



Golden Nugget

Inside this issue:

Page 1

Presidents Message

Page 2

May's Minutes

June's Birthdays

Pages 3

Junior Rockhounds &
Pebble Pups!

Pages 4

Board Members
& Social Media Info

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

Welcome to June and summer time in Montgomery, Alabama. I know how you Rockhounds love the hot weather but this is about as hot as we can get it for you and I hope it's to your satisfaction. Growing up as a kid, the hot weather was always the time of year we played in the rock outcrops and cliff, creeks, and went cave exploring. Probably the reason I became a geologist and Rockhound was playing along a rocky gorge as a kid, looking at the sandstone and limestone ledges.

The Gem Show is 6 months away but it is never too early to start thinking about. We currently have 20 dealers signed up to return to our show and have only had a couple of dealers say they wouldn't be returning due to the high price of gasoline. We have gone to our backup list and already have new dealers lined up ready to take their place. We still are negotiating with the City of Montgomery about the cost and details of the Coliseum for this next Gem Show. We hope to have some information soon. And as always, we want to hear your thoughts and ideas on what we as a club can do to make our Gem Show even better.

Our next club meeting is set for Tuesday June 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Crump Community Center in our regular meeting room. This month we will have club member David Niedzielski do a presentation on the Carlsbad Caverns, one of the largest explored cave systems in the world. Nothing beats the heat better than going underground and walking in a cave. I am going to ask all our club members to bring any "cave" type specimens to our club meeting to show off. If you have any stalagmites/stalactites, soda straws, calcite, fluorite, or other similar specimens please bring them out. I will dig through my old college collection and see what type of specimens I have that I collected from the western Kentucky area.

In July 2022, we will have Ms. Toni Bruner 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. I do apologize, last month I announced a cave tour for the Florida Caverns in Marianna Florida for June 2022. But due to scheduling conflicts, illness in my family, and busy with work I was not able to get us a trip scheduled for this month. We will look to July to go on a cave tour if that's amenable to the club.

As always, please bring in some door prizes for our monthly meeting, the more prizes offered, the more opportunities to win. Everyone is encouraged to bring a rock specimen, work of art, big yard rock, etc. for display. Please be sure to attend, it will be great to see you all again!

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

March Meeting Minutes from our Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Rutherford.

The April 2022 minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Iris gave the treasurers' report.

Air conditioners are in the shop waiting to be set up.

David N. will give Junes' presentation will be on Carlsbad Caverns. This will be followed up by an Auburn University Outreach program on Alabama caves for the July meeting. Plans are to top this off with a visit to the caverns in Mariana, FL dependent on weather. Time and date to be established.

Leslie and Claire have set up Silver Smith Classes at Claire's shop on Zelda road. Check out our website for details. Let either one know if you plan to attend.

Club members shared some of their collection for a show and tell. Afterwards there was a game of Rock Bingo with a large selection of specimens and material to choose from.

After everyone had cashed in on a prize the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary,

David Sherrod



June Birthdays!

May your Birthday be filled with more Love, Joy and Laughter than your Heart Can Hold!

*6th June-Mary Belmont, 9th-June Tommy Shanks
24th-June Terry Fetzner,
28th-June Frank Rowell and Gerald Theadgill*

**Note to our Jr. Rockhounds and our Pebble Pups... If you have not picked up your Collection Box... Please see Ms Cyn!*

Junior Rockhounds and Pebble Pups Report, June 2022

1814, General Andrew Jackson was marching his army across eastern Alabama against the Muscogee Native Americans. One of the surgeons in his army, Dr. Edward Gantt made note in his journals about the abundance of white marble in what was later to become Talladega County, Alabama. After the war, Gantt applied for his land grant commission awarded to soldiers and specifically requested the land that would one day become Sylacauga, Alabama. In 1834 he opened the first marble quarry there. A current photo of that quarry is below.

Alabama Marble I considered the whitest Marble in the world has become globally famous for use in statues, carvings, buildings materials, etc. Examples can be found all over Montgomery where it was used extensively around the State Capitol and state buildings. Every time you see a television report outside the Capitol building, the front steps are made of Alabama Marble. The marble belt in Alabama runs approximately 32 miles long, mile and half wide, and up to 600 feet thick in the Piedmont Geologic Province. Today, most of the marble is used for pretty common purposes such as white coloring in PVC pipe, cosmetics, fiberglass, and even chewing gum.

Marble is a metamorphic rock when limestone or dolostone is subject to high pressure and heat. It is a very soft stone, with a Mohs hardness of 3, which lends itself easily to sculptures. It can easily be scratched with a metal blade. Pure marble is white and the dark streaks found in Alabama marble come from impurities such as bituminous material and other common minerals such as quartz, pyrite, etc. Marble, composed of calcium carbonate, rapidly reacts with hydrochloric acid to fizz. Marble is the Official State Rock of Alabama



*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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*Committee Co-Chairs: Sabrina Hammond (334) 452-6298 sabrinahammond1@gmail.com
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**Deadline for our July Newsletter is: Monday, July 11th*

**Our July Club Meeting is Tuesday, July 19th*

*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>