



Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

November Meeting: Friday, November 10



Please see the special message from our President Pro Tem Reggie Bolton on some important decisions facing your club. Your officers cannot make all these decisions without YOU, the members. Page 2

Here's What's New!

- ◆ Thanksgiving Show & Tell
- ◆ Jewelry making classes this month
- ◆ NEW member's-only Facebook group
- ◆ Field Trip to SC
- ◆ Rockhound Classifieds!
- ◆ November birthstones

This month's meeting, it's all about the rocks! Bring your rocks for an indoor tailgating! Show and tell your best and brightest. Want something identified? We'll do our best.

And since this month is all about being thankful, let's bring traditional (and non-traditional) Thanksgiving dishes to share.

It's renewal time! See membership chairman John Cook's message on page 11 on ways to renew your membership. AND, by the way, do you have your membership card? You'll need it to participate in field trips. Check out the photos posted from the October trip to Hollytree Alabama, a great new source for Alabama agates and jasper.

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The November 10 meeting officially kicks off the Membership Renewal for 2024. Membership will be at the next two meetings to accept your renewal application and print your 2024 ID cards. Go to www.lapidaryclub.com . print your renewal to fill out and bring to the meeting with your dues.

President's Message

Hello rockhounds.

I've done a lot of thinking lately about our club's governance issues. And I have a question that maybe someone with first hand knowledge could answer. Why do you think the founders of Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society decided to incorporate their little rock club? They were already having fun with their friends looking for rocks, swapping rocks, making stuff with their rocks, and just hanging out together at the lake with their families. Maybe back there in the fifties it was just the "thing to do", harking back to the British learned societies of the nineteenth century and before. It may be that the only thing we have to go on to answer this question is the "Purpose" stated on page one of the bylaws: **"The primary purpose of this Society is for persons interested in the study, collection and lapidary treatment of rocks and minerals, to associate as members. The general purposes for which this corporation is formed are to stimulate interest in rocks and minerals by furtherance of the activities of the members of this corporation in the earth sciences; to disseminate knowledge, methods and procedures for the collection, identification, classification, cutting, polishing, setting and mounting of specimens for these activities; and to promote good fellowship, proper ethics and conduct in the relations of said members with each other and with members of other earth science societies in pursuit of these activities."** But do you really need a corporation to do this? Well, actually, yes. The club needs to be a legal entity to collect money, have a bank account for making payments, and for signing contracts. All quite necessary for renting a meeting hall, a workshop, and a show venue. So, if we do want to have meetings, operate a workshop, and pay for it all with the money we make producing an annual show, then we need to fulfill the legal formality of being a corporation. And that is why we need officers and a board of directors. (It would also be a great fringe benefit if those officers and directors managed things so that we could all have a good time. (see "Purpose").

So, as president pro tem, my number one objective is to make sure that all the necessary offices are filled. But that's not all I need to do. I need some serious communication, particularly with newly joined club

members who will be enjoying the club from now on. What our members really want from their club? Do we really want to continue monthly physical meetings? I can't imagine otherwise but maybe that is the way of the future. Do we want a workshop? If not then we don't need a show to pay for it. Then I hope that, with those questions answered and other suggestions taken into account, when our incoming government is fully formed, we can adjust our ways of running the club accordingly. (By the way, this will most likely involve revising the bylaws so I need volunteers to work on that. New member Anthony Piazza has already volunteered but this will take a bare minimum of three people, probably really five or six, some old members and some new) Our ability to get things right going forward is completely dependent on the quality of the feedback we get in the next few weeks. Fair warning to new members: you will be contacted directly in the near future regarding these questions. Please remember that this club does not have any employees. We have only part-time volunteers to run our operation. So guess what? If we can't get enough volunteers to do the work then everything falls apart. And I'm just being real here, that could happen sooner than you think. So I hope more members will do what I have done and decide to put more effort into the club for the next few months to put it in healthy condition for future success.

Reggie Bolton

AMLS president pro tem

(Author's note: pro tem is short for pro tempore which is Latin for "for the time being". I want out of this job as soon as possible. I've been treasurer since 2016 when I took over the job unexpectedly after the previous holder of the office had to undergo debilitating cancer treatment. I was ready to pass the job on in 2019 but when covid hit I didn't have the heart to leave the club high and dry. But the sad truth is that I haven't cut a rock in at least three years so I'm about to pass the torch like it or not. I have been on the AMLS board of directors in various capacities non-stop since the first year I joined the club in about 2009. Concurrently I have also held offices including president in the Southeast Federation. And I am just finishing a term as an officer of the American Federation. I feel like maybe I have earned retirement and a chance to have fun with rocks and let someone else do the managing.)



ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Minutes from October Meeting

AMLS meeting October 13, 2023

Allison said our blessing and we all lined up for the pot luck. Levan announced that our show was a great success and that we would like to continue holding it at the Irondale Civic Center. We had around 800 paying admission plus many children and cleared about \$8,000 once all the bills were paid. This will enable us to keep the workshop for another year. When we approached the Civic Center about next year we were informed that it had already been reserved for the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Both Ben and Reggie had told the manager we wanted it but for Irondale the first party to put down a deposit gets it. A search for another venue was made and vendors were consulted then the board voted to put deposits down with the Irondale Civic Center for the weekend after Labor Day for 2024 and Labor Day weekend for 2025. The club needed to vote on this so Don Hill made a motion to plan on having the show on those two dates and putting deposits down, Sandra Sullivan seconded and the motion passed.

Ben Beadore will not be the chairman for the 2024 show but will assist the committee in putting things together. The committee will have a chairman plus someone for vendor relations, show production, and promotion. Each of these people will get help from volunteers. **Ben, Casey, Allison and the whole crew did a fantastic job on the show!** Thanks to all the volunteers and special thanks to Bonnie Gaston for the vendor meal. John Cook has made thank-you certificates for each one.

We have added 45 new members since the show, that's 29 adults, 10 kids and 6 extended family members. Members need to meet them and find out where their interests lie. Don't forget to check out the members-only section of the website and the members only Facebook page, these require an invitation.

NEW BUSINESS! Levan is stepping down from his position as club president immediately He is having health issues and must slow down for a while.

With gratitude for his service to the club, we voted to accept his resignation. Reggie made the motion and Don Hill seconded. Sandra Sullivan, as vice president, is unable to move into the president's role so Reggie Bolton has offered to come out of retirement to fill in until March. Election of officers will be suspended for 6 months during which time we will form working groups and find members willing to fill the positions. He made the motion and Levan seconded. The club voted to accept. Working groups need to be put together to find a new president and first vice president who is in charge of field trips. Remember that none of the officers act alone, they look to others for help when needed and there are monthly board meetings to discuss what is going on. New members are welcome to step up and help. We need to know from them why they joined, what are their skills and interests. A committee sign-up sheet was passed around.

Each year AMLS awards 2 scholarships, the Kontzen scholarship and one for education. Applications are due by the November meeting and awarded in December. These are used to attend a 1 week class at William Holland (or Wild Acres) school of lapidary arts. A class plus room and board are covered but not class fees or materials. Volunteering for club tasks and positions are looked upon favorably when the committee makes their decision. **Larry and Diana Carby donated a scholarship for this year, many thanks to them!**

The AMLS by-laws need to be updated every 10 years and we are in the tenth year so we need a committee for that. Who will bring the donuts now that Bob Smith has passed? We also need Operating Procedures written up because they are more day to day and more easily amended than the by-laws.

Continued on page 5



ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Minutes from October Board Meeting

AMLS board meeting 10/26/23. In attendance John & Ivey Cook, Reggie & Bunny Bolton, Robert Lorino, Levan & Yvonne Foster, Vivian Melof, Rhonda Jordan, Jinger Glasgow (aka werewolf), Bruce Benik.

Reggie suggested that for our November program we do tailgating and have a few members talk about their work. We need people for hospitality at meetings. Yvonne volunteered to continue bringing the paper goods, utensils, etc from the workshop and returning them. Still need folks to put them out and clean up.

Each officer who is stepping down needs to find a replacement and train them in the next few months. We expect most work will be done by committee so no one is over-burdened.

Currently we are looking at:

- President- Reggie Bolton
- 1st Vice President-programs-John Wild
- 2nd Vice President-field trips-Larry Yednak?
- Treasurer-Reggie Bolton
- Historian-John Gaston
- Corresponding Secretary- Ivey Cook
- Recording Secretary-Bunny Bolton
- Property Supervisor- Levan Foster and Robert Lorino
- Show Chair- Jinger Glasgow with Rhonda Jordan - publicity, Destinee Gilbert-Social media, Casey Faulkner-volunteers, Allison Reeves-kid's activities
- Membership-open
- Webmaster-open
- Hospitality- Yvonne Foster
- Education-Yvonne Foster
- Sunshine-committee

We ran out of time and will have another meeting next Thursday.

AMLS board meeting part two: in attendance Levan & Yvonne Foster, Reggie & Bunny Bolton, Robert Lorino, Allison Reeves, Rhonda & Jillian Jordan.

Levan reported that he bought candy to give out at the workshop on Halloween. It was gone in no time so he gave out the tumbled stones. They were well received and he gave out club cards to interested adults. Good example of community outreach which is one of our club missions.

Allison said that John Cook had asked her if she would be interested in taking over as membership chair. She has agreed to do this and Reggie & Levan gave her a quick overview but she will get more formal training from John. She has also taken on a kids program and has a lesson plan for our upcoming meeting. If kids show up Allison is ready. She also suggested posting a question like "What's your favorite rock?" on the MO might be a way to get members interacting.

Reggie is concerned about communication between board members and other club members. Allison suggested Groupme, a chat room, might be a good way to do this. She will set it up and put on the MO (members only FB page) so be looking for that. Reggie suggested that perhaps a board business meeting once a month might be a way to keep that portion of our regular meetings to a minimum. All members would be welcome of course.

November meeting program will be tailgating where folks bring their lapidary items to sell or trade. Think holiday shopping. Also Robert, Yvonne, and maybe a few others will talk for a few minutes about their work.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary



Our favorite UA Geology student member Chase Egli was asked to present his research poster "An Enigmatic Marine Xenacanth (Chondrichthyes, Elasmobranchii, Xenacanthimorpha) from the Late Mississippian (Serpukhovian) Bangor Limestone of Northwest Alabama, USA." at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Cincinnati, OH.



ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Workshop News

Come visit, bring a prospective member, use the equipment, or introduce a new member to the skills and processes of lapidary at our workshop in Leeds.

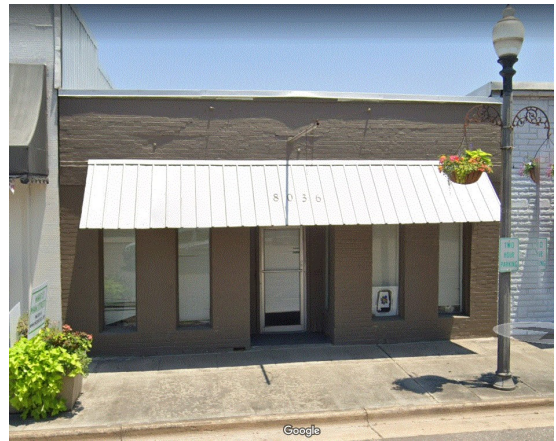
Great cabbing party!



Another new rockhound brought into the fold by our members! Emily Reaves, you're getting some good teachers there in mom Allison and Jinger Glasgow.



After the cabbing, pot luck lunch



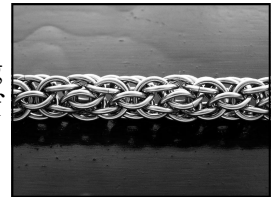
8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds

Classes Scheduled for November & December

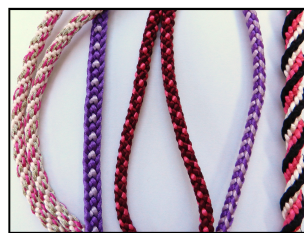
Education chair Yvonne Foster reports the following classes for November and December. Viking knit weaving on November 11 and chainmaille on November 18. Classes 10 am to 4 pm or later to finish projects with an hour midday break for lunch. Will be working in copper. Cost is \$10 to club and \$10 to instructor for copper. Tools provided. Bring magnifying glasses or optivisor if you use one. You will be provided with enough parts to finish



Example of Viking knit weaving



Example of chainmaille



Examples of Kunihimo weaving patterns

project at home if need be.

Also,

Yvonne reports she can do classes in December, including classes to finish projects on December 2 and classes in wirework, pearl and bead stringing, kumihimo, chainmaille, or other projects upon request.

To register for classes or suggest a class to Yvonne, TEXT her at 205-602-8280. Class size limited to 6.

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Upcoming Shows and Events

11/10-12, 2023—GRAY, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Kingsport Gems & Minerals Society; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1, 100 Lakeview Street; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$ 3, Children 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult; contact Laura Darsch, (757) 681-2338; Email: laura@tennesseeridgearts.com

11/10-12/2023- PASCAGOULA, MS: Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Show, Jackson Co. Fairgrounds Civic Center, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5, http://www.mgcgms.org/gem_show.htm

11/17-19/2023—MARIETTA, GA: Cobb County Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 Marietta, Pkwy, Marietta, GA, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

11/17-19, 2023 — CRESTWOOD, KY, KYANA Geological Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, Free Event. Camo Crestwood, 7206 Clore Lane, Crestwood, Ky. Bring your family and friends, meet enthusiasts and professionals, learn about geology, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts, handmade jewelry. Nov. 17th & 18th 10am - 5pm Nov. 19th 11am - 5pm

11/17-19/2023-COLUMBIA, SC: Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5, Jamil Temple, <http://www.cgms.rocks/>

11/17-19, 2023—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: Show and sale; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road, Kerr Scott Building; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$8 for adults, 16 and under free; 757) 641-2124; Email: Ellen@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com; Website: www.treasuresoftheearth.com

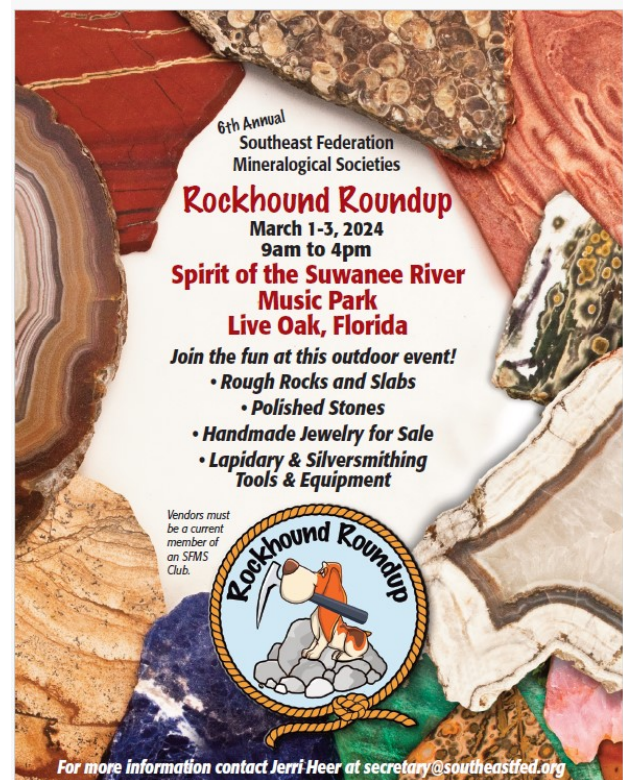
12/1-3/2023— HUDSON, FL, The Withlacoochee Rockhounds 48th Annual Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Jewelry Show, Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road, Hudson, Florida, open from 1-5 on Friday and Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and 14 and under are free.

1/17-21, 2024—QUARTZSITE , ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Quartzsite Improvement Association; Quartzsite Improvement Association, 225 E Ironwood; Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; Free; Over 250 vendors in one location Full service dining options Daily Rockhounding trips; contact Nancy Nichols, (928) 927-6325; Email: Powwow@qiaarizona.org

October meeting minutes, con't page 3

Don Hill told us about OLLI , Oscar's Life-long Learning Initiative, a group of mostly retired professors who love to learn. They are always looking for speakers and teachers. Rhonda asked about having another rock swap with the U of A geology students. We agreed that March would be a good time. Sandra has postponed her rock sale until the new year. You know she's going to have some great rocks for sale and it's worth waiting for. October has 5 Sundays so that means it's time for our 5th Sunday cabbing party at the workshop . It's open to all members and yes, you can pay your dues at the event. This time, to celebrate a great show, we will include a pot luck lunch and rock swap. Bring your rocks, dish, and appetite (or appetite) to the workshop on October 29th starting at 10 AM. Door prizes were given out- really good ones this time, and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary.



Here's another great opportunity to add to your calendars. Applications available on club website lapidaryclub.com

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Agate, Jasper, Chalcedony?

If you read about the gem materials used in rock tumbling, you will encounter three names over and over again. The names are "**agate**," "**jasper**" and "**chalcedony**". These names appear so often because they are the perfect materials for polishing in both rotary and vibratory rock tumblers. Telling the difference between agate and jasper is easy with most specimens. However, some stones can show properties of both agate and jasper. For those specimens, you can simply call them "chalcedony" and be right every time.

Chalcedony: Chalcedony is a generic name given to materials that are composed of microcrystalline quartz. Agate and jasper are both varieties of chalcedony. "Microcrystalline" means that the quartz is in the form of crystals that are so small that a microscope must be used to visualize them individually

Agate: Agate is a translucent to semitransparent chalcedony. If you have a piece that is semitransparent, you will be able to hold a very thin piece up to the light and see distorted or foggy images through it. If you hold a translucent piece up to a source of light, you will see a small amount of light passing through the thin edges.



A collection of brightly-colored agates. Included in this are banded agates, plume agates, mossy agates, and eye agates in a wide variety of colors.

Jasper: Jasper is an opaque variety of chalcedony. Opaque means that neither light nor images pass through. Jasper contains enough impurities and foreign material to render it opaque.



A collection of jaspers in a wide variety of patterns and colors. If you are an experienced observer, you can tell that many of these specimens are obviously opaque.

The primary difference between agate and jasper is in their diaphaneity. The word "diaphaneity" is used to describe "how easily light passes through a material". There are three general levels of diaphaneity. They are, from highest to lowest:

- **Transparent** (light and images pass through)
- **Translucent** (light passes through)
- **Opaque** (no light passes through)

--rocktumber.com

From the Webmaster

I often ask the question, "Do you check your website to see what is going on in the club?" Sadly, the answer is usually 'NO. I don't ever think to'. I have come to the realization that even though a website is a great place for members to show off their work, to discuss field trips, to have useful links the members can share, read past newsletters, download forms and documents, and have an online members directory and much much more; the truth is, not enough members care to participate. So, I am going abandon my website ideals and just give the club a presence on the web.

Sincerely, John Cook

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



Nestled in the North Georgia mountains, William Holland is a school devoted to preserving and perpetuating lapidary and jewelry art skills, for generations to learn and enjoy. Everyone is invited to come and learn in a creative space and build relationships in this unique educational environment.

Our club awards a scholarship for a member each year. The club will award our 2024 Kontzen Scholarship at the December meeting. Applications for the scholarship is attached to this newsletter.



Kontzen scholarship recipient Ben Beadore sharing info on his casting class and ring created in class (left)

November Birthstones: Topaz and Citrine



Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer. Most topaz and citrine birthstones are affordably priced, as good-quality gems are not as rare as for many of their counterparts. This means that those born in November have many options to choose from.

Turn in your applications for the Kontzen education scholarship by the November meeting. Award will be awarded in December.



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org

An Official Field Trip of the Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society, Greenville, SC (HOST)

Saturday, November 11, 2023

9am to 5pm Eastern Time

Abbeville, SC

Limit: None

Registration Required (link is below)

Fee: See Below

TRIP: This is a well-known site for collecting. The 400-million-year-old granitoid gneiss was formed by the metamorphism of the Antreville Pluton. The pluton was later fractured and hydrothermal fluids moved through the fractures depositing silica.

COLLECTING: The site is known for quartz crystals. Amethyst, smoky quartz, skeletal quartz, angle plated quartz, beryl, garnet, and epidote have been found.

BRING: Bring shovels of different sizes, small rakes, chisels, brushes, and a spray bottle. Also bring water and food.

REQUIREMENTS: Bring safety glasses in case you plan to break rocks.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Easy site to access. Can be muddy at the site due to rains.



© Can Stock Photo

FEES:	Adult	18+	\$20
	Teen	13-17	\$10
	Senior	65+	\$10
	Children	6-12	\$5
		5 & under	Free
	Veteran		\$15

CHILDREN (Yes): Children need to be supervised.

PETS (Yes): Well-behaved pets on leash are allowed.

FACILITIES: Porta potty, there is a store a few miles away.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, please be considerate to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

CARPOOLING: The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you need a ride; if you can offer a ride; or if you would like to drive or share a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.

CONTACT: Chris Cothran, 864-238-6054, Cothran_chris@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click [here](#) to read them), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location.

Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



Join MO!

Rockhound Classifieds

Heard about the NEW members-only Facebook but haven't joined yet? (We call it MO!) There IS a reason for it. As a member of the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC—the group that plans field trips for member clubs), our club has been told that because of insurance and liability reasons field trip info cannot be shared with non-members beforehand. Members of MO are card-carrying, dues-paying members for this reason.

Everyone in the club has been notified by email how to join the Facebook group. To join MO, the hidden Facebook group, email Minerallapi-daryfb@gmail.com to request another invitation.



ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

Mark your Calendars

November 4, 11, 18, 25	Workshop open to members
November 9:	Monthly Meeting
November 11:	Field Trip, Abbeville, SC
November 11:	Viking Knit Weave class, workshop
November 18:	Chainmaille class, workshop
November 24:	Board Meeting (ZOOM)

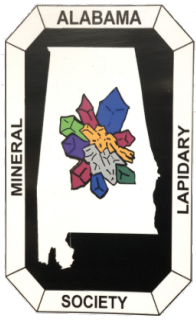
Important Information Concerning 2024 Membership Renewal

Our November meeting will kick off the 2024 membership renewal. We are asking that every member fill out a new application to ensure member information is correct. To get the most out of your participation in the rock club, you really should join the members-only Facebook group, read and reply to your emails, come to monthly meetings and read the Rockhound Roundup newsletter. Our membership committee will be at the November and December meetings to receive your renewal and print your new Membership ID Card for 2024.

Beginning November 1st, 2023, we will start sending emails to the primary applicant's email to remind you it is time to renew. The email will be sent by: **membership@lapidaryclub.com** and have the Subject: **AMLS 2024 membership renewal information**. Please watch for this email, or go to www.lapidaryclub.com now and renew by mail.

When we receive your application to renew with payment, you will receive a confirmation email with your receipt and printable membership ID. You will be asked to reply to the email. This will assure we can communicate with you. There are more renewal options, just go to www.lapidaryclub.com. Thank you, John Cook, membership





Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
Application for the
Joe and Frances Kontzen Scholarship
For Education

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

~~~~~  
Number of years you have been a member of AMLS? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you regularly attend meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you volunteer to help with the Annual Show in September? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend fieldtrips? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever attended one of the SFMS schools/classes:

[ ] William Holland in Young Harris, GA - Year \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Wildacres Retreat in Spruce Pines, NC - Year \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to do brief article for the newsletter, give a presentation at an AMLS club meeting and demonstrate/teach at the workshop the skills you learn from your class at the school? \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~  
If you are submitting this application at a club meeting, please fold in half and place it in the basket on the sign-in table by the door. If you are printing this for the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society, please mail to:

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
8036 Parkway Drive
Leeds, Alabama 35094

Received By _____
Date _____