



Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY



March Meeting:
Don Hill, presenting *Suiseki*, Japanese viewing stones
Friday, March 8, 6:30 pm
Cahaba Heights Methodist Church

President's Message for March

Greetings everyone. As I begin the final month of my term as interim president I would like to thank the people who have come forward to fill leadership positions for the club. Forgive me for not listing them but I'm afraid I might leave someone out. If you would like to know more about them you can find most of them at our monthly club meetings or our Zoom board meetings. (Meetings are the second Friday each month. Board meetings are usually open to all and will be announced on the Members Only Facebook page. (For email notices request the corresponding secretary to put you on the business meeting list.)

Special thanks to Anthony Piazza for agreeing to assume the duties of treasurer and to John Cook for starting a Leadership Team to manage the club for the rest of the year and prepare a candidate to be president next year. As we go through this important period of evaluation and reorganization I encourage everyone to make the AMLS Members Only (MO) group page a regular stop on your Facebook visits. At least once every day or two check in to see if there is anything happening that interests you. Your participation can support a long list of activities including youth programs, classes, workshop sessions, community outreach events, field trips, speakers, club business discussions, and more. The experiences of the last four years have shown us that it is time to readjust our procedures and update our bylaws. I especially hope that our newer members will be a part of this process. Anthony Piazza, Kristin Osborne, and John Cook have offered their services for a bylaws committee. We should be able to add two or three to that list without being too cumbersome. We hope everyone's ideas on this can be heard and considered.

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THIS YEAR'S SHOW: Our annual show is now only six months away - September 6,7,8. Mark your calendar now and plan to participate as a volunteer. In particular, kid's activities need to be planned and prepared now. Ideas presented at the last minute will probably not be feasible. For instance, are we still thinking about a panning flume? Do we need to restock rocks and geodes for events? This has to be decided in time to make necessary purchases.

Come one, come all! Let's make this a great spring and summer for rockhounding.

Reggie Bolton



Rockhound Roundup

Minutes for February Meeting

AMLS meeting February 9, 2024.

Jinger blessed our meeting and everyone headed to the Valentine table. Copies of the budget were passed around so all could see it before voting on it.

Reggie asked for visitors and new members to identify themselves. We welcomed Mike Wood and grandson Zane, Leisa Whitlow, Jada and James Franksain, and Michelle Webber and Andi Bischott who are interested in field trips; Reggie spoke briefly about Dixie Mineral Council's field trips which our members can participate in.

No one had any changes to the January minutes so Jill Hill moved that they be accepted, Anthony Piazza seconded and the motion passed.

Additions to the budget included \$1,000 for show security while the show is open and \$500. for education. A deficit of about \$3,750 is the result but some of the allocated expenditures may not be spent. Don Hill moved to accept the budget as revised, Vivian Melof seconded and the motion passed.

Casey Faulkner announced that the rock swap with the geology students at the University of Alabama will be March 29th from 4:30-7:30. Set up will begin at 3:30. Directions will be available at the March meeting and that will be the deadline for reserving tables. John Gaston will be working on a junior rockhound group. We have many children who are members and he needs a list of those who would be interested in participating. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has information on their website for those thinking about it. Yvonne Foster has been taking requests for what classes to teach. Some possibilities are wax work for casting, beginning and advanced wire wrapping.

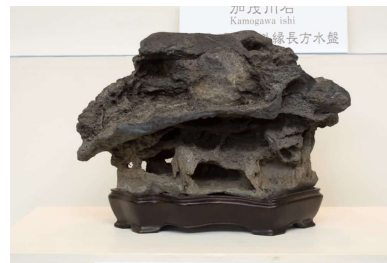
All members are urged to join the AMLS Members Only Facebook page. The more members we have on it the better and quicker we can get information out.

Jinger Glasgow who is president of the Central Alabama Artist Guild (and our show chairman) announced their huge show at Patton Creek. It takes place at the old Christmas Store on April 13th. We hope to participate in the Punk Rock Art Show at Cahaba Brewery on April 20th. We are first on the waiting list and can take the geode cracker and other fun lapidary items but we'll need volunteers. The next fifth Sunday falls on Easter so will be postponed until April 7th. Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton, recording secretary

More about the Speaker

Don Hill is a long time member of AMLS, and a long time creator and follower of *Suiseki*. In traditional Japanese culture, *Suiseki* are small naturally occurring or shaped rocks which are appreciated for their aesthetic or decorative value. The art of *Suiseki* involves the collection, preparation and appreciation of unaltered naturally formed stones. These stones are found in mountain streams, on windblown deserts, along ocean beaches - anywhere that nature may have deposited or shaped them



An example of traditional Japanese *Suiseki*

What's New?

Welcome new members Leisa Whitlow and Maggie Dunmire

Rock and Gem Magazine has a special subscription rate for members of the AFMS (that's us!) Subscription forms are in *The Lodestar*, newsletter of the Southern Federation Mineral Society. Cut and paste the following link into your browser.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q4XJ_h9-GzK3IS1AOqHN4YYPYVaN0L6R/view?usp=sharing

Rockhound Roundup



The SFMS has reserved one week at William Holland June 2 – 8, 2024 for members of the Southeastern Federation. In addition, we can attend the SFMS board meeting held the morning of June 8. All SFMS members are encouraged to attend the meeting and see how the SFMS board works to keep our region of American Federation Mineral Society going strong. Two weeks have been reserved at Wildacres Retreat August 12-18, 2024, and September 9-15, 2024. Classes, instructors and cost can be found at:

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org>.

As of February 25th 60 spots have been filled.

Three classes have wait lists: Cabs 1, Casting and Silver 1+.

Six Classes only have one or two spots available: Stone on Stone, Intarsia 1 & 2, Gem Trees 1&2, Leather /Bi Metal Bracelets, Stained Glass and Wire Wrapping 1.

There is still have room in Cabs: 1+2, Faceting 1 & 2, Moovin Metal, Acid Etching/Enamel and Silver Metal Clay.

Please go to SFMS Workshops - William Holland Classes (<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-workshops>) and register for the class you want.

Class	Instructor	Class	Instructor
William Holland June 2-8, 2024			
Gem Trees I+	Jerri Heer	Silver I+	Jason Hamilton (WLO)
Cabs I	Jack King (WLO)	Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz
Cab I & II	John Wild	Intarsia I & II	Bill Boggs
Casting	Bill Harr (WLO)	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Stone in Stone	Michael Bateman	Wire I	Judi Wild
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell	Metal Clay	Susan Brooks
Silver W/Leather Inlay	Wayne Parker	Acid Etch/Enameling	S Savic-Polk & K Ross

Rock Swap March 29

The Geology Club at the University of Alabama has invited us to a Rock Swap on March 29th in the Geology Department in Tuscaloosa. Reserve table(s) from Casey Faulkner at the March meeting. Set up is 3:30 and swap runs from 4:30 to 7:30. Get directions from Casey at the March meeting.

Rockhound Roundup

Upcoming SFMS Shows and Events

3/1-3/2024—LARGO, FL: Annual show; Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. of St Petersburg, FL; Largo Event Center, 6340 126th Ave N. Largo, FL 33773; 10-5 All 3 days; Adult \$6, Under 12 Free - Good for all three days; Free parking and food service on site ; contact

sgamsdealerchair@gmail.com; Website: sgams.com

3/1-3/2024—LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies ; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; Free; SFMS Member vendors from seven states: FL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, AL. Rough rock, slabs, jewelry, cabs, minerals, fossils and more; contact Jerri Heer, 9016 122nd Ave, Tampa, FL33637, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/8-10/2024—AUGUSTA, GA: Annual show; Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Julian Smith Casino 2200 Broad St., Augusta GA; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$4 or \$6 for weekend pass (cash only); children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. <https://aikengmfs.org/>

3/22-24/2024—LEXINGTON, KY: Annual show; Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club; Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Everyone \$5 except children under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free when accompanied by an adult; contact John Bradshaw, (859) 576-6785; Email: K4swx911@gmail.com; Website: bggamc.homestead.com

3/22-24/2024—JACKSONVILLE, FL: 36th Annual show; Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society; Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairgrounds Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, children 12 and under free with guardian, \$1 off for seniors and military with ID

3/23/2024—HUNTSVILLE, AL: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society INDOOR GARAGE SALE, Held at the Sandra Moon Complex, South Huntsville, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd., Huntsville, Al. 35802;

4/6-7/2024 DOTHAN, AL: Dothan Alabama Gem and Mineral Club, The Wiregrass Rockhounds, Stokes Activity Barn at Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama. April 6-7, 2024; Saturday 9AM—5PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission Free. www.wiregrassrockhounds.com Contact Jeff 334-673-3554

4/6/2024 HENDERSONVILLE, TN: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds, Senior Citizens Center of Hendersonville 192 Imperial Blvd Hendersonville, TN 37075. April 6, 2024; Saturday 9AM—4PM,. Admission & Parking Free. <https://rockhound.org/swap>

4/12-14/2024—RALEIGH, NC: Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Club Kerr Scott Building, 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. Admission prices are good for all 3 days of the show. Parking is free at the Kerr Scott Building. Contact Cyndy Hummel, (919) 779-6220; Email:

mchummel@mindspring.com; Website: tarheelclub.org

4/20/2024 —APOPKA, FL: Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; “Circle Up” Swap Meet, 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, Fl 32712; Saturday, 4/20/24—9am-3pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! More info at Wekivagem.com.

4/27-28/2024 MEMPHIS, TN: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. Over 50 Dealers including the original “Memphis Rock Banquet” a full table of rocks that look like real food. 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

5/4-5/2024 HAMILTON COUNTY, TN: Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society, Pavilion, Chester Frost Park, Hixson, Hamilton County, TN. May 4-5, 2024; Saturday & Sunday 10AM—4PM. Free, Games, Contests, Live Demos & Exhibits. Info: TVRMS.info@gmail.com



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. 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.

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:

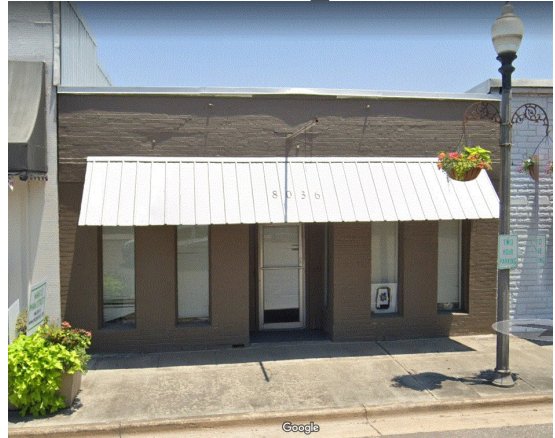
- ◆ Wire weaving
- ◆ Wire Wrap
- ◆ Gem Trees (suitable for ages 10 and up)
- ◆ Wax Carving (adults only)
- ◆ Enameling
- ◆ Silver Casting

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

Minutes from February Board Meeting

The following minutes were approved at the February meeting. These are posted for information purposes only.

AMLS Board meeting part 2 02/08/24 in attendance Allison Reaves, Levan & Yvonne Foster, John Gaston, Vivian Melof, Bunny & Reggie Bolton, Anthony Piazza, Ivey Cook, Jinger Glasgow, Parker & Kayley Young, Ben Beadore, John Wild, Rhonda & Alan Jordan.



8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds

Reggie talked about the treasurer's job. Alan and Anthony have both said they could take over and both have skills needed but have other obligations. After some discussion Reggie suggested we start by showing Anthony the ropes since he is already coming to meetings. Anthony and Reggie will get together in the next few days.

The 2024 budget was posted on the MO Facebook page. There is a deficit of \$3,758 but some of that is expenditures which may not be spent. One item not in last year's budget is \$1,000 for security at the show. Overnight is not a problem because of the security system the Civic Center has but it was agreed that we hire security for when the show is open.

John Gaston said he and Bonnie will provide food for the vendor dinner once again this year. Many thanks to them for this. He asked that all paper products and non-perishable items be available at the August meeting. \$500 is in the budget for bottles of water and snacks for the week-end.

On February 21st at 12 noon John Gaston will give a presentation at the Pell City Library. The club needs to do more outreach programs like this to familiarize the public with rocks and our club. Rhonda has been in touch with Cahaba Brewery which has an event on April 20th that would be good for us. These events are well attended and the geode cracker would be a big draw. A 10'x10' space is \$100. Rhonda, Jillian and her friend can man the booth most of the day but the cracker will require some strong folks to help. Reggie moved that we do this show and Vivian seconded. The motion passed.

Kayley said she can help with our social media for promotions, may need a commercial FB page to buy ads on. Permanent displays might be a possibility at Vulcan, McWane Center etc. Thanks to all who showed up for this zoom meeting. Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve

www.southeastfed.org

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An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA)
(HOST)

An Official Field Trip of Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Meet no later than 8:30 AM Eastern

Caravan into quarry at 9:00 AM Eastern

Bartow County, GA

Limit 40 People

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: None

TRIP: This location is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. The quarry is mining metagranite, i.e., metamorphosed granite. The rocks here are some of the oldest in Georgia - approximately 1.2 billion years. Some of the quartz in the metagranite is a beautiful blue color that is caused by tiny traces of titanium minerals that scatter light.

COLLECTING: We will be collecting metagranite with blue quartz and white feldspar that contrast nicely. Small pieces can be collected by hand and larger pieces can be collected with hammer and chisel. This material can be cut and polished and it also makes nice specimens.

BRING: Tools needed include rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools, buckets, and a spray bottle with water to wet the rocks so you can see the color better. You will also need sunscreen and gloves.

REQUIREMENTS: Gloves, safety glasses, hard hat, and steel toed or sturdy boots with ankle support (e.g., hiking boots) are required. No open toed shoes allowed. All participants must be present for on-site training and to fill out quarry paperwork. This is an active quarry. STAY AWAY from all heavy equipment, high walls, ponds, and quarry machinery.

TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: There are flat areas and areas with loose rock. People with mobility issues may have some difficulty navigating over and around boulders. There may also be soft, muddy areas if it rains before or during these trips. Collecting areas are within 100 yards from where we park.

CHILDREN (Yes): The quarry allows children, but they must have adult supervision at all times. And, they must have all of the required safety equipment.

PETS (No): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are NO facilities at this location. Food and restrooms are several miles away.

ACCOMODATIONS: There are several hotels in Cartersville, GA which is a few minutes away.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions and to provide water and snacks.

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 the waiting list can take your slot(s).

Rockhound Roundup



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.

To join MO, the hidden Facebook group, email Minerallapidaryfb@gmail.com to request another invitation.

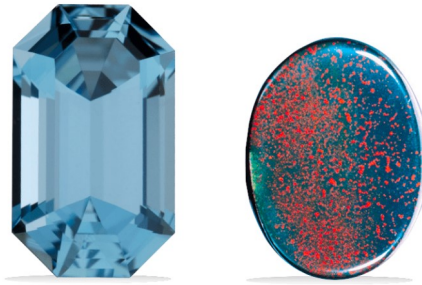
Field Trip, continued

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details. Quarry employees will escort a caravan into the quarry. You are **not** allowed to drive around the quarry un-escorted. Everyone must enter and leave the quarry together. **If you arrive late, you will not be able to enter the quarry!**

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: Charles Carter, 770-998-1127, fieldtrips@gaminereral.org

March Birthstones: Aquamarine & Bloodstone



Aquamarine's name comes from the Latin for seawater, and ancient mariners claimed the gem would calm waves and keep sailors safe at sea. This March birthstone was also thought to bring happiness in marriage. Beryl was believed to give the wearer protection against foes in battle and litigation. It was also thought to make the wearer unconquerable and amiable, and to quicken the intellect. The best gems combine high clarity with limpid transparency and blue to slightly greenish blue hues. Like many beryls, aquamarine forms large crystals suitable for sizable fashioned gems and carvings.

Bloodstone, also known as heliotrope, is a variety of chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz) that is traditionally semi-translucent to opaque dark green jasper with red inclusions of iron oxides, especially hematite. Bloodstone's alternate name *heliotrope* comes from the ancient Greek word that means "to turn the sun." Several metaphysical properties have been attributed to this March birthstone. They include increasing strength, giving invisibility, and preserving health and youth. In modern times, many believe the bloodstone birthstone to be a lucky charm, as it is prized by athletes and others who want to grow their strength. Even today in India, fine bloodstones may be crushed into a powder and used as an aphrodisiac.

Rockhound Roundup

Mark your Calendars

March 8, 6:30 PM	Meeting
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Workshop Open
March 21, 6:00 PM	Zoom Board Meeting
March 23	Field Trip, Corbin Gneiss Quarry, Bartow County, GA
March 29, 4:30-7:30	Rock Swap, UA Geology Department (set up at 3:30)
April 7	Cabbing Party at Workshop

SAVE THE DATE: April 20, Mason’s Ruby Mine, Franklin, TN

Be one of the first ten members to email newsletter@lapidaryclub.com with “I read the newsletter” in the subject line to win a rockhound prize.

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next months


- April - Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club (Hickory, NC)
- 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)

ZOOM INVITATION FOR MARCH 21ST BOARD MEETING

Topic: AMLS March Board Meeting
 Time: Mar 21, 2024 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85633862271?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85633862271?pwd=Y3lwNVZINWFrSElqN1kwQmVtZ3dKZz09)
 pwd=Y3lwNVZINWFrSElqN1kwQmVtZ3dKZz09
Meeting ID: 856 3386 2271
Passcode: 594568
 One tap mobile
 +13126266799,,85633862271#,,,,*594568# US (Chicago)
 +16469313860,,85633862271#,,,,*594568# US
 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85633862271?pwd=Y3lwNVZINWFrSElqN1kwQmVtZ3dKZz09>
 kcfSpgHt4h

If link doesn't work, open Zoom app on computer or phone and enter Meeting ID and Passcode.

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.




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