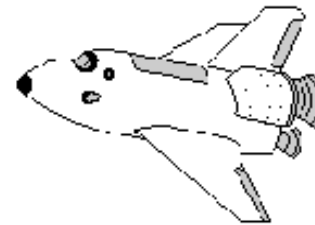
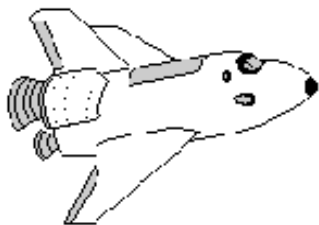


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 49 No. 4

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

April 2017

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April—Annual Fundraiser Auction

Donations have picked up, the sorting and valuation has proceeded, and the prospects are good for a successful auction. But more is better in this case. Just under two weeks remain before the big event.



Sat, Apr 29, Jaycees Bldg, 10:00 till it is all gone.

Wildacres & William Holland Scholarship Drawings



Auction 2012

Please bring a portion of your good stuff—you will make some good friends of those who are persistent enough to win the bidding. The sooner the better so valuations and photos can be made for the catalog. **See Pg 4** for details- **sign up to help.**

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



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President's Message, April 2017

There is a different voice delivering the President's Message this month. As many of you already know, our President, Mike Harrison, was transferred by his employer to St. Louis, Mo, for at least a year. As a result, he resigned and the Vice President (me, Mark Habercom) has become the President. We will miss Mike and wish him the best in his new assignment.

This came on short notice, and there wasn't a lot of time (about 5 minutes at the last meeting) for me to take the reins. I ask your indulgence in getting up to speed. A number of activities and actions were under way when Mike left, which I will try my best to guide to completion. I will contact the Executive Council and Committee Chairmen individually very soon to see what concerns they have and what actions may need to be taken in their areas. If any others wish to contact me, please do so at 256-340-8604 or at mhabercom@energize.net. Be advised that I am not at my computer all day, so any emails may take a day or two for replies.

The Constitution and By-laws instruct the Executive Council to fill vacancies in any elected office for the remainder of the term. Any member of the Council (myself included) will be glad to hear nominations for President for the rest of 2017.

Thanks for superb service over the past year from Mike Harrison, retired President, and Dorothea Chism, retired Secretary. Thanks also to Mark Habercom for stepping up as President and Beth Durham our new Secretary.

Minutes of the March 28, 2017 Meeting

President Mike Harrison opened the meeting at 6:38p.m. We welcomed 3 new visitors – Frank Vinz, Susan Elrod, and Betty Ryan. We approved the February 28th meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Clara could not attend, and there was no report.

Membership Report

Bill reported that we have many new members. If you have paid your membership dues, but haven't received your membership card, see Bill tonight.

Metalsmithing News

Kathy announced the next two classes: Thurs., April 6th – Electroetching, and Thurs., May 4th - Making an Inlay Bracelet. Class size is limited to 10 people, so sign up with Kathy tonight. Shelley commented that she will teach another bevel class in the future, but not before the auction.

Rocket City Jewelers News

Leslie announced that the first class will be Tues., April 4th – Basic Findings. Kathy will teach how to make jump rings, headpins, eye pins, earring wires and a simple clasp. No kit purchase is necessary, but you will need to bring chainnose pliers, roundnose pliers and wire cutters, if you have them. We only have 3 sets of these tools available on a first-come, first-served basis. There will also be door prizes and we will discuss class ideas.

Lapidary Shop Report

Bill reported that the shop is stable, but we are almost out of oil. (recycling 25- 30% of the used oil.)

Field Trip Report

Brian reported that he is planning a trip to the Mason Ruby Mine which is about 4 ½ hours from Huntsville. The fee is \$30.00 per person. There is the possibility of a night dig in which a UV light is used to find gemstones. (Ruby and sapphire glow pink to bright red and emerald glows purple.) The DMC trip to Alexander County, NC is coming up (see the article in this newsletter). If you want to go on these trips, contact Brian.

April Minutes Continued**Pebble Pups Stuff**

Brian reported that 12 pups and 1 visitor attended the last meeting. The group meets in the senior center. The next meeting will be in the cafeteria instead of the sewing room. The pups have a 3rd adult volunteer – Karen Allen! Brian and Jim Lacefield are planning a trip to the Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, which is south of Tusculumbia. The area is known for agate balls that you can collect from the creek bed. Adult members are welcome.

Auction News

Shelley announced that the auction will be Sat., April 29th, at the Jaycee's Community Building. The facility has been reserved and the insurance has been paid. WE NEED DONATIONS! Drop your donations off at the lapidary shop Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights. If you cannot drop off your donations, contact Shelley, and she will pick them up for you. Tax receipts are available. If you want a tax receipt, please include your name with your donation. We need presenters, bid spotters and runners, and we need help with set up from 8 a.m. to 10a.m. that day. If you helped last year, please help again. To volunteer, sign up with Shelley tonight or contact her as soon as possible!

Note: In lieu of the regular April meeting, there will be a short business meeting before the auction. We will have the **annual drawing for scholarships** for the Wm. Holland School of Lapidary Arts and the Wildacres Retreat Center.

Mindy announced that Mike Harrison donated several stones to the club. Members are encouraged to enhance them (e.g., using wire or gemstones) for auction donations. This is a good opportunity to create something beautiful for the auction especially if you do not already have a donation! To select your stones, see Mindy tonight.

Science Olympiad Follow Up

Lowell reported that this year's Science Olympiad went well. This competition is sponsored by UAH. The students worked hard preparing for the competition. Our volunteers monitored the rock and mineral portion. We have volunteered for many years, and we will volunteer again next year. Lowell encouraged everyone to get involved. Volunteering will improve your perception of young people.

Show News

Lowell announced that this year's show will be our 50th show! We need to have top notch display booths that demonstrate what the HGMS is about. All the vendors from last year are coming back! If you have ideas for improvements and ideas for celebrating the 50th anniversary, see Lowell tonight or contact him as soon as possible.

Other Announcements

- Mike announced that he leaves for St. Louis on Sunday, and he will work there for a year. So we need a new president! If you want to be considered, contact Bill Friday or Mark Habercom.
- There is a silent auction tonight that will run until the end of the meeting.
- The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society's annual show, "The Earth Wide Open", will be Sat., April 22nd, 9a.m. – 6p.m., and Sun., April 23rd, 10a.m. – 5p.m. at the Agricenter. For more information, take a postcard or see www.theearthwideopen.com.
- The Mother's Day Gemboree, sponsored by the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, will be May 12th – May 14th. (Note: This show was cancelled due to venue renovations.)
- The annual picnic is Sat., June 17th at the big pavilion at Monte Sano State Park.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:04p.m.

Program

Tonight was the 2nd portion of members' "show and tell". We heard from folks whose last names begin with J - P.

Our first time visitors chose gift rocks. Refreshments were enjoyed by all!

Submitted by Leslie Malakowsky, acting Recording Secretary.

ANNUAL HGMS AUCTION

All members are also encouraged to dig through your collection and pick out a few worthy items to donate for the April HGMS Auction, to be held April 29th, 10:00 till? in the Jaycees Bldg 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL. Wayne Taylor will again be our Auctioneer, performing his amazing vocal art as our treasures go to new owners.

Help from members is needed in several areas— come early for set up.

Chair: Shelley Curran 256.426.4596 curranshelley1@gmail.com

A phone call or text is the most reliable way to contact me.

Set Up: Saturday at 8:00am. Help is needed in moving the donations from storage to the auction site and arranging them, setting up the registration, bidding, and sales tracking areas.

Bid Tracking/ Excel recording. Kathy Bowman. Needs 2-3 helpers for backup.

Registration/ Paddle Table. Leslie Malakowski. Needs 1-2 helpers.

Cashiers. Need at least 3. At least one person needs to be familiar with the Square credit card reader

Sold Merchandise Holding table. Chris Kalange. Michael Cape. Need 1-2 helpers.

Runners. 3-4

Bid Spotters. 3-4

Presenters. Show the merchandise. 3-4

Catalog. Myra Soroczak

Valuation. Mike Soroczak. Bill Friday.

Clean Up. Saturday afternoon.

Rocks, slabs, museum pieces, finished cabs, jewelry, metal work, mineral oddities, and equipment are all welcome.



Auction 2015

Bring your donations to the Senior Center on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 9:00, or on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 3:00. If you know what your items are, please provide a written description, as well as an estimate of the value of each piece. This will help preparation for the auction go much smoother. This is the main fund raiser for HGMS operations, so your support is appreciated and is very important to the Club.

And besides all of that, bring your checkbook and plan to take home some new treasures.

Drawing for the William Holland / Wildacres Scholarships will be held during the break. RSVP your wish to be included in the drawing—email, phone, in person, or letter. You don't have to be present to win.

Please return any Show Yard Signs

Yard signs need to be updated to read 2017, and some of the wire frames need to be re-welded. Thanks. Tony Smith

HGMS Jewelry Crafts

By Mindy Schell

Our goal is to get HGMS members together to share what we know. Some of these are considered rare and lost arts in development and design. We are quite blessed to have a handful of Experienced Artists in HGMS that are generous with their knowledge and time to educate our HGMS Jewelry Craft members as well as a number of students wanting to make a difference by volunteering however we can. We are also looking for volunteers to fill some empty slots to take the burden off of our instructors as well as volunteer project instructors. If you can teach a class or helping please contact me.



(Domed Etching by Kathy)

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ)

By Leslie Malakowsky

Hello folks! Thanks to all who attended our first meeting on April 4th! I'm sorry I couldn't be there. (Please note that the snafu that caused me to miss the meeting has been resolved.) Mindy Schell, our program director, hosted the meeting, and Kathy Bowman, HGMS Senior Metal-smithing Instructor, taught how to make Basic Findings. And we celebrated by awarding two door prizes! Thank you Mindy for filling in for me, and thank you Kathy for teaching us! I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Jake Hosmer who has volunteered to take attendance, so please remember to sign in with Jake.

April 18th, 25th and May 2nd – Open Jewelry Nights! Please remember that Tuesday nights when there is no class, we *will still meet in the Paint Room* to practice techniques, work on individual projects, brainstorm and so on. (We missed you all on April 11th!) Although we usually have a class the first Tuesday after a regular HGMS meeting, there *will be no class on May 2nd* so that those involved with the annual fund-raising auction can recover.

May 9th – Leather, Bead and Jumpring Bracelet. This project builds on the jumpring technique from the first class. Most folks know that jumprings connect jewelry components together – a pendant to a necklace, for example. In this bracelet, we'll use jumprings *as part of the jewelry design*. There will be a sample to see on freeform nights. You'll need to make your jumprings ahead of time, and there will be a kit to purchase for the rest of the supplies. If you don't have tools to make jumprings ahead of time, or if you missed the Basic Findings class, you're welcome to use RCJ tools (first-come, first-served) on freeform nights. Please watch for more details to be announced. See you on April 18th! Leslie

If you have an idea for a class or a project, please contact Leslie directly at 256-755-0479 or email lmalakowsky@gmail.com.

Metal Smithing/Silver Group

By Kathy Bowman

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

Thursday, May 4 : Inlaid Copper Bracelet

The bracelet can be either a bangle or a cuff as shown. The same technique can be used to make earrings or inlaid ring bands. Kit cost is \$5.00 for cuff and \$6.00 for a bangle. The bangle is more because of the additional length of silver required

This will be open to Intermediate and Advanced HGMS Certified only. *Since there will be no meeting in April due to the Auction, students can also register via email to mindy.schell@yahoo.com*



Inlaid Bracelet Project

Thursday, June 1: Constructing a Neck Wire

Open to everyone who is certified. We will take a single length of copper wire and shape it to fit your neck using a chasing hammer and bench blocks. Get your aggressions out with hammering! Kit cost \$2.00. We have no regular meeting in April; the sign-up sheet for the class will be available on Thursday nights during our regular Metal Smithing classes and also the May meeting. Those who want to take the class may also register via email to mindy.schell@yahoo.com



Neck Wire Project

Certification Classes:

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

Volunteer Positions

Program Manager/Treasurer Mindy Schell

Metal Smithing (Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced)

Senior Instructor/Adv. Grp Leader Kathy Bowman

Project Instructors Shelley Curran
& Opening

| Safety Instructors Mindy Schell
& Opening

Webpage & Social Media Deborah Neis
Management Linda Haynes

Kit Manager Shelley Curran

Toolbox Sign-outs/ Chris Kalange

Inventory

Store Manager Opening

**Auction 2015**

Pebble Pups - **New Place, New Room, New Ideas**

Thursday April 27, 6:00 to 7:00pm

Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria

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



Fossils Up Close

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

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

With round tables in the cafeteria, we can tailor the activities separately for younger and older groups.

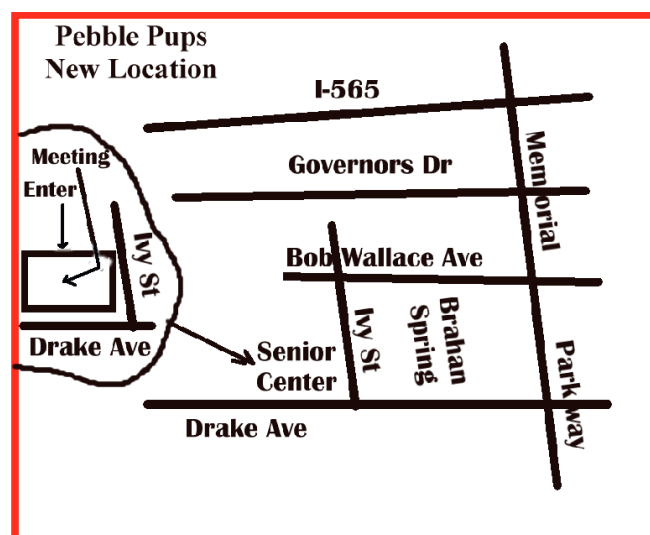
Kids ages 8 through 15 are invited to join this Junior Rock Enthusiasts Group. All participating families must have Family-Member status (the \$20 rate, no extra fee) in the HGMS and an adult family member must be present during the meeting. **We are now meeting at the Madison County Senior Center, 2200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

Meeting dates have been moved to 4th Thursdays in order to have the information included in the current newsletter for each month

Next Meeting Schedule—

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

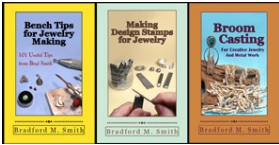
If anyone has any questions, please contact Brian or Bill



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>



BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face. In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.



BREAKING IN A NEW MELTING POT

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.

When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.



Mineral of the Month – Lepidolite

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

Lepidolite is a lilac-gray or rose-colored member of the mica group of minerals with the formula $\text{K}(\text{Li,Al,Rb})_2(\text{Al,Si})_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{F,OH})_2$. (Other colors include pink, purple, yellowish, white and colorless.) It is the most abundant lithium-bearing mineral and is a secondary source of this metal. It is also one of the major sources of the rare alkali metals rubidium and caesium. In 1861, Robert Bunsen (a German chemist) and Gustav Kirchhoff (a German physicist) discovered the new element rubidium. They found a few grams of rubidium salts in 150 kg (330 lb) of lepidolite.

Lepidolite is a member of the phyllosilicate class of silicate minerals. (Phyllosilicates consist of sheets of polymerized tetrahedra. They are bound at three oxygen sites. This causes a characteristic silicon:oxygen ratio of 2:5.) It is the middle member of the polyolithionite-lepidolite-trilithionite series of minerals.



Lepidolite occurs as tabular to prismatic pseudohexagonal crystals, scaly aggregates of crystals and massive crystals. Additional physical characteristics include: crystal system: monoclinic; cleavage: perfect; fracture: uneven, micaceous; density: $2.8 - 2.9 \text{ g/cm}^3$; tenacity: elastic; hardness: $2.5 - 3.5$; luster: sub-vitreous, resinous, greasy, pearly; streak: white; diaphaneity: transparent to translucent; specific gravity: $2.8 - 2.9$. Lepidolite frequently fluoresces a medium intensity of creamy white to pale yellow to yellow.

Lepidolite is associated with other lithium-bearing minerals such as pegmatite spodumene, [amblygonite](#) and [tourmaline](#). A pegmatite is a *holocrystalline* (partially or completely crystalline), intrusive igneous rock composed of interlocking *phaneritic* (large enough to be seen with the unaided eye) crystals usually larger than 2.5 cm (1 inch) in size. Such rocks are often described as *coarse grained*.



Lepidolite occurs in granite pegmatites, in some high-temperature quartz veins, greisens (a highly altered granitic rock or pegmatite) and granites. In addition to lithium-bearing minerals, lepidolite is associated with quartz, feldspar, columbite, cassiterite, topaz and beryl. Notable occurrences of lepidolite include Minas Gerais, Brazil; the Ural Mountains, Russia; the Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande District, San Diego County, California; Bernic Lake, Manitoba, Canada; and Madagascar.

The original occurrence of lepidolite was found in the Rožná pegmatite, Moravia, Czech Republic. It was named in 1792 by Martin Klaproth from the Greek words *lepidos* for "scale" and *lithos* for "stone". Klaproth (1 December 1743-1 January 1817) was a German chemist who discovered uranium (1789), zirconium (1789), and cerium (1803). The name lepidolite is sometimes incorrectly applied to lithian muscovite. Synonyms for lepidolite include flower sugilite, lavenderine, and lithionite.

Lepidolite also occurs in a caesium-rich variety (from Virgem da Lapa, Minas Gerais, Brazil), a rubidium-rich variety (from the Stewart Mine, Tourmaline Queen Mountain, Pala, Pala District, San Diego County, California and "purple jade." This variety is a dense mass of fine grained lepidolite that is used for carving and as an ornamental stone. It usually contains small amounts of quartz, feldspar, spodumene and occasionally pollucite as impurities. This material is a rock and not a mineral.

Lepidolite-derived lithium is used in rechargeable batteries, aircraft parts, domestic appliances, high temperature lubricants and mood-stabilizing drugs. Lepidolite is hard enough to be made into ornamental items, such as paperweights. It can also be cut into gemstones and cabochons, made into beads, and set in bezels for creating jewelry.

References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org

Crinoids by Bill Friday

Crinoids are members of a diverse group of sea animals called Echinoderms, which also includes starfish, sand dollars, sea urchins, and blastoids, all possessing a five-sided body form, like humans. They are commonly known as Sea Lilies because of their feathery arms, and even their name comes from the Greek word Krinon, meaning Lily.



Platycrinites saffordi



They first arose in the oceans of the early Cambrian Period, around 500 million years ago (MYA), during the first evolutionary explosion of new families, genera, and species, from which originated ancestors of nearly every major life form on earth today. Crinoid fossils are found all over the world, in a dazzling array of different forms, with around 6000 species having been identified in the fossil record. Most had a distinct calyx which was supported on a long flexible stem anchored by roots in the ocean floor. A few were free floating, using a type of bladder for buoyancy. They are found at ocean depths from shallow to 30,000 feet. There are layers of crinoid fossils in Iowa which are up to several feet thick.

The peak of their proliferation was during the Mississippian Period, 350 to 300 MYA. In the great Permian/Triassic (PT) extinction, around 252 MYA, which destroyed up to 95% of all living species on earth one hung on. So far immediately above the extinction boundary, only a single species has been found, from which a new and again amazing array of species evolved. In the second great extinction, the Cretaceous/Tertiary (KT) around 63 MYA, there was a 75% reduction in earth's animal species. A tiny remnant also survived this catastrophe and again proliferated. Living crinoids are found today in the Mediterranean Sea and elsewhere that the seas are warm. Some are still using the stalk and roots, others are able to turn loose and drag their stalk, and some are completely free swimming, called feather stars. You can watch a video showing some of these at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sphfDHfrQI#t=1568.066244>.



Flying Feather Star

Each of their arms supported numerous flexible fingers, which would filter food from the seawater flowing by. The fingers would pass the food, most often plankton, down to the mouth at the junction of the arms. The calyx contained a stomach and anus for waste elimination, a reproductive system, and a nervous system but no brain. They are able to regenerate lost arms, a trait shared with some lizard tails for which this is an escape mechanism from predators. In fact, it is apparently true that they never die of old age, only by predation. They are often eaten by some of their relatives, particularly starfish and sea urchins.

Their closest relatives include the Paracrinoidea which also lived on stalks rooted to the sea floor. Their fossils are rare today.



Paracrinoidea

Other relatives, commonly found in north Alabama, are the Blastoids, also stalked creatures which didn't have arms, but had fingers attached to the calyx along each side of five food grooves.



Blastoid

Modern stemless anchored feather star

Amazonite by Bev Eisenacher, *Rockbuster News*, Mechanicsburg, PA, March 2016

Amazonite is a green to bluish green variety of the feldspar microcline. It was once believed that the green color as caused by the presence of copper but new analysis shows that it comes from small amounts of lead and water. The bluish tint comes from iron. The color can fade in the presence of high heat. Amazonite has limited occurrence. It was formerly found almost exclusively southwest of Chelyabinsk, Russia but more recently high quality crystals have been found near Pike's Peak, Colorado. It has also been found in Crystal Park, Colorado and at the Moorefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. Other locations of occurrence are in Madagascar, Australia and Brazil. (Although not in the area of the Amazon River.)

One legend says it got its name from the Amazon River. However, since amazonite is not found there and it was widely used in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, the second legend may be more likely. That says it got its name from a matriarchal society of the Bronze Age known as Amazons. Amazonite may often have a mottled or irregular color distribution, sometimes with white streaks. It also displays Schiller effect, a lustrous reflection (sometimes a flash) from the planes in the mineral grain that is similar to what is commonly called iridescence. The Schiller effect is caused by the crystal structure and inclusions. In jewelry making, the stone must be properly oriented when making slabs for this effect to show to best advantage. Amazonite is sometimes mistaken for jade, chrysoprase, chalcedony, serpentine, turquoise or aventurine, which is also a variety of feldspar.

Amazonite has been used in jewelry and to make beads since the early Mesopotamian cultures and was well known in ancient India, Egypt and Sudan. It was commonly used in amulets, was used extensively in Egypt and was sometimes called the Stone of Courage. There was an amazonite scarab ring found among Tutankhamen's treasures. Jewelry containing amazonite was worn in pre-Columbian South and Central America. Amazonite was also once used as a decorative building material.

Even though it is relatively soft (5-6 on the Moh's scale) and subject to fracture, it is still used in jewelry. It is usually made into cabochons or tumbled. It is rarely faceted. Because it is vulnerable to pressure and scratches care should be taken with your jewelry. Avoid wearing when doing household chores or playing sports. Clean with warm water and mild soap and store separately from other jewelry to avoid scratches.

Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org> <http://www.bernadine.com>
<http://www.crystalvaults.com> <http://www.gemselect.com>
<http://www.gemstone-dictionary.com>

Chart below from www.gemselect.com

Chemical Formula: KAlSi_3O_8 Potassium aluminum silicate



Photo by author

Crystal Structure: Triclinic, prismatic
Color: Green, blue, green, gray,
[multicolor](#) (white color of streak)
Hardness: 6 - 6.5 on the Mohs scale
Refractive Index: 1.522 – 1.530
Density: 2.56 - 2.58

Cleavage: Perfect
Transparency: Translucent to opaque
Double Refraction /
Birefringence: -0.008
Luster: Vitreous
Absorption Spectrum: Not diagnostic
Fluorescence: Weak, olive-green

HGMS Scholarship drawings at the April Auction

[2017 SFMS Workshops](#)

One of the unique facets of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is our Workshop Program, which offers members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics, or you're experienced and want to learn something new or hone your skills, the Workshop Program has something for you.

While William Holland raised their tuition this year, the SFMS has decided to keep the cost at \$370. Just another perk of belonging.

We have some exciting news. Wildacres has allowed the SFMS to have another week for 2017. The dates will be July 23-29. The Wildacres Director (Rosemary van Wandelen) is actively seeking instructors for this new session. This new workshop will be in session during the big Franklin NC show (July 27 - 30). Folks will be able to take a day off mid-week and visit the show. Also the Grass Creek Gem & Mineral Show in Spruce Pines NC will begin on July 30, the last day of the workshop. You can leave Wildacres and go directly to the Grass Creek Show. We look forward to seeing you!

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. sponsors four Gem, Jewelry and Mineral workshops each year. These are held at Wildacres, near Little Switzerland in North Carolina, and at the William Holland Retreat near the small town of Young Harris in northeast Georgia. Both facilities offer double accommodations with a private bath. Twin bed rooms and a number of rooms with a double bed and a twin bed arrangement are available.

A broad range of courses related to the lapidary arts are taught by qualified instructors from throughout the Federation. All instructors are volunteers who are not paid for the highly skilled and professional experience that they bring to the workshops.

The workshops are well equipped for common lapidary activities such as cabochon cutting, faceting, and silversmithing. Additional equipment is brought in when new or special courses are taught.

Click on any of the course titles below to bring up details

[Wildacres 7/23-29/17](#)

[Beads](#)

[Chain Maille](#)

[CREATIVE JEWELRY FABRICATION](#)

[Gem Trees](#)

[Metalsmithing for Juniors](#)

[Raku Pottery](#)

[Wire](#)

[Wildacres 8/21-27/17](#)

[Boot Camp In Metals and Fire](#)

[Casting](#)

[Chain Maille](#)

[Cold Connection I](#)

[Gourds are Coming Back](#)

[Metalwork Special Projects](#)

[Wildacres 9/18-24/17](#)

[Bench Building](#)

[Cold Connections II](#)

[Int./Adv. Seed Bead Stitching](#)

[Metal Folding](#)

[Silver I](#)

[Soapstone & Wood Carving](#)



William Holland Workshop

June 11-17, 2017

<http://sfmsworkshops.com/>

Tuition \$370

Full descriptions of class and instructors on website

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to sign up. Kristine Robertson 863-640-2887



Beading – Gail DeLuca

Gail's 2017 SFMS classes will be all about playing with flat Peyote Stitch. This class will be appropriate for both beginners and experienced stitchers. Class kits include bead kits and instructions for 4 projects using variations of flat peyote stitch: Color Block Bracelet, Hombre Ombre Amulet Bag, Zig Zag Bracelet, Freeform bracelet

Class Kit Fee \$150. Includes beads, findings, instructions, and notions for four complete projects as pictured. Several color options will be available.



Cabs 2 With Intarsia – Paul Roberts

This course is designed for those with some cabbing experience who wish to broaden their skills. Dopless cabbing of fancy shapes and freeforms (including use of the instructor's special carving wheels and jeweler's bit) will receive some attention although for the most of this week we will concentrate on making composite cabochons (intarsia utilizing a Genie cabbing machine and an intarsia grinder). We will also cover instructions for simple settings (wire/groove and prong-sets). Lab Fee: \$45 Estimated Material Costs: \$0 -\$100



Casting – Bill Harr

This class will teach silver casting for beginner and intermediate silversmithing. The emphasis will be on production centrifugal casting, meaning techniques for high reliability. The class will teach centrifugal and vacuum casting, wax modeling, spruing, investing, burnout, casting, finishing and polishing, rubber mold making and wax injection. Steam casting will be covered if there is interest. Waxes will be available, and students will learn to inject their own. Lab Fee: \$80 Estimated Material Costs: \$0 -\$100



Gemstone Faceting – Linda Searcy

In this week long workshop, you will 1) get acquainted with the faceting machine. 2) learn about abrasive disks / laps to do the cutting / grinding and polishing. 3) learn how to turn a piece of natural or man-made (synthetic) crystal into a beautiful gemstone; learn how to prepare / dop a stone; learn how to read and understand a faceting diagram; learn Meet Point (precision) faceting. By the end of the week, you should complete at least one or several gemstones. Material / Lab fee: \$50



Immersion Enameling and Cold Connection – Debora Mauser

First we will learn the immersion method of enameling, often referred to as Painting with Fire. We will combine that with various cold connection treatments and metal shapes formed with a hydraulic press. Students will enamel beads, flat pieces and formed pieces. Your class fee includes one tank of map gas, use of all enamel and enhancements, all copper and brass needed to complete projects, beads, ear wires and leather.

Class fee \$175, includes gas, enamel, metal, beads, leather, rivets.



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 Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Murfreesboro, TN) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Cumberland Furnace, TN
Saturday, May 6, 2017
10:00AM until 3:00PM CDT

COLLECTING: We are heading to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag. The slag was a by-product of making iron. Some of the slag is quite colorful in shades of blue and green ... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants – it is too soft for rings.

Our target is a dump pile on the banks of the stream that runs through Cumberland Furnace (access by crossing a large field owned by the community). This dump pile is located about a ¼ of a mile from the parking area. Although the dump pile has the greatest potential, slag can be found anywhere along the banks (both upstream and downstream). Another way to search is by wading downstream from the furnace if the creek is low. I am not sure if conditions will permit - bring wading shoes just in case if you wish to collect in the stream.

BRING: You need to bring a hand tool, trowel, small shovel, etc to dig in the slag pile and gloves to protect your hands. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet may get wet otherwise.

CHILDREN: Everyone is welcome but children must be 6 years or older. They may not be allowed to roam around unattended and must obey all safety requirements and have all safety equipment.

PETS: All pets must be under control at all times.

SEVERAL LODGING SUGGESTIONS: Depending on which direction you are coming from, I would recommend staying in the Nashville area, Clarksville (north of the furnace) or Dickson (south of the furnace).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

From Nashville, TN off of I-40 take exit 196 for US-70 S (Bellevue/Newsom Station) go 0.2 miles.

Turn right at TN-1 W/US-70S W go 1.8 miles.

Turn left at TN-1 W/US-70 W/Charlotte Pike go 16.1 miles.

Turn right at TN-47 (White Bluff) go 9.6 miles.

Turn right at TN-48 (Charlotte) go 6.8 miles.

Take a slight left at Earl Leech Rd go 0.2 miles.

Turn left on Cinder Road. You will see a log cabin (Starks Cabin) on the left hand side of the road. You can park in the field next to the cabin.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 10:00 AM at Cinder Road, Cumberland Furnace, TN
Meet near the old log cabin on Cinder Road.



April Birthdays

1 Rhonda Springer	19 Thelia DeMoor
4 Khezekiah Bellamy	20 Wendy Lear
6 Tim Eve	22 Alex McCormick
11 Leslie Malakowsky	23 Bill Friday
15 Taryn Greene	25 Gary Thompson
16 Elena Clark	26 Margery Ruble
17 Bill Sweetman	27 Don Aldridge
17 Bill Walters	30 Jane Detwiler
17 Cindy Miller	

Anniversaries

7 Joe & Sherrie Bonin
8 Mike & Myra Soroczak

May Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

April 2017 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule Lapidary, Silver Jewelry and Wood Carving—

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

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

2017 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Mark Habercom 256-340-8604

mhabercom@energize.net

Vice President— Vacant

Recording Secretary: Beth Durham

leabethdurham@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

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2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

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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

Education & Craftsmanship: vacant

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg—

falkenbergwp@comcast.net

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627

ckalange@comcast.net

Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 -

Soroczak@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

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

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

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org, at meetings, or the lab

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

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

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

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

Federation Newsletters:

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

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

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



2017 CALENDAR

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

Deadline for Next Newsletter— May 12, 2017

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

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

HGMS April 2017

Dated Material
Do not Delay