



GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 49, No. 8

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

August 2011

ANNUAL PICNIC, SWIMMING AT 4:00 P.M.

Ponderings

From the Podium

Another month has passed and the weather remains pretty much the same as it has for the last three months or so extremely hot and, at our house, at least, unpleasantly dry. I have only had to cut our "grass" once this year and that was like trying to drive a mower in a dust storm.

Yesterday, I went up to the LDMA property in Oconee County's Cheochee Valley to introduce a member's visiting grandchildren to the fine arts of gold panning and sluicing. We didn't find any gold but we had a good time and it was a bit cooler than down here in the "lower country." However, even sitting in the shade, with my feet in the creek and my hands in the water working the gold pan, it was still pretty cotton-picking hot.

Our new Field Trip Chairman, John Palmer, is planning an outing where we can all stand in a creek and search/screen for garnets. More on that later, but it is sure something to look forward to, especially when the thermometer is reading in the mid to high 90's. Maybe it will be a bit cooler for our Annual Picnic next week, at least that is what the forecasters are saying at this time. One can only hope that this forecast is more accurate than the ones they have put forth over the last couple of weeks. At any rate, I look forward to seeing you all there.

Larry

**NEXT MEETING
September 21, 2011**

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Seneca, The Summit Owners Association Amenities Center

Annual Pot Luck Picnic

Join us at 4:00 p.m. if you would like to swim. Note that the meal is at 6:00 p.m. which is an hour earlier than our usual meeting time. Club will furnish meat and soft drinks. Members bring salad, vegetable, or dessert.

Directions to PDGMS Annual Picnic

From the intersection of US 76/123 and SC 130 in Seneca:

There is a traffic light at this corner — also a CVS Drugs and Ingles store. From here, go 0.8 miles North on SC 130 (in the direction of the Duke Power Nuclear Plant) and turn left at the entrance to the SUMMIT Subdivision on Grand Summit Drive. Go to the Stop sign, turn right on North Summit Drive.

Go to the next Stop sign and turn left on Viewpointe Court. The Summit Owners Association Amenities Center is just over the top of the hill. The pool will be open at 4:00 p.m. for folks who want to swim or just socialize. Supper will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting July 18, 2011

Location: Central/Clemson Library Meeting Room

Attendance: 25, including three visitors.

President Larry Boller, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed visitors Doris Childress and Mark and Diane Snider who attended when the meetings were in Seneca. Refreshments were provided by Ansel Miller.

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2011 Officers

President: Larry Boller 864-296-8077
V.P.: Ed Overly 864-328-3057
Secretary: Cecelia Jackson 864-261-3580
Treasurer: Phyllis Phillips 864-654-8514

2011 Directors

Dave Cicimurri 864-650-7115
Jim Duzenberry 864-654-5741
Fred Sias 864-654-6833
Rich Warner 864-654-0913

General Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Business Meeting: The previous meeting minutes were approved. Larry Boller read the monthly report provided by the Treasurer. Cecelia Jackson, Secretary, collected \$15 annual dues for new member Craig Dewitt in the absence of the treasurer.

Old Business: John Palmer will serve as the new Field Trip Chairman. Ted Wallenius and John Denney volunteered to assist John with programs.

Linda Martin volunteered to serve as media specialist so that programs can be projected on the big screen.

The club is still in need of a Youth Committee Chairperson as well as a Door Prize/Raffle chairperson. Larry mentioned that there were some really nice specimens donated recently.

Ted printed 100 new club brochures but did not bring them to the meeting. Ted made an announcement to members who know Herb Jones that he is doing well and recovering from surgery. He sends his greetings and told Ted that he has some equipment that he may be willing to sell.

New Business: The August 17 meeting will be a semi-pot luck cookout at the Summit Subdivision in Seneca. The club will provide the meat, and the members can bring salads, sides, drinks and appetizers. For planning purposes, the turnout for this meeting could be 20 people. Come a little early if you want to swim.

Ted informed the visitors that if they provide an email address, Fred Sias will forward copies of



Hogg Mine Open Again

The Hogg Mine near Lagrange, Georgia is a beryl mine that was operated from the time of WW2 up until 1960. Hundred of thousands of pounds of beryl crystals were sent through the crusher mill to extract the rare metal beryllium for military purposes. The war effort made the material more valuable for the metal than for Jewelry purposes. Some beryl crystals were found that were 18 inches in diameter and weighed over 100 pounds each.

the *Gem Scoops* for 3 months.

Program: Larry Boller, PDGMS President, presented a cabochon cutting demonstration. Larry experienced a few problems with the equipment's water pump during the demonstration.

Topics included:

Selecting rocks to use for cabbing along with an appropriate pattern

Slabbing rocks for cabbing as well as using trim saws to get the rock closer to the pattern chosen.

Proper dopping techniques
Types of grit used on the Genie
Proper cabbing techniques

Break: Raffle tickets were sold for donated items. There were nine winners. All members are encouraged to bring more specimens.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia Jackson,
Secretary

Lots of the crystals as big as coke cans and smaller were left undiscovered in the tailings pile. Beryl is hard to find at the Hogg Mine, however, it is definitely there.

The Hogg Mine is open for individual or group mining. The mine property includes a primitive camping area for multiple day digs. Customers are expected to register and sign liability release documents at Stephens Store, a PURE gas station, across the street from Smith's Corner Store. You will also find snacks, buckets, digging tools, hats, and gloves.

Check out www.hogmine.com for more details and photographs. This information was sent to me by Chris Palmer at 770-262-7852 or rockdgr@yahoo.com.

2011 SFMS WORKSHOP DATES

Wildacres, August 22 - 28
Wildacres, September 12 - 18
William Holland, October 9 - 15