

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 53 No. 8

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

August 2021

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HGMS Meeting – 24 Aug2021

Education Building South Room 6:00 gathering
Mike Harrison will present a tutorial and demonstration
of the proper techniques for successful tumbling of
various stones for best results, choices of drum size, grit
ranges, run times, sorting of rock types.
See Page 2.



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



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Hello all you rockhounds, metalsmiths and jewelry makers,

I'm writing these words with a heavy heart. This month, we lost a very dear friend, Michael J. Soroczak, who died suddenly on August 7th. He was laid to rest on the 14th with a gathering of family and many friends to celebrate his life and wish him a somber farewell.

For those who did not get a chance to know Mike personally, let me give you my thoughts. First, he was a cornerstone of this club for over thirty years but also of the community in which he lived. For many years he not only held different offices, taught and shared his knowledge but also served on the board of directors for a lot of those years. Second, his knowledge and wisdom have led us through difficult times and also periods of growth and expansion. And most importantly, he was always there for us with his wife and true partner, Myra. He and Myra gave of themselves to others and the community in so many ways, the list is too long to mention here.

Join me as we honor Mike and say "Thank you Mike, for being part of our lives. We will miss you but never forget you!"

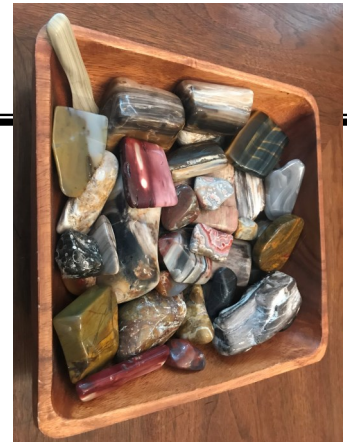
Your President, Mike Harrison, HGMS Prez

"The Joy of Tumbling".

The August 24 HGMS program will be presented by Mike Harrison, discussing "The Joy of Tumbling". Mike has been successfully polishing rocks via rotary tumblers since 2014. He has collected knowledge on not only what it takes to polish rocks but also what to NOT do! He will be bringing some of his equipment and examples of what he has polished to show as he steps us through the process.



He will discuss the equipment, the tumbling media, the specimens to polish, the multi-step process and the do's and don'ts to get you from "leverite" to "see what I did" conversation pieces. Bring your questions and samples of what you have polished and Mike will be happy to discuss it all.



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.

Minutes of July 27 3032 HGMS Meeting

After a half hour of gathering & greeting thime, the meeting was opened at 6:30pm by President Mike Harrison. The June minutes were approved as published in the July newsletter.

Business:

An amended 2021 budget was discussed and approved. Funds are now available for various activities.

Metals. The August craft is building a set of five stacking ring bands set with small stones of 3 to 6 mm. We will be working in silver. Kit cost is \$10.00 and includes all materials and instructions. August 5th or 9th from 5-9:00 pm.

RCJ. The July project was wire animal shapes embellished with beads. The upcoming project is wire flowers. Check with Judy on kits.

Geosciences will meet August 12th at 6:30 in the RCJ Room.

The August Field trip will travel to the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, GA on Aug14. The Museum is just off I-75 and well worth the trip. While you're there go south an exit or two and visit the Etowah Indian Mounds. The Booth Museum downtown features Western Art. Nice park.

Fall Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show is scheduled for Oct 8, 9, 10. Setup by members will be Thur the 7th before the club/Vendors dinner, which will be held at 4:30 this year to accommodate vendors who finish their booth's early. We need members to take home advertising materials and get them on display somewhere.

Show Volunteer sign up sheets are at the front table. There are plenty of opportunities left to help out. Contact volunteer coordinator Theresa or individual activity chairs.

Sympathy cards were signed for Caryl Nixon, wishing her a speedy recovery and for Leslie Malakowsky who recently lost her mother.

Painted Rocks. Members wishing to paint rocks will meet in the lapidary room on August 2nd at 6:00 pm. Anthony Zwilling will have paint and brushes, and there are plenty of rocks to choose from.

Theresa suggested having a painted rock activity at the show. Myra suggested that someone who found one of the finished ones that had been hidden get free admission to the show if they brought it in.

The Club is on the list to receive an AED for the building from a City grant.

There will be a live auction in March of 2022. To be held at our building. It's never too early to bring donations in. We offer receipts for tax purposes.

The silent auction during the meeting went well with 18 out of 20 items being sold.

Program. Given by Bill Friday on Crystals Large and Small.

Diamonds, tanzanite, halite, quartz clusters. Huge jadeite boulder. Gypsum crystals from the Naica mine in Mexico. Huge Selenite crystals.

Earth's iron core. Willemite Meteorite landed in Canada, now in Oregon. 94% iron, same as the Earth's core.

Kidney stones are crystals too. Ca + Uric acid = kidney stone, grow like hail stones

Meeting ended at 7:36

Thanks to Shelley Curran, Acting 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, wolfson929@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

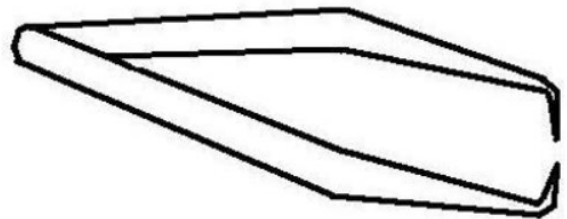


FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight.

A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other.

To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.





Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

Leather Bracelet

Kit cost: \$5.00

The kit contains metal (copper, brass, and nickel) for 2 slides plus leather and clasp for 1 bracelet. Additional clasp (\$1.40 ea) & additional leather (10 cents/per inch) is available. This is to keep the kit cost down for those who only want to make one bracelet.

Session 1: Thursday, September 2, 2021 - 5:30 PM TO 9 PM

Session 2: *Note day change:* Thursday, September 9, 2021 - 5:30 PM TO 9 PM (Mon, 9/6 is Labor Day)

We will be making a leather bracelet with a metal slider. The design of the “slider” is up to the student. It can be as simple as one textured pieces of metal cut to shape with loops for the leather soldered to the back or a more complex design with layers of metal soldered (or riveted) to the back plate. You can add small stones, sawn out decorations or wires. The metal can be roll printed, hammer textured, stamped or etched—or any combination of those methods. Your can be as creative and complex as you desire or as simple as you need it to be for your skill level.

If you elect to do a more complex design you need to consider your *Order of Operations*, which means think about what parts of the project must be completed first so as not interfere with another part of the project later on. There will be no detailed step by step instruction for this part of the project since everyone will be doing something different. Learning to think though the steps is a necessary skill to develop if you want to design and construct jewelry on your own. The instructors will be available to help you with any questions with this part.

After the construction of the slider the rest of the project is simple. We will make loops with flattened wire to attach the leather to the metal and solder them on and learn how to size the leather and attach it to the magnetic clasp.

IMPORTANT! CURRENTLY CLASS SIZES ARE LIMITED TO 8 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 CLASS IF YOU SHOW UP AT THE DOOR!

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.

Certification Classes: We hope to resume certifications on a one to three person basis after the show. 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. 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.

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.



The Metal/Silver Smiths started June last year with an almost empty room



Classes started on the first tables September 2020



Building the workbenches June 2020



The new workbenches ready for classes



Hard at work, August 2021



Example links





Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Judy Osmundson

August classes brought us a lot of fun making Wire Flowers and a chain maille bracelet in the Forever (Love Knot) Weave.

Upcoming Classes:

September 1: Wirewrap SPINNER Bracelet (copper w/ silver tone beads)

September 15: Chainmaille - Half Persian 4/1 Bracelet (silver tone/copper)

To sign up for these classes, please contact Judy Osmundson 205-541-7207

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, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky

Treasurer Clara Goode, Judy Osmundson

Facebook open

Security Judy Osmundson and Theresa Chivers (backup)

RCJ is open to **every member** of the HGMS. 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!**



Painted Rocks - They are Everywhere, soon to include ours

Anthony Zwilling organized a painting party for a group of avid artists, and a few artist wannbe's. He was joined by Ray & Dianne Ferguson, Catherine Trenkle, James Yack, Brendalynn Triplett, Laurel Zwilling, David Peters. Judy Osmundson has added a set since the party. They all had a good time and by evening's end there were over 100 brightly colored stones with a wide variety of images, words, and whimsy's.

Each will have a small tag glued to the bottom directing the finder to go to the HGMS webpage to receive options for following up. The two suggestions so far are to allow free admission to the Fall Show, up to all three days, and they get to keep the rock if they wish. The other is to allow the finder to receive \$5 off of a membership to the HGMS. There are plenty more rocks and paint on hand and there will be more sessions to decorate as your inspirations guide you. All are invited to join. Watch for updates. The other questions we must answer are where to put them - hide them, place them in stores and gift shops in baskets, or just leave them in the open around public places such as parks and playgrounds? The paints may not be weather durable. And when do we start putting them out—now or later next month? Maybe all of the above. Other suggestions are welcome.

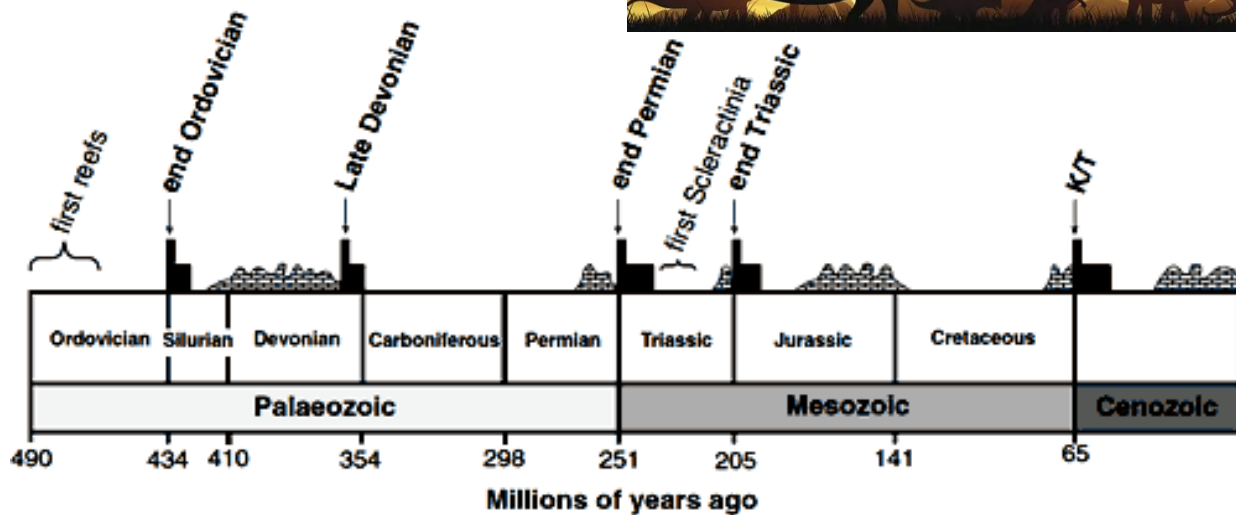


GeoSciences - September 9, 6:30pm - HGMS Ed Center

Held over from last month

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 August 26th, 6:30pm Kaleidoscopes



We will make and play with simple but well constructed kaleidoscopes, using cardboard tubes, aluminum foil mirrors, and colorful beads. All materials will be provided at no cost, and can be easily assembled by the Pups during the meeting to take home and enjoy. Those who are so inclined can make new head sections which can be easily changed out for more variety in the colorful moving images. They even work without the head section on colorful backgrounds, such as trees in the back yard. Do not look at the sun!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yShrIOj34r0>

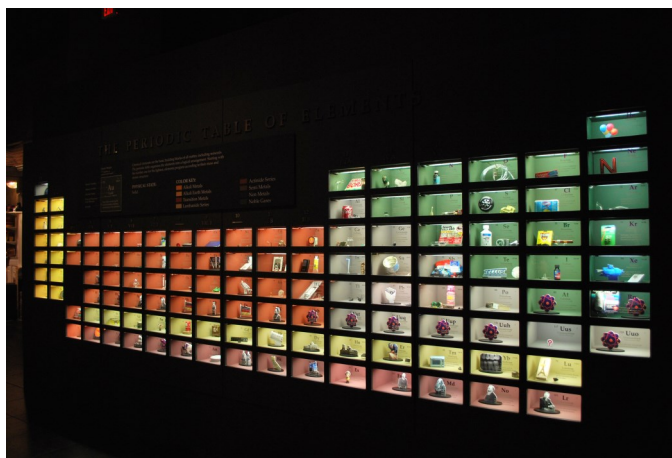
Field Trip - Tellus Science Museum - Cartersville GA - August 14, 2021

There were three of us from HGMS that I saw who made the trip and wandered through the labyrinth of exhibit rooms, marveling at the enormous crystals from around the world and the huge fossil skeletons of long lost creatures. The car, train, and plane room featured exotic vehicles from the early 1900's. The kids area was busy with kids sifting the sand channels for fossils, and kids and adults were screening for minerals from the long flume trays. My Big Backyard is alive with hands-on exhibits featuring electricity, magnetism, gravity, mechanical toys, An all day Fossil Symposium and Fossil Mania are planned for this coming weekend August 21. September 10 will feature a Lunar Astronomy Workshop.

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.



Giant Amethyst Cluster



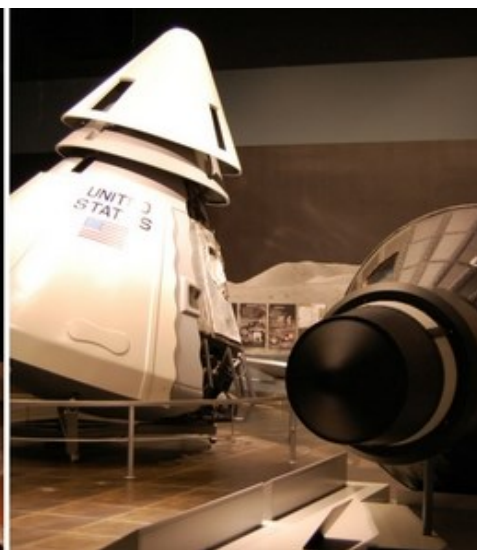
Elements of the Entire Periodic Table



6' Quartz Cluster



Full Size T-Rex



Space Craft, Old Cars,
Steam Locomotive
Wright Bro's 1st Flyer

Mineral of the Month – Opal By Dave Jacobson

Canaveral Moonstone Nov 2017 Vol. O No. 11

This month our featured mineral is opal, $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$, hydrated silicon dioxide. Opal is a variety of silicon dioxide which usually contains water typically in the range of 5 to 10%. Opal is a tectosilicate, low temperature hydrothermal mineral. It is commonly precipitated from silica-rich solutions. It sometimes replaces the skeletons of marine organisms. It occurs as nodules, seams and botryoidal crusts. It often impregnates porous rocks and sediments. Some of the more common varieties are following. Common opal; colorless and not translucent. Fire opal; reddish to orange-red translucent material. Precious opal; can be any hue which displays shifting flashes of intense color which can be red, blue, orange, green, purple and more. Colorless, transparent opal is hyalite. Hyalite is usually found in botryoidal (grape like) crusts. Hydrophane is a white, opaque, sometimes barely translucent opal which absorbs water. Wood opal replaces the mineralization in fossilized wood without destroying the structure of the material.

Opal is never found in crystal in form. It is brittle material with no cleavage plane, but has an excellent conchoidal fracture, which can be very lustrous. Hardness ranges from 5.5 to 6.5. Specific Gravity ranges from 1.99 to 2.25. The more porous material has the lower specific gravity, which will increase as the opal absorbs water. When tested on a streak plate, the streak is white. It has a bright glassy to waxy luster. The color shift in precious opal is thought to be caused by the interference of reflected light due to grids of cristobalite spaced at regular intervals in the specimen.

Opal is a common mineral and is found in many locations in the world. Most of the black precious opal comes from Australia. Mexico and Ethiopia are sources of fine fire and precious opal. In the United States precious opal is found in Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. Excellent wood opal specimens have been found in the western United States.

Opal takes its name from the Sanskrit word *upala*, meaning "precious stone" or "gem" and the Latin word *opalus*, meaning "precious stone."

The following reference materials were used in preparing this article:

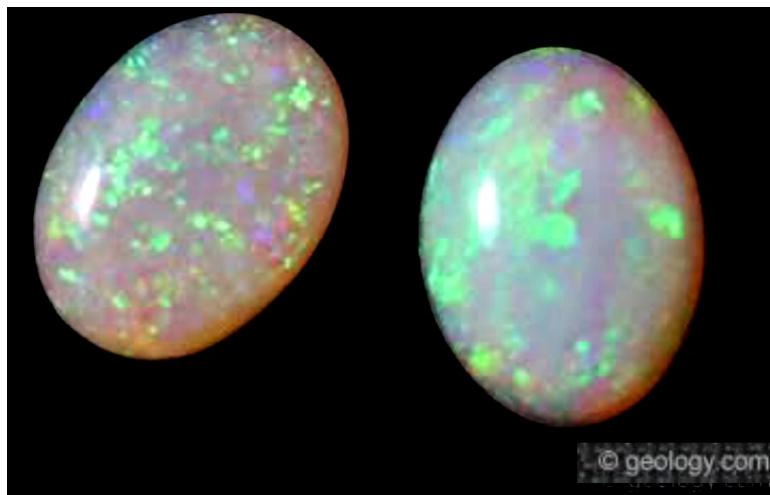
Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus.

Simon & Schusters Guide to Rocks And Minerals.

Gemstones Of The World by Walter Schumann.

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>



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	

September Birthdays

3 Lola Flippo	14 J. P. McCullough
3 Gerdy Wyatt	14 Sheila Tesh
3 Laurel Rico	15 Spencer Myrick
4 Valerie Tripp	16 Charlie Willhoite
7 Mike Harrison	19 Mitzi Cartee
8 David Lehner	20 Xavier Walley
9 Eleanor Freeman	21 Laura Carroll
9 Henry Freeman	22 Hayes Harris
10 Marie Aldridge	23 Laurie Porter
11 Rick Williams	25 Erin Lawton
12 Rodney Lane	28 Demetra Perry
13 Mark Falkenberg	28 Nina Edgeworth
14 Larry Augsburg	



September
Sapphire

Anniversaries

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

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education , 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. is now open on a regular schedule

Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, Jan Edmunds & Lelslie Malakowsky

Lapidary: Bill Friday, Michael Cape, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Anthony Zwilling

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 - 3:00pm (for now but check ahead)
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 - claragoodel@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.friday@earthlink.net

Directors at Large:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

2021 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 caryl.nixon@outlook.com

256-426-5061

Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@comcast.net

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

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

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Show Volunteer Chair: Theresa Chivers, 256-837-6819

wolfson929@gmail.com,

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

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Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoodel@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

- 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:
- 22 Mar '22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter
September 19, 2021

Dated Material
Do not Delay

August 2021

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