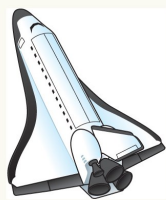


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 53 No. 10

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

October 2021

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October 26, Monthly Meeting - Education Center
6:00 Gather, 6:30 Meeting, 7:00 Presentation
Dr. John Christy will discuss his development of a
Global Temperature Data Set from Microwave
Measurements observed from satellites beginning
in 1979. Dr. Christy has been in the news a lot
lately with his message. Come and hear him in
person. You
may be
surprised at
some of his
revelations.



Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/



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Hello all you rockhounds, metalsmiths and jewelry makers,

The best team ever!

That's right, and I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help make this year's HGMS show a great success!

To say we could not have done it without you is an obvious understatement.

Please read this newsletter from beginning to end and you will agree, we did it in grand style. So I say a very heartfelt thank you! You all make being the HGMS president a walk in the park.

Your humble president. Mike Harrison

Hello all,

I wanted to say **THANK YOU TO ALL THE SHOW VOLUNTEERS!** I would like to especially thank the ones who took multiple shifts and just hung out to help. You really made this show successful. We couldn't do this without you and it was so nice to meet all the new faces. To those that couldn't help, mark your calendar for next year. It is always the second weekend in October. Thanks again! You all are amazing. Theresa Chivers, Volunteer Chairman 2021

DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SHOW

Demonstrations were well received again this year. We didn't keep count but we probably signed up between 18 and 20 new members for metals.

I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy day to show and tell about what they do to interested people. I sure appreciate everyone who did and I know the show goers did too.

Shelley Curran, Demonstrations Area Chairman

DISPLAY CASES There were eleven display cases filled by members this year, with a wide variety of themes and complexity. More can be available next year. We plan to offer competitive judging, using American Federation Uniform Rules, with ribbons awarded plus an opportunity to carry the exhibit to which ever Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Show hosts the Southeast Federation's Annual Meeting, as did the HGMS in 2019. Winners there are eligible to further participate at the Annual American Federation Show, where ever that may be in that year. John McCullough is the Display Case Chairman





November is Certification Month!

At last we are going to tackle that long list of people who have sent in a request to take our Metalsmithing Certification Class. The move to our new location plus COVID 19 class size restrictions caused a backlog. The show is over and we signed up lots of new members so the list is getting longer!



Watch your inbox because we will be emailing those who put their name on the list over the past year or so to find out if they are still interested so we have an accurate list. **Please reply to this email so we can plan how many classes we need to schedule.** If you just joined the club and talked to us during the show about classes and haven't sent in your name, get your request in soon. To be included in the upcoming class, please send your contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to HGMS@wilddivystudio.com. After November it will likely be April before the next round of Certifications because the amount of work preparing for the Annual Auction in March.

We plan to schedule classes for 3 to 5 people on nights we are open (Monday or Thursday 5pm to 9pm) several times during the month of November. ***If you put your name on the list last year and have not renewed your HGMS membership in 2021 you will need to do that before class.*** You can bring the application and check for membership to the class. The cost for the Certification Class will be \$5.00 and must be in cash.

The December Class will be beginner level and one that is the most requested: Setting a Cabochon. The date for this class is Thursday, December 2nd and Monday, December 6th. Cost TBD.

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.



Fall Show Display Case - Metals Student's Art

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM Dr. John Christy

Dr. John R. Christy is the Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science Center at The University of Alabama in Huntsville where he began studying global climate issues in 1987. Since November 2000 he has been Alabama's State Climatologist. In 1989 Dr. Roy W. Spencer (then a NASA/Marshall scientist and now a Principle Research Scientist at UAH) and Christy developed a global temperature data set from microwave data observed from satellites beginning in 1979. For this achievement, the Spencer-Christy team was awarded NASA's Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement in 1991. In 1996, they were selected to receive a Special Award by the American Meteorological Society "for developing a global, precise record of earth's temperature from operational polar-orbiting satellites, fundamentally advancing our ability to monitor climate." In January 2002 Christy was inducted as a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.





Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our display case at the show! We took October 6th off to get ready for the show, so there was no wirework class this month. The schedule extends to December so you'll have time to find a cabochon for the Tree of Life Pendant class.

Please remember our members who are fighting illness and coping with personal loss.

Upcoming Schedule:

Oct 27: 2p – 5p, Finish It.

Nov 3: 6p – 9p, **Wire Rose and Bead Bracelet.** Cost: \$3 for 20g *silver-plated* wire to make the roses. You must bring 6, 6mm beads in the color and material of your choice (stone, crystal, glass, or metal).

Nov 10: 2p – 5p, Finish It.

Nov 17: 6p – 9p, **Holiday Cleopatra & Centipede Bracelets.** Kit \$4. Kit includes enough *bronze* jump rings to make 2 bracelets. You must bring your own 6/0 glass seed beads in the color(s) of your choice. For Cleopatra (beads on the sides), bring 56 beads. For Centipede (beads down the center), bring 36 beads.

Nov 24: No meeting.

Dec 1: 6p – 9p, **Tree of Life Pendant on a Cabochon.** Cost: \$4 for *copper* wire. You must bring your own round, oval, or irregular shape cab. Your stone should be between and 2.5 inches long and no more than 1/4" thick. (If you don't have a cab or cab-like stone, you can use a large bead instead.)

Meeting Times/Reservations: We meet from **6p – 9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays** and from **2p – 5p on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.** Meeting times on 5th Wednesdays are TBD. 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.

Meeting Location: The HGMS Education Center, 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, park directly opposite the building, and enter the double glass doors on the West side of the building. **Note:** 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) or Theresa (256-509-0406) 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, Theresa Chivers



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!**

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



LAYOUT TOOLS

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.

I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.



Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.

INVENTORY RECORD

In an ideal world each of us who sells their jewelry has a good record with photos of all pieces in our inventory. We use it for insurance purposes, to record the cost to produce, to note where the item was sent out on consignment, and maybe to store descriptive text for marketing. Eventually, we note in the record when the piece was sold and for how much.

It's nice to also have good pictures of each piece, but sometimes we don't have time for a full-on photo session. In situations like this it's worth doing a quick group shot with the help of a phone, a camera, a scanner, or even a color copier. The quality is at least sufficient for an accurate identification in case a piece is lost.



Mineral of the Month – Anorthite - Leslie Malakowsky



This month's mineral was chosen in honor of the 50th anniversary this year of the Apollo 15 Lunar Mission, which occurred from July 26th to August 7th, 1971. The Apollo 15 astronauts brought back 170 pounds (370 specimens) of Moon rocks. We were very fortunate to display one of those rocks at this year's show thanks to our own Mr. Lowell Zoller! Lowell transported the Moon rock from NASA (at Marshall Space Flight Center) to the show and back again every day, and he hosted the rock throughout the show. Thank you, Lowell!

The dark areas of the Moon form the "lowlands". These areas are called "maria" (singular "mare", the Latin word for "sea") because early astronomers thought these areas were large bodies of water. Most of these areas were formed by molten lava that cooled to become smooth **basalt**. Basalt is an extrusive igneous rock that forms when *mafic* (magnesium-rich and iron-rich) lava cools rapidly on the surface of a planet or a moon. Basalt is also found in abundance on Earth.

The light areas of the Moon form the "highlands". These areas are called "terrae" (singular "terra", the Latin word for "Earth"). These areas consist of

anorthosite. Anorthosite is a phaneritic (consisting of crystals large enough to be distinguished without magnification) intrusive igneous rock that consists mainly of feldspar with little to no magnesium or iron minerals. Anorthosite is also found in abundance on Earth. While there's still debate on how terrestrial anorthosite formed, studying lunar anorthosite helps us understand how the Moon formed. The contrast between dark and light areas of the Moon causes the feature that North Americans recognize as the "Man in the Moon". This feature is also responsible for the folklore that the Moon is made of blue cheese!



Anorthite is a rare variety of plagioclase. Anorthite is the calcium-rich endmember of the plagioclase feldspar solid-solution series of minerals. (*Solid solution* describes a family of minerals that have the same crystal structure but a range of compositions.) Anorthite's chemical formula is $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$. The other endmember of the series is the sodium-rich mineral albite whose formula is $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$. Anorthite is a component of anorthosite, mafic igneous rocks such as basalt, diabase, and gabbro, and some metamorphic rocks. Pure anorthite is rare on the Earth but abundant on the Moon. Anorthite's type localities (the area or areas where a particular rock or mineral is first identified) are in Italy. Anorthite was first described in 1823. This image shows white anorthite crystals from a basalt vug (a small to medium size cavity inside rock) from Mount Vesuvius.

During the Apollo 15 mission, Commander Dave Scott and Lunar Module Pilot James Irwin retrieved a sample of anorthosite from Spur Crater. That sample, called the "Genesis Rock", sample 15415, is composed largely of anorthite. It weighs approximately 9.5 ounces and was formed in the early stages of the Solar System, at least 4 billion years ago. The Genesis Rock is currently stored at the Lunar Sample Laboratory Facility in Houston, Texas. Anorthite has also been discovered in samples from comet "Wild 2" and in rare varieties of chondritic meteorite (a stony, non-metallic meteorite that is in the same condition as its parent body or asteroid).



The Moon rock we were privileged to display at the show was sample 15015.77, a 0.25-pound piece of shock-melted lunar breccia coated in glass and consisting of anorthosite, mare basalt, olivine, pyroxene, and plagioclase. The sample was enclosed in lucite and housed in a special display provided by NASA. The sample was cut from a larger 10-pound football-size rock collected by Commander Scott at the impact crater of an asteroid that struck the Moon 3.93 billion years ago. That's older than 99.99% of all Earth's surface rocks! The specific collection site was the intersection of the Apennine Mountains (at the crater rim) and the Hadley Rille (an 80 mile long, 1 mile wide, and 1000 feet deep collapsed lava tube). Formation of the rock began with earlier meteoric impacts that formed a magma "ocean". Light weight anorthosite floated to the surface and solidified forming a crust. When the asteroid struck, it shattered the crust forming the crater. The extreme heat and force of the impact melted and fused rock shards and glass beads together to form the breccia.

References: [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org), NASA

TINSEL TRAIL 2021

The HGMS display in last year's Tinsel Trail was a big hit with visitors while we were working on decorating the tree, and even while we were packing it away. HGMS has a tree reserved for this year's Tinsel Trail and we're looking for additional handmade ornaments to help decorate the tree with examples of what HGMS is all about. The ornaments we currently have will be on display as part of the October 26th HGMS meeting at the Education Center. Take a look for inspiration on what you can do to contribute.

Bob Kemper



Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society of Birmingham will have a rock swap Nov 6 from 10 til 5.

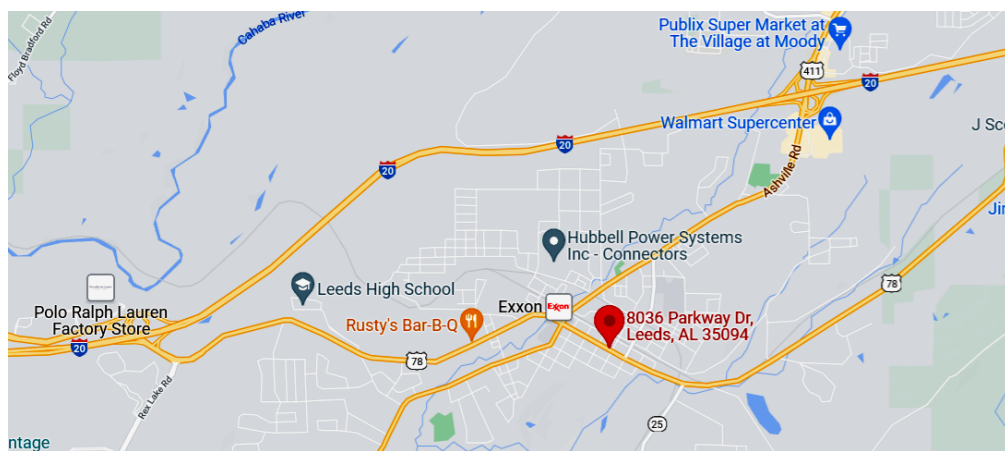
The swap will be at the workshop

8036 Parkway Dr SE Leeds Alabama 35094.

Tables are \$10 with a limit of one table until Nov 3.

Contact:

levanfoster@gmail.com



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.



Pebble Pups Thursday October 28th, 6:30pm

Magnetism: Magnets appear to be magical. All of us have played with them from time to time. We will have magnets on hand in a number of different forms and will hands-on explore what they can do, and learn a bit about

how they do it.

Electro-magnetism will also be explored—the mechanism that drives electric motors and generators.

Hope to see you then, bring your friends.

Bill Friday, 256-527-8227, bill.Friday@earthlink.net



The 2021 Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show (and Fossils, and Demonstrations, and Kid's Area, and Gem Flume, and Fluorescents, and a Moon Rock)

The Show this year was an amazing success. The attendance by the public was huge, the participation by HGMS members was wonderful, and the vendors all made lots of money. Yes, it took a lot of work to make it happen, but there were no obstacles that could not be overcome. Starting on Thursday morning early the floor was marked off to guide placement of the vendors and activities, then the vendors arrived to unload their wares, assisted by members who helped set up tables and carry boxes. A sumptuous potluck meal was enjoyed by all present at 4:30.

The doors opened for the public on Friday morning and there was a steady flow of ticket sales all day and every day. The demonstration area got an extra large space this year and utilized it well with jewelry making, metal smithing, wire wrapping, faceting, the gem flume, fossil dig, fluorescent room, and a busy Kids' Area, with scavenger hunt, mineral identification and the full-size Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur. The Gem Flume and Fossil Digs were constantly busy. The Apollo 15 Moon Rock was on view all weekend under the watchful eye of Lowell Zoller. Eleven display cases contained vistas of many aspects of the Gem & Mineral world. Hourly door prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders, and all of the Raffle items received lots of bids. We added 53 new member families, who expressed interest in some or all of everything the Club offers.

At 5:00 Sunday afternoon, the Show was closed, and the last of the shoppers headed for the door. Three hours later the place was almost clean, with only three vendors still packing. All of the HGMS materials were inside the big van and flume trailer, to be stored away until we repeat this amazing event next year.





October Birthdays

1 Karen Lester	11 Diana Nelms
1 Josh Peeples	13 Mark Trainer
3 Theresa Chivers	16 Rhonda Hall
3 Elizabeth McBroom	17 Aubri McQuinn
4 Margaret Murfree	18 James Lowery
7 Chris Ross	20 Sam Tumminello
9 Alicia Bischoff	21 Isaiah Gray
10 Bonnie Treadway	26 Maurice Thompson
10 Elizabeth Wesolowski	27 Alina Orman
	30 David Nixon

Anniversaries

5 Patricia Forrest
7 Erin Lawton
8 Aziz & Kristi Kazi
10 Seth & Rebecca Johnson
21 Jeannie Green
24 Leslie Malakowsky
29 Daniel & Susan Hessler



October
Tourmaline

November Birthdays

1 Marty Martinez	13 Cindy Bonds
2 Daniel Hessler	17 John McCullough
3 Nanette Schwartz	18 Christopher Hogan
4 Carol McBroom	24 Frank Curran
5 Joe Herman	27 Betty Olson
6 Sherrie Bonin	27 Sheila Cape
7 Amelia Walley	28 Nina Donath
8 Olivia Klitenick	28 Jace Siggers
9 David Fikes	29 Chris Smith
12 Lindsey Lewis	30 Mary Jean Brost Travis

Anniversaries

10 Woody & Lea Chamberlain
12 Bob & Ruth Kemper
14 Joey & Cindy Bonds
15 Beth Snee
22 Bill & Maureen Lokken
26 Jerry & Judy Osmundson



November
Topaz

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, 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	6:30 4thThursdays
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

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

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Mike Harrison

campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Publicity: Bob Kemper

bob_kemper@yahoo.com

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Membership: Bill Friday— 256-527-8227

2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville AL 35803

bill.Friday@earthlink.net |

Field Trips: Open

Rocket City Jewelers: Leslie Malakowsky
256 755-0479

Hospitality: Caryl Nixon caryl.nixon@outlook.com

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

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoode1@comcast.net

Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@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

- 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:
- 19 Mar '22 - Tentative date for Spring Rock Auction Fundraiser, HGMS Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 22 Apr'22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 24 May'22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 Jun '22 (Saturday) - Tentative Date - Annual Picnic and Rock Swap - Monte Sano State Park,

Deadline for Next Newsletter
November 14, 2021

Dated material
Do not delay

October 2021

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