



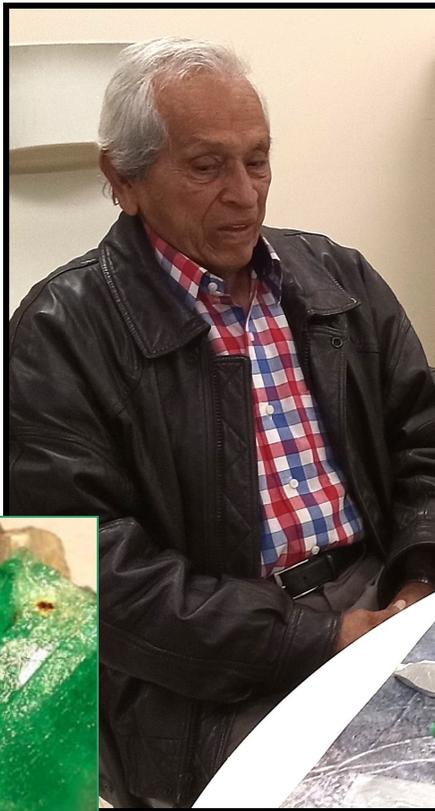
Rockhound Roundup

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

June Meeting

Friday, June 14, 6:30 PM
Cahaba Heights United
Methodist Church

Speaker:
Mario Sanchez



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Emeralds from Columbia!!

Our June Program: Emeralds from Columbia

Welcome Mario Sanchez, our June speaker. Mr. Sanchez is no stranger to our club; nor are his emeralds from Columbia. Emeralds are forms of the mineral beryl. The mineral beryl becomes an emerald when there is enough chromium or vanadium, and sometimes iron to color it a specific green color. Without trace amounts of these foreign elements in the crystal, pure beryl is colorless.



Rough and faceted emerald from Columbia

Here in Alabama, we are most familiar with the form of beryl that can be found in the eastern part of the state, and into west Georgia, like that found at Hogg Mine in Georgia. The primo specimens we prize from Hogg Mine are beryl, mostly yellow and green specimens. Other blue gemmy beryl are found, like the ones pictured.

Beryl comes in a number of varieties aside from emerald; there is also green beryl, heliodor, morganite, bixbite, goshenite, maxixe, and aquamarine. Green beryl, like that found at Hogg Mine, does not have coloration that reaches emerald green. In this case there is too much yellow in to qualify as emerald. The other varieties are much more straightforward where heliodor is yellow, morganite (named after the banker J. P. Morgan) is pink, bixbite is red, goshenite is colorless, maxixe is dark blue, and aquamarine is a greenish blue to light blue.



Yellow and beryl from Hogg Mine, Lagrange, Georgia

Emeralds form in two main ways, one is with superheated water with the mixture of necessary elements under the correct pressure. The second way forms with magma instead. The former is how emeralds from Columbia forms, the country that produces around 90% of all gems quality emeralds in the world.

Most gems form through the cooling of mineral rich water or magma. Emeralds have an extra step where specific superheated liquid minerals (aluminum, oxygen, and beryllium) need to come into contact with silica-rich stones like granite. Part of the reason emeralds are so rare is because they need two relatively rare elements in the earth's crust to form, beryllium and chromium. The numerous requirements makes emerald formation rare, to say nothing of the potential quality that comes out of the deposits.



Meeting Minutes for approval

AMLS meeting May 10, 2024.

We enjoyed a lovely pot luck meal. Our program for the evening was given by Mike Harrison, president of the Huntsville club and head of their Junior program. He said he's not a geologist, gemologist, or mineralogist but he knows rocks. Mike led us in a lively test of our knowledge.

Corrections to the April minutes were called for. Vicki Lais said that Sandra Sullivan had been added to the Nominating Committee per a decision made after the official meeting was over. Don Hill moved to accept the minutes with corrections, John Gaston seconded and the motion passed. Anthony Piazza agreed to be 1st VP in charge of programs but no vote was taken.

At the end of the regular meeting, those present who were interested in the youth club met for a few minutes. They decided that the new club name could be Junior Rockhounds of AMLS. The first official meeting will be 5:30-6:30, before our AMLS regular June meeting. John Gaston volunteered to present a follow-up program to tonight's program at the 5:30 meeting. It will be in the "alcove" next to the regular meeting room. The meeting dissolved into small groups and door prizes were given out.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Bolton recording secretary

June Birthstones



Modern: Alexandrite and Moonstone

Traditional: Pearl

Pearls are the only gems found within living creatures, both salt and freshwater mollusks. However, most pearls on the market today are cultivated or cultured, since they now occur extremely rarely in nature. While pearls require special care, they have an enduring appeal for jewelry, particularly as the traditional June birthstone. The finest pearls display unblemished surfaces with even coloring. Thus, there is a natural association with qualities like honesty, purity, and wisdom. Some cultures associate pearls with the divine, believing that pearls were tears shed from heaven, while others placed pearls in the graves of their loved ones. Ancient Chinese lore claims that pearls represent wisdom and power and are carried by dragons.

"Emerald by day, ruby by night," alexandrite is well-known for displaying one of the most remarkable color changes in the gem world — green in sunlight and red in incandescent light. However, this modern June birthstone is so rare and expensive few people have even seen a natural alexandrite. Alexandrite is worn to enhance the intellect and invite good luck. When exposed to sunlight, high-quality alexandrite will take on a bluish-green color reminiscent of emeralds. At night, under incandescent lighting conditions, the gemstone will, instead, appear a purplish-red color akin to rubies. High-quality stones display clear and distinct color changes, while the color of lower-quality stones may appear to have a mixed/muddied appearance.

The moonstone was named by the Greeks after its similarity to the moon's silver light. The GIA (Gemological Institute of America) describe one of the most captivating elements of the moonstone, which is composed of feldspar minerals, is its ability to mimic an appearance of movement. The misty light seems to roll across the gem's surface as you change the viewing angle. Moonstone gemstones can vary in color from white to grey to orange to yellow to a peach color and they are often referred to as the 'dream stone', as wearing a piece of jewelry with the gem is said to bring sweet dreams to the wearer.

Junior Rock Hound NEWS



Junior Rock Hounds meets 5:30 on the second Friday of the month, before the regular meeting, at the Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church. The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society (SFMS) has announced a contest for Junior Rock hounds. Following is a little about it. Complete rules can be found on the SFMS website.

SFMS Juniors Year in Rocks Photo Contest

The SFMS Youth Resources Committee is excited to announce a new annual contest! SFMS club juniors are encouraged to submit a photo of rocks, minerals, gems, lapidary, and fossil items in the form of the year "2025" to be used on the officer's contact lists page of the SFMS website. The deadline for entries is **August 16, 2024**. Please click the following link for rules and details: <https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/juniors-year-in-rocks-contest>



Last years winning entry

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve



LEADERS are needed for our Junior Rock Hound group which meets at 5:30 pm before the regular meeting. Please consider becoming a leader for the group. Contact John Gaston.

Volunteers to assist with driving to field trips for Junior Rock Hound group. Watch this space for dates and time.

Upcoming SFMS Shows and Events

June 21-23—SWANNANOVA, NORTH CAROLINA: Show; Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association; Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 39 Spring Cove Road; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; FREE; Our June Asheville gem show will have over 35 vendors with everything from affordable treasures to the finest gems, minerals & jewelry in the Southeast! Free admission, rain or shine, food and drink available daily, raffle for over \$1,000 in prizes. This is a fun family-friendly event; contact Richard Jacquot, (828) 779-4501; Email: rickjacquot@gmail.com; Website: www.AmericanRockhound.com

June 12-14—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: Retail show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, sixteen and under free; There will be jewelry of all types, custom faceted-gemstones, beads, crystals, minerals, and fossils. A wire-wrapper will be present to design jewelry and wrap stones on site; contact Ellen White, (804) 642-2011; Email: Ellen.White@TreasuresOfTheEarth.com; Website: www.TreasuresOfTheEarth.com

July 28-August 4—SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Parkway Fire and Rescue; Parkway Fire and Rescue Event Grounds, 136 Majestic View; Sun. 9-6, Mon. 9-6, Tue. 9-6, Wed. 9-6; Free; Hours are from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily; contact Donna Collis, (828) 766-5492; Email: info@grassycreekgemshow.org; Website: grassycreekgemshow.org

August 23-25—MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy; Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; \$8 Admission cash only at door; Select dealers selling exquisite jewelry, crystals, fossils, minerals, healing stones, gems, beads & so much more; contact BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com



Club Field Trip

On June 29, Levan will be leading a group to a rock sale at Cody Wilks home in Section, Alabama. Cody's grandparents were rockhounds and he inherited their collection. He has lots of paint rock, fossils, and petrified wood and is asking \$4 a pound. Let Levan know if you would like to go. (there is a Mennonites farmers market near there for after buying rocks). We will meet somewhere on the way to Section or at the Jack's in Section.

Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society



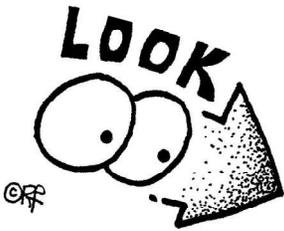
SHOW UPDATE

This year, club members have stepped up to coordinate our 2024 Annual Gem & Mineral Show. You can show your appreciation and support by offering to help them to plan and manage our 2024 event. A lot of planning must take place to present our best AMLS Gem Show ever. Contact one of these coordinators and do your part as a member. There is only **nine weeks** left to bring it all together.

Thank you:

Ben Beadore – Venue Coordinator
Casey Falkner - Show Volunteer Coordinator
Reggie Bolton/Levan Foster - Treasurer and Legal Coordinators
Kristen Osborn and Rhonda Jordan - Publicity and Publications Coordinators
John and Bonnie Gaston - Vendor/Volunteer Dinner and Refreshments
Don and Jill Hill - Kids Corner and Club Demonstrations
Bunny Bolton - Club Display Coordinator
Vacant - Club Sponsored Table Coordinator
Vacant – Food Truck Coordinator

You can email amlsgemshow@gmail.com for more details.



DID YOU KNOW? Contact information for club members can be found on the Members-Only page of the website.

Here's an update on **other** ways you can help your club. Within our club, the following positions need volunteers to help:

Hospitality—Assist with setting out the pot luck at meeting. Make sure serving utensils are laid out, and plastic ware is available, etc.

Meeting place set up — Make sure tables are set up, and door prize and sign in table materials are set out



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org

An Official Field Trip of Kanawha Rock & Gem Club (Charleston, WV) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society

Saturday, July 27, 2024 (Meet at 10 a.m. Eastern Time) Collecting 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mason County, KY Limit 35 People

TRIP: This trip is to Northern Kentucky to collect Ordovician fossils. The location is about an hour outside of Cincinnati. This site is known for its large deposits of Ordovician fossils including, but not limited to, bryozoans, several species of brachiopods, gastropods, rugose "horn" corals, crinoids, occasional trilobites and more. This trip will include visits to 2 collection sites.

COLLECTING: The first site is a large road cut with a variety of fossils. 4 lane highway but lots of room on the berms. No climbing, but you can walk up and along the ledges. The second site involves a road cut near a busy road. With a hillside. A handout depicting specimens will be available at the meeting place.

BRING:

- Wear long pants and boots or closed-toe shoes that you don't mind getting muddy in case of rain. No shorts, sandals, flip flops, etc. A hat is a good idea. Make sure you have clean shoes to drive or ride home in (a garbage bag is great to put your muddy boots/shoes in for the trip home.) You might want gloves.
- Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray (for mosquitoes and TICKS), sunglasses, and a rock hammer (if you have one) or hammer and screwdriver. A walking stick may be helpful. Bright colored clothing or a vest is recommended.
- Bring several Ziploc baggies for your finds; film canisters or pill bottles are good for very small or fragile finds. It's helpful to have a box or plastic bucket in the car to put these smaller contains in as you move between sites. You can use a sling-type bag to contain your finds "in the field" (any type of crossbody bag will do – canvas bag, purse, etc.)
- You may want to have a jug of water to wash off muddy/dusty finds.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Loose shale on a road cut bench with higher benches accessible from the road cut and end up a steep hill.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

CHILDREN (Maybe): All children must be at least 12 years old and under adult supervision at all times due to the busy highway nearby.

PETS (No): Not recommended due to busy highway nearby and rough rocky terrain at the collecting site.

FACILITIES: No restrooms or other facilities at collecting site. Many options available approximately 20 minutes from the site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: We will be taking small groups at a time to the second site due to limited parking availability.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Maysville, KY has several hotels and Airbnbs available.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

CONTACT: Brent Williams 217-741-0181 or bwilliams630@comcast.net

Rock Hound Classifieds



The Sunshine Committee asks that you please keep these members and their families in your prayers and thoughts:

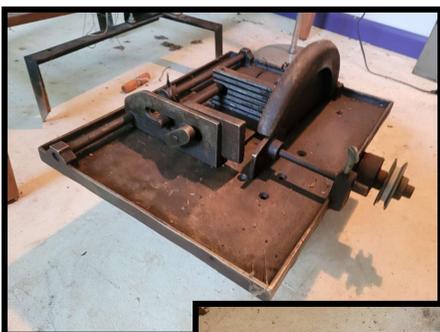
Vivian and John Melof

Sandra Sullivan

Welcome New Members

Dillen Haney and Jonathan Swindall
Jordan and Jennifer Humphries

If you are aware of others please let the editor know.



From Sandra's Sale: grinders and saws. Sandra says: Make me an offer!

ROCK SALE ! *Until Whenever ...*

I have many more items, too many to send pictures. Rocks for faceting, cabs, + much more!

Sandra Sullivan

4213 US Hwy 11 Springville, AL. 35146

205-903-7962

Please call before coming to see me / email / text me

doodle35146SS@yahoo.com



Fossils galore, Obsidian, Paint Rock Agate, plus more



Shells items, Agate, Slabs, Various Rocks



Cabinet Specimens and Raw Opal in Jar, plus more.

Calendar for June

June 14, 5:30	Junior Rockhound Meeting
June 14, 6:30	Meeting
June 11, 15, 18, 22, 25,	Workshop Open (verify on MO Facebook Page)
June 29	Field trip to Cody Wilks in Section, AL
June 30	Cabbing Party/Open House Workshop

WORKSHOP NEWS

8036 Parkway Drive in Leeds

Come visit, bring a prospective member, use the equipment, or introduce a new member to the skills and processes of lapidary at our workshop in Leeds. Use of equipment is \$5 an hour and includes both saws and lapidary equipment. **Use of equipment is restricted to Members Only.**

Robert Lorino usually opens the workshop on Tuesdays and Levan and Yvonne are at workshop Saturdays from 12-5. **Check MO, the members-only Facebook page for schedule changes.**

We will have a Cabbing Party at the workshop on June 30th. The doors will open at noon and stay open at least until 4pm (later if enough people want to stay). This is a good opportunity to visit the workshop, see what equipment we have, and to talk about rocks.

DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

DMC Field Trip Hosts for 2024

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)

December - Upper Abbeville Gem and Mineral Club (Due West, SC)

Rockhound RoundUp is the newsletter of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society, 8036 Parkway Drive, Leeds, AL. 35094, Editor: Ivey Cook. Email: newsletter@lapidaryclub.com