

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 50 No. 12

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

December 2018

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www.merrychristmas-2013.com



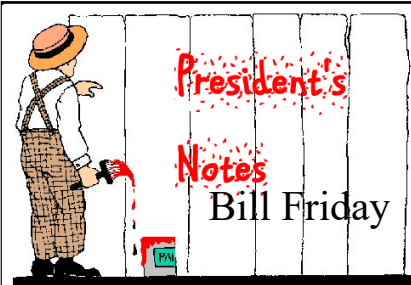
Scrooge reminds everyone

Dues are due and Happy New Year

www.huntsvillegms.org/ - www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS -



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When I took this job, it was presented as needing only an hour of my time once a month. So how has it worked out? Maybe a bit more than just one hour. But it has been an interesting year, and hopefully I've helped in that. As the HGMS has grown in membership and special group offerings, space for these has gotten tighter, and there has come some relief, mostly by expanding our evening sessions, now four nights a week and some Saturday morning sessions for metal smithing - watch for them. Take heart, there are still two other nights available if needed.

When it had gotten to the point that our web page was worse than useless (not casting any blame on anyone) Leslie spoke up and took it on. Since then she has worked miracles, as evidenced by the upsurge in messages of interest coming from visitors to our Website. But past problems kept rising up. The most recent and worrisome was obsolete software, particularly the virus protection. After a couple of weeks of hard work, and some remuneration, our provider GoDaddy has brought us completely up to date. When the tech at GoDaddy was working on this, he was truly amazed at how very nice and enticing to the hobby is our home page, and he lives in Arizona - mineral capitol of the world.

The lab has remained a huge part of what makes us successful but that comes with a price. Since we are fully considered a part of the Senior Center, including insurance, meeting spaces, and no fees, it has been up to us to earn that coverage. That includes having the lab available for any Senior Citizen (who has been trained and certified in safety and use of the equipment, whether a member of HGMS or not) may use the saws and arbors during the day when no overseer is present. This has probably led to some of the equipment damage we have experienced - not excessive but significant - and unless someone in the HGMS volunteers to be in the lab all day every day, that will continue to be the case.

But on the whole, we are far better off with the agreement we have with the Center and there are no imminent plans to request a change or even to implement a fee for usage. Bottom line - we have an enviable support system for all that we do, and some of that envy has been expressed by other Gem & Mineral organizations. I'm quite proud of who we are, what we do, and how we do it.

So keep on Rockin' in the new year.

Some More Specialty Groups

For most years in the past the HGMS had monthly meetings and the lapidary lab, open only during the day and available only to members age 60 or over. Opening the Senior Center for evening sessions allowed our under 60 members to fully participate in a wider variety of lapidary arts - Lapidary Lab, Jewelry, Metals, and Pebble Pups. But on the application form, further interest has been expressed than what we now offer - Geology, Fossils, and Indian Artifacts. I would suggest that we might also consider Astronomy or more generally Space Sciences. The membership list includes these personal preferences of members, which have now been sorted out and collected. Each of these groups will receive an invitation to join Specialty Groups in these areas. But before they can actually activate, leadership will need to be established, so if you have a hankering to become a leader or an assistant leader, speak up. You don't have to be an expert, just interested beyond casually.

Starting with Fossils, which Bill Friday is particularly keen to expand, members are invited to a first introductory meeting on Thursday February 14th, 6:30 pm, in the Painting Room at the Senior Center. The Metals group will be meeting next door in the Lab, so hopefully this won't cause any of them to have to choose. There will also be occasional field trips specifically for peculiar area fossils, trips open to anyone.

Geology, Indian Artifacts, and Space Sciences will hopefully follow as interested members chime in. Don't worry about leadership for now - just express your interest, and leaders will be found as needed.

HGMS monthly meeting minutes. 27 November 2018

Opening: President Bill Friday opened the meeting and began with a call to approve the minutes from the October meeting as published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

36 folks attended this meeting. The second order of business was to give the visitors and first-timers a chance to select one of the nice stones available for them as a gift from the club.

Next order of business was election of club officials. Nominations were discussed and most current officials were nominated to remain in their positions. All nominations were approved by voice vote to continue representing the club in their respective positions.

President	Bill Friday	At large	Michael Soroczak
Vice president	Michael Cape		Gene Powers
Secretary	Bob & Ruth Kemper		Steve Young
Treasurer	Clara Goode	Ex officio	open
Federation Liaison	open, Bill Friday interim		

Tonight's program was presented by the North Alabama Shell Collectors club. Nick Skoglund showed many examples from his collecting shells at Kwajalein Atoll in the south Pacific ocean, and described why the islands are such a great place for this hobby. Rod Henderson gave information on the Shell Club itself – who they are, when they meet, and what they do. They are affiliated with the Conchologists of America.

Following the program several more business items were presented.

Hospitality: If someone is interested in having a Christmas Dinner somewhere new you need to contact the location and verify they have room for a group of 50 people. Then make the suggestion to the club so it can be considered. This year's event is at Olive Garden but considerations are now being fielded for next year. Also, sign-up sheets for refreshment at the January meeting are at the front of the room, and a sign-up sheet for gift exchange during the Christmas dinner at Olive Garden is at the front of the room.

Spring auction: We are scheduled for our auction at the Jaycee's building on March 23rd. Donations need to be submitted early so they can be properly cataloged. There are still a few old tax receipts to give out from this year's spring auction. If you need a tax receipt for 2018 when you bring in a donation then let us know.

Pebble pups. Next meeting is January 24th. Contact Brian for more information.

Lab report: New blades and new polishing wheels are being ordered. There might need to be some refresher training offered to help people get better results in less time with less wear and tear on the equipment.

Specialty groups. Bill asked members to consider if there is interest in developing additional specialty groups such as Fossils, Indian Artifacts, or Geology similar to the groups we have now in lapidary, jewelry and metalsmithing. Dedicated leaders will be needed for each group. Bill is volunteering to lead a fossil group if people are interested. The discussion was short so members can think about it.

Meeting closed and everyone invited to partake of snacks and open discussion.

Election Results for Officers for 2019			
President	Bill Friday	At Large 1	Michael Soroczak
Vice President	Michael Cape	At Large 2	Steve Young
Secretary	Bob & Ruth Kemper	At Large 3	Gene Powers
Treasurer	Clara Goode	Ex Officio	Open
	Federation Liaison	Bill Friday Interim	

HOW TO GET MORE FOLKS TO THINK LIKE THIS?

When I read the poem to the right below, it evoked all sorts of reactions. Yeah! Where are all those volunteers. Not just in the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, but in my Antique Tractor Club, my Church, my Scout Troop. Pick a group and you see the same few handling all the work. Particularly in our own rock club, this will be a biggie come next Winter because some of us at the helm will be stepping aside for a new crew. So one of my fervent tasks will be to find great replacements for the several of us who have enjoyed every minute, but will be stepping aside anyway.

Second, I noticed that the author of the poem is Kinney Polve, whom I'd not met until our Fall Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show. A gallon bucket with chunks of rare stromatolite showed up in the Information Booth, and a card naming Kinney as the donor. So who was Kinney? I later saw that nametag on the fellow displaying the Rock Food Table from Texas. Talk about Volunteering! When the Rock Food display was mentioned in the Dothan newsletter as being back in (limited) circulation, Lowell Zoller followed up and put in a request. The only way the display could travel was to find a member of the Texas Rock Club to take responsibility for packing, transporting, displaying at a Show, re-packing, and returning home. And such an amazing couple said yes - Kinney Polve and his wife. We were blessed by having them and the Table present for our Show.

Third, the poem showed up in the latest AFMS S.C.R.I.B.E. newsletter, [Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors], which I joined a while back in a rare admission that my writing could probably use some improvement. I met Mark Hamilton, the President, Linda Hamilton, Treasurer, and Jeff Ursillo, the Editor, of S.C.R.I.B.E. at the Jacksonville G&M Fall Show & SFMS Annual Meeting. The Hamiltons had traveled all the way from California, where their primary function was to spend a couple of hours Sunday morning recognizing Editors of newsletters all over the country who have given exceptional service to their organizations. It was quite humbling to me to hang around these folks and the other dedicated hard-working SFMS officers.

In October, we will all get to meet them when we host the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting during our own Fall Show. I know you will come to admire and appreciate them all just as much as do I.

So, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society members, read Kinney's poem again in different light. Admit to yourself that as busy as you are, the organizations which bring you joy and fulfillment need more than your membership - they need your leadership. You can do it - you must do it, because your President, Vice President, and At Large leaders, and maybe a few others, are moving on to volunteer in other venues.

Read and ponder Kinney's poem, and expand your horizons.

Bill Friday, your President, for now

I CAN'T VOLUNTEER

By Kinney Polve

I have always wanted to volunteer,
But I've always had such, a terrible fear.
I know there are things, that I can do,
But I stand in the background, and leave it to you.
When I think it's time to get involved,
All my spare time has been dissolved.
Others volunteer, so why should I?
It really doesn't matter; I'm still a good guy.
If the job gets done, without my support,
That is great, because life's too short.
My time's so valuable, more valuable than yours.
Calls for volunteers, my ear just ignores.
It's not like I'm needed, so don't ask me.
Let me enjoy everything, and let me be.
It's not my fault, if things don't get done.
Because when it comes to work, I just run.
What usually happens, only a few carry the load.
Things stop getting done, because it begins to get old.
It didn't need to happen, I could have helped out.
I could have done it, there wasn't a doubt.
Now I understand what I need to do.
I'm going to help out, like I always knew.
I'll find a job that just suits me.
I'll listen to the call, and heed the plea.

Via ROCK-N-ROSE 2/8 & EL GAMBRISINO 11/18
& SCRIBE 11/18

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

Our last class of the year was on December 5th. We made Christmas tree earrings in chainmaille. This was a fairly challenging project but everyone managed to finish on time! We enjoyed ourselves at the holiday party on December 12th. If you missed it, you missed a good one! Thank you, Theresa, for hosting us. You did a wonderful job! Good friends and good food!

Note: If you missed the earring class and the party, please contact me to get your kit **before** Christmas.

The first class of 2019 is Wednesday, January 9th. Same time, same place. We're going to make a leather and chainmaille bracelet. A section of inverted round weave is woven onto leather cord, and the ends are cinched with wire.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 19th, 26th, January 2nd, 2019 – No meeting – Happy Holidays!

January 9th – Leather and chainmaille bracelet.

January 16th – Open

January 23rd – Paper bead making demonstration

January 30th – Open

Upcoming Schedule:

November 21st – No meeting – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28th – Open

December 5th – Holiday Chainmaille Earrings

December 12th – Holiday Party at Theresa's

December 19th, 26th, January 2nd, 2019 – No meeting – Happy Holidays!

Lead Instructor/

Group Leader Leslie Malakowsky

Instructors Myra Soroczak

Kit Manager Sherrie Bonin

Wire Supplier Shelley Curran

Treasurer Clara Goode

Facebook Karen Van Bebber

Security Chris Kalange

Thanks **Joe Bonin** for providing support while Chris Kalange was recuperating! And welcome back Chris!

Welcome new member Billie Couch!

RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. (Gentlemen, certainly included!) **If you love making jewelry, please visit 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.

Important: Please park in the **North parking lot** and enter the building at the **entrance next to Meals On Wheels**. The door is locked after 6:30pm, so if you need to arrive later, please call me and someone will let you in. 256-426-5061

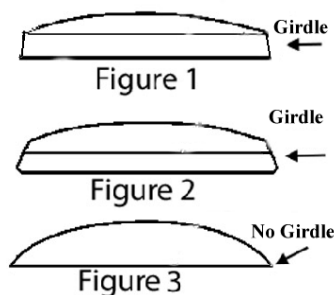
Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman

No December Class

Note: We will not be meeting Thursday, December 20th. Monday, Dec 24th or Monday Dec 31. Contact Shelley to find out if there will be a work session on Thursday, Dec 27.



Next Project Class, Thursday, January 3, 2019: Setting a Cabochon



We have had a number of certifications since the last time we had a cabochon setting class. Beginners will learn to set an oval cab—nothing with points or corners. The cab should have a nice even “girdle” like *Figure 1 or 2*. Cabs cut like *Figure 3* are difficult for beginners to set. For those who have already mastered basic setting, we will also cover setting the fancier shapes with points and corners. I will also have cabs available for sale. If you have an oval stone you want to set, bring the stone to class. We will provide all other supplies and tools. You can make your own cabs in the lab next door on Tues & Wed evenings. ***The class is full. To add your name to the Wait List by sending email to HGMS@wilddivystudio.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.**

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

Toolbox Sign-outs

Chris Kalange

Inventory Manager

Opening

Store Manager

Opening

Kit Manager

Shelley Curran

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman

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

Certification Classes: We plan to resume certifications on a one to three person basis during Monday night work sessions instead of having one large class a few times a year. If you cannot attend on Monday nights we can make arrangements for Thursday night work sessions. 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.

We will contact you and set up a day for you to come. Those who sign up will be notified when the next class will be scheduled.

Pebble Pups

Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL
Brian Burgess 256-479-2993,
bburgess771@gmail.com



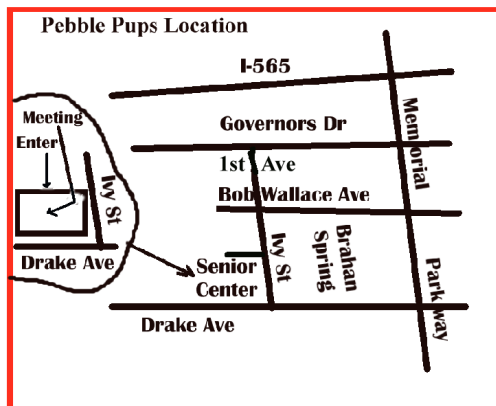
Next meeting will be January 24 as we take off Nov and Dec to enjoy the Christmas Holidays and have a Happy and Productive New Year.

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

New members are always welcome. Bring your friends.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Brian or Bill Friday
 256-527-8227, bill.Friday@earthlink.net



Bring back your Fall Show yard signs

These signs are expensive and if they aren't returned, new ones will have to be made. Please check the corners of your garage to see if any from past years are lurking in dark corners or closets.

Another Drastic Overreach by the Court System

A recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision reclassified fossils as minerals. Fossils now fall under the purview of Mineral Rights, taking their legal ownership from the land or property owner and placing them under the domain of the property's "Mineral Rights" holder, which surprisingly very few of us actually own. Having a deed to your property doesn't automatically include mineral rights. You might check on that.

This ruling applies to all fossils: vertebrates, invertebrates and plants. The drastic change in established law now puts academic and commercial paleontologist as well as the casual fossil collector and museum collections in great peril.

If this ruling stands, mineral right holders will be able to file lawsuits to take possession of any fossils collected on land that is privately held. Many museums are in jeopardy of losing important type specimens, and many wonderful fossil specimens that had been legally collected, prepared and sold could be seized and forfeited. Retroactive enforcement of such decisions is particularly egregious.

A court ruling like this can easily spill from Montana to rest of the states. There are appeals to the decision being drafted, and **Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS)**, among other groups and museums want to fight this decision. AAPS has created a Go Fund Me page to raise funds to have an attorney produce and file an Amicus Brief. The goal being to ask the court for an en banc hearing by a larger panel of judges and get this decision overturned.

To read more about this and help donate to the cause to save fossils and preserve land owners rights, follow this link: <https://www.aaps.net/newsletter-index.html>

Mineral of the Month – Pectolite (var. Larimar) by Leslie A. Malakowsky

Larimar is a rare volcanic-blue variety of the silicate mineral pectolite (an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium). Larimar is found only in the Dominican Republic, a nation comprising the eastern half of the Caribbean island Hispaniola.

Larimar's coloration can vary from white, light-blue, green-blue to deep blue. Its formula is $\text{NaCu}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$ or $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$. (The substitution of copper for calcium produces the lovely blue color.) But larimar also occurs in green, with red spots and with brown stripes due to the presence of other minerals and/or oxidation.



Larimar specimen from Dominican Republic



Larimar is a member of the Wollastonite group of silicates, a family of minerals used extensively in the ceramic and insulation industries. Other minerals in this group include neptunite, okenite and rhodonite.

In the Miocene (the first geological epoch of the Neogene Period; about 23 to 5 million years ago), volcanic rocks, andesites and basalts erupted within the limestones of the south coast of the Dominican Republic. These rocks had cavities or *vugs* that were later filled with blue pectolite. When these rocks erode, the pectolite is carried down slope and becomes alluvium (loose sediment that eroded, reshaped by water, and deposited in a non-marine environment) and beach gravel. The Bahrucro River carries the sediments to the sea. The tumbling action in the river naturally polishes the blue stones in contrast to the dark gravels of the streambed.

Pectolite is a soft stone, ranging from 4.5 to 5 on the Moh's scale. It's harder than fluorite but not harder than apatite. And well-formed pectolite tends not to split apart on impact. Therefore, it's easier to shape than quartz. Ancient hammerheads and other pectolite implements have been found in Alaska and across Northern Canada, but there isn't any record of its use for adornment or ceremonial purposes. In the modern era, pectolite is sometimes sought by mineral collectors, but it was of no use to the jewelry trade; that is, until 1974 when the source of larimar was discovered.

In 1916, Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren, a Spanish priest, botanist and geologist, was exploring a beach in the coastal province of Barahona on Hispaniola. He discovered a light blue stone that he identified as pectolite. He requested permission to find the source of the stone, but pectolite wasn't known in the Dominican Republic then, and his request was denied.

In 1974, Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps volunteer Norman Rilling rediscovered larimar on a beach at the foot of the Bahrucro Mountain Range. They realized that the stones were alluvial sediment washed into the sea by the Bahrucro River, and they followed the river upstream until they found the only known outcrop of larimar in the range. The native Taino people believed that the stone was a gift from the sea, and they called the stone *blue stone*. Méndez named the stone *larimar*, a combination of his daughter's name Larissa and the Spanish word for sea (*mar*), to suggest the colors of the Caribbean Sea where it was found.

The larimar outcrop is located at the Los Chupaderos mine, about 6 miles southwest of the city of Barahona in the southwestern region of the Dominican Republic. The mine is operated by a few local families. But the conditions are rugged. The mine is a single mountainside now perforated with thousands of vertical shafts, and surrounded by rainforest and mine tailings. The stone is so soft that blasting is prohibited so the mineral must be extricated with hand tools. Also, the mine is inaccessible for many months of the year because of heavy rain and mudslides.

These conditions and the worldwide demand for larimar have caused sellers to flood the market with reconstituted, fake and misidentified material. Inexpensive jewelry described as being "stabilized" larimar is generally not natural stone but a manmade dyed resin possibly reconstituted with larimar dust. Amazonite, chrysocolla, hemimorphite and even dyed agate and howlite are being passed off as real larimar. So buyer beware! Take time to familiarize yourself with the look and feel of real larimar. For example, it's opaque when held up to a light source. And it's too soft to take a very shiny polish. Also, touching real larimar to a flame has no effect. Any melting, burning or plastic smell indicates a fake.

In the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere in the Caribbean, larimar jewelry is offered to the public as a local specialty. Most larimar jewelry is set in silver, and sometimes high-grade larimar is set in gold. Larimar is graded according to coloration and the typical mineral crystal configuration in the stone. The more intense the blue color and the contrast in the stone, the higher and rarer the quality. If you're investing in larimar, it's also important to note that the blue color is photosensitive and fades with time if exposed to too much light and heat.

References: wikipedia.org, "Soft and lovely larimar" by Kia Resnick, *Bead & Button* magazine, October 2018

Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering and polishing. Browse through a couple of the new ones at <https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/>



TAKE A BETTER PHOTO

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion, and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the colors will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number).

This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask how to do this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

- Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
- Turn the camera's flash off.
- Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the frame.
- Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
- Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle, or white background paper.
- Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
- Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
- Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
- Set the lens opening to the highest number to get the maximum depth of field.
- Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, light bulb, fluorescent, etc).
- Set the timer for delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to adjust lighting or reduce any final reflections.
- Set the image size to the maximum resolution. You can size it down later, but you can never increase it.
- Take the shot.



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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Saturday, January 19, 2019 10:00 a.m. EST
Douglas Lake Jefferson County, Tennessee

TRIP: Douglas Lake is a 30,000 acre impoundment located near Dandridge, Tennessee with over 500 miles of shoreline. It is managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Each winter, the TVA lowers the water level significantly, exposing miles of dry lake bed. We will be searching the dry lake bed for "Douglas Lake Diamonds".

COLLECTING: "Douglas Lake Diamonds" is a phrase coined by local rockhounds for the quartz crystals found at the site due to their resemblance to Herkimer "diamonds" from New York. Crystals found here are often double terminated or twinned and are very clear. Sizes range from smaller than a pea to thumb size. Small crystal lined geodes are found here as well as chert, fossils, and agate. **Note:** It is illegal to remove, disturb, dig or damage historical or cultural artifacts on federal property, including items exposed on land normally covered by water. The public is asked to leave such materials in place and report anyone digging for artifacts to TVA police at 1-855-476-2489.

BRING: The TVA will not allow any digging or excavation of the lake bed, therefore we will be surface collecting only. Bring suitable containers for your specimens. Wear waterproof boots, warm clothes and a change of clothing. The wind can be quite cold coming off the lake with nothing to block it. Be prepared to do a lot of walking.

REQUIREMENTS: No special requirements, although we will be subject to the TVA rules and regulations for public lands. As noted earlier, **no digging** in the lake bed is allowed, **no disturbing artifacts**, and **no littering**. More information can be found at www.tva.gov.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be parking at the public boat ramp near the dam. The parking is paved and adjacent to the collecting site. The collecting area is slightly to moderately inclined. There will be no fee or registration required.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are allowed but must be closely supervised by a responsible adult or legal guardian. The site is probably not appropriate for small children unless closely watched.

PETS (Yes): Pets are allowed but must be closely supervised.

FACILITIES: There are restrooms at the site. There are convenience stores nearby and along the route and some restaurants in Dandridge.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: More information about Douglas Lake can be found at www.douglaslake.info, including water levels, public ramps and lodging.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Douglas Lake is located south of Interstate 40, approximately 30 miles east of Knoxville. From Interstate 40, take exit 412 Deep Springs Road. Continue south on Deep Springs Road and turn right on Highway 139. Continue for about 3 tenths of a mile and turn left onto Highway 338. After 2.4 miles turn left onto Boat Launch Road at the convenience store. After 150 feet turn left again to stay on Boat Launch Road. Continue for about a mile to the public boat ramp. We will be meeting at the public boat ramp near the dam. Trip leaders will be there to answer any questions and share additional locations. **GPS 35° 57' 08" 83° 32' 15"**

CONTACT: Al Gaskill (336) 766-1974 albert.gaskill.iii@gmail.com

Charles Whicker (336) 880-9206 ccwhicker@live.com

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs within the SFMS that have provided their members with field trip liability insurance. SFMS club members are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click [here](#) to read them), but the general public is not, and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. So unless the property owner has invited non-SFMS attendees, the general public is not allowed on DMC field trips. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

December Birthdays

1 George Detwiler	14 Shelley Curran
1 James Yack	16 Haley Middleton
4 Florence Mims	16 Jason Moore
5 Morgan Lindy	19 Brian Allen
6 Lynn Peete	19 Susan Kula
6 Becky Rollston	20 Mitch Bedard
7 John Ruble	21 Joey Catterton
8 Jessica Babcock	21 Jake Elrod
10 Katie Lewis	21 Linda Haynes
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
	30 Steve Young



December
Turquoise

Anniversaries

16 Rhonda & Jim Springer	21 Billy & Mandy Todd
17 Darell & Phyllis Murphy	27 Ralph & Jeanne Reed
18 John & Linda Lindberg	28 John & Margery Ruble

January Birthdays

3 Steve Tesh	15 Jaxton Roberts
4 Wayne Hall	15 Lisa Watts
5 Lindsey Armstrong	16 Linda Riden
5 Matthew Kula	16 Fritzie Young
5 Frank Vinz	17 David Bath
6 Jack Albers	17 Debra Lindy
6 Cynthia McDaniel	18 David Gulliver
6 Eva Ziegler	20 Betty Zoller
7 Anita Bynum	20 David Hosmer
8 Christine Tate	21 Lowell Zoller
8 Dorthea Chism	22 Mike Wesley
8 Susan Lowman	23 Nancy Burrows
9 Brian Burgess	23 Evelyn Detwiler
9 Mandy Todd	23 Margaret Harmon
10 Jonathan Lear	24 Clara Hayes
11 Delora Ward	25 John Hall
12 Pat McKinney	25 Rebecca Lynn Lindy
13 Elroy Walker	26 Heather Huber
13 Norm Ballas	27 Wes Wells
14 Troy Haggerty	



January
Garnet

Anniversaries

9 Dawn Holliday
15 Jack & Kathleen Albers
18 Jeff & Debra Lindy
24 Johnnie & Dennis Peterson

December 2018 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule

No More HGMS Evening Activities this year = see you in January

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 Seniors & HGMS 60+
	9:00am- Noon	Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+
	Noon-4:30pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Metal Smithing - Only certified HGMS 18+
Tuesday	7:30am-9:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & 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 Seniors & HGMS 60+
Wednesday	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+
	7:30am-4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Open Jewelry - Only certified HGMS
Thursday	7:30am-9:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & 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 Seniors & HGMS 60+
Friday	5:30pm-9:00pm	Metal Smithing & Jewelry Classes— Only certified HGMS 18+
	7:30am-12:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+

No More HGMS Evening Activities this year = see you in January

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
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 Gene Powers—256-751-3067—genepowersgddm@gmail.com
 Michael Soroczak—256-446-9938—Soroczak@yahoo.com
 Ex Officio - Brian Burgess— 256-479-2993 bburgess771@gmail.com
 Federation Liaison - Mark Habercom - 256-340-8604, mhabercom@energize.net

2018-19 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	
Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-479-2993 bburgess771@gmail.com	Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803 Lzol@comcast.net
Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061 caryl.nixon@outlook.com	Show Volunteer Chair: Open
Mineral ID: Michael Soroczak falkenbergwp@comcast.net (William Holland offers a class for this)	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, artifacts, and newsletters.

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



2019 CALENDAR

- 22 Jan '19 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 26 Feb '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 23 Mar '19 (Saturday) - Annual Fund Raiser Auction - 9:00 am
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 23 Apr '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 28 May '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- June '19 - Annual Picnic and Rock Swap - place, date, and time yet to be determined.
- 25 Jun '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Jul '19 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter— January 13 2019

**Dated material
Do not Delay**

HGMS December 2018

Huntsville, AL 35803

2508 Excaltibur Dr.

Bill Friday, Editor

Rocket City Rocks & Gems