



Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

November Meeting



**November Meeting: November 8, 6:30 pm
at Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church**

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The November meeting is our club's annual meeting. We'll be recapping the past year and reporting on what we're planning for the future. Here's some of what we'll be sharing:

Meeting of our Junior Rockhounds

Potluck meal with a Thanksgiving theme

Swearing-in new officers for 2025

Committee chair appointments for 2025

Annual committee reports from 2024

2025 membership renewal kickoff

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

A Message from our President

Hello Everyone,

As I sit here writing this, I am both excited and terrified at the job before me. For those who don't know me, I joined in 2014 and was in anything I could be working full-time and living in Tuscaloosa. I stepped back during the pandemic and continued to stay out of the club because I was caring for a family member. After feeling like I was back on solid footing I joined up again last April. I was asked to finish out the year as Show Chair. I want to thank everyone who worked to bring another show to a wonderful conclusion.



I hope to bring into fruition some of the plans and hopes we had for the club in 2019 when we rented the workshop space in Leeds. I remember as a few of us were painting the interior (yes we did paint it) we pondered at what it could become, a place where we could meet and create and encourage each other. Then 2020 happened and all of that stopped. I want us as a club to pick up from 2019 and continue to make the workshop that place. I know this will take some muscle, figuratively and literally, but we can do this. We will need to look at our space and consider how to better use the space. I want to hear your ideas on this.

I am encouraged at the fact we have some newer members stepping forward to help with some of the many jobs within the club- Our new officers are -

Levan Foster-1st VP

Rick Halbrooks- 2nd VP and Fieldtrip Chair

John Wild- Treasurer

John Gaston- Historian

Bunny Bolton- Recording Secretary, pro tem

Kathy Carish- Corresponding Secretary

The one job I'd like to see filled by another member is Recording Secretary. Bunny has done a marvelous job over the years; I don't remember when she wasn't recording Secretary. This is an incredibly important job taking notes at all meetings, both general and board. I know someone has the talent and skills to take on this position.

This is also that time of the year when we take in membership renewals. John Cook has changed up the forms a bit by asking "Primary Club Interest", this is because the club leadership wants to know what the members want from their club. I will have forms at our meeting for anyone interested, it's important to fill out the form completely because this is what is going on the 2025 membership list.

Rick will have a field trip survey form to help the committee in planning trips for the coming year.

I could keep going on; I have lots of ideas for new committees and new projects this year. I could keep going but then what I would I have to talk about next month.

So, I will close this with wishing all peace, health and happiness.

Rhea Proffitt, AMLS President

Our 2025 Officers and Chairs

Officers

President	Rhea Proffitt	kokomo0114@yahoo.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	kcarisch@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	piazzalawoffice@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

Club Meeting Minutes

AMLS meeting October 11, 2024.

To begin the meeting changes to the August minutes were called for. As there were none Levan Foster moved that they be accepted, Rhea Proffitt seconded and the motion passed.

The nominating committee, headed by Ivey Cook proposed the 2025 slate of officers:

President	Rhea Proffitt
1st Vice President	vacant in charge of programs
2nd Vice President	Rick Halbrooks in charge of field trips
Treasurer	John Wild
Recording Secretary	vacant
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Carish
Historian	John Gaston

Jill Hill moved that the slate be accepted, Anthony Piazza seconded and the slate was accepted. Welcome new officers. They will be sworn in at the December meeting. The board will fill in the gaps and the club will vote on replacements.

To make a better club we need to improve communication and participation. Our Youth Program has been revitalized, we had a very successful show, and the workshop has some interest but we can do better. Each officer and chair need backup, 1-2 people in some cases and more in others.

The out going treasurer, Reggie Bolton, reported this year's gem show cleared at least \$10,000.

Education chair, Yvonne Foster, reported a wire wrapping/weaving class will be offered on 10/26. She asked that other members offer a class to share their talents. Text Yvonne if you have an idea for a class either to teach or take.

The Show chair, Rhea Proffitt, announced that we have lost our venue of the Irondale Civic Center. They will be under renovation at the time we need it. Rhea has called around to many places and found most too small and some hard to load in and out. The Bessemer Civic Center, which has the amenities we need, is available. Reggie Bolton moved that we put a deposit down for Labor Day week-end, Don Hill seconded and the motion passed. Rhea will take them a check on Monday 10/14.

It's time to apply for annual scholarships. The judging committee is Casey Faulkner, Kristen Osborne, and Anthony Piazza aided by Sandra Sullivan who has a lot of experience in this. The application is on the website and the Rockhound Roundup and is due at the November meeting. They will be awarded at the December meeting.

Not many members are using the member's only (MO) Facebook page. Our website has instructions on how to join.

Anthony Piazza introduced our speaker Dr. Prescott Atkinson who gave a most interesting program on the Union Chapel trackway fossils.

Door prizes were awarded and meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton Recording Secretary

Minutes From the October Zoom Board Meeting

Minutes of AMLS Board meeting 10/24/24

In attendance: Reggie & Bunny Bolton, John & Ivey Cook, Rhea Proffitt, Vivian Melof, Levan & Yvonne Foster, John Gaston, Rick Halbrooks

John Cook proposed that each committee chair send a report to the president each month to be put in the Rockhound Roundup. If there is nothing to report, report that.

Annual reports for each committee are due at the November meeting. Each outgoing officer should send these to the president.

The audit committee is to report at the November meeting. Reggie has worked with Larry Hensley to complete the financial spreadsheet. Reggie has e-mailed that and the last few year's bookkeeping to John Wild who is working on a 2025 budget.

John Cook reported that we can set up a website with WIX for around \$360 per year. That amount includes software we might need. It has many modules that should suit our purposes. Casey Ruiz has agreed to be the administrator. John Gaston moved that we do this and Vivian seconded it. The motion passed and will now be taken to the members for a vote. Does the club need a NOW checking account to keep a small amount of money in for such expenses that require a checking account number. Reggie will take a check to Levan to reimburse him for the domain name and hosting of the website.

Rhea needs to get on the checking account for her signature; she and Levan will work on this. We believe John Wild is still on from his stint as club president otherwise he will need to be added as well.

Levan agreed to fill in for first VP duties to assist Anthony Piazza with programs.

Going forward, each member, new and old, will be asked to identify with a committee to encourage participation. Rick suggested adding this to the membership form. New memberships were put on hold temporarily but will begin again on November 1.

John Gaston said he will miss the next few meetings due to shows but Allison, Woody, and Anthony can be his back up for the junior program. Ken Smith, son of Bob Smith, has some old club history in the basement. The Fosters will pick it up and take to the shop for John Gaston to retrieve.

Yvonne says she is not getting many students for her classes. She could use some help with more teachers and communication. An event calendar for the website and Facebook Members only page may help with that.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton, recording secretary



Junior Rockhound News

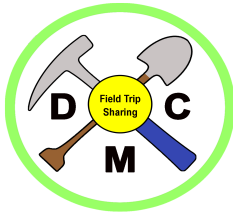
The official meeting of our Junior Rockhound club will be at 5:30, November 8, at the regular AMLS meeting place, Cahaba Heights UMC.

NOTE FROM ALLISON AND JOHN: We will be working on completing our mineral ID kits this month. For those that missed the last meeting, I will have a few extra egg cartons available for those that need to start on their kits. If you have completed your kit and have identified all of your rocks, please bring your kit with you this month to earn your first badge!



A few of our junior rock hounds earning their first badge for Mineral Identification. Good job, y'all!

Announcements



The Dixie Mineral Council, field trip gurus for the SFMS, announces a field trip to the **Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville, SC** on **November 9**. This event is open to club members of the Federation, of which we belong. The link on attending is on the members-only page of the website. NOTE: I confirmed this with DMC on Sunday and was told it HAD been confirmed by the club in South Carolina. Additional information can be found at lapidaryclub.com.



Nestled in the North Georgia mountains, William Holland is a school devoted to preserving and perpetuating lapidary and jewelry art skills, for generations to learn and enjoy. Everyone is invited to come and learn in a creative space and build relationships in this unique educational environment.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR KONTZEN SCHOLARSHIP IS THE NOVEMBER 8TH MEETING. The club will award our 2025 Kontzen Scholarship at the December meeting. An application for the scholarship is attached to this newsletter.

SFMS Upcoming Shows

Nov 22 – 24, 2024: Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society Show. Where: Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060, Friday & Saturday 10a to 6p, Sunday 10a to 5p. No entry fee. <https://www.ccgms.org>

Dec 6—8, 2024: Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Where: Alabama National Fairgrounds (Garret Coliseum) 1555 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107 , Friday and Saturday 9a to 6 p. Sunday 11a to 4p. Admission is \$2.00 per day. Children under 16 are FREE with student ID or one paid adult ticket. <https://www.mgms.club/mgms/>

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, 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>

Calendar for November

- November 8, 5:30 Junior Rockhound Meeting
- November 8, 6:30 Regular Club Meeting
- November 9 DMC field trip to Diamond Hill Mine, Abbeville, SC
- November 16 Field trip to Morrison home in Pell City
- All Tuesdays & Saturdays Workshop Open (verify on MO Facebook Page)

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 Only.**

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

AMLS EDUCATION

Wire wrapping classes were held in October.

Text Yvonne Foster at 205-602-8280 with your suggestions for classes!

CLUB FIELD TRIPS

Be sure and join other members as we meet at the home of Frank and Cynthia Morrison and score some lapidary goodies from our retired club members. Details on page 10. 2025 is going to be the "Year of Field Trips" Be sure and fill out the survey in this newsletter. The more interest, the more trips.



New for 2024

- Youth small - adult XL -\$12
- XXL - \$14
- XXXI - \$16

Add two dollars for every X

AMLS Club T-Shirt

Payment required with order.

Choose where to pick up your order : Workshop or at a Club Meeting. You will be notified via text when your shirt is ready. If you decide to have your shirts mailed to you, arrange shipment at that time.

Field Trip Committee report

for November 2024

One of the most cited advantages of membership in a Rock/Mineral/Gem/Lapidary club is the opportunity to participate in Club Field Trips. Fun & fellowship are two additional reasons that members agree make membership in a Hobby Club worthwhile. Those will be two of our goals in setting up our field trips for next year.

I'm excited about being named Chairman of the Field Trip committee for 2025, but I need your help: There's a short questionnaire attached in this newsletter that I need each club member to complete to help our Field Trip Committee better understand what type field trips would be most meaningful for our club. We'll be handing out hard copies of this survey at our November 8th meeting, for those attending to complete. If you can't attend the Club meeting this month, please fill out the form attached, scan or snap a photo of your completed form with your cell phone and email it to amlsfieldtrips@gmail.com at your earliest convenience. The sooner we get these, the sooner we can begin researching and setting up field trips for our 2025 calendar. Thank you for your input!

Speaking of field trips, we have a special outing opportunity for November; a Field Trip to a couple of retired members' home: Long time AMLS club members **Frank and Cynthia Morrison** 116 Lakeview Drive Pell City, AL 35128 205.410.9004 mowoodwks@hotmail.com

The Morrisons are expecting members and friends of members **from 10-12ish on Saturday November 16**

Cash only (no checks) so stop by the ATM on the way

Facetron 8" Flatlap – like new condition. Lots of accessories and extras. This is a complete faceting shop.

One Raytech 10" model L-10S diamond saw

One Raytech 10" model L-10S-A diamond saw with automatic feed and cover

One Frantom cabbing machine 8" diameter wheels(2) 1.5" coarse and (5) 3" wide expandable wheels.

Lots of rough and slabs (some very nice slabs).

Ocean jasper& Rainbow obsidian that can be bought by the piece.

36" (30) drawer steel storage cabinet

Other rockhounding and lapidary items

Huge selection of Wetumka petrified wood; can buy by the piece

I hope that you'll be able to join us at the Morrison's home and bring a friend

Stay tuned for our Field Trip Calendar for the first half of 2025.

Rick Halbrooks

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

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

Date _____

Membership Renewal Application

[] 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	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 _____

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

AMLS Joe and Frances Kontzen Scholarship

This scholarship may be awarded annually at the December meeting to a member of AMLS chosen by a special Scholarship Committee. It is given in memory of Joe and Frances Kontzen, longtime AMLS members and friends.

a. Purpose. The scholarship is for one week's class attendance at either William Holland Lapidary School or Wildacres Retreat during one of the workshops sponsored by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) or the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS). The amount of the scholarship shall equal the double occupancy room rate at the school chosen by the Awardees.

b. Funding. The scholarship will be funded by proceeds from the annual gem show, augmented by the General Fund if necessary. Payment will be made to the appropriate organization.

c. Committee. The Scholarship Committee consists of a Chairman and two members, plus the President as ex-officio member. The President selects the Chairman at the July meeting, and the membership selects the other two committee members at the August meeting.

d. Application Process. Notices to apply for the Scholarship will appear in the September newsletter. The Chairman will mail applications to members upon request. Applications will also be published on the AMLS web site for downloading, and be made available at the August, September, October, and November meetings. Application deadline is the November meeting.

e. Selection Process. The Chairman is responsible for collecting applications, organizing the Committee's selection meeting(s), and selecting the Scholarship Awardees (and an Alternate if necessary).

f. Class Selection. The Awardees will select a class from those available classes sponsored by the SFMS or EFMLS during the year following the award. The Scholarship must be used during that year, and is not transferable. If it is determined that the Awardee cannot use the Scholarship for any reason, the Scholarship will go to the Alternate selected by the Committee.



Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
Application for the
Joe and Frances Kontzen Scholarship

Received By _____
Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

~~~~~  
Number of years you have been a member of AMLS? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you regularly attend meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you volunteer to help with the Annual Show in September? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend fieldtrips? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever attended one of the SFMS schools/classes:

[ ] William Holland in Young Harris, GA – Year \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Wildacres Retreat in Spruce Pines, NC – Year \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to do brief article for the newsletter, give a presentation at an AMLS club meeting and demonstrate/teach at the workshop the skills you learn from your class at the school? \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~  
If you are submitting this application at a club meeting, please fold in half and place it in the basket on the sign-in table by the door. If mailing, this application needs to be received by the second weekend in November.

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
8036 Parkway Drive
Leeds, Alabama 35094