

GOLDEN NUGGET



President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

What an exciting February we had in the Montgomery Gem Club. The lecture at Wetumpka from Auburn University's Dr. King was very informative and he shed lots of insight on the carter that formed Wetumpka 85 million years ago. The Impact Crater tour on February 25 was fun and highly recommended as a good local activity if you have never been to it. Several of our club members went on over to Corn Creek Park in Wetumpka to walk the stream and collect rocks.

Coming up in March 2023, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is holding their quarterly meeting and Rockhound Roundup gem show at the Suwanee River Music Park in Live Oak, Florida. If you have never visited the Suwanee River Music Park it is a large campground with over hundreds of acres on the banks of the Suwanee River. It's about a four- and half-hour drive from Montgomery, but once there it's a lot of fun. You can camp in tents, motorhomes and cabins for rent. They have golf carts that are available to rent and you can explore the park and river. Canoeing is available along with a swimming beach. The SEFMS gem show is an outdoor show with lots of smaller vendors and lots of local Florida vendors.

We will have our regular club meeting on March 21, 2023 at the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. We will have retired Auburn University geology professor Dr, Jim Saunders return for a presentation on the Geology of Diamonds, specifically the kimberlites and carbonatites of the Diamond Crater State Park in Arkansas.

Saturday March 18, 2023 is our annual club workshop clean-up day. We need as many club members as possible, and especially all the club members who routinely work at the shop, to come out at 9:00 am to help clean, organize, and repair equipment at the club's workshop. This is a weather driven event and is subject to change if it's raining or very wet.

On April 1, 2023 our club will be hosting a collecting field trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange, Georgia. This mine is about 2 hours east of Montgomery at exit 13, interstate 1-85. Turn south at the exit onto Highway 209 and proceed south 3.5 miles to the mine entrance on your right. The cost is \$35 for adults, kids 17 and under are free with a paying adult. Please arrive by 9:00 am and check in with a Hogg Mine worker for a brief safety briefing. We will be able to collect all the rose quartz, some beryl and some tourmaline that you want. The club will provide a hand cart to help carry out any large yard rocks you want or just help carry out a heavy 5-gallon bucket. The club will have bottled water and some snacks for club members on this field trip.

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

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Look who I found!



Program Director Message

The speaker in March is Jim Sanders. He is a mostly retired geologist who grew up in Auburn, AL, and holds geology degrees from Auburn, Georgia, and the Colorado School of Mines. He taught geology for more than 30 years at Boise State University, Ole Miss, and Auburn. Also during his career, he worked in industry (for mining and consulting companies) and the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. He is going to speak on "The geology of Diamonds and Kimberlites" . He will also mention carbonatites, which are darlings of mineral collectors world wide.... It is a meeting not to miss!

Clare



February Minutes

The February meeting of the MGMS was held at the Wetumka Civic Center on 02/25/2023 for a program sponsored by the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission. As such there was no official business conducted. After a brief introduction and a mission statement by commission president Kevin Rueters the meeting was turned over to Dr. David King of Auburn University. Dr. King was instrumental in getting the original investigation and research done that established the site as an actual asteroid impact. It had long been known as a disturbed area geographically but most thought it was due to it being the foothills of the Appalachian Mt. Chain. Some of the facts presented were that approximately 85 million years ago an asteroid/meteor that would fill Jordan/Hare stadium and weighing an estimated 56,000,000 metric tons entered earths atmosphere in a low trajectory from the northeast. It was traveling around 12miles/second and completely vaporized when it hit an area that was then a shallow sea along the shoreline. It exploded with a force equal to 2,600,000 tons of TNT creating a crater 7.6 miles in diameter. The crater has morphed over the millennia but the evidence is abundant if you know what to look for. After the lecture Dr. King answered questions. Many of the club members that were present signed up for the Saturday tour of the crater and departed until then.

Secretary,
David Sherrod



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PRESENTS THE ANNUAL

WEST PALM BEACH GEM SHOW

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MARCH 31 -
APRIL 2, 2023
10:00 - 5:00



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Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show 2023

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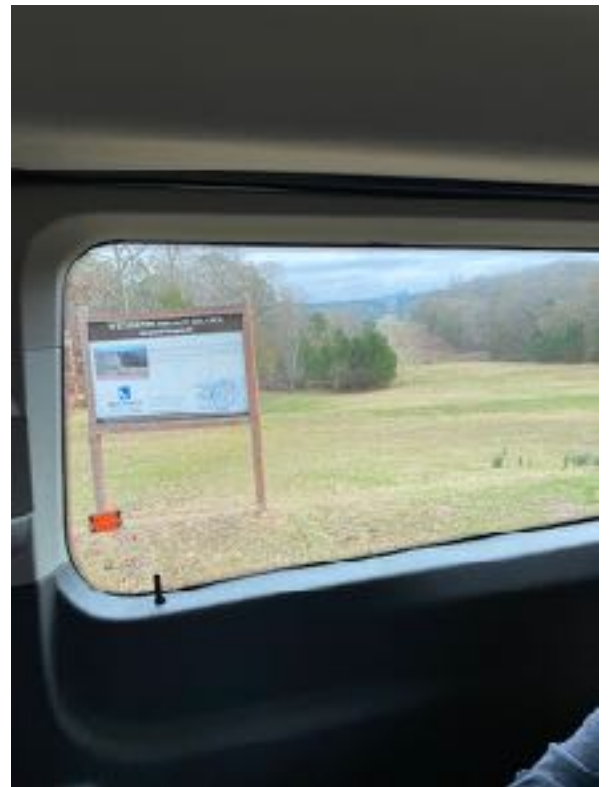
Presented by the
Memphis Archaeological
and Geological Society

Adults - \$6, 2 day pass - \$8 12 & under - \$2 Scouts in Uniform - Free

<https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks> 901-921-3096 / 901-490-3575



WETUMPKA CRATER TOUR



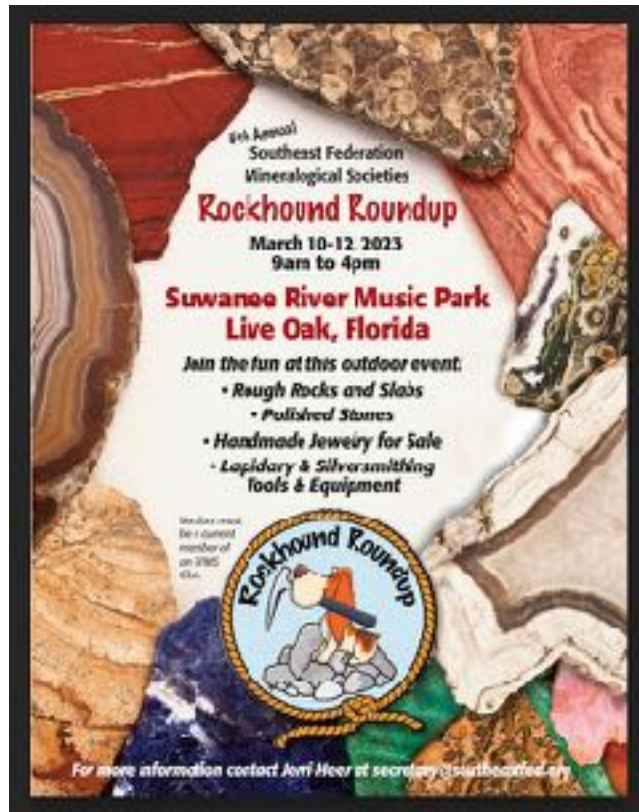


“LOOK WHO I FOUND!”

You never know who you’re gonna find when you go rockhounding! Found MG&MS member Jacob Brown and his family at Corn Creek!

Pictured are Jacob, Kelsie Wooten, and Junior Rockhounds Jack & Maisie!





8th Annual
Southeast Federation
Mineralogical Societies
Rockhound Roundup
March 10-12 2023
9am to 4pm
**Suwannee River Music Park
Live Oak, Florida**
Join the fun at this outdoor event:
• Rough Rocks and Slabs
• Polished Stones
• Handmade Jewelry for Sale
• Lapidary & Silversmithing
tools & Equipment
Mineral round
up is a general
members of
an 1800
club.
For more information contact Joni Heer at secretary@rockhound.com

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Friday, Saturday & Sunday

 MARCH 17th & 18th 9am - 6pm  MARCH 19th 10am - 5pm

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