

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 50 No. 3

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

March 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Notes	2
Metalsmithing Corner.....	2
Minutes of the February Meeting..	3
Auction invitation	4
Wildacres & William Holland.....	4
Rocket City Jewelers	5
Feature Article	6
Pebble Pups	7
Brad's Bench Tips	8
DMC Field Trip.....	9
Mar/Apr Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	10
Lapidary Lab Schedule	10
2018 Officers & Committee Chairmen	11
Calendar.....	12

So What Did Become of the Dinosaurs?

These fantastic beasts populated the Earth for hundreds of millions of years, and then simply disappeared. It is impossible to know exactly what happened, almost certainly the result of a concurrence of adverse conditions which made it impossible for them to continue their very successful lifestyle. This program will examine that set of circumstances, and possibly shed some light on how and why we don't live in fear of 100 foot tall monsters wandering our neighborhoods eating the tops of our trees, nor of 25 foot carnivores devouring anything they could outrun. But are they really gone?



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



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President's Notes By Bill Friday

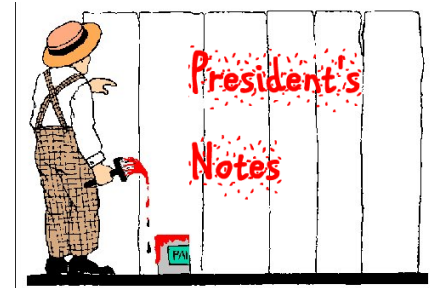
Happy St. Paddy's Day and soon to come Happy Easter. Spring has sprung, and maybe the cold has finally give up and gone back north. Flowers are blooming, and winter frost has been popping rocks out of the ground.

There has been a lot of stirring around this past month looking ahead at possible big changes, though so far none have made any progress. And as you read below, be assured that nothing will happen without the membership's approval.

After we had members at last meeting standing in the doorway with nearly all the chairs occupied, we have considered moving the meetings to the Community Center just to the north of the Senior Center. The room is much larger, well lit, with chairs and tables for our use. There is access directly to the room from the north parking lot and also from the back parking lot which also serves overflow parking for the Senior Center. There is an affordable fee for its use, being negotiated, but we not long ago were paying the Senior Center less than the current requested amount. If attendance continues to be overflow in the Merrimack Room, we will more seriously consider this move, but it would be announced well in advance in the newsletter and emails before we would actually made any move.

We have not given up on possibly moving the lapidary lab, monthly meetings, evening sessions, Pebble Pups, and even the Auction to the old Grissom High School. The area we are looking at has an outside entrance with plenty of parking near. All certified members would have access to the lab any time of day from 7:30am till 9:00 pm, with individual access by way of a key card. Outside those hours the lab access would be turned off. All of our current lab and jewelry equipment would be moved there. This would obviously require considerable effort, and some expense, to equip the lab space with water and power to support the machines. There is still some serious negotiation required before this could become even a practical matter, but it never hurts to look ahead. Nothing will be done to lessen the quality of what we currently enjoy, but we shouldn't allow current inconveniences limit our ability to serve our members in the best way possible. Stay tuned for developments, should any actually occur.

Bill Friday, President



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman

Upcoming Project Class: Thursday, April 5, "Exploring Hollow Forms"

You must be certified to enroll in this class since it does involve soldering. Shelly Curran will be exploring various hollow forms. You can choose to make a box, beads (small lentil beads or stacked beads), or the pendant form with beads.

The sign up sheet for this class will be available at the March HGMS meeting and during the Thursday classes. You also may sign up by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com.



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 any special tools so you can work on it during our work session nights. **Please let us know in advance if the project you want to work requires special tools or equipment we bring from home so we can be sure to have them available.**

Certification Classes: We plan to continue 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, & phone number) to HGMS@wildivystudio.com. We will contact you and set up a Thursday for you to come. There will be no certifications in April due to preparation for the Auctions. Those who sign up will be notified when the next class is scheduled.

Volunteer Positions

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

Class Instructors:	Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran		
Toolbox Sign-outs	Chris Kalange	Store Manager	Opening
Kit Manager	Shelley Curran	Inventory Manager	Opening

Minutes of the HGMS February Meeting

Bill Friday brought the meeting to order at 6:35.

New Member: Cassey Harrell has joined HGMS.

Minutes: The minutes from that January meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Dues: Bill Friday reminded everyone that the dues for this year are payable now.

Treasurer: The treasurer Clara Goode briefed the meeting on the current state of the bank accounts. We are in good shape right now, and the auction is going to help.

Webmaster: Leslie Malakowsky has volunteered to be our webmaster and take care of keeping the website up to date. She has experience maintaining a website. The HGMS board voted to buy a computer system and software for Leslie to use so she can keep the HGMS webpage current. Leslie plans to keep this position for the next few years, making our window to the social world much more visible and up to date.

SFMS 2019 Annual Meeting: HGMS recently received a message from the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) about hosting the 2019 annual meeting here in Huntsville. Lowell described some of the requirements for hosting an impressive meeting. We would need a large group of volunteers to make arrangements and coordinate this event. People will be coming from all over the southeast and the society recommends attaching this to our fall show. The show already uses up nearly all our volunteer resources, so figuring out how to host the SFMS annual meeting as well as the fall show is going to take some brainstorming.

[Editor's Note—after much consideration, the Board decided to decline the invitation to host the SFMS]

Leadership: Bill talked about how we need to get more people to volunteer to fill officer and board positions and to support things like the auction and show. It's the same core group who volunteer to support these events, to bring food and snacks to the meetings, and in general to keep HGMS going. We're all getting older and this is a good time for some of the younger members to start taking charge.

Auction: Bill and Shelly briefed us on how many volunteers are needed for running the auction. They talked about having food on site - donations needed or a food truck, about needing volunteers for bid spotters, runners, for handling financial transactions using Square or cash, and for setting up and tearing down. The auctioneer is already lined up, but there are many more jobs where help is needed. Donations are being accepted right up to the day of the auction. Tax forms are available for anyone who donates.

Board Members: Bill identified each of the board members so the rest of the audience could recognize the board members who were present.

Rocket City Jewelers: Rocket City Jewelers has several sessions scheduled in February/March if the weather cooperates. Members can come to a wire working class on chain mail using Byzantine weave, a movie night, and a links class with Myra on March 21st. Kathy's bracelet class is booked full. Shelly's hollow forms class is April 5th and the kit costs \$7.00

Scholarships: The club sponsors two \$150 scholarships for classes at either the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or at the Wild Acres Retreat. Drawings for the scholarships will be held at the March meeting. Scholarship winners must receive an acceptance notice from the school before receiving the scholarship.

Pebble Pups: Bill talked about the pebble pups. The group is getting larger with 8 to 13 year olds. The idea of splitting the group into two age groups hasn't been put in place yet. When it is then the older group will go on field trips without the younger group and be able to benefit from a better field experience. The older group will have more opportunities than before however they still won't be able to use the lab.

Science Olympiad: There was a short discussion about the annual UAH Science Olympiad and a call for volunteers to help with setting up and restoring the classrooms, to help with monitoring the teams while they took the tests, and to help with grading the tests at the end. Several people volunteered to come and help.

Presentation: Mark King gave a good presentation on the history and mining prospects for the Hogg Mine near Lagrange Georgia. He displayed and explained a collection of samples of the rocks and minerals he has mined from there.

Snacks: After the presentation the meeting adjourned and everyone enjoyed snacks.

Bob & Ruth Kemper, Secretary Team

Mineral of the Month – Tourmaline By Leslie A. Malakowsky

Tourmaline is a crystalline boron-silicate mineral composed of a variety of metallic elements including lithium, iron and magnesium. The formula for tourmaline in which the metallic elements are iron and magnesium is $\text{Na}(\text{Mg,Fe})_3\text{Al}_6(\text{OH})_4(\text{BO}_3)_3(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$. Tourmaline is a member of the *cyclosilicate* class of silicate minerals. Other minerals in this class include benitoite and beryl (both previously featured), axinite and cordierite.

The metallic elements may occur singly or in combination in the same crystal causing a wide range of varieties and colors. For example, tourmaline can be colorless (achroite); pink, red, green, or blue (“lithia tourmaline” such as uvite and elbaite – in which lithium and aluminum substitute for iron and magnesium); brown and golden brown (dravite – rich in magnesium); and black (schorl – rich in iron). Based on color, the following varietal names are also used: red (rubellite), blue (indicolite), and teal (paraiba). Perhaps the most popular and well-known tourmaline is the green and red variety called “watermelon tourmaline.”

High quality tourmaline is found in North America (most notably California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, New York and South Dakota), South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Ninety-five percent of all tourmaline found worldwide is schorl. The next most common variety is dravite. The finest gem tourmaline is from mines in San Diego County, California. The Himalaya Mine still produces fine pink and green crystals ranging in size from tiny to 6” long and 1” in diameter. (The minerals commonly associated with Himalaya tourmaline are quartz, microcline feldspar, cleavandite and lavender lepidolite.) But the finest tourmaline specimens in



Rubellite



Watermelon Tourmaline

the world came from mines in the famous Pala District. Pala mines produced large pink, red, and blue color-zoned crystals up to 7” long and 4” in diameter. Today, nearly all commercial gem tourmaline comes from Minas Gerais (and other states) in Brazil. And although good Himalaya specimens can still be found on the market, the very large Pala crystals are now found only in museums and private collections.

The name *tourmaline* originated in Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). Before 1700, the Dutch East India Company supplied Europe with colorful gemstones from Ceylon sold under the local generic term “toramalli.” Dutch stone cutters eventually realized that some of the stones were not the ones they knew, but a previously unknown mineral. By 1766, the name “tourmalin” was used in Europe to describe these stones. In 1875, a self-taught mineral collector named George Frederick Kuntz sold a green tourmaline to Charles Tiffany (of Tiffany and Co., New York). Before then, jewelers didn’t use any stone in their jewelry that wasn’t diamond, ruby, blue sapphire, or emerald. Eventually Kuntz, as Tiffany’s resident gem expert, was influential in the use of tourmaline and other colored stones in fine jewelry. By the end of the century, tourmaline was considered a valuable American gem.

Tourmaline is a hard stone often reaching 7.5 on the Moh’s scale. That makes it ideal for jewelry making. Until recently, schorl and dravite were largely ignored in the gemstone trade. But today, all varieties of tourmaline, including schorl and dravite, are cut and polished into beads and cabochons. You can find everything from drilled slices and natural crystals, to more costly faceted gemstones.

Before our modern understanding that each mineral group is defined by specific physical properties, tourmaline was generally misidentified as the more well-known gemstone it resembled. For example, green varieties were mistaken for emerald, peridot or grossular garnet, and red and pink were confused with ruby, spinel, garnet, kunzite and morganite. Today, we know how to distinguish tourmaline from the gemstones they resemble. Tourmaline is a medium density stone, much lighter than ruby or garnet. And a well-formed tourmaline crystal has a 3-faced termination point not found in other gemstones. Another distinguishing characteristic is *dichroism*, meaning “two colors.” This is an optical phenomenon in which you can see a distinct color shift when the stone is turned (depending on the angle the stone is to the light).



Elbaite

Continued Next Page

Tourmaline (Continued)

When shopping for tourmaline, remember that clarity and size are major factors in pricing. If you see, for example, a string of bright-red translucent beads called “tourmaline quartz” and priced for \$20, it’s most likely quartz dyed to resemble tourmaline. Tourmaline is also being radiated to enhance its color, especially in Pakistan. So always purchase from a trusted source.

Tourmaline is one of my favorite minerals because of its variety of colors, its beautiful crystals, and its versatility in jewelry making. I remember a college field trip to one of the working gem mines in San Diego County, California. The minerals were huge - quartz crystals the size of small cars! But the highlight of the trip was collecting specimens of pink tourmaline in a lavender lepidolite matrix – heaven! If you have a favorite mineral that you’d like to see featured in the HGMS newsletter, please contact me at (256) 755-0479.

References: “Tourmaline: the chameleon stone” by Kia Resnick, Bead & Button magazine; Mineralogy for Amateurs by John Sinkankas, c1964, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company; photos from *mindat.org*

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*

On February 28th, we had an introductory chainmaille class followed on March 7th by a chainmaille bracelet class. We played with different jump ring sizes and metals to see how they would affect the results. Many thanks to our instructor, our own William Aycock, for his expertise and for guiding us through the Byzantine weave. Stay tuned for opportunities to make chainmaille jewelry incorporating gemstones!



March 28th is movie night! We’ll see examples of free-form wire bails and revisit chainmaille weaves. There’s also a surprise in store for those who love Swarovski crystal. Please bring snacks to share. Popcorn and sodas will be provided.

Please note that the March 21st Wire Links 1 make-up class has been rescheduled to April 18th.

Now taking sign-ups for the April 4th Wire Wrapped Bails class which will be taught by Sherrie Bonin. We’ll explore ways to make bails for different types of stone pendants. The kit cost is TBD. You can pay on class night. To reserve your space, contact me at (256) 755-0479.

Lead Instructor/	Group Leader Leslie Malakowsky
Instructors	Myra Soroczak, William Aycock, Sherrie Bonin & Openings
Kit Manager	Sherrie Bonin
Wire Supplier	Shelley Curran
Treasurer	Clara Goode
Facebook	Karen Van Bebber
Librarian	Opening
Security	Joe Bonin

Upcoming schedule:

March 21st – Open

March 28th – Movie night

April 4th – Wire Wrapped Bails

April 11th – Open

April 18th – Wire Links 1 make-up class

April 25th – Open

RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. **If you love making jewelry, please consider joining us.** All skill levels are welcome! We meet every Wednesday from 6-9p.m. in the Paint Room (next to the Lapidary Shop) at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Avenue, Huntsville.

April Auction - Shelley Curran

April will be here before we know it, so we need to start collecting quality donations. This is the big fundraiser for upgrading the lab and jewelry activities. With the heavy use the lab has enjoyed over the past two years, things wear out, or break, or just need to be replaced. There are several



new pieces of equipment that each of the activities needs to acquire to make them even more responsive to the needs of the members. But to make it happen, we need for members to bring in items from their collections or creations. We will again be in the JayCees Building, with a professional auctioneer, refreshments, and plenty of space and time. You may bring them to meetings to evening sessions. Contact Shelley if you need for items to be picked up [256-426-4596] or email [Shelley Curran](mailto:Shelley.Curran)

Wildacres and William Holland Workshops Scholarship Drawing.

Each year the HGMS offers two scholarship assistances of \$150 each to winners of the drawing made from among members who submit their names for consideration. An additional first and second alternate will be selected in case either of the primary winners learns they are unable to attend.

The drawing will be held at the March 22nd HGMS regular meeting. You do not have to be present to win. Please reply with your request to enter the drawing to Bill Friday bill.Friday@earthlink.net

You may choose either School. Winners must apply directly to SFMS for the school of choice using the registration link

<http://sfmsworkshops.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2018-Registration-Form.pdf>

and receive confirmation of acceptance, and then must request the scholarship check from the Treasurer Clara Goode. The opportunity isn't transferable by the winner, but rather will be passed to the alternates in order. If a winner finds they can't attend, please let Bill Friday know as soon as practical to give the alternate sufficient time to apply before classes are filled

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) reserves certain weekends when special rates are made available.

A complete listing of all offerings will be placed soon at <http://sfmsworkshops.com>—Check often.

The William Holland website is <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/>.

The preliminary class listings are web links so you can read about the content and instructors.

SFMS Class dates for William Holland - Jun 10-16,

[Bead Weaving](#), [Cabochons I](#), [Chasing & Repousse](#), [Electro-Etching](#), [Gemstone Faceting](#), [Immersion](#), [Enameling and Cold Connection](#) [Intarsia](#), [Intro to Inlay/Silver 1](#), [Junior Rockhounds](#), [Wirecraft I](#), [Silver 2 – Rings](#), [Rings](#), [Rings](#), [Silver I](#), [Wire II](#), [Silver-Wear](#)



The Wildacres website is <http://www.wildacres.org/>

SFMS Wildacres Class dates and offerings - Aug 20-26

[Casting](#), [Chain Maille](#), [Introduction to Gem ID](#), [Metal Clay – Tangible Moments](#), [Silver I](#), and [Wire](#)

And Sep 17-23

[Chain Maille](#), [Cold Connection](#), [Electro-Etching](#), [Enameling](#), [Intro to Inlay](#), [Seed Bead Weaving](#),





Pebble Pups

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



At the March 22nd meeting we will visit the Metal Smithing Activity in the Lapidary Lab. Kathy Bowman and Shelley Curran Metal/Smithing will be instructing the Pups on cold connection smithing. The Pups will make an etched copper fish piece using brads and such for their learning experience. Kathy and Shelley will have kits made up for the Pups and we will move to the paint room for this part of the activity.

We will also discuss field trips scheduled so far for the year
 The Steven Minkin field trip is May—lizard footprints in the rocks
 Cane Creek Canyon, Jim Lacefield - June 23 (tentative for now) — agates and petrified wood
 Hogg Mine, LaGrange GA—crystals of all sorts—July 7th, 14th, or 28th (to be determined)
 Twenty Mile Creek, Booneville MS, shark teeth
 Cedar Creek fossils, near Red Bay AL—date yet to be settled
 Devil's Racetrack in Huntsville—day trip to be set as it is convenient—geology hike and fossils
 How about a tour of a local rock quarry?

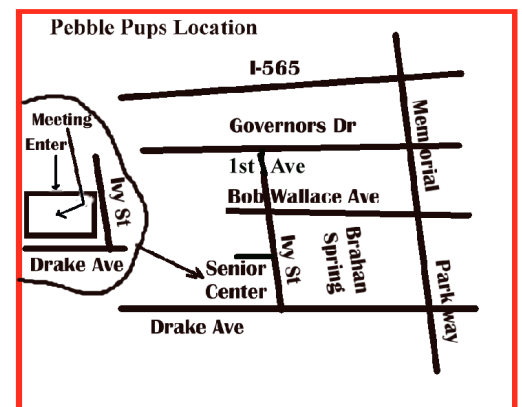
We are looking to divide the Pups into older and younger age groups—8 thru 12 and 13 to 18. This will fill the current gap of youngsters who are too old or too young. Programs will be tailored for the age levels. We will need some more adult helpers. And we need a name for this new group. Stone Mutts has been suggested. Maybe Rockheads? The group will decide once organized.

If you haven't gotten your T-shirt yet, here is the link to the printer
<http://greenpeapress.com/pebble-pups/pebble-pup-tees> . Give them your size, and style.

You may request a particular color which they will try to provide.

New members are always welcome. Bring your friends.

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



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>



MODIFYING PLIERS

Sometimes a few changes to your tools can make work go faster and improve the quality at the same time. Stock tools need to be polished and can be customized using standard jewelry skills. Here's an example:

While making a lot of chainmaile, I noticed I was ending up with a few scratched jump rings that required extra cleanup time before the chain could be polished. So I started looking into what I was doing wrong.

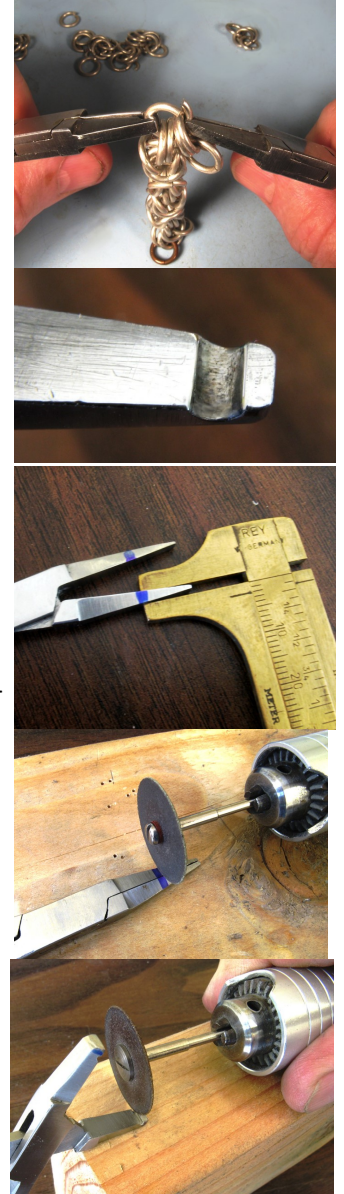
Making jump rings and weaving them into chainmaile designs involves a lot of opening and closing of the rings. I typically use two square jaw pliers to do this, one for each hand. The jaws of my pliers were pretty much scratch free because on a new tool I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks on working surfaces and give those areas a quick polish.

That helped but was not the whole problem. While making chain, rings would sometimes slip out of the pliers or slide within the jaws as I was trying to twist them open or closed. I noticed the jaws close at an angle, and gave me the idea of forming a groove at the end of the jaw that would grasp the ring gently without scratching it. Not only have these pliers worked well for chainmaile, but I've found several other problem jobs that this modification solves very nicely.

To make up what I needed, I bought two inexpensive sets of square jaw pliers. My preference is for jaws that are about 3.5 - 4mm wide. This provides a good fit for the jump rings I use. You need to have enough metal at the tip of the jaws to be able to cut a groove that's deep enough. If your plier tips are too thin, you'll have to cut them back. Locate and mark the position on the jaw where the thickness is about 1.6 - 2mm.

Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.

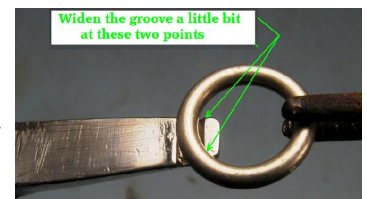
Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.



Now to make the grooves round so they grasp the wire without distorting it, I close the jaws and run a drill through the opening formed by the two rough grooves. I start with a small drill and followed up with a drill just slightly smaller than the wire size I want to grip. In my case that was 14 gauge wire, so I chose a #53 drill.

Finally, the shape of the grooves needs to be refined. I used a coarse, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel on the flexshaft to polish off all marks left by the drill and to round off the outer edges of the groove.

Test for proper fit by laying a jump ring into each groove. In particular, inspect the way the edges of the groove contact the inside of the ring. You may need to widen the groove at this point to avoid the pliers leaving a nick. Do a final polish so the jaws will not scratch as they grip a ring. I used a medium grit, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel but a sewn buff with Tripoli or Zam would also work well.





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
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An Official Field Trip of the Aiken Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society (Aiken, SC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, Georgia - Friday, April 27, 2018 8 AM – 2 PM EDT

No limits on # of attendees, Suggested Donation \$15 per person

TRIP: Graves Mountain is a unique collecting site and probably the most well-known mineral site in the state of Georgia. A working mine from the 1920s to 1990, Tiffany's once mined this site for rutile which it used in polishing diamonds.

COLLECTING: Many specimens are available, including rutile, lazulite, pyrophyllite, kyanite, iridescent hematite, pyrite, muscovite, fuchsite, barite, quartz, and a variety of microminerals.

BRING: Rock hammer, potato rake, 5 gallon bucket, shovel, safety glasses, gloves, safety helmet, newspapers to wrap your specimens. Watch for the weather forecast and dress appropriately. If sunny, wear a hat and bring plenty of sunscreen. Area can be muddy if recent rain has occurred. Extra water is always a good idea. Small wagons are also allowed.

REQUIREMENTS: No power tools allowed. No digging into the cliffs or rock walls. Please fill holes before you leave. While children are welcome, they must be closely supervised by parents at all times. Any pet must be kept on a leash and supervised at all times.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: There are several pools of acid water on the site. Avoid all pools of standing water. Area can be very muddy and slippery if there have been recent rains. Parking is approximately 1 mile from the site; however, golf cart rides are available for a donation of \$3 per person per trip (drivers do not make change – have plenty of dollar bills for exact change!). Stay away from ledges. It is strongly recommended that no one climb the rock walls.

REGISTRATION: Advance registration not required. Each person will have to register at the site (there will be a tent for this) and sign a liability waiver.

CHILDREN (Yes): There is no age limit; however, this site is not suitable for small children. All children must have close adult supervision at all times.

PETS (Yes): Dogs are allowed but must be kept leashed and supervised at all times. Owners must also clean up after their pets.

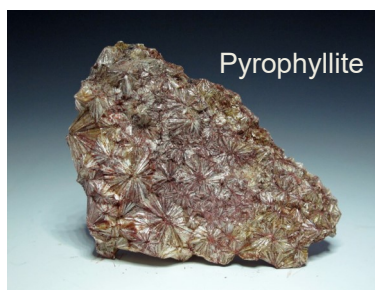
FACILITIES: Many portapotties are available at the registration tent and in the quarry. Food (hot dogs, hamburgers, etc) & drink will be sold on the site at reasonable prices. Picnic tables are also available.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Many vendors will be on site selling rock hounding equipment and a wide variety of specimens.

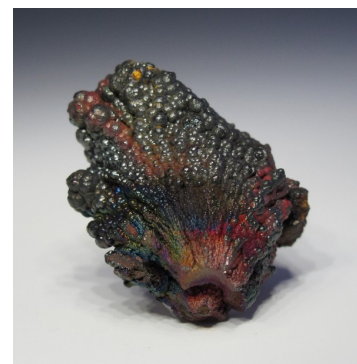
DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET :

If driving from Atlanta or points west:

1. Take I-20 east to Mile Marker 172
 2. Take US-78W and travel for 1.9 mile.
 3. Turn right on GA-43N and travel for 12.8 miles
 4. Turn left on GA-220W and travel for 3.2 miles
 5. Turn right on US-378E and travel for 312 feet and
- GPS 33° 44' 41" 82° 51' 53" or 33.744644 -82.531246**



Pyrophyllite



Iridescent Hematite

CONTACT: John Kolmar - Before trip: 803-642-3767 -
Day of trip: 803-640-2456

March Birthdays

5 Allison Kowalczyk	20 Charlotte Gilchrist
5 Jacob Roberts	20 Dennis Peterson
8 Virgil Fischer	21 Leigh Ann Hurst
9 Hannah Mayes	21 Teresa Roberts
9 Julie McCullough	22 Susan Hessler
13 Karen van Bebbber	22 Gene Powers
14 Sarah Herman	22 Harry Wiley
15 Patty Jo Adomatis	24 Preston Hurst
15 Victoria Bedard	24 Carson Knight
15 Carol Roden	27 Kelly Gulliver
15 Johnece Smith	29 Mark Bishop
16 June Kalange	29 Linda McKinney
18 Michael O'Dell	29 Mario Bedard
18 Ola Ann Lee	30 Chelie Britt
19 Ben Carroll	30 Robyn McCoy
20 Robert Broussard	30 Dennis Peterson

Anniversaries

7 Barbara Deckelman	24 Margaret & Jerry Olson
14 Ben & Monika Carroll	28 Leigh Ann & Preston Hurst
18 Robert & Gayle Joyce	31 Wendell & Mary Lou Allen
22 Wayne & Rhonda Hall	



April Birthdays

1 Rhonda Springer	17 Cindy Miller
4 Khezekiah Bellamy	19 Thelia DeMoor
6 Tim Eve	20 Wendy Lear
9 Jerzey Springer	21 Sam Holliday
11 Leslie Malakowsky	22 Alex McCormick
12 Tim Mitchell	23 Bill Friday
15 Taryn Greene	25 Gary Thompson
16 Elena Clark	26 Margery Ruble
17 Jon Ashley	27 Don Aldridge
17 Bill Sweetman	28 Billy Todd
17 Bill Walters	30 Jane Detwiler



April
Diamond

Anniversaries

6 Iven Holt
7 Joe & Sherrie Bonin
8 Mike & Myra Soroczak

March 2018 - 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

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+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary & Open Jewelry - certified HGMS 18+
Wednesday	7:30am-4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified HGMS 60+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Lapidary & Jewelry Classes - 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+
	5:30pm-9:00pm	Metal Smithing & Jewelry Classes— certified HGMS 18+
Friday	7:30am-12:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+

2018 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President—Bill Friday—256-527-8227—bill.friday@earthlink.net
 Vice President— Michael Cape— 256-890-9172— macape@knology.net
 Recording Secretary: Bob & Ruth Kemper—256-489-3684— bob_kemper@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194—clarag1964@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227—bill.friday@earthlink.net
 Directors at Large: Steve Young— 334-300-5408—taegu_steve@hotmail.com
 Gene Powers—256-751-3067—genepowersgddm@gmail.com
 Michael Soroczak—256-446-9938—Soroczak@yahoo.com
 Ex Officio - Brian Burgess— 256-746-0641— bburgess771@gmail.com
 Federation Liaison - Mark Habercom - 256-340-8604, mhabercom@energize.net

2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227 bill.friday@earthlink.net 2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803	Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627 ckalange@comcast.net
Scrapbook: Dianna O'Dell, 256-828-1813	Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 - Soroczak@yahoo.com
Librarian: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479	Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095. tsmith@erc-incorporated.com
Club Publicity: open	Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803 Lzol@comcast.net
Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641 bburgess771@gmail.com	Show Volunteer Chair: Joe Bonin, 256-859-9711 sixsonef@yahoo.com
Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061 caryl.nixon@outlook.com	Show Publicity Chair: Tony Smith, 256-852-3210
Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg— falkenbergwp@comcast.net (William Holland offers a class for this)	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, 3015 Monterey Dr., SW, Decatur AL 35603 Attn Mark Habercom

**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



2018 CALENDAR

- 27 Mar '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 28 Apr '18 - Annual Rock Auction, on Saturday, 9:00am
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, Huntsville
Monte Sano State Park, Large Pavilion in the Picnic Area
- 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
- 23 Oct '18 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Nov '18 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter— April 13, 2018

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

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

HGMS March 2018

Dated Material
Do not Delay