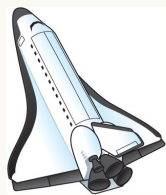


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 52 No. 10

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

October 2020

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October 27th Meeting? - Maybe

We have requested permission to hold the October meeting with 100% masks but no social distancing. We don't yet have an answer, so it will probably not happen.

If the answer comes back "yes" later this week we will send out the word as wide as practical. The meeting would be held in the south end of our HGMS building behind the old Grissom High - 7901 Bailey Cove Rd.

Each member must decide if they are willing to participate as described above. Bring your own mask, and we will have extras. Take a tour of the whole new facility.

No food, just good program and good fellowship, and a bit of business in between.



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



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Hello all,

I can't believe three fourths of the year has passed us by! I don't know about you but I have a really bad case of cabin fever. The good news is, the Huntsville Gem and Mineral Education Center is almost up and running! Look in this issue for time the center is open and plan for an outing to play with pretty rocks, shiny settings, colorful slabs and wire wrappings that bedazzle! We have something for everyone!

It is also time to think about selection a slate of officers to lead us thru the next year! As your humble president, it has been a pleasure to serve. The other leaders listed on the next to last page feel the same, I'm sure. So I request that you look over the list of officers and committee chairs and consider how you might like to serve. Or maybe you think someone else would do a great job in one of those positions. Please email me at wm.harrison.123@gmail.com with the name of the person and the position you think they match so perfectly and we will contact them to see if they will serve and we can add them to the slate of candidates! One position in particular that needs a person to fill is the Hospitality Chair. Our very lovely Caryl Nixon, who has served faithfully for many years has decided to step down. She will be missed in ways we have yet to realize because she worked so hard yet made it look so easy. Caryl, we salute you and wish you the very best and hope we get to see you around. And please keep in touch!

Mike Harrison, HGMS President

Auction Update

Due to the cancellation of our March auction fundraiser, and subsequent loss of revenue for the club, it's been decided to take the auction on line. After much research I've chosen a platform designed specifically for non profits. It features real time bidding from any device. We hope to go live in October. Info on how to bid and a link to the site will follow in next months newsletter. Be ready to shop!

Shelley

Dues are Coming Due on Jan 1st

New Members and current Members who pay their dues now will be credited for all of 2021. Get ahead of the crowd and pay ahead.

Take a load off of the Membership Chairman. Still \$15 single/\$20 Family

Pebble Pups

Current plans are to re-start the Pebble Pups programs in January, allowing the virus problem to settle out further. We will meet in the new Gem & Mineral Education Center at the old Grissom High facility in our own Room. Bring your friends. For more information, contact Bill Friday bill.friday@earthlink.net 256-527-8227



GeoSciences

Like all the rest of the world, particularly Senior Center activities through October are cancelled. But we should be back in business for a GeoSciences meeting in November.

Tom Burleson of the Von Braun Astronomical Society has offered to present a program on Meteorites. Details to be provided later, but he was encouraged to dig deep and take his time.



Gem & Mineral Education Center Renovation Progress - Bill Friday

We now have the surveillance cameras installed and operational in our Education Center, thanks to the efforts and generosity of Don Marsh who did all of the work, and donated his time and much of the hardware. Don had previously installed the camera system in the Senior Center, so we called on him again and he responded wonderfully. There are six cameras: one watching our entrance from the inside, two in the long lapidary room, one each in the Metals Room, Pebble Pups/GeoSciences Room, and Rocket City Jewelers room.

These will not be used for spying on our members activities. They are in place to allow a review of situations in case of incidents, including misuse of equipment, unauthorized presence of non-members, or other problems. The computer which controls the video recording and allows the reviews is locked in the Office, accessible only to four activity managers. The system is not and will not be connected to the internet, both to protect our privacy and to keep from incurring monthly connection fees.

A secure access system is to soon be installed, where each member who is certified in, or a participant in, or who wants to be in any of the Club activities will need to have a unique four-digit code to unlock the door. The building exterior door will have to be unlocked before you can even get to our HGMS access door to find the keypad. A schedule for those opening times has not yet been worked out, but will be circulated and posted as soon as it is available. Select yourself a code and contact me to have it logged into the computer. When groups of patrons come in together, each in the group will need to enter their code. This will record who came in and at what date/time. No sign in pad needed. Thanks for patience.



New work tables & storage for the Metals Room



Trying out the grind/polish arbors



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

Hi Everyone! There's a lot to report about in this issue!

We're enjoying our new room in the Ed Cntr! **Many thanks to all of the hard workers** for making it happen! Without their efforts, we'd still be in the Paint Room at the old senior center. Thanks also to Judy, who made chair cushions, Theresa, who donated a wall clock, and Kathy, who donated a wall photo.

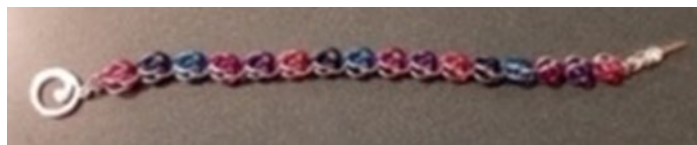


We're wearing masks, using sanitizer, and practicing "social distancing". Last week, enough people signed up for the monthly class that we had to have 2 sessions, one from 2-5p, and one from 6-9p, so we wouldn't exceed the 8-person limit in the room. In the event that attendance exceeds the limit again, our plan is to expand into the Pups room next door, or split into two sessions again. We'll keep you posted.

We're continuing our schedule of classes on 1st Wednesdays (non-chainmaille projects) and 3rd Wednesdays (chainmaille projects) from 6p – 9p, with "Finish It" time (for working on unfinished projects) on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2p – 5p. Judy is continuing to offer chainmaille make-up sessions on 4th Wednesdays as well. **Note:** We decided to postpone "Try It" projects at least through the end of the year so folks can finish current projects.

The tools inventory is finished and the tools are safely put away. The supplies inventory is nearly complete.

Welcome new members **James Yack** (who actually joined before we moved), **Kathy Tygielski**, **Laurie Porter**, and **Joan Ellsworth**!

Upcoming Schedule

Oct 21: Sweetpea Chainmaille: Sample, Bracelet, Pumpkin Earrings. Kit is \$5.25. 6-9pm

Oct 28: Finish It and CM Samples #4 Make-Up (Round Maille and Turkish Round Maille). RSVP to Judy (205) 541-7207 **by Oct 21st**. 2-5pm

Nov 4: Wire Wrap Pendants: Spiral, Cage, and Simple Wrap. RSVP to Judy (205) 541-7207 **by Oct 28th**. Let us know if you need a bead, stone, or shell to wrap. 6-9pm

Nov 11: Finish It. 2-5pm

Nov 18: Chainmaille Santa Earrings and/or Pendant, Christmas Tree Earrings. RSVP to Leslie (256) 970-8286 **by Nov 11th**. 6-9pm

Important: The **HGMS Education Center is located at 7901 Bailey Cove Road SE, Huntsville**. Enter the South parking lot off Bailey Cove Road SE, drive through the lot to the Education Center (long narrow building) at the back, turn left, and park directly opposite the building. Please enter the double glass doors on the West side of the building. Please be aware that the doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, the doors will be locked, and you will need to call Judy (205-541-7207) to let you in.

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 and Theresa Chivers (backup)

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.

Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

We will be making a shadow box pendant in November. This is an intermediate/advanced project requiring good soldering skills. If you have a calibrated round 8 or 10 mm stone you want to use for your shadow box, we will have bezel cups in that size available.. If you want to use another stone in the 8 to 10 mm size that will not fit into a premade bezel cup *you will have to construct the bezel setting*. The kit will include an 8 mm round stone and a cup (we will supply in the kit). Using the cups will make the project simpler. The example pictured is only one style of shadowbox. We will have several examples of different styles if you want to make a different style later. The cost for the kit is \$7.00.



Class Session 1: Thursday Nov 5th

Class Session 2: Monday Nov 9th

Signup by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com. Sign up sheets will be available during Monday and Thursday work sessions.. There is a limit of 5 students per session. When you sign up you may choose a specific session however if you are flexible and can attend either session let us know. This will help us balance the number in each session. You will be notified by Tuesday Nov 3rd which session to attend.

To register for this class send email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com. Let us know what day you *prefer* to attend. If you can come either day, indicate that as well so we know you will be able to change days if we need to balance the number in the class. If the date should change those who sign up for the class will be notified.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again!



Certification Classes: We hope to resume certifications on a one to three person basis in January. If you are interested in scheduling Metalsmithing Certification 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.

Volunteer Positions *

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.

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

One of my favorite colors is purple, so when I ran across a charoite cabochon many years ago in a jewelry supply store here in Huntsville, I was thrilled! Although skeptical that the cab's lovely lavender color was natural, I bought it anyway, and I was happy to learn, after doing some research, that it's a naturally occurring mineral!

Charoite is a rare potassium silicate mineral with the formula $K(Ca,Na)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH,F) \cdot H_2O$. It's a component of the potassium feldspar metasomatic rocks (metamorphic rocks that have undergone chemical alteration by hydrothermal fluids) found in only one location in the world: the confluence of the Chara River (for which the mineral was named) and the Tokko River in the Tokko River Basin, Siberia, Russia. It's at that location where a syenite (a coarse-grained intrusive igneous rock similar to granite but low in quartz) of the Murunskii Massif (an exposed portion of shield rock) intruded into and altered local limestone deposits producing metasomatic rocks.



Charoite was reportedly first discovered in the 1940s, but it was unknown to most of the world until it was described in 1978. Some mineralogists believe that its drab opaque appearance in the field may have contributed to its late recognition. (Since its discovery in Siberia, charoite has also been discovered in southern India.) Minerals associated with charoite include aegirine, quartz, pectolite, and galena.

Charoite ranges in color from translucent lavender, violet, lilac, purple, and light brown with a vitreous, silky, or pearly luster. The color variations are due to the presence of impurities such as aluminum, iron, manganese, strontium, and barium. It's a fairly hard mineral ranging from 5 (apatite) to 6 (feldspar) on Mohs scale. Its crystal habit is massive, and it has an unusual swirling, fibrous, and sometimes chatoyant appearance. (In mineralogy, chatoyance is an optical effect resulting from the fibrous nature of a mineral or from fibrous inclusions within a mineral. The term was coined from the French "œil de chat", meaning "cat's eye".) These features, along with its incredible color, led some people to think at first that charoite was a synthetic or artificially enhanced mineral.

Like the mineral sugilite (*Rocket City Rocks & Gems*, May 2019), charoite's hardness, pearly luster, and beautiful color make it an ideal mineral for lapidary and jewelry making.

References: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charoite), mindat.org

Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com. For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration



or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering and polishing. Browse through a couple of the new ones at <https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/>. These are just a few of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making". See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>



We never heard from Brad Smith this month. Hopefully he will be back in November with his very useful tips.

Diamond

By Dave Jacobson, Canaveral Gem & Mineral Society



This month we will take a brief look the hardest mineral on the Mohs scale, with a reading of 10, diamond, C, crystallized carbon. Diamond is used a gemstone and industrially as an abrasive. As lapidaries and faceters we are using diamond all the time. Small diamonds are also used as specimens in mineral collections. Some of the more famous localities where diamonds are found are: South Africa and several other localities in Africa: India, Brazil, Russia, Aus-tralia and Arkansas in the United States. In the December 1998 issue of *Rock & Gem magazine* there was an article about diamond collecting in Crater of Diamonds State Park, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

Some interesting facts follow. Diamond is a very good thermal conductor. It is 5 times better than the second best thermal conductor, silver. Diamond has the highest melting point which 3820 degrees Kelvin. Diamond has the greatest lattice density which means the atoms are packed tighter together than in any other sub-stance. Diamond also transmits light over a greater range of wavelengths (from ultra violet through the far infrared) than any other substance.

Diamond is in the isometric crystal system. Typical habits are cubes and octahedrons. Diamond has perfect cleavage in four directions, which means, as hard as it is, if it receives a hard blow in one of these directions it can split. In a diamond each atom is at the center of a tetrahedron of four other carbon creating an extremely strong framework although in one direction the structure has fewer bonds resulting in the cleavage plane. This cleavage plane repeats via symmetry to form an octahedron. Diamond comes in many colors with variations of each color including yellows, browns, grays, white, blue, black; reds, greens and color-less. Specific Gravity is 3.5. Hardness is 10. Streak is white.

Diamond and graphite are both polymorphs of the element carbon. Both are carbon but have completely different forms and structure. Some interesting facts about both follow:

Graphite

One of the softest minerals Hardest mineral

Good conductor of electricity Insulator

Good lubricant Ultimate abrasive

Opaque Usually transparent

Hexagonal crystal system Isometric crystal system

The differences between diamond and graphite are due to the atomic structure of each mineral. In graphite the atoms are closely spaced in planes with wide spacing between the adjacent planes. There is a tight bond between the planes of atoms but a weak bond between the adjacent planes. In a diamond the atoms are equally spaced. Each atom is at the center of a tetrahedron of four other carbon atoms creating an extremely strong framework.

Diamond takes it's name from the Greek *adamas* meaning "invincible" or "hardest".

I used the following reference materials in preparing this article:

A Field Guide to Rocks And Minerals by Frederick H. Pough.

Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus.

Simon & Schusters Guide to Rocks And Minerals.

Gemstones Of The World by Walter Schumann.

The Audubon Society Field Guide To North American Rocks And Minerals by Charles W. Chesterman.

Gems, Crystals, & Minerals by Anna S. Sofianides , George E. Harlow and George W. Robinson, Ph. D.

Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery on the Internet at <http://mineral.galleries.com>.

Rocks And Minerals by Chris Pellent

October Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

9 Bill & Joyce Walters
 24 Leslie Malakowsky
 29 Daniel & Susan Hessler



October
Tourmaline

November Birthdays

1 Marty Martinez	13 Cindy Bonds
2 Daniel Hessler	15 Gordon Maynard
3 Alice Turner-Johnson	16 Sandy Charlton
3 Andrea Tucker-Kusister	17 John McCullough
3 Nanette Schwartz	20 Betty Augsburg
3 Chris Stewart	21 Doug Wells
6 Sherrie Bonin	24 Frank Curran
7 Susan Elrod	26 Connor Staggs
7 Amelia Walley	27 Toni Robert
9 David Fikes	27 Betty Olson
9 Jim Lee	27 Sheila Cape
12 Mike Soroczak	30 Mary Jean Brost Travis



November
Topaz

1 Frank & Shelley Curran
 26 Debbie Deering
 26 Bill & Rita Friday
 29 Mike & Theresa Chivers
 Bruce & Allison Kowalczyk

The Lapidary Lab will be only limited open until further notice

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center Schedule

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

The lapidary equipment is reassembled and operational but still in the shakedown stage. But until the virus restrictions are relaxed, it is not practical to post a schedule. Current plans are to maintain the open lab for all qualified members ages 18+ on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, starting October 6th.

Daytime access for qualified members is still being worked out as we finalize the building opening times and secure access protocol.

The biggest change from previous scheduling at the Senior Center is that now qualified members ages 18+ will be able to use the equipment during the daytime.

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: Vacant

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: Theresa Chivers, 256-837-6819

wolfson929@gmail.com

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



2020-21 CALENDAR

- 27 Oct '20 - Tentative Regular HG&MS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 24 Nov '20 - Tentative Regular HG&MS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 8 Dec '20 - Annual HGMS Christmas Dinner - place/time to be determined
- 26 Jan '21 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 23 Feb '21 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Mar '21 - Annual HGMS Fundraising Auction
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 27 Apr '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 May '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 22 Jun '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

<p>Deadline for Next Newsletter November 14, 2020</p>

**Dated material
Do not delay**

October 2020

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