

GOLDEN



NUGGET

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

Welcome to 2024 and new year with the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society. As we discussed at our January 23, 2024 re-scheduled club meeting, the City of Montgomery is renovating the Crump Community Center and we will be re-locating our monthly meetings to the Perry Hill Methodist Church fellowship hall, at the intersection of Perry Hill Road and Harrison Road. I would like to thank everyone who attended our January club meeting and thanks to all the club members who brought snacks and refreshments. Please sign up for snacks and refreshments for the upcoming club meetings. We will be publishing the refreshment list in the newsletter.

We need volunteers to sign up each month to present a Rock of the Month Entry for our newsletter and club meeting. You will need to write a small article about your favorite rock a, provide some photos, and then bring specimens of your Rock of the Month to the next gem club meeting.

The Wetumpka Impact Crater tour and lecture are scheduled for February 2024. On Thursday February 22, Dr. David King will be presenting his lecture on the Impact Crater and then on Feb. 23-24 the Commission will be hosting tours of the impact crater. The lecture is free and tours are \$25 per person and \$15 for children 10-17 years old. Pre-registration and payment are required, please call the City of Wetumpka at 334-567-5147 to reserve and pay for your spot. The Gem Club has decided that since we had a tremendous attendance at the Impact Crater Lecture and tour last year, that we would wait until next year to do this tour again. But if you have not attended this event, it is well worth your time and money to experience this unique geologic structure in our community. Also, there is directions for a self-guided tour on the Impact Crater Commission website.

I am in contact with the Alabama Museum of Natural History in Tuscaloosa to schedule a special tour of the museum with behind the scenes looks at some of the collections there not on public display. While also in the Tuscaloosa area, there is a nice football museum down the street from the History Museum for those that are Alabama fans. There is also the Moundville State Park just fifteen minutes down the road with tours, demonstrations, and a museum of the native American artifacts form the area. More details will be made available at our February 20, 2024 Gem Club meeting.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies are holding their 6th annual Rockhound Roundup at the Suwannee Spirt of the South Music Park outside Lake City, Florida the weekend of March 1, 2024. This is an old-fashioned, outdoor rock swap gem and mineral show. Last year I picked up some very nice cut and polished specimens of Florida agate for \$20. If you are interested in traveling, camping, or cabins this is a good event to attend.

In mid-March 2024 we are scheduling our annual shop clean-up day at the club workshop for one Saturday morning TBD. We need as many hands as possible, and especially all the club members who routinely work at the shop, to come out at 9:00 am to help clean, organize, and repair equipment at the club's workshop. This is a weather driven event and is subject to change if it's raining, cold or very wet.



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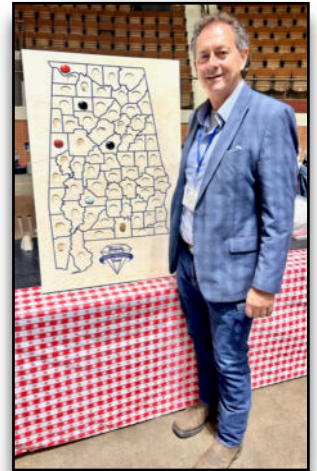
Rock 'o the Month

Jr Rockhound

Board Members Info.

Upcoming Events

AFMS Code of Ethics





The weekend of April 6-7, 2024 the Dothan Gem and Mineral Club, aka the Wiregrass Rockhounds will be hosting their annual Gem Show. After losing their traditional event venue, the club had to cancel last year's gem show but have secured a new location and are hosting their show this year.

On April 8, 2024 there will be a total solar eclipse spanning the middle of the united states from Texas up through Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. With the "epicenter" around Carbondale, IL. If you have never experience of a complete, total solar eclipse it is very interesting natural phenomenon to do. We attended the total solar eclipse in Kentucky in 2017 and really enjoyed the experience. A few observations from our previous eclipse: At the "epicenter" there will be thousands of people from all walks of life converging to experience the event. The eclipse event builds up all day long, with numerous vendors and activities happening everywhere. But immediately after the eclipse ends, everyone heads to their vehicles to go home and there will be massive traffic jams. Good luck if you attend! We are considering go again ourselves.

In April 2024 our club will be hosting our annual New Members annual collecting field trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange, Georgia. This mine is about 2 hours east of Montgomery at exit 13, interstate 1-85. The cost is \$35 for adults, kids 17 and under are free with a paying adult. We will be able to collect all the rose quartz, some beryl and some tourmaline that you want. The club will provide a hand cart and club members to help carry out any large yard rocks you want or just help carry out a heavy 5-gallon bucket. The club will have bottled water and some snacks for club members on this field trip.

Other activities we have planned for 2024 include a weekend trip in the Spring to Noccalulla Falls and Cathedral Caverns in NE Alabama; a late spring trip to Dismals Canyon and Natural Bridge Park in NW Alabama, a tour of various commercial caves during the summer time, and we will have our annual collecting trip on Uphapee Creek at the Barkley Farm in Macon County at the end of Summer. We need your input, ideas, and thoughts on how to make these events happen. Please let us know what you want to do.

Keep on Rocking!

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com

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**

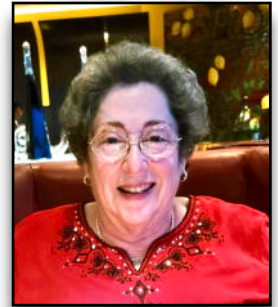
Park Admission Fee & FREE to Park Members

For more information contact
Jeff at (334) 673-3554 or
wiregrassrockhounds.com.
Find us on Facebook!



PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Beth Wicker will present a program about setting odd shaped stones. Beth is a new member, but not new to lapidary and jewelry making. She holds a BA in Fine Art and an MFA in printmaking, but as a metalsmith she learned from a variety of workshops, books, videos and friends.



Beth had her own gallery for a few years before her daughter was born. Since then she has sold through numerous galleries and shops; at various shows; and at the American Handcrafted Show in Philadelphia. She has her own website <http://www.bethwicker.com>, and shops on Etsy, eBay and Poshmark.

Beth is a past president of the SC Crafts Association, and the NC Society of Goldsmiths. She was on the Approved Artist Roster of the SC Arts Commission for decades, doing residencies in schools across the state, teaching on their Crafts Truck, and serving on various committees. She helped found the Cheraw Arts Commission in SC, and also helped found the Artisans of the SC Cotton Trail, and was President for a few terms.

Beth moved to Alabama during the pandemic, and is now volunteering with various Alabama crafts and arts communities, and teaching classes at several venues. She is on the Board of the Montgomery Art Guild.

We will also have the food table corner during our program. You might remember that I brought a “rib roast” as the 1st offering for our newly planned rock food table at next year’s show, so look in your collections and see what “food” is hiding in your rock pile.

Clare

SHOP DAY FEB 3

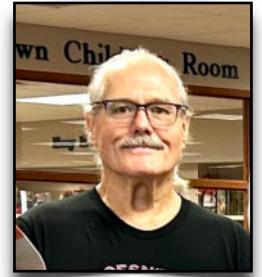
Board Members Leslie Amato and David Sherrod met with club members at our club shop, to teach us how to use the saws and the cab machines.

A big THANK YOU to member John Bowick for replacing the switch on our large saw!





Secretary's JAN Minutes



The meeting was called to order by president Chris Rutherford.

Iris delivered the treasurers' report and received members club renewals, as well as new members dues.

Chris did a slide presentation of the events of the past year, and discussed field trips for the coming year.

Clare shared that we are collecting rock specimens that look like food to make a "Food" table for our club. Please bring any rocks that look like any type of food to each club meeting.

February Rock of the Month

By David Sherrod

Botswana agate is usually white and grey banded. The grey bands can be from light with blue overtones all the way almost black. More prized stones may be amber to root beer in color. There are even more rare varieties that range from pink to orange.

It has a hardness in the 7 Mohs range making it suitable for everyday wear.

Although examples have been found indicating its use as a valued talisman from as far back as 5000 years has only been imported to the U.S. since the early 1970's. This was due in large part to Gene Mueller of "The Gem Shop. Egyptians were said to prize it for carvings of sacred scarabs symbolizing strength and longevity.

This agate was formed 187 million to 140 million years by volcanic activity. a slow moving lave with a high silica content put down multiple layers that later underwent high pressure from weight and intense heat. These have since been exposed by erosion and are spread out over 200 square miles in isolated pockets.

The rough uncut stones are becoming hard to find as Botswana no longer allows the export of unfinished stones. Why is Botswana agate like a box of chocola





Jr Rockhound



Hi. My name is Jeremy.

I would like to tell you about this gemstone Fluorite. It is very pretty, but very soft. It is used for goblets and wine cups back then. It is usually green, purple, or even brown! Some are even rainbow colored!

They form in cubes, but it may be shaped like grapes. Some can fluoresce.

I love this gemstone because it reminds me of the Bible. The deep green reminds me of Jesus' death, but the white part reminds me of His resurrection, and the purple is that He is the King of Kings.



Mississippi
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY


2024 Mississippi
 Gem & Mineral Show

February 24th	9 am- 6 pm
February 25th	9 am- 4 pm



Adults: \$8 - Students: \$3
 Scouts & Leaders in Uniform: \$2
 Children 5 and under: FREE

MAGMA Land of the Sky GEM SHOW
 March 15th - 17th, 2024
 Land of The Sky Event Venue
 39 Spring Cove Rd - Swannanoa, NC

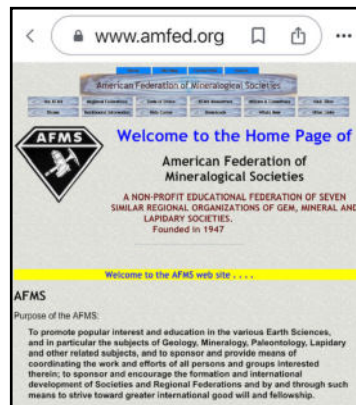
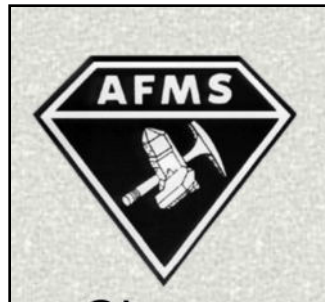




Don't forget to update links to the SFMS website
Links to the old SFMS website will be going away in January. Please make sure any links you have to the SFMS website point to the new website: <https://www.southeastfed.org>

We are members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

We are members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



MARCH 15-16-17
BELLPOINT GEM SHOW



COBB CIVIC CENTER
548 S MARIETTA PKWY
MARIETTA GA



Dreamy

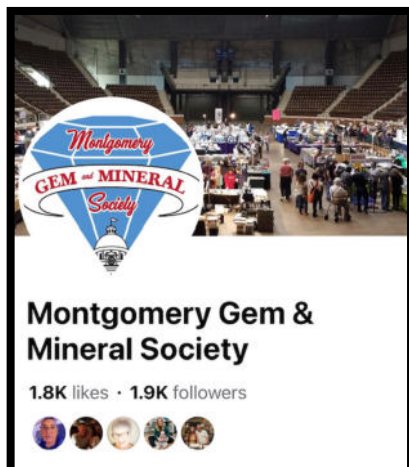
GEMMY WONDERLAND



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!





BOARD MEMBERS

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Publicity: Candace Rutherford 334.467.4050 publicity@mgms.club

65th Annual

MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

February 24 - 25, 2024

at the Trade Mart
Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson

Saturday - 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday - 9 am to 4 pm

Join us!

Adults \$8.00 • Students \$3.00
Scouts and Leaders in Uniform \$2.00
Children 5 and under - Free



UPCOMING EVENTS

3/1-3/2024—LARGO, FL: Annual show; Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. of St Petersburg, FL; Largo Event Center, 6340 126th Ave N. Largo, FL 33773; 10-5 All 3 days; Adult \$6, Under 12 Free - Good for all three days; Free parking and food service on site ; contact sgamsdealerchair@gmail.com; Website: sgams.com

3/1-3/2024—LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies ; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; Free; SFMS Member vendors from seven states: FL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, AL. Rough rock, slabs, jewelry, cabs, minerals, fossils and more; contact Jerri Heer, 9016 122nd Ave, Tampa, FL 33637, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/22-24/2024—LEXINGTON, KY: Annual show; Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club; Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Everyone \$5 except children under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free when accompanied by an adult; contact John Bradshaw, (859) 576-6785; Email: K4swx911@gmail.com; Website: bggamc.homestead.com

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 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; Website: 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.

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, email info@theearthwideopen.com. 901-490-3575



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



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Scholarship Form



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.



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









