



Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY



December Meeting: Friday, December 8, 6:30 pm



HOLIDAY PARTY

This month's meeting, it's all about the PARTY! The club will supply a ham and turkey; members are asked to bring sides and desserts. Bread, drinks and appetizers are appreciated too.

A.M.L.S Gift Exchange explanation ~

Members are asked to bring a rockhound related gift valued between \$10-15 to exchange. You do not have to participate if you don't wish to. Men bring a man's gift, marked MAN on the tag; Women bring a woman's gift, marked WOMAN on the tag. Or bring an ANYBODY gift that anyone who is a rockhound would be delighted to receive. If you choose to bring a gift for a child, be sure to mark the tag as "CHILD". Extra child gifts are appreciated.

We do not have door prizes at this meeting but we use the sign-in book to call out the names for the selection of your gift. Some folks come early to help set up. See ya there!

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Membership renewals are due for 2024. Get your renewal in by December 31, 2023 to continue to receive the monthly newsletter and be a participant in MO, the Members-only Facebook group. Membership chair Allison Reeves will be available to take your renewals at the December meeting, or you can mail to the following address: **AMLS, 8036 Parkway Drive, Leeds, AL 35094**. Forms can be downloaded at the following:





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President's Message

Looks like winter has finally arrived. And I'm looking forward to staying safe and warm and enjoying time with friends and family. I hope we can all do the same.

This is the time when our club looks forward to the coming year. Planning for our 2024 show is already under way and the venue is secured for September 6-8. We are currently operating with acting officers, so we need to find a slate of officers to preside through the rest of the year. The offices of president, treasurer, and field trip chair are in urgent need of attention. We need a plan to bring more younger members into the management of the club to prepare them to take office in the future.

We also need to draw up a 2024 budget. This process is where we get serious about planning our upcoming activities and projects. So we need to know now what people think our priorities should be and what they think we should be funding. Now is the time to make your feelings known to your officers. Please attend monthly meetings if you can. That's where we vote on what we are going to do. You can also join in board meetings by Zoom (most of these are open for attendance to all members). And don't forget the work of our various committees. Volunteers are always in demand so please lend us your expertise.

Reggie Bolton
AMLS acting president and treasurer

Minutes from November Meeting

AMLS meeting Friday November 10, 2023.

Jinger blessed our meeting and we lined up for a Thanksgiving feast as tailgating continued. Reggie welcomed visitors Rebecca and Rachael and new members Cathy Shaw and Catherine. Members were asked for corrections to the October minutes. There were none so Anne Lorino moved they be accepted with Sandra Sullivan seconding. The motion passed.

The club by-laws need to be updated so we need a committee for that. Anthony Piazza volunteered to be on it and Kristen Osborn offered her legal skills to read over it as changes are made. Sandra Sullivan said she would research changes made since the last update.

Because our Board Members At Large Jinger Glasgow and John Wild are moving to other positions, we need to elect two new ones. Levan nominated Anthony Piazza and Vivian Melof seconded. Reggie nominated Ben Beadore and Jinger seconded. The motions passed. Welcome to the board!

John Cook is resigning from his positions as webmaster and membership chair. We certainly appreciate all his work in organizing these areas. Allison Reaves will take over membership duties. Jillian Jordan will help with the website.

There is now a members only Facebook page referred to as MO. Some members are having difficulty accessing it. Rhonda Jordan explained how to get on it and offered to help anyone who needed help. We agreed that since only members can be on this page that it would be alright to use it for sales which are not allowed on the public page.

Reggie said his goal as president pro tem is to get new and younger members to help and guide the club into the 21st century.

Levan greeted trick or treaters at the workshop on Halloween. After quickly going through the candy he bought he gave out the tumbled stones. The little ones were happy to get the rocks but now our supplies are depleted. If anyone has tumbled stones to donate they would be appreciated. The club always needs these to hand out to kids.

Scott Klatt has a new place for a field trip so Reggie asked him to contact John Wild our 2nd VP. The Huntsville club is interested in sharing field trips as well so we can look forward to more field trips in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned and tailgating continued.
Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton, recording secretary

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BRAD SMITH BENCH TIPS

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/ and 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 pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginko 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.



Smart Solutions
For Your Jewelry Making Problems

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making

24 Easy Metal Textures

Making Design Sketches for Jewelry

More Bench Tips

Antiquarian Preparation for Jewelry

Broom Casting

Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon
BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

December Birthstones: Tanzanite, Blue Zircon, Topaz and Turquoise



Blue Topaz, Zircon, Tanzanite, Turquoise

These blue precious and semi-precious stones serve as December birthstones. **Tanzanite** is a unique stone with a mixture of metallic blue-violet color. It was first discovered in Tanzania in the late 1960s, where its name was coined from. Because of its sophisticated features, it has become popular around the world. **Zircon** means gold and color. Its name originated from two Arabic words zar and gun. Despite its English translation, Zircon never really comes with gold features. Its most common colors include blue, yellow, orange, brown, and green. According to ancient stories, natives would use Zircon to scare away bad elements and relieve pain. It is also believed to safeguard travelers from any kind of bad luck and disease. **Turquoise** was first discovered during the 13th century. Its unique greenish blue color made it easily popular around the world. Aside from its usage in carvings and inlays, it is also used as beads and cabochons. Turquoise is one of the most treasured stones in American Southwest. **Blue Topaz** can be found in nature but it is very rare. Most blue topaz on the market has been exposed to radiation.

See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

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

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Minutes from November Board Meeting

AMLS board meeting November 21, 2023. In attendance John Gaston, John & Ivey Cook, Ben Beadore, Reggie & Bunny Bolton, Parker & Kayley Young, Levan & Yvonne Foster, Allison Reaves, Rhonda & Jillian Jordan, Kristen Osborn, Lynn Ray, Jinger Glasgow, and Sandra Sullivan.

Allison has taken the membership chair and has loaded the membership spreadsheet into Google drive and will work with Reggie so he can access it. So far, no one is lined up to take the president position. We also need an assistant treasurer while Reggie is acting president and Levan deals with his health issues. Spread-sheet knowledge is important for this job.

Scott Klatt knows a place in Fayette to collect material similar to Brookwood gravel. Perhaps he would be a good candidate for 2nd Vice President who is in charge of field trips. This is a position that requires a lot of back up from other members. David Caudle may have a lead on a Brilliant wood location. Surely other members have ideas for places we can go to dig. The Huntsville club is interested in sharing field trips and perhaps a state-wide organization like the DMC could be arranged.

It's not too soon to start planning the 2024 show. Ben will pass the vendor list to Jinger and she will contact the vendors soon. John Gaston met a vendor at a recent show who might be interested in our show and he will get his contact info to Jinger. Kristen can help with social media.

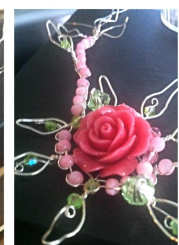
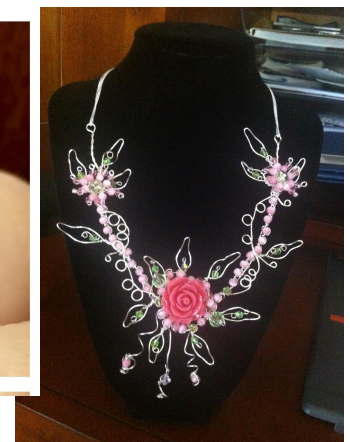
Members need to stay in touch with each other, especially new members. Allison is looking for someone to work with her on membership communication. Kayley said she can help with our Facebook pages.

Sandra will be contacting Ben Beadore and Keith Harrigill, last year's winners, about choosing the 2024 scholarship recipients. Not many members filled out applications. Reggie will speak to John Wild, 1st Vice President, about a program for the January meeting. Sandra has some nominations for lifetime memberships. Reggie pointed out that there are procedures and limitations for this. Meeting timed out.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton, recording secretary



Recipient of the Kontzen Education scholarship will be announced at December meeting. Check out the sampling of projects created at William Holland below.



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Workshop News

Come visit, bring a prospective member, use the equipment, or introduce a new member to the skills and processes of lapidary at our workshop in Leeds. Cost for members is \$5.00 per hour for use of equipment.

Due to the holidays, Levan reports the workshop will be open on Sunday, December 31 for a casual cabbing get together.

From Yvonne:

Education chair Yvonne Foster reports she can do classes in December, including classes to finish projects on December 2 and classes in wirework, pearl and bead stringing, kumihimo, chainmaille, or other projects upon request.

To register for classes or suggest a class to Yvonne, TEXT her at 205-602-8280. Class size limited to 6.



NICE wire wrapped cabochon from Yvonne's October wire-wrapping class! What an awesome resource Yvonne is for our club.



8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds



Join MO!

Heard about the NEW members-only Facebook but haven't joined yet? (We call it MO!) There IS a reason for it. As a member of the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC—the group that plans field trips for member clubs), our club has been told that because of insurance and liability reasons field trip info cannot be shared with non-members beforehand. Members of MO are card-carrying, dues-paying members for this reason.

Everyone in the club has been notified by email how to join the Facebook group. To join MO, the hidden Facebook group, email Minerallapidaryfb@gmail.com to request another invitation.



Rockhound Roundup

Upcoming Shows and Events

12/1-3/2023-MONTGOMERY, AL Montgomery Gem & Mineral Show, 12/01-3/2023 Hours: Fri/Sat 9:00 - 6:00 Sun 11:00 - 4:00 Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Dr Montgomery, AL 36107

Website: <https://mgms.club/mgms/index.php>

12/1-3/2023- HUDSON, FL, The Withlacoochee Rockhounds 48th Annual Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Jewelry Show, Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road, Hudson, Florida, open from 1-5 on Friday and Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and 14 and under are free.

12/8-10/2023—SWANNANOVA, NC MAGMA Land of the Sky Holiday Gem & Mineral Show, Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 39 Spring Cover Road, Fri/Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00, , Website: <http://www.americanrockhound.com/>

12/9-10/2023 FRANKLIN, TN, Earth Treasures Show, Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN, Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00, Website: <http://www.mtgms.org/index.html>

01/12-14/2024 – GLOBE, AZ, Gila County Gem and Mineral Show - 01/12/2024, Gila County Fairgrounds, Globe, AZ, Fri/Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Website: <http://www.gilagem.org>

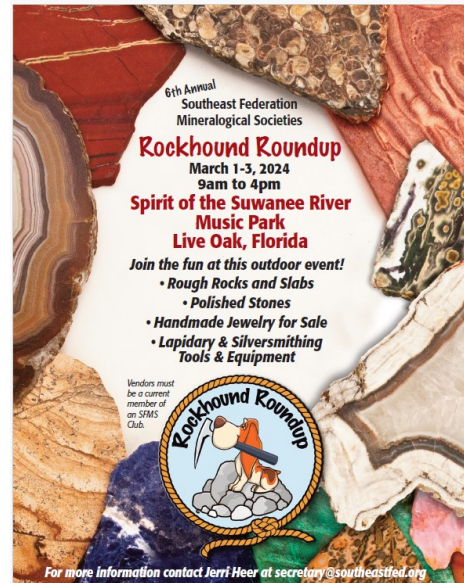
1/17-21, 2024—QUARTZSITE , ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Quartzsite Improvement Association; Quartzsite Improvement Association, 225 E Ironwood; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; Free; Over 250 vendors in one location. Full service dining options. Daily Rockhounding trips; contact Nancy Nichols, (928) 927-6325; Email: Powwow@qiaarizona.org

3/01-03/2024 ATHENS, GA Athens Spring Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, Hours: 10 to 6 Fri & Sat, 11 to 5 Sunday, The Classic Center, Grand Hall 8, 300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601 Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/5351705076719>

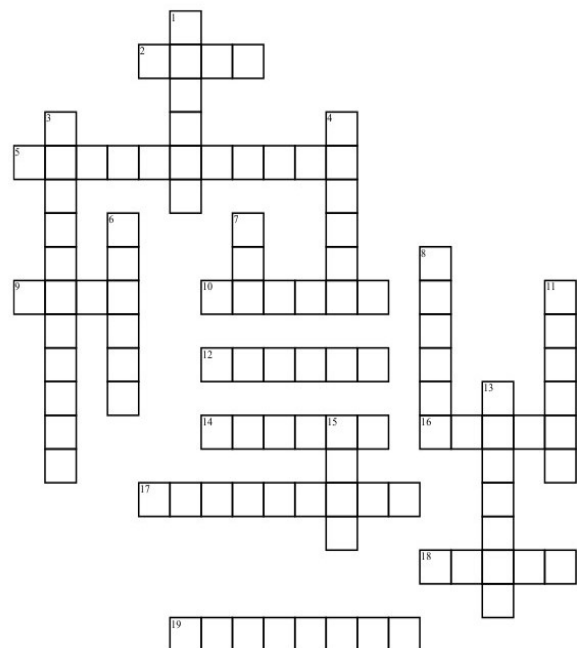
85 Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternMineralSpicimens/>



Here's another great opportunity to add to your calendars.

Rockhounds



Across

- 2. Precious metal found in Wenatchee area
- 5. Rocks formed in layers
- 9. Scale used to measure hardness of stones
- 10. Round shaped rocks found at Red Top
- 12. Celebrated petrified tree
- 14. Popular gemstone is often found lining the cavities of geodes

- 16. Sulfur can be easily identified by its color and
- 17. Soft stone usually set in silver
- 18. Machine with 6 wheels used to shape and polish rocks
- 19. Dome shaped rock

Down

- 1. Mineral that gives malachite its green color
- 3. Rocks formed under heat and pressure

- 4. Fool's gold
- 6. sea shells, crabs, plants embedded in rock
- 7. The number of minerals with hardness 10
- 8. Semitransparent rocks
- 11. Common igneous rock found in central Washington
- 13. Jewelry worn on chain around neck
- 15. Small saw used in cutting cabs



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org
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An Official Field Trip of the Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)
(HOST)

Sunday, December 17, 2023
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM Eastern Time
Summerville Crazy Lace Agate
Chattooga County, GA
Limit 50 People
Registration Required (Link is below)
Fee: None

TRIP: This is a great site for children and adults of all skill levels. Everyone will need to sign a release upon arrival.

COLLECTING: This location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. You can also find some druzy quartz and oolitic material. Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it makes great specimens.

BRING: Rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools for (example a small hand rake), buckets, and a spray bottle or bucket with water to wet or rinse the rocks to see the color better. You will also need a hat, safety glasses, sunscreen, and gloves. A small cart or hand truck is great for hauling larger pieces. Also bring fluids and lunch.

IMPORTANT: This is an active quarry. **STAY AWAY** from all heavy equipment and quarry machinery and any places that the trip lead has declared off limits. Anyone who violates these rules will be asked to leave because any violation could jeopardize future access to this site.

FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children but **they will need to be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian** at all times.

PETS: No pets.

FACILITIES: There are **NO** facilities. Food and restrooms are several miles away in the city of Summerville about 2 miles away.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are not many hotels in the Summerville area, but there are several in Rome and Adairsville.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. Please provide the **names** of all of the people you are registering (including yourself) as well as a **phone number** and **email address** you want us to use for contact tracing if any attendees report testing positive for COVID-19 after the trip. If you register for this trip then test positive for COVID-19, if you are exposed to COVID-19 within 2 weeks before the trip, or **if you are unable to attend the trip, please be considerate to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can take your slot(s).**

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

CARPPOOLING: The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you **need** a ride; if you can **offer** a ride; or if you would like to **drive or share** a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your **name, email address, and club name** will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.

CONTACT: Jose Santamaria at joses@telluseum.org 678.488.9560 or Jeff Deere at jeffdeere1961@gmail.com 770.655.2298.

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 jeopardize access to a collecting location. For this DMC trip, non-SFMS club members and the general public are not allowed. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

Rockhound Roundup

Mark your Calendars

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Workshop Open
December 8	CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 16	Field Trip to Summerville, GA
December 22	Zoom meeting
December 31	Workshop open

SAVE THE DATE: January 20, 2024. DMC Field Trip to Dale Hollow Lake, Livingston, TN. Hosted by Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN)

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next months

2024

- January** - Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club (Chattanooga, TN)
- February** - Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA)
- March** - Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA)
- April** - Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club (Hickory, NC)
- May** - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA)

We are a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). The SFMS is a union of local clubs and societies in the Southeast States. The SFMS is one of seven regional federations within the United States. Each club within the SFMS retains their local power. Without the clubs or societies there would be no Federation, only small groups doing their own thing. The purpose of the organization is to bring about a closer relationship between clubs and societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts.

The Dixie Mineral Council is an official program of the SFMS. We are an association of field trip leaders within the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies who have agreed to join together and share one of our mineral or fossil field trips.



This and other information is from *The Lodestar*, the newsletter of the Southern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), of which we are a member. Check out their website at www.southeastfed.org for articles on geology, lapidary, & rockhounding.



Rockhound RoundUp is the newsletter of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society, 8036 Parkway Drive, Leeds, AL. 35094 Editor: Ivey Cook. Email: newsletter@lapidaryclub.com