

ROCKMART JASPER FIELD TRIP REPORT

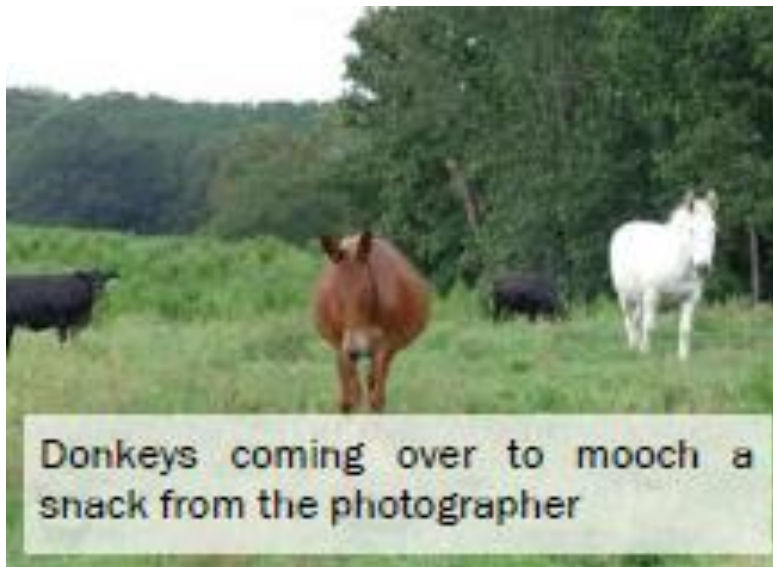
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The trip by the Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society was to a private cattle ranch near Rockmart, Georgia. We initially had a limit to the trip but as registration came in and the landowner graciously allowed us to open the registration to be unlimited we had 177 people registered for the trip from 12 different clubs. Due to the weather forecast that threatened us with thunderstorms, only 95 people arrived for the trip from 9 different clubs. Of the 95 individuals 19 were Junior Rockhounds from 4 different clubs. With so many people registered we arranged for a paramedic to be on site from Redmond Health systems in case any individual became overheated or became ill. We set up several 10' x 10' canopies at various locations on the ranch so folks could get out of the sun (though we did not have to worry about the sun that day due to the impressive cloud cover). The landowner and CCGMS had three port-a-potties placed on the property, so folks did not have to go off site for facilities. We provided bottles of water, too.

So, the day was cloudy, the temperature was very pleasant in the mid-70's, and the cool breezes were refreshing. Of the 200-acre ranch, paths were bushhogged so folks could traverse around about 150 acres looking for the chert, jasper, flint and even some of the un-silicified limestone. Most of the rocks were found along the fence rows where the rancher had piled the rocks to get them out of the fields so the cattle would not injure themselves. In a couple areas the ground had been disked to bring the rock to the surface. With the couple of rains we had prior to the field trip, the rocks were washed off, so the colors could be seen more easily to determine what rocks to inspect.

Everyone I spoke with as they were leaving expressed that they had a great time, were pleased with what they found, and that they were able to participate on the field trip. The highlight of the trip was probably the donkeys visiting each vehicle as they traversed the ranch to the parking area. Numerous folks took pictures of the calves and donkeys especially the children who attended the trip. I know personally that the donkeys thoroughly enjoyed getting petted and possibly even getting offered carrots and other treats.

Photos shared by CCGMS members John Anderson, Dennis Worthington, Jessi Hodges, Christen Knickerbocker, and Susan Hutson.





Hillside collecting near a small stream that ran across the ranch



A Junior Rockhound showing his grandparents the jasper he found

A look back at the caravan into the fields





Assortment of colored chert