

GOLDEN



NUGGET

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

The 53rd annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show is in the books and we have all survived. I would like to personally thank each and every club member who took the time to come out to Garrett Coliseum and help volunteer with the show. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on this show. At any given time the Gem Show needs 2 people at the front desk, 1 person at the Wheel of Fortune, 1 person at the information booth, 1 person patrolling the show floor relieving the dealers that may need help, and an extra person helping wherever. This starts on Friday morning and lasts until Sunday night. So, **thank you** to everyone who came out to help, I am grateful for your help. The Gem Club cannot pull off this show each year without you volunteers.



Our club will have its next scheduled club meeting on **Tuesday, January 16th, 2024** at **Perry Hill Road Methodist Church**, while the Crump Center undergoes renovations this year. We will have a recap of the previous year's activities, a slide show of the Gem Show, special announcements for the upcoming year, as well as special projects and activities for the club. Please mark it on your schedule and plan on attending. During the Gem Show, I was informed that the Crump Center is scheduled for remodeling in 2024 and it will be closed to the public for approximately 9 months. Our club has secured the use of a local church to hold our meetings until the Crump Center can be re-opened.

Field Trips and Activities for 2024:

In March or April 2024 our club will hold our annual new members field trip to the Hogg Mine in Lagrange GA. Just a quick 2-hour trip north on I85 is the Hogg Mine where we can collect all manner of Rose Quartz, Tourmaline, and Beryl. We will have our hand truck with us so if you want to grab that big 250 lbs rose quartz boulder, we can help as a club to get it loaded into your vehicle.

In February or March, we will hold our annual workshop clean-up day. We will meet one Saturday morning and clean up, re-arrange after the gem show, and fellowship together while we organize the workshop.

Also, in the Spring, I would like to organize a club camping trip to Noccalula Falls and Cathedral Caverns in NE Alabama. There is a very nice campground and cabins adjacent to the Noccalula Falls, hiking trails around and under the Falls, and then the Cathedral Caverns State Park is just a short 25 minute drive away for a club tour of the huge cave there.

This January or February, I would like to organize a museum field trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to visit the Alabama Museum of Natural History on the campus of Alabama. We can see the Hodges meteorite that crashed through a home in Sylacauga and struck a lady asleep on the couch. Also on display is the State fossil, the basilasaurus hanging from the ceiling. There is also a nice football museum close by, and we can finish the trip visiting the Moundville State Park exploring the ancient Native American pyramid mounds.

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

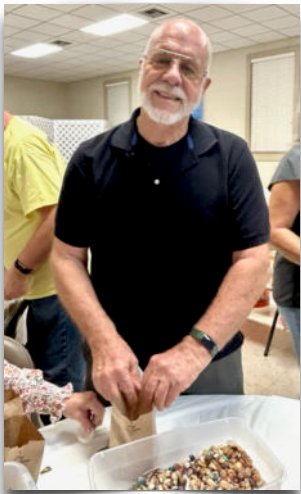
The January meeting will give a roundup of the 2023 year by President Chris Rutherford. This will be followed with a peek into the programs for the coming year. If you have a suggestion for a good (or great) program for 2024, please email me your suggestions at clarecweil@gmail.com or call me a 334-221-5211.

Clare





NOVEMBER MEETING





M G M S
MEMBERSHIP CARD

It's RENEWAL time!
\$25 Family \$20 Single
Pay @ JAN mtg



Secretary's NOV Minutes

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

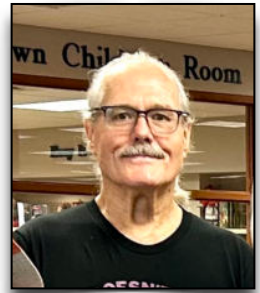
Iris delivered the treasurers' report.

Chris thanked everyone for coming to help make the goody bags for the Wheel of Fortune game at the show, and members filled several hundred bags with rocks, gems, minerals, and special goodies, provided by club members.

Snacks and refreshments were provided as well.

Afterwards the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod



Special President Message

During the 53rd annual Gem Show at Garret Coliseum there was a new display at the Information booth. Club President, Chris Rutherford, has commissioned a talented woodworker to create a display board of the State of Alabama with the 67 individual counties highlighted. Within each county, there is a cutout for the mounting of a cabochon and then room to fill the county with crushed stone or beading.

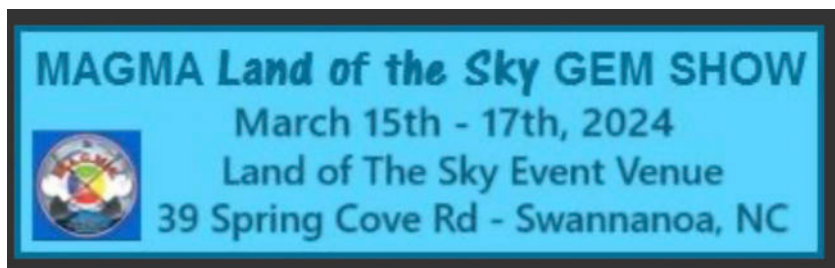
The inspiration for this display board is based on the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Cabochon Eagle Display.

I would like for our club to work together on this joint project to mount cabochons on the board and then fill in the counties with some type of small stone. My intention is to select stones representative of each county, or stones from the specific counties to make cabochons. For example, use white marble from Sylacauga for Talladega County. Use Red iron ore stone for Jefferson County, etc. If we can't find suitable stones for the counties, then any beautiful cabochon any club member wants to donate will be accepted.

Be looking for more information on the display board throughout the year and be looking through your collection for any nice cabochon you would like to donate. We will create a permanent record on the display identifying the stones as well as the club members who worked and donated the pieces.

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

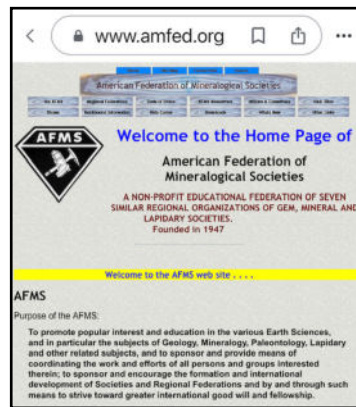
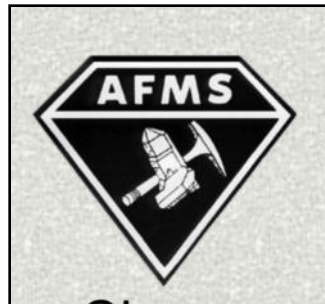




Don't forget to update links to the SFMS website
Links to the old SFMS website will be going away in January. Please make sure any links you have to the SFMS website point to the new website: <https://www.southeastfed.org>

We are members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

We are members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



Mississippi
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

2024 Mississippi Gem & Mineral Show

February 24th	9 am- 6 pm
February 25th	9 am- 4 pm



Adults: \$8 - Students: \$3
Scouts & Leaders in Uniform: \$0
Children 5 and under: FREE



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 our our Facebook page and Website!





BOARD MEMBERS

President: Chris Rutherford 334.372.2507 president@mgms.club

First VP/Program Chair: Clare Weil 334.221.5211 clarecweil@gmail.com

Second VP/Field Trips: (open)

Secretary: David Sherrod 334.201.4460 dsher355@att.net

Treasurer: Iris McGehee 334.262.2197 irismcgehee2433@charter.net

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Jr Rockhound Rep: Jessica Galloway 205.362.9319 jessica.l.galloway@outlook.com

Gem Mineral/Jewelry Show:

Director: Frankie Boothman 334.590.1222 spacetechdude@gmail.com

Contact Chair: Chris Rutherford 334.372.2507 gemshow@mgms.club

Treasurer: Violet Jones 334.354.8795 violetbjones2013@gmail.com

Publicity: Candace Rutherford 334.467.4050 publicity@mgms.club

MARCH 15-16-17
BELLPOINT GEM SHOW

COBB CIVIC CENTER
548 S MARIETTA PKWY
MARIETTA GA

Dreamy

GEMMY WONDERLAND



UPCOMING EVENTS

2/3-4/2024 MERRITT ISLAND, FL: Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, Kiwanis Island Recreation Center 951 Kiwanis park Rd Merritt Island, FL 32952. The 48th Annual Rock, Fossil, Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show. February 3-4, 2024; Saturday 9:30AM—5:30PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission \$6, under 12 Free if accompanied by adult. <http://www.centralbrevardgems.com>

2/24/2024—LAKELAND, FL: Annual show; Bone Valley GM&FS; First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr, Lakeland, FL 33801 ; Sat. 9-4:30; \$3 Adults, Children under 18 and teachers Free; contact Jim Reed, (863) 255-0651; Email: BoneValley.info@gmail.com; Website: www.bonevalley.net/

2/24/-25/2024 JACKSON, MS: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Mississippi Trademark on State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi street, Jackson MS 39202. February 24-25, 2024; Saturday 9AM—6PM, Sunday 9AM—4PM. Admission \$8. Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in uniform \$2, Under 5- Free. email: mgmshow@yahoo.com or call 601-344-8171 leave a message if not available. <https://www.facebook.com/MGMSociety23>

3/1-3/2024—LARGO, FLORIDA: Annual show; Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. of St Petersburg, FL; Largo Event Center, 6340 126th Ave N. Largo, FL 33773; 10-5 All 3 days; Adult \$6, Under 12 Free - Good for all three days; Free parking and food service on site ; contact sgamsdealerchair@gmail.com; Website: sgams.com

3/1-3/2024—LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies ; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; Free; SFMS Member vendors from seven 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; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/22-24/2024—LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY: Annual show; Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club; Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Everyone \$5 except children under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free when accompanied by an adult; contact John Bradshaw, (859) 576-6785; Email: K4swx911@gmail.com; Website: bgamc.homestead.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



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













