



Golden Nugget

Inside this issue:

Page 1

Presidents Message

Page 2

April's Minutes

May's Birthdays

Pages 3

Junior Rockhounds & Pebble Pups!

Pages 4

Board Members & Social Media Info

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

May is here and I hope we all have exciting times planned for this summer. School should be getting out soon and if you're interested in keeping your kids engaged please check out the Future Rockhounds program sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies at this link: [Future Rockhounds \(amfed.org\)](http://amfed.org). There are lots of fun and exciting activities for you and your children at this website and best of all it is a free program.

The Gem Show is almost 6 months away but it is never too early to start thinking about. With the City of Montgomery being the new owner of Garrett Coliseum, we anticipate a much-needed facelift to the coliseum and just an overall improvement to the facility. Early reports indicate that the electrical issues have been resolved and there is all new lighting inside. We still don't know how much the City is going to charge us for the use of the coliseum. Contracts have been sent out to our existing dealers and we plan on expanding our floor space and inviting a few more dealers. 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 May 17, 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. We don't have a guest lined up to speak this upcoming month, instead we will have Rock Show- and-Tell where we ask everyone to bring one of their favorite specimens and then introduce your specimen to the rest of the club. If we do not have enough participants for this activity we will play Rock Bingo instead. Rock Bingo is always favorite because the winner gets to take home prizes and for those who want to donate, you get some help in cleaning out all of those extra rocks that accumulate around the house.

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. In preparation for this July presentation, the club is going to conduct a non-collecting field trip in June 2022 to one of the nearby caves that offer tours. We have 3 caves nearby: Cathedral Caverns located three hours north in Woodville, AL; Rockwood Caverns just 2 hours from Montgomery in Warrior, AL; and Florida Caverns in Marianna, FL about 3 hours south of Montgomery. We will discuss and choose at our next upcoming meeting.

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 who welcomed the large crowd.

We will be playing rock bingo for the May 17th meeting and everyone should bring a club related item for the gift table. The June meeting will be on Alabama caves and will be presented by someone from Auburn University. A possible cave field trip will be discussed.

Cynthia Wilson presented the Junior Rockhounds with collection boxes. Anyone with extra minerals or specimens was encouraged to bring them and help jumpstart their interest.

Chris updated Mel's status after his terrible fall down the steps at his Uphapee Creek cabin. Surgery has been performed and a complete recovery is expected.

Iris delivered the Treasurers' report and stated that the club was once again sponsoring The Best of Fair competition with a \$100 dollar prize. Entries should be club related projects or specimen collections.

Frankie Boothman and Chris Rutherford are co-sponsors of the December Gem & Mineral Show. Contracts have been sent out and 7 have already signed up. The State of Alabama sold Garret Coliseum to the City of Montgomery and questions were raised about how to handle parking and admission issues.

Webmaster Frankie said there is a new web address MGMS.club, to log in use the first 2 letters of your 1st and last name, all caps. Then set up a password.

John Gaston from the Birmingham club brought an extensive collection with him and did an outstanding job covering all of the techniques and characteristics used to identify them. He also announced a rock sale at his house that weekend if anyone was interested.

The meeting was then adjourned.

David Sherrod, Secretary



May Birthdays!

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

*Lynn Stauch 1st, Amy Coody 10th,
Lucy Moncrief 12th, Nancy Chinberg 19th,
Yaunna Tye 20th, Deana Lauritson 25th,
Iris McGehee 25th, Jeff Edwards 31st*

Junior Rockhounds and Pebble Pups Report, May 2022

Chalcedony, aka Carnelian

Last month, Club President Chris Rutherford handed out Red Chalcedony collected from club member Mel Barkley's farm during our summer field trip in 2021. Mel had an accident not long ago and is still recovering but we hope that later this summer we can go back to Mel's farm and wade the Uphapee Creek to find more specimens. Mel's farm covers the stream intersection of Uphapee Creek and Choctafaula Creek and the specimens collected from these stream beds represent some of the oldest stones in Alabama, greater than 500 million years old. Red Chalcedony, is more specifically known as carnelian a member of the microcrystalline Quartz family. It is a translucent, semi-precious variety of quartz and is highly prized by lapidary enthusiasts. Like most quartz, it has hardness of 7 but has little to no cleavage. It has a waxy or dull luster and will streak white on a porcelain streak plate.



We all wish Mr. Mel a full and speedy recovery and look forward to introducing him to our Amazing New Junior Rockhounds and Pebble Pups in the near future!

Just a little note... Any of our Junior Rockhounds or Pebble Pups who were not at our April Club Meeting or did not pick up their Collection Boxes Please see me and I will give you your Collection Box at our May Meeting! Hope to see you Tuesday!!!

Ms Cyn

*Tuesday, 17 May 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
 - *1st Vice President / Programs: OPEN
 - *2nd Vice President / Field Trips: Jim Gaines (334) 517-4566 gaines46@msn.com
 - *Secretary: David Sherrod (334) 201-4460 dsher355@att.net
 - *Treasurer: Iris McGehee (334) 262-2197 irismcgehee2433@charter.net
 - *Newsletter Editor: Cyn Wilson (334) 322-5897 rockingw@htcnet.net or goldennugget@mgms.club
 - *Webmaster: Frankie Boothman (334) 590-1222 webmaster@mgms.club
 - *Director/Shop POC: Leslie Amato (334) 324-7997 lgmato@yahoo.com
 - *Junior Rockhound Rep. OPEN
- Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show*
- *GM&J Show Dir: Frankie Boothman (334) 590-1222 spacetechnode@gmail.com
 - *GM&J Show Contact Chair: Chris Rutherford (334)372-2507 gemshow@mgms.club
 - *GM&J Show Treasurer: Violet Jones (334) 354-8795 violetfbjones2013@gmail.com
 - *GM&J Show Publicity: Candace Rutherford (334) 467-50650 publicity@mgms.club
 - *Committee Co-Chairs: Sabrina Hammond (334) 452-6298 sabrinahammond1@gmail.com
 - * Greg Athey (334) 303-2051 gsa11459@gmail.com

**Deadline for our June Newsletter is: Friday, June 10th*

**Our June Club Meeting is Tuesday, June 21st*

*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>