



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

April 2008

Volume 17 Issue 4

Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

I have good news for the Rock Raiders Club. Our club member, David Murphy, has stepped up and volunteered to be the primary leader for the Rock Raiders. David is a professor at Lynchburg College and has three sons, Geoffrey who is nine, Ernie who is seven, and Brandon who is three. Both older boys are very interested in earning merit badges in the Future Rock Hounds of America program. David is very eager to get the "RR" going again, so they will meet in Room 101, adjacent to the auditorium April 16th, the same time as the GMSL. Let's all give David a warm welcome and give any help he may need. I know that there is a lot of information and teaching aids for this group floating around.

The GMSL has been invited to participate in "Earth Day," an educational and fun festival at Lynchburg College on Tuesday April 22nd, from 3:00 PM till dusk. They have titled the theme to be "ROCK THE DELL". We will be outside, weather permitting, and will need help setting up tents, tables, geode cracker and displays for items to sell. We will bring samples of minerals showing what raw materials look like before they are made into items we use

everyday. We will have samples of the manufactured items to show along with charts and information sheets to show how everything we use is mined from the earth. We will receive detailed instructions on where and when to setup about two weeks before the festival. There will be a signup sheet at the GMSL meeting on the 16th for anyone that would like to help. I will have all the details by the time we meet.

I was interviewed by phone last week by Julie Snowman, a freelance writer doing an article on Gem Mining and Rock hounding in Virginia, for the Lynchburg Living Magazine. She was also going to contact Dave Young, one of our past presidents, and owner of Stones & Bones rock shop. He should be one of her best resources for this type of article. Julie requested that we supply some photos of local quarries and rocks we have collected. Ralph Torning will contribute his pictures for the article, thanks Ralph~ they should add a lot. Look for the article in the May issue. I am looking forward to seeing how much of the article promotes the GMSL. That's all for now, I hope to see you at the April 16th meeting.

**Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins**

From the First VP:

Did you know that malachite is a basic copper carbonate with a chemical formula of $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$ and is in the monoclinic crystal system. Malachite is emerald-green and develops in zones of hydrothermal replacement deposits. Malachite is a powerful stone that amplifies both positive and negative energies. And now you know.

Our thanks go to member Kenneth Conway for the March meeting presentation about ionizing radiation and the Virginia uranium deposit. The overhead

presentation was good with lots of information about radioactivity.

For April's meeting we have invited Dr. Leslie Lane from The Blue Ridge Astronomy Club and Lynchburg College. She will speak about astronomy. Let's give Leslie a warm welcome. See you at the meeting.

Cheers,
Steve

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CHAIR PERSONS:

Field Trips- David Callahan

Hospitality- Anne Torning

News Articles- Natalie Darling

Silent Auction- Warren Darling

Special Events- Dee Tinsley

Swap for Rocks- Frank Midkiff &
Warren Darling

Website- Adelaide Le

Workshops- Dave Woolley

FRA Adult Liaison- David
Murphy

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting: 7:00 PM, Wednesday,

Attendance: 54

Hospitality: Steve Boylan thanked Frank Midkiff, Anne Torning, Nell McIntyre, Dorothy and Bernard Rivera, Natalie Darling

Treasures Report: Balance is \$3798.90, and insurance on the trailer has been paid. Franklin also told us we had 5 new members and 9 renewals this month.

On Time Drawing: Anne Torning won a peach agate, and Dan Burns a petoski stone specimen.

Old Business: John Haskins handed off a letter from the Southeastern Federation to secretary Dee Tinsley. The letter contained information about nominations for rockhound of the year. Anyone wishing to nominate a member or couple for this award may do so, more information on page 9.

We are currently planning for our annual booth at Uncle Billy's Day in Altavista June 7th. There was a sign up sheet started for volunteers for the Region IV picnic on June 21st.

First Vice President: Steve Boylan thanked the following folks for contributing to the refreshments: Bernard and Dorothy Rivera, Frank Midkiff, Natalie Darling, and Nell McIntyre. Steve also announced that the program for April would be on Astronomy by Leslie Lane, and May's program will be about Poplar Forest by Jack Gary.

Second Vice President: Dave Callahan reported we would be going to Woodleaf Quarry or Chestnut Ridge on 3/22; other

upcoming field trips include Chunky Gal Mtn. On April 19th. Franklin, NJ April 25th-27th; and Glendon, NC for giant pyrite crystals on either April 12th or 19th.

Dave also informed us that member Lloyd Watson is recovering from another stroke, and Retired Geologist Allen Pennick is currently in a long-term care facility after an automobile accident where he received some serious head injuries.

New Business: John told us about the "Earth Day" at Lynchburg College and that the booth rental will be free. He also for volunteers to help man the booth for the day.

Natalie Darling presented the awards to our club members who had won for the articles written in the newsletter during the year. John Haskins, Zack McKinney, Three of the Bondurant children, Steve Boylan, and Dee Tinsley all won awards.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned for refreshments.

Dee Tinsley brought a display of specimens she had collected and purchased while attending the convention in Mississippi and the trip to Arkansas.

We enjoyed the program by Ken Conway, held the silent auction and dismissed.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Dee Tinsley, Secretary*

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!*

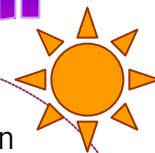
March Program



Our March program featured GMSL member Ken Conway. Ken provided an excellent power point presentation and detail explanations about radiation and the occurrence and break down of radioactive minerals.



April Program



For our program on April 16th, 2008 we will have guest speaker Leslie Lane from the Blue Ridge Astronomy Club and Lynchburg College to speak on astronomy.



Welcome New Members:

Ann Blair from Amherst, VA
Bruce, Sherri and Hunter Bunnell from Lynchburg, VA
Albert DeHart Jr, from Newport News, VA
Sallie DeHart from Lynchburg, VA
Wayne Gilmore and Lois Maxwell from Chesterfield, VA
Shirley & Richard Green from Raleigh NC
Amy Tyree from Appomattox, VA

Mineral Chocolate Masterpiece

Submitted by Bill Gilbert

My Wife Jean and I were traveling in Bayonne, France. While there we did some shopping at local shops. It is Easter time here; they celebrate "Semana Santa" which is to say "Week of the Saint". It is a practice for Godparents to buy gifts for their Godchildren. One of the gifts are these chocolate creations. This one specifically caught my attention. This creation stands about 30 inches tall and is 100% chocolate. Can you imagine breaking one of those crystals off?



"ICE" ~ In Case of Emergency

From numerous sources via the internet- reprinted from March 2008 Issue of AFMS Newsletter

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory, but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

This idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service Personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE".

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc. A great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today!

Field Trip Report

“No Pain --- No Gain”

trip report and photographs by Dave Lines



“What is it that entices otherwise normal people to hike for two hours up the side of a steep mountain?” The answer in this case is...quartz crystals...lots of them!!!

Although everyone had been “warned” well ahead of time that it was going to be a very strenuous trip, 27 rockhounds from five different clubs(*) showed up ready and raring to go. (*Lynchburg, Southern Maryland, Richmond, Roanoke, and Tidewater.) Since this was twice as many as I had ever taken previously, I was a bit apprehensive. So at the beginning of the Safety Brief, I asked “how many of you have ever been up Chestnut Ridge?” Only one person held up their hand. Oh my goodness.

Looking over the eager faces of the crowd ranging in age from 11 to over 70, I knew right then that they could do it. I explained that I would mark a trail (pretty much straight up) with surveyor’s tape so that everyone could climb the mountain at their own pace without fear of getting lost. We quickly reviewed the list: ---wear sturdy, ankle supporting footwear’ take food and water; recommended tools and clothing; don’t roll rocks; pick up all trash and bring it back; let me know when you leave; and take it slowly.

So off we started up the mountain--- quickly at the beginning, but slowing to a crawl at the first steep spot. I began tying bright red-orange tape on small trees about 10 yards apart. People strung out as the slower ones fell back. Then the “Pain” part started. Quietly, some climbers shed their coats. Others left their heavy clothing by the trail to pick up on their return. And the questions came. “How much further?” (We were about half way there.) “Will the trail get easier?” (No, it is steeper in several places.) “Can we find crystals down here?” (Yes, but the best ones are near the top.) I was not worried because, during the climb, nearly everyone questions the sanity of this trip.

The weather was turning out to be ideal. Fears of predicted rain soon subsided. And 40 to 50 degrees was cool enough to hike comfortably, yet warm enough to enjoy the experience. The scenery was leafless trees (mostly oak), rocks, old logs and fallen brown leaves. Chestnut Ridge is part of the George Washington National Forest and people have been finding quartz crystals there for centuries. Even though the site has been reported in the literature several times in the last 50 years, beautiful clear quartz crystals--- mostly small in singles as well as on large plates---are still plentiful. The reason they are found here in such quantity?...the mountain...is so rugged and steep that it keeps people away. Also, private property surrounds the mountain and permission must be obtained to park on and cross this privately owned land.



As we neared the top, only a few folks were ahead of me---notably Hugh and Elaine Scruggs or the Roanoke Club and Sherry (or was it Sue?) Gaeta of the Lynchburg Club. It was about 10:30 a.m. when I tied on the final trail marker. I quickly found some plates of crystals to pile up under it---the sight of a pile of shiny crystals after the long climb gives people a boost of adrenaline. The area looked as though it had not been visited by anyone since my previous visit two years ago. I saw plenty of crystals that I began pointing out to folks as they arrived.

Within an hour, everyone had completed the hike and was finding crystals. Big smiles all around. I showed the kids an area above the rock ledge where crystals were laying everywhere and gave them the first opportunity to pick up the abundant crystals there. The kids were really happy---maybe we made a few more lifelong rockhounds. The folks below the big ledge were pounding or rocks with vigor. Lots of digging. Lots of happy People.

We continued all afternoon, stopping occasionally to eat a snack or grab a sip of water. Gradually, we began to wrap our finds with old newspaper and start the descent.

Continued on next page

Field Trip Report

Continued from page 4

By 4p.m., only five of us were left. Soon, we all started back down the trail with full buckets and backpacks. We removed the tape markers as we went downhill and about 45 minutes later, we reached the bottom--- tired, but satisfied. At the cars we changed clothes, made ready for the drives back to our homes and let the neighbor know that we were leaving. On this day before Easter 2008, the good Lor had blessed us with good weather, plentiful finds and a safe trip.



There has been some interest expressed for a return trip back to Chestnut Ridge. Contact me (Dave Callahan) if you missed this opportunity and would like to go. If there is enough interest I'll arrange another trip.

2nd V.P. REPORT ~ APRIL 2008

**March Field Trip Report: Martin-Marietta Quarry,
Woodleaf, NC; March 22, 2008**

**Report and photographs submitted by
Dave Callahan**

This Dixie Mineral Council field trip was hosted by The Gaston County Gem, Mineral and Faceters Club of Gastonia, NC. It was very well attended with perhaps well over 75 in attendance. The weather was just beautiful with temperatures in the mid 70's.

Of the 28 members that signed up to attend from Lynchburg and Roanoke, 25 actually made the trip. The three that couldn't make it were thoughtful enough to notify me so we didn't have to send out search parties.



*Above:
Siglinde
Allbeck and
Dee Tinsley.
Left: John &
Gina Hatcher*

I believe that everyone found some different minerals to add to their collections and I know of at least one large pickup load of yard rock that left with the diesel really struggling up that $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long incline out of the pit. I was able to find some small but nice orange crystals of Chabazite, some small, soft, and silvery Molybdenite and some nice small Pyrite cubes. Lots of Chalcopyrite and plenty of black massive and crystalline Hornblende were also found. We found a vein of very pale green Prehnite mixed with tiny clear to white Laumontite crystals. When Laumontite dries out it will disintegrate so it must be carefully coated with acrylic spray or white glue to preserve the moisture. If you think that you have some, keep it in a zip lock bag with a moist paper towel until you have time to preserve it. Ask me for details.

It was a memorable trip and a really long ride home if you got caught in that monster traffic jam on I-77 at the Virginia State line.

Up Coming Field Trips



Sign up is required for all field trips! Contact Dave Callahan.

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,
540-297-1853
Email dbc11@aol.com

APRIL FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES (GO ON YOUR OWN)

This trip is open to all active Lynchburg and Roanoke club members
A Dixie Mineral Council field trip Saturday, April 19, 2008-9:30 AM
Chunky Gal Mt. / Corundum Knob~ Clay County, North Carolina
NO FEE

COLLECTING: Ruby corundum (pink to red), Spinel (black to brown "galaxite" and magnesio-chromite), Sapphirine, Talc, Serpentine, Brucite (white to blueish chalky chunks), Tremolite, Actinolite, Smaragdite (chrome-emerald green amphibole), Pyroxine (chrome diopside/sparse green micro-crystals of weathered amphibolite matrix), Fuchsite and Dunitite.

CONTACT ME FOR DETAILS: Sign up at the meeting, call me 540-297-1852 or e-mail me dbc11@aol.com

STANDARD MINERALS GLENDON, NC. Annual Spring Open House

The quarry will not be open in April this year. This was a management decision- Hopefully they will have the October open house.

We will not know until late September.

OFFICIAL COMBINED LYNCHBURG / ROANOKE FIELD TRIP APRIL 19, 2008 ~ 8:00am until 12:00 noon JACK'S MOUNTAIN QUARRY

Glade Hill, Virginia; Division of Rockydale Quarries Corp.

Jack's Mountain Quarry is a relatively new quarry. It was opened in 1998 and now they are getting into clean material. It's been a couple of years since we visited there and at that time found some interesting green stained Feldspar that looked like Amazonite. The green stain was actually caused by the weathering of Chalcopyrite and Bornite that was in the Feldspar. It made a stunning specimen. There is also Pyrite, Calcite and some other interesting minerals.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We will all meet at the Sheetz Gas Station on Rt. 40 in Rocky Mount, Virginia no later than 7:30 am. We will depart at 7:30 am from there and drive about 9 miles to the Quarry near Glade Hill.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM ROANOKE: (Total driving time about 30 miles, allow 40 minutes) Drive Rt. 220 south to Rocky Mount, VA. Take the exit to Rt. 122 / Rt. 40. It is also the Booker T. Washington Museum exit. You will see the Sheetz on the left at the bottom of the hill on Rt. 40 east. Be here no later than 7:30 am.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM LYNCHBURG: (Total driving time about 60 miles, allow 1 hour 30 minutes) Drive US 460 west to Bedford and then Rt. 122 south to Rocky Mount. (See the additional directions below)

It is a bit shorter to take US 460 west to the Sheetz in New London, turn left at the Sheetz and follow Rt. 811 one and a half miles to Rt. 709. Keep straight on 709 to Rt. 24 at the bottom of the hill. Turn right on Rt. 24 for 12 miles and turn left at the traffic light on Rt. 122. Follow Rt. 122 to where it ends in Rocky Mount and merge to the right into Rt. 40 west. Follow 40 west about ½ mile to the Sheets on the right. Be here no later than 7:30 am.

Continued on next page.

Upcoming Field Trips...*continued from page 6*

DIRECTIONS TO THE QUARRY: From the Sheetz in Rocky Mount, Drive Rt. 40 east about 9 miles thru Glade Hill. Look for the 2nd little Minute Market store and turn right on Edwards Way Road. Almost immediately turn right on Jacks Creek Rd. (Rt.662). The Quarry is about a mile on the right and we will gather at the office and scales about 7:45am.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT: This is an active quarry and the following is required, Hardhat, Safety glasses, good strong boots, and long pants. The following collecting equipment is suggested. Gloves, crack hammer and chisel, buckets or bags, newspaper to wrap and delicate specimens, water, snacks and sun screen. The closest place to eat is Rocky Mount.

AGE LIMIT: None, but all children must be supervised and not allowed to run free.

Official Combined Field Trip of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Inc.

& The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.

APRIL 25,26,27. 2008 FRANKLIN & OGDENSBURG. NEW JERSEY

The fluorescent mineral capital of the world

You must sign up for this trip. Insurance regulations require that you be an active member of a club covered by a liability insurance policy. Contact me by phone, e-mail or in person to get on the list. I will provide a list of members to the host club so you will not have to show your club membership card. David Callahan, 540-297-1853, dbc11@aol.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, April 25, 2008

The Franklin Mineral Museum, 32 Evans St. Franklin, NJ. (973-827-3481) will be open from 10am thru 4pm. There will be tours thru the Museum and you can collect in the Buckwheat Dump. In addition to a host of world-class fluorescent minerals, there are many beautiful non-fluorescing minerals that would enhance any collection. Bring your own short wave fluorescent lamp or make friends with someone that has one. There will be a light available at the site. Take your finds to the little blackout shed behind the Museum and check them out.

The Museum officially opens April 1st. Their web site www.franklinmineralmuseum.com has not been updated this year but here are the rates.

GENERAL COMBINED ADMISSION: Includes Museum tour and collecting with the first 2 pounds free then \$1.50 per pound: \$12.00 adult, \$8.00 senior 65 and up, \$7.00 youth 3 thru 12.

COLLECTING ONLY or MUSEUM ONLY: \$7.00 adult, \$5.00 senior 65 and up, \$4.00 youth 3 thru 12. All collected material is \$1.50 per pound.

HOURS: Weekdays, 10am to 4pm, Saturday, 10am to 5pm, Sunday, 11am to 5pm.

SUPER DIG: Saturday, April 26th, 2008

Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant St. Ogdensburg, NJ. (937-209-7212) Officially open 9:00am thru 11:00pm, (suggest getting there early no later than 8:00am)

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEE: \$20.00 each by mail or \$21.00 online thru Pay pal or \$20.00 at the gate when you arrive. You will be asked for proof of club membership for insurance requirements unless you have signed up with me.

WEBSITE: www.UVworld.org Lots of information, advance registration and motel information.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES: Collecting in the two pits, underground mine tours, hill top tour and last ore out of the mine conveyor pick with certificate, night collecting and black out underground mine tour. (for this event it is strongly recommended that you wear a hard hat. Safety glasses with side shields will be required to protect your eyes from stray UV radiation.)

Also there will be the usual mineral sale under the shed. Here you can pick up some very nice, reasonably priced mineral specimens. There is a 20-inch telescope on the museum grounds that will be open. See web site for details.

There will be much more to do than time will allow.

EQUIPMENT: Hardhat, safety glasses with side shields, gloves, hammer, chisel, collecting bags or buckets. Newspaper to wrap your specimens,

Continued on page 12

Schedule of Events

April 2008

April 18th-20th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show. National Guard Armory, Charlottesville, VA; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun 11-5; admission \$3.00; Info at www.toteshows.com.

April 26th-27th- Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem and Mineral Show and **Fluorescent Mineral Collecting Field Trips** sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Franklin School/ Washington Ave. Franklin, NJ for details go to: <http://jimcooper.biz/uvworld2/home.html> or contact Dave Woolley

May 16th-18th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show Martinsville, VA. Info. At www.toteshows.com

May 23rd-25th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA info at www.toteshows.com

----RESERVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES----

June 21st~ Region IV EFMLS annual Picnic at Lake Anna

June 28th~ Quarry trip, possibly to Hickory, NC or Beckley, W.VA.

July 26th~ Undetermined location at this time

August 1-3rd~ Spruce Pine, NC. Annual Field Trip

November 28-30th~RVMGS annual Salem Show



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Meeting 7 pm</i>	17	18	19 <i>Field Trip</i>
20	21	22	23 <i>Woolleys Workshop</i>	24	25	26 <i>Field Trip</i>
27 <i>Field Trip</i>	28	29	30			

PROGRAMS

Announcement for the April Meeting

April's meeting will feature Astronomy as presented by Leslie Lane from The Blue Ridge Astronomy Club and Lynchburg College. She will speak about the planets, the sun, the moon and the stars. Be prepared to explore the universe.

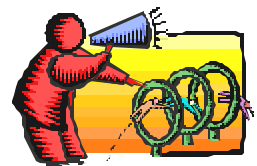
Announcement for the May Meeting

Invited guest Jack Gary will present the Archeology of Poplar Forest and the surrounding area.

Calling all club members-

We need your help! I am asking you to donate your extra specimens for our club swaps. This is how we are able to have such a great selection in our silent auctions. Just label your donations and give them to any board member or myself.

Thanks,
Warren Darling,
Rock Swap Chairman



Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Rockhound of The Year Award Program

Reprinted from <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/rockhound-of-the-year.html>

We look forward to and encourage all clubs to participate this year. These recognitions are an excellent way for your club to recognize those whom have done so much for the good of our beloved hobby.

Thanks,

Herb Whittington, SFMS Rockhound of the Year Coordinator



What is a Rockhound of the Year? Rockhound of the Year is an honor given to club members by their peers in recognition of their contributions and/or sacrifices involved with our hobby.

What is the time frame on the nomination deadline? Nominations must be received by the Coordinator no later than **June 30, 2008**. Each year, every SFMS club is allowed one Rockhound of the Year nomination, to which a certificate will be awarded. From all the nominations, a Federation Committee will determine which nominee is most deserving of the SFMS Rockhound of the Year award. A plaque will be given for this SFMS award. This committee will be assembled at the next SFMS quarterly meeting in Nashville this March. Committee names will be listed in the SFMS newsletter (Lodestar) following this meeting.

Is there a limit on the number of nominations allowed each year from each club?

Yes, each club is allowed to submit only **one** Rockhound of the Year nomination every year.

Based on the previous question, would it be wise to suggest a consensus among club members prior to submission to the Federation? Yes, this is something clubs should decide on as a body--either a committee or the entire membership. They may want to make it a local competition with service points earned or something similar.

How will the club know that a nomination has been received for the current year.

Each club will be notified by the Coordinator once its nominations have been received.

When will the SFMS award be given? At the annual fall SFMS meeting. Details will be printed in Lodestar.

Where should nominations be sent?

Herb Whittington, 2102 Brookhill Road, Dothan, AL 36301 or email address alarocks@graceba.net.

Questions: Call Herb at 334/793-6811.

Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/rockhound-of-the-year.html>

SFMS Youth Federation Workshop Scholarships

The Youth Scholarship award deadline is quickly approaching. Deadline for applications is April 30th, 2008. To date, there has been only one application for this year's scholarship. All club youth are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.

Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.

After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a *Lodestar* article about the experience.

Responsible Adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually this is not a problem.

REMEMBER: deadline for applying for the scholarship is April 30, 2008.

Recommendations should be sent to Bonita Harris; SFMS Youth Resources; 12520 Jeff Hamilton Rd.; Mobile, AL 36695 (251) 865-9157,

SFMS News continued on page



Rock Raiders



Hi kids (and parents). I'm David Murphy. With the help and support of my wonderful wife, Heidi, I'm your new Rock Raiders adult advisor. I'm a professor of accounting and economic crime at Lynchburg College and my wife, Heidi, is a counselor. I have been an

avid rock hound since I was six years old and studied geology at Washington State University many many years ago. I started out collecting rocks in Colorado and then in the Pacific Northwest. We are now learning about the geology of Virginia. Heidi, besides being a counselor, is a mixed media artist and makes jewelry. We love to go trekking in the Blue Ridge Mountains with our three sons, Geoffrey (9), Ernie (almost 7) and Brandon (3 ½). You will get to know them at the Rock Raider meetings. Here is a picture of us taken when Brandon was about one year old.

Rock Raiders is the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society's Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program. The mission of the FRA is to develop and deliver 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 you -- and the adults who mentor you -- learn while having fun.

The National FRA program was updated in March and there are now fifteen merit badges that you can earn. These include:



- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ?? Collecting | ?? Field Trips | ?? Leadership |
| ?? Communication | ?? Fossils | ?? Rocking on the computer |
| ?? Earth in Space | ?? Gemstone Lore & Legend | ?? Rocks & Minerals |
| ?? Earth Processes | ?? Gold Panning & Prospecting | ?? Showmanship |
| ?? Earth Resources | ?? Lapidary Arts | ?? Stone Age Tools & Art |

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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.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board met at the home of Natalie Darling on Wednesday April 2nd at 7PM.

- ?? David Murphy has stepped up and volunteered to head the Rock Raiders.
- ?? Tags for the trailer must be purchased before we need it the 22nd of April.
- ?? The 22nd of April is Earth Day at Lynchburg College. We will participate

between the hours of 3PM and dusk. We can sell our candles, jewelry and geodes there. Dave Callahan has come up with a wonderful demonstration idea for teaching the students about minerals and how they are used everyday. We will have our florescent display (if electricity is available) and individuals (club members) may set up and sell their own jewelry too. If you can volunteer part or all of your time that day, please contact John Haskins.

- ?? The AMFS is selling tickets for a drawing to raise money for the endowment fund. Dee has color photos of the prizes & tickets. Drawing in Sept, tickets \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Please help us keep the endowment fund going.
- ?? The club has been reimbursed for the \$55.65 spent to reserve the space for our Region IV Annual Picnic at Lake Anna State Park.
- ?? We have a balance of \$104.35 left from last year's picnic auction proceeds. The remaining monies will be used for food and paper products.
- ?? There are many field trips scheduled for April, but please note: **Glendon Pyrite Mine** will not have a spring open house this year.
- ?? There are limited dates for the **Morefield Mine in Amelia VA** between April 12th and May 31st. Dave said we would have one more field trip there before they close. They are pending a sale.
- ?? Programs: April: Astrology, May: Archeology of Poplar Forest; June: Natalie, Dee, and Siglinde will conduct a program about their trip to the Eastern Federation Convention and Arkansas trip.
- ?? **Dave Woolley** reported that there would be a program entitled "Back to 10,000 BC" to be aired on the history channel. Please watch the listings for it. Dave also stated he had completed a book on "how to use a refractometer". for all who are interested.
- ?? Don McIntyre, Steve Boylan and Dee Tinsley volunteered to serve again as BEAC Judges. If you are interested in more information on the BEAC please contact Natalie Darling.
- ?? We have our own federal ID # now, and Franklin, John, and Don are in the process of completing the 19 pages of paperwork sent to us by the IRS.

No further business was presented and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Tinsley Secretary

Enriching our Community...

Natalie Darling & Dee Tinsley will be doing an enrichment program at Paul Munro Elementary School on April 21st. Thanks to Dave Callahan and Dave Woolley for their donations of specimens to give the children. There will be 3rd and 5th graders who are in the program and we will have one session for each age level. We will get photos and let you know how it goes.

SFMS NEWS...continued from page 9

Junior Rock Hound of the Year applications were published in the March 2008 Lodestar. Youth are encouraged to begin or continue working on this prestigious award. You can find a copy of the application at www.amfed.org/sfms, Deadline for the applications is October 31, 2008.

What are you waiting for?



Upcoming Field Trips...continued from page 7

food and water to drink. Short wave fluorescent lamp with blackout cloth, flashlight, warm clothes, raincoat etc. You may purchase your own short wave UV lamp at the museum or at the show or make friends with someone that has one.
MATERIAL COST: \$1.50 per pound, day or night.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW: Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27, 2008

This large Gem and Mineral show will again be at the Franklin, NJ. Littel Community Center. Look for the signs, they will be everywhere. There will be an indoor and outdoor show. Nominal admission fee charged. Open Saturday and Sunday 9:00am to 6:pm. Check to be sure as things do change. Don't forget the Franklin Museum is open until 5:00pm both days. Have a safe trip home.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From Lynchburg or Roanoke it is about 470 miles and you should allow at least 9 hours. The best route is I-81 north thru Harrisburg, Pa. To I-78E. Take I-78 to Allentown, PA, And Rt. 22 bypass toward Easton, PA. and then Rt. 33 north to Stroudsburg, PA. Take I-80 east to exit 19 in Allamuchy, NJ. and follow Rt. 517 north to Sparta, NJ and then Ogdensburg and Franklin, NJ. Route 517 is a beautiful scenic drive thru rural New Jersey. I always stop in the first rest area when entering another state to get the latest road map.

Another combined Lynchburg / Roanoke field trip opportunity with the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club Vulcan Manassas Quarry Saturday, April 26th 2008 7:30 a.m. – noon Sign up required

Meeting Time --- Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (no later!!) for Safety Briefing and signing waiver forms

Trip Leader --- Dave Lines (301) 934-9396 (Home) / (240) 427-7062 (Cell)

Location --- Vulcan Materials at the Manassas Quarry, Manassas, VA (8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109)

Directions From Lynchburg/Roanoke area, take I-81 north to I-66 east to Manassas Exit 44. Go south on Rt. 234 (Bypass) for 3.3 miles. Turn Left on Wellington Rd. (at light) --- go ½ mile and turn left on Vulcan Road. Cross railroad tracks and take immediate right into office parking lot.

Safety --- Vulcan requires steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses, long pants and heavy gloves. Stay clear of all high walls. Note to Experienced members --- please keep a watch on all of us and say something to those who may not recognize danger before they get into trouble.

What to Collect --- Prehnite, datolite, byssolite, pyrite, pectolite, apophyllite, other zeolites.

Equipment / Clothing --- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. Optional -- large sledgehammer, long pry bar, extra buckets. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing depends on the weather --- coveralls recommended. Rain poncho nice to have.

Vehicles --- We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into the quarry. The roads are generally good --- wide and relatively smooth --- but sometimes with water standing in pools on the lowest level. If it is wet and muddy, consider carpooling with someone who has a truck or SUV.

Misc. --- Drinking water, sunscreen, snacks, "Thank" the quarry rep. *More details about the quarry on pg. 15 for electronic viewers.*

FIELD TRIP OPEN TO ALL CLUBS (GO ON YOUR OWN) Graves Mountain, GEORGIA "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 25, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 26, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 27, 2008

"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

For more information contact: David Callahan, 540-297-1853, dbc11@aol.com or caretaker Jr. Norman at 706-359-3862. www.gaminal.org/commercial-gravesmountain.html

OFFICIAL COMBINED LYNCHBURG / ROANOKE MAY FIELD TRIP

3RD ANNUAL KENTUCKY GEODE ADVENTURE MAY 23,24, 25, 2008

Reserve this date. Plans are being finalized. Be sure to sign up now Sign up at the meeting, call me 540-297-1852 or e-mail me dbc11@aol.com

MOREFIELD GEM MINE UPDATE

Visit <http://www.toteshows.com/morefield.html> for more information. Here is the 2008 Spring Schedule:

Eight Saturdays only between April 12th, and May 31st. Saturday Hours 9:30am to 4:30pm. Gift shop closes at 5:00pm
 Open Tuesday thru Friday by reservation only.

Rock Raiders

Continued from page 10

You can learn more about the merit badges at the web site:

http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_Merit_Badge_Manual_revised_2008.pdf. Ask your parents to help you visit the web site (you can link to it from the club web page). I'll bring information about the merit badges to our April meeting.

You will earn your Rockhound Patch after completing six of the merit badges. We are going to start work on the Rocks and Minerals merit badge at the April meeting. If you work with your parents you will easily be able to complete it by our meeting in May. Think about what merit badge you would like to work on next and we will decide on our second merit badge during our April meeting.

My goals for the Rock Raiders are:

1. To have fun learning about rocks and minerals,
2. To have fun developing an appreciation for ecology,
3. To have fun developing communications skills, and
4. To have fun developing leadership skills.

I see my role as being the Rock Raiders Club Advisor. An advisor is not the leader, or teacher or boss. Kids, this is *your* club. My role is to help you meet your goals, to do what you want to do. So let's work together to make this an exciting and successful Rock Raider year!

Article and photograph submitted by David Murphy



Sunshine News

Please keep the following club members in your thoughts and prayers as they face difficult times-

Lloyd Watson as he recovers from a recent stroke.

Jean and Frank Midkiff on the loss of Jean's sister.



To my rock-club Friends,
I would like to take this opportunity to THANK all of you for the sympathy card you signed for me in the loss of my sister. It was so very kind and thoughtful and I really do appreciate your caring.

Sincerely,
Jean Midkiff

Refreshment Sign-up sheet for April meeting:

Tom & Lynn Powers:

Soda (2), Veggie tray, Fruit

Cindy & Dan Burns:

Soda (2) Diet

John Haskins: Chips

Ann Blair: Cookies

Gina & John Hatcher: not specified

Anne & Ralph Torning:

Fruit Jell-O



If you did not sign up and would like to bring something, please use the list as a guide and feel free to add your contribution.

Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

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, www.amfed.org and
www.amfed.org/efmls

Hobby Related Newsletters are available free of
charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great
sources of information and worth checking out.

(Available only via email)

rudybland@worldnet.att.net (*Mineral Mouse, editor
Rudy Bland*)

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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
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Mineral Society
of Lynchburg,
VA INC



Vulcan Manassas Quarry... continued from page 12

Quarry Description / Hints --- Manassas Quarry is a trap rock quarry -- large square, deep hole in the ground with multiple levels. The predominate rock is dark gray diabase which is mined for crushed rock for road construction. Prehnite is the main thing we will try to find --- Hint: look for a white or light green streak of color in the gray rock and examine carefully. Breaking that rock open may reveal a pocket of light green prehnite. Prehnite is not abundant here, so it has been a hit or miss thing. On the other hand, I have always (Lord willin') found some nice specimens of something to make the trip worthwhile. Hint ---Carefully search and investigate anything that is different.

Woodleaf Quarry Photographs submitted by Dave Callahan and Dee Tinsley

