ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS





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

| Volume | 48 | No. | 12 | |
|--------|----|-----|----|--|
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"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"



| INSIDE IIIIS ISSUE | |
|---|--|
| Minutes November Meeting2 | |
| Dues Notice3 | |
| Pebble Pups3 | |
| Chris Painter's Hogg Mine4 | |
| Feature Articles5,6 | |
| Brad's Bench Tips7 | |
| DMC Field Trip8 | |
| Paleontological Resources | |
| | |
| Preservation Act9 | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries10 | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries10 Lapidary Lab Schedule11 | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries10 Lapidary Lab Schedule11 2016 Officers & Committee | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries10 Lapidary Lab Schedule11 2016 Officers & Committee Chairmen11 | |
| Preservation Act9 Nov/Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries10 Lapidary Lab Schedule11 2016 Officers & Committee Chairmen11 Calendar12 | |



And Happy New Year

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







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Minutes of the November 22, 2016 Meeting

Vice President Mindy Schell opened the meeting at 6:31pm. (President Mike Harrison could not attend.) The attendance sheet was circulated.

Old Business

The previous meeting minutes were approved as published in the Nov newsletter..

New Business

Mindy announced that tonight is Leslie's last meeting as Recording Secretary. She will be leading the Jewelry Activity Group (JAG) beginning in January 2017. Mindy and the JAG and metalsmithing instructors will get together in January to plan classes for 2017. She also announced that the senior center will be closed on Nov. 24th (Thanksgiving).

Lapidary Shop Report

Bill announced that someone is abusing the grinders. He showed us examples of damaged grinders. He reminded us that the intent of recertification is to help prevent improper use of the lapidary equipment. He's continuing to recertify shop users. To schedule an appointment, contact him. Recertification takes about 10 minutes. Some recently acquired saw blades broke because they were too thin; Bill is going to use the warranty to replace them with the right size.

Field Trips

Brian announced that we should look for DMC (Dixie Mineral Council) field trip announcements in future newsletters. He will begin HGMS trips again in March 2017.

Pebble Pups Stuff

Brian announced that 9 kids attended the last Pups meeting. He has not heard back from the USSRC (US Space and Rocket Center) about the pups meeting there. He's considering moving the pups' meeting to the senior center on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Treasurer's Report

Clara could not attend. She is recovering from surgery.

Hospitality

Caryl thanked everyone who brought refreshments tonight and all year. The Christmas dinner and short meeting is going to be Tuesday, December 13th at 6p.m. at Olive Garden on University Drive. There will be a voluntary gift exchange. Please label your gift as boy/man or girl/woman. Sign up tonight for the dinner. If you're not sure, contact Caryl as soon as practical to RSVP.

Board Elections

The complete 2017 slate including non-elected positions is as follows:

President - Mike Harrison

Vice President - Mark Habercom

Recording Secretary - Dorothea Chism

Treasurer - Clara Goode

Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite

Ex-Officio - Mindy Schell

Member-at-Large - Bruce Kowalczyk

Member-at-Large - Chris Kalange

Results of Elections at the Nov Meeting—contact information will be provided in the January Newsletter

President - Mike Harrison

Vice President - Mark Habercom

Recording Secretary - Dorothea Chism

Treasurer - Clara Goode

Federation Liaison - Charlie Willhoite Ex-Officio - Mindy Schell Member-at-Large - Bruce Kowalczyk Member-at-Large - Chris Kalange





Program for Jan 24th HGMS Meeting

Bring your favorite rock - a slab, a cabochon (or any shape), faceted, and/or uncut specimen, mineral, jewel, fossil, or whatever for Show and Tell. Covered boxes will be available to protect valuable specimens while we circulate the room to OOOH and AAAH at others' treasures.

While you are digging through your collection for things to bring next Tuesday, pick out a few items to donate for the April HGMS Auction. They will be cataloged, photographed, valuated (with your guidance), and stored in a locked cabinet. Then prior to the Auction, they will be advertised by newsletter, webpage, facebook, etc so you can be deciding how much to bid.

Membership Renewals are Due on January 1

Pebble Pups - The Miracle of Ice

Thursday Jan 19th, 20176:00 to 7:00pm -Huntsville Senior Center Painting RoomPlease RSVP to Brian, 256-746-0641,bburgess771@gmail.com

Notice our new location. We will be meeting on 3rd Thursdays in the Huntsville Senior Center, which is the same building where the HGMS monthly meetings are held, but on the opposite side of the building, in the Painting Room adjacent to the Lapidary Lab.

Frozen Water, Ice, is a mineral in the true sense, being a crystal with fixed elements in a specific pattern.

Water has properties which are unique among all minerals on earth - it being the only one which increases in volume when it freezes, it being neutral between acids and bases, and it being an essential ingredient for life among all animals and plants. And while it is seemingly abundant, it is not a renewable resource.

Come and learn much more about this amazing mineral.





Chris Painter Discusses his Hogg Mine at LaGrange GA

Chris Painter gave us a presentation for the November HGMS meeting on the Hogg Mine and how to find minerals. Back in the early 1900's government workers found Beryl at the site, and if was reopened off and on several times afterward to commercially mine that valuable ore. The abundant mica has also been commercially mined since the first discovery of the site, often being used in large "books" for windows in Henry Ford's early automobiles. Chris has been the operator for the past several years, opening it to the public for digging. Aquamarine is the gem most often found,

this being the most attractive of the beryl family at the site. There have been 43 documented minerals discovered at the Hogg Mine, most of which are listed at http://www.mindat.org/locdetailed-222793.html.

Columbite/Tanzanite was recently found at the mine when a lady opened a kaolin ball (the white clay on the south wall) and out popped a perfect red translucent cubic crystal. The Smithsonian bought the prize specimen from her and put it on public display in Washington DC.

Don Aldridge had claimed for years that he had found a large chunk of Amazonite at Hogg Mine, but Chris was skeptical until his son also found a smaller but definite specimen. You can find moonstone, garnets, beryl, aquamarine, and pyrite on the left hand wall. The abundant rose quartz forms in dikes throughout the site. Mr. Painter said that most of the time the smallest part of the quartz a will show a star. He gave several rose quartz marbles to meeting attendees, each showing a star.

Chris cleans iron oxide stained quartz crystals with oxalic acid. It activates at 90 degree. You must use a respirator and gloves for safety. If it gets on your skin it acts like metal poisoning in your organs. Bar Keepers Friend (powdered oxalic acid) was recommended as a source. His eBay store is Crystal Empire. Chris drilled a test hole and found the same beryl-bearing clay more than 25 feet deeper than the present pit, from which he believes that there is another 25 years of digging left. His favorite gem find was a 129 carat aquamarine . The largest stone found so far was a 140 lb Beryl. Don't get discouraged if you don't find things - just keep your head down and keep digging.

In other nearby mineral sites, there are quartz micro-specimens at Indian Mountain, in Cherokee, AL on the Georgia line east of Gadsden. Most of this forms in granite fractures . There is also iridescent hematite.

Jackson Crossroads has beautiful Amethyst crystalssee http://www.jxramethyst.com/home.html.

Graves Mountain southeast of Atlanta boast a large variety of minerals. See the GMS website www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html for more details.

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society offers occasional field trips to the Hogg Mine, and particularly keep a watch for information on the machine dig coming up around April next year.

The dig schedule for 2017 is found at http://hoggmine.com/news.html

From meeting notes by Dorothea Chism



Life's Treasures Columbite Tantalite – Master Class Mineral – Life's Treasures Andara Crystals First Magical Years 2002 – 2005



Fossils - Introduction to a Series by Bill Friday

Most people are intrigued to some extent or another by fossils, shrouded in mystery while providing glimpses into the dim distant past of life on earth. This section will begin a regular feature in the newsletter covering different aspects of fossils – how and why they formed and clues which can be gleaned from studying them. I'll illuminate some of the more interesting creatures – a few of which are still represented on Earth today in living descendants. Birds are direct related to flying dinosaurs that lived 65 million years ago, and cockroaches can trace their ancestry back unchanged just

as far. Crinoids found thriving in the Mediterranean descend directly from those living 400 million years ago. This first article will look at how fossils formed in the first place and how they have been discovered. A fossil by definition is a remnant of a long-dead animal or plant, or even other lifeforms which were neither of these including bacteria, fungi, and some even stranger but otherwise unique life forms. The parts which survive are typically hard and durable in tough environments which tend to grind or dissolve softer parts, particularly muscles and skin. Shark teeth and clam shells being very hard may be original material. Most often, what we find is an imprint of an original part of an organism which has been replaced by minerals, but which preserves the creature's shape and size.

Exceptions occur when the organisms were isolated by a sudden catastrophic blanket of volcanic ash or a mud slide. Examples include rare preservations of sponges and even jellyfish where the unfortunate creatures were not exposed to decay by oxygen or fungus. Arctic ice storms ten thousand years ago sometimes buried Wooly Mammoths with such sudden fury that muscle material is still edible, and fresh flowers have been recovered from their mouths. Technically these aren't fossils, but they illustrate processes whereby soft tissues can be preserved, much to our edification in studying more ancient creatures including dinosaurs. Efforts are afoot to use sperm and eggs from these early elephant cousins to re-introduce them to the land of the living. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, represented today as fossil stromatolites dating back to the earliest habitable times on earth of up to 3.5 billion years ago, can sometimes be studied in great detail. Modern species of this strange life-form are found everywhere on earth today, including in the ices of Antarctica and the boiling springs of Yellostone Park.

Most often, animal fossils comprise bones and teeth, and of those typically only scattered fragments, to the point that most reconstructed specimens seen in museums are compiled from multiple specimens and even plaster substitutes. But much can be learned even from these fragments by scientists who spend their lives studying as many examples as they can access, sometimes thousands of fragments from particular sites, and even multiple widely distributed sites. Clues gained from this intense study can indicate whether an animal ate plants or flesh, whether the animal chewed its food or swallowed it whole, if it was warm or cold blooded, and even the weight of the animal based on the bone density. Joints can tell whether the animal walked upright, on all four legs, crawled, or stayed strictly in water during its lifetime. Flying mammal bones show the thin wall construction with cross bracing necessary to be lightweight, as in modern birds. Rare preservation of hair and feathers speak to flight and warm bloodedness.

Plant fossils were almost always only preserved by being suddenly buried, typically by mud or ash, so that oxygen and bacteria or fungi couldn't destroy the specimen. However, this process also mostly replaced the original plant material with minerals which migrated in from the surrounding muck. Again exceptions have been found, including some 15 million year old still-fresh leaves buried in layers of mud at Clarkia ID, from which intact DNA could be extracted - in other words, the material was perfectly preserved and not a replacement. Amber, which is simply ancient tree resin, very often entrapped insects and plants with such effec-

tiveness that the poor creatures can be studied intact in great detail. The entire premise upon which the Jurassic Park movies are based started with extracting mosquitoes from amber, and then pulling dinosaur blood from the insects' guts. The DNA was cloned and replicated, yielding living dinosaurs. So far, scientists have not even been truly able to take DNA from a living creature in the lab and clone a living replica.

I hope this introduction gives you some enticement to return each month for more and deeper explorations into the fascinating and ancient history of life on earth in all its forms. We will delve into the methods and exploits of the people whose careers have been spent peeling back the cloak of mystery that surrounds the origins and lives of our ancestors, all the way back to the single celled bacteria pulled from very ancient mud, and beyond.





Mineral of the Holidays – Turkey-Fat Ore

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

You do not need to eat turkey for the holidays to appreciate this mineral! "Turkey-fat ore" is an old name for a variety of Smithsonite (also called zinc spar). The typical habit is earthy botryoidal masses. The name alludes to the mineral's resemblance to turkey fat in color and form. It is usually bright yellow because of the inclusion of cadmium sulfide, although the presence of cadmium isn't necessary for the name to apply.



Smithsonite is a zinc carbonate (a mineral ore of zinc) with the

chemical formula $ZnCO_3$. In <u>mineralogy</u>, the term "carbonate" can refer both to <u>carbonate minerals</u> and <u>carbonate rock</u> (which is mainly composed of carbonate minerals), and both are dominated by the carbonate ion, CO2-3. Smithsonite has a Mohs hardness of 4.5 and a specific gravity of 4.4 to 4.5.

Smithsonite was originally identified with Hemimorphite. The two minerals are very similar in appearance. The term "calamine" was used for both minerals until it was realized that they are two distinct minerals. Smithsonite was named in 1832 by French mineralogist and geologist Francois Sulpice Beudant (1787-1850) in honor of English mineralogist and chemist James Smithson (1765-1829), who first identified the mineral in 1802. (Smithson's bequest established the Smithsonian Institution.)

Smithsonite is a variably-colored trigonal mineral that only rarely is found in well-formed crystals. It occurs as a secondary mineral in the weathering or oxidation zone of zinc-bearing ore deposits. It sometimes occurs as replacement bodies in carbonate rocks and as such may constitute zinc ore. It commonly occurs in association with Hemimorphite, Willemite, Hydrozincite, Cerussite, Malachite, Azurite, Aurichalcite and Anglesite. It forms two limited solid solution series, with substitution of manganese leading to Rhodochrosite, and with iron, leading to Siderite.

When it shows good translucent green coloring or attractive banding, Smithsonite is polished and used as an ornamental stone. In jewelry making, yellow-colored stones are rarely faceted but massive forms are cut into cabochons. In industry, zinc is extracted from Smithsonite, and it is of interest to collectors and scientists concerned with the study of mineral deposits. And casual collectors enjoy its beautiful botryoidal form!

References: Wikipedia, mindat.org, webmineral.com

For Sale—Husky Model THD950LN Tile Saw with two 7inch diamond blades, a stand, and some oil

Excellent shape with very little prior use.

Asking \$300 (new price is \$400)

1.5 hp Maximum Cut Depth @ 45 Deg. : 1.75 in Maximum Cut Depth @ 90 Deg. : 2.25 in

Call Bill Friday for inquiries or to see the unit 256-527-8227, bill.friday@earthlink.net



Making

sign Stamps Jewelry

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon 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/



"Making Design Stamps For Jewelry" covers the step-by-step process of selecting best steels, carving the design, hardening the steel, and tempering the completed stamp to ensure a long service life. It describes the tools to use, gives examples for how to make several design stamps, and 78 close-up photos that illustrate the important details. Both Kindle and paperback editions are on Amazon at http://amzn.to/2fvf58T

LOOSE HEADS

Bradford M. Smith

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Two-Packs of superglue are usually available at the dime store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature where solder flows,

the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.









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.

An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society (Columbia, SC) (HOST) An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Saturday, January 28, 2017 Diamond Hill Mine 100 Diamond Hill Road, Antreville, SC 8:00 AM Eastern (<u>7 AM Central</u>) to Dusk Fee: \$15 per person regardless of age

Yes, this is a repeat visit to the Diamond Hill mine from November, in case you missed that one

COLLECTING: You can find smoky quartz, amethyst, skeletal quartz, milky quartz, clear quartz, garnets, aquamarine, drusy quartz, mica, & epidote

BRING: Clothing appropriate to the weather (note: if there have been recent rains, the area will be very muddy, so boots will be very helpful), a potato rake, a bucket, safety glasses, a rock hammer and chisel, gloves, small bags for delicate specimens like mica, and paper for wrapping your finds.

FACILITIES: There are 2 porta-potties on site. No food or drink is sold on site, so bring drinks and snacks – the Aiken Club will have limited supplies of water and snacks available. You will be able to leave the site for lunch and return if you like. The nearest towns with restaurants and are lva, SC (10 miles), Abbeville, SC (16 miles), & Anderson (22 miles with hotels)

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will be meeting at 8:00 am Eastern time

Diamond Hill Mine, 100 Diamond Mine Road, Antreville, SC

Get off I-85 Exit 19A onto US-76 S (Clemson Blvd) toward Anderson

After 1.5 miles, Turn right off onto SC 28B

Follow SC 28 around Anderson

Stay on it ~25 miles until you get to Emanuel Baptist Church (on right)

Turn right onto Hwy 284.

Travel 2.3 miles to old house on the right, Turn right onto Suber Rd., **GPS 34⁰15'37", 82⁰34'56"** Travel 0.7 miles and turn right onto Diamond Mine Road, mine entrance on your right

CONTACT: Angela Valvasori (<u>thebears@earthlink.net</u>) Cell Phone: 803-960-6667



December 2016

Rocket City Rocks & Gems

http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/prpa_text.cfm

Preservation Act

P.L. 111-011

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

Is receiving public comments prior to consideration of its passage.

It will affect your rights for collecting fossils and minerals on public, and in some cases private land.

Read it carefully and decide whether you believe this rule will be in the best interest of amateur collectors, professional collectors, and of the fossils and minerals themselves.

The complete bill can be found at the weblink at the top right of this page.

Instructions for offering comments are provided in the lower box on the right.

Considerable discussion and explanation can be found at the NPS weblink

https://www.federalregister.gov/ documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resourcespreservation

The Subparts A, B, D, and I are found well down on the page.

This legislation is scheduled for congressional action starting 6 Feb 2016



HOW TO COMMENT ON THE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION ACT (PRPA) PROPOSED RULE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WWW.MYFOSSIL.ORG



FIRST STEPS

Open your web browser and navigate to www.federalregister.gov This is where Federal agencies publish documents, including proposed and final rules, public notices, and Presidental actions.

SEARCH FOR IT

Use the search box at the very top of the page OR the search box in the middle of the page (labeled Search All Federal Register Documents Since 1994) for 1093-AA16, the PRPA's Regulation Identification Number.





CLICK IT

Searching for 1093-AA16 should open a search result with one document. Click on the text that reads "Paleontological Resources Preservation," it opens a new page to the proposed rule.

READ IT

The whole document is important, but amateur paleontologists will find Subparts A, B, D, and I particularly important to them. Professional paleontologists will find Subparts B-D and G of particular interest.

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COMMENT ON IT

Comment by clicking on the dary grey speech bubble on the left hand side of the page OR the green "submit a formal comment" button at the top of the page. Comments that will be of most use are those that present thoughtful and meaningful feedback as to the implications of the proposed rule.

SPREAD THE WORD

The comment period ends February 6, 2017. Everyone with an interest in paleontology has a voice in this matter: use yours and encourage others to do the same.



December Birthdays

14 Shelley Curran

20 Mitch Bedard

21 Joey Catterton

21 Linda Haynes

22 Jersey Sitko

23 David Wyatt

26 Bob Kemper

26 Crystal King

30 Shara Walker

30 Steve Young

31 Wendell Allen

21 Rebecca Purcell

19 Brian Allen

16 Haley Middleton

- 2 Ninh Le
- 4 Florence Mims
- 5 Patricia Forrest
- 6 Allen Brantley
- 6 Lynn Peete
- 7 John Ruble
- 8 Jessica Babcock
- 10 Katie Lewis
- 11 Jake Hosmer
- 12 Kathy Bowman
- 12 Nancy Snyder
- 12 Jim Straub
- 13 Frederick Schuster
- 14 Robert Joyce

Anniversaries



- 16 Rhonda & Jim Springer
- - December Turquoise
- 17 Darell & Phyllis Murphy
- 18 John & Linda Lindberg
- 28 John & Margery Ruble

January Birthdays

- 3 Steve Tesh 4 Wayne Hall
- 6 Cynthia McDaniel
- 8 Christine Tate
- 8 Dorthea Chism
- 9 Brian Burgess
- 10 Steven Tate
- 11 Delora Ward
- 12 Pat McKinney
- 13 Irv Brock
- 14 Troy Haggerty
- 14 Shannon Brantley
- 15 Jaxton Roberts
- 15 Lisa Watts
- 16 Richard Poff

- 16 Linda Riden
- 17 Neda Hastings
- 18 Fritzie Young
- 20 David Bath
- 20 David Gulliver
- 21 Betty Zoller
- 22 David Hosmer
- 23 Lowell Zoller
- 23 Mike Wesley
- 24 Evelyn Detwiler
- 25 Nancy Burrows
- 27 Clara Hayes
- 29 Marlene Allen
- 30 Wes Wells
 - Jonathan Lear

Anniversaries, none



January Garnet

December 2016 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule Lapidary, Silver Jewelry and Wood Carving—

No evening sessions during Christmas week

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

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

2016 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS President: Mike Harrison 256-797-2435 wm.harrison.123@gmail.com Vice President—Mindy Schell 334-790-0671 mindy.schell@yahoo.com Recording Secretary: Leslie Malakowsky, 256-755-0479 Imalakowsky@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@vahoo.com 2705 Jarvis Street S. W. Decatur AL 35603

2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227 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 & Craftsmanship: vacant

Field Trips: Brian Burgess, 256-746-0641 Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Wayne Falkenberg falkenbergwp@comcast.net (William Holland offers a class for this) Property: Chris Kalange, 256-883-7627 ckalange@comcast.net Program Chair—Myra Soroczak 256-446-9938 -Soroczak@yahoo.com Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095. Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803 Show Volunteer Chair: Lori Willhoite 256-340-3448 2705 Jarvis St S. W. Decatur AL 35603 lewillhoite@hotmail.com Show Publicity Chair: Tony Smith, 256-852-3210 Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

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

 DUES: Annual dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org, at meetings, or the lab
MEETING PLACE: Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL at 6:30pm.
DATE: Fourth Tuesday of each month except for June picnic/rock swap, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.
Federation Liaison: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 2705 Jarvis St SW, Decatur AL 35603, Attn: Charlie Willhoite

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

Federation Newsletters:

SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm DMC: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm





2017 CALENDAR

24 Jan '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm 28 Feb '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm 28 Mar '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm - Annual Rock Auction- date & details to be finalized Apr'17 Jaycees Bldg, Airport Rd 23 May '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm Jun '17 - Annual HGMS Picnicdate & site to be determined 25 Jul '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm 22 Aug '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm 26 Sep '17 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm 7-9 Oct '17 - Fall HGMS Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show Jaycees Bldg, Airport Rd–details in later newsletters

Deadline for Next Newsletter — January 14, 2017

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

HGMS December 2016

Dated material Do not Delay