#### **ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP**

Official Monthly Publication of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Birmingham, Alabama

#### **President's Message**

#### Hello Folks,

I have to admit these are really different times we are ALL experiencing. Not only have schools been disrupted, our (us old geezer's) learning processing has had to change too. If we want to stay current with news, events, or one another, we have to use electronics. This is a field of knowledge I did not grow up with but as an adult I was forced to learn. Still learning! So please bear with me, I am having some difficulties with my eyes and can only work for a few hours a day on my computer. To put this newsletter together, I have to have input from many sources like members of our club and other clubs. We are a good bunch especially when we can get together. John Wild has offered to help us do some Zoom board meetings and regular meetings. Please let me know how you feel about this. I know we can if we just work together to get "er done!

Sprinkled throughout this newsletter you will see many events have been cancelled. On page 4 are the shows listings. PLEASE find out if the event is still going to happen before you go.

On page 7, you will find an article about the S.F.M.S. needing a new state representative for the state of Alabama. Unfortunately, Phillip Kaiser had to retire from this position. I need you to let me know about this too. A quick email will do just fine.

Many have been itching to get out and do something with their rocks. How about going to the workshop for an hour or two with a mask of course. We can social distance there and get a chance to just talk with one another. If you need some good rocks, John Gaston is having a rock sale at his home on the 12th, go see him!

Please, do be cautious, take care of yourself, and call me you just need someone to listen in these crazy times. I hope to see you soon or hear from you and of course ... Keep on rocking, Sandra

#### Website: https://www.lapidaryclub.com



Sandra Sullivan President A.M.L.S.

Upcoming in September -

Workshop open on Tuesdays thanks to Robert Lorino because Reggie Bolton can't. Robert says 10 am to 4 pm.

 Levan Foster says the workshop is NOT getting anyone on Saturdays. So if you want to go use the workshop other than Tuesdays, call, text, or email Levan Foster. He says Thursday afternoon is good for him. See page 2 for contact info.
John Gaston ROCK SALE 9/12/20

WHO wants to do ZOOM meetings ??? PLEASE let me know so as we can get started on it. We need away of staying in touch with one another AND START TALKING ABOUT ROCKS AGAIN!

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For more information: **AFMS, EFMLS, and SFMS Websites** The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, and the AFMS Newsletter are now available for all members to read on line at http://www.amfed.org/sfms. And www.amfed.org Email: sfms@amfed.org And the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies or EFMLS https://www.efmls.org A.M.L.S. WORKSHOP ADDRESS: 8036 Parkway Dr. Leeds, AL. 35094 (Across from The Pant Store) **Please** welcome any new members with a handshake and tell them a bit about A.M.L.S. and what you like about it. David Sheffield family, Viriginia Jones, and Dave Wayment family. If you know of someone who would like to visit or be interested in rocks, feel free to invite them to our meetings/workshop. You never know when a child's interest will be sparked! Members Serving on the Board of Directors : Levan Foster 205-276-8786 levanfoster@gmail.com Don Rosenstiel 205-822-1513 don77rose@gmail.com **Eastern Federation of Mineralogical** & Lapidary Societies

President of EFMLSBarbara Ringhiser<br/>5678barb@aolAlabama State Representative to EFMLSImage: Comparison of the second seco

#### Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

President of SFMS	Jessie Griffin 2012griffin@gmail.com
Alabama State Repre- sentative to SFMS	Vacant

#### Meeting Minutes for the past few months ~

Due to having to shelter in place because of the pandemic of Covid - 19, the A.M.L.S. has not been meeting at the Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church. We have tried to have board meetings via Zoom but without a quorum, NO dice. Please, if we can get another one set up, we need you to tune in.

#### John Gaston says ... LARGE ROCK SALE !!!



Large sale of mineral speci mens, rocks, cabbing material, and fossils, including several types of petrified wood. Some slabs and cabs. The sale is for Birmingham, Huntsville, and Montgomery club members and friends only, not the gen eral public. The sale will be

mostly outdoors and under a large carport, and face masks and social distancing will be required. Sale is Saturday, September 12, at 3116 Whispering Pines Circle, Hoover 35226. Hours 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Rain or shine.

If you have a question about anything in particular, you can text or call me, and I can tell you if we have it and send a picture and price.

Two shows where I would have been a dealer have been canceled this year, so I decided to have my own sale! If you want to make a purchase ahead of time, we can handle the sale online and ship the item. John Gaston, Creek View Minerals 205-907-5648

Robert S. Lorino says ... A few words about the shop. As some of you know one of the main reason I joined A.M.L.S. is to access to the rock saws and cabbing machines. Thanks to people like Reggie Bolton and Don Hill. I have learned a lot. I enjoy the fellowship with all the people I have met in the last18 months. Creativity grows in a group. I would like to open the shop on Tuesdays from 11 am to 4 pm. It looks like Levan is going to open the shop on Thursdays from 1 pm to 5 pm. while we are not having meetings, due to Covid 19, come on down to the shop and take advantage of the tools we have. Come make a cabochon or do some bead work. These days and hours are not written in stone. Ha Ha ! If we need different days or hours, let us know. Every time I go to the shop I try to do something to make it better even if it's just to sweep the floor or take out the trash. The AC filter has been changed and the freezer has been defrosted. So grab a mask, a slab of stone or some beads and come keep me company! Thank you, Robert Lorino

#### John Wild says ...

I hope everybody is safe and healthy as we navigate through this pandemic. At least as far as Alabama is concerned, the rate of new cases seems to be slowing. As a cabber, I was lucky to have a supply of masks that lasted until I could order more!

Several of us have discussed how we can continue to socialize, entertain and educate while monthly meetings are not practical. One suggestion is to use ZOOM to stay in touch. Most of you know what ZOOM is by now, but if you are unfamiliar, it is a service that allows you to log in to an online meeting where everyone can see and talk with each other. It is simple to use with either a WiFi or cell connection. The organizer of the meeting will email a link that you click to enter the meeting. For maximum enjoyment, your camera and microphone should be enabled.

I have had one of our postponed speakers offer to make a ZOOM presentation. If there is enough interest, it can be arranged with appropriate notice so the most members can participate. I would love your feedback!

Email me at john@milcomtextiles.com or call or text my cell 205-807-0320.

We all look forward to resuming our monthly meetings, but let's find a way to stay connected. Thanks for reading and stay well!

#### Levan Foster says ....

Hello everyone. Yvonne and I have missed our monthly meetings. We hope to see all of you soon. I am going to start opening workshop at least one day a week. For right now I am opening it Thursday's afternoons. I will be able to stay fairly late on Thursdays. The workshop is a good place to come and maintain social distancing. If you are not a member of Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society come on by and I will show you around the workshop. And show you what we can do. Joining the club is cheap and can be done right there at the workshop. And if you are already a member, we need you to come and use the workshop. If you have never used the equipment before, any of the workshop supervisors can teach you have. Remember the whole family is welcomed. So help support the workshop by coming to Leeds and using it. At the workshop we can cut your rocks (slabbing). Trim them into preforms. And turn them into cabochons. Or you can just polish your rock. AMLS Workshop is located at 8036 Parkway Dr. Leeds Al, 35094.

Thank you, Levan Foster

**Clubs and Societies Shows and Rock Swaps** via RockNGem shows, SFMS website, and other sources

#### PLEASE CHECK WITH THE SHOW CLUB OR CHAIRMAN BEFORE GOING ! THE SHOW COULD BE CANCELED DUE TO THE VIRUS !

Sept. 4-7 Raleigh, N.C. Annual show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc.; Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; Adults \$6, free admission for children 16 and under; Vendors offering precious and semi-precious gemstones, beads, supplies, fossils, minerals, gems, and displays and demonstrations; contact Jane Westbrook, PO Box 59, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, (804) 642-2011; Email: jane@treasuresoftheearth.com; Website: http:// www.TreasuresOfTheEarth.com

**Sept. 4-7 Hendersonville, N.C.**: Retail show; Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society; Whitmire Center, 310 Lily Pond Dr; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-6, Mon. 9-5; Adults \$4, free admission for children under 12 when accompanied by an adult who paid admission; Exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, hourly door prizes, and refreshments; contact Diane M Lapp, 22 Foxmoor Ct, ETOWAH, NC 28729-9749, (828) 775-8098; Email: dlapp\_2000@yahoo.com; Website: HCGMS.org

**Sept.11-13 Winston-Salem, N. C.: CANCELED**; Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club, Inc

**Sept. 11-20 Denver, LA:** Annual show; Eons Expos, RLLLP; National Western Complex and the Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt Street; daily 10-6; 500,000 square feet inside and out — with more than 500 retail and wholesale dealers from 24 countries, offering a wide range of items all 10 days, with 17 food trucks on site; contact Lowell Carhart, 106 Horseguards Ave, Bossier City, LA 71111, (804) 291-6357; Email: lowellcarhart@yahoo.com; Website: https://coliseumshow.com

Sept. 12 Mobile, AL: Annual Auction and Annual Picnic Location: Walter's Park, ATC Coast Guard Base on Tanner Williams Rd. Saturday 12 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. We need to get together as a Club for information updates, food, fun, and fellowship. We are inviting all the surrounding Clubs to participate. 10:20 am to 2:00 pm. Events: There are lots of picnic tables under a large pavilion, swings, playground equipment, rest rooms, and large open spaces. If you have any favorite yard games please bring them. Out time. This is a large facility, with a huge pavilion, so Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

<u>http://www.rockngem.com/showdates</u> <u>http://www.jewelryshowguide.com/event/</u>

of town guests please RSVP with a phone number in case there are some lastminute changes to the schedule. Hand sanitizer and masks will be provided to conform with whatever mandate is in place at that at that time. This is a large facility, with a huge pavilion, so social distancing will be easy. Pls have people text RSVPs to 251-510-8527 to Jim Patterson

**Sept. 18-20 Marietta, GA:** Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, free admission for children under 15 with a paying adult; Dealers offering jewelry, minerals, fossils, healing stones, crystals, geodes, beads, and gems; contact Damian; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

**Oct. 2-4 Sarasota, FL:** Show and sale; Frank Cox Productions; Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41); daily 10-5, daily 10-5, daily 10-5; Adults \$5 (\$1 off with mention of this listing); contact Frank Cox, 755 S. Palm Ave. #203, Sarasota 34236, (941) 954-02; Email: frankcox@comcast.net; Website: http://www.frankcoxproductions.com

**Oct. 9 - 11 Huntsville, AL:** Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society's Annual Show. Jaycee Community Bldg. 2180 Airport Rd. SW Huntsville, AL. 35802. Fri. and Sat. 10 am – 6 pm, Sun. 12 pm – 5 pm. \$3. Donation at the door!, Children under 5 FREE!, \$1. Students, \$5. Weekend pass (3 days) Club website www.huntsvillegms.org

**Oct. 10-11 Marion, KY**: Annual show; Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum; Fohs Hall, 201 N. Walker Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Free admission - donations appreciated; Vendors, silent auctions, demonstrations and displays, and activities for children; contact Tina Walker, 205 N Walker St, Marion, KY 42064, 270-965-4263; Email: beclement@att.net; Website: clementmineralmuseum.org

<u>These shows could be a</u> <u>fieldtrip too !!!</u>



### **ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP** JUNE, JULY, AUG., SEPT. 2020

#### Brad Smith - Bench Tips ~

#### STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



#### DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work. There are two important *Continued* 

#### Brad Smith <u>brad@greenheart.com</u>



BradSmithJewelry.com Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" See all Brad's jewelry books at <u>Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith</u> See the paperback edition at https:// www.amazon.com/dp/0988285886/ and the Kindle edition at https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/

**Bench Tips con't,** things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress on the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies ~ Our club, the A.M..L.S., belongs to the Southeast Federation and the Eastern Federation. Both are wonderful but different mineralogical societies. Both have workshops for their clubs. The E.F.M.L.S. has Wildacres in Spruce Pines, N.C. and the S.F.M.S. has William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA. Both have wonderful teachers with a different way of teaching and both have very satisfied students. *S.S.*  *Meteor Shower Schedule* ~ <u>Via http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/earthskys-meteor-shower-guide</u> Earth Sky's 2020 meteor shower guide by Bruce McClure and Deborah Byrd in Astronomy Essentials | Space

This is a wonderful website for the entire family to enjoy. Check out the Meteor Shower this month!



**IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program.** SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click here to read them), but the general public is not and could jeop-ardize access to a collecting location. So unless the property owner has invited non-SFMS attendees, the general public is not allowed on DMC field trips. Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general publ-

lic can access it.

Please reply by e-mail to: <u>sfms-dmc@amfed.org</u>

World Wide Web site for the DMC is: http://<u>www.amfed.org/sfms/\_dmc/dmc.htm</u> DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved. "Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."



The Eastern Federation of Mineral & Lapidary Society

President Mr. David Nock sent us a wonderful gift. New member cards designed with

our logo on one side of the card and the Eastern Federation on the other side as seen here. So our treasurer

will be giving you two cards from now on when you join the A.M.L.S.

Mr. Nock said to give credit to these folks; Rich Kupisz (LMSCC) for sparking the idea. Christine Colon and Alan Holmes of the Boston Mineral Clubfor all their help with the front design, layout, ordering and shipping. Because without them working together these cards would likely never have happened.

Personally, I think they did a good job. This was expensive too. The E.F.M.L.S. covers about 15 states if you call District of Columbia a state and they have about 100 clubs. Some clubs are in state outside of the main boundaries of the Eastern Federation, like our club. We have to





Dennis Buchanan says ...

August 23, 2020

Dear Alabama Club President, The SFMS is holding an election for the position of Alabama State Direc-

tor. At your next club meeting, will you please vote for the current nominee or you may write-in an additional nominee. If you choose to nominate an additional candidate, please include a short biography and contact information for your nominee.

Please reply back to this email no later than September 15, 2020.

Alabama Club Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Sandra Sullivan, President Alabama State Director –

Chris Rutherford (from the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Montgomery, AL. club)

(Alternate Candidate)

Sincerely yours, Dennis Buchanan 2nd Vice President SFMS Cell #770-402-9669 dbuch1938@gmail.com

#### Hello Folks,

Please let me know about how you feel concerning nominating Chris Rutherford of the Montgomery club to represent our state to the SFMS. I think he is well liked in his club, in a good location to reach all the clubs in our state, and he has my vote.

#### Sandra Sullivan

Let's don't forget the little kids too! For more information concerning kids and rocks, check out this website too! www.kidsloverocks.com



Great for kids having to learn remotely now.



WE have a few T- Shirts left and they will be at the next meeting. The cost will be \$10.00 per shirt. The inventory is as follows :

- 2 Xlg.
- 7 Lg. (NO pockets)
- 3 Med.

These are well made T-shirts, colorful with the A.M.L.S. logo on the back, and are great to wear on a fieldtrip.

## AUGUST WILDACRES CANCELLED

Due to an increase in the number of cases of the virus, the August session of Wildacres is officially cancelled. It was not a decision we wanted to make, buy one we felt had to be made given the circumstances. We hope that all of you that planned to attend in 2020 will attend in 2021 and those of you who did not plan on attending that you will considerdoing so in 2021. As soon as plans for 2020 (maybe 2021 here) are finalized, they will be published in the *EFMLS News* and updated on the EFMLS.org website.

Steve Weinberger Chairman of the Wildacres Committee



## **DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS-**

Many events are being changed to a later date or cancelled totally. Please stay tuned ! We are trying folks but we need to hear from you. Please contact Pres. Sandra Sullivan, VP John Wild, or another board member (see page 2 for contacts) to let us know what your thinking. We need your participation if we have a good working club. S.S,



# **ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP**

# **Ruby Fever**

Last page funnies	Ruby Fever	•		
The stream diverted though the cool w My fingers are sensitive to the cold w The water turns red as it flows throug My trembling hands show my exciten I raise my sluice box and the small red As an amateur I carefully capture eac My jar fills and I am reluctant to take My fingers are worn, my back sore bu Later we sit around the crackling fire My clothes are stained with the red m My soul is fulfilled as I enjoy the goo By Judith Wylie Johnson, 1978	bunding mountains. Il wet from the night, lors. Par, sapphire blue skies. prewing adds a pungent odor to the air. wooden flume. vater as I wash the red mud from the gritte the rough wooden trough. nent as the water clears. d and blue pebbles are lit up by the clear h shining treasure. a break. ut the next wash might hold the big one. and listen to the stories of Ruby Fever. Jud, my fingers are waterlogged and sore of people and the mountain music.	unpolluted sunshine		
A.M.L.S. Application	on for Membership	New		
ADULT NAME				
EMAIL ADDRESS				
SECOND NAME				
EMAIL ADDRESS				
CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES				
ADDRESS				
CITY				
HOME PHONE	WORK/CELL PHONE			
E-MAIL ADDRESS(S)				
Family \$25 Single \$20	_ Junior / Student \$15			
	renewed at the November meeting the ABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDA 8036 Parkway Dr. Leeds, Al. 350 riday of each month except for the 5 the June meeting.	ARY SOCIETY 94 e month of June. ' aba Heights Rd.	re January 1st and mai <i>Or bring to a</i>	of the new l to <i>meeting</i> ! ain State

# **SEPTEMBER 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Workshop 10-4		Workshop 1 -5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 John Gaston Rock sale
		Workshop 10-4		Workshop 1 -5		RUCK Sale
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Workshop 10-4		Workshop 1 -5		
20	21	22 Workshop 10 4	23	24	25	26
		Workshop 10-4		Workshop 1 -5		
27	28	29 Workshop 10-4	30	Please Call, text, or email before going to	the workshop.	

## ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY Birmingham, Alabama



*The Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society* is a non-profit organization for people interested in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Membership is open to all people interested in the objectives of the society. Dues for the calendar year 2020 are \$25.00 family, \$20.00 single, and Juniors / Students \$15.00. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society and given to the treasurer. The society holds regular meetings on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm (except the month of June because of the Oak Mountain St. Park Show). Meetings are currently held at the Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church and usually last an hour and a half. There is a half hour of snacks and fellowship preceding the meeting.

The society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Reprint rights are granted for any information in the bulletin except minutes and copy right articles with permission to print one time only in ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP, provided credit is given to the author and the original publication as well as the bulletin. Exchange bulletins should be addressed to the editor.



# THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. and THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETIES

A NON-PROFIT, NON-COMMERCIAL, NON POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND REGIONAL FEDERATION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

#### PURPOSE:

To bring about a closer association of clubs and societies devoted to the study of the Earth Sciences and the practice of the lapidary arts and crafts in the southeastern part of the United States.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

To cooperate with similar Federations to promote public interest in the Earth Sciences and the conservation of natural resources.

