



Gem & mineral journal

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

MARCH 2012 ~ VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

We would like to again thank Dr. Steve Lenhart for his great presentation on Igneous Minerals at our February Society meeting. This will give us a good springboard for our March 21st meeting on Mineral Identification night. Our knowledgeable members will have hands on demonstrations of how to recognize and identify the most prolific minerals you will find in the Earth's crust. Demos will be done showing the main features to look for in identification of minerals such as color, streak, luster, hardness, cleavage, parting, fracture and crystal habit. There will also be a new test for us the Specific Gravity Balance machine. This is a basic test weighing a mineral specimen in air and then in water and with simple math you find the Specific Gravity of a given mineral to help in the overall identification of said specimen. The Specific Gravity is listed for all minerals in handbooks and also charts to make a comparison. I built this balance out of curiosity to see how well it would work and how much it will help in the ID of a mineral. If you have a specimen that you haven't been able to ID

bring it to the meeting and we will help in finding the identity of your specimen. We will also have on hand some of the local rock types to look at for their mineral content. There will be printed handouts with a lot of good information from many sources to aid you in remembering most of the basic info for ID of minerals. I hope you will all participate this can be a great learning experience.

Please remember that at the end of March, if the weather holds up, there will be a teaching workshop at Dave Callahan's for the purpose of learning Gem Tree making, Cabochon making and hands on demonstrations for any of the lapidary equipment on site. I would like to see a good turnout for these monthly workshops and we will have a signup sheet at the March meeting to list any of your preferences. I hope to see you at the March 21st Club meeting. Until then,

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First Vice President:

Our March meeting will highlight mineral identification. Please bring in any rocks or minerals that you are having trouble identifying and someone will be able to help you with it. Please also come to learn the basic methodologies used by geologists to identify rocks and minerals. It should be lots of fun and there should be at least one thing we will learn from this session.

Aren't you looking forward to our March 24th

field trip to the old Faber Lead Mine in Albemarle Co.? Don't you wonder what kind of minerals you might find there, what they look like, and what properties they would exhibit? I'm curious too and so I did some web searching and came up with the following information.

First, a short history of the mine as recounted from our own club's newsletter in 2008. (*Article written and submitted by Dave Callahan, for the Gem and Mineral Journal September 2008*)

Article & Pictures on page 15

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

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Bernardino Rivera &

Tony Shields

COMMITTEE**CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips**– David Callahan**Hospitality**- Monthly Volunteers**News Articles**– Natalie Darling**Silent Auction**– Warren Darling**Swap for Rocks**–Warren Darling**Website**– Casper Voogt**Workshops**– Dave Callahan**FRA Adult Liaison**- Jon Glass**Membership**- Ralph Torning

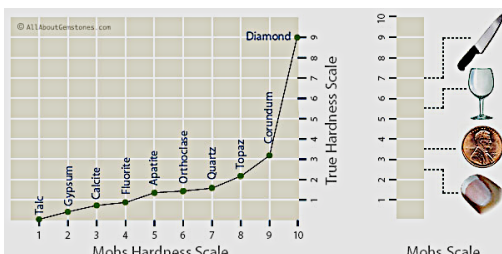
February Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday February 15, 2012**Attendance:** 27 members and 1 guest**Hospitality:** Host for tonight's meeting will be Jack Curtin. Next month our hosts will be Jean and Frank Midkiff, and in April our hosts will be Thom and Linda Noble.**On Time Drawing Winners:** Brenda Glass, Bill Livingston, Don McIntyre, Natalie Darling, Tom Davis, Jean Midkiff, Frank Midkiff, Dana Cordell, Bernadette Ellis, Diane Capobianco, Bernard Rivera, Tom Powell, Steve Lenhart, Bob McIntyre**Old Business:** A new saw was purchased and Bernard donated a table for us to use at the workshops. Dave Woolley brought magazines with info about the Dixie and Morefield Mines written by Lance Kerns.**First VP:** Jack Curtin- Tonight's program Dr. Lenhart on volcanoes and igneous rocks; next month will be mineral identification.**2nd VP-** Dave Callahan- Field Trips/ Activities: 2/25 DMC Trip Burgin Quartz Mine; 3/24 Faber Mine and also general mineral miners certification on Buckingham. 3/31 Learning workshop at Callahan's. 4/28 American Rutile in Nelson County;**Treasurers Report:** Balance \$7,856.07**New Business:** There was an assortment of minerals available for viewing along with our silent auction. We also have a new mineral in our display case at the P & R bldg., which was purchased from a rock shop in Crozet, VA. Ralph Torning reminded us that February is a big month for renewals, please fill out the membership form and pay your dues.**Rock Raiders:** There were no rock raiders present at this month's meeting, so the fossil presentation will be offered at the March meeting.*Minutes submitted by:
Brenda Glass, Secretary*

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



We would like to thank RU geology professor Stephen W. Lenhart. for presenting at our February Meeting.

For our March meeting program, we will have Mineral Identification Night- come and learn about the different methods you may be able to use to identify your finds.

Stations will include: Specific Gravity; Fluorescence; Mohs Hardness; Streak and Luster; Acid, Cleavage, Fracture and Parting.

Feel free to bring in specimens that you would like to try to identify with the help of our demonstrators.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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

PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

When drilling small holes, you sometimes encounter new problems. We're talking about drills that are less than 1 mm (which is 18 gauge or .040 inches). Often the chuck will not tighten down far enough to grip a small twist drill. You can solve this two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32-inch shank size. Either way you have a 3/32 shank to go into the chuck of your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

Remember that small drills are much more prone to breaking because of too much pressure or if you tilt the drill or the work piece when the drill is in the hole. And drilling always goes easier with a little wax or oil on the tip. Almost anything will work - Three and One, injection wax, mineral oil, Burr Life, car oil, olive oil, etc.

USING PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying

pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Remember that fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low sidewalls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they will not adequately secure stones with steep sidewalls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with some stones. If your stone has a sharp edge around the bottom, burnishing over the bezel will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



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

**Field Trip report for the February 25, 2012 Dixie Mineral Council trip
Burgin Quartz Mine, Norwood, NC**

This D.M.C. trip to the Burgin Farm in Norwood, NC was a pleasant experience for all. The Burgin's were gracious hosts in allowing us to collect massive and crystalline milky quartz on their farm. It was cool in the morning with a cool breeze but short sleeve weather when the sun came out.

Years ago, Mr. Burgin sold this piece of land to a local brick maker as the deep red clay was perfect for their product. Many years and cubic yards of clay later, the brick company ran out of the clay and into this very large milky quartz out-crop. This terminated the mining operation so the land was sold back to Mr. Burgin.

Today, the flat area from the creek to the massive out-crop has been planted in grass and is the home for about a dozen goats and a year old jackass to protect the goats from predators.

Between the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs, we had 18 attendees. Digging thru the loose dirt was somewhat productive for loose crystals and small matrix specimens but most of the people eventually chose to dig into the out-crop directly or surface collect in the woods above the out-crop. There were some areas in the out-crop that contained very large vugs or crystal lined cavities. There were many small vugs but most of the crystals had grown into the cavity wall and were not standing free. This made it hard to extract perfect crystals. In almost every case, the crystals that I observed were considerably lighter or clearer than the surrounding milky matrix. This indicated to me that the chemistry of the mix changed during the crystal formation to allow this color shift.

The Burgin's charges a \$10 fee per head to collect and if other people want to schedule a dig for their club or group, they must contact the Burgin's directly. There in a minimum of \$50.00 and he would like at least 5 people there for safety reasons. Please contact me for the contact information.

I believe that there is a good potential for finding some fine milky quartz crystal specimens at this site. Mr. Bergin has some large track equipment and he plans to continue refreshing the material piles, moving the overburden and exposing new out-crop. This is a very large exposure and should provide some interesting collecting for years to come.



*Dave
Callahan and
Bernard
Rivera*

*Additional
photos on
page 14*



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COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

**THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.
 AND
 THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, INC.**

**Saturday, March 24, 2012
 FABER LEAD MINE, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.**

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

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

From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US Rt. 460 east / US 29 north by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north by-pass across the James River and proceed north to the Amherst US 29 business exit. The Hardees is in the Ambriar Shopping Center at this exit. Come early and have a bite to eat. We can determine if carpooling is necessary and leave any cars here. From this point, it should take about 45 minutes to arrive at the parking area along Rt. 6. Be sure that you are fueled up and ready to leave by 8:45 A.M. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles south of the US 60 exit. If you live in Lynchburg, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business thru Madison Heights to Amherst. The Hardees will be on your left at the new US 29 bypass interchange, just before you arrive at the town of Amherst.

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

Due to the restricted parking along Route 6, we must limit attendance to 10 or 12 cars maximum. Only those that call to reserve your place or sign up at the meeting will be allowed to attend. Car-pooling is recommended. We will arrive at a small parking area at the intersection of Rt. 29 North and Rt. 6 East about 9:30AM. We can leave some cars here if necessary and pick up those that will meet us here.

THE TRIP: I have received permission from the landowner and he has some rules that must be obeyed. **NO SMOKING** (extremely dry and a high fire hazard could exist). Keep away from the 3 open shafts and collect only geologic specimens, not historic pieces, and leave **NO TRASH**. This is a beautiful, classic and historic site and the owner has graciously allowed us to collect there.

The mine is about 1.5 miles (a good 45 minute walk) along a mostly level, rutted dirt road. Recent logging in the area has made the road rough and possibly muddy in places. Since we must walk in and out, and lead is very heavy, you might want to bring a wagon, hand truck or at the least a

Continued on next page

Up Coming Field Trips... *continued from page 5*

Good back pack. Good walking shoes are a must and be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. You'll also need safety glasses, hammers, chisel, a tool to scratch thru the dirt and overburden and turn over rocks, buckets or bags with newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens.

COLLECTING: Expect to find galena (Lead), sphalerite (Zinc) and fluorite (white and purple). Other minerals that exist there are chalcopyrite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, magnetite, quartz, calcite, cerussite, chalcantite, pyromorphite, kaolinite, azurite, chlorite and hydrozincite. Many of these are fluorescent under ultraviolet lamp.

HISTORY: The mine was discovered in 1849, and operated off and on by the Confederates during the Civil War producing an excess 7,000 pounds of lead, but abandoned when General Sherman crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap. In 1905, it was again opened for Lead and Zinc but closed again about 1919. Several other unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mine were short-lived. The 3 shafts are now partly choked and caved and the audit reopened in 1958 is now caved. A large dump still exists and will still yield beautiful specimens after much searching and digging.

We must arrive and walk in together, but you may leave any time you want and walk out by yourself. This is a unique collecting site and we are fortunate to have it in our area and have a landowner who is willing to share it with us.

Continued on page 7

VIRGINIA GENERAL MINERAL MINERS CERTIFICATION CLASS

The Central Virginia Gold Prospector Association is offering several of the areas Gem and Mineral Societies the chance to get their Virginia General Mineral Miners Certification on March 24, 2012.

This is a valuable course on general mine safety and first aid and may help us to get access to some of the area mines and quarries. This is a lifetime certification and many of our members are already certified.

DATE: Saturday, March 24, 1012

TIME: 8:30 am thru 4:00 pm (rain or shine)

LOCATION: Dillwyn V.F.W. 14405 W. James Anderson Road. Buckingham, VA. 23921

COST: \$20.00 per adult (The class is \$10.00 and \$10.00 is for building rental and snacks)

Bring cash or check only. No credit cards

I will have a sign-up sheet at the February and March meeting.
Let me know if you have any questions.

David Callahan
dbcalle@aol.com
540-297-1853

Up Coming Field Trips... *continued from page 5*

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540-297-1853



Up Coming Field Trips... *continued from page 6*

April Field Trips

DMC Field Trip

Coleman's Miller Mountain Mine
 Jessieville, Arkansas- Saturday April 14, 2012- Fee Site
Details on page 12

*I am trying to set up a field trip to Nelson County rutile quarry April 28, 2012.
 I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. Details to follow as they are finalized.*

GLENDON QUARRY - Standard Minerals/R.T. Vanderbilt Co.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 - 8AM till 3PM sharp!

(Attendance limited to 120 registrations)

We still have a few slots remaining to be filled - hurry!

SFMS WEBSITE REGISTRATION INFORMATION &

FORMS: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/Glendon-Std-Minerals.html>



<<<<<<<World Class
 fluorescent mineral
 collecting in Franklin, NJ.
 Visit the website for
 complete details and
 registration information.
 Happy Collecting!!!

<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/superdig/index.php>

Future Event:

RockFest 2012 ~ June 9th & 10th

Tellus Science Museum- 100 Tellus Dr. Cartersville, GA 30120

RockFest features vendors from all over the country selling gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils and more.
 Kids can enjoy numerous hands-on activities and demonstrations.

For more information visit www.tellusmuseum.org

Rock Raiders



Rock Raiders is the official Future Rock hounds of America Association of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Calling all Junior Members and parents/ grandparents- We have a fun filled, educational, night scheduled for our March 21st meeting.

For the first half our Rock Raiders will be learning about and discovering their very own fossils.

After the break we will have mineral identification night, which is always a learning experience for all involved. Come and see some of the different ways minerals can be identified. There are many simple tests that can be done at home or in the field to help identify or rule out possibilities.

Olivine var. Peridot

From Mini Miners Monthly- A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors- Vol. 6, No. 2, Feb. 2012; by way of Tips and Trips, March 2012

Olivine is the name of a group of minerals that form in the dark, igneous rock called basalt. Olivine itself contains differing amounts of the elements iron and magnesium. Peridot is a special variety of olivine that has both iron and magnesium in its crystal structure. Its beautiful grass-green color is created by the iron. Its color can be yellow-green to dark green. The most desired peridot gemstones are dark green. Peridot is the birthstone for the month of August.

Only a few localities around the world have produced gem-quality peridot. For example, they can be found in Myanmar (a country that used to be known as Burma) and on St. John's Island in the Red Sea. In the United States, large quantities of gem-quality peridot can only be found near San Carlos, Gila County, Arizona, approximately 100 miles east of Phoenix.

San Carlos peridot is found as fractured masses in basalt. Basalt covers this portion of Arizona. The peridot is found on Peridot's Mesa, on land that belongs to the Apache Ndeh Nation. The "Apache" Nation is actually a group of Native Americans who are related to the traditional Apache peoples. Those who live in the San Carlos area are known as the San Carlos Nation.

Since the land is owned by the Apache Ndeh people, Peridot Mesa is not open to the public for collecting. The people of the San Carlos Nation use hand tools to break apart the basalt and carefully remove the fractured peridot. Smaller lower quality pieces are generally polished and made into beads. These beads are usually strung together to make necklaces, earrings and other jewelry. Only the rare, larger gem quality pieces are cut as gemstones.

Upcoming Events

March 2012

SHOWS AND TRIPS

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.

March 23rd & 24th- Rockin' Yard Sale, Greensboro NC. Page 13 for details.

March 30th-April 1st- Raleigh, NC, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Show, Kerr Scott Bldg, State Fair Grounds.

March 31st- 9:00 AM until you are ready to leave- Workshop at Dave Callahan's. Come learn how to cut and polish a stone or make a gem tree. This is a learning workshop for club members who would like to learn or work on a personal project.

April 19th-22nd- Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science, Mineral Section. Radison Inn, Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd; Rochester, NY.

April 28th-29th- Annual NJESA Gem & Mineral Show with outdoor swap sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; Franklin School, Washington Ave; Franklin, NJ

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 EXEC. MEETING	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21 CLUB MEETING 7PM	22	23	24 Field Trip
25 Newsletter Articles Due EARLY DEADLINE	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 9AM Until

FUN WEBSITES FOR KIDS

Reprinted in part from EFMLS News, March 2012

Chris's Mineral Collecting Page <www.njminerals.org/>
Includes information about identifying minerals, how to do Micromounting, minerals you can find.

www.minsocam.org or www.mineralogy4kids.org/games.html
Mineral Society of America. A primer on mineral collecting. Includes links on how to start collecting, a tutorial on collecting (focused on Arkansas but with information that is generally helpful).

Rocks for Kids: www.rocksforkids.com

Bobs Rock Shop www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/table.shtml has many, many links to activities, pictures, resources and more.

www.mindat.org More information about minerals than can be found anywhere on the web. Also has thousands of pictures.

Do you have a favorite hobby related website? Why not share it with your club members ~ email it to gmseditor@gmail.com

Announcement – Please Post

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society, Oroville, CA is pleased to announce the

Fourth Annual World Rock Tumbling Championship



2011 Winning stones

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 WINNERS!

First Place \$250 -Susan Oglebay of Ephrata, WA
2nd place \$100 – Ed Obermeyer, Oregon Coast Agate Club
3rd Place \$50 - Tom Kuzia, Beacon Falls CT

Here's how to participate in the contest...

- Send in a completed application (below) with a \$40.00 entry fee postmarked no later than May 7, 2012.
- The material for the 2012 contest is Petrified Wood from Arizona. Contestants receive over 3 pounds of raw material.
- Contestants will have over three months to tumble the rock in a rotary or vibratory tumbler and mail a half-pound (1/2 lb) of the best pieces for judging. The entries must be received no later than September 23, 2012.
- A committee of judges from FRLMS will evaluate each entry on the basis of smoothness, shape, shine and overall appeal. They will select the top five winning entries to be displayed at the club's October Rock and Gem Show in Oroville, California. The top three winners will be determined by popular vote at the Rock and Gem Show.

1st Place: \$250.00
2nd Place: \$100
3rd Place: \$50

www.orovillerocks.com

Note to Rock and Gem clubs: Consider sponsoring a contestant from your club. It could be a junior member you want to encourage or a more experienced member who has enjoyed rock tumbling for many years. We will include the club affiliation when announcing the name of the winners! Also, this is a wonderful opportunity for your junior members to learn more about tumbling and competition.

Here is a sample of the rough that contestants will receive for the 2012 contest....
Beautiful Arizona petrified wood



2012 Application Rock Tumbling Championship Form

Name _____ Phone _____

USPS Mailing Address _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Name of Club (if any): _____

Please mail applications with a check or money order by May 7th to:
FRLMS Inc, c/o G. Foster 2783 Cherokee Rd., Oroville, CA 95965

Just A Moment

By Ellery Borow, EF Safety Chair; reprinted from EFMLS News March 2012

Just a moment is all it takes to have an accident. There are numerous people who keep track of such things. But before I go on-a word of background information. Nearly all the rockhounds I know have additional interests – rocks and fossils, rocks and botany, rocks and geology, rocks and astronomy, rocks and photography, rocks and woodworking and so on. I do woodworking.

A recent woodworking magazine had a full-page advertisement on the back cover that caught my attention. The ad showed a good woodworker holding up his hand that was missing parts of several digits. The ad mentioned that if you are a woodworker, you probably know a fellow woodworker with a similar loss. In just a moment I thought of a professional woodworker I know who had indeed lost digits.

The people who keep track of accidents say one table saw injury occurs every 9 minutes. I know table saws can be dangerous but an injury every 9 minutes? Table saws have blade guards, push sticks, emergency stops, wood guides, gather boards, and all manner of jigs and fixtures, all designed to keep ones fingers away from the nasty looking teeth of a spinning table saw blade. Yet with all that safety gear – every 9 minutes there is an injury.

Thankfully the “teeth” on a diamond blade are far less aggressive in cutting fingers. But even so, our hobby is rife with instances where just a moment of inattention can spell injury.

How many times have you noted a person not wearing goggles because they were just going to chip off a small bit of rock, or turn their head to avert their eyes because of just chipping a small bit of rock, or close their eyes just because of chipping a small bit of rock, or not wear gloves because quartz is not all that sharp, or not wear a mask because they would be grinding for just a moment. Yet, as with the table saw, it takes just a moment of inattention for an injury to occur.

We know that accidents do happen no matter how much safety gear we utilize, no matter how much we safety train, no matter how good the equipment – things do indeed go wrong.

Our job with rockhound safety is to minimize the risk, know the hazards, keep our attention on the task at hand and always be prepared for emergencies.

All it takes is a moment. That moment can be as short as a microsecond. The take away message we need to reinforce with our club members – in just a moment we can convey a safety idea. In just a moment we can set a good example. In just a moment we can acknowledge someone’s proper use of safety guidelines. Just a moment can change everything for the better.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: 7:00 PM Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Attendance: 10

Business:

- Possible scholarship donations for JMU and RU students. More to come on this.
- Lloyd and Lucille Watson honorary membership approved.
- Appomattox library is looking for someone to present for their summer reading program.
- John had a new idea of a possible marketable product. We will look into

pricing supplies for this.

- March Meeting Mineral ID night discussed and stations were divided up and will be as follows:

John: Specific Gravity

Natalie: Moh’s Hardness

Frank: Fluorescence

Dave Callahan: Streak and Luster

Jack & Bernard: Acid, Cleavage, Fracture and Parting

- Dave Callahan announced that we have a new gas powered rock saw, and Thom Noble found a new blade online for \$160.00, so the purchase was made.

Continued on page 15

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Mobile, AL) HOST
Coleman's Miller Mountain Mine
Jessieville, Arkansas- FEE SETE
Saturday, April 14, 2012

Where- Coleman's Miller Mountain Mine, Jessieville, AK.

When- Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the mine, 358 Big Hole Rd, Jessieville, AK 71949

Collecting:

You will find clear and white quartz crystal and you keep all you find. There will be a backhoe digging, exposing new material. If rain is predicted for Saturday, they will dig plenty of new material on Friday.

Time: Sign in is starting at 8:00 a.m. Central time at the mine, to sign release and pay fee.

FEE: Adults Discounted price of \$7.50 each day paid at the mine. Children 9 and under are free.

Directions: at www.bluemooncrystals.com If you have questions you can call 501-984-5752

What to Bring- Pick, shovel, scratching tools, screen, buckets, gloves, newspapers, and plenty of water. Extra clothes and boots might be useful if it's muddy.

General Information

There are public restrooms onsite and bagged ice, snacks and drinks for sale at the mine. They also sell oxalic acid for cleaning crystals, with instructions at the mine. Wear old clothes and shoes or boots. You will get dirty from the red clay. Well-behaved pets on leash are allowed.

Where to stay

There is onsite RV parking, four spaces with electric and water at \$10.00 per day, and 23 primitive campsites without hookups at \$4.00 per day. They have showers for \$2.00 per person. No septic. You can call for reservations at 501-984-5752.

Nearby Hot Springs, Arkansas has many motels and campgrounds available.

Trip Chairman Larry Landry- maryloulandry@aol.com or 251-653-8459 or 251-591-5682.

Sunstone Theft

Submitted by Bench Tips Author Brad Smith

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Tucson police investigate major theft from gem show vendor. Thieves stole thousands of sunstones worth about \$900,000 dollars.

<http://www.kgun9.com/news/local/138859364.html>

\$400 Million Emerald

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For a glimpse into the emerald gem trade, from South American mines to storefront dealers, the National Geographic Channel is airing a program called "The 400 Million Dollar Emerald". Subject is called the Bahia emerald.

Some say it's the largest ever found, weighing in at 840 pounds and containing roughly 180,000 carats. Unearthed in Brazil in 2001, the Bahia emerald has an incredible history that fits its massive size. It spent months in a submerged bank vault in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and was even posted on eBay with a buy it now price of \$75 million. Others point out that the real stone is presently in lock-up pending litigation, and the piece shown in the NatGeo story is just a mock-up that is far more spectacular than the real stone. Regardless of what Bahia really looks like, the video gives an interesting view of how emeralds are found cut and traded.

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/explorer/400-million-dollar-emerald-pictures/>

YOU'RE INVITED TO A ROCKIN' YARD SALE!



NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER
OF GREENSBORO

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 4PM – 7PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30AM – TIL

Items available for purchase include:		
Quartz	Rubies	Mica
Garnets	Amethyst	Black Opal
Emeralds	Hematite	Lapis
Petrified Wood and much more!		

Some items are available in bulk and many are facet quality!

Price Guide: Small Box: \$5, Large Box: \$10, Bucket: \$8
Some items individually priced

Other items for sale include: store fixtures, housewares, toys, home décor & more!

EXCLUSIVE COUPON JUST FOR YOU!

One FREE small box
of gems or minerals with any purchase!

Offer good while supplies last.

Natural Science Center of Greensboro | 4301 Lawndale Drive | Greensboro, NC 27455
Phone: 336-288-3769 | Fax: 336-288-2531 | Website: www.natsci.org



Additional pictures from the Burgin Quartz Mine Field Trip, by Roanoke Club member Mark Hodges. Thanks Mark!

FABER LEAD MINE...continued from page 1

Faber lead mine - located near Faber. Find Galena (Lead), Sphalerite (Zinc) and Fluorite (white and purple) Chalcopyrite, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite, Magnetite, Quartz, Calcite, Cerussite, Chalcantite, Pyromorphite, Kaolinite, Azurite, Chlorite and Hydrozincite.

The mine was discovered in 1849, and operated off and on by the Confederates during the Civil War producing an excess 7,000 pounds of lead, but was abandoned when General Sherman crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap. In 1905, it was again opened for Lead and Zinc but closed again about 1919. Several other unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mine were short-lived. The 3 shafts are now partly choked and caved and the audit that reopened in 1958 is now caved. A large dump still exists and will still yield beautiful specimens after much searching and digging. – [From "The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg" Newsletter Sept. 2008]

Since many of the minerals that may be found at the Faber Mine are sulfides, let's learn something about these minerals from Andrew Alden in his *About.com Guide*.

Sulfide Minerals

The sulfide minerals represent higher temperatures and a slightly deeper setting than the sulfate minerals, which reflect the oxygen-rich environment near the Earth's surface. Sulfides occur as primary accessory minerals in many different igneous rocks and in deep hydrothermal deposits that are closely related to igneous intrusions.

Sulfides also occur in metamorphic rocks where sulfate minerals are broken down by heat and pressure, and in sedimentary rocks where they are formed by the action of sulfate-reducing bacteria. The sulfide mineral specimens you see in rock shops come from the deep levels of mines, and most display a metallic luster.

Pictures of Galena, Sphalerite, and Chalcopyrite, most of the sulfides found at Faber, are shown in the attached files below. All of these specimens

were collected at the Faber Mine. Pyrite, another sulfide, is found at the mine too, but I wasn't able to find a picture of a Faber specimen. Other neat Faber Mine minerals that I've found pictures of are calcite, which fluoresces bright orange under short wave lighting, purple fluorite, and hydrozincite. You might want to bring along a magnet as magnetite has been found there too. Other less common minerals are hiding out there too just teasing us to find where they're hiding.

**Happy Hunting,
Jack**

Editors note- unable to add pictures to this article.

**Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes...continued from page 11**

Field Trips: 3/24- Faber Lead Mine & Miner Certification in Dillwyn also on that day for those who signed up.

3/24- DMC Trip to TN

4/14- DMC Trip to Arkansas for quartz crystals.

4/21- Glendon, NC collecting Pyrite

4/28 American Rutile

4/28 Franklin/Sterling Hill NJ Fluorescent Mineral Collecting

- We will be asking for folks to sign up or call to RSVP if you are planning to attend the workshop at Dave Callahan's on March 31st, so we will be sure to have enough material and teachers available.
- Our club is committed to host a DMC trip in May of 2013. It's not too early to be thinking about where we will go; and many volunteers will be needed to help out with the day's events.
- Natalie asked that all newsletter articles for April be submitted by March 25th, because she will be out of the country for the first 2 weeks of April and will need to get the newsletter completed before then. Thanks for your cooperation.
- Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Natalie Darling

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



***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!***

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:
www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org and www.amfed.org/efms