



STAR-O-LITE

Augusta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Volume 49 No 6 June 2013

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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 30907. 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.

Welcome New Members

Thanks for joining our club! We hope you are finding many rewards and many friends among those who share our wonderful hobby!

If you have any questions or suggestions for the newsletter please let me know... (Patricia – Editor)

Augusta Gem and Mineral Society May, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 17, 2013
Meeting Time: 7:35pm
Presiding Officer: Maurine Resch (Sec)
Attendance: 30 Members, 1 Guests

April Meeting Minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin.

Treasurers Report: No Treasurer's report in absence of Treasurer.

Old Business: 1.) Vote on New Logo for club tabled after much discussion. Old Staurolite design to be brought to next meeting, along with new designs for approval from club before voting. ; 2.). Collector of the Month for April won by Oliver Huffman for Graves Mountain Rutile on Quartz..

New Business: 1.)Scholarship drawing for workshops at Wildacres/ William Holland awarded to Jessica Wells, and Herman Kunis. Gayle Debose received the first alternate and Jay Gorday has the second alternate. Alternates will be allowed to use

scholarships in the event winners are unable to attend. Dates of workshops presented to membership as information: Wildacres--August 19-25, September 2-8, September 23-29; William Holland—June 9-15, October 13-19.; 2.)Patricia has tickets for ½ off entry fee for Tellus Museum from June 6-8.; 3.)Webmaster announced web renewal for the next year will be \$120, price approved.; 4.) Well wishes sent to Chris Wisnieski after his recent surgery.

Show Business: 1.) Show drawing for three free annual family club memberships for volunteers were awarded to Sue Gorday, Fred Boyd and Janet English.2.) Show proceeds to come.

Field Trip Report: 1.) May 18th Dig (NOTE: **date change** from regular date) will be to Ray Mica Mine in Burnsville, NC. Caravan will leave from Kmart parking lot at 6am. Contact Steve Huffman prior to date to let him know you are coming. 3.) June 29th dig- Martin Marietta Quarry Riverwatch location. Hard hats will be required. Members will be notified by email if dates change.; 4.) Possible visit to the Hightower's in North Carolina was discussed, more later. 5.) Dig at Sandersville will be contingent date based on when other summer digs get scheduled.

As our Program, video brought by Patricia and Richard McNutt on The 400 Million Dollar Emerald Finds by National Geographic

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by secretary, Maurine Resch

Change in June Field Trip

Tennille will be the June Dig on Sat. the 22nd

We will meet in the Atwell Pecan Co parking lot at 8am - 705 S Main St Wrens, GA 30833 At the intersections of GA Rt 1 & Rt 88 in Wrens.

No charge for this dig site. Will have a prize of a Ray Mica Mine Emerald for the <18year old that picks up the most garbage while there (will display at meeting).

Next Meeting

June 21st at 7:30 pm

Program – Movie-Safari Phinda Private Game Reserve

Field Trip. Sat. June 22nd – Tennille Meet at Atwell Pecan Co @ 8am

Dates / Things to Remember

Next Club Meeting - Friday – June 21st - 7:30pm .

Film – Safari Phinda Private Game Reserve

Regional Shows:

- **June 15th Pleasant Garden, NC** Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club; Hagan-Stone Park; 5920 Hagan Stone Park Dr.; Sat. 9:30-6:30; free admission; contact Debbie Livingston, 608 Turkey Ridge Trail, Yanceyville, NC 27379, (336) 706-2285; e-mail: bbbdalivingston@aol.com; Web site: www.ggmc-rockhounds.com

July 2013

- **July 19-21, Boone, NC** 19th Annual show: Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; National guard Armory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln, near the hospital and fire station; Fri 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$2 (3 days), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silversmiths and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes; contact Van Winner Sr. 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; email van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com
- **July 24-28, Franklin NC**, Wholesale and retail show; Damian Belghali; The Echo Valley Field; 6456 Sylva Rd., across the street from the GLW show; Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry; contact Damian Belghali, (678) 852-8273; email: mandybelghalit@yahoo.com
- **July 25-28, Franklin NC**, Show and sale: Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Macon County Community Bldg., 1288 Georgia Rd.; Thu. 10-5, Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5, Sun 11-4; adults \$2, children (12 and under) free; rough and cut gemstones, silver and gold jewelry, findings, jewelry repair and stone setting, door prizes, beads, demonstrations, supplies; contact Linda Harbuck, 425 Porter St., Franklin NC 28734, (828) 524-3161; email: lindah@franklin-chamber.com
- **July 26-27, Franklin NC**, Annual Franklin Faceters Frolic and gem and mineral show; US Faceters Guild; Fun Factory; 1024 Georgia Rd.; Fri. 9-6, Sat 9-5; free admission; more than 12 dealers, software, rough, supplies machines, faceting demonstrations, programs: contact Norm Holbert. (828) 634-0350; email: normholbert@comast.net; Website: www.facetersfrolic.org

- **July 27 – Aug. 5, Spruce Pine, NC**. 29th Annual Grassy Creek Gem and Mineral Show, located at the Parkway Fire and Rescue Department, 12966 Hwy 226 South. Seventy-two dealers, free admission and parking. Hours 8am-6pm all days. For information, contact: Donna Collis, (828) 765-5519, collisdonna@yahoo.com

August 2013

- **August 10-12, Pass Christian, MS**. Harrison County Gem and Mineral Show. West Harrison Community Center, Espy Ave., Pass Christian, MS.

Fused Glass Jewelry Making Class with Sue Shrader Saturday, June 29 – Graniteville, SC

The Aiken Club has invited Augusta members that are interested in attending a Fused Glass Jewelry Making Class with Aiken Member Sue Shrader (owner of Sergiasio Arts).

During her class you will learn how to design and glue at least one pair of earrings and a pendant. Sue will take the pieces to her studio in Camden, set the metal loops, fuse the items, and attach the bale and earring findings. Arrangements to receive your items will be made at the class.

Class Size is limited and requires a reservation. Class begins at 1 pm. **If you are interested please make your reservation with Shellie Newell- (803) 439-2625.**

Cost is \$30 and covers materials and crafting the jewelry.



AGMS Upcoming Club Field Trips

2013 AGMS Field Trips

By Steve Huffman

June 22nd – Tennille – No Charge for this Dig; Fossils and Such...

July 27th – ?

Aug. 17th – Tentative - Stones & Bones Franklin NC

Steve encourages 2013 membership in MAGMA, it's free, and you just have to sign up online. They go places we are unable to get entry.

Collector of the Month



Oliver Huffman – Rutile – Graves Mountain



May Program - We watched the DVD: National Geographic – The 400 Million Dollar Emerald



Over a decade after its discovery, the high profile legal battle continues for ownership of the rare Bahia Emerald, an 840-pound gem that is considered to be the world's largest and heaviest emerald.

Recognized as one of the most renowned lawsuits in California history, the case has gained an international following. Per court documents, half-dozen or so claimants have already settled out of court with FM Holdings, Inc. (Ferrara Morrison Holdings). The remaining three respondents, FM Holdings, Inc., Mark Downie and Anthony Thomas, will face off again on case number BS118649 in January at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in the Los Angeles Superior Court district.

After nearly six years of court dates and hearings, January's case is an extension of the April 2011 case where, per court documents, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John A. Kronstadt found Anthony Thomas' claim of ownership of the Bahia Emerald not credible. After the ruling, Kronstadt was sworn in as a federal district judge and was replaced by Judge Michael Johnson. Wishing to hear the case himself and make an independent ruling, Judge Johnson has brought the case to light yet again.

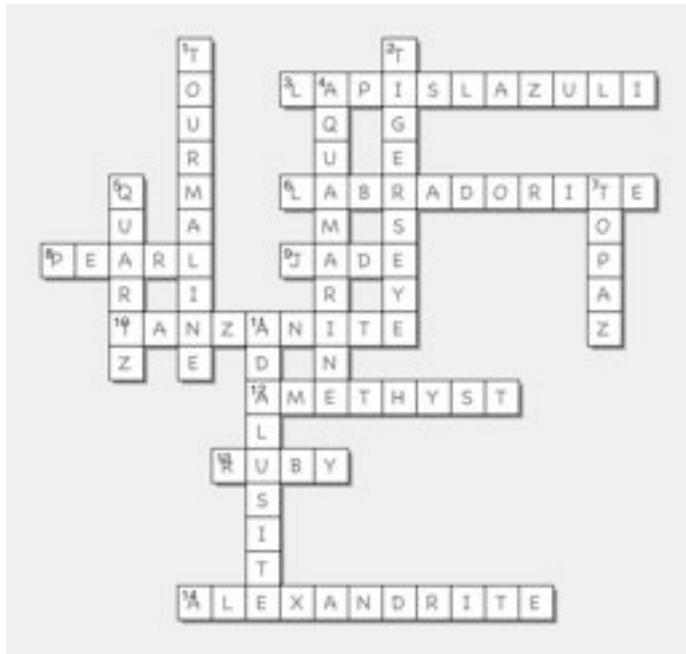
Per court documents, FM Holdings, Inc., comprised of real life "Indiana Jones" Jerry J. Ferrara, Kit Morrison, a private equity financier, and accounting and financial expert Todd Armstrong, maintains it has the valid legal title to the Bahia Emerald and alleges that it also has an equitable claim to title as bona fide purchasers of the Bahia Emerald. Law firms Greene Broillet & Wheeler and Balaban & Spielberger represent FM Holdings, Inc. We stand behind our claim and are confident that we will prevail as the legal and rightful owner of the Bahia Emerald," said Jerry J. Ferrara, founder of Global Quest TV and prominent historical researcher.

In the National Geographic Special "The 400 Million Dollar Emerald," researchers and experts follow the Bahia Emerald from the mines of Brazil's Bahia Region in 2001. The emerald, which contains more than 180,000 carats of emerald crystals, is being held at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department evidence locker until the case is resolved.

Photos from May Dig – Ray Mica



May Crossword Answer



Stands to Reason

By Jim Stoops

Buck Creek

A few years ago I took a trip to Chunky Gal, which is located in Clay County North Carolina to hunt for condrumn. In Buck Creek, which is near Chunky Gal, I had dug a hole for material to screen. That had worn me out so it was about time to do something different. Like using a dry fly to catch wild trout that can be caught in Buck Creek. Then I would return to the hole I had dug in the creek and screen more material. Or maybe I will do something different. Didn't want to re-dig my hole in case I decided to return but hated to leave it open were someone could fall into it. OK, I will be a good guy and fill the hole I had dug. Later as I approached the bridge that crosses Buck Creek, I had one of those wild trout hit at my dry fly but missed it. I took a step forward as I made my next fly rod cast and suddenly my foot dropped down in a hole someone had dug. Luckily my foot landed in the center of the hole and didn't suffer any damage. Since I was a good guy when I filled the hole I had dug then the person who didn't fill the hole they dug must be a bad guy. Stands to reason.

Gem, Mineral or Fossil News on the Web

Harry Winston Buys 101-Carat Diamond; Who Will Wear It First?



We were a little short on pocket change last week when a 101.73 carat flawless pear-shaped diamond went up for auction at Christie's Geneva. The stone, which Christie's was calling the most perfect diamond ever up for auction, was snapped up by jeweler Harry Winston and renamed the "Winston Legacy."

For context, the Winston Legacy diamond is roughly the size of a small lime — completely eclipsing some of the most amazing diamonds we've seen throughout the years. And while the sight of this jaw-dropping stone has us reminiscing about some of our favorite Harry Winston memories, we also can't help but wonder who will be the first to sport this newest bauble.

Read the rest of the story at:

<http://stylenews.peoplestylewatch.com/2013/05/20/diamonds-harry-winston-legacy/>

Ray Mine



Last summer I went to the Ray Mine, which is located near Burnsville North Carolina. In most places the top layer of material on the spoil pile has been dug into two to three feet. The best way to find mineral specimens is to dig deep into the spoil pile to find material that has

not been searched through. After a couple days of digging, I had a hole about seven feet deep and had stated to widen my hole. Something shiny at the bottom of the disturbed layer at the top of the hole I had dug caught my eye. It was the aluminum top of a soda can. It must have been placed there some time ago since the sides of the can had been made of steel and most of the side had rusted away. This may not seem like a big deal but the aluminum lid to the can had Dispose of Properly stamped on the top. I wouldn't call burying trash in a spoil pile as disposing of it properly. Guess some people can't read. Stands to reason.

2013 SFMS Workshops



Website (www.sfmsworkshops.com) provides schedules and details for each class as well as information on the instructors. The website also has a pdf registration form that can be filled out and printed to send to the registrar.

The workshops dates for this year are:

William Holland (GA)

June 9-15
October 13-19

Wildacres (NC)

August 19-25
September 23-29

Session One - William Holland SUNDAY, June 9-15, 2013

[Seed Beading](#)
[Cabochons](#)
[Chainmaking - Beginning](#)
[Digital Photography](#)
[Enameling/Cold-Connection](#)
[Faceting](#)
[Lampwork](#)
[Opal Cutting](#)
[Polymer Clay](#)
[*Silver 1+ Special Fabrication](#)
[Techniques](#)
[Wire 1](#)

[Barbara Green](#)
[Anita Westlake](#)
CANCELLED
[Ron Gibbs](#)
[Renee Kelley](#)
CANCELLED
[Ann Royer](#)
[Joe DePietro](#)
CANCELLED
[Annette](#)
[Gibney](#)
[Sandra](#)
[Bergquist](#)

Session Two - Wildacres MONDAY, August 19-25, 2013

[Chain-Maille Jewelry - Beg/Adv](#)
[Chasing & Repoussé](#)
[Fused Glass - Beginning](#)
[Jewelry Bench Building](#)
[*Metalwork Special Projects](#)
[Polymer Clay](#)
[Raku Beads](#)
[Scrimshaw](#)
[Seed Beading](#)
[Silversmithing - Beginning](#)
[Wirecraft - Beginning](#)

[Roy Deere](#)
[Tom & Kay Benham](#)
[Barb & Herrick Jeffers](#)
[Danny Griffin](#)
[Jeff Sheer](#)
[Maggie Westall](#)
[Jim Cullen](#)
[Bill Wetzel](#)
[Sharon Solly](#)
[Dana Ruth](#)
[Rowan Rose](#)

Session Three - Wildacres MONDAY, September 23-29, 2013

[Cabochons](#)
[Casting](#)
[Exhibiting & Judging](#)
[*Faceting/Open Studio](#)
[Fused Glass - Intermediate](#)
[Kumihimo](#)
[Resin 101](#)
[Silver Cold Connection](#)
[Silversmithing - Intermediate](#)
[Wire Wrapping - Intermediate](#)

[Steve Adams](#)
[Bill Harr](#)
[Jay Bowman](#)
[Steve Hillenbrand](#)
[Barb & Herrick Jeffers](#)
[Haydee Hernandez](#)
[Rochelle Nation](#)
[Charlotte Caughman](#)
[Dana Ruth](#)
[Rowan Rose](#)

Session Four - William Holland SUNDAY, October 13-19, 2013

[Bead Netting](#)
[Cabochons - Advanced](#)
[Casting](#)
[Fused Glass](#)
[Lampwork](#)
[Mixed Metals](#)
[*Silver 1](#)
[Silver Filligree](#)
[Wirecraft - Beginning](#)

[Ronald Midkiff](#)
[Ellis Bray](#)
[Joe DePietro/Lou Mager](#)
[Rich & Linda Dillon](#)
[Cindy Reed](#)
[Kim St. Jean](#)
[Rebecca McNairy](#)
[Shannon Stafford](#)
[Rowan Rose](#)

The intermediate / advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. Please do not exclude yourself, if you're interested in one

Check-In Day

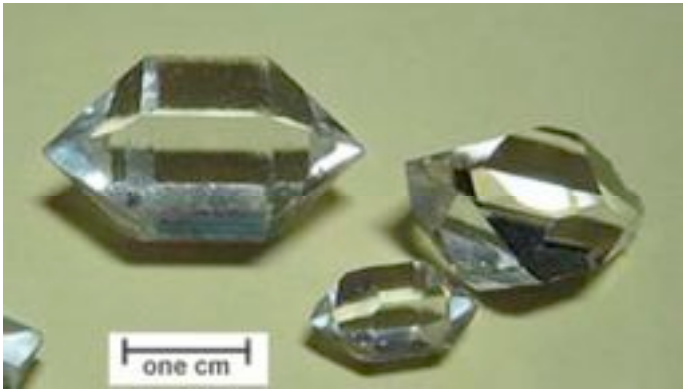
Wildacres is MONDAY afternoon.
William Holland is SUNDAY afternoon.
Early check-in is NOT permitted at either location.

Workshop Tuition

NOTE: You are encouraged to pay the full amount at registration time. However, a \$25 non-refundable deposit per person must accompany your registration. If you send a \$25 deposit the remaining balance is due one month before the beginning of class. No reminders will be sent.

- Cost per person \$350 double occupancy.
- Single room with private bath \$510.
- Non-members add \$50.00 to all Tuition fees.
- Day Student or camper workshop tuition fee is \$180 per person. No meals are included for day students or campers. They are available from and payable directly to the facility.
- Campsite fee (Wm Holland only) \$300 per week.

Herkimer Diamond Quartz Crystals



"Herkimer Diamonds" is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. Examples of these crystals are shown in the photo. Note that these crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz, however, instead of having a termination on one end, they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare and this is part of what makes Herkimer Diamonds so popular with mineral collectors.

The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-age, Little Falls Dolostone. The Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone. These cavities are frequently lined with drusy quartz crystals and often are coated with a tarry hydrocarbon.

Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, Ukraine and China. They have the same appearance but cannot rightfully be called "Herkimers".

Via Stoney Statements Jan. 2013

Staurolite



Photo: Staurolite twins, Fannin County, Georgia



It is the official state mineral of the U.S. State of Georgia.

Staurolite is a regional metamorphic mineral of intermediate to high grade. It occurs with almandine garnet, micas, kyanite; as well as albite, biotite, and sillimanite in gneiss and schist of regional metamorphic rocks. Staurolite is one of the index minerals that are used to estimate the temperature, depth, and pressure at which a rock undergoes metamorphism.

The name is derived from the Greek word for cross, *Stauros*, and rock, *lithos*. This refers to the twinning it is commonly found in. Staurolite is not uncommon worldwide. Large deposits of good crystals can be found in Monte Campione, Switzerland, Brittany, France, Scotland, and Taos, New Mexico. Also some large deposits are present in Maine, New Hampshire, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, New Mexico, and Montana. Staurolite twins, especially the 90 degree crosses are sold as "fairy stones" for amulets and charms.

Physical Properties: Staurolite is a semi translucent dark brown to reddish mineral. It has a hardness of 7 to 7.5. Crystals are frequently twinned joining at either 60 or, less commonly, 90 degrees. It has a dull or resinous luster and a grey or white streak. It has a specific gravity of 3.65-3.75 and a hardness of 7-7.5. It is usually found in crystal habit, but is sometimes massive.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staurolite>
<http://www.cas.umt.edu/geosciences/faculty/baldwin/geos226/Staurolite.html>

Via Mid-Georgia Gem Clips June 2013



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

Easiest way to cut a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel and then do a rough polish with a knife-edge silicone wheel.

FANCY RIVET HEADS



For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

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)

Shop Help/Tips

Friction backs for pierced earrings are easy to make. Take a 12mm strip of sterling silver about 22 gauges and 22mm long, or a comparable strip of 14K gold. Find the center and pound it with a scribe to create a shallow funnel-like depression. Drill a hole in the center of the depression. File a design above and below the hole for easy gripping. Polish both sides. Bend each end in a spiral towards the center hole.

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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/)