

"Stones and Bones" Official Publication of  
The Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc. (IBVGM&FS)  
Editor, P.O. Box 2054 Auburndale, FL 33823

# STONES and Bones



MEMBERSHIP MAILING ADDRESS:

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2054  
Auburndale, FL 33823

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc. meets at 7:00 P.M., the second Thursday of each month at the Auburndale Women's Club, 243 E. Lake Ave., Auburndale. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009. *Visitors are always welcome.*

Check out our website at [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

MAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR  
Items contained in the "Stones and Bones" may be reproduced  
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Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society, Inc.

## Officers For 2009

President	Cindy Reed	863-644-6665
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1 <sup>st</sup> VP	VACANT	
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	VACANT (also membership chairman)	
Secretary	Laurie Williams	
Treasurer	Roger McQuown	

### Board Members

Past President	Jan Liles	863-519-9449
1-Year Term	Kim Price	863-816-0909
2-Year Term	Jim Reed	863-644-6665
3-Year Term	Bob Gayle	

### Committee Chairs

Program Chairman	VACANT	
Corresponding Secretary	VACANT	
Annual Show	Jim Reed	863-644-6665
Education	VACANT	
Field Trips	Kim Price	863-816-0909
Historian	Jan Liles	863-519-9449
Shop Manager	Jim Reed	863-644-6665
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Parliamentarian	Mary K. Sullivan	
Snacks	Jan Liles	
Editor / Webmaster	Cindy Reed	863-644.6665
	<a href="mailto:lunaria@tampabay.rr.com">lunaria@tampabay.rr.com</a>	

## Statement of Principles

1. To stimulate interest in the collection, study, identification, and classification of gem, mineral & fossil specimens.
2. To disseminate knowledge of lapidary work and classification of gems, minerals & fossils, and their applications in the arts and sciences.
3. To encourage and facilitate instruction in the various elements of mineralogy and lapidary work and identification and classification of fossils.
4. To arrange and conduct field trips for collection of specimens.
5. To participate by displaying and taking part in all local, state, and Federation shows to the greatest possible extent.
6. To encourage adherence to the American Federation of Mineralogical Society's Code of Ethics.

## LOCATION FOR 2009 MEETINGS Auburndale Women's Club, 243 E. Lake Ave.

Directions: From Hwy 92, turn north on Main Street (SR 559 at the Sunoco Station) go to the next light and turn right on Bridgers. Turn left just past the library (about ½ mile down the road). Take the first left and you'll be on E Lake Ave. The Women's Club is on the right, across from the library (I think it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> building).

From Polk City or North Lakeland, take SR 559 through Auburndale. Turn left on E. Lake across from the park. Or, you can continue on to Bridgers and turn left there.

## Message from the President

We had a great spread at the July pot-luck dinner. There were so many wonderful dishes that I think most of us rolled out to our cars. We had a pretty good turn-out as well. I think the pot-luck/social hours are my favorite.

Since we didn't have a regular meeting, there are no minutes or treasurer's report this month.

Several of us have things going on in early August. We voted and decided to skip August and regroup in September. Originally, Jim and I were going to miss the September and October meetings, but our plans changed. We'll be there in September, but will be at William Holland in October. To make this perfectly clear.....**There will not be an August Meeting!!!**

I hope you all have a wonderful August.  
Cindy Reed, President

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kay McQuown  
Wally Moore

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob & Janet Gayle

### August Birthstones

Modern Birthstone	- Peridot
Traditional Birthstone	- Sardonyx
Mystical Birthstone	- Diamond
Ayurvedic Birthstone	- Sapphire
Other	- Carnelian, Ruby

## Member News

Jan Liles' hip replacement surgery date is set for July 29<sup>th</sup>. She expects to spend about 3 weeks at a rehab center. Please keep her in your thoughts.

\* \* \* \* \*

## August Shows and Swap Meets

There are no shows listed for August, but...

**August 15, 2009 - Meteorite Symposium:** Sponsored by: TELLUS - Northwest Georgia Science Museum, Friends of Mineralogy, Meteorite Association of Georgia  
**Featuring:** Robert Ward, world-renowned meteorite hunter - Scott Harris, leading scientist in the study of meteorites, tektites, and impact structures - Dave Gheesling, curator of the Falling Rocks meteorite collection  
**Museum Members: \$8 General Public: \$20**  
**Includes refreshments & weekend Museum Pass, and an authentic rock from space!**  
**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY CALLING Tellus @ 770.606.5700 x417**

**Nantahala Talc and Limestone Quarry  
Hewitt, North Carolina  
Saturday, October 10, 2009  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**WHERE:** Nantahala Talc and Limestone Quarry, Hewitt, North Carolina (in the beautiful Nantahala gorge).

**WHAT:** Banded pink, gray and yellow marble, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, travertine and talc.

**WHEN:** October 10, 2009

**COLLECTING HOURS:** Participants **must** arrive at 9:00 A.M. to check-in, sign a release form, and receive a brief safety briefing. The dig will last until 5:00 P.M. There is no fee for this dig.

If **children** come, they **MUST** be in CLOSE proximity to their parent(s) at all times. All young people under 18 must be with an adult/parent at all times. This is a working quarry with high unstable walls so **everyone must stay away from the walls.**

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Hard hats and safety glasses are required. It is also recommended that you wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and appropriate outer clothing. Collecting is possible rain or shine.

**SPECIAL CONDITION:** In order to attend this field trip, you must be a member of a club that is a member of one of the following American Federation of Mineralogical Society's regional societies:

[CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#)

[EFMLS - Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies](#)

[MWF - Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies](#)

[NFMS - Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#)

[RMFMS - Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#)

[SCFMS - South Central Federation of Mineral Societies](#)

[SFMS - Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#)

**College and University groups are also allowed to attend with prior notice.**

**WHAT TO BRING:** Buckets and containers, rock and crack hammers, picks, sledge hammers, and flat and pointed chisels. We will drive into the large quarry and park on a mid-level bench. Bring a lunch and water and be prepared to do your "duty" in the woods as there are no nearby facilities. It will be possible to drive about ¼ mile to the quarry office for "relief", if necessary.

**WHERE TO STAY:** Towns within 30 miles from the meeting spot with motels, campgrounds and other facilities: Andrews; Bryson City; Cherokee; Robbinsville; and Murphy.

**DIRECTIONS:** We will meet at **9:00 AM** at a Roadside Park/Rest Area on US-74 at Hewitt, North Carolina and proceed as a group to the nearby quarry.

**From the West:** From the intersection of US-19 business and US-74E at Andrews, NC, drive approximately 12 miles east on US-74E to the roadside park/rest area on the left-hand (north) side of highway (just past the bridge over the Nantahala River).

**From the East:** From the intersection of US-19business and US-74W at Bryson City, NC, drive approximately 17.5 miles west on US-74W to the roadside park on the right-hand (north) side of the highway (just before the bridge over the Nantahala River).

**FOR ONLINE INFORMATION AND PICTURES OF THE QUARRY:**

<http://www.mcrocks.com/page11.html>  
<http://www.mcrocks.com/FTR-A/FieldTripReportMikeStreeterOctober%2025,%202003.html>  
<http://www.mcrocks.com/FTR-A/FieldTripReportEverettHarrington-October2003.html>  
<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr/StreeterNantahalaNovember05.html>  
<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr06-2/Streeter11-4-06.html>  
<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr07-2/StreeterNantahala11-10-07.html>

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Mike Streeter – Email: [mcstreeter@charter.net](mailto:mcstreeter@charter.net) Phone: (828)667-8290

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Obtaining Rough**

By  
Bob Gayle

I haven't had any suggestions from club members for articles so I guess I will ramble for a while to see what comes out. I think some of you may be interested in how to obtain rough stones, slabs, and pieces when you aren't able to go collect them yourself.

There are three ways to obtain rough to work with when you aren't able to physically go collecting yourself. These are: estate lots, gem and mineral shows, and EBAY. I have used all three and I have obtained more rough rock than I can possibly cut. I will go over how to eliminate that as well a little later.

First, let's take a look at estate sales. Estate sales are not always generated by the passing of a person. (I tend to group people who just want to clean out there garages, etc. under this heading.) Unfortunately, most estate sales are generated because of the loss of a former rock hound. What ever the reason the sale is being held, there is more workable rough rock available in this area than you may think. Some of these estate type sales can be found in the garage sale sections of the newspaper but I have found that just eaves dropping works pretty well also. Being a club member, you have seen and heard of some sales in the news letter or notification from Cindy. Cindy is contacted by people ready to sell their stock because as an active club our members may be in the market for rough stones and they are ready to sell. I have looked into several of these sales and have found some real bargains. In most cases people who contact the club know a bit more about the items they are selling and are willing to give you a fair price for some very exotic material that you would not normally have access to due to higher prices elsewhere. Where you have to be careful is, buying rough rock from people who aren't aware of what it is worth. You must now be able to identify what you are being presented with, know what you are willing to pay for the material, and be willing to pay a fair price. Keep in mind most people do not know the difference between useable agate/jasper and pietersite. All they know is "Grandpa" has had this rock for 30 years and he said it is worth a fortune."

The next situation is, running across a person with literally a yard full of rocks, they know has some value but don't have a clue as to what that value is. Case in point, a lady in Bartow had just this situation after her father had passed. In these situations it is your responsibility to be willing to pay a fair price because you are the one with the knowledge of the material. By the same token, you want a bargain for the material. If you know, for example, a rock is worth \$10.00 offer the person \$4.00 to \$5.00 for it. They will be amazed you are willing to pay that much for it and you will be amazed you got it so cheap. I happen to know the lady above made literally hundreds of dollars on the rough she had lying around and purchasers got some exceptional deals.

Next, gem and mineral shows are usually a good source of rough material. Most vendors at these shows understand they are dealing primarily with hobbyist and have priced their merchandise with "wiggle room" for negotiation. If a vendor is not willing to negotiate the price, you now have to make the decision to buy based on how much you want the material and how much preparation the material will need before you can use it. If you don't have a 10" to 18" slab saw, a large rock will not be very advantageous to you. And this brings up a very large advantage of the gem and mineral show...namely slabs are prolific at these shows. This presents you the option of purchasing smaller amounts of material and increases the opportunity for you to experiment with a wider range of material.

Lastly, is the internet and EBAY. I deal from EBAY a lot. There are some good deals to be had in this environment whether you are looking for large rough or the convenience of slabs. The concept of bidding on material to get your best value works to your advantage especially in the economic conditions of today. As an example; I recently purchased 9 pounds of Lucin Variscite from Utah for \$10.00. In the past this material has gone for much more. Currently, slabs are more desirable on EBAY because it a smaller amount of material and more affordable for most. However, if you purchase a piece of rough in 5 pound to 7 pound range, the slab saw at the shop will accept it with little problem. Once you get it slabbed you now have pieces to trade or sell to obtain more different material. Internet sellers usually know what they have and what they want out of the material and there is no negotiation. This does not mean they should be discounted entirely. Check them out often because you just never know until you investigate.

This is a very critical point...all of the foregoing applies only to cab rough. I would caution you to never buy facet rough through any source that does not provide an inspection in person unless you know the seller and trust them implicitly. You can go very far wrong very expensively with facet rough.

In conclusion, you have heard me say it before and I will say it always...RESEARCH! Know what you are looking at and what you want to pay. Look it up on the internet, talk to other club members, talk to members of other clubs. You may find what you want right in your own back yard. When buying from vendors, talk to other club members, talk to members of other clubs because they may have had dealings with these vendors in the past and help guide you. One thing to be wary of is, anyone who tells you they know it all, simply doesn't. The more I learn simply shows me there is much more to learn. When someone can look you in the eye and say "I don't know" can usually be trusted to buy from. I have a yard full of rocks and there is stuff lying out there that I don't have a clue as to what it is but it simply spoke to me when I bought it. The "nitty gritty" is; if the stone you are interested in is aesthetically pleasing to you and it is in your price range, buy it. Some one in the club will usually be able to help you turn it into a true beauty.

# August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Shop Open 10:30-4	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Shop Open 10:30-4 Bob Gayle In charge	10	11	12	13 <b>NO MEETING TONIGHT</b>	14	15
16 Shop Open 10:30-4 Bob Gayle In charge	17	18	19	20	21	22
23  Shop Open 10:30-4	24	25	26	27	28	29
30  Shop Open 10:30-4	31					