



Golden Nugget

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

Our next club meeting is set for Tuesday September 20th, 2022 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Crump Community Center in our regular meeting room.

This month we will have James Lowery return with a presentation on the Historic Birmingham Minerals Railroad Sign Project. Birmingham has a unique history that's based on the surrounding geology that has fueled the steel industry there for well over a hundred years. In the Birmingham area, the primary ingredients that comprise the steel industry: coal, limestone, and iron ore are all found in close proximity and easily accessible. A railroad system of approximately 300 miles of tracks helped deliver the raw materials to the various foundries and furnaces and then shipped out the finished steel. We look forward to this unique presentation and if there is enough interest after the presentation, we will research a field trip to the Birmingham area to view the Vulcan statue and other important geologic features of the Magic City. More info can be found at [Home - Birmingham Mineral Railroad Signs Project \(bham-mrr.com\)](http://Home-Birmingham Mineral Railroad Signs Project (bham-mrr.com))

The Alabama National Fair will be held in Montgomery from October 7-16th, 2022. Our club sponsors a fossil, gem, and jewelry competition in the Creative Learning Center at the Fair. Entries for judging begin September 24-28th, 2022 and you can pick your entries back up following the fair on October 17-19th, 2022. Our club sponsors this event at the Fair so we strongly encourage everyone to participate. Additional details are included within this newsletter or can be found online at www.alnationalfair.org or [Creative Living - Alabama National Fair \(alnationalfair.org\)](http://Creative Living - Alabama National Fair (alnationalfair.org))

Our Gem Show is just a three months way and we are making great progress for the show. We have 31 dealers and over 180 tables of merchandise booked. We anticipate this to be our biggest Gem Show ever. We will begin signing up volunteers at our next club meeting in October. Check back soon for more details and opportunities to volunteer for the show.

It will also be the time of year where we need to sign up officers and directors for our club. We appreciate any club member who wants to step up and help volunteer to direct our club, we will sign you up. Please look for this in our October meeting.

As always, please bring in some door prizes for our monthly meeting, the more prizes offered, the more opportunities to win.

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

Minutes from the July Meeting

The meeting was called to order by: President Chris Rutherford.

No Guest were present.

The Treasurers' Report was delivered by Iris McGehee and turned over to the Secretary for filing.

Leslie Amato will look into the possibility of purchasing a tarp large enough to cover the damaged portion of the Shop roof to prevent further water damage.

Jo Anne Staley said she has marble squares available from the closing of Charlie's Trophies if anyone is interested.

Mary Belmont is giving away her rock collection and her contact information was shared.

The Gem Show is at full capacity with 29 Vendors signed on and more on the Waiting List. There will be no kitchen available for the Dealers Dinner and the setup will be in the northern portion of the coliseum. A refrigerator will be available.

The Birmingham Club will have their Annual Show September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at the Bessemer Civic Center.

The field trip to Mel Barclay's property on the Uphapee Creek is Saturday and a head count is needed.

Claire Weil spoke about her recent trip to William Holland that was sponsored by the club. She said it was a wonderful experience and encouraged members to take advantage of the scholarship drawing. Clair also had all of the cabochons she made on display.

Gary Chinburg gave an excellent presentation on quartz crystal digging in the Mt Ida and Rock Springs Arkansas region. He provided details on the different mines and what conditions were like at each location. He had an extensive collection on hand and explained the different crystal formations that occur. He also donated some nice specimens to be drawn for door prizes. After the drawings, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod



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

*David Niedzielski 2nd, David Sherrod 3rd
Violet Jones 5th, David Grant 10th
Leslie Amato and Sophia Minor 21st*

GEMS & MINERALS

ADULT DEPARTMENT A4

Sponsored by:

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

RIBBONS AWARDED BY CLASS: FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD

“BEST OF FAIR” WINNER: RIBBON & \$100

RULES

- The workmanship of the item(s) entered must be that of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors shall not enter items that were purchased from another in their finished form.
- Fossils, Geodes and Mineral Specimens must have been found/discovered by the exhibitor.
- Exhibitors may enter one (1) item in each class.
- All entries must contain a 3x5 card identifying the item/specimen and materials used.
- **ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE CREATIVE LIVING CENTER ON THE FOLLOWING DATES/TIMES (NO EXCEPTIONS):**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 8:00AM – 12:00PM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH 9:00AM – 4:00PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Class

1. Beading (plastic or acrylic beads not allowed)
2. Cabochon
3. Faceted Stone
4. Fossils
5. Geodes
6. Mineral Specimen
7. Wire Wrapped Jewelry
8. Items not Listed

JUDGING CRITERIA

Labeling & Appearance – 20%
Quality of Workmanship – 40%

Quality of Stone/Sample – 40%

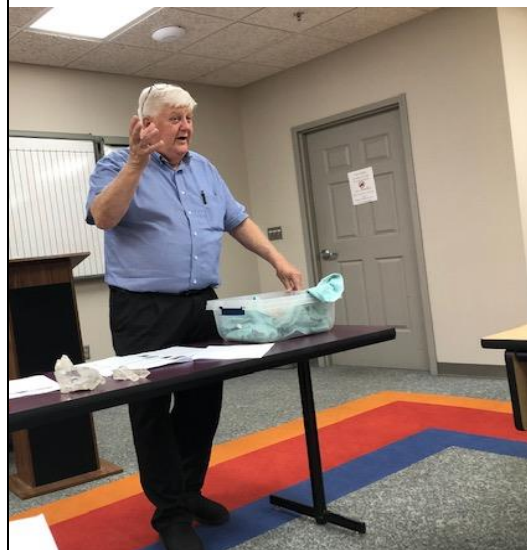
Field Trip at Mel Barkley's Farm!!! What a Beautiful Day to Gather Rocks!!!



August's Program was given by one of our own... Gary Chinburg



Gary Chinburg gave an excellent presentation on quartz crystal digging in the Mt Ida & Rock Springs Arkansas region. He provided details on the different mines and what conditions were like at each location. He had an extensive collection on hand and explained the different crystal formations that occur. He also donated some nice specimens to be drawn for door prizes.



You can't help but to be excited whenever Gary walks in the room and starts to set up any number of his amazing display's you just know you are in for a treat. We are so blessed to have Gary as a Member of our Club. He is a wealth of knowledge and shares it freely with us all. Our Junior Rockhounds and Pebble Pups just love him and you will usually find a few of them (as well as some of us Older Rock Hounds)... hanging around him prior to each meeting asking him questions which he always answers with a smile.

September's Program

This month we will have James Lowery return with a presentation on the Historic Birmingham Minerals Railroad Sign Project. Birmingham has a unique history that's based on the surrounding geology that has fueled the steel industry there for well over a hundred years. We are looking forward to having Mr. Lowery presentation.

Gem and Mineral Show Sign-Up

Our Gem & Mineral Show is only a few short weeks away and there have been some super busy members working behind the scenes working hard to see that everything comes together. So much goes into making this Event a huge success for our Club and we couldn't do it without our AMAZING MEMBERS!!! There will be Sign- up Sheets at this meeting so please make sure you add your name to the list!!!

Pictures: Types of Amber :

Submitted by: Terry Fetzer



Amber is fossilized tree resin (not sap), which has been appreciated for its color and natural beauty since Neolithic times. The **oldest amber** recovered dates to the Upper Carboniferous period (320 million years ago).

Types of Amber:

One method of classifying amber is by color and degree of transparency.

This criteria correlates to an optical classification of Amber varieties. Colors of Amber include yellow, orange, red, white, brown, green, bluish, and "black" (dark shades of other colors).

Baltic Amber



Baltic amber. Photo: Zack Irow

Baltic Amber – Is the most common Amber variety, found along the shores of a large part of the Baltic Sea. It dates from 44 million years ago (during the Eocene epoch). It has been estimated that these forests created more than 100,000 tons of Amber. Baltic Amber includes the most species-rich fossil insect fauna discovered to date.

Black Amber



Amber typical varies from light to dark orangy brown
Courtesy: Martha Zuniga

Black Amber - aka Oltu Stone, is a kind of jet found in the region around Oltu Town within Erzurum Province, eastern Turkey. The organic substance is used as semi-precious gemstone in manufacturing jewelry.

Blue Amber



Blue Amber from Dominican Republic

Blue Amber is Amber exhibiting a rare coloration. It is most commonly found in the Amber mines in the mountain ranges around Santiago, Dominican Republic, but also in the eastern parts of the Dominican Republic. Although little known due to its rarity, it has been around since the discovery of Dominican Amber.

Copal Amber



Copal from Madagascar with spiders, termites, ants, elateridae, hymenoptera, cockroach and a flower

Copal is a name given to tree resin from the copal tree *Protium copal* (Burseraceae) that is particularly identified with the aromatic resins used by the cultures of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica as ceremonially burned incense and other purposes.

Burmese Amber



Burmese amber (99- 112 myo) with huge perfect scorpion

Burmese Amber - also known as burmite, is a Cretaceous age amber up to 99 million years old found mainly in the Hukawng Valley, Kachin State, Myanmar (Burma)

Green Amber



Green Amber from Dominican Republic

Green Amber like its yellow and blue counter parts release a natural scent which is pleasant to the nose. This fragrance can be enhanced by adding nitric acid to a melted Green Amber. Although this is inadvisable for those Ambers that are already set as jewelries. Green Amber when worn against the skin produces a very pleasant scent which is piney and soft.

Caribbean Amber Mexican Amber

Caribbean Amber is Amber from the island of Hispaniola, consisting of Haiti and the Dominican Republic; it is the only island in the Caribbean where Amber Retinite has been discovered and is mined. Dominican Amber is found in various natural colors, among them fluorescent green and blue. (See Photo in the upper Right Hand Corner of the first page of the Types of Amber)



A truly spectacular leaf in Myanmar Amber old 100 million years



Mexican amber nuggets | by National Museums Scotland

Mexican Amber

- found mainly in Chiapas in Mexico, roughly contemporary with Miocene era Dominican amber, and produced by the extinct *Hymenaea Mexicana* tree, a relative of the *Hymenaea Protera* Tree responsible for producing Dominican Amber.

*Tuesday, 20 September at 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

- *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

Our September Club Meeting is Tuesday, September the 20th!

**Deadline for our October Newsletter is: Friday, October 7th*

**Our October Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18th*

**Check out our new Web Site!!! <http://www.mgms.club>*

Webmaster: Frankie Boothman webmaster@mgms.club

And like us on Facebook!!!

[http://www.facebook.comMontgomeryGemClub](http://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryGemClub)