

Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY



December Meeting: Friday, December 13, 6:30 pm



Inside this issue:

Meeting info	1
President's message	2
URGENT membership message, announcements	3
Field Trip Survey Report	4
Workshop News	5
DMC Field Trip, Summerville, GA	6
Calendar	7
Renewal Application	8 & 9
Field Trip survey	10 & 11
Officers and emails	12

Holiday Party

This month's meeting, it's all about the PARTY! The club will supply a ham and turkey; members are asked to bring sides and desserts. Bread, drinks and appetizers are appreciated too.

A.M.L.S Gift Exchange explanation ~

Members are asked to bring a rockhound related gift valued between \$10-15 to exchange. You do not have to participate if you don't wish to. Men bring a man's gift, marked MAN on the tag; Women bring a woman's gift, marked WOMAN on the tag. Or bring an ANYBODY gift that anyone who is a rockhound would be delighted to receive. If you choose to bring a gift for a child, be sure to mark the tag as "CHILD". Extra child gifts are appreciated.

We do not have door prizes at this meeting but we use the sign-in book to call out the names for the selection of your gift. Some folks come early to help set up. See ya there!

Rockhound Roundup

President's Message

Happy Holidays Everyone,

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks it will be 2025.

We have our Holiday Party this Friday with a gift exchange. Gifts should be rockhound related and aprx \$10-15. This is volunteer and you do not need to participate. Men bring a mans gift labeled Man, Ladies a gift labeled Lady. Or the gift can be labeled Anyone. Kids gifts should be labeled Child. And if you would like to bring an extra gift for any guest we may have would be greatly appreciated.



The club is providing turkey and ham, so please bring your favorite holiday sides or desserts. Drinks and rolls would be awesome too.

I would like as many board members and committee chairs to be here, so that I can introduce you to the club members as I have been asked who's the incoming board. We also will be awarding the scholarships that night as well.

Yvonne will have a wire class Dec 14 10-4 making ornaments, so if you have any beads, chain or other crafty stuff that can be used you are encouraged to bring what you have too.

The new year is off to a great start, Rick Halbrooks is busy planning field trips for us, and I can't wait to get digging and filling my buckets. Graves Mtn is always a fun trip and Hogg Mine Is too. So, gather up your tools and buckets.

December has 5 Sundays in it and we will be having a cabbing party December 29. So if there's anyone who can come out to the workshop to help with clean-up and organizing, either Dec 15 or 22 (I know that's close to Christmas) from noon-4pm let me know, there's some heavy rocks that need moving and we have a grassy area in back that needs mowing too.

And as always, we get as much from the club as we put in, so please volunteer for committees, there's a place for everyone.

Thank you and be safe out there,
Rhea Proffitt



Rockhound Roundup

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

We are at the end of the 2024 membership. If you wish to continue as a member of AMLS in 2025 we need you to fill out a renewal application now. When we receive your completed application and dues, you will be mailed 2025 member ID cards. There will be a note along with your ID cards asking you to email membership@lapidaryclub.com that you have received your cards. The email is VERY important.

1-It assures us that you received your cards and they are correct.

2-It confirms your email address, so we know you will be receiving the newsletter and other club communications.

3-It is the final step to complete your renewal to the club.

If we don't receive the email, your membership isn't confirmed because we have no other way of knowing you received your valuable ID card, your email is correct and whether or not you can receive the newsletter and other important club communications.

There have been multiple attempts to communicate with past due members. We have to assume that a member that doesn't come to meetings, read the newsletter or visit the website to stay current with the club is not interested in being an active member.

Beginning January 1st 2025, anyone that **did not** provide the club with a renewal application and dues for 2024 or 2025 will be removed from club membership, pending your reinstatement. It will be assumed you are no longer interested in being a member of AMLS. You can print the renewal application from this newsletter.

John Cook
Membership Chair

Announcements

Recipient of the Kontzen Education scholarship will be announced at December meeting. You can see the schedule of class at William Holland at the following website <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-workshops>.

Dec 14 & 15, 2024: Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society Show. Where: 4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN 37064, Saturday 9a to 6p, Sunday 10 to 5p. Adults \$6 (2-day pass \$10). Students 18 and under \$1. Children under 12 free. Scouts in uniform free. www.mtgms.org/show.htm

Feb 22 & 23, 2025: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Show. Where: 1200 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39202, Saturday 9a to 6p, Sunday 9a to 4p. Adults \$8. Students \$3. Scouts and leaders in uniform \$2. Children 5 and under free. <https://www.mgmsshow@missgems.org>

Rockhound Roundup

Field Trip Survey Report

The results of the initial batch of Field Trip Surveys have been tabulated and several interesting findings have been noted below. Keep in mind that only 31 surveys have been completed and turned in so far, so we will have a more accurate picture when we have closer to full participation in the surveys from the rest of our active membership:

- 37% of our respondents have never participated in an organized group rockhound field trip of any kind.
- 56% have not yet participated in one of our Club field trips
- 23% have participated in more than 10 of our Club field trips
- The vast majority of our respondents were up for any type of field trip (rock or fossil digs, museums and shows)
- 30% were interested in multi-night or camping trips; 53% were OK with over-night trips. 97% preferred day trips
- There were LOTS of suggestions for specific potential field trips! 5 garnered multiple nominations. The good news is that I've already begun working with 3 of those. One is booked (more on that later*) and another may be booked by our December meeting. I should mention at this point that I consider a day trip to be within a 2 ½ hour drive.
- Regarding activity level, 20% chose Easy Going Only; 53% chose Easy or Moderate and 27% chose any and all levels, including Demanding (I like to call those folks young people).



I hope to have more details to share, along with some graphs and charts, plus details & photos of our first quarter field trips to present at our January meeting. To do this meaningfully, **I need your input: if you are a member who hasn't yet provided a completed Field Trip Survey, please do so by December 31st, if not sooner.**

I will bring hard copies of the Field Trip Survey to the December 8th Club meeting and make an appeal to those attendees who haven't completed their input to do so, but we really those of who weren't at the November meeting and won't be at the December meeting to complete and email your survey (attached) to AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com. This is a short < 5-minute survey that will help us provide field trips that you will be more interested in participating in.

*Please mark on your calendar: **Our first confirmed Field Trip for 2025 is set for Saturday, March 8th at Graves Mountain, in Lincolnton, GA.** This is an enormous and spectacular dig site that is known as the world's premier site for large Rutile crystals, as well as iridescent/rainbow Hematite, Lazurite, Quartz, Barite, Pyrophyllite, Kyanite and a host of other minerals. There are only 2 weekends a year that this site is



open to rockhounds who are less than 13 years old. March 7-9th is the first of those in 2025. I'll give you more details at the meeting and in the January Rockhound Roundup, but for now you need to know that there is no fee to rockhound at Graves Mountain, but they do request that you make a contribution/donation to help offset their costs of providing golf carts and portable restroom facilities. This will be an overnight or weekend trip, as Graves Mountain is 4 ½ hours from BHM, shorter if you hit Atlanta traffic at an advantageous and lucky time. There are campgrounds and inexpensive hotels in nearby Lincolnton, Thomson and Washington, GA. Gates open at 8AM EST and close at 6PM each day if you want to

dig Friday and/or Sunday in addition to Saturday. Several vendors will be there selling rocks, fossils and rockhounding supplies.

We're in final planning stages with Union Chapel mine near Sumiton (Amphibian Trackways and Paleozoic fossils) as well as Hogg Mine near La Grange, GA (Rose Quartz, Tourmaline, Beryl, Aquamarine, etc.). More info as soon as those dates are confirmed.

Rick Halbrooks

WORKSHOP NEWS

8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds

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. **Use of equipment is restricted to Members with current club ID card Only.**

Robert Lorino usually opens the workshop on Tuesdays and Levan and Yvonne are usually at workshop Saturdays from 12-5. Contact Levan or check MO, the members-only Facebook page, for schedule changes.

WIREWRAP CLASS

Yvonne reports a Christmas-themed wirewrap class on Saturday, Dec 14, starting at 10:00 am. Cost is \$15. Bring beads or other appropriate do-dads, or use ours.

CABBING PARTY

Join us at the workshop at Dec 29 at noon for a cabbing party. Free use of equipment. Bring a snack to share.

FROM RHEA: On Friday I had the shop open and Sandra came by to help. She donated a file cabinet for all the papers and documents we are keeping. She was a great help in what to keep and what to toss. Saturday Yvonne and Levan were here and we continued what was started the day before. They also had some great ideas on storage and organizing.

We have 2 saws in the backroom that need help. If this is your expertise, they could use your help. Also the shop could use a set of shelves and smaller heavy duty storage containers with lids.

And thanks to everyone our workshop is looking better.





DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org

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

Sunday, December 17, 2024
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM Eastern Time
Summerville Crazy Lace Agate

Chattooga County, GA
Limit 50 People
Registration Required (Link is below)
Fee: None

TRIP: This is a great site for children and adults of all skill levels. Everyone will need to sign a release upon arrival.

COLLECTING: This location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. You can also find some druzy quartz and oolitic material. Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it makes great specimens.

BRING: Rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools for (example a small hand rake), buckets, and a spray bottle or bucket with water to wet or rinse the rocks to see the color better. You will also need a hat, safety glasses, sunscreen, and gloves. A small cart or hand truck is great for hauling larger pieces. Also bring fluids and lunch.

IMPORTANT: This is an active quarry. **STAY AWAY** from all heavy equipment and quarry machinery and any places that the trip lead has declared off limits. Anyone who violates these rules will be asked to leave because any violation could jeopardize future access to this site.

FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN: This is a good site for children but **they will need to be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian** at all times.

PETS: No pets.

FACILITIES: There are **NO** facilities. Food and restrooms are several miles away in the city of Summerville about 2 miles away.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are not many hotels in the Summerville area, but there are several in Rome and Adairsville.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. 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.

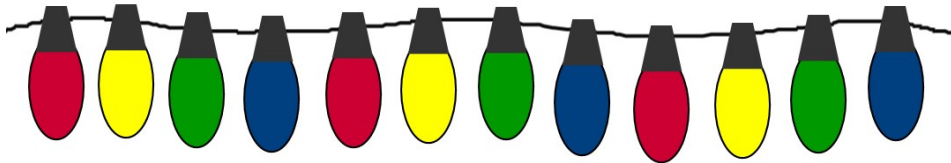
CONTACT: Jose Santamaria at joses@telluseum.org 678.488.9560 or Jeff Deere at jeffdeere1961@gmail.com 770.655.2298.

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.**

Mark your Calendars

December 14, 21, 28	Workshop Open
December 13	CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 14	Wirewrap Class 10-4 pm
December 17	DMC Field Trip to Summerville, GA
December 29	CABBING PARTY at Workshop, 12:00 noon

(Member ID card required for events)



Happy Holidays!



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

Welcome Back!

2025 is going to be a great year for you and your Rock Club

With your help a new chapter is going to be written for the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society as each of us reflects on the past year/years of our time in the club. I would like for each member to think about where they see themselves fitting in for 2025. I am excited to be your club president, and I am especially hopeful that everyone that can will take an active role in our club.

Every member is being asked to fill out this renewal application in its entirety. We are beginning 2025 with a new membership list and we need your completed application to include you as a member on this list.

Note that we are asking for you to tell us what your primary interests are in the club. With this information we hope to provide adequate resources to fuel your desire to participate more in the club.

Sincerely,

Rhea Proffitt

thelapidaryclub@gmail.com

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 email 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

Date _____

Renewal Reinstatement

rev.10.18.24

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
_____	____	____/____/____
_____	____	____/____/____
_____	____	____/____/____
_____	____	____/____/____

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 _____

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

Lapidary Club Field Trip Survey

1—How many organized rock/mineral/fossil digs have you participated in?

Total With AMLS

- None**
- 1– 5**
- 6–10**
- >10**

2—Field Trips that I’m interested in doing with the club:

- Rock/Mineral/Gem Digs
 - Fossil Digs
 - Natural History Museum visits
 - Rock/Mineral/Gem/Fossil shows/swaps
 - Other suggestions _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3—I’m up for field trips in the following proximity to Birmingham:

- Local/day trips

- Overnight trips/adjacent states

- Multi-night trips

- Camping trips

4 - Please list any digs that you would like to see on the Club’s 2025 field trip list:

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

5. Please star the digs in question 4 that you have personally participated on previously.

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

7. My comfortable activity levels:

- 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 your input by participating in this survey!

If you are completing this at the Club meeting, please give your completed survey to Rick Halbrooks, Chairman 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 2025 field trips. I'd like to have all these surveys completed and returned no later than our December Club meeting, which is 12/13/24.

RH/AMLS

Our 2025 Officers and Chairs

Officers

President	Rhea Proffitt	thelapidaryclub@gmail.com
Vice President (programs)	Levan Foster	levanfoster@gmail.com
2nd Vice President (field trips)	Rick Halbrooks	amlfieldtrips@gmail.com
Recording Secretary (pro-tem)	Bunny Bolton	bunny@newenvirons.net
Treasurer	John Wild	john@milcomtextiles.com
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Carisch	amlsecretary@gmail.com
Historian	John Gaston	gastons3@bellsouth.net

Standing Chairs

Membership (pro-tem)	John Cook	amlsmembership@gmail.com
Annual Show	Rhea Proffitt	amlsgemshow@gmail.com
Publicity	Kristen Osborne	kristensosborne@gmail.com
Programs	Anthony Piazza	piazalawoffice@gmail.com
Newsletter/Publications	Casey Ruiz	newsletter@lapidaryclub.com
Hospitality	Vivian Melof	melofvl@hotmail.com
Workshop Equipment/Club Property	Reggie Bolton	reggie@newenvirons.net
Website	John Cook	webmaster@lapidaryclub.com

Special Chairs

Members-Only(MO) Facebook Group	Jillian Jordan	minerallapidaryfb@gmail.com
Training/Education	Yvonne Foster	jewelryrepair@hotmail.com
Junior Rock Hounds	John Gaston	gastons3@bellsouth.net

**Here's your chance to participate in your rock club:
Immediate need for a membership chairperson.
Contact the president, Rhea Proffitt!**