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

President's Message

Hello Folks,

Hope this newsletter finds everyone having a good February

Several Items of Note:

Field Trips:

- 1) Courtesy of our new field trip chairs Lou Ann and Bud Newell our club enjoyed an excursion to the Patty Construction Quarry in January.
- 2) March 5th, we will be holding our field trip to Brookwood. This site is rich in conglomerates, petrified wood, indian paint pots, and much more. Always a lot of fun, and lots of opportunity for finding good specimens. We use the material from this fieldtrip to use as our tumbling stones for the Tumbling Contest held in May. The member will collect, sort, tumble and present the same material collected from the same place at the same time. The Tumbling Contest is to be judged by the membership at large at our meeting on May 27th.
- 3) We should bear in mind the Hogg Mine trip which is coming up March 19th, as well.

Workshop:

We, as a club, will continue to explore options toward achieving a workshop, which opens up so many opportunities for growth.

Auction:

Coming in two months - April. Everyone should consider what they might like to donate (and remember there are some good bargains to buy!)

Tannehill:

Coming up fast now. Let's be giving thought to how we can all help to make the Tannehill Show a success. It is our biggest fun raiser, after all, and we need everyone's participation.

Larry Hensley, President A.M.L.S

Website: http://ww.lapidaryclub.com



LARRY HENSLEY President A.M.L.S.

Feb. 20th - Hoover Library Class, Wire Knitting or Crochet Work

Feb. 26th - Kenneth Kornegay - Oregon Sunstones (due to the annual book sale we have been bumped to the fourth Friday night)

Mar. 5th - Brookwood Fieldtrip

Mar. 11th - Tom Talty - Clues ????

April 22nd - Annual Auction

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

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OFFICERS

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hensley.larry@gmail.com

205-937-5810

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.afed.org Email: sfms@amfed.org

DMC Field Trip Schedule as of January 11, 2016 Year - 2016

Feb. - Athens Rock and Gem Club Athens, GA Feb. - Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society Vero Beach, FL

Mar. - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society Jack sonville, FL

Apr. - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society Hunts ville, AL

May - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society Hendersonville, NC

June - Columbia Gem & Mineral Society Columbia, SC

July - Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club Chattanooga, TN

Aug. - Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
 Sept. - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society Cornelia,

Oct. - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Soci ety Memphis, TN

Nov. - Aiken Gem and Mineral Society Aiken, SC

Dec. - Georgia Mineral Society Atlanta, GA

Mark your calendars when you see these fieldtrips!

Members Serving	g on the Board of Directors :		
Judith Johnson	205-594-4203 judalinej@gmail.com		
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Southeast Federation Officers:			

President of SFMS Lisa Roberts

antleycreations@yahoo.

com

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

Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2016

Larry asked for visitors, we had Ed Harris, Rebecca's dad visiting the Rayls and helping Darricke with his program. Also Jan Leatherman, Andrew Barnes, and Mary, Kiley, and Zakk Jones We have some new members Tim, Kathy, and Tristan Carish.

A sheet of paper was sent around for members to list their skills they would like to share with the club and those they would be interested in learning.

John Wild introduced Darricke Rayl, our speaker on 3-D printing which is a process of putting down layers of plastic, resin, metal (or other material) under computer control. He had several printers to demonstrate this process. This concept has been around since the early 1980s but in the last 5 years has really exploded and is affordable for small scale and home use.

Sandra announced that our next meeting would be on Feb. 26th and that some other meetings would be on non-regular nights so check your Rockhound Roundup. John Gaston announced the final estate sale for Mary Quan would be Jan 22, 23 & 24.

Memberships are being paid- - thanks! We are low on membership cards so new ones will be printed and mailed out. Money has been earmarked for a workshop building and several members are looking for a portable building.

Our Fieldtrip co-chairs Bud and Lou Ann Newell have lined up a trip to Patty Construction Site in Summerville, GA. on Jan 17th. It's surface collecting, bring buckets and gloves. Meet at Lowe's in Trussville at Exit 31 on 459.

Our very own Bunny Bolton talked about a class she will teach at the Hoover Library Feb. 20th on Crochet or Knitting Wire items.

Respectfully submitted, Bunny Bolton, A.M.L.S. Recording Secretary

Board meeting January 25, 2016

Hoover Library. In attendance: Larry and Cindy Hensley, Reggie and Bunny Bolton, Cathy Kellogg, John Wild and Judith Johnson.

Reggie talked about his and Sandra's efforts to nail down dates with the library for our club meetings. The dates we have are Feb. 26, Mar. 11 and July 8. Pending are Apr. 22, and May 27. Sandra will continue to work with Deborah Crouch at the library on this. John Wild will contact our Feb speaker, Ken Kornegay about the February meeting change.

The Brookwood field trip is being postponed until March 5th so that Reggie can attend the Southeastern Federation quarterly meeting in Jackson, MS Feb. 26 & 27.

Treasury updates were related to dues and insurance due. Southeastern Federation Insurance will be \$224. and we will pay \$161. in dues to the Eastern Federation.

Cindy has been in touch with glass artist Deborah Ballog who has a studio at Artists on the Bluff about doing a fund raiser making glass Christmas ornaments. If there is interest in this please let Cindy know. We can set a date in September or October.

Tannehill Discussion - The food vendor situation is still in the air and Cathy continues to work on it researching alternative venues. New kid's activities are needed and one suggestion was a "Twister" style game with rocks on color circles. Please send any free or inexpensive advertising ideas to Cathy.

Our auction is coming up in April and while we can't advertise it, contact should be made with local college/university geology departments for students and faculty who might be interested in growing their collections.

A workshop is continues to be a top priority. Reggie will look at building possibilities and utilities, customizing and insurance must be looked into. Submitted by Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary

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

Feb 27 - 28, Jackson, MS Annual Gem, Mineral Fossil and Jewelry Show Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS). Sat. 9 to 6, and Sun. 10 to 5. Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS Admission: Adults - \$6; Students - \$3: Scouts & Leaders in Uniform - \$2.: Children 5 and under - Free * Special Exhibit: The Rock Food Table * Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, lapidary tools, beads, and more. * Demonstrations of lapidary art including flint knapping, cabochon cutting, and jewelry making. * Exhibits and educational opportunities by colleges and state organizations. * Children's activities (adults are welcomed too) .* Touch and See Table.* Displays by MGMS members of their some of their own collections or lapidary work. * Hourly door prizes, and a grand prize drawing, website: www.missgems.org

Feb. 27 Lakeland, FL. Annual Show and Sale Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801 Sat9:00am - 4:30pm.Door Prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids' Treasure Dig, Demonstrations on Wire Wrapping, Cabochon Making and Lapidary, Educational Displays, Silent and Chinese Auctions, Gem Flume with genuine NC gemstones, Featuring more than 30 dealers, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts, hobby supplies. Show Contact: Kim Price, (863) 412-9156 e-mail:

IBVGMFS@gmail.com http://www.bonevalley.net

Feb.28, The Villages Gem & Mineral Society 4th Annual Show The Villages, FL. Sun. 10 to 4. Sea Breeze Regional Recreation Center
2374 Buena Vista Blvd. The Villages, FL 32162
Latitude 28.875029 Longitude 81.992828
Admission is FREE! FREE parking! Almost 100 tables featured so there is something for everyone.
Rough, slabs, fossils, minerals of all kinds for sale.
Gemologist, Faceters, Silver smith, jewelry creations made to order, Jewelry craft suppliers,

findings, loose beads and chains of all kind sold by the foot. Hourly door prize drawings. Additional show artisans include: handmade glass bead, glass fusion, hand carved wood sculptures, basket weavers and much more. Club display and exhibit table Show contact: Christine Courtwright, Show Chair, 352-753-6139 e-mail address: number1cc@gmail. com. thevillagesgemandmineralsociety.com/

Mar 6-7-8, St. Petersburg, FL 45th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY The Minnreg Building 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773. Fri: 10 to 6; Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-5. HOURLY DOOR PRIZES! GRAND DRAWING AT END OF SHOW! \$1.50 GRAB BAGS, FREE PARKING 12+ Dealers. Planned demonstration exhibits on Beading, Wire Wrapping, Cabbing, Faceting, Metal Work. Silent auctions all day long. Gem Mining Flume inside. Club display cases and exhibits. Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279 Email contact: SGAMSgemshow@gmail.com or www.sgams.com/Shows/show.htm

Mar. 11-13, Augusta, GA 28th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Julian Smith Casino / 2200 Broad St. / Augusta, GA. Fri & Sat 10-7 / Sun 11-5. Admission: \$3 per adult or \$5 Weekend pass-Children under 12 Free with an Adult. Vendors that offer a wide variety of jewelry, rare fossils and mineral specimens, gems of all colors shapes & sizes, lapidary and much more. Member Show Cases, Lapidary Demonstrations, Educational Resources, Grab Bags, Treasure Dig, Geode Cutting, Mineral Panning, Hourly Door Prizes and a Grand Prize that will be awarded at the end of the show on Sunday. Chris Glass 706-284-9239. www.aikengmfs.org or www.agam.club

Mar. 19-20, Dothan, AL Dothan Gem and Mineral Show. Houston County Farm Center 1701 East Cottonwood Road Dothan, AL. Sat. 9:00-5:00 and Sun. 10:00-4:00. Minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary rough, beads, and handcrafted items, such as, jewelry and knapped knives. Hourly door prizes, silent auction, grab bags. Free admission. Show contact: Jeff DeRoche, Show Chair, 334-673-3554. E-Mail contact: arlambert@comcast.net or



Dixie Mineral Club Fieldtrip An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society (Atlanta, GA) (HOST)

Saturday, March 12, 2016 Clarkesville, GA 10:00 AM

Fee: \$10 per person

TRIP: This location was a popular collecting location many years ago but had not been visited for a long time. Jim Haege was instrumental in getting the site reopened a few years ago and since then it has been a fun and productive site.

COLLECTING: Kyanite blades and cobbles, small mica books, and graphite specimens (rare). The kyanite ranges from gray to pale blue and may contain graphite. Some of the blades can be polished and, because of the graphite, they have a curious depth and shimmer when they are polished.

BRING: Material is plentiful and weathering out onto the surface. Bigger blades and cobbles are found by digging. Scratching tools and baggies are all you need for surface collecting, shovel and pick for digging. **All holes must be refilled**. This site can be muddy at times, so a change of clothes would be good too.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at the site, but GMS members will have free water and snacks available for everyone.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

PETS: Because this is a working farm, pets are not allowed

SAFETY: There are electrified fences on the farm so **do not** touch any fences. Field trip leads will open and close gates. This is a working farm and there may be animals present – **do not** approach any of the animals. **Do not** enter pastures where animals

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

We will be meeting at 10:00 am Eastern time. Ingles Market (the only Ingles in Clarkesville) 199 East Louise Street (US Old/Historical 441) Clarkesville, GA 30523

Coordinates: 34.603124,-83.517801

- 1) From Atlanta, take I-985 North towards Gainesville
- 2) I-985 will transition to GA 365/US 23
- 3) Continue on GA 365/US 23 to GA 197
- 4) Take GA 197 north to Clarkesville (about 3.5 mi.)
- 5) Ingles is on the right, we will meet in the parking lot close to the highway.

CONTACT: Charles Carter, GMS Field Trip Chair Home: 770-998-7949 or Cell: 770-891-5947 fieldtrips@gamineral.org



Kyanite blades

Kyanite cobble



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

www.kidsloverocks.com

Brad Smith Bench Tips ~ SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for

vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies.



The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawks-

bill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold. USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.



So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft

size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon or at www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Tannehill Show Planning already begun!

Cathy Kellogg says We have 18 signed up at this time. We need someone Thursday to help with setting up an RV for an older vendor. (The same as last year, Ms. Mary Ingram, by the rest rooms.) We need help with the tables on Friday and with then tables for Sunday. Cathy has set up this way of contacting her about anything related to the show: tannehillgemshow@gmail.com

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/

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

February Birthstone ~

Amethyst Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.









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

Via this website http://www.minerals.net/mineral/amethyst.aspx ~

This is another good website you may like to bookmark for future references. S.S.



New Members ... Let's all extend our hand of welcome to our newest members ~ We have some new members Tim, Kathy, and Tristan Carish. Via the mailbox, we have these two ladies from Fultondale, AL. Cheryl Garvich and Donna Sellers. We have several new members who need to know more about the A.M.L.S. so let's tell them.

Keep on Rocking, S.S.

~ The Hoover Library class hopefully you made it! Bunny Bolton agreed to teach a class on knitting or crochet wire for the class. Bunny explained what you can do in the class and what items needed. We have an opportunity to have some other fine artist in our club step up and teach something they enjoy.









Bunny

Pictures courtesy Bunny Bolton

Cindy

Yvonne

GRAVES MOUNTAIN DIG ~ APRIL 22nd, 23rd, & 24th, 2016

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during the current year. 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 and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. 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.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks: Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

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 about these great events!

Graves Mountain is accessible and open for mineral collecting by colleges, universities, and gem and mineral societies. Groups as small as two INDIVIDUAL mineral collectors can now reserve the mountain!

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

Park your vehicle in the designated area (at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).

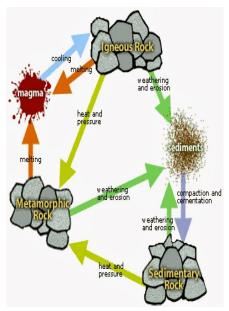
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved. ALL CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!) EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359,1544 (his business) or 706.401,3173 (his cell)

Report violations to: Clarence Norman, Jr. of Norman C E Wrecking Co. 3333 C E Norman Rd. Lincolnton, GA. 30817-3110 706.359.3862 (his business) 706.401.3173 (his cell)

Last page funnies ... The ROCKHOUND'S TEN COMMANDMENT'S

- 1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hand.
- 2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pinching, squeezing, or biting.
- 3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
- 4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimen in thine own pocket.
- 5. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently. Sometimes thou can be wrong.
- 6. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
- 7. Thou shalt not climb above thou neighbor's head when on a fieldtrip, lest thou art willing to spent the rest of the day digging him out.
- 8. Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands, and feet so that thou can enjoy many more fieldtrips.
- 9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's digging, lest his hammer be dropped upon thy toe.
- 10. Thou shalt not complain about, or denounce, the club officers under penalty of being elected one thyself.



Via MGMS Rocky Echoes Vol.42 #5 2/02 pg.15 and numerous times in this newsletter too.

A.M.L.S. Application	on for Membership	N	ew	Renewal
NAME (S)				
ADDRESS				
CITY			_ZIP	
HOME PHONE	WORK PI	HONE		
E-MAIL ADDRESS				
Family \$20 Single \$15 dues are one-half price for new member November meeting and / or before Japanese make checks payable to the AL P.O. BOX 1067 SPR	ers only. Dues for regular anuary 1 of the new year.	members are	to be ren	ewed at the
Meeting Date: Second Friday of each r takes the place of the		of June. The	Tannehill	Show
Meeting Place: Emmet O'Neal Library Website: info@eolil	<u>b.org</u>			
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m. Date Received				

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



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 Feb.26, 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.



