

# ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP



JULY 2026

## In This Issue

|                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| Spotlight.....                         | 1  |
| President's Address.....               | 2  |
| Announcements.....                     | 3  |
| ▪ Other Announcements .....            | 3  |
| ▪ Workshop Hours.....                  | 3  |
| ▪ Shows & Swaps.....                   | 3  |
| Club Articles.....                     | 4  |
| ▪ Bench Tips.....                      | 4  |
| Field Trips.....                       | 5  |
| ▪ AMLS Field Trip Committee Report.... | 5  |
| Membership Application.....            | 7  |
| Lapidary Club Field Trip Survey.....   | 9  |
| DMC Field Trip Program.....            | 11 |

## Spotlight



Our 53<sup>rd</sup> annual gem and mineral show is quickly approaching and volunteers are needed! See our President's Address for additional details.

**See you there!**



*My results from our class – Tyler Schaubert*

A big thank you to Yvonne Foster for sharing her time, talent, and expertise during our recent wire wrapping class. Members had the opportunity to learn techniques for transforming polished stones into eye-catching jewelry.

We would like to encourage all members, whether you're new to wire wrapping or looking to refine your skills, to join us for future classes. Yvonne offers a myriad of other classes as well. There's always something new to learn, and it's a great way to expand your lapidary and jewelry making skills while enjoying the company of fellow club members. Thank you Yvonne!



## A Word from Our President

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are staying cool during this heat wave and had a safe and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

Last month's Picnic Meeting and Rock Swap was a lot of fun. Thanks Levan for suggesting and planning it. There were about 12-15 members and visitors. Lots of great rocks and of course lots of great food. Unfortunately, we all forgot to take pictures, sorry.

We are 2 months from the Gem Show, and we need someone to help with on-line promos and social media. Please let me know if you have these talents and are willing to help. As always, volunteers are needed to help with setting up during the week of the show on Wednesday and Thursday and staffing the front, Geode, and Club tables. Bonnie has agreed to do the vendors lunch on Thursday and will need people to help her. Later in the month I'll need extra hands to make more Sand Cups for this year and any donation of small rocks/pebbles or fossils to use would be wonderful too.

There's another Cabbing Party coming up, Aug 30, 12-4ish. That is the Sunday before the show weekend so come on out to use the equipment or just hang out and visit. The next Cabbing Party will be in November.

The Nominating Committee is still looking to fill spots. Please see Levan or Reggie for questions or suggestions.

Big Thanks for the awesome photos posted on the website and to John Cook for keeping it updated. Please continue to send pictures to John for sharing.

Thank you friends and be safe out there,

Rhea Proffitt

AMLS President & Gem Show Coord.

[thelapidaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:thelapidaryclub@gmail.com)

[amlsgemshow@gmail.com](mailto:amlsgemshow@gmail.com)



## Club Events

**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

**July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** [NC Mineral and Gem Festival](#) • Three Peaks Enrichment Center, 95 Pinebridge Avenue, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, Bessemer Civic Center • Adults: \$5 (per day), 10 & under: FREE

**August 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>:** [Bellpoint Gem Show](#) • Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060 • Friday 10am until 6pm, Saturday 10am until 6pm, Sunday 10am until 5pm • \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance.

**September 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>:** [Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Gem & Mineral Show](#) • Winston-Salem Fairgrounds (Gate 9) • Friday 10am until 6pm, Saturday 10am until 6pm, Sunday 11am until 5pm • Adults: \$5, Kids free with adult.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>:** [Forsyth Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show](#) • Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave SW, Bessemer, AL 35022, Bessemer Civic Center • Friday 9am until 6pm, Saturday 9am until 6pm, Sunday 9am until 4pm • Adults: \$5, Teens & Seniors: \$3, 12 & under: FREE

**September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** [Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Association Land of Sky Gem Show](#) • Land of The Sky Event Venue, 39 Spring Cove Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778 • <http://www.AmericanRockhound.com>

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

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

**November 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** [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 **July 2026**

It's been a very busy summer so far for AMLS members, kicking off with the Cretaceous Creek dig with the AL Museum of Natural History May 30th, the Annual Picnic and Rock Swap June 13<sup>th</sup>, and Preparation for our Annual Rock & Gem Show coming up in early September (9/4-9/6). **A couple of events involving Field Trips are coming up in July & August that I'd like to bring to your attention:**

### July

#### **Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> - Fun with Field Trips**

At our next monthly club meeting, Friday July 10th, I will be leading a presentation on the Why, How, What, Where and When to your questions on Field Trips. Whether you have never been on an organized rock dig and/or field trip or you are a veteran field trip attendee, "Fun with Field Trips" will give you a better understanding on how to be successful (or even more successful) with finding specimens for your collection.

### August

#### **Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> - The Cook Science Museum and Mining Company (Decatur, AL)**



This will be an afternoon field trip, as they are open Noon to 5:00 pm in the Summer. AMLS Group rate \$13/\$17 - Child\*/adult (\* 3-14 years old). Very impressive and relatively new museum with plenty of geology, mineral, gem, cave, and fossil exhibits + an outdoor Mining Company. Our group will be meeting at 12:30 in the lobby. The museum has an outdoor Mining exhibit with a rock/gem sluice for panning; there is an additional charge for mining bags if you want to mine your own gems. If you plan to join us, please let me know by emailing me - [AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:AMLSfieldtrips@gmail.com). Parking is free, right next to the museum! Website: [www.cookmuseum.org](http://www.cookmuseum.org)



## September

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup>** – AMSL Annual Gem and Mineral Show (Bessemer, AL)

There are also a couple of regional DMC Field Trip opportunities this summer that you may want to participate in:

**Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Mason Mountain Mine (Franklin, NC)

9am – 5 pm Eastern Time • Fee is \$50 per person

DMC Trip for the High Country Gem & Mineral Society to sluice 100% native dirt (unsalted). Finds may include Rhodolite, Ruby, Sapphire, Kyanite, Moonstone, Quartz, Garnet, and Cordierite. See: [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

**Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>** – Franklin North Carolina Gem & Mineral Society Museum Tour (Franklin, NC)

12:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern Time • No fee • Air-conditioned building

DMC Trip for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society to tour 3 separate collections of gems, minerals & fossils. See the flyer on page 11 for more information.

**Note: you will be required to pre-register for either of these DMC trips on the DMC website.**

We are expanding your field trip committee (welcome to the committee, Gordon Hays!) and working on a couple of more possible field trips by the end of this year!

Happy hounding,

Rick Halbrooks

Chairperson, Field Trip Committee

E: AMSL [fieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lapidaryclub.com) visit every once and awhile. Share your pictures and any other information by emailing [webmaster@lapidaryclub.com](mailto: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   | Birthday           |
|-------|-------|--------------------|
| _____ | _____ | ____ / ____ / ____ |
| _____ | _____ | ____ / ____ / ____ |
| _____ | _____ | ____ / ____ / ____ |
| _____ | _____ | ____ / ____ / ____ |

Email: [membership@lapidaryclub.com](mailto: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?

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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?

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**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](mailto: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



## DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
[www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)  
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**An Official Field Trip of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society (Franklin, NC) (Host)**

**Saturday, August 8, 2026**  
**12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Time**  
**Tour of Museums/Galleries: 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Franklin, NC**

**Limit 60 People**  
**Registration Required (Link is below)**  
**Fee: None**



**TRIP:** Franklin, North Carolina, is often referred to as “The Gem Capital of the World” because of the diversity and quality of gems and minerals found in the earth there. In addition to the treasures found in the ground, there are some of the finest collections of gems and minerals in the United States in Franklin. This field trip will offer participants the opportunity to see three of those collections on display, including the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society’s own collection curated over the past five decades.

In addition to local specimens, each of the unique collections in the tour includes gems, minerals, and fossils gathered from all over the world. Each collection is housed in its own special air-conditioned building. The tour will offer participants approximately an hour at each facility before moving on to the next gallery. Specimens and souvenirs will be available for sale at each venue.

**BRING:** Wear comfortable shoes, and dress for August weather in the mountains. It can be hot and a summer shower is always a possibility.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Registered participants will be divided into three separate groups to facilitate viewing of the specimens. Each group will then sequentially rotate through each individual gallery. Each of the venues on the tour has parking nearby.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** All galleries are in or near the town of Franklin.

**FEE:** No charge.

**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 (Yes):** Children are welcome but need to be under adult supervision.

**PETS (No):** The venues are all indoors and foot-space in front of the displays is limited so pets are discouraged.

**FACILITIES:** Bathroom facilities are either onsite or nearby depending upon the venue. Restaurants are within walking distance or nearby. Lodging is available within a mile.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Numerous commercial gem mining businesses are near Franklin, and the Nantahala National Forest is available for exploration only 10 miles away. The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is 35 miles from Franklin.

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

**CARPOOLING:** The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you **need** a ride; if you can **offer** a ride; or if you would like to **drive or share** a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.

**CONTACT:** Susan Ray, 727-798-7207, [drsusanray@gmail.com](mailto:drsusanray@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT:** DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS field trip sharing program. 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. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

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**Field trip chairs and newsletter editors:** If you need this notice in Word format, please contact Lori Carter at [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

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[Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies](#)

[Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule](#)

**Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months**

**2026**

September - Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL)

October - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA)

November - Upper Abbeville Gem & Mineral Club (Due West, SC)

December - Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)

**2027**

January - Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN)

February - Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Greenville, SC)

DMC Coordinator: Lori Carter

DMC e-mail: [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

Website: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
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