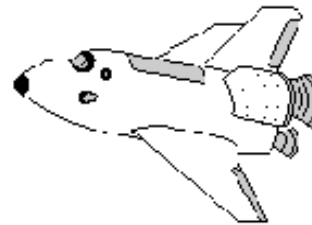
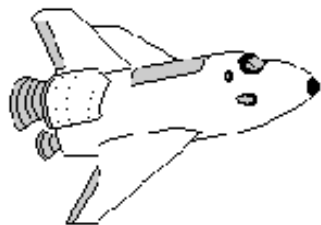


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 49 No. 12

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

December 2017

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## Next Meeting Jan 25



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



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## President's Message December 2017

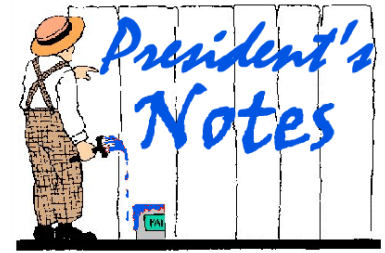
For those of you who missed it, our dinner at Olive Garden on the 5<sup>th</sup> was an enjoyable affair. Thanks to Caryl Nixon for organizing and hosting it.

I have been remiss in thanking Bill Friday and Leslie Malakowsky, who have been contributing educational articles for our bulletin. They have been giving us more in-depth information on topics we may know a little about.

Special thanks also to Lowell Zoller for the November program describing the wanderings of the landmass we now know as Alabama. We have a rough understanding of continental drift, but it is astonishing to see just how far some landmasses have moved. When we were in the Inside Passage of Alaska a few years ago, I commented to one of the naturalists on board about the odd wedge of gray rock in the otherwise solid and nearly vertical walls of granite. He said that the gray was limestone, and that it had come from Australia! We didn't discuss where Australia was when the wedge began its journey, but it was still an impressive lesson.

I hope we will have recovered from the holidays by January 23, our January meeting. There will be some important items to discuss and perhaps to vote on, so hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have a good crowd.

Oh yes: Happy holidays to all, and best wishes for a great 2018! From Mark Habercom



Sincere thanks to Mark Habercom for his service to the HGMS this past year as President. Every Vice President lives with the knowledge that the President over them may have to leave the post and the Vice becomes Pres. No stones being thrown at Mike Harrison for being moved across country by his employer—many workers live with that possibility as well. Mark took the reins and did an excellent job of steering our Society through a very successful year. He regrets not being able to continue in the office for 2018. Similarly Beth Durham was unable to continue as Secretary, and her place has been filled admirably by Bob & Ruth Kemper. Charlie Willhoite is retiring as Federation Liaison after years of service. Chris Kalange and Bruce Kowalczyk have relinquished their services as Board Members at Large. Elections will be held in January to fill these posts. The willingness of members to accept these important responsibilities is what keeps us vital and active in providing meetings with excellent programs, field trips, lapidary lab, jewelry & metal smithing, Auctions, Shows, Hospitality for meetings, Christmas Dinners, Picnics, and Pebble Pups. Participation and support from all members is an equally vital component. Wishing for continued success in 2018.



## Pebble Pups

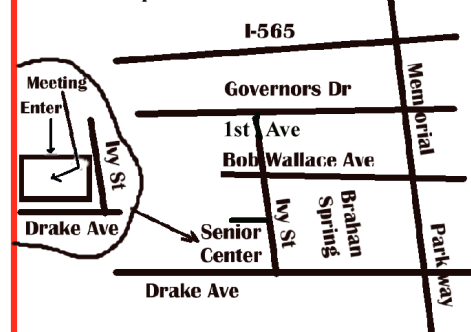
**Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria**  
**2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL**  
 Please RSVP to Brian Burgess,  
**256-746-0641, bburgess771@gmail.com**



January meeting will be Agates and Jaspers. I will do a presentation to explain the differences and similarities of both and then we will have a show and tell to look at the many examples I have collected. See you there on January 25th at 6:00 pm. We will also discuss what I have scheduled for the year, so far. I am still talking to individuals about field trips and a couple of class to be taught by other club members.

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

### Pebble Pups Location



## Elections and Budget Considerations at the January Meeting

**Acceptances for nomination** have been received for filling the positions of retiring leaderships.

Nominees are: for President- Bill Friday, Vice President- Michael Cape, Secretary - Bob & Ruth Kemper, Federation Liaison - Mark Habercom, and Board Members at Large - Gene Powers and Steve Young. Any members wishing to submit their own or other members' names for consideration are encouraged to do so. Please notify the nominees. This list will be repeated and updated as appropriate in the January Newsletter.

**The Proposed Budget for 2018** will also be published in the January Newsletter for review by members prior to voting for approval at the January meeting. Budgetary items cover all aspects of running the HGMS.

**Membership Renewal Dues become payable on January 1. Prompt submission will be much appreciated.**

## Minutes of the November 28, 2017 HGMS Meeting

President Mark Habercom opened the meeting at 6:35pm. He welcomed visitor Alisa Bishoff and new member Larry Humpal to the meeting!

Minutes from October 2017 were accepted.

**Welcome Visitors!** Welcome to HGMS!

Treasury News: No treasury report.

**Jewelry News:** *Jewelry and metalsmithing:* Kathy Bowman will have a chemical etching class Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2017; fee is \$10.00 to cover materials. You do not need to be certified for this class. 10-12 max attendees. Due to the holidays, January metal smithing class will be determined at a later date.

**Hospitality:** Caryl Nixon announced that the HGMS Christmas Dinner will be held at Olive Garden at 5:30- 9:30 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. Dress will be casual. Dinner and drinks will be purchased by each member from the menu. Location will be in the center sunken floor of the restaurant. If you wish to receive a Christmas gift at the restaurant, please bring a gift for the gift exchange. Reminder: The gift exchange is optional and you do not have to participate.

**Lapidary News:** Bill announced that the 280 grit sanders had bald spots and he is in the process of buying 8 more wheels. Bill showed the audience the damage on one of the wheels and stated that they are wearing too quickly. He reminded us that if we are using the lab, we need to be good stewards and report any abuse to the equipment. The 10 inch manual saw is worn out and Bill is going to purchase a new one. He also stated the saws are freezing up even though they are built to cut with 15wt food grade mineral oil. Once the current barrel of 15wt oil is exhausted, he will purchase the 4wt oil. Bill is also considering the purchase of a recycle Machine for the oil. A new oil recycle machine price is listed approximately \$1200. But 66% of the oil used oil can be recovered, so Bill will explore purchasing a used oil recycler sometime in Jan 2018.

**Other Shows:** Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc 37<sup>th</sup> Annual "Earth Treasures" Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 2017. Ag Expo Park, Franklin TN

Montgomery Gem & Mineral 47th Annual Show, Dec 1-3 2017. Garrett Coliseum (Dealers there have a large selection of opal.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

**Program:** Lowell Zoller gave an excellent presentation title: Restless Alabama. He discussed the geological evolution of Alabama from the tectonic plates to the Taconic Mountains and talked about the origins of Alabama's state stone, state mineral and state fossil.

Following the presentation refreshments were enjoyed by everyone!

**Submitted by Robert and Ruth Kemper**



## Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman

### HGMS Metalsmithing Holiday Class Schedule:

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

**January 4, 2018: Classes Resume - January Class Project (Etching with Ferric Chloride –Rescheduled)**

**Upcoming Project Class: Thursday, January 4, 2018**



**Shelley Curran's class Etching with Ferric Chloride class which was scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

There are still a few seats left. To register send an email [HGMS@wilddivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wilddivystudio.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 out 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@wilddivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wilddivystudio.com). We will contact you and set up a Thursday for you to come. The first certifications were in December and another group will be scheduled in January.

### Volunteer Positions \*

Class Instructors: Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

Toolbox Sign-outs: Chris Kalange

Webpage & Social Media Management: Deb Neis & Linda Haynes

Inventory Manager: **Opening**

Store Manager: **Opening**

Kit Manager: Shelley Curran

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

## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas party! We had lots of food and good fellowship. We also discussed ideas for 2018, made a bracelet, and even celebrated a birthday.

We're off Wed., December 27<sup>th</sup> for the holidays. Meetings will resume with a class on Wed., January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The project is snowflake earrings made with silver wire and "ice" crystal beads. The kit cost is \$2.00, payable that night. You'll need to bring your basic jewelry tools and your own earring findings (especially if you need hypoallergenic, non-pierced, and so on). Three sets of basic tools are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so let me know when you arrive if you need tools.

**Here's the January schedule:** January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Snowflake Earrings  
 January 10<sup>th</sup> – Clasps class, make-up night  
 January 17<sup>th</sup> – Open jewelry  
 January 24<sup>th</sup> – Wire Links class, make-up night  
 January 31<sup>st</sup> – Open jewelry

RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. If you love making jewelry, especially incorporating your favorite gemstones, please consider joining us. We meet every Wednesday from 6-9p.m. in the Paint Room (next door to the Lapidary Shop) at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, even if there is no formal class. All skill levels are welcome! One of our core goals is to share what we know. If you have a technique you'd like to learn/teach, please text/call me at 256-755-0479.

**Thanks and Merry Christmas everyone! Leslie**



## 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)



With the holidays upon us soon, we're all making our lists. If you need a present for someone who does jewelry, consider a book that teaches new skills. 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>



### MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foreman to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.



But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm wide strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

### LASER WELDING

A question came up recently about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take some heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If soldering something close to a stone is too risky, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice recently, once for a piece with little emeralds that a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.

## Mineral of the Month – Chrysoprase

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

This month's mineral was chosen because of its etymology. The word *chrysoprase* comes from the Greek χρυσός *chrysos* meaning "gold" and πράσινον *prasinon*, meaning "green". Gold was one of the gifts that the biblical Magi (the "Three Wise Men" or the "Three Kings") brought Jesus. They are traditional figures in nativity celebrations of Christmas. And green is prominent in Christmas decorations, such as trees, wreaths, garlands, and so on.



Chrysoprase is one of the gemstone varieties of chalcedony that was mentioned in last month's article about carnelian. (Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline (composed of microscopic crystals) variety of quartz (formula  $\text{SiO}_2$ .)

Chrysoprase varies from light to deep apple-green. The green color is due to tiny inclusions of nickel silicates such as willemseite or népouite (metamorphic nickel-bearing phyllosilicate minerals). Unlike many non-transparent silica minerals such as agate or jasper, chrysoprase's beautiful green color, rather than any banding or patterning, makes it desirable by both collectors and jewelers.

Darker green chrysoprase is referred to simply as *prase*. (This term is also used to describe quartz that contains tiny inclusions of chlorite, hence *prase* is, to a certain extent, more of a color descriptor than a mineral variety name.)

Interestingly, there are two other chalcedony minerals sometimes called chrysoprase. Blue-colored chalcedony, if the color is sufficiently rich, is referred to as *blue chrysoprase*, in which the blue color is due to copper rather than nickel. Blue-green chalcedony is referred to as *chrome chalcedony*, in which the color is due to chromium rather than nickel.

As with all forms of chalcedony, chrysoprase has a hardness of 6–7 on the Mohs hardness scale and an uneven, splintery or conchoidal fracture like flint. For more information on physical properties, see your favorite mineral reference.

The best known sources of chrysoprase are Arizona and California in the United States, and Western Australia, Tanzania, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Brazil. The chrysoprase mines in central Tanzania have been in constant production since 1986. The chrysoprase mine in Poland was the largest occurrence in Europe and possibly also the largest in the world.



Those with a geology background will appreciate how chrysoprase is formed. It is the result of deep weathering of nickel-rich serpentinites or other ultramafic (igneous rocks with a very low silica content) ophiolite (describes a rock that comes from a section of the Earth's oceanic crust and the underlying upper mantle that has been uplifted and exposed above sea level) rocks. In the Australian deposits, chrysoprase occurs as veins and nodules with brown goethite and other iron oxides in magnesite-rich saprolite below a cap of iron and silica.

Reference: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [mindat.org](http://mindat.org)

## The Burgess Shale

The fossils of the Burgess Shale, from about 505 million years ago, preserve an intriguing glimpse of early life on Earth. They were first discovered in 1909 by Charles D. Walcott, then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. This group of fossils takes its name from the Burgess Shale rock formation, named by Walcott after nearby Mount Burgess in the Canadian Rockies, near the town of Field in the Yoho National Park. The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History currently houses over 65,000 specimens. The museum also has a permanent exhibit of the Burgess Shale fauna near the Dinosaur Hall. Since Walcott's original discovery, fossil deposits like these have been found in such widely dispersed areas as China, Greenland, Siberia, Australia, Europe, and the USA. The Burgess Shale fossils merit special interest for several reasons:

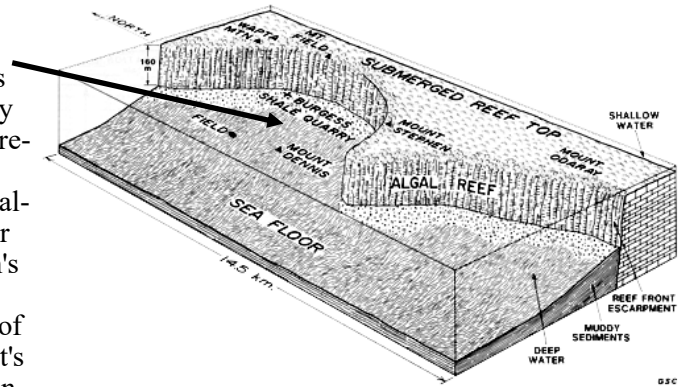
- a. They were buried in an underwater avalanche of fine silt that preserved exceptionally fine details of the structure of their soft parts. Several specimens even contain contents of their last meal, indicating whether they were predators or prey, and often whether they were mobile or sessile. It is easy to imagine how fine mud sliding down from the submerged reef top would have carried off any animals living in the shallow reef waters above. This avalanche could have caught some animals in mid-water and certainly would have buried any creatures living at its base.
- b. They represent an early snapshot of the complexity of evolving life systems. The Burgess Shale fossils as a group had already developed into a variety of sizes and shapes from the much simpler, pre-Cambrian life forms.
- c. Many of them appear to be early ancestors of higher forms; from algae to the chordates (a major group of animals that have a spinal column).

Most major [animal groups](#) appear for the first time in the fossil record some 545 million years ago on the [geological time](#) scale in a relatively short period of time known as the Cambrian Explosion. Vast expanses of cyanobacteria, present on earth for over 3 billion years, forming stromatolites in the newly opened shallow tropical seas at the breakup of Pangaea led to a significant increase in atmospheric oxygen. The theory holds that rapid diversity led to the appearance over a relatively short 5 to 10 million years of a huge number of complex, multi-celled organisms. Moreover, this burst of animal forms led to most of the major animal groups we know today, that is, every extant Phylum. It is also postulated that many forms that would rightfully deserve the rank of Phylum appeared in the Cambrian only to rapidly disappear. Natural selection is generally believed to have favored larger size, and consequently the need for hard skeletons to provide structural support, and defense against predators - hence, the Cambrian gave rise to the first shelled animals and animals with exoskeletons (e.g., the [trilobites](#)).

A fascinating aspect of the Cambrian Explosion is its apparent speed over some 10 million years. From this it is reasonable to infer that expanded genomic complexity occurred much earlier, perhaps over a billion years, prior to the morphological diversity that appeared in the Lower Cambrian. The external forms in the [fossil record](#) are what we see now, but more gradual adaptation was taking place at the molecular level. Early complex animals in the Paleozoic may have been nearly microscopic. Apparent fossil animals smaller than 0.2 mm have been found in China, 40 to 55 million years before the Cambrian. Much of the early evolution could have simply been too small to see, much less preserve. Wang et. al. (1999) for example, recently conducted phylogenetic studies of divergences among animal, plant, and fungal phyla. These researchers estimated [arthropods](#) diverged from more primitive [chordates](#) more than 900 million years ago, and Nematodes from that lineage almost 1200 million years ago. They furthermore estimated that the plant, animal, and fungus Kingdoms might have split from a common ancestor almost 1,600,000,000 years ago.

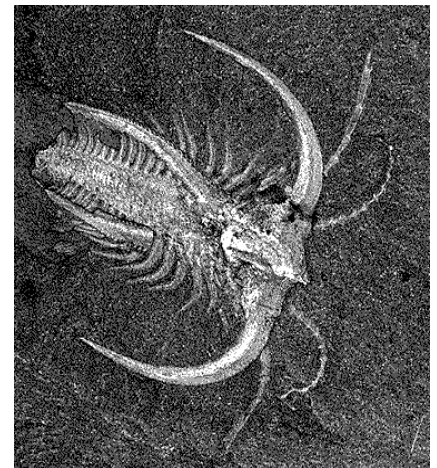
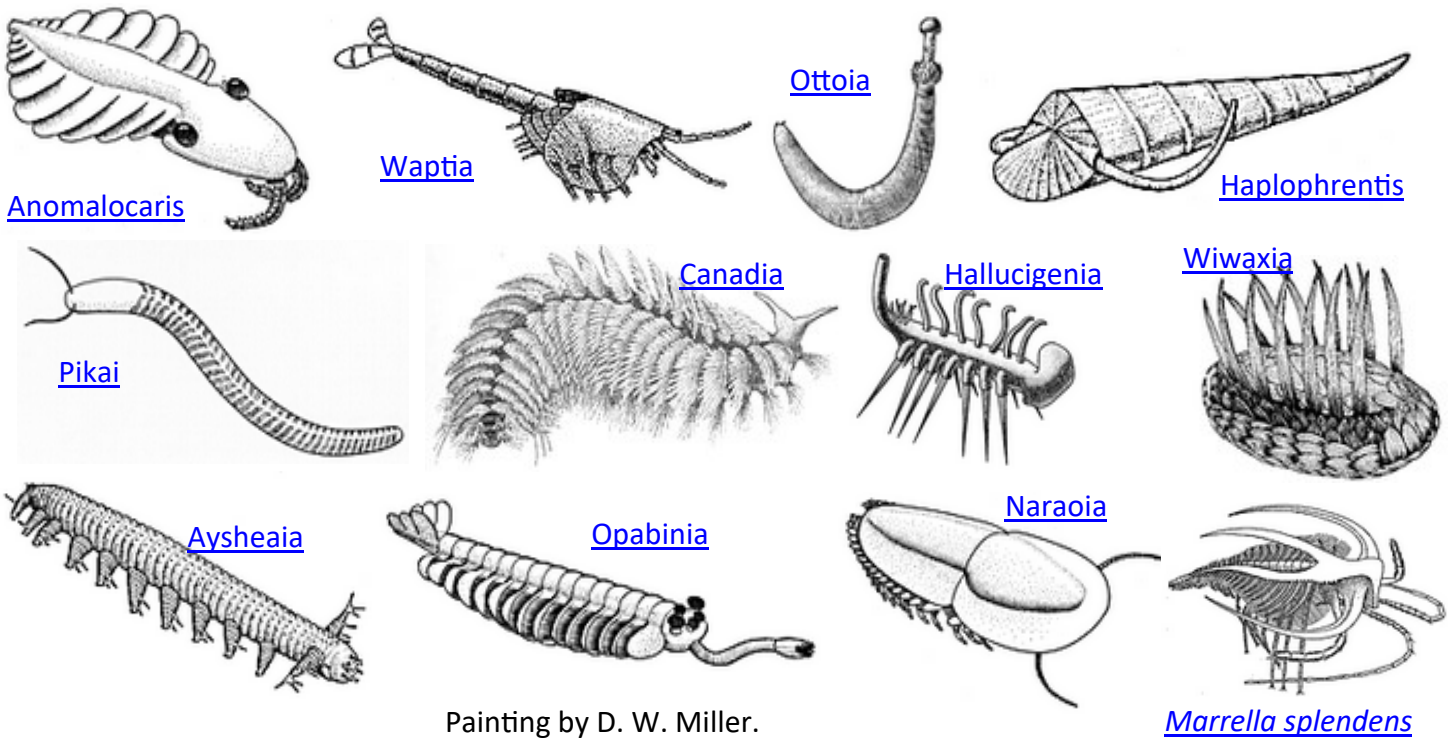
Only in recent years has science determined that developmental regulation proceeds through a sequential activation of a series of regulatory switches that, in turn, activate networks of other genes. These regulatory genes produce proteins that bind to and affect the activity of other genes. The protein products of these genes then activate still other genes, and the cascade continues building an animal cell type by cell type in a distinct order. The best studied regulatory genes are the HOX genes that are so highly conserved as to predate the appearance of animals.

Among the famous Cambrian exposures, the [Burgess Shale](#) of British Columbia, Canada and [Chengjiang Maotianshan Shales](#), in Yunnan Province, China are the best known, having a great diversity of burrowing creatures, many of which are soft-bodied, lacking an exoskeleton. Less well known is the site in Utah where similar Cambrian creatures are found. In fact, some researchers believe a larger number of species are to be found in the [Wheeler and Marjum Formations](#) of Utah than in the Burgess Shale, though the fossils of soft-bodied animals in Utah are far less abundant and limited to relatively few horizons.





From the Smithsonian website (below) Specimens Index, the hyperlinks shown below are active to access more detailed information about the creatures. There you may view photographs of fossil specimens and reconstructions of this ancient biota by scientific illustrator Larry Isham. This only provides a small sample of their notable collection.



An interesting, busy place indeed!  
Prominent at top right, the head end of

[Anomalocaris](#) is shown about to chomp on [Waptia](#). Lower right shows [Ottoia](#) ready to pounce on a meal of [Haplophrentis](#). Then, just to its left, [Pikaia](#) swims above the substrate showing its flattened tail. Just below center stage, [Opabinia](#)'s trunk-like snout has caught **Burgessochaeta**, a bristle worm relative of [Canadia](#) (not shown). There, to its left, [Hallucigenia](#) and [Wiwaxia](#) scurry along just in front of a very large **Sanctacaris**. At center left, [Aysheaia](#) dines on the sponge **Vauxia** while at lower left, **Microdicyton** nibbles away on a companion sponge. Above [Opabinia](#), two [Naraoia](#) move along leaving long tracks in the bottom sediment. The spiny, vase-like sponge to their left is **Pirania** with two attached **Nisusia**.

Sources <http://www.fossilmuseum.net/Paleobiology/CambrianExplosion.htm>

<http://paleobiology.si.edu/burgess/marrella.html>

HOX Genes - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1891803/>

Mark Habercom donated to the HGMS an excellent book describing the Burgess Shale with many excellent photos.





# 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 Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, (Tampa, FL) HOST  
An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

**Saturday, January 13, 2018**  
**Vulcan Limestone Mine 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, FL**  
**Meet no later than 8:45 AM Eastern Time**  
**Collecting 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Eastern Time**

**COLLECTING:** Echinoids (fossil sand dollars and urchins), druzy calcite crystals, and chert for cabbing. There are shark teeth but seldom found.

**BRING:** This is surface hunting, so digging tools are not necessary, other than a screw driver or butter knife to pry fossils from dirt. A rock hammer is helpful at times if you want a piece of chert. We park at the hunting site, so you can leave your lunch, drinks and cooler in the car. Sun screen might be handy. Bring drinks and snacks as we stay until 12:00 noon and/or 2:00 PM.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Sturdy closed shoes or sneakers, no sandals or open toed shoes. Jeans or long pants are preferred to protect your knees and long sleeve shirt or sun screen. If it is a bright day, a hat or ball cap would be useful.

**CHILDREN:** Yes.

**PETS:** No

**FACILITIES:** The one thing they do not have is a restroom, stop at the gas station in Brooksville before you arrive

The meeting time will be **8:45 AM** as we go into the mine in convoy at 9:00 AM. The gates are locked behind us so don't be late.

If you are unavoidably detained, call Fred Hendershot (813-892-5864).

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** Take I-75 to exit #301, Brooksville, Florida.

Go ten miles into Brooksville and follow Rt. 98. It will turn north in town and go another ten miles north. The Vulcan/Cemex signs are on the left (the Cemex sign is larger and easy to spot).

Park in the large field and sign the Vulcan liability waiver.

For Google Maps and GPS units, the address is 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Brooksville, FL.

**GPS - 28° 39' 26" , 82° 27' 24" , around 600 miles from Huntsville AL**

**CONTACT:** Fred Hendershot (813-892-5864).

## 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

## January Birthdays

3 Steve Tesh	15 Lisa Watts
4 Wayne Hall	16 Linda Riden
5 Lindsey Armstrong	16 Fritzie Young
5 Matthew Kula	17 David Bath
5 Frank Vinz	18 David Gulliver
6 Jack Albers	18 Angella Herren
6 Cynthia McDaniel	20 Betty Zoller
8 Christine Tate	20 David Hosmer
8 Dorteia Chism	21 Lowell Zoller
9 Brian Burgess	22 Mike Wesley
10 Jonathan Lear	23 Nancy Burrows
10 Steven Tate	23 Evelyn Detwiler
11 Delora Ward	23 Margaret Harmon
12 Pat McKinney	24 Clara Hayes
13 Elroy Walker	25 Marlene Allen
14 Irv Brock	25 John Hall
14 Troy Haggerty	26 Heather Huber
14 Shannon Brantley	27 Wes Wells
15 Jaxton Roberts	

## Anniversaries

9 Dawn Holliday  
 15 Jack & Kathleen Albers  
 24 Johnnie & Dennis Peterson

### December 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: Bill Friday, Joe Bonin, & Michael Cape

The Lab will be open on Dec 19,20 closed on Dec 26,27 & Jan 2,3 re-open on Jan 9,10.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:30am-9:00am</b>	<b>Open Lab: Lapidary, certified HGMS 60+</b>
	9:00am- Noon	Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
<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>
	9:00am—Noon	Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon -3:00 pm	Silver Jewelry- Terry Clarke, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	<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>
	9:00am-11:30am	Silver Jewelry- Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon-3:00pm	Wood Carving - Copeland, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	<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: Bob &amp; Ruth Kemper

[bob\\_kemper@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_kemper@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

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

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday, 256-527-8227

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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)

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[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)

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[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)





# 2018 CALENDAR

- 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
- 25 Sep '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 12-14 Oct '18 Annual Fall Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show  
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL

Deadline for Next Newsletter— January 13, 2018

## Rocket City Rocks & Gems

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

HGMS December 2017

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