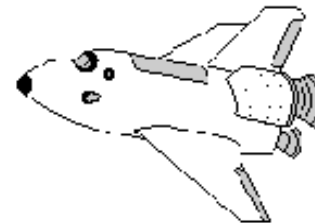
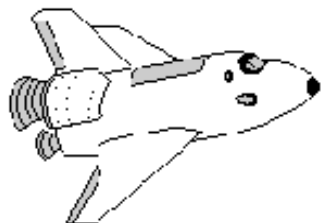


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 49 No. 11

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

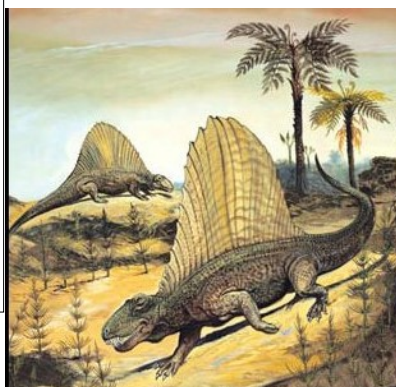
November 2017

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note.....	2
Christmas Dinner.....	2
Rocket City Jewelry .....	2
Minutes of the Oct Mtg.....	3
New Members .....	3
Metalsmithing Corner.....	4
Pebble Pups .....	5
Brad's Bench Tips .....	5
Fossil Feature .....	6
Mineral of the Month .....	7
Area Shows .....	8
DMC Field Trips.....	9
Nov / Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	10
Lapidary Lab Schedule .....	10
2017 Officers & Committee Chairmen .....	11

## November Program

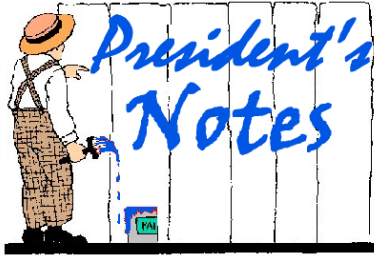
Over the last few billion years, Alabama, along with the surrounding regions, has been a lively place, drifting from the southern hemisphere across the equator and now resting in the northern hemisphere, with mountains and volcanoes rising and eroding, collisions and breakups with other continents, rivers forming and disappearing, and oceans washing over and then receding. All of this activity has left tracks which can be interpreted to unwind the sequence of events. Lowell Zoller will present a timeline of how our beautiful state has become what we see today.



Visit us at [www.huntsvillegms.org/](http://www.huntsvillegms.org/) and [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS](https://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



## President's Message

The Holiday season is upon us, and with it some festivities and some schedule changes.

The HGMS Christmas Dinner, which also serves as the December meeting, will be held at the Olive Garden on University Drive on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. We're anticipating a good crowd and good fellowship.

Please plan on joining us.

The November club meeting will be on the regular fourth Tuesday, on November 28. It's a little unusual because it is after Thanksgiving. The lapidary lab schedule will be a little different, due to the holidays. The plan is for it to be open on December 12, December 19, and January 9 before going to the regular schedule. It will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

Happy Holidays to everyone! Mark Habercom

### Christmas Dinner Plan - Caryl Nixon, Hospitality Chairman

Who: HGMS Members and family

What: 2017 Holiday party

When: Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Olive Garden, 3730 University Drive, Huntsville, 35816

How: Order off the menu and pay for your meals

RSVP: Caryl Nixon, Hospitality Chair, (256) 426-5061

[caryl.nixon@outlook.com](mailto:caryl.nixon@outlook.com)

I need to know who plans to go so that I can confirm the reservation.

Hope to see you there!



### Rocket City Jewelers Leslie Malakowsky

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we made a copper bracelet with a jasper focal bead. The idea behind the project was to gain more experience working with wire, and to learn how to incorporate a stone bead. This was a challenging project and everyone came through with flying colors!

Thank you everyone who participated in RCJ this year! I appreciate your support, and I hope you enjoyed the experience. You guys are awesome! There are many more fun and interesting projects in store, so please stay tuned!

If you love making jewelry and you want to get in touch with your creative side, please consider joining the RCJ. All skill levels are welcome! We meet every Wednesday from 6-9p.m. in the Paint Room at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center even if there is no formal class. One of our core goals is to work (and play) together and share what we know. You are always welcome to attend.

I'm now taking reservations for our final class of the year - a decorative star-shaped ornament! Kits will be available beginning Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me at 256-755-0479 to reserve your space.

The end-of-the-year "show and tell" and Christmas party is Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your beautiful creations and a holiday snack to share. There will be door prizes! And I promise I won't make you stand up in front of everyone and give a speech!

Happy holidays!

Leslie

## Minutes of 24 October 2017 HGMS Meeting

President Mark Habercom opened the meeting at 6:30 and went over a few things before the show report. 38 Members and guests attended the meeting, with 6 of them being new members. Minutes from August 2017 were accepted by voice vote.

**October Show Report** - Chairman Tony Smith, Vendor Chairman Lowell Zoller, officers and coordinators reported on the overall show and their areas of focus. Advertising and word of mouth helped get show news out to people. Social media and word of mouth reached the largest audience. TV and radio reached too. The show couldn't happen without volunteers helping set up, run some display booths, and tearing down and putting things away. Please turn in any yard sale signs that are still out. The time to start planning for next year's show is now.

Mark and Bill talked about the ATM that was at the show. It was a bad location even though it gave privacy. People had to hunt for it if they even knew one was there. In the future the owner should set up near the information booth.

Bill Friday gave out a lot of Pebble Pups information during the show. The big dinosaur was a big draw.

Caryl Nixon, Hospitality Chairman, reported the meal for the Show vendors was appreciated. It's uncommon at most other shows. Also thank you to all who provided food and snacks and set-up and cleanup. The food trucks fell through twice now and aren't getting a third chance. Looking into other options as well.

**Pebble Pups** – Brian Burgess reported on things Pebble Pups have done this year and that they're starting to plan the field trips for next year. He is talking with a home school group in Gurley about things the pups do that can help them. Bill Friday suggested Pebble Pups expand to age groups 8 thru 12 and 13 thru 17.

**Hospitality** - For the Christmas Dinner, Carol Nixon talked with Rosie's Mexican Cantina on highway 72 as well as Rosie's Cantina on South Memorial Parkway. Rosie's on highway 72 has better options as far as holding a group Christmas party. She said she would look into reserving Olive Garden again but that would have to be after 1 Nov. If anyone has suggestions for other places please call or email.

**Rocket City Jewelers** – Leslie couldn't attend this meeting but reported that the meeting is "on" for 1 Nov.

**Metalsmithing** – The class on November 9<sup>th</sup> will include riveting. **Shelley Curran** reported the HGMS auction is April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Jaycee's building. You can bring donations now and they'll date the receipts for either now or after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January if you need.

**Membership** – Bill Friday is already taking membership renewals for next year with Senior Center key scan tags for any who need them.

**Lab/Equipment** – Bill Friday talked to Highland Park about the saw blades and motors bogging down. According to the owner, the mineral oil we're using is too thick and they sell a lighter oil that works better. The barrel we have has a lot in it but once it's used up we'll buy thinner oil for next time. He also asked Highland Park how to dress the saw blades so they work better. Highland Park will create and post a YouTube video so we can how see the suggested steps are supposed to be done. The donated manual saw is shot and we need to buy a replacement.

**Program chair** - Myra Soroczak of the joys and difficulties of the job of program chair and how much fun she has with it. At the start of the year she will ask for requests for presentations and/or offers of presentations to give. Everybody knows something and it's all worth sharing with the rest of the club.

Tonight's program was for members with initials Q to Z to share some favorite rocks with the rest of the club. Presentations were given by Ginny Smith, Toni Robert, Ellis Cummings, Lynn Peete, Judy Osmundson, Mike & Myra Soroczak, and Katherine Spencer.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 for Refreshments and socializing. **Submitted by Robert and Ruth Kemper**

### New Members

Jon Ashley  
Dennis & Patty Jo Adomatis  
Kathleen & Jack Albers  
Lindsey Armstrong  
Mike & Karon Baerlin  
Chris & Melody Baines  
John Burkholder  
Carl Cowart III  
Steven Crunk  
Debbie Deering

Eric Ellison  
Mary Gooch  
Margaret & Grady Harmon  
Cassey Harrell  
Jeanne & Bob Hayes  
Dawn Holliday  
Iven Holt  
Heather Huber  
Larry & Rebecca Humpal  
Kay Jones  
Susan & Andy Kula  
Gordon Maynard

Chris Thompson & Tim Mitchell  
Stuart North  
Judy & Jerry Osmundson  
Toni Robert  
Charles Holcomb & Johnene Smith  
Katherine Spencer  
Patrick Stephenson  
Mary Jean Brost Travis  
Elroy Walker  
Eric Webster  
James Yack

## Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman



Since we will have classes in December only on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> we will not be starting anything new this month. Shelley Curran will be repeating the *Etching with Ferric Chloride* class again for those who missed the fun in October (or want to take the class again.) The signup sheet for this class will be available at the November HGMS meetings and on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 pm or sign up via email to [HGMS@wildivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wildivystudio.com). We will be etching mainly copper but will also include brass sheet and will have nickel sheet for those who want to try that. Students will not be making a finished piece of jewelry in the class but will leave with several pieces of metal to use in future projects. Kit cost is \$10. If you have a rubber stamp with a pattern you would like to etch on metal bring it to the class. ***This class***



***is open to everyone in HGMS however there is a limit of 12 people. No "fire" is involved so there is no certification requirement!***

As always, on nights that we do not have an official project class scheduled anyone who is certified is invited to join us to work on your projects. Instructors are available for "one on one" instruction and help on individual projects on work session nights. Anyone who missed a particular project we have had in the past and would like to work on that project. Please notify Shelly or me and we will provide you with the kit and instructions so you can work on it during our work session nights.

**Certification Classes:** As stated in the last newsletter we are going to do certifications on a one to three person basis during our regular Thursday night work nights instead of having one large class a few times a year. If you are interested in scheduling Metalsmithing Certification please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to [HGMS@wildivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wildivystudio.com). We will contact you and set up a Thursday for you to come. We hope to get to everyone who has expressed an interest as quickly as possible. The first certification group will be on November 30<sup>th</sup> (work session) from 5:30 until 9 pm. Three people have requested certification will be contacted about attending that class. The next session should be in January if we have requests.

### **HGMS Metalsmithing Upcoming Class Schedules:**

November 14: November project - Part 2 (Riveted Pendant)

November 23: **THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS!**

November 30: Work session

December 7: December Project – Etching with Ferric Chloride

December 14: Work session – (Last class to complete those Christmas presents!)

December 21 and December 28: **CHRISTMAS BREAK – NO CLASS!**

January 4, 2018: **Classes Resume** - January Class Project – (TBD)

### **Volunteer Positions \***

Class Instructors:

Toolbox Sign-outs

Inventory Manager

Store Manager

Kit Manager

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman, Shelley Curran

Chris Kalange

**Opening**

**Opening**

Shelley Curran

Deb Neis & Linda Haynes

**\*Note: We are all volunteers so the schedule is subject to change.**



## Pebble Pups - no meetings in Nov/Dec

### Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria

### 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL

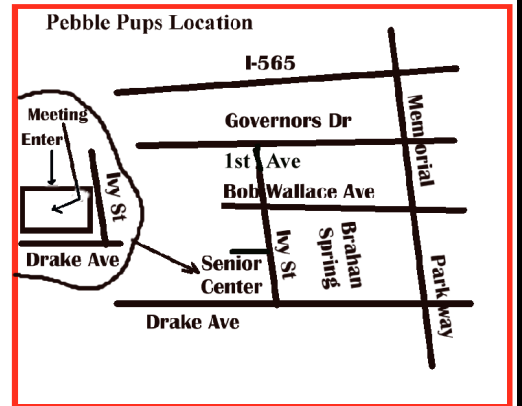
Please RSVP to Brian Burgess, **256-746-0641**,  
bburgess771@gmail.com



We are taking a break for the rest of this year. Last year only three Pups made it to the November meeting, and December is packed with Holiday activities. We will see you on January 25th.

Details to be provided in the December & January Newsletters.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Brian or Bill Friday

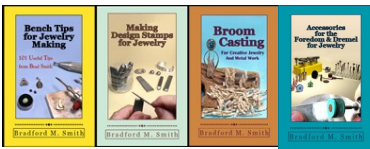


## Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://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>

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



### MANDRELS

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain maille designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577.

-----

### JUST SAY NO TO OPTIVISORS

I was having my annual vision-check and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary Strickland)



## Basilosaurus, State Fossil of Alabama - by Bill Friday

<https://www.thoughtco.com/facts-about-leviathan-giant-prehistoric-whale-1093329>

<http://www.prehistoric-wildlife.com/species/b/basilosaurus.html>



**Basilosaurus**



Leviathan, the Giant Prehistoric Whale. Leviathan May Have Tangled with the Giant Shark Megalodon

*Basilosaurus* represents one of the earliest whales although it actually descended from terrestrial mammals like *Ambulocetus*. Evidence for this can be seen in the flippers. The front flippers still have an elbow joint, something that today is only seen in seals. The back flippers, where the hind legs would have been in its ancestor, are greatly reduced and although they may have been used to get extra grip on a mate, they would eventually disappear in later whales. The size of its flippers in comparison with the massive bulk of its body means that it was almost certainly an entirely marine animal. Fifty million years ago, when the ancestors of modern whales were literally just dipping their toes into the water, this long, slender, otter-like mammal was built for an amphibious lifestyle, with webbed, padded feet and a narrow, crocodile-like snout. The one thing about *Basilosaurus* that instantly causes confusion is its name. When first studied and named by Richard Harlan, he came to the conclusion that it was most likely a marine reptile, and so named it *Basilosaurus*, or 'King lizard'. It was not until the remains were studied by Sir Richard Owen that they were confirmed as mammalian. Owen then proposed that *Basilosaurus* should be renamed *Zeuglodon* (Yoke teeth) but *Basilosaurus* was the officially registered name, so it could not be changed, and *Zeuglodon* became a synonym instead of a replacement.



**Pakicetus—early land ancestor of whales**



**Ambulocetus**

Within 10 million years of the earliest whale ancestors leaving dry land, these creatures had reached enormous size, with hollow bones and shallow feeding depth. Leviathan measured upwards of 50 feet from head to tail and weighed as much as 50 tons, about the same size as a modern Sperm Whale. This made Leviathan by far the largest predatory whale of the Miocene epoch, about 13 million years ago.

The large jaws of *Basilosaurus* housed teeth suitable for catching prey that would not have been especially small, perhaps smaller whales or large fish that while smaller than *Basilosaurus*, were still too large for most other predators to tackle. Superficially the fossils of *Basilosaurus* skulls resemble the skulls of mosasaurs that swam the oceans tens of millions of years earlier, disappearing from the fossil record at the time of the KT extinction 65 million years ago. It is partly for this reason that *Basilosaurus* was misidentified as a reptile because mosasaur remains were known, yet no one was aware that the early whales looked so similar. The skull also has a reduced area for the brain when compared to modern whales. Going on the basis that larger brained cetaceans are typically more social, *Basilosaurus* itself may have been a solitary predator.

Although not preserved, the structure of the tail vertebrae suggests support for a tail fluke as seen in modern cetaceans. The reduced limbs would probably have been of little use in actual locomotion leading to the suggestion that *Basilosaurus* used an undulating motion to propel itself in the water. This up and down motion may have also provided quick bursts of speed at prey items.

Study of the *Basilosaurus* skeleton has revealed that it was quite restricted in terms of movement. Muscle attachments along the spine imply that *Basilosaurus* had relatively weak muscles and could neither dive deep nor swim for extended periods, at least at what may have been pursuit speed for prey. The vertebrae, unlike modern whales which are solid, were hollow and likely filled with fluid. This is not an adaptation for a deep sea creature, as pressure imbalance between the fluid in the hollow vertebrae and stronger pressure of deep water outside could in theory cause spinal injury with the vertebrae being crushed if the pressure became too much. Together, these all point to an animal that only swam and hunted in waters near the surface.



*Basilosaurus* skull from Clarke Co AL

## Mineral of the Month – Carnelian

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

This month's mineral was inspired by Fall colors! Carnelian is a variety of chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline (composed of microscopic crystals) variety of quartz (formula  $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and a member of the silica group of tectosilicates. Other minerals in this group include sard, sardonyx, onyx, heliotrope, bloodstone, agate, moss agate, chrysoprase, jasper, flint and chert.

Color, translucency, toughness, the presence of impurities and banding are all good indicators of chalcedony. For example, carnelian is generally translucent red, brownish-red, orange, or amber. It is often a solid color, but it may contain lighter and darker zones, or cloudy areas within the same stone. Carnelian is tough; not brittle like crystalline quartz varieties that occur as large crystals. Carnelian and sard both contain impurities - iron compounds that cause brownish-red (carnelian) to yellowish-brown (sard) hues. Generally, carnelian is redder and sard is browner, but the name sard is often used interchangeably with carnelian. (Interestingly, a synonym of carnelian is *cornelian* that is reminiscent of *cornucopia* that signifies the abundance of harvest.)



Carnelian



Sard

Banded carnelian is classified as both carnelian and agate - carnelian agate. Carnelian that consists of red and white bands is known as carnelian onyx, which is also a synonym of sardonyx. Carnelian can sometimes be confused with jasper. Carnelian is generally translucent while jasper is always opaque. And carnelian always lets light shine through when viewed from the edges. Plus jasper usually exhibits multicolored patterns that carnelian doesn't.

Carnelian (and other varieties of chalcedony) form in low temperature/pressure environments. These minerals are abundant in volcanic rocks, in limestones, and in the upper portions of rocks that have been weathered. Some well known sources of carnelian are New Jersey and Oregon in the United States, and India, Brazil and Uruguay.

Carnelian has been used as gem material since antiquity. Today, it is still a favorite gemstone for jewelry making, although its value and significance has declined somewhat. It is cut and polished into cabochons, formed into beads for necklaces and bracelets, and carved into cameos for pendants and brooches. It is also occasionally carved into animal figures and ornamental objects.

Most carnelian on the market is naturally colored, but lighter-toned stones may be heat treated to enhance their color. Some carnelian is lightly colored agate or white chalcedony that has been dyed that popular vibrant orange color, so buyer beware.

References: *Minerals.net*, *Mineralogy for Amateurs* by John Sinkankas



**Mineralogical Record Set for Sale**

<http://www.minrec.org/> - Great Photos!!

I started my subscription with the first issue in 1970 of "The Mineralogical Record". Art Montgomery, a geology professor from Lafayette College, visited each year the Cornwall, Pa. iron mines with his class of students, and I would be their guide. Art told me I should subscribe to MR. He too wanted me to join the "Friends of Mineralogy", a new group he was helping to form. I was a mining engineer at Cornwall from 1962 to 1972. Go to "You Tube" and type in "Cornwall slides with narration" to learn more about those mines. I took the pictures and wrote the narration for that presentation. My sister's daughter put the words and pictures together and placed it on "You Tube".

I'm now age 77 and retired with my wife to Columbus, Ohio to be near our son and his family. My issues of MR have followed me to Columbus, and now I wish to dispose of them. They are in very good condition and include all issues from 1970 through 2011. If you ever hear of anyone who might be interested in this set, please let me know. My sister lives in Huntsville, Alabama, and I drive there to see her. This gets me in your "neighborhood" and would save on postage.

My set of MR's dates from 1970 through 2011. Every issue published by MR through my subscriptions is included. They are all in very good condition. This collection is worth \$2,000 to me. What is it worth to you?

Thanks for reading this. Milt Leet

Interested parties should contact  
Myra Soroczak [soroczak@yahoo.com](mailto:soroczak@yahoo.com)  
or Nancy Roberts  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. 37th Annual  
**2017 "Earth Treasures" 2017**

**Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale**

**Ag Expo Park, Franklin, TN**

4215 Long Lane • Franklin, TN 37064  
20 Minutes/Miles South of Nashville; I-65, Exit 61

**Saturday, December 9th, 2017 9 AM—6 PM**

**Sunday, December 10th, 2017 10 AM—5 PM**

Admission: Adults, \$5.00 (2-Day Pass, \$7.00); Students, 18 and under, \$1.00  
Children under 12 with adult, FREE-Scouts in uniform, FREE

**Over 30 Dealers • Classes • Speakers  
Silent Auction & Door Prizes**

Mineral & Fossil Specimens • Lapidary & Faceting Rough • Beads  
Cabochons • Gem Stones • Tools & Supplies • Crystals • Slabs • Geodes  
Demos • Stone Carvings & Native American Jewelry

MTGMS is a not-for-profit corporation under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines and proceeds go for scholarships, local schools at Donelson & Tullahoma, TN and other educational projects.

For more information on classes, speakers or location, visit:  
**[www.MTGMS.org](http://www.MTGMS.org)**

Free Parking!



Free Parking!



Bring this flyer to get \$1.00 off daily admission.

**A N N O U N C I N G**

**The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Montgomery  
Gem, Mineral  
&  
Jewelry Show**

**Dec 1, 2 & 3, 2017**

**Garrett Coliseum**

1555 Federal Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama

**Adults \$2 or  
\$3 weekend Pass  
18 and under free  
with student ID and  
paid adult**

**Free Parking  
Free Door Prizes**

**Show Times**

Friday	9:00AM ~ 6:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM ~ 6:00PM
Sunday	11:00AM ~ 5:00PM



Sponsored by: Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society  
[www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com](http://www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com)  
Come, Look, Enjoy ... Buy If You Wish!







# 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 Emerald City Rock and Gem Club (Greenwood, SC) (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

**Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm EST**  
**Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, SC**

**TRIP:** This is a very popular site that has had the spoil heaps turned over regularly this fall. In our travels around the country we've run into people from all over who love coming here. Recently people have been finding aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix. We often don't know what we've found until we get it home and clean it up!

**COLLECTING:** Quartz crystals (milky, skeletal, smoky, and some amethyst - rare), Beryl/  
Aquamarine - rare. Garnet and epidote finds have also been reported.

**BRING:** Digging tools, buckets, work gloves, and don't forget weather protection gear, water and snacks. It can be muddy, depending on the weather.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Participants can take away as much as can fit in their car. Recently, there have been some problems with people digging outside the confines of the mine area, specifically into the county road easement. Participants are asked to stay on the mine side of the log. The mounds of dirt are fairly tall, so stout shoes are recommended. A wide path to the back area of the mine has been created making that an easier walk. Hand tools only.

**FEE:** \$20 per adult 18 and up, cash only (Checks are accepted only from a club account).  
Teens and Seniors \$10. Children 12 and under \$5.

**CHILDREN:** Yes. This is a great place for children.

**PETS:** Yes. Diamond Hill Mine is pet friendly

**FACILITIES:** There are picnic tables and a porta potty, but no running water. If you want to clean your finds before taking them home, bring some water and a scrub brush. Bring food.

### DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET

**Meet at:** 50-99 Diamond Mine Rd. Antreville, Abbeville County SC **From I-85** - Take exit 19A for US-76 E/Carolina 28 E toward Anderson. Turn right onto Hwy 28 S E. Turn right on SC-284 S. Turn right on Suber and a right on Diamond Mine Road. About 40 minutes from I-85.

**GPS** 34° 16' 18" 82° 34' 37", 300 miles from Huntsville AL

**CONTACT:** Marf Shopmyer at (864) 910-5369



## November Birthdays

1 Juan Martinez	12 Mike Soroczak
2 Daniel Hessler	16 Mary Lou Allen
3 Chris Stewart	17 John McCullough
6 Allen Brantley	20 Betty Augsburg
4 Josh Hosmer	20 Anne Wickstrom
5 Joe Herman	21 Phyllis Murphy
6 Sherrie Bonin	24 Frank Curran
7 Susan Elrod	25 Cassandra Link
9 David Fikes	26 Connor Staggs
9 Jim Lee	27 Betty Olson
11 Kathryn Springer	27 Sheila Cape
12 Mary Hicks	28 Jim Springer
12 Lindsey Lewis	29 Maya Roberts

## Anniversaries

5 Terry Burcham  
 11 Lola & Ryan Flippo  
 12 Robert & Ruth Kemper  
 17 Steve & Fritzie Young  
 20 Anne Wickstrom  
 24 Don & Liz Cooper  
 John & Julie McCullough

## December Birthdays

1 George Detwiler	16 Haley Middleton
1 James Yack	16 Jason Moore
4 Florence Mims	19 Brian Allen
5 Patricia Forrest	19 Susan Kula
6 Allen Brantley	20 Mitch Bedard
6 Lynn Peete	21 Joey Catterton
7 John Ruble	21 Jake Elrod
8 Jessica Babcock	21 Linda Haynes
8 Cassey Harrell	21 Rebecca Purcell
10 Katie Lewis	22 Jersey Sitko
11 Jake Hosmer	23 David Wyatt
12 Kathy Bowman	26 Bob Kemper
12 Nancy Snyder	26 Crystal King
12 Jim Straub	27 Alicia Detwiler
13 Frederick Schuster	30 Shara Walker
14 Robert Joyce	30 Steve Young
14 Shelley Curran	31 Wendell Allen

## Anniversaries

16 Rhonda & Jim Springer  
 17 Darell & Phyllis Murphy  
 18 John & Linda Lindberg  
 28 John & Margery Ruble

### November 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, Chris Kalange, & Joe Bonin

The Lab will be open on Dec 12 & 19, closed on Dec 26, & Jan 2, re-open on Jan 9.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:30am-9:00am</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>9:00am- Noon</b>	<b>Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Noon-4:30pm</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>7:30am-9:00am</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>9:00am—Noon</b>	<b>Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>Noon -3:00 pm</b>	<b>Silver Jewelry- Terry Clarke, Instructor - Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>3:00pm-4:30 pm</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Open Lapidary &amp; Open Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+</b>
	<b>7:30am-4:30 pm</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Lapidary &amp; Jewelry Classes - certified HGMS 18+</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:30am-9:00am</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>9:00am-11:30am</b>	<b>Silver Jewelry- Ron West, Instructor - Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>Noon-3:00pm</b>	<b>Wood Carving - Copeland, Instructor - Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>
	<b>3:00pm-4:30 pm</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary -certified HGMS 60+</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5:30pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Metal Smithing &amp; Jewelry Classes— certified HGMS 18+</b>
	<b>7:30am-12:00am</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors &amp; HGMS 60+</b>

## 2017 HUNTSVILLE GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Mark Habercom 256-340-8604

[mhabercom@energize.net](mailto:mhabercom@energize.net)

Vice President— Vacant

Recording Secretary: Beth Durham

[leabethdurham@yahoo.com](mailto:leabethdurham@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

[clarag1964@gmail.com](mailto:clarag1964@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday, 256-527-8227

[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)Directors at Large: Chris Kalange—[ckalange@comcast.net](mailto:ckalange@comcast.net)Bruce Kowalczyk—256-424-2197 [arkowalczyk@aol.com](mailto:arkowalczyk@aol.com)Mindy Schell , Ex Officio - [mindy.schell@yahoo.com](mailto:mindy.schell@yahoo.com) 334-790-0671Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite - 256-340-3448—[cdwillhoite@yahoo.com](mailto:cdwillhoite@yahoo.com)

2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

## 2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:bburgess771@gmail.com)

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

[caryl.nixon@outlook.com](mailto:caryl.nixon@outlook.com)

Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg—

[falkenbergwp@comcast.net](mailto:falkenbergwp@comcast.net)

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627

[ckalange@comcast.net](mailto:ckalange@comcast.net)

Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 -

[Soroczak@yahoo.com](mailto:Soroczak@yahoo.com)

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

[tsmith@erc-incorporated.com](mailto:tsmith@erc-incorporated.com)

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

[Lzol@comcast.net](mailto:Lzol@comcast.net)

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

[sixjsonef@yahoo.com](mailto:sixjsonef@yahoo.com)

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

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

[clarag1964@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html)

**AFMS:** [www.amfed.org/news/default.htm](http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm)

**DMC:** [http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)





# 2017-18 CALENDAR

- 28 Nov '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 5 Dec '17 - Christmas Dinner - 5:30pm, 3730 Olive Garden, University Dr, Huntsville AL 35816  
GPS 34deg 44' 07" - 86deg 37' 11", 256-539-1955
- 23 Jan '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Feb '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Mar '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 21 Apr '18 - Annual Rock Auction  
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 22 May '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 16 Jun '18 - Annual HGMS Picnic—Tentative Date,  
Location to be determined
- 24 Jul '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 28 Aug '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter— November 18, 2017

## Rocket City Rocks & Gems

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

HGMS November 2017

**Dated Material**  
**Do not Delay**