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Golden Nugget

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President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

For those club members who went to the Field Trip on March 26 to the Hogg Mine, I hope everyone had a great time and came back with lots of good specimens. One of Junior Rockhounds, Miss Josephine Johnson came home with one of the nicest and biggest pieces of Rose Quartz that she was very proud of.

It was a very nice day to be out collecting rocks, the weather was perfect for that time of year.

We are going to hold our Annual Scholarship Award this next meeting for the William Holland/Wildacres Class at our April meeting. We will have scholarship forms available to fill out at the beginning of our Club Meeting. So please grab a copy or email one in before the meeting to be included in the drawing.

The Gem Show is almost 7 months away but we have already sent out contracts to our dealers inviting them back. We plan on expanding our floor space for the Gem Show and having more dealers. As we spend the next few months planning for our Gem Show, we are interested in ideas, demonstrations, and exhibits to make our Gem Show better. In years past we have had Arrowhead Knapping, Marble Sculptors, the Rock Food Table, Children's Corner, etc. We are interested in our club members' ideas of what they would like to see. So please let me know what you think would be a good addition to our club and we will see if we can make it happen.

Our next club meeting is set for Tuesday April 19, 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 will have Mr. John Gaston from Hoover, Alabama giving us a presentation on Mineral Identification. Mr. Gaston is a member of the Birmingham Gem Club and also operates Creek View Minerals one of our long-time dealers at our own Gem Show. So, if you have any unknown rocks, John will help try to identify your specimens.

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 and he thanked everyone for coming out in the bad weather.

Iris gave the Treasurers' report and it was turned over to Secretary for filing.

Anyone not getting newsletter via email was asked to contact Cynthia Wilson

Hogg mine dig is scheduled for March 26th with information available on their website.

April 6 thru 16 is Sylacauga Marble Festival with lots of fun events.

April 19th is the next meeting with John Gaston of the Birmingham Club doing a presentation on mineral ID.

James Lowery provided a thorough and informative presentation on the Wetumpka Impact Crater.

The meeting was adjourned after presentation.

David Sherrod, Secretary

Future Rockhounds March 2022 Report...

Rose Quartz

Last month, Club President Chris Rutherford handed out Rose Quartz specimens from the Hogg Mine to all the Future Rockhounds. The Rose Quartz from Hogg Mine is white to a pale pink in color. Brighter pink specimens can be found commonly at gem shows and rock shops. But many of these stones have been treated to bring out a strong pink color. Rose Quartz naturally fades in direct sunlight over many years from UV impacts. The pink color of rose quartz is attributable to microscopic inclusions of a pink variety of the mineral dumortierite, an aluminum-boron silicate mineral. On the Moh's hardness scale it is classified as 7, the upper range of hardness. On a porcelain streak plate, Rose quartz will colorless and in most times, it won't streak because it is harder than the streak plate. Rose Quartz has a conchoidal fracture when attempting to cleave it. It is one of the most favored lapidary stones due to its hardness, color and its ease in polishing.



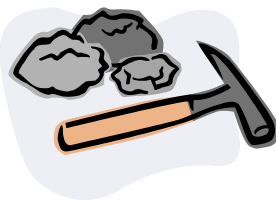
If you look at the picture the first thing you will notice is the big smile on Miss Josephine Johnson's beautiful face. Then you notice what she is holding in her arms and you know the reason for that big smile...she has unearthed an amazing Rose Quartz Treasure! What a fitting Find...Rose Quartz was our "Future Rockhound" Stone of the Month for March!!! We hope Josephine will bring her Treasure in to show us at our Club Meeting on Tuesday evening...we would really love to see it!!!

Next month stones will be from Gem Club Field Trips to Mel Barkley's Cabin!!!

★Red Chalcedony★

Article Submitted by: Terry Fetzer

New Mineral Discovery



Former Rockhound of the Year, Peter Rabutt, has done it again. Well-known for his spectacular finds and discoveries, he is again responsible for an absolutely stunning discovery in the gem/mineral world.

The material found was sent to Mindat.com for confirmation and testing. After several months of microscopic thin section analysis, single crystal X-ray diffractometer tests and crystallographic investigation, Mindat.com has confirmed that this is indeed a new mineral find. The location of this new find is in South Central Alabama near the town of Andalusia in the community of Babble along the Louisville & Nashville Railroad track heading to Lightwood Knot Creek. Accordingly, Mr. Rabutt has named it 'Alabamythest'. Similar to amethyst, this unusual mineral is so deep and rich purple that it makes amethyst look cheap by comparison. The hardness of this non-diamond stone approaches the "perfect ten" with a consistent 9.9 on the Moh's scale. The birefringence is exquisite. He cut off a number of pieces and sent them to major stone cutters in New York, as well as two different faceting experts located in Chicago and Los Angeles.

The owner of the property where Rabutt made the discovery has made him a partner in a mining venture to work the site. Samples were also sent to Antwerp, Belgium, South Africa and Bolivia. It is rumored that the Smithsonian requested a 5-7 pound chunk and is currently preparing space to announce this valuable find to the world.

The scientific/academic community is abuzz with details of the discovery. News should be published in scientific journals beginning next month. The head of one of the major gem/mineral laboratories, Dr. Rufus Pinklestein, has been quoted as saying, "This new mineral specimen found in Alabama represents almost as much importance as man's first step on the moon's surface. It, in fact, represents far more than we presently know since the hardness of this colored stone specimen nearly equals the hardness of a diamond. I believe when all testing has been completed, it will be closer to an eleven on the Moh's scale than a diamond's ten, according to the microscopic thin-section analysis." Meanwhile, Mindat.com is reporting that thin-section hardness tests exceeded the hardness of diamond. The new gem material may be introduced to the international mineralogical community at the Tucson show in February 2007.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the world's most influential jewelry designers are eager to get their hands on the new stone. Italy's famous designer Ima Fulovit has been quoted as saying, "This new 'Alabamythest' will shake the designers up, just what we've been needing. 'Alabamythest' will be recognized as a mineral of unusual gemological properties not referenced in world literature as of yet."

Continued on Page 4...

Hogg Mine Field Trip March 26th 2022...

What a Beautiful Day for Digging in the Dirt with Family and Friends!

After our safety meeting, we donned our hats, and safety gear...grabbed our digging tools, buckets and headed to the dig sites looking for Treasures.

I really can't say who had the most fun, Our Future Rockhounds or Our Young at Heart Rockhounds those digging or watching and helping our Future Rockhounds dig for Treasures.

Isn't it amazing how you hand someone digging tools, a bucket, plop a floppy hat on their head then you point them in the direction of a pile of dirt and no matter their age...they turn into kids on a Treasure Hunting Mission.

At the end of the day we find our weary Treasure seekers slowly coming back up the hill, covered in dust and dirt all from their day of digging. Dragging their bucks and lugging huge stones on hand trucks or by hand. Some have little Pebble Pups hanging onto them like tiny spider monkeys or Junior Rockhounds bouncing excitedly around them already wanting to know when they can come back to the mine to hunt for treasures again!

All in all we had a wonderful day with family and friends making precious memories to tuck away in our hearts.



Hogg Mine Field Trip Photos Continued...



Hogg Mine Field Trip Photos Continued...



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**\*WILLIAM HOLLAND SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> AT OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!!**

So be sure you have your form filled out and turned in if you would like to participate in the drawing for the scholarship. There will be forms available at the Membership Meeting on Tuesday Evening as well as forms available on our web site. So get those forms turned in! I hope to see everyone at the meeting!

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*Tuesday, 19 June 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.

Our Guest Special Guest will be Mr. John Gaston from Hoover, Alabama. He us a member of the Birmingham Gem Club and will be giving us a Presentation on Mineral Identification.

John operates Creek View Minerals and is one of our long-time dealers at our own Gem Show. So, if you have any unknown rocks, he will help try to identify your specimens.

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*\*Deadline for our May Newsletter is: Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*

*\*Our May Club Meeting is Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>*

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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

*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>