

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



JANUARY 2025

Spotlight –

Mark your calendars!

3/13 - Rock swap at our club meeting

3/29 – Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

5/31 – Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

8/30 – Cabbing Party 12pm-4pm

Annual Gem Show

September 4th, 5th & 6th

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Workshop Hours


OPENING
— • Hours • —

Tuesdays 12pm-4pm
Thursdays 4pm-8pm
Saturdays 12pm-4pm

8038 Parkway Dr. Leeds, AL 35094



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. This includes posting information about meetings, the workshop, classes etc. The officer responsible for submitting information to the site retains final decision-making authority regarding the information posted.

Hospitality: Assist in setting up the front table and food table at meetings. This can be a small group of two or three people who work together, so this does not become too much for one person trying to be at every meeting. Responsibilities also include greeting members and visitors, and making sure everyone signs in.

The Hospitality committee shall aid in implementing the monthly programs or other society entertainment by coordinating volunteers for refreshments.

Sunshine: The Sunshine committee shall keep in touch with all members and notify the President when anyone is ill, injured, or has experienced a significant family event. The chair shall coordinate with the Corresponding Secretary. This committee can even send out birthday cards to members and send a list of upcoming birthdays to the newsletter chair to be published each month.

Other: John Wild, our Treasurer, needs someone who can help with deposits and assist when he is out of town or at Wm Holland. Rhea has been doing this; however, it needs to be delegated to another club member.

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



March

Mystery location to be announced!



April

Saturday April 11th - The Sylacauga Marble Festival (Sylacauga, AL) Magicofmarblefestival.com

Our club members will be given a private bus tour of the original marble quarry, renowned as the source of the purest white crystalline marble in the world (also known as Alabama Marble). Many of the buildings and sculptures in Washington DC and in buildings all over the country utilize Alabama Marble. Sculptors prize AL marble for its fine texture in addition to its purity. As part of the festival, several sculptors will be demonstrating their skills, carving statues and other artwork in the Sylacauga library. Lots of additional activities will be going on all day, including a scavenger hunt, lectures, discussions on the operational components and equipment used in Marble harvesting, etc. We'll meet at 9:45 for our 10:00 bus tour, which is limited to the first 30 who sign up.

17 members signed up so far; 13 spots left for the bus tour

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
AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com
205-140-0233

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

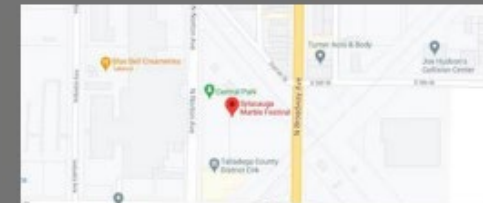
A lecture and viewing of the operational components of the quarry. Transportation is furnished, registration is required. Please register at B. B. Comer Memorial Library. (256)249-0961 (Seating is limited. Must be 16+) 9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

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, January 24, 2026

Meet at 10:00 AM Central Time

Franklin County, AL

No Attendance Limit

Registration Required (Link is below)

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

Others: Permit fee not required

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.

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.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. 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 a potential waiting list can take your slot(s). **(Rick: The registration link is not ready yet, but it will be ready soon -- Lori)**

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

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: 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 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