

GOLDEN NUGGET

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



In this issue:

President’s Message

Program Director Message

July Program Photos

July Minutes

Mineral of the Month

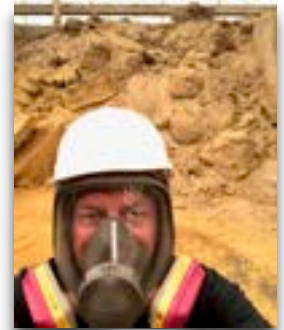
Board Members Info

SFMS/AFMS Info

Upcoming Events

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank Mr. David Sherrod for demonstrating at our last club meeting about fine porcelain jaspers at our last club meeting. They are some very beautiful stones and they polish up nicely for some outstanding jewelry. But questions came up during the meeting about how does jasper form in the first place. Well, as most of our club members know I am a professional geologist, and how jaspers form in the first place, and how they differ from other minerals, peaked my curiosity. So here I go down this rabbit hole.



Jasper is a form of quartz, silicon dioxide. There are hundreds, if not thousands of different types of quartz ranging from amethyst, rose quartz, rock crystal, cat’s eye, citrine, carnelian, chert, jasper, agate, just to name a few. So how to classify the different types of quartz? Crystal structure is a primary method for most geologist. Jasper is classified as a microcrystalline quartz in the same family as agate, and both are considered types of calcedony. These quartz types are characterized as having a crystal structure so small that they can only be discernable under a microscope.

Both agates and jasper are formed in volcanic andesites, rhyolites, and tholeiitic basalts rock cavities and seams, also known as vugs. These minerals formed when gases were trapped in the lava flow. As the lava cooled and hardened, the empty cavities filled with silica-rich fluids with other mineral impurities. Agates tend to form on the exterior of the cavity and build up in layers, while jaspers tend to crystallize en mass.

As mentioned last month, the Gem Club is considering moving our meeting location. We are going to take our time and research this thoroughly before making any decisions. We will discuss more in detail during the Gem Show in December.

Speaking of the Gem Show, we currently have 25 dealers signed up with 150 tables reserved so far. This is about half so far of what we will have at the show. I have this week spoken to several dealers about sending in their applications and deposits, and I am expecting to have 190 tables secured. We have had some dealers reply that they will not be returning this year and we have some former dealers returning this year as well. Eddie Harmon and Jim Haege are returning to our Gem Show after missing the past year.

Dealers not returning include Ms. Carolyn Buckels due to declining health, Scot Sills of S & S Gold & Diamonds, Vincent Chan with Glory Design, and Earl Albert of Earl’s Fantastic Stones. We have several new dealers coming in this year and we once again expect to have the largest Gem Show in the State of Alabama.

We will have our regular club meeting on August 15, 2023 at the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month.

Chris Rutherford, President.

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com



Program Director

This month we have T. West White, a Professional Geologist, licensed in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Utah. Mr. White is the owner of Cornerstone Geological Services since March 2021, and has over 15-years' experience as a professional geologist. His experience includes project manager/team lead in environmental, oil and gas exploration, aggregate investigation, and minerals investigation/exploration. He has a Master's degree in geology from Auburn University and Bachelor's degree in geology from University of Southern Mississippi.

Mr. White will be talking on Rare Earth Minerals and their importance in the world we live in today, and also discussing a project he is currently working on in western Utah.

Clare



July Program - David Sherrod - Fine Jaspers

Willow Creek Jasper



David showing us where most Jaspers come from.



Imperial Jasper



Blue Mountain Jasper



Bruneau Jasper

Morrisonite





Secretary's July Minutes

The meeting was called to order by president Chris Rutherford. He then thanked everyone for the large attendance and acknowledged our guests.

Jessica, Donovan, and Kloe were approved as new members. James, George, Brandi, and Aiden also were welcomed.

An introduction of the current club members was given and it was stated we are still looking for someone to take the field trip position as well as a Jr. rockhound coordinator. Hank Staley birthday was recognized as tomorrow.

Dawn donated several jewelry related books for anyone interested.

The minutes for June were approved and Iris delivered the treasures' report.

Chris updated the gem show status. We presently have 16 vendors and expect to have 30 again this year.

On a sad note, coliseum director Bill Harding passed away. The city of Montgomery has also taken over control of Garret coliseum, and their long term plans for it are uncertain. This may require a change of venue in the future.

Chris also suggested that members be on the lookout for a new site to hold our club meeting, as the Crump center has restricted some of our privileges.

The Montgomery club is hosting the DMC field trip on September 30th at the Barclay's cabin on Uphapee creek. We will need all hands on deck to make this run smoothly. It will be limited to the first 50 visitors with no limit on Montgomery club attendees. Transport from cabin to creek will be provided as well hotdogs and refreshments after. Expect to find colorful quartz, tourmaline in quartz, petrified wood, and possibly Indian artifacts.

Sabrina will look into t-shirts for members to wear.

David Sherrod provided the presentation on the top 5 fine jaspers, Bruneau, Willow Creek, Blue Mt, Morrisonite, and Imperial. These are also known as porcelain jasper, but not to be confused with sci-fi or exotica jasper from Mexico. Afterwards, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, David Sherrod





MINERAL OF THE MONTH:

Galena, PbS

By Chris Rutherford

Galena is the natural mineral form of Lead Sulfide and since historical times, it is the primary source of lead and is an important source of silver. It is lead gray to silvery in color and found most commonly in cubes or octahedra shapes in its crystal form.

Its most common diagnostic feature is its weight, aka specific gravity. Galena has a specific gravity of 7.2 to 7.6. In comparison, tap water has a SG of 1.0, quartz is 2.65, while gold has a specific gravity of 19.5.

Galena has been used by humans for many uses with the earliest know archeological records of metallic lead date back to 6500 BC. It was found in beads, cosmetics, food sources (yes, people added lead salts as a sweetening agent), and household goods. Galena was easily processed into metallic lead with use of wood fired furnaces. In today's world, lead is mainly used in batteries, electronics, and other industrial uses.

Deposits of Galena can be found worldwide and is typically encountered in hydrothermal veins in association with other sulfide minerals such as pyrite or sphalerite. It can also be found in association with zinc deposits in limestone beds. In the United States, galena occurs most notably in the Lead Belt stretching from SE Kansas, NE Oklahoma, southern Missouri and into Illinois. But can be found throughout the US in zinc and silver ore mining areas.

Fun Fact: Researchers from Washington University in St Louis in 2004 provided evidence that on the planet Venus volcanoes emit superheated gases of lead and sulphur into the atmosphere. Once there it condenses and "heavy metal snow" of galena and bismuth sulfide falls to the surface of the planet.





DON'T FORGET!

ENTER YOUR GEM & MINERAL ITEMS FOR **PRIZES** IN THE ALABAMA NATIONAL FAIR!



alnationalfair.org

OCTOBER 6-15, 2023

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):**
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH 9:00AM - 4:00PM
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

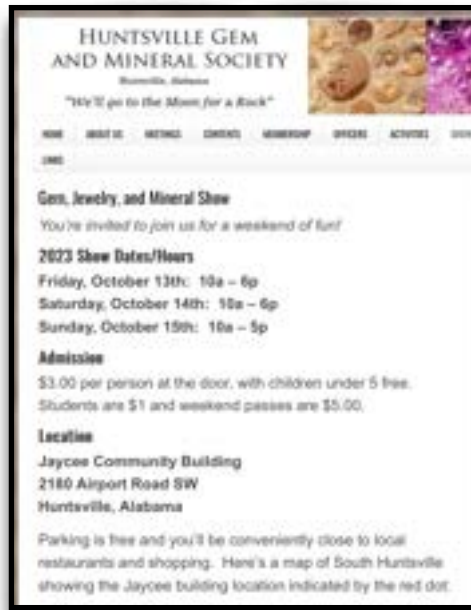
Class

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

JUDGING CRITERIA

Labeling & Appearance - 20%	Quality of Stone Sample - 40%
Quality of Workmanship - 40%	





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!





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



BOARD MEMBERS

President: Chris Rutherford 334.372.2507 president@mgms.club

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Greg Athey 334.303.2051 gsa11459@gmail.com





SFMS MEMBER



Do you like to explore?
Do you enjoy finding new spots to rockhound?
WE NEED A NEW FIELD TRIP CHAIR!
Let us know if you're INTERESTED!

AFMS MEMBER





UPCOMING EVENTS

9/1-3/2023 —IRONDALE, AL: Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; NEW VENUE! Irondale Civic Center (former Zamora Shrine Temple), 3521 Ratliff Rd., Irondale, AL 35210; Friday & Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Adults: \$5; Teens: \$3; 12 & under: FREE. More info: amlsgemshow@gmail.com; <https://www.facebook.com/events/1307348173327314/>

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.slrockandgem.org

10/21-22/2023 CHALRESTON, 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/>

COBB COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
ccgms.org

SCAN ME

--38TH ANNUAL--
CCGMS GEM & MINERAL SHOW
NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023

FRI NOV 17 10a-6p	SAT NOV 18 10a-6p	SUN 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

GRAB BAGS · EXHIBITS
DEMONSTRATIONS
GEODE CRACKING



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