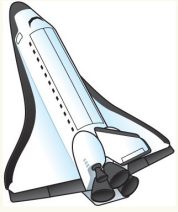


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 56 No. 1

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

January 2024

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HGMS January 23 Membership Meeting 6:00pm  
 Joe & Carrie Staton will give us a first-hand report on what to find in the Southwest Winter Rock Shows, where to find it, and how to efficiently acquire treasures, including sales opportunities and field trips around the area, maps, tips, and experiences. Just in time for the start of the Season!



Tucson, AZ

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



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Welcome all to 2024! What a year of opportunities are before us! I take this position as your President very seriously and please reach out to me with any question, concern, suggestion or Dad Joke. I think I speak for all of the 2024 Board Members, we are here to make 2024 the best year ever! My Vice-President, Shelley Curran, with the help of Bill Friday, will be putting together some awesome programs for the monthly meetings. Mark your "Save The Date" for June 22nd as we have reserved the Trailhead Pavilion on Monte Sano for the annual picnic. More on that later.

### Mineral of the Month – Bloodstone

By Leslie A. Malakowsky



This month's mineral was inspired by National Blood Donor month every January. Blood donations typically decline during the colder winter months, so now's a great time to donate if you're able.

Bloodstone is a semi-transparent to opaque, medium to dark green chalcedony containing iron-oxide inclusions, especially hematite, as red, yellow and/or brown splatters, stripes or veins. Spotty red inclusions are said to resemble drops of blood, hence the name *bloodstone*. (Readers may see the name *heliotrope*, an old name for bloodstone that is still widely used.) There's even a variety of bloodstone called *plasma* that is dullish green with yellow inclusions.

Bloodstone has a hardness of 6.5 – 7 and a waxy to semi-vitreous luster. It also occurs in greenish-blue, gray and grayish-green. These color variations are caused by impurities such as chlorite, amphibole and pyroxene inclusions. But it's the deep forest green and the red spots of "classic" bloodstone that are its most defining and desirable characteristics.



All varieties of chalcedony, including bloodstone, are members of the quartz group of tectosilicates. (*Tectosilicate* minerals have a three-dimensional framework of silicate tetrahedra in their crystal structure.) Other varieties of chalcedony include the familiar agate, aventurine, carnelian, chrysoprase and onyx.

The most significant sources of bloodstone in the United States are in California in the Amargosa mountain range (Inyo County) and the Cascade mountain range (Siskiyou County). Internationally, the main source of bloodstone is the Purbalingga district of Indonesia.

The name *heliotrope* comes from the Greek words *hēlios*, meaning "Sun", and *trépein*, meaning "to turn", interpreted as "sun turner". Linguists believe that this name is derived from various ancient notions about the manner in which the mineral reflects light. "Pliny the Elder", a Roman author and naturalist (AD 23-79), described these properties in his book Natural History, which later became a model for the modern encyclopedia.

Bloodstone is a beautiful mineral for making jewelry and decorative objects. For example, it's formed into beads, cabochons, faceted gemstones, small sculptures, paper weights and spheres. Bloodstone is also the traditional birthstone for March (the contemporary birthstone is aquamarine).

References: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [mindat.org](http://mindat.org), [minerals.net](http://minerals.net)

## No December Membership Meeting, so No Minutes

### 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 was 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 nor receive a newsletter. Thanks, Theresa Chivers - Membership Chair [rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com](mailto:rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com)

### 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.sfmshkshops.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.sfmshkshops.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!





## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News

January 2024

Happy New Year 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.

**Important:** Madison is under a winter storm warning especially next week. If road conditions are unsafe on Tuesday, we won't meet on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Watch for email from Judy!

Now accepting signups for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024 classes**. 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.

**Attention chainmailers:** If you don't already have the book, [Chain Maille Jewelry Workshop](#) by Karen Karon, PLEASE PURCHASE. It's available online or possibly in local bookstores. It's \$24.99 on Amazon and \$15.99 on Kindle!

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

#### January: GSG (Great Southern Gathering) Chainmaille Bracelet

Make a bracelet using the GSG weave.

**Jan 31 (5th Wed):** 2 – 5p, finish it.

#### February: Twisted Metal Earrings

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.

**Feb 7 and 21:** 6 – 9p, class and make up.

**Feb 14 and 28:** 2 – 5p, class and make up.

#### March: Ginko Bead Bracelet (closed)

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

**Mar 6 and 20:** 6 – 9p, class and make up.

**Mar 13 and 27:** 2 – 5p, class and make up.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024 Classes:

#### April: Wrapped Crystal Pendant

**Important:** Please sign up soon to allow time for ordering and shipping the crystals.

**Apr 3 and 17:** 6 – 9p, class and make up.

**Apr 10 and 24:** 2 – 5p, class and make up.

#### May: Necklace with Two-Tone Triple-Point Byzantine Focal

This necklace is easily customizable!! We'll discuss options in class for ring sizes and color patterns. You'll need to purchase your own rings. Your choices.

**May 1 and 15:** 6 – 9p, class and make up.

**May 8 and 22:** 2 – 5p, class and make up.

**May 29 (5<sup>th</sup> Wed):** 2 – 5p, finish it.

#### June: Upside-Down Wrapped Cab

This is a Pinterest-inspired woven cab wrap. The teardrop-shaped Malachite cab is wrapped in copper wire.

**Jun 5 and 19:** 6 – 9p, class and make up.

**Jun 12 and 26:** 2 – 5p, class and make up.

April

May

June



Your ring sizes and quantities will depend on



## Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

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.

Certification classes will be held on TUESDAY, January 30th and TUESDAY March 19th. Please note the change in days."



**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

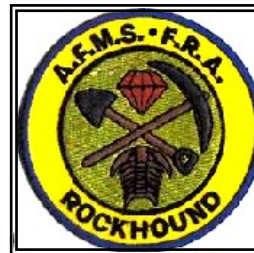
**\*Note: We are all volunteers, so the schedule is subject to change.**



## 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!



Lapidary Arts

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.

Are you ready for an absolutely fabulous 2024? I know the Pups Leadership Team is ready. And we have some great activities planned and we need your help in the selection process! Some thoughts for your consideration:

A short program on petrified wood (also toward Fossil badge). Do a field trip to a hardware store field trip (Earth resources and Field Trip badges) either meet at a hardware store or let the Pups do this on their own with a list of things to look for.

Take a tour thru the lab and talk safety (Lapidary Arts badge requirement, 4.3).

Each Pup do a poster board for the communication badge (6.4).

Have the Pups model the solar system, do a program on meteorites and effects of meteorites and impact craters (Earth in Space badge).

And a series on magnetism, "TV Stone", Triboluminescence, double refraction, and Chatoyancy.

Talk about stone age tools and art, make a clay pot or tool, make rock art (the 2024 photo submission counts!), collect stone tools, etc (Stone Age Tools & Art badge).

And collect sand (already started) and view under a microscope. Also collecting miniature, thumbnail and micro minerals and fossils (The World in Miniature badge).

Crystal structure demonstrated (Theresa) Also give out crystal cutouts in card stock for take-home projects (Rocks & Minerals badge).

A program on earthquakes (Earth Process badge)

Discuss field trip etiquette (Field Trips badge).

The above are my thoughts, What do you think? Please reach out to me, Bill, Dee, Angela and/or Theresa with you thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

See you on the 25th at 6:30. We will thru to wrap it up by 7:30 but some months, we may go over a bit.

Did I mention the Ed Center is open and fully operational so we will be meeting in the South room!

Your Pups Team

Mike, Angela, Dee, Theresa, Bill,



640 x 640

Tucson Gem & Min...  
pinterest.jp



1920 x 1285

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show 20...  
rove.me



1200 x 800

Sit inside an amethyst geode with ...  
tucson.com



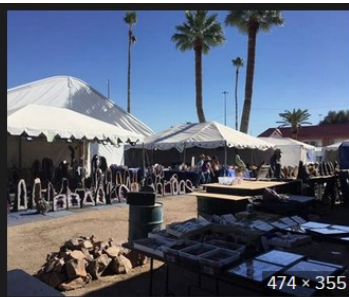
1280 x 960

Tucson Gem Show 2024 Sch...  
tucsongemshow101.com



2560 x 1920

Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (Main...  
tucsongemshow101.com



474 x 355

Tucson Gem Show 2024 Schedule ...  
tucsongemshow101.com



2500 x 2030

Show — Tucson Gem & Mineral ...  
tgms.org



1024 x 681

Tucson Gem Show Puts a Treasure on E...  
nytimes.com



1200 x 940

Tucson Gem Show | Arizona | Wan...  
wanderwithwonder.com



800 x 533

A First-Timer's Guide to the Tucson Gem ...  
pinterest.com



1200 x 801

Get an instant high at the Tucson Gem S...  
tucson.com



1600 x 1200

Tucson Gem Show - Live! In th...  
tucsongemshow.blogspot.com



980 x 551

WGS 2023 Rock & Gem Show  
wigeo.org



800 x 450

Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase - 2...  
xpopress.com



1200 x 800

Tucson's original gem show sparkle...  
tucson.com

**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, Theresa Chivers**

<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 1st &amp; 3rd Weeks</b>	<b>- 6:00pm - 9:00pm</b>
	<b>Rocket City Jewelers 2nd, 4th, 5th Weeks</b>	<b>- 2:00pm - 5:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</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>



January  
Garnet



February  
Amethyst



**2024 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President– Mike Harrison

Vice President - Shelley Curran

Secretary: James Yack

Treasurer: Clara Goode

Editor: Bill Friday -

Past President: Anthony Zwilling

Directors:

Gene Powers -

Les Bartel -

Theresa Chivers -

Doug Blakeslee -

**2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS****Property: Bill Friday****Show Chair: Tony Smith,****Program Chair—Shelley Curran****Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller,****Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky****Assistant Vendor Chair: Jan Edmunds****Auction Chair: Shelley Curran****Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith****Membership: Theresa Chivers****Show Treasurer: Clara Goode,****Field Trips: Bill Friday****Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller****Hospitality: Mike Harrison****Facility Administrator: Bill Friday****Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton****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
- 22 Jun '24 - Annual HGMS Picnic - Monte Sano State Park  
Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville
- 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

<p>Deadline for Next Newsletter February 18, 2024</p>
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**Dated material**  
**Do not delay**

January 2024

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