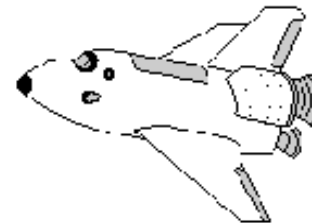
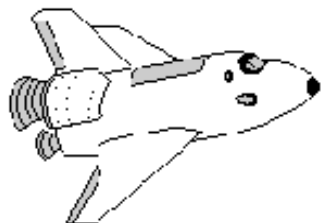


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 49 No. 5

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

May 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
March Meeting Minutes.....	2
Fundraiser Auction Report	3
Jewelry & Metalsmithing Corner.....	4
Brad's Bench Tips	5
Pebble Pups	6
Mineral of the Month.....	7
Fossil Feature	8
DMC Field Trip..	9
Apr/May Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	10
Lapidary Lab Schedule	10
2017 Officers & Committee Chairmen	11
Calendar.....,,.....	12

May Program —Gene Powers

Gene will discuss the geology and paleontology from the Eocene (30 to 60 million years ago) Tallahatta Formation of southwest Alabama, with examples of fossils and minerals from that area, particularly from Clarke and surrounding Counties.

The micaceous clay contains fine resolution molds and casts of many clam relatives.

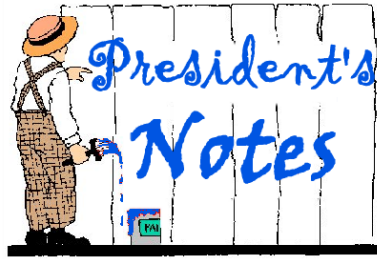
Attendees may want to bring a magnifier and/or loupe to see some of the smaller specimens—a few are tiny.



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



Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS) 2017. Reprinting Rights are granted for all material (except for minutes of the meeting and copyrighted articles) to any organization officially affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) or Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), provided credit is given to the author, the original publication, and this newsletter



The big news for the month of April was the very successful Auction on the 29th. The auction was well attended by club members and a good time was had by all, although those trying to keep up with what price went with what item and who bought it may beg to differ. They did a great job, though. Kudos to Shelley Curran and all the team for keeping it running smoothly. Special thanks to Wayne Taylor, our auctioneer, for keeping his cool and keeping the items flowing.

Let's all remember the upcoming meeting on May 23d and the picnic on Monte Sano on June 17th. That's all for now.

Mark Habercom, President

Minutes of the April 29, 2017 Auction Meeting

Today was our annual auction. Attendees previewed the auction items from 9a.m. to 10a.m. Then Shelley Curran, Auction Chair, opened the auction at 10a.m. She announced the schedule and pointed out that equipment would be auctioned after lunch.

President Mark Habercom thanked everyone for attending and expressed our appreciation for Shelley. (He also thanked Beth Durham for agreeing to be our new Recording Secretary.)

We approved the March 28, 2017 meeting minutes.

Mark announced that Shelley Curran and Kathy Bowman are the 2017 recipients of scholarships to take classes at the Wildacres Retreat Center or the William Holland Sch. of Lapidary Arts. Chris Kalange is the alternate.

Mark announced that people can take a second look at the auction items after the break.

Wayne Taylor, our auctioneer, started the bidding at 10:05a.m. The auction closed at 3:30p.m.

Submitted by Leslie Malakowsky, acting Recording Secretary.

Summer Picnic at Monte Sano State Park! Food! Rock Swap & Sale!

The HGMS Picnic is fast approaching! On Saturday, June 17, 2017, we will meet at Monte Sano State Park, 5105 Nolen Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801. Since we have reserved the large pavilion, our picnic attendees do not have to pay an entrance fee. Just tell the people at the entrance that you are going to the HGMS Picnic.

We have the pavilion all day, from 10 am until closing. If you have rocks you'd like to swap and/or sell, here's your chance! Watch out for poison ivy around the picnic area.

For the meal, HGMS provides meat, paper products and drinks. The rest is pot luck! Everybody provides a dish of their choice.

Have fun!

Caryl Nixon, Hospitality Chair

Fall Show Heads UP The show will be October 13, 14, & 15, with setup on the 12. This will be our 50th show. It has been suggested that we try and do something special for this show because it is our 50th, more drawings, more activities, etc.. If you have any ideas please let Lowell or me know so we can decide which ones might be best. The more additional things we do, the more help we will need to do them. We will talk more about this at the May meeting. We need to start planning for work session(s) at the storage unit and for the mining flume (if needed).

Please return any Show Yard Signs. These need to be updated to read 2017, and some of the wire frames need to be re-welded. Thanks.

Tony Smith tsmith@erc-incorporated.com 256-603-3095 & Lowell Zoller Lzol@comcast.net (256) 534-8803

HGMS April Auction Report

From Shelley Curran to Everyone

The Annual Fundraiser Auction went very well considering we only had about six weeks to pull it together. Many members thought it had been canceled. This was a huge effort by a core group of members. Without all their hard work the auction simply wouldn't have happened. Special thanks need to go to Mike and Myra for the catalogue. To Kathy for running the Excel program and streamlining checkout. To Chris and Marty for making sure people got their purchases. To Laura for overseeing the food. To Wayne Taylor our auctioneer. To all the people who were so generous with their time and talents. To those that signed up to volunteer and those that simply showed up Saturday morning and wanted to help. Thankyou.

I was thrilled but not surprised by the generous donations of materials and time by our members. Once again confirming what we already know. We have a super group of people who will rally together for the benefit of our club. I'm proud to be part of such a group.

The monies raised go to support and maintain the lapidary lab, the metalsmith lab and pebble pups. Also: We signed up new members. We got cash donations. Someone from the senior center staff came to support it. First time that's ever happened.

We are already planning for next year.

HGMS member Ruth Finckenor represented St. John Paul II Catholic High School at the North Alabama Regional Science Olympiad, held on March 4th at the University of Alabama Huntsville, where she won First Place in Rocks & Minerals Event. She then moved to the State Science Olympiad held at Auburn University on April 1. Ruth teamed with Daniel Sieja to win the silver medal. Ruth wishes to thank her mentors in the HGMS for teaching her so much about geology.

Thanks, from her Mom Miria



Tallahatta Formation: Stratigraphy

The Tallahatta Formation derives its name from the Tallahatta Hills in Choctaw County ([Turner and Newton, 1971a,b](#)). The formation comprises part of the [Alabama Coastal Plain](#), which is one of the major [physiographic provinces](#) of Alabama. Stratigraphically, the Tallahatta belongs to the Claiborne Group, a lower-middle Eocene succession of sedimentary rocks deposited primarily within coastal depositional environments. The Tallahatta Formation lies at the base of the [Claiborne Group](#). It disconformably overlies the Hatchetigbee Formation (Wilcox Group) and is overlain sequentially by the Lisbon Formation and the Gosport Sand Formation. The Tallahatta Formation is approximately 40 m thick in southwestern Alabama and thins to less than half that in the southeastern portion of the state ([Raymond et al., 1988](#)). According to reports from the Geological Survey of Alabama, the Tallahatta Formation is composed of "pale-green marine siliceous claystone with some beds of glauconitic sand and sandstone" ([Copeland, 1968](#)). It contains some fossiliferous intervals in the southwestern portions of the state. Fossils also occur in south central Alabama, but lower in the stratigraphy.

Tallahatta Chert, also known as Alabama Agate and Tallahatta Agate, is intimately associated with Tallahatta Sandstone, but probably formed through silicification of marly or fossiliferous limestone layers within the formation. Today, Tallahatta Chert is most commonly seen in recently cleared regions of southwestern Alabama as well in river channels. It is multicolored, varying from red, to amber, to yellow to blue. Not surprisingly, it has proven to be a popular rock for mineral collectors, especially those seeking raw materials for book ends and belt buckles.



Copyright © 2004 by The University of South Alabama
Updated: 7/2/2004
[We welcome your comments!](#)



HGMS Jewelry Crafts—Mindy Schell

Our goal is to get HGMS members together to share what we know. Some of these are considered rare and lost arts in development and design. We are quite blessed to have a handful of Experienced Artists in HGMS that are generous with their knowledge and time. Please take time to thank them for all they do.

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) - Lead Instructor - Leslie Malakowsky

We meet every Tuesday night except for HGMS Meeting nights from 6:00 -9:00 pm in the Paint Room of the Sr. Center.



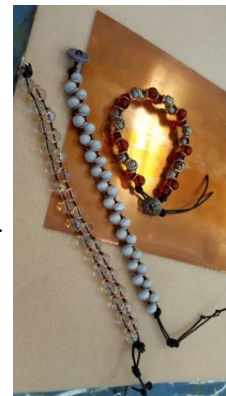
Domed Etching by Kathy Bowman



May 9th – Leather, Bead and Jumping Bracelet. We had a great time putting together these bracelets and we had a fun sized group. Thanks Leslie for putting together the kits and leading the instruction on these.

We plan on having one class a month and/or fun activity. Leslie is working on a Movie and Popcorn Night involving instructional jewelry development/design videos as well as lining up more classes. Please check out our facebook page for more information. Dates will be announced.

If a class isn't scheduled we still get together to work on individual projects and share what we know in regards to jewelry development/design skills.



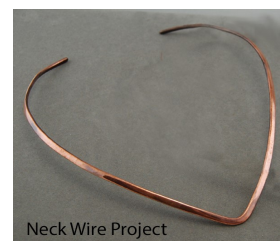
If you have an idea for a class or a project, please contact Leslie directly at 256-755-0479 or email lmalakowsky@gmail.com. Come see us! Hope to see you soon.

Metal Smithing/Silver Group - Senior Instructor - Kathy Bowman

Certified HGMS Members meet on Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Huntsville Senior Center in the Lapidary Room.

May 4 - Inlaid Copper Bracelet. This was one of the most fun classes learning new skills in development & soldering. Using the rolling mill has to be one of the most satisfying moments. Bracelets, earrings, and rings were made. Many of the students commented on how happy their projects turned out. Thank you Kathy for teaching us this fun project!

Thursday, June 1: Constructing a Neck Wire Open to everyone who is certified. We will take a single length of copper wire and shape it to fit your neck using a chasing hammer and bench blocks. Get your aggressions out with hammering! Kit cost \$2.00. The sign-up sheet for the class will be available on Thursday nights during our regular Metal Smithing classes and also the May meeting.



Neck Wire Project

Certification Classes:

The next sign up for Lottery for Metalsmithing Certification classes will be at the May HGMS meeting. In the event that more than 10 people sign up those who are not drawn for the first round will be scheduled for a 2nd class later this summer. The class dates for this round of certifications are TBD.

Volunteer Positions - Program Manager/Treasurer Mindy Schell

Metal Smithing (Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced)

Senior Instructor/Adv. Grp Leader	Kathy Bowman
Project Instructors	Shelley Curran & Opening
Safety Instructors	Mindy Schell & Opening
Webpage & Social Media Management	Deborah Neis Linda Haynes
Kit Manager	Shelley Curran*
Toolbox Sign-outs	Chris Kalange
Inventory Manager	Beth Durham
Store Manager	Opening

Rocket City Jewelers

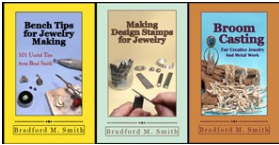
Senior Instructor/Group Leader	Leslie Malakowsky
Project Instructor	Openings
Assistant Group Leader	Opening
Kit Manager	Shelley Curran
Attendance Roster	Jake Hosmer

***Please note we are all volunteers and most of us have jobs outside of HGMS. Schedule is subject to change.**

Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Announcing Brad's latest jewelry techniques book for those who like Southwest-style stamped jewelry. Both Kindle and paperback editions are on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/2fvf58T>



CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver & gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

FILIGREE

Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

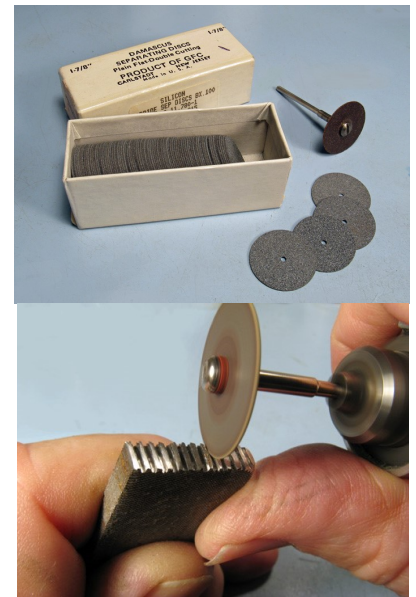
Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

Here's a great tip for cutting wire, especially heavy gauge wire. When you need really smooth edges, or a flush cut on your wire (this is especially important for soldering) use memory wire cutters. Not only will they cut through heavy gauges, they also will leave flush cuts on both sides of the cut, not flush on one side and angled on the other, like flush cutters do. Give it a try!

Editor: This tip came in an email from Wire Jewelry.com and was the Tip for May 12, 2017 by Abbi Berta.

www.wirejewelry.com/jewelry-making-blog/21273/cutting-tips-by-abbiberta/?utm_source=tips051317&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Flink&utm_campaign=MonTip&utm



Pebble Pups -

Thursday May 25, 6:00 to 7:00pm

Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria



Please RSVP to Brian, **256-746-0641**,
bburgess771@gmail.com



Fossils Up Close—Continued

There will be an array of fossils from past ages ranging from Devonian (400 Million Years ago) to Cretaceous (down to 65 Million Years ago). You get to handle and identify them, assigning them to past ages, relating to the positions of the continents at their times, and learn how they lived (some of their descendants still do). We will separate layers from a chunk of shale from the Jasper AL Steven Minkin Tracksite, containing fern leaves, which you get to keep. We will be visiting the site this Summer.

We have expanded the age range **to include kids up through age 15.**

Kids ages 8 through 15 are invited to join this Junior Rock Enthusiasts Group. All participating families must have Family-Member status (the \$20 rate, no extra fee) in the HGMS and an adult family member must be present during the meeting. **We are now meeting at the Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL. in the Cafeteria. Thanks**

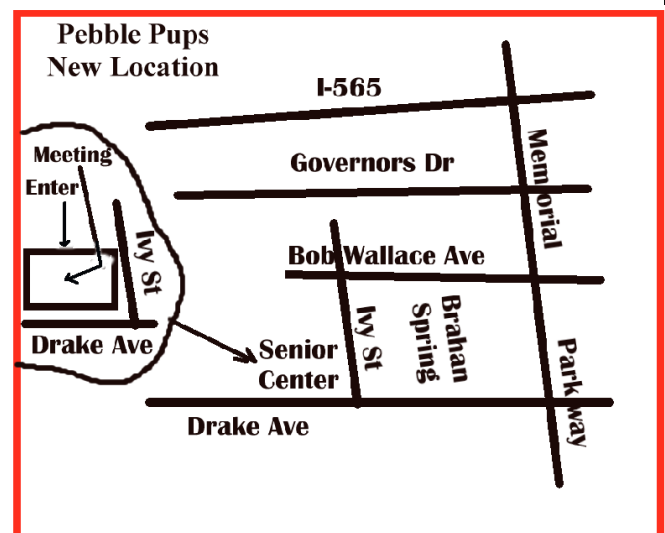
Next Meeting Schedule—

May 25	June 22	July 27
August 24	September 28	October 26
November 30, No December meeting		

Field Trips:

Jim Lacefield's Cane Creek Canyon May 27th
Twenty Mile Creek near Booneville MS July 29th
Steven Minkin Tracksite near Jasper in June

If anyone has any questions, please contact Brian or Bill



Mineral of the Month – Flower Stone

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

Flower stone (or chrysanthemum stone) consists of two-dimensional radiating crystals of minerals embedded in a gray limestone matrix. This assemblage resembles a “flower,” particularly a chrysanthemum, in which celestite and calcite crystals are the “petals” and chert is the “stamen.” Flower stone is thought to be of Permian age (approximately 250 million years old), and it may contain more than ten kinds of trace elements such as selenium, strontium, gold, silver and bismuth.



The diameters of the flowers typically range from 2 inches to 3.5 inches, but a maximum of 20 inches has been recorded. The flowers vary in shape because the petals radiate out in different directions and orientations, and the petals vary in width and length. Some petals may be longer and wider than others causing less of a chrysanthemum appearance.



Nature may expose the flowers through weathering and wave action, but the stone is frequently carved or sand blasted to expose the flowers and to form the stone into artistic shapes including cabochons. The shapes are smoothed or polished to give them a finished look for making into beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry and art pieces. Such products are very popular in Asia. And they are becoming fairly common in mineral shows in other countries and through online sources.

The classic occurrence of flower stone is along the Yung River, in Kiuyan County, Hunan Province, China. The matrix is Permian age Quixia Limestone. The flower petals are blades of white to pale bluish-gray celestine or white calcite that radiate from a small chert nodule center. In preparing specimens for sale, artisans may dye the matrix a dark color to show a nice contrast between the matrix and the flower. In Japan, specimens of flower stone consist of aragonite (or calcite pseudomorphs after aragonite) in a schalstein (slaty) matrix. (A *pseudomorph* is a mineral whose appearance remains the same after the original mineral has been replaced by another mineral.)

In British Columbia, flower stone is a gabbro porphyry of feldspar crystals that show a distinct flower pattern in a basalt matrix. (A *porphyry* is a textural term for an igneous rock that consists of large-grained crystals in a fine-grained matrix.) British Columbian flower stone is also known as “snowflake stone” and it is similar to Chinese “writing rock” and “rice rock.” The feldspar crystals are thought to have “blossomed” in an explosion creating the flower shape. Specimens of this particular type are found only on Vancouver Island and in Japan. Classic samples show flurries of white flowers on a black background. Other samples show only a few flowers on a gray background. Some of the flowers may occur in different colors and some may resemble snowflakes, pieces of rice, or Chinese letters.

References:

wikipedia.org,
mindat.org,
bcrockhound.com

Cyanobacteria by Bill Friday

The cyanobacteria have an extensive fossil record. The oldest known fossils, in fact, are cyanobacteria from [Archaean](#) rocks of western Australia, dated 3.5 billion years old. This may be somewhat surprising, since the oldest *rocks* are only a little older: 3.8 billion years old! They became abundant by the end of the Archaean. In the Proterozoic (2.5 billion years to 542 million years old), cyanobacteria formed stromatolites which were widespread on earth, and were ecologically important as the first reefs. By the close of the Proterozoic, the abundance of stromatolites decreased markedly, though cyanobacteria continued to leave a fossil record, such as *Langiella* and *Kidstoniella* known from the Lower Devonian Rhynie chert, and they are still present on earth today, some in extreme environments from Antarctic ice to the boiling waters of Yellowstone Park.

This drawing is of **columnar stromatolites** like the ones shown in the picture above. It shows internal layering and close-up of lamina structure. Surface is covered by a felt of cyanobacterial filaments that trap sediment grains that are washed across the mat surface. Abundant sediment supply produces granular laminae, low sediment supply produces layers rich in organic matter (green in drawing)

Cyanobacteria are among the easiest microfossils to recognize. Morphologies in the group have remained much the same for billions of years, and they may leave **chemical fossils** behind as well, in the form of breakdown products from pigments. Small fossilized cyanobacteria have been extracted from Precambrian rock, and studied through the use of SEM and TEM (scanning and transmission electron microscopy).

Many [Proterozoic](#) oil deposits are attributed to the activity of cyanobacteria, such as *Gloeocapsomorpha*. Small concentrically layered structures called **pisolites** are also the result of fossilized bacteria. Cyanobacteria are otherwise rarely preserved in rocks other than chert, though some possible blue-green bacteria have been recovered from shale.

Fossilized cyanobacteria may be found in local limestone layers, typically appearing as dark bands raised from the limestone matrix, some as large as several feet long and a few inches in diameter. These are composed of chert and are thus more resistant to erosion than the surrounding limestone. These were formed in the Mississippian Era around 330 million years ago.

Although simple in structure, cyanobacteria were ultimately responsible for one of the most important "global changes" that the Earth has undergone. Being photosynthetic, cyanobacteria produce oxygen as a by-product. Photosynthesis is the only major source of free oxygen gas in the atmosphere. As stromatolites became more common 2.5 billion years ago, they gradually changed the Earth's atmosphere from a carbon dioxide-rich mixture to the present-day oxygen-rich atmosphere. Before that time, the atmosphere had a very different chemistry, unsuitable for life as we know it today. This major change paved the way for the next evolutionary step, the appearance of life based on the eukaryotic cell (cell with a nucleus). At that point, after 2 billion years of being almost unchanged, something else emerged from the slime. Once the gate was opened, there was an enormous surge of new life forms.

But where did these primitive lifeforms derive in the first place? Dr. Richard Hoover, retired NASA Senior Scientist and world renown expert in the study of meteorites, examined a sample from the carbonaceous (as opposed to rocky) Orgueil meteorite from southern France, which fell to earth on May 14, 1864. Several fragments were recovered, covered with frost from the extreme cold of the depths of outer space, in spite of having just survived a fireball transit through the atmosphere. It has been dated as possibly older than our Solar System. Scanning electron microscopic examination revealed forms embedded firmly in the rock which very closely resemble living cyanobacteria. With no clear proof, this sample makes a strong case that the first cyanobacteria arrived on earth from just such a space rock, within which existed, not fossilized, but living cyanobacteria. It would have arrived to find a warm heavily mineralized ocean, conditions critical to its ability to live.

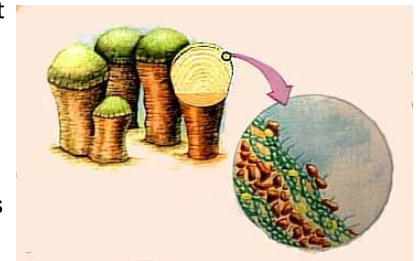
Nor is this the only meteorite examined which contained apparent fossils of cyanobacteria. The Murchison meteorite which was observed to fall in Victoria Australia in 1969 exhibited embedded forms which closely resemble living cyanobacteria. Its organic composition indicates that it experienced extensive alteration by water-rich fluids on its parent body before falling to Earth.

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/bacteria/cyanofr.html>
http://www.indiana.edu/~geol105b/images/gaia_chapter_10/stromatolites.htm

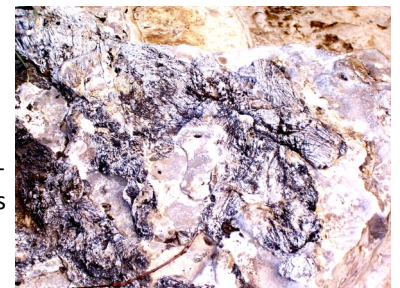
Powerpoint presentation to HGMS by Dr. Hoover, Nov 2013



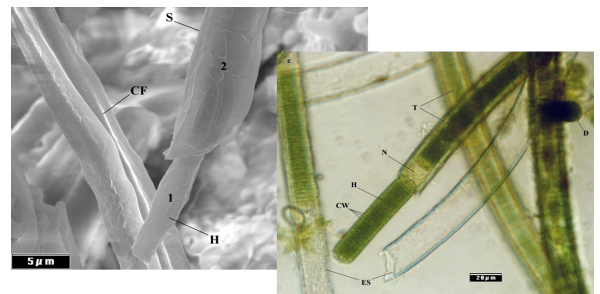
Stromatolite Turfs



columnar stromatolites



Cyanobacteria at Walls of Jericho in



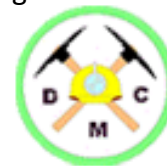
Collapsed filament with thick (5micrometer dia) sheath & Emergent Hormogonia of Lynbrya sp. Morphotype in Orgueil Meteorite

Emergent Hormogonia in Living Lynbrya wollerei in culture at NSSTC



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Florence, MS) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville (AL) Gem & Mineral Society

Hammett Gravel Pit, Redwood, Mississippi (Rescheduled) Saturday, June 10, 2017

Meet no later than 8:00 a.m. Central Time, Depart meeting site at 8:15 Central Time in caravan

Collect approximately 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE LIMITED to 100 People - REGISTRATION REQUIRED by Tuesday, June 5

A waiting list will be established when the attendee limit is reached. Those planning to attend this trip must register with the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society registration contact Rosina Echols: 601-825-5752 (landline) or fieldtrips@missgems.org. Email registration preferred. Please reference DMC Hammett Trip in the subject line; provide your club affiliation and a contact phone number. Those who register via email will receive a confirmation reply. If your plans change, please let us know.

TRIP: This is an active gravel pit producing sand and gravel for industries. The site has igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. The hunt site includes "oversize" rocks culled from commercial gravel. Citronelle gravel is mined from a layer 40 feet below Ice Age loess soil. The abundance of agate, coral and other fossils made this site a favorite last year. Expect to find geodes, chunks of petrified wood and Sioux quartzite. A few unusual finds included a magnificent Petoskey stone and a piece of St. Francois Mountain rhyolite

BRING: We'll hunt around and on tall piles of gravel. Bring a bucket, bag or backpack for collecting as you climb on the gravel piles. A walking staff is helpful but not necessary. Wear close-toed shoes to protect feet. If you need ankle support, wear hiking boots. If you have allergies or require medication, please bring your medication. Expect heat and humidity. Wear lightweight, loose fitting clothing and a light-colored, wide-brimmed hat if possible. Bring snacks and plenty of water, sports drinks, and/or non-alcoholic beverages. Pack a lunch if you expect to stay until 2 p.m. Bring gloves, hat, sunglasses, bug spray, sunscreen and a chair.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: The collecting area will be limited to specific gravel piles that will be announced on site. Participants must stay off equipment, away from slopes adjacent to ponds, out of ponds and away from loess walls. Footing on the gravel piles can be tricky. People who have stability issues should stay at the bottom of the gravel piles. It will still be good hunting. This is a remote area and there will be little or no cell phone reception.

EXPECT TEMPERATURES IN THE MID TO HIGH 90'S: High humidity can make it more uncomfortable and increase the chance of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

CHILDREN: Children are allowed - minimum age 8 years. Adult supervision is required at all times.

PETS: No pets are allowed.

FACILITIES: No stores or facilities are close to the collecting site. A portable toilet will be on the site. At the meeting place before the convoy goes to the site, there will be drinks, snacks, some prepared breakfast/lunch food items, and restrooms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The meeting place is nearly midway between Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. Vicksburg is a historical area with casinos, hotels, and restaurants (I-20 Exits 1 to 5). If you would prefer to stay in the Jackson area, there are a variety of hotels and restaurants available at I-20 Exit 48 (Pearl) or I-20 Exit 36 (Clinton). Clinton will be the closest to meeting place. Meeting location and directions will be provided after registration to those on the attendee list.

IN THE EVENT OF TRIP CANCELLATION: All who have registered will be notified by email or, if the registrant has no email, by telephone.

Registration Contact: Rosina Echols — 601-825-5752 or fieldtrips@missgems.org

Trip Leader: David Kraft – 601-613-7360 or david@truckservicesms.com

May Birthdays

2 Elizabeth Lewis	19 Pamela Sparks
2 Jackie Spencer	19 Ed Watts
4 Rebecca Eve	20 Gloria Valentine
5 Myra Soroczak	22 Mike Chivers
9 Laura Bath	23 Brandy Hyatt
10 Nicholas Springer	26 Trudie Murphy
11 Sydney Kalange	26 Hunter Springer
11 Walter Cowart	27 Terry Burcham
13 Laurie Cantrell	27 Chris Kalange
14 Joe Bonin	27 Thomas Peters
16 Emily Lear	29 Damia Falconbury
16 Mike Curran	29 Ruth Finckenor
17 Jeff Finckenor	30 Jim Treadway
18 Teresina Barger	31 Raymond Tanner

Anniversaries

1 Gloria Valentin	18 Mike & Anne Wesley
6 John & Julie McCullough	20 Jim & Kelly Straub
13 Mark Robinson	28 James Raines & Susan Horway
17 Gerdy & David Wyatt	29 David & Diana O'Dell

June Birthdays

1 Bryce Bills	18 Greg Somsel
3 James Honey	19 Linda Sue Reed
4 Khezekiah Bellamy	22 Edward Hunneycutt
4 Elizabeth Kowalczyk	23 Chris Brantley
4 Tim Crumpton	23 Jonathan Kowalczyk
5 Emma Allen	24 Tonya Sitko
5 Jeffrey Wagner	25 Caryl Jean Nixon
7 Nancy Hosmer	26 David O'Dell
9 Austin Gulliver	26 Roger Broussard
12 Julia Priest	27 Dianna O'Dell
15 Matthew Kowalczyk	28 Lori Willhoite
15 Al Moebes	

Anniversaries

5 David & Karen Bath	13 John & Ivey Cook
7 Bill Sweetman	19 Michael & Sheila Cape
8 Charlie & Lori Willhoite	21 Lawrence & Diana Nelms
9 Jimi & Tonya Sitko	23 Tom & Alicia Detwiler
12 Wayne & Polly Falkenberg	29 Caryl & David Nixon

May 2017 - 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, & C. 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 & Open Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+
	7:30am-4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary & Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+
Thursday	7:30am-9:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+
	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 & Jewelry Classes— HGMS 18+
	7:30am-12:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+

2017 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Mark Habercom 256-340-8604

mhabercom@energize.net

Vice President— Vacant

Recording Secretary: Beth Durham

leabethdurham@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday, 256-527-8227

bill.friday@earthlink.netDirectors at Large: Chris Kalange—ckalange@comcast.netBruce Kowalczyk—256-424-2197 arkowalczyk@aol.comMindy Schell, Ex Officio - mindy.schell@yahoo.com 334-790-0671Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite - 256-340-3448—cdwillhoite@yahoo.com

2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

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: open

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641

bburgess771@gmail.com

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

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.

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Volunteer Chair: Joe Bonin, 256-859-9711

sixjsoneonef@yahoo.com

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, at meetings, or the lab

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

DATE: Fourth Tuesday of each month except for April Auction, June picnic, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

Federation Liaison: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 2705 Jarvis St SW, Decatur AL 35603, Attn: Charlie Willhoite

The 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



2017 CALENDAR

- 23 May '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 17 Jun '17 - Annual HGMS Picnic— details coming
Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville AL
- 25 Jul '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 22 Aug '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 26 Sep '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 13-15 Oct '17 - Fall HGMS Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show -
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd
- 24 Oct '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 28 Nov '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 5 Dec '17 - Christmas Dinner - Details to be announced later

Deadline for Next Newsletter— June 17, 2017

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

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

HGMS May 2017

Dated Material
Do not Delay