

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



OCTOBER 2026

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Spotlight



AMLS hosts another successful Gem & Mineral Show at the Bessemer Civic Center!

From the Gem Show Chair

I want to thank everyone who came out to help. The club had people at the venue on Wednesday through Sunday, and some were there every day. There was really cute design work done for postcard/fb promos and name badges.

We had lunch for the vendors and volunteers on Thursday and coffee all weekend. Keeping the kitchen going was a challenge because of plumbing problems and no, we didn't cause them.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!!

We start planning next month for 2027! We need those with experience in Social Media Promos, graphic design for print and internet use.

Thanks, and more to come!

Rhea Proffitt



A Word from Our President

Hi Everyone,

We have a few announcements...

First, our next meeting is this Friday, Oct 9th at 6:30pm at Cahaba Heights UMC. The church will open at 5:30 for Jr. Round Hounds and setting up tables. Assistance is always appreciated.

The nominating committee still has openings to be filled. Please speak with Levan for more information.

Membership is taking nominations for life memberships.

Scholarship applications are due by the November meeting.

I would love for any member who has taken photos while on field trips, at meetings, the gem show, or any others you would like to share to please send them to the club email thelapidaryclub@gmail.com. Please include a brief description of where they were taken, who is in the photo, and the date. I would love to share these on our website and possibly use them in promos for the club.

I encourage all members to submit items for the newsletter or website to the club's email. Without photos, articles, and your involvement we can't grow, and this is what the public sees of us. Best Foot Forward.

Downtown Leeds is again sponsoring a Trick or Treat for the community on Oct 30th from 3-5pm. Please come help us pass out candy and tumbled stones. The club is also taking donations of candy or pebbles as well. Dressing up is also encouraged.

Thanks everyone!

We have a lot happening and I hope to see you at the meeting,

Rhea Proffitt

AMLS President & Gem Show Coord.

thelapidaryclub@gmail.com

amlsgemshow@gmail.com



Workshop Hours

The AMLS Workshop is located at 8036 Parkway Drive SE, Leeds, AL

Tuesdays / Saturdays (12pm-4pm)

Thursdays (4pm-8pm)

Shows & Swaps



HGMS ANNUAL FALL SHOW 2026
OCTOBER 9 & 10: 10AM - 6PM
OCTOBER 11: 10AM - 5PM

Specimens*Slabs*Jewelry*Beads*Fossils*Demos* Displays
Gem Mining*Fossil Dig*Fluorescent Tent*Geode Cracker
Jaycee Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL

October 9th-11th: [Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society Show](#) • Huntsville Jaycee Community Center, 2180 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, AL 35802.

October 16th-18th: [Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society Show](#) • Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923.

November 20th-22nd: [Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society Show](#) • Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy., Marietta GA 30060.

November 27th-29th: [Mobile Rock & Gem Society Annual Show](#) • Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

December (TBD): [Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show](#) • Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL 36107.



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Emory Boards



I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for pre-polishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200.

While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.

Wear Your Mask

As I understand it, any particle breathed into your lungs is never expelled. Doesn't matter if it's smoke from a fire, a piece of dust or a microscopic particle of Quartz from your diamond disc. Once in the lungs, it becomes encapsulated in mucus, develops some calcification around it, and sits there as a foreign object for the rest of your life.

It makes sense to wear a good respirator or at least one of the N-95 masks we wear during flu season. Harbor Freight sells them very inexpensively.

Happy hammering,

Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

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

Date _____

Membership Renewal Application

[] Renewal [] Reinstatement

rev.02.10.25

[] 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	Birthday
_____	_____	____ / ____ / ____
_____	_____	____ / ____ / ____
_____	_____	____ / ____ / ____
_____	_____	____ / ____ / ____

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	☐	☐
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
- ☐ 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 complete 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

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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

Received By _____

Date _____