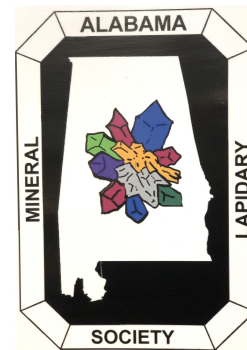


Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY



April Meeting: Friday, April 12, 6:30 pm
Cahaba Heights Methodist Church

AUCTION



April is our annual Auction. As you arrive and sign in on the notebook, take an index card and write the number beside your name. Use this card to bid on an item, and to show to the treasurer so he'll know who won the bid. We'll start the auction after an important short business meeting (be sure to grab a bite from the pot luck). Bring your checkbook or plenty of cash. Cards will be taken! **We need your donations for the April auction!** Bring your donations to the April meeting, or drop them by the workshop before the 12th, label them with anything that will help them sell, including suggested starting bid. Slabs, rough rocks and minerals, specimen rocks, jewelry supplies, used equipment and tools, etc.

Welcome 2024 NEW Members

Maggie Dunmire

Mark Chapman

Wesley and Dana Fox

James and Jada Franksain

Billy and Christy Hoffman

Michele Webber

Leisa Whitlow

Mike and Mimi Wood

Past Due?

This MAY be the last newsletter you receive from us. Meeting announcements will continue to be sent, but you'll be missing out on field trip notifications, use of workshop, and other privileges. If you haven't paid, consider renewing to stay with us! Renewal form on website.

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Rockhound Roundup

President's Message for April

Well would you look at that! It's April and the first quarter of the year is behind us. Now it's less than five months until show time.

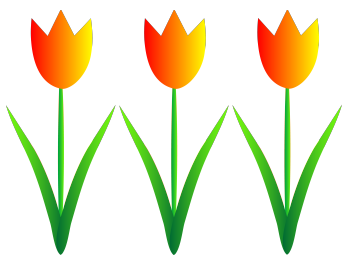
Show activity planning should be well under way by now and vendors should be sending deposits. If we're going to do this let's not waste any time getting serious.

But wait there's more! April is our annual club auction fundraiser. Hello, **that is this coming Friday.** We are counting on a good turnout and some awesome donations to bid on. This is a major part of raising money to support the club. So please bring a spectacular bid item and show up with cash or check and take something special home with you.

There will be a brief but very important business meeting before the auction. We'll be voting on some preliminary bylaws changes. You should already have received notice of these changes. If you haven't seen it please check your email from a week or so ago. It's been ten years since we last reviewed and updated the bylaws and there are changes we need to adjust for.

I can't stress enough how important your personal presence at this meeting is to our club's future and present well being. If you care about that then you need to give this event a high priority. I truly hope to see a new generation of leaders spring into action now that my term as interim president has expired. See you there.

—*Reggie Bolton, Interim President*



March Board Meeting Minutes for Approval

AMLS board meeting March 21, 2024. In attendance Reggie & Bunny Bolton, John & Ivey Cook, John Gaston, Jinger Glasgow, Vicki Lais

John Gaston mentioned that 1st VP John Wild may want to talk to Mike Harrison of the Huntsville club to do a program for the May meeting on mineral ID and/or setting up a junior program. Jinger said she is setting up the show for the Central Alabama Artist Guild, of which she is president and needs some help with preparation for our show.

Vicki has made some basic changes to the by-laws which will be sent out by Ivey on Friday so that members will have 2 weeks to look over them before voting at the April meeting. Other changes need to be made such as the Education scholarship and who is in charge of making up the agenda for each meeting will require more discussion and will be done in the future.

Reggie agreed to chair the April meeting as his tenure as interim president will be over. Vicki will print an agenda for him. We still need someone to be our auctioneer.

Reggie appointed Vicki Lais to be chair of the by-laws committee. Others on the committee are Ivey & John Cook, John Gaston, Reggie Bolton. Anthony Piazza and Kristen Osborn have also expressed interest in being on the committee. He also appointed Ivey Cook to chair the nominating committee. Vicki Lais will be on it and one more member needs to be voted on by the membership. A special committee was appointed to set up the junior rock hound program. Reggie appointed John Gaston to be chair with Allison Reaves on board. Any leaders will need to have a background check and John will look into that. The AFMS and SFMS already have programs set up which is a big head start.

Continued on page 3

Rockhound Roundup

March Board Meeting Minutes for Approval, continued

Every 3 years we purchase a bond to protect the club from theft. It comes due this year but wasn't included in the budget. It used to be on it but somehow got left out. It's \$500 and we will need to vote on this expenditure at the April meeting. The church also needs to be paid but that is in the budget. The club still needs a treasurer who is knowledgeable and comfortable with modern book keeping methods.

We may want to use the Square for payment at the auction. Need to talk to Levan about this.
respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton Recording Secretary



Minutes for Approval for March

We welcomed visitor Josh Upton and new member Will. No one had corrections to the February Rockhound Roundup so Reggie moved that we accept them. Jill Hill seconded and the motion passed. New member Zane asked where he could find the Rockhound Roundup. The current and past RRs can be found on the club website lapidaryclub.com

John Gaston said he had been in touch with the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) about the junior rockhound program and from there to Huntsville club leader Mike Harrison. Mike can do a program for us on setting up a junior program. John also said he would have a rock sale at his house next week-end. Included will be new material he got at Quartzite.

Jinger Glasgow and Casey Faulkner announced they would be going to Arizona at the end of May to teach native arts that have been lost to kids at a missionary school there. The children are of the Hopi, Navaho, and Cherokee nations. They are asking for donations of machines and money to purchase machines.

A rock swap will take place on March 29 in conjunction with the geology club at UA. Yvonne Foster will teach wire wrapping on the 16th and gem trees on the 23rd of March at the workshop. The April club meeting is our annual auction. Please donate quality specimens, labeled and with a suggested opening bid if possible. These can be brought to the meeting or taken to the workshop. Also come to the April meeting ready to bid.

Don Hill gave a program on Suiseki, Japanese viewing stones. He brought some delightful examples he has created using both his wood working and lapidary skills.

A group from the club will be going to Section, AL to purchase rocks from the collection of Cody Wilks's grandfather. Cody can be contacted if you want to see what he has to offer. Sandra Sullivan will have a rock sale at her home in Springville the end of April. Details to follow.

Vicki Lais has agreed to head the by-laws committee along with John Gaston, Ivey Cook, and Reggie Bolton. We need to get new and younger members involved in making club decisions and running things. Reggie Bolton's interim presidency is almost over and we need a new president. Current serving officers include John Wild-First Vice-president, John Gaston-Historian, Ivey Cook-Corresponding Secretary, Bunny Bolton-Recording Secretary, John Cook-Membership Chair, and Jinger Glasgow-Show Chair.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned. Some members stayed for an informal meeting about operating procedures and changes to be made to the by-laws.
Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton Recording Secretary

Rockhound Roundup

Upcoming SFMS Shows and Events

April 12-14 RALEIGH, NC: Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; NC State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Rd. Raleigh, NC; Fri. 3-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5.00 for a family of 4, \$3.00 for an individual, Free for children under 5. Parking is free at the Kerr Scott Building. Contact Cyndy Hummel, (919) 779-6220; Email: mchummel@mindspring.com; Website: tarheelclub.org

April 27-28 MEMPHIS, TN: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. April 27-28, 2024; Saturday 9AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—5PM. Admission \$6 or 2-day pass for \$10, under 12- \$2, Scouts in uniform - Free. www.theearthwideopen.wixsite.com, email info@theearthwideopen.com. 901-490-3575

May 4-5 HAMILTON COUNTY, TN: Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society, Pavilion, Chester Frost Park, Hixson, Hamilton County, TN. Saturday & Sunday 10AM—4PM. Free, Games, Contests, Live Demos & Exhibits. Info: TVRMS.info@gmail.com

May 10-12 MARIETTA, GA: The Georgia Mineral Society's 55th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show, Location: Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy, SE, Marietta, GA 30060, Show Hours: Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. FREE Admission! FREE Parking! Over 30 Dealers! Door Prizes! GMS Annual Show (gamineral.org)

May 18-19, 2024 BILOXI, MS: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Location: JOPPA Shrine Temple, 13280 Shriners Blvd, Biloxi, MS. Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission: Adults \$6, children (10 and under) free with adult. Jewelry, live demos, exhibits, kid's corner, and door prizes hourly, Facebook: facebook.com/gulfportgems, Website: www.gulfportgems.org

Got Kids Who Love Rocks?

We're looking for kids who'd like to join a junior rock hounding group, all kids 17 years of age and younger invited. Look for more information in the next few weeks.



Rockhound Roundup



8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds

Workshop News

Yvonne Says — If you started a gem tree at the class in March, your homework is to add the gems!

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. Use of equipment is \$5 an hour and includes both saws and lapidary equipment.

Robert Lorino usually opens the workshop on Tuesdays and Levan and Yvonne are at workshop Saturdays from 12-5, unless Yvonne is teaching a class and then she opens earlier. Check MO, the members-only Facebook page for schedule changes.

April Birthstone:



April is perhaps the best month of the year. Not only does the outdoor weather turns warm and flowers bloom, but the April birthstone is also considered the king of gemstones.

The April birthstone is the diamond, a white or clear symbol of strength and everlasting love.

Diamonds have always been one of the most prized gemstones over the millennia of human civilization. They are associated with beauty, strength, courage, and royalty. In Hindu mythology, they were connected with kings and gods. As such, the April birthstone marks out those born in April as persons in control, or as people with authority.

With its enduring beauty, clarity, and shimmer, diamond is a classic that is believed to provide the wearer with emotional balance and clear-headedness. As the hardest of all gemstones, those who don diamonds can experience increased perseverance and inner strength.

Interested in Classes?

Our education Chair Yvonne Foster is available to teach whatever you're interested in. Classes usually run Saturdays 10-4 or 10-6. Some classes could end up on Sundays if that fits your schedules better. To register for classes or suggest a class to Yvonne, TEXT her at 205-602-8280. Class size limited to 6.

Rockhound Roundup

Volunteers Needed for Punk Rock Flea Market, April 20.

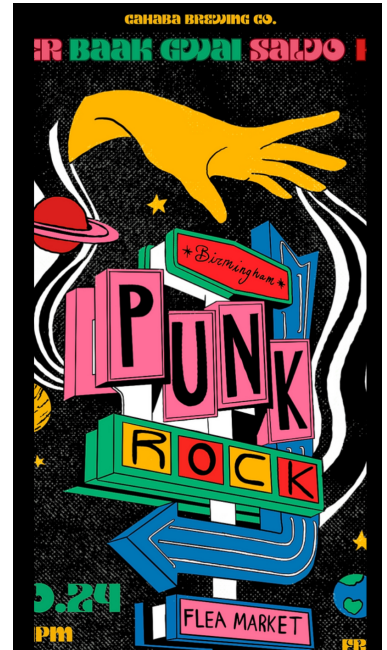
Set-up 4-6 PM, show runs from 6 PM to 11 pm.

Cahaba Brewing, 4500 5th Avenue South, Bldg C

For the first time, our club will have a booth at the Punk Rock Flea Market. Cahaba Brewery is a large venue and this is a fun, all-ages event. Our goal is to publicize our club and try to recruit new members, so we will hand out our brochures and free tumbled rocks. Many of the vendors are young, local artists who might be excited about our workshop and classes; we want to reach them as well as the attendees. To draw attention to our booth (and make a little money while we are at it), we will feature the geode cracker and sell geodes to load it. For photos of past shows, visit www.punkrockflea.com.

At all times, we will need 2 people, preferably 3, to run the booth. One of them can help with the cracker by holding the geodes in place. We absolutely must have strong volunteers to take shifts pulling the lever to split the geodes. Setup is from 4 pm to 6 pm, and the show runs from 6 pm to 11 pm.

The more volunteers we have, the more fun we will have! To join the team for this event, contact Rhonda Jordan: email arbeej@yahoo.com; text 205-542-6469; FB messenger Rhonda Blakeney Jordan.



Graves Mountain Spring Rock Swap and Dig

April 26-28, 2024 8:00 am-6:00 pm

One of the country's most unique rock and mineral collecting mines. Collecting Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Iridescent Hematite, Pyrophyllite, Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite, Sulfur, variscite, woodhouseite, crandallite, strengite, phosphosiderite, cacoxenite, blue quartz, quartz crystals, etc.

All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a contribution/donation to help with the cost of providing porta johns and golf carts. The dig will end and everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day.



Iridescent Hematite from Graves Mtn



There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. . Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase on the mountain all three days.

Please note that due to the nature of the mine, Graves Mountain has a strict Code of Conduct! Familiarize yourself before you go. Read here for more information: <https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

Rockhound Roundup

2024 Bylaws Review Committee Report

What are bylaws, and why do we have to work on them? Even though they may look scary and complicated, bylaws contain all the basics on how our club operates. Who votes, what officers we have, what committees we have and how to set up new ones. What officers, committees, directors and members are supposed to do. Bylaws are written by the members, for the members, and are designed to protect the members of the club, and provide a guide for how to effectively conduct club business. The AMLS bylaws can be downloaded from the Members Only section of the website, and we hope to have all our governing documents available in booklet form later this year.

In 2013 we did a total rewrite, consolidating duplicate information, adding additional and

updating processes that had changed since the constitution and bylaws were written in 1964. This is our 10 year mark, and the President has formed the Bylaws Review Committee, with Vicki Lais as chair. Several other members were also appointed to this committee.

Over time, things change, new procedures are adopted, membership gets larger or smaller, and the bylaws need updated to reflect "how things are now". The Bylaws Review Committee will be looking at the current bylaws, and comparing them to how the club operates today, making changes as needed, and asking for your comments and support. If there is a specific issue you want considered, please contact Vicki at vickivend@yahoo.com. All recommended changes will be sent to each member at least 2 weeks prior to when we would like to call for a vote.

—Vicki Lais



John Cook out standing in his field

Report from Nominating Committee

One of the positions we have open in the club is field trip chairman, which really surprises me, since I think this is the best job in the club. Part detective, part treasure hunter, part diplomat, part guide; you're the club's Rock Whisperer, searching the best locations to share with club members and our junior rockhounds.

What makes a good field trip chairman? Here are some of skills and qualities that might make **you** right for the job:

- ◆ The hunt for a new or elusive rock or mineral give you chills.
- ◆ Somehow you just KNOW that there's going to be something right THERE.
- ◆ The finding is almost as exciting and satisfying as the having.
- ◆ It's like going on a treasure hunt every time you hear of a new location.

Does this sound like you? AND, what if I told you that the past field trip chairpersons of our club have left behind a history of great finds, including maps and lists of potential finds AND your skills and qualities are shared by others in the club, just like yourself? Intrigued? Let us know.

— Reprinted from MO on Facebook

Rockhound Roundup

An Official Field Trip of the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club
(Hickory, NC) (HOST)

Saturday, April 20, 2024, Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine, Franklin, NC, Limit 40 People, Registration Required (Contact below)



Rough Corundum

TRIP: Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine is one of three remaining native dig your own gem mines in the Franklin, NC area, the other two being Cherokee and Sheffield mines. All other mines are salted. The prizes you will be searching for are lovely lavender sapphires (corundum) that fluoresce and can be cabbed. Other possible finds are rubies, garnets, rutile, kyanite, sillimanite, mica and quartz. It is unknown if Mason's will be opening to the public for the season at this time due to availability of staff to work on the property, so here's your chance!

COLLECTING: Mason's (and also Cherokee and Sheffield, should you do a second mine on Sunday) digs virgin clay from the banks of a nearby creek and provides it in two areas for miner digging. EPA regulations for keeping the creek clean and safety concerns mean that miners cannot dig or sluice in or near the creek themselves. The soil is clay and it is not practical to use spray bottles to clean off finds. Mason's will provide a sluice area for cleaning material. The sapphires and other rocks you find will be coated in mica and will require further cleaning once you get them home. This is native mining and you will need to move a lot of dirt to increase your chances of success. He who works the hardest will be the luckiest. Come prepared to work hard!

CONTACT: Tina Lakhotia, 727-688-1068,
Tinael01@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics, but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. For this DMC trip, non-SFMS club members and the general public are not allowed. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

William Holland Needs New Instructors

Have you ever wanted to share your knowledge with a wider audience? William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is looking for a few teachers especially in the following subjects:

Gem & Mineral ID, field trips etc,
Photography
Flint Knapping
Soapstone Carving

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in teaching, please contact Kristine Robertson at Kristine@lapidaryschool.org

Rockhound Roundup

Great Time at Rock Swap with UA Geology Club

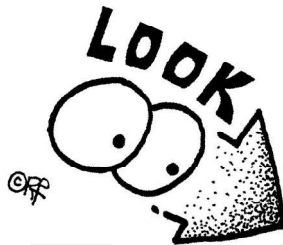
Thanks to Casey Faulkner for organizing another successful ROCK SWAP with the University of Alabama Geology Club. The students appeared to enjoy themselves and our AMLS club members in attendance enjoyed getting a chance to meet the future of Rock Hounding.



Casey Faulkner



John Cook & kids



Don Hill & cabs

ROCK SALE ! 4/20/24 to 5/5/24

I have many more items,,,,, too many to send pictures. Rocks for faceting, cabs, + much more!

Sandra Sullivan

4213 US Hwy 11 Springville, Al. 35146

205-903-7062

Please call before coming to see / email / text me

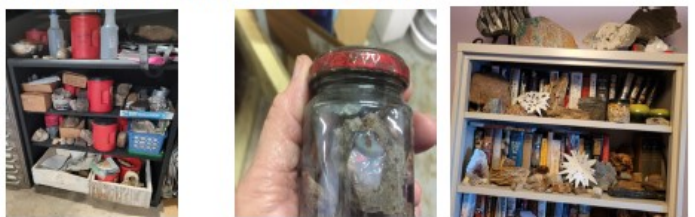
doodle35146SS@yahoo.com



Fossils galore, Obsidian, Paint Rock Agate, plus more



Shell items, Agate, Various Rocks



Cabinet Specimens and Raw Opal

Rockhound Roundup

Mark your Calendars

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| April 7 | Cabbing Party at Workshop |
| April 12, 6:30 PM | Meeting |
| April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Workshop Open (verify on MO Facebook Page) |
| April 20 | Field Trip, Mason’s Ruby Mine, Franklin, NC |
| April 20 | Sandra’s Sale, Punk Rock Flea Market |
| April 26-28 | Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig |
| Save the date: | May 18, Chunky Gal Mountain, NC |

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next months

- May** - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA)
- June** - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL)
- July** - Kanawha Rock and Gem Club (South Charleston, WV)
- August** - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Henderson, NC)
- September** - Pendleton District Gem & Mineral Society (Seneca, SC)

Just So You Know



Sometimes events and news comes up after this newsletter comes out. Oops! Sorry you weren’t notified...BUT we use the (private) Facebook members-only page we call MO to let you know what’s happening. If you’re a paid member and not a member of MO— email Rhonda at minerallapidaryfb@gmail.com to get an invite. Remember—this invite will time-out if not used within **24 hours**, so you’ll need to request another invite.



This and other information is from *The Lodestar*, the newsletter of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), of which we are a member. Check out their website at www.southeastfed.org for articles on geology, lapidary, & rockhounding.



Rockhound RoundUp is the newsletter of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society, 8036 Parkway Drive, Leeds, AL. 35094, Editor: Ivey Cook. Email: newsletter@lapidaryclub.com