

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 54 No. 11

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

November 2022

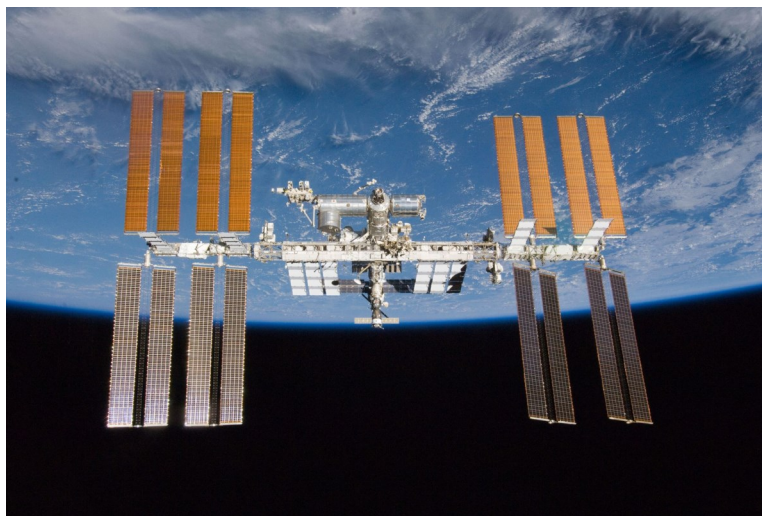
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HGMS Membership Meeting November 22, 6:00 International Space Station—Matt McCollum

Since the Meeting was quashed last month

Matt is a NASA employee who has worked on the design, implementation, upgrades, and international coordination of the Space Station since the project began. He will describe the structure of the vehicle itself, the experiments which have been and still are ongoing in this amazing satellite.



Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/ email - hsvgems@gmail.com



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Elections for 2023 Officers and Board - November 22 Meeting

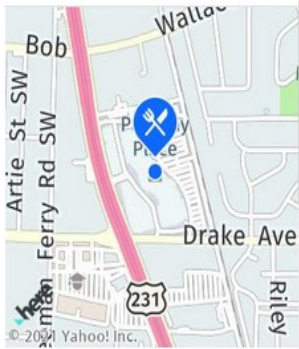
Nominations for these positions are: President: Anthony Zwilling, 2nd term
 Vice President - Bill Friday, 2nd term Director - Shelley Curran
 Secretary - James Yack Director - Les Bartel
 Treasurer - Clara Goode Director - Theresa Chivers
 Newsletter Editor - Bill Friday Director - Gene Powers



Retiring Director - Isabel Leon y Leon, with our gratitude for service

Christmas Dinner - Tuesday December 13th, 6:00

Carrabba's Italian Grill, Upper Floor Parkway Place,
 2801 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL, enter from Drake Ave
 GPS 34.7065783,-86.5873536



Use the ramp in the center of the parking garage. The restaurant opens to the deck and is nearest this ramp. No parking fee.

Bring an exchange gift if you like, marked for men or ladies as appropriate.

Check the menu: 6 pages

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/846319112/6/>



Christmas Tinsel Tree Trail - Starting December 6th

Again this year HGMS will have a Tinsel Tree along the Trail in Big Spring Park, downtown Huntsville. Bob and Ruth Kemper have been the leaders for this outreach for the past years, and with help from other members have done a wonderful job of making our Club very visible.

This is the last year that the Kempers will be leading this project, so we offer them sincere thanks for the marvelous job they have done for the Club.

Take some time to wander through and admire the beautiful displays.

This will be sure to get you into the Christmas Spirit.





Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

Everyone enjoyed making the chainmaille pumpkin earrings, and the Basket Weave Bracelet was a good introduction to wireweaving.



Upcoming Schedule:

November 16: 6p- 9p, **Full Persian Bracelet.** Kit cost \$5. We're making a bracelet in the Full Persian chainmaille weave using bronze jump rings.

November 23: No meeting. Thanksgiving week. **Deadline to RSVP for the Dec 7th Tree of Life Pendant class.**

November 30: 2p - 5p, **Fifth Wednesday.** We'll use this extra meeting to work on individual projects.



December 7: 6p – 9p, **Tree of Life Pendant.** Kit cost \$5. Everyone will create their own unique pendant using copper wire to fashion the roots, trunk, and branches and tiny gemstone chips for the leaves, all on a wire support. Bring your favorite color(s) of gemstone chips for the leaves. (Tourmaline chips will be available for purchase, if you need them.) Or, if you prefer, you can use 11° seed beads instead of chips.

December 14: Holiday Party. Time and place TBD.

December 21 & 28: No meeting. Holiday break. **Deadline to RSVP for the Jan 4th Basic Wirewrapped Pendants class is Dec 21st.**

January 4: 6p - 9p, **Basic Wirewrapped Pendants class.**

General Information:

Meeting Times: Classes are **6p – 9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.** Make up and “Finish It” sessions are from **2p – 5p on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.** (Meeting times and activities on 5th Wednesdays are TBD.)

Class Reservations: You must contact Theresa **two weeks before class** to reserve your kit by sending email to rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com. You can also reserve a kit in person at RCJ meetings or at monthly HGMS meetings.

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, you will need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.

Volunteers:

Instructors	Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Point of Contact/Kit Reservations/Security	Theresa Chivers
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.



Metal Smithing - Shelley Curran & Kathy Bowman

December Class Dates

Class 1: Thursday, Dec 1

Class 2: Monday, Dec 5

We will be continuing the Hinged and Riveted Pendant in December. The first part of the project covered finalizing your design, construction of the hinges that connect the top and bottom portions, and soldering on the bezel. In December we will cover riveting textured metal on the top half of the pendant and setting your stone (if you haven't done that yet). The last step will be inserting the hinge pin to connect the two sections. None of the skills are difficult, but all of them in one project will take some time to complete. If you signed up for Part I in November, you do not have to sign up for December Class. Come on the same night you signed up for in November. (Thursday was completely full so if you came on Thursday and want to change to Monday night, let Shelley or Kathy know.)



Certification Classes

We are currently having Certification Classes and should have certified everyone who requested the class by Dec 1. The next Certification classes are scheduled for mid-February. We hope to schedule Certification Classes on a regular basis – about every 2 months for the rest of the year. The next class will be in mid-February. Send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to HGMS@wilddivystudio.com to get on the list for the next Safety Certification Class. We will contact those who sign up by email with more detailed information about the class(s) as soon as we set the final date.

IMPORTANT! After Certification Class dates are set, email notices listing the date(s) of the class(es) will be sent to everyone who is currently on the request list. You must reply to that email to be scheduled for the class or to request a future class. One reminder email will be sent to those who do not respond to the first email. If there is no response to the 2nd reminder email, **your name will be removed from the list of names requesting Certification.** If you are still interested in Certification, you will have to send in your information again to get on the current list.

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. Out class page is HGMS Metalsmithing Group. The link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/438777169648170>

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:
Tools/Equipment Inventory
Store Manager
Kit Manager
Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman and Shelley Curran
Annie Diekmann
Opening
Shelley Curran
Kathy Bowman

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



Pebble Pups - Deposition - January 26, 6:30

Continuing our series on Recycling of Earth's Rocks, following Erosion and Weathering in October and November, we will next look at Deposition that is the dropping off of rock materials after they have been removed from their original location by erosion and weathering.

We are still part of the Future Rockhounds of America, and will still be working on the merit badges that they offer. We just changed our name.



Mineral of the Month – Carnelian

By Leslie A. Malakowsky



This month's mineral was inspired by Fall colors! Carnelian is a variety of chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline (composed of microscopic crystals) variety of quartz (formula SiO_2) and a member of the silica group of tectosilicates. (Tectosilicates, or "framework silicates," have a three-dimensional framework of silicate tetrahedra with SiO_2 . This group of minerals constitutes nearly 75% of the Earth's crust.) Other minerals in this group include sard, sardonyx, onyx, heliotrope, bloodstone, agate, moss agate, chrysoprase, jasper, flint, and chert.



Color, translucency, toughness, and the presence of impurities and banding are all good characteristics of chalcedony. For example, carnelian is generally translucent red, brownish-red, orange, or amber. It's often a solid color, but it may contain lighter and darker zones, or cloudy areas within the same stone. Carnelian is tough; not brittle like macrocrystalline quartz varieties that occur as large crystals.



Carnelian Agate

The name carnelian is a 16th-century corruption of the 14th-century word "cornelian", which is reminiscent of *cornucopia*, which signifies the abundance of harvest. The names carnelian and sard are often used interchangeably, but there are differences between the two minerals. Both carnelian and sard contain impurities - iron compounds that cause a range of hues from yellow to orange to reddish-brown (carnelian), to deep reddish-brown to almost black (sard). Generally, carnelian is redder and sard is browner.

Carnelian has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 – 7.0 (comparable to tanzanite, which can be scratched with an iron nail), while sard is harder and tougher. Banded carnelian is sometimes classified as both carnelian and agate or *carnelian agate*. Carnelian that consists of red and white bands is known as *carnelian onyx*, which is also a synonym of sardonyx. Carnelian can sometimes be confused with jasper. Carnelian is generally translucent while jasper is always opaque. And carnelian always lets light shine through when viewed from the edges. Plus, jasper usually exhibits multicolored patterns but carnelian doesn't.

Carnelian (and other varieties of chalcedony) form in low temperature/pressure environments. These minerals are abundant in volcanic rocks, in limestones, and in the upper portions of weathered rocks. In the United States, well-known sources of carnelian include New Jersey and Oregon. Internationally, significant sources include Peru, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Carnelian has been used as a semiprecious gemstone since antiquity. The red variety was used as beads in the Early Neolithic period. Early Greeks used carnelian in broches and rings. Today, carnelian is still a favorite gemstone for jewelry making. For example, it's cut, formed, and polished into cabochons, beads, and rings, and carved into cameos, animal figures, and ornamental objects.



Carnelian intaglio broche



Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com. For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering and polishing.



Pre-Made Bezel Cups

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.



Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

Dividers

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.



Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (Columbia, SC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Morris Island, Mount Pleasant, SC Saturday, December 3, 202

Meet at 7:30 AM Eastern Time - Trip 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Registration Required by November 15th Limit 60 People

Fee: \$50 for the chartered boat to the island

TRIP: We are heading to Morris Island to collect Miocene fossils (teeth and bones) that have been deposited through Charleston Harbor dredging operations. The trip includes a scenic boat ride across Charleston Harbor that passes by Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter where the first shots of the civil war occurred.

COLLECTING: Our target is surface collecting fossils on Morris Island beach in Charleston Harbor. Morris Island is used as a spoil deposit area for dredging Charleston Harbor and the spoil material contains abundant fossils. You reach the island by a boat that takes folks to the back side of the island where you are dropped off to collect.

BRING: Bring a backpack or small bucket along with zip lock bags and wrapping paper for carrying your finds. Bring your own snacks and drinks

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Boots or sturdy tennis shoes (that you don't mind getting wet) are recommended for walking on the beach. Bring weather appropriate clothing because you will be exposed during the boat ride (boat has a roof but not enclosed) and on the beach.

CHILDREN (Yes): Suitable for children, 5 years and older. , **Pets** - No

FACILITIES: No facilities once you get on the boat.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hotels are available in Mt. Pleasant and a little further away in Charleston, SC. Hotel rates should be lower due to being outside of tourist season. Early December is an excellent time to visit the Charleston area.

REGISTRATION: We have access to two boats that hold up to 30 people each so we have to limit the number of folks to **60** individuals. **Therefore, we need an RSVP by November 15th so that our club can contact the outfitter to confirm our boat needs.** If you have reserved a place but are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow fossil collectors and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s). Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If the trip is full, click [here](#) to fill out a waiting list form.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: The meeting place will be in the Mt. Pleasant area. Once you reserve, you will be informed of the exact meeting location to board the boat. There are restrooms available **before** you board the boat. Please bring the fee (cash or check) and give it to Ron Ahle. Please arrive 30 minutes early to complete payment and fill out a release form.

CONTACT: For further information contact: Ron Ahle, at thebears@earthlink.net or call cell phone 803-609-7490

November Birthdays

2 Daniel Hessler	24 Frank Curran
3 Nanette Schwartz	26 Jacie Dunn
4 Carol McBroom	27 Betty Olson
6 Sherrie Bonin	27 Sheila Cape
9 David Fikes	28 Jace Siggers
9 Connor Shields	29 Jeanette McGahee
11 Norman McGahee	30 Mary Jean Brost Travis

Anniversaries

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



November
Topaz

December Birthdays

1 Tammy McGuire	7 Thomas Joyce
1 Judy Osmundson	8 Daniel Dunn
1 Monie Wilson	8 Faith Nkosi
1 James Yack	9 Erika Walley
3 Ray Ferguson	12 Kathy Bowman
3 Wafa Orman	13 Randy Kent
3 Seth Walley	14 Shelley Curran
4 Elijah Barrier	16 Mark Barrier
4 Florence Mims	19 Karen Allen
4 David Sanders	22 Jersey Sitko
5 Paisley Dunn	23 David Wyatt
6 Lynn Peete	26 Bob Kemper
6 Becky Rollston	27 Pat Hallisey

Anniversaries

10 Danny Eldridge



December
Zircon

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, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Anthony Zwilling, Shady Sanchez, Haley Middleton

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	1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm
	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm
	HGMS Meetings	6:00pm - 8:30 4th Tuesdays
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	5:00pm - 9:00pm
	Future Rockhounds	6:00 4th Thursdays
Friday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	Metal Smithing	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month
	Lapidary	9:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday	Lapidary	12:00 to 3:00

2022 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARDPresident– Anthony Zwilling - afzwillling@gmail.comVice President - Bill Friday - bill.Friday@earthlink.netRecording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.comTreasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.netNewsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.friday@earthlink.net**Past President: Mike Harrison** - campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Directors at Large:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.comLes Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.comShelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.comIsabel 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,**lmalakowsky@gmail.com**Auction Chair: Shelley Curran**curranshelley1@gmail.com**Membership: Theresa Chivers**wolfson929@gmail.com |**Field Trips: Bill Friday**bill.friday@earthlink.net**Hospitality: Mike Harrison**campcraft.mike@gmail.com**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**claragoode1@comcast.net**Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller**Lzol@comcast.net**Facility Administrator: 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: 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: <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter> - new, under construction

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



2022 - 23 CALENDAR

- 22 Nov'22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 13 Dec'22 - Christmas Dinner - Carrabba's Italian Restaurant
2801 South Parkway, Huntsville - Gift Exchange Optional
- 24 Jan'23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 28 Feb'23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 18 Mar '23 Saturday - Annual Rock Auction—Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 8:00am
- 25 Apr '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Sep '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 6-8 Oct '23 HGMS Fall Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show
Jaycee Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 24 Oct '23- Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm



Happy Thanksgiving

Deadline for Next Newsletter
December 17, 2022

**Dated material
Do not Delay**



October 2022

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