

GOLDEN NUGGET

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

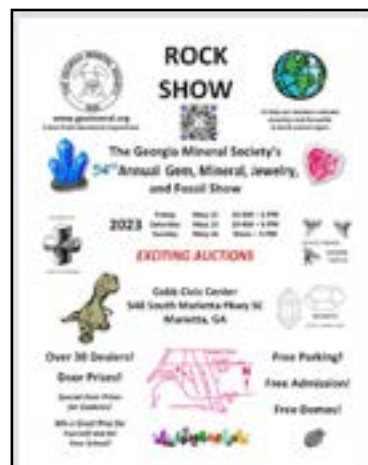
What an action packed 2023 our Gem Club has experienced so far. We have had field trips to the Wetumpka Impact Crater, heard Dr. King lecture about the Impact Crater, collected Rose Quartz and Beryl at the Hogg Mine in Lagrange, Georgia, had a workshop cleanup day, visited the Magic of Marble Festival in Sylacauga, and got to visit the Quarry Overlook there.

Now that May has arrived, it is time to start planning for this year's Gem Show for December 1-3, 2023. We already have new dealers reaching out to us asking about tables. Returning dealers are also wanting to reserve their favorite spots on the floor. Here in the next couple of months we will reserve the Garrett Coliseum for the Gem Show and secure all of our dealers for the Gem Show. Our Club officers are going to be busy planning for the show, so we need some club members to step up and help us line up field trips for this summer.

We will have our regular club meeting on May 16, 2023 at the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. This month we will have club members Clare Weil, Leslie Amato, and Chuck Burns give us a presentation.

As posted last month, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies has announced their Federation workshop weeks at William Holland and Wild Acres lapidary resorts. Our club sponsors a scholarship for one lucky club member to attend based on one's service to the club. We will be holding our drawing for the lucky scholarship winner at our May meeting.

Chris Rutherford, President chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com





PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The May meeting will be given by the trio of Leslie Amato, Chuck Burns and Clare Weil. All three took a class last month at William Holland and will give information about argentium, which is a silver product. They will discuss argentium's properties as well as show off the work they did in creating jewelry pieces from this material.

Clare



Secretary's April Minutes

The meeting was called to order by club president Chris Rutherford and he welcomed one guest, Lynn Dower. The minutes were approved as written in the April newsletter. Iris McGehee delivered the treasurers' report.

Chris said negotiations were ongoing for use of Garrett coliseum for the 2023 show. Sabrina represented the show committee and presented a \$2,000 check for the clubs general fund. This was from money generated by the 2022 gem show. Sabrina is also looking into putting together and order to ADK for t-shirts, hats or related promotional items.

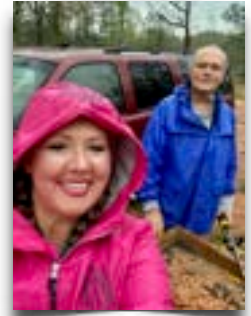
Pictures from the Hogg Mine and Sylacauga marble fest are on the club website.

Liz Hasan's misplaced application for membership had been found and she was approved by a show of hands. Chris introduced our guest presenters Scott Wallace and his associate Megan Frazier. Scott is a geologist and has been employed with the USGS for 27 years. He gave a detailed account of the vision, mission, and numerous other agencies supported by USGS. His area includes the Lower Mississippi Gulf area and deals with all aspects of water related concerns. He also had some of the instrumentation used for flow monitoring for all to see. He highlighted some of the real time data that is available to the public. After a question and answer session the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod



HOGG MINE FIELD TRIP





Jimmie was the first one to have a "FIND OF THE DAY!" With a nice piece of Beryl!



It took David and another man to help Magnolia get this 250 lb YARD ROCK into her truck!



SYLACAUGA MARBLE FESTIVAL

Members of the club met at the BB Comer Library for a tour of the marble statues and to hear the history of the Marble Festival. The Library Docent, Mandi, informed those in attendance that Sylacauga marble is the whitest marble in the world, except for some places in Italy. It is so white that light can shine through, making it one of the most desirable marbles in the world. A fun fact is that this marble is also contained in Tums, Roloids and chewing gum!

Outside, Randy Clark told members that the marble festival included 35 sculptors this year, including one from Italy who spoke very little English. It was so interesting to see the square blocks of marble take shapes and forms. Most of the sculptors take their work back home, but some leave them for the library. Most of the library sculptures were bought and then donated to the library. This is an annual event, and members were able to take souvenir pieces of marble that fell on the ground, as the sculptors created their masterpieces.

After watching the sculptors, members drove to Imerys Gantt's Quarry Observation Site where they mine the marble.

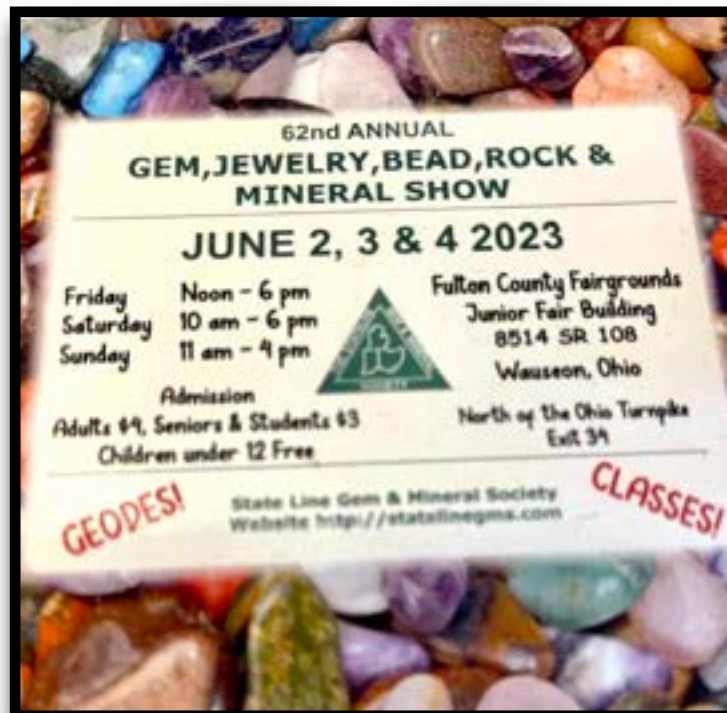








Don't forget to visit our club Facebook page and our website for more photos and information!





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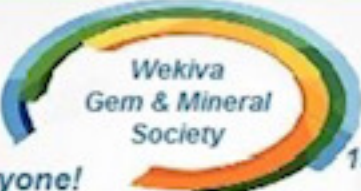
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Land of the Sky Gem Show
June 16 - 18, 2023
 Land of the Sky Shrine Club
 39 Spring Cove Rd
 Swannanoa, NC
 Indoor & Outdoor Food Available

Rock Swap
 June 24th
 9 am - 4 pm
 Fun for Everyone!




**Wekiva
 Gem & Mineral
 Society**



**Outdoor
 Swap**
*In a Circle
 Under the Trees*
 1937 Lakeville Rd
 Apopka, FL

Grassy Creek Mineral & Gem Show
July 30th - August 6th, 2023
 Help Support Parkway Fire & Rescue
 136 Majestic View
 Spruce Pine, NC





Melbourne Gem Show
 May 26 - 28, 2023
 Melbourne Auditorium
 625 E Hibiscus Blvd
 Melbourne, FL

St Petersburg Gem Show
 September 1 - 3, 2023
 The Coliseum
 535 4th Ave N
 St Petersburg, FL

