



# Golden Nugget

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## President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

Welcome to March 2022, so far the weather has been nice and let's hope it holds out for all the activities we have going on this month.

The Dothan Gem and Mineral Club is holding their annual Gem Show March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Houston County Farm Center, 1701 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, Alabama. They have free admission and parking!

Our Club Workshop Manager, Ms. Leslie Amato, has an exciting announcement. Bud and Louann Newell with the Birmingham Club have offered to come down to our workshop and lead a silver class. The cost is \$100 per person and will be held on a Saturday and Sunday for 4 to 6 people. A date has not been scheduled. Please see Ms. Leslie to sign-up for this silver class.

I have scheduled a club field trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange Georgia for March 26, 2022. We can collect all the rose quartz you want to carry out of the quarry, some small tourmaline and a few remnant pieces of the beryl and aquamarine that was commercially mined several years ago. The club will provide some bottled water, drinks, and snacks at pickup truck. We will have a hand truck available to help carry out big yard rocks. Go to their website [www.hoggmine.com](http://www.hoggmine.com) for more information. The fee is \$35 for adults and 16 and under are free.

Our next club meeting is set for Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Crump Community Center in our regular meeting room. For our new members it's located at 1751 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery 36107, but you can better access the entrance from Coliseum Boulevard. Please enter through the back door and it's the first room on your left. During past years, March was the time the Wetumpka Crater Commission held their annual Crater Festival and Tours of the Impact Crater. Mr. James Lowery with the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission will be with us showing a short film of the Asteroid impact and a presentation on the Impact Crater. He will also have specimens from the Crater for display and will be available afterwards for questions. I invite all club members to bring specimens from their collection that were collected in Wetumpka, meteorite specimens, shocked quartz. I know we have several club members in the Wetumpka area so please help show off the rocks in your backyard.

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](mailto:chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com)

Wow...Last month's meeting was so much fun we were busting at the seams!!! It was so exciting to see so many New Members and Jr. Rockhounds!!! Everyone brought their Five Rocks and it was Amazing to see all the different rocks, fossils and minerals that our members brought in to share with us. There were so many unique and beautiful specimens; some from the other side of the world and others from just outside our own backdoors. But each and every stone took us on an adventure and had a story to tell, all we had to do was close our eyes and let our imaginations whisk us away.

Another highlight of the evening was when David laid out several plastic shoeboxes full of small stones that had been washed and asked for volunteers to take home a box and go through the stones and to pick out the prettiest ones from the average ones to get them ready to tumble for our treasure bags to be used for the Wheel of Fortune at our Gem and Mineral Show coming up in December...This was a really big hit with our Jr. Rockhounds as well as a few of our not so Jr. Rockhounds. Because sometimes it really doesn't matter how old you get, there is just something about running your fingers through a box of pretty rocks! If you didn't get the chance to grab a box don't worry, David has several more boxes to go through before we have enough, so it's a good thing that we're getting an early start!!!

### *Future Rockhounds Report...Apatite*

Last month, Club President Chris Rutherford handed out Apatite specimens to all the Future Rockhounds. The Apatite specimens were bright blue in color, which is the preferred lapidary variant valued by collectors. But Apatite comes in a multitude of different colors ranging from colorless to yellow, green, brown, red, or blue. Apatite is a calcium phosphate mineral and the color variations are caused by minor components in the mineral, such as fluorine, chloride, hydroxides, and other elements. On the Moh's hardness scale it is classified as 5, the middle range of hardness. On a porcelain streak plate, apatite will always streak white regardless of the color of the stone. Economically, Apatite is a very important mineral found across the globe and is the primary source for phosphate-based fertilizers. The bones and teeth of humans are composed of a calcium-phosphate apatite mineral. When polished up, blue apatite is one of the most beautiful stones resembling our planet earth.



*Next month stones will be from Gem Club Field Trips: Hogg Mine Rose Quartz*

## Looking forward to in March and April 2022!!!

- \* The Dothan Gem and Mineral Club will be holding their annual Gem Show March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at the Houston County Farm Center, 1701 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, Alabama. They have free admission and parking. If you have the opportunity to visit Dothan this weekend, stop by and support Dothan's Gem and Mineral Show!!!
- \* Tuesday, March 15, 2022 is our Club Meeting. The Board meets at 6:30pm and our Membership Meeting begins at 7:00pm. For our new members, the Crump Community Center is located at 1751 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery 36107, but you can better access the entrance from Coliseum Boulevard. Please enter through the back door and it's the first room on your left. Don't forget to bring door prizes for our monthly meeting, the more prizes, the more opportunities to win!!! You are also encouraged to bring a rock specimen, work of art, big yard rock etc. for display. This month we will be welcoming Mr. James Lowery with the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission. Mr. Lowery will be with us showing a short film of the Asteroid Impact and a presentation on the Impact Crater. He will also have specimens from the Crater for display and will be available afterwards to answer any questions you may have. Tours of the Crater have been closed since March of 2020 and we are very grateful Mr. Lowery has agreed to come speak with our Club.
- \* Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> is the date Chris has scheduled our Club Field trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange, Georgia! So go to their website at [www.hoggmine.com](http://www.hoggmine.com) for more information. The fee is \$35.00 for adults and children 16 and under are free. We can collect all the rose quartz you want to carry out of the quarry, some small tourmaline and a few remnant pieces of the beryl and aquamarine that was commercially mined several years ago. The club will provide some bottled water, drinks, and snacks at pickup truck. We will have a hand truck available to help carry out big yard rocks. You will want to bring your digging tools...a small shovel, pick, hand tools, spray bottle of water to clean your stones and a 5 gallon bucket. If it is muddy...you may want to bring the little ones a change of clothes or if you're messy like me...bring an extra change of clothes for yourself...and don't forget your hat! This is a great way to spend the day digging with the whole family!!!
- \* The Sylacauga Marble Festival kicks off April on April 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through April 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have never been you may want to attend. Maybe take a tour of the Mine and pick up some Marble. Walk through the booths set up for the festival and check out the Marble Carvers! I'm sure you will find something you just can't live without!



*To Our Members Celebrating Their Special Day in March  
May Your Day Be Filled with Love, Laughter and More Joy than it can Hold!*

Troy Lauritson 2<sup>nd</sup>, Clara Glover 20<sup>th</sup>, James Wilson 20<sup>th</sup>, Kwanza Fox-Shepherd 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
Clare Weil 24<sup>th</sup>, Cyn Wilson 29<sup>th</sup>, Michael Amato 31<sup>st</sup>

*Board Members 2022*

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

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Junior Rockhound Rep. **OPEN**

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

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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!!!**

*Please send in your submissions for then March Newsletter by March 8<sup>th</sup>*

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>