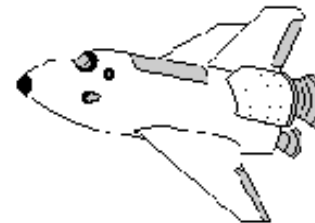
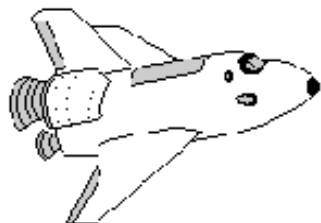


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 48 No. 4

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

April 2016

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## April Fundraiser Auction April 30th

JayCees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd. Huntsville AL

Viewing 8:30, Bidding 9:00

Professional Auctioneers

Food will be available

Pay by cash, check, or credit card.

Plenty of Free Parking



Visit us at [www.huntsvillegms.org/](http://www.huntsvillegms.org/) and [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS](https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS)



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## Minutes of the March 22 2016 HGMS Meeting

President Mike Harrison opened the meeting at 6:31p.m.

### Old Business

We approved the minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 meeting.

### New Business

#### New Nametags/Membership Cards

If you have paid your membership dues, please get your membership card and/or name tag from Bill tonight.

### Lapidary Shop

Bill announced that a worker in the senior center turned off the breaker to the big saw, so the saw is unavailable. Bill recommended that we don't cut slabs thinner than 1/4" on the new Highland Park saws. (Doing so damages the blade clamp.) Mike Harrison has invented an oil recycling "portapotty" to help recycle the new mineral oil. So far, complaints about the new equipment are mostly minor. The lab is open all day tomorrow (Wednesday) and tomorrow night. Mike H. commented that our lab is more roomy than the Washington club's where he was previously a member.

### Field Trips

**Cane Creek Canyon:** Brian announced that the trip to Cane Creek Canyon with Jim Lacefield is May 21<sup>st</sup>. It's primarily for the Pebble Pups but adult members are welcome! You can't mine at Cane Creek Canyon, but you can pick up agate that has washed down the creek.

**Hogg Mine:** Brian Burgess asked for a show of hands of those who are volunteering at the Hogg Mine dig. Chris Painter and Don Aldridge are the hosts. There's a fee of \$35 for this trip. You can find rose quartz, smokey quartz, tourmaline in matrix with quartz, aquamarine in matrix with quartz, beryl and maybe amethyst. Mike S. found good quality moonstone in the parking lot! You can bring your own food, but concessions are available. Mike S. recommends you bring a rock hammer, a 3-prong rake, a shovel, a screwdriver, a screen (to find smaller crystals), self-seal plastic bags/containers for your treasures, a small crowbar or garden tools for digging and a bucket. People will also loan you tools. Caryl mentioned that you can see the dig area from the parking lot. The pit is about 1/4 mi. away. You can find crystals about 20 feet from the parking lot. Wear closed toed shoes (preferably leather boots), knee pads, and leather gloves. From Huntsville, AL to the Hogg mine is about a 3-hour drive plus the time zone change. See Mike S. for information on overnight accommodations. The Lafayette Garden Inn is a good place.

### Pebble Pups Stuff

Brian reported that the museum director at the US Space and Rocket Center is letting us have pups meetings there for the rest of the year. (SciQuest is unavailable due to financial issues.)

### Jewelry Activity Group

Mindy announced that the next class will be Viking knit (an ancient wire weaving technique) taught by Kathy Bowman on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Kits are \$8.00. Sign up with Karin tonight.

### Metalsmithing

Mindy announced that we have a number of certified members in metalsmithing now. There will be another starter class soon.

### Auction

Mike announced that the annual fund raising auction is coming up on Sat., April 30<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 7:30a.m. for volunteers. The preview starts at 8:30a.m. and the auction starts at 9a.m. Money from the auction helps us with operating costs. Mike asked that people who volunteered the last two years please help again. We need displayers (people who walk around and show the items), spotters, and money collectors. Sign up to volunteer with Mike H. tonight. We're accepting donations on Tuesday nights in the lapidary lab. We can give donors tax receipts. We have already rented and paid the insurance for the Jaycee's Building. We have a professional auctioneer who has volunteered to help us. Julieanna is going to offer breakfast and lunch for sale. She'll be ready to serve at 7:45. We won't have a regular meeting in April because of the auction. It was also pointed out that we won't have a regular meeting in June because of the annual picnic.

### Hospitality News

Carol announced that she needs volunteers to sign up tonight to bring refreshments to the May meeting.

## Other Announcements

Mike H. reminded us that the lab is available for use by seniors (60+) only during the day.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

## Program

Mike S. presented a program on rock and mineral identification. Take a look at all the samples he brought tonight! He recommends the book titled, "Geology for Dummies." He discussed the qualities of metallic vs. nonmetallic, luster, color, streak, hardness, breakage pattern (fracture, cleavage), crystal system, specific gravity, effervescence (the "fizz test"), magnetism, taste, the Bowen's Reaction Series, and Moh's scale of hardness. Thank you, Mike for a very good program!

We enjoyed refreshments.

**Submitted by Recording Secretary Leslie Malakowsky**

## SFMS Workshops for 2016

We have received the schedule for the Federation workshops at William Holland and Wild Acres. If you would like more information or a registration form, check out [www.SFMSworkshops.com](http://www.SFMSworkshops.com). Or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies](http://www.facebook.com/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies)

You can contact the Registrar for each facility:

William Holland—Heidi Wetzl [sfms.wh@gmail.com](mailto:sfms.wh@gmail.com)

Wild Acres — Toni Garland [waregistrar2016@gmail.com](mailto:waregistrar2016@gmail.com)

**This is a wonderful perk of belonging to the SFMS. Join in and support your Federation.**

### **Session 1, William Holland, 6/5-11/16**

Beading Becky Patellis Mineral ID Scott Forward

Cabochons Dave Bergquist Opals Carl Talbott

Casting Bill Harr Polymer Clay Sandra Davis

Chain-Maille-Beg & Int. Kathy Morris \*SW Silver (advanced) Nancy English

Faceting—Beg. & Int. Tom Mitchell Wire Wrap I Sandra Bergquist

Gem Trees Jerri Heer Wire Weaving & Filigree Jan Stephens

### **Session 2, Wild Acres, 8/22-28/16 Session 3, Wild Acres, 9/19-25/16**

Fused Chain-Maille Roy Deere Chain-Maille 1&2 Roy Deere

\*Metalwork Special Proj. Jeff Sheer Gem ID Teresa Polly

Advanced Beading Self Study Casting Bill Harr

Mineral ID Travis Paris Flint Knapping Michael Miller

Chasing & Reposse Tom & Kay Benham Wire for Beaders Leslie Wayment

Display Case Building Danny Griffin Faceting—Beg. & Int. Tom Mitchell

\*Metal Clay II Katie Baum

### **\* Advanced Class**

Wire Wrap—Beg. Rowan Rose-Morgan \*Chasing & Reposse II Tom & Kay Benham

Gourds Pat Davis Cold Connec. & Enamel Debora Mauser

Metal Clay I Katie Baum Scrimshaw Rich Williams

Deep Relief Wood Carving Clancy Smith Silversmithing Pattie Appleby

## So what is happening with the old HGMS lapidary equipment—

### Thought you might want to know.

Volume 16 Issue 1 April 13, 2016



## The Nugget

*North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter*



Photo by Jim Roberts

### Notes from the President's Desk....April 2016

I can hear the wheels turning and the blades humming! I have tried to get down to the NMGMS “lapidary workshop” room at the Link Center, at least once a week lately, and things are really starting to shape up over there. Mike Schuchs managed to get some heavy duty roof paint on the counter tops and now he is diligently working on the large slab saw. Mike also, just about, has a 6 inch trim saw ready to go. The new blades for it came in, so that saw should be “online” soon. We may also have one of the 10 inch saws running in time for the April 16th workshop. Thanks to some donations and our March silent auction, we now have some mineral oil for these saws! Jim Roberts helped me tack some plastic sheeting behind the counters, to help keep splatters off of the walls, and we placed canvas drop cloths underneath the counters, to help protect the carpeting that’s in the room. Makes the place look rather “industrial”, but will be very functional in the long run, not to mention saving us some headaches down the road.

Ann and John Byzet, as well as, Cheryle Langford and Nikki Kenney, have been helping to get the workshop in order, too, by supplying a coffee pot, towels, dish pan, soaps, cups, coffee, creamer, sugar, trash bags and a variety of other small necessities. John even donated 10 really nice padded folding chairs! Cheryle is planning on making some curtains for the windows, too. Won’t we look nice! The workshop now has a metal roller cart, complete with tiles, metal pan with lava stones and a soldering board for our torch station. Stainless quench bowls and two small crock pots for pickle are also on hand. Some new tools, like riveting hammers and steel bench blocks, have been added to our club’s tool chest, so we should be in great shape for our mixed metals classes. I can’t wait to get started; how about you? Four of the grinding arbors, that we received from Huntsville, have been placed on one of the 8 foot counters, so eventually 4 members will be able to work on grinding and sanding stones at the same time. We just need a few more motors to drive those arbors and then to get the water cooling system set up. There are also two polishing laps; one is pretty much ready to go, but the other one needs a motor and a few other pieces. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg; we’ll need sanding belts, leather and polishing compounds, more oil for the saws, dop sticks and wax, as well as, something to heat these with, and eventually, some new grinding wheels and saw blades. But, we’re getting there! We have had several “mini” workshops in the room, too. A few members gathered to make more wire wrapped bangle bracelets to sell at our Geology Fest and to go over the fold forming techniques that will be covered in our April 16th class. Thus, slowly we are making headway and starting to make use of the Link Center room that NMGMS is renting. I think this will be a fantastic addition to our organization and a great calling card for attracting new members. I’m excited! **Nancy Roberts**

## 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)

*Recommended as a good buy and good reading for all who like to have better lapidary skills. S.S.*

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7778977.Bradford\\_M\\_Smith](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7778977.Bradford_M_Smith)



### DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and does not cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force.

The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris.

Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



## Welcome New & Renewing HGMS Members

David Lehner

Mark Bishop

Jeffrey Wagner

Harry Wiley

Carson Knight

Mercedes McDonald

Patricia Forrest

Dorothea Chism

Terry Burcham

Pamela Sparks

Margo Monks

Rhonda & Jim Springer

Jeffrey Wagner

Rodney Lane





## Pebble Pups - Radioactive Rocks

**Thursday May 19th 6:00 to 7:00pm - Space & Rocket Center**



Please RSVP to Brian by **May 14<sup>th</sup>** , 256-746-0641, bbugess771@gmail.com,

Some atoms are very happy in their normal state, uninterested in forming molecules or compounds, unchanging over very long times, such as gold and helium gas. Most others are only happy when they are bound to other atoms, like carbon and oxygen. Some are unhappy to be in any state, and from time to time, unpredictably for any one atom, break into pieces. The rate at which these radioactive atoms explode is however very predictable—half of the ones present at any one place will burst within a period called a half-life, which can be from a tiny fraction of a second to billions of years. In the next such period, half of the remaining of these atoms will decay, and so on till they are all gone. Sometimes they can be made to decay, either for good (generating electricity) or bad (atomic bombs) We will look at what makes these atoms unhappy, how they decay, what becomes of the remnants, and how this process can be used to tell geologic time.

Field Trip to **Cane Creek Canyon, near Tusculumbia AL. Saturday May 21st** we will meet around 9 am at the site. This is a Pebble Pup field trip, but the whole club is invited. It is a beautiful place and Jim and Faye Lacefield will be our host. It will include a 2+ mile hike, so wear appropriate footwear if you join us.



Cane Creek Canyon

June 22 - Electricity and Magnetism

July 21 - Alabama Geology (Jim Lacefield)

The next three months tie together.

August 18 - Weather (Michelle Amin from the NWS office)

September 15 - Erosion: Wind, Water, and Ice

October 20 - Discoveries from Erosion

Kids ages 8 through 12 are invited to join this Junior Rock Enthusiasts Group. All participating families must have Family-Member status (the \$20 rate) in the HGMS and an adult family member must be present during the meeting. Pups family membership is an additional \$10/year. **SciQuest had to shut down so we are now meeting at the Space & Rocket Center. Enter the Davidson Bldg (door closest to the Saturn 5 standing rocket) Thanks for your patience.**













### **Key Tag now required for entry to the Madison County Senior Center**

Each person entering the Senior Center for meetings, HGMS activities, or other purposes within the building, at any time of day, will need a bar-coded key card, to be recorded at the door on the reader. These may be obtained from an HGMS officer at a regular HGMS meeting, at one of the Tuesday or Wednesday evening lapidary sessions, or during the day from Becky Rollston, Senior Center Program Director. Once your tag is recorded by the Center, if you forget to bring it, you may enter your phone number for access. Thanks.

## April 30th HGMS Fund Raising Auction— Viewing 8:30, Bidding 9:00

The Auction is upon us. Donations have been generous so the bidding should be lively. By now the catalog is done, so additional items will be surprises, held to the end of the day. Last year's Auctions were the best ever, certainly because of the very dedicated work performed by some special people. That is certainly true again this year. Mike Harrison is heading up the Auction organizing this year—many thanks for stepping up. So go through your collections and select some of the good stuff of which you have a bit of a surplus. Much of the progress we made recently in upgrading the lab, starting jewelry and metal smithing activities was made possible by the proceeds from the auctions. We are preparing to start faceting and upgrading the library—so please give generously. And please sign up to help in any of the many support opportunities. We will again be in the Jaycees Bldg, with professional auctioneer Wayne Taylor doing the calling — Thanks from Mike



 <u>January</u> Garnet	 <u>February</u> Amethyst	 <u>March</u> Aquamarine	 <u>April</u> Diamond	 <u>May</u> Emerald	 <u>June</u> Pearl
 <u>July</u> Ruby	 <u>August</u> Peridot	 <u>September</u> Sapphire	 <u>October</u> Opal	 <u>November</u> Topaz	 <u>December</u> Turquoise

<https://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones>

# Amazonite

Bev Eisenacher, Mechanicsburg PA *Rockbuster News*, Mar 2016

Amazonite is a green to bluish green variety of the feldspar microcline. It was once believed that the green color was caused by the presence of copper but new analysis shows that it comes from small amounts of lead and water. The bluish tint comes from iron. The color can fade in the presence of high heat. Amazonite has limited occurrence. It was formerly found almost exclusively southwest of Chelyabinsk, Russia but more recently high quality crystals have been found near Pike's Peak, Colorado. It has also been found in Crystal Park, Colorado and at the Moorefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. Other locations of occurrence are in Madagascar, Australia and Brazil. (Although not in the area of the Amazon River.) One legend says it got its name from the Amazon River. However, since amazonite is not found there and it was widely used in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, the second legend may be more likely. That says it got its name from a matriarchal society of the Bronze Age known as Amazons. Legend has it that the women would gift green 'amazonite' stones to men who came to visit them. Amazonite may often have a mottled or irregular color distribution, sometimes with white streaks. It also displays Schiller effect, a lustrous reflection (sometimes a flash) from the planes in the mineral grain that is similar to what is commonly called iridescence. The Schiller effect is caused by the crystal structure and inclusions. In jewelry making, the stone must be properly oriented when making slabs for this effect to show to best advantage. Amazonite is sometimes mistaken for jade, chrysoprase, chalcedony, serpentine, turquoise or aventurine, which is also a variety of feldspar.



*Amazonite from Moorefield Mine Amelia, VA.*

*Photo by author*

Chemical Formula:  $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$  Potassium aluminum silicate

Crystal Structure: Triclinic, prismatic

Color: Green, blue, green, gray, **multicolor** (white color of streak)

Hardness: 6 - 6.5 on the Mohs scale

Refractive Index: 1.522 – 1.530

Density: 2.56 - 2.58

Cleavage: Perfect

Transparency: Translucent to opaque

Double Refraction / Birefringence: -0.008

Luster: Vitreous

Absorption Spectrum: Not diagnostic

Fluorescence: Weak, olive-green

*Above chart from [www.gemselect.com](http://www.gemselect.com)*

Amazonite has been used in jewelry and to make beads since the early Mesopotamian cultures and was well known in ancient India, Egypt and Sudan. It was commonly used in amulets, was used extensively in Egypt and was sometimes called the Stone of Courage. There was an amazonite scarab ring found among Tutankhamen's treasures. Jewelry containing amazonite was worn in pre-Columbian South and Central America. Amazonite was also once used as a decorative building material. Even though it is relatively soft (5-6 on the Mohs scale) and subject to fracture, it is still used in jewelry. It is usually made into cabochons or tumbled. It is rarely faceted. Because it is vulnerable to pressure and scratches care should be taken with your jewelry.

Avoid wearing when doing household chores or playing sports. Clean with warm water and mild soap and store separately from other jewelry to avoid scratches. Gamblers often wear amazonite jewelry as some believe it brings good luck. In lore amazonite's metaphysical properties create a feeling of power and inspire truth, sincerity and honor. It is believed to be soothing and calming and to be a great gift to give to someone with anger problems. One source says it is useful to activate lazy teenagers!

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.bernadine.com>

<http://www.crystalvaults.com>

<http://www.gemselect.com>

<http://www.gemstone-dictionary.com>



## FIELD TRIP FOLLIES

by Brian Burgess, Field Trip Chairman

Is everyone ready to do a little (or a lot) of digging. We have several field trips planned. I have the details on the Facebook page and the Webpage [See these links on Page 1]. Hope everyone enjoyed the DMC dig at the Hogg. I have sidelined the Coon Creek Science Center trip for now. There was not enough interest. Below are the scheduled and unscheduled digs for now. If anyone has a site where they would like to scratch in the dirt let me know.

Mason's Mine Franklin NC – Saturday May 7th at 9 am meet at the mine site. Primarily a sapphire mine. The cost is \$20 per person. Facebook and the Webpage have all the info you will need to get there. On Facebook go to the Events page and select the Find Tickets to go to the Mason Mine website. You will be on the Home page; about half way down the page is the Liability Release Form. Print this form and fill it out. If a non HGMS member is visiting the site with you please follow the instructions at the bottom of this write-up.

The following is excerpted from the Mason's Mine Home Page: <http://www.masonsmine.com/> **Also check out the excellent video which shows you exactly how the whole process works from sign-in to weigh-out. Additional write-up below for this Mine.**

*"Mason's is one of the original native mines and has a long and colorful history. We have the shaft timbers to prove it. Mason's Mine is still a native dig your own gem mine. You can find sapphires, rubies, garnets, rutile, kyanite, sillimanite, mica and quartz in our mine. We do have a salted digging area, but we do not claim those stones are from the local area.*

*Since we are a Dig Your Own Mine you need to be prepared for outdoor conditions. If it's raining or been raining our digging area gets VERY SLOPPY. Bring rubber boots with tread and a rain coat. Also if it's rainy we do reserve the right to close the mine if we feel safety issues warrant it. Please call ahead at 828-369-9742. During thunderstorms we will close the flume till the storm passes. Regardless of weather conditions you might want to consider bringing a change of clothes, and sturdy shoes or boots. At all times we highly discourage the wearing of flip flops, sandals, and other open toed shoes. There are many rocks in the digging area and the shovels are sharp. Also bring rubber gloves or buy them from our store to wash the dirt. The rocks can be sharp! We provide all the tools necessary for mining: shovels, buckets, screens, and we have hand truck rentals. Rock hammers, and picks aren't necessary and we discourage their use. We are located a long way from town so be prepared to bring your lunch, but we do have drinks and snacks for sale in our store to tide you over. Well behaved pets on a leash are welcome at our mine, but please scoop the poop!*

Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve – Saturday May 21st we will meet around 9 am at the site. This is a Pebble Pup field trip, but the whole club is invited. It is a beautiful place and Jim and Faye Lacefield will be our host. It will include a 2 mile something hike, so wear appropriate footwear if you join us. No Cost is involved. They do take donations for the upkeep of the Preserve.

Clarksville, Ga – Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am EDT. This is on private property and to protect the property owner, I will need for you to email me for the information on where to meet. I will also give the information out at the April and May meetings. This dig is co-hosted with the Georgia Mineral Society and Charles Carter (GMS) will be the Trip lead. We will be digging for Kyanite and the cost is \$10 per person



Richardson Landing - North of Memphis near Millington on the Mississippi River. This will be sometime in the summer when the river is low enough for access. Banded agate, Lake Superior agate, red jasper, petrified wood and ice-age fossils. Free

Wells Creek Impact Crater, Erin, TN – Shatter cones from the strike of a 1000' diameter meteor 100 million years ago, traveling in excess of 36,000 miles per hour struck what is know today as the Wells Creek area. It is believed that it penetrated about 2,00 feet before exploding. The impact created a crater about four miles in diameter and one half mile deep. The cones were formed in the local rocks by the tremendous impact pressure.



## Adventures at the Hogg Mine



Brian Burgess says “If you missed the Hogg Mine trip, you missed a great time. The dig started off a little wet and muddy, but by 10 am the sun was out and the day turned perfect. We had 99 adults and around 20 kids. HGMS was well represented with around 15 plus members. I want to thank Chris Painter and his staff for allowing HGMS to host our DMC dig at the Hogg Mine. As always Chris was the perfect host. I also want to thank HGMS members Mike Soroczak, Mike Harrison, Mindy Schell, Shelly Curran, and Chris Kalange for helping the mine staff with parking, tours, and registration. Without their help it would have turned into a mess. Hope everyone enjoyed the DMC dig at the Hogg. “





## HGMS Sponsored Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip to Hogg Mine, LaGrange GA, Apr16

**Details next Page.** Besides helping with the logistics of trip registration, parking control, and hosting, **HGMS workers get in free**, and after the work is done, you will find some pretty nice minerals. Chris Painter runs a great digging opportunity.



### Middle Tennessee Rockhounds

## 3rd Annual Dig It Music City

A fun family exploration of the  
Earth's rocks, minerals, fossils, and gems

### Amqui Station & Visitors Center

303 Madison St, Madison (Nashville), TN

*Near the Nashville Public Library, Madison branch & Fifty Forward*

**Saturday April 23, 2016**

**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

### Presentations

11:00 AM **"Geology of Tennessee"** by Ron Clendening

1:00 PM **"Volcanoes and Earthquakes"** by William Peel

### Activities for Kids

### Free Mineral & Fossil Identification

**Rock, mineral, fossil, slab, rough, & gem vendors**

**Free Admission + Free Parking**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

For general information, or to reserve space for demonstration, education, exhibits or sales,  
map, & information: **[www.RockHound.org/swap](http://www.RockHound.org/swap)**

**or [http://www.rockhound.org/swap/Dig\\_It\\_Music\\_City\\_2016.pdf](http://www.rockhound.org/swap/Dig_It_Music_City_2016.pdf)**

### Meeting Etiquette

1. Turn off cell phone and similar device ringers before the meeting starts.
2. Be on time for the meeting, which starts promptly at 6:30 pm.
3. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized when asking a question or offering a comment.
4. Give a presenter your full attention during their presentation. Fellow members and officers also deserve courtesy when covering information or asking questions.



**Stick around for food and fellowship later. Visit the lab to see the new equipment.**



## Saturday May 7, 9:00am EDT arrival



Ages 12+ \$30 per miner  
 Ages 6 to 11—\$15 per miner  
 Under 6 years—Free  
 Groups 10 or more—\$5 off per miner  
 No Refunds of Guarantees  
 Multiple day rates available  
 Motels and other Attractions nearby  
 On-site camping available  
 Tools provided—You WILL get dirty!



See website <http://www.masonsmine.com>

Find them on Facebook site masons sapphire mine

The best route from downtown Franklin NC is to take Highway 28 North 2.7 miles to the Airport Rd which is on the left. Stay on the Airport Rd for 2.3 miles till it ends at Olive Hill Rd and bear left. From there on there are signs for Mason's every mile or two. Stay on Olive Hill Rd for about 4 miles and it becomes Upper Burningtown Rd as you bear left at the bottom of a big hill. In 2 miles you will see our mine on the right. If you pass the mine you will hit a gravel road in a quarter mile that ends in another quarter mile at a gate.





# The Georgia Mineral Society

**48th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show**

**Friday & Saturday May 6-7—10 AM – 6 PM**

**Sunday May 8—Noon to 5pm**

**Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta, GA**

**Free Admission, Free Parking, Door Prizes, Free Demos**

**[www.GAMineral.org](http://www.GAMineral.org)**



----- KIT CARSON'S -----

## KNAP-IN & NATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

**May 13, 14, & 15, 2016**

**Located on the Carson Homeplace, 481 Curtis Chapel Rd. McEwen, Tennessee 37101.**

**The Public is invited, including school and church groups, scouting groups, flintknappers, native craftsmen, carvers, lapidarists, and anyone else interested in the art of chipping stone, making pottery, and other native crafts.**

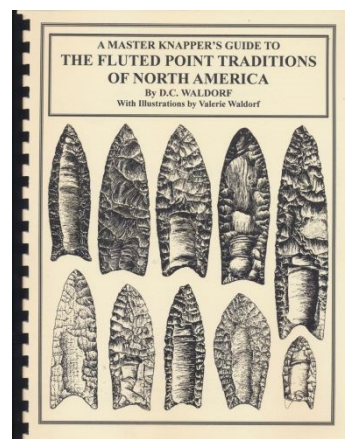
**THERE IS NO ADMISSIONS CHARGE,  
NO VENDOR'S FEES, CAMPING IS FREE!**

**This event will coincide with the grand re-opening of Mr. Carson's *Archaeology and Natural History Museum*. A food vendor will be on site all three days with plenty of good food and drinks. There are hotels and restaurants in the vicinity. An authenticator will be on hand to examine any artifacts you may have and offer his opinion, and folks are encouraged to bring such rocks, minerals or fossils they might have to show, trade or sell, as they see fit.**

**There will be a supply of local Dover chert and Buffalo River chert available for FREE to flint knappers on a first come, first serve basis. Vendors typically have a large assortment of flint knapping tools and equipment, together with finished points, knives and blades, available for sale to the public. Singers, dancers, and musicians are invited to come and perform, as well.**

**There are no hook ups for campers, but fresh water will be available, and showers, as well. McEwen is easy to find, located between Dickson and Waverly, Tennessee, on State Route 70. The Carson Homeplace is about a mile off Highway 70, more or less behind the Dairy Queen. Watch for signs!**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL RICK TAYLOR AT 615/693-1087.**



## April Birthdays

1 Rhonda Springer	17 Cindy Miller
6 Tim Eve	19 Thelia DeMoor
11 Leslie Malakowsky	20 Wendy Lear
17 Bill Sweetman	23 Bill Friday
17 Bill Walters	26 Margery Ruble
27 Don Aldridge	

## Anniversaries



April  
Diamond

7 Joe & Sherrie Bonin  
8 Mike & Myra Soroczak

## May Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries



May  
Emerald

1 Gloria Valentin  
17 Gerdy & David Wyatt  
18 Mike & Anne Wesley  
29 David & Diana O'Dell

## April 2016 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule Lapidary, Silver Jewelry and Wood Carving

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

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

## 2016 HUNTSVILLE GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Mike Harrison 256-797-2534

wm.harrison.123@gmail.com

Vice President—Mindy Schell 334-790-0671

mindy.schell@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday, 256-527-8227

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Directors at Large: Chris Kalange—ckalange@comcast.net

Bruce Kowalczyk—256-424-2197 arkowalczyk@aol.com

Brian Burgess, Ex Officio - bburgess771@gmail.com 256-746-0641

Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite - 256-340-3448—cdwillhoite@yahoo.com

2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

## 2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8772

bill.friday@earthlink.net

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

Scrapbook: Dianna O'Dell, 256-828-1813

Librarian: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479

Club Publicity: Jennifer Pinkley 931-233-0420

Education &amp; Craftsmanship: vacant

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061 caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg—falkenbergwp@comcast.net

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627

ckalange@comcast.net

Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 -

Soroczak@yahoo.com

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

Show Volunteer Chair: Lori Willhoite 256-340-3448

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

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

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

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

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

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage [www.Huntsvillegms.org](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 June picnic/rock swap, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

**Federation Liaison:**

**Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603, Attn: Charlie Willhoite**

**This 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)



# 2016 CALENDAR

- 30 Apr '16 - Annual Fundraiser Auction - **Saturday - note it is one week later**  
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL **9:00am**
- 24 May '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 4 Jun '16 - Annual HG&MS Picnic - **Saturday—note it is one week earlier**  
And rock swap - Teledyne Brown Engineering picnic area, Research Park
- 26 July '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 23 Aug '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 27 Sep '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 6 Oct '16 - Thursday Setup for Fall Show, Dealers & Workers evening meal
- 7-9 Oct '16 - Fall HGMS Gem Jewelry Show - Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd  
Sunday takedown 5:00
- 25 Oct '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 22 Nov '16 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm

See Pebble Pups Schedule on Page 8

Deadline for Next Newsletter— May 14 2016

## Rocket City Rocks & Gems

Bill Friday, Editor

2508 Excalibur Dr.

Huntsville, AL 35803

HGMS April 2016

**Dated Material**  
**Do not Delay**