

# ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

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

**November 2014**



## Words from...

### The President

Nice showing for the October meeting! Thanks to everyone who came out. As usual, we had a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while learning a little more about the rock collecting world we live in. Diane Rodenhizer did a skillful job touring us around some choice locations in Australia with her slide show, and being able to take a close up look at some of the finds she and George White made while there really added to the quality presentation and the overall learning experience.

The **November meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM on the 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Make plans to join us if you are in town. Aside from another interesting meeting, we're sure to have some fine pre-holiday eats, AND we'll be discussing the plans for the Christmas party—another excellent day for holiday eats☺.

Please read the announcement below about the upcoming club officer selections and consider volunteering to serve a term. If you've enjoyed being a member for several years, here's your chance to give back.

.Jeff

## Announcements

**2015 Club Officer Selection** – It's time again to identify the folks who will lead the club for the coming year. We have a wealth of talent in the club, so if you'd be interested in serving a term in a leadership role your willingness to help shape the organization would be welcomed. Please contact President Jeff DeRoche (334-673-3554) or Vice President Anne Trice (334-718-4838) before the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and let them know which officer position you'd like to volunteer to take on.

Kid's Corner Fossil Quiz Answers – Q1-C, Q2-C, Q3-A, Q4-C, Q5-C, Q6-B, Q7-A, Q8-B, Q9-A, Q10-B, Q11-C, Q12-A, Q13-B, Q14-B, Q15-C.

## Upcoming Shows

November 21 – 23	Columbia SC Gem & Mineral Society	Columbia, SC
November 21 – 23	Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society	Marietta, GA
November 22 – 23	Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches	West Palm Beach, FL
November 28 – 30	Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society	Roanoke, VA
November 28 – 30	Mobile Rock and Gem Society	Mobile, AL
December 12 – 14	Mammoth Rock Shows LLC	Norcross, GA
December 13 – 14	Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society	Franklin, TN

Source: [www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-10-11-12.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-10-11-12.html) and [www.the-vug.com/vug/vugshows.html](http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugshows.html)

# Meeting Minutes – October 2014 – by Secretary

Our meeting was called to order by President Jeff DeRoche at 2:07 PM. There were 31 club members and one guest in attendance for the meeting. Jeff wished a Happy Birthday to all the club members born in October and introduced our guest, Samantha, who was invited by Anne Trice.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The club received the usual newsletters from our fellow rock clubs. We also received the AFMS newsletter and Jeff brought a copy of American Rockhound magazine for the group to look over.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jeff said that there is only one remaining show sign to be returned so, all in all, we did pretty well getting them back. Everyone received the newsletter. September meeting minutes were approved and Diane Rodenhizer presented the treasury report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jeff reminded the club that we will need several new officers for next year, including that of president. A committee has been appointed to solicit nominations. He also said that the club has mailed postcards out to our list of vendors so they can plug our show into their schedules.

Laural Meints said that she would still act as hostess at the show but will need help, as she also plans to set up tables as a vendor. The club unanimously approved the purchase of another show banner to be hung from the front of the show building. As it will not need dates on it, it will not need to be changed yearly.

Grady Dunn gave the group an update on Esther. She is still at the Rehabilitation Center in Ozark. The fall after her recent hip replacement was a pretty bad one. We all let him know that our thoughts and prayers are with both of them.

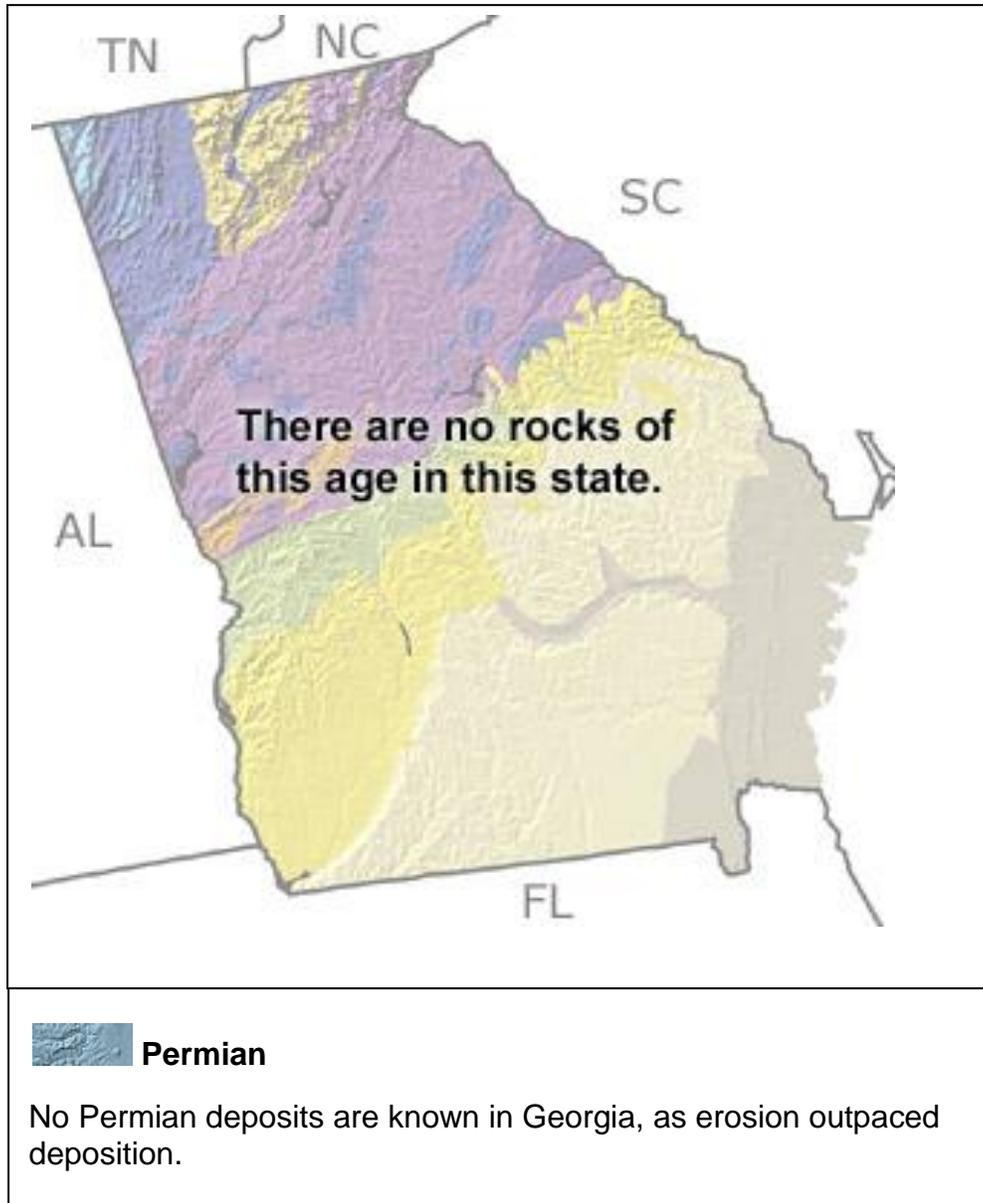
**PROGRAM:** Today's awesome program, Rock Hounding in Australia, was presented by Diane Rodenhizer. Diane described the trip that she and George White took and the different places they went in Australia. Diane brought some beautiful specimens she and George collected during their travels and she had a great slide show so we could see all the places they rockhounded. Their tour guide, Bob Jackson, is a retired geologist and has been conducting award winning tours for quite a while (<http://www.geologyadventures.com/>). George and Diane toured a gold mine museum in Ballarat, went to Mount Shadwell, an extinct volcano where they collected volcanic bombs, and hit the Bear State Forest for some collecting. They also went opal hunting. Sounds like a great trip.

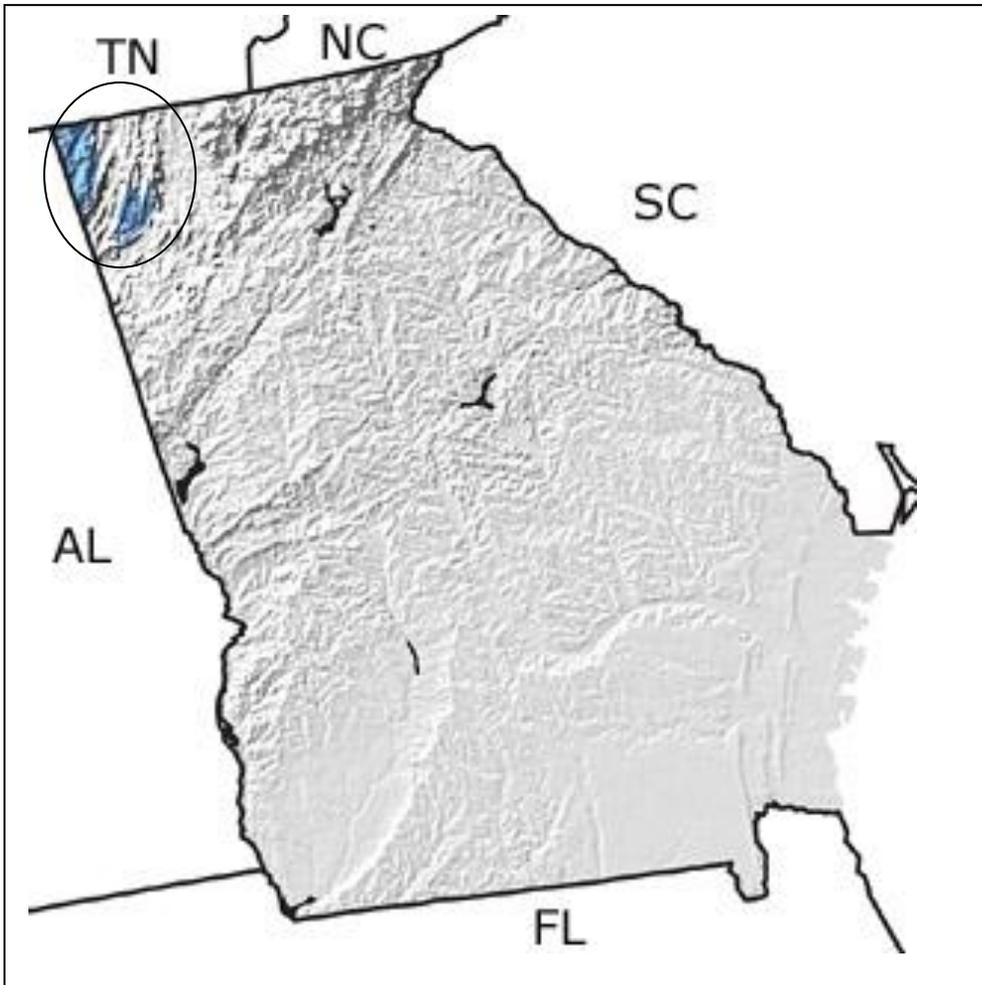
**SHOW & TELL:** As usual, we had a great Show & Tell. JoAn Lambert brought a tray of holiday bracelets. Jane and Elliott Whitton took a trip to the Bahamas, Grand Caicos & Turks and brought in some really nice coral they collected on the trip. Grady showed a huge piece of alga gel he collected some time back off HWY 14. It was filled in and fossilized with silica. Jeff showed three free form cabs he made—a very nice ammonite, tiger's eye and agate. Our guest, Samantha, is a very talented, self taught lost-wax caster. She showed several pieces she had made.

Door prizes went to L.J. Ward, Bill Tharpe, Arnie Lambert, Abbey Pollen and me. L.J. also wanted to let people know that a friend of a friend has a few items for sale: two 6-inch six wheel grinders (\$500 each), a 14-inch Lortone saw (\$1,200), and a 17-foot Bell Alaskan canoe (\$900). Anyone interested can email me for contact information.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Leduc

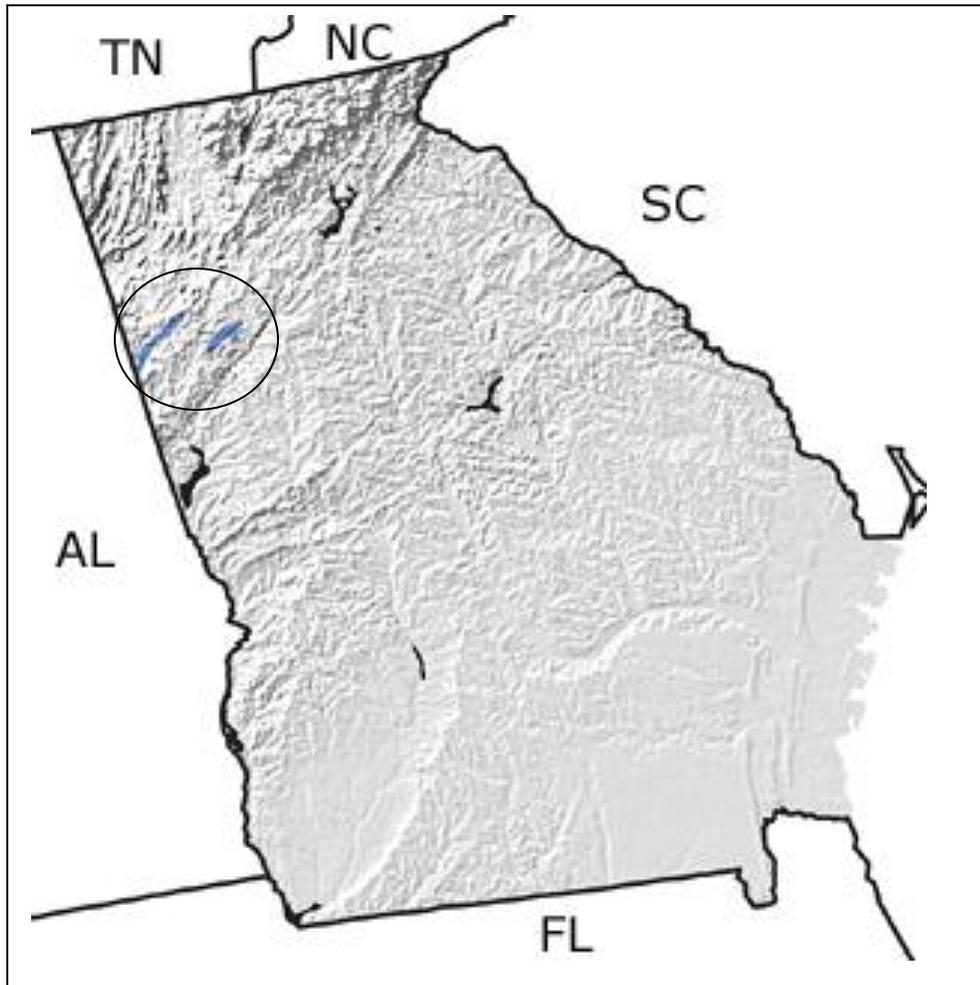
## Georgia – Paleozoic Eras





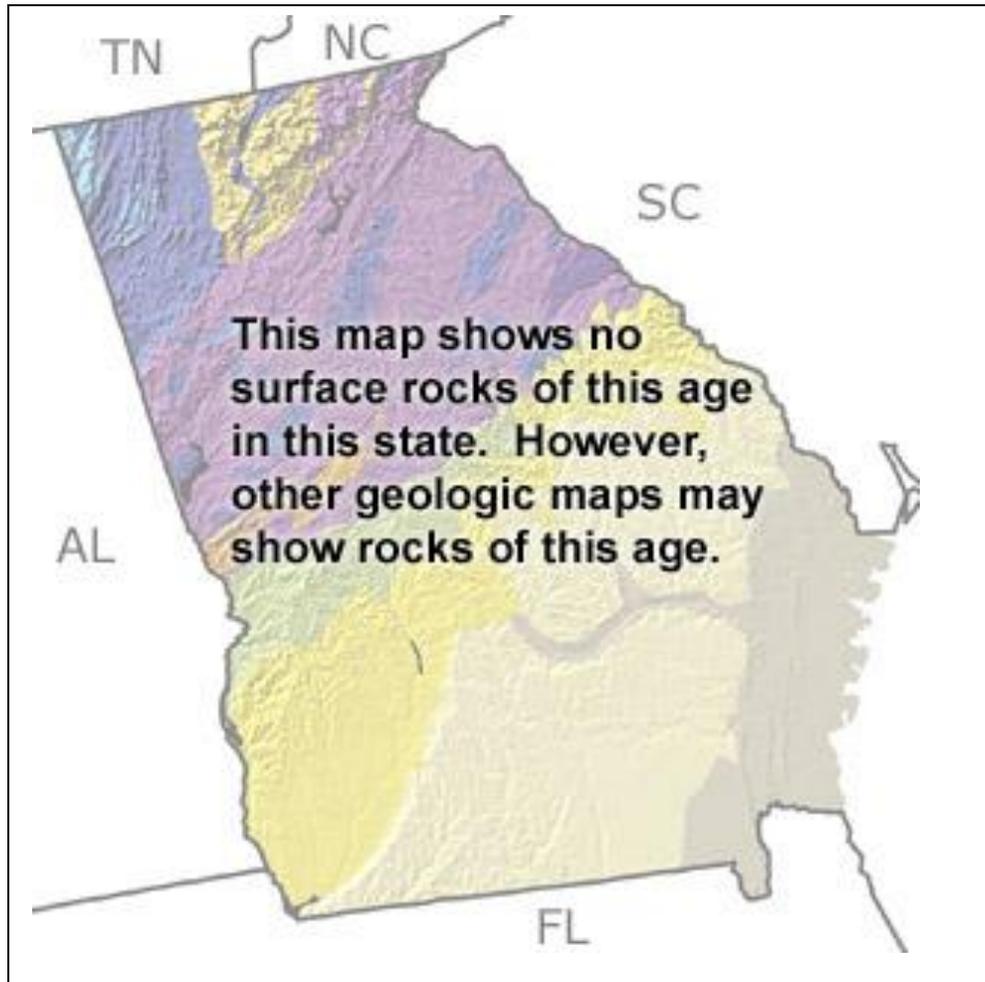
### **Carboniferous**

During the first part of the Carboniferous, shallow marine environments, such as tidal flats and channels, were common. By the Late Carboniferous, the Appalachian Mountains were undergoing a third episode of mountain building (the Allegheny Orogeny), as Gondwana slammed into North America. Erosion increased and clastic sediments (mostly sand) were deposited, creating extensive deltas that replaced the previous marine environments. Coal-forming swamps developed in the extreme northwestern part of Georgia. Marine fossils include bryozoans and blastoids, while ferns and lycopod trees are typical fossils found in the coal deposits.



**Devonian**

In the Devonian, a broad and relatively deep marine environment spread into the northern part of Georgia. Reducing circulation caused oxygen-poor conditions and the deposition of muds rich in organic material. Not much marine life was able to live in these bottom waters, although some burrows indicate sporadic colonization of the sea floor. The Appalachians were undergoing a second episode of mountain building (the Acadian Orogeny), which was caused by the closing of the Iapetus Ocean. In the north-central part of Georgia, large bodies of igneous material solidified below the surface as a result of this orogeny. The most famous of these structures is Stone Mountain, a large granitic intrusion now exposed near Atlanta. This map indicates the presence of Devonian rocks in northwestern Georgia; however, no Devonian fossils are known from the state.



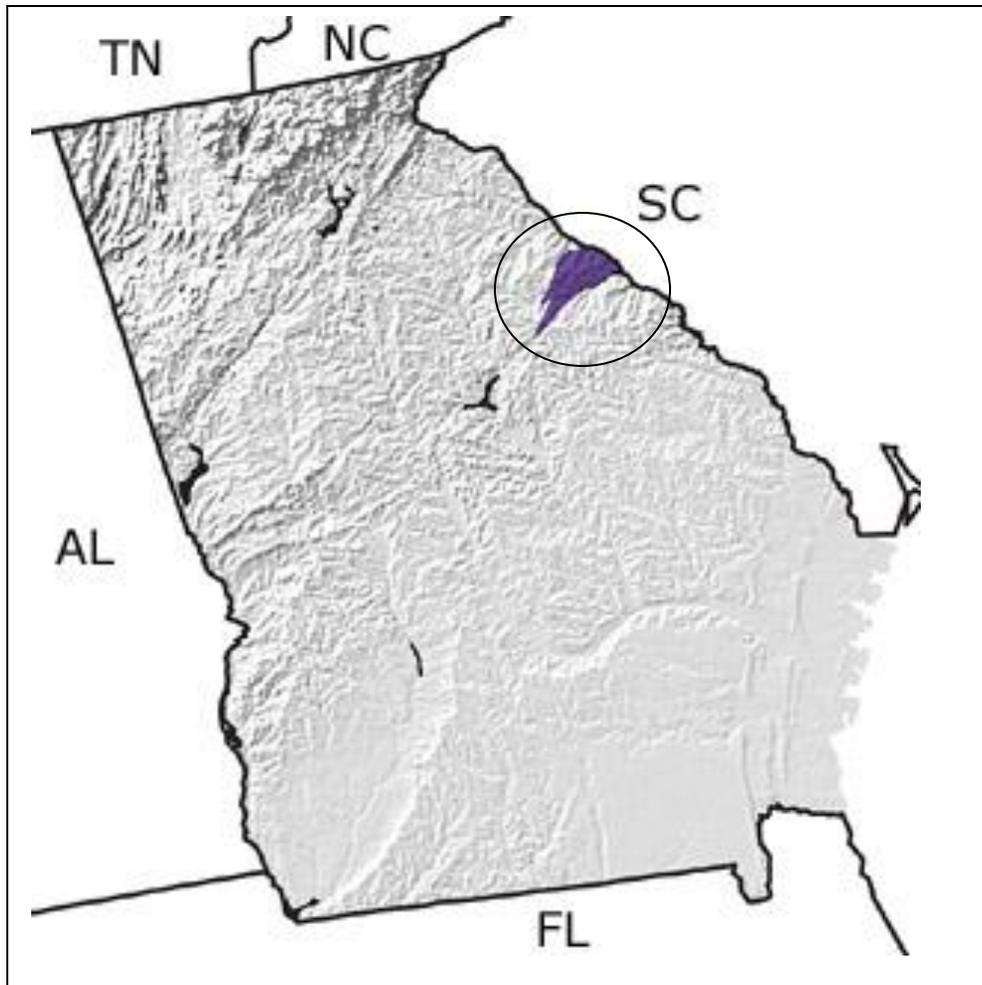
### Silurian

During the Silurian, large amounts of sand and mud eroding from the ancestral Appalachian Mountains were deposited in shallow marine environments in the northern part of the state. These environments were frequently hit by tropical storms that deposited thick beds of sand, often burying the marine life that lived on the sea floor. Marine communities of the Silurian included brachiopods, cephalopods, crinoids, and some burrowers, probably trilobites.



### Ordovician

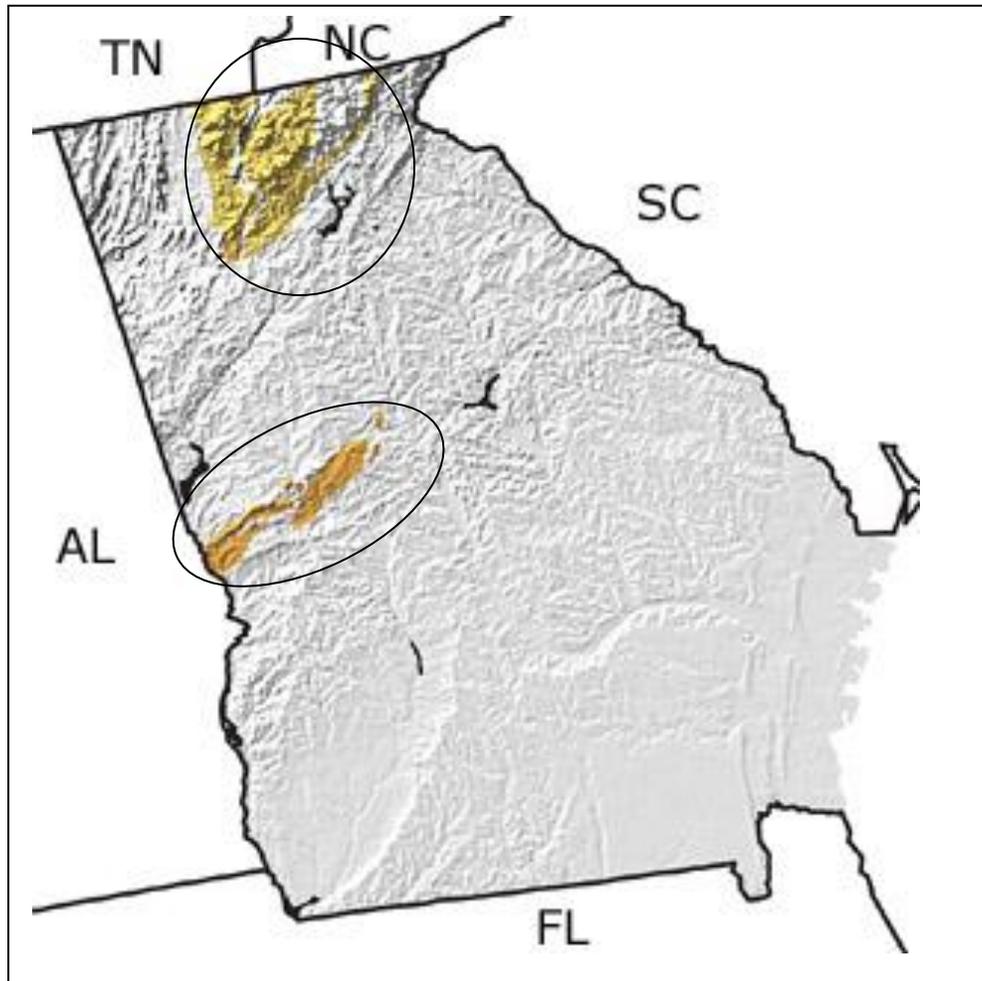
Early in the Ordovician, shallow marine environments covered much of Georgia. However, toward the end of the Ordovician, the ancient continent of Laurentia collided with an oceanic plate. This collision caused the first of three episodes of mountain building that contributed to the formation of the Appalachians. Large amounts of sediment eroding from the mountains were carried to the sea and formed extensive tidal flats. These were later replaced by estuaries as more fresh water flowed into the seaway. Typical Ordovician fossils include brachiopods and bivalves, as well as traces of burrows, most likely formed by trilobites.



 **Cambrian**

Shallow marine environments covered much of Georgia during the Cambrian. Thick layers of limy sediment built up on the sea floor, and stromatolites, corals, and trilobites thrived in the warm waters.

## Georgia – Precambrian Era



### **Precambrian**

During the Precambrian, Laurentia (North America) rifted from the supercontinent Pannotia. This tectonic activity resulted in the opening of the Iapetus Ocean and the deposition of shallow-marine clastic sediments that we see today in some areas of Georgia. However, little else is known about Precambrian environments or life in Georgia because the original sedimentary rocks of this time interval were later metamorphosed.

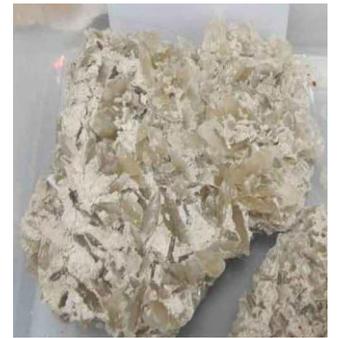
# Club Meeting – October 2014

Photos by Pat



# Club Meeting – October 2014

Photos by Pat



**A spectacular presentation on Australia, great refreshments, interesting conversation, impressive items for Show & Tell. All in all, another great meeting.**



## Quiz: Fossils

**1. Fossils are:**

- A only dinosaur bones and fern impressions made in rock
- B the carbonized remains of animals that were killed by an asteroid 20 000 years ago
- C direct evidence of organisms that lived more than 10 000 years ago

**2. The unaltered remains of fossilized animals include:**

- A petrified wood
- B carbon imprints of ferns
- C mummified and frozen remains

**3. Fossilized insects have been found preserved in amber which is hardened:**

- A tree resin
- B flower nectar
- C blood

**4. In petrified wood, the original wood has been slowly replaced by:**

- A another type of harder wood
- B preserving salts
- C minerals

**5. Examples of imprints are:**

- A drawings on rock made by prehistoric men
- B frozen remains of elephant-like mammoths
- C footprints and animal tracks

**6. Casts are:**

- A the remains of broken dinosaur bones
- B moulds that have been filled by another type of rock over time
- C the hollow remains of animal burrows

**7. The scientific name for fossilized feces is:**

- A coprolites
- B peat
- C no scientific name exists

**8. Fossilized stomach contents may indicate:**

- A social structures of animal groups
- B the diet of the animal and the vegetation type in its habitat
- C whether an animal walked, swam or flew

**9. Larger fossil animals are thought to be:**

- A adults or males
- B the most common type of animal that existed throughout earth's living past
- C extinct because they ate too much

**10. Scientists who study fossils are:**

- A fossilologists
- B palaeontologists
- C reptilologists

**11. The assumption that the earth's geological changes (e.g. volcanoes, erosion) probably occurred at a similar rate throughout earth's history is the:**

- A Theory of Plate Tectonics
- B Law of Cause and Effect
- C Law of Uniform Change

**12. The Law of Superposition states that:**

- A older rocks are found deeper in the earth's crust than younger rocks
- B carnivorous dinosaurs were more deadly than herbivorous dinosaurs
- C animals that evolved at a later time are more advanced than those from an earlier time

**13. Index fossils are distinctive fossils that existed for only short time periods. They are used to:**

- A alphabetize the names of new fossils that are found
- B indicate the age of certain layers of sedimentary rocks
- C determine the social structure of the larger dinosaurs of the Jurassic Period

**14. The half-life of a radioactive element is:**

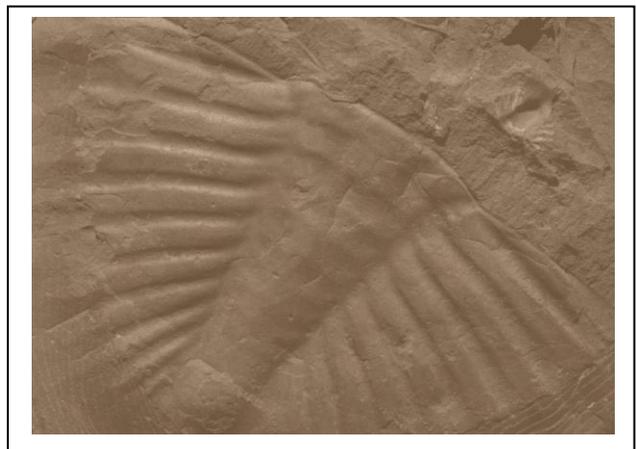
- A half the estimated age of the earth's crust
- B the time taken for half of the mass of the original element to break down
- C half the weight of the original radioactive element

**15. The half-life of carbon-14 is about:**

- A 80,000 years
- B 23,500 years
- C 5,730 years

**Your Answers**

- Q 1:
- Q 2:
- Q 3:
- Q 4:
- Q 5:
- Q 6:
- Q 7:
- Q 8:
- Q 9:
- Q10:
- Q11:
- Q12:
- Q13:
- Q14:
- Q15:



See front page for correct answers.

# Who What Where When Why How

## November Birthdays

**NOV 4 Patti Wilson**  
**NOV 9 Janie Schings**  
**NOV 19 Ken Wilson**  
**NOV 22 Brooke Brown**

## Random Fossil Facts

Ammonites were marine animals and had a coiled external shell similar to the modern pearly nautilus. The ammonite's shell was divided into chambers separated by strong walls known as septa. They probably lived in water up to 100 meters deep.

Ammonites take their name from the Egyptian god Amun, known to the Greeks as Zeus Ammon. This god is depicted on Cyrean coins and in sculpture by a head with curling ram's horns. Many genera of ammonites have names ending in -ceras from the Greek word 'keras' meaning horn.

Source: <http://www.onegeology.org/extra/kids/fossils/Ammonites.html>

## Meeting Information

**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Date:** Fourth Sunday of each month (except June, July and August)  
**Place:** Fellowship Hall – Tabernacle United Methodist Church  
4205 S. Brannon Stand Road  
Dothan, AL

## Officers

**President – Jeff DeRoche**  
334-673-3554

**Vice President – Anne Trice**  
334-718-4838

**Secretary – Pat LeDuc**  
334-806-5626

**Treasurer – Diane Rodenhizer**  
334-447-3610

**Bulletin Editor – Joan Blackwell**  
334-503-0308  
Tfavorite7@aol.com

**Webmaster – Pat LeDuc**  
334-806-5626

**Membership Chair – Diane Rodenhizer**  
334-447-3610

**Show Chair – Jeff DeRoche**  
334-673-3554

**Field Trips Chair – Bruce Fizzell**  
334-577-4353

**Hospitality Chair – JoAn Lambert**  
334-792-7116

**Club Hostess – Vacant**

**Club Liaison – Garry Shirah**  
334-671-4192

**Website:** [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com)

## Objectives

To stimulate interest in lapidary, earth science and, when necessary, other related fields.

To sponsor an educational program within the membership to increase the knowledge of its members in the properties, identifications and evaluations of rocks, minerals, fossils and other related subjects.

To cooperate and aid in the solution of its members' problems encountered in the Club's objectives.

To cooperate with other mineralogical and geological clubs and societies.

To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of minerals.

To provide opportunity for exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

To conduct its affairs without profit and to refrain from using its assets for pecuniary benefit of any individual or group.

## Classified Ads

**Looking for an item to round out your rock collection?**

**Got a specimen, tool or handicraft for sale or trade?**

**Submit the pertinent details to me by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and your inclinations will be made known to the membership in the next bulletin.**

**N. J. Blackwell**  
28 Lakeview Trail, Apt. C  
Daleville, AL 36322  
Phone: 334-503-0308  
Email: Tfavorite7@aol.com

## Annual Dues

Single \$15  
Family \$20

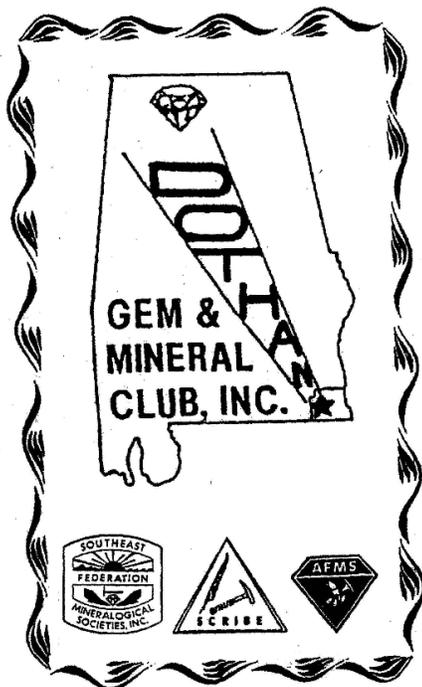
## Refreshments

**NOV 23 – Club Potluck**

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Daleville, AL 36322

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## Where you might hear...

Looking for fossils can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Knowing where to look narrows the field. You have to keep in mind that fossils can be any trace of ancient life, e.g., bones, leaves, footprints, etc.

Look for unusual shapes and textures -- objects that are clearly different from the rock around them.

Take your time: work slowly and carefully when uncovering and cleaning fossils. Handle your find with care; it may be fragile. Also take note of your location...you may have made an important discovery.

Fossil finding tools are neither fancy nor expensive. A butter knife and a toothbrush may be all you need.

Source: <http://www.sdnhm.org/archive/kids/fossils/ffhow.html>

**Member of**  
**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.**  
**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**