



Gem & mineral journal

The Monthly Publication of
The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC

JANUARY 2012 ~ VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1

Presidents Message:

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

It may sound like I repeat myself but 2011 was another great year for the GMSL. We did manage several field trips despite the new MSHA rules & regulations. Also there were a number of good programs for the Society meetings, and we had two very successful festival events. After many years with the workshops at Dave Woolley's house, we miss you Dave, we have set up a very impressive assortment of lapidary equipment at Dave Callahan's house. There were a lot of members that took advantage of using this equipment for their own projects as well as preparing items for the Club to sell at the festivals. I hope in the coming year more of you will take advantage of all the machines we have available. If you don't know how to use something there will be someone on hand at the monthly workshops to give you a lesson. Lapidary work is not that hard, there were several

new members that turned out some fine items this past year that had no previous experience. I hope you will come out and join the fun.

I would like to thank all of the Club Officers for a job well done this past year, and congratulate everyone for being elected again for the year 2012. I feel we have done a good job in the past but I would like to see some fresh ideas this year. Speaking of new ideas the Club is looking for a radial arm type diamond bladed brick and tile saw. If you know of anyone that has a used one at a fair price please let one of the officers know. The plan is to use it to make a new item to sell at our festivals. To find out what it is come to a spring workshop, dates to be announced later in the winter.

Field trips are hard to have during the winter months but Dave Callahan has a good one planned for JMU on January 21st. *Continued on page 15*

First VP:

Happy New Year to all, and may you find just what you're looking on our 2012 field trips!

Perhaps a new or improved magnifier will help. If Santa hasn't gifted you with one this Christmas you might want to look into upgrading or replacing your present magnifier. Andrew Alden, an About.com Guide, has just the advice and information you will need to make a magnifier selection. Lets take a look then, shall we?

Before You Buy a Magnifier

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

After you get a rock hammer, you'll need a magnifier. The big Sherlock Holmes type lens is a cliché; instead you want a lightweight, powerful magnifier (also called a loupe) that has impeccable optics and is easy to use. Get the best magnifier for demanding jobs like inspecting gems; in the field, for quick looks at minerals, buy a decent magnifier you can afford to lose.

Continued on page 7

2012 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

(434) 525-8430

JMhaskins1@netzero.net**First Vice President****Jack Curtin**

(434) 384 -6249

jacwcurtin@gmail.com**David Callahan****Second Vice President**

(540) 297-1853

DBCALLI@aol.com**Secretary****Brenda Glass**

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(434) 941-1899

gmsleditor@comcast.net**Frank Midkiff- Treasurer**

(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**- Daryl Grant**Membership**- Ralph Torning

December Meeting Minutes

Meeting: December 21st, 2011**Attendance:** 29 members and 1 guest**Hospitality:** Hosts for this evening were Cindy Shield and David Demas, and January's host will be Bernard Rivera.**Old Business: Slate of officers:**

President: John Haskins, 1st VP- Jack Curtin; 2nd VP- David Callahan; Secretary- Brenda Glass; Treasurer- Franklin Midkiff; Newsletter Editor- Natalie Darling; Members at Large- Bernard Rivera and Tony Shields. Vote was taken and all nominations approved. Installation of Officers will be held in January. This concluded the business section of our meeting since this time was allocated for our annual holiday covered dish dinner. There was a silent auction and specimens for sale from the collection of Dave Callahan. There were also specimens from the Piney River Boxley Quarry on display.

2nd VP- Dave Callahan-

Field Trips/ Activities: 1/7/12: DMC trip to Fort Drum, FL.; 1/21/12: JMU field trip, sign up

sheet for those interested. There will be specimens for sale for those interested.

Hard Hat inspection- Hardhats have an expiration date on them, so check your hats and replace if needed. The Federal government is monitoring this when visiting quarries. (See full article in last month's newsletter.)

If you ordered a T-shirt, please settle up with Dave Callahan.

Treasurers Report: Balance at this time is \$9,035.01.

Those who brought a gift played dirty Santa game, and a fabulous feast was enjoyed by all.

Minutes submitted by:
Brenda Glass

Happy New Year

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

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,
From 7:00pm– 9:00pm
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501
Public is invited, Please join us!

PROGRAMS

Rock Raiders- We will be introducing a new Rock Raiders Program beginning at our January meeting. This month we will focus on "Sharks Teeth." We hope to see many excited Rock Raiders, eager to explore and learn!

For December we enjoyed our annual holiday covered dish dinner and Dirty Santa Rock Swap game.

We will start out 2012 at our January meeting, Wednesday January 18th, 2012, with a short information presentation on Wildacres, A fabulous opportunity offered by the Eastern Federation. If you have questions or have been considering attending, this is a good opportunity to talk with members who have attended, as well as viewing some of the finished pieces they created. This will be followed by a video for all to enjoy.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench_Tips/
Or facebook.com/Bench_Tips*

SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

put your thumb lightly onto the outer-toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in your Foredom, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft. Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws,





Contact Information for Field Trips:

David Callahan,
Field Trip Chairman
Home phone 540-297-1853----
Cell phone----540-874-520----
E-mail dbcalls@aol.com

**December 10, 2011 Field Trip report
for the Boxley, Piney River Quarry**

This Saturday morning was clear, cold and brisk. The turnout was light as not many members signed up.

Never the less, the 14 that were there were treated to some great and unusual finds. On this trip, we found a lot of rutile, ilmenite and blue quartz, mixed in with the white and gray aplite feldspar. We did not find much pyrrhotite this time but instead, pyrite, chalcopyrite and several forms of muscovite mica. We also discovered several zeolites, yet to be identified and a very unusual pink mineral, possibly thulite. It appears that the direction they are mining will lead to additional interesting mineralization in the future.

We will try to schedule another trip in the spring. If you missed this one, you will have another chance. Hopefully the diverse mineralization will continue to improve.

This is the only Boxley quarry in our area that we have been invited to schedule a field trip. This quarry is not very deep and we have a large collecting area in the bottom, well away from all high walls and hazardous benches. All the other quarries are considered unsafe for the public due to the extreme depths, high and unstable high walls and narrow benches. The Federal and State mine inspectors have really tightened up on their inspections and rule interpretations, so for our safety and the management's piece of mind, the public will not be allowed to enter at this time.

**2011 OFFICIAL SCHEDULED
COMBINED CLUB FIELD TRIPS**

**Organized by 2nd VA David Callahan
The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.**

January 22nd...James Madison University...35 attending

February 19th...Bus trip to caverns. Cancelled due to lack of interest.

March 26th...American Rutile Quarry...About 20 attending.

April 23rd...Glendon NC...SFMS field trip...About 10 attending.

May 21st...Faber Mine...About 15 attending.

June...No scheduled field trip.

July 16th...U.S. Silica Quarry...6 attending.

July 29th thru 31st...Franklin, NC....8 attending.

August 5TH thru 5th...Spruce Pine, NC...8 attending.

September 24th...Kyanite Mining, Willis Mt....76 attending. (Including 4 area clubs)

October...No scheduled field trip.

November 19th...Vulcan, Manassas Quarry...6 attending.

November 25th thru 27th...Salem Show...about 10 working the fluorescent booth.

December 10th...Piney River Quarry...14 attending.

Each month, there was a Dixie Mineral Council field trip available and several members did attend. Our other area clubs extended an invitation for us to join them on their field trips and several members did attend. These were all go-on-your-own trips so I have no accurate record of how many members actually attended these trips.

Wildacres Spring Classes- April 10-15, 2012- Speaker in Residence- Jeff Scovil
 Reprinted from EFMLS News, December 2011

Class & Instructor	Description
Cabochons – Basic Bernie Emery	Learn to transform a piece of rock into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. You will learn the use of the trim saw as well as basics of grinding, sanding and polishing. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Cabochons - Intermediate Bernie Emery	Learn to cut different shapes and the techniques needed to do so. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Slabs are provided or students may use their own with approval of the instructor. Please bring an apron and safety glasses. Prerequisite: Students must have prior experience with cabbing and use of the trim saw. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Copper Etching Pat Baker	Students will learn to texture copper by etching, using several methods as a resist. This process can result in a very precise design on the metal. We will use riveting and soldering to make 2 or more finished pieces, which can include a ring, pendant, bracelet or necklace. No experience required although those with soldering experience can make more advanced projects. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Enameling - Beginning Mia Schulman	Learn how to apply powdered glass to copper and fine silver to create lovely earrings, pendants and pins. Find out about the many types of enamel and how to use them. Several techniques will be taught including: sifting, using stencils, wet packing, Sgraffito and Cloisonne. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Faceting Steve Weinberger	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an Optivisor (#7 or #9) and an apron. 4-day class. No prior experience necessary.
Glass Engraving & Etching B. Jay Bowman	Students will learn the difference between engraving and etching. They will learn how to engrave using both hand and power tools. They will learn to etch using acid and sand techniques with both commercial and self-made patterns. 2-day class offered both semesters. No prior experience necessary.
Lampwork Beads OR Loop n'Loop Pat Baker	<p>Only one of these classes will be taught. Whichever one receives the highest enrollment will be held and the other dropped.</p> <p>Lampwork Beads: An introduction to glass bead making, this class will focus on basic bead-making techniques including shapes, surface decoration (dots, latticino, frit, metal leaf), pulling stringers and making latticino. 2-day class offered 2nd Semester. No prior experience needed.</p> <p>Loop n'Loop: Students will learn the ancient technique of fusing fine silver jump rings and weaving them together into a chain. We will explore 2 different patters and students will finish at least one fine silver bracelet. (These beautiful designs are quite different from chainmaille). 2-day class offered 2nd Semester. No prior experience is needed.</p>
Silversmithing - Basic Richard Meszler	Have fun learning the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry. The projects will introduce you to annealing and bending/shaping/texturing metal, soldering, piercing and polishing. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Silversmithing –Intermediate Richard Meszler	Continue your education working with metals by doing a more complex project. You will learn to make a bezel and bail in which you will set a cabochon to make a pendant. Prerequisite: Basic silversmithing experience including soldering. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Wirewrapped Jewelry – Basic Jan Stephens	Students will learn the fundamentals of wire art jewelry. Students will create bracelets, rings and pendants of wire and incorporate natural stones, beads and/or faceted gems into various simple, yet elegant designs. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Wirewrapped Jewelry – Basic Plus Jan Stephens	Students will progress to somewhat more advanced, but still fairly easy to master wire jewelry techniques with additional rings, pendants and bracelets. Prerequisite: Basic wirewrapping skills. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Wildacres "Wild" Virginia Meador	Students will explore the beauty of the Wildacres area including its flora and some of its hidden secrets. Good walking shoes or boots with ankle support and rain gear are recommended. This is not a class for those having difficulty walking woodland trails and hills. 2-day class offered 1st semester. No prior experience necessary.
Roadside Geology and Photography Virginia Meador	Bring your camera and join us for a roadside tour of nearby features to study the geologic history of the Blue Ridge region with an added bonus of photo ops and tips. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.

Wildacres Fall Classes- September 3-9, 2012- Speaker in Residence- Julian Gray
Reprinted from EFMLS News, December 2011

Class & Instructor	Description
Beading - Bezeled Cabochons & More Cheryl Brown	Learn to bezel a cabochon and create a necklace using a simple spiral stitch with seed beads. If time allows we'll also learn to make earrings. Please bring an Optivisor if you have one. No prior experience is needed. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Beading – Embroidery Plus Cheryl Brown	Learn to bezel a cabochon (or reinforce skills learned in the 1st semester) and create a bead embroidery cuff bracelet using seed beads. If time allows we'll also move on to creating earrings. Please bring an Optivisor if you have one. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Cabochons - Basic Al DeMilo	Hands-on instruction will be given to show how to transform a rough piece into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. The use of a trim saw as well as techniques to grind, sand and polish the stone into a standard size and shape will be covered. Slabs will be provided, but you may use your own with instructor's approval. Students should bring safety glasses and an apron. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Cabochons - Opal Cutting Al DeMilo	To unlock the mysteries of opal cutting, students will be taught how to select rough, develop a strategy for trimming away the unusable areas, grind to a pleasing jewelry-suitable shape and then release the beauty and display of colors by the sanding and final polishing steps. How to maintain the balance between the optimum color and yield will be discussed. Students may use their own rough, approved by the instructor, or may purchase it directly from the instructor. Please bring a plastic apron, safety goggles or personal eye glasses and an Optivisor if you own one. Prerequisite: Students must have completed a basic cabochon course. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Faceting Reivan Zeleznik	Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an optivisor if they have one. Jeweler's loupe needed and will be available from the instructor for purchase. No prior experience is necessary. 4-day class.
Fused Glass - Advanced Becky Edmundson	Students will learn to use a wet saw to cut shapes, a grinder to smooth the glass, and a jeweler's bit to cut a channel in the piece before it is fire polished in a kiln. You should expect to complete a minimum of 2 pieces. Students are asked to bring safety glasses and, if you own them, a glass cutter and breaking pliers. No prior experience is necessary. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Fused Glass - Basic Becky Edmundson	Fused glass is the art of cutting and layering pieces of glass and then firing them in a kiln. Dichroic coated glass gives a 3-D look. Students will learn the basics of cutting and firing the glass and will complete at least 2 pieces of jewelry. Students are asked to bring safety glasses and, if you own them, a glass cutter and breaking pliers. No prior experience is necessary. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Gem Trees - Basic Suzie Milligan	Gem trees are a replica of a tree that is made from wire using gemstones for leaves, etc. The formed tree will be placed on a stone base. The student will learn to measure and cut the wire for their tree, how to twist the wires, how to place the tree on a selected base, and then add polished gemstones. No experience is needed. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Gem Trees - Advanced Suzie Milligan	The student will learn to form different types of trees. These may include maple, willow or pine. We will make a treeing using beads (no gluing required). Prerequisite: Basic Gem Trees. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Micromounting - Carolyn Weinberger	Micromounting is the art of preparing small mineral specimens so they can be best viewed under a microscope. You will learn the process of making 'mounts' and learn to appreciate the beauty of these tiny, often perfect specimens. Students are asked to bring a stereo microscope and illumination for same if they have one. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Pewter Fabrication Bruce Gaber	Learn to make functional and decorative objects from a wonderfully versatile metal. Pewter is easy to work and easy to solder. This allows us to make a variety of forms in a much shorter time than working in silver. Pewter finishes can range from a glossy high luster to a deep rich matte. It can be embellished by embossing and by the addition of an etch or patina. Join us as we explore this most ancient and traditional material. Modern pewter contains no lead. No prior experience needed. 4-day class.
Silversmithing - Session 1 Pat Baker	Students will learn to make a textured, sterling silver ring (band) and a textured, sterling silver pendant with a pearl in the center. No prior experience needed. 2-day class offered 1st semester.
Silversmithing - Session 2 Pat Baker	Students will learn to make a forged, twisted bar and loop sterling silver chain and have the option of a ring, pendant or brooch with a set stone as their second project. No experience required although those with soldering experience can make more advanced projects. 2-day class offered 2nd semester.
Soapstone Carving Sandy Cline	This class will provide a general introduction to the carving of soapstone. You will develop a working knowledge of the material, the tools, safe handling issues and the methods used to complete a carving. You will produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture of your choice. The development of your own personal style will be encouraged. No prior experience is needed. 2-day class offered both semesters.

2012 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: April 10 - 15: _____ September 3 - 9: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to PAMM BRYANT, Registrar at 2645 Davis Mill Rd, Goochland, VA 23063. No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2012. (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You may photocopy it as needed.) **Please write legibly!**

For Office Use Only	
ID #	_____
Date Rec'd	_____
Amt. Paid:	_____
Ck #:	_____
Amt. Paid:	_____
Ck #:	_____
Paid in Full:	_____

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for the spring session is \$350.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration.

Fee for the fall session is \$370.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration.

Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session.

No postdated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. **No refund will be made after that date.**

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes _____ No _____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes _____ No _____

Name of roommate: _____ (if none, one will be assigned).

Are you: Male _____ Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Do you have material for exhibiting that you would be willing to display at Wildacres? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes _____ No _____

Class Pre-registration.

See EFMLS Newsletter or Website for class offerings. <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>

You will either be able to take one 4-day class or two 2-day classes. **All participants must take classes.**

Which of the classes being offered would you like to take? We will be preregistering you for classes you indicate.

When a class is full NO others will be assigned to that class, and you will be assigned your next class choice(s). No class placement is guaranteed.

1st _____ 3rd _____

2nd _____ 4th _____

(No registrations accepted prior to January 1, 2012)

Mail to: Pamm Bryant, Wildacres Registrar; 2645 Davis Mill Rd; Goochland, VA 23063

If you have any questions, please contact either

Pamm Bryant, Registrar at <pjbryant6@juno.com> or 804-457-4698 or

Fran Sick, Director at <ednfran@epix.net> or 570-928-8313.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH**Molybdenite (Mos2)***By Tom Prachar,**Reprinted from PESA Rock News, November 2011*

Molybdenite is the principle ore of the metal molybdenum which is used mainly for steel alloys. The name is derived from the Greek word molybdos meaning lead, a metal for which molybdenite has often been confused with since it seldom occurs in large dominant masses or larger crystals. It looks very much like galena, the most common lead ore.

Molybdenite often forms as an accessory mineral in certain granites, pegmatites, and porphyry copper deposits. It commonly occurs in high temperature vein deposits associated with cassiterite, sheelite, wolframite, and fluorite. In contact metamorphic deposits it occurs with lime silicates, sheelite, and chalcocyanite.

Exceptionally good crystals of molybdenite are found at Kingsgate, New South Wales and in the various pegmatites of Ontario, Canada. In the United States, molybdenite is found in many localities with the bulk of the commercial world supply coming from Climax, CO where it occurs in quartz veins in granite with fluorite and topaz.

Collectors sometimes look at molybdenite with “no respect.” It seldom dominates when present and although it possesses an attractive silvery-like luster and unique crystal shape, its other properties cause it to be confused with graphite or lead. Our recent field trips to the Bancroft, Ontario area of Canada have produced some interesting and attractive specimens from the Desmont Mine near Wilburforce, Ontario. Locally, the C.K. Williams quarry in Easton, PA and the neighboring Marble Mountain Quarry in New Jersey contain occasional amounts of molybdenite. The unique combination of silver-blue molybdenite in a matrix of gemmy green serpentine makes for very attractive cabinet specimens for the select collector.

Diagnostic Properties:

Color:	Silver-gray (bluish tint)
Luster:	Metallic, greasy feel
Crystal System:	Hexagonal- platy, commonly foliated and in scales
Hardness:	1.0 to 1.5 on Moh's scale
Cleavage:	Perfect, laminae flexible but not elastic
Specific Gravity:	4.6 to 4.7
Streak:	Grayish-green

**Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society
2011 Programs-
Organized by 1st VP Jack Curtin**

January- Ed Blackford, Roanoke Club member spoke on his Gold and Diamond Mining experiences in South America.

February- Video- Exploration of caves and their inhabitants

March- Uranium Mining in VA, Speaker Debra Lovelace

April- Mineral Collecting in The Franklin/ Sterling Hill Mines- a video provided by John Haskins

May- How The Earth Was Made Video

June- Video- How the Grand Canyon Was Formed.

July- Treasures of the Middle East, Club members Natalie Darling and Siglinde Allbeck

August- Volcanoes DVD

September- Earthquakes- Dr. Steve Lenhart, guest speaker from Radford University and The Museum of Earth Sciences.

October- Annual auction

November- Dr. Steve Lenhart- “Zeolites”

December – Annual Holiday covered dish dinner.

Presidents Message...continued from

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See his article for details. To all the new members: I hope you can participate in this years coming activities. Don't be afraid to ask questions about anything the Club does, that is how you learn. I hope to see you at the January 18th Club meeting.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

Sunshine News

At the Board of Directors meeting, Dave Callahan informed us that Lloyd and Lucille Watson continue to improve health wise. We do think of them often, and ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Warm wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year to all of our readers.

If you know of any "sunshine" news, please email the editor.



22nd Annual Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show



Saturday, February 18, 2012 | 10am - 5pm

The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Ave. | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Admission: \$3/person
Children 6 & under free!



Exhibits and Vendors:

Rough, polished, & faceted stones

Fossils, minerals & geodes

Tools & supplies

Beads & findings

Original jewelry designs



Demonstrations:
Bead stringing, wire wrapping, gold panning and more.



WWW.SMRMC.ORG

i For more information, or to request a vendor application, please contact Michael Patterson at 301-297-4575.



live more, play more
pgparks.com

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.). TTY 301-699-2544. Visit the Department of Recreation website at: www.pgparks.com

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



Happy New Year

***The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month.***

ON THE WEB: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society: www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the

AFMS Newsletters are available for all members

to read on line at the Federation Websites:



Contact Information for Field Trips:

David Callahan,
 Field Trip Chairman
 Home phone 540-297-1853-----
 Cell phone-----540-874-520-----
 E-mail dbcall1@aol.com

January Field Trip

COMBINED LYNCHBURG / ROANOKE CLUB FIELD TRIP
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012 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...cont. from page 5

* 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.

February Field Trip

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of The Western South Carolina

Gem and Mineral Society Greenville, SC. HOST

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral

Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. And

The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.

9:30 AM, Saturday, February 25, 2012

Burgin Quartz Mine

Norwood, NC

FEE AREA

Place: Burgin Quartz Mine in Norwood, NC

Time: Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 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 very large milky quartz outcropping, though some crystals can be found by digging through the spoil piles previously dug out by a backhoe. To get the big

ones, you need to do some hard rock mining using sledgehammers, 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 way 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: call The Western South Carolina Gem and Mineral Society Greenville, SC. HOST Bill Wetzel at 864-306-6749 or Brandt Wetzel's Cell 864-404-0001

Or David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman for the GMSL and RVMGS

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

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS for 2012 SFMS WORKSHOP

Please encourage your juniors to apply for the youth scholarships using the criteria below.

When entering the competition:

- President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
- Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.
- Deadline for applying for the scholarship is **March 31, 2012**.
- Recommendations should be sent to:

SFMS Youth Resources Contact:

President Jason Hamilton,
jasons.designs@comcast.net

When attending the SFMS workshop:

- Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
- Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Following the SFMS workshop:

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

Don't let your junior rockhound miss out!

Jim Flora
SFMS Webmaster

Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

Magnifier... *continued from page 1* Using a Magnifier

Hold the lens up next to your eye, then bring your specimen close to it, only a few centimeters from your face. The point is to focus your attention *through* the lens, the same way you look through eyeglasses. If you normally wear glasses, you may want to keep them on. A magnifier won't correct for astigmatism.

How Many X?

The X factor of a magnifier refers to how much it magnifies. Sherlock's magnifying glass makes things look 2 or 3 times bigger; that is, it's 2x or 3x. Geologists like to have 5x to 10x, but more than that is hard to use in the field because the lenses are very small. 5x or 7x lenses offer a wider field of vision; while a 10x magnifier gives you the closest look at tiny crystals, trace minerals, grain surfaces, and microfossils.

Magnifier Flaws to Watch For

Check the lens for scratches. Set the magnifier on a piece of white paper and see if the lens adds color of its own. Now pick it up and examine several

objects, including one with a fine pattern like a halftone picture. The view through the lens should be clear as air with no internal reflections. Highlights should be crisp and brilliant, with no colored fringes (that is, the lens should be achromatic). A flat object should not look warped or buckled—move it to and fro to be sure. A magnifier should not be loosely put together.

Magnifier Bonuses

Given the same X factor, a larger lens is better. A ring or loop to attach a lanyard is a good thing; so is a leather or plastic case. A lens held with a removable retaining ring can be taken out for cleaning. And a brand name on the magnifier, while not always a guarantee of quality, means you can contact the manufacturer.

Doublet, Triplet, Coddington

Good lens makers combine two or three pieces of glass to correct for chromatic aberration—what gives an image blurred, colored fringes. Doublets can be quite satisfactory, but the triplet is the gold standard. Coddington lenses employ a deep cut inside the solid glass, using an air gap to create the same effect as a triplet. Being solid glass, they cannot ever come apart—

Continued on page 8

Getting to the Point

by Ellery Borow,

Reprinted from January 2012 EFMLS News

Getting to the point is important. Making a good point is important. Having the right point on a rock chisel is also important. In the November 2011 issue of the EFMLS News there was a safety Matters article about the mushroom- a mushroom head and a dull point on a rock chisel. A question has been raised about the best point to use for a rock splitting chisel.

As with many questions, there are several answers as to what is the best point shape for a rock chisel. When one uses a rock chisel on relatively soft and easily split specimens, one might find a sharper edge on their chisel to be beneficial. When one is hammering on stubbornly refusing to split specimens, a shallower (blunter) chisel point may be more useful. It sometimes takes a bit of experimenting to find the best point angle to work with the material one most often encounters.

Rock chisel manufacturers usually grind their factory-fresh chisels to a point that works well with the majority of commonly encountered rocks. They take into account the geometry (angle) of the cutting edges and the metallurgy of the steel used in the chisel's construction to fashion the best point for the most frequently encountered conditions.

Figure 1 shows a common configuration of primary and secondary grinds for a rock splitting The

The angle used on a rock chisel is the best compromise of durability and usefulness. The sharper angle on a wood chisel is made for use on wood. The wood chisel's angle is necessarily sharper to cleanly slice the fibers in the wood's structure. Sharpness is necessary for wood. Wood chisel sharpness has the disadvantage of being more easily damaged. Personally I have found that such extra sharp edges may be damaged when cutting through something as soft as a knot in a piece of hardwood. Taking a wood chisel and using it on rocks would most likely result in a severely damaged chisel and, more importantly, the possibility of steel shards in the eye.

Different chiseling requirements mean different chisel point angles. One tip I use, after purchasing a new rock chisel, is to cut a small notch in a piece of cardboard, sheet plastic, or bit of sheet metal such that the notch is the same angle as that on the chisel. When I eventually need to regrind the point, I use the notch as a template or grinding guide for reshaping the point so it once again looks factory fresh.

As with every tool reshaping effort, please observe all safety regulations and guidelines. Your safety matters.

Magnification... *Continued from page 7*

a consideration if you get wet a lot.

Guide Picks- Best 10x Magnifiers

When it comes to handheld magnifiers, all authorities agree that a magnification of 10x is as much as anyone needs. The triplet magnifiers I tested for this page yield crisp images with clear focus, a flat visual field, and dazzling true colors. In contrast, my old yard-sale two-lens 10x showed imprecise focus, warped images, and chromatic fringes. You can use these with your glasses on.

1) *Belomo 10x Loupe*

High-quality 18-mm lens and rugged metal housing from a Belarusian military supplier. Twice the viewing area of the Bausch & Lomb. Can be fully disassembled for cleaning. Black finish is easy on the eyes. Not designed for a lanyard, but you can string it on your neck easily enough. Buy two!

2) *Bausch and Lomb 10x Hastings Magnifier*. B&L is the gold standard for optics with its "Hastings" triplet design. Nickel-steel case, tough plastic lens housing. High-quality 14-mm lens can feel small. Riveted construction; has lanyard loop. Prices on the Web range widely—shop around, and look for the free lanyard. [Widely Available](#)

3) *Edmund Scientific 10x Hastings Triplet*

Edmund's optics have a good reputation; lens is the same size as Bausch & Lomb's. Construction details—metal lens housing with threaded retaining rings, brass case and lanyard ring—promise quality equal to B&L.

Executive Committee Meeting

January 4, 2012; Submitted by

Secretary Brenda Glass

Present

John and Nona Haskins, Dave Callahan, Ralph Torning, Tony Shields, Jack Curtin, Natalie Darling, Frank Midkiff, Bernard Rivera, Brenda Glass.

Business Items

Specimen display case at the Parks and Rec. Building was moved to the side near the entrance. We will ask members to lend or donate fist sized or smaller specimens for the case.

October Auction

The club will be purchasing specimens from JMU- John will contact Lance Kearns about this. The club will also plan to purchase some specimens from Franklin, NJ this spring.

Equipment

Oil/sludge filter for the saw is a possible purchase- John will investigate further. We continue to search for a Tile/ brick saw- Natalie will advertise a request on Craigs list

Meeting Programs

Mineral Identification/ collector's night. We hope to schedule Dr. Lenhart several times this year- Jack will contact him. Reimbursement to guests was discussed; the amount may be revisited in the future. Several names were given to Jack to follow up on for speakers

Upcoming events

January 21st JMU Field Trip
February 25th DMC Trip to NC for Quartz
June 2nd- Uncle Billy's Day Festival
October 20-21st- Apple Harvest Festival

Workshops

Instructional workshop 5/31/2012. Club workshops will be scheduled to prepare for our upcoming fundraisers.

Miscellaneous

Lloyd and Lucille Watson continue to improve, according to Royce Wickham.

Treasurers Report

Frank reported on the bills paid and current balance. Dave Callahan paid 20% of his mineral sales to the club- \$133.00 to date.

Top 10 reasons to collect minerals

10. Large specimens can double as ballast for the car in winter.
9. Didn't know what to do with that empty space in the garage anyway.
8. Always preferred vacationing in abandoned quarries to white sand beaches.
7. Collecting only coprolites is just too specialized.
6. In laws might not visit as much after hearing rock tumbler in the guest bedroom.
5. Field collecting may help you improve your aim with a hammer.
4. Mounting micro specimens is an excellent way to teach the virtue of patience.
3. Baseball cards don't look as nice lining the flower garden.
2. Elvis may have his own stamp, but he'll never have his own mineral.
1. It's still legal!!!

Reprinted from Chips and Deposits, January 2012; by way of the rock collector 11/09; and Stoney statements 11/10



The link below is for a video showing a bit of a twist on gold panning.
Check it out; I think you will enjoy it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxG8HBy3hpk>

Upcoming Events

January 2012

SHOWS AND TRIPS

January 21st- 9:00 am until noon- JMU Field Trip. See page 5 for details.

January 26th- Feb. 12th- Tucson AZ Wholesale and retail show, details at www.22ndstreetshow.com or for Mineral and Fossil show info. www.mzexp.com

February 25th- Burgin Mine Field Trip. (FEE Site) Details on page 6.

March 3rd-4th- Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical society. Delaware Technical & community college, I-95, Exit 4B, Churchmans Rd. (Rte. 58); Newark, DE

March 9th-11th- Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show jointly sponsored by the Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem & Mineral Society Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St; Augusta, GA

March 10th-12th-: 23rd Annual North Jersey Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Pope John Paul II Center, Clifton, NJ

March 16th-18th- Annual Unifour Gem, Mineral, Bead, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, I-40, Exit 125, Hickory, NC.

May 18th-20th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead, and jewelry show, Martinsville National Guard Armory, Martinsville, VA
www.toteshow.com for details.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Club Meeting 7PM	19	20	21 Field Trip
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

A Message from Dave Callahan

I still have some club tee shirts that need to be picked up. I will bring them to the January meeting.

Please have a check made out to the club or the correct cash.

---Thank you---

Lynchburg...Powers \$17.00, McIntire \$16.00