

Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

February Meeting:
Speaker: Steven M. Meredith
Indian Artifacts in Central Alabama
Friday, February 9, 6:30 pm
Cahaba Heights Methodist Church

President's Message for February

AMLS is poised for a great future.

Thanks to sixty years of "saving for a rainy day" we are on sound financial footing. That is the only reason we survived the pandemic. Not only did we survive but we came out swinging with a new indoor show venue. In the last three years we have replaced the money we spent from savings.

And on top of that, we have now established and reestablished relations with a great group of vendors we can carry forward to more success. And it looks like the Irondale Civic Center is going to be a perfect venue.

I was happy to see the energy and ideas expressed by several members at our last monthly meeting. The way is clear to breathe new life into all the club projects that have languished over the last four years. Club education, youth programs, community outreach, field trips -- many opportunities for new members to find their place.

After years of hoping and trying we finally opened up a club workshop just in time to be shut down by Covid. But the workshop is now well established and very usable.

So everything is ready for YOU to build on this success. We need people to be officers and chair committees. We need people to take classes and people to teach classes. We need people to find field trip locations, scout them out, and lead trips.

We need people to organize and produce events of all kinds. We need people to organize programs and activities for our junior members. The more people get involved the more success we will have and the more fun for all of us.

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We need coordination and participation. You can come to in person meetings on second Fridays, come to board business meetings on zoom, or join and be active in our "members only" facebook group. Be the one who makes things happen.

Respectfully submitted,
Reggie Bush, Interim President

About the Speaker

Steven Meredith is a geologist and registered professional archeologist, who has been documenting the deep history of Birmingham for years. His presentation will be on American Indian artifacts found in the Birmingham area, and what these artifacts can tell us about the people who made them.

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What's New?

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6 PM
SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING**

To discuss Budget and Governance

**All members requested. Link is on
Members-Only Facebook page. Or
contact Levan Foster at**

**levanfoster@gmail.com for an emailed
link.**

No new members were reported.

New to Zoom?

For the best experience on your device, download the Zoom desktop or mobile app. The Zoom app combines Zoom's products and features in one platform to connect.

· Click the invite link provided by the host, for example in a calendar or email invitation, and follow the on-screen instructions

1. Click the **Join** icon .
2. Enter the meeting ID provided by the meeting host.
3. If prompted, enter the meeting passcode.
4. Click **Join**. You will then join the meeting or waiting room, if enabled by the host

Here's the ZOOM Support Page with information on Activating Audio and Video

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&zsparm_article=KB0061316

Minutes for February AMLS Board Meeting

AMLS board meeting January 23, 2024 in attendance Levan & Yvonne Foster, Ben Beadore, Reggie & Bunny Bolton, Sandra Sullivan, Jinger Glasgow

It's budget time! Reggie worked with Larry Hensley for several hours on a spread sheet of club accounting and forwarded it to Levan. Unless someone has any major changes we'll use last year's budget making changes as necessary. Yvonne, as education chair, wants to add \$500. for teachers and tools. John Gaston, as historian, had 3 years of club history bound. Membership stands at around 75 adults and 50 kids so SFMS dues will be paid on those numbers.

The board went over the budget line by line and made changes as needed. That will be sent separately.

Jinger has arranged for Steven Meredith to give a program on arrowheads at the February meeting.

Ben pointed out that club participation is in crisis. Maybe reach out to Huntsville, Montgomery, and other state clubs to see how they approach this problem. Online may be the best way to recruit younger members. One way to do this may be another FB page for meetings and to promote with paid advertising like we did to for the show which was very successful. And yes, this has to be a separate FB page because of the advertising.

There is a lot of work to be done here and volunteers are needed to do it!

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary



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Overview of January Meeting

Jinger blessed our meeting and we headed for the pot luck table.

David Caudle gave a fine program on some of his recent rockhounding trips to Michigan and west Texas. He showed pictures and also brought examples of what he collected. Don Hill said he would give a presentation on suiseki which are Japanese viewing stones at the March meeting.

Reggie asked visitors to identify themselves and we welcomed Landon & Naomi, Macy Moon whose grandfather was a member of the Huntsville club, and Maggie who is in environmental studies at Montevallo, her instructor Danielle Jennings spoke about diamonds to the club in March.

There were no corrections to the December minutes so Jill Hill moved that the minutes be accepted, Robert Lorino seconded and the motion passed.

The budget needs to be worked on so the membership can vote on it at the February meeting. The board will discuss it at their next meeting (all members welcome). Part of the process is deciding what we want to do this year. Monies coming in and those being spent need to balance. The club can vote to spend money during the year but we need a starting point.

Reggie asked "How are we going to govern our club?" We need a president, 1st & 2nd vice president, treasurer plus a webmaster. Rhonda suggested zoom meetings as get-togethers and joint meetings with other clubs with similar interests such as paleontology and art. Jillian suggested that meeting at a time other than Friday night would be better for young people. Club by-laws need to be updated and streamlined and operating procedures expanded. There should be a list of duties for each officer.

Levan said the 5th Sunday capping party falls on Easter so it will be moved to Sunday April 7. More details to follow.

Door prizes were given out and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton, recording secretary

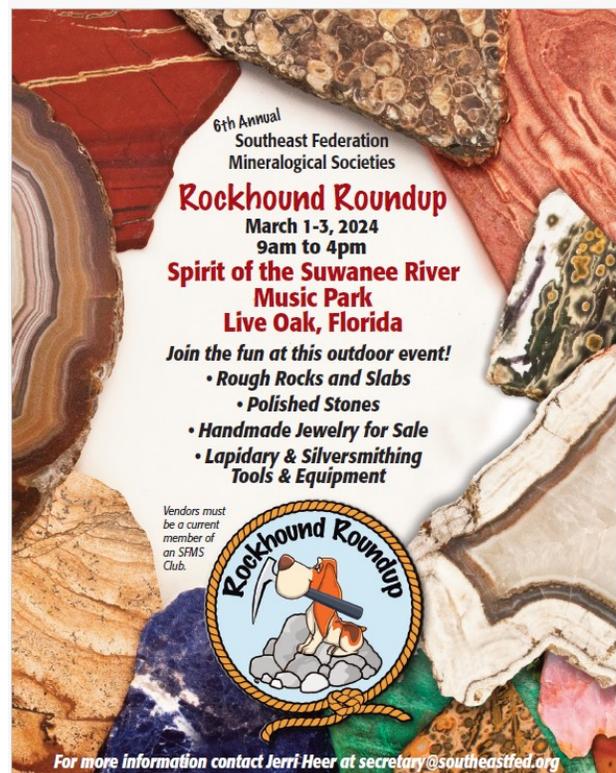
Upcoming Shows and Events

02/24-25/2024 JACKSON, MS Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Show, Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4, Trade Mart: Mississippi State Fairgrounds, 1201 Mississippi Street

3/01-03/2024 ATHENS, GA Athens Spring Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, Hours: 10 to 6 Fri & Sat, 11 to 5 Sunday, The Classic Center, Grand Hall 8, 300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601 Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/535170507671985> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternMineralSpecimens/>



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

Rockhound Roundup

An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society

Saturday, February 24, 2024 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Collecting Savannah River Agate, Girard, GA

No Limit Registration Required (Link is below) Fee: None

BRING: Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site, but many people usually bring light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves are recommended. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather.

TERRAIN: Large flat area with parking close by. Material is readily available.

RESTRICTIONS: Collecting is allowed only in the right of way areas of the road. NO collecting in the woods or adjoining private property. NO digging allowed in the road. DO NOT BLOCK THE ROAD.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for most children but collecting is on a road so children are required to have adult supervision at all times.

PETS: Dogs are allowed but must be kept on a leash at all times.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at this site. The nearest facilities are several miles away.

REGISTRATION: Contact the trip chairman at the information below. Please provide the names of all of the people you are registering (including yourself) as well as a phone number and email address you want us to use for contact tracing if any attendees report testing positive for COVID-19 after the trip. If you register for this trip then test positive for COVID-19, if you are exposed to COVID-19 within 2 weeks before the trip, or if you are unable to attend the trip, please be considerate to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on the 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.

CARPPOOLING: 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: Trip chairman: Jim Maudsley 706-353-1792 or 48maudsley@gmail.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 (click here to read them), 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.

Email: dmc@southeastfed.org

Website: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

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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. 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.



8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds



NICE wire wrapped cabochon from Yvonne's October wire-wrapping class! What an awesome resource Yvonne is for our club.

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. Yvonne says she can schedule classes in any medium but here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Wire weaving
- ◆ Wire Wrap
- ◆ Gem Trees (suitable for ages 10 and up)
- ◆ Wax Carving (adults only)

(Know anyone that can lead us in silver casting? Yvonne wants to know)

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

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Join MO!

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE: AMETHYST



Amethyst, the modern and traditional February birthstone, has a rich history and strong symbolic ties to love and spirituality. Due to its beauty, availability, and durability, this purple gem has become a very popular jewelry stone.

During the Middle Ages, royalty proudly wore amethysts because the color purple was associated with nobility. High-ranking priests also wore amethysts to represent piety. Amethysts were considered to be one of the "cardinal gems," along with diamond, sapphire, ruby, and emerald. They were often used in crowns, scepters, and other royal regalia. At this time, only people of the highest social status wore amethysts.

Over the centuries, more sources of the colorful gem were discovered, making it more available and affordable. Today, the February birthstone is one of the top choices for jewelry stones.

Amethyst is crystalline quartz in colors ranging from pale lilac to deep reddish purple. It has a relatively high hardness of 7, which means it's very scratch resistant.

**Old Rockhounds Never Die
They Just Petrify**



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Mark your Calendars

February 8, 6 PM	SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING
February 3, 10, 17, 24	Workshop Open
February 9	Meeting
February 24	Field Trip, Girard, GA

SAVE THE DATE: March 23—Field Trip, Corbin Gneiss Quarry, Bartow County, GA

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next months

2024

- February** - Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA)
- March** - Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA)
- April** - Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club (Hickory, NC)
- May** - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA)

We are a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). The SFMS is a union of local clubs and societies in the Southeast States. The SFMS is one of seven regional federations within the United States. Each club within the SFMS retains their local power. Without the clubs or societies there would be no Federation, only small groups doing their own thing. The purpose of the organization is to bring about a closer relationship between clubs and societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts.

The Dixie Mineral Council is an official program of the SFMS. We are an association of field trip leaders within the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies who have agreed to join together and share one of our mineral or fossil field trips.



This and other information is from *The Lodestar*, the newsletter of the Southern 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