

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 53 No. 7

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

July 2021

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HGMS Meeting— Education Building South Room 27 July 2021

How Large can Crystals Grow?
There is no theoretical limit, only practical ones.
Naica Mine Gypsum Crystals (see the man below)



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



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Hello all you Rock Hounds!

We had a fabulous June Picnic on the 10th of July! Yes, I know. It can't be a June picnic if we had it in July!!!! But we did. We waited too long to reserve the pavilion at Monte Sano State Park and all they had left was July 10th. But for the 37 who showed up, it was a grand old time! We had pork, chicken and turkey BBQ sandwiches and a couple of veggie sandwiches as well. We met in the new, larger (and honestly much better) pavilion and it was so nice! Several members set up tables to sell their stuff and it all worked out great.

But wait! We have more on the horizon with the Show and the Christmas Dinner. So get ready to not only enjoy but we would love for you to volunteer to help with the show! Read this newsletter with care and it will not disappoint in informing and educating us all!

And last but not least, I do hope to see you at our July monthly meeting on the 27th! See you there! Your Prez, Mike

Annual HGMS Picnic, July 10th 2021, Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, in the new Biker's Pavilion.



Minutes of the June 22 Regular HGMS Meeting

President Mike Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. He recognized our visitors, John Haughton, and Jason and Nina Edgeworth, who were invited to select a prize for attending tonight!

Picnic: Mike announced that the Annual Picnic will be Saturday, July 10th at the Trailhead Pavilion in Monte Sano State Park. Please arrive between 9a.m. – 10a.m. (Tell the gate attendant you're with HGMS to avoid the entrance fee.) Lunch will be delivered at 11a.m. Don't miss out! Reserve your lunch(es) in advance using the link in the newsletter, or by emailing Caryl at Caryl.Nixon@outlook.com. (Lunch is sandwich, chips, and a cookie for \$4/box. You can choose from Ted's BBQ or vegetarian from Panera Bread.)

Treasurer's Report: Clara Goode reported that we made \$3,565.00 from the yard sale on June 12th, bringing the current balance to \$8,714.00. She reminded committee chairs to start spending their money. Please send Mike a wish list if you want to request more money than what was previously approved for this year.

Museum Update: James Yack announced that the club museum is coming along. 5 beautiful display cabinets were recently purchased for \$300ea from a business in Guntersville and transported to the Ed. Center. (Many thanks to the volunteers who brought them here.) The goal is to provide local folks a place where they can see rocks, minerals, fossils, and shells since there's currently no place in Huntsville.

Lapidary Lab: Bill Friday reported that the equipment is lasting longer than before with fewer breakdowns. He wants to purchase a 12" manual saw for cutting larger pieces.

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ): Leslie Malakowsky announced that RCJ meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6-9p.m. We currently offer a non-chainmaille class on the 1st Wednesday and a chainmaille class on the 3rd Wednesday. (Meetings on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays are for finishing projects from 2-5p.m.) The next class will be on July 7th. The project is a Star Pendant made from round copper wire with an optional cabochon in the center. Be sure you RSVP in advance; we can't guarantee a kit for you without a reservation. [To RSVP, sign up tonight or contact Judy.](#)

Metalsmithing: Shelley announced that the next class will be on July 1st and 5th. The project is Fabricating a Metal Box using 20g bezel cups on copper sheet. (This is the same class that was scheduled for June, but it was rescheduled for July due to problems getting supplies.) The kit cost is \$5 and includes metals and printed instructions. (Class size is limited to 7.) Be sure you RSVP in advance; we can't guarantee a kit for you without a reservation. To RSVP, sign up tonight or contact Shelley. Choose the Thursday, July 1st session or the Monday, July 5th session.

Field Trips: Bill reported that the Twenty-Mile Creek trip went well. Folks sifted the creek bottom and most found at least one shark tooth. The weather was warm and overcast, but the water felt good. 25 club members and 2 guests made the trip. The next trip will be in August. (The date is TBA.) The location is the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA. Watch for email with more details.

New Tenants: Bill announced that tonight is the Coin Club's first meeting in the Ed. Center. He discussed it with Tom Glynn, who approved. The Coin Club will meet in the RCJ room on the 4th Tuesday of the month during our regular meeting time so they won't need a key to get in. They're glad to get back together after a year and a half hiatus due to COVID.

Yard Sale: Shelley reported that the sale went very well despite the afternoon thunderstorm. We made \$3,565.00, more than expected. We lost only one specimen – a sample of halite (salt) – that melted in the rain. Shelley thanked all the volunteers, including club members and non-club members, who showed up to help set up and to shop! She also thanked everyone who helped as we scrambled to move everything to the Ed. Center during the storm. Old and new members alike pitched in to dry things off and put things away. She's going to start bringing stuff out to sell at the regular meetings.

Note: Be sure to check the HGMS newsletter/website for more information about club activities.

Local Book Available: Bill had copies of Jim Lacefield's book, Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks, available for only \$30! Be sure to get your copy.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59p.m. The program was Show and Tell for members with last names ending in I – Q. We had 32 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

Submitted by Leslie Malakowsky, Recording Secretary

The Fall Show is almost upon us - sign up now to help.

Hi all. I am asking everyone to help by volunteering at the show. Please do not wait till the last minute to sign up. Everyone needs to be involved so our show is successful as we lost revenue last year because it was cancelled so this year is VERY important to the club. I need a volunteer to help the chair the kids area and people to volunteer for shifts in all areas: ticket booth, information booth, kids area, flume, volunteer dinner and fossil dig. If we all do a little bit, no one is overwhelmed. Thank you in advance for helping. Also I want to thank the few people who have already signed up. I really appreciate you! Remember our fall show is October 8-10. Please contact me by email, wolfsong929@gmail.com or call my home phone **256-837-6819**. Please leave a message as I don't answer calls from numbers I do not know. I will also be at the HGMS meeting with sign up sheets if you prefer that.



The following committees have chairs, but they need workers:

Set up - Lowell

Ticket booth - Nannette Schwartz

Information booth - Bill Friday

Demonstrations - Shelley Curran and Kathy Bowman

Volunteer dinner - Caryl Nixon has agreed to call the caterers.

Flume - Gene Powers

Fossil Dig - James Yack

Kids Area - HELP!

Thanks, Theresa Chivers

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



FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 16 or 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

**August Metals Class:
Stacking Rings with Stones.**
August 6th and 10th. 5:00-9:00 PM



Build a set of five stacking bands, all different, and set three of them with bezel set stones.

We will be working in silver. Kit cost is \$10.00 and includes all necessary materials, printed instructions and consumables.

Skills learned include: proper measuring for different gauges of metal for ring bands. Precision is key! Using calipers and stone setting punches. The importance of annealing.

Please be sure to note if you want the Thursday or Monday class. If warranted classes may be combined. As always, you may sign up at the meeting, in class, or at Kathy's wild ivy email address, found in the newsletter.

Please be sure to note if you want the Thursday or Monday session when you sign up for class. If warranted classes may be combined. As always, you may sign up at the meeting, in class, or at Kathy's wild Ivy email address, kbowman@wilddivystudio.com

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have eased, certification classes have resumed. Kathy will notify those of you signed up. But please keep in mind that the list has become quite long. We will get to everyone eventually though. Thank you for your patience.

Certification Classes: We hope to resume certifications on a one to three person basis in April. If you are interested in scheduling Metalsmithing Certification please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to HGMS@wilddivystudio.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. We are looking at having the Certification Class on a night other than Monday or Thursday since seats on both work session nights are full.

IMPORTANT! CURRENTLY CLASS SIZES ARE LIMITED TO 6 STUDENTS PER SESSION. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR CLASSES BECAUSE OF THE LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS. YOU WILL NOT BE ASSURED A SEAT IN THE CLASS IF YOU SHOW UP AT THE DOOR!

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

Tools/Equipment Inventory

Annie Diekmann

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.

Get your access code for the new facility

The security keypad and magnetic latch are installed. Members will need a personal five-digit code for access. Select a code number smaller than 64,000, as the controller is allergic to larger ones. You will need to press # afterward. To exit, an overhead motion sensor will unlatch the magnet - after a short delay. Please provide your chosen number to Bill Friday who will maintain the repository.



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

I'm in California for an extended period of time due to a family emergency. I'll see you all in August. Happy jewelry making!

Upcoming Schedule: July 21st: Wirework Pendant / Earrings with Stone Cab/Focal or Wirework Critter.

Note: Critters shown here are examples. If you'd like to take these classes, and you haven't already heard from Judy, please contact her at (205) 541-7207 for details.



Remember that we meet from 6p – 9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and from 2p – 5p on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays with 5th Wednesdays TBA. Please note that when you'd like to take a class, **you must contact us two weeks prior to the class** (unless otherwise indicated in the schedule) so we can make a kit for you.

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 Leslie Malakowsky

Instructors Judy Osmundson, Leslie Malakowsky, Theresa Chivers

Treasurer Clara Goode, Judy Osmundson

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! **Remember our core values:** to share what we know, learn new skills, and have fun! Please let us know what you are able to teach and what you would like to learn. **Please post your ideas on our Pinterest page!**

RCJ has been so excited to get back in 2021. We missed each other and primary teacher with others bringing new projects listed as well.

Below is a picture recap of the year so far. Judy Osmundson is our primary teacher with others bringing new projects listed as well.

Jan 2021

Bead in a Box Pendant

Elf Star Chain Maille Pendant



Feb 2021

Leather/Copper Focal Bracelet

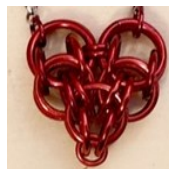
Pacemaker Chain Maille Pendant

Double Byz Chainmaille Earrings

Theresa Chivers

Enchanted Chain Maille Earrings

Free Form Stone Wirewrap Pendant



Mar 2021

Crisscross Wirewrap Bracelet

Dragon Scale Chain Maille Keychain



April 2021

Nefertiti Wirewrap Bracelet

European 4 in 1 Loom Bracelet



May 2021

Memory Wire Red/White/Blue Bracelet

Celtic Flower Chain Maille Pendant



June 2021

Leather with Large Hole Bead Bracelet

Theresa Chivers

Helm's Chain, Chain Maille & Bead Necklace



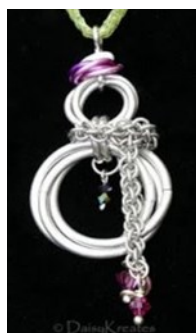
July 2021

Snowman Chain Maille Earrings

Maurine Priddy

Snowman Chain Maille Pendant

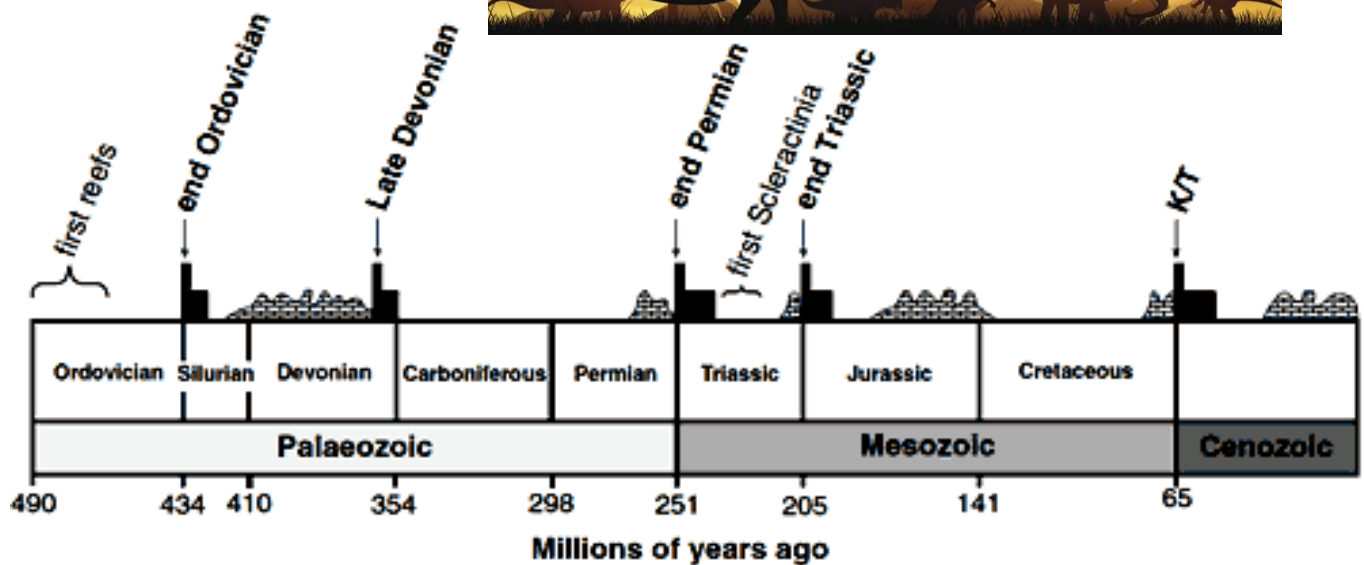
Helm's Chain, Chain Maille Wreath Pendant



GeoSciences - August 12, 6:30pm - HGMS Ed Center

The Five Major Extinctions in Earth's Geologic History

Haley Nedbalski will discuss these catastrophic events, their effects on living organisms each time, probable causes for each, and could it happen again?



Pebble Pups Thursday July 22nd, 6:30 Telescopes

how they work and how they are used

Last month we learned about and played with Microscopes, which make small things appear much larger. Telescopes make things far away look much closer. Please bring back your little lenses from last month to be re-used.



gg119825118 www.gograph.com



gg98588789 www.gograph.com

Field Trip - Tellus Science Museum - Cartersville GA - August 14, 2021

Tellus is a world-class 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, GA just off I-75 at exit 293. The museum's exhibits open minds and ignite a passion for science. Tellus features four main galleries: The Weinman Mineral Gallery, The Fossil Gallery, Science in Motion and The Collins Family My Big Backyard. A 120-seat digital planetarium and an observatory with a state-of-the-art 20-inch telescope is also located at Tellus.

Eye-popping exhibits like an 80 foot-long Brontosaurus and a replica Wright flyer excite and amaze visitors of all ages. Children will have a blast conducting hands-on experiments with light, sound, magnets and more. Dazzling gems and minerals sparkle and glow alongside interactive exhibits demonstrating how the Earth moves and changes.

Our Mission: Because science matters, we engage, educate, and inspire visitors to make scientific connections through dynamic exhibits and enriching experiences.



Mineral of the Month – Beryl (var. Aquamarine)

By Leslie A. Malakowsky



Beryl is a mineral composed of beryllium aluminum silicate with the formula $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$. Pure beryl is colorless, but trace impurities (foreign material within a mineral that is not part of its integral structure) can cause color diversity and varieties such as emerald and aquamarine. Aquamarine can be blue, pale blue, green-blue, sky blue, deep sky-blue or colorless, and it is typically transparent or translucent. Blue shades of aquamarine are due to the presence of iron (Fe^{2+}) ions.

Aquamarine is a member of the cyclosilicate (or *ring silicate*) class of minerals. Ring silicates have a characteristic silicon to oxygen ratio of 1:3. (Many ring silicates have 4 ions in their rings, but aquamarine has 6.)

Naturally occurring, hexagonal crystals of aquamarine can be up to several meters in size, but terminated crystals are relatively rare. Aquamarine typically occurs in prismatic shaped crystals, but other shapes are possible. Additional physical characteristics include an imperfect cleavage; a conchoidal or irregular fracture; a brittle tenacity; a hardness of 7.5 to 8 on Mohs scale; a shiny luster; and a white streak.

Aquamarine occurs most frequently in granite pegmatites at most localities that yield ordinary beryl. Aquamarine also occurs in mica schists in the Ural Mountains in Russia and in limestone deposits in Colombia. Beryl is found worldwide especially in Europe, East Asia, South America, and Africa. The variety called morganite comes from Scandinavian countries. And a deep blue variety is commonly found in Madagascar. In the United States, beryl is found in many states including Georgia (the Hogg Mine!) and North Carolina.

The name *aquamarine* is derived from Latin *aqua marina*, meaning “water of the sea.” Clear yellow beryl from Brazil is sometimes called *aquamarine chrysolite*. When I think of aquamarine, I imagine a cool ocean of clear blue water, an oasis from the heat of the summer.



All varieties of beryl may be faceted into various gemstone cuts, but emerald and aquamarine are the most important and most popular for creating jewelry, especially pale blue aquamarine, which is March's birthstone. Madagascar aquamarine fades to white when exposed to sunlight or subjected to heat treatment, though the color returns with irradiation. Light green beryl can be transitioned into aquamarine if heated to 750deg. F. Also, the green hues in aquamarine can be removed by heat treatment, so buyer beware. Whether you're purchasing jewelry or seeking respite from the summer heat at your local beach, I hope you enjoy this beautiful gemstone!

References: wikipedia.org,
mindat.org

Aquamarine on Muscovite Mica
Afghanistan



July Birthdays

3 Jelcie Southard	19 Laura Carpenter
6 Isaac Burgess	19 Stacy Walbridge
6 Ken McCormick	21 John Lindberg
7 Tom Detwiler	25 C.G. Lester
9 Liz Cooper	25 Carol Rampey
12 Lucy Allen	26 Fritz Detwiler
12 Kathryn McCullough	26 Clara Goode
13 Aziz Kazi	27 Angela Kowalczyk
18 Abigail Inman	30 Bruce Kowalczyk
19 Kristi Kazi	Kerry Lester

Anniversaries

3 Jim & Bonnie Treadway
11 David & Nancy Hosmer
12 Josh & Amy Peeples
28 Steve & Sheila Tesh
31 Stacy & Kathi Walbridge



July
Ruby

August Birthdays

2 Lawrence Nelms	25 Damon Perry
4 Brooks Glover	25 Debora Neis
14 Kate Leonard	25 Brendalynn Triplett
15 David Peters	28 Evan O'Dell
18 Will Bryan	28 Jerry Osmundson
19 Jimi Sitko	29 John Wright
22 Brenda Reynolds	31 Lauren McCullough
24 Brian Allen	



August
Peridot

Anniversaries

1 Clara & Mike Goode	25 Jim & Ola Ann Lee
3 Brian & Karen Allen	28 Anita Bynum
4 Florence Mims	31 Becky Rollston
9 Lowell & Betty Zoller	

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education , 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. is is now open on a regular schedule
Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, & Jan Edmunds
Lapidary: Bill Friday, Michael Cape, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Justin Smith
Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky

Monday	Metal Smithing	5:30pm-9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 3:00pm
	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	HGMS Meetings	6:00pm 4thTuesdays
Wednesday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks -	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 2nd & 4th Weeks -	2:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Metal Smithing	5:30pm - 9:00pm
	GeoSciences	6:30pm 2nd Thursdays
	Pebble Pups	6:00 4thThursdays
Friday	Lapidary	9:00am - 3:00 pm For a short while
Saturday	Metals	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month

2021 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President- Mike Harrison - campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Vice President- Isabel Leon y Leon- isabel.leonyleon@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Leslie Malakowsky lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.net

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Directors at Large:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Michael Soroczak- soroczak@yahoo.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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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 caryl.nixon@outlook.com

256-426-5061

Mineral ID: Michael Soroczak

soroczak@yahoo.com

(William Holland offers a class for this)

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Mike Harrison

campcraft.mike@gmail.com

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

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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Lzol@comcast.net

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wolfson929@gmail.com,

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

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Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoode1@comcast.net

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 and enjoyment of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs and activities, 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 or at the HGMS Education Center during a meeting or at one of our activity periods: 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 35802

Meetings: 4th 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: DMC: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm



2021-2 CALENDAR

- 27 Jul '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 24 Aug '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 28 Sep '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 8-10 Oct '21 - Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show
Jaycees Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 26 Oct '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 23 Nov '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 14 Dec '21 - Tentative date for HGMS Christmas Dinner - details as it gets closer
- 25 Jan '22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 22 Feb '22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:

Deadline for Next Newsletter
August 15, 2021

Dated Material
Do not Delay

Rocket City Rocks & Gems
Bill Friday, Editor
2508 Excaltibur Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803
July 2021