

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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Lynchburg, VA, Inc

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



*Happy Mothers Day!*

## *Presidents Message*

Hello To All,

I just received an E-mail from Ralph Torning that he and Ann have plans for selling their home here in Lynchburg and moving out of state closer to their children. Ralph as you know has been keeping our membership records for a number of years now, taking the burden off of our treasurer Frank Midkiff. Ralph has made several improvements to our record keeping with some special programming to keep up with all the members, who is paid up with membership, who is delinquent as well as new members, who we have lost during the year and mailing out current membership badges and advising all those who may need encouraging in keeping their dues current. Ralph we want to thank you for a job

well done and wish the best for You and Ann in your future move. Let them know at the May meeting how much their membership in the GMSL and all the work they have contributed has meant to us and the Club as a whole. I do have some good news to report. Our own Thom Noble has agreed to step up and take the membership duties from Ralph and continue taking care of the record keeping of all the needed information about Club members as entered on the application forms. Remember the only way we have of sending your Gem & Mineral Journal monthly news letter and contacting you about changes in events is the correct info on your yearly membership application. So please keep your info current with the Club. Thanks Thom for taking on this service to the GMSL and I am sure Ralph will be helpful in this time of transition.

*Continued on page 11*

## *From the First VP:*

Greetings All,

Last year I met a lady, Nancy Young, and her husband at a neighborhood watch event. They are unique because they live in a energy saving home built in an old quarry. When Nancy learned that I was associated with GMSL she asked what kind of rock was the green colored stuff all around her home. She invited me to visit her and her husband and they would give me a tour of the house and in return I was to give her an explanation of the green stone. I have yet to take her house tour because I haven't felt informed enough on green stone. The

following Wikipedia article seems to address the subject in detail. Perhaps you too will benefit from an understanding of this green rock around us.

This may be more than you care to know about greenstone, but hopefully it will be the beginning of an understanding that I might convey to Mrs. Young.

May your searches be fruitful,

Jack

*Article begins on page 9*

## April Meeting Minutes

**Meeting- Wednesday,** April 18, 2012

**Attendance- 28** members

**Host-** For tonight's meeting our hosts were Thom and Linda Noble. For the May meeting the host will be Brenda Glass.

**On Time Drawing-** Winners were David Callahan, Tony Shield, Jack Curtin, Tom Powers, Nona Haskins, Lynn Powers, Siglinde Allbeck, Jeffery Wooters, Natalie Darling, Paul Peter Coviello, Sally DeHart.

**Old Business-** John Haskins: Plenty of sluice bags, gem trees, small and medium clocks for our Uncle Billy's Day Festival on June 2nd. We will be ordering more large clock faces and will need to continue working on new projects at the May workshops at Callahan's.

**First V.P.-** Jack Curtin: Bernard brought in specimens collected at Fauber and Wintergreen for all to see. Tonight's speaker is Steve Lenhart on Continental Drift. Arbor day Celebration Saturday 4/21/12 at Miller Park, 10-3.

**Second V.P.-** Dave Callahan: Felid Trips/Activities 4/21- Glendon Quarry; 4/28- American Rutile in

Nelson County; 4/27-29 Graves Mountain Georgia; 4/28- Sterling Hill NJ; 4/14-5/26- Morefield Mine open to the public every Saturday. (Go on your own, fee site). 7/23-8/1- Annual Spruce Pine, NC Field Trips and Shows.

Future Field Trip Possibilities: Franklin NC Early August; Mine in NC and Piney River Boxley Quarry.

**Treasurers Report-** Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$7,710.42.

**New Business-** New design for business card holders and photo holders developed by Dave Callahan, samples on display, opinions welcome.

City council may decide to close the Parks and Recreation building for meetings in the future. If this happens we will need to find another place to meet.

A member at the meeting has a display case for sale - 6.5' x 4', and is asking \$300.00.

We had our silent auction and Dave Callahan also had specimens for sale. We are still accepting donations for the JMU and Radford Scholarship funds.

**Minutes Submitted by:**

### 2012 ELECTED OFFICERS

**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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**Jack Curtin**

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**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-** Jon Glass

**Membership-** Ralph Torning

# PROGRAMS

The exact subject for the May meeting program has not yet been determined as of the printing of this newsletter. I am sure that the masterminds of those in the program planning department will come up with a first class topic for our meeting on May 16, 2012. Please join us!

Dr. Steve Lenhart from Radford University was once again the program speaker for our club meeting. We were treated to a lecture on plate tectonics, and the shifting of the continents. The video pictorial and scientific approach by different scientists was very convincing of the earth's shift over time. We thank Dr. Lenhart for his dedication to the earth sciences and our club.

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### **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:

#### **E-Book on Blacksmithing**

For those interested in the field of blacksmithing and ornamental ironwork, a free downloadable book called "The Blacksmith's Craft" has been prepared by Herefordshire College of Technology in England. The book, first published in 1952, was written for craftsmen, technical schools and apprentice training programs. Though 60 years old, the book continues to be a good introduction to the blacksmith's craft. It can be downloaded from [http://www.hct.ac.uk/downloads/cp\\_blacksmith.html](http://www.hct.ac.uk/downloads/cp_blacksmith.html)

#### **Garnet Bullets**

A cool fact about garnets is that they were actually used in ancient Asia and the American Southwest as bullets in guns. The strong, deep red of the stone was said to cause wounds worse than bullets. Read more about it on the Omnigems Blog- <http://omigems.com/blog/category/gemstones/>

#### **Bench Tips for the Month**

##### **Quick Close-Ups**

There's a quick way to grab a close-up photo from your iPhone or android shown on <http://omigems.com/blog/2012/03/the-traditional-jewelers-loupe-goes-high-tech/>

*Bench Tips Continued on page 11*



# 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 [dbcall1@aol.com](mailto:dbcall1@aol.com)****Past Field Trip ~ April 28, 2012  
Nelson County, Virginia**

Our field trip to this private site presented a unique opportunity to collect some beautiful specimens of ilmenite, rutile, blue quartz and aplite. Aplite is the regional name used for the fine grain blend of quartz, potassium and plagioclase feldspar. Here the aplite was considered a waste rock but in other near-by quarries, it was used in the glass and ceramic industries.

The product produced in this quarry was titanium ore (ilmenite and rutile) used primarily as a white paint pigment. All artists are very familiar with "titanium white".

The mixture of white aplite, sky blue quartz, cut by veins, pockets and tiny crystals of deep red rutile and black ilmenite make a stunning color combination for jewelry, lapidary projects or decorative yard rocks.

In spite of the weather forecast calling for rain showers, we had a great turnout. Twenty six members including about 5 guests from the Shenandoah Valley Club showed up. About noon the showers started so most folks chose to depart.

All indications are that everyone had a good time and found many nice rocks to take home. I hope so! This is one of our best collecting spots and I always look forward to this annual spring trip.

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**-----May Field Trips-----**

There will be no organized club field trip in May due to the necessary workshops to get ready for the June 1 and 2 Uncle Billy's day fund raising event in Altavista.

We need your help!!!

**I invite you to contact the Morefield Mine and go on your own.**

**This could be your last opportunity as the mine may not be open in 2013**

*Continued on page 5*



**MOREFIELD MINE***Continued from page 7***Season Schedule**2012 Spring Schedule

The first Saturday open to the public and no reservation needed is APRIL 14 and each Saturday through MAY 26th being our last Saturday.

There are 7 consecutive Saturdays opened to the public and then closed down for the summer season. Thursdays and Fridays are set aside for classes and groups of 50 or more persons, (adults and children).

Anybody with smaller groups, families or individuals just come out on one of the 7 Saturdays, and no reservation needed.

During the week reservations are necessary. We will be open on those 7 Saturdays rain or shine. The hours on a Saturday is 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for digging and the store closes at 5:00 p.m.

Groups of 50 or more persons will get a discount with a reservation. As of now, we are closed on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays

Reservations are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through Friday is by reservation only Saturday hours = 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Schools need to send a fax to Sharon during the week to make a reservation.

When reservations are made you only need an approximate time of arrival and departure and approximate number of persons. No deposit needed, so you only pay on day of arrival then you have an exact number of persons.

Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day and something to carry your rocks home with you. A Ziploc bag works well.

Make reservations by sending a fax to Sharon at (804) 561-4799 or Call Sharon at the Home office: (804) 561-0344 or at the mine: (804) 561-3399

Gift shop & Museum close at 5:00 pm

**MINE CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER SEASON, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**CHECK LATER FOR THE FALL SCHEDULE**

**Fees****Free Picnic Areas to use.**  
**Admissions**

Age 3 and under are free.

Age 4 and thru Grade 2 = \$8.00 each child

Grade 3 thru Grade 6 = \$8.00 each child

Grade 7 and thru High School = \$10.00 each student

Adults, including seniors = \$12.00

Forms of payment is: cash, checks or credit cards (Visa or MasterCard Only)

Admission fees include up to one five-gallon bucket of rocks per person. So bring your own bucket or pail.

Wear sturdy footwear to the mine, if you are going to go into a area for digging, for safety. (Flip-Flops or Sandals not allowed)

Youngsters age 3 and under are welcome to come along with others and are free.

All adults that come along are welcome too, but need to pay if they go into the digging areas. If with a group that got a discount, then they will get the discount also. If they stay in the waiting area instead, then they won't need to pay.

## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS



### **May DMC Field Trip**

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS.) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS  
(GO-ON YOUR OWN)

**8:30 AM, Saturday, May 26, 2012**

**Bayou Pierre, Utica, MS**

**Place:** Bayou Pierre near Utica, MS

**Time:** Saturday, May 26, 2012 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

**What to find:** Jasper, chert fossils, agates, petrified wood, and sometimes (although rare) palmwood.

**Lodging:** There are motels a few miles north in Clinton (mostly on Springridge Rd), please don't stay in Jackson. There are no motels in Raymond or Utica.

**What to bring:** Buckets or bags for putting rocks in, a stick or tool to stir rocks with, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, drinks and snacks. Also bring lunch to eat under the trees, and we often share with each other.

**What to wear:** Light clothing, hat, sturdy shoes (you might want to wade).

**Meeting Place:** Hubbard's Truck Stop, Corner of Hwy 18 and Hwy 27E.

**Directions:** Off I20 at Jackson, take Hwy 18 (26.7) miles toward Raymond. Hubbards will be on the left, just before Highway 27 E going toward Crystal Springs.

For further information call Janie Hand at 601-706-4629 or email [rockngranny49@aol.com](mailto:rockngranny49@aol.com)

Or David Callahan, GMSL and RVMGS.....

540-297-1853

### **June DMC Field Trip**

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL.) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS.  
(GO-ON YOUR OWN)

**9:00 AM CT, Saturday, June 9, 2012**

**Trenton, AL**

**FEE SITE**

**Place:** Trenton, AL

**Time:** Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Fee:** \$17 adults, \$5.00 children for ages 12-16. Really not recommended for younger than 12 years old.

**What to find:** Paint Rock Agate and various fossils. (Paint Rock agate is usually red and yellow. It can sometimes have other colors and even fortification lines. On occasion large agate nodules are found with hollow places that may have druze quartz crystals. Sometimes these crystals can be quite large, and can even be smoky or amethyst colored. The material is very good for making cabochons or any other type of lapidary processing and polishing, even tumbling!)

**Lodging:** Paint Rock Valley Lodge & Retreat, 865 Co Rd 9, Estillfork, AL, 35745 (256) 776-9411 (Other lodging in Scottsboro, AL or Huntsville, AL)

**What to bring:** Backpack, lots of water and/or Gatorade, lunch, rock hammer, safety glasses, insect repellent, potato rake or pick mattock, and release form.

**What to wear:** Light hiking clothing, hat, sturdy shoes / hiking boots.

**Meeting Place:** Holly Tree Grocery, 11620 AL Hwy 65, Holly Tree, AL 35751.

*Continued on next page*

## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...

*Continued from page 6*

From Montgomery, take I-65 N. Near Decatur, take Exit 340 / I-565 E and go through Huntsville. I-565 becomes US 72 E. Continue on US 72 E. Turn left onto AL 65 and drive to Holly Tree Grocery. (Total drive is approximately 219 miles.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** This is on a mountain and requires moderate physical activity including hiking from the base to the top. It is not easy for beginning hikers and is NOT recommended for children unless strictly supervised! There is plenty of shade on this tree covered mountain; so it is not as hot as most places.

(Georgia Mineral Member responds) I wanted to say something about this location. My wife and I did this about a year and a half ago and had a rough time. This is NOT a gentle mountain slope. This path is steep in places. We aren't in the best of shape, but do exercise regularly and the climb up took us an hour. The climb down took an hour and a half as we were carrying about 50 pounds of rock. I would warn the older members that this is not an easy location to collect. DMC

For further information call field trip coordinator Jeff Edwards at (334) 312-057  
David Callahan, GMSL and RVMGS field trip coordinator 540-297-18530

WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS:

Steve  
Lenhart,  
Radford, VA

Joseph  
& Anne McAnney  
Shipman, VA

Sandra  
Sult,  
Fairlawn, OH

## Uncle Billy's Day Festival

Friday and Saturday, June 1st and 2nd 2012

Calling all club members- your assistance is needed at this festival, which is our first official fundraiser of 2012.

Many folks have been putting their talents to good use at the workshops at Dave Callahan's, and this is our opportunity to sell our beautiful lapidary crafts.

There will be sign up sheets at the meeting, please consider helping out where you can. Many hands make light work for all.



No prior experience necessary, just willingness to work and support your club! I am sure you will have a good time with other club members, and may even learn something new!

*Upcoming Events*

MAY 2012

**May 18-20-** Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry and Bead show; National Guard Armory, Martinsville, VA. Details at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**May 19-23-** Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show; Ruhl Armory, I-695, Exit 26, Towson, MD

**May 25-27-** Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry and Bead show; Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. Details at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**May 26-** DMC Field Trip, Utica, MS. See page 6.

**June 1-2-** Uncle Billy's Day event in Altavista. See page 7.

**June 9-** DMC Field Trip Trenton, AL. See page 6.

**June 9-10-** Rockfest 2012- Tellus Science Museum, 100 Tellus Drive, Cartersville, GA 30120- Join us for one of the largest gem and mineral shows in Georgia. Gems, Minerals, Xploration stations, mineral and fossil identification, door prizes, vendors. For information contact Michelle Pate at 770-606-5700 or [michellep@tellusmuseum.org](mailto:michellep@tellusmuseum.org)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Meeting 7PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Field Trip
27	28	29	30	31	Uncle Billy's Day ← →	2

**Federation News** *(reprinted from April 2012 Tips and Trips)*

“A Celebration of Agates,” an international symposium and show, will be held in conjunction with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) annual convention this July in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Event registration forms and hospitality information are available online [minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.html](http://minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.html) or you can call Sandy at 651-459-0343 or Phil at 763-717-1641. You can find more information on this and other Federation News at these links [www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.html](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.html) [www.amfed.org/sfms/](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/)



## *From the First VP: continued from page 1*

*Taken from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

Greenschist is a general field petrologic term applied to metamorphic or altered mafic volcanic rock. The term greenstone is sometimes used to refer to greenschist but can refer to other rock types too. The green is due to abundant green chlorite, actinolite and epidote minerals that dominate the rock. However, basalts may remain quite black if primary pyroxene does not revert to chlorite or actinolite.

To qualify for the name a rock must also exhibit schistosity or some foliation or layering. The rock is derived from basalt, gabbro or similar rocks containing sodium-rich plagioclase feldspar, chlorite, epidote and quartz.

### **Petrology**

Greenschist, as a rock type, is defined by the presence of the minerals chlorite and actinolite and may contain albite or epidote. Greenschist often has a lepidoblastic, nematoblastic or schistose texture defined primarily by chlorite and actinolite. Greenschists often have some foliation resulting in mineral alignment, especially of chlorite and actinolite. Grain size is rarely coarse, due primarily to the mineral assemblage. Chlorite and to a lesser extent actinolite typically exhibit small, flat or acicular crystal habits.

### **Greenschist facies**

Greenschist facies is determined by the particular temperature and pressure conditions required to metamorphose basalt to form the typical greenschist facies minerals chlorite, actinolite, and albite. Greenschist facies results from low temperature, moderate pressure metamorphism. Metamorphic conditions which create typical greenschist facies assemblages are called the Barrovian Facies Sequence, and the lower-pressure Abukuma Facies Series. Temperatures of approximately 400 to 500 °C and depths of about 8 to 50 kilometers are the typical envelope of greenschist facies rocks. The equilibrium

mineral assemblage of rocks subjected to greenschist facies conditions depends on primary rock composition.

**Basalt:** chlorite + actinolite + albite +/- epidote

Ultramafic: chlorite + serpentine +/- talc +/- tremolite +/- diopside +/- brucite

**Pelites:** quartz +/- albite +/- k-feldspar +/- chlorite, muscovite, garnet, pyrophyllite +/- graphite

**Calc-silicates:** calcite +/- dolomite +/- quartz +/- micas, scapolite, wollastonite, etc.

In greater detail the greenschist facies is subdivided into subgreenschist, lower and upper greenschist. Lower temperatures are transitional with and overlap the prehnite-pumpellyite facies and higher temperatures overlap with and include sub-amphibolite facies.

If burial continues along Barrovian Sequence metamorphic trajectories, greenschist facies gives rise to amphibolite facies assemblages, dominated by amphibole and eventually to granulite facies. Lower pressure, normally contact metamorphism produces albite-epidote hornfels while higher pressures at great depth produces eclogite.

Greenschist rocks have been used to make axes across Europe. Several sites including Langdale axe industry have been identified.

### **Eastern North America**

A form of chlorite schist was popular in prehistoric Native American communities for the production of axes and celts, as well as ornamental items. In the Middle Woodland period, greenschist was one of the many trade items that were part of the Hopewell culture exchange network, sometimes transported over thousands of kilometers.

During the time of the Mississippian culture, the polity of Moundville apparently had some control over the production and distribution of greenschist. The Moundville source has been shown to be from two localities in the Hillabee Formation of central and eastern Alabama.

## SIZE MATTERS

*By Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair, Reprinted from EFMLS News, May 2010*

Really! It does! Think of cabinet specimens, thumbnails and micromounts- one would never enter a cabinet specimen in a micro-mount competition. Now think even smaller, think chips, dust and microns. Imagine collectors working on breaking rocks in a hot dusty quarry. Imagine the look after hours of digging, hammering, and even perspiring where clothes are dirty, gloves are dirty, face is probably dust covered (with assistance from the aforementioned perspiration and dust). The only part of one not covered are the clean circles around your eyes, that were protected by your goggles- you were wearing your goggles weren't you? If so, congratulations! Give yourself a pat on the back.

Now think of your nose. With all the quarry dust and those chips flying your way, think of the title of this article. Size matters. Hammer chips may go flying but they soon land on the ground or in your shoes. Dust, especially the really fine particles, are often suspended in the air for lengthy periods of time- time in which they can cover clothes and gloves and faces and be inhaled. Our noses are nice

moist places. They provide great mechanisms for collecting dust. Given small amounts of dust, one's nose is remarkably efficient with keeping particulate matter from reaching our lungs. Noses are efficient, think of a dirty sneeze- you know the kind I'm talking about. Now, if you are not experiencing such sneezes again congratulations- either you are working in a relatively clean environment or are taking steps to protect your lungs by wearing a dust filtering mask. Give yourself another pat on the back.

It is good to protect yourself by wearing a dust mask. It is even better to prevent dust from getting to you in the first place. It's even better to avoid dust in the environment or be exposed to dust to begin with; but really, we live in a dirty, dusty world. Let's settle for good ventilation (either natural or man made) to keep dust away when we can- if we can't, a dust mask may be called for.

Lapidary work has similar issues. We are supposed to use good ventilation practices and keep dust down by keeping things wet as we enjoy our lapidary work. Now think of most lapidary equipment. Even with the best of good practices the equipment becomes dirty and dust covered. How does it get dirty? Well, yes there is usually some splashing but a good deal of cutting dust is

transported by water vapor and mist in the air. The water vapor is carrying that dust to equipment, to aprons, to worktables, to hands, and again, to faces- and faces (except for certain prize fighters) are where our noses reside. If one does a good deal of lapidary, please consider protecting your nose with the use of adequate ventilation in conjunction with a proper fitting dust filtration mask. One may be surprised to note just how moist a dust mask gets with that water-vaporcarried dust.

Your nose knows that size matters. I hope this short message has engaged your brain to think so as well. The chips may fall where they may but dust goes on and on- just hanging around to await inhalation.

For this month's safety review, considering the warmer than usual temperatures experienced in many parts of the east coast this past mid and late winter, please consider making a review of Bill Klose's excellent sun and heat safety issues article in the June/ July 2006 issue of the EFMLS News, which is available from the EFMLS web site at [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls). Just click on "Newsletters" tab to download the issue.

Thank you and please remember, size and your safety matters!

## Presidents Message... *Continued from page 1*

I received an E-mail from a long past Club member John Byrum. He told me of a rock saw he has and would like to donate it to someone that he knew would get a lot of use from it. Saturday morning on our way to the Rutile Quarry field trip Dave Callahan & I stopped by Johns home and picked up the saw, which I may say was nothing like any I had seen before. It has a revolving table which is designed to hold different size rocks in the four separate clamps as well as being controlled by a hand wheel with rack and pinion drive. It will be setup at our Clubs workshop, so come on out and take a spin. Thanks John the saw will be put to good use.

Talking about using a saw, we need to put all the saws to work on the Saturdays in May to get ready for the Uncle Billy's Day Festival in Altavista, VA on June the 2<sup>nd</sup>. As I said at the April meeting we have enough Gem Sluice bags, Gem Trees, Belt buckles and Rock Pets, but we do need to make more of the Rock Bookends, Rock Business Card holders and a few more Large Rock Faced clocks. So you are invited to come out on Saturdays in May to the Workshop and give a helping hand. There will be a volunteer signup sheet at the May Club meeting. Thanks for your support. That's all for now. See you at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## Bench Tips...

*Continued from page 3*

**MOTOR SAFETY-** The little things can bite!

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of half a horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

But the point here is with the smaller powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself

sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the hand-piece and then wack the thumb that was holding the workpiece so badly that it seemed the bone might be broken. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? I don't think so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it! Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the

left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friends arm. There was no way to get a hand on the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when my friend could grab the gyrating power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even those little motors for granted.



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.

**Congrats Graduates!**



**GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.**  
**[WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG](http://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 5/16. 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.\*\*\***

