ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS







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

Volume 55 No. 5 "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock" May 2023

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HGMS Membership Meeting - May 23, 6:00

This Month will feature the first of our HGMS Show and Tell of the year. Members with last initials A-M are invited to bring your favorite three specimens of rock, mineral, jewelry, fossils, or any other treasures you wish to display for the meeting.













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











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04/25/2023 General Meeting

Meeting opened at 6:30 with a city speaker. They will be doing a pressure test on the gas lines in the area during this coming Friday and Saturday. There will be no hot water or HVAC during these tests.

Access to the parking spaces in front of the building are blocked off for the next month or so while the entire parking lot is repaved. We asked if we might get a ramp installed out front of our building during the parking lot paving.

Welcome new members Tom Talty and Michael Sapp

Jim Lacefield's book, Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks is for sale.

No meeting was held last month due to our auction. \$5,622.81 was earned before expenses. Thanks to everyone who helped with their time or donations. We love our volunteers. Thank you, Shelley!

Outreach went to Challenger, Mt Gap and Jones Valley elementary schools. We still have two more schools that need visits.— Martin Luther King Jr./McDonnell Elementaries combined, and Lacey's Spring. Elementary. Please volunteer

No new changes from the board. We should have a meeting coming up soon.

Treasurer's report, Club account is \$13,265. We still have more equipment for sale that could go to the auction totals. Dealer fees are required to hold in the Show Account.

Membership dues will be payable at the show, and the new due date is Dec 31. This will allow us to clear the inactive members from the rolls prior to paying our membership in the Southeastern Federation.

We are considering taking other forms of payments besides only cash and check. There may be a charge for credit card transactions.

RCJ Meets every Wednesday. Please check the website and newsletter for class times. Please RSVP ASAP to make sure a space is saved for you.

Metalsmithing meets every Monday and Thursday. The first Thursday and Following Monday of every month are class days. Next month will be May 1st and 4th. You must be certified to use a torch. Please RSVP for all activities to make sure a space is saved for you.

Lapidary will no longer be held on Tuesday nights. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings are still open from 6-9. We have a new ring saw.

Pebble pups is meeting 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. It will be on crystal formations. In the future we will do some gold panning at the picnic.

Thank you Myra Soroczak for donating the panning equipment and rocks to the HGMS.

About 20 folks went on the field trip to Cathedral Caverns and had a picnic afterwards.

May 20th is the Cumberland furnace field trip in TN. It will be for slag glass. You must RSVP.

Next meeting is May 23rd, 4th Tuesday of the month. Our club picnic will be Saturday June 10th at Monte Sano state park. Please bring your items to sell to other club members at our picnic. We are planning on a potluck.

Please email Leslie if you have a request for the mineral of the month article.

Closing. A drawing was held for the HGMS scholarship fund. The winners are Becky Rollston and Debbie Epperson. First alternate is Matt McCann, second alternate is Kathy Bowman

Our Speaker was John Wild on the benefits of attending William Holland school of Lapidary Arts.

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News



By Leslie Malakowsky
May 2023

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome! **Signups have started for 3rd quarter classes!** (July is for Holiday Preparation!)

Remaining 2nd Quarter Classes:

May 17: Red-White-Blue Cylon Bracelet. Kit cost \$7. (If you signed up for samples, bring an additional .25.) Kit contains 3 sizes of rings. Bring 2 pairs of large and small pair of flat nose pliers.

June 7 & 14: Donut "Fortune's Wheel". Kit cost \$5. Kit contains a 30 mm tiger eye donut, 20g and 24g silver craft wire, and 4mm silver tone beads. (If you have a donut, wire, and/or beads you prefer, bring them!) Bring small flat nose pliers, a 3/8" wood dowel or cherry stick, cutters, and safety glasses, if you have them.

June 21 & 28: Double-Drilled Byzantine (DD Byz) Bracelet. Bring your own double-drilled stone beads and jump rings. Kit contains beading wire, wire guards, crimps, crimp covers, and a clasp. Kit cost varies depending on what you ordered. Bring 2 pairs of small flat nose pliers, crimp pliers, and cutters.

3rd Quarter Classes:



July 5: Layered Metal Earrings, 3rd in series, Sawed Shapes

July 19: Christmas Tree Chainmaille Earrings

Aug 2: Spider Web Pendant and Earrings

Aug 16: Pinecone Chainmaille Earrings

Sep 6: Inlayed Chainmaille Loom Bracelet, design your own, individual orders

Sep 20: Love Knot (aka Fourever) Chainmaille Bracelet, individual orders

Meeting Times/Reservations:

We meet for <u>Classes from 6p-9p on 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Wednesdays. We meet for <u>Make Up from 2p-5p on 2^{nd} , 4^{th} , and 5^{th} Wednesdays. The front doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, you'll need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.</u></u>

Class signups will begin for each respective quarter in: Nov - 1st Quarter, Feb - 2nd Quarter, May - 3rd Quarter, Aug - 4th Quarter. Our classroom holds 16-20 students. Overflow may carry over to our Make Up days. Signup sheets are available at RCJ meetings, or you may contact Theresa Chivers a month before class at: rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com. NOTE: When you sign 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.



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

June Metals Project

May Newsletter Article

Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

June 2023 Class: Tube Set Pendant

Session 1: Thursday, June 1, 2023

Session 2: Monday, June 5, 2023

Note: This is an Intermediate Class. There will be only 6 seats per session

(a total of 12 places) because the number of kits is limited. We will all have to use the 2 available Foredom flex shafts so fewer people per class shortens the wait. (A Dremel is not recommended for use with burs.) The kit will include three 4mm faceted stones, sterling silver tubing, sterling silver wire and 2 burs – a round bur and setting bur. The kit cost will be \$15.

Tube setting a faceted stone is a nice way to accent your pieces. We will be working with CZs which are generally calibrated which will make the process easier—more about that in the class. We will be setting 3 stones in this project so you will have plenty of practice. 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.

If more than 6 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.

<u>Certification/Safety Classes:</u> The next Certification/Safety Class has been *tentatively* scheduled for Monday, <u>July</u>
<u>24.</u> Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages)
<u>to Certifications@wildivystudio.com</u> to get on the list for the next Certification Class. 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.

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

<u>Facebook Users:</u> 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 Jan Edmunds Annie Diekmann

Tools/Equipment Inventory Store Manager Kit Manager

OpeningShelley Curran

Webpage & Social Media Management

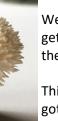
Kathy Bowman

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



Pebble Pups - Thursday April 27, 6:30

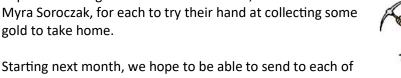
We are still part of the Future Rockhounds of America, and will still be working on the merit badges that they offer. We just changed our name.



We will retrieve our crystals from the shelf at the Education Center and get a chance to see how well they have grown in the month since we started the project.

This month we will be learning about finding gold - where, how, and how it got there in the first place. At the picnic on June 10, we will actually have the equipment, buckets of dirt "loaded" with real gold, and will try our hands at recovering some of this magic metal from the earth. Professional pans and a high banker will be on hand, thanks to Ms.

> Myra Soroczak, for each to try their hand at collecting some gold to take home.



the Pebble Pups your own newsletter, dedicated to the things of interest to kids, with activities, puzzles, craft ideas, and short feature articles. This will give you much more information than we are able to include in this, the primary membership newsletter because of limited space.

And don't forget to bring you "show-and-tell" specimens! And any extra credit projects from past meetings! So come one and all to the most rock-happy fun you can have in an hour! Your Pebble Pups Team





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

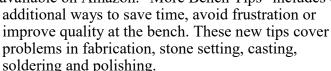














DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid bandaids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.

DRILLING A SMALL STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.





Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone's back surface around the hole.

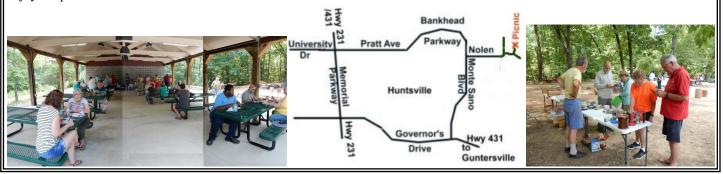


Picnic June 10, 2023, Monte Sano State Park, Biker's Trailhead Pavilion

This year's Picnic and Rock Swap will be **Saturday**, **June 10th** at the "Trailhead Pavilion" in Monte Sano State Park, 5105 Nolen Ave SE, Huntsville, AL 35801. **We'll start gathering at 10am**, and lunch will be delivered at 11:30am. The meal will be Potluck. Members will bring any type food they like - casseroles, salads, desserts, or other goodies. The HGMS will provide the meat, and paperware.

Members are invited to bring their own wares for sale to the gathered revelers, no fee to the HGMS. Bring your own tables and chairs for your sales station.

We usually wrap up about 3pm or 3:30pm., but park hours are 8am - 5pm, so you're welcome to arrive early and/or stay after to enjoy the park.



Bits from around the nation's other Gem & Mineral Newsletters

DENDRITES

What chemical compounds make up dendrites, the black crystalline delicately fernlike patterns that fascinate rock collectors, were deciphered by geochemists Russell Potter and George Rossman of the California Institute of Technology. The text books, it seems, have been wrong all these years. The crystals are too small for standard x-ray diffraction, so the presumption has been that they are formed of the common manganese mineral, pyrolusite. The researchers discerned the true composition by infrared transmission spectroscopy. Dendrites are indeed manganese oxides, but in such crystalline forms as romanechite, hollandite, todorkite and cryptomelane. None of the dendrites were mixtures, but each contained only one form of the mineral. Source: Osage Hills Gems; Via: The Gemrock 2/19

AMBER

Did you know that not a stump of the tree which amber came from remains today? Enough of its parts, the cones, needles and bark, have been preserved in its own resin to earn it a scien-tific name, "pinus succinfera", the amber bearing pine. It was an enormous tree, perhaps 100 feet high, evidenced by hunks of amber that have been found weighing up to 15 kilograms. It was when the trees were damaged by wind or disease that the resin dripped down the bark and spread across the forest floor. Engulfed insects were so perfectly preserved that mil-lions of years later even the hairs on the leg of a fly can be seen under the microscope. Am-ber is not only classed as a fossil but also as an organic gem.

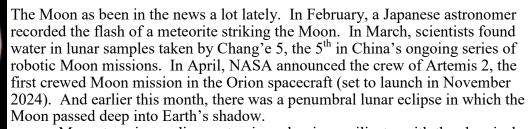
Source: The Roadrunner, Rok-Tok and Osage Hills Gems via: The Gemrock 1/19

Fall Show Yard Signs

There are still many Fall Show yard signs still out. Please return any which you may still have at home to the Education Center or to a Monthly Meeting, 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

Mineral of the Month - Moonstone by Leslie Malakowsky



Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminum silicate, with the chemical formula (Na,K)AlSi₃O₈. (An alternate name for moonstone is *hecatolite*, but I prefer moonstone!) Moonstone is a member of the feldspar group of minerals. It has a pearly opalescent *luster*, that is, the way that light interacts with moonstone's surface causes radiance, glossiness, or brilliance. Feldspars are a group of rock-forming *tectosilicate* minerals that make up as much as 60% of the Earth's crust. Tectosilicates, or "framework silicates," have a three-dimensional framework of silicate tetrahedra with SiO2. Moonstone owes its name to early Romans who believed it was "born" from solidified rays of moon light. Both Romans and Greeks associated moonstone with their lunar deities. In ancient times, people believed they could recognize the crescent and waning phases of the moon in this stone.

The most common moonstone consists of the mineral *adularia*, named for an early mining site near Mt. Adular in Switzerland (now the town of St. Gotthard). Adularia is a low-temperature polymorph (a mineral having more than one form) of orthoclase feldspar occurring as white or colorless glassy prismatic crystals in metamorphic rocks. (Moonstone specimens can also consist of *oligoclase*, a plagioclase feldspar.) Moonstone has an internal microstructure that consists of a regular succession of layers of two kinds of feldspar, *orthoclase* and *albite*. (Orthoclase is an alkali feldspar common in igneous rock. Albite can be either an alkali or a plagioclase feldspar depending on the chemical composition.) These stacked intermingled layers of feldspar occur at a scale near the wavelength of light (about 0.5 micron) and that's what gives moonstone its magical sheen. When light falls between the layers, the light scatters or diffracts in many directions producing an optical phenomenon called *adularescence*, also commonly referred to as *schiller* or *shiller*. Adularescence exists only in the presence of light. That is, it's a result of the interaction between light and the stone's internal microstructure; it's not an inherent property of the stone. The effect is a milky bluish luster (rarely, orange and blue) or glow originating from below the surface of the stone. This glow appears to move as the stone is turned (or as the light source is moved) giving the impression of moonlight floating on water; another reason for moonstone's name.

While it's true that "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock," you'd be hard pressed to find moonstone on the Moon! Moonstone is strictly terrestrial in origin. (It's Florida's state gem, chosen to commemorate lunar landings which launched from the Florida coast. But moonstone doesn't occur naturally in Florida!) Moonstone deposits are found in the United States, especially North Carolina, and worldwide, especially Myanmar, but the classic country of origin is Sri Lanka. Moonstone from Sri Lanka shimmers in pale blue on an almost transparent background. Because of its allure, moonstone has been used in jewelry for centuries. Indian moonstone features a nebulous interplay of light and shadow on a background of beige-brown, green, orange or brown making it an ideal gemstone for jewelry with a sensual appeal. In Europe and the United States, moonstone became popular during the Art Nouveau period (a style of art and architecture most popular during 1890-1910 as exemplified by the jewelry of French goldsmith Rene Lalique), and its popularity continues to-day. Sources: wikipedia.com and The International Colored Gemstone Association (gemstone.org)

May Birthdays

5 Myra Soroczak 25 Maureen Priddy

6 Phil Lester 27 Chris Kalange 14 Joe Bonin 30 Mike Bowman

16 Mike Curran 31 Raymond Tanner

22 Mike Chivers

Anniversaries

1 Deborah & John Wright

6 John & Julie McCullough

17 Gerdy & David Wyatt

18 Mike & Anne Wesley

29 David & Diana O'Dell

June Birthdays

4 Elizabeth Kowalczyk 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

23 Jonathan Kowalczyk

Anniversaries

8 Charlie & Lori Willhoite

9 Jimi & Tonya Sitko

12 Wayne & Polly Falkenberg

13 John & Ivey Cook

19 Michael & Sheila Cape

21 Chris Ross

21 Lawrence & Diana Nelms

29 Caryl & David Nixon



May Emerald

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 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Lapidary 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm [except May]

Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday Lapidary 9:00am - 2:00pm

HGMS Meetings 6:00pm - 8:30pm 4thTuesdays

Wednesday Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks - 6:00pm - 9:00pm Rocket City Jewelers 2nd, 4th, 5th Weeks - 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Thursday Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Metal Smithing 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Pebble Pups 6:30pm 4th Thursdays

Friday Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

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





Pearl

2023 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 - jamesgyack@gmail.com

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:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

 $Shelley \ Curran \hbox{--} \underline{curranshelley 1} \underline{@gmail.com}$

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

rocketcityjewelers@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

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Lzol@comcast.net

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

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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: 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: https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter - new, under construction

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

2023 CALENDAR

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

Deadline for Next Newsletter June 17, 2023



May 2023

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