, at the Viscotec plant, turn right on Kirksey Drive. Make another right on Quarry Road. Quarry entrance is 1/4 mile off Quarry Road.

Vulcan Materials Company

Causby Quarry Road

Morganton, NC 28655

**DRIVE TIME:** This location is approximately a 1-1/2 hour drive from Winston-Salem, NC.

**CONTACT:** Jim Stroud, if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip.

phone: 336-744-2940

e-mail address: stroudj@vmcmail.com

mail address: PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

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"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!"

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## Jax Gem & Mineral Society Class Schedule

**MAY 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Club Meeting 7:00	8	9 Wire wrapping Brown 9:30-2:30
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Beading Ashley 6:30-9:30	15	16
17 Gem I D Jordan 1:00-6:00	18 Open Silver Jacobs 6:30-9:30	19 Open Silver Jacobs 6:30-9:30	20 Open Silver Jacobs 6:30-9:30	21	22	23 Open Cabbing Bee
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30 Lampworking Sederholm 1:00-5:00
31 Cabbing Jordan 2:00-6:00	1	2	3	4 Club Meeting 7:30 Tail Gating 6:00-7:00	5	6

### TEACHERS' PHONE NUMBERS

ASHLEY 731-8180  
 BROWN 389-5378  
 JACOBS 781-4443  
 SEDERHOLM 992-7162

BEE 282-9275  
 FRAME 737-9867  
 JORDAN (352) 473-8591