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Mineral Society of
Lynchburg, VA, Inc
WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Presidents Message

Hello to All,

At our June 19th meeting I talked about being contacted by students from the College of New Jersey about a seismic study on how the Appalachian Mountains are affected by earth quakes. I received an E-mail from Mary DeViney about how her Charlottesville area location may be a site for a seismometer installation for the next few years, I can't wait to hear if this will be a reality. I also gave the contact information to Dr. Steve Lenhart of Radford University, for a possible seismic site, but we have no word on this yet. I hope participants will keep us up to date on what is happening.

At the Uncle Billy's Day Festival, which turned out to be a great weekend, the Club was contacted by the Jefferson Choral Society inviting us to

participate as a vendor in their gigantic Holiday Bazaar at the #715 Moose Lodge in Lynchburg on November 23rd.

The booth spaces are 8' tables for \$40.00 each and we will be able to display and sell all items made by the GMSL. We will have to set up by Friday the 22nd and sell on Saturday Nov 23rd from 8 AM to 4 PM. We will discuss this at the July 17th meeting to see if there is any interest from the Club. I feel it is a great opportunity to get exposure to a different group from our other festivals.

Nona & I mailed a box of some 16 Lbs. of minerals and crystals from our collection to Richard & Donna Jarboe as material for a rock swap with them in Oklahoma. We hope to get some good specimens from the western U.S. We will show them at the next meeting after receiving them.

Last week Nona & I started sawing on some of the
Continued on page 7

From the First VP:

Dr. Steve Lenhart has visited Hawaii this Spring exploring things geological there. And he will let us in on his findings with a presentation entitled "Treasures of my Hawaiian Visit" at our July meeting. He must have unearthed some pretty exciting stones.

Speaking of stones, here's a piece discussing some of the most famous well known ones. Have you seen any of these in person? I've always wanted to kiss the Blarney Stone, how about you?

Now Let Us Praise Famous Stones

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



Plymouth Rock looks better on this commemorative plate than in reality. *Photo (c) Andrew Alden, licensed to About.com*
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June Meeting Minutes

Meeting-Wednesday June 19th, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Attendance- 32 members and 4 guests

Host-Jack Curtin was the host tonight, and Bill and Sandy Speck will host the July Meeting

On Time Drawing- Winners were: Frank Midkiff, Nona Haskins, Tom Powers, Jean Midkiff, Dr. Lenhart, Greg Lester, Judy Browning, Tim Godbey (student), Julie Leyzorek-Hare, Dave Callahan, Dave Wooley, John Haskins, Warren Darling, Sandy Speck, and Bernard's son John, girlfriend Melissa and granddaughter Mia.

Old Business- John Haskins: none.

V.P.- Jack Curtin: Announced Dr. Lenhart will present "Treasures from Hawaii" at the July meeting.

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: upcoming field trips: 7/27: Enterprise Mine; 7/26- 7/28: Franklin, NC; 7/28: DMC Trip to Summerfield GA for Agates; 8/2-4: Spruce Pine NC; 9/21 or 9/28: Willis Mountain; 10/19 & 20: Apple Festival at Amherst County HS. November- Thanksgiving

Weekend will be the Roanoke Club Show. Center in the Square – Roanoke is asking club members for rocks on loan for the Mineral Museum as they are sending the current loaner rocks back to Texas. Anyone interested please see Dave for details. There will be an order placed for T-shirts within the next month or two, please see Dave for order forms.

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$8083.01. Total from Uncle Billy's Day was \$995.00

New Business: John received email from a group (The College of New Jersey) asking for help in conducting a geological experiment "Magic" earth scope programs web page <http://www.popsci.com> He also received a request from a couple in Oklahoma wanting some Virginia rocks. They are no longer able to go on field trips due to health. John will email asking if they would like to trade some of their rocks for Virginia specimens.

Program: Jack led a game about mineral identification.

Minutes Submitted By:
Linda Noble, Secretary

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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

From the First VP:... continued from pg 1

"Certain stones started out as dumb common boulders, like all the rest. But one day they got a lucky break, and now they're genuine rock stars. Here's a few of them.

Family pride leads me to start with **Plymouth Rock**, that sturdy icon of American strength and faith. It's a chunk of Dedham Granodiorite that, the legend goes, was sitting where John Alden of the Plymouth Colony first stepped on American soil in 1620. That great man is my ancestor 13 generations back, but I didn't learn this legend in my father's lap; instead I read about it on some Web site. And the legend isn't actually true either. In fact Plymouth Rock is a fraction of its old self, having suffered many indignities [during its up-and-down history](#).

I prefer the idealized image of the rock in its better days, as shown on a souvenir plate from the John Alden Shop in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Surely no humbler-looking object has ever been depicted by the porcelain artists at Jonroth & Co., England, unless they made a plate to commemorate mashed potatoes (which would be a good idea). [See it here](#).

Somewhat more exalted, if only in being higher off the ground, is the **Blarney Stone**, set in the [battlement of Blarney Castle](#) in Cork, Ireland. Kissing the stone gives you the gift of persuasive speech. Legend has it that this boulder is half of the Stone of Scone, awarded to the great Cormac McCarthy for supporting Robert the Bruce in the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

For our June Program, Jack led a game on Mineral Identification. For July, Dr. Steve Lenhart will give a program on Treasures from Hawaii. Please join us on July 17th, at 7:00 PM.

A geologist recorded his judgment that the Blarney Stone is the same stuff as the rest of the castle, which is made of local limestone (a lower Carboniferous biomicrite, to be more precise). I swear it's true, but the last time I checked the Web page documenting that, it had mysteriously vanished—something that almost never happens! Was the geologist himself talking blarney? I'm not sure, because another legend has it that the true Blarney Stone was taken away, which means the geologist was looking at a sham stone.

The **Stone of Scone** itself is the rock upon which the kings of Scotland were crowned, and the Scots know it as the Stone of Destiny. The English took it in 1296 when they conquered Scotland and had the stone built into the royal coronation chair to keep the tradition alive. (The stone was returned in 1996, but can be taken back whenever it's time to crown a new monarch.) You see already that if the English took it in 1296, then Robert the Bruce could not have split it with Cormac McCarthy in 1314.

The Stone of Destiny is a [block of yellowish sandstone](#) of uncertain origin. Legend traces it to ancient times as the very stone upon which Jacob laid his head in Genesis chapter 28, and thus it is a solid symbol of the Promised Land. But a legend says the stone the English took in 1296 [was a fake!](#) That would solve the discrepancy with the Blarney Stone—if we assume *that* one is also a fake.

Perhaps the most exalted rock in every sense is the **Black Stone of the Kaaba**, a [dark boulder set in silver](#) on the wall of

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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 dbc11@aol.com

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH 2013

9AM to 1PM

**THE ENTERPRISE MANGANESE MINES
 Near Beckham, Appomattox, County, VA.**

Sign-up required---call me---email me or sign-up at the meeting

MEETING PLACE & TIME: We will meet at Templeton's Market and Shell Station, 4928 Richmond Highway, Lynchburg, VA. That is on US 440 East, very near the eastern Lynchburg City limits. This will be before you come to the US 29 North bypass exit. From Roanoke, drive to Lynchburg on US 460E. Continue on around the city like you are going to Appomattox. Templeton's is a couple of miles past the US 501 South interchange.

We will all assemble beside the market toward the rear and behind the gas pumps. Please do not block the pumps or store access. This is a good place to gas up and grab a bite to eat. We will DEPART FROM HERE PROMPTLY AT 8:30 AM. So be on time or be left behind.

THE TRIP: We will be collecting manganese minerals at the old Enterprise Mines located on the property of the Rockcliffe Farm Retreat, 816 Walker's Ford Road, Concord, VA (check this out on Google Maps) Go by the direction below. **DO NOT FOLLOW YOUR GPS!** It will take you to the wrong location.

The Enterprise Mines are a group of 5 mines located on a line about two miles long. We have permission to collect in the Nutall #2 and perhaps the Nutall #3.

The Nutall #1 and #4 are at opposite ends of the trend. The Button mine is on another property across the highway.

COLLECTING: The nodular manganese ores and brown manganiferous chert were found associated with quartzite in the Beckham and Gowans Hill area on the Nutall and Button estates. Records indicate that little serious mining was conducted prior to 1953.

www.mindat.org and Minerals of Virginia, lists the major manganese ores as cryptomelane, (brown, greyish-white with an earthy luster and 5 to 6.5 hardness) a hard compact, finely crystalline magnesium oxide. Much of the psilomelane reported here may be cryptomelane, indistinguishable except by lab tests.

Also manganite (black to dark gray, metallic, 4 hardness, dark brown to black streak and heavy). You may find some small beautiful crystals.

Search the dump piles in the woods and surrounding area for nice botryoidal specimens of the manganese ores and nice small quartz crystals in the quartzsite. Also observe but do not touch the old mining equipment still in the area. Be well aware of where you put your hands and feet. There will be poison ivy and possibly other critters you may encounter.

DIRECTIONS: From Lynchburg, Roanoke, etc. (from the west)

Get on 460, in Lynchburg heading east, towards Appomattox.

Meet at Templeton's Market and Shell Station (see directions above)

Field Trip Report...*Continued from page 4*

We will leave as a group at 8:30AM, following these directions below. If you come from other areas, go to www.rockcliffefarm.com and download directions. We will gather at the farm entrance on Rt. 623 around 9AM. Do not park on Rt. 623 but inside the property along the driveway. Do not block the drive or any other cars.

Directions from Templeton's Market :

Exit at Mt. Athos Road, just after Moore's Country Store, a few miles east of Lynchburg.

Go .4 mi. on Mt. Athos Road, then Right on SR 609, Stage Road.

Go 3.3 mi. on Stage Road, then Left on SR 611, Paradise Hill Road.

Go 6.6 mi. on Paradise Hill Road, going past Herndon's Store (on left), then bear Left on SR 667, Tin Top Road.

Go .9 mi. on Tin Top Road, then Right at stop sign onto SR 605, Beckham Road.

Go 1.6 mi. on Beckham Road, then Left on SR 623, Walkers Ford Road

ONCE ON WALKERS FORD ROAD

Go 3/4 mile, then Right at the "Rockcliffe Farm" sign, 816 Walker's Ford Road,

Park after you get inside driveway, not on Rt 623. For additional space go left UP the hill. LOTS of parking at the top of the hill.

We will all gather at the farm entrance off Rt. 623 when we arrive about 9AM. Do not park on Rt. 623 but inside the property along the driveway. Do not block the drive or any other cars.

Club members (John Haskins and Thom Noble) will direct the parking and determine which vehicles will be used to transport people up and down the hill. As soon as we arrive, I will drive down to the mine to determine the road conditions. Wait for me to return before we drive down as a group.

The road to the mine may very well be muddy and we have been requested to leave all but maybe six 4 wheel drive trucks or SUV to drive down and transport the people down and back that choose not to walk. It in maybe a 1/2 mile walk to the mining area with no really good place to turn around. We must not cause damage to the road and the hill going up to the mine area can be quite slick and rutted.

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: No hard hat will be required but good boots will be needed because of the terrain. Bring buckets and or collecting bags. Manganese is heavy so come prepared. A hoe or something to turn rocks and scratch thru the leaf matter on the spoil piles will be helpful. Hammers and a chisel will be needed to break open the larger pieces. Being a loop to observe the many small crystals in the manganite and quartzsite. Bring lots of water, snacks and bug spray. There are no facilities in the area so come prepared. You can depart at any time you like, just be sure to let me know if you leave early. Please leave no trash, do not under cut trees or their roots. Fill in any holes you dig. Please respect the property and keep it cleaner than we find it.

OTHER THINGS OF INTEREST: Be sure to check out the Retreat's web site www.rockcliffefarm.com. They offer a great variety of activities such as Lodging, fishing, canoeing, hiking and nature walks and much more. They have been very gracious to share this part of their property with our group on this day.

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Upcoming Events

JULY 2013

Sept. 18-22- AFMS/ SFMS Annual Meeting Jacksonville, FL

www.jaxgemandmineral.org/

Sept. 28-29- 49th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

Oct. 25-27- Treasures of the Earth Gem and Mineral Show and Sale, Harrisonburg, VA - www.toteshows.com for details.

Nov. 2-3- 44th annual Gemarama 2013: "Shades of Red"- sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. The School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30, 1/2 mile west of Frazer Rte.30 exit off Rte. 202, Exton, PA.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1- Roanoke Club Annual Gem and Mineral Show and Sale, including the ever popular fluorescent mineral display hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. More info will be available at up coming meetings.

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|------|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>Meeting 7:00 PM</i> | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

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.



From the First VP...continued from pg. 3

Islam's central shrine, the Kaaba, in Mecca. It marks the starting point of the walk around the Kaaba at the heart of the holy pilgrimage called the hajj. [Islamic experts make it clear](#) that the Black Stone is not holy in itself. For instance, the Black Stone was once taken away for many years, and the hajj was not affected. (Perhaps the royals of the British Isles could learn from this.)

The Black Stone has its own story, a good one. It is said that when the patriarchs Abraham and Ishmael were building the Kaaba, the stone was delivered to them by the archangel Michael. That story is consistent with the Black Stone being a meteorite, and indeed meteorites have been prized and revered by many different peoples around the world. But I wouldn't ask any Muslim, even a geologist, to waste one second of their hajj examining the stone to satisfy my curiosity.

Scientists too have given names to stones—even geologists, who you think might know better. For example there are the rocks on Mars, sitting around the landers. But my favorite example is the roster of 162 [sliding rocks of Racetrack Playa](#), in the California desert. Each one is being mapped with GPS technology by geologist Paula Messina of San Jose State University, and each of them bears a

woman's name. In fact each stone has its—I mean, *her* own Web site, and if that's not fame I don't know what is.

Every year the stones are found sitting on the vast dry lake bed, but not in the same position. Behind each one is a shallow track in the cracked playa mud, proof that some rare combination of wind, water and physics animates them when no one is there to see. That's no legend . . . merely a mystery. (But just in case you're keeping up, [here's the latest and most plausible explanation.](#))

PS: The Japanese created an art form out of stones: suiseki. The idea is to find natural stones that reproduce things like mountains, but on a desktop scale. Suiseki stones aren't famous but they are beautiful, and sometimes quite valuable. [See some examples of this Earth art.](#) "

So rocks not only can be precious, but they can have historical value and be quite famous. Till next time,

Happy Hunting,

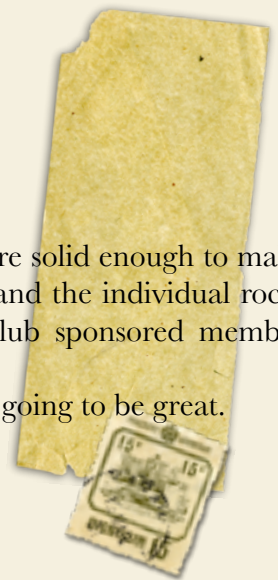
Jack Curtin

Presidents Message...continued from page 1

breccia rocks collected close to Lynchburg and found them to be beautiful. The rocks are solid enough to make candles & clock slabs as well as bookend material. So far the slabs have been colorful and the individual rocks make a very interesting showing. I hope members will come out to the July 13 Club sponsored member workshop and get a first hand look at the new material.

That's all for now, I hope to see you at the July 17th Club meeting, I hear the program is going to be great.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins



Field Trip Report *...continued from page 5*

If you are interested in any of the activities offered here, please contact Joan or Hugh directly thru their web site to arrange your own visit.

**ANNUAL FIELD TRIP to FRANKLIN, NC.
July 26th thru July 28th, 2013
Official mineral collecting field trip for**

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg,
VA. Inc
&
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society,
Inc.**

***You must contact me by phone, email or sign-up at the July meeting.
Do not delay!!!
David Callahan...
540-297-1853....dbc11@aol.com.***

(This will be a go-on-your-own trip)

Location: The Franklin, North Carolina corundum and garnet mining area.

Date: July 26 thru 28, 2011 (also show dates)

Trip Leader: Royce Wickham, Roanoke Club President (his cell number is [1-540-728-1831](tel:1-540-728-1831) but service may be weak. Royce will drive down on Friday July 26, collect Saturday and return home on Sunday, July 28, 2013.

To date we have only 7 signed up to attend (Royce W, Dwight C, Dewitt S, Judy B, Donna B, Sherry S and David D, all but Royce, Dwight and Dewitt are from the Lynchburg Club)

If you intend to go and have not signed up, please let me know so I can add you to the list. It's important for Royce to know who to expect and who to go and search for.

Meeting time & place: 7:30 to 8:00 AM, July 27th at the intersection of FR 71 & US 64 (**do not be late**)

You can Google this location by entering Franklin, NC. and follow US 64 W about 12 to 15 miles until you see Deep Gap Road on the left. This should be FR 71. There is a sign there that will say FR 71 and there will be a parking area at the intersection. Wait here for Royce. He will arrive about 7:30 and leave promptly at 8:00. If you have trouble, please try to call him on his cell ([1-540-728-1831](tel:1-540-728-1831))

The Trip: To Corundum Knob, Chunky Gal Mountain until noon. Bring a lunch and the rest of the day at Buck Creek for almandine garnets. Also you can pan for gold and small garnets so bring your screens and gold panning tools.

Equipment: Crack hammer (mini sledge) rock pick, chisels, Hoe for digging and turning rocks, bags and buckets, gold pan, screen, shovel and baggies or vials, boots or wade in the creek, bug spray, food and lots of water. There are no facilities here so be prepared. Wear good strong boots for hiking in the woods. I would also suggest long pants. Always be on alert for the creatures and varmints that inhabit our National Forests. Always watch where you put your hands and feet.

Lodging: Camping sites are available for RVs, individuals and groups at the Standing Indian Campground where Royce and Dwight will be staying. There is also the Kimsey Campground very near-by. There are Motels available in Franklin.

Other Events: There are many tourist gem mines with sluices along Highway 28 north and in the area with native and salted material.

There is a very nice large gem show open to the public and also strictly dealer only shows this weekend in Franklin. There is a very nice Mineral Museum in town that should also be open.

Web site: www.franklin-chamber.com

When you search, be aware there is much information out there that goes back many years. It can be difficult to distinguish the current information from years past. Be sure to check the date.

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Field Trip Report ...continued from page 8**OUR OFFICIAL 9th ANNUAL MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP AND GEM SHOW WEEKEND**

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.
and our field trip friends
Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.
(This will be a go-on-your-own trip)

56th Annual North Carolina Mineral and Gem Fest

August 1st thru August 4th, 2013
 Spruce Pine, NC.
 ---and---

The 29th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show

July 27th thru August 5th, 2013
 Spruce Pine, NC.

Sign-up required for this trip...call me...e-mail me...or see me at the meeting.

THE TRIP: You should plan to drive down no later than Friday, August 2nd and return home on Sunday, August 4th. If you want to allow extra time to see the Gem and Mineral Shows, plan on driving down on Thursday, August 1st and see the show on Friday.

LODGING: You will be responsible for your our food and lodging. Do not delay in reserving your room. There are several motels in Spruce Pine but they fill up fast. Marion, NC is 20 or so miles to the south at I-40

If you would like to camp, the near-by Bear Den Campground is a great place. Go to [www.bear-](http://www.bear-den.com)

[den.com](http://www.bear-den.com) and make your own reservations. We will not try to reserve the group camp site this year due to lack of sufficient interest. We would need at least 6 tents to justify the group site cost. Individual camp sites and cabins are available but you must make your own reservations.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Everyone will drive to Spruce Pine, NC, on your own Friday, August 2nd. If you are just interested in attending the club field trips, meet us at the Spruce Pine, NC, Wal-Mart gas pumps no later than 8:00AM, Saturday morning, August 3rd. Do not be late if you want to go with us to the Ray Mine and Sinkhole Mine. I will have maps available.

The distance from Lynchburg, VA, to Spruce Pine, NC, is about 250 miles and will take about 5 hours plus stops. The distance from Roanoke is a little less depending on the route you take. The best route is I-40 west to Marion, NC, exit 86 and Rt. 221/ Rt. 226 north about 10 miles to Woodlawn. Rt. 226 turns left here and right in about 1 mile (Rt. 226A goes straight). Follow Rt. 226 up the mountain and turn right at the top. The B.R. Parkway entrance is on your right. From this point, Spruce Pine is a couple of miles straight ahead and the Bear Den campground is about 6 miles north on the Parkway at milepost 328.8 on the right. Look for a very small sign just before a closing gate.

Chamber of Commerce Mine Tours: The Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce may be offering mine tours this season but to date, there is nothing posted on their web site. www.ncgemfest.com Please contact them yourself if you are interested in attending these trips, usually on Friday and Saturday. There are many other area attractions going on so there will be a lot to see in the area.

Reservations are required for the mine tours. Call the Chamber of Commerce at [828-765-9033](tel:828-765-9033) for reservations and information as space is usually limited. They always charge a nominal fee for these trips. *Continued on page 10*

Field Trip Report ...continued from page 9

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday morning, August 3rd we will depart at 8:00 AM from the Spruce Pine Wal-Mart parking lot by the gas pumps. Wal-Mart is located off Rt. 226 in the Grassy Creek area. I will have maps available for the Ray and Sinkhole Mines. If you are familiar with the area, you may choose to visit the Sinkhole first before things heat up. Then come to the Ray. This would also relieve the limited parking situation at the Sinkhole.

Our first stop will be the Ray Mine in Burnsville and hopefully find some nice beryl, tourmaline, apatite, garnet, mica, feldspar, columbite - tantalite, and other minerals. The landowner, where we will park for the Ray Mine, did charge about 2 or 3 dollars to park along the left side of the roadway and in designated places near his yard. The current fees are posted on the box. Do not block any driveways or roads or park in people's yard. Be sure to have the correct amount of currency. There is a **honor system** parking fee collecting mail box near his house. The fees are per car, not per person. There is space for 3 or 4 cars in a free parking area provided by the Forest Service. You may use this if there is available space. Do not block anyone.

There is a rather steep foot trail to the mine. The walk is about 20 minutes, but the potential for some nice beryl crystals makes it worthwhile. No special equipment except hard work is required. Just wear comfortable clothes, comfortable hat, good strong boots, bring snacks, water, bug spray, backpack and / or buckets, hammer, chisel, safety glasses, and wrapping paper to protect any nice crystals you will find. I usually take a hoe to turn over rocks and scrape away the soil. If you dig in the dirt, a hoe or a small shovel will come in handy.

YOU MAY NOT COLLECT IN THE CREEK OR DISTURB THE CREEK IN ANY WAY. IF YOU DO, WE MAY LOSE ALL OUR

COLLECTING PRIVILEGES AT THIS SITE. THIS IS A NEW FOREST SERVICE REGULATION.

If you plan to spend the day there, be sure to bring food, bug spray and water. You can stay as long as you want and leave any time. Some people will choose to spend the day collecting at the Ray Mine and others will leave for the Sinkhole. There is very limited parking at the Sinkhole so it is best that we all don't try to go at one time. We will not to leave as a group, everyone will be on their own.

After you leave the Ray Mine, you can stop at a fast food in Burnsville and then visit the Sinkhole Mine in Bandana, NC. You should be able to park close to the dump. Here you may find apatite, mica, feldspar, garnet, thulite and smokey quartz. If you like beautiful yard rocks, this is the place to go. The same tools you use at the Ray Mine can be used here.

SPECIAL NOTE: It **ALWAYS** rains at some point during this Gem show weekend so bring your rain gear. Sunday morning, on the way home, you might want to stop by the Thermal City Gold Mine just south of Marion, NC, on Rt. 221 and do some gold panning. There will be some vendors still set up at Grassy Creek so you might find some great mineral and fossil specials.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field trip Chairman, The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Inc. and The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc. Home Phone [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853), email at dbcall1@aol.com. Cell [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201) Leave a message if I don't answer.

Club Tee Shirts will be ordered after our July 17th meeting. If you would like to order one, please sign up or let me know by phone or e-mail the size and color.

Diamonds in the United States

From Geology.com by Hobart King

In 2010 consumers in the United States spent about \$19 billion on gemstones. Of that amount \$18 billion was spent on diamonds and less than \$1 billion was spent on colored stones. Diamonds are the most popular gemstones with US consumers by a wide margin.

Crater of Diamonds- The only active U. S. Mine

Although millions of carats of diamonds are consumed each year in the United States, only a few hundred carats are domestically produced. The only active diamond mine in the country is the Crater of Diamonds Mine near Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas. There, recreational prospectors have been finding a few hundred carats of diamonds per year since the early 1970's. Most of the stones are white, yellow and brown in color but a wide range of diamond colors has been found at the mine.

The mine is a dig-for-fee operation maintained by the Crater of Diamonds State Park. The diamonds are hosted in a lamporite breccia tuff and its overlying soil. Collectors pay a fee of a few dollars per day to prospect and can keep any diamonds that they find. This is the only diamond mine in the world that is open to the public. Crater of diamonds has produced several significant finds. These include:

The "Strawn-Wagner Diamond"- This diamond was found at the park as a 3.03 carat rough stone in 1990 by Shirley Strawn. In 1997 it was cut to yield a 1.09 carat "round Brilliant" stone that received a perfect grading of 0/0/0 from the American Gem Society. It stands as the most perfect diamond the American Gem Society has ever certified.

The "Uncle Sam Diamond"- This 40.23 carat white diamond that stands as the largest diamond ever found in North America. It was found at the Crater of Diamonds in 1924 before the property was opened as a State Park.

The Kahn Canary Diamond - This 4.25 carat, canary-color diamond with a perfect dodecahedral pillow shape was found in 1977 by George Stepp. Stan Kahn purchased the diamond from Stepp and did not have it cut because even in its rough shape it is an especially beautiful gem. Kahn has shared the stone with the public by loaning it to museums around the world for temporary display.

Kelsey Lake Mine- At present, there are no commercial diamonds operating in the United States. The only mine that has ever operated commercially was the Kelsey Lake Diamond Mine, located near Fort Collins, Colorado on the state boundary between Colorado and Wyoming. Kelsey Lake was opened as a commercial diamond mine by Redaurum Limited in 1996. Great Western Diamond Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of McKenzie Bay International Limited, purchased the property in 2000 and operated the mine until 2002. It was closed due to legal problems rather than a lack of diamonds.

Most of the diamonds produced at the Kelsey Lake Mine were clear, gem-quality stones and almost one-third of the stones were one carat or larger in size. When the mine closed there was an identified resource of 17 million tons of ore with an average grade of 4 carats per hundred tons. In 2003 the United States Geological Survey reported that the most valuable stones produced from the Kelsey Lake Mine were valued at \$89,000 and \$300,000.

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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



Welcome *New Members:*



Sarah
Fredericksen
from Forest
VA

Patrick
Wynnyk of
Lynchburg,
VA