

# Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

## SEPTEMBER GEM AND MINERAL SHOW



**See you Friday the 1st at 10:00 am**

### Welcome New Members!

- ◆ Nancy Carney Smith
- ◆ Bruce Benik II
- ◆ Leigha Stahl



### President's Message

Hello rockhounds.

I am writing this president's message as the club prepares for our big Gem and Mineral Show.

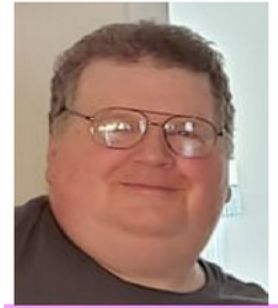
This year will be our first year at Irondale Civic Center. It promises to be a good location. Help spread the word on social media and to your friends. One of the good things about this hobby is meeting new people. Yvonne and I were at a hamburger joint and saw an older lady there with her husband. She had a turquoise and silver pendent we admired. This led to us talking about how they purchased the pendent 65 years ago in Jackson Hole. We had fun showing off our stones and encouraged them to come by the show.

Each year AMLS gives away two scholarships that can be used at William Holland or Wild Acres. The application for the scholarships asks you to list how you have participated in the club. Make sure you take part in club activities.

The workshop is being under utilized. Please let us know what you think we could do to make better use of the workshop.

I am planning a cabbing party/rock swap/picnic for October 29 (a fifth Sunday). This will be at the workshop. The weather should be cooler so we can use the backyard. We will have table available for rock swap (just make a donation if you sell anything). The picnic will be pot luck.

Respectfully submitted,  
Levan Foster, AMLS president



# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## 2023 AMLS Officers

**President**—Levan Foster

president@lapidaryclub.com

**Vice President**—Sandra Sullivan

secretary@lapidaryclub.com

**2nd Vice President**—Jim Thomas

fieldtrips@lapidaryclub.com

**Treasurer**—Reggie Bolton

treasurer@lapidaryclub.com

**Recording Secretary**—Bunny Bolton

bunny@newenvirons.net

**Corresponding Secretary**—Sandra Sullivan

secretary@lapidaryclub.com

**Historian**—John Gaston historian@lapidaryclub.com

## Members serving on the Board of Directors

John Wild john@milcomtextiles.com

Jinger Glasgow jingerssg@aol.com

## Committee Chairs

**Editor/Publications**—Ivey Cook

newsletter@lapidaryclub.com

**Education**—Yvonne Foster 205-602-8280

education@lapidaryclub.com

**Field trips**—Jim Thomas

fieldtrips@lapidaryclub.com

**Membership**—John Cook

johnac3@gmail.com

**Programs**—Sandra Sullivan

secretary@lapidaryclub.com

**Property/equipment**—Reggie Bolton

Treasurer@lapidaryclub.com

**Publicity**—Jinger Glasgow

jingerssg@aol.com

Rhonda Jordan arbeej@yahoo.com

**Show**—Ben Beadore show@lapidaryclub.com

**Webmaster**—John Cook

webmaster@lapidaryclub.com

## New Officer Elections in October

The officers shall be elected by ballot at the regular meeting in October for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected.

If you or you know someone interested in volunteering time in the club, send an email to: [nominate@lapidaryclub.com](mailto:nominate@lapidaryclub.com).



Need an application for a new member, or you need to **renew your membership**?

Go to

[https://www.lapidaryclub.com/join\\_club\\_23.htm](https://www.lapidaryclub.com/join_club_23.htm)

# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## August Meeting Minutes

AMLS meeting August 11, 2023.

Levan asked for visitors to identify themselves and we welcomed Isaiah Barwell, Cecelia Bryson, Jill Gaston, and Emily's friend Gabby. We also met new members Kristen Osborn & Thomas, Kristen Parker, and Jackson Snellgrove.

Corrections to the July minutes were called for, there were none so Jill Hill moved that the minutes be accepted, Vivian Melof seconded and the motion passed.

The club workshop is underutilized. Members need to get over there and cab and cut rocks! The fee is \$5, per hour, hanging out with other rockhounds is priceless. There will be a capping party October 29th, this is our 5th Sunday event. Included will be a rock swap and pot luck. Should be a great time.

There will not be a field trip in August. Please take show flyers to put up around town.

Treasurer Reggie reported that money is still coming in from vendors and he secured show insurance from the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Ben said things were falling into place. Vendor tables will be delivered Wednesday, 8/30 at 4:00 PM and we'll need a few folks to place them. Doors will open for vendors at 8:00AM on Thursday 8/31. We'll serve them lunch around noon thanks to John & Bonnie Gaston. They will bring an entre, baked beans and potato salad. Members should bring drinks, ice, and dessert. In the past this has been dinner but John moved that we change to lunch time. Reggie seconded and the motion passed. There will be a food truck Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Please like and share the Facebook posts. Jinger and Vivian Melof will be doing a TV spot for us.

The rest of the meeting was spent signing up for volunteering and yacking about rocks.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary

## Minutes from August Board Meeting

AMLS board meeting August 23, 2023. In attendance Levan Foster, Reggie & Bunny Bolton, John Cook, Casey Faulkner, Ben Beadore, Vivian Melof, Rhonda Jordan, Lynn Ray, and Sandra Sullivan.

Levan reminded us that there will be a fifth Sunday capping party on October 29th. This time we will include a rock swap and picnic to celebrate this year's accomplishments. Details when we're closer to time.

The time table for the show is:

4:00 pm Wednesday 8/31—rental tables delivered to Civic Center

8:00 am Thursday 9/1—doors open for vendors,

12:00 noon vendor meal—members will need to have desserts there

2:00 pm Thursday—club table stuff, geodes and cracker load up at workshop and take to Civic Center

10:00 am Friday doors open to the public, volunteers should start showing up at 9 to help vendors Same Saturday and Sunday.

4:00 pm Sunday —doors close, club table, geode cracker, etc will need to be loaded and returned to workshop, some vendors will need help breaking down

Ben said we have 13 vinyl GEM SHOW signs that will need to be put up mid-week near 78, 459 and 20/59, will need stakes too. These can be used every year.

The service entrance for the Civic Center is on the back side. Ben will send an e-mail to vendors with this and other set-up information.

Reggie suggested we make a list of phone numbers of key show people for easier communication during the show. He also volunteered to be the person vendors go to with problems. Cassandra is working on making the square use more streamlined. John Cook will get necessary brochures, membership list etc to the workshop. We'll have lanyards for vendors and volunteers with club logo, name, and booth name or number.

Last word- if Ben asks you to do something please do it and don't forget volunteering looks great on scholarship applications!

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary

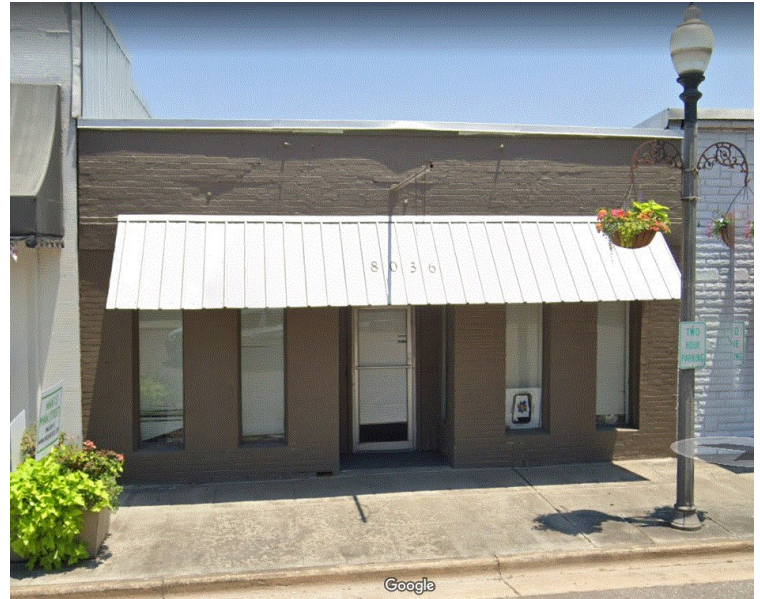
# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## 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 at

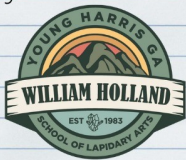
**8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds  
(across from The Pants Store)**

Open on Saturdays, but check our club website for additional dates, or contact Don Hill at donahill@comcast.net. Don says he's available to open the workshop on Tuesday upon request!



**October 29th  
Cabbing  
Party/rock  
swap/pot luck  
picnic**

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts Week 23: 9/10/23 - 9/15/23




\*\$100 OFF L

- BEADING I with Robin Chaly
- CABOCHONS I with Rick Marshall
- ENAMELING II with Samantha Lazzaro
- FACETING III with Tom Mitchell
- METAL CLAY with Michael Marx
- OPALS I with Sarah Lee Boyce
- SILVER I with Marji Ferrell



**WEEK 24:**  
9/10/23 - 9/15/23

- BASKETRY I with Vickie Prillaman
- CABOCHONS I with Paul Roberts
- FACETING I with Dave McGregor
- OPALS II with Jeff Hunter
- SILVER I with Barbara Fields



**WEEK 25: 9/17/23 - 9/22/23**

- BEADING with Robin Chaly
- CABOCHONS I with Pat I
- CABOCHONS II with Larri
- FACETING I with Dave M
- GLASS ART I with Margo
- LEATHER I&II with Tom S
- OPALS I with Jeff Hunter
- SILVER III with Barbara F
- SILVER II with Marji Ferr
- SILVER I with Monica La
- WIRE WEAVING with Cin



# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## Wildacres (Little Switzerland, NC) Teaching Retreat

Another week of classes will start September 11-17, with classes including Weave-Tap-Drop, Wire I/Weaving, Polymer Clay Chain Maille, Leather Bi-Metal Bracelet, Acid Etching & Enameling, Metal Clay **Class descriptions and teacher bios can be found at [www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org)**

## Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months

### 2023

October - Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL)

November - Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society (Greenville, SC)

December - Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)

## Upcoming Shows and Events

**9/15-17/2023- SWANNANOVA, NC:** MAGMA / Land of the Sky Gem Show, Fri/Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5, Land of the Sky Shrine Club, [www.americanrockhound.com](http://www.americanrockhound.com)

**10/13-15/2023—HUNTSVILLE, AL:** Gem and Mineral Show; Jaycee Community Center, 2180 Airport Road, Huntsville, AL, Fri & Sat 10-6 and Sun 10-5. [www.huntsvillegms.org](http://www.huntsvillegms.org)

**10/20-22/2023—KNOXVILLE, TN:** The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Rothschild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; Website <http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

**10/28-29/2023— GREENVILLE, SC:** Upstate South Carolina Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry show, Greenville Convention Center, Sat and Sun 10-5

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## Graves Mountain Dig scheduled for October 6, 7, and 8, 8:00 am to 6 pm

**Collecting Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Iridescent Hematite, Pyrophyllite, Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite, Sulfur, variscite, woodhouseite, crandallite, strengite, phosphosiderite, cacozenite, blue quartz, quartz crystals, etc.**

One of the country's premier rock collecting sites is in Lincolnton, Georgia, and you're invited to dig. The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during October. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

**The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to fill out a liability release form.**

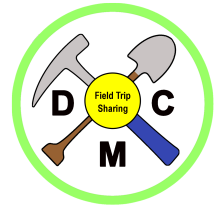
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**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL  
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"!  
Mark your calendar and tell all your friends**

**Get directions and additional information at <https://www.gaminal.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>**

# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## DMF Field Trip Sharing Program



**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
**9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Eastern Time**  
**Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine**  
**Dillwyn, Virginia**  
**Limit: 75 People**  
**Registration Required**  
**Fee: None**

**COLLECTING:** Willis Mountain is what's known as a monadnock. The kyanite exposure resisted weathering and, as the surrounding area was eroded and weathered away, the mountain outcrop was left standing. The center of the mountain has been mostly mined away. We should be able to find plenty of white kyanite blades in the massive kyanite quartzite; pyrite; quartz; hematite with some iridescence, red mica, green mica, apatite, and possibly some blue kyanite and pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz here have a beautiful light blue fluorescence and the apatite is yellow so bring your shortwave lamp and blackout cloth.

**BRING:** Standard quarry safety gear is required: **hardhat with a manufacturing date of 5 years or less** (everyone must have an approved hard hat...no bicycle helmets; small heads can wear a ball cap under the hardhat), **safety glasses, respiratory protection** from rock dust you may encounter, and a **pair of wheel chocks** either purchased, home-made or even a rock is acceptable. Every time you leave the car, turn off the engine, put in park and apply the hand brake and wheel chocks. **ONLY STEEL TOED OR REINFORCED COMPOSITE TOED FOOTWEAR WILL BE ALLOWED THIS YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** If you do not have all the required minimum safety equipment, hard hat, safety shoes, and safety glasses, you will **not** be allowed to enter the quarry. Also required are **long pants, gloves, hammer and chisels, wrapping paper, buckets, and water** because it is very important to stay hydrated as it may be very hot. If you have any medical condition that would put you in any danger, do not attempt this trip. For your own safety, let your field trip leader or collecting buddy know if you have any medical condition that could be a problem for you. Be prepared for windy, hot, or wet weather. We will be on the mountain top and it's always windy. We can drive to the designated collecting area, so hand trucks should not be needed. Bring a camera, as the view is awesome.

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:** Everyone must plan to arrive at the office parking lot between 7:30 AM and no later than 8:30 AM to read and sign the updated Liability Form, Hazard Training & Recognition Check List Form, and to hear the mandatory safety briefing before entering the mine at 9AM. Each Club field trip leader, or their appointed replacement, will act as a safety official while in the mine. Every person is expected to be on the lookout for and call immediate attention to any safety infractions from any collector from any club. Keep in mind that this site is one of the very few that are still open for collecting. Not obeying ALL the safety rules will cause this site to be closed to all future collecting.

**CHILDREN (Yes):** There is no age limit, but no toddlers please. All children must be signed for, closely supervised by an adult, and never left unattended. They must also have all the required safety equipment. No Exceptions!!!

**PETS (No):** No pets allowed; this is an active working quarry.

**WEATHER:** The trip will be canceled due to safety concerns in case of hard rain or a thunderstorm. Call to confirm if there is any question.

**AFTER THE DIG SOCIAL:** This year, the pavilion beside the office will be available immediately after the dig ends at 1PM to relax, cool off, and eat your lunch. This will also be a social get together so that we can have a chance to become better acquainted with the members of our rock club neighbors and to provide some time to relax before their long ride home. There may also be other groups there as invited guests of Kyanite Mining.

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

**CONTACTS:** James Tomlin, GMSL Club President. Email at [tomlin.jamesm@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlin.jamesm@yahoo.com) or call him at 434-258-2886.

# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

## Mark your Calendars

September 1-3:	Gem & Mineral Show, Irondale Civic Center
September 5, 12, 19, 26:	Workshop Open
September 23:	Board Meeting
October 6-8:	Graves Mountain Dig
October 29:	Cabbing Party/rock swap/picnic, Workshop

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### ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY      Birmingham, Alabama

The Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society is a nonprofit 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 2023 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 our annual 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. Membership application can be found at [https://www.lapidaryclub.com/membership\\_application\\_download\\_23.htm](https://www.lapidaryclub.com/membership_application_download_23.htm)

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 [newsletter@lapidaryclub.com](mailto:newsletter@lapidaryclub.com).

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