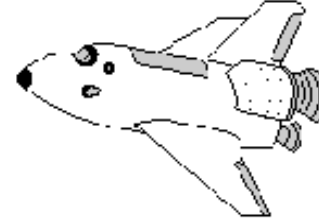
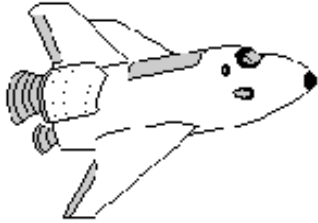


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 48 No. 1

"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"

January 2016

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Meeting Jan 26, 2016, 6:30pm



DINOSAURS



The first dinosaur bones unearthed in the 1800's helped the archaeologists realize that in the past, this Earth has been home to some really big animals. Since then they have become a source of universal fascination. The program will help you understand what they were (and weren't), when they lived (and died), and what they were like, in all their varied forms.



Happy New Year



Dues are payable now
Details on Page 9. You may use the enclosed form

Visit us at www.huntsvillegms.org/ and www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS



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Rome GA Gem & Mineral Society Spring Show

Don't miss one of the South's premier mineral shows!

The 2016 Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show March 18, 19, & 20, 2016

The Forum * 301 Tribune St * Rome, GA 30161 * (706) 291-5281

Fri-Sat 10am-6pm * Sun 11am-5pm Free Admission!

Mineral/Fossil ID, Prizes, Exhibits! Minerals, Gems, Fossils, Meteorites, Jewelry, and Crystals for Sale. Register to win this fabulous Grand Prize at the Show! WOW! More free rocks! Bring the show flyer to the show and we will give you a free mineral or fossil specimen. Download the flyer [HERE](#).

Show Information: Jose Santamaria, Show Chair * 678.488.9560 * rogams.show@gmail.com



[id-r](#)

Jewelry Activity Corner by Mindy Schell

334-790-0671 mindy.schell@yahoo.com

Sharing What We Know:

Activities will resume in **early February 2016** (the staff is very busy until then getting the new metalworking classes underway). Interested members may offer topics for projects, and are always encouraged to lead classes in pursuing those activities.

Schedules are tentative. Please reference our Facebook Page for more information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HGMS-Jewelry-Activity-Group-857234527677766/timeline/>.

Mindy Schell – Jewelry Activity Program Manager

Karin Bath – Kit Organizer Manager

Laura Bath – Tutorial/Class Master Scheduler

Jacob Hosmer - Sign-In Accountability Manager;

Leslie Malakowsky – Jewelry Librarian

The REAL Cost of Gold

Or what the jewelry industry doesn't want us to know.

Do you know what the real cost of gold is? Of course it varies day to day according to the gold market. The actual price per gram cost of gold can be figured out according to the carat weight. What we must do is know the percentage of gold per carat: 24k is pure gold, 18k is 75% pure, 14k is 58% pure, and 10k is 42% pure. The lower purity on the gold is because the gold has been mixed with other elements like silver and copper.

We need to convert the troy ounce weight to gram weight, e.g., 24k is 31.1034768 grams per troy ounce. To get the grams per ounce of anything under 24k we need to divide 31.1034768 by the percentage of purity. Therefore, the grams per ounce of 18k gold is 41.4713, 14k gold is 53.62668 and 10k gold is 74.0559 (i.e., adjusted gram weight).

So why did the amount of gold per ounce go up in the calculation? Because the amount of gold has been mixed with other metals, therefore the gram weight goes up, but the gold content is actually staying the same.

Now you take the cost of gold on any day. As I write this today, it is \$674.20 per troy ounce. Divide today's gold price by the adjusted gram weight calculated above. Today, 18k gold is worth \$16.25 per gram, 14k gold is worth \$12.57 per gram and 10k gold is worth \$9.10 per gram.

Let's say I want to buy a 10k gold bracelet that weighs 1 gram. I always take into account the manufacturing cost. I usually double the amount to get that – that's just my estimate, I can't base it on anything in particular. But let's use that $[(\$9.10 \times 1 \text{ gram}) \times 2]$. The manufacturer would sell it to the jewelry store for \$18.20. But the store does triple key pricing. That's where they take the price they paid and multiply it by 3. So, the cost to the consumer should be \$54.60.

Now let's say I have a bunch of broken gold jewelry. I've seen the ads for folks buying gold jewelry and I want to check it out. When I check on what they'll pay, I find out they will pay \$15.24 for 18k, 11.79 for 14k, and 8.53 for 10k. That's less than the prices above because they deduct 6.2% per gram on every carat weight. Then they have lots of extra fees, like \$75.00 treatment charges, and a minimum deduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ troy ounce per order. Hey, they gotta make a profit!

I have an Excel spread sheet I use just about every day to compare the prices. When I was buying gold jewelry I used the formulas above. I tried to never purchase anything over double the actual cost per gram. Now that gold has gone up, I'm not buying anymore. And I'm saving the broken stuff to melt down in my jewelry class.

Source: Monongahela Rockhounds News, Vol. 40, Issue 5, via Debbie Thompson, The Pineywoods Rooter, July 2012



© Can Stock Photo - csp7929638

Welcome New HGMS Members

Jerry & Cynthia McDaniel

John & Cathy Scarvey

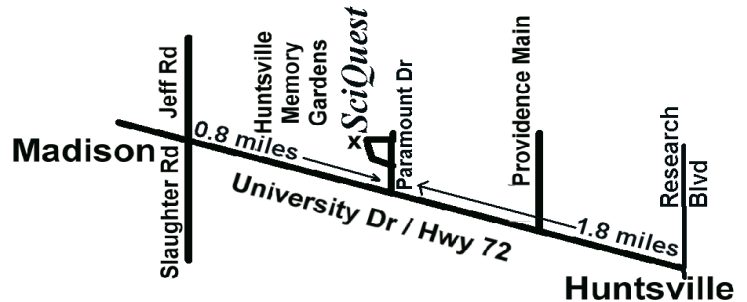


Pebble Pups - Thursday January 21st
6:00 to 7:00pm - SciQuest Shooting Stars



Our Pebble Pups tenure at SciQuest has been confirmed for 2016, so our first program in the new year will be about Meteorites, also known as "Shooting Stars". Outer space is mostly empty, but not quite. There is a lot of junk still flying around from when the Solar System was created. Most is from what was probably the destruction of an early extra planet near Jupiter, called the Asteroid Belt. When one of these rocks, or comets, or whatever, comes along and hits a planet or moon at very high speed, sometimes chunks of the target body get blasted into space. Bits of our Moon and Mars have been identified here on Earth. When these arrive in our Earth's atmosphere, they catch fire from the friction with the air, leaving a streak of light, visible from the ground even when the intruder was only the size of a grain of sand. Some pieces are large enough that they don't burn completely, and we call these rocks meteors. Very large ones make big holes in the ground, and the biggest of all created our Moon. All of this will be explained in simple enough terms, with some examples for you to touch.

Please RSVP to
 Brian by **Jan 18th** ,
256-746-0641



bburgess771@gmail.com,
Feb 18 - How Crystals and Minerals Form;

Kids ages 8 to 13 are invited to join this Junior Rock Enthusiasts Group. All participating families must have Family-Member status (the \$20 rate) in the HGMS and a family member must be present during the meeting. SciQuest has generously agreed to leave all of their activities up and running for accompanying older & younger siblings. No entrance fee for attendees. Many thanks to SciQuest.



Key Tag now required for entry to the Madison County Senior Center

Each person entering the Senior Center for meetings, HGMS activities, or other purposes within the building, at any time of day, will need a bar-coded key card, to be recorded at the door on the reader. These may be obtained from an HGMS officer at a regular HGMS meeting, at one of the Tuesday or Wednesday evening lapidary sessions, or during the day from Becky Rollston, Senior Center Program Director. Once your tag is recorded by the Center, if you forget to bring it, you may enter your phone number for access. Thanks.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
 DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee -
 Copyright © All rights reserved.



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

The DMC field trips for February is scheduled for Sat, Feb 6, at Ruck's Pit, The Fort Drum Crystal Mine, 28329 NE 55th Ave., Okeechobee, FL, to collect Calcite Crystals, Shells, Fossils, etc . This site is over 715 miles from Huntsville AL. If anyone is interested in making such a trip, contact the editor for details. I am disappointed that these last two trips are so far away, but future ones will be nearer, and our sponsored trip in April is to the Hogg Mine.

Field Trip Follies from Brian

Hello everyone, since you may not know who I am, I am the one that used to be behind the podium Tuesday nights last year at the meetings. Mike Harrison (New Prez!), Bill Friday, and I discussed it and decided that I would take over the Chair for Field Trips and ease some of Bill's load (Membership, Editor, Lapidary, etc.). Bill will be the Field Trip Vice-Chair, so we can keep his vast network of rockhounds available to draw from. I am going to have a sign-up sheet for the field trips as I have firm dates and information. Now that we have gotten the introductions out of the way, let's get into where we can find rocks.



Twenty Mile Creek, Booneville MS

A field trip that is a must for the club is the DMC dig we are sponsoring. It will be at the Hogg Mine April 16th, 2016. We need a strong representation from the club. Those that have been to a dig at the Hogg know that we have a good time. Chris Painter is a gracious host and is available to answer any questions you have. He will even put you right where to dig, ask Charlie Willhoite. Details upcoming.

Coon Creek Science Center has piqued the interest of several of our fossil finding fiends. Currently Coon Creek is closed for the winter and will reopen in March 2016. We have to schedule our field trip in advance. The least number of patrons for a dig is 15 and the maximum is 40. They have two types of digs. One is for adults, lasts four hours, and costs \$15 per person. It includes a short program and history of the site, a hike to "the field" to sift through tailings from the creek, and then a hike to the creek to dig for fossils. The youngest for this dig is 5th graders. The kids' dig is two hours and includes the same as the adult dig (on a kid level) except no digging at the creek (due to safety). The cost for this is \$10 per person (or little person). I will have a sign-up sheet at the January meeting for those interested. I will have to ask that you prepay. If we schedule either, we will be responsible for at least a 15 person cost.

Bill and I were led to this opportunity by the December issue of the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society's Newsletter. The site is Richardson Landing, north of Memphis near Millington. This is a free dig, but we have to wait for the Mississippi River to be low enough for access. That time frame is late May to early July. I am in contact with W. C. McDaniel a member of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society who will let us know when the river is low enough for access.

I am also working with Charles Carter (Georgia Mineral Society) and Michael Streeter (McRocks) on possible sites in Franklin, North Carolina. I have a lead from Charles on a Ruby mine and shatter cones at Wells Creek Impact Crater and Michael has suggested Buck Creek/Corundum Knob area near Hayesville, NC. More on this later as I get more details.

If you have suggestions for field trips please let Bill or me know.

January Birthdays:

3 Steve Tesh	15 Shannon Brantley
4 Wayne Hall	17 Richard Poff
6 Cynthia McDaniel	18 Neda Hastings
8 Christine Tate	20 Fritzie Young
8 Dorthea Chism	21 David Bath
9 Brian Burgess	22 Betty Zoller
11 Steven Tate	23 David Hosmer
12 Delora Ward	23 Lowell Zoller
13 Pat McKinney	23 Tori Moore
14 Irv Brock	27 Mike Wesley
14 Troy Haggerty	30 Clara Hayes
	Wes Wells

Anniversaries

None reported yet

February Birthdays

1 Briley Poff	7 Lester Bartel
2 Julie Eve	10 Tony Smith
2 Michael Cape	11 Karin Bath
5 Alli Curran	16 Porche' McDonald
6 Mike Goode	17 Dave Kalange
6 Savanna Emerson	17 Don Cooper
7 Antonio Bedard	18 Wayne Falkenberg
	19 Ethan Hunneycutt

Anniversaries

- 2 Dorthea Chism
- 12 Don & Marie Aldridge
- 19 Steven & Christine Tate
- 20 Ben Hunneycutt & Brandy Hyatt

William Holland Lapidary School <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/classschedule.php>

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society offers two partial scholarships for members to attend one of the two premier art schools in the Southeastern United States—William Holland at Young Harris GA and Wildacres at Little Switzerland NC. Two additional names will be drawn for first and second alternates. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please indicate this prior to the February 24th HGMS meeting to Bill Friday 256-527-8227 / bill.Friday@earthlink.net or Mike Harrison 256-797-2534 / wm.harrison.123@gmail.com

January 2016 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule Lapidary, Silver Jewelry and Wood Carving

To use lapidary equipment, you must be certified unless a licensed instructor, is present - currently: B. Friday, J. Treadway, Chris Kalange

Monday	7:30am- 9:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+
	9:00am- Noon	Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon -4:30pm	Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+
Tuesday	7:30am-9:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+
	9:00am—Noon	Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon -3:00 pm	Silver Jewelry- Terry Clarke, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	3:00pm—4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+
Wednesday	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary & Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+
	7:30am -4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+
Thursday	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary & Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+
	9:00am-11:30am	Silver Jewelry- Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon-3:00pm	Wood Carving - Copeland, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	3:00pm-4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary certified HGMS 60+
Friday	6:00pm—9:00pm	Metal Smithing Limited Classes— HGMS 18+
	7:30am - 12:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+

2016 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Mike Harrison 256-797-2534

wm.harrison.123@gmail.com

Vice President—Mindy Schell 334-790-0671

mindy.schell@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday, 256-527-8227

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Directors at Large: Chris Kalange—ckalange@comcast.net

Bruce Kowalczyk—256-424-2197 arkowalczyk@aol.com

Brian Burgess, Ex Officio - bburgess771@gmail.com 256-746-0641

Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite - 256-340-3448—cdwillhoite@yahoo.com

2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8772

bill.friday@earthlink.net

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

Scrapbook: Dianna O'Dell, 256-828-1813

Librarian: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479

Club Publicity: Jennifer Pinkley 931-233-0420

Education & Craftsmanship:

Bill Sweetman, 256-539-8503

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256)325-1672 caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg—falkenbergwp@comcast.net

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627

ckalange@comcast.net

Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 -

Soroczak@yahoo.com

Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095.

Show Volunteer Chair: Lori Willhoite 256-340-3448

Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803

Show Publicity Chair: Tony Smith, 256-852-3210

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY: The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization for people interested in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and related lapidary arts. Its primary purpose is the education of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs, shows, lectures to school children and organizations, and exchange of rocks, minerals and artifacts.

DUES: Annual dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org

MEETING PLACE: Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL at 6:30pm.

DATE: Fourth Tuesday of each month except for June picnic/rock swap, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

Federation Liaison:

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603, Attn: Charlie Willhoite

This Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies , the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Dixie Mineral Council

**Federation Newsletters:**

SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm

DMC: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm



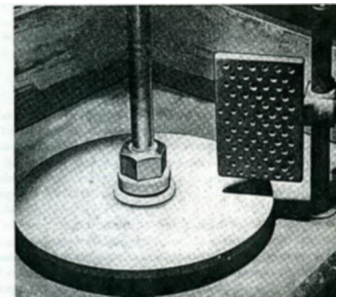


New Activities for 2016.



The new **metalworking** classes for HGMS members have begun on Thursday evenings in the lapidary lab. Deb Neis and Shelly Curran have trained Mindy Schell and Karin Bath as instructors, and all four instructors have started the first class. An extensive set of new equipment and stocks of materials & supplies has arrived, with ten student kits assembled for checkout during classes. A new storage space has been created in the lapidary lab to keep it all secure and handy. Name slips for members who have expressed interest in taking classes were drawn at random to select the first six students, plus three alternates, and these met last week for the first lesson. Alternates who do not get into this class will be the first ones offered places in the next class, with additional names and three alternates drawn to make up each future class. All current names on the list remain eligible, and will be given priority for the next drawings, once these first classes have graduated. New names for inclusion in future classes will continue to be accepted as space becomes available.

The new **faceting** classes are not as far along in being organized as the metal smithing, but will be soon. Charlie Willhoite will be the primary teacher, and other instructors will be identified and/or trained. Two faceting machines, of different designs but similar precision are currently owned by the HGMS. Materials and tool lists will be developed and obtained, and classes will be organized. Stay tuned for details soon.



Tear off below and return to the Membership Chairman

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

It is time again to collect annual membership dues. They are calculated as follows:

Members who joined during or since the 2015 Fall Show are considered paid through 2016. If you have questions you may contact **Bill Friday, Membership Chairman**. If you have not already renewed, please fill in your name and any changes to your information below and return with your check

Thanks for your response. Make checks to the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, and mail to Mail to Bill Friday, 2508 Excalibur Dr, Huntsville AL 35803, bill.Friday@earthlink.net, 256-527-8227

Individual Member \$15.00 - Family Membership \$20.00

Member Name: _____ Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Check here if you want only an email newsletter _____

Additional Family Member Names include birthdates and anniversaries if you wish them published:

Amount Included: \$ _____

2016 CALENDAR

- 26 Jan '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 23 Feb '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 22 Mar '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 23 Apr '16 - Annual Fundraiser Auction - **Saturday**
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL **9:00am**
- 24 May '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 11 Jun '16 - Annual HG&MS Picnic - **Saturday**
date is tentative, location to be determined
- 26 July '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 23 Aug '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Sep '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter— January 16, 2016

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

Bill Friday, Editor
2508 Excalibur Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803

HGMS January 2016

Dated Material
Do not Delay