

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

Website: <http://www.alabama.lapidary.club.com>

**President’s Message**

In a little over a week school starts up. Back in the day when the world was flat and dinosaurs still roamed the earth and I was young, school didn’t start until after Labor Day. Ah! – for the good old days when summer was summer... But that’s not the point of all this, so let’s not get side tracked. The point of all this is that we – the AMLS – make a great “schooling” experience all on our own! Field trips, programs, cabbing parties and classes – not only adults but also the youngins stand to gain a lot from what we have to offer.

Food for thought at this time of year.

Some more food for thought. (a regular banquet this message)

We’re turning our eyes to next year, and starting the process of pulling together the officers for next year. I encourage all of you to be eager participants in the activities of this club, and to be willing to step forward and assist as opportunity permits in the various jobs/tasks that we have in this club.

More food for thought.

Given the difficulty we’ve been experiencing of late getting the Emmet O’Neal Library to accommodate our scheduling needs for the second Friday of every month, we’ll be pulling together a search committee to investigate opportunities to relocate our meeting place. Any thoughts/suggestions greatly welcome.

Well... there you go. Hope you enjoyed the feast!

And thanks again and in advance for all your help.

We are what we do... and we do (listen up youngins!) Tony the Tiger proud!!!!

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



LARRY HENSLEY  
President A.M.L.S.

**PLEASE Mark your calendars for these irregular meeting dates!**

- Aug. 4th - Regular Meeting at the library**
- Sept. 8th - Regular Meeting at the library**
- Oct. 6th - Regular Meeting at the library**
- Nov. 3rd - Regular Meeting at the library**

- Aug. 4th - Meeting - Kim Cochran - Birthstones**
- Aug. 12th and 13th - Cabbing Part at Don and Jill Hill home.**
- Aug.19th - Fieldtrip - Spelunking with David Caudle**
- Aug. 21st - Solar Eclipse - Guard your eyes!**
- Aug. 26th - Hoover Library Class - Don Hill will teach a special class on “How to wire wrap a cross.”**
- Aug. 28th - Board Meeting - Hoover Library**

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<b>Hospitality Chair</b>	<b>Rhea Proffitt</b> kokomo0114@yahoo.com
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<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Reagin Farley</b> regain@gmail.com

**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)

**SFMS ~ Workshop Raffle**

As you may have noticed, the workshop scholarship program previously supported by collecting postage stamps for resale has been replaced by a raffle program. Each club earns raffle chances based on prize donations and ticket sales.



Thanks to a beaded rose quartz pendant from Tony West and a large Tiger Iron cabochon from Reggie Bolton our club now has two chances to win. At this time no tickets have been sold (\$5 each or 5/\$20). Please get your prize donations (retail \$25 or more) to Reggie Bolton and see him to purchase raffle tickets. Deadline for earning chances is the end of September so please act promptly.

Prizes are to be shown on the SFMS website very soon. *Go check them out ! Reggie Bolton*



<http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

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

<b>Savvy Mc Cravy</b>	205-305-5396 business_mode_savy@yahoo.com
<b>Don Rosenstiel</b>	205-822-1513 don77rose@gmail.com

**Southeast Federation Officers :**

<b>President of SFMS</b>	<b>Teresa Polly</b> teresapolly@bellsouth.net
<b>Alabama State Representative to SFMS</b>	<b>Phillip Kaiser</b> kaiserpw@att.net

**Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2017**

John Gaston blessed our meal and we lined up to fill our plates. Don Hill showed us rocks that he had picked up on the beach in California while visiting their new grandson. He cut them and made cabochons so we could see the start to finish. He also announced the next cabbng weekend would be August 12th and 13th.

Members were asked to have their pictures taken for a directory in the board room off from the kitchen area. Thanks to Don Rosensteil and Lou Ann Newell for their help. If you haven't had your picture taken, this meeting we will be doing the same routine.

We were told the sad news of the passing of member David Vanderhoff and member Vicky Lais's son, Chris. Our condolences go out to their families.

Larry called for visitors and new members and we met Rosemary Robinson. Welcome! Larry then asked for all who volunteered at Tannehill to stand and be thanked as well as those who brought food, drink and door prizes. This club runs by volunteers and they have the most fun!

Show chair Cathy Kellogg thanked all who helped at Tannehill and noted there were more than in the last couple of years. Our visitors were happy and plentiful thanks in part to getting the word out but more can be done. All members need to let everyone they know about the show and how much fun it is. She also asked for a shadow/helper to learn the ropes just in case. Tom Talty volunteered to be publicity chair for the 2018 show. He said the show's theme will be dinosaurs and we'll be building a dino head for a show. Other possibilities are a dinosaur calling contest and an expanded fluorescent display. A motion was put forward to approve the May minutes as written in the newsletter and it was passed. The treasurer reported that the table bill had been paid and that we ended up about \$200.00 in the hole for the vendor dinner. For 2018 we need to collect payment ahead of time to have a better head count.

to have a better head count. Reggie talked about the SFMS Raffle tickets that he is selling. Reggie is also collecting the prizes we contribute to the raffle that must be worth at least \$25.00 or more. This method enhances our chances of winning a free scholarship.

The nominating committee has been chosen. It will be Don Rosensteil, Tony West, Cathy Kellogg, Lou Ann Newell and Sandra Sullivan. If you have interest in filling a board or chair position please contact one of them or a current Board member.

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, of which our club is a member, is sponsoring a workshop week Sept. 4 to 10 at Wildacres Retreat. \$410. for the week plus class fee. They will have Tim Malone as speaker and classes plus entertainment.

John Wild showed us videos "What's Underneath America" and "The Underwater Forest".

Door prizes were distributed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary



### **Fieldtrip - Spelunking August 19, 2017**

Our very own spelunker, David Caudle will lead a group to a cave so get ready to have some fun.

David says you will need a hard hat, helmet, or a construction hat with a light. Head lights much better choice but you can bring a flashlight. You will need it! You really need to protect your head. Wear clothes and sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-65 N to Exit 284 and turn right at the end of the off ramp. There is a Parking Lot/Area for commuters there and we will David there at **9:30 am** to sign the waiver slips.

**AFTERWARDS:** For anyone who would like to go to the Rickwood Caverns Park to see that cave it is close by. \$3.00 entrance fee to the park and \$14.00 to take the cave tour.

David will announce anything further at the meeting.

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

**July 30 thru Aug. 6 Spruce Pine, NC** Parkway Fire and Rescue, Parkway Fire and Rescue show lot; 136 Majestic View; Daily 10-6; Free Admission; contact Donna Collis, 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, (828)-765-5519; e-mail: collis-donna@yahoo.com; Web site: [www.grassycreekgemshow.org](http://www.grassycreekgemshow.org)

**Aug. 11-13 Dalton, GA Dalton Gem and Mineral Jewelry Show**, Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center; 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; contact Mohammad Tahir, PO Box 4046, Dalton, GA 30719, (706)-537-8960; e-mail: tahir1269@yahoo.com; [www.facebook.com/pg/daltongemandmineraljewelryshow](http://www.facebook.com/pg/daltongemandmineraljewelryshow)

**Aug. 12-13 Gonzales, LA Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society**, Lamar Dixon Expo Center Trade-mart Building; 9039 S St. Landry Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, contact Wanda Gawarecki, LA; e-mail: mercymom3@gmail.com; [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org)

**Aug. 19-20 Bossier City, LA: Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society**, Bossier Civic Center; 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Del Glasner, Benton, LA; e-mail: larockclub@gmail.com; Web site: [larockclub.com](http://larockclub.com)

**Sept. 1-4 Hendersonville, NC Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society**, Whitmire Activity Bldg.; 301 Lily Pond Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-5; "Colorful Copper Minerals" is the theme. contact Diane Lapp, 400 N Main St, Hendersonville, NC 28792, (828)-698-1977; e-mail: dlapp\_2000@yahoo.com; Web site: [HCGMS.com](http://HCGMS.com)

**Sept. 8-10 Winston-Salem, NC Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club**, Educational Building, ; Fairgrounds, Gate 9 from 27th. Street ; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5; contact William Marion, 1163 Bear Creek Church Road, Mocksville, NC 27028; e-mail: marional@yadtel.net; Web site: [www.forsythgemclub.com](http://www.forsythgemclub.com)

## BEADAPALOOZA 2017

**August 19**

**10-6pm**

**August 20**

**10-5pm**

**Helena Sports Complex  
Gps- Ruffin Road  
Helena, AL 35080**

We are excited about our classes and guest teachers this year. Melody McDuffee, Cristi Prince, Judy Wild all are excellent teachers and have taught at such shows as The Bead and Button, and Philly Beadfest. Judy Wild has even taught at William Holland School for Lapidary Arts. Marsha Ingram and Pat Russell will be on hand for Pop-up classes in the Beadology 101 and Basic Peyote.

*Wild River Cabachons- John our local cabachon cutter has the prettiest cabachons around. Perfect for wire wrapping or beading. He will be doing demos on cab cutting all weekend and his wife Judy Wild will be teaching wire wrapping classes all weekend. Check out her classes on our website.*

**Sign up early and pay your deposit for the class on our website and get to come Friday night for a preview shopping between 6-8pm. Check out all the classes at the link below at the bottom of the email. [www.thebeadbiz.com](http://www.thebeadbiz.com)**



The Bead Biz  
3745 Helena Road  
Helena, AL 35080





**Gaston Gem Mineral and  
Faceter's Club (Gastonia, NC)  
(HOST)**

**Saturday, August 26, 2017  
8:30AM - 4PM Eastern  
Propst Farm  
Lincoln County, NC**

**Fee: \$25 per person**

**TRIP:** The property recently reopened after several months following the passing of Mrs. Propst. The property has been producing corundum, since the 1960's. Digging will take place in front and behind the barn as well as other possible areas designated by the current owner, Ronald Lineberger.

**COLLECTING:** Some large and unusual corundum specimens have been coming out of the ground recently including a large Kyanite included specimen and a small clear ruby. Good specimens of magnetite and quartz crystals are occasionally found. The ground is hard packed red clay. Digging can be easy or moderately hard depending on the location and depth of the hole you dig.

**BRING:** Long and short shovels and small or large buckets minimum. 1 inch and half inch classifiers, small picks, tarps and probing tools may come in handy. Bring water or soft drinks and snacks. An extra change of clothes may be needed as the ground is red clay.

**FEE: \$25 per person**

**REQUIREMENTS:** All collectors will be required to sign a permission / liability form and pay \$25 before setting up to dig. Digging is allowed in the designated areas only. All holes MUST be filled in before you leave the property.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Parking is on the grass near the dig area.

**CHILDREN:** Allowed with parental supervision.

**PETS:** Allowed on leash only.

**FACILITIES:** There is no toilet but there is a service station with facilities at the exit of HWY 321 and Startown Road.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Address:** Propst Farm - 3668 Startown Road,

**Address:** Propst Farm - 3668 Startown Road,  
Maiden, NC 28650

**Lodging:** Rooms are available in nearby Lincolnton,  
N.C. or Hickory, N.C.

DMC Coordinator email: [sfms-dmc@amfed.org](mailto:sfms-dmc@amfed.org)

World Wide Web site for the DMC is:

[http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

**A.M.L.S. T – Shirt inventory ~**

We have the following t-shirts available.....

**Children youth** No pockets :

( 2 ) Small

( 2 ) Medium

**Adults:** No Small's

( 6 ) Medium No pocket

( 4 ) Medium With pocket

( 19 ) Large No Pockets

( 0 ) Large With pocket

( 12 ) X-Lg. No Pocket

( 0 ) X-Lg. With Pocket

( 5 ) 2X- Lg. No Pocket

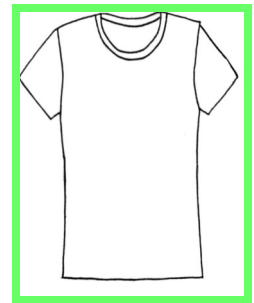
( 2 ) 2X-Lg. With Pocket

( 52 ) Total T-Shirts ( maybe a couple that are sold)

We need to see about getting the larger sizes like 3 X-Lg. and 4 X-Lg. and maybe 5 X-Lg.

*Your favorite T-shirt lady, Lou Ann Newel* \*Please contact her before a meeting if you want a T-shirt.

\*\*\* All sizes for now are \$20. We might lower the kids in a month.



**For Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About  
Crystallography, Visit**

<http://webmineral.com/crystall.shtml>

**Rock Tumbling Hobby**

[http://andy321.proboards.com/index.cgi?](http://andy321.proboards.com/index.cgi?action=display&board=tips&thread=15452&page=2)

[action=display&board=tips&thread=15452&page=2](http://andy321.proboards.com/index.cgi?action=display&board=tips&thread=15452&page=2)

**GemTradeNet.Com**

[http://www.gemtradenet.com/Education/  
chrysocolla.aspx](http://www.gemtradenet.com/Education/chrysocolla.aspx)

**International Lapidary Association**

<http://www.gemcutters.org/LDA/>

**Brad Smith Bench Tips ~**

**FIND THE BALANCE POINT**

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



**DRILL BREAKAGE**

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

[BradSmithJewelry.com](http://BradSmithJewelry.com) *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"*

See all Brad's jewelry books at

[Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](http://Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

**Classified Ads and Rockswap Items ~**

This is a new area for our newsletter. It has been *suggested* many times down through the years. If you have something you would like to sale or trade, say some used equipment or slabs, email the information in to the editor. Please include any extra items that go along with the machine or area from which the rock/ slabs were collected. This can be a wonderful way of communicating from member to members. A standard form may at some point in time be needed. Please have which way you wish to be contacted; phone, email, text, even snail mail. Let's get this going:

For Sale : Variety of slabs and slab material  
 Contact : Sandra Sullivan  
[doodle35146ss@yahoo.com](mailto:doodle35146ss@yahoo.com)

***What would you like to list?  
 If this concept is to work, I need some help out there folks. Send me your info, please!***

**Board Meeting Minutes ~ July 31, 2017**

The A.M.L.S. Board normally meets the last Monday night at the Hoover Library Break Room downstairs. All members are welcomed to join in. Our regular meeting will be held this month on the ***first Friday, August 4th***. This throws off the regular schedule for the board meeting minutes to be published here. Don't worry, they will be listed in the next issue of your newsletter. This may occur for other months that have an irregular meeting date, like October and November.

*Your friendly editor Sandra Sullivan*

***Let's don't forget the little kids too! For more information concerning kids and rocks, check out this website too!***

[www.kidsloverocks.com](http://www.kidsloverocks.com)



**[godmadeagates.com](http://godmadeagates.com)**. *Another great website to educate and entertain oneself. Check it out.*

**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 second session guest speaker Tim Morgan will return “to the mountain” as our Speaker-in-Residence for the fall session! Registration will open on January 1. Wildacres Fall Classes - Sept. 4 - 10, 2017. We’ll have class descriptions and other information in the July EFMLS News as well as information about Tim Morgan and our stellar fall session line-up as well. Tuition for 2017 will be \$410.00 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 July issue of the EFMLS for a list of classes to choose from and the necessary forms to mail in. <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

**2017 EFMLS Wildacres Registration**

Suzie Milligan  
 931 Carmichael Rd.  
 Owego, NY 13827-3320

If you have any questions, please contact either  
 Suzie Carmichael, Registrar at [smilligan@stny.rr.com](mailto:smilligan@stny.rr.com) or 607-687-5108  
 Pamm Bryant, Director at [spbryant@juno.com](mailto:spbryant@juno.com) or 804-457-4698



Picture via EFMLS Wildacres website

**August 26th Hoover Library Class ~ Let’s come out and do a Wire Project!**

The Lapidary Ladies say come on down for some fun with wire! Please bring your usual tools **PLUS** these items: your flat piers, round nose pliers, wire cutters, 21 gage square wire, 20 gage half-round wire. If you don’t have any, I will have some for cost \$2.00 a cross. I will have the bead for it too. A towel or rag for clean wire. The cross is approx 3" tall 2" wide. We will have a visiting instructor, our very own Don Hill. He will be showing us how to make a wire cross the Don Hill way.



The regular scheduled classes would run 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. If you have an ideas about a class that you would like have offered, please contact : Cindy Hensley 205-910-2293 or Yvonne Foster 205-602-8280 for more info. S.S.

Picture via Don Hill



Cindy Hensley Yvonne Foster



**Don hill says...**

Here are the pictures from the dig Saturday, July 29. Think John Wild got a few too. We had ten members to show up.



It was signed by President Obama before he left office.

The lifetime pass will track with the price of the annual America the Beautiful Pass. That price is currently \$80 but can be changed at any time by the federal land management agencies, without further legislation.

For those who prefer an installment plan, a new "Senior Annual" pass will also be established at a price of \$20, good for one year from the date of purchase. Four consecutive Senior Annual passes can be exchanged for a lifetime pass.

While there have been a multitude of bills introduced (and programs authorized) aimed at giving new groups free or reduced-cost access to the public lands - 4th Graders, military families, those with disabilities, veterans, volunteers - it is difficult to understand why Congress has taken this opportunity to reduce a long-standing benefit to seniors. The \$20-\$35 million in anticipated additional revenue (depending on whose estimate you choose) will make little dent in the Park Service's claimed maintenance backlog of \$12 BILLION. All of this was done in the guise of celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service, although why making the Parks more expensive to visit constitutes a "celebration" remains a mystery.

**BENEFITS**

The benefits of the Senior Pass include entrance to all National Parks and Wildlife Refuges that charge entrance fees, for the pass holder and everyone accompanying them in the same vehicle. Where an NPS unit or a Refuge charges a per-person fee, the pass holder can bring in three companions age 16 or older. (Those under age 16 are free anyway.) The Senior Pass also covers Standard Amenity Fees at most Forest Service, BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, and Army Corps of Engineers sites. In addition, Senior pass holders are entitled to a 50% discount on campground fees for the site they occupy, including any younger friends and family members who accompany them.

**These benefits are grandfathered- (and grandmothered-) in for existing pass holders.** So if you have attained the age of 62 and have not yet purchased your lifetime Senior Pass, you should do it IMMEDIATELY. Passes are sold at National Parks, Forest Service, BLM and Bureau of Reclamation offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and Army Corps of Engineers recreation sites. Passes can be purchased online at the [USGS Store](#), but online *Continued on page 10.*

**Betty Cain says ...** *If you do not have one and are 62 or older this is your last chance to get you Senior Pass for just \$10.00. Read why below.*

**American Lands Access Association -  
"Happy Rockhounding and Enjoy  
Your Public Lands"**

**SENIOR PASS PRICE SKYROCKETING**

On Tuesday December 6, 2016, in the lame duck session of Congress, the House passed by unanimous consent a bill ([HR 4680](#)) that will eliminate the \$10 lifetime Senior Pass (formerly Golden Age Pass) which has been available to citizens and permanent residents age 62 and older since 1965.

In the early hours of Saturday morning December 10, in a nearly empty Senate chamber - most members having already left for the holidays - the Senate approved the House bill by unanimous consent.



## Lapidary Whisperer [Moving Mountains in Boxes](#)

Posted: 05 Jul 2017 03:27 PM PDT SHIPPING YOUR MINERALS AND ROCKS

*How a mineral is packaged is critical to maintaining its integrity, whether you are getting it for display or planning to commit lapidary on it.*

When the Post Office found the package of Anthracite (yes, coal) I'd ordered, it was all by itself in a small bin. The seams and some of the fabric were gone along with about a third of my material. The shipper had put it into one of those presumably indestructible USPS Tyvek envelope/bags.

Guess what? The Post Office is *perfectly capable* of destroying them and whatever they hold. To be fair, they could have been better packed. But still . . .

When it didn't arrive in a timely manner, I checked with the vendor who confirmed it had been shipped and gave me a tracking number. After I tracked it to the local main post office, I went over. No problem, they knew the package, because it was sitting in plain view. But no one wanted to deliver the mess, and although they claimed they sent me multiple cards advising me of where I could get it, somehow the cards had proved too difficult to deliver also. So this is what I finally received.



*Chunks of coal are coming out of the bottom*

**HOME FROM THE SHOW/SALE** Even when I'm in control of the rock constantly on its journey to my shop, I need to be sure your rock's not rolling - and bouncing other rocks in my trunk or the back of my husband's Ford Transit Connect which has an enclosed cargo bay.

Wrapping the rock individually in newspaper, towels or lots of bubble wrap is a good start for larger pieces. I then secure them in a box or other protective object and stabilized in place so they don't go flying around when I turn a corner. For smaller rocks/slabs, wrapping them with newspaper around them and keeping them securely together in a bag is usually enough. I normally bring an assortment of little plastic display bags to keep soft minerals from rubbing on and being scratched by other rocks.

**SHIPPING CAN BE AN EXCELLENT OPTION** When tempting stones are heavy—too heavy to carry on an airplane going home or just too large for you to manage on your own, it's time to ship them. Some shows have on-site shippers who will handle everything from wrapping your rocks to getting them to your front porch. Warning! This is not cheap. Not even a little. However, they have the materials and shipping capability to make sure your purchases arrive intact.

**DYI SHIPPING BASICS** If you decide to take the DYI options, especially for fragile specimens, the people at Treasure Mountain Mining have created a very detailed description of how they ship minerals that have fragile crystals, etc. You can find it at: <http://www.treasuremountainmining.com/index.php?route=pavblog/blog&id=36>

Another DYI tip I picked up somewhere: if you really want to be sure your item isn't smashed or damaged, especially if it is fragile, pack it securely like the directions above. Go out and purchase a new, light weight cooler like a Coleman or Igloo brand. Put the secure package in the cooler and pad it liberally so it won't shift in transit and put the cooler back inside the box it came in. Then all you have to do is tape it closed, label and ship!

As for my damaged anthracite, I think if the Tyvek bag had been inside of a box, it would have come through fine. In case you're wondering what I plan to do with coal, anthracite is a very hard and shiny coal. I like to do "lapidary meals" where all the foodstuffs are minerals.

*You might be a rockhound if...* you take longer to get up the gravel driveway than to visit the person at the end of it...

*Continued on page 10.*

## 2017 Solar Eclipse ~ August 21

2017 Solar Eclipse ~ Great Smoky Mountains via

<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/2017-solar-eclipse.htm>

NASA website

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

NASA – Total Solar Eclipse

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEmono/TSE2017/TSE2017.html>

Safety | Total Solar Eclipse

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

On 2017 August 21, a total eclipse of the Sun is visible from within a narrow corridor that traverses the United States of America. The path of the Moon's umbral shadow begins in northern Pacific and crosses the USA from west to east through parts of the following states: Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina (note: only a tiny corner of Montana and Iowa are in the eclipse path). The Moon's penumbral shadow produces a partial eclipse visible from a much larger region covering most of North America.

*Pictures via the listed internet sites*



**Coke-a-Coala**

### *Lapidary Whisperer Continued from page 9.*

The anthracite was crushed quite small and put in a Coca Cola glass with selenite ice cubes to be part of a hamburger meal I'm working on. When I send the anthracite donor a complementary glass of "Coke-a-Coala", you can believe it will be packed so that not even a tiny bit of anthracite will move in shipment.

Drop me a note at [Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com](mailto:Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com) and tell me about your challenges with shipping rough, slabs, finished cabs, and specimens!

*Continued from page 8. Betty Cain says ...* purchases will incur a \$10 service charge in addition to the (for now) \$10 price of the pass. Your pass is good for the rest of your life unless lost or stolen. Many people buy an extra to keep in a safe place. Doing so at this time is something to consider because buying a replacement in the future could cost you much more.

### **ACT QUICKLY!**

**The price increase is going to take effect on August 28, 2017. That's well ahead of the previously announced effective date of October 1. So if you are going to attain age 62 before August 28, don't wait - it will cost you eight times more after that date! As Elvis would sing "It's Now or Never".**



*Last page funnies ...*

*GEOLOGY HUMOR*

1. You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
2. Your rock collection weighs more than you do.
3. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
4. You can pronounce the word “molybdenite” correctly on the first try.
5. You don’t think of “cleavage” the same way everyone else does.
6. You have never uttered the phrase “Have you tried licking it?”.
7. You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
8. You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
9. You’re planning on using a pick and shovel while on your vacation.
10. Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
11. You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type of rock as the side you’re parked on.
12. You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world map.
13. The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
14. You have never found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn’t really a weapon.
15. You never throw anything away.
16. You have never taken a 22-passenger van over “roads” that were really intended only for cattle.
17. You consider a “recent event” to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
18. You have never had to respond “yes” to the question, “What have you got in here, ROCKS?”



~~~~~  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_





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

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

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

STAMP

**Meeting: AUGUST 4, 2017 Friday**  
**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.*

