

GOLDEN NUGGET

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank everyone who came out the Gem Club's workshop on March 18th for our annual Spring-Cleaning Event. In just a couple of hours we had the shop cleaned out, we organized the Gem Show display boxes and equipment, and we cleaned up limbs, branches, and leaves off the Shop and electric lines. We had enough time to go through the buckets of donated rocks and specimens to take home a gift. Thank you everyone who showed up that day to help.

April is going to be busy month for our Gem Club. Starting off on April 1, 2023, the Gem Club is heading to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange Georgia for our Spring Field Trip. In years past this has been a fun trip with lots of nice Star Rose Quartz collected, including some very large yard rocks, Black Tourmaline, Beryl, and Aquamarine. I hope everyone that attends the field trip will bring in a specimen for our next gem club meeting in April.

Starting on April 11th and running through April 22, 2023 the City of Sylacauga will be hosting their annual Magic of Marble Festival. The event will bring in world-class sculptures from around the globe to carve marble sculptures on the lawn of the BB Comer Library in Downtown Sylacauga. There will tours available during the week of the operating marble quarries. Saturday April 15th is the big day to visit the Marble Festival.

We will have our regular club meeting on April 18th, 2023 at the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. We will have Scott Wallace with the US Geological Survey, Water Resources Division joining us and giving the presentation.

There have been some changes at the Crump Center recently and I would like to address any concerns. Last year, the new director of the Crump Center said we were not allowed to have our traditional snack and refreshment break for our meetings. Then we were informed that we could not have any drinks in our meeting room unless it was in a close-type container. Last month, we were informed that our club is not allowed to use the TV in the meeting room, even though our club purchased and furnished the first television for that room for our meetings. We have had some initial discussions about moving our

club meeting locations. If anyone has any suggestions, please bring them up at our next meeting.

Finally, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies has announced their Federation workshop weeks at William Holland and Wild Acres lapidary resorts. Our club sponsors a scholarship for one lucky club member to attend based on one's service to the club. Please see the newsletter for more details.

Chris Rutherford, President chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

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Program Director

Our April program will be given by Scott Wallace. Scott is Field Office Chief with the U S Geological Survey / Water Resources Division of the Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center. Looking forward to hearing his talk!

Our May program will be given by our own members, Leslie Amato, Chuck Burns and myself. The topic will be argentium, which is a different silver. This trio will be taking a class together at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and will report on all that they learned during this class.
Clare

Silversmith Class

Bud Newell, a professional Silversmith from Birmingham, came down the weekend of March 11, to teach some of our club members beginning silver smithing and how to set their cabochons in a silver setting. Club members that participated were Jacob Brown, Anna Claire Brewer, Michael Amato, Leslie Amato and Andrew Cartar.



Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show 2023
THE EARTH WIDE OPEN Sat. April 22, 9-6 | Sun. April 23, 10-5
 Rocks, Fossils, Minerals, Gems,
 Lapidary Equipment, Jewelry and Beads
 Agricenter International
 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.,
 Memphis, TN

Presented by the
 Memphis Archaeological
 and Geological Society

Adults - \$6, 2 day pass - \$8 12 & under - \$2 Scots in Uniform - Free
<https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks> 901-921-3096 / 901-490-3575



Secretary's March Minutes

The meeting was called to order by president Chris Rutherford who recognized our to guest Todd Burnes and Scott Staley. The February minutes were approved as published. Iris McGehee delivered the treasures' report which was given to secretary for filing.

Chris mentioned that the club no longer has permission to use the Crump Center TV and we would look into an alternative for future meetings.

Club member Cynthia Wilson is still recuperating and is doing rehab so she can successfully recover and hopefully be back soon.

A cleanup day is scheduled for the club workshop March 18th and everyone was encouraged to attend.

The club has a field trip planned for Hogg Mine April 1st. Be there by 9:00 EST for orientation and safety brief. Cost is 35\$ per person. Beryl, tourmaline, and rose quartz can be found.

The club is sponsoring the Dixie Mineral Council field trip for October 2023. Mel Barclay's property on Uphapee Creek is planned site. More information will be available later.

Chris attended the SFMS annual meeting held in Live Oak, FL this year and obtained a large fossil coral at the event.

Frankie said the deposit for the December show was to be paid sometime in April.

Our presentation for the night was by retired AU professor Dr. Jim Sanders. The subject was diamonds and their geology. He covered their formation in kimberlite volcanoes. Extreme heat, pressure, and a fairly rapid deliver to the surface are key factors. He identified the major sites where they are found. A pie chart illustrated that close to 60 percent of all diamonds come from Canada, Russia, and Botswana. Several other productive sites were mentioned. Pictures of some of the finest and most famous were displayed. He suggested the book "Barren Lands" as a good source for more information. He also discussed more novel forms of volcanoes that contained numerous and unique carbonite minerals and valuable rare earth metals. He answered question from the members and had rutile specimens to give away if anyone was interested.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod



**The Georgia Mineral Society's
54th Annual Mother's Day Weekend
Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show
May 12, 13, 14, 2023**

**It was a great show! Join us again this year
for the 54th annual show!!!**



CLEANUP DAY





NOTE FROM OUR PUBLICITY CHAIR

MGMS Club President Chris Rutherford and I recently attended the Rock Hound Round Up March 10-12 in Live Oak, Florida. This gathering is sponsored by the SE Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is free!

More than 30 dealers were there, including some familiar faces such as Hi-Ho who is a supporter of our Montgomery Show. The registration costs just \$50 with proof of membership within the organization.

We saw many different specimens indigenous to Florida, including agatized coral of all sizes. Vendors also had beads, charms, finished jewelry and even unique items such as thuya wood boxes made from fragrant Moroccan juniper root.

The President of the federation, Dennis Buchanan, was manning the group's booth and selling beautiful gemstone calendars. We brought several back and they were swooped up during March's meeting.

The setting itself is part of an 800 acre venue <https://www.musicliveshere.com/>. The park supports the federation by allowing them to hold the event for free! Depending upon site availability, but usually during the month of March.

I would highly recommend this outing to any avid rock collector and camper. You can canoe on the Sewanee river, ride horses on trails and play disc golf. There are many camping options from primitive camping to full hook-ups and rental cabins. You can even rent a golf cart from the country store which is well stocked with provisions. An on-site restaurant and entertainment venue makes nights exciting too.

The Spanish moss in the trees lends itself to cities of hammocks during the various music festivals. I enjoyed riding around looking at the landscaping that included lots of rocks.

The Rock Swap was held in tandem with the SFMS regional meeting. Topics included field trips, scholarship, promotions, and newsletter contests. The good news is that membership is growing! Within our state, we talked about the Huntsville Junior Rockhound program which has grown exponentially and packed with activities. We also won 2 door prizes, including a red jasper.





DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve

www.southeastfed.org

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An Official Field Trip of the Middle TN Rockhounds (Nashville, TN) (HOST)

Saturday May 20, 2023

10:00 am. to 3:00 pm. Central Time

Cumberland Furnace, TN

Limited to 35 people

Registration Required

Free!!

TRIP: We are heading to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quite colorful in shades of blue and green... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants.

COLLECTING: Our target is a dump pile on the banks of the stream that runs through Cumberland Furnace (access by crossing a large field owned by the community). This dump pile is located about a ¼ of a mile from the parking area. Although the dump pile has the greatest potential, slag can be found anywhere along the banks (both upstream and downstream). Another way to search is by wading downstream from the furnace if the creek is low. I am not sure if conditions will permit - bring wading shoes (no open toe shoes, flip flops, Crocs, etc.) just in case if you wish to collect in the stream.

BRING: You need to bring a hand tool, trowel, small shovel, etc. to dig in the slag pile and gloves to protect your hands. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying your finds. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet may get wet otherwise.

REQUIREMENTS: Bring sunscreen and bug spray but most importantly a good attitude and have fun!!

TERRAIN AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Collecting in an old dump pile and in a creek. It's about a quarter mile hike through the woods to the site, the path will be slightly overgrown. There is creek and some small streams, so your feet might get wet. Stream should be low this time of the year.

FEE: Free, as in free!!

CHILDREN: Children are allowed but must be **at least 6 years old** and **must be supervised by an adult at ALL times**.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at the site unfortunately. Closest facilities are at a service station about ¼ mile away.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: TN does not have any Covid-19 restrictions at this time. Use your own judgement on the use of masks and other Covid-19 guidelines while on this field trip. I'll have liability forms available on site to be signed before we begin collecting.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

CONTACT: For additional information or last minute issues, contact **Randy Gentry @ (615) 566-8482** or fieldtripchair@rockhound.org.



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April 7-9, 2023
Pensacola Gem Show -
Pensacola Interstate
Fairgrounds
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

6655 Mobile Hwy Pensacola, FL 32526

Over 20,000 sq ft of fabulous vendors.
\$5 Entrance Fee - Free Parking

**Spring 2023
Mineral, Gem, Bead
and Fossil Show**

April 29th & 30th

Sanford Civic Center
401 E. Seminole Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771

See our show page for a \$1.00 off coupon!!