



# Cabber Gabber

Official Bulletin of  
Mobile Rock and Gem Society



Clubhouse: 1324 Forest Dell Rd, off Moffett Rd, Mobile, Alabama 36618

[www.mobilerockandgem.com](http://www.mobilerockandgem.com)

Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

7pm  
January 10, 2012

**Guest Speaker:**  
*Dr. David Allison*

CLUBHOUSE  
1324 Forest Dell  
Mobile, AL

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## The President's Pen Jim Darnell

Goodbye 2011.



Well, it's 2012 and the Mobile Rock and Gem Society is looking forward to an interesting year. *John Hendrix* did a great job in finding so many interesting speakers last year, and I hear he has an equally interesting line up for this year.

*Larry Landry* has negotiated a really good Dixie Mineral field trip to Brilliant, AL.

*Jim Patterson* has accepted the chairmanship for our annual show on Thanksgiving weekend 2012.

We printed 2,000 raffle tickets for last year's show (2011) and had record sales of tickets. We hope that more members will sell or buy even more tickets this year.

Our juniors had their first ever summer camp at the clubhouse. Our volunteers dedicated three days to teaching about gems, minerals and the Earth. We look forward to the 2012 Summer Camp.

The clubhouse air conditioning system was upgraded; we added some new equipment for our workshop thanks in part to some very generous members.

We will be looking for a whole new batch of volunteers to learn the fine art of clubhouse cleaning for 2012.

The faceting class students are progressing well. Thank you *Kristen* for showing us at the Christmas meeting your first faceted treasure.

Also, it may be early, but we need to be considering the following: Gem-O-Rama in May, our annual auction in September, and next year's show Thanksgiving weekend. *Members*, start making something to display at the show; we need to let everyone who visits that we are creative and proud of the skills learned from Mobile Rock and Gem Society.

Those members, who have not visited the club meeting in a while, PLEASE come and see what you have been missing.

## January Guest Speaker



*David T. Allison, Ph.D.*  
Associate Professor of Geology  
<http://www.usouthal.edu/geography/allison/index.htm>



## MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE NOW!

\$ \$ \$ \$

See p. 10 for fees.

**MOBILE ROCK AND GEM SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2011**

The December meeting of the Executive Board of Mobile Rock and Gem Society was held at the clubhouse on December 8, 2011 at 7pm. Those attending the meeting were Ben Davis, Larry Landry, Rodney Boone, John Hendrix, Phil Kaiser, Cindy Harbour, Bill Harbour, Jim Darnell, Jerry Shirey, Jim Patterson and Mary Daves.



Cindy Harbour read the treasurer's report and after discussion it was approved.

We had several new applications for membership, which the board approved to bring before the other members at the next regular meeting. They were Kimberly Lambright, De Patterson Nicholas Stork (junior membership), and Ramsey, Lara, Victoria and Lila Greene (2 juniors members).

The minutes of last month's meeting were accepted as published in the Cabber Gabber.

Larry Landry reported that the field trip to Brilliant, Alabama for petrified wood was a great success, with everybody coming away with good specimens. He also plans to have a trip there the first Saturday in April as our Dixie Mineral Council Field trip. Larry also reported there will be a trip to Fort Drum, Florida on January 7, 2012 for calcite crystals in clam shells.

Larry will have a workshop the Saturday after the December meeting.

John Hendrix reported there is nothing new on the stamps, but he found a nice collection at the club of good stamps donated by Kristin Hinton, one of our junior members.

Jim Patterson has agreed to be show chairman for next year as Jerry Shirey has asked to step down from that job.

Gerald Jones has also agreed to be our clubhouse caretaker. We will look into replacing our side doors as there is some rotten wood there.

There will be a wrap up meeting for our show on December 20 at 7:00 p. m. at the clubhouse.

Our Charity for the Christmas meeting will be the Ronald MacDonald House.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Daves, Secretary

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**MOBILE ROCK AND GEM SOCIETY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2011**

The December meeting of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society was held at the clubhouse on December 13 at 7pm. Jim Darnell called the meeting to order. We said the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of last month's meeting were accepted as published in the Cabber Gabber. Cindy Harbour read the treasurer's report and it was accepted as read.

Applications for membership for the following were approved

by the members: Kimberly Lambright; De Patterson, Jim Patterson's wife; Nicholas Stork, junior member; and a family membership Ramsey, Lara, Victoria, and Lila Green.

Larry Landry reported that we had a great field trip to Brilliant, Alabama, for Brilliant petrified wood and he has planned a trip there the first Saturday in April for our Dixie Mineral Council field trip. There is also a field trip to Fort Drum on January 7 for calcite crystals in clam shells.

Larry Landry has also planned a workshop for this coming Saturday. Neal Hazen will be out of town on Friday, but Don King will have a workshop Friday night. Bonita Harris announced there will be a junior meeting this coming Saturday.

The club will also have a special meeting on December 20 at the clubhouse at 7pm to discuss the show,.

John Hendrix said grace and we had our delicious Christmas dinner. Thanks everybody for the good food.



After dinner, our special guest from the Ronald McDonald House, Paul Giardina, told us about the good work they do helping families cope with their children's sickness, especially when they are in the hospital. We gave our charity donation to them this year.

Jim Darnell also gave out winnings from our show raffle to Carey Brown, Sherri Allison, Doug Haywick for his son, Gray Partridge and Catherine Betancourt. She won the \$100.00 and donated it back to the club. She also donated a copier to the club.

Bill Harbour introduced Kristin Hinton, who is our first junior student in the faceting class, who showed the faceted green stone she finished at the Monday night class.

Door prizes for this meeting were the Poinsettias used on the dinner tables. They were won by Ben Davis, Gerald Jones, Jim Patterson, Darrell Gill, Bonita Harris and Andy Odom.

Jim Patterson has agreed to be our show chairman for this coming year.

Glenn Wimpee inducted our officers for the year 2012:  
President.....Jim Darnell  
Vice President....John Hendrix  
Treasurer.....Cindy Harbour  
Secretary..... Mary Daves  
Editor..... Bonita Harris  
Directors.....Bill Harbour, Phil Kaiser, and Ben Davis.  
We adjourned the meeting.

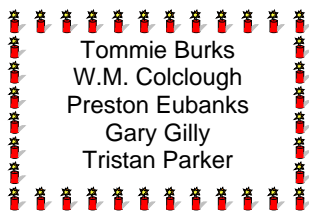
Respectfully submitted, Mary Daves, Secretary

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2011 Show Report will be in an upcoming Cabber Gabber.

**2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!**

Happy January Birthday!

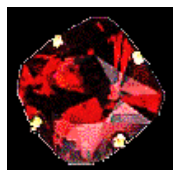


Tommie Burks  
W.M. Colclough  
Preston Eubanks  
Gary Gilly  
Tristan Parker

**G A R N E T**

**P Y R O P E G A R N E T**

**CHEMISTRY** Mg<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>O<sub>12</sub>  
**CRYSTALLOGRAPHY** Isometric  
**REFRACTIVE INDEX** 1.73 - 1.76  
**HARDNESS** 7 - 7.5  
**SPECIFIC GRAVITY** 3.65- 3.87  
**DISPERSION** 0.022  
**CLEAVAGE** None  
**HEAT SENSITIVE** Some.



Pyrope comes from a Greek word meaning "fire like." The common dark red garnets are a mixture of pyrope and almandine.

One popular garnet is chrome pyrope, whose color rivals ruby. These are found in Arizona, where ants bring them to the surface. Hence, they are dubbed, "ant hill garnets." While their color is superb, they are very dark in tone. Gems are rarely faceted in sizes over one carat because of this.

**A L M A N D I N E**

One of the classic sources of this garnet is Alabanda, in Asia Minor. Its common name is a modification of the source. The Roman historian Pliny wrote of them.



Our common, dark red garnets are a blend of almandine and pyrope. Throughout history, this has been one of the most popular gems. They are found world wide and in great abundance. Hence, the value is low.

Very large crystals exist, but because of their dark tone, only small to medium sized gems are faceted. These are cut very shallow, to let light pass through.

Almandine garnets from Idaho and India sometimes have asbestos fiber inclusions. These will produce star stones when properly cut. They are highly prized by collectors, because of their rarity. They are also one of the most difficult gems to cut.

**S P E S S A R T I T E**

This garnet is named after Spessart, Bavaria.

Spessartite is somewhat rare. As with the other garnets, it always occurs in a blend with other species. Gems with the highest spessartite content are a light orange. Those with an almandine content are reddish, to red brown in hue.



The most valuable spessarties are a bright, orangish red. These come from Ramona, California, and Amelia, Virginia.

**A N D R A D I T E**

Andradite is named after the Portuguese mineralogist, d'Andrade. This is one of the rarest and most sought after garnets. There are no major sources of andradite and the supply is limited to small deposits.

Its dispersion is much higher than any other garnet and even much higher than diamond. The dispersion is usually masked by dark body colors but small, light colored gems are dazzling!



The variety dematoid is colored green by chromium. This gem is always in high demand.

Andradites are known for their distinctive, horsetail inclusions. (See "Identifying Inclusions" in our Reference Library.) They are both an aid to the gemologist and a delight to collectors.

**G r o s s u l a r i t e**

The botanical name for gooseberry is grossularia, from which this garnet receives its name.

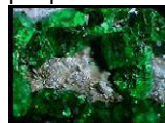
Unlike the other garnets, grossulars are rarely red or dark. They come in every color except blue and are sometimes colorless. The tone is often light to medium. They make brilliant gems with vibrant colors.



**U V A R O V I T E**

Uvarovite is named after Count S. S. Uvarov, (1765-1855), president of the St. Petersburg Academy and mineral collector.

This is the rarest of the garnet family. Colored by chromium, it is always a dark, rich green. The crystals are small and most people have only seen examples of druzi on matrix.



The crystals are usually opaque. Only small corners of larger crystals have the transparency for faceting. Anything over one carat is exceptionally rare for a faceted uvarovite. Collectors are grateful to have a faceted uvarovite of any size. They are so rare; there simply are not enough to go around.

Used by permission: <http://www.gemsociety.org/info/gems/Garnet.htm>

A Rockhound is a kind of nut  
Whose mind is slightly undercut.  
He swings a pick and drives a jeep,  
And dreams of agate in his sleep.  
He'll pick up any kind of stone  
Or piece of glass, or even bone.  
If he can't name it, he'll assert  
That he has found a piece of chert!

*From Ghost Sheet, June 1988 via SCRIBE #1, V14-90*

**Mineral IQ Test** by Anita Westlake *Tips & Trips*, April 2011

1. What is black mica called?
2. What color streak does hematite leave on an unglazed porcelain tile?
3. What does pseudomorph mean?
4. What is the purple variety of quartz called?
5. Are diamonds found in meteorites?
6. In the mineral kingdom, what is a halfbreed?
7. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe had what mineral named after him?
8. What mineral is 4 on the Mohs Hardness scale?
9. Which mineral is a natural magnet?
10. Which is the stalagmite and the stalactite?
11. What is another name for pyrite?
12. What is a "thin section"?
13. What's the difference between magma and lava?
14. What is silver/clear mica called?
15. Is amber a mineral?
16. What are aa and pahoehoe?
17. What's the difference between a meteorite and a meteor?
18. Do meteorites come from meteor showers?
19. Where in outer space do meteorites originate?
20. Which mineral has variable hardness?
21. What is the principle use of bauxite?
22. What is "quicksilver"?
23. Why is Rancho La Brea famous?
24. What common natural glass is still used in eye surgery?

**Annual MRGS Dues  
Due Now**

Don't be



## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

### HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

**SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS:** Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawkbill shaped. I find the hawkbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

**USE YOUR THUMB:** When using multiple bits in your Fore-dom, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.

There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft. Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Fore-dom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

BTW If you like opals, you may want to look at [http://www.justluxe.com/community/worlds-largest-opal-matrix-found-in-australia\\_a\\_1669977.php](http://www.justluxe.com/community/worlds-largest-opal-matrix-found-in-australia_a_1669977.php)



However, the American Opal Society points out the this is definitely not the largest ever found.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

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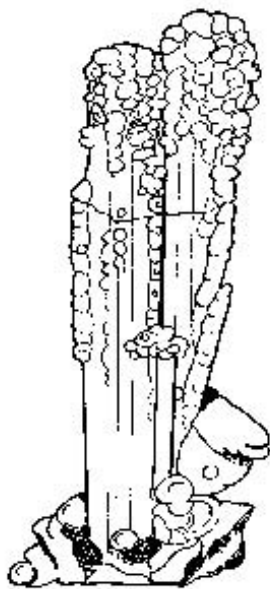
### FROM DON KING, MRGS member:

Hint: need to clean up that old Corningware with food stains? or that piece of stone, granite top?

right in the kitchen - - Cerama Brite - - glass cooktop cleaner. Use with 3M scrubbing pad to get those tough stains out, then continue with paper towel till it's bright white again; works better than Soft Scrub - suspect it's Alumina polishing material

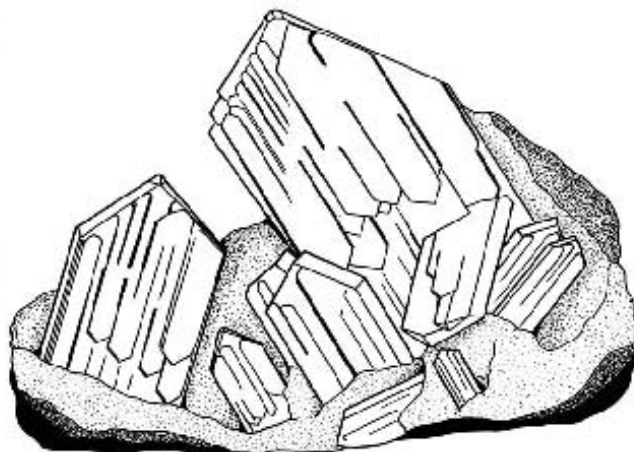
*No commercial ad fees paid. ha ha dk*

## Even More Copper Minerals

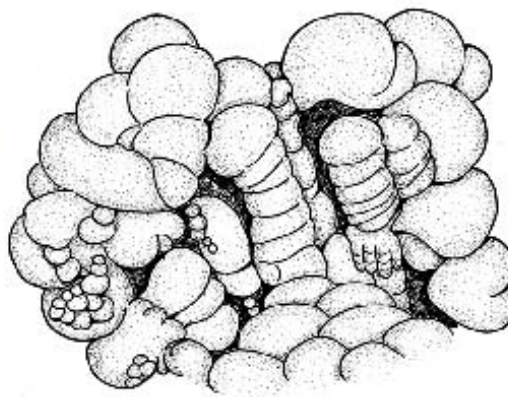


Many of the copper minerals in Arizona were formed when hot waters that were filled with natural chemicals moved through the copper-rich rocks. When the conditions are just right, a mineral can be changed from one mineral species to another. For example, a specimen of azurite can become a specimen of malachite. What is interesting about many specimens from Bisbee is that the minerals changed from one species to another, *but they kept the crystal form of the first mineral*. Mineralogists call these specimens *pseudomorphs* which means *false form*. In other words, the specimen is one type of mineral but it has the shape of another. Pictured here are two examples of

pseudomorphs from Arizona. To the left is a light blue specimen of chrysocolla. It was originally azurite (and still has the crystal form of azurite). It is from the Ray mine, Pinal County. To the right is a group of green malachite crystals. Actually, they were originally deep blue azurite crystals that changed into malachite. They are from the Campbell Shaft, Bisbee.



To the right is a copper mineral specimen from Bisbee. Mineral collectors and mineralogists call rounded, grape-like shapes *botryoidal* which means *grape-like*. Is it light blue azurite? Or is it dark green malachite? The interesting thing is that both botryoidal malachite and azurite have been found in Bisbee. So, how you color this specimen is up to you. Do you want it to be green malachite or do you want it to be light blue azurite? You're the mineral collector and the artist . . . it's up to you to decide!



### Junior Rockhounds

January 28, 2012  
9-noon

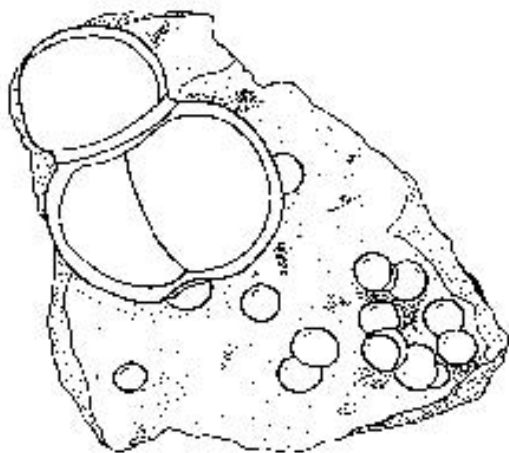
Sample page from *Mini Miners Monthly*.

Permission granted for publication 2011  
Diamond Dan Publications.

[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)

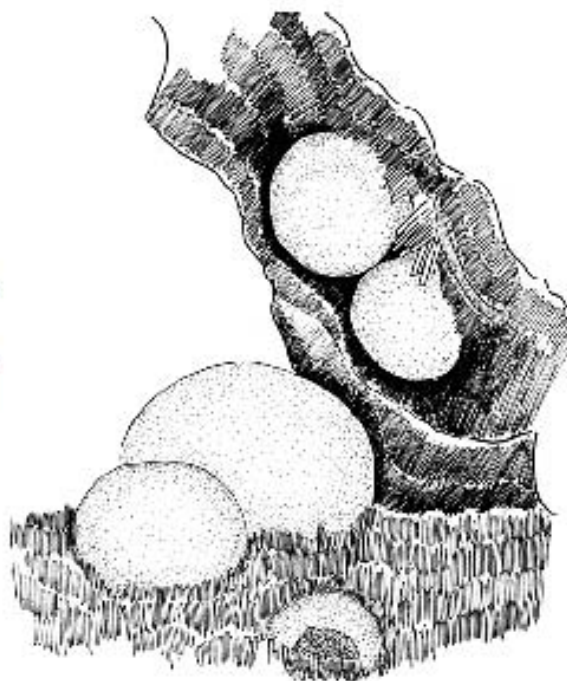


## Even MORE Copper Minerals!



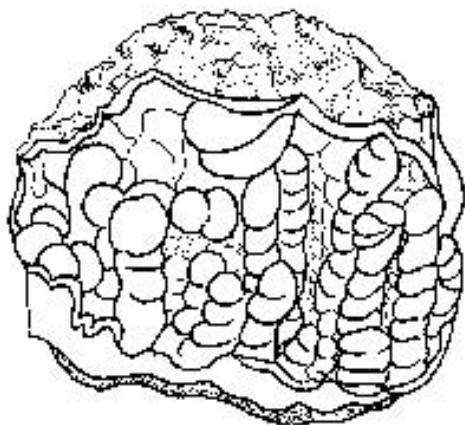
Pictured to the left is a specimen of malachite on matrix from the Metcalf Pit, Morenci, Arizona. We just had to show you. Yes this is a natural specimen. The malachite spheres are light green. To us, it looks like a beetle that is laying eggs! Sometimes minerals look like other natural objects and animals.

To the right is a well-known copper mineral specimen from the 79 Mine, Gila County, Arizona. What you see here are spheres of light, turquoise-blue *aurichalcite* sitting on very fine, colorless hemimorphite crystals. Pictures of this specimen have been published on the cover of mineral books and in many mineral magazines.



Copper,  
copper  
every-  
where! To

the left is a specimen of chalcedony. Chalcedony is a form of quartz. When this chalcedony formed, small amounts of a blue copper mineral, probably azurite, were trapped inside the chalcedony. As a result, the specimen is light blue!



(Have you noticed by now that copper minerals are most often green or blue??!!)

[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)



Dixie Mineral Field Trips

Website for DMC

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

**The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc**

*The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.*

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee** Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of **Mobile Rock and Gem Society**

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
An Official Field Trip of The Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society (Vero Beach, FL)(HOST)

**9:00 AM, Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**Fort Drum Crystal Mine/Ruck's Pit**  
**Fort Drum, Okeechobee County, FL**

**FEE AREA**

**FEE AREA: \$20 per adult; Children : under 12 - half price**

Pets: allowed on leash

**COLLECTING:** Honey colored calcite in fossil clam and whelk shells found in the Nashua and Tamiami formation limestone (1.8 to 3 million years old). Also, sharks teeth and bone fragments have been found.

**BRING:** Even in January, Florida can be hot so bring a hat, sunscreen, gloves, sturdy boots, food and plenty to drink. Also buckets, newspaper for wrapping specimens. Hammer, pick, chisel, rake/garden hoe and safety glasses.



**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** We will meet at the mine in the covered pavilion in front of the collecting area. From Vero Beach the trip will take you about one hour. Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of the Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304<sup>th</sup> St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road just past the dairy). Eddie and Debbie Ruck will be on site. They have opened a gift shop at the mine.

**WHERE TO STAY:** Okeechobee is the nearest town! There are also many inexpensive motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce.

Field Trip Contacts: Darryl Taylor, POB 644044 Vero Beach, FL 32964 [rockhound531@yahoo.com](mailto:rockhound531@yahoo.com) 772-633-4423  
OR

Eddie Ruck 863-634-4579 [fortdrumcrystalmine@yahoo.com](mailto:fortdrumcrystalmine@yahoo.com)  
Website [www.thefortdrumcrystalmine.com](http://www.thefortdrumcrystalmine.com)  
Email [info@thefortdrumcrystalmine.com](mailto:info@thefortdrumcrystalmine.com)

**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.

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>  
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."

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**

An Official Field Trip of The Western South Carolina Gem and Mineral Society (Greenville, SC)(HOST)

**9:30 AM, Saturday, February 25, 2012**

**Burgin Quartz Mine**

Norwood, NC

FEE AREA

**Place:** Burgin Quartz Mine in Norwood, NC

**Time:** Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person and you must sign a release.

What to find: Quartz crystals, often clear and sometimes huge up to 4 inches across and a few inches long.

DMC FIELD TRIPS: Year - 2012

January - Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society (Vero Beach, FL)

February - Western South Carolina G&MS (Greenville, SC)

March - Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club (Chattanooga, TN)

April - Mobile Rock & Gem Society, Inc. (Mobile, AL)

Paleozoic Field Trip Information

**alabamapaleo Yahoo! Group**

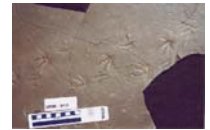
**NOTICE!!** Get clear details before taking this field trip.

MRGS Contact: *Glenn Wimpee* [pawpawtiger@centurytel.net](mailto:pawpawtiger@centurytel.net)  
Union Chapel Mine Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site

Usually 8am-noon 2nd Sat monthly January 14, 2011

APS usually meets at Wal-Mart, Hwy 78 in Sumiton, AL.

**Supplies:** Bring water bottle, hammer & chisel, cardboard flats, paper for wrapping specimens, toilet paper (multi-purpose paper).



**Cabbing and Lapidary Workshops**

Friday, January 13, 2011 6:30pm - 9:30pm

*Neal Hazen (251) 786-1184*

Saturday, January 14 9am -1pm

*Larry Landry (251) 653-8459, Jim Darnell (Opals)*

**Faceting Classes**

7pm on first and third *Mondays*

*Bill Harbour (251) 666-2434* or

*Jerry Shirey (251)786-4777*

**Basic Wire Work Class**

*Bonita L Harris (251) 865-9157*

Wire Wrap class following junior club meeting - 4th Saturday

**Gem Show Finds (Part 1 of 3)**

By: Benjamin Childress, MRGS member

Well, I think the Mobile Gem & Mineral Club's Gem Show was great this year. Much thanks to all the hard work put in by the club members and show dealers. This year was the first time I've got time off to display my fossils from Alabama in it. Think I'll improve my display for next year, yet I think it was a nice setup.

Most of my time at the show for two days was spent looking at all the wondrous minerals and gem crafts. Also I did a good bit of buying of fossils and other items. Most of the time when I purchase something, I put a lot of thought into it, then afterwards I just love doing a little research into the new things I own. I find out some of the neatest things when researching the wondrous things I behold in my hands.

Best fossil I have found and purchased was one I've always wanted to add to my collection. It was a fossil I had admired since I was 10 years old when the stories and pictures in books inspired the imagination and passion to find such wondrous creatures of the distant past. It was a 4 in. long *Eurypterus remipes* specimen with a minor restoration to the right paddle on a 5 3/4 x 4 1/2 in. plate from the Fiddler Green Formation of the Alan Lang's Quarry in Herkimer County, New York.

Some cool facts about *Eurypterus remipes*: former New York State Paleontologist *Donald Fisher* campaigned for the adoption of it as state fossil of New York. In 1984 a bill was signed by then acting State Governor *Mario Cuomo* to name the *Eurypterus remipes* the official state fossil, because it was first discovered in 1818 in Silurian rocks of New York state and described by fossil hunter, *S. L. Mitchell*. Yet, Mitchell originally mistook the fossils for a type of catfish, Finally it was correctly classified in 1825 as a member of the new order *Eurypterida* of arthropods and became known as a *Eurypterid* meaning "broad wing" for the pair of appendages that were modified into wing-like paddles, used for swimming. In addition, they became commonly known as "Sea Scorpions" for the scorpion-like shape of the body segments.

Part 2 will be published in February 2012.

**Notice of SFMS Executive Meeting  
Daytona, FL**



Host club: Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society  
 Location: Comfort Suites  
 90 Professional Blvd.  
 Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
 Room cost: \$59.95 per night (including continental breakfast)  
 Friday, January 13, 7pm Cracker Barrel Discussion  
 Saturday, January 14, 8:30 am Registration  
 9:00 am Executive Meeting

- ANSWERS for page 9 questions:
1. Biotite
  2. Red to Brownish Red
  3. False-Form
  4. Amethyst
  5. Yes, most notably in Canyon Diablo
  6. A specimen of half silver and half copper
  7. Goethite
  8. Fluorite
  9. Magnetite
  10. Stalagmite grows up mightily from the ground. Stalactites have to hang on tight to drip from the ceiling
  11. Fool's Gold
  12. A water thin slice of a mineral or meteorite that is virtually transparent. It is placed in a polarized microscope to identify individual minerals and their crystal structures.
  13. Magma forms inside the volcanic chamber lava flows outside the chamber and is visible to the eye.
  14. Muscovite
  15. No it does not pass one of the five characteristics of a mineral most specifically "inorganic"
  16. Types of lava. Aa is named for the sound one makes when walking upon its rough surface pahoehoe is ropy lava.
  17. A meteorite is a rock from space that makes it to the ground. A meteor is the LIGHT you see when the meteoroid hits the earth's atmosphere and briefly catches fire.
  18. No-Meteor showers are cyclical and are the result of comet trails intersecting with earth's orbit. 19. The aster-old Belt between Mars and Jupiter
  20. Kyanite
  21. Aluminum
  22. Mercury (the liquid metal that used to be in thermometers)
  23. The La Brea Tar Pits where hundreds of animals were found preserved in tar
  24. obsidian

**NEW LIGHTING IN ROCK AND MINERAL DISPLAY**

Steve Carey, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Mobile, is pleased to report that new lighting is being installed in the rock and mineral display cabinets on the third floor of Weaver Hall.



The glass display cabinets required new halogen bulbs and the installation of a new electric receptacle. The original fluorescent light fixtures are being removed from the wood cabinets and replaced with new energy efficient xenon bulb fixtures. It was not possible to replace the fluorescent tubes of the original fixtures as the type needed is no longer manufactured.

Professor Carey hopes to have new lighting installed in all of the wood cabinets before February of 2012. A portion of the cost to install the new light has come from donations to the university's Department of Natural Sciences by the *Mobile Rock & Gem Society*. In addition to the new lighting, Professor Carey is placing new mineral and fossil specimens on display including fish fossils from Wyoming's famous Green River Formation and dinosaur bones and skin impressions.

Submitted by Steve Carey

## Housekeeping Schedule for Mobile Rock and Gem Society Clubhouse



January - *Jill Darling*

New volunteers should join one of the scheduled teams and see what needs to be done. Clean up is always the weekend before our general meeting.

Clean-up teams can contact *Jim Darnell*, if they cannot clean as scheduled. Thank you all for helping!

### MRGS Library



*Mary Daves*, librarian

Videos, books, magazines related to lapidary arts are available for check out.

### SFMS 2012 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS for SFMS WORKSHOP

Please encourage your juniors to apply for the youth scholarships using the criteria below.

#### When entering the competition:

- President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
- Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.
- Deadline for applying for the scholarship is March 31, 2012.
- Send recommendations should be sent to:

#### SFMS Youth Resources

Contact: President Jason Hamilton,  
[jasons.designs@comcast.net](mailto:jasons.designs@comcast.net)

#### When attending the SFMS workshop:

- Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
- Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

#### Following the SFMS workshop:

- After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a Lodestar article about the experience.

**Don't let your junior rockhound miss out!**



## Upcoming MRGS Events

*John Hendrix*, program chairman

- January: *Dr. David Allison*
- February: *Dr. Brian Axsmith*
- March: open
- April: *Bill Harbour* Faceting
- May: *Read Stowe*
- Gem-O-Rama**
- June: *Kim Cochran*

September: **Annual Auction**

## Upcoming Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Shows



Saturday, January 14, 2012 and Sunday  
January 15

Daytona Beach, Florida

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society's  
41st Annual Jewelry, Gem, Minerals and

Fossils Show and Sale  
Volusia Fair Grounds.

= = = = =

Feb. 11-12, 2012 , Merritt Island, FL.  
35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symphony of Gemstones Show.  
Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, Inc.  
Kiwanis Island Park, 950 Kiwanis Park Rd., SR 520 west of  
Wal-Mart

Saturday, 11th, and Sunday, 12th, 10-5.

Rough and cut gems, minerals, fine jewelry, equipment, supplies, books, beads. Exhibits and demonstrations.  
Donation \$4.00. For information, call 321-799-8536

## OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS

### OCEAN SPRINGS, MS

THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST GEM AND  
MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
CLUB MEETINGS - 2:30 PM  
2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
(EXCEPT MAY AND NOVEMBER)  
Ocean Springs Library  
Dewey Avenue  
<http://www.mgcgms.org/>

### GULFPORT, MS

HARRISON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
WORKSHOP AND MEETING  
3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
[WWW.GULFPORTGEMS.ORG](http://WWW.GULFPORTGEMS.ORG)

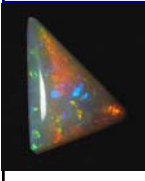
# Classifieds

Mobile Rock and Gem Society Yahoo Group  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mobilerockandgemsociety>

Email: [mobilerockandgemsociety@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mobilerockandgemsociety@yahoogroups.com).

You must be a member to post. If you have any question, please contact *Bill Harbour* at [bcharbour78@yahoo.com](mailto:bcharbour78@yahoo.com).

## Windsong Opal Imports



**Jim Darnell**  
[jamezrobdarn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jamezrobdarn@bellsouth.net)

Member: MRGS & AOS  
 (228)-875-2310

Specializing  
 in: Opal  
 rough and  
 finished  
 stones

Opal Beads and more

## Information Brochure for NEW Members

The MRGS new members club brochure explains all the society's 'happenings and doings'. These brochures are available at the clubhouse.



Wear your club badge. Don't have one?  
 See Cindy Harbour, and she'll be glad to order you one.

## Canceled Stamps



The club sends canceled stamps to the Southeast Federation for the scholarship fundraiser. Those who bring the stamps are eligible for a scholarship drawing to a SFMS lapidary workshop.

Most stamps are now "forever" stamps, but they are still requested, except for canceled liberty bell stamps.



Please do not cut the stamps; leave some room around the stamps and do not cut the perforations!

BRING YOUR STAMPS EACH MONTH



Membership cards are available.  
 See Jim Darnell.

## MOBILE ROCK AND GEM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) am (are) applying for:

- \_\_\_ Husband & Wife Membership \$25.00 per year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31.) includes MRGS *Cabber Gabber* newsletter
- \_\_\_ Individual Adult Membership \$15.00 per year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31.) includes MRGS *Cabber Gabber* newsletter
- \_\_\_ Family Membership (Husband & Wife) \$25.00 /each Junior \$3.00 includes MRGS *Cabber Gabber* newsletter
- \_\_\_ Junior Membership (ages 9-17) \$5.00 per year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31.) **no** MRGS *Cabber Gabber*

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Birth month \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Birth month \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

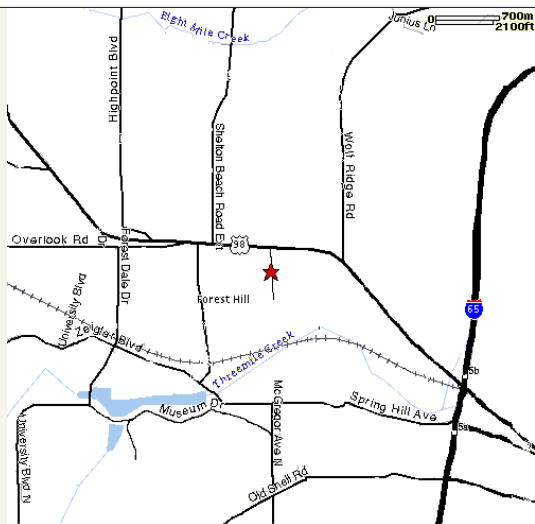
Make checks payable to:  
 Mobile Rock and Gem Society  
 Mail to: MRGS Treasurer  
 1324 Forest Dell  
 Mobile, AL 36618



MOBILE ROCK and GEM SOCIETY  
 Annual dues are from January 1– December 31

**Clubhouse:** 1324 Forest Dell Rd, off Moffett Rd, Mobile, AL

**Meeting Date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm



**PURPOSE OF MOBILE ROCK and GEM SOCIETY**

- A. Stimulate interest in the earth sciences including lapidary arts, mineralogy, petrology, paleontology, geology, and other related fields and to encourage the study therein.
- B. Sponsor an educational program to increase the knowledge of members and the general public regarding the properties, identification and evaluation of rocks, minerals, fossils and other related subjects by holding monthly meetings with lectures by qualified experts or lapidary-related demonstrations.
- C. Sponsor field trips to collect and study various kinds of rocks, fossils, and minerals.
- D. Maintain a library of reference materials on lapidary arts, mineralogy, petrology, paleontology, geology, and other related fields.
- E. Display gems, fossils, mineral and lapidary specimens at the Mobile Museum of Art, Greater Gulf States Fair, area universities and other venues when invited.
- F. Conduct an annual show for the general public at a nominal fee where members and nonmembers demonstrate lapidary techniques and display collections of gems, fossils, and minerals.
- G. Conduct an annual Gem-O-Rama where members and nonmembers may swap, trade sell, purchase or observe gem, fossil, and mineral specimens and other related material.

A Junior Member is a member age 7-17 years. They do not have the right to vote or hold office but shall have all powers and privileges conferred by these By-Laws.

A Senior Member is a member 18 years or older. They shall have all the powers and privileges conferred by these By-Laws including the right to vote and hold office.

**Officers and Board of Directors for 2012**

**President:** Jim Darnell  
 251 633-5875  
 6700 Wall St Apartment 7E  
 Mobile, AL 36695  
 jamezrobdarn@bellsouth.net

**Vice-President:** John Hendrix  
 251 866-7553  
 17925 Celeste Road  
 Citronelle, AL 36522  
 joh nau64@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer:** Cindy Harbour  
 251 666-2484  
 1864 Wildwood Place  
 Mobile, AL 36609  
 bcharbour78@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Mary Daves  
 251 928-9335  
 120 Pier Ave  
 Fairhope, AL 36532-1230  
 mldaves44@hotmail.com

**Editor:** Cabber Gabber.  
 Bonita Harris 251 865-9157  
 12520 Jeff Hamilton Rd  
 Mobile, AL 36695  
 bonitaharris@mchsi.com

**Directors:** *One required for quorum at Executive Board meetings*  
 Phil Kaiser.....251-479-7447  
 kaiserpw@att.net

Bill Harbour..... 251 666-2434  
 bcharbour78@yahoo.com

Ben Davis .....251 649-6358  
 bluefox2@att.net

**Additional Board Members**  
 \*Field Trip Chairman: Larry Landry  
 251 653-8459  
 maryloulandry@aol.com

**Show Chairman:** Jim Patterson  
 jimandde@mobis.com  
 251-510-8527

**Show Dealer Chairman:**  
 Rodney Boone.....251 633-5551  
 rodwboone@yahoo.com

**Youth Activities Chair:**  
 Bonita Harris *interim*

**COMMITTEES**

**Cancelled Stamp Chair:** John Hendrix.....251 866-7553  
**Clubhouse:** Gerald Jones.....251-344-8784

**Librarian:** Mary Louise Daves .....mldaves44@hotmail.com  
**Nametags:** \$7.00 each in advance. *See Cindy Harbour.*  
**Phone Committee:** Nick & Genie Lukes.....251 479-8912  
**Shop Chairman:** Larry Landry.....251 653-8459  
**Special Events & Refreshment Committee:** .....Selena and Lotus Buccola  
 251-377-0059

**Stamps for Scholarships:** John Hendrix ..... 251 866-7553  
 joh nau64@bellsouth.net  
**Sunshine Committee:** *If you know of a member who is sick or hospitalized, please contact* Teresa Boone.....251 633-5551 or  
 Anna Marie Brown.....251 432-0566

**Tee shirts and caps:** Roger Crow .....251 725-1853  
 lemans78@comcast.net

**Webmaster:** Jenny Thorman-Dixon ..... jenniferthorman@aol.com  
 Jeanette Wimpee.....geenet@centurytel.net

**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies**  
**Dixie Mineral Council:** <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

**William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and Wildacres**  
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/pdf>

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**Articles are due by the 20th of each month.**

Mobile Rock and Gem Society

www.mobilerockandgem.com  
bonitaharris@mchsi.com

*Cabber Gabber* Editor: Bonita L. Harris  
1324 Forest Dell Rd  
Mobile, AL 36618-1726

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
PLEASE FORWARD**

January 10, 2012  
Dr. David Allison  
University of South Alabama



Garnet



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 7pm Faceting Class	3	4	5 7pm Executive Bd Mtg	6	7 DM FT p 7
8	9	10 7pm General Mtg Guest Speaker: Dr. David Allison	11	12	13 SFMS Meeting January 13-14 Daytona Beach, Florida	14 Paleozoic FT Contact Glenn Wimpee see p 4.
15	16 7pm Faceting Class 	17	18	19	20 6:30 -9:30 pm Cabbing Workshop	21 9am-1pm Cabbing & Opal Workshop
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 9-noon Junior Rock- hounds 1:30-4pm Wire wrap
29	30	31				