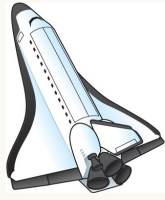


ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville, Alabama

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/Emeritus, 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 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/



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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.

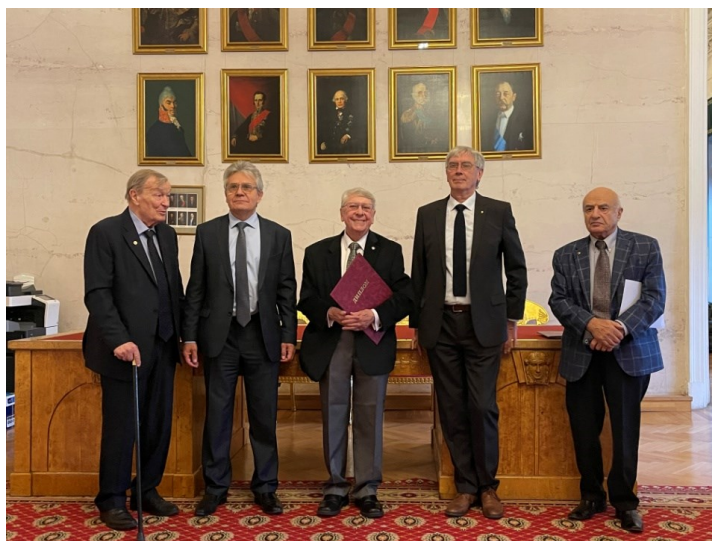
Drew McCombs, working with Baron weather, talked about weather prediction software developed after the tornado of 1989 and continuing innovations with today’s radar and technologies.

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

The Orgueil C11 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 211 g 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 indicate 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 Enamelled 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 (wolfson929@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 (wolfson929@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.





Metal Smithing - Shelley Curran & Kathy Bowman

There will be NO Project Class for March due to auction preparations.

We will continue to have our regular Open Studio hours for March. Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00-9:00pm. This would be a great time to complete unfinished projects or start a new one of your own. Kathy and I will be there to provide one on one help as needed.

The February etching class went reasonably well considering the chilly temp in the room. Everyone has some nice patterned metal for future projects. We may try this again when it's warmer.

A sneak peek of our April class. Build a frame and prong setting.



Jan 20, 2022 HGMS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made that a RCJ leader be added as a voting member of the Executive Board. No changes are planned to the bylaws or constitution on this motion. Maintain 9 voting members to the Board. Committing Board positions as restricted to leaders of HGMS activities locks out general membership from being elected. All nine Board positions are nominated and elected each Fall by the general membership.

Under article V of the Constitution – Add a facility chair and associated budget line.

Defining Family memberships as adults in the same household, plus their dependent children under the age of 19, dependent college students, and grandchildren of these adults whose parents are not members of HGMS.

If members' dues have been paid as of Jan 25, 2022 there is a one-year grace period before their dues are increased from \$15/\$20 to \$20/\$25.

HSVGems@gmail.com should be the only contact for online membership dues and communications from prospective members, questions about HGMS, and outside agencies. These emails are automatically forwarded to the Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor.

All rock and machine donations to HGMS must have a donation receipt signed. Two copies must be present - one for HGMS records and one for the donor.

Scam awareness – if an email looks suspicious, discard it, or ask a Board member.

Auction March 19th is planned for the South room in our Education Center. Set up is March 18th 5:00pm. Auction Saturday open for inspection 9:00, bidding 10:00. Bill will acquire an ATM.

AARP Tax Aide people will be in the HGMS facility from Feb 1st to April 15th Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am through appx 2pm.

Lockers in Lapidary. Members who choose to not renew their lockers will release them for other members. A second locker cabinet is under consideration.

Locker Rentals are Due.

Because several of the lockers rentals were not renewed, they are available for anyone who wants to keep their materials in the EdCtr is welcome to request one. They are still \$10/year. Another locker cabinet construction is anticipated. Watch for developments. Bill Friday, Facility Administrator

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



Rocks & Minerals



Field Trips



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.

Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society

Annual Auction

Saturday, March 19, 2022
Doors Open at **9 am**—Bidding Starts at **10 am**

- *Lapidary Equipment*
- *Lapidary Rough*
- *Slabs*
- *Specimens*
- *Cabochons*
- *Fossils*
- *Finished Jewelry and Supplies*
- *Decorative Objects*

The **"BUY IT NOW"**
section is back
by popular demand!

FREE PARKING—Handicap Accessible
Cash Preferred - Credit Cards Accepted
COME JOIN THE FUN: YOUR TREASURE IS WAITING!

**NEW
LOCATION**

**HUNTSVILLE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
EDUCATION CENTER**
(located behind the Gym) at the
SANDRA MOON COMMUNITY CENTER
7901 BAILEY COVE ROAD SE
HUNTSVILLE AL 35802



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 shows.

Rhodochrosite is a manganese *carbonate* mineral with the chemical formula $MnCO_3$. (Not to be confused with *rhodonite*, a manganese *silicate* mineral with the formula $MnSiO_3$.) 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 $\rho\delta\delta\chi\rho\omega\varsigma$ meaning *rose-colored*. The prefix "rhodo" comes from the Greek $\rho\delta\delta\omicron\varsigma$ 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.

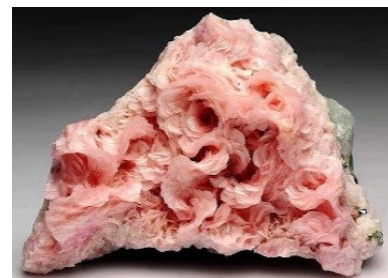
Tidbits: In 2002, Colorado officially named rhodochrosite as its state mineral. Rhodochrosite is Argentina's national gemstone.

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



Rhodonite



Rhodochrosite



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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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.**

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 |

Anniversaries

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



February
Amethyst

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 Kaven 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

- 4 Jason & Nina Edgeworth
- 14 Ben & Monika Carroll



March
Aquamarine

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education , 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. is 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

Monday	Metal Smithing	5:30pm - 9:00pm
	Lapidary	1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm
	Lapidary	5:30pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm
	HGMS Meetings	6:00pm - 9:00 4th Tuesdays
Wednesday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks	- 6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 2nd & 4th Weeks	- 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Metal Smithing	5:30pm - 9:00pm
	GeoSciences	6:30pm 2nd Thursdays
	Future Rockhounds	6:00 4th Thursdays
Friday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	Metal Smithing	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month

2022 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Anthony Zwillling - afzwillling@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:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

Isabel Leon y Leon- isabel.leonyleon@gmail.com

2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Membership: Theresa Chivers

wolfson929@gmail.com |

Field Trips: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Hospitality: Open

Publicity: Open

Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095.

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoode1@comcast.net

Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@comcast.net

Facility Chair: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

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

https://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html old but works

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:
- 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

**Dated material
Do not delay**

February 2022

Rocket City Rocks & Gems
Bill Friday, Editor
2508 Excalibur Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803