

# GOLDEN



# NUGGET



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank everyone who attended our March meeting, I apologize for not attending the meeting as I was away on a family emergency dealing with my elderly father. Recent health issues also forced me to miss the field trip this past weekend at the Hogg Mine in LaGrange, Georgia.



From the messages and photos, I have seen it was a good field trip and everyone came home with their money's worth of stone and yard rocks. I hope we have plenty of photographs from the field trip and lots of interesting stories at our next club meeting. Please bring some examples of the specimens you collected from Hogg Mine to our next meeting.

### Upcoming Activities for our Gem Club in April 2024:

The weekend of April 6-7, 2024 the Dothan Gem and Mineral Club, aka the Wiregrass Rockhounds will be hosting their annual Gem Show. The club is hosting their show at the Landmark Park at the Stokes Activity Barn in Dothan, Alabama. I believe the park charges a small nominal admission fee. Club member Gary Chinberg has been a dealer at this show in the past and will be there again this year.

On April 13, 2024 the club will be visiting Sylacauga, Alabama to experience the magic of Marble Festival in downtown Sylacauga. I have spoken with former club member Charles Cumming who will be carving at the exhibit. He and his wife will be presenting a class on marble sculptures at 11 am to our group. This will be the last day of the marble festival and all the sculptures will be finished or close to it for our tour. There will be live marble sculpting exhibitions, hands-on experiences with the sculptors, free marble chips to pick up, a tour of the local library where they have dozens upon dozens of expert marble sculptures, and a gift shop to buy marble products. Then we can take a short drive to the marble quarry overlook to observe the quarry operations and collect additional marble rocks. We then can enjoy a lunch together as a club. This was a fun event last year and it's just a quick hour+ drive up Hwy 231.

Other activities we have planned for 2024 include a weekend trip in early May to Noccalulla Falls and Cathedral Caverns in NE Alabama and a late May trip to Dismals Canyon and Natural Bridge Park in NW Alabama. We are also planning additional cave tours to various tourist caves this summer. In August 2024 we plan on returning to our annual collecting trip on Uphapee Creek at the Barkley Farm in Macon County. We need your input, ideas, and thoughts on how to make these events happen.

Our next club meeting is set for **Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm at Perry Hill Methodist Church. I hope to see you there.

Keep on Rocking!

Chris Rutherford, President

[chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com](mailto:chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com)

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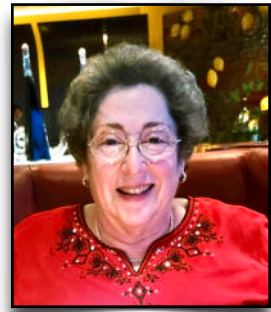
Scholarship Form

Snack Sign Up Sheet



### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Our April program will be Bill Black with Cronier's Fine Jewelry, sharing how to repurpose unwanted or outdated jewelry into a treasure you will love forever!  
Please remember to bring any rocks that resemble food.



Clare



Food Rocks!  
New Potatoes! Cheese Grits! Veggie soup!  
Mashed Potatoes! Meat! Salami! Candy!  
**Bring rocks that look like FOOD to the meeting!**

## WE NEED ROCKS FOR DOOR PRIZES!

**WIREGRASS ROCKHOUNDS**

**DOTHAN GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

GEMS \* CRYSTALS \* FOSSILS  
LAPIDARY \* JEWELRY \* ARTIFACTS  
SILENT AUCTION \* DOOR PRIZES

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
9am - 5pm

Sunday, April 7, 2024  
10am - 4pm

Landmark Park  
Stokes Activity Barn  
430 Landmark Drive  
Dothan, AL 36303

Park Admission Fee & FREE to Park Members

For more information contact  
Jeff at (334) 873-3554 or  
wiregrassrockhounds.com.  
Find us on Facebook!

**SHOP THE DAY AWAY**

**H&R GEM SHOWS PRESENTS THE ANNUAL**

**PENSACOLA GEM SHOW**

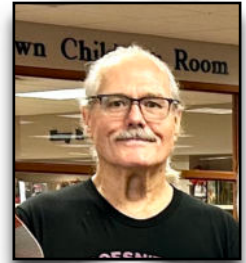
**PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIRGROUNDS**  
6655 MOBILE HWY PENSACOLA, FL.

**APRIL 5-7**  
**2024**  
**10:00 - 5:00**





### Secretary's March Minutes



With president Chris feeling a little under the weather, Claire Weil was in charge of the meeting. Prayers for Chris to be at full strength soon. Thanks to Tabitha and Magnolia for drinks and snacks. Happy March bday to Clare, and Jane and Mel anniversary. Minutes were approved as published. Iris delivered the treasurers' report. Magnolia updated field trip plans. Hogg mine in Lagrange GA March 30th 9 am.

Sylacauga Marble Festival April 13th. Sign up sheets available. Summerville agate and Brookwood trips are in the planning stages. Annual picnic and rock hunt at Mel's place end of September or early October. Date not finalized.

Beth Wilker will have a jewelry class April 10th at Clare's 10 to 1 o'clock. Contact Claire or Beth for more information.

Claire provided an excellent video presentation from Discovering Alabama series. It thoroughly covered the Sylacauga marble quarry history and current status. Truly an Alabama treasure. Afterwards the meeting was adjourned.

David

### March Meeting

We enjoyed our guests, looked at examples of Sylacauga marble, and had "Show and Tell" after the meeting.





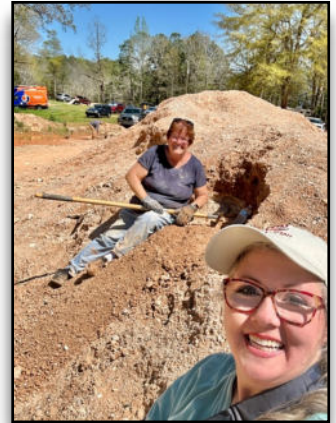
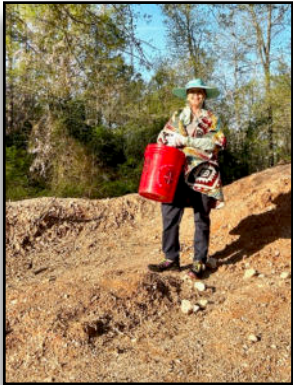


### HOGG MINE

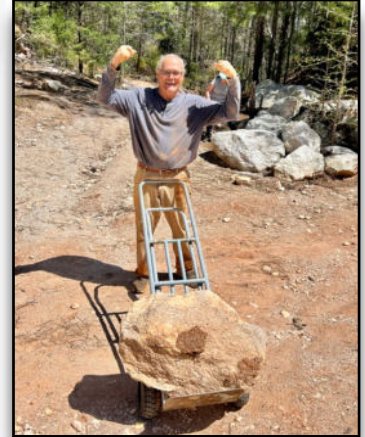
Club members had a GREAT day at Hogg Mine!  
We found Beryl, Tourmaline, and Rose and Smoky quartz!



Jimmie & John brought their son Seth and granddaughter Shelby.



Beryl



Tourmaline



Smokey Quartz

YARD ROCKS!



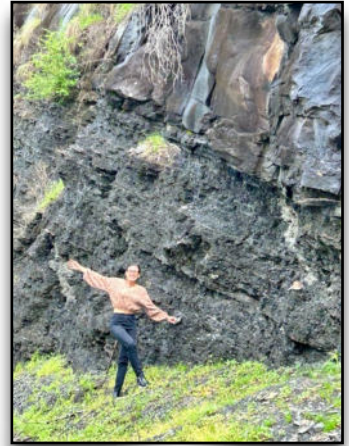




### “Look Who I Found!”

Club members Clare, Tabitha and Magnolia went up to Hoover to shop at Gem Show Dealer John Gaston’s yearly rock sale!

Afterwards, another rockhound friend directed them to a place to find FOSSILS!



**TAB STONE SET PENDANT WORKSHOP**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 9-NOON  
MS GOTROCKS 2815 ZELDA ROAD,  
SUITE D, MONTGOMERY, AL \$95



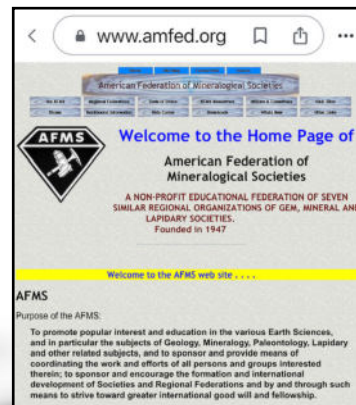
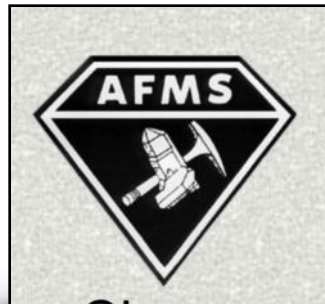
Learn to tab set gemstones in a pendant.  
Sign up at  
<https://bethwicker.com/shop/ols/products/workshop---tab-setting-pendant-april-10-2024>



We are members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

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We are members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



## NEWSLETTERS

SFMS April Lodestar Newsletter

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DQk82gM3ftm3tvZXFejk35YUZQRbxqdQ/view?usp=sharing>

DMC Newsletter

[http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)

AFMS Newsletter

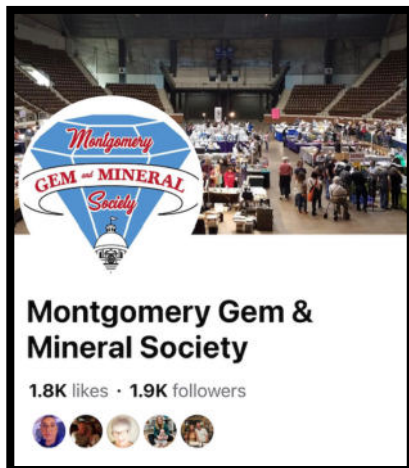
[www.amfed.org/news/default.htm](http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm)



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!







**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**4/6-7/2024 DOTHAN, AL:** Dothan Alabama Gem and Mineral Club, The Wiregrass Rockhounds, Stokes Activity Barn at Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama. April 6-7, 2024; Saturday 9AM—5PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission Free. [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com) Contact Jeff 334-673-3554

**4/12-14/2024—RALEIGH, NC:** Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Club Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Rd. Raleigh, NC; Fri. 3-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5.00 for a family of 4, \$3.00 for an individual, Free for children under 5. Admission prices are good for all 3 days of the show. Parking is free at the Kerr Scott Building. Contact Cyndy Hummel, (919) 779-6220; Email: [mchummel@mindspring.com](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com); Website: [tarheelclub.org](http://tarheelclub.org)

**4/20/2024 —APOPKA, FL:** Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; "Circle Up" Swap Meet, 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, FL 32712; Saturday, 4/20/24—9am-3pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! More info at [Wekivagem.com](http://Wekivagem.com).

**4/27-28/2024 MEMPHIS, TN:** Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. Over 50 Dealers including the original "Memphis Rock Banquet" a full table of rocks that look like real food. April 27-28, 2024; Saturday 9AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—5PM. Admission \$6 or 2-day pass for \$10, under 12- \$2, Scouts in uniform - Free. [www.theearthwideopen.wixsite.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.wixsite.com), email [info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com). 901-490-3575

**MAGIC OF MARBLE FESTIVAL**

**MGMS Meet @ 10!**

**BB Comer Library**

**APRIL 13**




Come hang out w/ club members!  
Watch marble carvings!  
See marble sculptures!  
Get marble samples!

314 N Broadway Ave  
Sylacauga, AL 35150



**2024 Florida's Fine Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show**

**May 17 - 18 - 19, 2024**

Bradenton Area Convention Center  
One Haben Blvd, Palmetto, Florida 34221

*Featuring Dealers from all over selling Minerals, Gems, Lapidary, Jewelry, Beads, Fossils, Decorative Pieces and much more ...*

\$10 Admission, 12 & under free  
Free Parking

Friday-Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm



Anemite- Calgary- Alberta- Canada  
photos by Jeffrey Scovell

**LLD PRODUCTIONS, INC**  
[www.MineralShowsLLD.com](http://www.MineralShowsLLD.com) [mineralshowslld@gmail.com](mailto:mineralshowslld@gmail.com)





## BOARD MEMBERS

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Director/Shop POC: Leslie Amato 334.324.7997 [lgmato@yahoo.com](mailto:lgmato@yahoo.com)

## Gem Mineral/Jewelry Show:

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Contact Chair: Clare Weil 334.221.5211 [clarecweil@gmail.com](mailto:clarecweil@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Violet Jones 334.354.8795 [violetbjones2013@gmail.com](mailto:violetbjones2013@gmail.com)

Publicity: Candace Rutherford 334.467.4050 [publicity@mgms.club](mailto:publicity@mgms.club)

**The Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.**  
**Is proud to present our**  
**57th ANNUAL**  
**Gem, Mineral, Jewelry,**  
**Bead and Fossil Show**  
**Featuring exhibits, speakers**  
**& prize drawings!**  
**November 23—24, 2024**  
**South Fl. Fairgrounds/ Expo Center East**  
**9067 Southern Blvd. / West Palm Beach, FL**  
**33411**  
**Saturday 9AM to 6PM**  
**Sunday 10AM to 5PM**  
[www.gmspb.org](http://www.gmspb.org)

**ADULTS \$10**  
**2-DAY PASS \$15**  
**CHILDREN**  
**UNDER 12 FREE**

**The Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.**  
 Present this Coupon for **\$1.00 OFF ONE ADULT ADMISSION**  
 (Feel Free to Copy this Coupon)  
**LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PERSON**  
 \*Not Valid With Any Other Discount **FB**

**GEM MINING**  
**SILENT AUCTION**  
**SPIN-THE-WHEEL GAME**  
 (suggested donation \$1/spin)  
**GEODE CRACKING**  
**FREE PARKING**  
**PRIZE DRAWINGS**  
**DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**SPEAKERS**  
**EXHIBITS**  
**FOSSIL DIG**  
**KIDS' EXPLORATION STATION**  
**FACE & ROCK PAINTING**  
 Proceeds from this event support **GMSPB INC (a 501(c)(3) Corp.)**



## AFMS Code of Ethics

(<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

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





# DMC FIELD TRIP




**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 Northeast Georgia Mineral Society  
 (Clarkesville, GA) (Host)  
 An Official Field Trip of the <<< Please replace this highlighted area with  
 your club's name before forwarding

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
**10 AM – 4 PM Eastern**  
**Chunky Gal Mountain**  
**Clay County, NC**

**Limit 40 People**  
**Registration Required (link is below)**  
**Fee: None**



**TRIP:** Chunky Gal Mountain (aka Corundum Knob) was named for a Cherokee legend about a buxom maiden who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Her parents did not approve and attempted to stop the romance, but the young maid was determined to follow her heart, finding her way across the mountain slope to be with her beloved. This area is known for its large deposit of smaragdite, a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite, that gets its green color from chromium. It often contains small red corundum crystals and garnets.

### Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months

#### 2024

- June - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL)
- July - Kanawha Rock and Gem Club (South Charleston, WV)
- August - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Henderson, NC)
- September - Pendleton District Gem & Mineral Society (Seneca, SC)
- October - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Memphis, TN)
- November - Emerald City Rock and Gem Club (Greenwood, SC)

DMC e-mail: [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

Website: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."





## SCHOLARSHIP FORM (April deadline)



### WIN A TRIP TO THE FEDERATION WORKSHOP OF YOUR CHOICE

Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Workshop Scholarship Program Points Sheet (revised Feb 2022)

Points	Event	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Attend Meeting – regular or board													
2	Attend a scheduled Field Trip													
2 per 4 hrs worked	Work at Gem Show													
2	Take club hosted workshop or class													
2	Exhibit display case at show													
2	Work setup/takedown at Gem Show													
3	Bring food or drinks to vendor dinner													
2	Recruit a new member													
3	Write an article for Golden Nugget													
5	Arrange a field trip (non-chair)													
5	Lecture to outside group													
5	Present program at meeting													
5 per year	Serve as officer or committee chair													
5	Teach club sponsored workshop													
TOTALS														

It's really simple. Keep this sheet during the calendar year. Record the points you earned each month according to points allowed in the left hand column for that event. If you accumulate 25 or more points by December 31st, turn in this form at the January meeting. The first two names drawn from forms submitted will win tuition to a Federation workshop of his or her choice at either William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or Wildacres Retreat. Members can attend classes only during the Federation sponsored weeks offered that calendar year, no exceptions. Two more names will be drawn as alternates since scholarships cannot be carried over to future years. Alternates will only be utilized in the event that the original winner(s) are unable to attend.

The winners will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the workshop location and for any cost of materials used in the class. The material costs vary according to the class chosen, but if your finances are limited, you can choose a less expensive class. Payment by the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society for classes is based on double occupancy fee – if you choose to room alone, you will incur the additional cost. You must prepay for your class and then remit copies to the club for reimbursement.

A trip to the workshop is an excellent opportunity to increase your lapidary skills as well as to encounter other rock hounds and to enjoy a full week of hands-on training with room and board included. Give it your best shot. Someone will win and it could just be you.







## Snack Sign Up

Are you enjoying having refreshments at our meetings?

Me too!

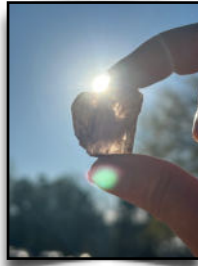
Sign up today!

Remember: NO need to bring ice!

### MGMS Snack Sign Up

We need one person to sign up for snacks, one person for drinks/cups, for EACH meeting.

Date	Name	Food	Drinks/Cups
4/16	Anna Claire Brewer	✓	
4/16	Joanne Staley		✓
5/21			
5/21			
6/18	Jimmie Fisher	✓	
6/18			
7/16	Iris McGehee	✓	
7/16	Del & Holly O'Neal	✓	✓
8/20	Dieter & Trudi Brethner	✓	
8/20	DAVE ANDERSON		✓
9/17	JIM GAINES		✓
9/17	Peggy & Chuck Burn	✓	
10/15	Lolita Amato		✓
10/15	Charles Byrd	✓	



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](mailto:amandamagnoliabrown@yahoo.com)

















