



# Gem & Mineral Journal



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

May 2007

Volume 16 Issue 5

## Presidents Message:

Greetings To All Members,

Time is getting short for two big spring events for the GMSL. First, we are finalizing the plans our DMC trip to Mt. Athos Quarry on May 26<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank Boxley Quarry Officials for all they have done to help make this field trip happen. With a lot of planning and effort on our part I believe this will make for a most memorable day. Also, thanks to Dave Callahan for all his hard work so far, in making this field trip a reality. We are counting heavily on the people who have volunteered to make all of this come together.

The following weekend (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) is Uncle Billy's Day. We have planned to have two workshops on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> to make Travertine candles, finish building the Gem Sluices, make Gem Trees & put together packages of crystals & minerals to be used in the sluices. I'm sure I have left out something, so if you signed up to help at the workshops at Dave Callahan's on these dates be sure to come with your work clothes on, there will be plenty to do. We will have to test the Gem Sluices, I hope by the 12<sup>th</sup>, so be prepared to play in the water.

I haven't brought up this subject for a good while but I need to say it again. There are a good number of

members that have bad allergic reactions to perfume & cologne. So if you are participating in any of the Clubs workshops I am asking, PLEASE DO NOT WEAR ANY PERFUME OR COLOGNE, & I thank you in advance.

Have you noticed how the participation has increased at the monthly meetings as well as with the Rock Raiders Club? We must be doing something right. I would like to invite any new members that haven't volunteered for the upcoming workshops or to help with the DMC field trip or Uncle Billy's Day festival to call me at home (434-525-8430) & I'm sure we can fix you up with a great hands on experience for learning & having fun at the same time. We never turn down help.

I remember now, we will also be assembling Bola ties at the workshops to sell at Uncle Billy's Day festival. Please mark your calendars with the above dates & come out & join in the fun. That's all for now.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

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## From the First VP:

Actinolite is the mineral for May. The chemical name for actinolite is calcium magnesium iron silicate hydroxide which only means that actinolite has a lot of different elements in it. Actinolite is in the monoclinic crystal system. Actinolite can be found in Tyrol, Austria; Baikal, Russia; and in the greenstone from Mt. Athos quarry in Campbell County. Actinolite is a good stone to bring people from far

away together and improve memory. For May's meeting, we are going high grade with Phillip Bosen from Fink's Jewelers. Let's give him a warm welcome. 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  
SteveJ

**2007 ELECTED OFFICERS****John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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JoAnn Mason &amp;

Ralph Torning

**COMMITTEE****CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Ann Torning**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

## April Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Wednesday,  
April 18<sup>th</sup>**Attendance:** 46 members and 2  
guests**Hospitality:** was provided by  
many members who signed up  
the previous month. This was  
very enjoyable, and thanks to all  
who participated.**On Time Drawing:** winners  
were Nona Haskins and Bernard  
Rivera.**Old Business:** John announced  
that the saw, recently purchased  
for the club had a bad switch on  
it, he has since had it fixed and  
we will use it at our workshops  
coming up.All the metal work for the sluces  
has been done, and we will need  
to make the legs, etc at the  
workshops. The next two  
scheduled workshops are on May  
the 5<sup>th</sup> and May the 12<sup>th</sup> at Dave  
Callahan's house. If you need  
directions to his home, please call  
him or any officer.John also announced that he had  
purchased a 20 lb box of fossils  
for the club to use in the sluice.  
There were sign up sheets for  
everyone who would participate,  
and if you were not there but can  
come and help, please notify  
Dave Callahan and specify which  
Sat. you can work.**First Vice President:** John  
also announced that the saw,  
recently purchased for the club  
had a bad switch on it, he has  
since had it fixed and we will  
use it at our workshops coming  
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need directions to his home,  
please call him or any officer.  
John also announced that he  
had purchased a 20 lb box of  
fossils for the club to use in the  
sluice.**Second Vice President:**Dave Callahan announced that  
May 26<sup>th</sup> has been confirmed as  
the date for the DMC trip to  
Mt. Athos. Please plan to come  
and help. The club needs folks  
to work all day. There will be  
between 50 and 75 guests  
coming from all over who will  
need direction, need to be fed,  
safety people will be needed  
and setup and clean up. Set up  
will be from 7 AM to 9 AM.  
There will be a rock swap, you  
may sell your specimens, etc or*Continued on page 13*

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!

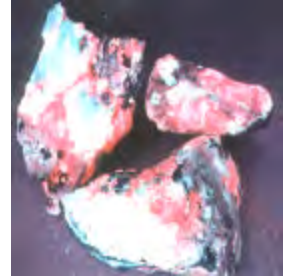
# April Program

## FLUORESCENT MINERALS

By club member /geologist Dave Woolley

The program for the April meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg featured an informative lecture about minerals and collecting in Franklin, NJ by Dave Woolley. Dave also wowed the crowd with his fabulous display of fluorescent minerals using a super bright short and long wave black light.

Several members attended this year's annual spring collecting open house in Franklin, NJ, and we will hope to have a write up on this trip in time for next month's newsletter.



### Wire Wrapping Class at Woolley's Workshop, Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 7-9PM

Eight members gathered around the table in Dave Woolley's basement for an introduction to wire wrapping. Natalie Darling supplied the tools, and each student learned the basics in selecting and measuring a stone to be wrapped. As the lesson continued, the formation of the sterling silver wire settings was beginning to take shape. Due to time constraints, the lesson was continued the following Tuesday at Natalie's. Anyone wishing to share a talent or learn something new, please let us know. Several club members are learning to facet stones, many cut cabochons on a regular basis at the club workshops, and we will be glad to share these talents with others.

**Next workshop at Woolley's: Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00-9:00 PM.** We will be putting the finishing touches on some of our products for the up coming Uncle Billy's Day event. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome; workshops are open to Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society members in good standing.

### Workshops at Dave Callahan's Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, and May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

(Photographs submitted by Don McIntyre)

A crowd of members gathered at 9:00 am both days to help with the preparations for our two upcoming fundraiser events.

Our newest attraction, the Sluice, required many man-hours to assemble and prepare for operation. We will likely need one more workshop to get this up and running.

Other members worked on cutting and cleaning the Travertine, which has made some outstanding candles.

Member Sue Gaeta successfully applied her knowledge of electronic repair to an ailing battery charger so we will have the means to recharge our sluice batteries during the day for continued use. Thanks Sue, as I know you would have enjoyed making jewelry instead.

Some of the other items constructed included bola ties, neck wires to wear our beautiful cabochon jewelry on, and several birthstone trees were made. We ended this

Saturday filling bags with specimens that will be used for sluicing. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and help with these club projects. And thanks to Dave Callahan for

*Additional photographs on pg. 15 for electronic viewers.*



*Sue repairing the battery charger.*



# Field Trip Report

Article and Submitted by  
Dave Callahan~ photographs submitted by  
Dave Callahan and Dee Tinsley.

## Second Annual Kentucky Geode Adventure April 21 to 23, 2007

Our Second Annual trek into the beautiful central Kentucky Green River area, in search of their illusive quartz geodes was a complete success. The weather was as perfect as anyone could ask for. It was dry and pleasantly warm with a slight breeze to keep the bugs away.

Sixteen members of the Lynchburg and Roanoke clubs met Saturday morning at the Stanford, Kentucky Wal-Mart as planned. Royce and his group driving up from their campsite at General Burnside State Park were a little late. As it turned out, they had stopped along the way to collect some agate and coral in a golf course construction site.

About 8:30 A.M. we all drove several miles to the Green River and our selected collecting area. The river was down and you could easily walk across to the other side or collect in the river.

The group of eager geode hunters in Kentucky.

Some of us chose to spend the day here walking up and down the river and adjoining banks. The selection was plentiful but you had to knock off a corner or break them in half to be sure that they were in fact a hollow and crystal lined geode. Better than half were solid nodules and were left behind.

Several of the group departed about noon to check out some of the other near-by collecting areas. When it was all said and done, everyone had a great time, collected a great variety of geodes, agates, fossil coral, shell and minerals. We look forward with great anticipation to next April and exploring even more new sites.

If you were unable to attend this trip and would like to go with us next April, we would be happy to have you join us.

Fred Mason & Dave Callahan

Some of our friends from the Roanoke club



JoAnn & Fred Mason, Dee & Bill Tinsley



Fred, JoAnn, Bill

Fred, Dee and Bill



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## Up Coming Field Trips

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,  
540-297-1853  
Email [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

# May 26th, 2007 Our DMC Event

**Attention club members:** If you have already signed up to help with this event, you should have already received your e-mail with the 5-4-07 schedule of events revised outline. If you did not, I will have a copy at the May 16th meeting. If you would like to help us, please let me know by phone or e-mail or just show up at the quarry at 7:00 A.M. Saturday morning and let someone know. We want to make this a safe, successful and memorable event for everyone.

**The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc**  
**The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.**

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Virginia Inc. (HOST)

7:30 AM to 5:30 PM (EDT) Saturday, May 26, 2007

Boxley Materials Company, Mount Athos Plant Lynchburg, Virginia



**WHERE:** Boxley Materials Company, Mount Athos quarry near Lynchburg, Virginia. Meet at the quarry office parking lot between 7:30 and 8:30 am (do not be late) Club members will show you where to park and have the forms to sign.

All participants, regardless of age, will be required to wear hard hats, safety glasses, steel toe or good strong boots and long pants. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability and receive Hazard Training. There is a safety orientation at 8:45 and if you miss it, you may not be allowed into the quarry. Everyone will need to sign a release and receive information on boundaries and safety in the collecting area. Stay 50 feet away from high walls and be cautious as to footing at all times.

**COLLECTING:** Some of the minerals we have collected in the past are white and pink Calcite, pink Marble, Feldspar, Quartz, Ilmenite, Epidote, Pyrite, Actinolite, Chlorite, Muscovite, Magnetite, Hematite, Limonite, Rutile, Manganite, Cuprite, Chalcopyrite, Bornite, Malachite, Sphene, Apatite and Stilbite. Also reported to occur are Byssolite, Tremolite, Chrysocolla, Heulandite and Azurite. Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and that some of the occurrences are very small. We will have a large supply of material on the quarry floor from a recent shot, away from the high walls in a safe area.

**LOCATION:** Lynchburg, Virginia is centrally located in the State. We are not served directly by any Interstate but US Routes 29, 460 and 501 all connect here. I-81 traffic from the South and North can connect with US 460 at exit 150 (Cloverdale) and use Alternate SR 220 to connect with US 460 East to Bedford and Lynchburg. Stay on the US 460 East bypass around the two cities. Stay on US 460 East several miles past Lynchburg toward Appomattox to the Mt Athos Rd. (Rt. 726) exit. Follow Mt. Athos Rd. about .5 miles and turn right on Stage Rd. Follow Stage Rd. about 1.3 miles to the quarry on the right and the meeting place in the quarry parking lot.

I-64 traffic can connect with US 29 South near Charlottesville, VA. Continue south on US 29 to Amherst and follow the new US 29 bypass to Lynchburg. After crossing the new James River Bridge, take the US 460 East exit to Appomattox. Continue on US 460 East a short distance to the Mt. Athos exit and continue as above to the quarry.

Those approaching from other routes should be directed by a good Virginia road map. The US 460, Mt. Athos Rd (726) exit is in Campbell County several miles east of Lynchburg. *Continued on page 13*



### 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



*Illinois State Geological Survey / AP*  
*These fossils and others found at a coal mine near Danville, Ill., may provide clues about the planet's earliest rainforests.*



Updated:2007-04-24 12:33:18

Ancient Rainforest Revealed in Coal Mine

By Jeanna Bryner <[www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com)>

Provided by  LIVE SCIENCE.

### Forest Find

(April 23) -- Scientists exploring a mine have uncovered a natural Sistine chapel showing not religious paintings, but incredibly well preserved images of sprawling tree trunks and fallen leaves that once breathed life into an ancient rainforest

Replete with a diverse mix of extinct plants, the 300-million-year-old fossilized forest is revealing clues about the ecology of Earth's first rainforests. The discovery and details of the forest are published in the May issue of the journal *Geology*.

"We're looking at one instance in time over a large area. It's literally a snapshot in time of a multiple square mile area," said study team member Scott Elrick of the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS).

Over millions of years as sediments and plant material pile up, layer upon layer, the resulting bands become time indicators with the newest, youngest layer on the top and the oldest layer at the bottom. Typically geologists peel away a vertical slice of rocky material to look at material, including fossils, over a period of time.

The fossils were found in a rock deposit that covers an area of about 4 square miles. The rainforest existed about 300 million years ago.

A coal mine offers a unique view of the past. Instead of a time sequence, illuminated in the layer upon layer of sediments, the roof of an underground mine reveals a large area within one of those sediment layers, or time periods.

Miners in Illinois are used to seeing a few plant fossils strewn along a mine's ceiling, but as they burrowed farther into this one, the sheer density and area covered by such fossils struck them as phenomenal, Elrick said.

That's when they called paleobotanist Howard Falcon-Lang from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and William DiMichele, a curator of fossil plants at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

"It was an amazing experience. We drove down the mine in an armored vehicle, until we were a hundred meters below the surface," Falcon-Lang said. "The fossil forest was rooted on top of the coal seam, so where the coal had been mined away the fossilized forest was visible in the ceiling of the mine."

*Continued on page 11*



## Executive Meeting Minutes:

The executive committee met at the Darlings home on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm. John informed the members present that the sluice was ready for our finishing touches and workshops were set for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May at Dave Callahan's.

This project will need to be completed prior to Uncle Billy's Day on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Natalie will order rough and tumbled specimens to put into the sluice mix, along with any donated samples we obtain from our members.

Dave Callahan discussed in detail the upcoming DMC trip. A list was composed of volunteers for selected duties during the day of the event. An updated list of the details was to be emailed to all volunteers. In the case of someone not having access to email, Dave will have copies available at this month's meeting. We will be selling Barbecue, chips, drinks and perhaps cookies or crackers between the hours of 12-2 pm for anyone wishing to purchase a hot lunch.

There was discussion about the safety in the quarry for children who may attend the DMC trip. Shannon Bondurant will discuss this in detail with the parents of the Rock Raiders.

Shannon obtained fossil specimens for the Rock Raiders, donated by Dave Young.

Steve Boylan discussed the upcoming programs and it looks like we are in good shape there.

Secretary Dee Tinsley was not present during the meeting due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. We were told she was very sore, but no major injuries and we hope to see her soon.

*Minutes composed by Natalie Darling, Editor*



# EFMLS Reigon IV Annual Picnic

**Saturday, June 9, 2006 – from 9AM to 3PM**  
**Lake Anna State Park, Virginia – Shelter #1**

**Highlights:** Material Swapping, renowned Region IV Treasure Box, and our outstanding Picnic Pot Luck Lunch.

At **9:00 AM**, we start swapping and socializing. Much of the swapping is done early in the day so come early and swap the materials you have tons of. BUT don't forget there is NO selling allowed in the park.

At **12:00 noon**, we will be grilling the famous Region IV hot dogs. Please bring your own world famous dish to share.

At **1:30 PM**, a fun auction of the weird, wild, funny, odd, and unusual stuff you have accumulated. PLEASE donate items for the auction. Should be at least somewhat hobby related.

**Door prizes:** Bring one with you because everyone loves to win!

The renowned **Region IV Treasure Box** will be open all day. Bring items that you have a ton of or no longer want. Hobby related, of course. Remember one rockhounds junk is another rockhounds treasure. Please label your material for the Treasure Box.

**Directions:** I-95 to exit #118 Thornburg; West on Rte 606 to Rte 208; turn Left onto Rte Rte 601 and turn Right onto Rte 601 (Turn is just past Lake Anna Marine Supplies & Hardware); Continue on Rte 601 then turn Left into Park; Follow park road to lake, shelter is around to the Left past the park facilities. Please email me or call me if you have questions.



**Bill Gilbert, EFMLS Region IV Vice President**

[Billis4rox@comcast.net](mailto:Billis4rox@comcast.net) 804-541-8520

## Announcement for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Meeting

*Submitted by program chairman Steve Boylan*



### Gem Stones and Jewelry

Invited presentation by Phillip Bosen  
Fink's Jewelers, Thomas Jefferson Crossings,  
Forest, Virginia

When most jewelers take a vacation, it usually involves relaxing in the sun. But then there's Phillip Bosen of Fink's Jewelers. You're more likely to find him scaling Mount St. Helen's. "It took us three full days to get to the summit and back," said Bosen, an avid backpacker and woodsman. "What a fantastic experience!"

Bosen brings this sort of passion to his position as manager of Fink's Lynchburg, Virginia store. In a relatively short time span, he has established himself as one of the top managers, salesmen and trainers in the 15-store company. His industry credentials are a testament to his commitment; Bosen is a GIA Graduate Gemologist and an AGS Certified Gemologist Appraiser. But success, according to Bosen, comes down to the simple basics. "Know your product, your market and your customer."

Lynchburg is a family-first kind of town. We pride ourselves in developing and nurturing personal relationships. It's not enough just to recognize a familiar face. We want to know their children's names, their hobbies, where they like to travel, what community organizations they belong to...ultimately, we want our clients to be our friends." The entire staff takes pride in its commitment to civic involvement and supporting local education and arts initiatives.

The philosophy has paid off. In fact, Fink's will close its 27-year-old mall location and open a freestanding store in early 2007 that will become one of the finest luxury jewelry destinations in Central Virginia. "Our customers have grown to expect the finest brands, products and service that we can provide. We're fortunate to get the opportunity to take our business to the next level."

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Bosen helped out in his family's small jewelry shop as a teenager by sweeping sidewalks. Eventually, he worked his way up to selling diamonds. He met his wife of 15 years, Heather, as students at Brigham Young University. They married and started a family that has grown to five children, ages 5 to 13.

As for his next nature excursion, Bosen isn't sure. "I would love to hike The White Mountains in New Hampshire, if my wife will let me."



## Refreshment Sign up list for the May 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 Meeting

### 2-Liter Drinks:

Cola: Shannon B. (2)  
Decaf: Sherry Gaeta (2)  
Diet: Sherry Gaeta  
Other: Nona Haskins

### Veggies:

Taco Salad: Natalie Darling

Fruit: Jack Curtin

Meats: Dorothy Rivera

### Cheese:

Sliced: JoAnn Mason, Sandra McCordle  
Cubed: Angela Yarbrough  
Other: K. Conway

### Deserts:

Cookies: JoAnn Mason  
Cake: Nell McIntyre  
Cup Cakes: Steve Boylan

### Crackers:

Kim Neczyporuk

Chips: Nona Haskins

Dip: Nona Haskins

Bread: Sherry Gaeta

Other: Shannon B.

If you did not sign up and would like to bring something, please use this list as your guide.

**Thanks for your continued support!**





# Schedule of Events

**May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth gem, mineral, and jewelry show Martinsville, VA National Guard armory. Free admission; free parking, hourly door prizes. Information at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**May 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth Gem, mineral, and jewelry shows Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. Admission: \$3.00, free parking and hourly door prizes. Info. @ [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**- **Our DMC Event** to be held at Mt. Athos Quarry, Lynchburg, VA. More details listed on pages 5 & 13 of this issue, and in last months issue. Contact Dave Callahan: 540-297-1853  
Email [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)  
With any questions or to volunteer to help.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>**- Region IV Swap and Picnic at Lake Anna State Park. See next page for details.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth Show Waynesboro, VA  
[www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)


## FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

### June 23rd

Several old favorite and new sites are under consideration but not finalized at this time.

We hope to go to a new site in Nelson County for Rutile and Blue Quartz but it has not been confirmed.

## May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mothers Day	14	15	16 Meeting 7PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Woolleys Workshop	24	25	26 DMC Trip
27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31		

## Programs for the coming months

### May Meeting Program:

#### Gem Stones and Jewelry,

Invited presentation by Phillip Bosen  
Fink's Jewelers,  
Thomas Jefferson Crossings  
Forest, Virginia



### June Meeting Program

Radon Remediation and Instrument Testing  
by Dale Phelps, Radon Free DP Enterprises,  
([www.radonfree.net](http://www.radonfree.net))

# Rockin' on the Green River 2007

ROANOKE & LYNCHBURG GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERS HUNT KENTUCKY GEODES



We're off!



The Gang Has Arrived



Heading for KY



Last Yr "Callahan" this year ROYCE!



And the Hunt Begins

## Kentucky Geodes

*Article and photo collage submitted by Dee Tinsley*

On April 20<sup>th</sup> we journeyed to Danville Kentucky along with Jo Ann & Fred Mason and enjoyed our travels together very much. Some of the Roanoke and Lynchburg folks had gone out there on Thursday ahead of us.

We all met early in the morning at the Wal-Mart in Sanford and when everyone arrived we convoyed out to the countryside to hunt Geodes. We are fortunate enough to have a lady who allows us to park and hunt on her property and it is mighty good hunting ground!

We found every size imaginable and cracked some there, and brought a large amount home to crack. Also found some really nice fossils along the river edge. The Green river is shallow enough to walk across where we were and we were able to explore the islands and the banks as well as the shores.

We took my new red wagon to haul Geodes up the hill in and Bill and Fred quickly found a conspiracy going on as we had elected them to be the man power to get it back up the hill and unload the treasures. But they were nice enough to pull it all the way up the hill, as they knew Jo Ann and I couldn't.

We met some new friends and enjoyed a visit with some friends from Roanoke that we had met last year.

Tired and happy we retreated to the hotel and rested, showered and went out on the town for dinner again! This time it was Dora and Billy's suggestion to go to the Chinese Buffet. Their advice was great! The food and service were both very good.

*Continued on page 12*

**Forest Find...**continued from page 6**Forest Snapshot**

Here's what the miners and other scientists saw underground: Relatively narrow passageways wind through the "cave," marked off with stout 100-foot-wide pillars to ensure the roof doesn't collapse.

"It's like in some bizarre Roman temple with tons of Corinthian pillars that are 100 feet across and only six feet tall," Elrick told LiveScience. "As you're walking down these passageways you see these pillars of coal on either side of you and above you — imagine an artist's canvas painted a flat grey and that is sort of what the grey shale above the coal looks like.

The largest ever found, the fossil forest covers an area of about 4 square miles. This ancient assemblage of flora is thought to be one of the first rainforests on Earth, emerging during the Upper Carboniferous, or Pennsylvanian, time period that extended from about 310 million to 290 million years ago.

A reconstruction of the ancient forest showed that like today's rainforests, it had a layered structure with a mix of plants now extinct: Abundant club mosses stood more than 130-feet high, towering over a sub-canopy of tree ferns and an assortment of shrubs and tree-sized horsetails that looked like giant asparagus.

The scientists think a major earthquake about 300 million years ago caused the region to drop below sea level where it was buried in mud. They estimate that within a period of months the forest was buried, preserving it "forever."

"Some of these tree stumps have been covered geologically speaking in a flash," Elrick said.

Because the spatial layout of the forest has been maintained, the scientists can learn about entire plant communities, not just individual plants.

"This spectacular discovery allows us to track how the species make-up of the forest changed across the landscape, and how that species make-up is affected by subtle differences in the local environment," Falcon-Lang said.

The fossil forest extends along the ceiling of two adjacent mines, the Riola mine and the Vermillion Grove mine, which are located in Vermillion County, just south of Danville, Ill.

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*Article archived and submitted by Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Secretary Dee Tinsley.*

**SUNSHINE NEWS**

Club Member Ann Torning is currently in Connecticut awaiting the arrival of her newest grandchild. Congratulations, we hope this finds mother, baby and grandmother healthy and happy.

Speedy recovery wishes to Dee Tinsley who was recently injured in a car accident.

**Welcome New Members:**

**Melissa, Jack,  
and Katrina  
Markham of  
Huddleston, VA**

**Debbie Burks  
of Monroe, VA**

**Tammy, James,  
Courtney, Kyle,  
Liam, Willow, and  
Seamas O'Keefe of  
Concord, VA**



## Kentucky Geodes... *continued from page 10*

Rested and ready for more adventure we traveled back to Virginia on Sunday. On our way back we stopped in West Virginia at Tamarack and enjoyed the West Virginia artisans wares.

Then a bit further down the road and across the Virginia state line, we stopped to rest and Jo Ann and I found some really nice shell fossils.

Wonderful trip, wonderful friends and we are all ready to do it again!

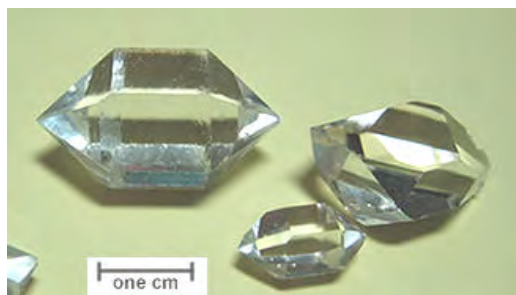
Maybe next year we can schedule and find a place to hunt the Kentucky Agates too!

*Crystal information and photograph from Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, submitted by Dave Callahan, March, 2007*



*Herkimer Diamond quartz crystals.*

[www.geology.com](http://www.geology.com)



## ATTENTION MEMBERS:

It is time once again to update our electronic mailing lists.

Please email Dave Callahan [dbcall1@aol.com](mailto:dbcall1@aol.com) and /or Natalie Darling [gmsleditor@comcast.net](mailto:gmsleditor@comcast.net) so that we can update our lists and add your correct email address.

Email broadcasts are sent out about all upcoming events, field trips, etc. You will not receive this information if we do not have your correct email on file.

We would also prefer to send your newsletter via email in an effort to cut down on copy & postage costs (and save trees). If you are unable to receive the files through email we will be happy to keep you on the paper mailing list.

There are several advantages to getting the electronic newsletter- you receive it sooner, with color photographs, and there are often bonus pages containing additional photos for electronic viewers.

Please take a moment next time you log on and email us with your correct information.

Thanks for your continued support.

Natalie Darling, Editor

The Eastern Federation Convention and show is scheduled for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Newark, NY.

This year the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club hosts the convention.

There are field trips planned for collecting celestite and Herkimer Diamonds.

Anyone interested in attending can contact the editor for more details. I will be going and it would be great to have other club members attend. It is a great experience, with collecting opportunities built in to the plan.

Hope you can join in the fun!

## April Meeting Minutes...

*Continued from pg. 2*

you may swap for them. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Glendon NC trip. It is also the date for the Roanoke Club's Dogwood Festival in Vinton VA. And if that isn't enough for that same date, it is also the weekend of the Franklin NJ trip for fluorescent minerals.

**Treasurer:** Franklin Midkiff reported a balance on hand of \$5356.93 with one outstanding bill in the amount of \$242.15, for a balance of \$5114.78 after this bill is paid. We had 4 new members and 4 renewals this month.

The club "thanked" Diane Capobianco for her kind donation of "American Greetings cards".

**Program:** Dave Woolley presented an excellent program on fluorescent minerals complete with samples to send around and a table full of minerals. Everyone gathered around to see the "beautiful colors" that fluoresce. **A big "thank you" to Dave Woolley for always sharing his knowledge with the membership.**

Respectfully submitted:

**Dee Tinsley, Secretary**

## DMC Event...*continued from pg. 5*

**EQUIPMENT:** The Boxley Quarries are very safety conscious. Standard quarry gear is required. Hard hats, steel toe boots or other substantial boots and safety glasses. Good protective clothing and gloves should be worn (no shorts). It may be very hot in the quarry so be sure to bring plenty of water and sunscreen. Dress according to the weather in Lynchburg that day. Bring your own collecting equipment such as hammers, chisels and buckets. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry.

**AGE LIMIT:** Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parents responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all the safety requirements. The same dress and safety equipment requirements apply. Pets will be allowed only if they are under total control and will not be allowed to roam free. Pet owners must clean up after their pets.

**ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS:** The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg will provide hot food such as chicken BBQ, snacks and cold drinks for a small fee around noon. If you have any special food concerns please bring your own food. There are no fast food places close to the quarry. We will have at least one geologist on hand all day to assist in mineral identification. Boxley will provide a couple of Port-a-Potties in the quarry for our use.

**ROCK SWAP AND SELL:** We encourage everyone to bring rocks, minerals or other related items to sell or swap. This will not be a Flea Market! Just bring some rocks to swap and or sell if you have some really good stuff. Show off and sell some of those cabs, crafts and wire wrappings that you've been working on. You can work out of your car or a small table behind your car.

**LODGING:** Many motels are available in Lynchburg. The following are at the Candler's Mountain Exit with easy access to US 460

DAYS INN 434-847-8655

Comfort Inn 434-847-9041

Best Western 434-237-2986

**CONTACT:** David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman.

e-mail: DBCALL1@aol.com

Phone: 540-297-1853

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

**NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis beyond our control may result in canceling or rescheduling this trip**

**Websites to visit:** Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society: [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)  
The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletters are available for all members to read on line at the Federation Websites: [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)

## 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).



## 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





