

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 55 No. 2

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

February 2023

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HGMS Membership Meeting

MONDAY February 27, 6:00

**Eric Silkowski will discuss Meteorites
Their Origins, Different types, Abundance/Rarity
Where and How they are found
How to tell if you have one.**



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



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General Membership Meeting January 24, 2023

Welcomed New Members Eric Silkowski and his daughter. Another new member joined in August, and this was her first meeting. New members always get a free rock.

We have "Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks" by Jim Lacefield, \$30. Includes \$5 for HGMS.

Our Last meeting was the Christmas party at Carrabba's. Approximately 35 people attended. Gift exchange was a success. We voted to add Teresa Chivers to the board.

A Board Meeting is scheduled for Jan 30th to discuss the budget. Club account is \$7,893. Discuss a possible new flume trailer. Reminder that Membership dues are due. \$25 for a family or \$20 for a single person.

RCJ is doing quarterly classes. Regular class days are on the first and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 6-9pm with makeup days and work on your own project day the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2-5pm. If you wish to attend a class, you must RSVP. If you RSVP for a class you are expected to attend. You must RSVP so your kit can be reserved.

Metalsmith is doing silver and bronze broom straw casting. All students must be comfortable holding a large acetylene torch flame & molten metal at the same time. This project involves full concentration. Please sign up. RSVP required.

Lapidary lab has a new Taurus Ring Saw. This will allow folks to make odd-shaped cuts into rocks. Since implementing \$1.00 a day to work in the rock lab it has benefited the lab with the purchase of the new saw.

The city has informed us that water will be shut off at the education center from Jan 31st through Feb 2nd. RCJ, Metalsmithing, and Lapidary class times have changed.

Future Rockhounds meets on the 4th Thursday of every month in the RCJ's room from 6:30 – 7:30. This month is Coprolites. If anyone needs a name tags, please see Judy Osmundson.

This month's Southeastern Federation field trip is to the Diamond Hill Mine in South Carolina.

Our next meeting is Monday February the 27th. Our usual meeting hall will be occupied by another group, so we have moved it from Tuesday to Monday.

Auction is coming up on Saturday, March 25th. Set up will be Friday the 24th. We will need volunteers for both days. A Food truck has agreed to support our day. There will not be an ATM. Email Shelly Curran if you have any questions.

Instead of a Tinsel Tree in Big Spring Park, we will place a Scarecrow in the Botanical Gardens

Adjourned meeting.

Our presentation is from Mr. Matt McCollum on the International Space Station.

William Holland and Wildacres Art Schools - 2023

HGMS is offering two \$200 Scholarships this year to the Major Arts Schools. The Society of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) is sponsoring special weekends at both William Holland and Wildacres for members of the HGMS. Winners may use their scholarship for these or any week at either school. The drawing for the two primary and two alternate winners will be held during the March Membership Meeting. If you are interested in participating, send your request to hsvgems@gmail.com.

To receive your check, winners must first apply to the school of their choice and be accepted by the Registrar, pay at that time for the course(s), and then forward the registrar's notification to HGMS. If you are a scholarship winner, please take care of the registration by mid-April. If you should find out later that you can't attend, let HGMS know quickly so the scholarship can be made available to an alternate winner.

To enroll in classes for the SFMS 2023 Federation weeks, there are 2 steps to perform. First, we need your information entered into the 2023 SFMS Registration Form (either online or PDF hard copy). Second, we will need to get a deposit or full payment of the class fees for each student.

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/registration-info> For Costs information, go to "[Class Costs](#)" page

SFMS **Wildacres** Workshops - DATES: AUGUST 14-20, 2023 & SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2023

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/wildacres-classes> [Casting Metal Mania](#) (Waiting List Only)

[ChainMaille Special Projects](#) [Cabbing Wire I & Beyond](#) (Waiting List Only) [Silver I+](#)

Wildacres Registrar—Marty Sharpe 757-724-8043

[Click here for the Wildacres Contact Form](#)

SFMS **William Holland** Workshops - June 4-9, 2023

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/william-holland-classes>

[Cabs 1](#) [Cabs 2](#) [Seedbeading on China Cabs](#) [Casting Work Bench Building](#) [Flame Painting](#) [Silver I+](#) [Silver II-Panel](#) [Bracelet Silver III - Channel Inlay](#) [Soft Solder Weave Tap & Drop Wire II-Bracelets](#)

William Holland Registrar - Cindy Reed 863-255-5256 [Click here for the Wm Holland Contact Form](#)



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

March 2023 Class: Forming a Neckwire

Session 1: Thursday, March 2, 2023

Session 2: Monday, March 6, 2023

We will be making two neck wires during the class. One in 10 gauge copper and the other in 12 gauge brass or bronze- (your choice). We will have several examples of the various styles. If you have sensitive ears, please bring some ear plugs—we will be doing lots of hammering! The Kit cost is \$4.00.



The sign-up sheet will be available at the HGMS meeting and during Monday or Thursday work sessions. You may also register by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com. This class will be open to those who have not been certified on a space available basis since it is Forming class however registration preference will be given to those who have been certified. Annealing wire might be necessary if so, the instructors can do this for you if you have not been safety certified to use our torches.

If more than 10 people per session sign up for the class, those on the waitlist will be notified via email or text prior to the class if space becomes available. **If you have signed up for the class and cannot attend, please be considerate and notify the instructors as soon as possible so that someone on the wait list can attend in your place.**

Certification/Safety Classes: The next Certification/Safety Class will be Monday, April 24. Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to Certifications@wildivystudio.com to get on the list for the next Certification Class. We will have 9 seats available for this class. Seats will be filled in the order I receive them.

CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

After Certification Class dates are set, email notices with information about the class(es) will be sent to everyone who is currently on the request list about a week before the scheduled date. 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 reply after the 2nd email, **your name will be removed from Certification Requests list.** 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:

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.**

Membership News from Theresa Chivers, Membership Chair

Please remember that your membership dues are now, \$20 for single and \$25 for family. Remember a family is two adults living in the same household, dependent children under 19 are included as well as any dependent college students.

Prompt payment is appreciated. If you signed up at the show then your dues for 2023 are covered.



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome! **Judy emailed the 2nd quarter classes! Please reply to her as soon as possible.** Classes are also posted quarterly in this newsletter, on the website, and in our classroom.

Remaining 1st Quarter Classes:

Note: If you missed the Elf Star Pendant class, you can make it on February 22nd Make Up day or on March 15th w/the St Patrick's Earrings. Let Judy know.

March 1: Aztec Double Woven Bracelet. Weave your choice of two colors of wire on a copper wire frame and attach the bracelet ends with a clasp and chain. Color choices are black, silver, green, and teal. This is a good wire weaving project! Wire weaving practice kits are available.



March 15: St. Patrick's Earrings. Connect sets of green jump rings to form four-leaf clovers and attach green dangles and earring findings.

2nd Quarter Classes:

April 5: Wrapped Cab with Twisted Wire.

Judy has 20x30mm cabs to pick from and copper wire. Bring a Pin Vise if you have one for twisting wire.

April 19: Hexapetalon Pendant w/Rivoli. Kit contains rings and Rivoli crystal. Bring 2pairs, 1/4" (large) flat nose pliers.



May 3: Copper Pipe Bracelet.

Kit contains copper pipe, wire, and rings. We'll make the clasp. Bring 10 – 14, 6mm beads of your choice. Stamps provided.



May 17: Red-White-Blue Cylon

Bracelet. A new chainmaille

weave for most folks! Kit contains 3 sizes of rings. Bring both a 1/4" (large) and a 1/8" (small) pair of flat nose pliers.

June 7: Donut "Fortune's Wheel". Check it out on Pinterest! Kit contains a 30mm stone donut, 24g silver craft wire, and 4mm silver beads. If you have a donut, wire, and/or beads you prefer, bring them!

June 21: Double-Drilled Byzantine (DD Byz) Bracelet. You need to order your own double-drilled stone beads and either silver or copper rings. Judy can also cut copper rings if you prefer. Kit contains beading wire, wire guards, crimps, and crimp covers for either silver or copper rings.

Limabeads.com 10x20mm, 2-hole, rounded-rectangle beads (19-20 beads on strand).
You need 12 for 9" bracelet.

Artbeads.com Dakota Stone, 10x20mm, double-drilled rectangle beads (19-20 on strand).

Weavegotmaille.com Enameled copper (EC) rings, 18g, 4mm. You need 281 rings for 9" bracelet.

Meeting Times/Reservations: We meet for Classes from 6p-9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

We meet for Make Up/Finish Up from 2p-5p on 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays.

Class signups will begin for each respective quarter in: **Feb - 2nd Quarter**, May - 3rd Quarter, Aug - 4th Quarter. Our classroom holds 16-20 students. Overflow may carry over to our Make Up/Finish It days.

Signup sheets will be available at RCJ meetings, at HGMS meetings, or contact Theresa Chivers **a month before class** at: rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com.

[Continued Next Page]

[Rocket City Jewelers Continued]


NOTE: If you are signed up for a class, you are responsible for the cost of that class and for attending. We send out texts and/or emails often. Some kind of reply is necessary, please.

NEW POLICY: Anyone who has missed more than 1 class without prior notification, will be placed on a wait list for the next class they are interested in. If there is room available, they will be notified 1 week prior to that class.

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. The doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, the doors will be locked, and you will need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.

Volunteers:


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




Pebble Pups - Thursday February 23, 6:30

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.

The Pebble Pups have a great new year for 2023.
For contact information, email hsvgems@gmail.com
Bring your favorite rock to our Show-and-Tell at the beginning of the meeting.








Rocks & Minerals

Hey Pebble Pups! It's that time again! We are still working on the merit badges through Future Rockhounds of America and we need you to join us on February 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Ed Center. This month we will have a ton of fun learning about a really cool crystal! Do you know what really pretty purple gemstone is loved by almost everyone? Do you know that it is part of the quartz family? Did you know that you can find it in multiple locations on multiple continents around the world? Do you know in what formations it most often occurs? Hint, it's name starts with an "A" and ends with a "T". But don't worry, we'll have a ton of fun discovering all the facts so you can be the expert!

So the answers to all of these questions will be discussed and the gemstone will be examined and you will take a sample home if you attend the Pebble Pups, February meeting, on February 23rd, at 6:30 PM at the Ed Center.

What is the Tree of Life? By Lawrence Hillis

The Tree of Life is depicted in many ways throughout the ages by a drawing or a carving of a tree including its roots, trunk, limbs, branches, and leaves. The tree of life has been pictured on walls of places of worship, government buildings, businesses, homes, and fortresses and carved on the armor of warriors. In some cultures, the branches are often equally divided on the right and the left sides of the stem with each branch having one leaf and one leaf on the tree's apex.



The tree is a symbol of a living organism that grows tall and strong to avoid wind damage. The roots represent its nurturement. The internet refers to the tree of life as a common idea in cultures throughout the world. It represents the source of life, the force that connects all lives or the cycle of life and death itself.

I am a member of the Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society which was organized in 1958 and was officially incorporated in Alabama in 1965. If you want to learn about rocks the HGMS is the place to go. See the website www.huntsvillegms.org The club is open to everyone and has meetings every fourth Tuesday at the Sandra Moon Community Complex at 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. You might ask, what is so interesting about rocks? My answer is plenty. The club's purpose is the education and enjoyment of its members and the general public through programs and activities, shows, and lectures. I have spent several years learning about rocks, cutting rocks in the Lapidary Lab into slabs to see their makeup. Then cut out shapes such as crosses and Cabochons and made ornament and pendants for necklaces.

The club has a division called the Rocket City Jewelers. Last fall the HGMS's newsletter Rocket City Rocks and Gems announced that Judy Osmundson and Teresa Chivers would be teaching the December class on how to make The Tree of Life out of wires and gemstones. I attended the class and learned how to create a Tree of Life pendant for a necklace. It is stylish to make all aspects of the tree by first creating a circular or elliptical ring to support the image of the tree. We begin with the roots, then shape of the trunk of the tree. The branches should be twisted and stretched out to the frame and tied. Sometimes we add gemstones or beads to the branches to make them attractive. One style is to leave off the gemstones and only add a flat white stone near the top of the tree to represent the moon. Since the image is a wire wrapping hanging from a necklace, you can see past the tree, and ladies enjoy wearing contrasting shirts or blouses.

The club has another group called Metal Smithing/Silver Group. Classes are held several times a month and taught by Kathy Bowman and Shelley Curran. Since they use an acetylene torch there is a safety issue and a special class is needed to be a certified user.

The Bible first mentions the tree of Life in Genesis 2:9 as being pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the center of the Garden of Eden was the "tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." The book of Psalm goes on to compare a good man to a tree planted by the waters and yields its fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither and whatever he does prospers. Proverbs state that a productive woman is a tree of life to those who embrace her and those who embrace her will be blessed. What is your Tree of Life? Have you grown into a strong person and survived the damage of the storms of life? Are you fruitful?

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.



Cutting Molds Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber molds. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawkbill shaped. I find the hawkbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



USING YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.



For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

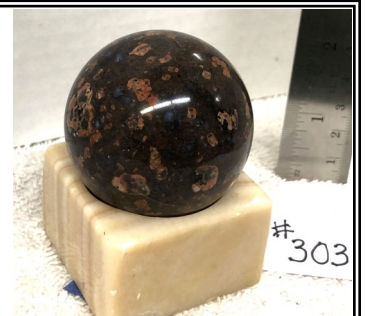
Our Annual Fundraiser Auction is coming up fast, only five weeks. **Saturday March 25, 2023**

Doors open at 9:30 for registration and viewing. Bidding starts at 10:00 AM

The funds raised by the annual auction comprise about one third of the Clubs yearly budget. The money raised goes toward funding all areas of the Club. Last year we raised about \$5,000.00.

In order to make the auction happen we need two things, donations and volunteers. There are various volunteer opportunities available. We need people for registration and paddles, bid spotters, runners, trackers, checkout, sold table, buy it now table, etc. Some jobs involve a lot of standing and walking, others are mostly sit down. Something for Everyone. All in all a minimum of twenty people. We also need set up crews for the Friday evening before the event too.

Your donations are tax deductible and may be brought to the Ed Center during any Club activity and left with an instructor. If this is not convenient for you I will come pick it up. We appreciate sooner rather than later so we can get everything photographed and catalogued. Thank you in advance for all your donations and hard work. Shelley Curran



HGMS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION, MARCH 25th at the HGMS Education Center

The auction is almost upon us and we've had some really wonderful donations this year.

Doors open at nine, Auction to start soon after - Rocks in the morning and equipment and jewelry after lunch.

We have lapidary equipment for those who have or want to start a home shop. There are rough, slabs, and tumbler material galore.

We have specimens too if you're looking to start or add to your mineral collection. We were gifted an art collection of carved stone birds. Beautiful and collectible pieces.

There is lovely finished jewelry in many styles and if you want to make your own there's supplies for that too.

Buy-It-Now is back and bigger than ever, crystals, cabochons, beads, orbs, and too much stuff to mention. There should be something for everyone.

A partial catalog, subject to revision, will be available soon on line so check it out and tell your friends. Come out and have a great day of fun. Food available out front. COME FIND YOUR TREASURE



The auction raises about a third of the yearly club budget. The monies raised support our various club functions and helps to pay the

bill. All donations are tax deductible and can be receipted.

We still need a few more volunteers. In particular people to track the bids and numbers on paper to back up the computer. We don't anticipate any glitches but we didn't last year either.

I also need at least two people to handle the sold table.

Three or four runners and a Vanna or two to show the merchandise.

The generosity of our members, in goods and time is unparalleled. So thank you in advance for all your support.



Mineral of the Month – Pectolite (var. Larimar) *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*

Larimar specimen from Dominican Republic

Larimar is a rare volcanic-blue variety of the silicate mineral pectolite (an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium). Larimar is found only in the Dominican Republic, a nation comprising the eastern half of Hispaniola island in the Caribbean.

Larimar's coloration can vary from white, light-blue, green-blue to deep blue. Its formula is $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$ or $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8(\text{OH})$. (The substitution of copper for calcium produces the lovely blue color.)

But larimar also occurs in green, with red spots and with brown stripes due to the presence of other minerals and/or oxidation.

Larimar is a member of the Wollastonite group of silicates, a family of minerals used extensively in the ceramic and insulation industries. Other minerals in this group include neptunite, okenite and rhodonite.

In the Miocene (the first geological epoch of the Neogene Period; about 23.03 to 5.333 million years ago), volcanic rocks, andesites, and basalts erupted within the limestones of the south coast of the Dominican Republic. These rocks had cavities or *vugs* that were later filled with blue pectolite. When these rocks eroded, the pectolite was carried down slope where it became alluvium (loose sediment that eroded, was reshaped by water, and deposited in a non-marine environment) and beach gravel. Then the Bahoruco River carried the sediments to the ocean. The tumbling action in the river naturally polished the blue stones in contrast to the dark gravels of the streambed.

Pectolite is a soft stone, ranging from 4.5 to 5 on the Moh's scale. It's harder than fluorite but not harder than apatite. And well-formed pectolite tends not to split apart on impact, so it's easier to shape than quartz. Ancient hammerheads and other pectolite implements have been found in Alaska and across Northern Canada, but there isn't any record of its use for adornment or ceremonial purposes. In the modern era, pectolite is sometimes sought by mineral collectors, but it was of no use to the jewelry trade; that is, until 1974 when the source of larimar was discovered.

In 1916, Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren, a Spanish priest, botanist, and geologist, was exploring a beach in the coastal province of Barahona on Hispaniola. He discovered a light blue stone that he identified as pectolite. He requested permission to find the source of the stone, but pectolite wasn't known in the Dominican Republic then, and his request was denied.



In 1974, Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps volunteer Norman Rilling rediscovered larimar on a beach at the foot of the Bahoruco Mountain Range. They realized that the stones came from the alluvial sediment that had washed into the ocean by the Bahoruco River. They followed the river upstream until they found the only known outcrop of larimar in the range. The native Taino people believed that the stone was a gift from the ocean, and they called the stone *blue stone*. Méndez named the stone *larimar*, a combination of his daughter's name Larissa and the Spanish word for sea (*mar*), to suggest the colors of the Caribbean Sea where it was found.

The larimar outcrop is located at the Los Chupaderos mine, about 6 miles southwest of the city of Barahona in the southwestern region of the Dominican Republic. The mine is operated by a few local families, but conditions are rugged. The mine is located in a single mountainside now perforated with thousands of vertical mine shafts and surrounded by rain-forest and mine tailings. The stone is so soft that blasting is prohibited so the mineral must be extricated with hand tools. Also, the mine is inaccessible for many months of the year because of heavy rain and mudslides.

These conditions and the worldwide demand for larimar have caused sellers to flood the market with reconstituted, fake and misidentified material. Inexpensive jewelry described as being "stabilized" larimar is generally not natural stone but a manmade dyed resin possibly reconstituted with larimar dust. Amazonite, chrysocolla, hemimorphite and even dyed agate and howlite are being passed off as real larimar. So buyer beware! Take time to familiarize yourself with the look and feel of real larimar. For example, it's opaque when held up to a light source. And it's too soft to take a very shiny polish. Also, touching real larimar to a flame has no effect. Any melting, burning or plastic smell indicates a fake.

In the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere in the Caribbean, larimar jewelry is offered to the public as a local specialty. Most larimar jewelry is set in silver, and sometimes high-grade larimar is set in gold. Larimar is graded according to coloration and the typical mineral crystal configuration in the stone. The more intense the blue color and the contrast in the stone, the higher and rarer the quality. If you're investing in larimar, it's also important to note that the blue color is photosensitive and fades with time if exposed to too much light and heat.



Rough Larimar

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ryan Flippo | 12 Kay Jones |
| 2 Michael Cape | 12 Deborah Wright |
| 2 Maureen Lokken | 13 Roxanne Dusold |
| 4 Frank Hollifield | 13 Justin Glanton |
| 5 Alli Curran | 17 Don Cooper |
| 5 Catherine Toriello | 18 Wayne Falkenberg |
| 6 Mike Goode | 18 Amy Freeman |
| 6 Linda Howard | 19 Karen Milly |
| 7 Lester Bartel | 21 Zachery Moore |
| 7 Karen Cale | 23 Alison Wydner |
| 10 Tony Smith | 22 Joey Bonds |
| 11 Ginger McElhaney | 26 Henry Markus |
| | 26 Paulette Minor |

Anniversaries

- 10 Norman & Jeanette McGahee
- 12 Don & Marie Aldridge
- 12 Kay & Mark Jones
- 12 Brant & Alice Kosten
- 21 Daniel & Veronica Dunn



February
Amethyst

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Richard Hoover | 17 Sarah Grace |
| 1 Hilde Williams | 18 Michael O'Dell |
| 3 Larry Alexander | 19 Ben Carroll |
| 3 Morgan McKelvy | 19 Dianne Ferguson |
| 5 Allison Kowalczyk | 20 Kaven Howard |
| 6 William Bishnoi | 22 Susan Hessler |
| 7 Jason Edgeworth | 23 Meela Bishnoi |
| 9 Julie McCullough | 22 Natalie Byford |
| 10 Ray Humphrey | 22 Gene Powers |
| 14 Jack Marks | 23 Kelli Johnson |
| 15 Bob Goble | 24 Stacy Tieszen |
| 15 Kay Jones | 26 Jason Markus |
| 16 June Kalange | 29 Nick McElhaney |
| 16 Sabrina Spence | |

Anniversaries

- 4 Jason & Nina Edgeworth
- 14 Ben & Monika Carroll
- 19 John & Grace Siggers
- 24 Brandy Woodard



March
Aquamarine

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, Les Bartel

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

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton, Mike Harrison, Bill Friday

Monday	Metal Smithing Lapidary Lapidary	5:30pm - 9:00pm 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary HGMS Meetings	9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm 6:00pm - 8:30pm 4th Tuesdays
Wednesday	Lapidary Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks - Rocket City Jewelers 2nd, 4th, 5th Weeks -	6:00pm - 9:00pm 6:00pm - 9:00pm 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	Lapidary Metal Smithing Pebble Pups	6:00pm - 9:00pm 5:00pm - 9:00pm 6:30pm 4th Thursdays
Friday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	Metal Smithing Lapidary	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month 9:00am - 12:00 noon



2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President— Anthony Zwillling - afzwillling@gmail.com

Vice President - Bill Friday - bill.Friday@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, - claragoode1@comcast.net

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

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

Directors:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

Theresa Chivers

2023 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

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Publicity: Open

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>

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

2023 CALENDAR

- 27 Feb '23 - **MONDAY** - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 Mar '23 Saturday - Annual Rock Auction—Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 9:30am
- 25 Apr '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 23 May '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Jun '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 Jul '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 22 Aug '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 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 Nov '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm



Deadline for Next Newsletter
March 18, 2023

Dated material
Do not delay

January 2023

Rocket City Rocks & Gems
Bill Friday, Editor
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Huntsville, AL 35803