

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 51 No. 10

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

October 2019

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Thomas Jackson, Stone Carver

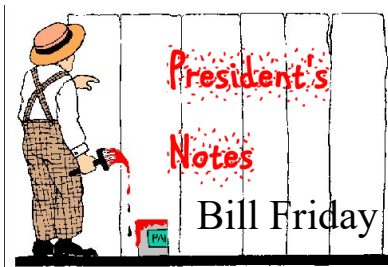
Thomas has been commissioned to decorate major buildings, fireplace mantles, benches, and much more. On his own whimsy he creates fantastic 3-D images and cameos. He will bring some of his tools and artwork, and he will speak to where he got his talent, where he gets his ideas, and how he actually does the creating.



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



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What a rush! We spent months planning, preparing, recruiting, and gathering stuff for the Fall Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show, and then all of a sudden it was upon us, the doors opened and the visitors poured in, and kept pouring in for three days. There were some glitches, but none major enough to spoil the fun. Some members had signed up to work in various areas, and they did, but many more who hadn't signed up came and filled in, or took leads, or moved from place to place as needed.

The Moon Rock was a huge hit, seen by probably all of our approximately 3000 visitors, very many of whom stopped to ask Lowell about it and marvel that it was on display. The Mining Flume ran out of bags on Sunday, even after filling a few more from the wet spent gravel barrel. The Fluorescent Room was always busy. Shelley & Kathy demonstrated their metal working techniques, Charlie Willhoite showed how faceting is done, Wayne Falkenberg explained wire wrapping of cabochon shapes, Ray & Ann Humphrey had their rock grinding and polishing machine busy, Judy Osmundson hosted the Kids Activity Table, and Dan Hessler operated his foot-powered rock processing stand. The Gem Dig was missing and was missed by a number of visitors who had hoped it would return.



We had four competitive display cases, which were evaluated by Leslie Wayment, who is a certified Judge at the American Federation level – John McCullough got a blue ribbon for his Stratigraphy of Monte Sano, and Bruce Kowalczyk got blue for his copper minerals, blue for his petrified wood, and red for his Pakistan minerals. The judges spent time with both fellows explaining what was right, what was wrong, and tips on how to improve them. In addition there were seven other displays, some of which were spectacular but not in competition. The Currans, Mike Harrison, and the Osmundson's had refurbished twenty four cases, so for next year there will be plenty of opportunities for other entries.

The dealers were busy start to finish, offering a wide variety of wares – beads, jewels, rocks & finished pieces, minerals, fossils, machines, and much more. All dealers commented that their business was a success. The HGMS, coordinated by Caryl Nixon, fed all of the dealers and workers on Thursday night as the setup was winding down, with meat selections from Ted's Barbecue and from member Gordon Jones (really good ribs and chicken), plus many delicious choices of potluck offerings. The dealer waiting list got longer by several hopefuls.

At the Information Booth, we signed up 38 new families and 71 new member families, lots of them kids, interested in some or all of our activities. The last of 200 application forms was filled in late Sunday, most of which had been requested by interested patrons who wanted to know more or to return the form later. Hourly Door Prizes, contributed by the various dealers, were very nice, and appreciated by the lucky winners. The twelve raffle items were all popular, with winners for each item. The "guess the number of polished stones" jar, graciously provided (and counted) by the Kempers, had 254, and was won by a very excited young lady. Rodney Lane handed out nearly all of his tumble-polished agates to kids.

The food service was excellent – delicious offerings, good prices, and topnotch service, conveniently inside for both the servers and the patrons. They promised to be back next year.

There were over thirty distinguished guests with the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies here for their annual business meeting, hosted by the HGMS. Each had a Hospitality Bag provided by the Huntsville Visitor's Bureau, and each containing a very nice Paint Rock Valley Agate stone polished and donated by Ray Humphrey. They were all impressed with the quality of the Show, and gratified by the support service for their activities at the Doubletree Hotel a mile south of the Jaycees Bldg.

Sunday after the Show ended, the dealers and our tired but dedicated workers started packing, by 9:00 the place was clean! Not bad for a bunch of amateurs.

So we are soliciting "lessons learned", and there were quite a few, to improve next year's Show. Thanks to all who came and worked, and also for those members who just came to shop and who stopped by to chat.

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society Minutes**24 September 2019, Meeting convened at 6:30 pm**

Members First Time Attending: Rodney Lane & Anthony Bucco

41 regular members in attendance

Motion was presented to accept the minutes for the last meeting as published. This motion was seconded and approved.

Program was presented first as most of tonight's discussion centered on the show. Program: Show & Tell, members S thru Z Charlie Willhote presented several nice pieces of rock and petrified wood. Myra Soroczak presented some beautiful opals and Mike Soroczak gave us a wonderful story about Myra's necklace.

Bill Friday asked that the HGMS members wear their name tags at the show and designated Shelley to assist that folks have their name tags and memberships in order. Shelley said that if we wear our name tags to the Show that some vendors usually give a discount on those items we wish to purchase.

Rocket City Jewelers – Information is presented in the newsletter

Metalsmithing – Information is presented in the newsletter

Geo Sciences – No meeting in October due to the show. Information is presented in the newsletter

Pebble Pups – Information is presented in the newsletter

Lowell wrote a gracious letter thanking the HGMS for the lifetime membership that was presented to him.

Madison Street Fair: The HGMS will be set up next to the gazebo near the train tracks. Parking is at Cross Pointe Church on Hughes Road and you take one of the several shuttle buses to the fair. Bill Friday stated that if you wanted to go, please see him so that he can give you an entrance pass.

HGMS Show 11-13 October 2019:

Hospitality: There are sign-up sheets for food for the vendor's dinner. Food should be in the Jaycee Bldg. between 4:00-4:30pm. If you bring any servicing tools, please put your name on your items so that they can be returned to you after the show. Caryl Nixon will provide pulled pork and turkey. Side items are needed. Please tell Carol what you're bringing so that we don't have too much of one item. Caryl Nixon won't be there Sunday to help clean up the kitchen. Last year the hospitality team had to clean up the kitchen on Wednesday prior to the show. It took 4-5 hours to clean the walk-in cooler and the refrigerator. This year notify Matt (Jaycee Building custodian) that these areas need to be cleaned. Caryl Nixon also stated that she will need the clips used in the cooler returned to her after the show.

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed everywhere!! The volunteer sheets were missing and Bill asked that they be returned. He found them later on in the meeting. Please sign up! Bill Friday stressed the importance on how much we need volunteers. Without our volunteer staff, the show would not be possible. Please volunteer!!! Help is always needed on the Flume and setting up and taking down the Ultraviolet display.

Moon Rock: Lowell submitted the paperwork to have the moon rock on display, but NASA stated they did not receive it. Lowell resubmitted the paperwork again and insured that NASA received it.

ATM: This year, the ATM will be installed at the show near the information booth.

Yard Signs: Tony Smith brought yard signs for publicizing the show. Tony stressed to please pick up your signs as soon as possible on Sunday so that the city/county will not confiscate them. Bumper stickers and flyers are still available at the front desk. Billboards and Radio are now being presented to the public. Bob Kemper is working to have a radio announcement from the BBQ Caboose in Lynchburg. If Bill wants to display posters in the Senior Center he has to request permission from Tom Glynn.

Last Call for Displays: Mike Harrison stated that there are pictures of display cases on the front table. If you want to look at some excellent examples, Charlie Willhote brought in the pictures for folks to review and help set the ground work for their own displays. So far, the HGMS have one competitive display entered and a couple of non-competitive displays. Anyone interested can still submit an application tonight. HGMS Members pull out the 25 cases, selected the good ones, painted them and secured the brackets. Volunteers will move the displays in Thursday trying very hard not to shift or jostle the displays too much. Work will continue on the cases this Thursday. The insides of the display cases need to be painted. Colors are brown on the outside and cream on the inside. If you want a liner in your display case, you need to provide one as part of your display.

Food truck: The vendor, Wheely's, who provided our food at the last show, went out of the food truck business. Shelley Curran is still canvassing for a food truck. If you know of a good food truck, please contact Shelley Curran.

Children/Young Teens Program: Bill Friday ask for someone to run the Children/Young Teens Program. Since the Madison County/ Madison City Schools will be out for fall break, we anticipate a good crowd for the Children/Young Teens Program. This area of the show, will be set up where the Rock Food Display was established last year. Leslie Malakowsky said that there should be wall & floor posters, and on the table there should be various rocks, fossils, coloring sheets, and a "Make Your Own Rock/Stone Key Chain or Pendant". Also she recommended to make a photo frames, with free raffle drawings for children such as polished stones or rock candy. Leslie Malakowsky stated that we could purchase most of the items from Michael's.

Free geode cracking? The vendor sells the geode and then cracks it for the customer

Meeting Minutes [Continued]

A Rock & Gem Kit was given to the club by Myra Soroczak and will be presented to the young person who volunteers and works the most hours at the show. Bill Friday emphasized again, volunteers, volunteers, volunteers are needed!! Information Booth is covered by Rodney Lane and & Bill. Lauri usually handles the door prizes. Jeanie Green worked the raffle but will not be attending this year. Right now, volunteers are needed to work both these areas. Volunteers are needed to set up and take down the show. This is when the largest number of members come out to help and is a timely and successful execution. So please volunteer!

Vendor Chairman to the Show: Lowell stated that he would like to work with a backup person for this position and be someone who could take over in the next few years. A volunteer to be this trainee for this position is being recruited.

Motion was presented to not have the Oct 22 meeting due to the show. However, due to the club rules we will have the 22 October 2019 meeting.

Transition to Grissom HS: Bill Friday stated that he will still lead the effort to the transition to Grissom. He is making sure that the city will continue to work this. Bill also stated that HGMS will not commit to the move until the city is committed. Bill stated he will meet with the architect this week.

Board & HGMS Roles: Bill Friday stated that he will not be president in 2020. HGMS needs new members to step up to the responsibilities and Board positions. These people will set the stage and help make decisions for the future of the club. HGMS members should explore the possibility of serving in one of the many positions available and discovering that they have the talents to serve and enjoy the position as well. Myra Soroczak stressed the need for new members to serve the positions that will be open in the coming year.

HGMS Christmas Dinner: The HGMS Christmas Dinner will be Tuesday Dec 10, 2019 at Blue Plate Café located on south Memorial Parkway in the same shopping center as Rosie's. The meal will consist of Roast Beef or Chicken, a drink and desert for \$13.00. Everyone will pay their own tab and the Christmas meal will be from 5:30 until 8:30 pm. Caryl Nixon wants to know if we want door prizes. And if so, then someone needs to volunteer to be in charge of this. There was little interest in the door prizes but there will be a gift exchange. If you provide a gift at the gift exchange, you will receive a gift.

Auction Date is 21 March 2019. More information will be provided once the Show is completed.

Meeting adjourned at 08:00pm.

New Members

Stephanie Aldridge	Benjamin Forschler	Monte & Christopher Perry
Bradley & Dawn Allen	Theresa Hanes	Beth Powel
Steve & Robye Andrews	Jim Hanes	Jennifer Power
Micki Baggett	Laura Meadows	Jennifer & Raymond Ryan
John Baker	Sandy & Chris Herwig	Beth Snee
Mira Barks	Lawrence Hillis	Maurice Thompson
Richard Binkley	Gordon & Vicki Jones	Holly & Art Turner
Theresa Hanes	Jonathan Jones	Bedalia Valdes
Gay Broughton	Richard Keyes	Maryanne Van Cleef
Jacob & Brianna Daniel	Sean & Tara Kilgallin	Andrew & Jade Wilson
Clay & Deana Dayton	Lewis & Emily Lofty	Kristie Winn
Anne Dickman	Jenny Lux	Dawn & Kevin Zelhart
Joan Ellsworth	Leanne McMurray	
Dyanna Espinoza	Heidi & Joshua Penney	

Please return Show Yard Signs so that they can be updated for 2020

Particularly if the metal mounting frames need repairs, get those back for welding - they are quite expensive. Thanks, Tony Smith

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

On September 25th, we practiced wire wrapping techniques by making a copper wire bracelet interwoven with blue seed beads. Then on October 2nd, we started wire wrapping our stones.



Now taking reservations for the Double Spiral Chainmaille Earrings class October 30th. In this class, you'll make two earring length chains of double spiral weave, attach a bead dangle to each end using headpins, and attach the finished chains to earring findings. Jump rings and headpins will be provided. Bring your own 8mm beads in the color of your choice. Wire will be provided to make your own earring findings or you can bring ready made findings.

Upcoming Schedule:

Oct 16th – No meeting

Oct 23rd – Open. Work on individual projects.

Oct 30th – Double Spiral Chainmaille Earrings class

Nov 6th – Cleo and Japanese Corduroy chainmaille weaves

Nov 13th – Finish Japanese Corduroy



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.

New Members:



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

November Metalsmith Class. Nov. 7th. 6:00 pm

Our November project will explore fusing mixed metals. We'll be working in copper, brass, and silver to make a pair of earrings and more.

Fusing is a technique of controlled melting to join metals together. No solder necessary.

Fusing is accomplished by heating two or more pieces of metal that are touching, to their melting point resulting in the pieces joining (fusing) into one piece.

This can get tricky as the metals all have different melting points. With care you can produce all sorts of interesting textures and surfaces.



Please sign up in advance. It is necessary so we can prepare the kits. The class is full at ten people. Wait list available.

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 June. 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.

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

CG Lester

Toolbox Sign-outs

Inventory Manager

Store Manager

Kit Manager

Webpage & Social Media Management

Opening

Opening

Shelley Curran

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

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Details of 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 details separately by email.

Saturday, November 23, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST, Due West, SC

COLLECTING: There are different areas in which to dig. There is one area that has epidote. Another pit has smoky quartz and amethyst, and there is an area that contains beryl. You can dig in the pit where the veins are exposed or go through the tailing piles left from the excavator.

Pebble Pups - Thursday October 24, 6:00

Mr. Brian just returned from a tour of Western States, including Wyoming where he and his family visited Yellowstone National Park, the first National Park ever given that designation. It sits on top of a barely dormant hot spot welling up superheated water from far underground, where it emerges in geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and a huge lake. The minerals in the water precipitate out into a wide range of complex forms, many of them unique to this locality. Brian will discuss these strange “hydrothermal” (formed by hot water) minerals, their compositions and how they formed.

We will meet in the Senior Center Cafeteria at 6:00. Bring your friends. We are expecting to meet several new members who joined the Gem & Mineral Society at the Fall Show last week.

For more information, contact Brian Burgess at bburgess771@gmail.com
256-479-2993

or Bill Friday bill.friday@earthlink.net
256-527-8227



GeoSciences Activity Group

Since the second Thursday fell during the Show setup, it was postponed until next month.

On Thursday Nov 14, Ron Travis will present Indian Artifacts, a subject with which he has long been associated. Remnants from past civilizations going back many thousands of years have been found, studied, dated, organized, categorized, and enjoyed. They tell the stories of their creators - where they came from, when, how, and where they lived in this area, what they ate and how they gathered it, how they interacted, their religions and ceremonies, their social customs, and what became of them. Come and learn about these fascinating people of long ago.



Mineral of the Month – Thorite: var. Orangite *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*



After nibbling cinnabar buns in August and blue Moon cheese in September, it's time for pumpkin! In the culinary world, millions of the orange orbs will find their way into Fall recipes and into our stomachs! In the mineral world, perhaps we can satisfy our yen for pumpkin, visually at least, with orangite! This beautiful orange mineral, with a little imagination, resembles raw pumpkin.

Orangite is a variety of the mineral thorite, a rare radioactive silicate mineral of the metallic element thorium. Thorite's formula is $(\text{Th,U})\text{SiO}_4$. Thorite was originally discovered in 1828 by Norwegian mineralogist Hans Esmark. He found the original black specimens in a pegmatite (an igneous rock consisting of interlocking crystals often reaching extreme size and perfection) in Norway.

In 1829, Swedish chemist Jacob Berzelius named the mineral thorite because he found the new element thorium in it (thorium was previously unknown). Berzelius is considered to be one of the founders of modern chemistry (along with Robert Boyle, John Dalton, and Antoine Lavoisier).

Most pegmatites consist of *felsic* igneous rocks that are relatively rich in light elements, such as silicon, oxygen, aluminum, sodium and potassium; the building blocks of quartz, feldspar and mica. (The word *pegmatite* comes from the Homeric Greek word *pegnymi*, which means "to bind together". Homeric Greek is the Greek language that Homer used in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.)

But the pegmatite in which Esmark originally found thorite was a *syenite* pegmatite. Syenite pegmatites are rare. They contain very little, if any, quartz and feldspar. They tend to be rich in dark elements, such as magnesium and iron, that form olivine, pyroxene, amphibole and biotite.



Today, thorite is also found in volcanic rocks, hydrothermal veins, and metamorphic rocks. Its crystal system is tetragonal, and its hardness is 4.5 on the Mohs scale, which means it's between fluorite and apatite in hardness. Short prismatic crystals with pyramid shaped ends have been found. But because it's radioactive, thorite commonly degrades in such a way that it destroys its own internal crystal structure leaving it amorphous like glass, so crystals are rare.

Thorite can be black (like the type specimens Esmark found), brownish black, orange (orangite), yellowish-orange and dark green. A variety of thorite called uranothorite is currently an important ore of uranium. And a variety called calciorthorite contains trace amounts of calcium.

Orangite was discovered in a syenite pegmatite in Brevig, Norway in 1851 (not the same pegmatite where Esmark originally found thorite). It was first described by the famous mineral dealer Bergeman and Krantz. Minerals commonly associated with orangite are natrolite, pectolite, zircon, allanite and diopside.



Today, orangite is found in Alaska, California, Massachusetts and New Jersey, and in many international localities, but the source of that amazing orange color is still Brevig. Both thorite and orangite are occasionally faceted into gemstones, but I couldn't find any health information related to wearing them. However, I did find the IGS (International Gem Society) toxicity table at <https://www.gemsociety.org/article/gemstone-toxicity-table/>, although thorite isn't listed. That may mean that the level of radiation in thorite gemstones is negligible. So do your research before you buy!



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

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/>.

These are just a few of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for



TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. **Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.**

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface.

Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silverRed/Orange
80% silver 20% copper Dark red changing to gray
BrassYellow changing to blue
SteelBlack

Sterling silverBrick Red
NickelGray-green
CopperYellow changing to blue
Stainless Steel ... No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

October Birthdays

2 Brian Hastings	20 Sam Tumminello
3 Theresa Chivers	21 Jeannie Green
5 Parker Holliday	22 Grady Harmon
7 Mark King	22 Norman Johnson
7 Christopher Trumble	26 Maurice Thompson
8 Clark Harmon	27 Jake Walters
10 Bonnie Treadway	28 Mary Herren
11 Diana Nelms	30 David Nixon
16 Rhonda Hall	30 Madison Phillips
18 James Lowery	31 Colton Gulliver



October
Tourmaline

Anniversaries

9 Bill & Joyce Walters
 24 Leslie Malakowsky
 25 Trina & Matthew Inman
 29 Daniel & Susan Hessler
 31 Charles Holcomb & Johnnece Smith

November Birthdays

1 Marty Martinez	17 John McCullough
2 Daniel Hessler	20 Betty Augsburg
3 Nanette Schwartz	21 Phyllis Murphy
5 Joe Herman	21 Doug Wells
6 Sherrie Bonin	24 Frank Curran
9 David Fikes	26 Deana Dayton
9 Jim Lee	26 Beth Snee
12 Mary Hicks	26 Connor Staggs
12 Lindsey Lewis	27 Toni Robert
12 Mike Soroczak	27 Betty Olson
12 Laura Meadows	27 Sheila Cape
13 Joey Bonds	27 Jim Metzger
15 Gordon Maynard	30 Mary Jean Brost Travis



November
Topaz

Anniversaries

15 Beth Snee
 22 Bill & Maureen Lokken

October 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

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

2019 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President—Bill Friday—256-527-8227—bill.friday@earthlink.net

Vice President— Michael Cape— macape@knology.net

Recording Secretary: Ruth Kemper— bob_kemper@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194—clarag1964@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227—bill.friday@earthlink.net

Directors at Large: Steve Young —taegu_steve@hotmail.com

Gene Powers—genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Michael Soroczak —Soroczak@yahoo.com

Ex Officio - Brian Burgess— bburgess771@gmail.com

Federation Liaison - Les Bartel - 131 Oakland Trace, Madison AL 35758 lester.bartel@gmail.com

2019 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

bill.friday@earthlink.net

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

Publicity: Bob Kemper

bob_kemper@yahoo.com

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-479-2993

bburgess771@gmail.com

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Michael Soroczak

soroczak@yahoo.com

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange,

ckalange@comcast.net

Program Chair—Mike Harrison -

wm.harrison.123@gmail.com

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

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Volunteer Chair: Open

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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, 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

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

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



2019-20 CALENDAR

- 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
- 28 Jan '20 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 25 Feb '20 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 21Mar '20 Annual Rock Auction Fundraiser,
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 28 Apr '20 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 26 May '20 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 11-13 Oct '20 HGMS Fall Show, Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 27 Oct '20 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm



Deadline for Next Newsletter— November 21, 2019

**Dated material
Do not delay**

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