ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS


Volume 54 No. 2  "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"  February 2022

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Geology, Mineralogy and Micropaleontology of the Orgueil Meteorite: Rosetta Stone of Life and the Distribution of Biospheres
Presentation by Prof. Richard B. Hoover
22 Feb 2022, HGMS Education Center
See the abstract on page 2

Doctor of Sciences, Honoris Causa (Russian Academy of Sciences
NASA/Emiritus, Astrobiology Group Leader, Marshall Space Flight Center
Docent/U.S. Space & Rocket Center, 1 Tranquility Base, Huntsville, AL

A fragment of Orgueil Meteorite, which fell near the town of Orgueil in southern France on May 14, 1864. It has been the subject of intense research ever since, and contains some amazing secrets.

Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS) 2022. Reprinting Rights are granted for all material (except for minutes of the meeting and copyrighted articles) to any organization officially affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) or Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), provided credit is given to the author, the original publication, and this newsletter. The HGMS email address is hsvgems@gmail.com.
As most of you know, we lost one of our longtime Life members Juan “Marty” Martinez on February 2nd. Marty was a regular at the lapidary, showing off his beautiful rock finds and often giving away pieces to other members. His Companion of 33 years, Cheryl Metz continued Marty’s generosity at a memorial on February 6th, providing slabs to attendees to remember Marty by. A military service for Marty, who was a Green Beret, will be held in Colorado. Marty will be missed.

az (Anthony Zwilling) President

Minutes from the Jan 25 2022 HGMS General Membership Meeting

Two new member families: Kaven, Linda, & Aliyah Howard; and Tony & Deone Keane, and three visiting guests.

Rocket City Jewelers made a motion to add an RCJ member as a voting member on the board so they will be able to make decisions that affect the club and RCJ. Motion tabled for future discussion.

Motion was made for full-time dependent college students to be included in the family memberships.

Executive Board meeting review (See separate minutes)

New lapidary hours (See the schedule on page 8)

Rocket City Jewelers. Please RSVP two week prior to class dates (See RCJ article below)

Metalsmithing - February class is metal etching. First Thursday and following Monday of February. (See Metalsmithing article below)

Auction Saturday March 19th, here in the HGMS Education Center instead of the Jaycees Building. Friday the 18th 5:00pm is set up and Saturday doors open at 9am, auction starts at 10am. Volunteers are needed, appx 20-25 people. Donations are still being accepted.

Geoscience is under construction. Hoping for lectures soon. Volunteer speakers are needed.

Future Rockhounds of America, formerly called Pebble Pups, meets 4th Thursday of the month. Age groups 18 years and younger are welcome and encouraged. Huntsville’s children’s museum, Early Works, wants us to sponsor a program one Saturday in June with a date to be determined.

Mineral ID, Field Trips, and Hospitality Chair positions are open and need people to take the lead.

Web site is to be revamped with our latest event at the top of the home page.

Dixie Mineral Council has us committed to sponsor a DMC Field Trip in August this year. We will host a trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange GA. The next DMC field trip is visiting Ross Creek at Gruetli Laager TN for Carboniferous plant fossils on Saturday February 19th. See details below.

2nd weekend in October 7-9, 2022 will be our Fall Show date.

Drew McCombs, working with Baron weather, talked about weather prediction software developed after the tornado of 1989 and continuing innovations with today’s radar and technologies.

Abstract for Dr. Richard Hoover’s Presentation—Feb 22nd, 2022 General Membership Meeting

The Orgueil CI1 carbonaceous meteorites fell in a 4X20 km ellipse between Montauban and Toulouse in southern France around 8:00 PM on May 14, 1864. The main mass fell near the village of Orgueil. Letters describing the Orgueil fireball as seen from diverse locations in France were sent to the Director of the Imperial Observatory in Paris. The precise records made it possible to determine the atmospheric trajectory of the Orgueil parent body. The data indicated the Orgueil meteorite was probably from the Jupiter-family of comets. Samples were sent to the eminent geologist Academician G. A. Daubrée, who assembled a consortium of the most brilliant chemists, mineralogists and geologists to study the extremely rare and precious Orgueil meteorite. Prof. Alexandre Leymerie described a 211g stone that fell in the village of Campsas, France: “The broken surface reveals a dark charcoal colored substance so soft that it can be easily cut with a knife. …Fragments placed in water disintegrate immediately.” Academician François Stanislas Cloëz, pioneer of the field of Analytical Chemistry, determined the Orgueil stones contained indigenous carbon and extraterrestrial water and were composed of tiny mineral grains and particulates of insoluble organic matter (IOM) cemented together by water soluble ammonium and magnesium salts. He found the Orgueil stones contained 63% Carbon; 6% Hydrogen and 31% Oxygen. This composition was very similar to the C, H, O content of Somme Valley Peat and Ringkuhl Lignite coal. Even in 1864 it was well known by 1864 that Peat and Coal are produced by decomposition of algae and other biological materials over geological time periods. Prof. Marcellin Berthelot, the renowned organic chemist, discovered the Orgueil stones contained hydrocarbons similar to those of biological origin in petroleum on Earth. Consideration of the possibility of extraterrestrial life on the Orgueil parent body led Louis Pasteur, the great French Microbiologist, to conduct an unsuccessful attempt to culture living bacteria from the interior of a pristine fusion encrusted Orgueil stone.
Studies at NASA/MSFC, Paleontological Institute (Moscow) and Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (Dubna) have shown Orgueil also contains a diverse assemblage of biological remains; including microfossils of modern and extinct filamentous cyanobacteria, diatoms and other microorganisms, and large, complex fluorine-rich carbonaceous filaments that appear to be biological but have not yet been linked with any known groups of life on Earth. Some exhibit astonishing states of preservation - far better than any found in terrestrial rocks. Some of the intact, permineralized filaments have 3-D carbonaceous sheaths infilled with epsomite. Others have features indicating rapid death followed by natural freeze drying of the organisms and associated potential predators. One interpretation is that this resulted from the instantaneous venting and release into space of cometary water from near surface pools due to a fracture in the comet crust. The recognizable microfossils often have nitrogen content below detectable levels and C/O ratios consistent kerogen or coal and some exhibit amazing helical coiled nanostructures seen in TEM images of stained, freeze dried fimbriae of cyanobacteria.

RICHARD B. HOOVER – BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Academician Alexei Rozanov (Director, Paleontology Institute, RAS); Academician Alexander M. Sergeev (President, RAS); Prof. Richard B. Hoover (NASA Emeritus); Academician Boris Sharkov (Vice-Director, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, RAS); Dr. Edmund Akopov (Executive Director, SPIE Russia) at RAS Presidium, October 21, 2021.

Prof. Richard B. Hoover worked at the NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center in Solar Physics, Astrophysics (1966 – 1996) and as NASA/MSFC Astrobiology Group Lead (1996-2012). His research in Multilayer X-ray Optics produced the first high-resolution X-ray image of the Sun with a normal incidence x-ray telescope. He was NASA Inventor of the year (1992); Explorers Club Fellow (2001); SPIE President (2001) and recipient of the SPIE Gold Medal (2009). In collaboration with Dr. Elena V. Pikuta, he discovered and described 1 new family, 5 genera and 13 species of bacteria isolated from samples he collected from many of the most hostile environments on Earth. He has delivered lectures on every continent of Earth on X-ray Astronomy, Astrobiology, Diatoms, Microbial Extremophiles and Microfossils in Meteorites. On October 21, 2021, Prof. Hoover was awarded the Academic Degree and Title Doctor of Sciences, Honoris Causa (D.Sc., h.c.) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The second oldest Scientific Institution in the World, the RAS was established by Tsar Peter the Great in 1724. The Diploma and Medal was presented to Dr. Hoover by Academician Sergeev (RAS President) in a ceremony in the Presidium. He was nominated for this Title based on his development of advanced X-ray, γ-ray and neutron optical systems and his collaboration with Russian Scientists during Expeditions to Siberia and Antarctica to study microbial extremophiles in ancient ice/permafrost and the collaborative discovery of microfossils in carbonaceous meteorites. A committee of RAS Academicians recommended the D.Sc., h.c. degree and title after reviewing Prof. Hoover’s 420 scientific papers; 52 Books/Conference Volumes and 13 U.S./International Patents and approved by vote of all RAS Academicians. Prof. Hoover is one of five individuals to ever receive this honor, and is the only non-Russian.
Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News  By Leslie Malakowsky

The Wire Woven Bail with Rose Embellishment class was our first try using a stone donut in jewelry making! It was a challenging project, but almost everyone finished it. There will be more opportunities to work with donuts in the future. In the meantime, you’re encouraged to practice wire weaving. Please see Judy for patterns, and there are also many patterns available online.

The club’s Annual Fundraising Auction is coming up on Saturday, March 19th. You’re welcome to donate finished jewelry pieces to the auction. Proceeds from the auction help support HGMS activities such as RCJ! Please bring your donations to the Lapidary Shop from 6p-9p on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, or to Shelley in Metalsmithing from 5p-9p on Mondays or Thursdays.

And lastly, there’s a 5th Wednesday coming up on March 30th. This year, we’re thinking of having a jewelry swap. The time would be from 6p-9p. Please weigh in at the next RCJ meeting. And don’t forget the ongoing “sale” of donated items that we can’t use! Proceeds go directly to RCJ. What’s left will most likely be donated to Future Rockhounds of America and/or the auction.

Upcoming Schedule:
Feb 16: 6p – 9p, Double Cloud Cover Earrings. Kit cost $5. We’ll learn a new chainmaille weave while making these elegant earrings. Silver Enamled Copper (EC) rings will be used with silver-plated lever-back ear wires. You need to bring 2, 8mm pearls or stone beads, chain nose pliers (2 prs), round nose pliers, and cutters. Kit consists of rings, ear wires, and wire to attach your pearls or beads. The deadline to RSVP was February 2nd.

Mar 2: 6p – 9p, Hammered Copper Triangle Pendant. The cost of the wire depends on the size pendant you want to make. You need to bring a hammering surface such as a metal bench block, a damper such as a rubber block or an old mouse pad, a chasing hammer or old ball peen hammer. There’s going to be a lot of hammering, so bring ear protection, if you’re sensitive to loud noises. The deadline to RSVP is February 16th.

Mar 16: 6p – 9p, Kinetics Chainmaille Bracelet. Kit cost $6. This is a variation of the Helm’s weave chainmaille pattern. You need to bring 2 pairs of the chain nose pliers that you’re comfortable using for chainmaille. The deadline to RSVP is March 2nd.

Meeting Times:
Classes are from 6p – 9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Make up and “Finish It” sessions are from 2p – 5p on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. (Meeting times and activities on 5th Wednesdays are TBD.)

Class Reservations: To reserve a class kit, Call, Text or Email Theresa Chivers at 256-509-0406 (wolfsong929@gmail.com). You can also reserve your kit in person at an RCJ meeting. Remember to RSVP two weeks before class.

Meeting Location: The HGMS Education Center, 7901 Bailey Cove Road SE, Huntsville. Enter the South parking lot off Bailey Cove Road SE, drive through the lot to the Education Center (long narrow building at the back), turn left, park directly opposite the building, and enter the double glass doors on the West side of the building. Note: The doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, the doors will be locked, and you will need to call Judy (205-541-7207) or Theresa (256-509-0406) to let you in.

Volunteers:
Instructors: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Point of Contact/Kit Reservations/Security: Theresa Chivers, 256-509-0406 (wolfsong929@gmail.com)
Kit Manager/Treasurer/Security: Judy Osmundson
Membership/Publicity/Inventory: Leslie Malakowsky

RCJ is open to every member of the HGMS. (Gentlemen, too!) If you love making jewelry, please join us! All skill levels are welcome! Please contact Judy with your ideas for more classes (especially projects that incorporate gemstones), or “pin” your ideas on our Pinterest page. We’d also like to know what you’re able to teach.
Dues are Now Due— with an Increase for 2022

New Members and current Members - Now $20 single/$25 Family

Those who had already paid by Dec 31 will not be charged the extra amount.

What do your dues give back to you? Dues cover about half of the HGMS Annual Budget, along with the Auction, which we will have this year - Rock Sale last year. The income is used to help provide support for our many activities - access to our new Education Center, lapidary, jewelry, metals, Pebble Pups, GeoSciences, Field Trips (DMC will be back next year), AFMS/SFMS/DMC Federation membership & insurance, newsletter, monthly programs, Web Page, Fall Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show, Picnic, Christmas Dinner and Outreach. Still quite a bargain, don’t you think?!!!
Future Rockhounds of America  
Thursday February 24th, 6:00pm

Hello Future Rockhounds!  
We have a new name to indicate a new beginning and great future.

The Future Rockhounds (previously Pebble Pups) began last month with an eager group. These future rockhounds started on their first badge toward becoming Rockhounds and discovered several methods to help identify minerals - color, hardness, luster, and streak, smell and even taste - and will discover more this month - specific gravity, magnetism, acid, cleavage and more - about mineral identification. Discoveries about the rock cycle and the official mineral, gem and rock of Alabama will also happen. It is not too late for our future rockhounds (children and grands 8 to 18 years old of members and younger enthusiasts) to come investigate and discover rocks, minerals, gems and fossils - Oh my! A field trip to Cook’s museum in Decatur and fossil hikes on the Land Trust trails are coming up. More information about the Future Rockhounds of America program can be found at https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program.

We can't wait to see you there! Bring your Friends.

Your Rock Hound Team Co-Chairpersons  
Karen Allen — karenhsv@gmail.com  
Mike Harrison - campcraft.mike@gmail.com  
Dee Morton - deemorton@hotmail.com

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Rock, Mineral, and Machine AUCTION, SATURDAY MARCH 19th

7901 Bailey Cove Rd, Hsv AL 9:00 open for inspection, 10:00 bidding starts

Our annual fundraising auction is coming up fast. The auction has grown to become a good source of funding for the club. Proceeds from the auction support HGMS programs and activities including but not limited to junior rockhounds, geosciences, lapidary and much more.

We auction and outright sell all sorts of things, from rough and slabs to specimens and finished pieces. There’s books and magazines. We have jewelry making materials and finished jewelry. There’s lapidary equipment and tumblers, grits and other things too numerous to mention.

We need volunteers for all sorts of jobs to make all this happen.  
For example: * Set up 5:00pm Friday Mar 18th and tear down after the auction  
* Sign in, get contact info and give out numbered paddles. Have membership info on hand too.  
* Keeping the items moving in order to the auctioneer, show the material to the crowd.  
* Bid tracker and computer program. Very fast pace.  
* Backup bid tracker and computer, to figure checkout totals without the interruption of the primary bid tracker.  
* Cashiers, two. Be ok with making change and taking credit cards. Fast moving near the end of the day.  
* Runners  
* Sold table holding area, two people.  
* Someone to run the buy it now area. Organize items and tables. Outright sales, must be comfortable dealing and dickering, no cash involved.  
* Someone in the equipment area to provide info to patrons.

Pick a job that interests you. Some are somewhat physical and others are sit down jobs. We’ll need backup for most jobs as not everyone can stay all day.
Downtown Public Library
Window Display

The main library has again allowed the HGMS to place our jewelry, lapidary, and fossil treasures in one of the entrance windows. This came at a perfect time for us to advertise the upcoming Spring Auction, because it will be in place all of February and March. Shelley Curran and Kathy Bowman placed a section from the Metalsmithing Group, Leslie Malakowsky added the Rocket City Jewelry items, and Bill Friday put in the minerals and fossils. Drop by there and admire your Rock Club’s handiwork.

We have already reserved a window for September ahead of the Fall Show.
Mineral of the Month – Rhodochrosite  By Leslie A. Malakowsky

Rhodochrosite is one of my favorite minerals because of its beautiful pinks and reds. It’s one of the minerals I remember from my junior rockhound days, and I still look for it at gem and mineral show.

Rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate mineral with the chemical formula MnCO₃. (Not to be confused with rhodonite, a manganese silicate mineral with the formula MnSiO₃.) Manganese gives rhodochrosite (and rhodonite) its pink color. In its purest form, rhodochrosite is an intense rose-red color, but pure specimens are rare. That’s because rhodochrosite frequently forms a solid-solution series (a family of minerals that have a range of compositions and a single crystal structure) in which iron (making siderite – iron carbonate), calcium, and to a lesser extent, magnesium, and zinc substitute for the manganese in varying amounts. This causes a range of colors from colorless, white, pale pink, pink, rose, red, yellow, yellowish gray, gray, pale brown, to cinnamon-brown.

Rhodochrosite is a member of the calcite group of anhydrous (meaning lacking water) carbonate minerals. Other minerals in this group include magnesite, siderite, and smithsonite. Rhodochrosite is a member of the trigonal crystal system, and it frequently occurs as rhombohedrons (a crystal having 3 pairs of unique rhombic faces) or scalenohedrons (a crystal that has congruent scalene triangles). It can also occur in bladed, columnar, stalactitic, botryoidal, granular or massive forms. Rhodochrosite has a white streak, and its Mohs hardness varies between 3.5 and 4, about the same hardness as fluorite. (Please see your favorite mineral information source for more about physical properties.)

The rhodochrosite we tend to see at gem and mineral shows is the familiar banded pink variety. It’s a favorite for carving into decorative objects (e.g., spheres, eggs, hearts), and for making jewelry (e.g., beads, cabochons, and “donuts”). But banded rhodochrosite is rarely faceted because it’s relatively soft, and it’s got perfect cleavage. However, gem quality rhodochrosite is hard enough to make faceted gemstones, although they’re not as common as other red gemstones, such as ruby, spinel, and garnet.

Rhodochrosite was first described in 1813 from a sample found in the Cavnic silver mine in Romania, which is its type locality. The mineral formed in a hydrothermal vein in a deposit of manganese ore inside the mine. More recently, rhodochrosite has been found in other geologic environments, such as pegmatites (coarse-grained igneous rock composed of interlocking crystals). Interestingly, rhodochrosite is also a biomineral in that it can form by certain fungi if they’re present on manganese ore when it’s exposed to oxygen.

The name “rhodochrosite” is derived from the Greek word ῥοδόχρως meaning rose-colored. The prefix “rhodo” comes from the Greek ῥόδος or rhodos, meaning rosy. Rhodochrosite from South America is sometimes called “Rosa del Inca,” “Inca Rose” or “Rosinca.”

Rhodochrosite is highly sought after, and its value, like other minerals, has increased over the years. When shopping, be careful not to confuse rhodonite with rhodochrosite. Both minerals are used as ornamental stones and in jewelry. One way to tell the difference between the two minerals is that rhodonite is distinctly harder than rhodochrosite, and rhodonite frequently occurs with black manganese (see photo at left). If you just want a nice pink specimen or stone, rhodonite can be a less expensive alternative. But it’s harder to detect the difference between the two when it comes to faceted gemstones, so always buy from a reputable source.

Besides being a source of rhodochrosite, manganese ore is used in industrial applications as a main component of inexpensive stainless steel and some aluminum alloys.

The most well-known mine for banded rhodochrosite is in Capillitas, Argentina. In the United States, rhodochrosite is mined all over the country, especially in California and Colorado.

Tidbits: In 2002, Colorado officially named rhodochrosite as its state mineral. Rhodochrosite is Argentina’s national gemstone.

I found this stunning image of rhodochrosite rosettes on the internet (geologyin.com) and couldn’t resist including it here.

References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org, geologyin.com
Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

Remember for next weekend—See the January Newsletter for details.
An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
Saturday, February 19, 2022, 9:00 am CST, Ross Creek, Gruetli-Laager, TN

An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock & Gem Society (Mobile, AL) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
Patty Construction Quarry  SUNDAY, March 20, 2022  9:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST
7525 Hwy 27, Summerville GA Unlimited Participants  No Fee

TRIP: The March 2022 SFMS DMC Field Trip is sponsored by the Mobile Rock & Gem Society to collect Summerville Agate at the quarry in Summerville Georgia. This site has been a long-time favorite of many collectors. The agate forms within Mississippian age chert as delicate concentric bands. Colors are predominantly gray and red.

COLLECTING: Material is generally found by simply surface collecting, although there are plenty of large pieces and boulders for those so inclined to break them apart.

BRING: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge, or are nearby someone else doing so! Things, such as a hammer, chisels, scratching tools, pry bars, buckets, small ground shovels and rakes, paper to wrap specimens, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pail of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

REQUIREMENTS: ALL participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability before being allowed into the collection area. You will need to show your HGMS 2022 membership card.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE

CHILDREN: Children are allowed but are required to have adult supervision at all times.
PETS: No pets allowed

FACILITIES: There are no facilities on-site. The nearest restrooms are approximately 3 miles away in Summerville

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:
From downtown Summerville (Commerce St.) take U.S. 27S. There will be a left curve, then a right curve. Just past the right curve is the mine (7525 Hwy 27). Look for the Mobile Rock and Gem Society signs. GPS 34° 28 20.57  85° 18 58.50, or 34.4723379, -85.3162727

CONTACT: Michael Peterson, Field Trip Chairman, (251) 786-2583

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. Have your current membership card with you. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click here to read them), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. So, unless the property owner has invited non-SFMS attendees, the general public is not allowed on DMC field trips. Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. is now open on a regular schedule.

Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, Jan Edmunds
Lapidary: Bill Friday, Michael Cape, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Anthony Zwilling
Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Future Rockhounds: Karen Allen, Mike Harrison, Dee Morton

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Metal Smithing</td>
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<td>Lapidary</td>
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<td>9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
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<td>6:00pm - 9:00 4th Tuesdays</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Rocket City Jewelers 1st &amp; 3rd Weeks</td>
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<td>GeoSciences</td>
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<td>Future Rockhounds</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Metal Smithing</td>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month</td>
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February Birthdays

1 Ryan Flippo  10 Tony Smith
2 Michael Cape 12 Kay Jones
2 Maureen Lokken 12 Deborah Wright
5 Alli Curran 17 Don Cooper
6 Mike Goode 18 Wayne Falkenberg
6 Linda Howard 18 Amy Freeman
7 Lester Bartel 21 Zachery Moore
7 Karen Cale 23 Alison Wydner
22 Joey Bonds

March Birthdays

1 Richard Hoover 15 Kay Jones
1 Hilde Williams 18 Ola Ann Lee
5 Allison Kowalczyk 18 Michael O’Dell
6 Jacob Wydner 19 Ben Carroll
7 Jason Edgeworth 20 Karen Howard
9 Julie McCullough 22 Susan Hessler
12 Ray Ferguson 22 Gene Powers
13 Joanna Morrow 25 Milly Peeples
13 Karen van Bebber 30 Tommy Trainer

Anniversaries

12 Don & Marie Aldridge
12 Kay & Mark Jones
12 Brant & Alice Kosten

March Anniversaries

4 Jason & Nina Edgeworth
14 Ben & Monica Carroll

The February Aquamarine
2022 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD
President– Anthony Zwilling - afzwilling@gmail.com
Vice President - Bill Friday - bill.Friday@earthlink.net
Recording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.com
Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.Friday@earthlink.net
Past President: Mike Harrison - campcraft.mike@gmail.com
Directors at Large:
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  Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com
  Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com
  Isabel Leon y Leon- isabel.leonyleon@gmail.com

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY: The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization for people interested in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and related lapidary arts. Its primary purpose is the education and enjoyment of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs and activities, shows, lectures to school children and organizations, and exchange of rocks, minerals, artifacts, and newsletters.

DUES: Annual dues are $20.00 per person, $25.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org or at the HGMS Education Center during a meeting or at one of our activity periods: 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 35802
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month except for March Auction, June picnic, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

The Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies , the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Dixie Mineral Council

Federation Newsletters:  
  DMC: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm
  SFMS: https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter  - new, under construction
  AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm
2022 CALENDAR

22 Feb ’22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

19 Mar ’22 - Spring Rock Auction Fundraiser, HGMS Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

26 Apr’22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

24 May’22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

25 Jun ’22 (Saturday) - Annual Picnic and Rock Swap 8:00 to 4:30
Huntsville Monte Sano State Park, Trailhead Pavilion

26 Jul ’22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

23 Aug’22 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter
March 13, 2022

Do not delay
Dated material

February 2022
Huntsville, AL 35803
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Bill Friday, Editor
Rocket City Rocks & Gems