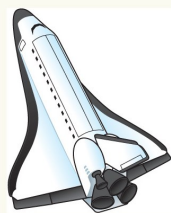


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 56 No. 8

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

August 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note	2
Metalsmithing Corner	2
Rocket City Jewelers	3
Pebble Pups	3
Show Volunteer Request.....	4
Brad's Bench Tips	5
Lapidary News	5
Mineral of the Month	6
Activity Schedule.....	7
Executive Board & Committees.....	8
Calendar.....	9

August 27, 2024, 6:00pm - Osborne Jewelers

HGMS Education Center, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd, Hsv AL

Dawn Hagood, Wayne Hand, Ben Morgan, and Brandon Harrell from Osborne Jewelry in Huntsville will describe the Jewelry business. They are GIA certified and excited to come tell us:

Who they are, what they do, how they do it. Plenty of time for questions.



3502 South Memorial Pkwy Huntsville, [\(256\) 883-2150](tel:2568832150)

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



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Welcome to August, HGMS Rockhounds!

There is so much going on and a lot of opportunities to get out there and grab that "must have" mineral or fossil specimen. And don't tell me you have all the rocks you need. Does a true rockhound ever have enough? I know I don't because the more I learn (and that is what HGMS is all about - gaining knowledge about minerals, fossils, gemstones and the natural world around us) the more I need to collect! So get involved! Come to the monthly meeting on the 27th, go on our field trips, sign up for and attend our classes, cut and polish what you collect and share your knowledge with our youth group; Pebble Pups! Thank you for being a part of the HGM Family.



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

September Class: Fusing Mixed Metals

Session 1: Thursday, September 5, 2024

Session 2: Monday, September 9, 2024

We will be exploring fused mixed metals. You can make a small pendant or a pair of earrings. Successfully fusing mixed metals depends on the melting points of the metals being fused. The melting point of the bottom layer needs to be lower than the melting points of the metals on the top. Success fully fusing the same metals together depends on the shape and weight of the top layer. We will be using silver as the base layer and fusing copper and/or brass to it. Class fee is TBD, depending on the price of silver.

The signup sheet will be available during Monday and Thursday night classes and at the HGMS Meeting. Most seats are filled but there are a few available. You can also sign up for this class by sending email to HGMS@wildivystudio.com.

Certification/Safety Classes: The next Certification/Safety Class has been September 17th. Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to Certifications@wildivystudio.com 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 class. 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.

Facebook Users: The Metalsmithing class has our own page in Facebook groups. You can see info on classes, examples of project classes and other general information. Members of the group can post their finished class projects. Our class page is HGMS Metalsmithing Group.

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

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman
Shelley Curran
Jan Edmunds (Monday AM)

Tools/Equipment Inventory

Opening

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.**



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News August 2024

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. We offer one class a month with 4 opportunities to finish the project. **Note:** Should severe weather occur on any RCJ meeting day, the meeting will be canceled, and Judy will notify the group.

The schedule for the rest of the year is shown below. To sign up for a class, please email Theresa at rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com a month before class. Include your name, contact info, and the class(es) you



want. You can also sign up at RCJ meetings and monthly HGMS meetings.

September: Wire Wrapped Pumpkin (Carnelian) Pendant

Sep 4 and 18: 6 – 9p, class and make up.

Sep 11 and 25: 2 – 5p, class and make up.

October: Layered Metal (LM) Pendants - Rivets

Oct 2 and 16: 6 – 9p, class and make up.

Oct 9 and 23: 2 – 5p, class and make up.

Oct 30 (5th Wed): 2 – 5p, make up.

November: Wire Wrapped Black “Shimmerstone” (Larvikite) Cab

Nov 6 and 27: 6 – 9p, class and make up.

Nov 20: No meeting; happy Thanksgiving.

Nov 13: 2 – 5p, class and make up.

December:

Dec 4: 6 – 9p, finish up.

Pebble Pups - Thursday August 22, 6:30 - at the Education Center



Hey Pups and Parents!

We again have a wonderful program aligned up for you! The birthstone for August is Peridot. Angela and Kendall will tell you everything you need to know about Peridot and you will leave with your very own specimen. We will also look at the sand you have been collecting from all over the world. Bill will have microscopic images so you can see the differences between each sample. And DeeDee will be talking about Mini, Micro and Thumbnail fossils and mineral specimens and we will have micro and thumbnail shark teeth specimens for you to add to your collection!

See you this Thursday, Aug. 22nd at the Ed Center at 6:30!

Your Pups Leadership Team,

Angela, Theresa, Dee Dee, Bill and Mike



Earth Resources



Rocks & Minerals

Hi to all HGMS Members, You are NEEDED!!

Many opportunities to meet and work with your fellow Huntsville Rock and Gem members are on the horizon!

**Are you a member who has NEVER volunteered to help at the show?
Come and make new friends and show off your people skills!**

**Sign up to help Thursday afternoon and evening, October 10th.
It's a SET UP day & needs many hands to be a success!**

Come at 4 with a dish for the potluck! (dishes can be dropped off all day) but then...

Stay and Help setting up: HGMS info booth, fluorescent room, display cases, gem flume, kids area, fossil dig, demo booth, set up posters for the scavenger hunt, more, more!

All this HAS to be done Thursday night!

October 11, 12, 13 We still Need 10 more volunteers each day!

All Stations take, including gem flume, kids areas, fossil dig, demo booth and Ticket sales, water cart, info people walking the floor. We have red vests for you to wear while on duty.

If you haven't signed up, help to support your organization and show Huntsville who we are by volunteering.

Call/email Debbie Epperson with the days mornings or afternoons that you will help your club!

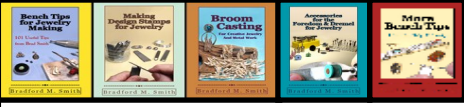
Debbie Epperson

256-337-5000 debbieshomes@yahoo.com



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.



A NEW MELTING DISH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle. When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.



Lapidary Shop Update

As of now, the Lapidary Room at the Ed Ctr is padlocked, to be opened only when there is an instructor/monitor in the room for safety and to give instructions - See the Schedule on Page 10

Theresa Chivers will not open the Lap Lab on Monday September 2nd, but will on October 7.

We have a continuing problem with heavy handed use of some of the equipment. There are "wrenches" which help tighten the clamps on the slab saw vices, ensuring that the rock won't move during the cutting. But excess tightening can strip the threads on the hold-down rods and their wing nuts. Lighten up a bit!

There was not floor drain left in the lapidary room when the place was refurbished, so drain water has to be pumped across the screened storage room. Its capacity is a bit limited, so when water is poured into the sink or the flush valve for the pipe that drains the arbors is left on too long, we have a small lake across the floor. Don't run the water too fast or long.

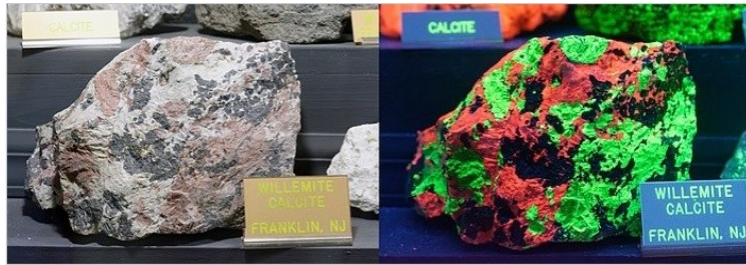
One of the instructors at William Holland advised lots of pressure on the arbor wheels, which took a bit of re-education of new lapidary students. That fellow has since been relieved of duty at WH.

We are negotiating to obtain an Intarsia Machine. For those interested there will be classes.

We still need some more work in the Museum to make it a Huntsville Show Place - in process.

Our new Flat Lap is now available for use, with certification - no more trying to flatten a surface using the wheels.

Mineral of the Month – Willemite - By *Leslie A. Malakowsky*



This month's mineral was inspired by one of the most popular attractions at our Annual Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Fall Show – the fluorescent display in the black tent. Fluorescent minerals emit visible light when they are exposed to shortwave ultraviolet (UV) light. The glow stops when the UV light is turned off. Willemite fluoresces green under UV light, so it's one of the minerals in the tent. (Don't forget to check out the fluorescent display at the show!)

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Willemite is a zinc silicate mineral with the formula Zn_2SiO_4 and a minor ore of zinc. Willemite is a member of the *phenakite* group of nesosilicates (minerals characterized by isolated silicate tetrahedra bound to each other by positively-charged elements). Other nesosilicates include garnet, kyanite, olivine, topaz, and zircon. Willemite crystals can have a fibrous, botryoidal (globular, resembling a bunch of grapes), or massive (shapeless, no external crystal shape) appearance. In daylight, they can occur colorless or in a variety of colors such as white, gray, black, green, blue, yellow, red, pink, and brown. Crystal twinning, in which two separate crystals share some of the same lattice points, is rare in willemite, but at least one willemite *trilling* was found in Franklin, New Jersey. (*Troostite* is a variety of willemite in which zinc is partially replaced by manganese. Troostite occurs in solid red-brown masses. It was named after the Dutch-American mineralogist Gerard Troost, who was the first to recognize it.) Willemite forms when rocks rich in sphalerite (a zinc carbonate mineral and the main ore of zinc) oxidize (undergo chemical alteration) in a silica-rich environment. Willemite may also form when hemimorphite (a zinc silicate oxide mineral) or sphalerite undergoes metamorphism in hydrothermal veins (fractures in rocks in which hot water circulates).

Willemite was first discovered in 1829 in a mine called *Vieille-Montagne* (French for “old mountain”) in southern Netherlands by a student at the University of Liège. He gave some samples to Armand [Lévy](#), a teacher at the university. Lévy named the mineral in 1830 in honor of King William I (1813-1840) of the Netherlands in gratitude for granting him a Professorship at the university. Today, this mineral is found all over the world, but the most well known localities in the United States are the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mines in Franklin, New Jersey. Willemite from those mines often occurs with red zincite (zinc oxide) and franklinite (an iron-rich zinc mineral that occurs in sharp black octahedral crystals and masses – see last month's “Mineral of the Month”). In some localities, willemite is associated with calcite, fluorite, hemimorphite, limonite, quartz, and wulfenite (a lead molybdate mineral) in addition to zincite and franklinite. You can distinguish zincite and franklinite from willemite because they don't fluoresce under UV light.

Willemite was used in early fluorescent tubes until it was replaced in the mid 20th century with other substances. It isn't a glamorous mineral, but for fluorescent fans, it's pure gold! Got UV?

References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org

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, Theresa Chivers
Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Pebble Pups: Mike Harrison, Angela Mendoza, Theresa Chivers, Dee Dee Morton, Bill Friday

Monday	Metal Smithing/Silver	5:00pm - 9:00pm
	Lapidary	1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm (Except Aug and Sep)
	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 2:00pm
	HGMS Meetings	6:00pm - 8:30pm 4th Tuesdays
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	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



2024 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Mike Harrison -
 Vice President - Shelley Curran -
 Secretary: James Yack -
 Treasurer: Clara Goode -
 Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 -
 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 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

2024 - 25 CALENDAR

- 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
- 11-13 Oct '24 - Annual Fall Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show
Jaycees Building 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 22 Oct '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 Nov '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 10 Dec '24 - Christmas Dinner Meeting - Details as available

- 28 Jan '25 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 Feb '25 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 22 Mar '25 Sat - Annual Rock Sale / Auction - details to be announced

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

Deadline for Next Newsletter
September 15, 2024

Dated material
Do not delay

July 2024

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Bill Friday, Editor
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Huntsville, AL 35803