

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

APRIL 2013

VOLUME 22~ ISSUE 4

Official Monthly
Publication of the Gem &
Mineral Society of
Lynchburg, VA, Inc
WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG



Presidents Message

Hello To All,

I am sorry to have missed the March meeting, it sounds like you all had a good time identifying rocks and minerals. You know if I had been there, top prize would have been mine, Ha Ha. I know the more you are exposed to rocks and minerals the easier it is to tell what you are looking at, most of the time. Keep up the good work. Speaking of working, the second Saturday Club work shop is off to a good start. There have been several new members trying their hand at lapidary work as well as some of the more experienced around the shop. With the new supplies Natalie has ordered, the April 13th workshop should be more interesting. We will have to plan an extra day in April and May to get ready for the Uncle Billy' Day festival on June 1st. We can talk about this at the workshop and at the April 17th meeting.

The field trip outlook is looking very good for the upcoming months. Read your news letters and pick up the trip info at the Club meetings, it's a good chance to collect material not yet in your collection. I'm glad to see the weather is getting more agreeable, so come on out and join us.

Dave Callahan and I have come up with several new ideas for items to sell at festivals, these being new style bookends and rock napkin holders. If you have any good ideas for new items, please let it be known to one of the Club officers. We are always looking for something new and original. that's all for now, I hope to see you all at the April 17th Club meeting. I've heard the program is going to be great.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First VP:

Wow, the sun is shining, birds are singing, its warmer, its SPRING! Time to get outdoors and explore, see what's going on and hunt for some rocks. This month's article continues using color to help identify rock and mineral specimens.

Red and Pink Minerals

The most common and significant ones

By [Andrew Alden](#), About.com Guide

Red and pink minerals are eye-catching because the human eye is especially sensitive to those colors. This list is primarily minerals that form crystals, or at least solid grains, for which red or pink is the default color in natural occurrences. (Earthy red minerals aren't on this list; they can be any of several different secondary minerals that require special tests and geologic observations to identify.) Here are some rules of thumb about red minerals: 99 times out of 100 a deep red transparent mineral is garnet, and 99 times out of 100 a [red or orange sedimentary rock](#) owes its color to microscopic grains of the iron oxide minerals hematite and goethite. And a transparent mineral

Continued on page 10

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting-Wednesday March 20, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Attendance- 27 members and 2 guests.

Host- Jean and Franklin Midkiff were hosts for March and Linda and Thom Noble will host the April meeting.

On Time Drawing- Winners were: Dave Callahan, Franklin Midkiff, Pam Klien, Tony Shields

Old Business- Jack Curtin, standing in for John Haskins: A receipt was sent to the daughter of the estate of William Ligon for the value estimate on the donation the club received. Donations were mailed to JMU & RU; Monthly workshops will be held on the 2nd saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: Program tonight- Hands on Mineral identification

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: upcoming field trips: March 23rd - Faber Mine; April 6th -Dixie Mine "Walk in the woods;" April 20th - Bergin Quarry in North Carolina to look for milky quartz. April 27th - American Rutile Quarry in Nelson County is confirmed. April 27th -

Sterling Hill in Franklin New Jersey to look for fluorescent rocks. May 4th - Glendon NC -Southeast Federation Trip. **May 25th -DMC Trip to Boxley Quarry in Piney River. Dave will be enlisting help as Lynchburg will host this event.** June 22nd - Enterprise Mine in Appomattox

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time \$7,243.48. He also read thank you letters (for the donations) the club received from Radford and JMU.

New Business: Thom Noble has sent a rough draft of a survey to board members for final approval, then it will be mailed to all current club members in an effort to find out what club members would like to do as a club.

Natalie Darling is working on an order for jewelry settings. Dave Woolley talked about the upcoming trip at the end of April to Franklin New Jersey to look for fluorescent rocks and encouraged anyone interested to go. He has some extra fluorescent rocks to share if anyone would like some to get their collection started.

Minutes Submitted by:
Linda Noble, Secretary

2013 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - John Haskins
(434) 525-8430

JMHaskinsI@netzero.net

First Vice President

Jack Curtin

(434) 384 -6249

jacwcurtin@gmail.com

Second Vice President

David Callahan

(540) 297-1853

DBCALLI@aol.com

Secretary

Linda Noble

(434) 332-4869

linda-noble@hughes.net

Editor - Natalie Darling

(434) 941-1899

gmsleditor@gmail.com

Treasurer - Frank Midkiff

(434) 660-1565

midkiff@aol.com

Members At Large-

Bernardino Rivera &

Tony Shields

COMMITTEE

CHAIR PERSONS:

Field Trips- David Callahan

Hospitality- Monthly Volunteers

News Articles- Natalie Darling

Silent Auction- Warren Darling

Swap for Rocks- Warren Darling

Website- Casper Voogt

Workshops- Dave Callahan

FRA Adult Liaison- OPEN

Membership- Thom Noble



PROGRAMS

A BIG THANK YOU to Jack Curtin for organizing our March meeting program, which was a hands on mineral identification. About 2 dozen specimens were set on tables and members were encouraged to identify the minerals present in each. This was a fun way to learn and share knowledge with each other.

For our **April Program** we will once again welcome club member and RU Earth Science Museum Curator **Dr. Steve Lenhart**. Please Join Us ~ Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00 PM. (*Location and directions on back page.*)



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
[groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench Tips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench%20Tips/)
 or [facebook.com/Bench Tips](http://facebook.com/Bench%20Tips)

CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of hot steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. Only a minute or so is needed, and in fact you don't even need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit.

You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.



FIELD TRIP REPORT...

2nd VP Report for March 2013

PAST FIELD TRIPS

*Saturday, March 23, 2013
Faber Mine, Albemarle Co, VA.*

The turnout for our annual field trip to this site was very good with 26 attending. The weather cooperated and was extremely pleasant and dry. The storms from the few weeks prior had caused many trees to fall across the trail. Luckily, one of our members had a small bow saw and a machete in his truck. With these tools and lots of muscle power from the other members, we were able to clear a path wide enough for everyone to pull and lift the variety of carts, wagons and hand trucks over and around any remaining obstacles. Big thanks go out to those members that cleared the trail for all of us that lagged behind.

Upon reaching the dump piles, everyone spread out and picked a likely spot. Some chose a spot high on the hill and others chose an area closer to the road. I do believe everyone found some interesting galena, sphalerite, white and purple fluorite, calcite, pyrite, chalcopyrite and quartz.

The mountains this time of the year are really beautiful, peaceful and undisturbed. The poison ivy, bugs, flies and other critters are not out yet so spring is a perfect time to visit. We are privileged to have permission to visit this historic site and collect some unusual minerals for this area. People left as they filled their containers and before they were too tired to make the long walk out. I believe that everyone had a good time and were able to add some new and interesting minerals to their collection.

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of The Gaston County Gem,
Mineral & Faceting Club (Gastonia, NC) HOST

***An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral
Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
And The Roanoke Valley Mineral
& Gem Society Inc.***

This is a "go on your own" field trip
9:00 AM, Saturday, April 20, 2013
Burgin Quartz Mine
Norwood, NC

FEE AREA

No Pets: Because of the on-site livestock

Place: Meet at the Burgin Quartz Mine in
Norwood, NC

Time: Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 9:00 AM to
3:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00 per person and you must sign a
release.

What to find: Quartz crystals, often clear and
sometimes huge up to 4 inches across and a few
inches long. The crystals are found in vugs in a very
large milky quartz outcropping, though some crystals
can be found by digging through the spoil piles
previously dug out by a backhoe. *Continued on page 5*

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

Continued from page 4

To get the big ones, you need to do some hard rock mining using sledge hammers, and chisels to break apart the massive quartz to expose new vugs. I picked this site, because it has only recently been opened up, its potential has not been fully explored, and the DMC has never been there.

Lodging: There are hotels a few miles north in Albemarle, NC.

What to bring: Sledge hammers, chisels, rock hammers, safety glasses, gloves, dirt sifting tools, buckets, newspaper to wrap specimens, drink and food. Subway and Bojangles are only a couple of miles away if you prefer to eat out.

Directions: The address is 40764 Old Cottonville Rd., Norwood, NC. Use MapQuest or GPS for exact directions from the area you are coming from. Norwood is due east of Charlotte, NC. I travel on Route 52 just south of Albemarle. Turn right (heading south) on Route 52 and follow it to the Subway on the right just inside the Norwood town limits. Turn right and then turn right again on the other side of Subway on S. Stanly School Rd. Follow it to the Old Cottonville Road on the left and turn left there. Drive under the railroad trestle and turn left onto a dirt lane. Follow the lane over a low ridge and watch for the digging area on the right. There is plenty of parking.

From Roanoke and Lynchburg, it looks like the one of several ways is from I-85 south in Salisbury, NC, take US 52 south to Norwood, NC and follow the directions above. This site is about 17 miles south of the Cotton Patch Gold Mine in New London, NC. From Lynchburg and Roanoke, the mine is about 190 miles (allow at least 4 hours) Check your map, there are several ways to get there that will affect your driving time and distance.

For additional information:

David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman for the GMSL and RVMGS

Home: [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) or cell [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201). Let it ring and leave a message if I don't pick-up.

◆—————◆

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
and
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.
Combined Mineral Collecting Field Trip
Saturday, April 27, 2013

Sign-up required. Call me, email me or sign up at the meeting

We may need to carpool and or limit the size of the group due to the private nature of this site and respect for the landowners living there.

We will explore an old rutile quarry in Nelson County and will be able to collect some massive and crystal rutile and ilmenite also massive aplite feldspar and blue quartz. Some beautiful 1/2" and smaller rutile crystals have been found here before. This material is hard and will make beautiful specimens and will take a good polish. In addition to personal specimen collecting, please help the Lynchburg Club in its quest to collect hard solid material to make bookends, clock faces, rock candles spheres and other products for sale at our two fund raising events.

We will meet in Amherst, VA, Saturday morning, at the Hardees Restaurant on US 29 business no later than 8:30 A.M. We will decide if we need to carpool and we can leave cars here if needed. We will depart from there promptly 8:45 A.M.

From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US Rt. 460

Continued on next page

FIELD TRIPS...*continued from page 5*

east / US 29 north by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north by-pass across the James River and proceed north to the Amherst US 29 business exit. The Hardees is in the Ambriar Shopping Center at this exit. Come early and have a bite to eat. From this point, it should take about 40 minutes to arrive at the quarry. Be sure that you are fueled up and ready to leave by 8:45 A.M. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles south of the US 60 exit. If you live in Lynchburg, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business thru Madison Heights to Amherst. The Hardees will be on your left at the new US 29 bypass interchange, just before you arrive at the town of Amherst.

If you will be driving in from the north, let me know and I will send you an alternate meeting area.

Dress for the weather that day and be sure to bring food, water and warm clothing. Wear boots, gloves, long pants and safety glasses. Hard hats will not be required.

SAFETY NOTE...DO NOT CLIMB UP OR DOWN THE QUARRY WALL. THIS IS UNSTABLE, UNSAFE AND THE QUARRY IS FULL OF WATER. DO NOT WONDER OFF BY YOURSELF. TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU. STAY IN SIGHT AND EAR SHOT OF OTHERS. THE SITE IS OVERGROWN AND YOU WOULD BE HARD TO LOCATE IF YOU NEEDED HELP. IF YOU LEAVE EARLY, LET YOUR LEADER OR A CLUB OFFICER KNOW.

Bring a hoe or something to turn rocks and watch where you put your hands. There may be a surprise waiting underneath. Hopefully the kudzu has not over

grown everything this early in the year. If you plan to collect BIG rocks, then a hand truck, wheelbarrow or wagon will come in handy.

Bring a hammer and chisel to break rocks, buckets and newspaper to wrap any delicate specimens you might find. Digging tools and a sledge may come in handy. We can drive into the quarry if it is dry. A low-slung car or 2-wheel drive may bottom out and get stuck. Four wheel drive vehicles are best. We will make that decision when we observe the situation that morning. It may be wet and will be slick and muddy if there has been a recent rain. There is no age limit but children must be supervised. There are NO restroom facilities at this site.

More information will be available at our next meeting. We must arrive together but you will be free to leave at any time.

For more information contact: David Callahan, Field Trip Leader
Lynchburg Gem & Mineral Society Inc.
Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.

April 27, 2012

Information for those attending the Sterling Hill tripple digg

Tripmaster Letter #4

April 2nd, 2013

Greetings Glowhounds!

It's time for another reminder email for all of you, and time to provide some more info about the Sterling Hill Super Digg experience.

As this letter is being written, we have 195 registered for the Digg -- although the maximum was initially set at 200, we have decided to open the registration further since many of you *Continued on page 13*



SUNSHINE NEWS

Please keep the following members
in your thoughts and prayers as they
continue to recover-

Ralph Torning, who was recently
hospitalized for illness,

Jean and Franklin Midkiff, who's
daughter recently had an accident
and required surgery.

If you know of any members needing
a little "sunshine" please email the
editor so we may wish them well



Rock Raiders

We are currently looking for someone to lead our Junior Rockhounds Programs, held during the business portion of our regular club meetings.

Qualifications:

Desire to enrich and cultivate interest in the earth sciences among youth.

Prior experience not necessary. Several club members have program ideas, material, and support available to assist in this endeavor. Please contact John Haskins if interested.

Our ROCK RAIDERS THANK YOU!



Fun and Educational on the web:

Minerals and Fire Trucks: A Lesson about Color and Identification

[http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rmr/images/
firetruck_analogy.pdf](http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rmr/images/firetruck_analogy.pdf)

Great power point presentation about using different properties to identify minerals.

Upcoming Events

APRIL 2013

April 20- 9:00AM - 3:00

PMDMC Field Trip to Burgin Quartz Mine, Norwood, NC

Contact David Long 704-860-1025 or email david28054@carolina.rr.com

April 23-25- 23rd annual

Mountain Mushroom Festival Agate Hunt. Meeting location

Estill County School System Central office, 253 Main St,

Irvine, KY. Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington St.

Franklin, NJ. "A Great indoor and outdoor show."

APRIL 27-28- Franklin, NJ 41st

annual Show- held in conjunction with the Franklin/ Sterling Hill field trips. (see pages 13-14)

May 10-12- Georgia Mineral

Society Gem, Fossils, Minerals, and Jewelry show and sale.

www.gameneral.org for information.

May 25th- 10:00 AM - 4:00

PM- Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Gem & Mineral Show

Ruhl Armory- Towson Maryland 1035 York Rd. Baltimore, MD,

21204. Free admission and plenty of free parking.

www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/club-show.html

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>Workshop</i>
14	15	16	17 <i>Meeting 7 PM</i>	18	19	20 <i>Field Trip</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Field Trip</i>
28	29	30				

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

Workshops will be held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's. Start time is 9:00 AM, but come anytime and stay as long as you'd like. There is a store/deli about a mile down the road if you want to break for lunch and return.

The workshops will be open format, and the purpose will be for club members to learn how to use the lapidary equipment to turn rough specimens into finished lapidary pieces for their own personal use. Experienced members will be available to help teach and assist.

We have a great set up with several sets of wheels for cabbing, faceting machines, saws, and much much more. From time to time there may be special class offerings, so be sure to let us know what you are interested in.

Workshops are open to club members only, and due to liability we can not allow guests or non-members at our club workshops. Remember, membership is just \$15.00 per year for the fist family member and \$3.00 for each additional family member.

Sterling Hill Super Dig

Tripmaster Letter #2

March 10th, 2013

This is the second of our series of Tripmaster Letters which we will be sending out between now and the day of the Digg, and this letter will inform you specifically about the NEW FEATURE which was started last year

Knowing that some of our younger Glowhounds might not want to spend the entire day and evening out in the rock fields, we have arranged with an expert teacher so we can offer a special youth class where they can learn the art of BEADING ... as well as take a rest from being out in the rock fields, as well as give mom and dad a chance to dig in peace for a few hours!

Last year, this was initially described as a "sitting service" but that is not really the intent. The intent is to provide an opportunity for our younger visitors to learn about another hobby and skill which they can take home and enjoy the rest of the year. The class will be based on, and is approved by, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies merit badge program, particularly the Lapidary badge.

Did you know that AMFED had such a program for kids? I'll bet very few of you knew about it until now!

Visit http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm for more info and to see the various badges.

The class will provide one-on-one instruction and guidance by an expert teacher of the skills needed for the Lapidary badge, and the necessary materials (hands-on materials such as patterns, carbon paper (what's that?!), glue, scissors, beads, and related materials..) will be provided (\$10 fee) for each child to work with and then take home with them.

Beading: Craft bracelets and necklaces with natural and synthetic beads and supplies

purchased from a bead store.

A "letter of participation" will be given to any child who completes this session,

for credit toward their merit badge - which they would receive on completion of

remaining requirements for the badge. This class alone will not qualify for badge.

To register your child for this exciting extra adventure, just click the optional selection in the pricing section of the on-line registration page and the \$10 fee will be automatically added to the registration and you will be assured that the needed supplies will be available on Saturday for your child's adventure.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED YOUR CHILD, and you want to take advantage of this new feature, just return to the on-line registration page at <http://whoscoming.com/UVworld/> and use the Existing User log-in option ... if you recorded the User Code for your child's reservation, use that number for quick access; or use the help link to get the code. (Problems updating the reservation? email webmaster@uvworld.org)

As most of you know, the on-line registration is based on one-person / one-registration, so you can select the Beading Class option for one of your kids and not the others (if that won't make a family crisis!!). Because the instructor needs to get the class materials in advance, it is important that we get Beading Class registrations no later than April 19th so he knows how many students to plan for. The BEADING CLASS will be conducted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., but each individual child can stay there up to 3 hours. **At least 10 kids must be signed up in advance, or the class will be cancelled and you will receive a refund via PayPal.**

Age requirement is from 7 years old and up. Each child will be signed into and out of the class by a legal parent or guardian. The \$10 supplies fee is in addition to the Digg registration fee. [Note: new this year... any person over age 7 (including adults!) may participate but only Juniors will receive the "letter of participation."]

(Please disregard the details announced on the fancy *Sterling Hill Mining Museum* web page describing this activity; those details are from last year. We are attempting to get their web page updated by their web design company.)

From the First VP: continued from page 1

that pale red is a clear mineral that owes its color to impurities. The same is true of all clear red gemstones like [ruby](#).

Consider the color of a reddish mineral carefully, in good light. Red grades into yellow, gold and [brown](#), and while a mineral may show a red highlight, that should not determine the overall color. Also ascertain the mineral's [luster](#) on a fresh surface as well as its [hardness](#). And figure out the rock type—igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic—to the best of your ability (start with "[How to Look at a Rock](#)").



Alkali Feldspar

This very common mineral can be pink or sometimes a light brick-red, but usually it is closer to buff or white. Put it this way: a [rock-forming mineral](#) with a pink or pinkish color is almost certainly feldspar. Luster pearly to glassy; hardness 6.

Geology.com photo



Chalcedony

Chalcedony is the noncrystalline form of quartz, found exclusively in sedimentary settings and as a [secondary mineral in igneous rocks](#). Usually milky to clear, it takes on red and red-brown colors from iron impurities, and it forms the gemstones [agate](#) and [carnelian](#). Luster waxy; hardness 6.5 to 7.

Geology.com photo



Cinnabar

Cinnabar is a mercury sulfide that occurs exclusively in areas of high-temperature mineralization. If that's where you are, look for its lipstick-red color, once prized for cosmetic use. Its color also edges toward metallic and black, but it always has a [bright red streak](#). Luster waxy to submetallic; hardness 2.5. *Geology.com photo*



Cuprite

Cuprite is found as films and crusts in the lower weathered zone of copper ore deposits. When its crystals are well formed, they are a deep red, but in films or mixtures the color may range toward brown or purple. Luster metallic to glassy; hardness 3.5 to 4.

Photo Courtesy of Sandra Powers

Continued on next page



Eudialyte

This oddball silicate mineral is quite uncommon in nature, being restricted to bodies of coarse-grained nepheline syenite. But its peculiar raspberry to brick red color makes it a staple in rock shops. It can also be brown. Luster dull; hardness 5 to 6.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Garnet

The common garnets consist of six species, three green calcium garnets ("ugrandite") and three red aluminum garnets ("pyrospite"). Of the pyrospites, [pyrope](#) is yellowish red to ruby red, [almandine](#) is deep red to purplish and [spessartine](#) is red-brown to yellow-brown. The ugrandites are usually green, but two of them—[grossular](#) and [andradite](#)—may be red. Almandine is by far the most common in rocks. All of the garnets have the same crystal shape, a round form with 12 or 24 sides. Luster glassy; hardness 7 to 7.5. *Geology.com photo*



Rhodochrosite

Also known as raspberry spar, rhodochrosite is a [carbonate mineral](#) that will bubble gently in hydrochloric acid. It typically occurs in veins associated with copper and lead ores, and rarely in [pegmatites](#) where it may be gray or brown. Only rose quartz might be confused with it, but the color is stronger and warmer and the hardness much lower. Luster glassy to pearly; hardness 3.5 to 4. *Geology.com photo*



Rhodonite

Rhodonite is far more common in rock shops than it is in the wild. You'll find this manganese pyroxenoid mineral only in metamorphic rocks rich in manganese. It's usually massive in habit rather than crystalline and has a slightly purplish-pink color. Luster glassy; hardness 5.5 to 6.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Continued on next page



Rose Quartz

Quartz is everywhere but its pink variety, rose quartz, is much scarcer, being limited to pegmatites. The color ranges from the sheerest pink to a rosy pink and is often mottled. As with all quartz, its poor cleavage and typical hardness and luster define it. Unlike most quartz, rose quartz does not form crystals except in a handful of places, making them pricey collectibles.

Luster glassy; hardness 7. *Wikimedia Commons*



Rutile

Rutile's name means "dark red" in Latin, although in rocks it is often black. Its crystals may be thin, striated needles or thin plates, occurring in coarse-grained igneous and metamorphic rocks. Its streak is light brown. Luster metallic to adamantine; hardness 6 to 6.5.

Photo Courtesy of Graeme Churchard under Creative Commons



Other Red or Pink Minerals

Dolomite — Geology Guide photo

Thanks to Andrew Alden, we have some guidance we can use to figure out what that red rock was after all. Working in sunlight often helps us pick out the reds from the rest. If you collect by color and your favorite color is red, you are sure to expand your collection.

Happy Hunting,

LETS ALL EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Ralph Boswell from Mechanicsville MD

Donald Dudley from Roanoke VA

Joseph Davis from Mechanicsville MD

MICHELLE HARRIS FROM ALEXANDRIA, VA

Laurie Steiger from Woodbridge VA

Phillip Whittaker from Arrington, VA

Robert Winsor from Round Hill, VA

FIELD TRIPS... *continued from page 6*

have not yet signed up. We've noticed that there are a lot of new folks registering this year, so the word about our Digg seems to be getting around. Since the registration area has been expanded this year, and we've not found any sign of "crowding" in the dig areas, there should be no problem with having more than 200 registered. Some people have been concerned about crowding, or "competition" in the dig fields -- this has never been a problem ... just look at the many photos on our website from previous years and you can see it is not a problem.

It's easy to register -- just click the "quick registration" link at the top of the main page of our website at <http://UVworld.org> or the link on the Trip Info page -- or go directly to <http://whoscoming.com/UVworld/> . You're encouraged to use the Pay Pal/Credit Card method because it fits into the automation we have developed, and assures that your registration will be ready when you arrive at the Diggg site. It also saves you the cost of postage! -- it's easier for you, it's easier for our volunteers and will make your check-in Saturday morning much more pleasant.

BEADING CLASS

So far, we have only three young persons signed up for the BEADING CLASS ... just a reminder that we need at least TEN or that program will not be operated. See our Tripmaster Letter #2 at http://www.jimcooper.biz/uvworld2/admin/130310_Tripmaster-ltr-02.htm or http://www.jimcooper.biz/uvworld2/admin/130310_Tripmaster-ltr-02.pdf for all the details about this special feature. (You can register for it using the regular registration page at <http://whoscoming.com/UVworld/>). If you have already made the reservation for the Digg, and you would like to add this program, you can log in and modify your registration. If you have a problem adding the Beading Class signup, email webmaster@uvworld.org and we will work it out with you. Note: the Beading Class can NOT be signed up for at the Digg ... it must be done before April 19th so that the necessary supplies can be on hand for the class.

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided on the Sterling Hill Mining Museum website titled "Child Watch" (at <http://www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/superdig/childwatch.php>) IS NOT CORRECT ... it is the info from last year, and the details are not correct for this year. We have been trying to get this corrected, but SHMM has to go through their commercial web management company to get changes, and so far it has not happened. The information in Tripmaster Letter #2 is correct (it can be viewed at http://www.jimcooper.biz/uvworld2/admin/130310_Tripmaster-ltr-02.htm). (*See "Letter 2" on page 9*)

F A Q -- Frequently Asked Questions

An area has been added to the website with answers to questions we have been getting via email this year and previously. Check it out - maybe there are questions you haven't yet asked, or haven't even thought about yet!

The FAQ is updated frequently, so check back to it now and then before the Digg. It is at --

<http://www.jimcooper.biz/uvworld2/forms/FAQ.pdf>

The latest version of the FAQ contains extensive info and answers to questions about the required insurance, which is a frequent question.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

Jeff Winker, our Tripmaster once again this year, has announced that a rare exploration will be available again to diggers this year -- the opportunity to go INSIDE the "Trotter Tunnel." You might not know about the Trotter Tunnel, but it was a historic milestone in the operation of the mines in this area. It was the first tunnel to connect the back pits with the "outside world" where the ore could be taken

Continued on next page

FIELD TRIPS... *continued from page 13*

for processing. Charles Trotter commissioned this tunnel in the hopes that it would reduce the cost of extracting and using the ore from the back pits.

Ever since the Sterling and Trotter mines were closed, this tunnel has been sealed off from public access. The external access has been sealed off with a thick concrete seal, which has recently been broken open and removed by the museum workers. Links to more details of the history of this Trotter Tunnel are at the end of this message.

The Trotter Tunnel "tour" [see links at the end of this Letter] will be a "PRIMITIVE TOUR" -- meaning you will be going through an undeveloped tunnel which may have loose rock, low headroom, wet floors and other challenges. Therefore, it is imperative that you have:

- Â· **a properly fitting hard hat**
- Â· waterproof boots
- Â· a strong-beam flashlight
- Â· subsistence rations and supplies for a week... (just kidding!!)



Another special feature this year is that it will be another opportunity for you to see the "fluorescent wall" in the open air -- and the ability to get far enough away to photograph all of it at once. So, take a nap if you have to, but be there Saturday after dark to enjoy this amazing natural wonder lit up with powerful UV lamps powered by generators.

SAFETY

* **Hard hats are MANDATORY for the Upper Mine Buildings tour.**

* **Hard hats and flashlights are MANDATORY for the Trotter Tunnel tour.**

Needless to say, any area where rocks can fall on your head requires vigilance and good safety practices. Please make a point to review the five 'tabs' at the left of <http://www.amfed.org/safetytips.htm> so you can be sure to have a safe and comfortable event.

If you have not yet registered, time is running short. On-line registration CLOSSES at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 23rd. (After that, you will have to wait on the non-express check-in line at the site on Saturday morning, filling out the forms by hand and **paying with cash**). Use the registration link at our website at <http://UVworld.org>

Links to info and photos of the Trotter Tunnel --

science paper --

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/177/The+Trotter+Tunnel+At+Sterling+Hill,+Ogdensburg+NJ>

photos --

<http://forums.abandonedmines.net/viewtopic.php?p=1882&sid=daac667a369152f06c07cafe7bb64d67>

<http://a1.ec-images.myspacecdn.com/images01/33/bfc6ea44b4845cbd21d5bbf8b520d913/1.jpg>

<http://a3.ec-images.myspacecdn.com/images01/72/0d33851ca0f0ec2741de969dbd39cbe8/1.jpg>

<http://a4.l3-images.myspacecdn.com/images01/60/17dbe34747acb26c268d87e694823423/1.jpg>

<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/aboutus/trottertunnel.php>

<http://www.ironminers.com/images/ironmines/franklinite-mine/franklinite-mine-8.jpg>

articles --

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/113/The+Mines+of+Sterling+Hill,+Ogdensburg,+New+Jersey>

DMC Field Trip, Hosted by The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA

9:00 AM EDT to 2:00 PM ~ Saturday, May 25, 2013

Boxley Aggregates, Piney River Quarry 739 Warrick Barn Road, Arrington, VA.

This is OUR hosted trip, so Please come out and show support for YOUR club. More details at the meeting and next months news letter, or contact Dave Callahan.

COLLECTING: According to the mindat.org Website, the following minerals are listed from Minerals of Virginia, 1990 edition. Some on this list have not been found on our past field trips. (An (*) indicates those known finds on past field trips)

Anatase: A greenish-brown replacement of ilmenite.

Ilmenite: Black metallic or highly weathered masses. (*)

Kaolinite: White powdery masses from the alteration of feldspar. (*)

Quartz: Light blue to white (*)

Rutile: Reddish-brown metallic to highly weathered masses. (*)

Tacharanite: White, dull to pearly. Occurs with the weathered anatase, rutile and ilmenite. Zoisite var:

Thulite: Veins of pink thulite occur in the feldspar. (*)

Additional minerals: Pyrrhotite: (has been verified) (*)

Silvery metallic when fresh but weathers to a dark rusty color when exposed to the weather. Pyrite: Small crystals and masses (*)

The main rock mined here is called APLITE. It is very hard, light-colored, and fine-grained and consists primarily of sodic plagioclase feldspar and quartz in the groundmass and, in some cases, orthoclase feldspar phenocrysts. Like pegmatites, aplite dikes may represent a residual fraction on silica-rich magma after most on the magma has crystallized.

Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and how many stock piles are available. Note that some of the occurrences are very small.

DIRECTIONS: will be posted in the May 2013 newsletter.

MEETING LOCATION & ASSEMBLY TIME: 8:00 to 8:45 AM. At the quarry scale house / office. If you are late, you will not be permitted to enter the quarry. We all will enter the quarry as a group about 9:00 AM.

All safety rules will be strictly enforced or you will be escorted out of the quarry and barred from future field trips.

EQUIPMENT: The Boxley Quarries are very safety-conscious. Standard quarry PPE (personal protective equipment) gear is required or you will not be permitted to enter the quarry. **Hard hat (see mfg. date below), steel-toe boots, safety glasses, good protective clothing and gloves must be worn.** It could be very cold, wet or hot in the quarry, so dress according to the weather forecast that morning. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. Bring your own collecting equipment such as rock hammers, chisels, buckets and newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry. Bring rain gear in case of bad weather. **HARD HAT NOTICE: CHECK THE MANUFACTURE DATE, LEFT SIDE, UNDER THE BRIM IN THE SMALL CIRCLE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ARROW.** If you see a 1 on either side it was made in 2011, a 0/7 is 2007. If it's older than 5 years, it must be replaced. This is a New Federal rule enforcement. You must comply or be rejected.

AGE LIMIT: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parent's responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all the safety requirements. The same dress and PPE requirements apply.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call me to confirm the trip.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman. The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. Home Phone [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) Cell [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201) (the day of the trip please)

Natalie Darling, Editor
211 Chesterfield Rd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502



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



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official Future Rockhounds of America association of the The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.



Reminder...

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Lynchburg Parks and Recreation
Fairview Center
3621 Campbell Ave.
Lynchburg, VA

DIRECTIONS: Fairview Center; 3621 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-847-1751~ From Route 29 expressway or Route 460, take the Campbell Avenue Exit. Follow Campbell Ave. to 3621, which is across the street from a Citgo Gas Station. There is a fence around the building and parking on both streets running along the sides of the property as well as a lot in the back. We will be looking for you!