

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



JUNE 2026

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Spotlight



AMLS Cretaceous Marine Fossil Creek Sifting Field Trip – Courtesy of Rick Halbrooks



A Word from Our President

Hello Friends,

I want to start off by congratulating two of our Jr. Rockhound members.

Congratulations to Sophie Townsend and Braxton Reeves on their recent high school graduation. We wish them both every success in the future. Sophie will be studying technical theater, and Braxton will be pursuing nursing.

Our next meeting is June 13th, 11am, at Alabaster Veteran's Park. Setup is at 10am. This is a **Saturday** and we will not be at the church on Friday. The club will provide hot dogs, burgers and buns, along with all the serving ware and paper products. Members are asked to bring sides, desserts, chips, drinks, and condiments. If you are on Facebook, please tag Levan's post. This meeting is a Rock Swap, so bring your rocks to trade, sell, swap, or just show off. If you have display ideas to share, bring those too. And as always, guests are welcome.

I would like to know in what direction everyone sees our club going. We currently have a workshop with cabbing machines, saws, and space to have classes and work on projects. Levan purchased small clear totes for members to use at the shop when working on something. We have the space for a workbench to use for metal work. There are buckets of rocks for tumbling or cutting and cabbing. We have wire, beads, and tools. If you see a project idea online, email that to Levan or Yvonne. Better yet, print it out and bring it to the shop and someone can help you make it.

Next month's meeting program will be on Field Trips, how to prepare and what to bring. Our speaker will be Rick Halbrooks. Levan and Rick will be running that meeting.

The annual gem show funds most of the cost to keep the shop open for use by members of the club. Our lease is going to be up in 2028. I know that seems like a long time off, but it will be here very quickly. Finding a new space to rent is a very real possibility. We need to keep a look out for rental space or even a partnership with a parks and recreation department or school district. If you know anyone with space or a program that would work for us, please let Levan, Rick, or myself know.

It is also the time of year when the nominating committee works to fill openings on committees and the board. Our club especially needs members with skills in website management, social media, and public relations. If you have any of these skills or just want to help, please let a board member know.

Ok friends, that will do it for this month. I look forward to seeing everyone next Saturday June 13th at 11am.

Be safe and see you soon,

Rhea Proffitt

AMLS President & Gem Show Coord.

thelapidaryclub@gmail.com

amlsgemshow@gmail.com



Congrats Grads!



My name is Sophie Townsend. I graduated from Tuscaloosa County High School. I was involved in Band and Marching Band for four years and Theater for three years. I was Co-President of fan club for two years. I plan on attending Shelton State Community College in the fall, then transferring to UAB to major in Technical Theater.



AMLS would also like to recognize the graduation of Braxton Reeves. Congratulations to you both on your graduation!
We wish you both bright futures, meaningful adventures, and continued success wherever life takes you.



Other Announcements

HELP WANTED

The following committees have openings and need your support.

Website: The Web Site Committee shall keep the club's website current and functioning properly.

Hospitality Committee: Assists in setting up the front table and food table at meetings, greets members and visitors, and makes sure everyone signs in. The Hospitality committee shall aid in implementing the monthly programs or other society entertainment by coordinating volunteers for refreshments.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership a slate of Officers in October.

Finance: The Finance Committee shall preside over the budget and collect dues from others on the committee.

Recording Secretary: Records minutes of meetings (MoM) and provides a transcript to the newsletter for publication each month.

Program Committee: Levan and Anthony could use some assistance.

Field Trip Committee: Rick is currently a committee of one and could use some assistance.

Newsletter: The Rockhound Roundup only "prints" what is sent in. Tyler is the Editor and could use a few good reporters.



Club Events

6/13/2026: Picnic Rock Swap at Veterans Park, Alabaster, AL. See the President’s address for additional information.

8/30/2026: Cabbing Party, AMLS Workshop, 8036 Parkway Drive SE, Leeds, AL, 12pm-4pm

Workshop Hours

The AMLS Workshop is located at 8036 Parkway Drive SE, Leeds, AL

Tuesdays / Saturdays (12pm-4pm)

Thursdays (4pm-8pm)

Shows & Swaps

June 26th-28th: [Classic City Gem & Mineral Show](#) • The Classic Center, 300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601.

September 4th-6th: **Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Gem & Mineral Show** • Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave SW, Bessemer, AL 35022.

October 9th-11th: [Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society Show](#) • Huntsville Jaycee Community Center, 2180 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, AL 35802.

November 20th-22nd: [Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society Show](#) • Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy., Marietta GA 30060.

November 27th-29th: [Mobile Rock & Gem Society Annual Show](#) • Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

December (TBD): [Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show](#) • Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL 36107.



AMLS Field Trip Committee Report **June 2026**

PAST

Saturday May 30th – Cretaceous Marine Fossils with the AL Museum of Natural History

On **Saturday, May 30th**, 21 of our AMLS members enjoyed a beautiful warm day sitting in a cool creek in Greene County near Eutaw, AL, sifting for **Cretaceous Marine Fossils** on private hunting lodge property with the AL Museum of Natural History. A loose estimate of over 2000 shark teeth from 7+ species of prehistoric sharks, mosasaur fossils, fish teeth, vertebrae and jaw fossils, crocodylian scutes, ammonites, turtle shell fossils, multiple species of mollusks, a partial lobster or crab exoskeleton, and other cretaceous era fossils were collected by our club participants. It was a very productive and fun field trip that exceeded my very optimistic expectations.

We were very fortunate to have had Dr. John Friel, Director of the museum and Kristin Harrell, Education Coordinator, hunt with us. They were very knowledgeable and helpful in identifying specimens. In fact, two of our young participants found fossils that were deemed “scientifically significant” by Dr. Friel. **Audrey Hollon** and **Parks Halbrooks** were each asked to donate one of their findings to the ALMNH’s collection for display. They both agreed and will receive a certificate acknowledging their contributions to the museum!

I have already asked the ALMNH to host the AMLS again as one of their 2 private field trips each year to this location, in late May next year.





SAVE THESE DATES!

FUTURE

June

Saturday June 13th – Annual Picnic and Rock Swap (Veterans Park, Alabaster, AL)

See the President’s address for additional information.

July

TBA

August

Saturday August 15th - The Cook Science Museum and Mining Company (Decatur, AL)



This will be an afternoon field trip, as they open at Noon in the Summer. The AMLS Group rate is \$13 for children ages 3-14, and \$17 for adults.

The Cook Science Museum is very impressive and a relatively new museum with plenty of geology, mineral, gem, cave, and fossil exhibits, plus an outdoor Mining Company. More details later.

September

September 4th, 5th, & 6th – AMSL Annual Gem and Mineral Show (Bessemer, AL)

Happy hounding,

Rick Halbrooks

Chairperson, Field Trip Committee

E: AMLS fieldtrips@gmail.com | P: 205-410-0233

Hello Member!

2026 is the year our club is going to become full functioning again and I am excited.

Each of us has something we can contribute, I would like for each member to think about where they see themselves fitting in for 2026. I am especially hopeful that everyone that can, will take an active role in our club. Let's talk.

Every member is being asked to fill out a renewal application in its entirety. We are beginning 2026 with a new membership chairman and a new list and we need your completed application to include you as a member on this list. Even if you think nothing has changed, we need a new renewal application for our file.

Sincerely,

AMLS Leadership

Club meetings are the second Friday each month (except September) doors open at 6 and the meeting starts at 6:30 with a pot-luck supper

Meeting place is the Cahaba Heights Methodist Church in Cahaba Heights

The website is at www.lapidaryclub.com visit every once and awhile. Share your pictures and any other information by emailing webmaster@lapidaryclub.com

Visit the Members Only pages for club resources and field trip information.

The Rockhound Roundup newsletter is emailed each Monday before the Friday Meeting please read your newsletter to get the latest information that is being shared by members.

Your club needs members to join one or more of the club committees. When you join a committee you learn what's going on and how to best take advantage of club resources.

“the club works for its members when the members work in the club”

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society

Date _____

Membership Renewal Application

Renewal Reinstatement

rev.02.10.25

Family \$25 (add adult family \$10) Single \$20 Student \$15

Family members must live in the same household - children 18 years or under living at home

(Please write legibly so we can record your information correctly)

Adult Head of Household _____ Birth Day/Mo ____ / ____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

Primary Club Interest _____

Spouse or Other Adult _____ Birth Day/Mo ____ / ____

Email address _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

Primary Club Interest _____

Names of Children 18 years or under living at home (or additional adult family member living at home)

	Age	Birth Day	Mo	Day	Year

Email: membership@lapidaryclub.com for questions regarding this application

mail this completed form along with your check payable to: AMLS

AMLS Membership - 8036 Parkway Drive - Leeds, Alabama 35094

your ID Badges will be mailed to your home address

(for office use only below)

Received by _____ Date _____ Amount Paid _____ I.D. Card _____

Payment Type: _____ Confirmation No: _____ Welcome Email: ___ Receipt No: _____ Date: _____

Lapidary Club Field Trip Survey

2026/2027 seasons

1. How many organized rock/mineral/fossil field trips and/or digs have you participated in?

	Total (incl. w/Club)	With AMLS
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1– 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6–10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
>10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Field Trips that I'm interested in doing with the Club:

- Rock/Mineral/Gem Digs
- Fossil Digs
- Natural History Museum visits
- Cave trips
- Other suggestions _____

3. I'm up for field trips in the following proximity to Birmingham:

- Local/day trips (< 2 ½ hour drive, each way)
- Overnight trips/adjacent states
- Multi-night trips (w/Camping or Hotel stays)

4. Please list any digs that you would like to see on the Club's 2026/27 field trip list (location?):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. Please star the digs/field trips in question # 4 that you have personally done in the past.

6. Are there digs that you've done that you wouldn't recommend...and why?

7. My comfortable activity level: (please check all that apply)

- Easy Going** – drive up to site; short/level walks; sifting & site collection
- Moderate** – short hikes; stream work; light digging; some uphill and down hill
- Demanding** – longer hikes; steep grades; digging; hammer & chisel work; climbing

OPTIONAL:

Age (please circle one) < 16 17-25 26-50 51-64 65+

Name _____

years as an AMLS member (please circle one) < 1 2-3 4-9 > 10

Are there any other suggestions or comments that you would like to share?

Thank you for participating in this survey!

If you complete this at the Club meeting, please give your completed survey to Rick Halbrooks, Chair of the Field Trip Committee. If you are completing this survey on-line or printing a hard copy to complete at home, please image your completed survey with your cell phone and email it to AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com. The sooner I receive these, the quicker I can take your responses into consideration for our 2026/2027 field trips. I'd like to have all these surveys completed and returned no later than our next 12/31/2025.

- RH/AMLS



Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society — May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Field Trip — May 30th A field trip to the UAB Museum of Natural History is coming up on May 30th. Rick has paid for 30 slots, and three are still available. Sign-ups are open — PayPal or Venmo Rick if interested.

June 13th — Picnic & Rock Swap The picnic and rock swap will be held at Veterans Park in Alabaster. The club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Members are asked to bring sides, drinks, desserts, and paper products.

- *Note: Advertise the picnic on the non-member page. (Approved)*

August — Show Planning

- Every vendor from last year will be returning.
- T-shirt discussion: the club will offer club t-shirts with a pocket logo and full back design.

Old Business

- **Classes:** Anyone interested in wire wrapping or other specialty classes should contact Yvonne.
- **Workshop Hours:** New hours are Thursdays, 4–8 PM.
- **Damaged Awning:** Still unresolved. Park in that area at your own risk. Rhea will review the rental agreement to determine responsibility for repairs. The lease runs through April 2028.
- **Newsletter:** Tyler is doing a great job — please send in your submissions!

New Business

- **Nominating Committee:** Positions are open — please consider volunteering!

Guest Speaker Don Hill presented a program on creating intarsia pieces.