

# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 55 No. 12

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

December 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2024 Board & Officers .....	2
Art School Scholarship Winners ....	2
Dues Reminder - Due Now .....	2
November Meeting Minutes .....	3
Nov Board Meeting Minutes .....	4
Rocket City Jewelers .....	5
Metalsmithing Corner .....	6
Mineral of the Month .....	6
Pebble Pups .....	7
Brad's Bench Tips .....	8
Dec/Jan Birthdays .....	9
Activity Schedule.....	9
Executive Board & Committees.....	10
Calendar.....	11



**Web Page - [www.huntsvillegms.org/](http://www.huntsvillegms.org/) email - [hsvgems@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 2024 Officer and Board Elections were held at the November meeting.

President is elected for one term, with a maximum of 2 terms. The others are all elected for one term but may be re-elected without limit on terms.

President - Mike Harrison

Board - Les Bartel

Vice President - Shelley Curran

Board - Doug Blakeslee

Secretary - James Yack

Board - Theresa Chivers

Treasurer - Clara Goode

Board - Gene Powers

Anthony Zwilling - Ex Officio as Past President

Newsletter Editor - Bill Friday

### Reminder — Membership Dues became due starting at the Show, and the cutoff will be Dec 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. SFMS fees are based on membership by Dec 31, so members who haven't paid by Dec 31 will not have insurance coverage for HGMS activities.

Thanks, Theresa Chivers - Membership Chair [rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com](mailto:rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com)

The winners of the HGMS Art School Scholarships for 2024 are: Matt McCann and Linda Sue Reed. First alternate is Kathy Bowman and second alternate is Devon Weatherford. Please check out the classes for William Holland <https://lapidaryschoolregistration.org/classes/classes-link/> and Wildacres <https://wildacres.org/facilities/>

### Why might you consider attending William Holland or Wildacres during the SFMS Week?

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) sponsors weeklong classes at the William Holland Retreat in Young Harris GA and Wildacres at Little Switzerland NC.

This year Wm Holland SFMS week will be June 2-8, 2024. Here is a link to the  class listing for that week. <https://www.sfmshworkshops.org/william-holland-classes>

However, William Holland School is open from April through November, and here is a catalog for all of their offerings.

<https://79580759.flowpaper.com/CatalogFinalDec3/#page=1>

Similarly SFMS will sponsor two separate weeks at Wildacres, **August 12-18** & **August 12-18**

<https://www.sfmshworkshops.org/wildacres-classes>

The question above was asked to Rick Marshall, Director of Wm Holland. and here is his answer. |

Thank you for bringing this to my attention and for forwarding it to the members of the Huntsville Club. I hope this will help, I think it will. This information is in the SFMS newsletter Lodestar, which you can download and read all recent issues from the website <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter> Please check out the Lodestar newsletters <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter>

SFMS week is different from the normal weeks at William Holland. During SFMS Weeks top priority is given to members of the SFMS. SFMS members are scheduled before anyone else. That makes it easier to schedule the class you want! In fact, you are encouraged to suggest classes for the next year in order to secure the best instructors possible.

It could really benefit each club to have as many members as possible attend. This is an excellent opportunity for members to refresh their skills or learn new ones to prepare them to teach classes in the club!

Since this week is designed for SFMS members, everyone there has something in common. Friendships are made that last a lifetime. While one way to establish those friendships is in the classroom, another is through the social activities during the week. There are evening activities that include demonstrations, an auction and tailgating. Suggestions for additional activities are welcome.

Remember, SFMS Weeks at either William Holland or Wildacres are designed for your club. They are fun and educational. Think of them as Summer Camp for Adults. Come join us!



## November 28, 2023 General Meeting

The meeting was held at the Studio 60 Senior Center since the Education Center was still not available in time. The Education Center will be available for regular activity scheduled starting December 4<sup>th</sup>.

We welcomed first time attendees Ashley Pool, Daniel Hudson, Mathew and Maxwell Sager, Christie Willingham, and Laurence Baudry. New members who joined at the meeting are and Lindsay and Yvonne Hamilton.

Patches are for sale if you would like to purchase one. We also have name tags. Please see Anthony for patches, and Judy Osmundson to purchase the name tags. Jim Lacefield's book "Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks" is available for sale at \$30, which is better pricing than you will find online.

3. Minutes from our last meeting in September were approved as printed in the newsletter.

4. The 2024 Board Members are: Mike Harrison - President. Shelley Curran - Vice President, Clara Goode - Treasurer, Bill Friday – Newsletter Editor, and James Yack – Interim Secretary. Gene Powers, Les Bartel, Doug Blakeslee, and Theresa Chivers are the Board Members at Large.

5. Board meeting will be next Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>. Lessons learned from the show and budget talks.

6. Treasurer's report has \$14,667 in the checking. The show has \$14,950 spendable. \$5,398 is taxes to be paid for the Show Vendors, \$12,000 is held back for possible Show cancellation in 2024. The show brought in \$3,291.

7. Membership has 106 memberships that have not renewed. Please make sure dues are paid for the next year by Dec 31. All unpaid memberships will be dropped on Jan 1, so we are not paying club SFMS fees on them.

8. RCJ is back in business. Please read the newsletter for times and dates. You must RSVP to classes. There are no certificates needed for classes, but you must RSVP. The classes fill up fast.

9. Metalsmithing: Please read the newsletter for times and dates. You must be certified with a torch to participate in most of the metalsmithing classes. The next torch certification class will be in January.

10. Lapidary lab has one saw that needs repair.

11. Pebble Pups will meet in November at the Senior Center on Nov 30. The Pups meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month but will not have a meeting in December. Meetings start back in January.

12. The show had another successful year, and we are looking forward to next year. The food truck did very well, and we hope they will be the food vendor for our auction.

13. The winners of the Art class scholarship are Matt McCann and Linda Sue Reed. First alternate is Kathy Bowman and second alternate is Devon Weatherford. Please check out the classes for William Holland and Wildacres Classes.

14. Christmas dinner meeting will be at Carrabba's in Parkway City, Huntsville, on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. A gift exchange is voluntary for those who wish to participate.

Meeting closed at 7:14pm

Bill Friday presented a program on fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals.

## December 5, 2023 HGMS Board meeting

Meeting started at 6:30 by President Anthony Zwilling. In attendance were Bill Friday, Clara Goode, James Yack, Shelley Curran, Gene Powers, Les Bowers, Theresa Chivers, Mike Harrison, and Dianna O'Dell,

Net income for the Fall Show was appx \$3,200. Previous shows have been appx \$3,000. Clara needs to get with Lowell and review the numbers.

Possible improvements for the show:

A case of water needed on the set-up days.

We need to find extra UV bulbs or purchase new light fixtures. There are many problems with the older lamps and power supplies, an upgrade would be recommended.

Potentially the Ben E. Clement show next summer may be able to help with the costs. Anthony will be the contact for this trip.

For the Fossil dig we should have a poster of the possible finds within the dig.

Water Fountain did not work at the Jaycee's and the restrooms. Need better maintenance through the entire day.

Work stations should have schedules for the volunteers so we will know who will be at workstations at the correct time.

We need a volunteer coordinator.

We could have email notification set up to inform the public well ahead about our big upcoming events. A list of potential recipients will be collected at each Show

Our advertising needs some improvement. We need an advertising coordinator. We should reach out to the news outlets such as The Tennessee Valley News. We need social media presence. Christy Willingham is hopeful to help Diana O'Dell with our Facebook profile.

If we book the billboards a year plus in advance, we should be able to get better visibility. We should get a space in Senior Living Magazine.

We need a new show chair coordinator. Tony is tired, Lowell is training Jan as Volunteer Chair, but we will need more help.

The Geo-Cracker guy did not have a good presence. We may move or shift around vendors, but this would need to be discussed with Lowell and the vendors.

Potentially we could have a vendor food order form to help them when they cannot go away for meals.

Do we need to have a counterfeit bill checker? Probably not.

Pebble pups get to keep the money they made on their Wheel of Rocks from the Show. We did better with the raffle this year due to engaging the public more. There needs to be a door prize and raffle coordinator. We should suggest to Tony about having a minimum value amount expected from donations for our door prizes.

We should have more rock slabs for sale. Brian Burgess may be able to be a vendor for working stones instead of only jewelry and specimens.

Rumor is we may have some new vendors next year trying to mix up offerings. We have a long waiting list..

If the individual activities don't spend their money by the end of the year, it goes back to the general fund. Clara will send out a first draft of the 2024 Budget and all the individual activities need to add any modifications they may need. There is no practical limit on how much money can be carried over from year to year in the club account. We have approximately \$8-9 thousand in show fund that can be used for projects.

The Fluorescent room needs upgrade. Suggest use a pop-up frame to be donated by Dianna O'Dell and cover it with custom fit black cloth.

2024 is the last year for Clara to be our treasurer. She has been organizing to make the transition easier when the time comes. We need another person on the checking account. The board voted unanimously that Theresa will be added to the club's checking account. This will be done in January.

Square has a way to link the HGMS for current and new members to make payments online through their site. We would charge the fee from Square to the new member. The biggest problem Theresa has is whether she can document the members' names to make sure they get on the membership list. It is expected that Square will allow us to use a custom form for our club memberships. This may start to be implemented next year after more discussions.

Potential discussion on where we are to have our board meetings. Should we have more board meetings? Most folks like the thought of having board meetings once a month after the general meeting. The board meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm





## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

### December 2023

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome! No certification is required, but experience using jewelry tools is a plus. Going forward, **all classes/meetings will be in our room at the Ed Cntr.** There will be **no classes/meetings December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.** Happy Holidays!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 classes are listed below. To sign up for a class, please email Theresa at [rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com](mailto:rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com) a **month before class**. Include your name, contact info, and the class(es) you want.

The **Christmas Party** will be at **5:30 on Dec 13th** at La Alameda Mexican Restaurant, 311 Jordan Lane NW, across from Burger King. Please bring a \$15 exchange gift.



#### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 Classes:



**Jan 3 and 17: 6 – 9p: GSG Chainmaille Bracelet class and make up.**

**Jan 10 and 24: 2 – 5p: GSG Chainmaille Bracelet class and make up.**

Make a bracelet in the GSG (Great Southern Gathering) chainmaille weave.

**Note:** Because the Twisted Metal Earrings class was moved to February 2024, the Woven Wrapped Crystal Pendant class has been rescheduled for April 2024.

**Feb 7 and 21: 6 – 9p: Twisted Metal Earrings class and make up**

**Feb 14 and 28: 2 – 5p: Twisted Metal Earrings class and make up**

Make a pair of metal earrings in copper and nickel. Choose your own style. Bring your own beads, if desired. Bring chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters.

**Mar 6 and 20: 6 – 9p: Ginko Bead Bracelet class and makeup.**

**Mar 13 and 27: 2 – 5p: Ginko Bead Bracelet class and makeup.**

Weave a bracelet of blue “ginko” beads and small silver beads.





Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

Metals will be meeting back at the Ed Center now that the power is restored. We will meet on Thursday nights December 14 and 21. December 21st will be our last open studio for this year, we'll start back up on January 4th, 2024.



CONTINUATION of the PANEL BRACELET

January 4th & 8th, 5-9:00 pm

This month picked up where we left off in October and fabricate the bracelet. We'll learn a new type of connection and clasp.

Project cost will depend on materials used. At this writing a strip of 6x.5" of 22g sterling at market price is \$12.80. You May wish to use more or less. Please allow for wire, clasp material, and any other design elements you'll need. Please let me know which session you'd like.

Updates on the January certification class can be found on our Facebook page, HGMS Metalsmithing Group

**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

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.**

Mineral of the Month – Flowstone "Bacon" *Leslie Malakowsky*



This month's mineral was chosen in honor of National Bacon Day on December 30<sup>th</sup> (apologies, vegetarians). This article is short and well, salty because it focuses on a specific type of cave formation known as cave "bacon".

Speleothems are mineral deposits that form gradually over time in natural caves due to water seepage through native rock. (The name speleothem comes from the ancient Greek words *spēlaion* meaning "cave" and *thēma* meaning "deposit".) More than 300 variations of speleothems have been identified. Many factors influence their shape and color such as the chemical composition of the rock and water, water seepage rate, water flow direction, cave temperature, cave humidity, and so on. The majority of speleothems are calcareous (composed of the calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) minerals calcite or aragonite). They result from water seeping through rocks composed of limestone or dolomite and dissolving the carbonate.



Flowstone is one of the most common types of speleothems. Other types include dripstone (stalactites and stalagmites, for example) and cave crystals. Flowstones are sheetlike deposits of carbonate minerals that form where water flows down cave walls or along cave floors. "Drapery" or "curtains" are thin, wavy sheets of calcite that hang downward. Cave "bacon" is drapery that consists of various colored bands. The presence of iron oxide or copper creates a reddish brown color, while manganese oxide, mud, or silt creates dark brown or black colors.



*Cave onyx* is a term used to describe various types of flowstone that are considered desirable for making decorative objects. This term originated in the Tennessee-Alabama-Georgia area and the Ozarks in the 19th century to name calcite flowstone with banding that resembles true onyx. There are a number of caves in the United States where cave bacon and cave onyx occur. In the South, the main locations are Mammoth Cave, Great Onyx Cave (in Mammoth Cave National Park), Crystal Onyx Cave, and Onyx Cave; all in Kentucky.

References: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [mindat.org](http://mindat.org), [britannica.com](http://britannica.com), [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) (National Park Service), [virginiaplaces.org](http://virginiaplaces.org)





### Pebble Pups - Thursday January 25, 6:30 - at the Education Center

Hello to all the Pebble Pups and their parents!  
Wow! We had an awesome year!



We studied Coprolite in January, Amethyst in February, caves in March with a trip to Cathedral Caverns in April, crystals also in April, pearls in May, Gold in June with panning at the picnic, fossils in July, fluorescents in August, the show display and sharks teeth in September, no meeting in October and wire wrapping and Desert Roses in November! Which leads me to the prospect of an even bigger program line-up in 2024! We also had quite a few Pups earn the AFMS Future Rockhound badges or made great strides toward their badges! We will continue to tailor our programs towards earning those badges so buckle up and hang on, we are going to do great things in 2024!



But we need your help. Let me or one of the other Pebble Pups leaders know what you want to do and we will do our best to fit it into the schedule.

Also, we will not meet in December except with the adults at the annual Christmas Dinner (see this issue of the Newsletter for details). We will meet again starting on January 25th and then every 4th Thursday thru October of 2024 with alternate dates for November and possibly December 2024.

If you are half as excited as I am about Pup Power in 2024, I know that you will make every effort to make every meeting and add to your mineral, gem and fossil collection!

Your Pebble Pups Team

Mike Harrison (me), Angela Mendoza, Dee Dee Morton. Theresa Chivers, and Bill Friday

Fun at our November Meeting—Jewelry Making, Studying Barite Mineral, and Fossil Making  
Very many Future Rockhounds Badges were awarded for accomplishments by our very active group.



## Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com) For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. **The Reluctant Farmer of Whimsey Hill is a true, warm, and**



**often funny love story of my early marriage and dealing with my wife's quirky animals on a rural Virginia farm. Sometimes it seems like everything with four legs is out to get me. [The Reluctant Farmer](#) makes a great Christmas gift.**



**See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems**

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

## TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like [cooltools.us/](http://cooltools.us/) and [kingsleynorth.com/](http://kingsleynorth.com/) sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.



One example is the brass template in the image that let's me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

## TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various metals:

- . Fine silver . . . . . Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver . . . . . Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel . . . . . Gray-green
- . Copper . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
- . Steel . . . . . Black
- . Stainless Steel . . . . . No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.



## December Birthdays

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Riley Laurendine | 6 Rebecca Snodgrass |
| 1 Tammy McGuire    | 10 Ronald Woosley   |
| 1 Judy Osmundson   | 12 Kathy Bowman     |
| 1 James Yack       | 13 Randy Kent       |
| 4 Florence Mims    | 14 Shelley Curran   |
| 4 Elijah Brown     | 19 Karen Allen      |
| 5 Bonnie Mullen    | 22 Jersey Sitko     |
| 6 Lynn Peete       | 23 David Wyatt      |
| 6 Becky Rollston   | 26 Bob Kemper       |
| 6 Kim Rost         | 31 Nicole Arsenault |



December Zircon

## January Birthdays

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Steve Tesh          | 14 Susie McGaha       |
| 4 Wayne Hall          | 18 Amy Peeples        |
| 7 Anita Bynum         | 20 Karen Marsh        |
| 7 Rebecca Johnson     | 20 Betty Zoller       |
| 7 Daniel Peeples      | 21 Lowell Zoller      |
| 8 Susan Lowman        | 22 Mike Wesley        |
| 9 Brian Burgess       | 23 Isabel Leon y Leon |
| 10 Natalyn Osipycheva | 23 Avery Snodgrass    |
| 10 Brittany Stoner    | 26 Kyla Harris        |
|                       | 30 Sherry Cantrell    |

## Anniversaries

- 1 Christie Willingham
- 3 Josh & Amy Peeples



January Garnet

### **DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, THIS SCHEDULE WILL RESUME IN JANUARY**

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

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



## 2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Anthony Zwillling - [afzwilling@gmail.com](mailto:afzwilling@gmail.com)

Vice President - Bill Friday - [bill.Friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.Friday@earthlink.net)

Secretary: James Yack - [jamesgyack@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgyack@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Clara Goode - [claragoode1@comcast.net](mailto:claragoode1@comcast.net)

Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - [bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

Past President: Mike Harrison - [campcraft.mike@gmail.com](mailto:campcraft.mike@gmail.com)

Directors:

Gene Powers - [genepowersgddm@gmail.com](mailto:genepowersgddm@gmail.com)

Les Bartel - [lester.bartel@gmail.com](mailto:lester.bartel@gmail.com)

Shelley Curran - [curranshelley1@gmail.com](mailto:curranshelley1@gmail.com)

Theresa Chivers - [rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com](mailto:rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com)

## 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape

[macape@knology.net](mailto:macape@knology.net)

Program Chair—Bill Friday

[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

[lmalakowsky@gmail.com](mailto:lmalakowsky@gmail.com)

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

[curranshelley1@gmail.com](mailto:curranshelley1@gmail.com)

Membership: Theresa Chivers

[rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com](mailto:rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com)

Field Trips: Bill Friday

[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net)

Hospitality: Mike Harrison

[campcraft.mike@gmail.com](mailto:campcraft.mike@gmail.com)

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton

[deemorton@hotmail.com](mailto:deemorton@hotmail.com)

Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095.

[TimsFord08@comcast.net](mailto:TimsFord08@comcast.net)

Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803

[Lzol@comcast.net](mailto:Lzol@comcast.net)

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

[tsmith@erc-incorporated.com](mailto:tsmith@erc-incorporated.com)

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

[claragoode1@comcast.net](mailto:claragoode1@comcast.net)

Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

[Lzol@comcast.net](mailto:Lzol@comcast.net)

Facility Administrator: Bill Friday

[bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm)

# 2024 CALENDAR

- 23 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
- 23 Mar '24 - HGMS Rock Auction Fund Raiser  
Details as available - Please Donate items
- 23 Apr '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 28 May '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 8 Jun '24 - Annual HGMS Picnic - Monte Sano State Park - Details as available
- 25 June '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 23 July '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Aug '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 24 Sep '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter  
January 14, 2024

**Dated material**  
**Do not delay**

December 2023

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