

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

June 2018



Words from...

The President

At a recent meeting the club voted to suspend summer socials and hold classes in their place. Many of us travel during the summer and attendance at the socials has been spotty at best. We are coordinating with Janie Mae Schings to teach a bracelet class in June (either the 23rd or the 30th). Arnie Lambert & Jeff DeRoche have agreed to host a cabochon class on July 28th, and Diane Rodenhizer will provide a tree of life pendant class on August 25th. Make a note that the classes will be on Saturdays at various locations. If you plan to attend a class, call or email the person teaching the class to be added to the list. I will send the time, date, location and contact info for each class.

Our next field trip is scheduled for June 16 at the Alabama Gold Camp located in Craigford, AL. The Alabama Gold Club will be meeting, as it is the third Saturday of the month. Their meeting begins at 8:30 A.M. so it will be an opportunity to meet some of the members in that group and to see if you would be interested in joining them. If you plan to go, email Garry Shirah and he can give you the particulars. He did say you should not use GPS, as it will instruct you to take impassible dirt roads.

Hope to see everyone at one of the classes during the summer. Jeff and Arnie will be teaching some classes for kids at the Ozark library during the middle of June. If you have time, they could use some help. Call or email Arnie to get more info.

Pat

Know your stone?

One of the two birthstones for **May** is **Alexandrite**, a color changing variety of Chrysoberyl. Pictured in the banner above are various natural forms and shapes of this mineral in some of the color varieties available. Note: The other birthstone for May is Pearl.

Source: http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/alexandrite_gemstone.aspx

Upcoming Shows

JUN 15 – 16	Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club	Quarryville, PA
JUN 15 – 17	Sublette County Rock Hounds	Marbleton, WY
JUN 15 – 17	Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Society	Reedsport, OR
JUN 23 – 24	New York Mineralogical Club	New York, NY
JUL 7 – 8	White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club	Pinetop, AZ
JUL 14 – 15	Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club	Moose Lake, MN

Source: <http://www.the-vug.com/educate-and-inform/mineral-shows/>

Meeting Minutes – May 2018 – by Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND OPEN: The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM by President Pat LeDuc on May 27. There were 11 members, no guests.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: Birthday wishes were wished. We picked up some new members in this last month; Connie Bates from Coffee Springs and Bob & Lee Ann Livingston from Cottonwood. Welcome!

CORRESPONDENCE: The AFMS Newsletter was brought in to share. Pat mentioned having also received a reminder about the upcoming Gold Camp trip scheduled for June 16th.

MINUTES & TREASURER REPORT: Minutes from the April meeting were approved and seconded, as was the treasurer report.

FOLLOW UP REPORT ON THE APRIL MEETING AND SPEAKER: We seem to be one of the few clubs currently exploring the changes in digging/collecting regulations recently put in place by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, however, Phil Kaiser, SFMS State Director for Alabama, reports that interest is building in other clubs. FYI, Abby and Neil Pollan have a copy of the Powerpoint presentation that Dan Harriger used to brief us on the changes at the April meeting.

SHOW BUSINESS: The 2019 Show dates are March 16th and 17th. Jeff DeRoche, Show Chair, is planning a new arrangement of the tables to fit more vendors, and a more aggressive publicity campaign that will include more signs and promotion. Jeff made a point to give special notice and thanks to John and Ellen Weber for their substantial involvement in the previous show. Well Said!

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: In place of the customary Summer Socials, a series of Summer Craft Workshops for the months of June, July and August are set for Saturdays. Note: Pat will advise members of the date, time and location for each and will send reminders prior to the classes. In the meantime, members should contact the individual instructors to sign up for the classes.

June 23rd or 30th (exact date to be determined) – Janie Mae Schings will conduct a wire wrap class. Location will be at the church where the club meets. Contact Janie Mae: 850-814-9903

July 28th – Arnie and Jeff will do Slabs to Cabs at Arnie's house in Dothan. Contact Arnie: arlambert@comcast.net or 334-792-7116

August 25th – Diane will conduct a Tree of Life pendant class at her house in Enterprise. Contact Diane: dianerodenhizer@yahoo.com or 334-447-3610

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Updates on the next field trip to the Alabama Gold Camp will be sent via email and posted on the website as details become available.

SHOW AND TELL: Arnie brought in a new selection of cabs, as did JoAn Lambert. Jeff had a geode of Averyrite. This is a creation made of Play-Doh that was a gift from Avery, a young lady who Jeff has been instructing in rock/gem crafts. We should all be lucky enough to find some of these colorful geodes!

Door Prize for this month went to Wendy Harden.

-- Respectfully submitted by B. Fizzell

Mineral Habits, Part 2

Habits are the distinctive form that mineral crystals may take in different geologic settings, for instance when growing in a free space or in a particular environment. Habit can be a strong clue to a mineral's identity. Here are another 9 of the 22 most common examples of some of the most useful mineral habits. Note that "habit" also has a meaning for rocks.



Granular Habit

If crystals are not well formed, what might otherwise be called an equant habit is instead called granular. These are [spessartine garnet](#) grains in sandy matrix.



Massive Habit

The quartz in this [gneiss](#) boulder has a massive habit, with no individual grains or crystals visible. Caution: rocks may also be described as having a massive habit, too. If you can, use a more appropriate term like equant, granular or blocky.



Lamellar Habit

Lamellae are leaves in scientific Latin, and a lamellar habit is one of thin layers. This [gypsum](#) chunk can readily be pried apart into crystal sheets.



Micaceous Habit

Minerals that split into extremely thin sheets have a micaceous habit. [Mica](#) is the prime example. This [chrysotile](#) specimen from an asbestos mine also has it.



Platy Habit

A platy habit might be better described as lamellar or tabular in some instances, but this thin sheet of gypsum can be called nothing else.



Prismatic Habit

Prism-shaped minerals are common in granites. [Tourmaline](#)'s nine-faced prisms are distinctive and diagnostic. Very long prisms are called acicular or fibrous.



Radiating Habit

This "[pyrite](#) dollar" grew from a central point, squeezed flat between shale layers. The radiating habit can have crystals of any form, from blocky to fibrous.



Rhombohedral Habit

Rhombohedrons are bent cubes in which no corner is straight; that is, each face of this [calcite](#) grain is a rhombus, and there are no right angles.



Rosette Habit

Rosettes are groups of tabular or bladed crystals arranged around a central point. These [barite](#) rosettes are composed of tabular crystals.

Source: <http://geology.about.com/od/minerals/ss/mineral-habits.htm#showall>



[By Andrew Alden](#)
[Geology Expert](#)

Gallery of Mineral Habits. Photo Credit: Photo (c)
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Club Meeting – May 2018

Photos by Pat & Bruce



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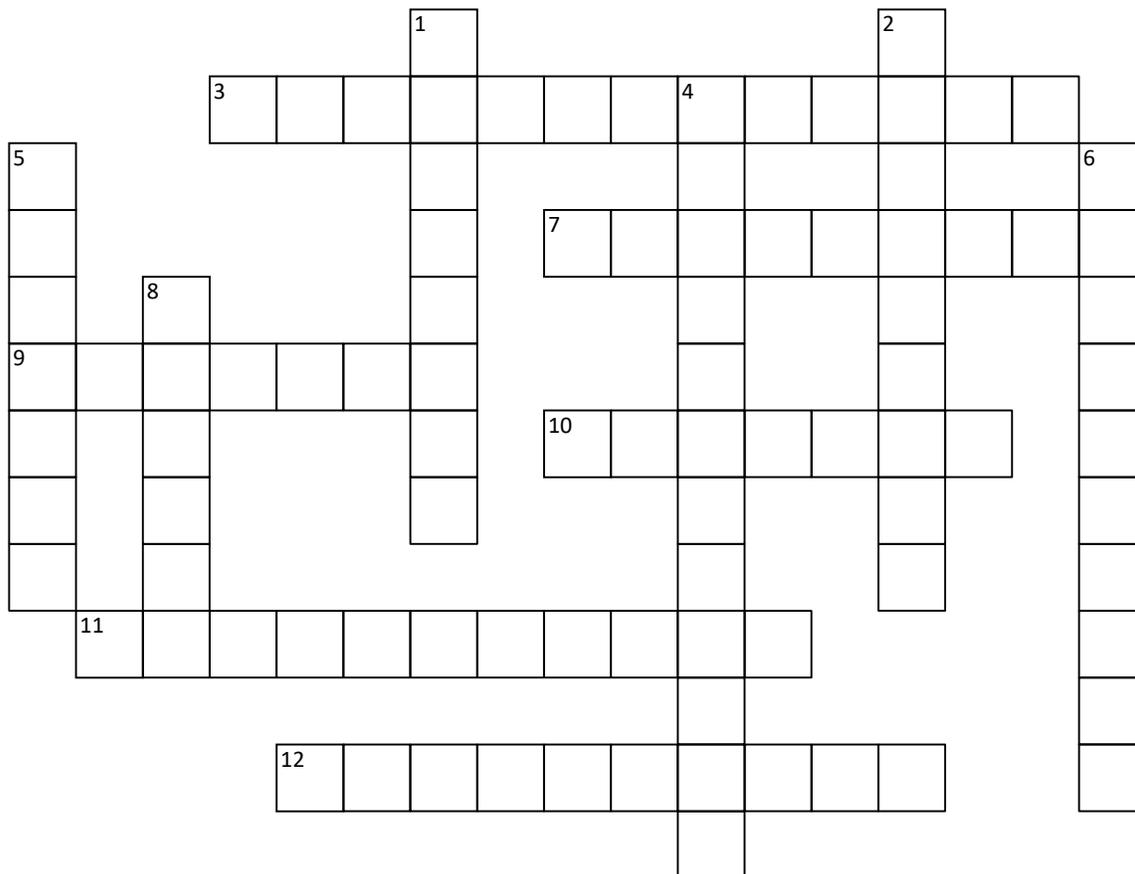


**Nice
cabs
!!!**





Sedimentary Rocks



www.rocksandminerals4u.com

ACROSS

- 3 the changing of sediments into rock
- 7 sand grains cemented together into solid stone
- 9 _____ sedimentary rocks form from sediments being cemented together
- 10 the combination of weathering and movement of the resulting sediments
- 11 rocks formed from the sediments of other rocks
- 12 the process of settling out and grading of sediments

DOWN

- 1 _____ sedimentary rocks are formed by the precipitation of dissolved minerals
- 2 silt particles cemented together
- 4 made up of rounded pebbles cemented together
- 5 made up of angular pebbles cemented together
- 6 anything that breaks the rocks into smaller pieces or sediments
- 8 rock salt made by the evaporation of sea water

Across: 3 – lithification; 7 – sandstone; 9 – clastic; 10 – erosion; 11 – sedimentary; 12 – deposition
Down: 1 – chemical; 2 – siltstone; 4 – conglomerate; 5 – breccia; 6 – weathering; 8 – halite

Tumbling Rocks!

Tumbling is a technique used for smoothing and polishing a rough surface on small particles. Professional rock polishers help jewelers polish stones by imitating the abrasion of rocks in nature. The natural process happens over hundreds of years, and tumblers speed it up by acting like liquid sandpaper. Softer rocks like limestone and sandstone polish easier while granite and quartz require weeks of tumbling.

The independent variables in this experiment are the types of rocks. The dependent variable is the effect of the tumbler on the types of rocks. The constants are the jars, the water and the process.

The goal of this project is to demonstrate the abrasions of rocks in nature and the variations between types of rocks. The process occurs naturally when water rushes against rocks, when they are swept along in a current or when wind blows sand against them. The tumbler does the work of nature by forcing the rocks to grind against each other.



Problem:

How do rocks become round stones?

Materials:

- Plaster
- Samples of shale, granite and quartz
- Glass jars with lids
- Plastic bag
- Bucket
- Shallow pan or container (shoe box lid)
- Hammer

Procedure:

1. Mix the plaster and water in a bucket until it's thick and hard to stir.
2. Pour the thick plaster into a shallow container and allow it to harden.
3. Place the plaster inside a plastic bag and wrap the bag in a towel.
4. Hammer the bag until the plaster has broken up.
5. Remove approx. 25 *stones* of similar size.
6. Label the jars.
7. Keep 1 of the 25 plaster stones as the control and place the remaining 24 pieces into a jar.
8. Keep 1 control stone from the other samples and place the rest in jars.
9. Divide the plaster residue into jars.
10. Half fill the jars with water and cover with the lids.
11. Shake the jars 100 times, and remove one stone.
12. Shake the jar 100 times again and remove another stone.
13. Repeat, removing a stone every time.
14. Compare all the stones, including the controls.

Who What Where When Why How

June Birthdays

JUN 6 Fredie Reed
JUN 19 Abbey Pollan
JUN 25 Ben Childress

Random Rock Facts

In the discipline of crystallography, the concept of **symmetry** describes the periodic repetition of structural features. Two general types of symmetry exist. These include **translational symmetry** and **point symmetry**.

Translational symmetry describes the periodic repetition of a motif across a length or through an area or volume. Point symmetry, on the other hand, describes the periodic repetition of a motif around a point.

Source: <http://dave.ucsc.edu/myrtreia/crystal.html>

Meeting Information

Time: 2:00 PM
Date: Fourth Sunday of each month (except June, July and August)
Place: Fellowship Hall – Tabernacle United Methodist Church
4205 S. Brannon Stand Road
Dothan, AL

Officers

President – Pat LeDuc
334-806-5626

Vice President – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Secretary – Bruce Fizzell
334-577-4353

Treasurer – Diane Rodenhizer
334-447-3610

Bulletin Editor – Joan Blackwell
334-503-0308
Tfavorite7@aol.com

Webmaster – Pat LeDuc
334-806-5626

Membership Chair – Diane Rodenhizer
334-447-3610

Show Chair – Jeff DeRoche
334-673-3554

Field Trips Chair – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Hospitality Chair – Vacant

Club Hostess – Vacant

Club Liaison – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Website: www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

Objectives

To stimulate interest in lapidary, earth science and, when necessary, other related fields.

To sponsor an educational program within the membership to increase the knowledge of its members in the properties, identifications and evaluations of rocks, minerals, fossils and other related subjects.

To cooperate and aid in the solution of its members' problems encountered in the Club's objectives.

To cooperate with other mineralogical and geological clubs and societies.

To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of minerals.

To provide opportunity for exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

To conduct its affairs without profit and to refrain from using its assets for pecuniary benefit of any individual or group.

Classified Ads

Looking for an item to round out your rock collection?

Got a specimen, tool or handicraft for sale or trade?

Submit the pertinent details to me by the 10th of each month and your inclinations will be made known to the membership in the next bulletin.

N. J. Blackwell
28 Lakeview Trail, Apt. C
Daleville, AL 36322
Phone: 334-503-0308
Email: Tfavorite7@aol.com

Annual Dues

Single \$15
Family \$20

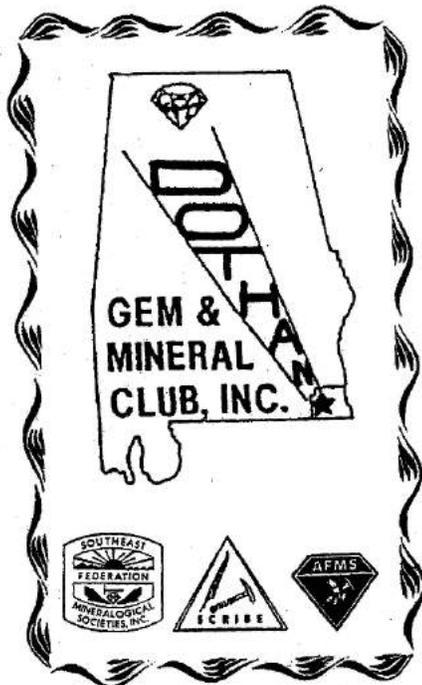
Refreshments

JUN 24 – Potluck Refreshments

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

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Daleville, AL 36322

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Where you might hear...

Sodalite is sometimes referred to as the “poor man’s lapis” because its blue color is similar to that of lapis lazuli, but Sodalite rarely contains pyrite (a common component of lapis) and it is much less expensive than lapis.

A couple other distinguishing properties of Sodalite is its white, rather than blue streak and that under ultraviolet light Sodalite fluoresces a distinguishing orange color.

Source: Mineral of the Month – Sodalite *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*
ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS – Volume 50, No. 5, May 2018

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