

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

Volume 18, Issue 1 January 2009

Presidents Message:

HELLO TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

The GMSL made it through another exciting year and we are eager to begin anew. The Executive Committee will meet on January 7th to begin planning for an active 2009. The club owes some mineral samples to several displays in our area and I would like to see all of these completed in the first quarter of the year.

We have, as you know, some new to us saws and lapidary equipment that need some upgrades like new blades and abrasive wheels and belts. This equipment is located at Dave Callahan's shop, and I would like to see it used more for preparing bookends and the like for sale at fundraisers and to see it utilized more by club members who would like to complete their own projects. It is very satisfying to take a rough piece and see it turn into something beautiful and useful. I hope we can plan some weekend workshops at times when we are not busy with field trips.

In my December article I recognized and thanked all of the members of the Executive Committee for a job well done in 2008. I did fail to thank a lot of

people that work month in and month out and do a great service to our club. Anne Torning stepped up and took on the job of Hospitality at our monthly meetings. As all of us like to eat, this is a very important part of our meeting that seems to bring us all together and give us a free time to interact with other members. Thank you Anne for a job well done and I hope you will continue through this year. And a big thank you to all that bring goodies to enjoy at the break. A thank you is in order for Warren Darling for putting together great specimens for our silent auctions every month, as well as supplying prizes for our on time drawing. I would like to thank my wife Nona Haskins for working the reception desk before each meeting. She has everyone that will, sign the register and hands out the all important door prize tickets. If anyone would like to relieve her any time, this is a good way to meet and greet new members and visitors, just see her before any meeting. I would also like to thank all of you that participate in workshops to prepare the club for fundraiser festivals and that help out during the Continued on page 11 same.

From the First VP:

Happy New Year to everyone.

Things have been going slow planning but we are still at it. Please fill out and return your member surveys.

Cheers, Steve

Happy New Year!



2009 ELECTED OFFICERS

John Haskins - PRESIDENT (434) 525-8430 JMHaskins1@netzero.net

> Steve Boylan First Vice President (434) 534-6108 boylansj@yahoo.com

David Callahan Second Vice President (540) 297-1853 DBCALL1@aol.com

Dorothy Rivera– Secretary (434) 237-0673 <u>dlrivera55@gmail.com</u>

Natalie Darling – Editor (434) 941-1899 gmsleditor@comcast.net

Frank Midkiff- Treasurer (434) 239-8329 <u>midkifff@aol.com</u>

Members At Large-JoAnn Mason & Tom Powers

COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS:

Field Trips- David Callahan Hospitality-Anne Torning News Articles- Natalie Darling Silent Auction- Warren Darling Special Events- Dee Tinsley Swap for Rocks-Warren Darling Website- Alan Rice Workshops- Dave Woolley FRA Adult Liaison- David Murphy Membership- Ralph Torning

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

December Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 17th, 2008; 7:00 PM

Attendance: 34

Hospitality: This was our annual covered dish holiday celebration. Thanks to all who came and provided delicious refreshments. We all enjoyed and probably ate too much- it was great!

On Time Drawing: In the spirit of giving, we had many donations of "door prizes". Dave Woolley donated several wire wrapped faceted pendants, and Don McIntyre also donated some prizes.

Old Business: President John Haskins informed the membership that the meeting would be brief tonight, as this was our annual holiday gathering and the bulk of the meeting would be spent socializing, enjoying delicious food, and playing our rockhound version of the Dirty Santa game.

First Vice President: Steve Boylan asked for ideas and volunteers for programs for the coming year. If you can provide any information on potential programs for our meetings, please contact Steve. Second Vice President: Dave Callahan reported that upcoming field trips include the Annual visit to JMU geology department and possibly the Roanoke clubs bus trip to the Smithsonian Museum. More information as plans are confirmed.

Treasures Report: Franklin Midkiff was not in attendance due to illness, so Dave Woolley gave a brief treasury report. Balance of \$2613.94 currently.

John Haskins said the blessing and the festivities began.

It was a nice opportunity to spend time talking with friends and catching up with other club members that we hadn't seen in a while.

The evening ended as about a dozen folks played the Dirty Santa game.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable, safe and healthy holiday season.

Minutes submitted by Natalie Darling, in the absence of secretary Dee Tinsley.



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!



Executive Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board of Directors met on January 7, 2009. There were 12 in attendance. The following items were placed on the table for discussion and follow up:

President John Haskins: Possible future program about collecting in Spain by member Bill Gilbert

* Saturday Workshops at Dave Callahan's to cut larger material on the new saw.

- * Purchasing new wheels for the cabbing machine; oil and repairs for the saw.
- * New potential field trip site Martin Marietta's Hall River Quarry
- * Chairperson and completion of the displays at The Nature Zone, Smith Mountain Lake and Mt. Athos Quarry.

Dave Callahan: January field trip to JUM, and possibly onyx hill; DMC trip to Diamond Hill Mine in SC;

- * Annual bus trip to the Smithsonian Museum in DC sponsored by the Roanoke Club.
- * Dave is working on a "sphere cutting" machine for future club projects.
- * Revision and explanation of enforceable safety regulations for future field trips.
- * T-Shirt order will be placed when we have at least 12 on the list in order to get the quoted price. catalog and signup sheet will be available at the meeting.
- * Festivals this year that our club will participate in (or consider): Uncle Billys Day (June); Apple Festival (Oct.); and possibly the railroad festival (Oct.). We will inventory and see what needs to be made up prior. We will need additional grab bags, if anyone has surplus for this please see Natalie.
- *Steve Boylan*: No program for January yet; February will be a speaker on Volcanism. Anyone with program ideas please let Steve know.

Ralph Torning: Reviewed the membership roster and notification procedure for "dues due". After 90 days past due members are dropped off the active list and will not receive newsletters or other club literature or emails. They loose all club privileges unless dues are made current.

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FIELD TRIP SAFETY

SAFETY FIRST is a rule in all walks of life. Safety should be always on your mind no matter what activity or profession you are involved with. Every year Quarries and other collecting sites are being closed to rock collectors due to breaking safety rules by unsafe practices by only a few participants, and this is not fair to those who obey the safety rules.

We as a club cannot afford to loose any more collecting sites due to actions of a few. The Executive Committee met on January 7,2009 to see if we could write safety rules for the club to use on field trips. After some discussion this is what we came up with: Safety is every ones responsibility. No set of rules can be applied to each and every collecting site, as all sites have some different situations.

On future trips beginning now, it will be the responsibility of each member to keep watch for all unsafe conditions and practices of those around them. If you see someone in an area where they are not safe or have been instructed not to go, it is your responsibility to advise this person they are in an unsafe area and to move away immediately. If after being warned the party will not comply, they will be asked to leave the collecting site for the rest of the day. This will be decided by the field trip chairman and all other club officers on site.

We are not putting these rules in place to restrict anyone from collecting in a safe manner or to punish any individuals, we are only trying to keep anyone from being injured or killed. It is our wish that everyone will become more safety minded and look out for the well being of everyone involved. We will have to work together to make this program a success.

Keep Looking Down & Please Stay Safe Out There ~ John Haskins



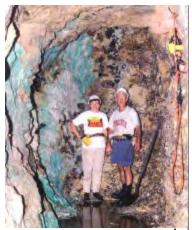
MOREFIELD MINE Amelia County, Virginia December 13, 2008



It was a great trip! Several of us met at the Jumbo Family Restaurant on US 460 and most of us departed as a group. There were several "eager beavers" that launched ahead to blaze the trail I guess. We stopped for a short break at the McDonald's in the Amelia Courthouse area as planned. It was recently renovated so there is lots of room and outfitted nicely.

We arrived at the appointed time of 10AM but there were many ahead of us that had arrived early. We checked in and several of us signed up for the

Field Trip Report submitted by Dave Callahan, field trip chairman.



Sam & Sharon underground at Morefield Mine.

underground mine tour. Due to the recent heavy rains the day before, Sam was having difficulty lowering the water level in the mine. Both of his pumps had failed, so he was trying to bail out the mine using the muck bucket. This is the dump bucket he uses to bring the ore (muck) to the surface. He was only able to lower the level so that he could conduct tours in the upper two drifts. Things were still pretty wet but as always, the tour was worthwhile. This is the only mine in our area of the country and perhaps the whole United States, where you can stand in the middle of such a beautiful enriched pegmatite.

There were many folks in attendance, probably between 50 and 75. Between the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs I recognized 36 members. There were 6 new members that were there but were not recognized by me. I did see their names on the sign in sheet at the mine office. What a great turnout. Sam was not able to bring up any of the newly blasted material, as it was under water, with no way to retrieve it. Nevertheless, he scrapped around his previously mined material, and was able to provide us with many loader buckets of decent material.

I was very pleased with my finds and I really enjoyed the underground mine tour. Thank you Sam and Sharon for once again making your mine available to us. Perhaps in the spring we will have another opportunity, but if not, we will all have some wonderful memories.



Above: The Mine Office/ store. Right: The beautiful green amazonite the mine is famous for.



Above: The mineshaft. Photos courtesy of http://www.toteshows.com/more field.html



Above club members Joe and Ann Enderle from North Carolina Photo by Dave Callahan

Gem & Mineral Journal



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

COMBINED LYNCHBURG / ROANOKE CLUB FIELD TRIP JANUARY 24, 2009 weather permitting (9AM until NOON) JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY. Harrisonburg. Virginia GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT and MINERAL MUSEUM

Sign-up required...call me, e-mail me or see me at the meeting

We may have to limit the attendance to no more than 25 due to the size of the facilities.

We will all provide our own transportation and meet in the JMU parking lot in the front of the new facility, Memorial Hall (The old High School) promptly at **8:45 AM**. If you need transportation or any other information, please call or e-mail me for assistance. This is Dr. Kearns only available date. If the weather is bad, use your own best judgment before driving.

JMU has a fully equipped geology lab with state of the art equipment. Dr. Kearns is well known in his profession and has generously allowed us to visit his lab, museum and dedicate this Saturday morning to our clubs.

If you have any minerals that you need to identify, bring them along. We should have time to run five or six specimens thru the x-ray diffraction equipment. There will be microscopes available and other equipment for testing and viewing. Dr. Kearns also has a large fluorescent mineral collection for our viewing pleasure. Dr. Kearns may have some surplus mineral books, specimens, miniatures and micros for sale to benefit the museum, be sure to bring cash or your checkbook. This material will be first class.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO JMU HARRISONBURG, VA ~ NORTH BOUND ON I-81

* I-81 to Harrisonburg, VA. (About 2.5 hours driving time from Lynchburg and 1.5 from Roanoke).

- * Exit 245 (Turn left on Port Republic Road)
- * Proceed to S. Main Street (Rt. 11) and turn right at the light.
- * Proceed northward on S. Main Street to the third traffic light and turn left on to Cantrell Ave.
- * Proceed over the bridge to the traffic light on South High Street (RT. 42).
- * Memorial Hall (the old Harrisonburg High School) is directly in front of you. Go straight into the parking lot on your left. We will gather here at 8:45 AM.
- * To enter the Geology Department, walk around the building to the left (Grace Street Side)
- * When you enter the building, go down the flight of stairs on your left. Enter the double doors and you are in the geology Department. Walk around to your right, and the mineralogy lab will be open.
- * The new Mineral Museum will be open so be sure to spend some time here. As you enter the building, turn right and walk to the end of the hall. The Museum is on your right



Continued from page 5



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 Athens Rock and Gem Club - Athens, GA (HOST)

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

An Official Field Trip of The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.

Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, South Carolina

9:00 AM EST---until ??? Saturday, January 31, 2009 SIGN-UP REQUIRED

At the meeting....email me--dbcall1@aol.com.....call me--540-297-1853

CONTACT ME FOR DETAILS IF YOU ARE GOING. Plan to leave Friday and return home Sunday

The Athens Rock and Gem club would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel, which finally uncovered the Amethyst deposits that had eluded rockhounds for years. Most recently continued diaging has unearthed dark, shiny museum guality smokey quartz as well as several new yeins of the famous Diamond Hill skeletal guartz. Come join us!

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

Directions: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right. gravel. S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Driving time from Roanoke and Lynchburg will be about 6 to 7 hours to Antreville, SC. depending on your route and the number of stops you make.

Fees: Adults = 15/dav Children under 16 year of age = 6/day. Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids,

hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

Contacts:

Lynchburg and Roanoke VA. Field Trip Chairman...David Callahan Phone: 540-297-1853: Cell: 540-874-5201: e-mail <u>DBCALL1@aol.com</u> Athans, GA. Host Trip Chairman: Jim Maudsley

Phone: (706) 353-1792 e-mail: jamesm24@charter.net

Additional field trip information on page 11

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

Schedule of Events...



SHOWS & TRIPS

Janaary 2009

January 24th- Annual JMU field trip. See page 5 for details.

January 31st- DMC Field trip to Diamond Hill Mine in SC. See page 6 for details.

February 21st Tentative date for the annual Smithsonian Bus Trip, sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society (see page 11)

<u>February 21-22, 2009</u>- Annual James Campbell Memorial "Gem, Mineral

& Fossil Show" sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and NY State Academy of Mineralogy. Museum of the Empire state, 4th floor, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY.

March 28-29, 2009- Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Holiday Inn at Ingleside, Holyoke, MA.

April 17th-19th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Beads Show, Charlottesville, VA. <u>www.toteshows.com</u> for details.

April 17th-23rd First spring session of Wildacres.

<u>www.AMFED.org.EFMLS</u> for details or to download an application.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Haj	opy	Ne	w Y		2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Meeting 7:00 PM	22	23	24 JMU Field Trip
25	26	27	7:00 28 Woolleys Workshop	29	30	31 DMC Trip

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January Program: Undetermined at the time or this publication.

February will feature "Volcanism in the Valley: A brief Examination of TrimbleKnob, Monterey Virginia" by Mark Tinsley, Central Virginia Community College



Rock Raiders



Mineral of the Month ~ Actinolite

By Zachary McKinney, by way of Zack's Rocks and Minerals Newsletter





Actinolite is an inosilicate mineral with the chemical formula Ca2(Mg,Fe)5Si8O22(OH)2.

Actinolite is an intermediate member in a solid-solution series between tremolite (Mg-rich) and ferro-actinolite (Fe-rich) amphiboles. As seen from the chemical formula above, Mg and Fe ions can be freely exchanged in the crystal structure. Like tremolite. asbestiform actinolite is regulated as asbestos.

Actinolite is commonly found in metamorphic rocks; such as contact aureoles surrounding cooled intrusive igneous rocks. It also occurs as a product of metamorphism of magnesium-rich limestones.

The old mineral name uralite is at times applied to an alteration product of primary pyroxene by a mixture composed largely of actinolite. The metamorphosed gabbro or diabase rock bodies, referred to as epidiorite, contain a considerable amount of this uralitic alteration.

Some forms of asbestos are formed from fibrous actinolite, the fibers being so small that they can enter the lungs and damage the alveoli.

Some forms of actinolite are used as gemstones. The first is called nephrite, which is one of the two types of jade (the other being jadeite a variety of pyroxene).

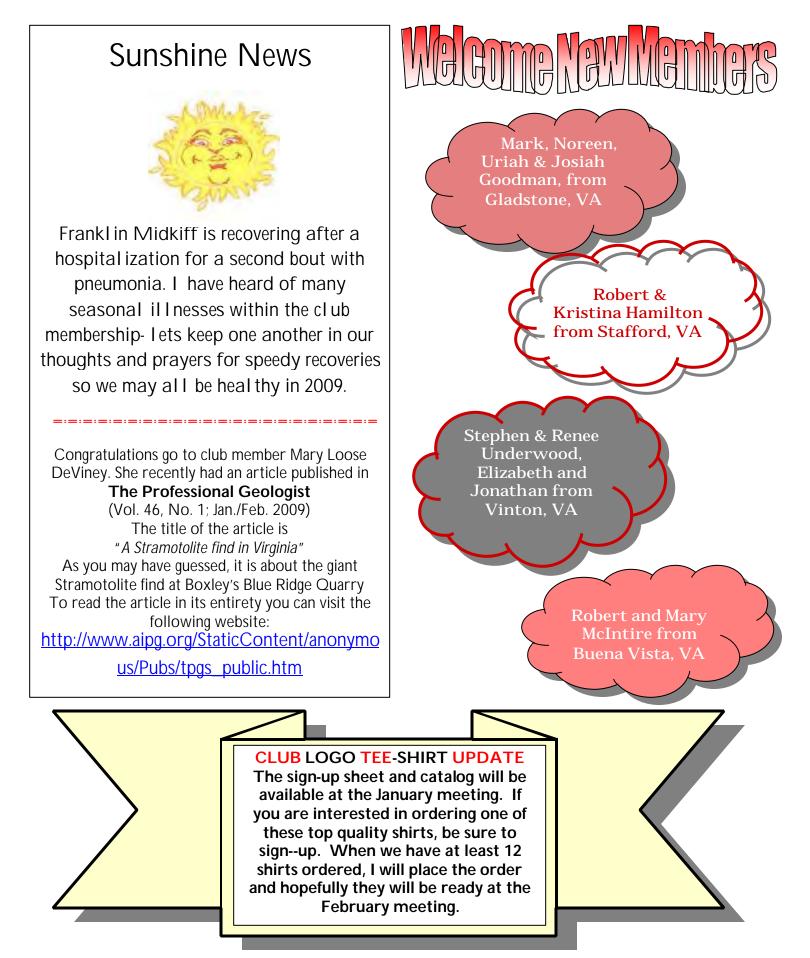
Another gem variety of actinolite is the chatoyant form known as cat's-eye actinolite. This stone is translucent to opaque, and green to yellowish green color. This variety has had the misnomer jade cat's-eye. Transparent actinolite is rare and is faceted for gem collectors. Major sources for these forms of actinolite are Taiwan and Canada. Other sources are Madagascar, Tanzania, and the US.

Source: Wikipedia

Photograph of Zachary McKinney (above right) at last years GMSL collectors night. Photo submitted by Don McIntyre.

Mission Statement

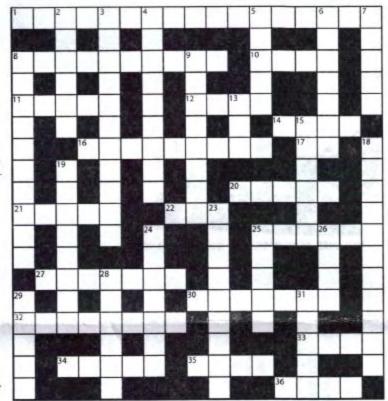
Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide nonprofit program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts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



Gem & Mineral Journal



A Crossword puzzle specially for quartz fans By Joyce Patton, from Dec. 08 Issue of Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association Newsletter "Rock News".



6. Quartz is an important part of some _____ rocks.

7. Quartz is composed of the two most abundant elements in the _____'s crust.

8. Rose quartz and smoky quartz are typically associated with _____.

9. Ferruginous quartz is colored by _____.

- 13. The chemical composition of quartz is_____2
- 15. Quartz has a vitreous or glassy _____
- 18. Apple green chalcedony is _____.

19. The rutile network found in some quartz is called

23. Fernlike inclusions in agate are _____.

24. The ______of quartz is 2.65 g/cc.

25. Quartz may form as a hexagonal ______with pyramidal termination.

26. An amorphous form of silica that contains water.

28. Needle like crystals of this titanium dioxide

mineral sometimes are found in quartz.

29. The hardness of quartz is _____ on Mohs' scale.

31. The colored gem variety of chalcedony that is banded of variegated is _____.

ACROSS

1. Quartz with microscopic crystals, e.g., chalcedony, flint, and jasper

8. Crisobalite and tridymite are _____ of

quartz (the same chemical formula, but different crystal structures)

10. This metal causes the color in carnelian.

11. A _____ is a hollow body that is often lined with quartz crystals.

 This agate contains irregular inclusions of pyrolusite that sometimes form plantlike patterns.
Lace agate from Zimbabwe has a _____

color.

16. _____ contributes to the color of smoky quartz.

17. Herkimer "diamonds" are found in this county (abbrev.)

20. The color of the streak in quartz is _____

21. _____ eye is produced when quartz has replaced asbestos.

22. Bloodstone is green chalcedony with _____ spots.

- 25. Agate can be dyed because of its nature.
- 27. The name of yellow crystalline quartz.
- 30. Colorless quartz is often called rock _____.

32. Quartz has both pyro- and piezo-_____ properties.

33. Quartz crystals have three equal ______ in the same plane and one at right angles to these.34. Gold is sometimes found in veins of this guartz.

35. A common use of optical quartz is for a

36. Quartz is suitable for because of its beauty and durability. (pl)

DOWN

2. Heat-treated amethyst often turns _____.

3. _____ and pressure may influence how quartz crystallizes.

4. A translucent red to reddish brown quartz is

5. HF is one of the _____ that dissolves quartz most readily.

Presidents Message: continued from page 1

I hope I haven't left out anyone, it is important to recognize the efforts of all involved. I want you to know that your efforts are appreciated and important to the life of the GMSL.

The 10 minute presentation we have before our refreshment break has been well received and I would like to ask anyone that would like to, to study up on one mineral or geologic site or a collecting site etc. and give a 10 minute presentation at our meeting. It is a great tool to use for teaching yourself and others. To get your time slot or if you have any questions see Dave Woolley or myself. We have a lot of new members and I personally would like to see the new talent come out, I know you have it in you!

If you have an idea for a program at a club meeting or a person you feel would be a good speaker for us please give the info to Steve Boylan, I know he will appreciate it very much. If you have an idea for a field trip in 2009 please bring it to the attention of Dave Callahan. It is very difficult to have fresh new programs and new places for field trips every month. I hope that you can help out with these. That's all for now, I hope to see you at the January 21st Club Meeting. Until then,

Executive Meeting Minutes...

Continued from page 3

Natalie Darling: Asked that newsletter articles be submitted by the 1st. of each month.

- * Currently searching for a new printer for the newsletter.
- * Volunteered to be in charge of making up grab bags for our upcoming events.
- **Tom Powers:** Interested in gold panning. The Board discussed places to get information and where to go. It was decided that the Cotton Patch mine was the best choice-Other possibilities close by are being reviewed.
- JoAnn Mason: Agreed that she will remain the PR person for the club. She has done a great job of getting our events published in prior years.
- *Frank Midkiff:* Not in attendance due to recent bouts with pneumonia. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Dorothy Rivera

Keep Looking Down, John Haskins

Field Trips...Continued from page 6

Preliminary Field Trip Announcement

The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society has been invited to fill any unreserved seats. Mark Your calendar now- you must sign up or contact me to get on the list.

February 21at, 2009

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, WASHINGTON, DC.

Conformation will be published in the February newsletter, announced at the February meetings and by e-mail broadcast (if I have your e-mail address)

This Field Trip is sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society

There will be a nominal fee charged, and it will be determined by the January 13th Roanoke Board Meeting. The seating will be available strictly on a first come first served basis.

Contact:

David Callahan, 540-297-1853



Email dbcall1@aol.com

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









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The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc. Natalie Darling, Editor 211 Chesterfield Rd. Lynchburg, VA 24502 <u>www.lynchburgrockclub.org</u>

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





