

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Happy Fathers Day!

Presidents Message

Hello To All,

A lot has changed since the last News Letter. I am sorry to say that the Company I went with some 44 years ago is now in the process of closing their doors. Barker-Jennings Corp. has been an institution of Lynchburg, VA. since 1885. I guess this is a sign of the economic times we are all having to endure.

I also got a call from the Lynchburg Parks & Rec. Dept. this week and it seems that they have received grant money to begin their capital improvements remodeling program at the Miller Center, where our Society holds monthly meetings. We will have to move out of the building beginning in **August**, but the Parks & Rec. has another facility where we can meet, still on the third Wednesday of each month

from 7-9 PM. This new place is not far from our old haunt, P & R Dept. Fairview Center at 3621 Campbell Ave. Lynchburg, VA. This is across the Street from the Citgo Gas Station. You can enter the building from parking lots on either side of the building from School Lane or Ford Street. The lots will hold about 25 cars and there is parking on both streets beside the building. The meeting room is large enough to hold at least 75 chairs, with a projection screen on the front wall.

We will have to move the Clubs' Mineral display cabinet to another site. I am told the renovations should take about 18 months then we will be able to return to the Miller Center as before, only there will be new seating in the auditorium. I know that the old wooden seats will be missed.

Continued on page 15

From the First VP:

Hello everyone. When panning for gold it's a good sign to find black dirt because it is an indicator that gold is present. I've just learned that black dirt also indicates another valuable resource is nearby. The article was found on the Geology.com website. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Shale is the most abundant sedimentary rock and is in sedimentary basins worldwide.

What is Shale?

Shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock that forms from the compaction of silt and clay-size mineral particles that we commonly call "mud". This composition places shale in a category of sedimentary rocks known as "mudstones". Shale is distinguished from other mudstones because it is fissile and laminated. "Laminated" means that the rock is made up of many thin layers. "Fissile" means that the rock readily splits into thin pieces along the laminations.

Uses of Shale

Some shales have special properties that make them important resources.

Continued on page 9



May Meeting Minutes

Meeting- Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Attendance- 28 members and 4 guests

Host- For tonight's meeting our hosts were Jon and Brenda Glass. For the June meeting our host will be Jack Curtin.

On Time Drawing- Winners were Jack Curtin, Ian Brown, Jean Midkiff, Steve Lenhart, Bernadette Ellis, and Martha Pliska.

Old Business- John Haskins: No old business.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: Dr. Steve Lenhart will be tonight's speaker, with a presentation on Yellowstone National Park and how it was formed.

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: Felid Trips/Activities 4/14-5/26 Morefield Mine is open to the public every Saturday. 5/26- DMC Trip to Mississippi for fossils and petrified wood. 6/9- DMC Trip to Alabama. June- looking into possible field trip to Piney River Quarry. 7/23-8/1- Annual Spruce Pine, NC Field Trips and Shows. Also looking into field trip possibilities for Beckley, WV for fossils in a shale dump. Mary is looking to have Unakite as the State rock. She will be contacting the state

representatives and was wondering about various clubs coming up with Unakite slabs in the shape of VA. The state of VA does not currently have a designated rock, mineral, or gem. Dave will talk with Mary about the process.

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$7,469.17.

New Business- John Haskins: New Membership chair will be Thom Noble, as Ralph and Anne Torning will be moving out of state. They will be missed, and we wish them well.

Thanks to Natalie Darling on the new image for our newsletter- It looks really good.

Workshop 5/19 at Dave Callahan's, to finish up for Uncle Billy's Day. We will need help for set up Friday at 2:00, and all day Saturday.

Specimens were available for purchase through our silent auction, and Dave Callahan also had some specimens for sale.

Minutes submitted by
Brenda Glass, Secretary.

2012 ELECTED OFFICERS

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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- Ralph Torning

PROGRAMS

Thanks again to Dr. Lenhart for our May program, a lecture on Yellowstone park and how it was formed.

The program for June has not yet been determined, please join us for the meeting on Wednesday, June 20th, at 7:00 PM.

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)

NEWS ITEMS--- Two recent news items you may find interesting:

METEORITE RING

=====

Want to make your own special "out of this world" ring? Take a chunk of Gibeon meteorite, forge it into a thin strip, and cut the strip into several short lengths. Then forge weld the lengths together, twist the resulting ingot, and finally form it into a ring shape.

See pics of this special wedding ring at <http://imgur.com/a/ZjCaW/all#0>

DRAGON'S BREATH

=====

Here be dragons. And then here be the steam machine of the Dragon's Breath. If you like small working steam engines, you'll be impressed by this one created by Hans Meevis from Saint Martin. It's made entirely from silver, gold and hand carved gemstones. Runs on steam or compressed air.

<http://ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/04/08/dragons-breath/>

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out your silver wire and found that it's all bent up. The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit. Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band.

This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga. If you're working on thick wires and pulling hard, be sure to brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

Continued on page 15

Field Trip Report



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

Uncle Billy's Day 2012

We did not have a GMSL field trip in May, but did participate as a club in the Uncle Billy's Day Festival. The weather started out uncertain, but cleared early enough for us to set up Friday evening as planned.

On Saturday our sluice and geode cracker were popular with the crowd, and we had a fair amount of members on hand to help out. Jack Curtin was especially instrumental in drawing folks in as he walked along the front of our display with a tray of specimens showing the potential collectables from the sluice. Total sales for this event were \$1037.00 according to treasurer Franklin Midkiff.

We had several folks taking photographs, and I believe that the ones in this issue were from Dave Callahan and Don McIntyre. Thank you to all who came out to show support- we will be preparing for our next festival which will be the Apple Harvest Festival in Amherst County in October. More information on this as the date nears.





Geode cracking and our gem sluice are always the most popular attractions at our booth. Everybody loves a shiny rock! Special thanks to all who worked ~ many hands and good company helped make this an enjoyable and profitable fundraiser.



Beautiful belt buckles, just one example of the lapidary productions we have for sale at our festivals. Gem trees, spheres, bookends, clocks, and card holders were also available. All hand crafted by our own members at the club workshops.



Thanks to all who came out to support our club, and also to Dave Callahan and Don McIntyre for the photographs.

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

June Field Trip

I have requested a field trip to an active quarry in Nelson County, VA. On June 23, 2010, but I am still waiting conformation. This quarry is very busy at this time of the year. Hopefully, I will have something positive to report by our June meeting and I will send out an e-mail broadcast to those addresses I have on my list.

July Field Trip

Highlands Road Gem Show
Franklin, NC.

Show Dates are July 25 thru July 29, 2012
(This will be a go-on-your own trip)

Those Roanoke and Lynchburg Club members that would like to go mineral collecting for pink corundum and garnets in the Chunky Gal area, Southwest of Franklin on Saturday, July 28th, Royce Wickham will be leading a trip there. More details will follow in the July newsletter and will be available at the meeting. Sign-up will be required. If you will not be at the meeting, e-mail or call me to get on the list.

Email: dbc11@aol.com

Phone: 540-297-1853

You should plan to drive down no later than Friday, July 27th and return home on Sunday, July 29th. If you want to see the Gem and Mineral Show, plan on driving down on Thursday, July 26th and see the show on Friday.

You will be responsible for your our food and lodging. Do not delay in reserving your room.



August Field Trip

North Carolina Mineral and Gem Fest

August 2nd thru August 5th, 2012

Spruce Pine, NC.

---and---

The 28th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show

July 28th thru August 5th, 2012

Spruce Pine, NC.

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

Chamber of Commerce Mine Tours

The Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce will be offering two mine tours. Go to their web site for details.

There will be a two hour tour to the Crabtree Emerald Mine, Thursday, August 2nd and Friday, August 3rd. Two, trips per day at 10AM and 1AM. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Transportation is provided.

There will be an underground Black Light tour of Emerald Village's, Bon Ami Mine on Friday night, August 3rd and Saturday night, August 4th. The cost is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids and seniors. Transportation is provided.

Reservations are required for both tours. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 828-765-9033 for reservations. Space may be limited.

Continued on next page

*UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...continued from page 6***Mineral collecting at the Ray Mine and Sinkhole Mine**

For those Lynchburg and Roanoke Club members that would like a chance to collect beryl, tourmaline, apatite, feldspar, mica, garnet, quartz, thulite, and columbite - tantalite, David Callahan will lead a trip to these two mines on Saturday August 4th.

More details will follow in the July newsletter and will be available at the meeting. Sign-up will be required. If you will not be at the meeting, e-mail or call me to get on the list.

Email: dbc11@aol.com

Phone: 540-297-1853

You should plan to drive down no later than Friday, August 3rd and return home on Sunday, August 5th. If you want to see the Gem and Mineral Shows, plan on driving down on Thursday, August 2nd and see the show on Friday.

You will be responsible for your own 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-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.

A Grand Place to Visit

Have you heard of or perhaps even visited the Educational Rock and Mineral Garden located at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy in the Fontaine Research Park in Charlottesville, VA?

This educational project consists of 43,312 pounds of Virginia's varied geologic specimens, and includes boulders of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks.

*Petrified Logs from
Henrico County >>>*

*Far right is the actual mineral garden
located at the Division of Mineral
Resources in Charlottesville, VA*



This is truly a site to behold- and easily accessed on your way into or out of Charlottesville.

For directions you can contact the editor, or the Division of Mineral Resources through their website:

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/divisionmineralresources.shtml>



Upcoming Events

June 2012

June 23- Piedmont Open Air Gem and Mineral Sale- Hagan Stone Park, Shelter #4. 10am to 6PM. Free admission and free parking. BBQ, concessions, door prizes, fun for all. Vendor fee \$25. Contact Steve Smith pteradon@triad.it.com or phone 336-454-8872. Directions at www.haganstonepark.com

June 29-July 1- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry and Bead show, Augusta Expo Land, Fishersville, VA. For details go to www.toteshows.com

July 14-15- Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. New Location: SRC Events Center, 4585 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY.

Sept. 15-16- 47th Annual Rock and Mineral Show and 62nd annual EFMLS Convention sponsored by the Central Pen. Rock and Mineral Club. Zembe Shrine, 3rd and Division Sts., Harrisburg, PA. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, Sept. 14.

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

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Due to renovations at the Parks and Recreation Building where we currently meet, we will be moving our meeting location beginning with the August 15th, 2012 meeting.

The new temporary location will be The Parks and Recreation Department Fairview Neighborhood Center, 3621 Campbell Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501. This is a newly renovated building with an ample meeting room, and plenty of parking.

If you have any questions or need detailed directions, please contact John Haskins.

We will continue our June and July meetings at the 301 Grove St. Location.

Shale... *Continued from page 1*

Black shales contain organic material that sometimes breaks down to form natural gas or oil. Other shales can be crushed and mixed with water to produce clays that can be made into a variety of useful objects.

Conventional Oil and Natural Gas

Black organic shales are the source rock for many of the world's most important oil and natural gas deposits. These black shales obtain their black color from tiny particles of organic matter that were deposited with the mud from which the shale formed. As the mud was buried and warmed within the earth some of the organic material was transformed into oil and natural gas.

The oil and natural gas migrated out of the shale and upwards through the sediment mass because of their low density. The oil and gas were often trapped within the pore spaces of an overlying rock unit such as a sandstone (see illustration at right). These types of oil and gas deposits are known as "conventional reservoirs" because the fluids can easily flow through the pores of the rock and into the extraction well.

Although drilling can extract large amounts of oil and natural gas from the reservoir rock, much of it remains trapped within the shale. This oil and gas is very difficult to remove because it is trapped within tiny pore spaces or adsorbed onto clay mineral particles that make-up the shale.

Unconventional Oil and Natural Gas

In the late 1990s natural gas drilling companies developed new methods for liberating oil and natural gas that is trapped within the tiny pore spaces of shale. This discovery was significant because it unlocked some of the largest natural gas deposits in the world.

The Barnett Shale of Texas was the first major natural gas field developed in a shale reservoir rock. Producing gas from the Barnett Shale was a challenge. The pore spaces in shale are so tiny that the gas has difficulty moving through the shale and into the well. Drillers discovered that they could increase the permeability of the shale by pumping water down the well under pressure that was high enough to fracture the shale. These fractures liberated some of the gas from the pore spaces and allowed that gas to flow to the well. This technique is known as "hydraulic fracturing" or "hydrofracing".

Drillers also learned how to drill down to the level of the shale and turn the well 90 degrees to drill horizontally through the shale rock unit. This produced a well with a very long "pay zone" through the reservoir rock. This method is known as "horizontal drilling".

Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing revolutionized drilling technology and paved the way for developing several giant natural gas fields. These include the Marcellus Shale in the Appalachians, the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana and the Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas. These enormous shale reservoirs hold enough natural gas to serve all of the United States' needs for twenty years or more.

Shale Used to Produce Clay

Everyone has contact with products made from shale. If you live in a brick house, drive on a brick road, live a house with a tile roof or keep plants in "terra cotta" pots you have daily contact with items that were probably made from shale.

Many years ago these same items were made from natural clay. However, heavy use depleted most of the small clay deposits. Needing a new source of raw

Continued on next page

Shale... *Continued from page 9*

materials, manufacturers soon discovered that mixing finely ground shale with water would produce a clay that often had similar or superior properties. Today, most items that were once produced from natural clay have been replaced by almost identical items made from clay manufactured by mixing finely ground shale with water.

Shale Used to Produce Cement

Cement is another common material that is often made with shale. To make cement, crushed limestone and shale are heated to a temperature that is high enough to evaporate off all water and break down the limestone into calcium oxide and carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide is lost as an emission but the calcium oxide combined with the heated shale makes a powder that will harden if mixed with water and allowed to dry. Cement is used to make concrete and many other products for the construction industry.

Oil Shale

Oil shale is a rock that contains significant amounts of organic material in the form of kerogen. Up to 1/3 of the rock can be solid

kerogen. Liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons can be extracted from oil shale but the rock must be heated and/or treated with solvents. This is usually much less efficient than drilling rocks that will yield oil or gas directly into a well. Extracting the hydrocarbons from oil shale produces emissions and waste products that cause significant environmental concerns. This is one reason why the world's extensive oil shale deposits have not been aggressively utilized.

Oil shale usually meets the definition of "shale" in that it is "a laminated rock consisting of at least 67% clay minerals," however; it sometimes contains enough organic material and carbonate minerals that clay minerals account for less than 67% of the rock.

Composition of Shale

Shale is a rock composed mainly of clay-size mineral grains. These tiny grains are usually clay minerals such as illite, kaolinite and smectite. Shale usually contain other clay-size mineral particles such as quartz, chert and feldspar. Other constituents might include organic particles, carbonate minerals, iron oxide minerals, sulfide minerals and heavy mineral grains. These "other constituents"

in the rock are often determined by the shale's environment of deposition and often determine the color of the rock.

Next month we will continue the article beginning with "Colors of Shale"

**WELCOME to our
NEWEST MEMBERS:**

**Sylvia
and Gabe
Whitmore,
Lynchburg,
VA**

**Donna
Barringer
Rustburg,
VA**

**Wayne,
Angie,
Savannah, and
Addison Lee,
Strasburg,
VA**

It's Off to Easter Island...Our Mineral Display Case, That Is

Since we will be relocating from our current meeting location for building renovations, so then will our Mineral Display Case need to be relocated during that time.

Luis Gonzalez, owner of Easter Island, has graciously offered a spot in his store. Luis is also interested in displaying and selling some of our new lapidary crafts, so please take the time to stop by and thank him for his generosity and patronage to our club.

The store is located at 5505 White Oak Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502- (Directly behind the Wards Road Long John Silvers.)

Store Hours Mon.-Sat. 10-7, Sun. 1-5 ~ website: <http://www.easterisland-va.com/>



The 2 photographs, to the right, were taken of an item in the collection of a friend. It is believed to be a Native American artifact. We are looking for anyone who may be able to share any knowledge of such items, or at least shares an interest in discovering and learning more about Native American Artifacts, especially from this area.

If you would be interested in learning or sharing your knowledge on this subject, please contact Warren Darling 434-941-3784 or Don McIntyre 434-944-4152

We welcome any insights as to what the item pictured is and what it may have been used for.



Sunshine News



I am happy to report that member Siglinde Allbeck in on the mend after a hospitalization for pneumonia.

On a sadder note, we have learned of the passing of a former club member Ann Blair, who lost her battle with cancer. We would like to extend our sympathy to Ann's family and friends, and ask that you please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Alexandrite

Article by the editor, inspired by recent travels to Kandy, Sri Lanka, one of the sources of this most intriguing stone.

Alexandrite is the national stone of Tsarist, Russia, and although it is mined in good quality and color range from other sources, Russia is still the primary source of Alexandrite. Other sources include Minas Etas, Brazil, Sri Lanka, India, Curma, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe. It is still considered rare and can be difficult and expensive to find natural Alexandrite either in jewelry or loose stones. Alexandrite is valued by the degree of color change in the stone. These color changes can range from bluish green to purplish red, and the most valuable alexandrite stones do not contain any traces of brown or grey. Alexandrites of desired color and cut are said to be among the most expensive stones in the world.

Metaphysical properties:

Alexandrite is considered a good omen, and is a stone of strength, intuition, and logic. It is also said to aid in creativity and imagination.

Hardness: 8.5

Composition:

Crysoberyl, containing iron, titanium, and chromium as a major impurity, which is responsible for the unique color change.

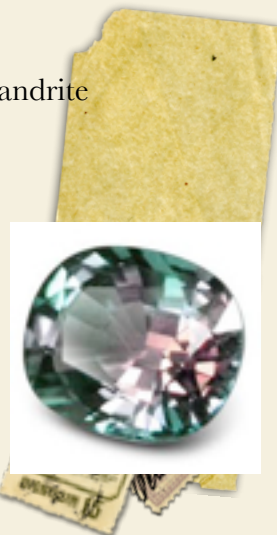
Sources:

http://www.gemstone.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=127:sapphire&catid=1:gem-by-gem&Itemid=14

<http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=alexandrite+picture&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

http://www.jewelinfo4u.com/Gem_Mining_in_Sri_Lanka.aspx

Sri Lanka Gemstones >>>



Safety Note: Rattlesnakes!

By Owen Martin, Safety Chair- reprinted from
AFMS Newsletter June-July 2012

The following is an excerpt taken from the State of Florida's guide for field surveyors. Since we travel off the beaten path in a similar fashion when in the field I thought it would be interesting to see how the state approaches the issue of "snake safety."

Snakebite of surveyors are quite rare, yet the dreaded hazard of rattlesnakes abounds through Florida. Even if preventable measures fail, current knowledge and treatment offer the best prognosis ever for snakebite victims.

Though seemingly rare, poisonous snakes annually bite 6,500 to 7,000 Americans. Always take the following precautions:

1. Always assume snakes are active. Do not relax your vigil on sunny winter days.
2. Do not make "solo Trips across snake country which is remote from habitations and frequently used roads
3. When traversing brush or grassy terrain, use a "decoy" such as a level rod or a lath, alongside your legs. Walk heavily to create vibrations that can be felt by snakes (a snake does not hear.)
4. Walk away from the shaded side of clumps and bushes when the weather is hot and sunny.
5. Step atop logs and large rocks, instead of stepping over them and into unseen areas. The safest policy is to walk around such obstacles.
6. Do not jump down from overhangs onto areas where snakes might be hidden from view.
7. Avoid steep climbs if possible where a snake, uphill from you, could strike the upper portions of your body. Bites on the torso, the neck, and the head are much more damaging and more difficult to treat than those on the limbs.
8. Never climb vertical or near vertical faces where handholds on unseen areas above your head are required.
9. Do not attempt, under any circumstances, to capture snakes!

10. Do not try to kill a snake unless it is a positive threat to safety.
11. Avoid likely snake areas such as small rodent trails, pack rats' nests or gopher tortoise dens.
12. When necessary to move low-lying logs, large rocks and boards, use a pry bar, not your hands.
13. Double your precautions at night, especially in warm weather.
14. Keep vehicles near your work area for rapid transport if a snakebite should occur.
15. If at all possible, maintain radio contact with isolated employee.
16. Know the location of the nearest medical facility where anti-venom is available and the quickest route there.
17. Do not collect rattles. A fine and highly abrasive dust often accumulates inside the rattles and can cause lasting damage to the eyes.
18. Wear high leather boots or snake-leggings in high-hazard areas.
19. Remember that rattlesnakes do not always signal their presence by rattling. (Editors note- We must also consider the possibility of other "non-rattle" snakes that may be poisonous and are native to our area.)

Timber Rattle Snake (top) and the Copper Head, (bottom) both poisonous, are native to our area in Virginia.



Rock Raiders

For the June Meeting, Rock Raiders will be learning about the Moh's Hardness Scale with Rock Raiders Adult Liaison Jon Glass.

Can you place the following minerals in order of their hardness according to the Mohs Hardness Scale?
Bring your completed puzzle to the meeting to compare with your hands on experience and check your answers.

- _____ Apatite
- _____ Calcite
- _____ Corundum
- _____ Diamond
- _____ Feldspar
- _____ Fluorite
- _____ Gypsum
- _____ Talc
- _____ Topaz
- _____ Quartz

Kid's Rocks & Minerals



Mohs' hardness scale and the three main rock types

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| MOHS | ORTHOCLASE | IGNEOUS |
| TALC | QUARTZ | METAMORPHIC |
| GYPSUM | TOPAZ | SEDIMENTARY |
| CALCITE | CORUNDUM | |
| FLUORITE | DIAMOND | |
| APATITE | | |

Copyright 1997 John R. Potter John's Word Search Puzzles
<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

Presidents Message...continued from page 1

At this writing we are ready to head to Uncle Billy's Day festival in Altavista, VA. The weather is supposed to be good and I hope the sales will be good as well, it takes a lot to keep all our equipment in good repair.

Our next festival is mid October at the Apple Harvest Festival at the Amherst County High School. I hope you can join us. There will be workshops planned for later this summer, details will be at the meetings and in our news letter. I hope to see you at our June 20th meeting.

Keep Looking down,
John Haskins

A Win/Win Situation

*By Betsy Oberheim, All American Chair;
Reprinted from EFMLS News, June-
July 2012*

How many contests can you enter and will be guaranteed to win?? I know of only one: the All American EFMLS/AFMS award. True; there is only one AFMS grand prize, but you will be a winner to your club! You will create a lasting memento that capsulizes the activities of your club for the year and that is well worth-while.

Ordinarily a scrapbook has no rules, but for the All American award, we'll need guidelines to be able to judge a winner. I plan to outline those guides section by section, in the next few months.

Section one is the basic club information: members, when organized, when and where you meet, mission, etc. This is very general and merits no points.

Section two is worth 30 points (service to members and guests), Your programs, speakers, number of guests, other group meetings (classes), special events, etc. Tell us about your show, field trips, workshops, etc. Lots of "etc's" for you to fill in!

It obviously helps to have lots of pictures of all the activities, but think how much easier that is to

Bench Tips...continued from page 3

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howelite, you can use a sanding stick. But for harder cabs like jasper or agates, you have to use a diamond file or one of the ruby nail files from the drugstore.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment in the stone size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over onto the stone.

accomplish now with digital cameras and cell phones. If you request and remind your members they can email you many to choose and from. Scrap booking is so popular now, so if you don't do it, I'm sure a friend does and could help you with suggestions. Next column: more sections specifically, but for now; save, save, save!

If anyone in the Lynchburg Club would like to be our Scrap Booker, email the editor and I will help you get started with photographs and information.

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.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Lynchburg Parks and Recreation Department, 301 Grove St, Lynchburg, VA 24504. Meetings consist of various programs on hobby related subjects. All meetings are family oriented. These meetings are open to the public, please feel free to join us.



FOR SALE- Everything you need to get started or enhance your wire wrapping! Set includes Tools, stones, 7+ ounces of sterling silver wire, and a handsome case to store or carry it. Ralph will plan to bring it to the meeting on 6/20. You can call him for more details or to purchase it sooner- 434-525-3964

*****Wants to sell this as a whole lot, items not for sale individually.*****

