

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

MARCH 2013

VOLUME 22~ ISSUE 2

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

[WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG)

## Presidents Message



Hello To All,

Well we have almost made it through another winter. I can't wait for spring when we can once again get out there and dig, scratch, hammer & chisel to make a great find in 2013. Dave Callahan has some good trips lined up through June already, so get signed up at the meeting or contact him to get on the list.

Speaking of trips, a group of us traveled to Ruffin, NC. Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and purchased a nice heavy duty sphere making machine and an assortment of great looking slabs ready for you to turn into a great looking cabochon. Remember the Club is offering a teaching work shop every second Saturday of each month. So come on out to Callahan's and find out what will be your most interesting lapidary project. At the February meeting

the Club announced there will be Bezels available for purchase to any Club member to finish their cabochon project. So come join in the fun, there should be enough instructors there to help with any equipment in the shop.

The best good news I have to pass along is, I finally found a full time job last week. I would like to thank everyone who sent up a lot of prayers for me during my long vacation from work. That's all for now, but remember, if the Lynchburg City Schools are closed due to bad weather the Parks & Recreation Dept. will be closed as well. March is an unpredictable weather month, I wouldn't want someone to drive to a meeting in the snow and find out the meeting had been canceled. I hope you will be at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## From the First VP:

We continue this month with some mineral and rock identification guidelines employing color. The following article is one of many from one of my favorite websites.

**Color-Specific Mineral Guides**  
**Reprinted from About.com:Geology**  
**From Andrew Alden, your Guide to Geology**

"I hear from many people about identifying minerals (rocks, too), and it's very common for them to focus

on color. Using color requires caution. So I've been building new color-specific mineral guides.

Blue and purple (and lilac and lavender etc.) minerals take up a lot of space in rock shops and museums. But out in the world they are scarce, and they don't have nice printed signs next to them either. For help with those wily blue wonders, I've prepared a new [annotated list of the usual suspects](#).

The blue, violet, purple end of the visual spectrum is not one where rocks and minerals shine. In the field, you are unlikely to see minerals in this color range unless you are in one of four settings: in order of abundance they are [pegmatites](#), certain metamorphic

*Continued on page 9*

## February Meeting Minutes

**Meeting-**Wednesday Feb. 20, 2013  
@ 7:00 PM

**Attendance-** 31 members and 3 guests

**Host-** Debra Tyler was the host for our February meeting, and Jean and Franklin Midkiff will be the hosts for March.

**On Time Drawing-** There was no on time drawing.

**Old Business-** John Haskins: Donation of equipment- John announced a receipt will be sent to the daughter of the estate of William Ligon for the value estimate on the donation the club received. A check will be written to JMU and Radford Universities for \$250 each as a donation from the Lynchburg Club.

**V.P.-** Jack Curtin: Program for this meeting is our annual auction.

**Second V.P.-** Dave Callahan: upcoming fieldtrips: March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Faber Mine; April 27<sup>th</sup> -American Rutile. The Southeast Federation will likely host a field trip in April to Glendon, NC. Dave will forward the email from the Federation to all current members with email addresses. It is very important to respond to this email as soon as it is

received in order to be one of the 120 people allowed to go on this trip. May 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Combined Dixie Mineral Council trip to Boxley Quarry in Piney River. This includes 33 clubs from 10 different states. The Lynchburg and Roanoke clubs will be the host for this and Dave will be asking for help from club members. Dave is checking on a field trip to a Quarry for June.

**Treasurers Report-** Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$7,936.33

**New Business:** Monthly workshops will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. Until? Pack a lunch or you can go to the nearby store/deli.

Thom Noble is working on a survey which will be mailed to all current club members.

Natalie will purchase both base metal and sterling silver findings to have on hand for club members to purchase so they can see a completed cabochon.

John thanked Dave for organizing and re-arranging his workshop to allow more space for club use.

Minutes submitted by:  
**Linda Noble, Secretary**

### 2013 ELECTED OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT - John Haskins**  
(434) 525-8430  
[JMHaskinsI@netzero.net](mailto:JMHaskinsI@netzero.net)

**First Vice President**  
**Jack Curtin**  
(434) 384 -6249  
[jacwcurtin@gmail.com](mailto:jacwcurtin@gmail.com)

**Second Vice President**  
**David Callahan**  
(540) 297-1853  
[DBCALLI@aol.com](mailto:DBCALLI@aol.com)

**Secretary**  
**Linda Noble**  
(434) 332-4869  
[linda-noble@hughes.net](mailto:linda-noble@hughes.net)

**Editor - Natalie Darling**  
(434) 941-1899  
[gmsleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gmsleditor@gmail.com)

**Treasurer - Frank Midkiff**  
(434) 660-1565  
[midkiff@aol.com](mailto: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-** OPEN  
**Membership-** Thom Noble

# PROGRAMS

For our February Meeting we enjoyed bidding on some great specimens as part of our annual auction.

Information on the March program is not yet available. Please join us for our meeting on March 20, 2013.



## **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)

### BEZEL SETTING PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to

remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

### CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water.

*Continued on page 15*

## FIELD TRIP REPORT...

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report for March 2013

#### Contact Information for Field Trips

**David Callahan,**  
**Field Trip Chairman**  
**Home phone: 540-297-1853**  
**Cell Phone- 540-874-5201**  
**E-mail [dbcall1@aol.com](mailto:dbcall1@aol.com)**

*Past Field Trip Report*

**James Madison University**

Geology Department and Mineral Museum

February 16, 2013

The morning was cold, overcast and the forecast for the day called for continued cold and flurries. I guess that is why we had less than fifty percent of those that signed up actually attend. Never the less, Lance had lots of coffee, sweet rolls and a nice selection of books and minerals for sale to benefit the museum.

Several of us had minerals to be identified and Lance ran an analysis thru the x-ray diffraction machine. Some were positively identified and some were questionable due to possible contamination in the sample. Many were identified by Dr. Kearns thru microscope examination and other tests he had readily available.

The Mineral Museum was open and we saw many new, extremely beautiful and valuable new acquisitions of beryl and tourmaline. The fluorescent display had been fitted with two new and extremely powerful short wave UV lamps. There were also several new and very large esperite specimens. They are very rare and fluoresced a brilliant yellow under the powerful lamps. This is a fine museum and by all measures, one of the best around.

We all departed at noon and started home in snow flurries. Some became quite heavy the further south we went but everyone arrived home safely.

Our annual trip to JMU is always interesting and very educational. There is always something new to see and we also learn a lot. If you missed it this year, we will go again next January or February.



<< *One of the many mineral display cabinets at the Museum.*

>> *Photograph of our host, Dr. Lance Kearns, taking a closer look at a specimen. Photo from <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/summer02/main/rock.htm>*



## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP  
THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.  
AND  
THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, INC.**

**FABER LEAD MINE, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.**

**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 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.

*Continued on next page*

## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...

*Continued from page 5*

**COLLECTING:** Expect to find **galena** (Lead), **sphalerite** (Zinc) and **fluorite** (white and purple). Other minerals that exist there are **chalcopryrite**, **pyrite**, **pyrrhotite**, **magnetite**, **quartz**, **calcite**, **cerussite**, **chalcanthite**, **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.



## MARCH (ROCK) MADNESS

**Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Host  
Official Field Trip for the GMSL and RVMGS  
This is a "go on your own" trip**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, 7:00 AM to Noon  
Vulcan Manassas Aggregate Quarry  
Manassas, VA  
(Weather Permitting)  
7:00 AM to Noon**

**Meeting time and place:** At 7:00 am sharp on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 we will meet at the mine office parking lot.

For those of you unfamiliar with said quarry it is a monstrous, nay, gargantuan and gaping empty, wholly half a mile across, 500 feet deep and essentially right next to the Manassas mall. You could place the Washington Monument in the bottom and only an itty bitty bit of the top would show. It may be **too cold** (or windy, or otherwise meteorologically violent) for this trip to work out so it may not come off and thus be  **canceled**. Dubious? In doubt? Inexplicably uncertain? Contact me (Ted) no later than 9 pm the day before. (If you call after 10 pm and before 9 am you **WILL** get a lesson in the dark side of the social discourse. I promise.) [703.754.2050](tel:703.754.2050) or, *by far* preferably, [jtcarve@msn.com](mailto:jtcarve@msn.com).

**Minerals Available (at Vulcan):** Actinolite, var: Byssolite, 'Apatite', 'Apophyllite', Aragonite, Babingtonite, Biotite, Bornite, Calcite, 'Chabazite', Chalcopryrite, Clinozoisite, Cristobalite, Datolite, 'Feldspar Group', Galena, Greenockite, Grossular, Gyrolite, Hematite, var: Specularite, 'Heulandite', Ilmenite, Laumontite, Malachite, Muscovite, Natrolite, Opal, Orthoclase, Pectolite, Prehnite, 'Pumpellyite', Quartz, Rutile, Scheelite, Scolecite, Silver, Sphalerite, 'Stilbite', Titanite, Topaz, 'Tourmaline', Zircon.

*Continued on page 12*

## Mineral of the Month - Chrysocolla

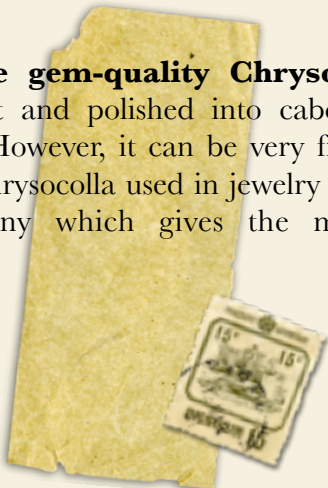
reprinted from PESA Rock News, 2/2013

**What is Chrysocolla?** It is a basic copper silicate (45.2% CuO), (34.3% SiO<sub>2</sub>), (20.5% H<sub>2</sub>O). Chrysocolla can be, and is often, confused with turquoise. Chrysocolla is an associate secondary mineral usually found in minor amounts with other copper minerals such as malachite, azurite, cuprite and native copper. Some sources would argue that it is not technically a mineral because of its frequent amorphous occurrence. Partially crystalline specimens show the presence of Si<sub>4</sub>, O<sub>10</sub> layers in a distorted crystal structure which leaves the issue open for discussion by mineralogists. The formula can vary widely.

**Diagnostic features:** *Specific gravity*- 2 to 2.4. *Hardness*- 2 to 4 (Moh's scale); *Crystal Shape*- Orthorhombic, microcrystalline, amorphous, often botryoidal. *Streak*- greenish blue, blue; *Cleavage*- fracture conchoidal; *Luster*- dull to opal like; *Color*- sky blue, greenish blue, green, brown to black when impure.

**Where is Chrysocolla found?** It is found in the oxidized zone of copper deposits, mainly in dry, arid climates.

**Is there gem-quality Chrysocolla?** yes, it is often cut and polished into cabochons and other shapes. However, it can be very fragile in its purest form. Chrysocolla used in jewelry is intergrown with chalcedony which gives the material structure strength.



## Rock Raiders

We are currently looking for someone to lead our Junior Rockhounds Programs, held during the business portion of our regular club meetings.

### Qualifications:

Desire to enrich and cultivate interest in the earth sciences among youth.

Prior experience not necessary. Several club members have program ideas, material, and support available to assist in this endeavor. Please contact John Haskins if interested.

Our ROCK RAIDERS THANK YOU!

**NEW MEETING LOCATION: Fairview Center; 3621 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-847-1751~ Directions to Fairview Center:** From Route 29 expressway or Route 460, take the Campbell Avenue Exit. Follow Campbell Ave. to **3621**, which is across the street from a **Citgo Gas Station**. There is a fence around the building and parking on both streets running along the sides of the property as well as a lot in the back. We will be looking for you!

Upcoming Events

March 2013

**March 23-24-** 44th Annual Gem & Mineral show- Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

**March 23rd-24th-** Annual Uniflour Gem, Mineral, Bead Fossil & Jewelry Show Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC

**Upcoming Field Trips:** April 6, April 20, and April 27. Plans are also underway for the annual fluorescent dig in NJ. See field trip section for details.

**April 13th-** 9:00 AM until...Open forum workshop at Dave Callahan's. email or call for directions: (540) 297-1853 [DBCALLI@aol.com](mailto:DBCALLI@aol.com)

**May 17th- 19th-** Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead and Jewelry Show and Sale; Martinsville National Guard Armory, 315 Commonwealth Boulevard W. Martinsville, VA 24112. [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com) for details.

**May 24th-26th-** Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead and Jewelry Show and Sale; Salem Civic Center, Salem VA. [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

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

**ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS**

Workshops will be held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's. Start time is 9:00 AM, but come anytime and stay as long as you'd like. There is a store/deli about a mile down the road if you want to break for lunch and return.

The workshops will be open format, and the purpose will be for club members to learn how to use the lapidary equipment to turn rough specimens into finished lapidary pieces for their own personal use. Experienced members will be available to help teach and assist.

We have a great set up with several sets of wheels for cabbing, faceting machines, saws, and much much more. From time to time there may be special class offerings, so be sure to let us know what you are interested in.

**Workshops are open to club members only, and due to liability we can not allow guests or non-members at our club workshops.** Remember, membership is just \$15.00 per year for the fist family member and \$3.00 for each additional family member.



*From the 'First VP: continued from page 1...*

rocks, oxidized zones of ore bodies, and low-silica (feldspathoid bearing) igneous rocks. This list is for minerals that are typically or most characteristically blue, violet, purple or related shades. I've looked at a lot of rocks, and I've seen only half of these minerals in the field. Nevertheless they are easily collected in good specimens at rock shops.

Inspect a bluish mineral carefully in good light. Decide the best name for its color—the colors of the minerals in this list include blue-green, sky-blue, lilac, indigo, violet and purple. In translucent minerals, blue color is less reliable than in opaque minerals. At the same time, note the mineral's [hardness](#) and its [luster](#) on a fresh surface. If possible, determine the rock class—igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic—and the more specific rock type as well as you can. (see "[How to Look at a Rock](#)" for starting guidance.)



### **Apatite**

Apatite is an accessory mineral found as crystals in many pegmatites. It is often blue-green to violet, although it has a wide color range from clear to brown befitting its wide range in chemical composition. Luster glassy; hardness 5.

*Geology.com photo*



### **Cordierite**

An accessory mineral of high-magnesium, high-grade metamorphic rocks, cordierite forms grains that display a color that shifts between blue and gray as you turn it. This unusual feature is called dichroism. If that isn't enough to identify it, cordierite is commonly associated with [mica minerals](#) or [chlorite](#), its alteration products. Luster glassy; hardness 7 to 7.5.

*photo courtesy of David Abercrombie via Creative Commons*



### **Dumortierite**

This uncommon boron silicate occurs as fibrous masses in pegmatites, in gneisses and schists, and as needles embedded in knots of [quartz](#) in metamorphic rocks. Its color ranges from light blue to violet. Luster glassy to pearly; hardness 7.

*Wikimedia Commons*



### **Glaucophane**

This amphibole mineral most often is what makes [blueschists](#) blue, although bluish lawsonite and kyanite may also occur with it. It is widespread in metamorphosed basalts, usually in felted masses of tiny needlelike crystals. Its color ranges from pale gray-blue to a "blue-jean" indigo. Luster pearly to silky; hardness 6 to 6.5.

*Geology Guide*

*Continued on next page*



### **Kyanite**

Aluminum silicate forms three different minerals in metamorphic rocks ([pelitic schist and gneiss](#)), depending on the temperature and pressure conditions. Kyanite, the one favored by higher pressure and lower temperature, typically has a mottled light blue color. Besides the color, kyanite is distinguished by its bladed crystals with a unique property of being much harder to scratch across the crystal than along its length. Luster glassy to pearly; hardness 5 lengthwise, 7 crosswise. *Geology Guide*



### **Lepidolite**

Lepidolite is a lithium-bearing mica mineral found in select pegmatites. Rock-shop specimens are invariably lilac colored, but it may also be grayish green or pale yellow. Unlike [white mica](#) or [black mica](#), it makes aggregates of small flakes rather than well-formed crystalline masses. Look for it wherever lithium minerals occur such as colored tourmaline or spodumene. Luster pearly; hardness 2.5.

*Geology Guide*

## **Oxidized Zone Minerals**

*Turquoise — [Bryant Olsen](#) via Creative Commons*

Deeply weathered zones, especially those at the top of metal-rich rocks and ore bodies, produce many different oxides and hydrated minerals with strong colors. The most common blue/bluish minerals of this type include [azurite](#), [chalcanthite](#), [chrysocolla](#), [linarite](#), [opal](#), [smithsonite](#), [turquoise](#) and [vivianite](#). Most people will not find these in their own neighborhood, but any decent rock shop will have them all. Lusters earthy to pearly; hardnesses 3 to 6.



### **Quartz**

Purple or violet quartz—named amethyst as a gemstone—is found crystallized as crusts in [hydrothermal veins](#) and as secondary ([amygdaloidal](#)) minerals in some volcanic rocks. Amethyst is quite uncommon in nature, and its natural color may be pale or muddled. Iron impurities are the source of its color, which is heightened by exposure to radiation. Luster glassy; hardness 7." *Geology Guide*

Hope that you enjoyed this article on blue and purple rock and mineral identification. Maybe you'll find some of these on your next field trip!

***Happy Hunting,  
Jack Curtin***

## Safety Matters-- OMGG!

by Ellery Borow, Safety Chair

re-printed from EFMLS News, March, 2013

*OMGG!* (That's Oh My Goodness Gracious.)

What was I doing? Well, let me relate a brief tale. I was sanding, sanding, sanding with a high speed power sanding tool- a very routine and some would say boring job. It was a job, however, with the potential to incur injuries if one was not paying close attention.

The OMGG moment occurred when I noted that this needing-close attention task did not have my full, or even mostly full attention. My mind had wand~red! I was not amused by this realization. What was I thinking!!! Well, I'll mention where my mind had wandered. I, during the sanding process, found my mind wandering to the next article I was going to write for the next issue of the Safety Matters columns- how embarrassing! This was just a fine how do you do!

Well, whatever I was going to write about has completely disappeared from my memory and 10 and behold- a new topic has emerged-- giving your attention your all.

The sanding I was doing could have scraped knuckles or fingers, or perhaps damaged the workpiece, so the wandering mind's transgression was most likely not life threatening but what if the task had more potential for injury? Paying attention to what one is doing is important. From this experience it is easy to imagine just how easy it is for the mind to wander away, be distracted by something, or just day

dream about something other than the task at hand when that task is boring.

Some Ideas to be safe:

1. At the first moment of inattention- take a break.
2. If there is some thought of issue taking you away from your concentration- address that intruding matter first.
3. Find ways to relax- such as have background music playing.
4. Change body positions.
5. Break up a boring task into more interesting (and shorter) units. Ones mind does not often wander during short tasks such as when one is about to strike a rock splitting chisel with a mallet, or switch on a lapidary machine, or light a torch.
6. Be well rested before beginning a boring task.
7. Stand up (or sit down) for a moment.
8. Get some fresh air.
9. Don't do boring things- Yes, seriously, don't do boring things. In other words, find ways to make a boring task less boring. Find an excitement or interesting aspect to the task at hand.

No doubt, with a mere few moments thought, one might easily find numerous means and methods to keep ones mind from wandering.

Day dreaming is fine- resting in a hammock, gazing at a beautiful landscape, or while listening to an economics lecture on a warm spring day. Day dreaming is not fine when life, limb or striking a chisel are of concern. Your safety matters, please keep your attention where it needs to be to be safe.

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

**Who is Invited:** Any and all members in goodly and decent standing of any eastern federation affiliated club. All humans under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Directions (to Vulcan)** From Interstate 66 & Virginia 234 (bypass, not business. The bypass is 3 to 4 miles west of the business exits.) Head west on Exit 44 0.9 mi

Merge onto Prince William Pkwy/VA-234 S 2.7 mi

Turn left at Wellington Rd 0.5 mi

Turn left at Vulcan Ln

The destination will be on the right just passed the gate 0.1 mi

8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

**What you MUST Bring:**

**Steel-toed Boots** – *Absolutely* and *totally* required, no exceptions

**Safety Helmet** – A *must* have

**Safety Goggles** – We demand that you have and wear safety goggles at all times

**Heavy Work Gloves** – You have got to have safety gloves

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

**Specimen Protection** - Heavy Plastic Containers, Egg Cartons. Tissue paper, (always handy).

**Other Useful Stuff** - First Aid Kits, Snacks, Water, Plastic Sheeting (to protect the interior of your car).

**Special Note:** Due to the current economic situation, little blasting has been done at the quarry recently. Therefore, pickins may be slender at best.

**Lastly:** Due to the vagaries of weather, the event may be canceled at any moment completely without warning. If there is any question as to whether the

trip will come off, contact me (Ted) at [jtcarve@msn.com](mailto:jtcarve@msn.com) or [703. 754. 2050](tel:703.754.2050) or [571. 344. 4958](tel:571.344.4958) and enjoy my humorous/deeply disturbing answering machine message.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013**

*By special invitation of the Shenandoah Valley Club we will join them for a George Washington National Forest “hike in the woods” in Augusta County. Those that went last year know what this means. You must sign up to attend. Call me, email me or sign up at the meeting ~ More information will be available to those that sign up.*

**DMC Program of the SFMS****Field Trip Committee**

**An Official Field Trip of The Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club**

**(Gastonia, NC) HOST**

**An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.**

**And The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.**

**9:00 AM, Saturday, April 20, 2013**

**Burgin Quartz Mine**

**Norwood, NC**

**FEE AREA**

**No Pets:** Because of the on-site livestock

**Place:** Meet at the Burgin Quartz Mine in Norwood, NC

**Time:** Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person and you must sign a release.

*Continued on next page*

**UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...***Continued from page 12*

**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 a 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 sledge hammers, 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 of several ways 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:**

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

**Home: [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) or cell [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201). Let it ring and leave a message if I don't pick-u**

**April 27, 2013**

*Field Trip to an old Nelson County Quarry  
To be confirmed...more info to follow.  
Reserve this date...sign up required.*

## Welcome To Our Newest Member

James  
Mizio,  
from Pamplin,  
VA

February 28, 2013

## Greetings GlowHounds!

Superdigg is just around the corner so it is time to sign up and reserve your spot!! It's a little later than usual for my wake up call, but it is worth the wait! Here is some BIG NEWS!!

For all the lucky ones who have given us their current email that is!!

Sterling Hill is releasing over 10 tons of Minerals that have been in storage for over 20 years!!! You heard it right -- over twenty thousand pounds of the best of the best!!!

Material that was brought out of the Mine before it was flooded. High quality material gleaned from the Pillar of Light project and even some from the Edison Tunnel project!!

This special material, which has been stored indoors and not subjected to the weather, will not be accessible until twelve o'clock noon on Saturday, April the 27th. We are giving everyone ample time to get to the Digg, get registered and checked in and settled so they are prepared to have this collecting opportunity of a life time!! Once this surprise material is gone, it's gone forever!!

So if you've been to the Digg for a few years and were wondering this year "What could possibly be new this year?" then you now have a Surprise answer, and a fabulous reason to come Digg again this year.

Otherwise, things are shaping up well again this year for our annual event. REGISTRATION IS OPEN now -- you can click through from our website at <http://www.UVworld.org>

Please use the PayPal option if at all possible (that takes credit cards; you don't need a PayPal account) -- paying by check takes your time and postage, and time for our treasurer, opens more chances for loss and errors and generally is a pain for the volunteers! And you'll only save fifty cents... (We need to have at least 100 people registered for the Digg in order to run it -- early registrations help us confirm that everything is a go.

We've never had to cancel for this reason; let's be sure this year is not a first.

Last year was a simply another "smashing event" and more great news this year is -- the registration fee is still only \$20, the same as it has been for many years.

We will have a full repeat of all the exciting special events we did last year, and once again those who attend will have their chance to "pick a piece of history" by selecting their choice of a piece of ore that still sits on the mill's conveyor belt from the day the Sterling Hill Mine was shut down - Good Friday, March 28th 1986. Every year, the choice gets smaller since nothing gets added to the belt! The rocks on the conveyor belt are almost gone now.

The "upper mill" area is still not open to normal tours or even any access to the public, so our guests at the Sterling Hill Digg have a very unique privilege extended to them on this one day of the year -- a walk through the mill and up to the TOP and then down INSIDE the conveyor housing (you see this structure in most photos of Sterling Hill) and then back past the giant bins and down to ground level again.. **SAFETY NOTICE: Hard hats are mandatory for the Upper Mine Buildings tour.**

In addition to the special tour of the highest part of the mill structure and a walk across (inside) the conveyor, we're again planning to have an extended "blackout tour" of the lower part - the mine itself. Maybe we will even be able to go back into two or three tunnels, in the dark with only your black lights on - time permitting. There are extra Trotter Tunnel tours on the agenda this year -- be sure to check the Schedule for the Day on the website. **Flashlights and Hard Hats will be mandatory for the Trotter Tunnel tours.**

Keep in mind also that, weather permitting, the Ellis Observatory will be open after dark - the 20-inch telescope is amazing!!

As in past years, we hope to have many useful door prizes donated by our supporters (see their links on

*Continued on page 15*

**Bench Tips** ...continued from page 3

It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the often found brown grime floating on the top of a pickle pot.

**NEWS ITEM - Trillions in Diamonds**

Russia has just declassified news that will shake world gem markets to their core: the discovery of a vast new diamond field containing "trillions of carats," enough to supply global markets for another 3,000 years.

The Soviets discovered the bonanza back in the 1970s beneath a 35-million-year-old, 62-mile diameter asteroid crater in eastern Serbia known as Popigai Astrobleme.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2012/0917/Russia-reveals-shiny-state-secret-It-s-awash-in-diamonds>



*Happy Easter*

**Greetings GlowHounds!**

*continued from page 14*

the main webpage, and check out their websites) including special prizes just for our young diggers. We are waiting to hear from several of our sponsors, so more details will be coming later.

Prior to our special weekend, the day's schedule will be posted on our website and probably sent out by email to those on the list. We're still working out the details of all the exciting adventures for the day. Once again... I'm so excited this year, I just have to say it again: There's an unbelievable amount of stuff on site to be collected this year... it's a "collector's paradise." (You can get a list of all the rare minerals KNOWN to be in the mine area by clicking the link on our web page). And remember, there is no other place on Earth where some of the Sterling Hill minerals can be found; and we're the only dig at Sterling Hill where you can do a "night dig." Oh, and we just found out that there will be a third weight scale at the check-out table to help you get checked out and on the way home faster when things are over late that night.

If you have ANY questions not answered by info on the website, email me at:

[TripMaster@Uvworld.org](mailto:TripMaster@Uvworld.org) and be sure to include your telephone number - I have "unlimited calling" and will be glad to call you back. I enjoy very much talking with our collectors, and I want to be sure you have the best possible experience with us at Sterling Hill on April 27th. (By the way, we do not share your private info with anyone other than the registration crew).

Remember to check the website at <http://www.UVworld.org> now and then, for new and updated info. REGISTER NOW while there is still space...

I look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you on Saturday at the Dig.

Your TripMaster again this year,

Jeff Winkler

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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:**

*If the public schools are closed or close early on the day of our scheduled meeting, then our meeting will be cancelled.*



Reminder...

**NEW MEETING LOCATION**

Lynchburg Parks and Recreation  
Fairview Center  
3621 Campbell Ave.  
Lynchburg, VA

*Directions on page 7.*