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# Golden Nugget

## President's Message

Welcome to the Montgomery Gem and Mineralogical Society.

As President of the Montgomery Gem and Mineralogical Society I am pleased to welcome all of our new and returning club members back for a new year of fun and excitement. We hope to have a fun filled 2022 to look forward to. Our club activities have been limited during the past couple of years due to the Covid, but we are hoping plan lots of activities this year.

Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 19, 2022 at 7pm at the Crump Community Center off Coliseum Boulevard. Please enter in the back door. I will present a recap of our activities of 2022, show the different field trips, club workshop, and activities we accomplished in 2021, and a brief discussion of proposed activities for 2022. For our new club members our typical club meeting consists of a meet and greet where we show off our collections and rocks to each other, a short business meeting, and then a display or presentation by a speaker, and then we do a door prize giveaway. We give lots of rocks and gems away at each meeting and kids always go home with some treasure from our members or club.

In addition to being the club president for Montgomery, Alabama I also serve as the Alabama State Director for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We have a new federation president this year, Mr. Dennis Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan is extremely motivated to help and encourage the local clubs and has taken a personnel project to promote children's activities in the local clubs. We have been asked to promote the Future Rockhounds of America program to all the clubs in the southeast. This is a free program in a similar format to Boys or Girl Scouts available to all clubs from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Information and Modules are provided by the national organization and badges are awarded to the kids for completion of the modules. I will have more information available at the club meeting or you could follow this link: [Future Rockhounds \(amfed.org\)](http://FutureRockhounds(amfed.org))

Additionally, the newsletter published by the SE Federation is free of charge to all club members across our various clubs just by signing up with the newsletter editor. You can find more information at this link: [SFMS - Lodestar Newsletter \(southeastfed.org\)](http://SFMS-LodestarNewsletter(southeastfed.org))

As a follow-up I would like to thank each and every club member that helped work this past Gem Show. It was our most successful Gem Show in our club's history and we expect our 2022 Gem Show to grow and become one of the pre-eminent Gem Shows in the SE USA.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Chris Rutherford, President, [chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com](mailto:chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com)

*Trip Report by Club President Chris Rutherford*

During the Christmas break, Candy and I drove to visit our son who moved to Pennsylvania this past year. Our son was living in the New York City area but due to Covid and being able to work from home, he and his girlfriend decided to move out from the city and into the wilderness. They bought a home in the Pocono Mountains a couple of hours west of New York. The Pocono Mountains have been a mountain retreat for city dwellers for a hundred years now and you can find all manner of resorts, camping, cabins, and outdoor recreational activities in the area. But after vacationing numerous times in Gatlinburg, TN at the Smoky Mountains there's a huge difference in these two mountain vacation spots.

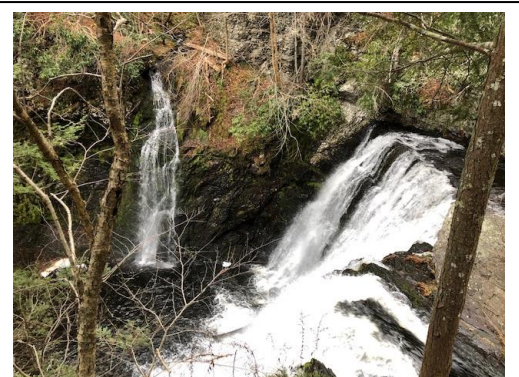
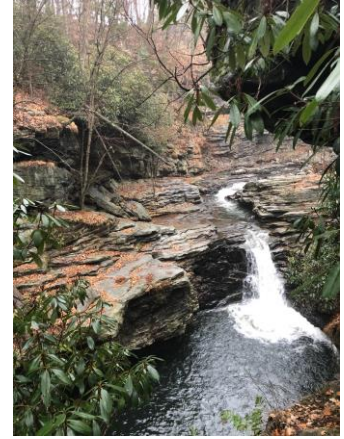
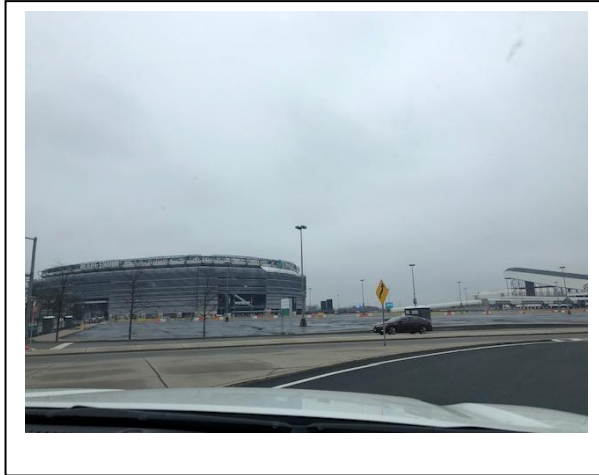
The Pocono Mountains are described as a flat-top mountain. After travelling uphill from the Delaware River, about 500 feet rise in elevation to approximately 1100' MSL, the mountain levels off to a flat terrain comprised of a rolling hills and glacial lakes. For the next 30 miles west, the mountains gradually rise to approximately 1500' MSL. The ground surface is comprised of gray and red sandstones with intermittent glacial till and boulders randomly deposited across the soil surface. Geologists propose that during the last Ice Age about 15,000 years ago that the glaciers were able to eroded and grind down the mountain peaks to their current rolling hills found today. Technically, I would classify the Pocono Mountains as a plateau but flat-top mountain is still and applicable term. There are a few peaks still remaining in the region mostly round topped hills. The glaciers were able to wear away at the softer bedrock formations but the tougher sandstone held up well. In addition to the exposed sandstone bedrock, randomly deposited across the surface are round rocks and boulders comprised of granite, gneiss, and other igneous and metamorphic rocks. These seem out of place with the sandstone, but as the glaciers melted and retreated, the sediments they picked up along the way were left behind on the surface. That's why you find semi-polished granite that originated several hundred miles away on the surface of a sandstone mountain range.

The most outstanding feature of the area that we saw is the multiple waterfalls in the area. Pennsylvania's largest waterfalls are found along the mountain slope draining into the Delaware River. There are literally dozens and dozens of nice waterfalls that you can hike and visit in the area.

A key feature in region is the Delaware Water Gap. From the Bates and Jackson Glossary of Geology a water gap is defined as a deep pass in a mountain range, through which a stream flows; especially a narrow gorge or ravine cut though the resistant rocks by an antecedent stream. The glossary gives the Delaware Water Gap as an example. What we found here was the pretty large Delaware River flowing through the Pocono Mountains separating Pennsylvania from New Jersey. At the Water Gap, the river makes a huge, S-curve cut through the mountain range and the surrounding mountains rise approximately 1,000 feet from the river on each bank. The rock face on each side of the gap exposed banded and folded layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The Appalachian Trail crosses from Pennsylvania into New Jersey at this area, and the National Park Service maintains a huge national recreational area for hiking, canoeing, and camping.

Also nearby is the community of Wind Gap, New Jersey. This community is also noted for a huge, deep cut through the Pocono Mountain Range but at some time in the past, mostly likely due to the effects of glaciers the Delaware River that made the Wind Gap cut changed directions and left the gap high and dry. Hence the term wind gap. Attached are a few pictures from our trip.

*Chris and Candy Trip to the Pocono Mountain Range Photo's*



What an Amazing Adventure!!! Thank you Chris & Candy for sharing your Wonderful Holiday Trip with us.

Our 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Montgomery Gem and Mineral Display Boxes



Every Year Our Members Search through their Collections to set up Displays that not only Dazzle the Eye but to Engage the Mind and hopefully start a Spark in the Hearts of Every Rockhound who passes through our Doors...and then sometimes that Tiny little Spark turns into a Flame in the Heart of a Child and a Junior Rockhound is Born...curious, inquisitive and so full of joy the room lights up when they enter because you just know they are going to bring another treasure to share with so much enthusiasm that you remember why you yourself became a Rockhound.

So Rockhounds...continue to feed the flame!!!

Our Wonderful Vendors and their Beautiful Displays!!! Getting Ready for an AMAZING Show!!!



*Our Wonderful Vendors Continued...*



Our 2021 Gem Show was the most successful in Our Clubs History & we expect our 2022 Gem Show to grow and become one of the pre-eminent Gem Shows in the SE USA!!! So Thank You to our Members for the many volunteer hours you so graciously give, to our Wonderful Vendors and to everyone who continues to come out every year during the first weekend in December who make our Show such a Wonderful Success!!! We couldn't do it without you!

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**January Birthdays**  
*Happy Birthday to Our Amazing Members  
 May your Special Day be filled more with Laughter,  
 Love and Blessings than your Heart can hold!*

*Bella Edwards 5<sup>th</sup>, Annie Easterling 7<sup>th</sup>,  
 Bonnie Shanks 16<sup>th</sup>, Joanne Staley 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Jane Barkley 22<sup>nd</sup>*

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*2022 Gem and Mineral Society Board Members*

President: Chris Rutherford (334) 372-2507 [chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com](mailto:chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com)

1 st Vice President / Programs: OPEN

2 nd Vice President / Field Trips: Jim Gaines (334) 517-4566 [gaines46@msn.com](mailto:gaines46@msn.com)

Secretary: David Sherrod (334) 201-4460 [dsher355@att.net](mailto:dsher355@att.net)

Treasurer: Iris McGehee (334) 262-2197 [irismcgehee2433@charter.net](mailto:irismcgehee2433@charter.net)

Newsletter Editor: Cyn Wilson (334) 322-5897 [rockingw@htcnet.net](mailto:rockingw@htcnet.net)

Director/Shop POC: Leslie Amato (334) 324-7997 [lgmato@yahoo.com](mailto:lgmato@yahoo.com)

Junior Rockhound Rep. OPEN

*52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show*

Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show: Dir. Frankie Boothman (334) 590-1222 [spacetechdude@gmail.com](mailto:spacetechdude@gmail.com)

Committee Co-Chairs: Sabrina Hammond (334) 452-6298 [sabrinahammond1@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinahammond1@gmail.com)

Greg Athey (334) 303-2051 [gsa11459@gmail.com](mailto:gsa11459@gmail.com)

GM&J Show Treasurer: Violet Jones (334) 354-8795 [violetfbjones2013@gmail.com](mailto:violetfbjones2013@gmail.com)

GM&J Show Publicity: Candace Rutherford (334) 467-50650 [alcandyutherford@gmail.com](mailto:alcandyutherford@gmail.com)

E-Mail: your Golden Nugget submissions to: [rockingw@htcnet.net](mailto:rockingw@htcnet.net) (Members are encouraged to submit news, updates, articles, photos and personal adventure stories to the e-mail address above). This is after all **YOUR** newsletter, tell us something about **YOU!!!**

**THE DEADLINE TO GET YOUR BOARD REPORTS, NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND PHOTOS TO ME FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER WILL BE NO LATER THAN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Website: <http://www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryGemClub> Facebook: If you are on Facebook, like our page. If you are not on Facebook you can still view our page by going to <http://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryGemClub>