ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS





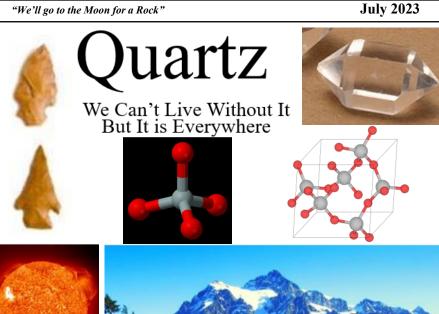


The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 55 No. 7 "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock" July

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











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HGMS General Membership meeting June 27 2023

Meeting opened by President Anthony Zwilling at 6:30. Welcome new members, Amber and Justin Smith.

Please grab a copy of Jim Lacefield's book, Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks - \$30.

June meeting minutes were approved from the May newsletter.

Picnic went well. Pebble pups and a few adults did gold panning.

The Geode cracker is retiring, and a new vendor is taking his place. A sale will be held at his home from his geode stock.

Nashville is having a Gem and Mineral show that is new to their club. It is this weekend.

Clara did not make it for the treasure's report, but there is about \$12000 balance in the club acct.

Theresa did not make it for membership info.

RCJ (Rocket City Jewelers) please see the newsletter.

Metalsmithing, please see the newsletter.

July 24th is the next certification class. Make sure you email Kathy Bowman.

Pebble Pups program was about origins and extraction by gold panning. They will pan for gold on a future field trip.

Nothing new in Lapidary until they fix the HVAC.

We may have a power outage soon. The city is waiting on a part for the electricians.

The next meeting is July 25th.

The fall show is 15 weeks away. We will need volunteers for every position.

Tonight's speaker Dr. Naveen Vetcha's program is on the James Webb Space Telescope.

Meeting was closed at 7:47.

Submitted by James Yack, Recording Secretary

Huntsville Madison County Studio 60 Senior Center

CAS IN ON GHT

Aug 19 6-10pm



WHEN: Saturday, August 18th, 6:00 to 10:pm
WHERE:The Royal at Stovehouse
3414 Governors Drive SW, Huntsville

Tickets:Senior View.com
Catering Bubba's Silver Spoon

Wine Pull - Whiskey Draw - Craft Beer Sampling

TICKETS at 2200 Drake Ave SW, 35805 ~or~ http://bidpal.net/hsvcasinonight

to benefit programs of Huntsville STUDIO 60 Senior Center



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

August 2023 Class: "Love Knot" Tension Bracelet

▶Note Change in Thursday Date to the 2nd Thursday. (August only)

Session 1: Monday, August 7, 2023

Session 2: Thursday, August 10, 2023

The project this month is a tension bracelet with a modified "Love Knot" as the centerpiece. The bracelet band is attached to one loop at the top and the other end is hooked into the opposite loop of the Love Knot. The bracelet is held closed by the tension of the bracelet band. The bracelet is sized and shaped so that the bracelet does not turn, and the center piece stays on top of the wrist. The kits will be your choice of copper or bronze. The kit cost for the class is TBD at this point.



There are two versions of bracelet pictured. You can make either size. The small bracelet pictured is made with 14 ga round wire with an 8 mm round stone is set in a premade cup with a 10 ga HR wire band and is a bit easier because of the premade cup. The larger one is constructed from 14 ga square wire with a 12x10 cabochon. The band is 8 ga HR copper. If you choose to make the larger bracelet, you will need to construct a bezel cup to fit a larger stone.

The sign-up sheet for the class 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 you sign up for the class and cannot attend, please be considerate and notify the instructors as soon as possible so that if someone is on the wait list, they can attend in your place.

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

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. Our 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 Shelley Curran Jan Edmunds Annie Diekmann **Opening**

Shelley Curran/Kathy Bowman

Kathy Bowman

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



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

By Leslie Malakowsky July 2023

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome! If you still haven't finished your "Fortune's Wheel" Donut Pendant or Sawed Shapes Earrings, please bring them to the next Make Up day, Wed., July 26th, from 2p-5p.

3rd Ouarter Classes:

Unless otherwise indicated, all kits are \$5.



July 19: Christmas Tree Chainmaille Earrings. Weave tree trunks in 2x2 chain using brown rings, attach branches (green rings), ornaments (multi-color rings), stars (silver or gold), and earring findings. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters.

Aug 2: Spider Web Pendant and Earrings. Weave a spider web using copper wire. Make a spider using copper wire and black beads, and attach it to the web. Make 2 more spiders and attach earring findings. Bring plastic jaw pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters.

Aug 16: Pinecone Chainmaille Earrings. Make pinecones in the Dragonscale weave using Enameled Copper (EC) rings, and attach wrapped loops and earring findings. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters.

Sep 6: Inlayed Chainmaille Loom Bracelet. Make a bracelet in the Euro 4-in-1 weave using a loom. Design your own pattern and order your own jump rings ahead of time. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers. You can borrow a loom to use in class or purchase a loom from Judy.

Sep 20: Love Knot Chainmaille Bracelet. Make a bracelet in the Love Knot weave using copper jump rings. Order your own jump rings ahead of time. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers. You can add a personalized heart charm to your bracelet. Stamps, hammers, and bench blocks provided.

Meeting Times/Reservations:

We meet for <u>Classes from 6p-9p on 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Wednesdays.</u> We meet for <u>Make Up from 2p-5p on 2^{nd} , 4^{th} , and 5^{th} Wednesdays.</u>

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

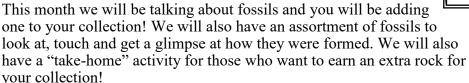
Class signups will begin for each respective quarter in: Nov - 1st Quarter, Feb - 2nd Quarter, May - 3rd Quarter, Aug - 4th Quarter. Our classroom holds 16-20 students. Overflow may carry over to our Make Up days. Signup sheets are available at RCJ meetings, or you may contact Theresa Chivers a month before class at: <u>rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com</u>. Include your name, contact info, and class(es) you want. 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.

Pebble Pups - Thursday April 27, 6:30

Calling all Pebble Pups!

Come to the Sandra Moon Education Complex on July 27th Pebble Pups meeting at 6:30 for our monthly meeting. In case you are a first timer, it is located at 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville in the old Grissom High School Field

House.



For those who were not able to attend last month's meeting, we talked about gold, silver and other metals used for monetary exchange and their many other uses.

And if you attended the picnic and the June meeting, you have earned the Gold Prospecting badge! I hope to have them to give out at the meeting! I will have a worksheet for those who attended the picnic but missed

We also have the opportunity to enter a photo contest for the Southeast Federation Mineral Societies. It will be a contest where the winner's picture will be displayed on the SFMS website on the officer's page displaying the year. It must depict the year 2024 clearly; it must contain items related to the hobby such as rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, lapidary items. The image must be a least 1200 pixels across. If it is taken with a cellphone, the phone should be held horizontally, not vertically, to maximize the resolution. See the photo below to see what was used for this this year. There can be only one (maybe two) entries per club so we will have an internal contest for our club. But if your photo is submitted for use on the SFMS level, your photo will be displayed in the website gallery for the whole year of 2024! We will discuss more at the meeting.

So "Rock On" and don't forget to bring a favorite rock to the meeting for "Show & Tell".

Your Pebble Pups Team:

Mike, Dee Dee, Angela and Bill

the meeting so you two can earn your badge!













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.



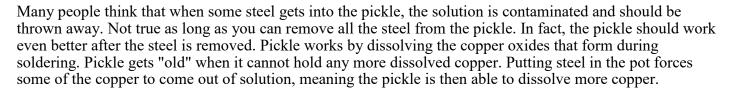
BURNISHING BEZELS

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.



Avoiding Buffer Mess

Buffing is one of the dirtier operations in jewelry making. If you work inside your home, buffer mess from lint and polish can be a problem. One solution is to buy a dust-collecting system, but they can be large and expensive. I have a practical—and, I think, a more economical—approach. I use the the 3-M Radial Bristle Disc system, specifically the 2-inch or 3-inch-diameter, 6-ply wheels. The blue disc (400 grit) does a nice job at prepolishing, the peach (6 micron) begins the polishing, and the lightgreen (1 micron) finishes it well. You'll like the way these discs reduce the amount of dust and lint caused by buffing, and a side benefit is that you don't have to wash off any waxy grime between grit levels. Wheels can be mounted on a regular buffer or

on an old motor from a yard sale using a tapered spindle adaptor. They can also be used in a Foredom with a ¼-inch shaft mandrel that matches the ¼-inch hole size in the brushes.

You can get a large set of small wheels from JETS in California for \$26.75 at <a href="https://jetsinc.com/polishing-and-finishing/radial-bristle-discs/assortment-bristle-

discs/3m-3-4-radial-bristle-disc-assortment-18-pcs-set/





Mineral of the Month – Wavellite

By Leslie A. Malakowsky



Wavellite is a phosphate mineral with the formula Al₃(PO₄)₂(OH, F)₃5H₂O. It typically occurs in spectacular translucent green spherical or radial clusters or pinwheels emanating from central cores in ball-shaped spherules. Other crystal forms include botryoidal, stalactic and acicular. Single long, prismatic crystals are rare. Wavellite can also be yellowish-green, yellow, greenish white, yellowish-brown, brown, brownish-black, blue, white and colorless (in transmitted light). This classic radial mineral is a member of the Wavellite group of Phosphate minerals. Phosphate minerals are characterized by (PO₄)³⁻

tetrahedra. Arsenic, vanadium, chlorine, fluorine and hydroxide also fit into this crystal structure.

Wavellite was first described by Dr. Wm. Wavell (1750-1829, a British physician and naturalist) for an occurrence he discovered in Devon, England. In 1805, Dr. Wm. Babington (1756-1833, a British physician and mineralogist), named this mineral wavellite in honor of Dr. Wavell, who was the first person to bring it to the attention of the scientific community.



This mineral occurs with crandallite and variscite in fractures in aluminum-rich metamorphic rock, in hydrothermal regions, and in phosphate rock deposits. Other

associated minerals include quartz, limonite, and muscovite. Prehnite is sometimes confused with wavellite, but prehnite is harder, and it occurs in different environments than wavellite. Smithsonite is sometimes confused with wavellite, too, but smithsonite effervesces in hydrochloric acid, and smithsonite occurs in different environments than wavellite, as well.

Wavellite is found in a wide variety of locations, most notably in Arkansas in the Ouachita Mountains. This area is known for the classic green radial form of the mineral. Specific localities include Dug Hill and Hot Springs in Garland Co. and Mauldin Mt. and Mt. Ida in Montgomery Co. Bright yellow and green spherical wavellite are found in Pennsylvania and a deep green form is found in California. There are also good localities in Germany and Ireland.



Wavellite makes a nice shelf specimen for mineral collectors. It's sometimes used as a gemstone in jewelry making and cut and polished into decorative objects.

Interestingly, wavellite is considered the second best-known collectable mineral in Arkansas, quartz being the first. So, if you're travelling anywhere near the Quachita Mountains this summer, maybe you'll channel The Beach Boys and "catch a wave"llite specimen for your collection! Have fun!

References: wikipedia.org, minerals.net, mindat.org, gemdat.org



Touch a meteorite from outer space. Climb to the top of Big Tree. Be mesmerized by moon jellies. Build a volcano and watch it erupt. Life is

AMAZING at Cook Museum! 133 4th Ave NE Decatur, AL 35601

The 62,000 square foot Cook Museum offers an interactive immersion into North American Biomes, from deserts to oceans, to arctic tundra to hardwood forests. Each exhibit is a part of a narrative explaining how the

natural world works. Key features of the new Museum include: Educational programs, live animals & aquariums, mounted wildlife from across North America, collections of rocks minerals, shells & coral, native plant landscaping, Nature's Table café with outdoor patio, three classrooms, and Museum Store. https://www.cookmuseum.org/



Area Shows

6-9 August: Franklin, NC

Gem & Lapidary Wholesale Trade Show https://glwshows.com/

Show Hours: Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm, Sunday 9am-3pm 6295 Sylva Road Franklin, NC.

Sept 1-3, 2023 IRONDALE, AL: Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; NEW VENUE! Irondale Civic Ctr (former Zamora Shrine Temple), 3521 Ratliff Rd., Irondale, AL 35210; Friday & Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Adults: \$5; Teens: \$3; 12 & under: FREE. More info: amlsgemshow@gmail.com; https://www.facebook.com/events/1307348173327314/

10/20-22/2023—KNOXVILLE, TN: The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5;

The Gem Show is open to the public. Admission fee \$8/day for adults or \$15/whole show;

children under 12 are admitted free. Website http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/

4-7 September: Hendersonville, NC, Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society

"Gems and Minerals of Brazil"

Show Hours: Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 12am-5pm

Whitmore Center, 310 Lily Pond Drive, Hendersonville, NC.

Exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, hourly door prizes, and refreshments

Admission: \$4 adults, free for children under 12 accompanied by a paid adult

11-13 September: Winston-Salem, NC, Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club

"Gems and Minerals of Brazil"

Show Hours: Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 12am-5pm Winston-Salem Fairgrounds-Educational Bldg, Gate 9 – off 27th Street.

28 dealers, educational exhibits, demonstrations, and special presentations on the minerals of Brazil.

Admission: \$3 adults, free for children

Our Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show is now only 3 months away.

We will be recruiting Activity Leaders at the July Meeting, and these will begin recruiting helpers for all Show scheduled times.

Reminder — Membership Dues will become collectible starting at the Show, and will be due by December 31. This change is put in place to make it easier and less costly for us to maintain our association with the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, which among other benefits is how we get to attend Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips and our Insurance Coverage.

Please consider signing up for one of these opportunities and let Bill Friday know your plans.

Thanks 256-527-8227

July Birthdays

2 Katherine Allen 12 Kathryn McCullough

3 Doug Snodgrass 18 Abigail Inman

3 Jelcie Southard 19 Kristi Kazi

6 Isaac Burgess 19 Stacy Walbridge

6 Ken McCormick 25 C.G. Lester 9 Liz Cooper 26 Clara Goode

27 Angela Kowalczyk 9 Brant Kosten 12 Lucy Allen 30 Bruce Kowalczyk

Anniversaries

3 Jim & Bonnie Treadway

11 David & Nancy Hosmer

12 Josh & Amy Peeples 28 Steve & Sheila Tesh

31 Stacy & Kathi Walbridge



July Ruby

August Birthdays

2 Lawrence Nelms 24 Brian Allen 4 Brooks Glover 28 Evan O'Dell

14 Emma Snodgrass 28 Jerry Osmundson

18 Will Bryan 29 John Wright

19 Jimi Sitko 31 Woody Chamberlain

23 Gordon Jones

1 Clara & Mike Goode

3 Brian & Karen Allen

4 Florence Mims

9 Lowell & Betty Zoller

28 Anita Bynum

Anniversaries



August Peridot

31 Becky Rollston

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

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

Lapidary: Bill Friday, James Yack, 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/Silver 5:00pm - 9:00pm

> Lapidary 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm

6:00pm - 9:00pm Lapidary

Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm Lapidary

> **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

Lapidary Thursday 6:00pm - 9:00pm Metal Smithing/Silver 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



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 - <u>jamesgyack@gmail.com</u>

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

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

Directors:

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, <a href="mailto:length:

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

<u>claragoode1@comcast.net</u> 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: 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

2023-24 CALENDAR

- 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 Jan '24 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Feb '24 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 Mar '24 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter August 12, 2023



July 2023

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