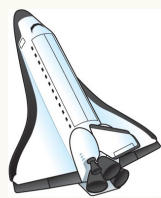


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 51 No. 12

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

December 2019

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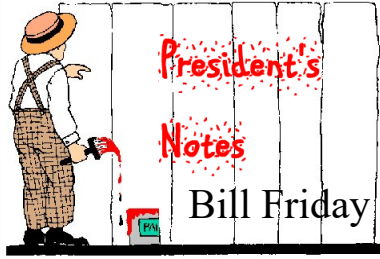


**No Regular HGMS Meeting this Month  
See You Next Year**

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



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Field trips have been far too scarce, and yet remain popular whenever we host them. We now have an enthusiastic Chairman who is pledged to get us into places that we can't ordinarily go, plus some of the regular sites that we don't visit often enough, and who will get us out into the wild as often as practical. But it will help if members tell us of places they would like to visit. Granted we mostly have limestone and sandstone in north Alabama, with the cherished Paint Rock Agate tantalizingly close but pretty much out of reach for groups.

So we will reach a bit farther out. Minerals, fossils, geologically interesting sites, hiking trails, quarries, mines (open pit types), industries, museums—all are waiting on us to schedule them.

So put on your hiking shoes, dust off your buckets and scoops, put on your best worn-out clothes.

Hogg Mine (GA), many places in North Carolina and north Georgia, Trebloc limestone quarry (MS), Parson's Quarry (TN), Brookwood Quarry (AL), Frankstown Fossil Site (MS), Graves Mt (SC), Cedar Creek fossils (AL), Jim Lacefield's Cane Creek (AL), Kentucky agate (like our Paint Rock), Crater of Diamonds (AR), Peace River (FL), SFMS Rockhound Roundup Swapmeet (FL), Minkin Fossil Tracksite (AL), Gold Camp (AL), Bankhead Forest (AL), Devil's Racetrack (Huntsville), Rogers Group and Vulcan Limestone Quarries in Huntsville, Cathedral Caverns (AL), The Dismals Canyon (AL), Moundville Archaeological Museum (AL), Oakville Indian Mounds Museum (AL), Tannehill State Park (AL), South Pittsburg Lodge Iron Foundry (AL), Patty Quarry (GA), Monthly Dixie Mineral Council Trips, and many other great sites.

Where would you like to go?



**Metal Smithing/Silver Activity** by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

**Next Class, Thursday, January 9, 2020: Kim's Easy Hinges**

The January class will be how construct Kim St Jean's "Easy" hinge. This type of hinge will not work for every piece because of size and the way it is constructed. When it is appropriate, it is much easier to make than conventional hinges. It is best suited for hinged bracelets, pendant elements and perhaps some larger earrings. We will not be making a specific finished piece of jewelry during the class but we will have some ideas for projects that this can be used as an element and students can start working on a finished piece after doing a couple of practice examples in this class.

**.Certification Classes:** If you would like to be certified so you can take our classes, please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to [HGMS@wildivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wildivystudio.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.



Class Instructors:

Toolbox Sign-outs

Inventory Manager

Store Manager

Kit Manager

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

CG Lester

**Opening**

**Opening**

Shelley Curran

Kathy Bowman

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

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS)

26 November, 2019

Meeting convened at 6:35pm, A total of 30 members attended.

There were a total of seven new members:

Spencer Myer  
Clay & Deena Dayton  
Greg Laneer  
Dewey Weaver  
Zavior (9 years old) who likes gems.

A motion for acceptance of the October minutes were presented to the members. A vote was taken and the approval for acceptance of the October minutes was passed.

Shelly has assumed the duties of collecting dues and signing up new members. Anyone wishing to pay for New Year's dues, please see Shelley.

Discussions for HGMS Office/Board Positions for the coming year were presented:

President- Mike Harrison  
Vice President – Isabel Leon y Leon  
Secretary – Ruth Kemper  
Treasurer – Clara Goode  
At Large - Gene Powers , Mike Soroczak , Steve Young  
Federation Liaison – Les Bartel  
Newsletter Editor – Bill Friday  
Public Relations – Robert Kemper

A motion for acceptance of the Office/Board Positions was presented to the members. A vote was taken and approval for acceptance for the people and positions of the HGMS board was passed.

Treasury Report: Clara Goode was not present to give us a report at this time.

Rocket City Jewelers: See newsletter – last meeting this year is December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Metal Smithing: See newsletter

Pebble Pups: They are finished with meetings for this year. See newsletter

Geo-Sciences: See newsletter

Lapidary Lab: A Lapidary Leader is needed for Wednesday nights. Duties for this position will include being present at the lab from 6pm until 9pm, supervise safe practices within the lab, lock up the lab when closing (9pm), and report any unserviceable machinery to the President. If interested, please provide your name to the president.

Christmas Dinner: HGMS Christmas Dinner will be at the Blue Plate Café on South parkway December 10, 2019. The cost is thirteen dollars (\$13.00) per person. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, you must bring a gift to participate. Please annotate on the gift if it is for a man or woman so that proper selections can be made. Carol Nixon is taking reservations so please RSVP to her at your earliest conveyance.

Show Signs: Please turn in all show signs to Tony either through dropping them off at the Lab or bringing them to the monthly meeting.

Program: A slide program was presented by Bill Friday and the topic was Granite. Bill shared with us major monuments that are distinctive and identify with the American way of life that were constructed with granite. He told us where the word granite comes from and what types of igneous rock make up granite. He explained that commonly the term "granite" is used to refer to a wider range of coarse-grained igneous rocks containing quartz and feldspar. The slide show was most informative and the question and answer period at the end of the presentation provided the audience with a good back round of the topic.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm for the social hour in which hospitality provided an assortment of food and drinks.

Ruth Kemper, Secretary

## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News *By Leslie Malakowsky*

This year, we made jewelry in a variety of techniques including wire weaving (Viking Knit), chainmaille, wire working, and wire wrapping. In some projects, we used non-traditional materials such as copper washers and deer-skin lace to try something new and different. We also started our chainmaille samples collections, which are growing by leaps and bounds, and we made jewelry in a variety of chainmaille weaves some of which incorporated crystals and gemstones. Several of us expanded our skills to lapidary and metalsmithing, as well.



We also had several visitors throughout the year, and two of them joined us! Welcome new members **Maureen Priddy** and **Carol Rampey**! Thank you to **Joe** for serving as our security at the senior center this year. And thank you to the RCJ members who volunteered at the HGMS show in October. We finished the year with our annual Christmas party. Thank you to **Theresa** for hosting us.



We'll be on break the next 3 weeks for the holidays. Meetings will resume on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. There are more cool techniques and projects in the works for 2020, so stay tuned! The 2020 schedule includes repeating the chainmaille samples classes of 2019. This is intended for new members and for members who missed the first time or who'd like to repeat a particular sample(s). The new schedule also includes bonus projects for months having a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. A class schedule including estimated kit costs, will be emailed to RCJ members every two months. You should already have received the January/February schedule in your email.

**Now taking reservations for the January 8<sup>th</sup> project: Wire wrapped cab.** You'll need to bring your own 30mmx40mmx5mm cab or cab shaped bead. **You must RSVP to Judy by January 3<sup>rd</sup> to reserve your kit.** The kit cost is \$3.

### Upcoming Schedule:

Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, No Meeting Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Happy Holidays!

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Wire Wrapped Cab. RSVP by Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Finish Wire Wrapped Cab, start Wire Wrapped Criss-Cross Bracelet (if you didn't make it yet)

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Wire Woven Bracelet w/Beads

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> – Finish Jan projects, make bonus project, make Chainmaille sample #1

Group Leader/Lead Instructor - Leslie Malakowsky

Instructors Judy Osmundson, Myra Soroczak

Kit Manager Sherrie Bonin

Treasurer Clara Goode

Facebook Karen Van Bebber

Security Judy Osmundson

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. 256-755-0479



# Pebble Pups

**Madison County Senior Center Cafeteria  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville AL**



## Indian Artifacts

**January 23rd**

Bill Friday will describe how the early American Indians got here, how they lived, and how they used the materials around them to survive and thrive with no television, telephone, electric lights, or cars, and even no internet .



We will meet in the Senior Center Cafeteria at 6:00 on Jan 23rd. Bring your friends. We are hoping to meet new members who joined the Gem & Mineral Society at the Fall Show.

Bring your friends.

For more information, contact

Brian Burgess at [bburgess771@gmail.com](mailto:bburgess771@gmail.com) 256-479-2993

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

### Thanks to Elected 2020 Officers

**President—Mike Harrison**

**Vice President—Isabel Leon y Leon**

**Secretary—Ruth Kemper**

**Treasurer—Clara Goode**

**Newsletter—Bill Friday**

**Federation Liaison—Les Bartel**

**At Large: Michael Soroczak**

**Gene Powers**

**Steve Young**

**Thanks to all of these who have agreed to serve the HGMS for the coming year in these important positions. Great things are in the works, so it won't be dull.**

**Please return Show Yard Signs so that they can be updated for 2019**

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

## Mineral of the Month – Amber

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

Amber is *fossilized* tree or plant resin (a highly viscous substance of botanic origin). It's not a mineral, but one of several *organic* gemstones (gemstones that were made from, or came from, living, or once living, things). Other examples of organic gemstone include abalone, coral, horn, ivory, jet, and pearl. Amber is featured this month because of the traditional Christian story of the nativity. Two of the gifts that the biblical Magi (also referred to as the (Three) Kings or the (Three) Wise Men) gave the baby Jesus (in the Gospel of Matthew and in Christian tradition) were tree resins – frankincense and myrrh. Frankincense is an aromatic resin harvested from five species of *Boswellia* tree. Frankincense is used in making perfume, in aromatherapy (a pseudoscience based on aromatic materials), and in medicine (for its anti-bacterial properties). Myrrh is an aromatic resin harvested from a small, thorny species of *Commiphora* tree. Like frankincense, myrrh is used as perfume, incense, and medicine.

Amber originates from the resin of three types of plants: conifers (cone bearing seed plants), angiosperms (flowering plants with enclosed seeds), and gymnosperms (having a stout woody trunk, a crown of stiff leaves, and open seeds). The composition of resins is highly variable because each species produces a unique blend of chemicals. But scientists have defined five classes of amber based on chemical composition. (For information on amber classification, see [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org).)

To become amber, resin must be resistant to decay, so when the plant dies, it must be buried quickly. Dead trees and plants are usually broken down by physical and biological processes. For example, exposure to sunlight, rain, microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi, and extreme temperatures tend to disintegrate the resin. The high pressures and temperatures of overlying sediments cause molecular polymerization (a chemical change in which molecules form three-dimensional networks), transforming the resin first into copal, the intermediate stage of polymerization. Eventually, sustained heat and pressure drive off the terpenes (organic compounds that deter herbivores) in the copal transforming it into amber.

Because it originates as a soft, sticky tree resin, amber sometimes contains impurities such as plant or insect matter. Amber having these types of impurities is highly sought after by collectors. A piece of amber with an insect trapped in it was made famous in Michael Crichton's 1990 novel *Jurassic Park* and the 1993 movie adaptation by Steven Spielberg. In the story, industrialist John Hammond creates a theme park featuring cloned dinosaurs and prehistoric plants. Hammond's scientists extract dinosaur DNA from mosquito blood preserved in amber and combine it with DNA from modern frogs to create the dinosaurs.

Amber has a heterogeneous (nonuniform) composition consisting of the plant resins associated with bituminous (sticky, black, and highly viscous liquids or semi-solid forms of petroleum) substances. Most amber has a Mohs hardness between 2.0 and 2.5 making it about as soft as gypsum but not as hard as calcite. Amber has a specific gravity between 1.06 and 1.10 and a melting point of 482–572 °F.

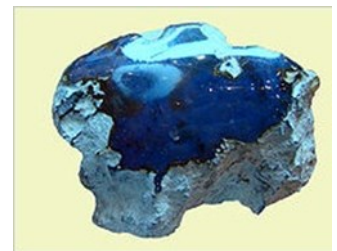
Amber occurs in a variety of colors. In addition to the usual yellow-orange-brown that we associate with the color “amber”, the stone can range from a whitish color to a pale lemon yellow, to brown and almost black. Other uncommon colors include red amber (sometimes called “cherry amber”), green amber, and the rare and highly sought after blue amber of the Dominican Republic.

Non-organic inclusions can cause amber to have an unexpected color. For example, pyrite inclusions can give amber a bluish color (not to be confused with Dominican blue amber). Numerous tiny bubbles in the resin give “bony amber” a cloudy opacity.

Amber is found all over the world, mainly in Cretaceous or younger rocks. About 90% of the world's extractable amber is located in the Kaliningrad Region of Russia along the Baltic Sea. In that area, amber is torn from the seafloor and thrown up onto the beach by wave action. The amber is collected by hand, dredging, or diving. In the Caribbean, amber is mined through bell pitting, a primitive excavation method where the cross section of the pit resembles a bell. Baltic and European ambers are from two types of fossil resins - one from a family of conifers called *Sciadopityaceae* that once lived in Northern Europe, and one from a family of conifers called *Agathis* now growing only in the Southern Hemisphere. American and African ambers are from fossil resins closely related to the modern flowering plant family called *Hymenaea*.



An ant inside Baltic amber



Blue amber from Dominican Republic

The name amber is derived from the Arabic word *ambar*, meaning ambergris. (Ambergris, or “grey amber,” is a solid waxy aromatic substance created in sperm whales’ intestines. Ambergris was harvested in ancient and modern times for use in making perfume.) In the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, the term “amber” or “yellow amber” was adopted in English to mean *fossil resin*. The two terms, “grey amber” and “yellow amber”, were used interchangeably for a while because both substances were found washed up on beaches. But today, we know the difference.

The ancient Greek term for amber is *elector*, meaning “beaming Sun”. According to Greek myth, when Phaëton the son of Helios (the Sun) was killed, his mourning sisters became poplar trees, and their tears became *elektron*, amber. The word *elektron* eventually gave rise to the words *electric* and *electricity* because of amber's ability to bear a static electricity charge.

Amber can also have alternate names depending on where it occurs. For example, amber found in coal seams is also called “resinite”. And amber found specifically within New Zealand coal seams is also called “ambrite”.

Amber has been prized for its color and natural beauty since the Neolithic period of the Stone Age, about 12,000 years ago. Amber ornaments have been found in archaeological sites in Greece and across Europe.

In ancient China, it was customary to burn amber during large festivals because it gives off a characteristic “pinewood” fragrance. Traditional Chinese medicine used amber to “tranquelize the mind”, but there is little evidence to support this. In ancient Greece, amber was used in a variety of treatments up until the early twentieth century. Even the Greek physician Hippocrates, the “Father of Medicine”, approved of it in his time.

Today, amber is made into a variety of decorative objects and jewelry. And like frankincense and myrrh, amber is used in folk medicine for its purported healing or analgesic properties. For example, in Europe, amber bead necklaces are a traditional remedy for colic or teething pain. Fortunately, in the United States, we don’t use this practice because of the risks of choking and strangulation.

Amber also helps paleontologists reconstruct extinct ecosystems preserving plants and organisms that can’t become fossils. Plant matter, insects, spiders and even their webs, annelids, frogs, crustaceans, bacteria and amoebae, marine microfossils, wood, flowers and fruit, hair, feathers and other small organisms have been recovered in Cretaceous ambers (deposited c. 130 million years ago). The oldest amber to contain fossils (mites) is a Triassic (230 million year old) sample from Italy.

Real amber has an allure all its own. The largest collection of amber is housed in the Palanga Amber Museum near the Baltic Sea in Palanga, Lithuania. About half the museum’s collection contains insect, spider, or plant inclusions. Much of the museum’s amber collection is in the form of jewelry and artwork.

A variety of natural resins and made-made plastics are used in the gem trade to imitate real amber, so buyer beware. Always purchase from a trusted source.



Pendants made of amber. The oval pendant is 52 by 32 mm (2 by 1¼ in).



Unique colors of Baltic amber. Polished stones.

References: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

## Please return Show Yard Signs so that they can be updated for 2019

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





# 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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It seems that DMC took the month of January off. It is dependent on member Clubs offering interesting places to hunt for rocks & minerals, and apparently nobody spoke up.

Hopefully next month we will get an opportunity for a DMC Dig. HGMS is on the schedule for July of this year, which will not only get ourselves into the site, but will maintain our rights to participate in all other DMC field trips. Details upcoming.

### Tannehill State Park, McCalla AL

Daniel Hillman, a Pennsylvania furnaceman, first built a bloomery forge on the banks of Roupe's Creek in 1830, where he had found the richest deposits of brown iron ore, coal, limestone, and dependable water in his experience. He wrote his son: "I believe, George, that my prospects for making a handsome property are better than they ever were..." Hillman died two years later, the family's fortune unmade. Ninian Tannehill later took up the forge as a sideline to his farming operation.

Between 1859 and 1863, slaves cut sandstone rocks, transported them by skids and stacked them to form three tall furnaces. Tannehill No. 1 was built by the noted Southern ironmaster Moses Stroup, who later built the Oxmoor Furnace, the first in Jefferson County. William L. Sanders purchased the operation in 1862 and set about expanding the ironworks.

Also known as the Roupes Valley Iron Company, these works had significant influence on the later development of the Birmingham iron and steel industry. An experiment conducted at Tannehill in 1862 proved red iron ore could successfully be used in Alabama blast furnaces. The test, promoted by South & North Railroad developers, led to the location of government-financed ironworks in the immediate Birmingham area (Jefferson County).

Tannehill could produce 22 tons of pig iron a day, most of which was shipped to the Naval Gun Works and Arsenal at Selma. Like the wheels and gears of a huge machine, the industrial center at Tannehill kept up a fierce momentum. Trees on the hillsides were felled to be made into charcoal that fed the huge blast furnaces. Roupe's Creek and a mighty steam engine powered the blowing machines to heat the fires that melted ore to be formed into billets, or "pigs", of iron. Furnaces Nos. 2 and 3 were equipped with hot blast stoves. Brown iron ore mines were present two miles (3 km) distant. The iron was cast into ordnance, skillets, pots and ovens for the Southern army.

On March 31, 1865, it ended in fire and destruction. Three companies of the US Eighth Iowa Cavalry swept through the area as a part of Union General James H. Wilson's raid on Alabama war industry sites. Smoke rose from the charred remains of the ironworks and cabins that housed several workers. At day's end the furnaces were no longer operational, and the foundry, tannery, gristmill, and tax-in-kind warehouse were in ruins. The ruins remain today as one of the best preserved 19th-century iron furnace sites in the South.

The furnace remains and its reconstructed portions were named an American Society for Metals historical landmark in 1994. The park is a designated Civil War Discovery Trail site, a stop on the Alabama Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail, and was listed among the top 10 Alabama parks and nature areas visited in 2016.

#### References:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tannehill\\_Ironworks#cite\\_note-sourcebook-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tannehill_Ironworks#cite_note-sourcebook-3)

<http://www.tannehill.org/>





## Brad's Bench Tips

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

through a couple of the new ones at <https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/>. These are just a few of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making". See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>



## DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.



Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box, and the center of the box is at the center of the disk.

#####

As a rockhound myself, I am pleased to be able to share material like this with other clubs. Hopefully the tips are of interest to your members and provide a bit of fresh content for your activity. I've been involved with lapidary and jewelry making in my own rock club for about twenty-three years now. It has added so much to my own life, and I have been glad to do a few things to help build membership and promote sister clubs in my area.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season.

Happy hammering,

- Brad

## December Birthdays

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 George Detwiler | 19 Susan Kula       |
| 1 Judy Osmundson  | 21 Linda Haynes     |
| 1 James Yack      | 22 Jersey Sitko     |
| 4 Florence Mims   | 23 Judy Duncheon    |
| 6 Lynn Peete      | 23 David Wyatt      |
| 6 Becky Rollston  | 26 Bob Kemper       |
| 12 Kathy Bowman   | 27 Alicia Detwiler  |
| 14 Shelley Curran | 30 Steve Young      |
| 16 Jason Moore    | 31 Hayley Nedbalski |
| 19 Brian Allen    |                     |



## Anniversaries

**December**  
**Turquoise**

27 Ralph & Jeanne Reed  
28 John & Margery Ruble  
26 Hayley Nedbalski & Avery Crawford

## January Birthdays

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 3 Steve Tesh        | 8 Christine Tate |
| 4 Wayne Hall        | 8 Dortha Chism   |
| 5 Lindsey Armstrong | 8 Susan Lowman   |
| 5 Matthew Kula      | 9 Brian Burgess  |
| 5 Frank Vinz        | 9 Mandy Todd     |
| 6 Cynthia McDaniel  | 10 Jonathan Lear |
| 7 Anita Bynum       | 10 Steven Tate   |
| 8 Tracey Inman      | 11 Delora Ward   |
|                     | 12 Pat McKinney  |



## Anniversaries

January  
Garnet

9 Dawn Holliday  
17 Lindsay & Matt Limbaugh  
24 Johnnie & Dennis Peterson

## December 2019 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule

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

|                  |                      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 7:30am-4:30pm        | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS age 60+<br><b>Notice the big change in lab availability</b> |
|                  | <b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b> | <b>Open Metal Smithing - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 7:30am-9:00am        | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+   |
|                  | 9:00am—Noon          | Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+  |
|                  | Noon -3:00 pm        | Silver Jewelry - Terry Clarke, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+  |
|                  | 3:00pm-4:30 pm       | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+   |
|                  | <b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b> | <b>Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 7:30am-4:30 pm       | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+   |
|                  | <b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b> | <b>Open Lapidary - Only certified HGMS 18+</b>  |
|                  | <b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b> | <b>Open Jewelry - Only certified HGMS</b>   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 7:30am-9:00am        | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+   |
|                  | 9:00am-11:30am       | Silver Jewelry - Ron West, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+  |
|                  | Noon-3:00pm          | Wood Carving - Copeland, Instructor - Seniors & HGMS 60+  |
|                  | 3:00pm-4:30 pm       | Open Lab: Lapidary -certified Seniors & HGMS 60+  |
|                  | <b>5:30pm-9:00pm</b> | <b>Metal Smithing &amp; Jewelry Classes— Only certified HGMS 18+</b>                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 7:30am-12:00am       | Open Lab: Lapidary - certified Seniors & HGMS 60+   |

### 2019 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

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Show Volunteer Chair: Open

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

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Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

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

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

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage [www.Huntsvillegms.org](http://www.Huntsvillegms.org), at meetings, or the lab

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

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

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

Attn: Les Bartel

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

**Federation Newsletters:**

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

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

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





# 2020 CALENDAR

- 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
- 21 Mar '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
- 9-11 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
- 24 Nov '20 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,  
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 8 Dec '20 - Annual HGMS Christmas Dinner—  
time, date, & place to be determined

Deadline for Next Newsletter— January 18, 2020

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

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