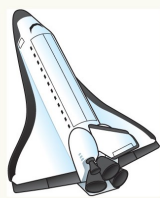


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 52 No. 02

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

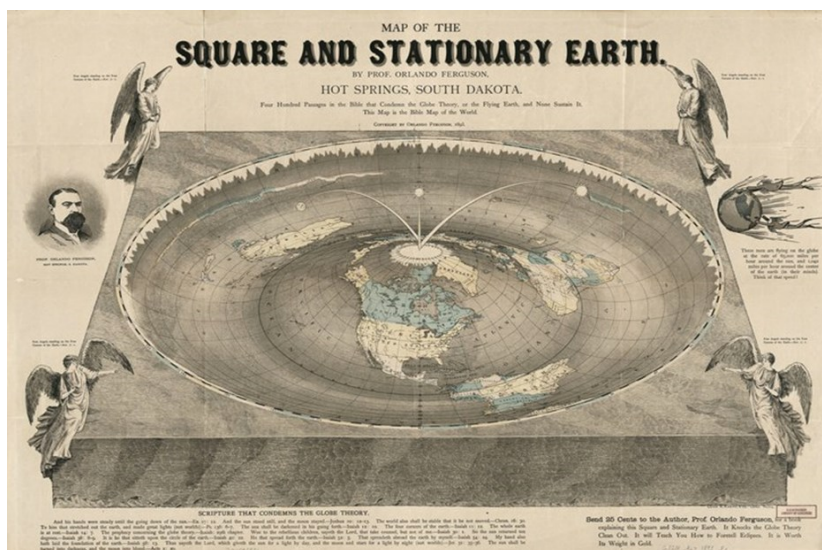
February 2020

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The Earth Really is Flat - Don't Doubt Me on This!

Where did this notion arise, what is it all about, why has it become popular, and how does one refute its premises? Or how does one join the Society?



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



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Happy Belated Valentine's Day to all!

I hope you stayed out of hot water by remembering! I know I did! On a more serious note, the February meeting is just around the corner and I'm taking this opportunity to remind you to bring in that really cool stuff to donate to the Club Auction next month! So bring it in and we will catalog it and it will go a long way to help fund and expand the what we do!

I also want to thank all that presented their prize minerals at the January "Show and Tell". Those who did, brought some awesome specimens and shared their love for what they "found"! We will have another "Show and Tell" at the July meeting for members with last names starting with H thru R, so if you are in the group, start figuring out your three most prized minerals to bring and share. But in the mean time we will have a lot of fun every month between now and then!

And I'm super excited about this month's meeting so come on out and join us at 6:30 on the 25th. You won't regret it!

Your humble "El Presidente" Mike Harrison

Brad's Bench Tips

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



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



CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

USING YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of twist drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

HGMS 28 January 2020 Meeting Minutes - Meeting convened: 06:30pm

President Mike Harrison welcomed everyone to the New Year and asked about first timers. He had all the newcomers come up to the front of the room and select a rock. Newcomers are: Brenda Reynolds, Sharon & Steven Verble, Josh Hancock, Laura Carpenter, Lawrence Tillis, & Laurel Rico. There were a total of 50 people in attendance this evening.

Mike then introduced the audience to the elected board members. Mike Harrison – President; Isabel Leon y Leon - Vice President; Ruth Kemper - Secretary; Clara Goode – Treasurer; Bill Friday - Newsletter Editor; Gene Powers, Michael Soroczak, & Les Bartel - Directors at Large

Membership Dues: Bill collected annual dues before the meeting and during the break.

Treasury: Clara presented the financial account. There is currently has seven thousand seventy-eight dollars (\$7078.00) in the club account. She stated that the club needs to pay for renewal of the SFMS membership. She also stated that payment must be made for membership insurance which is separate from the show & auction. Clara also stated that the Committee Chairs need to submit their budget requests for the New Year to her as soon as possible.

Lapidary Lab: Bill Friday gave an update on the move of the lapidary lab to the old Grissom High School. Bill stated that he contacted the city architect and left the plans for our site but the architect has not responded. A question was raised whether Isabel & Judy have keys to the Building and the Lab. Judy yes, Isabel no.

Field Trip: Several folks from the HGMS went to the Lost Creek site off of Cedar Creek Lake to collect fossils. Everyone had a great time with some interesting finds along the way - a successful trip for all who participated.

HGMS Display: Bill went to the library and set up a demonstration and display for some school grade children. They really had a good time learning about rocks, gems, and fossils. It was emphasized that if any member knows a teacher, see if the HGMS would be invited to the school for a fun learning experience from some of the HGMS members. This would be a great opportunity to share the knowledge of the members with some of the most enthusiastic school children around and possibly tweak their interest to engage in future learning.

Science Olympiad: Science Olympiad will be at University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) at 09:00am on Sat 15 Feb 2020. Volunteers were recruited to help support this unique event.

Auction: The HGMS Auction is on Saturday 21 March 2020 at the Jaycee Building in Huntsville. Donations need to be turned in to Shelley or Kathy as soon as possible so that they can be photographed and cataloged. Mike Harrison brought in his contributions and showed them to the audience. Shelley stated that we received a large assortment of gem/mineral stone figures with some of them coming from the Peter Muller Collection. Questions posed were: If these do not sell at the Auction should they be offered on EBay? The auction is seven weeks away. Shelley and Kathy want to get the catalog up on the web site. The auction raises about one-third of the club's operating expenses. All donations are tax-deductible. People can drop off contributions for the auction at the Lapidary Lab on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays between the hours of 6pm until 9 pm, or you can schedule a drop-off time with Shelley. Please identify and add a value for your donation, and ensure that your name and address are on the items you wish to auction.

Christmas Dinner: Christmas Dinner was a success this year considering the snowy weather most of the evening. Twenty-two HGMS members arrived at the Blue Plate Café on South Parkway. Food was delicious, the gift exchange was fun, and the fellowship shared during this holiday season was enjoyable.

Rocket City Jewelers: See newsletter

Metals: See newsletter

GeoSciences: See Newsletter

Pebble Pups: See newsletter

Program: Program tonight consisted of "Show & Tell". HGMS Members who last names started with A through G had their chance to display and describe their valuable finds and personal collections.

Thalia DeMoor showed some of her favorite jewelry.

Wayne Falkenberg showed us the different types of Quartz he found at the exposed stone beds of Lake Martin.

Mike Cape brought in a beautiful piece of Picture Sandstone that he stated came from southwest Georgia.

Mike Harrison exhibited a beautiful piece of Obsidian with beautifully shaped points.

Clay Dayton displayed some interesting fossils he found at the Calamity Strip Mine in middle Tennessee to include some sandstone and a mystery stone that brought a lot of conversation to the table. Deana Dayton brought some beautiful coral to top off an excellent collection.

Bill Friday presented an assortment of Fossils he found at a rock quarry.

The next program that will host "Show & Tell" at the July meeting will be with the folks who last names cover the alphabet of H through R.

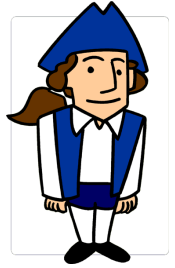
Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm. Hospitality corner was enjoyed by all. Ruth Kemper - Secretary

Here is the proposed Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society general budget for year 2020. This will be voted on during the February 25th meeting. Discussion and Amendments may be offered between now and the meeting by phone or email, and during the meeting prior to its finalization. This is your money, so carefully consider the numbers, ask questions, and offer comments. Thanks

Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

Next Class, Thursday, March 5, 2020: Forming a Neckwire

We had a request to repeat this class since last time this was offered was June 2017! We have had many new people certified since then. We will be making two neck wires during the class. One in 10 gauge copper and the other in 12 gauge brass or bronze-(your choice). We will have several examples of the various styles. If you have sensitive ears please bring some ear plugs—we will be doing lots of hammering! The Kit cost is \$3.00.



The sign up sheet will be available at the HGMS meeting and during Monday or Thursday work sessions. You may also register by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com. This class will be open to those who have not been certified on a space available basis since it is forming class however registration preference will be given to those who have been certified. Annealing wire might be necessary if so, the instructors can do this for you if you have not been safety certified to use our torches.



In the event that more than 10 people sign up for the class, those on the waitlist will be notified via email or text prior to the class if space becomes available. If there are more than 5 people on the wait list we will try to schedule a 2nd class and those on the waitlist will be notified. If there are not enough people for a 2nd class, those on the waitlist can purchase the kit and work independently on work session nights. Instruction and help will be available if needed.

Because of space limitations and tool availability, only those registered for the officially scheduled class can attend that night unless given prior approval by an instructor. If you have signed up for a class and can not attend, please be considerate and notify the instructors as soon as possible so that someone on the wait list can attend in your place.

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. 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:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

Toolbox Sign-outs

CG Lester

Inventory Manager

Opening

Store Manager

Opening

Kit Manager

Shelley Curran

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman

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

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

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky



On January 22nd, we started working on wire weaving samples. This will be a collection of different styles of wire weaving for quick reference similar to our chainmaille samples. On February 5th and 12th we were scheduled to work on Wire Wrapping Cabochon #2, but we got rained out both times! Fortunately, there's still plenty of time to reschedule this important class.

Feedback requested: In the past, we've had open jewelry nights on extra Wednesdays (in months that have a 5th week), but experience has shown that not many members attend. Perhaps there's other things you'd like to do. Please send me your suggestions. There are 3 extra Wednesdays remaining this year: April 29th, July 20th, and September 30th. Ideas so far include: social time, celebrate the group anniversary, and jewelry to donate.

Auction donations: Please consider donating jewelry to the auction, which is **Saturday, March 21st**. Now's the time to let your creativity flow and work on those donations!

Upcoming Schedule:

Feb 19th – Chainmaille sample #12: Beaded Barrel Bracelet. Kit \$6.

Feb 26th – Chainmaille sample #2 make up class: Viper's Basket. Kit \$1.50.

Mar 4th – Wire Weaving: Woven Bracelet with Beads. Kit TBA.

Mar 11th – Wire Weaving Samples. Kit prepaid.

Mar 28th – Double-Drilled Bead & Byzantine Bracelet. Kit TBA.

Note: We do our best to follow the current schedule, but changes may be necessary. Please remember to check the website for the latest class info.

Volunteers:

Group Leader/Lead Instructor Leslie Malakowsky

Instructors Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Myra Soroczak

Kit Manager Sherrie Bonin

Treasurer Clara Goode

Facebook open

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! Please note that when you'd like to take a class but you don't regularly attend RCJ, **you must contact us one week prior to the class** so we can make a kit for you.

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.m., so if you need to arrive later, please text Leslie at 256-755-0479, and someone will let you in.



Pebble Pups

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

This month will begin a four part series on geological processes.

1. Plate Tectonic Theory
2. Mountains
3. Plateaus
4. Sedimentary Basins

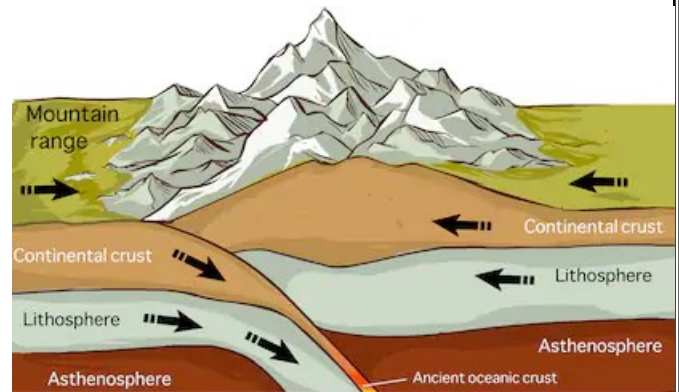
I will explain each subject, how each relates to minerals, and how to rockhound each formation. I will explain what can be generally found in each formation.

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 256-479-2993
or Bill Friday bill.friday@earthlink.net 256-527-8227



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GeoSciences Activity Group

Richard Keyes has spent a lifetime collecting fossils, with a specialty in crinoids, of which he has found very many rare and delicate specimens. He presented a slide show of some of the more unusual crinoids, blastoids, corals, bryozoa, echinoids, and sponges, particularly ones found in the Mississippian limestone of north Alabama. Very many of them are of museum quality.



Mineral of the Month – Thomsonite *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*



Thomsonite is one of about 30 minerals in the zeolite group of silicates. Minerals in this group occur in unique crystal forms. This month I chose to feature thomsonite because one of its crystal forms is rounded balls of radiating crystals that resemble snow balls. According to the National Weather Service, Huntsville and North Alabama can potentially receive snow that “sticks” anytime between about the end of December to about mid-March. So, we may still get enough snow this Winter to make snow balls, albeit small ones!

Zeolites are hydrous sodium aluminum silicates that contain varying amounts of calcium and strontium. In thomsonite, these elements represent two end members of a series. For example, common thomsonite is dominated by calcium. It's called *thomsonite-Ca*, and its formula is $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Al}_5\text{Si}_5\text{O}_{20} \cdot 6(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. Strontium dominant thomsonite is at the opposite end of the series. It's called *thomsonite-Sr*, and its formula is $\text{Na}(\text{Sr},\text{Ca})_2\text{Al}_5\text{Si}_5\text{O}_{20} \cdot 7(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. While thomsonite-Ca is uncommon, thomsonite-Sr is extremely rare. Because of this, most thomsonite in collections is thomsonite-Ca. But the distinction between the two types is seldom made, and the name thomsonite is generally used for both.

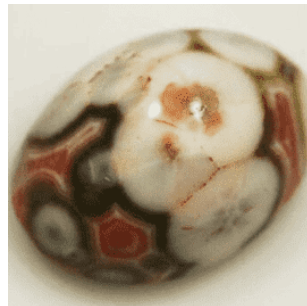
This mineral can be colorless, white, beige, cream, light yellow, light green, light gray, light brown, light orange, and light pink (all with a vitreous pearly luster). It can range between 5 and 5 ½ on Mohs scale of hardness. For comparison, that's as hard as apatite and approaching the hardness of feldspar (6).

Thomsonite is found in vesicles (rounded cavities formed by trapped gas) and pockets within volcanic basalt. Thomsonite is usually found with other zeolites and green chlorite. It can also be associated with prehnite, laumontite, and natrolite, to name a few.

Thomsonite was named in 1820 by Henry James Brooke in honor of Thomas Thomson (1773 - 1852, professor of chemistry at the University of Glasgow. Thomson was an avid mineral chemist who made great contributions to the field of mineral chemical analysis. He also discovered many new mineral species.

Thomsonite looks similar to two other zeolite minerals - boggsite (not found in bogs) which can be colorless or white, and okenite which can be white or light yellow. All three minerals can be distinguished by Mohs hardness - boggsite is softer than okenite which is softer than thomsonite. Collectors who specialize in zeolites can distinguish the three by their crystal forms. Boggsite crystals resemble snow cones and okenite crystals resemble small white cotton balls.

But thomsonite has an interesting habit that helps distinguish it from other zeolites: it can occur in banded concentric multicolored rings. Collectors like to tumble these samples into aesthetically pleasing rounded stones, which can also be used in jewelry making. The most well-known locality for this form is on the shoreline of Lake Superior at Thomsonite Beach, Grand Marais, Minnesota. Tumbled or polished thomsonite from Thomsonite Beach is called *lintonite*. Other good localities in the United States are New Jersey, Colorado, and Oregon.



References: <https://www.minerals.net>, <https://www.mindat.org>

Welcome all SFMS Clubs to the 2020 Rockhound Roundup!

The 2020 SFMS Rockhound Roundup will be held in the Suwannee River Music Park in Live Oak, Florida. The dates are March 6-8. We will be holding a SFMS Social Friday evening to foster the Interclub connections for which this event was originally organized.

Last year we had participants from at least five of our states. We want this to be an annual event that grows each year. Those who came last year expressed very positive comments about the Roundup. Please join us next year!

Contact Jerri Heer SFMS Secretary 419-344-9999

GPS 30.3947744,-82.9444183,85 or 30° 23 39.39, 82° 56' 40"



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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Sloss Furnaces, Birmingham, AL

Saturday, February 29, 2020 9:30 a.m. Central (10:30 a.m. Eastern)

Limited to 32 Attendees—Registration Required -

Fee: \$5 per person, please have exact cash when you enter

NOTE: This is a last minute replacement for the Brookwood, AL trip that was originally planned for February 29th. Because of the short lead time, we are still working on some additional tours for this trip, but we don't have confirmation yet. People who register for this trip will receive updates as soon they are available.

TRIP: The history of Birmingham is intertwined with the history of iron processing in Alabama. Sloss Furnaces is a unique glimpse into both histories. The furnaces operated continuously from 1882 to 1970. The site has been preserved and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1981.

TOUR: Field trip attendees will receive a special guided tour to learn about the materials, processes, and products at Sloss Furnaces. The tour will be tailored for this DMC trip only.

REGISTRATION: The tour size is limited, so only 32 people may attend (32 represents the number of clubs in the DMC). Please register with Sandra Sullivan at doodle35146ss@yahoo.com **You will need to show your membership card for the HGMS. If you don't have one, you can get one from Bill Friday at the door, and the doorkeeper will have a copy of our membership list.**

SPECIAL WORKSHOP: The day before the field trip, Friday, February 28, the Sloss Furnaces Metal Arts group is offering a metal bowl making event called "Bowl-O-Rama" for \$45 per person. If you are interested in attending this event, you can register and purchase tickets on the Sloss Furnaces Metal Arts website here: <https://www.slossmetalarts.com/purchase-tickets>. This is not DMC, so anyone can attend, but still is limited

COLLECTING: Attendees will get a piece of slag from the iron processing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: AMLS members will be available with samples related to Alabama iron works as well as information about iron processing in the area.

BRING: Bring a camera -- you are going to see some fascinating things! Wear comfortable, **closed toe** walking shoes, and because a lot of the tour will be outside, wear cloths appropriate for day's conditions.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are bathroom facilities on-site

TERRAIN & ACCESSIBILITY: The tour will be in and around the furnace facilities. This site is ADA compliant, and most of the tour will be on hard, flat concrete surfaces. There is one area of the tour that has stairs to preserve the history of the site. It will be a leisurely 45 minute walk.

Sloss Furnaces, 20 32nd Street North, Birmingham, AL 35222.

GPS 33.5208858,-86.7897382 or 33° 31' 16", 86° 47' 19.3"

We will meet at **9:30** in the parking lot to check in, collect fees, and so the group can enter together. The tour starts at **10:00** and will last approximately 1 hour.

CONTACT:

Sandra Sullivan, doodle35146ss@yahoo.com 205-903-7062



February Birthdays

1 Ryan Flippo	10 Steve Heinrich
1 Maggie Holliday	10 Tony Smith
1 Darrell Murphy	11 Karin Bath
2 Michael Cape	12 Kay Jones
2 Maureen Lokken	13 Bryan Posta
5 Alli Curran	14 Dawn Holliday
6 Doran Adams	17 Don Cooper
6 Mike Goode	18 Wayne Falkenberg
7 Lester Bartel	22 Joey Bonds
7 Karen Cale	25 John Cook



February
Amethyst

Anniversaries

12 Don & Marie Aldridge
12 Kay Jones
19 Christine Tate

March Birthdays

5 Allison Kowalczyk	18 Ola Ann Lee
5 Jacob Roberts	19 Ben Carroll
9 Hannah Mayes	19 Rose Weaver
9 Julie McCullough	21 Teresa Roberts
13 Karen van Bebber	22 Susan Hessler
14 Sarah Herman	22 Gene Powers
18 Michael O'Dell	22 Harry Wiley
	29 Linda McKinney



March
Aquamarine

Anniversaries

14 Ben & Monika Carroll
22 Wayne & Rhonda Hall
24 Margaret & Jerry Olson

February 2020 - Senior Center Lapidary Lab Schedule

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

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

2020 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President- Mike Harrison - william.m.harrison@boeing.comVice President- Isabel Leon y Leon- isabel.leonyleon@gmail.comRecording Secretary: Ruth Kemper- bob_kemper@yahoo.comTreasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.netNewsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.friday@earthlink.net

Directors at Large:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.comMichael Soroczak- soroczak@yahoo.comLes Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.comEx Officio - bill.friday@earthlink.net

2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

bill.friday@earthlink.net

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

Publicity: Bob Kemper

bob_kemper@yahoo.com

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Field Trips: Open

Rocket City Jewelers: Leslie Malakowsky

256) 755-0479 lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon 256-426-5061

caryl.nixon@outlook.com

Mineral ID: Michael Soroczak

soroczak@yahoo.com

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Mike Harrison

william.m.harrison@boeing.com

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

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Volunteer Chair: Open

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

clarag1964@gmail.com

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

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

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org, at meetings, or the lab

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

DATE: Fourth Tuesday of the month except for March Auction, June picnic, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

**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



2020 CALENDAR

- 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, No regular meeting in March
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
- 20 Jun '20 Annual HGMS Picnic, Monte Sano State Park
Saturday, Pavilion 1, 9:00 till 2:00
- 28 Jul '20 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 25 Aug '20 - Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm
- 22 Sep '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 - place to be determined
- 26 Jan '21 Regular HG&MS Meeting, Madison County Senior Center,
2200 Drake Ave, Huntsville, AL 6:30pm



Deadline for Next Newsletter
March 14, 2020

**Dated material
Do not delay**

Rocket City Rocks & Gems
Bill Friday, Editor
2508 Excaltibur Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803
February 2020