

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2012 VOLUME 21~ ISSUE 12

Official Monthly
Publication of the Gem &
Mineral Society of
Lynchburg, VA, Inc

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Presidents Message

Hello To All,

The month of November was quiet until the last weekend, then came the three day Gem & Mineral Show at the Salem Civic Center. Our club was responsible for the fluorescent Mineral display during the show hours. I would like to thank Dave Callahan, Thom Noble & Bill Livingston that worked the show all three days. I would also like to thank everyone that furnished minerals, U-V lights, time & talent to making this a successful part of the RVMGS show. It was enjoyed by all.

It looks like the outdoor field trips may have to wait until better weather, but we have the JMU trip in January and the February 20th Club Auction to look forward to in the cold weather months. There is

Happy Holidays

a really nice assortment of specimens ready for the auction, I hope everyone will mark their calendars for this.

I have a list of all the officers to be elected for 2013 service on another page of this letter. All Officers are returning from previous years of service except for a new name, Linda Noble, for Secretary. Voting will be by voice acclamation.

The December 19th meeting will be the Club's Christmas Dinner. All members are asked to bring their favorite dish to be shared by all. The Club will supply Fried Chicken as the meat dish for the meal. We have a lot of good cooks and I've seen a lot of

Continued on page 15

From the First VP:

Merry Christmas to all. We'll have a Dirty Santa gift exchange at our December meeting. Oh and please be sure to bring your nicest rock and mineral specimens to show and share with everyone.

May the following suggestions aid you in selecting gifts for your rock hounding friends This article has been written by Andrew Alda of About.com and has lots of neat gift ideas. Maybe one or more will be just what you're looking for this year.

Here's a short list of places to shop or gifts to get for that person who loves geological things. These range from serious to wacky, plus a few items to make your jaws drop. Not on the list are books—for those, look below for ideas in this area.

[Bob's Rock Shop](#)

Bob doesn't sell rocks at his rock shop, but this great Web destination has advertisers who do—or you can get a subscription to *Rock & Gem* magazine here.

[The Brunton Co.](#)

Makers of world-standard field tools for geologists, starting with the compasses many of us know as simply "Bruntons."

[Desert Guides](#)

An assortment of books about getting around, even finding wealth, in the desert, from desertusa.com.

Continued on page 10



November Meeting Minutes

Meeting- Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012

Attendance- 13 members & 2 guests

Host- For the November meeting, was Linda & Thom Noble. For the December meeting we will have our Club Holiday Dinner, Pot Luck Style.

On Time Drawing- Winners were: I think almost everyone was a winner. Thanks to all who came out and those who donated prizes.

Old Business- John Haskins: No old business.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: Unable to attend the meeting. Program tonight DVD presentation on "Americas Gold."

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: Field trips: Morefield Mine will be open on Saturday Dec. 1 and Dec. 8; DMC Trip to Horsetray, TN 12/5.

Any club member interested, we can order additional name tags, shirts, & hats with the club logo.

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$9355.89- Frank was unable to attend the meeting.

New Business- Linda Noble was nominated for secretary for the year 2013. Nominations are now closed, elections will be held during the December meeting by voice

acclamation vote as there is only one person nominated per office.

List of nominees for Club Office for 2013:

President- John Haskins

First VP- Jack Curtin

Second VP- Dave Callahan

Secretary- Linda Noble

Treasurer- Franklin Midkiff

Editor- Natalie Darling

Members at Large- Bernard Rivera and Tony Shields

Minutes submitted by:

John Haskins,



2012 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

Brenda Glass

(434) 525 6664

glass57@netzero.net

Editor - Natalie Darling

(434) 941-1899

gmsleditor@comcast.net

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- Jon Glass

Membership- Thom Noble

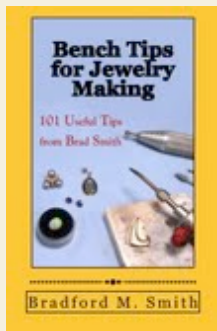
PROGRAMS

Novembers meeting program was a video about Americas Gold.

For the December meeting, we will celebrate another successful year with our annual Pot Luck Holiday Dinner. If you can join us, please bring along your favorite dish to share. The club will furnish fried chicken.

At our December meeting there will be a Dirty Santa gift exchange. It is optional, and if you would like to play you must bring a wrapped (or bagged) hobby related present with a \$10.00-\$15.00 value. Everyone who plays will leave with a gift, but don't get too attached to the first one you open and adore, for those who open after you may take yours and replace it with the one they opened instead.

If you are not willing to give up that great gift then you should not play. For those willing to take the chance, it will be lots of fun!



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)

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" is now available as an e-book for Kindle and Nook readers. Free apps allow it to be read on most phones, tablets, and home computers.

The book can be found at several locations:

Kindle edition - www.amazon.com/dp/B00A5ELDRU

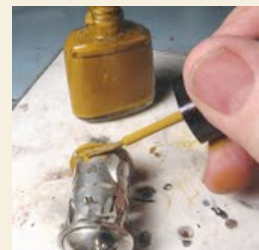
Nook edition - www.bn.com/w/?ean=2940015848915

Print edition - www.createspace.com/3976439

Makes a good holiday present for friends who do jewelry.

OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder will not flow onto an area of your piece while you're soldering on another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it. I like recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Continued on page 11



FIELD TRIP REPORT...

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

Contact Information for Field Trips

David Callahan,

Field Trip Chairman

Home phone: 540-297-1853

Cell Phone- 540-874-5201

E-mail dbcall1@aol.com

2nd VP Report for December 2012

Our next regularly scheduled field trip will be to James Madison University. The date this year will be February 16, 2013

There are no scheduled field trips at this time for December and January. If I can make contact with the land owned and the weather holds. I will try to arrange a trip for a small group to a local site of interest. If I am successful, I will announce it at the January meeting.

COMBINED LYNCHBURG / ROANOKE CLUB FIELD TRIP

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013 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 due to
the size of the facilities.**

We will all provide our own transportation and park in the JMU parking lot in the front of the new facility, Memorial Hall (The old High School). Plan to arrive between 8:45 to 9AM. See the directions below and walk directly to the Geology Lab. 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 and all the proceeds go toward future museum purchases.

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

* 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).

Continued on next page

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...

Continued from page 4

- * Memorial Hall (the old Harrisonburg High School) is directly in front of you.
- * Go straight into the parking lot on your left. Try to arrive between 8:45 and 9:00 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. Notice the new brass plaque on the Virginia mineral collection cabinet.



Other Field Trips of Interest

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Copyright © All rights reserved

An Official Field Trip of The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (HOST)

An Official Field Trip GMSL and RVMGS

**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM,
Saturday, January 26, 2013
Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine**

Tignall, GA

Fee Area

Where: Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine, Tignall, GA – see below for directions.

FEE AREA: \$15 per person, per day (as long as we have more than 10 people). All persons are required to sign a release form upon arrival. I will be close to the entrance collecting the fee and having you sign waivers.

Children: No one under the age of 12 allowed on the property even with an adult guardian accompanying them. Minors over 12 years old must be accompanied by paying adult.

Pets: Well behaved dogs may join their owners at the site, please keep on a leash.

Collecting: Amethyst – working the dump piles. No one is allowed in the pit.

WHAT TO BRING:

Clothing appropriate for this time of year in Georgia. That could be almost anything and I would suggest layers that could be removed and something in the event of a shower. Gloves (gems can be sharp), safety glasses (for breaking up rocks), and at least a good pair of shoe. Hand tools (Shovel, pick, hammer and chisel are examples) are allowed, no power tools.

Be aware that this site is very rustic, which means no electricity, running water or bathroom facilities on the property (other than the woods) The closest restroom is 8 miles away in Tignall, so come prepared for that.

Continued on next page

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...*Continued from page 5***General info for dig:**

Gates will be unlocked at 9 am by caretaker. Due to liability issues and government regulations, please do not enter areas that are roped off; this is the pit area which is being worked commercially.

You are welcome to work the many dump piles all over the property. Please keep the property clean.

For directions, lodging, or further information, contact Field Trip Coordinator: Lucy Miller.

LucyAnn323@aol.com Phone: 904-838-5026

Please leave a message as I am often somewhere where I don't get a signal....

SHORT NOTICE MAYBE TOO COLD TO DO**Northern Virginia Mineral Club****Official Collecting and Subterranean Statue Viewing Trip Announcement****Vulcan Manassas Aggregate Quarry,****Manassas, VA****and Ice Follies! (Weather Permitting)****December 15th, 2012, 7:00 am to Noon-esque
(Subject to the whim of Winter)**

Here is your basic bonafide trip announcement from me, your trusty and fiduciary trip coordinator, to you. At 7:00 am sharp on December 15th, 2012 (meeting at the Mine Office) we, the freezing populace, will meet at the mine office parking lot.

For those of you unfamiliar with said quarry it is a great big empty. Half a mile across, 500 feet deep and essentially right next to the Manassas mall. The Statue of Liberty would feel small were it at the bottom. Of course, that would be an odd place to put a statue, unless it were to protect it from high winds. Those would be some serious winds. What would cause such winds, I wonder... That's it! The Mayan predicted apocalypse! So, we should hurry to see the Statue of Liberty in the bottom of a quarry before it's too late! Thus...

It may be **too cold** (or windy) for this trip to work out so it may not come off and thus be **canceled**. In doubt? Contact me no later than 9 pm the day before.

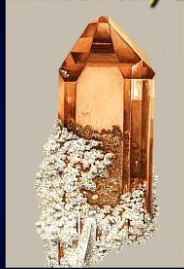
(If you call after 10 pm and before 9 am you **WILL** get a lesson in the dark side of the English language.)
[703.754.2050](tel:703.754.2050) or, preferably, jtcarve@msn.com.

Minerals Available (at Vulcan): Actinolite, var: Byssolite, Aegirine, Alright?, 'Apatite', 'Apophyllite', Aragonite, Babingtonite, Building Site, Biotite, Bornite, Calcite, 'Chabazite', Chalcopyrite, City of Light, Clinozoisite, Coffeanddanishite, Cristobalite, Datolite, 'Feldspar Group', Galena, Greenockite, Grossular, Gyrolite, Hematite, var: Specularite, 'Heulandite', Ilmenite, Insect Bite, Laumontite, Leafblight, Low Level Flight, Malachite, Muscovite, Natrolite, Nojokesthistimeite, Opal, Orthoclase, Outright, Pectolite, Peep Sight, Prehnite, 'Proxy Fight', 'Pumpellyite', Quartz, Rutile, Scheelite, Scolecite, Second Sight, Silver, Sphalerite, 'Stilbite', Thaumassite, Titanite, Topaz, 'Tourmaline', Twelfth Night, Zircon

Who is Invited: Any and all members in good standing of any eastern federation affiliated club. Roanoke Club members also welcome. All humans under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult (so, not you, Casper) . Non-human higher primates also welcome. But, only if they share my political views.

If you are not a member you may go to our website, www.novamineralclub.org **HYPERLINK** **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>" "<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>" **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>" **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>" www.novamineralclub.org , print off the membership form, fill it out and show up at the

Continued on page 15

Western Mass.**Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show****March 23-24, 2013*** **NEW LOCATION** ** **Clarion Hotel & Conference Center** ** **NEW LOCATION** *

Show Hours: Sat 9:30am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm
 Admission: \$5 per person, Kids 12 and under FREE with adult

1 Atwood Drive
 Northampton, MA 01060

ISG Introduction to Gemology Course: ISG Introduction to Gemology Course

The International School of Gemology is pleased to announce the completion of our newest educational advancement with our ISG Introduction to Gemology course. This course is designed for anyone who is interested in gemology as a future career, and for those who would like to learn the basics of gemology through an introductory course while deciding on a full program of study. This stand alone program has been developed using the gemological programs of the ISG as well as special study sections developed especially for this course. It includes the following educational opportunities at a very low tuition cost.

How Gemstones Form including how they form in the various types of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. We take each type of formation and demonstrate how each produces a wide variety of gemstones and gem materials. Includes real time video demonstrations of the various types of rocks and the gemstones they produce.

Gemstone Crystal Systems with exclusive images of how gemstones form in the various crystal systems and

how this information is important for the identification and grading of gemstones. Contains video presentations of crystal formation and a look at the various crystal systems.

Review of 67 of the **Most Popular Gem Materials** including full color images showing the various important properties taken directly from the ISG Gem Identification program course notes and the ISG Student Reference Collection of Gems and Minerals.

Gemstone Properties with video presentations demonstrating many of the important and unique properties that gemstones present and how these are important in the identification and grading of gemstones.

Review of Gemological Equipment using the ISG equipment package and more. We will take you step by step through the various gemological tools include real time video shot through the various equipment items to acquaint you with what the tools will do and their importance in the study of gemstones.

Careers in Gemology will take you through the wonderful opportunities that are available in the gemology profession. We will review the best methods to get started, the careers available and how to choose the

gemological career path that best suits your needs and desires.

Tuition Cost: US\$95.00 complete.

Includes nine lessons presented online through the ISG website and the **ISG Introduction to Gemology Certificate of Completion**. And you will get **full credit** of that price toward your ISG RG or RGA program if you decide to take our world class gemology and jewelry appraisal training programs. No other school in the world can offer you a complete gemological and appraisal training program under the same organization. We welcome you to join the ISG Community in the fun and rewarding study of gemology and jewelry appraisal. To learn more about the [ISG Introduction to Gemology Course](#) click on the ISG icon below, and please help us spread by the word by sending to your favorite social media site.

If you have problems viewing the images on this page, please visit the ISG Community Forums to see this article on our site: [ISG Introduction to Gemology](#) To contact us please use this form: [Contact the ISG](#)

ISG International School of Gemology

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2012

Feb. 16- 23rd Annual Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show sponsored by So. Maryland Rock & Mineral Club. The Show Place, Marlboro, MD.

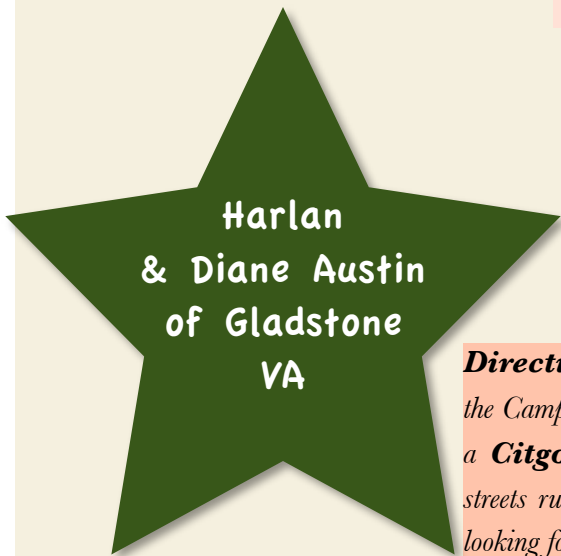
Feb. 23rd-24th- 20th annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and New York Academy of Mineralogy. NY State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY.

March 2nd-3rd- 50th annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, Newark, DE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Meeting 7:00 PM	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26		28	29
30	31					

Welcome New Members:

IMPORTANT ~ NEW MEETING LOCATION



Fairview Center
 (A division of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation)
 3621 Campbell Ave.,
 Lynchburg, VA, 24501
 (434) 847-1751

Directions to Fairview Center: 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!

AFMS Endowment Drawing- *Let the fun Begin*

By Carolyn Weinberger,

reprinted from *EFMLS News*, December 2012.

The AFMS Endowment Fund is a program sponsored by the American Federation with the idea of funding special programs that ultimately can benefit every club member in every club affiliated with AFMS. Programs that receive money each year from the Endowment Fund include:

Program Competition- many of the programs in our EFMLS Program Library have been donated to us by AFMS and purchased or duplicated (in part of the AFMS annual program competition) with funds from the Endowment.

Badges for Juniors. Any federation club affiliated with the AFMS that has an organized juniors group may obtain as many activity badges for their kids each year as they wish. You can view these badges by visiting the AFMS web site and clicking on Junior Activities (www.amfed.org).

In recent years many of the "old" slide programs donated to the federations by AFMS have been digitized with the goal of reissuing them to the regional federations when the project is complete.

Judges training workshops. One representative from each of the regional federations receives a modest stipend do encourage them to attend a weekend training workshop held in conjunction with a major show. In 2012 the workshop was held in Reno, NV and in 2013 it will be held in Austin, TX. The goal of these workshops is to allow everyone interested in either exhibiting or becoming a competitive exhibit judge to learn to interpret the rules in a like manner so that judging becomes more uniform throughout the country.

Only the interest earned from the invested

principal may be used each year... and what's not used goes back into the principal/ With interest rates being so low right now, it's essential that we grow the principal to ensure that the programs can continue without severe cuts in funding.

In early years, badges pins, geodes, posters and other items were sold at shows. If you contributed \$100, for example you received a badge showing 49 of the 50 states with the regional federations highlighted in colors. If you sent in another sum, you would receive a mineral or fossil poster. Money was raised, but the process was long and tedious.

Today the Endowment Fund raised revenue by holding an annual drawing with numerous prizes for lucky ticket holders to win. Tickets have been \$5 each or 5 for \$20 for a number of years and each year ticket holders from throughout the country come away with lovely prizes for their donation.

We're now at the stage of collecting prizes to use for the raffle. Do you or your club members have an item that you would like to donate? We're looking for jewelry--rings pendants, wire wrapped items--wonderful mineral specimens, fossils, cut cabochons, carvings, hobby related books, collecting tolls, memorabilia, etc. that we could use. All items will be placed in the drawing with credit given to the donor. For ideas of what might be appropriate, visit the AFMS website and look at the 2012 items (www.amfed.org/endow2012.htm).

Please send your donations directly to me at PO box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. With your help this can be the best year for the drawing!

From the First VP: Continued from page 1

Earth Stuff

Rocks, minerals, tools, fossils, and books for smart kids from Science Stuff of Austin, Texas.

Field Tools

Hammers, leather stuff, sieves and more: three good suppliers are [Forestry Suppliers](#), [Kooter's](#) and [Amateur Geologist](#).

Fulgurites

When lightning strikes the ground, sediments are fused together by the energy. Various mineral dealers sell the melted results.

Earth Magazine

The best popular magazine for those who take geology seriously (formerly *Geotimes*).

Gifts for Cavers

All kinds of bat-shaped things, even bat guano for your plants, from the Speleobooks catalog.

Top Stone Rolling Fountains

Large stone spheres, spinning suspended on water—for the person or client who has everything. I love this site.

Magnifiers

One can never have too many 10X magnifiers. Here are the best.

The Mineral Gallery

There are hundreds of mineral shops on the Web, but the Mineral Gallery probably has the best selection of minerals.

Mountain Press Publishing

This is where to get titles in the highly regarded Roadside Guide and Geology Underfoot series of books.

Sphere's To You

They call themselves the biggest seller of stone spheres in the world. Their selection is incredible.

The Soft Earth

Pottery artist Joan Lederman uses pedigreed seafloor mud from Woods Hole's oceanographers to make wonderful objects.

U.S. Geological Survey Bench Mark Replicas

Full-size reproductions in pewter of those cool brass markers; earrings and more besides. Many summits and landmarks available, including (get this) the South Pole.

U.S. Geological Survey Maps and More

Find maps, posters, passes, products and more from the world's coolest government agency.

And some neat book suggestions:

Some books, whether they mean to or not, give particular pleasure to geologically minded readers. Andrew Alda [reviewed many of these](#), but lots of other books are worth recommending, even if they aren't directly about geoscience.

Geology Underfoot/Annals of Former World

Two books, one fairly local: Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park, written by two Park geologists who give a clear and intelligent presentation of the Park's geology, with lots of good photos and directions to visit numerous sites. The other book has a larger scale, is a lot longer and has no pictures, John McPhee's Annals of the Former World. The sections originally appeared in The New Yorker. The book centers on trips the author made with geologists in different parts of the US over several years. In my opinion it's a wonderful combination of biography, science and literature. Who would have thought the vocabulary of geology is such poetry?

—Guest hilldan

Continued on page 11

From the First VP: Continued from page 10

Noah's Flood

Noah's Flood by William Ryan and Walter Pitman is a little cumbersome to read but a great story about geology, history, and the fact finding mission to prove Noah's Flood.

—Guest Kristenvanvarick

Dust

The Secret Life of Dust: From the Cosmos to the Kitchen Counter, the Big Consequences of Little Things Author Hannah Holmes. You will never look at dust the same. These tiny specks influence weather, deposit riches from one continent to another and are a force to be reckoned with. A great read, entertaining and educational!

—BJWalters

Favorites

Lost Dinosaurs of Egypt is an interesting true story of the twice lost dinosaurs. The mysteries of Arthur Upfield are also interesting because the different geological features of Australia are a major part of each book.

—Guest Mitchell

Geology Underfoot

I think the Geology Underfoot series is a great bunch of books; I have read most of them, and they're really good reads.

—ComradeKevin

The Sheltering Desert

Amazing biographical account of two German geologists during WWII who escaped into the Namibian desert to avoid conscription. The maps they made during this period are incredible and the story is a beautiful account of a great friendship and a snapshot of wild Namibia in the 1930s.

—Guest christie

Favorite Geology reading

Any of the Em Hansen novels by Sarah Andrews. Good detective stories with a geologist protagonist and you learn some geology too. Recommend highly.

—Guest GreyMOuser

. --Andrew Alden, Geology Guide

May Santa bless one and all with treasures galore. Happy hunting,

Jack Curtin



Bench Tips...

continued from page. 3

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

Rock Raiders

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by **Jim Brace-Thompson,**

Junior Activities Chair

Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter Dec 2012-January 2013

Host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show”

At the beginning of the year, I added five new badges to our AFMS FRA badge program, and one has proven instantly popular beyond what I’d imagined: **Special Effects**. We’ve already awarded nearly 40 of these badges, which is three times as many as any of the other new units introduced this year. The Special Effects unit guides kids in exploring such interesting mineralogical phenomena as magnetism, double refraction, fluorescence, triboluminescence, and more. A suggested activity is having your juniors host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show” to demonstrate these phenomena to the rest of the club. Several clubs have already done just this, and they report that the adults in the room were just as amazed as the kids who were demonstrating the effects.

The Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society in Florida, the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club’s Rock Retrievers, and the Jr. Geologists of Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado have all written to me on the success of this particular unit. Dennis Gertenbach, leader of the FMS Jr. Geologists, has even suggested new rocks to add to the Amazing Mineral Magic Show, including floating pyrite and rocks that “sing: when put in water. I hope to incorporate his suggestions into future revisions to the Badge Manual, and I encourage others to send in suggestions of rocks with special effects. (Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com)

It sounds like this particular unit, with its hands on activities, has gone over well, so I encourage your society to give it a try because it sounds like the adults, just as much as the kids, found it not only eye-opening but also fun.

Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest: Fossils of the World

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of “Fossils of the World.” Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

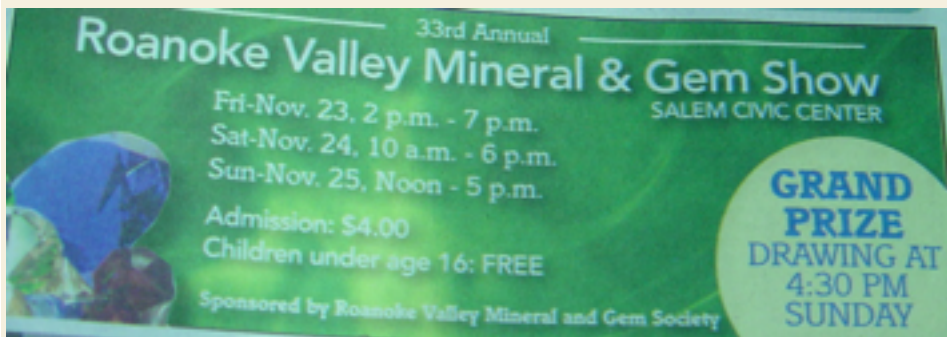
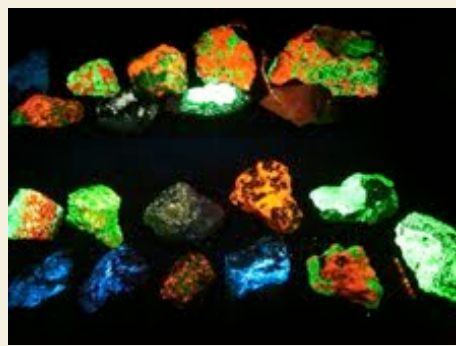
- all entries must be presented on 11x17 inch paper
- artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist’s medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry;
- the title may be on front or back
- list of names of the fossils and why you chose them; and
- all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation

Points will be awarded as follows” Originality & Art Work- 30 points; Design-25 points; Title- 25 points; Listing of Fossils and Reason You Chose Them- 20 points. Entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2013, and should be mailed to Jennifer Fike, PO Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at <http://lapidaryclubofohio.org>, and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: [<slc.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com>](mailto:slc.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com)



Photographs of the Fluorescent Mineral Display over Thanksgiving Weekend. The display is part of the annual show of the Roanoke Mineral and Gem Society, and is set up and hosted by members of The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society.

This endeavor takes much planning, volunteer man hours, use of specimens and lights. Through the continued support of many members this has been a highlight of the annual show. Thank You to Don McIntyre for the photographs, and to all who came out to support the show.



A Safety Note: Of Hurricanes and Hazard Recognition

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

reprinted from AFMS Newsletter- November 2012

This is a summary of the Safety presentation provided at the 2012 SCFMS Editor's Breakfast in Jasper, TX.

My presentation to the group started with a "safety moment." Hurricane Isaac was moving into the Gulf of Mexico and we did not know at that time where it would hit or what kind of damage it might cause. As a group we discussed "gassing up," evacuation plans, evacuation lists, "stay" lists and the potential impact on phones, water, electricity, etc.

www.ready.gov/ is a valuable resource to help people addressing preparing for a hurricane.

My follow up discussion was on Hazard Recognition. As a safety professional I work every day with my staff and our field managers on how they and their field personnel identify hazards in our work environment. The goal is to help them identify hazards and then eliminate or control them. In my company we use a document called an FLRA or Field Level Risk Assessment.

The FLRA is designed to improve our behaviors and capability to recognize potential dangers It does so by using this process when something is new or changes in our work environment:

STOP-OBSERVE-IDENTIFY-CORRECT-RESUME.

This is not designed to be a paperwork drill, but is designed to be a tool that helps us improve our hazard recognition skills.

SOOOO, back to a practical example of this from my personal lessons learned.

A couple of weekends ago I was out at our cabin doing some cleanup work. Part of my efforts involved a small burn pile. Another was mowing the grass. I had identified a lot of the risks and was wearing leather gloves, boots, jeans, safety glasses, and ear plugs. I had walked the area that I intended to mow, identified a couple of wasp nests to avoid, and then started up the mower. Well mowing in the summer Texas heat can be both physically and mentally exhausting, and when I got close to the fire with the mower I made sure that I was not blowing dead grass and leaves into it because I thought that could blow something away from the pit that could start an unplanned fire. At this point it should all sound like things were going along smoothly and safely. The reality however is that I did not think through the process enough to realize that mowing near the fire could cause another hazard. At some point a few burning embers had popped out of the pit and were smoldering in the grass. When I ran over them they got sucked into the blades, ejected at high-speed and thrown into the air. The result was that a burning ember landed squarely on the crown of my head. I didn't of course realize this fact until the burning and stinging started (pat pat pat panic panic panic)! Luckily it was small and I got it off my head quickly. It only led to a very minor blister on my head. Hopefully the hair will grow back- I do not need to lose any more!

The moral of the story is two-fold. First although I did stop to consider the hazards and thought I had them covered I did miss something- my hat! Secondly with a little mental exhaustion going on I missed the fact that it just was NOT a good idea to mow near a live fire. Seems pretty obvious now though.

Please take the time to address hazards in places like your kitchen (under the sink), garages, bathrooms, laundry rooms, workshops and club houses. And when you identify a hazard please try to correct the

Continued on page 15

Presidents Message...Continued from page 1

good appetites, so this should be a great time for fellowship and rock collecting stories. If you have a specimen you collected and would like to show it off at the meeting, you are encouraged to bring it along. Remember there will also be a Dirty Santa gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped or gift bagged present (\$10-\$15) of a rock related item, mineral, crystal, hammer, gloves etc. All gifts will be placed on a table with numbers drawn for a gift opening order. If you don't like the gift you opened it may be exchanged for one opened by another person with a lower number and so on. If you don't like the idea of exchanging your gift for another, don't play. We do have a lot of fun with this, I hope you can join us. That's all for now, I hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner December 19th.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

Safety Note... *Continued from page 14*

problem or notify those around you that there is something for them to watch out for. We're all in this together so let's stay safe.

To wrap this up I wanted to provide some additional information on Hurricane Isaac. By all accounts this hurricane looked to be a small one with low winds that should have lost its punch shortly after making landfall. In reality the storm moved slowly ashore and ended up raining as much as 24 inches or more in many areas in the direct path. This led to extensive flooding and loss of utilities that affected tens of thousands of people. Many of these people had good plans in place and weathered the storm well. The ones who did not we unfortunately saw interviewed on the NEWS way too many times.

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS... *Continued from page 6*

trip meeting with that and the appropriate of membership dues. Cheap at twice the price. You'll be good to go.

Be reminded that the trip coordinator is generally due the deference normally accorded to an Ottoman Plutocrat. Full bowing and dipping of fezes. Fezzi? Fezzes?

Genuflecting is optional though greatly encouraged. And no ring kissing this time. Frankly, I think that's just weird.

Directions (to Vulcan):

From Interstate 66 & Virginia 234 (bypass, not business. The bypass is 3 to 4 miles *west* of the business exits.)

1. Head west on Exit 44 0.9 mi
2. Merge onto Prince William Pkwy/VA-234 S 2.7 mi
3. Turn left at Wellington Rd 0.5 mi
4. Turn left at Vulcan Ln

The destination will be on the right just passed the gate 0.1 mi
8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

What you MUST Bring:

Steel-toed Boots – *appropriate, explicitly called for and compulsory:* Though your toes are likely aberrant, abnormal or even astonishing, it is likely that you're attached to them.

Safety Helmet – *demand, essential and imperative:* The contents of your head may well be bizarre, eccentric or just peculiar, but without them you're just not you.

Safety Goggles – *indispensable, mandatory and obligatory:* Eyes have been called “windows on the soul”. While this may tend to violate your personal privacy it's probable that you still crave, fancy and/or yearn to retain them.

Heavy Work Gloves – *Prerequisite, unavoidable and vital:* Objectively, fingers can easily be seen as anomalous, curious and, yes, even deviate appendages. This, however, does not detract from their inherent power as fashion statements.

What you Probably Should, if you think about it, Bring: *Continued on back cover*



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 on page 8



UP COMING FIELD TRIPS... *Continued from page 15:*



Tools - a goodly idea. Rock Chisels, Small Rock Hammers, Large Sledge Hammers, Geologists Picks, Pry Bars and Sticky Wickets. No “Claw” or “Carpenters” hammers as the often explode on impact, really and actually. Not fun. Tools suitable for the delicate art of rock smashing are normally made of soft steel, not tool grade hardened steel.

Specimen Protection - Heavy Plastic Containers (for gargantuan, monstrous and otherwise voluminous specimens), Egg Cartons (for diminutive, tiny and wee specimens).

Other Useful Stuff - First Aid Kits, Snacks, Water, Plastic Sheeting (to protect the interior of your car) and glass beads to trade with the mole people. They also take Visa, MasterCard and Amex, but not Discover – as that upsets them to the point of insurrection.

Clothes – This means you, Deepak.



Special Note: Due to the current economic situation, little blasting has been done at the quarry recently. Therefore, pickins may be slim. See? Full disclosure.

Lastly:



Due to the vagaries of weather, politics and my personal whims, the event may be canceled at any moment. If there is any question as to whether the trip will come off or if you simply want to go on the trip contact me at jtcarve@msn.com or [703.754.2050](tel:703.754.2050) or [571.344.4958](tel:571.344.4958) and enjoy my humorous/deeply annoying answering machine message.