

GOLDEN NUGGET

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank Harold Bowdin of Harold’s Fine Jewelry for presenting at our last club meeting about gemstone grading and identification. It was an interesting topic discussing the GIA Method for classifying jewelry and gem stones. As I discussed with Harold, the processes and steps he uses in the identifying jewelry is very scientific in nature and I would consider him a geologist, albeit a geologist that does not get very dirty. I myself enjoyed the discussion of synthetic and lab grown stones versus natural stones. That was the best explanation I have heard describing the two different but similar stones.



Our Gem Show is in full swing and we need EVERY CLUB MEMBER to step up and help volunteer to put on the gem show. We need your help at the admissions desk, at the information table, and the wheel of fortune, at the dealer’s dinner, and just at the gem show in general to pitch in wherever needed. As part of our application to become a club member, you agreed to volunteer to help out at the gem show when you joined, so please come out. It is a lot of fun at the gem show! The dealers offer discounts to our club members and we enjoy a lot of fellowship making friends with our fellow club members.

Our next club meeting will be held on **November 21, 2023** the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, the Crump Community Center is closed that week and we will not hold our meeting at that location. But, fortunately for our club we have another location to meet that week. We will be meeting at the Perry Hill Methodist Church at the intersection of Perry Hill Road and Harrison Road in the fellowship hall. We will fill our gift bags for the Wheel of Fortune. So, we need everyone to bring out extra specimens, rocks, and polished stones for the gift bags. We will have some sandwich trays, chips and drinks while we fill the gift bags and sign up volunteers for the Gem Show. So please plan on attending.

Also, at our November meeting we will be electing officers for the upcoming year. We presented a slate of candidates in our October meeting. If anyone is interested in serving as an officer or director, please don’t be shy and let me know.

Our club will **not** host a meeting in December.

After the Gem Show, we will meet next on **January 16, 2024**.

Chris Rutherford, President. chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com



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Program Director

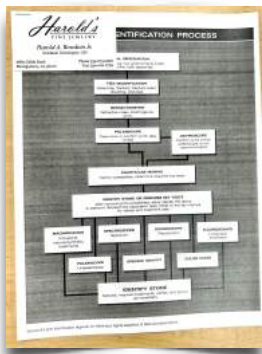
Our program for November will be filling all the gift bags for the Wheel of Fortune game, for our Gem and Mineral show in December!
Clare



October Program: Harold Bowdin

Refractometer

Polariscope



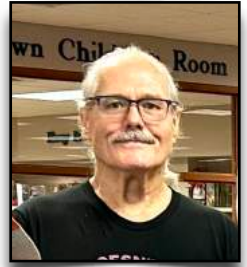
Dichroscope





Secretary's October Minutes

By Magnolia



The meeting was called to order by President Chris Rutherford. Chris reminded everyone present that our gem show is coming soon, on December 1-3. We start loading in on that Thursday morning at 9:00 am and the vendor dinner is that evening. Sign-up sheets were passed around for members to mark when they would be present to volunteer during the weekend. Our show is the biggest in Alabama, and we have a sold out show with 31 vendors and 190 tables!

The Crump Center will be closed during our normal club meeting time in November, so our meeting will be held at Perry Hill Road Methodist Church in Montgomery at the same time. We will be making the goody bags to be given away at our Wheel of Fortune game during the Gem Show. Members have donated 75-100 pounds of tumbles stones for the bags. We will have snacks and refreshments during this meeting.

Treasurer Iris McGehee gave her report, and was excited that we received almost \$300 in donations at our MGMS/DMC Field trip. All current club shop monies are being set aside to buy new wheels for the cab machines. Iris also mentioned that the insurance for the Gem show has already been paid in full and a copy was given to Chris.

Chris mentioned that officer nominations are being received and will be voted on at our November meeting. We have some positions that need to be filled, including a Field Trip Chair.

Program Director Clare Weil stated that the price of the silver workshop priced needs to be corrected to read \$150 per person, not \$100 per person. She also stated that the workshop has been postponed until the first of the year.

Harold Bowdin of Harold Fine Jewelers presented a wonderful program, discussing GIA certification requirements, what they learn in the classes, and tools used to identify different gemstones. Harold has been in the industry since the age of seventeen, owns a retail store, and handles appraisals.

Harold shared that the GIA is about education, and never assigns a value. Their purpose is strictly identification of the stone. He gave us a handout, and stated that on the first page, the first four steps are usually all you have to do to identify a stone.

He then shared some different instruments they use to help in identifying gem stones. A refractometer is considered the most important piece of equipment. When used, generally 98% of the stone's identification is completed. The polariscope and dichroscope are two more pieces of equipment used daily in the identification process. Their tests are used only to confirm what a stone is, not to define the stone.

We learned that diamonds are a single refractive stone, and that most gems are double refractive. Moisonite can be deceiving, but if you look at the different angles, and not straight down into the stone, you can see the double refraction. Another interesting fact is that lab grown crystals are spherical, or tubal, and that does not happen in the natural world. Harold loves emeralds due to the fact that they have inclusions, gas and liquid all in the same stone, and in the inclusions themselves.

Club members asked several questions, such as how to tell a fake opal or a fake diamond, and the meeting was adjourned.



AL NATL FAIR WINNERS

MGMS is proud to announce that we have TWO club winners at the 2023 Alabama National Fair!

Clare Weil won First Place in “Cabs!”

Magnolia Brown won First Place in “Wire Wrapping,” and Best of Fair in the Gem and Mineral Division, taking home the \$100 prize money!

Our club members helped this year’s Gem and Mineral Division be one of the biggest yet, with several of the entries belonging to our MGMS members!

Thank You for your participation!





Mineral of the Month

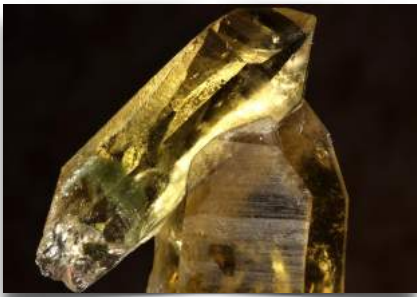
Citrine: by Clare Weil

Source: Diamond Rocks, London Magazine



Those born in **November** are lucky enough to have two stunning gems as their birthstones. One is topaz, which comes in a variety of colors, and the other is sunny citrine.

Citrine is the yellow variety of quartz, and its name comes from the Old French word for lemon. Its warm color is said to be a gift from the sun, making this golden gemstone the perfect option for brightening up a typically chilly autumnal month. Citrine has been a popular decorative gemstone since ancient times. Bearing such a resemblance to yellow topaz, it's not surprising the two November birthstones share a history of mistaken identity and both are thought to carry similar powers. For some, citrine is considered a healing gemstone – calming, soothing and comforting.



In ancient times, citrine was carried as a protection against snake venom and evil thoughts. The Egyptians were among the first to discover the yellow stone and used the gems as talismans. The ancient Greeks carved iconic images into them and shaped them into rock crystal ornaments, while Roman priests made them into rings. Between 300 and 150 BC they were found on the handles of swords and daggers in Scotland.

The yellow color is caused by traces of iron in the quartz. This occurs very rarely in nature, so most citrine is made by heat-treating other varieties of quartz - usually purple amethyst or smoky quartz, which are both more common and less expensive. By applying heat to these gems, they turn from their original color to a gorgeous shade of gold. Natural citrine is almost always a pale-yellow color and commands a far higher price than the processed variety. The most sought-after citrine gemstones are a clear, radiant yellow-to-brownish-red color, however this is particularly rare for naturally-occurring citrine.

This rarity means that the natural stones that fall into this color category have a particularly high price tag. The most abundant sources of natural citrine are found in Bolivia, Madagascar, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay. Amethysts that are heat-treated to a golden color are mostly mined in Brazil, although other sources include France, Russia and the US, specifically California, Colorado and North Carolina.

Citrine is fairly easy to come by, relatively affordable and available in a wide range of shapes and sizes, including very large sizes, making it suitable for large pendants and statement jewelry. It ranks a seven out of 10 on the Mohs scale, meaning it is relatively durable against scratches and everyday wear and tear.

Citrine tones range from juicy lemon yellow to beautiful shades of amber.





Source: GIA

Citrine Description

Citrine is one of the most popular yellow gems on the market. This designer cut shows off the warm glow of citrine’s sunny color. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co. Citrine—the transparent, pale yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz—is rare in nature. In the days before modern gemology, its tawny color caused it to be confused with topaz. Citrine’s attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. It’s an attractive alternative not only for topaz, but also for yellow sapphire. The finest citrine color is a saturated yellow to reddish orange free of brownish tints.

Since natural citrine is rare, most of the citrine on the market is the result of heat treatment, which causes some amethyst to change color from undesirable pale violet to an attractive yellow. The amethyst’s original hue can determine the richness of the resulting citrine’s yellow color.



Citrine crystals occur in a wide range of sizes, and citrine sizes up to 20 carats are readily available in jewelry. Although citrine is available in standard shapes and sizes, many high-end jewelry designers and gem carvers have fashioned the warm yellow gem into unusual cuts for jewelry and carvings.

Citrine History and Lore

A brooch from the Victorian era features an oval citrine with six ruby accent stones. - GIA & Tino Hammid People have used quartz in jewelry for thousands of years. Egyptians gathered ornately striped agates from the shore and used them as talismans, the ancient Greeks carved rock crystal ornaments that glistened like permafrost, and the hands of Roman pontiffs bore rings set with huge purple amethysts. Natural citrine is rare, and today most citrine quartz is the result of heat treatment of amethyst quartz. Even so, gems from the Victorian era have surfaced, and it’s not hard to imagine that citrine was treasured even in earlier times.



Citrine is one of the most popular yellow gems on the market. This designer cut shows off the warm glow of citrine’s sunny color. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co. Citrine—the transparent, pale yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz—is rare in nature. In the days before modern gemology, its tawny color caused it to be confused with topaz. Citrine’s attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. It’s an attractive alternative not only for topaz, but also for yellow sapphire. The finest citrine color is a saturated yellow to reddish orange free of brownish tints.



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JR Rockhounds



I would like to welcome our official Junior Rockhounds, Joseph Wu, Jeremy Wu, Josephine Mott, Lawrence Mott, and Khloe Gazar.

I have ordered their member patches and as soon as they arrive will be presenting them to our juniors during our monthly meetings.

I am working on scheduling a Holliday themed activity with our group and will reach out as soon as I have ironed out the details. Please be on the lookout for more information.

I want to thank everyone for their patience as I am looking to set a steady time and location for our junior club meetings.

All members who are willing to help in any way please reach out to me, this could be coming up with activities, donating specimens and/or materials, and volunteering your knowledge as a speaker (these would be short presentations). Any little bit will be helpful and greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Jessica Galloway Jessica.l.galloway@outlook.com

COBB COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
ccgms.org

SCAN ME

--38TH ANNUAL--
CCGMS GEM & MINERAL SHOW

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023

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NOV 17	NOV 18	NOV 19
10a-6p	10a-6p	10a-5p

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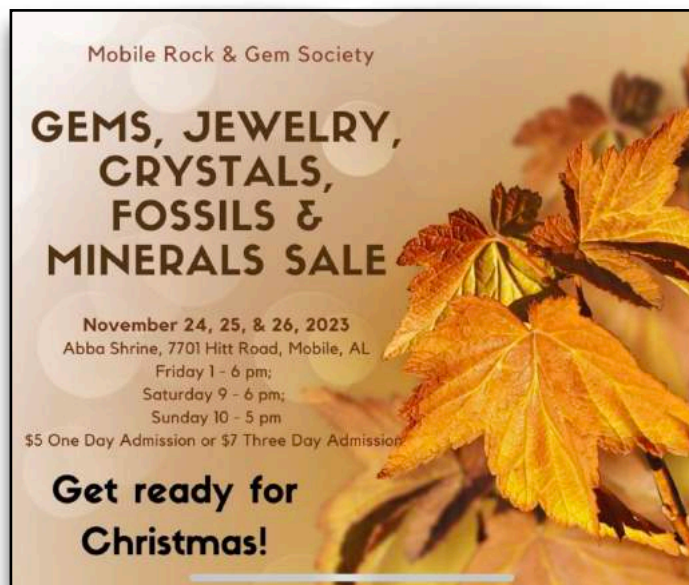
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THANK YOU!

MGMS wants to THANK member Dave Anderson!

Dave donated a Shop Vac cleaner to the club work shop, ordered and installed a new LED light on our newest cab machine!

Check out classes offered at William Holland! Look over the class schedule on <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/william-holland-classes>

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page and Website!



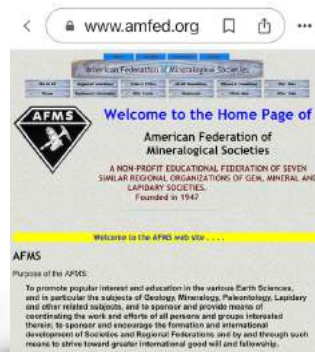
**NOV 21 Club Meeting at
Perry Hill Road Methodist Church
910 Perry Hill Road**



We are a member of the Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



We are also a member of the American Federation Mineralogical Societies.



Do you like to explore?
Do you enjoy finding new spots to rockhound?
WE NEED A NEW FIELD TRIP CHAIR!
Let us know if you're INTERESTED!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Offer
**3 DAY
PASS \$7**

Mobile Rock & Gem Show
Nov. 24, 25, 26, 2023
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(Jurassic - Cretaceous)

Retail value:
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Future pattern

**Gems, Jewelry,
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NOVEMBER 24, 25, 26,
2023

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NOVEMBER 24 AT 1:00 PM

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