The official bulletin of the Dothan Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Rockhounds Herald

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

May 2016

Emerald $B3_3Al_2SiO_6$ Emerald $B3_3Al_2SiO_6$ Emerald $B3_3Al_2SiO_6$

Words from...

The President

Well our rock hounding trip and William Holland week went very well. Joan Blackwell and I did the SFMS dig at Jackson's Crossroads and the rock dig & swap at Graves Mountain. Friday, we caravanned to Lincolnton, GA, with Chris and Zeny Bokenfohr. On Saturday, the four of us met up with Arnie Lambert and Garry Shirah for breakfast before heading out to dig amethyst. Later that day, I spotted Steve Ward coming up the hill at Graves Mountain, as we were careening down it in a golf cart driven by a future NASCAR star. Hopefully, Steve collected some awesome stuff.

We all had a blast digging and collecting, so I encourage everyone to keep their eyes and ears open for other digging opportunities. I would like to say thanks to Bruce Fizzell for acting as President, Vice President, Secretary and Photographer for our April meeting. Some of us were still out rock hounding and missed the meeting, though I heard Arnie showed up with the beautiful amethyst piece he found at Jackson's Crossroads.

The week at William Holland was well worth the trip. My intarsia class was great and I learned a lot. I don't have any fingernails left, but they were a small price to pay for learning about all the equipment and techniques involved in doing intarsia pieces. Joan took ArtGourds (decorative wood burning and painting of gourds) and her pieces turned out fabulous. WH fed us constantly, so trust me when I say you don't have to worry about going hungry there. (Joan claims she is suffering bacon, gravy and biscuit withdrawal symptoms.)

The SFMS has the week of June 5th through June 11th reserved for members from SFMS clubs. To check out the classes, you can go to http://www.lapidaryschool.org/classschedule.php. If you are looking for something out of the ordinary to do this summer, you may want to consider taking a class and meeting up with fellow SFMS members.

Hope to see everyone at the May 22nd meeting.

Pat

Upcoming Shows

May 28 – 29	**Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society**	**Biloxi, MS**
June 4 – 5	**Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society**	**McCalla, AL**
June 13 – 14	**Tellus Science Museum**	**Cartersville, GA**

Source: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-456.html

Meeting Minutes – April 2016 – by Secretary

The meeting was called to order on 4/24/16 at 14:02 by president, pro tempore, Bruce Fizzell. There were 17 club members and no guests in attendance. Birthdays were wished and a moment of silence observed in memory of long time club member, LJ Ward, who passed on March 28, 2016. His presence will be missed.

CORRESPONDENCE: AMFS Newsletter, as per usual.

Ken Johnson and Arnie Lambert shared information received via email regarding the sale/auction of items owned by the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Club in Lynn Haven, Florida. The club is disbanding and are set to sell their assets on May 13th and 14th. An email with details will be sent out to DG&MC members.

Diane informed us that we received a check from the AMFS for $153 that was part of a distribution of excess funds shared with member clubs, in accordance with the AMFS charter.

We received a Thank You card from the Mobile Club for promoting their show, at our show. It was warmly signed by all the members.

MINUTES & TREASURER REPORT: Minutes from some darn meeting or another, probably February, were approved and seconded. The lovely and talented Diane Rodenhizer, who, as giddy as a schoolgirl, shared with us the gripping treasurer report, along with the happy news that we did rather well with the show this year; thanks to Show Chair, Jeff DeRoche, and his committee. That such wonderful minutes would be even questioned, much less require approval, surpasses the understanding of yr ob ser, yet approved and seconded they were. As always, don't get cocky, kids! (This is a Star Wars reference in honor of May 4th – May the Fourth be With You.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business, per se, was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: This meeting is being led by Bruce, as acting president due to Garry Shirah, Pat LeDuc and Joan Blackwell being on an outing to Graves Mountain, Jackson's Crossing and the William Holland Institute (Pat and Joan, only).

A rider just arrived from town with the news that Hancock Fabrics is going out of business. There may be some crafty type supplies that the crafty members of the group may wish to stock up on in order to create crafts.

As a group, it was decided to make a contribution in the name of LJ to the appropriate organization. This decision will be passed to Pat for her action. The club also voted on and approved the same annual contribution to the Church as last year.

Jeff told us that the Grand Prize raffle drawing winner, Linda Madden, picked up the display case and items, and is planning to donate the case, along with some of her collection to the Ozark Library as a permanent display!

SHOW BUSINESS: The word on the Show, in short was WOW! Vendors all reported robust sales, with many reporting the best weekend ever. Vendors also expressed gratitude for the free eats and drinks. There was some discussion about how to better rig the PA system, but no conclusion was reached. Jeff will be reviewing dates for next year's show, with an eye to the date being consistent and to limiting out of pocket expenses to vendors for State licenses, which are a date sensitive required item. Jeff will make a recommendation and/or decide on his own so that invites can go out right away.

Anyone who took a yard sign advertising the show, please remember to return your signs to Jeff. Special thanks to Jeff the Show Tsar and all those who gave their time! Especially, DJ John Webber, who laid down some sick beats and made the Silent Auction such a big success. As a side note on Show Business, Jeff and Pat went on a wild buying spree and bought the prizes for the 2017 show and the door prizes we offer here in our regular meetings.

SHOW & TELL: Arnie showed us a big old rock with an amethyst crystal embedded in the matrix. Should look great when it is all shiny and gleaming. This was fresh from the digging adventures at Jackson's Crossroads, pried from the grasp of Mother Earth just yesterday!

The meeting wrapped up with food and the presentation of a Door Prize. The Door Prize went to someone, but I forget who, and so whoever you are, better fess up so we can correct the minutes at some point.

Respectfully submitted by B. Fizzell

Georgia Gold Mines, Prospecting, Panning, Treasure Hunting and Rockhounding

Georgia is one of the nation's best states for gold prospecting, gold panning, treasure hunting and rockhounding. You will also enjoy metal detecting and treasure hunting for coins and gold nuggets in this historic gold mining state. Rockhounds who hunt for rubies and other gemstones at Franklin, North Carolina venture just a few miles south into Georgia to do prospecting and panning for gold.

Gold mining took place continuously in Georgia from the 1820's through l933. Have gully-washing rains, freeze-thaw cycles and other acts of nature uncovered more gold? Recreational gold panners, prospectors, treasure hunters, dredgers, divers, campers, backpackers, geologists, gold-smart natives, and recreational vehicle owners think so. Maybe you would like to try your hand at gold prospecting and panning in Georgia and its' adjoining gold-bearing states.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR AND FIND GOLD IN GEORGIA

Gold Nugget - Georgia

Big Ten, Inc.'s Georgia Gold Prospecting and Panning Map shows places where to look to find gold near:

Acworth, Alpharetta, Atlanta, Auraria, Ball Ground, Blairsville, Blue Ridge, Bremen, Buchanan, Buford, Canton , Carrollton, Cartersville, Cedartown, Clarkesville, Clayton, Cleveland, Cornelia, Cumming, Dahlonega, Dallas, Dalton, Dawsonville, Decatur, Doraville, Douglasville, Duluth, Elberton, Ellijay, Gainesville, Hartwell, Helen, Hiawassee, Kennesaw, Lawrenceville, Lincolnton, Lithia Springs, Mableton, Marietta, McDonough , Monroe, Newnan, Powder Springs, Rockmart, Roswell, Royston, Smyrna, Social Circle, Stone Mountain, Tallapoosa, Tallulah Falls, Thomson, Toccoa, Tucker, Union Point, Villa Rica, Washington, Winder and Young Harris.

It shows five hundred (500) gold mines and prospecting and panning locations from official geological records of the State of Georgia and the federal government. Locations for finding gold are shown within 15 miles of each of the above listed places. These gold deposit locations, which show where gold has been found in the past, are clearly marked.

The map is done in color. The margin of the map has text that tells where to look for gold in a streambed, how to tell "fools gold" from real gold and gives step-by-step gold panning instructions. You can quickly learn to pan by following the instructions on the map.

Comments on Mining of Gold, Gold Prospecting, Gold Panning, Treasure Hunting and Rockhounding in Georgia

Among the Georgia gold mining prospecting and panning sites shown in the geological records, there are 12 sites southwest of Atlanta near Newnan, 26 gold locations just off Interstate 20 which connects Atlanta with Birmingham, 26 sites within 35 miles of Augusta, 16 sites in Rabun County near North Carolina and many sites near the Alabama and South Carolina state lines.

A band of gold mines and prospecting and panning sites runs northeast from Tallapoosa and Villa Rica. Off to the side of this streak of gold deposits, numerous gold mining, prospecting and panning sites are seen east of Athens and in the area of the Chattahoochee National Forest near Blairsville.

Georgia Gold Mining History

Portions of the following paragraphs about gold mines, gold prospecting and panning are from an article entitled "Georgia Gold" by Charles A. Overbey in *Gems and Minerals* magazine and is reprinted by permission of *Gems and Minerals*. Prior work by Robert G. Cook is acknowledged.

Gold was discovered in North Carolina in 1799; then came discoveries in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Virginia. The gold-bearing strip was traced by pioneers from the North Carolina Piedmont into the Cherokee Territory. But, not until 1828 or 1829 did the major gold boom start - when news spread that gold had been discovered in North Georgia on Cherokee land.

A few months after the announcement of the discovery, hundreds of men were searching for the metal; and within a year, thousands of miners had descended into Georgia to seek the golden treasure. In 1830 a U.S. Army major described the motley appearance of the "whites, Indians, half-breeds and Negroes, boys of fourteen and old men of seventy" who sought their fortunes in the river beds and hillsides of Georgia.

In 1837, the U.S. Government established a gold coin mint at Dahlonega, Georgia, about 60 miles north of Atlanta. Gold from Georgia mines and gold mines in surrounding states flowed to this mint. Private gold mints also turned out gold coins that were widely accepted in trade. Notable was the gold mint of Templeton Reid at Gainesville, Georgia. Gold coins

from the Reid mint are now in great demand by collectors and command premium prices in the rare coin market, as do coins from the Dahlonega Gold Mint. Coins from the Dahlonega Gold Mint may be seen at the Dahlonega Gold Museum.

Dahlonega Gold Museum, Dahlonega, Georgia

Many Georgia gold miners went west in the great California Gold Rush. On a Saturday in 1849, a crowd gathered in front of the Lumpkin County courthouse to hear Matthew F. Stephenson, assayer of the Dahlonega mint. From the balcony of the courthouse he pointed to Findley Ridge in front of him and implored the miners to stay in Dahlonega, saying "There's millions in it." Not deterred by his entreaty, the "Forty-Niners" left for California, but they carried his words with them. Mark Twain, hearing them from a friend, William Sellers, wrote in *Gilded Age* his famous version of Dr. Stephenson's expression: "There's gold in them thar hills."

Green Russell, an Auraria, Georgia (Auraria is about 5 miles from Dahlonega) gold miner, returned from California and later, with his two brothers, led a gold party to the Kansas Territory, starting the "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold stampede that gave birth to Colorado. He helped found a small village in Colorado, naming it Auraria. It is today a part of the City of Denver.

SOME IMPORTANT GEORGIA GOLD FINDS

Gold has been reported from virtually every county in Georgia that is underlain by "chrystalline" rocks. Commercial mining was done by hydraulics, dredging and by conventional lode mining means. Individual small mining operations were carried on by panning and by use of sluice boxes.

Georgia Geologic Survey Bulletin 92, by Robert G. Cook, lists nuggets of 54, 40, and 35 troy ounces from Gilmer County; 42 and 11 ounces from Habersham County; 26, 25, 19, 18, 15, 5, 4, 3 and 2 ounces from White County; 15, 6, and 4 ounces from Lumpkin County and 4, and 3 ounces from Cherokee County. A number of interesting finds of crystalline, wire and leaf gold are also mentioned, some of which were gleaned from earlier geological documents by Yeates, McCallie and King (1896) and Jones (1909). A few of these are:

The Potosi Gold Mine, in Hall County about 11 miles northwest of Gainesville, was the source of numerous very fine examples of crystalline gold. One superb example from this location is preserved in the museum of the Georgia State Capitol.

Samples taken from the Wellborn Gold Mine in Union County contained beautifully clean, bright gold in distinct crystals and in leaf-like aggregates. An assay of this ore indicated that it contained 4.47 ounces of gold per ton.

The Loud Mine in White County produced magnificent specimens of crystallized and wire gold that were exhibited in this country and abroad.

Jones (1909) mentions a discovery of pocket gold at the Latimer Gold Mine in Wilkes County that yielded 180 troy ounces of wire and cystalline gold from 2,500 pounds of pocket material.

Several years ago interesting gold samples were found beside a spring in southeast Atlanta. The gold was in white quartz.

Outstanding specimens of native gold in quartz came from the Norrell Mine in Lumpkin County. A single pocket, at the base of what was known locally as Reservoir Hill produced approximately 700 ounces.

GEORGIA GOLD MAP

Georgia is a wonderful state for gold prospecting, gold panning, treasure hunting and rockhounding. There was a major gold rush in 1828 at Dahlonega, Georgia. Five hundred (500) Georgia gold mines and gold prospect locations are shown in 37 counties.

To request gold maps please go to REQUESTING GOLD MAPS .

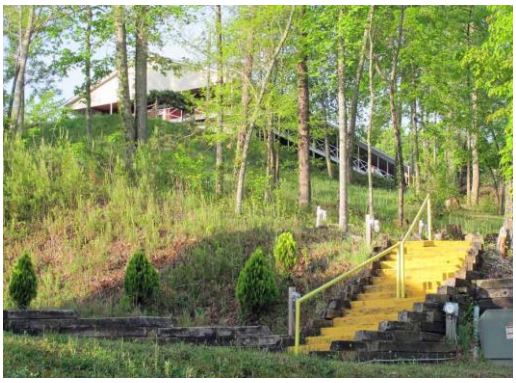
Source: http://www.goldmaps.com/east/georgia_gold_mines.htm
Reprinted with permission of Mr. Charles Overbey and H & H Engineering, Orlando, FL.

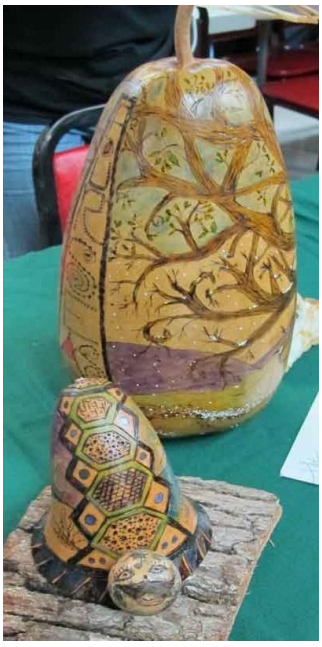
Club Meeting & Digs – April 2016

Photos by Zeny & Bruce

WH Classes and More Digs – April 2016

Photos by Pat





Kid's Corner

- ☐ Siltstone
- ☐ Silver
- ☐ Slate
- ☐ Soapstone
- ☐ Sodalite
- ☐ Spessartine
- ☐ Sphalerite
- ☐ Spinel
- ☐ Spodumene
- ☐ Staurolite
- ☐ Stilbite
- ☐ Sulfur
- ☐ Sylvite
- ☐ Talc
- ☐ Tektite
- ☐ Tiger Eye (Gold)
- ☐ Tiger Eye (Blue)
- ☐ Topaz
- ☐ Travertine
- ☐ Troctolite
- ☐ Turquoise
- ☐ Turritella
- ☐ Tuff Stone
- ☐ Ulexite
- ☐ Uraninite
- ☐ Vermiculite
- ☐ Wulfenite
- ☐ Zircon

My Wish List

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

My Mineral & Rock Collection Check List

- ☐ Actinolite
- ☐ Agate _____
- ☐ Agate _____
- ☐ Agate _____
- ☐ Albite
- ☐ Almandine
- ☐ Amazonite
- ☐ Amethyst
- ☐ Amber
- ☐ Amphibolite
- ☐ Andalusite
- ☐ Andesite
- ☐ Anorthite
- ☐ Apatite
- ☐ Aragonite
- ☐ Arkose
- ☐ Augite
- ☐ Augen Gneiss
- ☐ Azurite
- ☐ Banded Gneiss
- ☐ Barite
- ☐ Basalt
- ☐ Beryl (Emerald)
- ☐ Beryl (Aquamarine)
- ☐ Beryl (Helidor)
- ☐ Beryl (Tourmaline)
- ☐ Biotite
- ☐ Blue Lace Agate
- ☐ Blueschist
- ☐ Borax
- ☐ Breccia
- ☐ Calcite
- ☐ Carbonite
- ☐ Carnelian
- ☐ Celestite
- ☐ Cerussite
- ☐ Chabazite
- ☐ Chalcopyrite
- ☐ Chert
- ☐ Chondrite
- ☐ Chromite
- ☐ Chrysocolla
- ☐ Citrine
- ☐ Clay (Fuller's Earth)
- ☐ Clay (Varved)
- ☐ Coal (Anthracite)
- ☐ Coal (Bituminous)
- ☐ Colemanite
- ☐ Conglomerate
- ☐ Copper
- ☐ Corundum
- ☐ Dacite
- ☐ Dalmation
- ☐ Diabase
- ☐ Diamond
- ☐ Diopside
- ☐ Diorite
- ☐ Dolomite
- ☐ Eclogite
- ☐ Epidote
- ☐ Epsomite
- ☐ Feldspar
- ☐ Flint
- ☐ Fluorite

- ☐ Fossilized Limestone
- ☐ Fuschite
- ☐ Gabbro
- ☐ Galena
- ☐ Garnet (Almadine)
- ☐ Garnet (Grossular)
- ☐ Garnet (Pyrope)
- ☐ Garnet (Spessartine)
- ☐ Garnet Schist
- ☐ Geode
- ☐ Geothite
- ☐ Gold
- ☐ Goldstone
- ☐ Blue Goldstone
- ☐ Granite
- ☐ Granite Pegmatite
- ☐ Granitic Gneiss
- ☐ Granodiorite
- ☐ Graphite
- ☐ Graywacke
- ☐ Green Aventurine
- ☐ Grossular
- ☐ Gypsum
- ☐ Halite
- ☐ Hematite
- ☐ Herkimer Diamond
- ☐ Heulandite
- ☐ Hierogylphic Stone
- ☐ Hornblende
- ☐ Hornfels
- ☐ Howlite
- ☐ Ilmenite
- ☐ Iron Meteorite
- ☐ Jade (Jadeite)
- ☐ Jade (Nephrite)

JASPER FAMILY

- ☐ Bracceated Jasper
- ☐ Fancy Jasper
- ☐ Ivory Jasper
- ☐ Picture Jasper
- ☐ Red Jasper
- ☐ Yellow Jasper
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

- ☐ Kaolinite
- ☐ Kimberlite
- ☐ Kyanite
- ☐ Kyanite Schist
- ☐ Labradorite
- ☐ Lapis Lazuli
- ☐ Larvikite
- ☐ Lizardskin
- ☐ Lazurite
- ☐ Lepidolite
- ☐ Leopardskin
- ☐ Lignite
- ☐ Lizardskin
- ☐ Limestone
- ☐ Limonite
- ☐ Magnetite
- ☐ Malachite
- ☐ Marble
- ☐ Marcasite
- ☐ Margarite
- ☐ Mica (Biotite)
- ☐ Mica (Lepidolite)
- ☐ Mica (Margarite)
- ☐ Mica (Muscovite)
- ☐ Mica Schist
- ☐ Micrite
- ☐ Microline
- ☐ Migmatite
- ☐ Moonstone
- ☐ Monozite
- ☐ Moss Agate
- ☐ Natrolite
- ☐ Nepheline
- ☐ Norite
- ☐ Obsidian
- ☐ Snowflake Obsidian
- ☐ Olivine
- ☐ Opal
- ☐ Orthoclase
- ☐ Pahoehoe
- ☐ Pallasite
- ☐ Peacock Ore
- ☐ Peat
- ☐ Pegmatite Granite
- ☐ Peridot
- ☐ Peridotite
- ☐ Phonolite
- ☐ Phyllite
- ☐ Pillow Basalt
- ☐ Pisolitic
- ☐ Pitchblende
- ☐ Platinum
- ☐ Potaskey Stone
- ☐ Pumice
- ☐ Pyrite
- ☐ Pyrolusite
- ☐ Pyrope
- ☐ Pyrophyllite
- ☐ Pyroxenite
- ☐ Pyrrhotite
- ☐ Quantrum Quattro

QUARTZ FAMILY

- ☐ Blue Quartz
- ☐ Crystal Quartz
- ☐ Green Quartz
- ☐ Milky Quartz
- ☐ Peach Quartz
- ☐ Rose Quartz
- ☐ Rutilated Quartz
- ☐ Snow Quartz
- ☐ Lemon Quartz
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

- ☐ Quartzite
- ☐ Rhodochrosite
- ☐ Rhodonite
- ☐ Rhyolite
- ☐ Ruby
- ☐ Rutile
- ☐ Sandstone
- ☐ Sanidine
- ☐ Sapphire
- ☐ Schist
- ☐ Scoria
- ☐ Serpentine
- ☐ Serpentinite
- ☐ Shale
- ☐ Siderite
- ☐ Silica
- ☐ Sillimanite

Who What Where When Why How

May Birthdays

MAY 4 Joe Polakoski
MAY 8 Joe Cody
MAY 8 Laural Meints
MAY 14 Garry Shirah
MAY 31 Kimberly Patton

Random Rock Facts

Minerals have an orderly crystalline structure. This means that the atoms or ions that make up a mineral are arranged in an orderly and repetitive manner.

The vast majority of minerals are **compounds** or mixtures of elements. These mixtures are consistent.

There are about 4000 known minerals on earth. Each one is a unique substance with its own chemical formula. Most of these are very rare.

Source: http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com/what_is_a_mineral.html
Reprinted with permission from Doug Mann

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

Website: 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 10th 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: Tsavorite7@aol.com

Annual Dues

Single $15
Family $20

Officers

President – Pat LeDuc
334-806-5626

Vice President – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Secretary – Bruce Fizzell
334-577-4353

Treasurer – Diane Rodenhizer
334-447-3610

Bulletin Editor – Joan Blackwell
334-503-0308
Tsavorite7@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 – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Hospitality Chair – Vacant

Club Hostess – Vacant

Club Liaison – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Refreshments

May 22 – Potluck Refreshments

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD
Editor – N. J. Blackwell
28 Lakeview Trail, Apt. C
Daleville, AL 36322

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

Where you might hear…

Generally, a mineral is a naturally occurring solid with a crystalline structure. This is where it gets a little tricky:

Halite or table salt is a mineral. **Sugar** is a crystalline solid but comes from plants, sugar cane or sugar beets. This classifies it as an organic compound and so is not a mineral. **Coal** on the other hand also comes from plants (organic) and is generally considered a mineral.

There are also marine animals that make their shells from calcite (calcium carbonate). Calcite is a mineral but since it is secreted by animals to form shells it is inorganic. Geologists generally consider this inorganic calcite a mineral.

Source: http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com/what_is_a_mineral.html
Reprinted with permission from Doug Mann

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