



Golden Nugget

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I'm sitting here at work and have started cleaning out my office this week. I am supposed to be changing offices at the end of 2022 and I thought while I was caught up I would get started on the process. Today I have packed up 2 large boxes of rocks from around my office and still have a couple of dozen specimens on my desk and windowsill. Rockhounding is a lot like that, you can never pick up enough rocks or have too many rocks lying around your home or office. Then one day you look around and say to yourself, "Wow! I have a lot of rocks around here."

Our next club meeting is set for Tuesday July 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Crump Community Center in our regular meeting room.

This month we will have Ms. Toni Bruner, Executive Director with the Auburn University Educational Outreach come give our club a presentation on cave ecosystems, "Down Under in North Alabama, Life Exist in Extreme Environments". She will discuss how caves form and the important roles they play in our ecosystem. The same as last month if you have any cave-type specimens to show off, please bring them. I have a couple more Mammoth Cave geodes to bring.

To follow along on our cave theme while it's blazing hot outside, we have scheduled a **Club Field Trip to the Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna, Florida for Saturday July 23, 2022 at 10 am.** This is a non-collecting club field trip. There is a slight fee of \$5 per vehicle and \$10.75 for adults, \$5 for children to take the tour of the cave. I will have a fact sheet at our club meeting and additional information is provided with this issue of the newsletter.

The Gem Show is just a few months away and it's never too early to think about how we can improve upon our success of the last few shows. We have approximately 25 dealers signed up already and we have over 160 tables booked. We are getting close to filling up our floor space.

We have some our Junior Rockhound collection boxes and Rockhound rocks leftover. These boxes and leftover specimens would be great door prizes and gifts at our Gem Show. We will make these boxes available at our next club meeting and ask anyone that is interested, to help assemble them so that we may have them for the Gem Show.

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On August 20, 2022 the club will have a collecting field trip at Club member Mel Barkley's farm in Macon County. We will meet at Mel's cabin, take a tractor and wagon ride down to Uphapee Creek, and then wade up and down the creek for a couple of hours collecting carnelian, fossilized tree specimens, and any other cool rocks you have to have. Please take you a couple of five-gallon buckets. More details will follow in August.

As always, please bring in some door prizes for our monthly meeting, the more prizes offered, the more opportunities to win.

Chris Rutherford, President chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com



July Birthdays!
May your Birthday be filled with more Love, Joy and Laughter than your Heart Can Hold!
3rd Frankie Boothman, 4th Allison Rutherford
16th Richard Chamberlin, 19th Sherrie Schaefer
29th John Martin

July Birthstone... When you think of July's Birthstone chances are the first gemstone to come to mind is that beautiful, blood red gemstone known as a Ruby...and you would be correct. But did you know that Ruby is not the only Birthstone those of you who were born in July have been blessed with? That's right...you will find that not only is Ruby considered the Modern Birthstone for July, it was considered the Traditional Birthstone for July along with Onyx. So the Choice is yours...whether you choose to go Modern or Traditional and add Onyx to your Birthstone Jewelry Collection ...you just can't go wrong!!!



MGMS FIELD TRIP

Florida Caverns State Park, Marianna, Florida

Cave Tour – Saturday July 23, 2022 – 10:00 am

The Florida Caverns State Park offers cave tours on a first come first serve basis. We are asking all club members to be at the Cavern Gift Shop at 10:00 am and purchase our tickets as a group. Costs are \$10.75 for 13 years and up, ages 3-12 are \$5 each. The State Park also charges a fee of \$5 per vehicle at the park entrance.

This is a guided tour through an active cave. There will be moderate walking, descending steps, low portions in the cave that will require you to stoop down, and a final ascent up a 15° slope to exit the cave. There will be some water dripping from the ceilings and if it has rained recently some wet spots and puddles on the floor. It will also be a nice 65° inside the cave.

Location: 3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL 32446. It's approximately 140 miles SE from Montgomery and its estimated to take 2 hours and 45 minutes to drive there.

Please RSVP Club President Chris Rutherford if you plan on attending.

The Mohs Hardness Scale

Contributed by: Terry Fetzer

Mohs Hardness Scale		
Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Diamond	10	
Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
Topaz	8	
Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
Orthoclase	6	
Apatite	5	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
Fluorite	4	
Calcite	3	Copper Penny (3.5)
Gypsum	2	
Talc	1	Fingernail (2.5)

↑ Increasing Hardness

**Friedrich Mohs, a German mineralogist, developed the scale in 1812. The test is useful because most specimens of a given mineral are very close to the same hardness. This makes hardness a reliable diagnostic property for most minerals.*

*This information re: [Wikipedia](#)
Cyn

*Tuesday, 19 July at 6:30pm Board Meeting followed at 7:00 by our Membership Meeting. We will be meeting at the Crump Center located at 1751 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery 36107, but you can better access the entrance from Coliseum Boulevard. Please remember to enter through the back door and we are in the first room on the left.

Board Members 2022

*President: Chris Rutherford (334) 372-2507 president@mgms.club
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**Deadline for our August Newsletter is: Monday, August 8th*

**Our August Club Meeting is Tuesday, August 16th*

*Check out our new Web Site!!! <http://www.mgms.club>

Webmaster: Frankie Boothman webmaster@mgms.club

And like us on Facebook!!! <http://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryGemClub>