

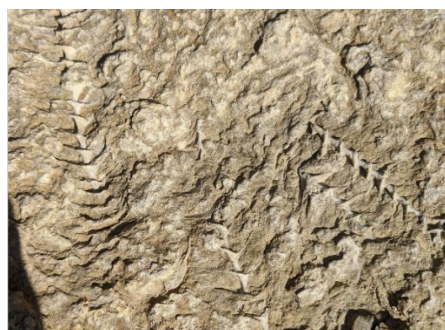
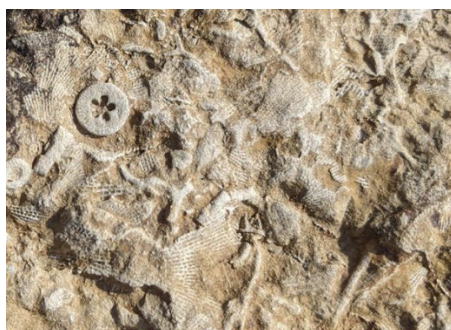
ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



FEBRUARY 2026

Spotlight

The DMC Field Trip has been rescheduled for February 21st due to inclement weather. Please see the attached flyer for registration information, regardless of previous registration status.



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Mark your calendars!

3/1: - Rock swap at our club meeting

3/29: Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

5/31: Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

8/30: Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

9/4-6: Annual Gem Show



A Word from Our President

Hi Club Members,

I apologize for cancelling last month's meeting. I didn't want anyone to be out anywhere that could possibly be flooded. After hearing about areas near Cahaba Heights being flooded and checking the news, I deemed it safer for all to stay home for the evening.

I truly hope everyone will be able to join us this month; our speaker is going to be Randy Sandrik. He will talk about three of his favorite places to collect, Colorado, Utah, and Michigan, and will be bringing rocks from these places to give to everyone.

Levan has suggested that the club have a picnic on June 13th and a Rock Swap. I think this is a great idea and he is looking for places to hold our picnic. A letter was emailed to everyone. This would mean moving the Rock Swap from March to June. If you know of a place to hold this event, please speak to Levan. The park we use must have pavilion space, lots of parking spaces, and restrooms nearby, preferably where we can reserve the pavilion space in advance. Levan has more programs in the works for the coming months.

I am very excited by the list of field trips Rick has booked for us so far this year. Look for his updated information in the newsletter.

The club has an important board member opening, Recording Secretary. This person takes notes during all monthly meetings and board meetings. They then type the notes up for printing in the newsletter. I know that is the simplified version, but meeting minutes are really what we need someone to do currently.

The website needs pictures to post (with names & places). Anything you may have taken in the last year can be sent to thelapidaryclub@gmail.com or info@lapidaryclub.com . Please include where they are taken and the names of people in the photo. Photos can be shared with the newsletter too.

The Club can be lots of things, but it needs people to help it be these things. Please volunteer to help. Everyone has something to offer.

Thank you & be safe till we meet again,

Rhea Proffitt
AMLS President & Gem Show Coord.
thelapidaryclub@gmail.com
kokomo0114@yahoo.com
205-239-0949



Dear AMLS Members,

I am trying to line up programs for the next few months.

We will have a program on Field Trips specifically geared towards answering all the why's, what's, and how's of participation, attire, tools, and tips for successful field work. You'll hear recommendations and secrets of success from our most experienced (veteran) rockhounds, as well have an opportunity to ask questions. Our scholarship winners, Don Hill and Jillian Jordan will be giving a program on William Holland, and Randy Sandrik will be at our next meeting talking about great vacation places to collect rocks and what can be found there. Randy will be giving rocks from his recent trips to Utah, Colorado, and Michigan to all attendees at this month's club meeting. I am trying to reschedule Birmingham Mineral Railroad.

In years past we had a Rock Swap in March. I would like to change that and have a picnic / rock swap in June. What do you think?

Would you prefer to have the picnic and rock swap in a more private location, such as Oak Mountain, or would you rather host it at a public park where community members can see and perhaps join in our activities? Your input will help us choose the best spot for everyone's enjoyment and involvement. Please send me an email letting me know what you think, along with any suggestions. We will need a pavilion or shade, ample parking and nearby restrooms.

If we do have a picnic, we will have it Saturday June 13th. With a rain date of June 20th (at workshop). The club will provide hot dogs, burgers, and buns. Members will bring sides, drinks, or condiments.

Finally, I have asked a couple of members to help me with programs. We are looking for suggestions on organizations or speakers you would like the club to invite to our meetings. Please send contact information to me at levanfoster@gmail.com or speak to me at the next meeting.

Levan Foster
VP & Programs Committee Chair
levaanfoster@gmail.com



Other Announcements

HELP WANTED

The following committees have openings and need your support.

Website: The Web Site Committee shall keep the club's website current and functioning properly.

Hospitality Committee: Assists in setting up the front table and food table at meetings, greets members and visitors, and makes sure everyone signs in. The Hospitality committee shall aid in implementing the monthly programs or other society entertainment by coordinating volunteers for refreshments.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership a slate of Officers in October.

Finance: The Finance Committee shall preside over the budget and collect dues from others on the committee.

Recording Secretary: Records minutes of meetings (MoM) and provides a transcript to the newsletter for publication each month.

Program Committee: Levan and Anthony could use some assistance.

Field Trip Committee: Rick is currently a committee of one and could use some assistance.

Newsletter: The Rockhound Roundup only "prints" what is sent in. Tyler is the Editor and could use a few good reporters.



Shows & Swaps

2/28/2026 LAKELAND, FL: Annual show; Bone Valley GM&FS; FL National Guard Armory, 4140 Drane Field Rd., Lakeland, FL 33811; Sat. 9 4:30; \$4 Adults, Children under 18 and teachers Free. Contact Jim Reed, (863) 255 0651; Email: BoneValley.info@gmail.com; Website: www.bonevalley.net/

2/28-3/1/2026 JACKSON, MS: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society; Mississippi Trade Mart, Mississippi Fairground, Jackson, MS; Sat. 9 6, Sun. 9 4; \$8 Adults, \$3 Children, \$2 Scouts in uniform. Link(s): missgems.org

3/6-8/2026 CLEARWATER, FL: Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society; Polish Center of John Paul II, 1521 N Saturn Ave, Clearwater FL 33755; Fri & Sat. 10 6, Sun. 10 5; Admission: Donation \$10, Kids under 6 (with parents and ID) free. Admission good for all 3 days. Free parking. Website: <http://sgams.com>

3/6-8/2026 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 Jason Hamilton, Email: president@southeastfed.org; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/6-8/2026 HICKORY, NC: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Dr., SE, Hickory, NC 28602; Fri & Sat. 10 6, Sun 10 5; \$6 Adults (good for all 3 days), Children under 12 Free. Law enforcement officers, Fire Department and active or retired military with credentials, Scouts and Leaders in uniform will be admitted free anytime during this 3-day event. Links: cvgmc.com and <https://www.facebook.com/Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show>

3/14-15/2026 GASTONIA, NC: Gaston Gem & Mineral Club; Gastonia Farmer's Market, 410 E. Long Ave, Gastonia, NC 28054; Sat. 10 6, Sun. 10 4; Free Admission. Website: gastongemclub.weebly.com/ Facebook: Friends of Gaston Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

3/27-29/2026 LEXINGTON, KY: Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club of Lexington, KY; Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511; Fri 4 8, Sat. 9 6, Sun. 10 5; Admission: \$10 (all 3 days), Kids under 12 and scouts in uniform with adult are free. Free parking in rear, handicap accessible. Website: <https://bggamc.homestead.com/Lexington Rock Gem and Jewelry Show.html>

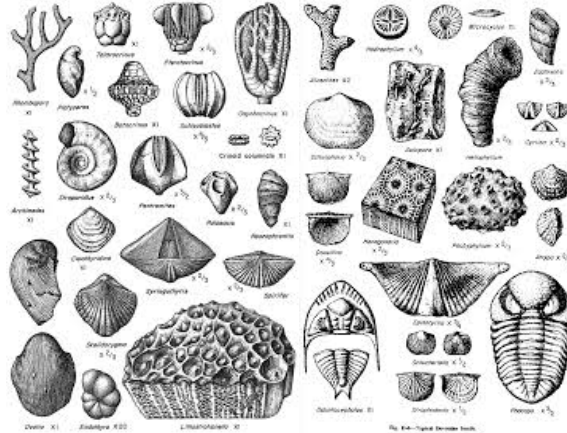
4/18-19/2026 MEMPHIS, TN: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society; 7777 Walnut Grove Rd • Memphis, TN 38120; Sat. 9 6, Sun.10 5; Admission: Adults \$6, Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Links: <https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>

9/4-6/2026 BESSEMER, AL: Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society; 1130 9th Avenue SW, Bessemer, AL 35-22; more details to follow.



SAVE THESE DATES:

Updated February 2026



February

Saturday February 21st - Cedar Creek Reservoir (see my report and attached DMC flier immediately following this section) If you registered for January 24th (snow/ice) or the 31st (17 degrees, 18mph winds, near zero-degree wind chill, frostbite) **you will need to re-register.**



Saturday February 28th - Tellus Science Museum/ Weinman Mineral Gallery (Cartersville, GA)

This was extremely popular last year as a cold weather field trip; over 2 dozen attended. In addition to a private tour led by the museum’s Curator, Ryan Roney (who holds degrees in both Geology and Paleontology), you should plan to add the Planetarium show to your visit. The observatory (separate building in the museum yard) will also be open for our trip this year! If you’ve never been to the Tellus Museum, don’t miss this one! Ask anyone who attended our field trip last January. The AMLS field trip is \$16 per person, ages 3 and up; add \$5 for the Planetarium. We’ll meet in the Museum lobby at 10AM EST.



August

Saturday August 15th – The Cook Science Museum and Mining Company (Decatur, AL)

This is Alabama's newest and most modern museum. Well done, with impressive displays, nicely organized and comprehensive across all the sciences. Geology, rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and an outdoor Mining Company area comprise the largest % of floor space in the museum.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR ALL AMLS MEMBERS:

If you haven't yet provided your input for 2026 and 2027 field trips, please fill out the Field Trip Survey form in this newsletter, take a photo of both sides, and email the completed form to me at AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com at your earliest opportunity. We had 55 fill out a survey in 2024; I hope for even more input from those 55 members and many more this year. I have 15 so far for this year's survey.

Thank you,

Rick Halbrooks
Chairman, AMLS Field Trip Committee

Schedule of Events

March 17 -April 2

Marble Scavenger Hunt

April 1

Sculptors Arrive—Registration at B. B. Comer Library

April 1-12

Sculptors will sculpt daily at Central Park
(Central Park across from Blue Bell Creameries)*

April 2-11

Group Library Tours for adults and children available upon request. Check for dates and times with library staff at (256)249-0961

April 2-12

Marble Sculptures for Sale & Marble Product Displays
Monday-Friday 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Saturday 9:00a.m. to 2:30p.m.
Sunday 12:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

April 2

"Conversations from Gantt's Quarry"
with Martha Waldrip, Shirley Williams & Glenda Gaines
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 3

Sculptor Symposium with a Master Italian Sculptor
(Closed to the public)
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 5

"Conversations from Gantt's Quarry"
with Martha Waldrip, Shirley Williams & Glenda Gaines
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 7

"Conversations from Gantt's Quarry"
with Martha Waldrip, Shirley Williams & Glenda Gaines
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 8

American Sculptor Lecture - Pamela Paine
(Open to the public with limited seating)
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 10

"Conversations from Gantt's Quarry"
with Martha Waldrip, Shirley Williams & Glenda Gaines
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 12

Scavenger Hunt Awards Ceremony with Miss Sylacauga
Harry I. Brown Auditorium, B. B. Comer Library
10:00a.m.

April 12

FESTIVAL ENDS
12:00 Noon

*Schedule May Change Due to Inclement Weather and Availability of Sculptors

Marble Festival Sponsors

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Alabama Tourism Department
AM3 Stone
Architectural Stone Imports
B. B. Comer Memorial Library
Blue Bell Creameries
Blue Horizon Travel
City of Pietrasanta, Italy
City of Sylacauga
Conn Equipment
Coosa Valley Medical Center
Curtis and Son Funeral Home
Drs. Jonathan and Tara Douglas, Broadway Spinal Care
First Bank of Alabama
Heritage South Credit Union
Imerys
Isabel Anderson Comer Museum and Arts Center
JLT Events, Jaclynn Long Traffanstedt
Miller Lumber Company
Morris Custom Marble & Granite
Nemak
Omya, Inc.
Pizza & Pint
Shoot First Video
SWEN
Sylacauga Arts Council
Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce
Sylacauga Parks & Recreation
Towne Inn

Contact Information

Ted Spears—Marble Festival Chairman
email: tedspears4316@gmail.com
B. B. Comer Memorial Library
(256) 249-0961
www.magicofmarblefestival.com

The mission of the Sylacauga Marble Festival is to recreate the magic of marble through its artistic, commercial and industrial applications.

April 1 - April 12, 2025

Sylacauga Magic of Marble Festival

Sponsored by
Alabama State Council on the Arts
& Sylacauga Arts Council



IMERYS Quarry Tours

April 1st, 2nd & 3rd

A drive through tour of the original quarry. Transportation furnished, registration is required. Please register at B. B. Comer Memorial Library. (256)249-0961 (Seating is limited. Must be 16+) 9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

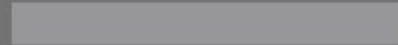
OMYA Quarry Tours

April 8th, 9th & 10th

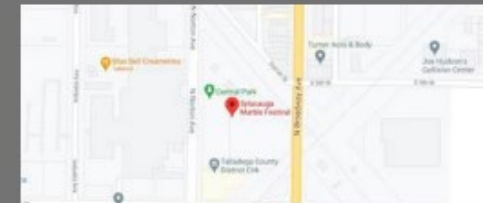
A lecture and viewing of the operational components of the quarry. Transportation is furnished, registration is required. Please register at B. B. Comer Memorial Library. (256)249-0961 (Seating is limited. Must be 16+) 9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

Scavenger Hunt

Get ready for the Marble Festival by participating in the Marble Scavenger Hunt! Applications may be picked up at B. B. Comer Memorial Library, The Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce, or Comer Museum and Art Center. The Hunt begins Monday, March 17th and ends Wednesday, April 2nd at 5:00p.m. Completed contest forms may be turned in at any of the pickup locations listed.



The Marble Festival is located in Sylacauga, AL on North Norton Avenue at Central Park across from Blue Bell Creameries.



For more information about lodging, dining, and shopping in Sylacauga please visit the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce website at www.sylacaugachamber.com.

Visit us on FaceBook facebook.com/marblefestival or magicofmarblefestival.com

Sculptor Frank Murphy will instruct and supervise at the sculpting site during the 2025 Festival.



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 Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST)

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Meet at 10:00 AM Central Time

Franklin County, AL

No Attendance Limit

Registration Required (Link is below)

If you registered before and still want attend, you have to register again.

Permit Fee: \$8.50/day for participants 16 - 64 years old

Others: Permit fee not required

This trip was rescheduled from Jan 24 to January 31 due to forecasts of snow and ice. Conditions have not improved, so the trip is being rescheduled for **February 21**.

There have been many cancellations and new registrations since rescheduling the original field trip, **so registration had to reset**. If you registered before and still want to attend, you have to register again at the link below.



TRIP: Collecting Mississippian Marine Fossils on the shoreline and bed of a reservoir when the water is at its lowest level of the year. This is a favorite site for finding larger and more complete marine fossils.

COLLECTING: Mississippian marine fossils. Possible finds include crinoids stems and heads, horn coral, brachiopods, blastoids, cephalopods and sometimes arrowheads. Various interesting tumbling rocks can be found along the shoreline.

BRING: Most of the fossils can be collected by picking them off of the exposed lakebed. Hard core collectors may want to bring chisels, hammers, shovels, protective goggles, etc. **No power tools (including battery powered) are allowed.** It is recommended that you bring your lunch, collecting containers, bag or bucket, scrub brush, spray bottle, bubble wrap/envelopes or paper to wrap your finds, drinking water, old shoes, a hand towel or golf towel, wide brim hat and weather appropriate clothing. Alabama weather in late January can vary widely, so check weather forecasts for the Russellville, Alabama area the day before. Layering is always a good idea.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: There is plenty of paved parking and all roads are paved. There are restrooms next to the parking lot.

FEE: An \$8.50 permit is required for all participants aged 16 to 64 and can be purchased at the meeting site. There is no permit required for children 15 years old and younger or adults 65 and older.

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).

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are welcome but need to be supervised at all times by an adult.

PETS (Yes): All pets must be on a leash. This means cleaning up after too.

FACILITIES: There are Men's and Women's restroom facilities on site. Food, drinks, ice, etc. are available for purchase at the meeting site.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

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: Rick Halbrooks, 205-410-0233, AMLSfieldtrips@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. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

[Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies](#)

[Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule](#)

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months

2026

February - Aiken Gem Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC)

March - Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA)

April - Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (Nashville, TN)

May - Kanawha Rock and Gem Club (South Charleston, WV)

June - Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society (Charleston, SC)

July - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC)

DMC Coordinator: Lori Carter

DMC e-mail: dmc@southeastfed.org

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

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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

Hello Member!

2026 is the year our club is going to become full functioning again and I am excited.

Each of us has something we can contribute, I would like for each member to think about where they see themselves fitting in for 2026. I am especially hopeful that everyone that can, will take an active role in our club. Let's talk.

Every member is being asked to fill out a renewal application in its entirety. We are beginning 2026 with a new membership chairman and a new list and we need your completed application to include you as a member on this list. Even if you think nothing has changed, we need a new renewal application for our file.

Sincerely,

AMLS Leadership

Club meetings are the second Friday each month (except September) doors open at 6 and the meeting starts at 6:30 with a pot-luck supper

Meeting place is the Cahaba Heights Methodist Church in Cahaba Heights

The website is at www.lapidaryclub.com visit every once and awhile. Share your pictures and any other information by emailing webmaster@lapidaryclub.com

Visit the Members Only pages for club resources and field trip information.

The Rockhound Roundup newsletter is emailed each Monday before the Friday Meeting please read your newsletter to get the latest information that is being shared by members.

Your club needs members to join one or more of the club committees. When you join a committee you learn what's going on and how to best take advantage of club resources.

“the club works for its members when the members work in the club”

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
Membership Renewal Application

rev.02.10.25

Renewal Reinstatement

Date _____

Family \$25 (add adult family \$10) Single \$20 Student \$15

Family members must live in the same household - children 18 years or under living at home

(Please write legibly so we can record your information correctly)

Adult Head of Household _____ Birth Day/Mo ____ / ____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

Primary Club Interest _____

Spouse or Other Adult _____ Birth Day/Mo ____ / ____

Email address _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

Primary Club Interest _____

Names of Children 18 years or under living at home (or additional adult family member living at home)

| | Age | Birth Day | Mo | Day | Year |
|-------|-----|-----------|----|-----|------|
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |

Email: membership@lapidaryclub.com for questions regarding this application

mail this completed form along with your check payable to: AMLS
AMLS Membership - 8036 Parkway Drive - Leeds, Alabama 35094
your ID Badges will be mailed to your home address

(for office use only below)

Received by _____ Date _____ Amount Paid _____ I.D. Card _____

Payment Type: _____ Confirmation No: _____ Welcome Email: ___ Receipt No: _____ Date: _____

Lapidary Club Field Trip Survey

2026/2027 seasons

1. How many organized rock/mineral/fossil field trips and/or digs have you participated in?

| | Total (incl. w/Club) | With AMLS |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1– 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| >10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Field Trips that I'm interested in doing with the Club:

- Rock/Mineral/Gem Digs
- Fossil Digs
- Natural History Museum visits
- Cave trips
- Other suggestions _____

3. I'm up for field trips in the following proximity to Birmingham:

- Local/day trips (< 2 ½ hour drive, each way)
- Overnight trips/adjacent states
- Multi-night trips (w/Camping or Hotel stays)

4. Please list any digs that you would like to see on the Club's 2026/27 field trip list (location?):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. Please star the digs/field trips in question # 4 that you have personally done in the past.

6. Are there digs that you've done that you wouldn't recommend...and why?

7. My comfortable activity level: (please check all that apply)

- Easy Going** – drive up to site; short/level walks; sifting & site collection
- Moderate** – short hikes; stream work; light digging; some uphill and down hill
- Demanding** – longer hikes; steep grades; digging; hammer & chisel work; climbing

OPTIONAL:

Age (please circle one) < 16 17-25 26-50 51-64 65+

Name _____

years as an AMLS member (please circle one) < 1 2-3 4-9 > 10

Are there any other suggestions or comments that you would like to share?

Thank you for participating in this survey!

If you are completing this at the Club meeting, please give your completed survey to Rick Halbrooks, Chair of the Field Trip Committee. If you are completing this survey on-line or printing a hard copy to complete at home, please image your completed survey with your cell phone and email it to AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com. The sooner I receive these, the quicker I can take your responses into consideration for our 2026/2027 field trips. I'd like to have all these surveys completed and returned no later than our next 12/31/2025.

- RH/AMLS

8th Annual
Southeast Federation
Mineralogical Societies

Rockhound Roundup

March 6-8, 2026
9am to 4pm

Suwanee River Music Park Live Oak, Florida

Join the fun at this outdoor event!

- *Rough Rocks and Slabs*
- *Polished Stones*
- *Handmade Jewelry for Sale*
- *Lapidary & Silversmithing
Tools & Equipment*

*Vendors must
be a current
member of an
SFMS Club or
Join a SFMS
Club.*



For more information contact Barbi Beatty at treasurer@southeastfed.org