ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS







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

Volume 54 No. 5 "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock" May 2022

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The Magic of Gold - May 24, 2022

Haley Middleton will explain the mysteries of gold how it is used in jewelry, how to determine its purity, how to work with it, and why it fluctuates so in value.

Haley is an accomplished professional jeweler with B&B Jewelry on South Parkway in Huntsville



Picnic on June,25th Meeting on 28th

Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/











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Join us on top of Monte Sano June 25th to welcome the summer with the HGMS picnic and rock swap. (Contrary to recent temperatures, summer has not started.) Watch your email for information on how to RSVP.

Hope to see many of you there. az

April 26 HGMS Meeting Minutes

President Anthony Zwilling opened the meeting at 6:30 with a welcome to new members.

March meeting minutes were approved. No April meeting was held due to the auction.

We made \$6000 from the auction. Thank you to everyone who helped.

A couple members went to the Patty mine trip

and the Future Rockhounds Kids Group went to the Stephen Minkin Paleontological foot print site.

We've had 4 school out-reach programs - Gadsden Eura Brown Elementary, and Huntsville's Challenger,

Mt Gap, and Jones Valley elementary schools.

Treasurer's report - \$10,682 is current balance.

We had 216 members on the membership roll as of Dec 31, 2021 comprising 174 families.

The new EverClean Oil cleaner is working good with a little learning curve. About 15 minutes clean-time for each saw.

A lapidary lab fee has been initiated of \$1 per usage per day.

The Education Center will be open on Saturdays from 9-12 lab except the last of the month. We have new Sunday hours as well - noon to 3:00

RCJ uses non-torch methods to create jewelry. 1st and 3rd Wednesday open 6-9pm on class days. 2nd and 4th Wednesday open studio from 2-5. Please respond 2 weeks prior to class date so that kits can be ordered.

Metalsmithing is making a split shank ring for holding a faceted stone. May 5th(Thursday) and May 9th(Monday). Geoscience program is in the works. Maybe the Fall? Per Mike Cape

Future Rockhounds will be learning about household minerals this week. May 28 is a scheduled field trip to Russell

New members - Amy Spence, Dana Holfield family, Brook Dawson Matt & and his father Don Sullivan.

May meeting is on the 24th. Picnic is in Saturday June 25, undecided on potluck or boxed lunch. We do not have a hospitality chair person as of yet.

Bruce Kowalczyk is the new Fall Show Display Case chairman. Up to 20 showcases may be available, first come first served.

Moundville Archaeological Park and native American settlements were presented by speaker Jack Elliott retired History Professor from Mississippi State University.



Metal Smithing - Shelley Curran & Kathy Bowman

The June class will be a copper or bronze bracelet inlaid with silver. You may make a cuff or bangle bracelet. The kit cost will be slightly more for the bangle because of the additional wire required for the bangle. Thursday June 2nd and Monday June 6th.

Class starts at 5:00pm. Kit cost yet to be determined. The sign up sheet for this class will be available at the May HGMS meeting and during the Monday and Thursday classes. You also may sign up by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com.



Certification Classes: To request Certification please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to HGMS@wildivystudio.com We will contact those who sign up by email with more detailed information about the class(s) soon.

Facebook Users: The Metalsmithing class has our own page in Facebook groups. You can see info on classes, examples of project classes and other general information. Members of the group can post their finished class projects. Our class page is HGMS Metalsmithing Group.

The link is: https://www.facebook.com/groups/438777169648170

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Tools/Equipment Inventory Store Manager Kit Manager

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman Shelley Curran Jan Edmunds Annie Diekmann *Opening* Shelley Curran

Kathy Bowman

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

June 25th Picnic, Monte Sano Park in Huntsville

Plan on attending the June Picnic, where we will enjoy good food, great fellowship, and a wonderful location in the historic Monte Sano State Park, Hiker's Pavilion, high atop Monte Sano Mountain. This is also an opportunity for members to bring and sell their treasures, with no fee collected by the Club. The Club will provide the meat and accessories, members will provide potluck - casseroles, salads, desserts, etc.

RSVP's requested



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News By Leslie Malakowsky

The Celtic Flowers Bracelet and Earrings class was a variation on the beautiful Celtic Flower chainmaille weave. Everyone completed at least one flower! The Donut, Bead, and Jump Ring Bracelet class was a variation of the popular Bead, Jump Ring, and Leather Bracelet but with a stone "donut" focal. Watch for more chances to work with donuts in the future!



Note: We still have lots of donated items that we can't use. Stop by the small bench in the corner of our room and have a look. You pick the price. Proceeds go directly to RCJ.

Upcoming Schedule:

May 18: 6p - 9p, RWB Barrel Earrings. Kit cost \$5. Make red, "white", and blue earrings using the Barrel chainmaille weave in time for summer! Kit includes AA (Anodized Aluminum) jump rings and earring wires. You need to bring **two** pairs of flat nose pliers. There are a few openings left.

June 1: 6p - 9p, Viking Knit Turtle Pendant. Kit cost TBD. Make a wirework turtle pendant. Shape the head and legs then use Viking Knit to enclose a stone cabochon "shell". You need to bring your own cabochon (approximately 1" x 3/4" at the widest point for a turtle). Don't care for turtles? There are lots of options for enclosing a cab in a shaped pendant. Consult with Judy prior to

class. You need to bring round nose pliers, flat nose pliers, cutters, hammer, and a hammering surface.

Deadline to RSVP is May 18th.

June 15: 6p – 9p, Eternal Bracelet w/Double-Drilled Beads. Kit cost TBD. Make a bracelet by alternating units of Eternal chainmaille weave with double-drilled stone beads. Kit includes double-drilled beads and jump rings. Optionally, you can bring your own double-drilled beads and purchase the jump rings. You need to bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters. Deadline to RSVP is June 1st.

Meeting Times: Classes are from 6p - 9p on 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Wednesdays. Make up and "Finish It" sessions are from 2p - 5p on 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Wednesdays. (Meeting times and activities on 5^{th} Wednesdays are TBD.)

Class Reservations: You must contact Theresa two weeks before class to reserve your kit. You can also reserve kits in person at RCJ meetings up to two weeks before class. Please Call, Text or Email Theresa Chivers at 256-509-0406 (wolfsong929@gmail.com).

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:

Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky Instructors

Theresa Chivers Point of Contact/Kit Reservations/Security Kit Manager/Treasurer/Security Judy Osmundson Membership/Publicity/Inventory Leslie Malakowsky

RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. (Gentlemen, too!) If you love making jewelry (especially with gemstones), please join us! All skill levels are welcome! Please contact Judy with your class ideas or "pin" your ideas on our Pinterest page. We'd also like to know what you're able to teach.



Future Rockhounds of America Thursday May 26th, 6:00pm



Stone Age Tools & Art



The Future Rockhounds have been busy discovering how rocks, minerals and gems are used in the world today. We will be exploring how rocks, minerals and gems were used as tools in the for off past this month. More field trips



are being planned for June and July to find shark teeth and rockhound for agates. We meet the 4th Thursday of the month. Come join us! Also, let us know if you would like to join us, but can't

because Thursday is just not a good evening for you.

Our upcoming field trip will be to Russell Cave National Monument May 28th. **The deadline to sign up to visit Russell Cave National Monument is Monday May 16th!** We will discover the cave history and explore how local rocks and minerals like clay and flint were used and try our hand at making tools, too.

GPS 34.9795132,-85.8101544 or 340 58' 45.28", 850 48' 36.49"

The Future Rockhounds (previously Pebble Pups) is a program for youngsters to learn more about the world around us, concentrating on rocks, minerals, fossils, and geology. We offer field trips, most recently to the Minkin Fossil Tracksite at Jasper AL, and more are in the works. Interested Future Rockhounds (children and grands of members, ages 8 to 18 years old) are welcome to come join us to investigate and discover rocks, minerals, gems and fossils. More information about the Future Rockhounds of America program can be found at: https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program.



Russell Cave,

We can't wait to see you there! Bring your Friends. Your Rock Hound Leadership Team

Karen Allen— <u>karenhsv@gmail.com</u>
Mike Harrison - <u>campcraft.mikegmail.com</u>
Dee Dee Morton - <u>deemorton@hotmail.com</u>



Jim Treadway selling at the 2020 Picnic



Marty Martinez selling at the 2018

Azurite By Dave Jacobson. Canaveral Moonstone Jan 2020

We take a look at azurite, Cu3(CO3)2(OH)2, copper carbonate hydroxide. Most mineral collectors have a specimen or two of azurite in their collections, since it is a very popular mineral due to its color. Its color is due to the copper, the coloring agent, combines with the carbonate groups (CO3) and hydroxyls (OH). It is a secondary copper mineral found in sulfide deposits associated with carbonate rocks. Malachite, Cu2(CO3)(OH)2, hydrous copper carbonate is often found with azurite. At times, the malachite replaces the azurite forming a pseudomorph, meaning you have a malachite crystal in the original shape of the azurite crystal. Azurite is found in many localities in the world. Some of the more famous localities are: Chessy, near Lyons, France; Tsumeb, Namibia; Larium, Greece; Morocco and Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. In the USA, several localities in Arizona such as Bisbee and Morenci. Some minerals found with azurite are: limonite, chalcopyrite, native copper, calcite, cuprite, chrysocolla, malachite and other oxidized copper minerals. Azurite is a minor ore of copper. It is sometimes used to make jewelry. It is cut into cabochons, but when faceted it is too soft for every day wear.

Azurite is in the monoclinic crystal system. It is commonly crystallized in the following habits. Irregular blades with wedge shaped terminations. Rosette like aggregates. Slender needles and hairs. It also forms in botryoidal growths, which are sometimes interlayered with malachite. It's color is azure, from which the mineral takes its name. It can also be deep blue or pale blue. Streak is blue. Specific gravity is 3.7 to 3.9. Hardness is 3.5 to 4. It is brittle. Fracture is conchoidal. It will dissolve in hydrochloric acid with effervescence.

I used the following reference materials in preparing this article. Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals by Frederick H. Pough. Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus. Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks And Minerals. Minerals of the World by Walter Schumann. Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery on the in-ternet at http://mineral.galleries.com.

Elemental Copper By Dave Jacobson, Canaveral Moonstone, Dec 019

We look at one of the native elements, copper (Cu), which is the mineral in it's native metallic form. Native copper will commonly form in volcanic basalt by the reaction of copper bearing solu-tions with the iron oxide minerals in the basalt. It also forms in hydrothermal replacement deposits and by chemical processes in the oxidation zone of sulfide deposits. Some native copper can usually be found in copper mining areas. Other associated minerals are silver, calcite, malachite and other copper minerals. A specimen containing bother native copper and silver is called a "half breed". Some of the finest specimens in the USA come from the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan. Other notable occurrences in the USA in-clude Arizona and New Jersey.

Native copper is in the isometric crystal system although individual crystals are rare. When crystallized the shapes are usually cubes and octahedrons. It is usually found in masses, wires, dendrites and other arbores-cent or branching forms. Sometimes recognizable crystal faces are visible on the outer surfaces of massive native copper.

Color is typical copper coloring with some specimens tarnished in varying shades, primarily green. It has a metallic luster. Streak is reddish copper. Hardness is 2.5 to 3. Specific gravity is 8.9+. Native copper is ductile which means it can be beaten pounded and shaped.

Native copper is a minor copper ore since it is rarely found in large enough quantities to make it worth min-ing. Other copper ores are more economic to mine and refine in producing copper. I speculate that in the early days of mining history native copper was more important ore of copper than it is now. Native copper is primarily used as a mineral specimen. Copper takes it's name from the Greek *Kyprios*, referring to the Island of Cyprus, a site of ancient copper mining.

I used the following reference materials in preparing this article.

Field Guide To Rocks And Minerals by Frederick H. Pough.

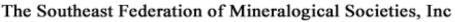
The Audubon Society Field Guide To North American Rocks and Minerals.

Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus. Simon & Schusters Guide to Rocks And Minerals.

Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery on the internet (address http://ineral.galleries.com



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips





The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Gaston Gem and Mineral Club (Gastonia, NC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (Huntsville AL)

Propst Farm, Maiden, NC Saturday, June 25, 2022 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Fee: Ages 14 and up: \$30 Ages 11-13: \$15 Ages 10 and under: Free

WAIVER: A signed waiver is required; these will be available onsite

COLLECTING: This is a great location to get some nice corundum specimens. Things found here are Corundum (var. Ruby, Sapphire), Quartz and Kyanite (rare).

BRING: Hand Tools Only -- Buckets, Shovel, Pick, Classifier i.e., screen (1/4" and 1/2" mesh), Hoe, Gloves, and Knee pads, Water and snacks/lunch

REQUIREMENTS: All holes must be filled in before leaving. No drugs or alcohol. If you bring it in, pack it out.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be parking in the yard. You can pull right up to the dig site. The digging is in red mud, so be prepared to get dirty. If we have had rain the digging will be easier

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children to learn to dig

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no restrooms onsite. The closest is about 3 miles away. Food and drink is also about 3 miles away. The Gaston Gem club will have water available for those who need it **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Hotels are available in Lincolnton, NC which is about 15 minutes away. We will have volunteers working to help identify, show you what to look for & how to dig for it. **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

We will be meeting at the Hardee's at 5860 Startown Rd, Maiden, NC 28650. This Hardee's is just off of Hwy 321. We will be meeting at 08:30 am and departing at 09:00 am for the dig site. We ask that everyone meet at the Hardee's. **GPS 35.591366, -81.255252** or **35⁰ 35' 28.03", 81⁰ 15' 20.66"**

Directions from Gastonia, NC Take Hwy 321 North to exit 33. Turn left at the top of the ramp. Hardee's will be on your left once you cross the bridge.

Directions from Hickory, NC Take Hwy 321 South to exit 33. Turn right at the top of the ramp.

Hardee's will be on your left.

CONTACT: Dodany Garcia, 786-424-5241, motordanny@yahoo.com



Corundum with Kyanite

May Birthdays

22 Mike Chivers 5 Bailey Schirmer 25 Maureen Priddy 5 Myra Soroczak 6 Phil Lester 27 Chris Kalange 29 Ruth Finckenor 14 Joe Bonin 30 Jim Treadway 16 Mike Curran 31 Raymond Tanner 17 Jeff Finckenor

Anniversaries



6 John & Julie McCullough 13 Kathy & Buddy Wilson

17 Gerdy & David Wyatt

18 Mike & Anne Wesley

23 Greg & Anita Blunier

29 David & Diana O'Dell

June Birthdays

4 Elizabeth Kowalczyk 23 Jonathan Kowalczyk

4 Owen Perry 24 Tonya Sitko

5 Emma Allen 25 Caryl Jean Nixon

5 Ruth Kemper 26 David O'Dell

14 David Young 27 Dianna O'Dell

15 Matthew Kowalczyk 28 Lori Willhoite

17 Cliff Cantrell **Grayson Lester**

Anniversaries

8 Charlie & Lori Willhoite

9 Jimi & Tonya Sitko

12 Wayne & Polly Falkenberg

19 Michael & Sheila Cape

21 Chris Ross

21 Lawrence & Diana Nelms

29 Caryl & David Nixon



The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education , 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. SE, Huntsville AL 35802

Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, Jan Edmunds

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

Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky

Future Rockhounds: Karen Allen, Mike Harrison, Dee Morton

Monday Metal Smithing 5:30pm - 9:00pm

> Lapidary Except May 2nd, 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm

Lapidary 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm Lapidary

HGMS Meetings6:00pm - 9:00 4thTuesdays

Wednesday 6:00pm - 9:00pm Lapidary

> 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

6:30pm 2nd Thursdays (when programmed) GeoSciences

Future Rockhounds 4thThursdays 6:00

Friday Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Sunday

Saturday **Metal Smithing** 9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month

> 9:00am - 2:00pm Lapidary Lapidary 12:00 to 3:00

2022 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Anthony Zwilling - <u>afzwilling@gmail.com</u>
Vice President - Bill Friday - <u>bill.Friday@earthlink.net</u>
Recording Secretary: James Yack - <u>jamesgyack@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - <u>claragoode1@comcast.net</u> Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - <u>bill.friday@earthlink.net</u>

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

Directors at Large:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - <u>lester.bartel@gmail.com</u>

Shelley Curran - <u>curranshelley1@gmail.com</u>

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

2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Bill Friday bill.friday@earthlink.net

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky, <a href="mailto:length: length: le

Hospitality: Open Publicity: Open

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

<u>claragoode1@comcast.net</u> Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@comcast.net

Facility Chair: Bill Friday bill.friday@earthlink.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 \$20.00 per person, \$25.00 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: 4thTuesday 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

 $SFMS: \underline{https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter} \ - new, under construction$

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







2022 CALENDAR

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

25 Jun '22 (Saturday) Annual Picnic and Rock Swap 8:00am to 4:30pm Huntsville Monte Sano State Park, Trailhead Pavilion

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

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

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

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

14-16 Oct '22 Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show

Jaycee Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL

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

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

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



May Flowers

Deadline for Next Newsletter June 19, 2022

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May 2022

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