

# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 51 No. 5

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

May 2019

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note .....	2
Info for Possible new HGMS home ..	2-3
April Meeting Minutes .....	4
Rocket City Jewelers .....	5
Metalsmithing Corner.....	6
Pebble Pups .....	7
GeoSciences.....	7
Brad's Bench Tips .....	8
June Picnic .....	8
Feature Article,.....	9
May/June Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	10
Lapidary Lab Schedule .....	10
2019 Officers & Committees.....	11
Calendar.....	12

## Show & Tell for May 28th Program

It has been a while since we had a show and tell. We will have three this year. For this meeting, we ask members whose last initials are from **H thru R** to bring up to three of their favorite collection specimens. Please tell what they are, where you obtained them, and why you like them. Please keep it sort of brief. Bring your best treasures. The last such S&T for the year will be in October.



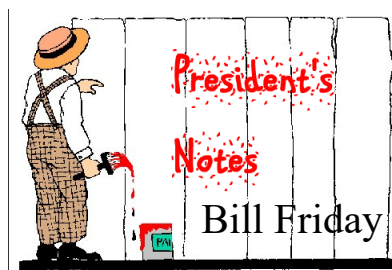
## Possible New Home for HGMS Discussion

Presentation will cover option for a new location for all activities within the organization. See pages 2 & 3 for information to be provided.

[www.huntsvillegms.org/](http://www.huntsvillegms.org/) - [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS](https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS) -

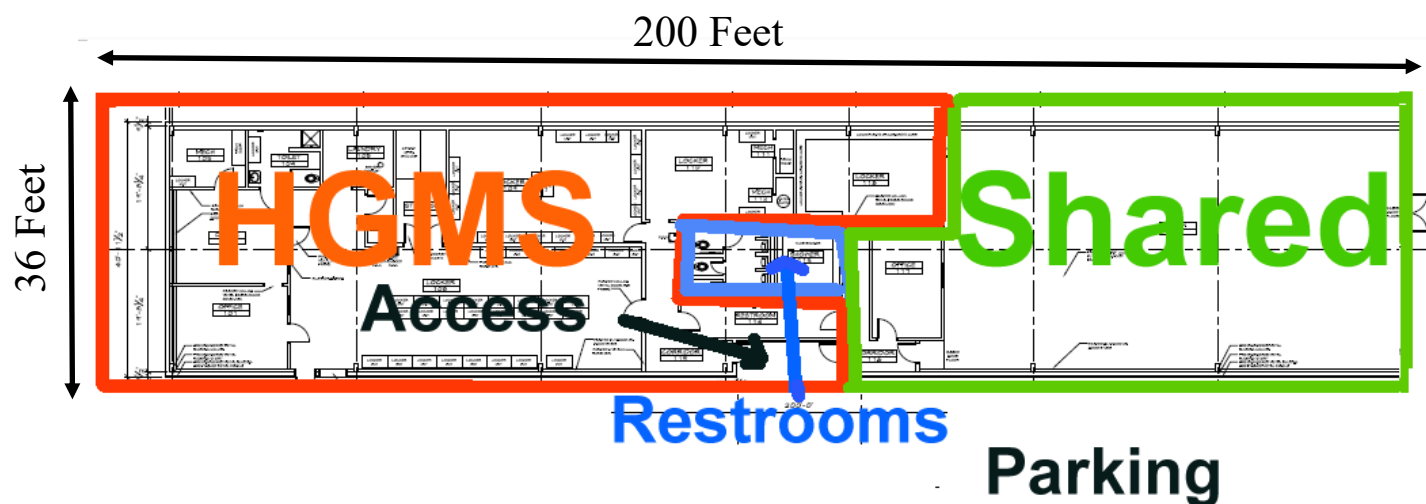
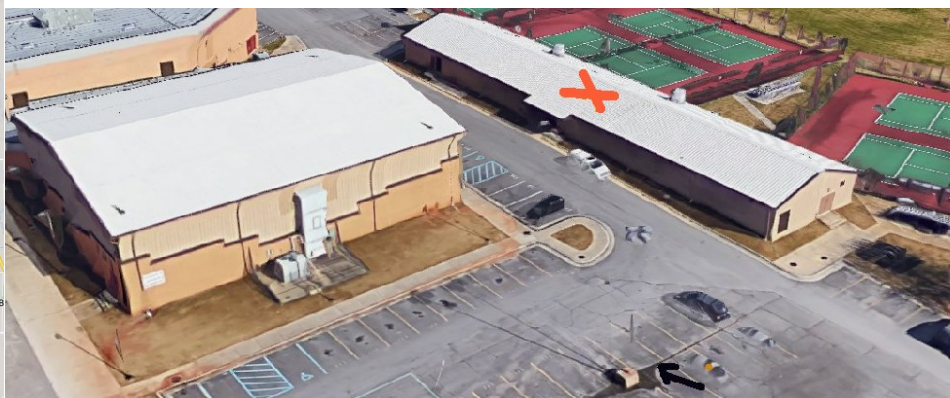
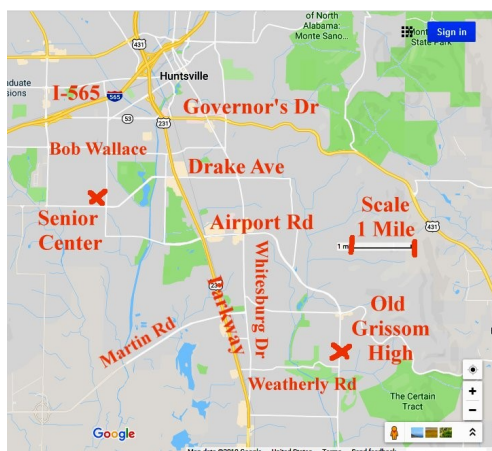


Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS) 2019. Reprinting Rights are granted for all material (except for minutes of the meeting and copyrighted articles) to any organization officially affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) or Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), provided credit is given to the author, the original publication, and this newsletter



Summer is here, school is out, folks are headed out hither and yon hunting entertainment, vacationing, sporting - and rock hunting. I get phone calls from interested rockhounds from all over the South, and beyond, wanting to come here looking for interesting rocks and minerals, particularly Paint Rock Valley Agate. It pains me to tell them that we have an abundance of limestone and sandstone, but no accessible sites where our amazing local wonder mineral can be hunted. Way too bad. Maybe someday a locality will open up to the public. Meanwhile we do have nice fossils.

**Read below concerning an opportunity for the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society to re-locate to a new, larger, and HGMS-only facility.** At the May meeting, the membership will be given a briefing on the potential advantages and disadvantages of approving this venture. Members who cannot attend this meeting are asked to provide feedback to the Board with positive or negative commentary. Please be specific and provide details on rationale for each comment or recommendation. This is a great opportunity, but it isn't a perfect transition. Extensive discussions have been conducted with City officials, exploring each side's responsibilities and potential obligations. No commitments or promises have been agreed upon at this point. **The decision to proceed or not in discussions with the City will be voted on at the May meeting. This does not constitute a commitment to actually move, but rather only to further pursue the move with the City. An HGMS vote for commitment will come later.**



Commentary with explanations, advantages, disadvantages, & options are on the next page.

## Option for a new home for the HGMS

For some time now, space at the Senior Center has gotten snug for accommodating all of our activities. Some of you may be surprised at all the activities that we currently have going just at the Senior Center: monthly meetings on fourth Tuesday evenings; lapidary lab on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the daytime; lapidary lab at night on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; Rocket City Jewelry on Wednesday evenings; Metal Smithing on Monday and Thursday evenings; Pebble Pups on fourth Thursdays; GeoSciences (geology, fossils, and Indian Artifacts) on second Thursdays; plus occasional evening Board meetings. We are looking to start new programs for astronomy, faceting, and metal casting. We use the lapidary lab, the painting room, the Cafeteria, and the Merrimack room, and keep materials stored in four rooms around the building. This is besides the Auction and Fall Show held outside the Senior Center, plus the materials we have stored for the show in two places off-site.

We have been looking around for a possible new home where all or most of this could happen in one place. Such a place is now being more strongly considered. The City has offered to renovate the Field House at the old Grissom High School, and this has been inspected by the Board and Committee Chairs who would be affected. **No decision has been, or will be made prior to asking the membership's willingness to proceed.**

### Advantages:

This would be a long term agreement, the same as we now have in the Senior Center.  
The location is five miles from the Senior Center along major roads, located in a safe neighborhood.  
We would retain our current affiliation with the Senior Center, covered by their insurance and legal counsel.  
Members would have access to this facility anytime during day or evening for all ages of our membership.  
We would not share this space with non-HGMS groups as we do now with Senior Silver and Woodcarving.  
The available floor space for each activity would be increased, plus new space for new programs.

The allocation of space and location of activities would be up to us.  
There would be ample storage for all the above and more, all conveniently co-located.  
There is ample parking with excellent night-lighting near the main entry.  
The South Huntsville Police Precinct is directly across Bailey Cove Rd from the School  
There would be adequate restroom facilities near the entrance to our space.  
We would have our own security system for recording who is in the lab and when, so that only HGMS members would be on the premises.  
There is a second large space within the same building which would be available to the HGMS upon prior reservation anytime needed on a priority basis. Long term reservations would be honored.  
All HGMS related equipment would be available for re-installation in the new facility.  
The City would arrange for and pay for all renovations - clearing all unneeded current contents, moving walls if necessary, renovating the restroom facilities, cleaning, painting, flooring, re-locating utilities (light, power, HVAC, drainage), move or add doors as needed, meet all City construction codes. The City architect would be available to guide us on safety and re-allocation issues.  
Cost to the HGMS would be minimal, though there is no rational way to estimate the fiscal needs. Once on site the HGMS would not pay for use of the building. Potential utility fees have not been worked out.  
There is a possibility for moving the Show & Auction storage to an on-site adjacent building.

### Disadvantages:

There would be no staff during daytime hours. All on-site persons would be HGMS volunteers when they chose to be available.  
We would be responsible for relocating and installing all HGMS equipment at the new facility.  
Once settled within, there would be no easy option for further growth.  
The building is visible from Bailey Cove Rd, but is half hidden behind the main building, so signage would be needed to direct visitors and new members to find the place.  
This is not an immediate option, as lots of work will be needed to make the place satisfactory, so that current crowded conditions would continue for the time being. It might take a year to be ready to move.

HGMS Meeting 23 April 2019

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm.

Attendance: 30 members were present. New Members: Derick & Katherine Higgs, First time attendee new members Carol J. Lee and Andrea Paseur.

Treasury Notes: Bill started the meeting by presenting the treasury notes from the auction. Bill had stated that this was the highest amount of money earned at the auction. Break out of this is as follows:  
\$400 – expenses for the auction - \$4600 – auction earnings  
\$9190 – general fund current balance

Program: Mike Harrison provided the audience a presentation of “A brief History of Mount St. Helens”.  
Time period of 2007/2008

Life time Memberships: A recommendation from the board was a motion to present a life time membership to those members that have had been active members for 25 years until present. A vote was taken and motion passed. Members that had any outstanding fees will have those waived. A recommendation was also presented to offer a plaque/certificate/documentation to acknowledge this accomplishment. The list of awardees is: Al Moebes, Betty Olson, Bill Sweetman, Margie Dickson, Mark & Susan Habercom, Mary Gooch, Jerry & Margaret Olson, Ray & Ann Humphrey, Debra Little, Mahlon & Willese McConnell, Charles & Mildred Mohling, Raymond & Bonnie Tanner, and Lowell Zoller.

Rocket City Jewelers: Saturday (April 22) will have a trip to Mary’s beads & gems and then have dinner. Deadline for the stone & leather bracelet class for 1 May will meet in the paint room. May 15<sup>th</sup> will be a chain mail segment.

Metal smithing: May official class is anticlastic bracelets (beads) copper. Kit and cost will be determined on what materials the student will use.

Pebble Pups: Saturday’s trip to the Steven Minkin Tracksite near Jasper AL was cancelled because the APS host had an emergency arise, and it is being rescheduled.

GeoScience Activity: (Fossils/Indian Artifacts/Geology) Field Trip to discover Conodont teeth May 4<sup>th</sup> with program on Conodonts to follow on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Possible Move to Grissom High School Field House: Two city members offering half of the building for the HGMS use. The main reason to move into this building is because of the space. But after taking measurements, it was determined that if HGMS moves into only half the building it might not be worth the resources or the cost.

Outreach: Bill & Brian went to Eura Brown Elementary School in Gadsen. Saw seven groups each this time consisting of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on up. High school had 2 classes of special needs groups. Brian is moving to Birmingham in June. Volunteers are needed to visit schools next year to spread youth interest in HGMS activities.

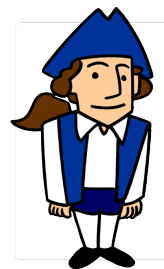
Meeting adjourned with hospitality at 7:50pm.



## Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

### Next Class, Thursday, June 6: “Catch Up”

Since Metalsmithing did not meet several weeks during the month of May we will not be starting a new project in June. This will be the month to finally get those “almost finished” project done or to “make up” a project class you missed. We will have a sign up sheet at the May meeting. *When you sign up for the class indicate which class you missed and would like to do so we will have kits prepared and all the tools and handouts needed for that project on hand.* If you want to just finish up projects you started—sign up and let us know which project you will be working on so we can have any special tools needed for your project available.



We will be running on a regular Monday and Thursday evening schedule during the month of June. The July Schedule will be as follows because of instructor classes and the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday:

Thursday, July 4 – CLOSED

Monday, July 8 – CLOSED

Thursday, July 11 – CLOSED

Monday, July 15 – OPEN: WORK SESSION

Thursday, July 18 – OPEN: PROJECT CLASS: SETTING A CABOCHON



The balance of the month of July will be our normal Monday and Thursday work session nights.

**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 in late May. 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](mailto: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.

### **Volunteer Positions \***

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

CG Lester

Toolbox Sign-outs

***Opening***

Inventory Manager

***Opening***

Store Manager

Kit Manager

Shelley Curran

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman

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



### Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Copyright © All rights reserved.

These will no longer be posted in the email newsletter or on our website, since we have those open for the general public to see. The Dixie Mineral Council has to restrict access to field trip information to keep the attendance among only paid members of Gem & Mineral Societies that are part of the DMC umbrella and which have adequate insurance for their members. You will get the DMC announcements separately by email.

## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky



The last few weeks have been busy. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, we made samples of Inverted Round Maille, Round Maille, and Turkish Round Maille. Some of us are still catching up with that one! On May 1st, we again ventured out of our collective comfort zones by making a braided deerskin-lace bracelet with a stone focal bead. Each person selected their own combination of lace and stone. Now we're inspired to make a bracelet by braiding wire! On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we made a chainmaille bracelet using Helm's Weave, and we added a sample to our collection.

**Note:** The April 27<sup>th</sup> trip to Mary's was cancelled because the owners were unexpectedly out of town. But this event will be rescheduled!

Now taking reservations for the [Half Persian 4-in-1 chainmaille bracelet class on June 5<sup>th</sup>](#). The kit is \$5.00. Please RSVP to Judy by **May 29th**.

### Upcoming Schedule:

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Open

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Elements of Jewelry Design: An Overview. Deadline to RSVP for June 5<sup>th</sup> class.

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Half Persian 4-in-1 Chainmaille Bracelet

June 12 – Open

June 19<sup>th</sup> – Chainmaille samples: Half Persian 3-in-1 spine.

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Open. Deadline to RSVP for July 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> (or July 10) – Netted Cabochons

Group Leader/Lead Instructor Leslie Malakowsky

Instructors Judy Osmundson, Myra Soroczak

Kit Manager Sherrie Bonin

Treasurer Clara Goode

Facebook Karen VanBebber

Security Joe Bonin



RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. (Gentlemen, too!) **If you love making jewelry, please join us!** All skill levels are welcome!

**Remember our core values: to share what we know, learn new skills, and have fun!** Please let me know what you are able to teach and what you would like to learn.

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 6:30p, so if you need to arrive later, please text me and someone will let you in.

# Pebble Pups

Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL  
Brian Burgess 256-479-2993  
[bburgess771@gmail.com](mailto:bburgess771@gmail.com)



**Upcoming meeting** - May 23, 6:00 in the Senior Center Cafeteria

We will explore the fascinating world of Sea Shells. There will be many examples present, and an exercise for the “beach combers” to discover these treasures from the sand - and take them home.

Brian has begun to update the Pup website calendar. As he gets confirmation on field trips, guest speakers, and club events I will add them to the calendar. The trip to the **Steven Minkin Track Site** unfortunately had to be postponed when our APS host had an emergency arise. It will be rescheduled later.



**Cane Creek Canyon is set for Jun 1.** I still need input for who wants to venture for the shark tooth hunting to South Alabama. I will update the Field Trip Info section on the website with polls for you to decide where and when we go. I will leave the Field Trip Information up on this section for those that are new to the Pups. I will add the date for the field trips once they have been decided.

**Cedar Creek fossils, near Red Bay AL**—date yet to be settled

**New members are always welcome. Bring your friends.**

**Enter the north door of the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. and straight ahead to the cafeteria.**  
**If anyone has any questions, please contact Brian 256-479-2993 or Bill Friday 256-527-8227,**  
[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

## GeoSciences [Geology & Fossil & Indian Artifact] ACTIVITY - Bill Friday

The next meeting will be Second Thursday **June 13th, 6:30pm**. Haley Nedbalski and Avery Crawford will tell of their trip to Florida to find fossils along the **Peace River**, just east of Tampa. They brought home corals, a mastodon tooth, and a Megalodon shark tooth, among many other very interesting finds. You can get a heads-up from the website [http://www.paleocurrents.com/docs/peace\\_river\\_fl.html](http://www.paleocurrents.com/docs/peace_river_fl.html), but it will be lots more fun to hear from our presenters' first hand experience.



The **Conodont field trip** to the Flint River earlier this month got sort of washed out. The rain the night before threatened to raise the water level, but the water was still fine that morning .

So only the McCullough's, Nedbalski/Crawford, and I made it out there, and we found no teeth at the site. I brought back a bucket of the Chattanooga Shale to the meeting the next Thursday, and we had a good time smashing into them in the Senior Center Cafeteria. Still no teeth found at the time but most folks took home slabs of the black rock for home examination. We did carefully sweep the Cafeteria floor before leaving.





## Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com) 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/>. These are just a few of the many

tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making". See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

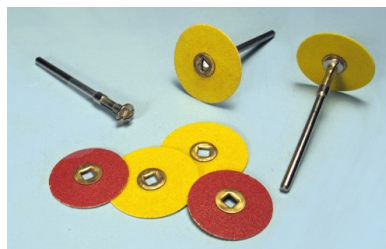


### SANDING DISKS

One of my favorite flexshaft tools that saves a lot of time is the snap-on sanding disk. I mainly use the medium and fine grits but sometimes I like the very fine ones sold for working with platinum.

Ordinarily, you'd think of placing the disk on the mandrel with the grit side facing away from your hand, but notice that you end up with your elbow up in the air. Instead, try flipping the disk so that the grit side is towards your hand. It's a much more comfortable position because the elbow is down near your side, and it lets me hold the work up close where I have a better view of what I'm sanding.

I use these snap-on disks so frequently that I keep multiple mandrels with different grits already mounted in the burr stand. Some mandrels have the grit facing out and some facing in.



### EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

Happy hammering, Brad

## HGMS June 29 Picnic & Rock Swap at Monte Sano State Park -

The venue is the same as last year

No extra fee to get into the Park

All food except the meat will be Potluck among attendees

Pavilion, restrooms, kids playground - All under shade trees

Bring your rocks etc. to sell, swap, or money to buy - no HGMS fee





## Mineral of the Month – Sugilite *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*

This month's mineral was inspired by the color purple – the color, not the movie, although I like the movie, too. The purple minerals I knew as an aspiring rockhound were limited to amethyst and fluorite. Sugilite wasn't commonly known then, at least not by pebble pups! And charoite, a very beautiful lavender-colored mineral, wasn't known until 1978! (But that's another article.)



Sugilite is a rare *cyclosilicate* (silicates that contain rings of linked  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedra) mineral that can be colorless, light brownish-yellow, pink, violet, or purple, and it can be opaque or translucent. It has a complex chemical formula:  $\text{KNa}_2(\text{Fe, Mn, Al, Zr})_2\text{Li}_3\text{Si}_{12}\text{O}_{30}$ ; basically, a potassium, sodium, lithium silicate in which iron, manganese, aluminum, and zirconium can be present. The crystal system is hexagonal and the crystals are prismatic, but crystals are rare – it's usually in massive form. It's a rock-forming mineral with a hardness of 5.5 - 6.5 on Mohs scale and a vitreous (shiny) luster. But it's sugilite's gorgeous purple color that people love!

Many minerals named after people are intended to be pronounced the same as the person's name, in this case with a hard "g", as in "geese" (*SOO-gi-lyt*). This wasn't an issue when sugilite was an obscure yellowish-brown mineral from Japan. But when it was discovered as a bright purple lapidary-quality mineral in South Africa, thousands of people in the gem trade started talking about it, and soon the "bad" pronunciation (with a soft "g", as in "ginger") became common.

Sugilite is a member of the osumilite group of minerals. Other members of this group include milarite and roedderite. (Roedderite was found in particles collected by NASA's Stardust spacecraft mission from the comet Wild 2 in 2004!).

Sugilite was first described in 1944 by the Japanese petrologist (one who studies rocks and the conditions under which they form) Ken-ichi Sugi (1901–1948) for an occurrence he found on Iwagi Island, Ehime, Japan. The mineral was named in honor of him in 1976.

On Iwagi Island, sugilite is found in an aegrine (a sodium rich silicate mineral) syenite (a coarse grained igneous rock) stock (an igneous intrusion having a surface exposure of less than 40sq miles.) Sugilite also occurs in a similar environment in Canada. In South Africa, sugilite is mined from manganese-rich strata or rock layers. It's also mined in Australia, India, and Italy. Unfortunately, I didn't find any known deposits of sugilite in the United States.

Sugilite's hardness, shiny luster, and beautiful color make it an ideal mineral for lapidary and jewelry making. Here are some examples. Enjoy!

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



## May Birthdays

3 Katherine Spencer  
 5 Myra Soroczak 16 Vicki Van Valkenburgh  
 6 Phil Lester 22 Mike Chivers  
 7 Iven Holt 26 Trudie Murphy  
 9 Laura Bath 27 Terry Burcham  
 13 Laurie Cantrell 27 Chris Kalange  
 14 Joe Bonin 30 Bob Hayes  
 15 Cora Patterson 30 Jim Treadway  
 16 Emily Lear 32 Jeanne Reed  
 16 Mike Curran 31 Raymond Tanner

## Anniversaries

6 John & Julie McCullough  
 17 Gerdy & David Wyatt  
 18 Chelsey Perry  
 18 Mike & Anne Wesley  
 29 Norm & Sandy Ballas  
 29 David & Diana O'Dell



May  
Emerald

## June Birthdays

4 Elizabeth Kowalczyk 19 Linda Sue Conception  
 4 Juyne Sofka 22 Gavin Crunk  
 5 Emma Allen 23 Jonathan Kowalczyk  
 5 Ruth Kemper 24 Tonya Sitko  
 7 Nancy Hosmer 25 Caryl Jean Nixon  
 11 David Inman 26 David O'Dell  
 12 Julia Priest 27 Dianna O'Dell  
 15 Matthew Kowalczyk 28 Anna Boyett  
 15 Al Moebs 28 Lori Willhoite  
 17 Lori Crymes



June  
Pearl

## Anniversaries

5 David & Karen Bath 19 Michael & Sheila Cape  
 5 Eva & Dan Ziegler 21 Lawrence & Diana Nelms  
 7 Bill Sweetman 22 Mike & Karon Baerlin  
 8 Charlie & Lori Willhoite 22 Margaret & Grady Harmon  
 9 Jimi & Tonya Sitko 23 Tom & Alicia Detwiler  
 12 Wayne & Polly Falkenberg 24 Dennis & Patty Jo Adomatis  
 13 John & Ivey Cook 29 Caryl & David Nixon  
 15 David & Tracey Inman 30 William Aycok

## May 2019 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule

To use lapidary equipment, you must be certified unless a licensed instructor is present currently: Bill Friday, Joe Bonin, & Michael Cape

<b>Monday</b>	7:30am-4:30am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS age 60+
		<b>Notice the big change in lab availability</b>
	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Open Metal Smithing - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	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+
	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30am-4:30 pm	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+
	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>
	<b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Open Jewelry - Only certified HGMS</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	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+
	<b>5:30pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Metal Smithing &amp; Jewelry Classes— Only certified HGMS 18+</b>
<b>Friday</b>	7:30am-12:00am	Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+

## 2019 HUNTSVILLE GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President—Bill Friday—256-527-8227—[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

Vice President— Michael Cape— [macape@knology.net](mailto:macape@knology.net)

Recording Secretary: Ruth Kemper— [bob\\_kemper@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_kemper@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194—[clarag1964@gmail.com](mailto:clarag1964@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227—[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

Directors at Large: Steve Young —[taegu\\_steve@hotmail.com](mailto:taegu_steve@hotmail.com)

Gene Powers—[genepowersgddm@gmail.com](mailto:genepowersgddm@gmail.com)

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

Ex Officio - Brian Burgess— [bburgess771@gmail.com](mailto:bburgess771@gmail.com)

Federation Liaison - Les Bartel - 131 Oakland Trace, Madison AL 35758 [lester.bartel@gmail.com](mailto:lester.bartel@gmail.com)

## 2019 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

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

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

Publicity: Bob Kemper

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

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

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

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

[curranshelley1@gmail.com](mailto:curranshelley1@gmail.com)

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-479-2993

[bburgess771@gmail.com](mailto:bburgess771@gmail.com)

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

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

Mineral ID: Michael Soroczak

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

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange,

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

Program Chair—Mike Harrison -

[wm.harrison.123@gmail.com](mailto:wm.harrison.123@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

Show Volunteer Chair: Open

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

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

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

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

**PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY:** The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization for people interested in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and related lapidary arts. Its primary purpose is the education of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs, shows, lectures to school children and organizations, and exchange of rocks, minerals, 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](http://www.Huntsvillegms.org), at meetings, or the lab

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

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

**Federation Liaison: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society,** 131 Oakland Trace, Madison AL 35758

Attn: Les Bartel

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

**Federation Newsletters:**

**SFMS:** [www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar\\_newsletter.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html)

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

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



# 2019 CALENDAR



28 May '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

June - no monthly meeting

29 Jun '19 (Saturday) - Annual Picnic and Rock Swap - Monte Sano State Park,  
Huntsville - Large Pavilion in the Picnic Area - 9:00 till 2:00

23 Jul '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

27 Aug '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

24 Sep '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

11-13 Oct '19 HGMS Fall Show, Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL

22 Oct '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

26 Nov '19 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

10 Dec '19 - Annual HG&MS Christmas Dinner  
Date, Time, and Place to be determined

Deadline for Next Newsletter— June 15, 2019

**Dated material  
Do not Delay**

Rocket City Rocks & Gems  
Bill Friday, Editor  
2508 Excalibur Dr.  
Huntsville, AL 35803  
HGMS May 2019