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

President's Message

Two exciting opportunities for service, community outreach, and fun (yes - fun!) are coming right up. This April 23rd (Saturday) our Lapidary Club will be represented at the Birmingham Zoo's "Party for the Planet" event. We'll start setting up around 9:00am. For the record, and I do not boast, only observe, our club's tent/demos were one of the premier attractions (ok - it was THE premier attraction). So, this is your chance to be part of a THE Team this year!

Following hot on the heels of this event is our annual Tannehill Gem and Mineral Show coming up this June 4th/5th. This is our "All Hands on Deck" event. It is one of our club's biggest fund raisers, a sure source of new members, and a lot of fun to boot. As a club we'll be providing a Vendor Dinner (Friday Night), we'll have our Club Tent set up. Children's Game area, and a Demo/Program Station (at the Hoot & Holler Shed). We'll be handing out sign up sheets at the April 22 Auction Night. Let's see if we can't add more signatures than there are lines on the sheets! Speaking of which - of Auction Night that is - this April 22 meeting will be our Annual Auction Night. This functions both as a club fund raiser and fun raiser. There will be a lot of interesting specimens, jewelry, minerals and more.

All the above is what our club does. And more. We offer monthly meetings (with great programs), field trips (with great rocks), classes (with great teachers) and cabbing parties (with great machines).

Great as all that might seem, what's greatest and best of all about our club is that we offer each other! That's just who we are. Rockhounds!

Respectfully, Larry Hensley, A.M.L.S. President Website: http://ww.lapidaryclub.com



LARRY HENSLEY President A.M.L.S.

April 22nd - Annual Auction! *Great bargains! Be sure to get your number when you sign in!*

April 23rd - Earth Day at the Zoo AMLS demo April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th - Graves Mt. Dig

May 27th - Tumbling Contest and Show prep June 3, 4, & 5 - Tannehill Dinner & Show

July 8th - Anita Westlake

August 12th - Kim Cochran

September - Open

October - Gloria and Steve Adams

November - Annual Mtg. and scholarship **December** - Christmas and Scholarship winner

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VOLUME 56 ISSUE 4	ROCKH				
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* Interim Treasurer due to	Reggie Bolton			

reggie@newenvirons.net

the illness of Jackie Seale

For more information: **AFMS 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

AUCTION TIME !!!

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE GREATEST AUCTION OF ALL!

The annual A.M.L.S. auction will be are next program. You can get wonderful bargains on items you may need to complete you collection or that special piece for a gift. Please remember these proceeds help our club stay afloat.

Please donate good pieces too. SS



Members Serving on the Board of Directors:

205-594-4203 **Judith Johnson**

judalinej@gmail.com

Karen Williams 205-988-5673

kacwms@bellsouth.net

Southeast Federation Officers:

President of SFMS Lisa Roberts

antleycreations@yahoo.

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Phillip Kaiser Alabama State Representative to SFMS kaiserpw@att.net

Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2016 ~

John Gaston blessed our meal and we all enjoyed a delightful pot-luck.

John Wild introduced our speaker/director/play write who informed the group that laughing was permitted but please *no* questions during the program. Questionnaires were distributed and during intermission and all were encouraged to inspect the victim's desk. The play was informative in a most amusing way. Tom will announce the winner at next month's meeting who had the most or all of the safety hazards issues listed. This was a very informative way to address good safety issues in our homes while doing our lapidary work.

In the budget for 2016, the Tannehill Show advertising money was increased. This should be offset by a slight increase in vendor fees. If you know of any Events Calendar we should be included in please pass that along.

Sandra has post cards you can send to interested parties, especially interior designers. Some of our budget depends on money made at the April auction so please come and participate by donating rocks, tools and equipment, and any rock related items you might have and \$\$ to bid on the goodies.

Tony West from the Golden Temple announced that they carry rocks and crystals and if you show your AMLS membership card you can get 10% off. If you have not gotten your card yet see Reggie Bolton, he has them now.

Lou Ann Newell said we had 77 people at the Brookwood field trip. The Newells are working hard to see that we have lots of opportunities for collecting so please take advantage and get out there. Also Sandra passed along Ina Rae Muncher's info that most of the mines in the Franklin, NC area will open in April and her cabin is available to rent for \$100 per night. Many AMLS members have stayed here, it is conveniently located and sleeps quite a few.

Steve Tyson is ready to sell rocks again. Contact Sandra for his information. John Gaston is still selling Mary Quan's collection. Contact him for an appointment.

Please sign up for SFMS weeks at William Holland (June 5th-11th) or Wildacres (Aug 22-28 and Sept 19-25). And our next cabbing opportunity

with the club's equipment is April 9th. The meeting was adjourned and door prizes given out.
Respectfully submitted,
Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary

Board Minutes for March 28, 2016 ~

Attending- Bunny and Reggie Bolton, Judith Johnson, Tim Leatherman, John Wild, Larry and Cindy Hensley, Sandra Sullivan, and Tom Talty.

Tim has contracted with "The Leaf", Tannehill's publication for 1/4 page ad in the April and May issues. This is for the print and on-line editions and includes a 200 word article for the May edition on our event. The cost is \$670.00. We will also spend \$250.00 for an ad which will show on TVs in businesses in Tuscaloosa restaurants, salons, pharmacies, and fitness centers. It was decided Weld was too pricey for us but we will be ordering 500 fans for distribution at Tannehill during our event. We need to get in Event Calendars in as many publications as possible such as Weld, B'ham Parents, The Village (Mtn. Brook), Over the Mountain Journal, Hoover Sun, B'ham 365 etc.

Cathy Kellogg says all RV spaces and spots in Sheds 1 and 2 are taken but there are still 4 spaces left in Shed 3. This is the shed that doesn't have electricity.

We were sorry to hear that Judith will probably not make it to Tannehill as she will be recovering from knee surgery. She will be missed! Cindy suggested we hire help to take down the club tent, gather tables, etc. Sunday afternoon. If we don't have folks sign up to help then we may need to. There will be sign up sheets at the April meeting for the many tasks required throughout the weekend. Cabinets and display cases could be made available at the Hoot-N-Holler for members who would like to show and/or sell their items. They would need to spend some time there.

John Wild, Tom Talty and Bunny Bolton are the new games committee. Final touches will be put on new stuff at the May 'class' at the Hoover Library.

A suggestion was made that at the April auction items that members are interested in could be moved to a final table to optimize and/or expedite sales.

Board Meeting Minutes continued on page 8.

Club & Society Shows / Swaps via the Lodestar and Rock&Gem internet listings and newsletters

Apr. 23 - 24 Memphis, TN. Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis International Agricenter; 7777 Walnut Grove Rd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Children over 12 \$2, Chldren 12 & under free; Rockzone contact WC McDaniel, 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104, (901)-274-7706; e-mail: w.c.mcd@att.net; Web site: www.The EarthWideOpen.com

Apr. 23 - Madison, TN Middle Tennessee Rockhounds Show and Sale Amqui Station; 303 Madison Street; Sat. 10 - 4; Free admission; 3RD Annual "Dig it Music City" A fun family exploration of the Earth's rocks, minerals, free mineral and fossil ID, rock, mineral, fossil, slab, rough, & gem vendors. Contact Wayne Ramsey, Nashville, TN (615) 491-2293. email swap@rockhound.org; or website:

wwwRockHound.org.

Apr. 30 - May 1 Pinecrest, FL. Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild, Evelyn Greer Park; 8200 SW 124 Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Free Admission for children under 12; The Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild (MMLG) is holding a Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil. There will be exhibits, displays, demonstrations, raffles, and vendors showcasing mineral & fossil specimens, contact Sandy Mielke, 2434 Swanson Avenue, Miami, FL 33133, (305)-858-6967; e-mail: webguy@mmlg-inc.org; Web site: www.miamigemandmineral.com

Apr. 30 - May 1 North Charleston, S.C. Low-country Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., Charleston Area Convention Center; 5000 Coliseum Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; The Gem Show is held as a component of the North Charleston Arts Festival. Lapidary demonstrations, hourly door

prizes, fossil mining & geode cracking are just a few of the activities.; contact Karen Havenstein, (843)-795-2956; e-mail: webmas-

ter@lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org; Web site: www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org

May 6 - 8 Franklin, N.C. Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Carpenter Building; 1288 Georgia Rd.(US441); Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Finished gold and silver jewelry, silver and gold findings, minerals, fossils, cab & facet rough, demonstrations, and much more.; contact Norman Holbert, 180 Camelot Estates Road, Franklin, NC 28734, 828 634-0350; e-mail: normholbert@comcast.net; Web site: www.fgmm.org

May 6 - 8 Marietta, GA. Georgia Mineral Society, Cobb County Civic Center; 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; Free Admission; The Georgia Mineral Society's 48th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show. Door Prizes! Special door prize for students! Win a great prize for yourself and for your school!; contact Shelley Stubbs, (678)-612-7293; e-mail: mayshow@gamineral.org; Web site: www.gamineral.org

Random Rock Facts ~

All rocks begin as igneous rocks. Before rocks can be transformed by sedimentation and weathering or metamorphosed by the heat and pressure of plate tectonics, they must first be cooled from the intense heat of the earth's mantle.

Whether they are formed from plutonic rocks deep within the crust of the earth or extruded onto the surface of the earth by volcanoes all rocks have a fiery beginning as igneous rocks.

Source: http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com/igneous_rocks.html

Reprinted with permission from Doug Mann

Via the Rockhounds Hearld newsletter for the Dothan, Mineral & Gem Club April, 2016 Page 11.

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

tures below



Dixie Mineral Club Fieldtrip An Official Field Trip of the

Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC)

Friday, May 20, 2016 Vulcan Quarry and Mineral and Lapidary Museum Hendersonville, NC

TRIP (May 20): Vulcan Quarry and Henderson-ville Mineral and Lapidary Museum. Hendersonville Vulcan Quarry is where they mine the beautiful Henderson Augen Gneiss which is unique to this area.

NO COLLECTING: A Vulcan Quarry employee will lecture on materials they find, collection methods and other interesting facts. After a short hike we will see a working pit mine. Pictures below.

FEE: There is no cost. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Participants will walk about a half mile to the quarry from the lecture room. **BRING:** No special equipment other than walking shoes are needed as this is not a collecting trip. Water bottle might be a good idea.

birections and where to meet: Interstate 26 exit 49 (Hwy 64 East/Batcave) continue .6 miles and meet in Ingles Grocery Store parking lot near the corner of Hwy 64 and Howard Gap Road at 12:30. After the Quarry visit at 3:30 you are invited to a meet and greet at 400 N Main St Hendersonville at the Mineral and Lapidary Museum. CONTACT: Margaret Gilbert 828-674-1625 gilbert3487@att.net



Saturday, May 21, 2016 Treasure Valley the former Lookadoo Gold Mine (Fee Site)

Treasure Valley near Nebo NC. Treasure Valley is only open to scheduled groups. Treasure Valley is located in the South Mtn. gold belt. It was formerly the Lookadoo mine. Lookadoo was a working gold mine in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The owner will give a tour if you are interested in the history. **COLLECTING:** Gold and native stones are found in the stream or you may work from dry dirt. Pic-

FEE: \$35 each. If we have more than 20 people the cost will reduce to \$30. For an additional fee: 1 camping site with water and electricity and 2 dry camping spots with electricity for campers are available for Friday night if we have at least 8 people interested. Tent camping would also be available. Facilities are outhouses and you would need to bring your own water.

BRING: To work the material you would need a gold pan, buckets, shovel and classifiers. Water shoes are a must.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Exit 46 off Interstate 40. Meet at Lowes Truck stop at 9am. CONTACT: Margaret Gilbert 828-674-1625 gilbert3487@att.net If you want to camp let me know and I'll get you the information.



Brad Smith Bench Tips ~

GRIPPING SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two



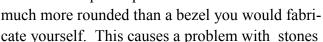
ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying premade cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are



that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

http://BradSmithJewelry.com

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon.



Ina Raye Munches says ... The cabin they built in Franklin, N.C. is open for rental. It sleeps 12 and is located conveniently to all the mines around Franklin, N.C. This is the little gem capital of the world. If you are interested, please call her to make arrange-

ments. 205-410-4703. Still \$100. per night plus \$50. cleaning fee after your stay. *S.S.*

For your Information!

Try this important website for info on classes! http://www.amfed.org/sfms.

The SFMS Workshop classes are open to all SFMS members, all AMFED Federation members and anyone from the general public that is willing to join a gem club - either a local one to them or one we provide to them.

http://amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html

The catalog listing of the 2016 classes at the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA and Wild Acres is now online. So check out the wide variety of lapidary skills being taught there and read about all of the class teachers. Better hurry if you want to register for a class, because they fill up fast. http://www.lapidaryschool.org/classschedule.php

April Birthstone ~ The birthstones for April is diamonds.

Diamond - History of the Diamond as the April Birthstone

Natural diamonds are a rare and unique ultimate gift for a loved one. Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe, diamonds date back billions of years. The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity and abundance. It's also symbolic of eternal love, and those fortunate to call April the month of their birth will enjoy the following history behind this rare gem.

Diamond Gemstones

Adopted from the Greek work *adamas*, meaning "invincible," diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the type of impurities that are present in the stone. For instance, yellow stones have minuscule traces of nitrogen while blue ones contain boron.



the American Gem Society Source: www.americangemsociety.org
This is a great website! S.S.

The images are from the internet and can be seen at various web pages.

Directory of Rock Shops, Mineral and Fossil Shows and much...

Resources for the Geology Enthusiasts

Another wonderful website that our club needs to be on! This website was sent to me by one of the fellow editors. Go check it out!

http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/

Cathy Kellogg says ... Anything related to the Tannehill Show, please contact her at this email address: tannehillgemshow@gmail.com *Thanks*

New Members ... Let's all extend our hand of welcome to our newest member ~

Brenda O' Bazier

We have several new members who need to know more about the

A.M.L.S. so let's tell

them!

Keep on Rocking, Sandra



Please see Cindy Hensley or Yvonne Foster for discussions concerning any important projects that need feedback on tpye class. The Tannehill Kids Corner projects will be done at this time too. We need your help is needed in making this a viable portion of our club activities. Contact Information Cindy Hensley 205-910-2293 or Yvonne Foster 205-602-8280



Cindv

Yvonne

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Quarterly Meeting in Jackson, MS.

It was my honor and pleasure to attend the recent quarterly meeting of the Southeast Federation held in Jackson, MS as the designated representative of AMLS. As a duly registered representative I was able to attend the Friday evening "cracker barrel" as well as the Saturday morning business meeting and participate in discussions and voting on business matters. As you may know, our club's show insurance and liability insurance are on the SFMS group policy which saves us some money compared to obtaining coverage on our own. At the cracker

barrel meeting I was able to discuss some of our concerns concerning proof of insurance for field trips. I also requested coverage summaries for our show and liability policies. Although the insurance liaison was prevented by health concerns from attending, the other officers were receptive to my suggestions and agreed to act on them. The other delegates were also glad to hear this being resolved. I also learned that through a miscommunication we were charged an extra \$0.25 per member for dues. The Federation intends to refund this money but since we're only talking about \$25 I think I will suggest to our board that we let them keep it as a donation to the scholarship fund.

My trip was not all business. I decided to leave early Friday morning and take the back roads to Jackson and take advantage of the opportunity for some sightseeing. My first stop was in Gainesville, Al. During its heyday in the first half of the 19th century Gainesville was the largest inland port in the US. Thousands of bales of cotton produced in the surrounding area were shipped down the Tombigbee to Mobile. Also, there is a marker there where Gen, N.B. Forrest surrendered the last Confederate unit east of the Mississippi at the end of the civil war. He was no doubt there looking for fresh horses. One of the first in the line of Morgan horses had been brought to this area from Vermont for their thriving horse breeding business. Next stop was Philadelphia, MS where I avoided the casinos and visited the Choctaw Indian cultural center. Though they now have a thriving community in the area this tribe's history is just as sad as the Cherokee's including their own version of the trail of tears. I hurried on from there and was able to make it to Flora, MS in time to see the Petrified Forest and visit their excellent gift shop before heading down to Jackson for the meeting. And of course I had to go spend some money at the Mississippi Gem & Mineralogical Society show before I left on Saturday.

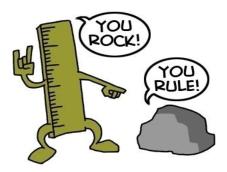
This was a great opportunity to meet members from other clubs. Among other things I was able to discuss our plans for a workshop with some other people working on the same thing for their clubs. Thanks for sending me. Reggie Bolton, Interim Treasurer Reporting

Board Meeting Minutes Continued from page 3.

At future meetings we would like to have silent auctions of about 5 items to raise additional funds.

We may want to purchase whistles for future field trips. With kids and seniors among our attendees this would be helpful if someone got lost or injured. Children would have to understand that the whistles were for emergencies only!

Respectfully submitted, Bunny Bolton Recording Secretary



For more information concerning kids and rocks, check out this website too!

www.kidsloverocks.com

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Last page funnies ... The Geologist's Lament By R. L. Frism 1940

Gather 'round me, hear my story,
I'm a rockhound in distress
I'm a rockhound bathed in troubles
I'm an outcast, more or less.
I have fossils in the kitchen,
I have crystals in the hall,
I have minerals in the bathtub;
I have relics on the wall.
I have oxides on the carpet
I have oil upon the floor,
I have blacklight in the parlor
I have bones behind each door.

Attic rooms are fairly sagging.
Rocks pave the cellar floor,
Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,
All of this and millions more.
Wifey thinks that I am goofy
I don't know, she may be right.
She insists I have silicosis,
Or some contagious form of "ite"
Says my head is lined with agate
(A freak displacement of the bone),
Says my brain is just a nodule.
Says my heart is turned to stone.

Threatens me with separation; Storms about our rockhound home, Says life for me is just a geode Or a hunk of mammal bone. Are you rated as a fossil? Are you obliged to live alone? How do you maintain a hobby, And still maintain a happy home?



The foregoing poem was mailed to me(?) by Ruth Yerkes who cut it Out of the

A.N	I.L.S. Application	on for Membership	Ne	ew	_ Renewal
NAME (S)					
ADDRESS					
CITY		STA	TE	ZIP_	
HOME PHONE_		WORK PI	HONE		
E-MAIL ADDRI	ESS				
dues are one-half pr November meeting Please make checks	rice for new members and / or before Jass payable to the AL	_ Junior / Student rs only. Dues for regular i nuary 1 of the new year. ABAMA MINERAL & L INGVILLE, AL. 35146	nembers are t	o be re	newed at the
	nd Friday of each n kes the place of the	nonth except for the month June meeting.	of June. The T	annehil	l Show
Meeting Place: Emr	net O'Neal Library Website: <u>info@eolit</u>	50 Oak St. Mountain Bro			
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m. Date Received _			d		

Visitors Welcomed!

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

SCRIBE

Website: http://www.lapidaryclub.com

SANDRA SULLIVAN, EDITOR P.O. BOX 1067 SPRINGVILLE, AL. 35146

STAMP

If undeliverable, please return to the address above.

Meeting: Friday night April 22, 2016 Place: EMMET O'NEAL LIBRARY 50 Oak St. Mt. Brook, AL. 35213 205-897-0459 info@eolib.org

Time: 6:30 pm gathering and fellowship

And food. 7 pm Program

MAILING LABEL

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 2016 are \$20.00 family, \$15.00 single, and Juniors / Students \$10.00. 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 **Tannehill Show**). Meetings are currently held at the **Emmet O'Neal Library in Mt. Brook, AL.** 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.

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.

