



AIPG GEORGIA SECTION

Ron Wallace, President
Eric Lowe, Vice President
Glen Faulkner, Treasurer
Joshua Poole – West Georgia student chapter
Semir Sarajlic – Georgia State student chapter
Bryan Victor – Columbus State student chapter
Rachel Cheatham – University of Georgia student chapter

February 2012

NEXT MEETING

CHEROKEE RUBY AND SAPPHIRE MINE

Leader: Dan Centofanti, P.G., Mill Creek Environmental Services, Inc.

When: Saturday, March 24, 2012, 10:00 AM

Where: Cherokee Mine, Franklin, NC

AIPG Members and guests call or email by Wednesday March 20, 2012, if you plan to attend
[Call Ron Wallace (404) 362-2589 or ronald_wallace@dnr.state.ga.us]

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Each year AIPG National recognizes members that have achieved 25 years with the Institute by awarding them a 25-year lapel pin. Our section has three members this year that have achieved this milestone: Doral Mills, Conrad Stephenson, and Anthony Roberts. Other members of our section that have achieved this award in the last three years include Charles Thomas, William Clister, David Avant, Sam Almaee, and Ed Yopp. We congratulate them all.

Recently our section mailed certificates to members that have achieved 10-years, 20-years, 30-years and 40-years of membership. Again, congratulations for their service.

10 Years

Caryl Alfaro, James Ashworth, David Davies, Robert Krasko, Robert Patchett, John Raymer, John Salvino, Nils Thompson, Dean McCartney, and Tom Watson.

20 Years

John Absalon, Robert Davis, Jerry Gaccetta, John Grasshans, Paul Hess, and Alexander Glover.

30 Years

James Furlow, Fred Heivilin, Thomas Jones, Kenneth Rippere, Charles Spiers, and Joel Warner.

40 Years

Glen Faulkner and Harold Gill

We have picked the six students that will each receive a \$250.00 scholarship from our section.

Brock Nelson – Georgia Southern
Cheryl Wilkes – Columbus State
Joseph Flynn – Georgia State

Hamilton Goodner – University of Georgia
Kaley Basile – Georgia Southwestern
Jenna Schmidt – West Georgia

I would also like to thank the members that sent in donations to our section. We will be giving funds to a few of our student chapters to support them.

A few weeks ago I was a judge at the Fulton County Regional Science and Engineering Fair. I'm going to check to see if we can be donors of special awards at this year's 64th Georgia Science and Engineering Fair on March 29-31, 2012. If any members are interested in helping, please let us know pretty quickly. Eric Lowe and I will not be available on those dates.

Sciencepalooza

Eric Lowe and Ron Wallace attended the first annual Sciencepalooza at McClure Middle School in Kennesaw, Georgia. The idea was to get students excited about science so there were a number of experiments the students and parents could see. Our station was Rocks and Minerals, which turned out to be not flashy enough compared to some of the other stations such as Gummy Bear Explosion, Chemistry Explosions, Nitrogen, and Bubble Trouble.



Eric Lowe explaining topographic maps

The good news was we were across the hall from Gummy Bear Explosion, so when their room filled up we would entice the overflow to our session. It was a fun evening to talk to all the students and parents. Next time we will “enhance” our name to compete with these catchy titles. Something like “Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Natural Disasters, What’s Next?”



Minerals on display



Some of the fossils

UPCOMING MEETING

AIPG Georgia Section will lead a field trip to the Cherokee Ruby and Sapphire Mine near Franklin, NC on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The trip will consist of a tour of the mine, discussions on the geology of the area and the occurrence of corundum, and testing the newly excavated ore pile with a sapphire jig. We will also be able to screen the ore in the sluice box and we can keep any rubies and sapphires we find. This is a good trip for kids and rockhounds too as we expect to find some nice gems and learn a little too.

The Cherokee Ruby and Sapphire Mine is a "placer" gem mine. These placer deposits contain precious and semi-precious gems and minerals, and are famous for their rubies and sapphires. The Cherokee mine has produced some of the finest rubies ever to be found in the United States. A few rival the best Burmese rubies in color and clarity, and this is why Tiffany and Company explored the mines' potential for their jewelry. Ruby and sapphire are varieties of corundum. Pure corundum is colorless, but slight traces of elements such as chrome, iron, titanium or vanadium are responsible for the colors of gemstones. Only red corundum is entitled to be called ruby, all other colors being classified as sapphires. We also expect to find sillimanite, rutile, kyanite, pyrope and rhodolite garnets, and moonstone.

The owner has agreed to let us in for free if we give him some geology lessons and help him test the new ore pile. We would also like to have a couple of volunteers who have wetsuits/drysuits/waders and cold water gear to get into the pit and dig some pay dirt off the top of bedrock. We would also like a volunteer or two to do some research on the geology of the area and print some materials that we can share with our gracious mine owner. If any of our student members know of any articles or any of their professors have conducted research of the area, please let us know.

Be sure to bring your gold pans, a dry change of clothes, your lunch, and some wetsuit gloves and boots for washing gravel in cold water. You may end up cold and wet if you find a "honker" and get ruby fever, so please be prepared if you intend on getting wet. We should be able to screen ore with only getting our hands wet, so a pair of wetsuit or similar gloves is recommended at a minimum. Screens and buckets are available for use at the mine. There is also a lot of camping and lodging in the area for those interested in staying overnight.

Directions, maps, and additional information can be found on the Cherokee Mine's website.

<http://www.cherokeerubymine.com/index.php>

Directions from Atlanta

Go north on I-85 to US 441 to Clayton, GA. Follow US 441 North into Franklin, NC then turn right onto Main Street. Take immediate left onto Hwy 28 North.

Follow directions below from Franklin, NC to get to ruby mine.

Directions from Franklin, NC

Business Hwy 441 North, to Hwy 28-North, located near the center of town. Follow 28N until passing Cowee Baptist Church on your right. Merge right, on Cowee Creek Road just ahead. Follow Cowee Creek Rd. until it becomes Ruby Mine Road by staying right at any fork in the road. Stay on Ruby Mind Rd to the mine entrance, on the left. Approximate drive time from Franklin, NC is 25-30 minutes.

From Atlanta to the mine is approximately **3 hours**.

Please let us know if you have questions, would like to volunteer, or want to RSVP.

Contact Ron Wallace or Dan Centofanti (millcreek1@windstream.net). 770-380-1488 Cell
706-579-1607 Office



Rubies from the mine (not to scale)



New pit

News from University of Georgia

The Geology Club at UGA has recently established a scholarship fund for students going to summer field camp with the University of Georgia Geology Department. Money for the scholarship will be raised through club fundraising activities, such as bake sales, calendar, koozie, and t-shirt sales. The koozies are \$3.00 for one or \$5.00 for two. They are red and black writing and say "Let's get schisty." There are two shirts for sale. One is a black polo with red crossed rock hammers in the upper right pocket area that says Geology Club at UGA. The polo shirts are \$20.00 each. The second shirt is a gray t-shirt with white writing that has a graphic design on the back and says "Take it on the rocks." Geology Club at UGA is on the front upper right hand area of this shirt. The t-shirts are \$12.00 each.

The Geology Club at UGA has also re-established their "brown bag" series this semester. Brown bag is an informal talk where students, faculty, professionals, or alumni present their past or current research over an informal lunch. For information to purchase the koozies or shirts please contact Rachel Cheatham (cheatham@uga.edu) or Sean Cameron (cscamero@uga.edu).

News from Georgia State University

As the Spring semester begins to pick up pace, GSU AIPG Student Chapter had a meeting on January 18 along with a webinar on "Global Energy Resources: Current Trends and Short Term Predictions" presented by Ronald Wallace (AIPG President Elect and AIPG GA section President). Then, on January 28 at Fernbank Science Center, some of our members attended the Atlanta Geological Society Professional Candidate Workshop. The workshop was on groundwater hydrology and contaminant hydrogeology presented by Dr. James Kennedy (GA State Geologist).

Furthermore, GSU AIPG Student Chapter added six new members to our club at the beginning of the semester: Olesya Sarajlic, Emily Scherer, Gregory Armstrong, Erick Braun, Mary Winsor, and Daniel McCartha.

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