



# Gem & Mineral Journal



The Official Publication of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

March 2007

Volume 16 Issue 3

## Presidents Message:

Hello to all,

I think WOW is a good word to describe the GMSL activities for the New Year. The programs at the monthly meetings have been great. Steve, you have set a very high mark - we hope you can keep it up. The Rock Raiders Club seems to be off to a great start. Shannon Bondurant, the adult liaison for the RR is very enthusiastic about rocks & minerals & I think it is catching on with the children. Keep up the good work. Dave Callahan is working out the details for the Club's new sluice lines for the upcoming festivals. There are a lot of plans that need to come together to make this happen, but I think it will be worth the time & effort to have something to please the customers for years to come. We will have a signup sheet at the March meeting for a candle material collecting trip as well as workshop times for festival preparations. I hope I can count on a lot of you to participate. It is going to take a group effort.

We also need to finalize plans for the D.M.C. field trip in May. It will be an all day event so we will have



to make lunch available for all the hungry Rock Hounds. All volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Dave will announce the May date very soon, so mark your calendars.

On Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 club members traveled to Chase City Va. to look at equipment & rock related material & supplies offered for sale by a retired rock hound. I believe we bought almost everything in sight. Yes, the club purchased a nice 10" diamond wet saw that is fully enclosed with an automatic feed system. I think it will make a good addition to the workshop equipment. We also purchased a good supply of bola tie making material including, strings, metal tips, backings and several finished cabochons to be mounted. These will be a new item for sale at the festivals this year. We will do an inventory to see what else needs to be made at the workshops.

*Continued on page 11*

## From the First VP:

Did you know that granite is a plutonic rock? Granite rocks last and are very durable. They are used in making monuments and statutes. Granite rocks are categorized into four types depending on the mechanism of formation. The I-type granite is formed from igneous rock. The S-type granite has a sedimentary origin. The M-type granite is associated with the earth's mantle. And the A-type granites form near hot spots. Granite rocks make great pet rocks because of their plutonic origins. And now you know.

For March's meeting, we will view the video of Dr. Errett Callahan presenting flintknapping and

experimental archeology. Dr. Errett Callahan hails from Cliffside Workshops in Lynchburg, Virginia and is the brother of our own Dave Callahan. This video is from a great meeting we had in 2005. Come prepared to sharpen your skills.

Let's bring back the ugly rock contest. Hurry, hurry, hurry! Get your ugly rock in the ugly rock contest. Entries are only \$1.00. Votes are free. And the winner will split the pot with the club.

**Auf Wiedersehen  
Steve!**

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Ralph Torning

**COMMITTEE****CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Nell McIntyre**News Articles-** Natalie Darling**Silent Auction-** Warren Darling**Special Events-** Dee Tinsley**Swap for Rocks-** Frank Midkiff & Warren Darling**Website-** Adelaide Lee**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** Shannon Bondurant

## January Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007**Attendance:** 41 members and 12 guests**Hospitality:** Steve Boylan provided Refreshments. Jean Midkiff, Tom & Lynn Powers, Jill and Dee will provide March hospitality.**Old Business:** John Haskins, Pres. called the meeting to order. He announced the Rock Raiders were meeting upstairs if any more children wished to participate. He also stated the Executive Board voted to participate in two fund raising events this year. Those two will be Uncle Billy's Day in Altavista in June and The Apple Harvest Festival at Amherst High School in October.**First Vice President:** Steve Boylan announced that Sam and Sharon Dunaway were scheduled to speak on their recent trip to Alaska. They are the owners of the Morefield Mine in Amelia VA. Bill Gilbert of the Richmond club was going to give us a program in March, but is still recovering from surgery on his hip; therefore, we will enjoy a video on Flint knapping.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan reported NO FIELD TRIPS for February due to the weather and the dangers in quarries this time of year. However, we will be going to Luck Stone in Charlottesville if he can finalize the plans, if not

we will try to go somewhere else. The Smithsonian Trip is scheduled for March 3, 2007. No others signed up so the seats will be available to guests or others on the waiting list.

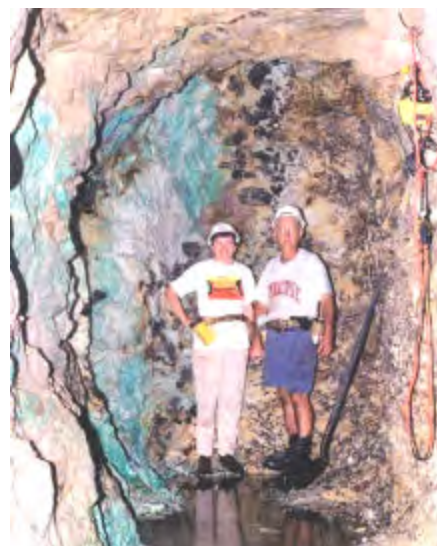
**The date for the KENTUCKY GEODE trip has been set! We will be going there the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> of April! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!****Treasurer:** Franklin Midkiff Franklin Midkiff reported our Southeastern Federation dues are paid, the previous guest speaker was paid and the Rock Raiders spent \$45.00 on supplies, with the new member dues and renewals our balance is \$5507.18, which includes the Rock Raiders money.**Door Prizes:** Fred and Joann Mason's daughter, Debra, (Guest,) won the agate sample, and Tom Powers won a beach pebble from England.**New Business:** John announced Linwood Harris of Chase City has equipment for sale. A committee is going down Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> to look at a10" saw and some other equipment for the club. Discussion was held on the amount of money to spend and the membership voted to allot \$1500.00 for the maximum expenditure.*Continued on page 11*

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.**  
**Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,**  
**From 7:00pm- 9:00pm**  
**In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building**  
**301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501**  
**Public is invited, Please join us!**



# February Program



Sam and Sharon in the mine.

Sam and Sharon Dunaway, Owners of the Morefield Mine in Amelia County, VA were our very special guests for the program of our March meeting. Sam has a degree as a Mining Engineer, and spent many years in Alaska. He talked about minerals and resources in Alaska, and we had the opportunity to view slides from their most recent trip to Alaska in 2006. Sam also shared details with us concerning the daily operations and production of the Morefield Mine, which he and his wife Sharon own and operate here in Virginia. The Morefield Mine is a highly mineralized pegmatite, and is probably most renowned for its pretty green amazonite. Although the amazonite is what folks seem to associate directly with the mine, it produces over 70 different minerals that can be collected during a visit to the mine collecting area.

According to Sam, most of the work is done at the 100 ft. level of the mine, and all of the materials are hand shoveled into the bucket that lifts the material out of the shaft to be examined above ground.

Sam shared his excitement with us about their recent find in the mine- they uncovered a large pocket containing some of the largest smokey quartz and appetite crystals ever found at this mine. This is their first big discovery since becoming owners of the mine. WOW!

Thanks go to Sam and Sharon for navigating their way through Lynchburg to join us and share these educational and enjoyable experiences with the club. It was our pleasure to have you both as our guests.

This program will be followed up with a club field trip to the Morefield Mine on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For details see field trip section.

Photo above from: <http://www.toteshows.com/morefield.html>. You can visit this website for more photos, as well as a schedule for mine operation hours.

## Gem Tree Workshop Class @ Woolley's Workshop, Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 7-9PM

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA is proud to offer a new series of workshop classes due to popular demand. The classes will start at the workshop this month, and the first project will be gem tree making.

Supplies have been purchased by the club, and any members desiring to learn to make a tree with hands on instruction can do so. You will be making this tree for yourself using the materials purchased by the club.

**The cost will be as follows,  
and MUST be paid prior to beginning the project.**

**Small Gem Tree: \$5.00---Medium Gem Tree \$8.00**

We will have crystals and gem stone chips available for students to choose from, as well as the other materials, instruction and guidance from experienced members. A materials list will also be available for your convenience if you wish to continue this craft at home. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Darling @ 941-1899 or [gmsleditor@comcast.net](mailto:gmsleditor@comcast.net). Future classes will include jewelry making, and we will keep members posted through this monthly publication.

Small  
birthstone gem  
tree →







# Field Trip Report

## The Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC March 3, 2007

Saturday morning was clear and cold and the forecast was clear and in the 50's for Washington. The bus arrived about 5AM and the early birds began boarding. By 5:45 all 49 of us had arrived so we departed a little before 6AM.

The ride to Washington was comfortable and enjoyable. We arrived at the Museum a little before the opening at 10AM. After some group photos we immediately were able to enter and pass thru a minimum screening. We scattered to our favorite area but most wanted to check out the ever-popular mineral and gem exhibits.

After about 11AM there were so many people viewing the exhibits and displays it was difficult to walk around. The mineral and gem exhibits are very popular with young and old folks from all nations and walks of life. It was very informative to eaves drop on some conversations, if you could understand the language, and listen to the interesting stories of mining and collecting adventures. I was very impressed with the interest shown by some of the younger generation.

We all gathered and departed by 5PM. The bus was waiting for us and it sure felt great to smuggle back in that soft seat and enjoy the ride to a nearby restaurant for a plentiful meal. On the ride home we watched an interesting Disney movie on treasure hunting involving some of our National Treasures. Fictitious of course but nonetheless it was exciting to following the quest for hidden gold and treasure.



*John Haskins*

We arrived safely back at Wal-Mart a little after 11PM. It was a great trip and Royce and others from the Roanoke Club are to be commended for organizing this event.



According to the description, these are two of the finest topaz crystals, and prior to arriving at the museum they were slated to be cut up for use in scientific instruments. They were a gift of Howard Freeman and Joseph Linsey in 1981.



Article Submitted by Dave Callahan, Field Trip Chairman, with photographs by Dave Callahan and Don McIntyre.



*Don McIntyre*



*Lynchburg Club member Zach McKinney stands beside this display of a large meteorite.*



# Up Coming Field Trips

## COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Inc. and Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.

**Saturday, March 24, 2007 10:00 am until 4:30 pm**

**MOREFIELD MINE (FEE SITE)**

**TRIP:** We will be visiting the famous Morefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. We will dig and collect in the old dumps, collect from newly mined material, wash your finds in the sluice line and have the rare opportunity to tour the underground mine workings. There will be picnic tables available on a first come basis. Each club should bring food and drink if we want to have a picnic lunch. We must bring our own lawn chairs and a grill. The closest fast food is McDonalds back several miles in Amelia. This is the opening day for the season so there may be many other visitors as this mine.

**COLLECTING:** In addition to the beautiful green amazonite, there will be white clevelandite, several types of mica, massive white topaz, garnet, beryl and others. This mine is noted for many micro minerals that most people just discard. A gold pan is a great way to separate the heavier rare minerals, Take the concentrate home in a container, dry and observe under magnification.

**FEES:** General adult admission and collecting area: \$12.00 each; Children 3 and under free.

Children: Age 4 thru grade 3 (\$7.00); Grade 4 thru 6 (\$8.00); Grade 7 thru 12 (\$10.00)

Underground: \$20.00 each (see restrictions and limitations below)

Combination Price: \$30.00 collecting area and underground tour.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Restrictions on digging in the dump. No picks or mallets, no breaking rocks due to the danger of injuring those nearby. There is a one five-gallon bucket limit with each paid admission. Be sure to bring your own bucket. Additional bucket loads may be purchased for a reasonable fee. You will find a

shovel, small short handled hoe and a screwdriver handy tools for digging. Zip lock bags are handy for your small finds.

**Restrictions on the underground mine tour.** Must go as a group of 8 or less. The first group tour is about 1:00 PM. The second group will be after 3:30 PM if needed. The tour will take a between 1.5 to 2 hours. Everyone will have Hazard Training instruction and sign a release. You must wear the mine supplied M-65 Self-Rescuer. A hard hat is required so be sure to bring your own. You must wear good strong boots with good soles for traction. Athletic or tennis shoes are not permitted. You must bring your own personal light source. You may also want to bring a camera or camcorder. They must be carried on your body or in a small shoulder bag. Both hands must be free for climbing the ladders. The trip into the mine requires climbing ladders. The main level is 45 feet below the surface and the other levels are at 32 feet and 60 feet. **It is a requirement that visitors be able and healthy enough to climb into and out of the mine under their own power.**

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,  
540-297-1853  
Email dbcall1@aol.com

### Special field trip invitation.

Only 10 spots available for the Lynchburg Club

**Hunting Hill Quarry**

**Rockville, MD.**

**Sunday, April 15, 2007**

9AM until 2PM.

Collecting possibilities

Grossular Garnet, Green Chrome Diopside, Clinozoisite, Calcite and a host of micro minerals

I just found out that Dave Lines, a Lynchburg Club member and field trip leader for a MD club has invited us to join them on a field trip to Rockville Md. on Sunday, March 15th. More info at the meeting.

### FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

More details to follow. Contact me if you want immediate information.

**April 20 to 22**

Second Annual Kentucky Geode Adventure.

**April 28**

Glendon, NC

**May 26**

Our DMC field trip

*Continued on page 10*



### Mission Statement

Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide nonprofit program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts education through structured activities that are engaging and challenging and by which kids- and the adults who mentor them- learn while having fun.

# Rock Raiders

The Rock Raiders enjoyed their first meeting in February, with 9 members and 6 guests attending.

GMS member and geologist, Dave Woolley, gave a presentation in which he defined and exhibited a few geology concepts such as mineral and crystal, as well as the rock types igneous and metamorphic. Dave will conclude this presentation with an exhibition of the sedimentary rock types and fossils at our March meeting. The kids really enjoyed handling the different specimens that Dave allowed them to pass around the table. They are full of anticipation awaiting their next club meeting!

Another, though unexpected, treat for the group was the receipt of our own ultraviolet lamp and fluorescent mineral collection! Special thanks goes out to Don and Nell McIntyre for their generous contribution to the Rock Raiders Club! We spent some time in a dark room at the end of our meeting enjoying the fluorescent light display--a first-time experience for several of those in our group!

More appreciation goes out to John Haskins and Dee Tinsley for their contributions to this group. John and Dee each donated a box of minerals and rocks from their own personal collections to the Rock Raiders. We will be using them as a group, to familiarize ourselves with some of the many different types of rocks and minerals that exist locally.

We look forward to taking field trips and collecting our own specimens, as we gain knowledge through our group. This promises to be an exciting year for the children who are participating in the Rock Raiders Association this year!

*Regards to all,  
Shannon Bondurant*

 **HAPPY  
ST. PATRICKS DAY**

## Junior Cash Awards At Roswell

*By Diane Weir, RMFMS Juniors Chair, reprinted from AFMS newsletter, March, 2007*

**Exciting news and a challenge** from the Chaparril Rockhounds, hosts of the 2007 AFMS and RMFLS Show. We would like to invite all the other federations of the AFMS to participate in our Junior Cash Award Program. It entails the following:

There are two \$25.00 cash awards given; one to a junior aged between 6-12, and the other to a junior aged 13-17. Each junior may enter one specimen only, in one of the following categories:

1. Minerals; 2. Lapidary & Petrified Wood; 3. Fossils; 4. Jewelry (using specimen collected in field)

The junior must collect the specimen him/herself. Then he/ she needs to make a label that identifies the specimen (e.g. AQUAMARINE, QUARTZ) classifies it (e.g. sulfide, carbonate, silicate, oxide, etc), says where it was found, and states the name of the junior's club. If the specimen is a fossil, it should also state the period from which it came. The specimen should be mounted on a base or stand to best display the specimen. No personal name of the junior should be on the label.

The junior must submit an entry form to me no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Continued on page 11*





The Executive board meeting was held Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the home of Natalie Darling. In attendance were: Franklin Midkiff, Natalie Darling, Dave Woolley, Steve Boylan, John Haskins, Nona Haskins, Ralph Torning, Ann Torning, Jo Ann Mason, Dave Callahan, Don McIntyre, Nell McIntyre, Bill Tinsley and Dee Tinsley.



*Dee Tinsley, GMSL Secretary*

- ?? The building of the new sluice was discussed and some prices will be gathered to determine the most efficient way to build it.
- ?? Food for the meetings was discussed and again it is felt that too much food is being provided. Nell and Don asked that someone else take the responsibility of furnishing the paper products and the ice, etc since they have done it for many years. Ann Torning volunteered to be the person in charge of all paper products and ice.
- ?? John reported we have 13 insert candles and 16 with cups on hand and the Board decided to order 2 doz. more inserts. Soapstone and Travertine will be the materials gathered and used for rock candles this year.
- ?? The Board decided we should get supplies for jewelry making and gem trees and make those materials available to the membership at the workshops. This would enable any member to come to the workshop and make a tree or pendant for him or herself at cost.
- ?? Shannon Bondurant, The Rock Raiders Leader has requested the club make and donate 3 hardness test kits consisting of glass, nail, and a penny with the materials on the scale. This is something we will work on. Also discussed were field trips for the RR and we decided that any trips where the children are allowed that we go on would be ideal for them as well. As always with children, they must be accompanied by a parent! They may take additional trips that the club does not participate in also.
- ?? Steve Boylan announced we would see the video on Flint knapping for March, and for April he will have members do a program on Fluorescent minerals.
- ?? Dave Woolley is working on a geology trip with a tape recorder, GPS, and making programs members can use to guide them to sites they can explore on their own throughout the different regions in VA.
- ?? Tom or "T" Upshur has requested an article for the Appalachian Trail newsletter about our club. Dee and Natalie will put one together. Unfortunately, Mr. Upshur did not return my call until the night of March 6<sup>th</sup> and the article was due the 7<sup>th</sup>. We did send a paragraph to them including our mission statement, our meeting place and time and our officer's names and titles. There may not be space enough this quarter, but she would use it for the next along with an article we submit. This would be an article about our club education and activities.
- ?? Dee also requested that we be allowed to do more publicity to enhance the membership and peak the interest of our community in the programs we have to offer. The Board agreed that Jo Ann Mason and Dee could provide any publicity they wished.
- ?? The club has purchased a 10" saw and some materials for making bolo ties. Also some raw materials for our use as well as cabochons. (Details of this adventure, see page 10)
- ?? In lieu of "door Prizes" the Board voted to begin an "on time drawing". This means if you are late, you will not be given a ticket and will not be counted in the attendance record. An incentive to get to the meetings on time! Drawings will be the first order of business at the meeting. This will be announced at the March meeting and will begin in April.
- ?? Natalie reported that the swap with the Italian Fabio is ready to proceed however it will cost about \$30.00 plus to ship. The Board voted to ship to make the swap!
- ?? The meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed wonderful refreshments provided by Natalie Darling!

***Respectfully Submitted:  
Dee Tinsley, Secretary***



## It's painless! It's fun! It's interesting!

If you enjoyed reading the bios of several of our members we published in this newsletter during 2006, you may want to consider getting your own bio published. It's actually a very "painless" process. You complete a simple "bio form" and mail it to Member-at-Large Ralph Torning (his address is on the form). You can get the form by locating the Members' Page on our club web site <http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org>. If you do not have access to the Internet, call Ralph (434-385-6006 x 31) and he will mail a blank form to you.

After you complete and mail the form to Ralph, he will then contact you to set up an appointment to meet with him at a convenient location to discuss "all that is fit to print" about you. You are always in control: you are the final "editor" of your bio, and you can change your mind about "going public" at any time up until the newsletter is ready to be printed.

Shy about going "worldwide"? Don't worry! We no longer include the bios on the club's web site, so the readership is limited to recipients of the printed newsletter.

It's painless, it's fun, and it's interesting! But it does not happen until YOU make it happen! Go ahead, complete the bio form.

## SUNSHINE NEWS



Club member Bill Gilbert is slowly recovering from his recent hip replacement surgery. Please keep the Gilberts in your thoughts and prayers, as well as other club members who may be struggling with health or personal issues.

**2007 Wildacres Registration Classes are now forming for Wildacres and William Holland Lapidary retreats.**  
For complete details, dates, and applications, please log onto the Eastern Federation Web site: [www.amfed.org.efmls](http://www.amfed.org.efmls) or contact the Registrar, Debbie Board at 717-294-3667 or Director Wayne Sukow at 703-280-8108

## Additional Smithsonian Field Trip Photographs, Submitted by Dave Callahan and Don McIntyre

**HOW DOES A CRYSTAL BECOME A GEM?**

Skilled gem-cutters transform mineral crystals into sparkling gems. The exact procedure varies with the type of mineral and desired cut. Below, a series of four photographs shows how one aquamarine crystal was cut into gems.

This 120-carat aquamarine crystal was cut into 12 gems totaling 56.58 carats. Here are three of the gems. The largest is 18.18 carats.

Shaped by cutting the crystal with a diamond saw. Shaped the cut crystal using an abrasive wheel. Grind facets at precisely determined angles. Polish the gem by pressing it against a rotating wheel.

**MAR 3 2007**

## Why Different Cuts?

The Rounded surface of a **cabochon** enhances opaque and translucent stones as well as optical effects such as stars and cat's eyes. The flat surface of a **step cut** allows abundant light to enter, bringing out the color of emeralds, rubies, and other intensely colored stones. The facets of a **brilliant cut** refract light, which shows off diamonds and other fiery gems. Variations include marquise and pear cuts.





# Schedule of Events

**March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**- Richmond VA, Treasures of the Earth Gem and Mineral Show. Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Ave. Fri. 12-7; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 11-5. Contact Barbara or Peggy, 804-746-7663 or bhaneys8081@aol.com

**March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**- Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral club show & sale, Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC

**March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**- Bead Mercantile Show, Raleigh, NC. North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Governor W. Kerr Scott Bldg, w025 Blue Ridge Rd. 423-639-7942.

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**- Chambersburg, PA, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club Mineral & Jewelry show. Quality Inn, 1095 Wayne Ave. Contact Chenin Hollaway, 717-372-2256 or [chenindesigns@comcast.net](mailto:chenindesigns@comcast.net)

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**- Sayre, PA Che-Hanna Rock & mineral Club, Gem and Mineral Show. Athens Township Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave. Contact Hazel Remaley, 570-888-7544 or [Northridge@infoblvd.net](mailto:Northridge@infoblvd.net)

**April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth Gem Show, Charlottesville, VA. Details at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**April 17<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**- Graves Mtn. Rock Swap and Dig. This field trip is open to members of associated clubs of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. For more information, contact Jr. Norman at 706-359-3862 or visit the web site <http://www.gaminal.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

**April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**- Annual Open house at the Sterling Hill and Buckwheat Mines in Franklin, NJ for collecting fluorescent minerals. Information at: <http://www.uvworld.org/>



## March 2007

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
				16
				17
				St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22
			Meeting 7PM	23
25	26	27	28	29
			Woolleys Workshop 7PM	30
				31

**For March** we will have the privilege of viewing the **video** of Dr. Errett Callahan's presentation on Flint Knapping.

**April Meeting Program will be:**  
**Fluorescent Minerals by Club Members**

**May Meeting Program:**  
**Gem Stones and Jewelry,**  
Invited presentation by Phillip Bosen  
Fink's Jewelers,  
Thomas Jefferson Crossings  
Forest, Virginia



# Thank you, Mr. Harris

Article by Natalie Darling, Photo's by Don McIntyre

Linwood Harris

On Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, about a dozen club members met at the Hardee's restaurant in Chase City, VA. We had been invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Linwood Harris, to purchase lapidary equipment and supplies for our club. We arrived and were greeted by the Harris's and shown into Mr. Harris' lapidary workshop. He has been a life long lapidary enthusiast, and since retiring and facing health issues, he decided to sell the hobby supplies that he no longer uses.



The crowd gathered in the small workshop, and club purchases were decided upon prior to personal purchases being made. The big draw was talk of a 10" saw, great for slabbing the big stuff or cutting large geodes. The club made this purchase, and hopefully it will be up and running at a workshop soon. The club also purchased a parcel of bola tie materials and cabochons. The plan is to have some ties made up for our fundraiser events.



I think everyone went away with a little parcel, and a big smile on their face. The quality of the purchases was superb, and prices that were very generous on the part of Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris also invited us into his rock garden, where pickins' were free. WOW- Rockhound dream. So a few of us took turns down on the ground, picking through the variety of colorful rough and slabbed pieces of rock. We collected about the equivalent of a five-gallon bucket full of beauties for our sluice that we will build for future events.

I am sure this was a bittersweet day for Mr. Harris, selling off the equipment from the hobby he enjoyed throughout his lifetime. On behalf of the club, I for one would like to thank him the opportunity to purchase the equipment and supplies. We hope to enjoy these items for many years, with pleasant thoughts of our visit and the Harris's hospitality.

## Morefield Mine Field Trip...continued from page 5

There are platforms about every 12 feet where one can rest but remember that physical exertion is required. The vertical ladder ways are tight and large people and backpacks may not fit. The final decision on who will be permitted to enter the mine is up to the mine owner. Children are not permitted to enter the mine. Only older teenagers when accompanied with a parent. Dress according to the surface temperature. There will be some dripping water especially on the 60-foot level so a light rain jacket may be useful. There may also be some wet floors. No mineral collecting will be permitted underground.

**DIRECTIONS:** Meet at the mine between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. The mine is located in Amelia County, VA. From US 360 just East of the McDonalds traffic light in Amelia, turn right on Rt. 628 (look for the brown State Morefield Mine sign). The mine entrance will be about 9/10 of a mile on the left. Follow the driveway all the way to the parking area, office and gift shop.

If you want to drive as a group, we will meet at the Jumbo Restaurant on US 460 East just past the Lynchburg City limits in Campbell County. We will DEPART there at 8:00 AM. drive 460 thru Farmville and take Rt. 307 to US 360 and stop at the McDonalds in Amelia for a short break. The mine is only a couple of miles from there.

**CONTACT:** (Lynchburg) David Callahan, 540-297-1853 (dbcall1@aol.com)  
(Roanoke) Royce Wickham, 540-427-1424 (rklandsc@rev.net)

## Presidents Message...*cont. from pg. 1*

I read an article in the EFMLS newsletter this month, THOUGHTS ON WHAT MAKES CLUBS THRIVE. The list says, "thriving clubs have a significant number of kids attending meetings with their parents; A wide variety of speakers presenting programs; A website with regular updates; Regular field trips catering to people of all skill levels; An annual show; An outreach program in local schools etc; And last but not least, sharing e-mail addresses so members can talk between meetings." I think the GMSL is doing about everything on the list, but things don't just happen automatically. Several some ones have been putting in a lot of effort & I thank you all for your hard work & sharing your talents with everyone else. So think about this list & think how you may be able to give your support to the Club in the coming year. We have a club that we can all be proud of; I can only see it getting better. That's all for now I'll see you at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Keep Looking Down,**

**John Haskins**

## January Meeting Minutes...*from pg. 2*

**New Business:** Dave also announced that we are going to build and operate a sluice at our events this year. Sign up sheets will be out at next month for volunteers to assist in the building of the sluice and also in preparing all the needed items to sell.

Dave also announced we would continue the Stamp program. Anyone who needs information on this program, please contact any officer of the club.

**Program:** Sam Dunaway presented some wonderful slides of the inside of the Morefield Mine in Amelia and told of some of the great finds recently uncovered, such as a very nice smokey quartz crystal and apatite, etc. Then he showed slides on their most recent trip in 2006 to Alaska. They camped in a remote area on the tundra and showed us the areas where rich minerals are located. They flew over to Russia and saw some of their mining operations. Despite the ever-growing need for better roads there he said they would not use the aggregate they have in abundance to fix the roads! The evening was educational and the scenery was beautiful. A very special "Thank You" to both Sam and Sharon for sharing their wonderful experiences with our club. Also, for always being there for us when we ask them to assist.

**Respectfully submitted: Dee Tinsley, Secretary**

## FOR SALE:

**FUND RAISER FOR NEW LOCATION FOR J.M.U. GEOLOGY MUSEUM**

During our clubs recent field trip to James Madison University Geology Dept, we were very pleased to be given a tour of the new proposed location for the Geology Museum, in Memorial Hall, by Dr. Lance Kerns. More than a dozen large displays cases need to be purchased for the Museum. Dr. Kerns is offering for sale his collection of **The Mineralogical Record Magazines, Volume 1 thru 36 from years 1970 to the present for \$1400.00 for the complete set.** The set consists of over 210 volumes with a few extra publications from each year. I think the going price on E-Bay is over \$2000.00. If interested please contact any club officer or Dr. Lance Kerns at J.M.U. 540-568-6421; or [KEARNSLE@JMU.EDU](mailto:KEARNSLE@JMU.EDU).

## Junior Cash Awards...*continued from page 6*

He/ She does not have to be present at the AFMS/FMFMS Show. The junior can send his/her entry with a fellow club member or his/her state director (it's the juniors responsibility to get it to the state director) The specimen must be presented on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, the day of set-up. The entry form can be found at < [www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org) > under the 2007 show information (Junior Cash Awards) or you can contact me and I will send you a copy.

As this is the first time we have expanded our horizons to include the entire AFMS Federations, we are looking forward to having many juniors enter. We would love to have every club in the AFMS participate!

Diane Weir; RMFMS Junior Chairperson  
2300 S. Union, Roswell, New Mexico 88203  
505-622-5679

**Important Web Sites:** Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society: [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

American and Southeast Federation Websites:

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletter are available for all members to read on line at: [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms), [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)





← Water and wind deposited quartz sand along an ocean beach about 35 million years ago and other sediments buried the sand. Later, the overlying rock was eroded and the sand exposed. Within the past 400,000 years, circulating groundwater dissolved quartz from some areas of the exposed sand and redeposited it in others. There, quartz cemented loose sand grains into sinuous shapes.  
*Information from Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, 3/2007*



**Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc Membership Application**  
*(All information for official club use only)*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Members Names:  
 Spouse/ Sig. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ages \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: First Person: \$15.00 per year,  
 Each additional family member \$3.25**  
**Mail To:**  
**P.O. Box 2348**  
**Lynchburg, VA 24501**

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.**  
 Natalie Darling, Editor  
 211 Chesterfield Rd.  
 Lynchburg, VA 24502 [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC

