

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

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

President's Message

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!

And a Wonderful New Year!

Hey! – I get to say that in a president's message just once a year. You think I'll pass up an opportunity like that? And here's another opportunity. By happy coincidence, this other opportunity comes about but once a year also. This is our chance to look forward to another great year.

2017

And I can already tell you what 2017 will look like. It will look like us! Because we are the ones who make field trips (like the one coming up this February) a great success. We are the ones who make the Auction in April the fun and fundraiser that it is. We are the ones who make the Tannehill Show the Gem & Mineral Show of Birmingham, who make the classes we sponsor the success they are, the programs as interesting and entertaining as they are, the meals we enjoy together the fun and feast that they are.

We are the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society. We are what 2017 will be.

So I wish you a ...

A Wonderful New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas!

Respectfully,

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

SPECIAL NOTE : We still need a Publicity Chair for our upcoming Tannehill Show in June. That starts at the beginning of 2017 too. Any help would be greatly appreciated. *Your friendly editor, Sandra*



LARRY HENSLEY
President A.M.L.S.

December 9 - Christmas Exchange and Kontzen Scholarship winner announced
Sorry, No Cabbing parties scheduled for this month.
Sorry, No Lapidary Class scheduled due to the holidays
December 26 - Canceled Board Meeting at the Hoover Library due to the holidays.

January 13, 2017 - Tentative speaker archaeologist

February 3, 2017 - **Cindy Hensley** - Polymer Clay
NOTE date change due to the annual book sale.

March 10, 2017 - Open

April 14, 2017 - Annual Auction

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OFFICERS

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Recording Secretary	Bunny Bolton 205-678-8772 bunny@newenvirons.net
Corresponding Secretary	Sandra Sullivan 205-903-7062 doodle35146ss@yahoo.com
Historian	<i>Sandra's doing it</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor / Publications	Sandra Sullivan doodle35146ss@yahoo.com
Education Chair	Cindy Hensley hensley.larry@gmail.com
Fieldtrip Chair	Bud and Lou Ann Newell newell.louann@gmail.com
Hospitality Chair	Rhea Proffitt kokomo0114@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Judith Johnson judelinej@gmail.com and Lou Ann Newell
Program Chair	John Wild john@milcomtextiles.com
Property or Equipment Chair	Don Hill donahill@comcast.net
Publicity Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Show Chair	Cathy Kellogg tannahillgem-show@gmail.com
Webmaster	Reagin Farley 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 Email: sfms@amfed.org

CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR ALL KINDS OF ROCKHOUNDS

Books or magazines can still be ordered and delivered in time. So can *equipment* for collecting or for labeling finds, for tumbling stones, for cutting cabs, and for faceting beautiful stones. For the fossil collector, there are many *websites* that deliver right to your door, the special piece that is missing from a loved one's collection or even your own. Get out there and just look around and even learn a few names of those you didn't know before. Not only is it educational but it is great way to collect when you can't go on the fieldtrips or go shopping in the usual ways. And another great shopping idea is a local rock shows. Good bargains there! We have several rock dealers in the club too. I've had pieces made just for our special someone's too. I can bring a few items we have at the show to meeting if you email me in time. We have our famous Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society T-Shirts for sale too! See Lou Ann Newell for those.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza, *Keep on Rocking, Sandra Sullivan*

Members Serving on the Board of Directors :

Savvy Mc Cravy	205-305-5396 business_mode_savvy@yahoo.com
Don Rosenstiel	205-822-1513 don77rose@gmail.com

Southeast Federation Officers :

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

Meeting Minutes for November 11, 2016

Levan Foster said our blessing. Our recording secretary Bunny Bolton was unable to attend so Martha Ivey kindly agreed to take down the minutes. The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 PM. Visitors were recognized: Jake Hooten, Charis Hartfeet, Lisa Whitlow, Sestini Callirs, Eric Deleco, Tim, and Casey Hoett.

President Larry Hensley recognized members who had contributed food to the pot-luck and those who brought door prizes. Treasurer Reggie Bolton reminded us that dues are due and that those who pay by the December meeting will receive a \$5 discount off the new higher prices. Those prices are \$25 family, \$20 individual, \$15 student. Reggie then gave a short treasurer's report. The club netted approximately \$2,500 from this year's Tannehill show. We spent \$900 on a 10" saw and some grinding equipment. This expenditure was not in the budget but was approved by a vote of the club. Totals were announced for funds in our money market and checking accounts. If anyone wishes further details contact Reggie.

It was announced that this meeting was the deadline for Kontzen Scholarship applications. The award will be made at the December meeting.

Don Hill announced that he and Jill would host a cabbing party at their home 9AM - 4PM Saturday 11/12/16 and Sunday 11/13/16.

Lou Ann Newell is still taking orders for T-shirts. We need a few more orders to qualify for a price break. The shirts will be bright green with a picture of a miner on the back and AMLS on the front.

Lou Ann also discussed some of the mines in North Carolina. She announced that we have no field trips planned for December. We will host a DMC trip to our Brookwood site in February. The date is not yet definite but will probably be Saturday Feb. 18. We will be using material from this site for our Mr. Bob Smith Tumbling Contest in May so please collect extra material to share with those members who may not be able to attend. We try to have plenty of polished Brookwood stones available to give away at the Tannehill show and other events.

Yvonne Foster and Cindy Hensley announced

a class to be held at the Hoover library on Saturday 11/19/16 for 10:30am-5:30pm. This will include seasonal decorations, wire and bead work for bracelet charms, etc. using silver and copper (charge for silver wire). Bring your own tools, wire, and beads if you have them.

Sandra Sullivan discussed the increased frequency of sinkholes because water tables have been lowered by drought. She also mentioned the earthquakes occurring in Italy and some upcoming meteor showers. Sandra showed a picture she had printed from an email from Randall Mc Daniel about the geological timeline and spoke of his emailing a daily feed of beautiful stones.

Larry Hensley announced the upcoming Alabama Designers Craftmens show at the Botanical Gardens.

It was announced that the Clydesdale horses are in town for Veteran's day. Veteran club members were acknowledged and John Wild gave a thank you for their service.

Cathy Kellogg gave a very enjoyable presentation on her experience as a Kontzen scholarship recipient taking a wire wrap class at William Holland from Judi Wild. She showed us pictures of some very nice beginning work.

Our officers for 2017 were sworn in by Mike Sullivan. President: Larry Hensley, First VP(programs) John Wild, Second VP(field trips) Bud and Lou Ann Newell, Treasurer Reggie Bolton, Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Secretary Sandra Sullivan, Recording Secretary Bunny Bolton, Show Chair Cathy Kellogg, Education Chair Cindy Hensley, Membership Chair Judith Johnson, Equipment Chair Don Hill.

Door prizes were given out and our meeting adjourned: 8:53PM

Respectfully submitted by Reggie Bolton, standing in for working wife Bunny.

Board Meeting Minutes ~ November 28, 2016

In attendance were Larry Hensley, Sandra Sullivan, Reggie and Bunny Bolton, Savvy Mc Creary, Bud and Lou Ann Newell, and John Wild.

Larry will meet with Reagin Farley about correcting the lapidaryclub.com e-mail to reflect the new officers and board member's *Continued on page 6.*

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

Dec. 2 - 4, Montgomery, AL. The 46th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL. Fri. 9 – 6, Sat. 10 – 6, Sun. 11 – 5, Admission: \$2/Adults or \$3 for weekend pass Free/18 & Under with student ID and 1 paid adult. Free Parking. Free door prize ticket with each paid adult admission. e-mail: Terry Fetzer Gem-Show@MontgomeryGemAndMineralSociety.com; Web Site: montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/

Dec. 2-4 Hudson, FL. 42 nd Annual show; Withlacoochee Rockhounds, Veterans Memorial Park Gymnasium; 14333 Hicks Road; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults/Seniors \$3, Teens \$1, Children 12 and under free; All indoors in large air-conditioned facility. Demonstrations of various lapidary arts, plus the ancient art of flintknapping, lapidary equipment, gem and mineral auction, famous diamonds of the world, fluorescent minerals, replica of Aaron's Breastplate, educational displays, and more.; contact Ralph Barber, Brooksville, FL, 1-352-200-6852; e-mail: barbersbloomers@hotmail.com; Web site: www.WithlacoocheeRockhounds.com

Dec. 3-4 Leesville, LA: Annual show; DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society, West LA Forestry Fair Grounds; 276 H. M. Stevens Blvd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults/Seniors \$2, Children 12 & under free; 32nd Annual Show: Louisiana Opal rough, slabs and Jewelry. Rough rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, gems and Jewelry. Hands on demonstrations for faceting, capping, knapping and wire wrapping. ; contact Adam Valin, 276 H. M. Stevens Blvd., Leesville, LA 71446, (337)-585-3693; e-mail: de-ridder.rockandgem@gmail.com

Dec. 9-11 Lawrenceville, GA. 23 rd Annual show, North Atlanta Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show; Mammoth Rock Shows LLC at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$5, Children/Students 16 and under free; Offering minerals,

gemstones, beads, jewelry, fossils and related items in a large indoor show with easy entrance.; contact Richard Hightower, 78 Emerald Hill, Franklin, NC 28734, (800)-720-9624; e-mail: staff@mammothrock.com; Web site: www.mammothrock.com

Dec. 10-11 Franklin, TN. Annual show; Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society (MTGMS), Williamson County AgExpoPark (Nashville area); 4215 Long Lane ; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Students \$1, Children free; This show features items that will fascinate and please every age group. Dealers. Hourly door prizes, silent auction, exhibits, and demonstrations such as silversmithing, stone cutting, and faceting. Contact Mardy Smith, TN 37214, (615)-417-1416; e-mail: show@mtgms.org; Web site: www.mtgms.org/

Dec. 10-11 Pinecrest, FL. 63 rd Show and sale; Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild, Evelyn Greer Park; 8200 SW 124 Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4, Children free; Children's activities include jewelry-making sessions, surprise grab-bags, gem prospecting, and geode splitting. ; contact Sandy Mielke, 2434 Swanson Avenue, Miami, FL 33133, (305)-858-6967; e-mail: webguy@mmlg-inc.org; Web site: www.miamigemandmineral.com

REQUEST for the TANNEHILL SHOW ITEMS ~



Please save your wrapping paper tubes for those of us who handle the club booth at the show. Many know we sell maps from the Geological Survey of Alabama and give away many posters. These tubes sure come in handy to make these sells go easier. *Thanks, S.S.*



**There is no DMC field trip for December.
Thank you to all of the DMC member clubs who hosted**

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

AMLS Code of Ethics

- 1) I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- 2) I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- 3) I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- 4) I will not go to field trip sites before the club.
- 5) I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- 6) Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted on field trips.
- 7) I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- 8) I will leave all gates as found.
- 9) I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc. on collecting sites.
- 10) I will fill all excavation holes that I dig.
- 11) I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- 12) I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 13) I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- 14) I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority following this Code of Ethics in all collecting areas.
- 15) I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.
- 16) I will dig only with permission of the landowner.
- 17) I will treat my fellow club members with

respect.

- 18) Theft from club members will not be tolerated.
- 19) Club membership lists shall not be used for commercial or personal profit. *Via SFMS website*



A.M.L.S Gift Exchange explanation ~

You do not have to participate if you don't wish to. It goes like this. We set the gift cost of about \$10.00 in value that is rockhound related. If you are a man, then you would bring a gift for a man and marked on the tag "MAN". If you are a woman, you would bring a gift marked "WOMAN". If you are a child, you would bring a gift marked "CHILD". This way, everyone gets a gift that participates that is just for them. We have a category we call "ANYONE". This is a type of gift that anyone who is a rockhound would be delighted to receive. If you choose this category, please label it "ANYONE".

We do not have doorprizes at this meeting but we use the sign-in book to call out the names for the selection of your gift. Everyone always have a great time and especially the children. If you personally wish to gift to the children, please bring enough for all so as none will feel left out.

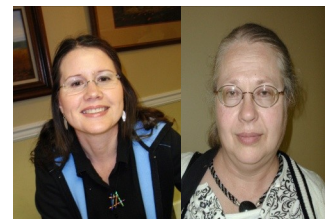


Don Hill says ... Sorry, No Cabbing Party

I don't have any open weekends in December.
Thanks, Don and Jill Hill

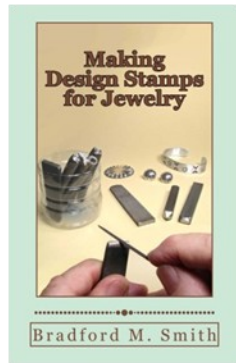
IMPORTANT INFO: NO Lapidary Class scheduled due to the holidays !

The library has now completed its renovations. So 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 information. S.S.



Brad Smith Bench Tips ~

Announcing Brad's latest jewelry techniques book for those who like Southwest-style stamped jewelry. "Making Design Stamps For Jewelry" covers the step-by-step process of selecting best steels, carving the design, hardening the steel, and tempering the completed stamp to ensure a long service life. It describes the tools to use, gives examples for how to make several design stamps, and 78 close-up photos that illustrate the important details. Both Kindle and paperback editions are on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/2fvf58T>



Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue. Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.



Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? *Continued on page 7*

www.BradSmithJewelry.com See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

Board Meeting Minutes Continued ...

addresses.

The date of February 18th was chosen for the Brookwood field trip AMLS is hosting for the Dixie Mineral Council. Sandra will order the Port-o-let(s) and members will be asked to take turns manning the check-in tent. We will also provide snacks and bottled water. Lou Ann has the check-in forms which include vehicle identification so we can make sure everyone is out before the gate is locked.

It's time for membership renewal and it was decided that after Reggie (or Sandra) gets the fee and form Reggie and Larry will enter the information into the spread sheet. The forms will then go to Judith and Lou Ann who will send out membership packet and card. They will then send the forms to Sandra. When we have the list updated in January Jackie Seale will make new buttons for everyone.

Sandra is going to send out cards to some folks we're not seeing at the meetings lately saying *Missed You!* Also we need to get a list of kids on the roster and work on programs to interest them.

Is there interest in publishing a membership directory? Names and pictures only or contact information, lapidary interests. We should try to get a group picture at the December meeting/Christmas party. Sandra will publish a list of dos and don'ts about the member list.

Frank Morris has refurbished Bob Smith's big saw and would like the club to purchase it for \$1500. Reggie has looked at it and made a motion that the club purchase the saw for \$1200. Sandra seconded it and it passed unanimously. The members will now need to vote on the purchase.

Reggie has done some research on possible workshop space. There are 2 spaces in downtown Irondale with limited parking that are way out of our price range and it's clear that our price range is not realistic. A space is available in Clelsea which was built as a cabinet shop so power would not be a problem. It's \$1200. a month for 2500 square feet.

The Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies has elected Reggie Bolton Second Vice President. He attended their annual meeting on November 19th and also the *Continued on page 7.*

December Birthstones ~ Tanzanite, Turquoise, and Zircon

December's birthstones offer three ways to fight the winter blues: tanzanite, zircon and turquoise – all of them, appropriately, best known for beautiful shades of blue. These gems range from the oldest on earth (zircon), to one of the first mined and used in jewelry (turquoise), to one of the most recently discovered (tanzanite).

All of these stones are relatively inexpensive, but their beauty rivals even precious gems. Colorless zircon is a convincing replacement for diamond, tanzanite often substitutes sapphire, and turquoise is unmatched in its hue of robin's egg blue.

Whatever your style preference or budget, one of December's three birthstones will match your true blue desires.

American Gem Society Source :

www.americangemsociety.org/en/birthstones

This is a great website too ! www.gia.edu/

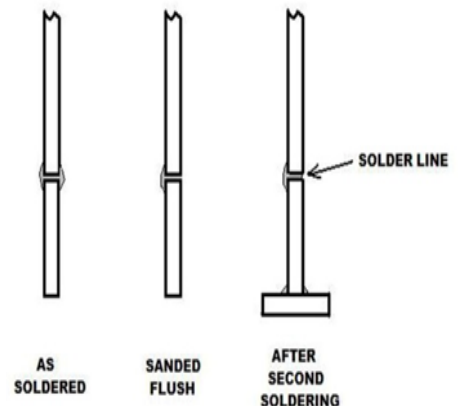


These pictures via www.geology.com/gemstones

Bench Tips Continued ... What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature where solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.



www.BradSmithJewelry.com See all Brad's jewelry books at Ama-

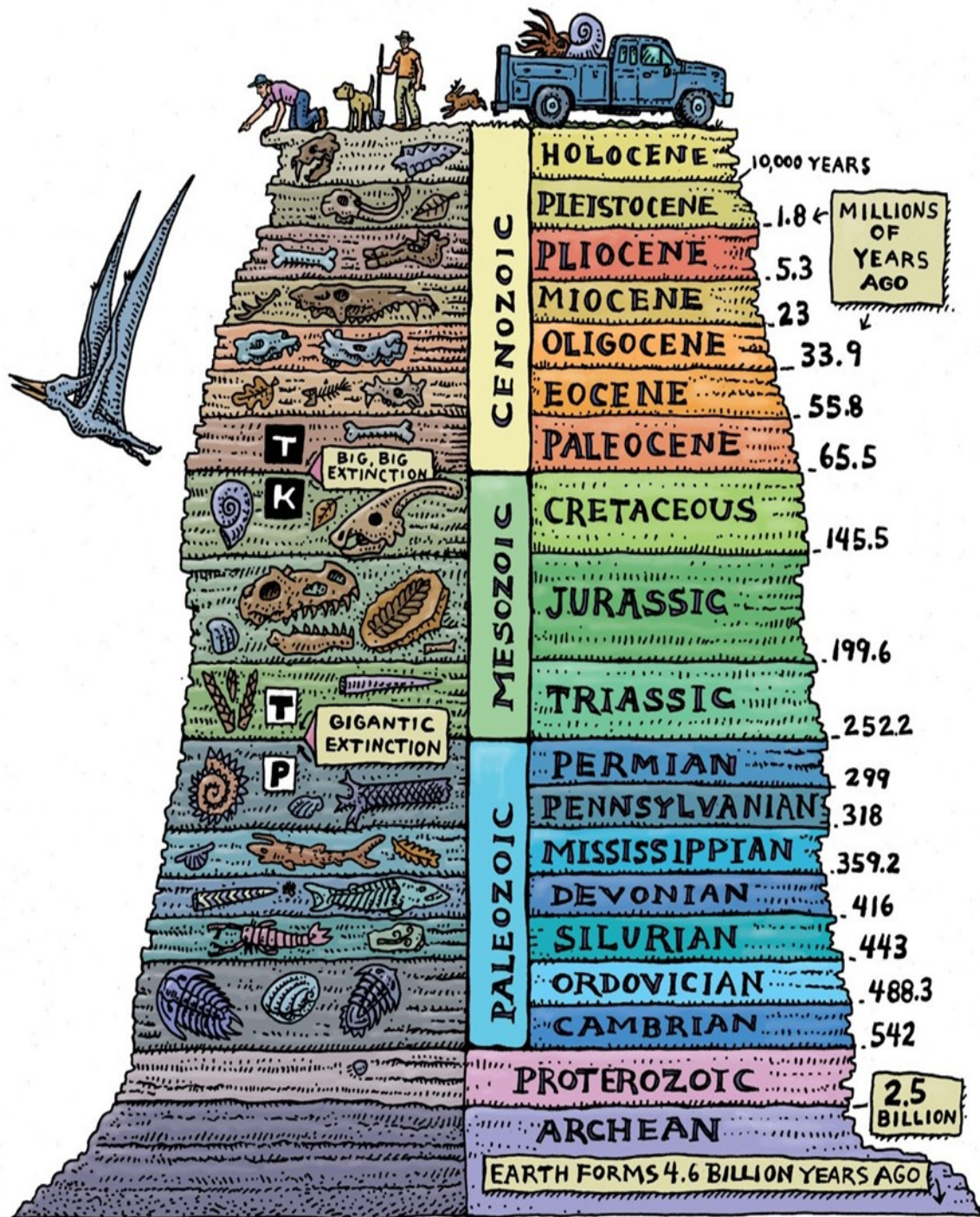
Board Meeting Minutes for 11/28/16 Continued yet again...

the 'cracker barrel' which is an informal meeting the night before to kick around ideas. Some of the highlights concerned attracting new members especially young ones by looking at home school groups who have both kids and parents interested in activities and college geology departments. Social media and demonstrations at meetings as well as out in public were also mentioned. Their lending library is underutilized and we need to look at these as back up programs for meetings and outreach at our Tannehill show and other venues. The SFMS also has the Mayo Foundation which gives scholarships to geology and other earth science students. AMLS has succeeded in getting some of these scholarships awarded to local students in the past and should work on it again.

Respectfully submitted, Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary



SFMS Officers being sworn in. Reggie Bolton standing second from the right.



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<http://geology.com/time.htm>

Per Randle Mc Daniel email S.S.

Last page funnies ~



ODE TO EDITORS :
 'Twas the month before Christmas
 And all down the street
 The neighbours were baking
 Their sweet Christmas treats.
 But one house was different
 The cookie jar bare
 The Editor sat glued
 To her typing chair.
 Tap, tap goes the typer
 Ring, ring goes the phone
 Deadlines long past
 Will it ever get done?
 More stencils to type
 And pictures to trace,
 Oh where is that 'filler'
 To fill up this space?
 Hurrah It's all finished
 And just in time, too
 One last thing to say



"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU."

A.M.L.S. Application for Membership _____ New _____ Renewal

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

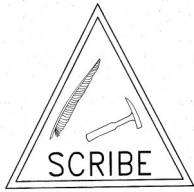
Family \$25. _____ Single \$20. _____ Junior / Student \$15. _____ After June 1, the cost of the membership dues are one-half price for new members only. **Dues for regular members are to be renewed at the November meeting and / or before January 1 of the new year. A \$5. discount if paid by Dec. meeting.**

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

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

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.lapidaryclub.com>

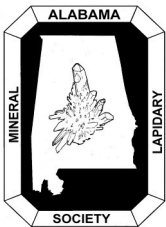


STAMP

Meeting: Friday night December 9, 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 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.

