

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

Website: <http://www.lapidaryclub.com>

## President's Message



LARRY HENSLEY  
President A.M.L.S.

Yep! It's that time of the year again. Of course, then again, every time is that time of the year again, but that's not the point, the point is that this time it's this time of year again. So let's think about this. What happens once a year in April? April 15th come to mind? Taxes? Nope! This time this year is all about the April AMLS AUCTION, and it's on April 21st! I mean – let's think about this – who wants to talk about taxes, anyway? But as for Auctions – there are two main things to talk about. First, second only to Tannehill, this is our clubs biggest fund raiser. Second, first bids are usually not the final bids, but great deals on great items are to be had all the way around. This is a really fun event, and one with lots of great opportunities to walk away with some snazzy bit of something that will make you glad you came. Fluorescent rocks, agates, slabs, fossils, jewelry, tools, polished specimens... you name it, we've got it. There was one time we even sold a kitchen sink! OK – so maybe not. But maybe this time. The only way you'll know is if you come. Lots a fun! Lots of stuff! April 21st. Next – it's that time of year again.

Yep.

Time to start thinking even more seriously about the single biggest fund raising event for our club – the Tannehill Gem and Mineral Show, this June 3th and 4th. We'll have the BBQ Dinner on the evening of the 2nd (Friday). This is usually an all day affair of cooking, prep work, setup and serving. Thanks again to Larry Carby for stepping up to be the main chef, and to all his helpers. Dreamland has nothing on us. Then comes the Tannehill Show itself. We need volunteers at the Club Tent, Children's Games, Demos and Teaching Events, Setup/Tear Down, etc. Great time! Great Vendors! Great People! Please set aside time for this critical weekend to be available and to help out.

So... To this time of year again.

A great time, every time.

Respectfully,

Larry Hensley, A.M.L.S. President

**April 8, 2017 - Hoover Library Class** - Our very own Judi Wild will be teaching Chain Maille. Bring flat nose and chain nose pliers.

**April 21, 2017 - Annual Auction** - Please go through and see what you would like to donate to the Club.

**April 22, 2017 - Earth Day at the Zoo - Fun Time!**

**April 24, 2017 - Board Meeting** at the Hoover Library break room 6 pm Level 1. Bring your own food, good ideas and join in on the fun!

**April 28 - 30, 2017 - Graves MT. Rock Swap and Dig.** Lincolnton, GA.

**May 12** - Tumbling Contest, Show prep,

**May 20** - Hoover Library Classes to be offered at the Tannehill show

**June 2, 3, & 4** - 44th Annual Tannehill Show.

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<b>Program Chair</b>	<b>John Wild</b> <a href="mailto:john@milcomtextiles.com">john@milcomtextiles.com</a>
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<b>Publicity Chair</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Show Chair</b>	<b>Cathy Kellogg</b> <a href="mailto:tannehillgem-show@gmail.com">tannehillgem-show@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Reagin Farley</b> <a href="mailto:regain@gmail.com">regain@gmail.com</a>

**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](http://www.amfed.org) Email: [sfms@amfed.org](mailto:sfms@amfed.org)



**AUCTION! AUCTION!**  
 We have our Annual Club Auction in April, so please go through and see what you would like to part with, and donated to the Club, for the 2017 Annual Club Auction, on April 21st! Whether Rocks and Gems, or Equipment, all items are welcome! If you have something not exactly Rock and Gem related, and you'd like to donate it, to help raise funds for the club, please bring items to the April Meeting! Don't Forget - Bring money to spend, so you can pick-out those treasures you've always wanted! S.S.

**New Members ...** *Please welcome our newest members Michael and Jamie Stephens.* Let's all introduce ourselves and welcome them to the rock club. Please extend your hand to any new face in the crowd and let them know they are welcomed. Just a few words can put someone at ease; after all we're all just earthy folks called rockhounds. Many are just getting to know rockhounding. S.S.

**Members Serving on the Board of Directors :**

- Savvy Mc Cravy** 205-305-5396  
[business\\_mode\\_savvy@yahoo.com](mailto:business_mode_savvy@yahoo.com)
- Don Rosenstiel** 205-822-1513  
[don77rose@gmail.com](mailto:don77rose@gmail.com)

**Southeast Federation Officers :**

- President of SFMS** **Teresa Polly**  
[teresapolly@bellsouth.net](mailto:teresapolly@bellsouth.net)
- Alabama State Representative to SFMS** **Phillip Kaiser**  
[kaiserpw@att.net](mailto:kaiserpw@att.net)



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

**Apr. 8 Madison, TN Middle Tennessee Rock-hounds 4th Annual “Dig it Music City” Show.**

Amqui Station 303 Madison St. Madison, TN

[www.rockhound.org/swap](http://www.rockhound.org/swap) or Email :

[swap@rockhound.org](mailto:swap@rockhound.org)

**Apr.8 - 9 Pinecrest, FL:** Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild, Evelyn Greer Parkj; 8200 SW 124 Street; Contact Sandy Mielke, P.O. Box 460206, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33346-0206, (305)-460-2244; e-mail: [webguy@mmlg-inc.org](mailto:webguy@mmlg-inc.org); or website [www.miamigemandmineral](http://www.miamigemandmineral)

**Apr. 22 – 23 Memphis, TN Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show “The Earth Wide Open”**  
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.  
Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058. Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706, 901-490-3575 . email: [info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com) Website: [www.theearthwideopen.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.com)

**Apr. 28 - 30 Orlando, FL. Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society,** National Guard Armory; 2809 South Fern Creek Ave. Contact Paul Hayes, 1400 Sawyerwood Ave, Orlando, FL 32800, (407)-816-1220; e-mail: [phayes3@cfl.rr.com](mailto:phayes3@cfl.rr.com); Web site: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

**April 28 - 30 Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA. Rock Swap and Dig -** Bud and Lou Ann Newell will have handouts at the meeting. Wonderfully opportunity.

**May 6 – 7 North Charleston, S.C. Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society,** North Charleston Coliseum; 5001 Coliseum Drive Contact Katie Reed, North Charleston, SC 29405; e-mail: [katie.huemmer@gmail.com](mailto:katie.huemmer@gmail.com)

**May 11 – 14 Franklin, N.C. Annual show;**

Damian Belghali, Echo Valley Show Place (across fr GLW); 6456 Sylva Rd ; open to the public; contact Damian Belgali, IL, (678)-852-8273; e-mail: [mbellpoint@gmail.com](mailto:mbellpoint@gmail.com)

**May 12 – 14 Franklin, N.C. Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC,** Carpenter Building; 1288 Georgia Road (US441); Contact Norman Holbert, (828)-634-0350; e-mail: [normholbert@comcast.net](mailto:normholbert@comcast.net)

**May 12 - 14 Marietta, GA. Georgia Mineral Society,** Cobb Civic Center; 548 South Marietta Pkwy., SE; Contact Kathy Wiggins, (770)-375-5907; e-mail: [showads@gaminal.org](mailto:showads@gaminal.org); Web site: [www.gaminal.org](http://www.gaminal.org)

**Board Meeting Minutes 2/27/17 Continued.**

up a snow fence to keep track of attendance? What would the cost be? Should we try to sell cold water and/or snow cones? If we want to have the club tent near the Hoot-n-Holler should we have water and/or snow cones at the far end and run an extension cord for fans? This would mean more volunteers. We agreed (I think) that a signup sheet for name and e-mail would be required to get a ticket for door prizes.

A membership form for the website has been sent to Reagin Farley.

Several members will share the position of auctioneer for the April meeting with others being runners. The new club t-shirts should be ready by the April 21st meeting.

Earth Day at the Zoo on April 22nd is set and volunteers welcome. Some of the 'regulars' may not be there so new folks need to step up. It really is a lot of fun!

The question was posed- "If Sandra expanded the Rockhound Roundup to 12 pages would members read it all?" The federations are pushing for more inclusion of their info. We adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary





An Official Field Trip of the An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club  
(Charlotte, NC)

**Saturday, April 15, 2017**

**8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Sharpes Emerald Prospect  
Alexander County, NC**

**Release Form Required  
Fee Site (Details Below)**

**TRIP:** Sharpes Emerald Prospect is operated in association with the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA). The club has been generous enough to allow CG&MC to host a field trip at their site. The mine is located in what is considered the most productive emerald mining district in North America. Emeralds are yet to be found, but there are current mineral finds of glass-clear tessin, smoky quartz, tourmaline, muscovite mica, beryl, and other minerals are in abundance. The mine is geared with rockhounds and collectors in mind, and is not salted with material from offsite.

**COLLECTING:** Mining and gathering can suit a variety of styles. Hard rock digging is available in pits and trenches throughout the site. Less rigorous collecting can be found by sifting and gathering in dump piles on the property. All areas of the mine are open to collectors and new areas are opened regularly.

**BRING:** Only hand tools are allowed on site – shovel, pick, hammer, chisel, etc. No power equipment or heavy machinery. Buckets, sifting screens, etc are also useful. Spring weather is unpredictable, so come prepared with season appropriate clothes, sensible footwear, protective eyewear, and raingear if the forecast indicates poor weather. No alcohol is allowed on site, and mine owners request that no garbage is left on the premises.

**REQUIREMENTS:** All visitors must pay fee and sign release form before digging. Disclosure forms and payment can be brought on day of field trip or sent in advance to:

Hiddenite Gems Investment Group  
PO Box 542  
Leicester, NC 28748

Release forms are available here:

<http://www.wncrocks.com/resources/Sharpes%20Emerald%20Prospect%20Release.pdf>

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Protective equipment such as goggles/eyewear, boots, and gloves are recommended.

**FEE:** \$25/day for adults, \$20 per day for MAGMA paid members. Children 12 years of age or younger are free but must be accompanied by guardian

**REGISTRATION:** Advance registration is not required, but release form must be completed.

**CHILDREN:** Yes, children are allowed, but anyone 12 years of age or under must be accompanied by adult.

**PETS:** No

**FACILITIES:** None - There is a gas station a mile down the road with bathrooms, drinks and snacks .

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

From I-40, take exit 132 toward NC-16. Follow NC-16 North to Hwy-64 East. Turn left on Prichard Lane. Look for sign saying “SHARPES” on right side of road by entrance to mine.

**CONTACT:**

Prior to event, Sam Baker (704) 516-9649.

On day of event: Murray Simon (704) 543-6651

### **2017 Sylacauga Marble Festival will be held April 4 - 15**

Go to the website for great pictures of past marble works with the sculptures they created.

[Sylacauga Marble Festival | B.B. Comer Memorial Library](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

email: [magicofmarble@gmail.com](mailto:magicofmarble@gmail.com)

City of Sylacauga — (256) 401-2424

B.B. Comer Memorial Library — (256) 249-0961

## Brad Smith Bench Tips ~

### BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.



### CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate. An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is



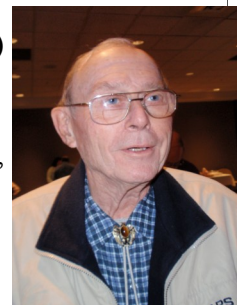
sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



### Robert Norman Smith (1925 - 2017)

Jan 8, 1925 - Mar 2, 2017 Robert N. Smith 92, died peacefully on March 22 at his home. Funeral services are planned for Monday, March 6 at 2 pm at Ridout Trussille Chapel with the Rev Larry Smith officiating. Burial will follow at Jefferson Memorial Gardens Trussville. The family will receive friends from 12:30-2 pm at the chapel. Mr. Smith was born January 8, 1925 in Gadsden. He was a graduate of Phillips High School in Birmingham and Howard College (now Samford University) with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He taught chemistry at Howard before beginning a long career as a chemist with ACIPCO in 1947. Mr. Smith also enjoyed longtime hobbies of rocks, gems and minerals, photography, carpentry, various inventions, and loved engaging his children and grandchildren in those pursuits. He is survived by a daughter, Nan Butler (Dan) of Titus, sons Boyce Smith (Debra), Ken Smith and Tim Smith (Verna), all of Birmingham; grandchildren Bo Butler (Lane) and Matt Butler of Birmingham, Travis Smith (Lauren) of Canal Winchester, Ohio, Carrie Golden (Jason) of Newark, Ohio, Christopher Smith of Austin, Texas, and Tegan Abuel (Sylvester) of Tulsa, Ok, 5 great-grandchildren, and honorary daughter and caregiver, Gay Nell Allen.



Mr. Smith was known as the guy to go to about *TUMBLING ROCKS!* That is why we have Bob Smith Tumbling Contest in May. S.S.

<http://obits.al.com/obituaries/birmingham/obituary>.

**SFMS and EFMLS Workshops** ~ The SFMS sponsors five Gem, Jewelry and Mineral workshops each year. These are held at Wildacres, near Little Switzerland in North Carolina, and at the William Holland Retreat near the small town of Young Harris in northeast Georgia. A broad range of courses related to the lapidary arts are taught by qualified instructors from throughout the Federation. All instructors are volunteers who are not paid for the highly skilled and professional experience that they bring to the workshops. The workshops are well equipped for common lapidary activities such as cabochon cutting, faceting, and silversmithing. Additional equipment is brought in when new or special courses are taught. For more information see the website for the latest update of classes to choose from and the necessary forms to mail in.

[www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms).

SFMS Education Chairman  
 Danny Griffin  
 1320 Byrd Cir.  
 Kingston, TN 37763  
 865-406-8802  
 Email: [gcjinc@comcast.net](mailto:gcjinc@comcast.net)

The workshop week begins on Sunday with check-in after 3:00 p.m.; dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Classes start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday. Tuesday night is generally scheduled for an auction with items donated by students and instructors. Proceeds go into classroom equipment and supplies.



The EFMLS or the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies will have as the first session guest speaker **Bob Jones (of the ROCKNGEM Magazine longtime writer fame)** will return “to the mountain” as our Speaker-in-Residence for the spring session! Registration will open on January 1. We’ll have class descriptions and other information in the January EFMLS News as well as information about Bob and our stellar fall session line-up as well. Tuition for 2017 will be \$400 per person and will include your room and board, and gratuity for the resident Wildacres staff. Your only additional “out of pocket” expenses will be for the materials used in the class or classes you take and monies you spend at the annual auction, in the canteen or at the tail gate. So.... see the January issue of the EFMLS for a list of classes to choose from and the necessary forms to mail in.



<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm>

*Judi Wild teaching a class on Chain Maille*



*For those of us who couldn't attend, these are just a few items we missed out on. I wish now I had been there. Think of the Christmas gifts I could have learned to make!*

Due to the library rescheduling our program for later in April, the had to change the schedule to April 8th for the class with Judi Wild. I hope all got the change in dates sent out early in April. *Cindy and Yvonne* say come on over to join in on the fun and bring your tools or whatever you may have to work with. *(The classmates have been know to share when asked nicely.)* This is always a good class that draws *MANY*. The regular scheduled classes would run 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. If you have an idea about a class, please contact : Cindy Hensley 205-910-2293 or Yvonne Foster 205-602-8280 for more info. *S.S.*



Cindy Hensley Yvonne Foster



**Lapidary Whisperer ~ BEEF OR MINERAL?**



Do you want to cook it or cut it? I admit that when I first saw this slab in Quartzsite, my first impression was that a strip of nice, fatty Wygyu beef had gotten lost. (If you haven't already noticed, I often "see" food in rocks which has led to some very interesting projects).

When I picked it up, it was obviously solid, but it didn't feel like a jasper, it felt smooth and if you will, creamy. It turned out to be Alunite--a mineral I'd never heard of. It is mined and processed to become potash alum which is then used as an astringent medically and some food preservation including pickles--and, of course, it's used in lapidary!

As I pushed aside the thoughts of yummy beef, I noticed that the red markings could also be taken as an image of fire. In January, I'm always looking for something to carve into a heart shape. My Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society has contests where the members vote on cabochons. The Shape of the Month for February is always a heart. It occurred to me that there might be a Heart on Fire hiding in the slab. So after I got home from Quartzsite, I got to work.

Alunite, it turns out, is pretty soft, only about 3.5-4 on the Mohs scale, so it quickly became apparent that I'd have to be very careful not to gouge it. However, I found the softness to be a benefit while I was working the bumps at the top of the heart. Also, because of its soft nature, it took more of a luster than a shine. It will reflect bright light a bit, but even polishing it with a 50,000 grit wheel, it never became truly shiny.

When I finished, it looked to me like it could be a Heart on Fire, but it could also be a Bleeding Heart. Figuring no one would vote for a Bleeding Heart at Valentine's Day, I submitted it as Heart on Fire.



Heart of Fire

Even though it was a relatively small slab, I was also able to get the pillow-top and egg-shaped cabochons out of this stone. I'd like to use the pillow-shaped one for a ring, because it is fascinating to look at the random pattern. It's easily my favorite of the three cabs I was able to make from this slab.

**NAME THIS ROCK! PLEASE!**

I don't even remember where I found this colorful slab, but I love it. It has so many stories hidden in it. I played with an edge on my Genie and found it somewhere between jasper and agate in terms of working it as a stone. My first thought was some sort of petrified wood, but yet . . . Do you have any sense of what it is? I'd love to know what you think. Best guesses will be published in a future *Lapidary Whisperer*.



**Arkansas Teenager finds 7.44 diamond in state park and names it Superman**

**IBT** Harriet Sinclair [International Business Times](#) March 16, 2017 *Yahoo website*

A teenager from Arkansas discovered a 7.44-carat diamond during a trip to the Crater of Diamonds State Park, which bills itself as "The world's only 'keep what you find' diamond site". Kalel Langford, 14, from Centerton, spotted the rock while walking with his parents in the Murfreesboro park – somewhere he has always wanted to visit. "It was just a few inches from a stream of water, with a bunch of other rocks that were about the same size," the teenager told KHOU 11. His discovery marks the seventh biggest diamond found in the park in more than 40 years. He has chosen to **Continued on page 9.**



## Scholarship Committee ~ Dave Wayment, Chair

By now, or in the next few days, all club Treasurers will receive a packet in the mail containing drawing tickets and this explanation letter. Starting with the March Lodestar, and shortly on the website, photos of the donated prizes will be available. Please help make this program a success. Let's see how many SFMS Workshop Scholarships we can create for 2018.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the SFMS replaced the stamp collecting program with a drawing to raise funds to provide full Scholarships to the SFMS Workshops. We are asking all member clubs and societies to participate in two ways.

The first way to participate is to donate an item to be a drawing prize. Each member club will receive acknowledgement if it donates a prize, or if a member of the club donates a prize. All prizes should be mailed to Dave Wayment, PO Box 780791, Sebastian, FL 23978. Each prize should be identified, include the value of the item (we request that prizes have at least a \$25 value), identify who made the item if it is hand made, and who donated the item. Photographs and descriptions of all prizes will be posted on the SFMS website and published in the Loadstar.

The second way to participate is to sell the drawing tickets. Each member club is being sent 100 tickets for the drawing. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. We ask that each member club's treasurer, or another member chosen by the club, be in charge of selling the tickets, collecting the funds, and returning the ticket stubs, monies and unsold tickets to Dave Wayment at the same above address. The drawing for the prizes will be held at the Annual Meeting. We will need the ticket stubs, etc, returned no later than 3 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. For 2017, October 1st is the date we are looking to have the items returned by.

Please remember, the scholarships to SFMS workshops are NOT prizes in the drawing. All member clubs that participate will be entered into a drawing for the scholarships as outlined in the By-Laws:



FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING, EACH MEMBER CLUB WILL HAVE 1 CHANCE IN THE DRAWING FOR EACH PRIZE ITEM DONATED FROM THE CLUB. FOR THE DRAWING TICKETS SOLD, EACH MEMBER CLUB WILL RECEIVE CHANCES IN THE DRAWING BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AS REPORTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY THAT YEAR. IF THIS PERCENTAGE IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.25 THEY WILL RECEIVE 1 CHANCE IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.25 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.5 THEY WILL RECEIVE 2 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.5 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.75 THEY WILL RECEIVE 3 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.75 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.0 THEY WILL RECEIVE 4 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 1.0 THEY WILL RECEIVE 5 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Wayment, SFMS Workshop Scholarship Committee Chair, at 772-532-6432

**Continued from page 8.** name the rock Superman's Diamond since he shares a first name with the comic book superhero.

Kalel's father, Craig Langford, told the channel: "When we chose to name him Kalel, we didn't realize that [Kal-El] was also Superman's birth name." The teenager said he is planning to keep the gem as a reminder of his day in the park. His father added: "We had only been at the park for about 30 minutes when he found it. Its colour was so dark that we weren't sure if it was a diamond, but we knew we needed to have it looked at." The family took the stone to the park's Diamond Discovery Centre, where the teenager was shocked to learn he'd found one of the largest diamonds in the park's history. The number of diamonds found in the park this year alone stands at 97, with park interpreter Waymon Cox explaining that recent rainfall makes it easier to spot the gems.



**Meteor Showers** ~ <http://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/>


Peak night **Apr. 21-22** Lyrids *Active from April 16th to April 25th*

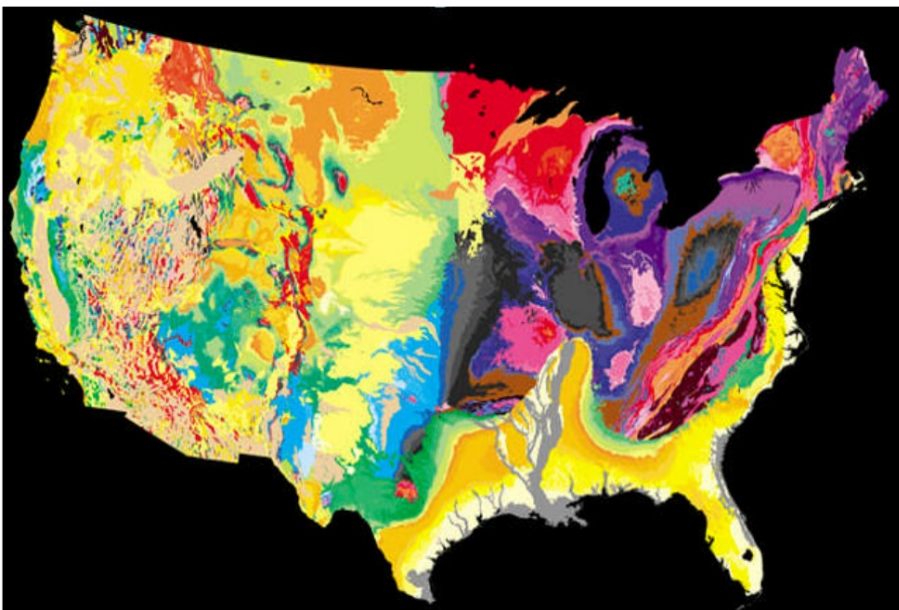

**Lyrids** *Active from April 16th to April 25th*

The Lyrids are a medium strength shower that usually produces good rates for three nights centered on the maximum. These meteors also usually lack persistent trains but can produce fireballs. These meteors are best seen from the northern hemisphere where the radiant is high in the sky at dawn. Activity from this shower can be seen from the southern hemisphere, but at a lower rate.



Peak night **May 6-7** Eta Aquariids *Active from April 19th to May 26th*

The Eta Aquariids are a strong shower when viewed from the southern tropics. From the equator northward, they usually only produce medium rates of 10-30 per hour just before dawn. Activity is good for a week centered the night of maximum activity. These are swift meteors that produce a high percentage of persistent trains, but few fireballs. The Eta Aquariids are a strong shower when viewed from the southern tropics. From the equator northward, they usually only produce medium rates of 10-30 per hour just before dawn. Activity is good for a week centered the night of maximum activity. These are swift meteors that produce a high percentage of persistent trains, but few fireballs. The Eta Aquariids are a strong shower when viewed from the southern tropics. From the equator northward, they usually only produce medium rates of 10-30 per hour just before dawn. From the equator to 25S they can produce rates of 40-60 per hour just before dawn at maximum. The longer nights in the southern hemisphere allows the radiant to rise higher in their sky. South of 25S the radiant altitude actually decreases. Activity is good for a week centered the night of maximum activity. These are swift meteors that produce a high percentage of persistent trains, but few fireballs.



**Geologic Map of the United States**  
 Courtesy of USGS

Last page funnies ~



My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn. My house isn't dusty, the cobwebs are gone. My garden looks lovely, and so does my lawn. I think I might never put my glasses back on!

(from Reminisce Magazine) Magic Valley Gem News — July, 2011 Volume 50 Issue 7 — Page 4

As We Live

It is not what we have - but how we use. Not what we see - but what we choose, Not what we take - but what we give. Not as we pray - but as we Live.

Mahlon Mc Connell - Christmas card insert 2007

\* Never lend a geologist money. They consider a million years ago to be recent.

\* A man goes into a restaurant, sits down and starts reading the menu. The menu says:

- Broiled Accountant \$5.95 per plate
- Fried Engineer \$7.95 per plate
- Toasted Teacher \$7.95 per plate
- Grilled Geologist \$25.95 per plate



The man calls a waiter over and asks "Hey, why does the Grilled Geologist cost so much more?"

The waiter says, "Are you kidding? Do you know how hard it is to clean one of them?!?!"

From: [http://www.xs4all.nl/~jcdverha/scijokes/5\\_1.html](http://www.xs4all.nl/~jcdverha/scijokes/5_1.html)

~Via the Rockhound Roundup Smokey Mountain Mineral Society of Hartford, TN. April 2008



A.M.L.S. Application for Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25.\_\_\_\_\_ Single \$20.\_\_\_\_\_ Junior / Student \$15.\_\_\_\_\_

After June 1, the cost of the membership dues are one-half price for new members only for the remainder of that year. **Dues for regular members are to be renewed at the November meeting and / or before January 1st of the new year. A \$5.00 discount if paid by the December meeting.**

*Please* make checks payable to the ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY and mail to P.O. BOX 1067 SPRINGVILLE, AL. 35146 **OR** bring to a meeting.

**Meeting Date:** Second Friday of each month except for the month of June. The Tannehill Show takes the place of the June meeting.

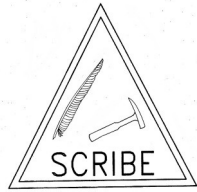
**Meeting Place:** Emmet O'Neal Library 50 Oak St. Mountain Brook, AL. 35213 PH. (205) 897-0459 Website: [info@eolib.org](mailto:info@eolib.org)

**Meeting Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

**Visitors Welcomed !**





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

*If undeliverable, please return  
to the address above.*

Website: <http://www.lapidaryclub.com>

STAMP

**Meeting: Friday night April 21, 2017**  
**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 2017 are \$25.00 family, \$20.00 single, and Juniors / Students \$15.00. If you pay by the December meeting there will be a \$5.00 discount. 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.*

