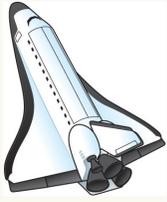


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 55 No. 3

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

March 2023

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**No Regular HGMS March Membership Meeting
In Lieu of the Rock Auction - Saturday March 25
Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd
Opens 9:00, Bidding 10:00**



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



Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS) 2023. Reprinting Rights are granted for all material (except for minutes of the meeting and copyrighted articles) to any organization officially affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) or Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), provided credit is given to the author, the original publication, and this newsletter.

Minutes from the February 27th HGMS Membership Meeting

President Anthony Zwilling welcomed Gem and Mineral Society and guests.

We have lots of new members and first time attendees who always get to pick a new rock.

Jim Lacefield's book, *Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks* is for sale - \$30

Eric Silkowski is our speaker for today's presenting on asteroids and meteorites.

January meeting minutes were approved from the January newsletter.

The 2023 Budget was published in the newsletter. Budget was approved.

A small change was made to the membership rules, if the person lives in the house and 18 years of age they may be included in a club family membership. This decision was made for insurance purposes.

Treasury report. Club Balance \$6328.

Membership dues are due. This is to make sure insurance gets paid up to date.

Name badges are available from Judy. Please speak to her for pricing and options.

RCJ is in full swing this year. They have a closed class due to a high volume of requests. RSVP as soon as possible if you want to get into classes. You can RSVP up to a month in advance. RCJ is using the overflow room on a regular basis.

Metalsmithing is going to forge a metal neck wire in brass, bronze, and copper. Please, sign up. Kit cost is \$4. First Thursday and following Monday of March.

Lapidary. Please make sure your rocks are clamped tight but do not over tighten the wing nuts. If your rock does not have enough room for a another cut, please do not crank the machine and force another cut. The brass connector will strip and is expensive to replace.

Pebble pups studied Amethysts last meeting. Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Myra Soroczak is donating rocks and equipment to the club. She will need help picking them up and moving them sometime soon.

Our auction is March 25th. Set up is March 24th. Shelley needs more volunteers, some sitting and other waking and running. We are still taking donations. Sooner is better than later. We can give donation receipts. We currently do not have a food vendor, and there will be no ATM.

Dixie Mineral Council field trip was at Diamond Hill mine in February. March's fieldtrip will be on the 19th in Summerville, GA at the Patty mine.

We will NOT have a regular meeting in March due to the auction.

Tours are available of the facility after the presentation. Visitors and new members please grab free rock.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04

Presentation on asteroids and meteorites by Eric Silkowski.

Fall Show Yard Signs

Please return any of the Show Yard Signs which you may still have at home, even ones from previous years, so they can be updated for this year's Show. They are expensive to replace.

Thanks, Tony Smith, Show Chairman

William Holland and Wildacres Art Schools - 2023

HGMS is offering two \$200 Scholarships this year to the Major Arts Schools. The Southeast Federation 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 April Membership Meeting.

If you are interested in participating, send your request to hsvgems@gmail.com.

If you are interested in applying for the drawing, get your classes confirmed now at the School of your choice or the class may be filled prior to the drawing.



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran
March Newsletter Article

Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

April 2023 Class: The Flower Clasp

Session 1: Thursday, April 6, 2023

Session 2: Monday, April 10, 2023



This is a simple project that we taught years ago. It is good practice for those that were just certified as well as an opportunity our more experienced students to get creative. We will make two in copper and if desired you can make the 2nd in silver. You can make this clasp in several sizes so you can make the 2nd one smaller or larger. The cost for the class is \$4.00 for both clasps in copper or bronze. Silver will be a slight additional charge (TBD) but will be nominal since it uses very little material. 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@wilddivystudio.com.

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 17- (Note Date Change!)** Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to Certifications@wilddivystudio.com to get on the list for the next Certification Class. The class is almost full so send you request soon. Seats will be filled in the order I receive them. If you end up on the wait list, you will be added to the next scheduled class which will probably in June- the date is TBD.

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 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 C

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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/438777169648170>

Volunteer Positions *

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Class Instructors: | Kathy Bowman
Shelley Curran
Jan Edmunds |
| Tools/Equipment Inventory | Annie Diekmann |
| Store Manager | <i>Opening</i> |
| Kit Manager | Shelley Curran |
| Webpage & Social Media Management | Kathy Bowman |

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



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!



2nd Quarter 2023 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, ¼” (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 ¼” (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 & June 28: Double-Drilled Byzantine (DD Byz) Bracelet. You need to order your own double-drilled stone beads and jump rings. (Judy can also cut copper rings if you prefer. You’ll need to pay her for club wire and the cutting fee. *Request this by no later than the end of May.*) Kit contains beading wire, wire guards, crimps, crimp covers, and a clasp. *Check Judy’s 3/17 email for more details including prices.*

Number Beads by Bracelet Length: **Number 18g, 4mm Jump Rings by Bracelet Length:**
 10 (8”), 11 (8.5”), 12 (9”) 225 (8”), 262 (8.5”), 281 (9”)

Online Vendors:

limabeads.com for 10x20mm double-drilled rounded rectangle beads (19-20 beads per strand).

artbeads.com for Dakota Stone, 10x20mm, double-drilled rectangle beads (19-20 beads per strand).

weavegotmaille.com OR *amazon.com* for Enameled Copper (EC) rings.

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

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

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.

Rocket City Jewelers Continued next page.

[Rocket City Jewelers Continued]

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

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.

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 March 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.

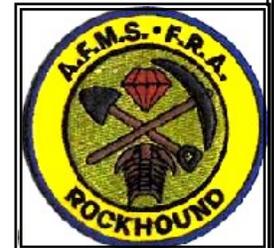
For contact information, email hsvgems@gmail.com

Bring your favorite rock to our Show-and-Tell at the beginning of the meeting.



March 2023 Pebble Pups meeting announcement

Hello Pebble Pups and all interested parties!



We had an awesome meeting in February talking about Amethyst, with two activity pages and a sample to take home and add to your mineral collection. Don't forget to bring the activity pages back for an extra specimen!

And the March meeting is almost on us! Come to the March 23rd meeting at 6:30 PM at the Education Center. We will have a special guest, Eric Silkowski, who will speak to us about caves and spelunking. He is an avid spelunker and is bringing his spelunking gear to show and tell. He will also tell us about caves he has explored, how to explore caves and how to be safe doing it.



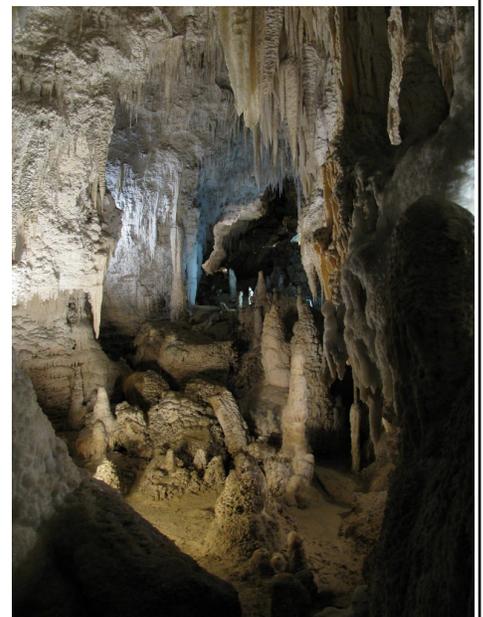
And don't forget to bring your own show and tell: your favorite rock, why it is your favorite and the story behind it.

Also, we plan to announce our first field trip to Cathedral Caverns!

Come one and all to the most rock-happy fun you can have in an hour!



Field Trips



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.



BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 10 mm cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.



SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store.

Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

Many people think that when some steel gets into the pickle, the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

Our Annual Fundraiser Auction is coming this weekend. Saturday March 25, 2023

Doors open at 9:00 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 volunteers.

We need set up crews for the Friday before the event between 9:00 am and 6:pm

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.

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 but it is too late for the catalogue.

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 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.

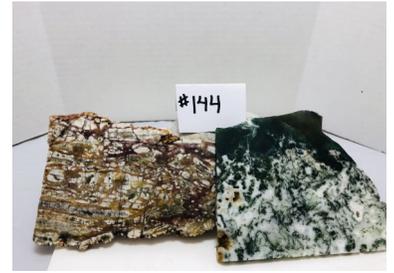
There is lovely finished jewelry in many styles and if you want to make your own there's supplies for that too.

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, is available 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 bills. All donations are tax deductible and can be receipted.

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



Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society

Annual Auction & Sale

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Doors Open at 9 am—Bidding Starts at 10 am

- Lapidary Equipment
- Lapidary Rough
- Slabs
- Specimens
- Cabochons
- Fossils
- Finished Jewelry and Supplies
- Decorative Objects and much more!

The "BUY IT NOW" section is back by popular demand!

FREE PARKING—Handicap Accessible
Cash Preferred - Credit Cards Accepted
COME JOIN THE FUN: YOUR TREASURE IS WAITING!

NEW LOCATION

HUNTSVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
EDUCATION CENTER
(located behind the Gym) at the
SANDRA MOON COMMUNITY CENTER
7901 BAILEY COVE ROAD SE
HUNTSVILLE AL 35802



Mineral of the Month – Chrysoprase

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

This month's mineral was chosen because of its color – green! Chrysoprase (“golden apple” in Greek) is a gemstone variety of chalcedony - a cryptocrystalline (composed of microscopic crystals) variety of quartz (SiO_2). Chrysoprase can be olive green, light to dark green, and light to dark apple-green. The lovely color is due to tiny inclusions of nickel silicate minerals. The mineral can be nearly opaque to nearly transparent.

The word *chrysoprase* comes from the Greek *chrysos*, meaning “gold”, and *prasinon*, meaning “green”. Dark green chrysoprase is simply called *prase*. (This term is also used to describe quartz that contains tiny inclusions of chlorite, hence *prase* is, to a certain extent, more of a color descriptor than a mineral variety name.) Interestingly, there are two other chalcedony minerals related to chrysoprase: blue chalcedony and blue-green chalcedony. Blue chalcedony is called *blue chrysoprase*, in which the color is due to copper rather than nickel. Blue-green chalcedony is called *chrome chalcedony*, in which the color is due to chromium rather than nickel. In addition to its distinctive green color, chrysoprase has a characteristic hardness of 6–7 on Mohs scale, which is equivalent to feldspar and quartz, respectively. Chrysoprase also has a conchoidal or granular fracture like flint, and a waxy luster. (For more information on chrysoprase's properties, please see your favorite mineral reference. You can also visit gemdat.org for gemological information about this stone.)

Those with a background in geology will appreciate how chrysoprase is formed. It's the result of the deep weathering of nickel-rich serpentinites or other ultramafic (igneous rocks with a very low silica content) ophiolitic rocks. (Ophiolitic describes a rock that comes from a section of the Earth's oceanic crust and the underlying upper mantle that has been uplifted and exposed above sea level.) In Australian deposits, chrysoprase occurs in veins and nodules with brown goethite and other iron oxides in magnesite-rich rocks below a layer of iron and silica. The best-known sources of chrysoprase are Arizona and California in the United States, and many other countries most notably Western Australia, Tanzania, and Poland. The Tanzanian mines have been in constant production since 1986, and the Polish mine was once the largest chrysoprase mine in Europe.

Chrysoprase is one of the most prized varieties of chalcedony. The stone's beautiful green color makes it desirable by both collectors and jewelers. Samples make nice shelf specimens, and the stone is durable enough to be tumbled, cut and polished into cabochons and beads for jewelry, and carved into decorative objects. In earlier centuries, chrysoprase was used as a luxurious stone for interior decoration. The color can fade in sunlight, but may recover under moist storage.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Richard Hoover | 13 Karen van Bebber |
| 1 Hilde Williams | 15 Kay Jones |
| 5 Allison Kowalczyk | 18 Michael O'Dell |
| 6 Jacob Wydner | 19 Ben Carroll |
| 9 Julie McCullough | 22 Susan Hessler |
| 12 Ray Ferguson | 22 Gene Powers |

Anniversaries

14 Ben & Monika Carroll



March
Aquamarine

April Birthdays

- 4 Anne Deikman
- 11 Leslie Malakowsky
- 19 Thelia DeMoor
- 19 Bill Lokken
- 20 Jan Edmunds
- 23 Bill Friday
- 27 Don Aldridge
- 30 Shirley Bruce

Anniversaries

7 Joe & Sherrie Bonin

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, Angela Mendoza, 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	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month



2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Anthony Zwilling - afzwillig@gmail.com

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

Recording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - 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 - rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com

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

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Membership: Theresa Chivers

wolfson929@gmail.com |

Field Trips: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Hospitality: Mike Harrison

campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton

deemorton@hotmail.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

Facility Administrator: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

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> - new, under construction

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

2023 CALENDAR

- 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
- 13-15 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
- Dec '23 - Christmas Dinner - Date, time, and place to be determined

Deadline for Next Newsletter
April 15, 2023

Dated material
Do not delay

March 2023

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