

# GOLDEN NUGGET



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank my fellow geologist Dr. Mark Steltenpohl and his wife Laura for presenting at our last club meeting about their book *Roadside Geology of Alabama*. I was very interested in hearing about the local geology of central and south Alabama and learned quite a few new things that I had never known before. The discussions about the cuestas that run in south Montgomery County/North Pike and Crenshaw Counties was very interesting to me. I drive to work every day and have performed dozens of perc tests for septic in this geologic area, and now a lot of things I have encountered make sense.



I'm writing this article before we take our field trip to the Barkley cabin so I hope it went ok, we didn't get rained on, nor were there any accidents or issues. There has been a lot of planning and work to get this field trip happening this year, especially since we tied it into the Dixie Mineral Council's October Field Trip and all the visitors it brought out.

I would like to thank Sabrina Hammond on an excellent job on the new club's T-shirts, they look great and we still have a few for sale at the time of this article.

Fall is the Gem Show Season here in Alabama. The Birmingham Club held their annual gem show Labor Day Week in the Irondale Civic Center, and it was an excellent show for them. The Huntsville Club is up next with their annual gem show the weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Panama City Beach Gem Club also has their annual gem show the same weekend if you would rather go to the beach than Huntsville. The Mobile Gem Club hosts their annual gem show Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24-26. And finally, the best and biggest gem show in Alabama is right here in Montgomery at Garrett Coliseum on December 1-2, 2023. It's never too early to start planning your visit to our local gem show. And as you will hear me say many times over the next few months: We need every club member's help in putting on this show. We need everyone to help as our show continues to grow and get better every year. We will start with the volunteer signup sheets at our October meeting.

We will have our regular club meeting on October 17, 2023 at the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. We will have a local jeweler discuss gemstone identification.

November is the time of year we elect club officers for the upcoming year. Published within this newsletter are the current officers and board members for the club. We will be taking nominations for club officers at our October Meeting and issuing a slate of candidates. If there is anyone who wants to step up and be an officer, please let me know. If anyone wants to step down and let someone else take your spot, please find a willing club member to stand for that position.

In November, we are planning at meeting at a local church for our Wheel of Fortune gift bag construction. The Crump Center will be closed the week of our November meeting and we need an alternate location, much like we did a few years ago. We plan on bringing sandwiches, chips, and drinks as we enjoy a fellowship together planning for the Gem Club. We will be assembling our gift bags then, planning on our Gem Show, and signing up our volunteers for the show.

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

**In this issue:**

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President's Message.	1
Program Director Message.	2
Clare at WH	
September Minutes.	4
Mineral of the Month.	5
MGMS Field Trip 6-11	
Board Members Info.	14
AFMS Code of Ethics.	15
Upcoming Events	16-20



## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Harold Bowdin is owner of Harold's Fine Jewelry in Montgomery. He has been in the industry since he was 17 (high school job). Other than briefly working for a staffing company for one year, he has always been in the Jewelry industry. A graduate of U of Alabama (BS Finance and Economics. ), he opened his own business in 2002.



Harold has served on the Alabama Jewelers Board of directors and is a Graduate Gemologist from GIA which includes Graduate in colored stones and CS grading along with Graduate in diamonds and diamond grading. He has traveled all over US, Asia, and Europe buying and manufacturing products. Harold now mostly works by appointment locating special items for customers and is heavily focused on Jewelry appraisals for insurance and for division of estates.

Harold will talk about the Gem Identification Process that GIA developed and teaches, overview of equipment, techniques, process, tricks, etc.

Clare



## September Program

Mark and Laura Steltenpohl gave their presentation on the "Roadside Geology of Alabama."





### Clare at William Holland

In early August, I spent a week at William Holland taking Pat Lillie's class in Metal Clay. For those unfamiliar, Metal clay is a crafting medium consisting of very small particles of metal such as silver, gold, bronze, or copper mixed with an organic binder and water for use in making jewelry, beads and small sculptures.

Originating in Japan in 1990, metal clay can be shaped just like any soft clay, by hand or using molds. After drying, the clay can be fired in a variety of ways such as in a kiln, with a handheld gas torch, or on a gas stove, depending on the type of clay and the metal in it. The binder burns away, leaving the pure sintered metal. Shrinkage of between 8% and 30% occurs (depending on the product used).

My class worked in pure silver and with a kiln. Our first project was foraging for a leaf on the beautiful grounds of the campus, then making a mold of the leaf and proceeding to make a pendant from the mold. We also made a ring, a lentil bead and a pair of earrings. The trick to ring-making is to make the ring 1 1/2 sizes larger than the desired size because of the shrinkage. The material we used had a shrink factor of 12%. When each piece was completed, it was .999 pure silver.

William Holland is such a week well spent. You get to be with people who share your passion for rocks, jewelry and so much more. If you have questions, there are many club members who have stories to tell and recommendations for a course of study there. Clare





## SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by president Chris Rutherford, the August minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Iris delivered the treasurers' report.

The clubs' sponsorship for gems, minerals, and jewelry at the upcoming fair was discussed. Information on the event is available on the website. Everyone was encouraged to enter and compete for the 100\$ prize sponsored by our club.

The DMC event is scheduled for Sept 30, and a participation sheet was passed around. We are expecting a large turn out with the limit of 50 outside club members plus children.

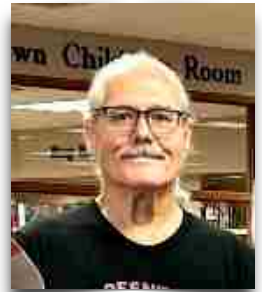
The vendors list for the December show is almost complete with only a couple of spots left.

Claire said the silver class for Nov 18,19 needs four more participants. Cost is \$100 and includes supplies.

The presentation was by Mark Steltenpohl and his wife Laura. They are the authors of "Roadside Geology of Alabama". Mark retired from Auburn University as head of the Geology Department and Laura has a degree in Geology. The overall geology of the state was discussed with several of the more interesting areas highlighted. After the presentation Mark and Laura answered questions. Mark was available for signing his book.

Afterwards the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod



OFFICER NOMINATIONS AT OCTOBER MEETING!  
VOTE ON OFFICERS IN NOVEMBER!

**H&R GEM SHOWS**  
**PRESENTS THE ANNUAL**



**PANAMA CITY**  
**GEM SHOW**

**CENTRAL PANHANDLE FAIRGROUNDS**  
2230 15TH ST. PANAMA CITY, FL.

**OCTOBER**  
**13-15, 2023**  
**10:00 - 5:00**



**Meteoritetesting.org**

Have you found a meteorite?  
Do you want to know? 26 3A

The Testing Program is an educational outreach for science centers, universities, museums, planetariums, mineral societies, and the general public. It offers a quick turnaround of your samples at a low cost and is available to anyone who believes they have found a meteorite.

**Front:** The Widmanstätten structure of the iron meteorite Yarovoye, IIIAB, Yaroslavl, Russia, found in 1991.

This structure is arguably the most complex and visually compelling primary structure in iron, octahedrite meteorites: it is a portrait of crystallized iron originally believed to have formed directly by crystallization from a very slow cooling melt inside the interior of a differentiated asteroid.


Continuous research over the past 100 years now shows that the Widmanstätten structure forms by diffusion-controlled nucleation and a growth process that is slow even on a geologic time scale of around 10 to 100 or more degrees per million years, cooling from 1,700° C and reaching equilibrium at around 600 to 650° C.

The result is a solid-state integrated fabric-like structure composed predominantly of Ni-poor kamacite and Ni-rich taenite.

Email for more information, Lab@meteorlab.com

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## Gem of the Month: OPAL

By Candace Rutherford



I was born in October so my birthstone is an Opal. Forget the rose zircon - Opals have always captured my imagination. I got my first Opal ring on my 6th birthday from a dear neighbor. Alas, I lost it on the playground during recess.

There's a lot of chemistry to Opals, and you can certainly read about it from many sources via a quick google search. Such as *Opal is a [hydrated amorphous](#) form of [silica](#) (SiO<sub>2</sub>·nH<sub>2</sub>O); its [water content](#) may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Due to its amorphous property, it is classified as a [mineraloid](#), unlike [crystalline](#) forms of silica, which are considered [minerals](#). It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the [fissures](#) of almost any kind of [rock](#), being most commonly found with [limonite](#), [sandstone](#), [rhyolite](#), [marl](#), and [basalt](#).*

This is too clinical to me. The most useful information to me is that it runs about a 5.5-6 hardness on the Moh's scale, which means you have to be careful not to scratch it.

I love them because each is unique. Some have hot fire with orange and yellows (commonly found in Mexico). Others are cooler with florescent greens and cool blues.

Seeing that I'm married to a geologist and a fellow rockhound, I have a wide selection of opals including bracelets; rings; earrings. Early in our marriage, I received a pair of opal earrings which I still have 30+ years later. I also have an opal embedded in a piece of petrified wood, which I got from an Australian who participates in our annual gem show. It looks different on each side, and I wear whichever side suits my mood. I also, horrors, have a lab created opal but the sparkles remind me of glitter confetti and it always draws comments.

It's been said that one shouldn't wear an opal unless it is your birthstone. Since I'm also a Libra, and not one to take sides, I am amused with such superstition and believe everyone should have the privilege of enjoying this special gemstone.

Opals are often cited in literatures such as Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: "*Now the melancholy God protect thee, and the tailor make thy garments of changeable taffeta, for thy mind is opal.*" — William Shakespeare. Scholars believe this refers to one of the main characters Orsino, who is very fickle and always shifting her love between various suitors. Such as how an opal can change colors based on what angle you are looking at. I find this property endearing and tend to look at my opal jewelry from all angles and lights, just trying to find the perfect flair.





## MGMS/DMC FIELD TRIP

Everyone was so EXCITED for our special day on Uphapee Creek!  
We were honored to have leadership from Georgia Mineral Society and SFMS in attendance!

Thank you Charles Carter, Lori Carter and Diana Poppelreuter for joining us!



LET'S GO!!!







**PET WOOD!**

Over 200 lbs!



100lb piece!



Not one but TWO 40lb pieces!



**LIGNITE**







Some of the clubs represented at the field trip. . .

Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society



Georgia Mineral Society



Franklin NC, FGMS



Cobb County GMS



Alabama Lapidary.



East Alabama GMS

We had Door Prizes!



And a LOTTA FUN!





We are members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



We are members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



OCTOBER 6-15



Check out classes offered at William Holland! Look over the class schedule on <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/william-holland-classes>

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page and Website!



**\$100** MG&MS

**SILVER JEWELRY CLASS**

With Bud & LouAnn Newell

**NOV 11 OR NOV 18**

PICK ONE DATE!

Need 6 people to sign up for class to make!

Contact Leslie to sign up  
334.324.7997

Class will be held at Clare's shop in Mtgy



## BOARD MEMBERS

President: Chris Rutherford 334.372.2507 [president@mgms.club](mailto:president@mgms.club)

First VP/Program Chair: Clare Weil 334.221.5211 [clarecweil@gmail.com](mailto:clarecweil@gmail.com)

Second VP/Field Trips: (open)

Secretary: David Sherrod 334.201.4460 [dsher355@att.net](mailto:dsher355@att.net)

Treasurer: Iris McGehee 334.262.2197 [irismcgehee2433@charter.net](mailto:irismcgehee2433@charter.net)

Newsletter Editor: Magnolia Brown 334.300.2501 [amandamagnoliabrown@yahoo.com](mailto:amandamagnoliabrown@yahoo.com)

Webmaster: Frankie Boothman 334.590.1222 [webmaster@mgms.club](mailto:webmaster@mgms.club)

Director/Shop POC: Leslie Amato 334.324.7997 [lgmato@yahoo.com](mailto:lgmato@yahoo.com)

Jr Rockhound Rep: Jessica Galloway 205.362.9319 [jessica.l.galloway@outlook.com](mailto:jessica.l.galloway@outlook.com)

### Gem Mineral/Jewelry Show:

Director: Frankie Boothman 334.590.1222 [spacetechdude@gmail.com](mailto:spacetechdude@gmail.com)

Contact Chair: Chris Rutherford 334.372.2507 [gemshow@mgms.club](mailto:gemshow@mgms.club)

Treasurer: Violet Jones 334.354.8795 [violetbjones2013@gmail.com](mailto:violetbjones2013@gmail.com)

Publicity: Candace Rutherford 334.467.4050 [publicity@mgms.club](mailto:publicity@mgms.club)

Co-Chairs: Sabrina Hammond 334.452.6298 [sabrinahammond1@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinahammond1@gmail.com)

Greg Athey 334.303.2051 [gsa11459@gmail.com](mailto:gsa11459@gmail.com)



## AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "Image" of Rockhounds everywhere



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10/20-22/2023**—KNOXVILLE, TN: The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; The Gem Show is open to the public and has an admission fee of \$8 a day for adults or \$15 for the whole show; children under 12 are admitted free. Website <http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

**10/21-22/2023** SAINT LUCIE, FL: St Lucie Rock & Gem Club 46th Annual Club Show, MidFlorida Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Pl, St. Lucie, FL 34952: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Admission \$5. **We will be hosting the SFMS Annual Meeting.** [www.slcrockandgem.org](http://www.slcrockandgem.org)

**10/21-22/2023** CHARLESTON, WV: Kanawha Rock & Gem Club, South Charleston Community Center 601 Jefferson Road South Charleston WV 25309. October 21 & 22, 2023 Saturday 10AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission \$2, Military & Children under 12 are FREE. <https://facebook.com/Kanawha-Rock-and-Gem-Club-222696581100304/>

**11/18-19/2023** WEST PALM BEACH, FL: Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Expo Center East, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33411. The 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Bead, Jewelry & Fossil Show. November 18-19, 2023. Saturday 9am-6pm, Sunday. 10am-5pm. Adults/Seniors 1 day \$10 or 2 day passes \$15. Children under 12 are FREE. Visit our website for a \$1 OFF Coupon. [https://www.gmspb.org](http://www.gmspb.org)

**3/1-3/2024** LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Dr. Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4, Sunday 9-4. FREE. SFMS Member vendors from 7 states: FL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, AL. Rough rock, slabs, jewelry, cabs, minerals, fossils and more. Contact Jerri Heer, 9016 122nd Ave, Tampa, FL, 33637. (419) 344-9999. Email: [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com). website: [southeastfed.org](http://southeastfed.org)






## FLYERS



Mobile Rock & Gem Society

# Annual Show



Gems, Jewelry,  
Crystals, Fossils &  
Minerals SALE

NOVEMBER 24, 25, 26,  
2023

DOORS OPEN FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 25 AT 1:00 PM

ABBA SHRINE, 7701 HITT  
ROAD, MOBILE, AL 36695



**HUNTSVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**  
Huntsville, Alabama  
"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock!"

**Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show**  
You're invited to join us for a weekend of fun!

**2023 Show Dates/Hours**  
Friday, October 13th: 10a – 5p  
Saturday, October 14th: 10a – 6p  
Sunday, October 15th: 10a – 5p

**Admission**  
\$3.00 per person at the door, with children under 5 free.  
Students are \$1 and weekend passes are \$5.00!

**Location**  
Jaycee Community Building  
2180 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Alabama

Parking is free and you'll be conveniently close to local restaurants and shopping. Here's a map of South Huntsville showing the Jaycee building location indicated by the red dot.

**The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show**  
**Only Two Weeks Away!!**  
**October 13- 15, 2023**  
The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society's  
**Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show**  
October 13-14 - 10am to 6pm  
October 15 - 10am to 5pm  
featuring  
**Extravaganza Kids' Area!**  
Crystal Building, Mineral Classification, Fossil Dig, Scavenger Hunt,  
Mining Flare (panning for gems), Fluorescent Room, Fossil Dig  
Plus 18 Vendors with a wide array of Gemstones  
Fine Gold & Silver Jewelry, Beads, Lapidary Supplies  
Demonstrations, Hourly Door Prizes, Raffle

**Free Parking:**  
Jaycee Community Building  
2180 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, AL 35802

**Admission:**  
\$3 Donation at door  
\$1 Donation Students  
Children under 3 free  
\$5 Weekend Pass (3 days)

**\$100** **MG&MS**

**SILVER JEWELRY CLASS**

**With Bud & LouAnn Newell**

**NOV 11 OR NOV 18**

**PICK ONE DATE!**  
Need 6 people to sign up for class to make!

Contact Leslie to sign up  
334.324.7997

Class will be held at Clare's shop in Mtgy



 **COBB COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
ccgms.org

**58TH ANNUAL CCGMS GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023**

<b>Fri</b> NOV 17 10a-5p	<b>SAT</b> NOV 18 10a-5p	<b>Sun</b> NOV 19 10a-5p
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**COBB COUNTY CIVIC CENTER**  
548 South Marietta Pkwy SE  
Marietta, GA 30060

FREE ADMISSION  
FREE PARKING  
FREE MINERAL ID CLASSES  
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES


**OVER 30 DEALERS:**  
ROCKS - MINERALS  
CRYSTALS - FOSSILS  
GEMSTONES - BEADS  
JEWELRY - SUPPLIES

**CRAB BAGS - EXHIBITS**  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
GEMSTONE CRACKING

**Upstate South Carolina Gem,  
Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show!**  
October 28 - 29, 2023  
Greenville Convention Center  
1 Exposition Dr ~ Greenville, SC



**H & R Gem Shows - Panama City Gem Show**  
October 13 - 15, 2023  
Panhandle Fairgrounds  
2230 15th St  
Panama City, FL





**35TH ANNUAL**  
JACKSONVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY  
**GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY,  
FOSSIL, & BEAD  
SHOW AND SALE**

JACKSONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS  
510 FAIRGROUNDS PLACE, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

**OCT 7<sup>TH</sup>** 10-6  
**OCT 8<sup>TH</sup>** 10-5

Grand Prize Drawings  
Hourly Door Prizes  
\$5 Per Day  
or \$8 for the weekend  
Kids under 12 Free  
with guardian  
\$1 Discount  
for 65+, Military, Police, Fire with ID

FEATURING A  
**FLUORESCENT  
ROCK DISPLAY**

Do you have ideas for our newsletter?

Do you have suggestions as to what YOU would like to see in our newsletter?

Then email me!

[amandamagnoliabrown@yahoo.com](mailto:amandamagnoliabrown@yahoo.com)