

LOW COUNTRY Diggings

A Monthly Bulletin Published on the 6th from the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society of Charleston, South Carolina

Volume XXXVIX Number 1

Founded 1969

January 2011

PRESIDENT RAMBLINGS

By Larry Moss



BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

By Will Postell

It is with a humble spirit that I take the reins of power for the next year. I follow in a long line of great presidents of the past for this club, so I have a great responsibility to measure up to past performances. I never thought when I joined this club lo those many years ago - I think it was 1995 - that I would end up as President. I do have a great love of the hobby and have many pounds of rocks and a multitude of specimens to prove it. If I can help anyone further in the pursuit of the hobby in the future don't hesitate to ask. I do think we as a club need to encourage younger people to get involved in our hobby. We should all think about what we can do to accomplish that goal.

If any member has suggestions on how to improve our club, please let me know. I hope you all had a great holiday season and I want to wish all of our members and their families a great and prosperous and healthy 2011.



Tips and Hints

From Hound's Howl, 9/2002

GEODE CLEANING: For a bright sparkle, mix denture powder as directed and soak your geodes with crystal centers and /or your crystal specimens (from Oyhee Gems, 01/1994, via Chips and Chatters, 07/2002).

FOSSIL CLEANING: Endust® helps fossils look clean and detailed, getting rid of that dusty look without producing a shiny look. It also brings out the colors of agates (from Jasper's Jargon, 01/2001 via Chips and Chatter, 07/2002).

Garnet, a somewhat uncomplicated aluminum silicate, is an excellent birthstone for January as the cold winter sunsets can be fiery red at times. There are two major groups of garnet: pyrope (pyrope, almandine, spessartine) and the ugardite (grossular, andradite, uvarovite), but there are also several subspecies. Garnet has a hardness of 6.5 to 7.5 on the Mohs Hardness Scale and is 3.4 to 4.3 times as heavy as water. All gem garnets are transparent. They are a combination of several or one of the following: magnesium, iron, manganese, calcium, and vanadium. Pyrope, often found along with diamond, is the only garnet that is always a shade of red and one of the most popular set in jewelry because it is usually clearer and less flawed than almandine. Faceted stones of heavy carat weight are seldom seen at retail; but if so, they are quite costly. Almandine derives its beautiful deep red color mostly from its iron content, but also from other trace elements such as magnesium and chromium. The best garnet specimens show a clear and uniform color, but usually a darker red than pyrope. It is the most commonly seen member of the red garnets and will appear black when viewed from a distance. Rhodolite is also a variety of red garnet. It is a mixture of about 55% pyrope and 37% almandine along with other elements. Its color is described as being raspberry. Specimens of five or more carats in weight are considered rare. Localities of garnet are too numerous to mention worldwide... *Will*

Sources: Guide to Gems by Oldershaw; Gems by Dennis; Rocks, Gems, & Minerals by Zimm & Shaffer; Gemstones of the World by Schumann

Program for January 13, 2011

It's time for a Show and Tell! Bring in your garnets and rockhounding stories for show and tell.

We meet Thursday, January 13 at the Ashley River Fire Department on Dorchester Rd. in North Charleston. Fellowship and refreshment begins at 6:30 P.M. followed by a short business meeting at 7:00 P.M. The Show and Tell program follows the business meeting. See you there!!

Happy January Birthdays!

2 LAURIE BRENNEMAN
 4 WILL POSTELL
 18 JOYCE ROWE
 18 DOREEN LARIMER
 19 AL MITRO



19 TIM HALL
 23 ANN KELLY
 23 JERRY LARIMER

REGIONAL CLUB SHOW INFORMATION

January 14-16, 2011: Largo, FL - The Pinellas Geological Society 35th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale. Location: Largo Cultural Center. Contact Hugh Sheffield (727) 894-2440.

January 15-16, 2011: DeLand, FL - The Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society 40th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Minerals & Fossils Show and Sale. Location: Volusia County Fairgrounds. Contact Florence Nordquist (386) 226-4032 or fndesign@aol.com.

February 12-13, 2011: Merritt Island, FL - The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Symphony of Gemstones at Kiwanis Island Park.

March 4-6, 2011: St. Petersburg, FL - The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society 41st Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show and Sale. Location: The Minnreg Bldg. Contact Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, at (727) 822-8279 or schmidwj@Eckerd.edu.

March 11-13, 2011: Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Location: Julian Smith Casino. Contact: www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org.

PREVIOUS MEETING REVIEW

By Mark Easterbrook

Last month was our annual Christmas pot luck dinner and gift exchange. The club invited the firefighters on duty at the station to join us for dinner. The food and camaraderie was wonderful. Barbara Brenneman had a couple of group games for the club, one involving a new twist on our gift exchange. Everyone had fun!

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

By Secretary Larry Moss



The December 9, 2010 meeting of the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society was called to order by President Whit McMillan at 7:00 P.M. at the Ashley River Fire Department classroom... The Prayer before the Christmas Party meal was led by Secretary Larry Moss... The Pledge of Allegiance was dispensed with because of the party... After the Christmas Dinner the business meeting was called to order... Greetings were made to new members/visitors. Welcome to Doug Minter as he was introduced.... The Treasurer report was given by the Treasurer, Carol Pierce... A motion was made and seconded to approve the report with a motion that passed... The November 2010 meeting minutes were published in the Monthly Lowcountry Diggings. The minutes were approved as published.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine: Sarah McNay says that club members are all well

Hospitality: Anne Turner thanked everyone who brought the great tasting food for the party

Program: There was no program for this month. Next month's program will be Show and Tell... The Faceting Guild meeting this month will be at the Ashley River Fire Station's meeting room this next Sunday. Call if you are going to be late.

Field Trip: 1) DECEMBER DMC FIELD TRIP - an official field trip of The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club of Winston-Salem, NC (HOST) and that of LGMS. **WHEN:** 9:00 am - 12:00, Saturday, December 11. **WHERE:** Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry, Morganton, NC. **WHO:** Over 12 years. **2) JANUARY DMC FIELD TRIP** - an official field trip of Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL) as host and an official field trip of the LGMS. **WHEN:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 - 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. **WHERE:** Fort Drum Crystal Mine, Fort Drum, FL. **COST PER PERSON:** \$20 for DMC members/\$30 for others (bring a copy of flier)

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business: 1) A presentation was made to Dina Barron by Mark Easterbrook as SFMS President for winning the First Place Webmaster Award in the 2010 contest for the Southeast Federation.

2) Election of Officers - The following officers were nominated:

see *December Minutes* (Continued on page 3)

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION NEWS

Edited By Mark Easterbrook



The December 2010 SFMS Lodestar has information that is highlighted here... SFMS President Mark Easterbrook (yours truly) reviews his year as President... Sarah Lee Boyce and Carl Talbott have a terrific article on Precious Opals and Why They Display Color... The 2011 application for club membership is included... The SFMS Safety Committee has an article about a new traffic law that is highlighted... Gold coin sellers are angered by a new tax law slipped into the new health care legislation as an amendment... A tentative list of courses for William Holland SFMS workshops is presented... Well, that is all I have for now. Please see the SFMS website for more information at <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>... *Mark*



December Minutes (Continued from page 2)

- Larry Moss - President
- Whit McMillan - Vice President
- Katie Huemmer - Secretary
- Tim Hall - Treasurer

There were no other nominations from the floor. It was noted that a quorum of the membership was present. A motion was made by Tim Geho and seconded by Barb Brenneman to approve the slate of officers by acclimation. The motion was passed for the new slate of officers. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2011. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



AMERICAN FEDERATION NEWS

Edited By Mark Easterbrook



Here are some highlights of the latest news of the American Federation (AFMS) from the December 2010 AFMS Newsletter... John Washburn says 'Why Create an All-American Club Yearbook?'... Quartzite, Arizona is the site of the next American Lands Access Association (ALAA) meeting... AFMS President Bob Miller gives us something to think about for new ideas presented... Public Relations Chair Fran Sick has an article on 'How to Make Your Event Stand Out From the Rest'... Steve Weinberger says 'It's All About Communication'... New AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year were presented... ALAA Chair Dick Pankey has an article about the Blue Ribbon coalition "Insider Report" that lists pending and proposed bills before Congress... There is a safety message from SFMS Safety Chair Don Monroe and Linda Behr have a safety article on poorly made lapidary work... All-American Club "Yearbook" Award Applications for 2010 are available... There is a Junior Activities article discussing a Menu of Kids' Show Activities and Display Ideas... There is a couple of articles on micromounting... The 2011 AFMS Web Site Contest has more information... The 2011 AFMS convention information is presented... There are more AFMS Rockhounds of the Year announced... Read the AFMS Newsletter on their website at www.amfed.org... *Mark*



DUES REMINDER!!

This urgent request is sent out to all club members by Membership Chair Ken Brenneman. As of January 1, 2011 your dues are now past due. It is imperative that you get your dues to Ken or to new Treasurer Tim Hall as soon as possible. Our club needs to pay insurance to the SFMS so we can participate in various field trips that are offered. All SFMS clubs need to submit their membership numbers and insurance per member to the SFMS by the end of January so the insurance carrier can be compensated for the current year. For those members who receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail will notice that their mailing label has a date on it. That date represents when you paid your dues. Below is a list of those members who have paid their dues. If your name is NOT on this list you need to contact Ken Brenneman or see him at the meeting.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Bob and Jeannie Beard | Walt and Sarah McNay | Anne Turner |
| Tim and Judy Geho | Larry Moss | All Life members |
| Wayne and Louise Howard | Wendy Swieczkowski | |



JANUARY FIELD TRIP

An Official Field Trip of Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL) as host and an official field trip of the LGMS.

WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 2011 - 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

WHERE: Fort Drum Crystal Mine / Ruck's Pit, Fort Drum, FL

COST PER PERSON: \$20 for DMC members/\$30 for others (bring a copy of flier)

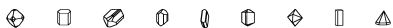
WHAT: It is reported that this is the only location in the world where calcified marine clam shells can be found. There have also been reports of fossils at this location. The main pit has been closed to public collecting, but have been advised that Eddie will bring in freshly excavated material the day prior to our arrival.

WHAT TO BRING: Pants, sturdy shoes/boots, gloves and protective eyewear are recommended. Bring tools, buckets/cloth bag, and newspaper to collect, carry and wrap fragile specimens. The collecting area can be extremely wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothing along with plenty of water and a towel.

DIRECTIONS: South on 1-95 to Vero Beach and take exit 147 onto State Road 60. At Yeehaw Junction, turn left or South on Hwy 441. Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 & 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.05 miles and turn east on 304th Street. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of road). Look for the Fort Drum Crystal Mine at the entrance.

LOCAL LODGING: Turkey Creek Campground - overnight camping - \$25. Closest hotels are in Okeechobee, FL about 20 miles away.

CONTACT: JGMS Field Trip Coordinator Lucy Miller: Email LucyAnn323@aol.com or 904-838-5026; Fort Drum Crystal Mine/Rucks Pit at 863-634-4579.

**FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP**

An official field trip of The Rome Georgia Mineral Society of Rome GA (HOST) and of the LGMS

WHEN: Saturday, February 26, 2011 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 PM

WHERE: Durham Mines, Walker County, GA

WHAT: Pennsylvanian Age Plant Fossils - Rockcastle For-

mation. The Durham Mines are Georgia's best locality for beautifully preserved Paleozoic plant fossils. Commonly referred to as 'Fern Fossils', but more accurately described as "Coal Fossils", the site offers a wide variety of species: Lycopods such as Lepidodendron; giant horsetails such as Calamites (and its leaves known as Annularia); and seed ferns such as Pecopteris and Alethopteris. You can occasionally find fossilized seeds. For identification purposes, we will provide a sheet to get you started, but any good fossil book will be useful as well when you get home. The fossils are found by splitting the abundant shale at the site. Most will yield twigs and bark, but with persistence you will find good leaves.

MEET: At the site, on Durham Rd. in Walker Co., GA. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia. 430 Durham Rd, Rising Fawn, GA 30738

DIRECTIONS: From Lafayette, GA. follow GA Hwy. 136 West for 20 miles, to GA. Hwy 157. Turn right, going North on GA Hwy. 157 for 6.0 miles. Durham Rd. will be on the left. Turn left on Durham Rd. The mines and the parking area are .50 (1/2) mile on the right. Drive time from the intersection of US 27 and GA 136 West in Lafayette, is approximately 30 minutes. If you are getting to Lafayette from I-75 at Exit # 320, Hwy 136, allow 1 hour and 10 minutes to the site from that exit. From Atlanta, at the intersection of I-285 and I-75 North, allow 2.50 hours total, using GA 136 Exit #320.

TOOLS: Bring digging tools. A flat chisel and hammer are essential. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take-home material. Also, bring lunch and fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets **MUST** be on a leash at all times.

NOTICE: This field trip will be postponed if there are any winter weather advisories; watches, or warnings, issued for Walker Co., GA, 24 hours in advance of the trip. Make-up date would be the following Saturday.

LODGING: There are many hotels located in Chattanooga, TN, or off many of the exits on I-75 in Georgia. The following are names and numbers for a few, located in Dalton, GA. Hampton Inn - (706) 226-4333; Jameson Inn - (706) 281-1880; Courtyard Marriott - (706) 275-7215

CONTACT: Jeff Deere, Rome GA Mineral Society Field Chair - H (770) 386-5447, C (770) 655-2298
wjdeere@comcast.net or jeff.deere@brownind.com.



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 other DMC program field trip!



Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Club Meeting Dates and Reminders

Club Meeting Dates in 2011:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| January 13 | July 14 |
| February 10 | August 11 |
| March 10 | September 8 |
| April 14 | October 13 |
| May 12 | November 10 |
| June 9 | December 8 |

SC Aquarium "Geology Day" month - October 2010
 Club Show - April 30 & May 1, 2011

Reminders: The bulletin submission deadline is the 21st of each month and the publication date is the 6th of each month. If you would like to volunteer to provide refreshments at an upcoming meeting, please sign up with Host/Hostess Chair Anne Turner



The **Lowcountry Diggings** is a monthly publication of the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society. We are a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.; affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Membership dues: Individual - \$12, Family - \$25, Junior - \$5 (payable by November 1)

©2007 - Diamond Dan Publications. Cartoons and line drawings copyrighted for purchase only from Darryl Powell at diamonddan@rochester.rr.com - used by permission

Except for items specifically copyrighted by authors, other non-profit organizations have permission to re-print anything else that is used in this newsletter.

BULLETIN AWARDS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2008 AFMS - 1st Place | 2008 SFMS - 1st Place (Mini) |
| 2004 AFMS - 1st Place | 2004 SFMS - 1st Place (Mini) |
| 2003 AFMS - 7th Place | 2003 SFMS - 2nd Place (Small) |
| 2002 AFMS - 7th Place | 2002 SFMS - 3rd Place (Small) |
| 1998 AFMS - 6th Place | 2001 SFMS - 1st Place (Small) |
| | 1998 SFMS - 3rd Place (New/Small) |

The Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society of Charleston, South Carolina is a non-profit organization. The society was chartered in South Carolina on April 8, 1969. The purpose of the society is "to foster the interest in and to facilitate the study of gems, minerals, fossils, and other related fields of geology and earth sciences."

The society is a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Refreshments and fellowship start at 6:30 P.M. followed by the meeting at 7 P.M.



**Dues: Individual - \$12.00
 Family - \$25.00
 Junior - \$5.00**



2011 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| President Larry Moss..... | 225-6931 |
| Vice-President Whit McMillan..... | 763-9545 |
| Secretary Katie Huemmer..... | 319-9465 |
| Treasurer Tim Hall..... | |
| Program Chairperson Walt McNay..... | 554-7213 |
| Budget Chairperson Tim Hall..... | |
| Public Relations Chair Yvonne Gillis..... | 853-0930 |
| Field Trip Chairperson Larry Moss..... | 225-6931 |
| By-Laws Chairperson Whit McMillan..... | 763-9545 |
| Membership Chairperson Ken Brenneman..... | 556-3127 |
| Newsletter Editor Mark Easterbrook..... | 552-1049 |
| Chaplain Marty Kersey..... | 571-7765 |
| Nominating Chairperson Ken Brenneman..... | 556-3127 |
| Host/Hostess Anne Turner..... | 899-0467 |
| Club Show Chairperson Karen Havenstein..... | 795-2956 |
| Dealer Chairperson Karen Havenstein..... | 795-2956 |
| State Director Liaison Mark Easterbrook..... | 552-1049 |
| Stamp Chairperson | OPEN |

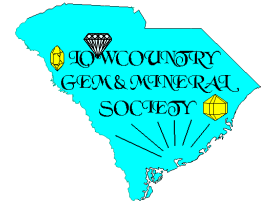
For submissions to **Lowcountry Diggings**, you can either e-mail the editor (Mark Easterbrook) or send them by the twenty-first of the month to the following snail mail address:

Lowcountry Diggings
 c/o Mark Easterbrook
 P.O. Box 80275
 Charleston, SC 29416-0275

Email submissions should be put into the body of your email and submitted by the 21st of every month.

Home telephone: (843) 552-1049 or (843) 276-4016 (cell)
 Daytime work: (843) 388-1851
 E-Mail: asgardsgc@earthlink.net

Webmaster: Dina Barron
 URL Web Page:
<http://www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org>



President: Larry Moss - (843) 225-6931

Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

LOWCOUNTRY DIGGINGS
c/o Mark Easterbrook, Editor
P.O. Box 80275
Charleston, SC 29416-0275

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

📦 Please remember to submit your articles by the 21st of each month 📦
Monthly publication date is the 6th of each month