

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2012 VOLUME 21~ ISSUE 11

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

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Presidents Message

Hello To All,

I think that "WOW" is a good word to describe the month of October for the GMSL.

The Society meeting had a great program of hands on demonstrations of most all the lapidary arts, from cabbing, sphere making, gem tree making, wire wrapping and faceting gem stones. I hope there was something for everyone to inspire a trip to a future workshop. The Club's workshop is stocked with a full complement of machines & material, I hope all will come out to create their favorite project.

The weekend of Oct. 20-21 was a great time to participate in the Apple Harvest Festival at Amherst Co. High School. The weather was beautiful, the fall foliage was turning a rainbow of color & there was a



big crowd to try out our Gem & Mineral Sluice as well as purchase the hand made items from the Club. It was a great weekend & I'm sure Frank Midkiff has a good report for us.

The following Saturday, the 27th we all gathered at the Boxley, Piney River Quarry, for another good day to collect some new specimens. After the Quarry trip a group of us headed to a near by collecting site where we found some nice rocks to make bookends

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From the First VP:

From

Searching for that "Wet Water" Look

Perhaps a year or more ago on one of our club's scheduled field trips, I broke open a huge rock and exposed some gorgeous orange feldspar intermingled with large books of glittering mica. Well, that one-of-a-kind specimen just had to fit into my station wagon no matter how much it weighed! Somehow with lots of help that awesome task was completed and now that beauty is adorning our driveway at home. It sparkles beautifully when it's raining or wet, but looks pretty drab when dry and that's most of the

time now. I've been wondering how I might recapture that water-wet look. I understand that some of our club members use clear lacquer to bring out that wet look in their treasured yard rocks. Some say that even mineral oil would work. My wife uses a SCI Stone Spray-N-Seal product on the granite counter tops at home to protect the stone from stains. It seems to give the stone surfaces that wet-look. I haven't tried it on my feldspar yard rock, but I started doing some research on rock sealers. Seems like there are topical and impregnating sealers available for purchase. Topical sealers sit on the surface of the stone whereas the impregnating or penetrating sealers work their way into the pores and crevices of the stone to protect them from within. Most topical

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October Meeting Minutes

Meeting- Wednesday Oct. 17, 2012

Attendance- 28 members and 6 guests

Host- For the October meeting, our host was Sandy Speck, and for the November meeting hosts will be Thom and Linda Noble

On Time Drawing- Winners were: Kathy Wickham, Paul Coveillo, Debbie Kennedy, Tom Davis, Laura Leyzorek, Bob Sharp, Frank Midkiff

Old Business- John Haskins: The deadline for Rock and Gem subscriptions is tonight. Thom Noble took orders. The club will get a donation for each subscription.

Apple Festival Oct. 20-21, sign up sheet was available for volunteers. Nominations for next year's slate of officers will close at the November meeting. Elections will be conducted at the December meeting.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: Program for this meeting will be various technique demonstrations that you can use on specimens/ rocks. Slabs, cabs, spheres, faceting, wire wrapping and gem trees. Jack also has some lapidary articles for you to review. if you are interested in getting a copy, place your name and email address on the sheet and he will forward the information to you.

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: Field Trips/ activities: 10/27- Field Trip to Boxley Quarry; Morefield Mine will be open on Saturdays in Oct. thru Nov 3. Go on your own- it is not known how much longer it will be open. Roanoke club show will be held at the Salem Civic Center the weekend of Thanksgiving. Flyers and free tickets available. Volunteers needed to show the fluorescent specimens. We also need to borrow fluorescent specimens and Super Bright lights for the display. If you have any we can use, please bring them to the Nov. meeting or contact Dave or John for pick up.

Name tags will be ordered- \$8.00 each for 2 lines, or \$9.50 for 3 lines. Magnetic or pin on available. Sign up sheet available, pay when they come in.

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$7,812.63.

New Business- John purchased 2 tables for the workshops and some grinding wheels for the saws.

In addition to our program, we enjoyed our silent auction, of which 100% of the proceeds goes directly to the club treasury. Thanks for your continued support!

Minutes submitted by:

Brenda Glass, Secretary

2012 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - John Haskins
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JMHaskinsI@netzero.net

First Vice President

Jack Curtin

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Editor - Natalie Darling

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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

Website- Casper Voogt

Workshops- Dave Callahan

FRA Adult Liaison- Jon Glass

Membership- Thom Noble



PROGRAMS

For our October Program: We enjoyed learning more about different ways to cut, display, or accessorize our rocks. Members demonstrated cabochon making, faceting, wire wrapping, gem trees and sphere making. Attendance was great and everyone seemed to find the demonstrations interesting. Thank you to all who came out to our new location, and thanks to the 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

LOOSE HEADS

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work, but there's a fast and easy solution available for about 50 cents - superglue. Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin superglue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear when you solder the bezel

to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder dissolves a little bit more into the base metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a couple paper thicknesses excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering. Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation would prevent you from gaining access for final sanding and polishing of an area.

FIELD TRIP REPORT...

Boxley Aggregates Piney River Quarry Arrington, Virginia October 27, 2012

This was a great fall trip. The weather was clear and cool and we had a good turnout. We had about 21 from the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs and 5 from the Shenandoah Valley Club.

As with any quarry collecting, the available material varies with the quarry activity and where they are currently mining. Some areas in the quarry are more productive for the mineral collector but not necessarily productive for the quarry. They are in the business of selling crushed stone and gravel uncontaminated with some of the minerals we like to collect such as pyrrhotite. This is an iron sulfide and can be magnetically detected and rejected during the crushing process. We were fortunate to locate an area where small quantities of this rejected material were stockpiled. It is a collectable mineral but weathers rapidly if left outside and inside you might detect a slight sulfur smell.

Some small quantities of rutile, ilmenite, muscovite, biotite, chlorite, pyrite and pink thulite were collected. John Haskins spotted a very large but damaged feldspar crystal and was able to remove the top terminated section with a few well-placed sledge hammer blows. Bernard found a lone basketball sized feldspar crystal in the rubble pile that had very little damage.

Several members collected a lot of potential club bookend, clock, candle and sphere raw materials with

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

interesting bands of color and mineral variety. I do believe that everyone found and brought home some prizes that can be displayed, saved or used as yard or garden rocks.

We are very appreciative to Boxley Aggregates and their Quarry Superintendent, Donald Barricks for the privilege of collecting minerals in their quarry. Everyone was safe and had a wonderful time and we look forward to possibly another trip in the spring.

Photographs from the Piney River Quarry Field trip taken by Linda Noble, submitted by Thom Noble and Dave Callahan.



Additional pictures from the field trip on page 14

UP COMING EVENT

Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show

Salem Civic Center
1001 Boulevard, Salem, VA.



The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg will again host our member's large fluorescent mineral display as part of the Show.

-----Show hours-----

**Friday, November 23, 2012 open to the public
2:00 P.M. thru 7:00 P.M.**

We will set-up the fluorescent mineral display room 9:00A.M until 2:00 P.M. We need member help.
We will be open for public viewing every hour on the half hour. We will need several members to act as guides.

**Saturday, November 24, 2012 open to the public
10:00 A.M. thru 6:00 P.M.**

We will be open for public viewing every hour on the half hour. We will need several members to act as guides.

**Sunday, November 25, 2012 open to the public
Noon thru 5:00 P.M.**

We will be open for public viewing every hour on the half hour. We will need several members to act as guides.
We will knock down and pack up the fluorescent mineral display room 5:00 P.M until we finish.
We need member help.

This is a fund raising event for our club and we really need our members to help set-up Friday morning, be available during each hour the show is open, help pack up Sunday evening and loan us any fluorescent rocks or short wave lamp for the display. Be sure that any loaned material is clearly marked with your name.

If you can only attend for several hours one day, that would be greatly appreciated. To act as a guide while the room is open, about 30 minutes each hour, you do not need a lot of fluorescent mineral knowledge. Any questions can be answered by another knowledgeable member there. You will be surprised how fast you will acquire the knowledge.

When the room is closed, you will be free to visit the many vendors there.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting and if you can't attend the meeting, then email me with the time you will be available. (dbcall1@aol.com or [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) and leave a message)

If you have any fluorescent minerals you would like to loan the club for this display, please bring them to the November 21st meeting or bring them to the set up Friday morning at 9:A.M.

You will be able to access the show thru the big loading doors in the rear with the other vendors. By entering here, you will not need to pay any admission fee, but you will not be in the hourly drawings for the door prizes. That is for the ticket paying customers only.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this annual fund raising project. Please contact me if you have any questions.

October 20-21st 2012

Amherst County Apple Harvest Festival

We had beautiful fall weather with very mild temperatures, which I am sure contributed to the crowds that came out to enjoy the vendors. We had our usual set up, with our sluice and geode cracker attracting folks who had a curiosity and a love of rocks.

Also offered for sale to benefit our club were many of our handcrafted products including bookends, rock candles, business card and photo frame holders, jewelry, gem trees, and sun catchers. We all had a great time working and sharing stories with fellow rock hounds, and it was great to see member Kathryn Sumpter, who made the drive down from northern VA to join us and take pictures for our newsletter.

A big THANK YOU to ALL who came out to help with this event, and for all the “behind the scenes” help such as collecting and workshop participants. These events would not be possible without the continued dedication of many members.

Thanks again to Kathryn Sumpter for the pictures!



EFMLS Insurance Coordination Committee Report 2011-2012 Policy Year

*Submitted by Carl Miller, Chairman, Insurance Coordination Committee for the Eastern Federation; reprinted from the **EFMLS News November 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes.***

I am not going to try to fully recap the issues and trials of the 2011-2012 EFMLS insurance renewals. A huge thank you to EFMLS Treasurer Lou Budell, who with nearly zero warning, picked up the process of collecting club insurance enrollment forms and premium payments.

The problems started when our long time insurance agency, Ladd's Agency, was sold to Brown & Brown, and culminated in the unexpected closing of Ladd's Agency in fall 2011, right in the middle of our renewal. Simultaneously, and without warning or notice to the EFMLS, Brown & Brown decided it could not continue managing the enrollment of clubs and collection of

premiums for the EFMLS insurance programs. This decision led them to also conclude, again without telling us, that they would no longer be allowed to represent EFMLS. We worked the agency representation out, but at the last minute EFMLS had to write-up and send notices to all clubs, create a payment process to collect enrollments and premiums via the EFMLS treasurer, and then make the payments for the insurances.

Although they had initially stopped working on our renewal at the request of Brown & Brown, our incumbent insurer, Burlington Insurance Company, got the renewal quickly back on track once these issues were identified and resolved. They again offered to renew at expiring terms and conditions, at a 2.3% increased rate of \$3.196 per club member. The marketplace for liability insurance programs like ours is very small, and we hope to continue to build a long-term relationship with Burlington.

The 2011-2012 accident insurance renewal once again renewed at a rate of \$2.40 per member with Nationwide insurance company.

NEW DMC WEBSITE LOCATION AND EMAIL ADDRESS

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm>

NEW DMC EMAIL ADDRESS - sfms-dmc@amfed.org

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:

To collect field trip information from its member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2012

Nov. 17-18-Northern VA Club Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Student Union II Building at George Mason University Campus, Braddock Rd & Rte. 123, Fairfax, VA. www.novamineralclub.org for details.

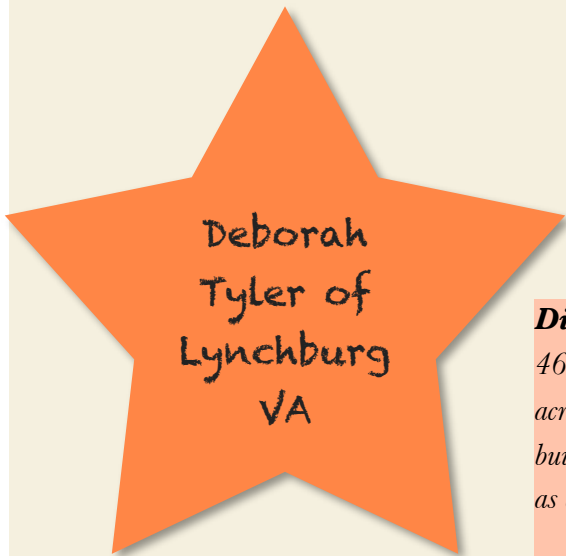
Nov. 23-25- Roanoke Mineral and Gem club annual show and sale. Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA.

SAVE THE DATE: June 1-2, 2013- EFMLS convention and Show hosted by the Island Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Plainview, NY. EFMLS meeting: Friday, May 31.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 GMU Gem Show
18 GMU Gem Show	19	20	21 Meeting 7-9 PM		23 Roanoke Show	24 Roanoke show
25 Roanoke show	26	27	28	29	30	

IMPORTANT ~ NEW MEETING LOCATION

Welcome New Club Member:



Fairview Center
 (A division of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation)
 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!

Tanzanite Trepidation

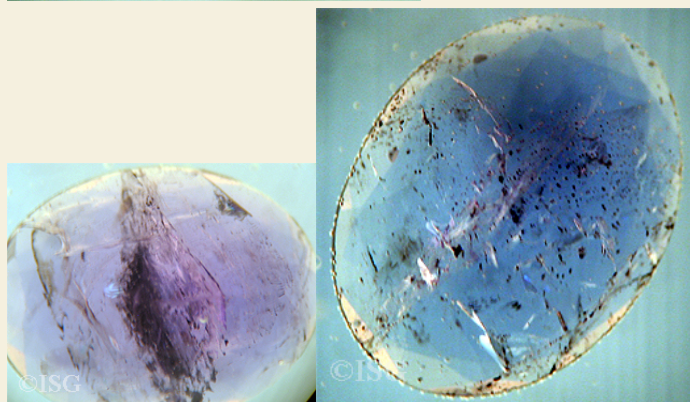
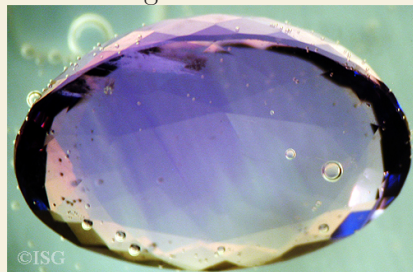
from the ISG website: <http://www.schoolofgemology.com/ISGCommunity/content.php?310-ISG-Tanzanite-Trepidation>
Submitted by club member Dee Tinsley

The sudden surge of large quantities of previously rare and expensive gemstones on the market always gives cause for investigation here in the ISG office, and tanzanite is no different. As always, we believe the only way to accurately test the market conditions of any gemstone is to spend significant resources to procure specimens from the open market, and from a variety of locations and dealers. Allowing a select group of dealers to submit stones for a test is always a recipe for failure as this allows dealers to control the outcome of a study. As such, the ISG always procures our study specimens on the open market, as we have done with tanzanite. Here is what we found...a great deal of Tanzanite Trepidation regarding all of this new and inexpensive material that has suddenly shown up on the market in the last couple of years.

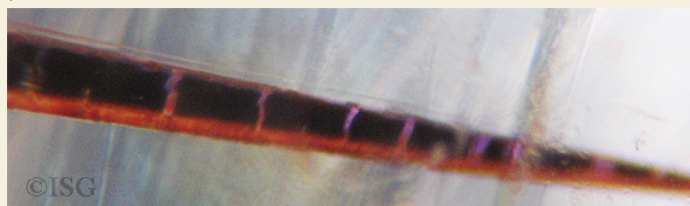
Our previous research on this topic turned up prima facie evidence that someone out there (China or Thailand) is color infusing zoisite using the same method that the ISG uncovered being done to tourmaline. Below is an image from our previous research on this issue.



Of particular interest at the time was that the coloring was concentrated around fissures and surface breaking features of various types. Through a simple Dixie™ cup immersion cell we demonstrated how this color infusion process can be identified in some of the lesser quality stones that did not take the treatment well. Those images are also below.



Based on our research methods and techniques used to expose the Tibet andesine fraud, we also were able to identify tubes of color infusion material in several of the rough tanzanite crystals we obtained, an example from that research is below



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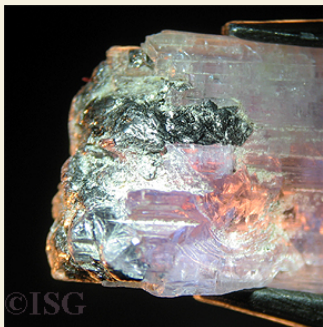
Tanzanite Trepidation

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Recently, however we have uncovered a different type of treatment being done to zoisite to create tanzanites. And while we do not yet fully understand the process being done, the results are quite remarkable.

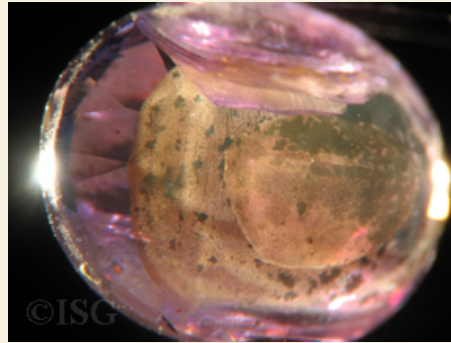
Rather than using a simple color infusion process, it appears that this new process is using a color infusion material that itself has optical properties that emulate a tanzanite. By infusing a previously colorless or perhaps light yellow zoisite with this optical material the cookers have been able to achieve a level of treatment that surpasses anything we have yet seen on the market. The reaction to gemological testing at first look very closely emulates the reaction of natural tanzanite due to what we believe is the optical property of this treatment material.

We first noticed a change in the tanzanite treatment when we started finding melted metal on the surface of certain rough crystals, much the same as we previously found on Tibet andesine. This proved to be annealed graphite, as previously found to be used in treatment crucibles. A specimen example is seen at below.

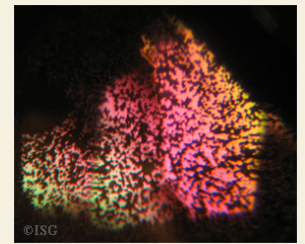
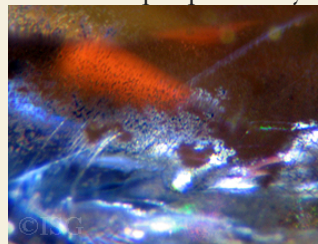


In virtually all of these cases the color of the tanzanite appeared to be somewhat neon in color with reactions to the Chelsea filter and dichroscope appearing skewed to what we know to be natural based on our control specimens from World Gem Society member dealers who are Tanzanite One Siteholders.

Among our faceted study group we found a specimen with a major fracture that was filled with a very strange material that appeared to be deteriorated as seen in the image below.



At first glance at 10x it appears that this is simply a foreign substance in this large plane fracture of this stone. However, on closer inspection with our Meiji Techno microscope, fluorescent fiber optic and halogen fiber optic lights we were able to identify this material as having an iridescent optical quality whose colors changed based on the different light source used. Below left you see this material under fluorescent light that is now a blue color, below right you see this same material under halogen light that is now neon purple and yellow colors.



While the apparent deterioration of this material was quite obvious at 10x, the same material viewed in the specific light sources produced a remarkably different set of colors that were predictable and repeatable across the face of this material.

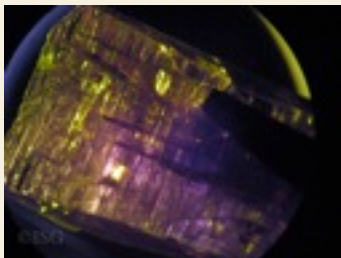
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Tanzanite Trepidation

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This condition, of course, needed confirmation as to whether or not this was some sort of optical anomaly of this stone or if this was indeed a new type of treatment being done to zoisite. To this end we obtained new specimens from the open market, particularly rough tanzanite crystals (very expensive) since our research has shown that most of these treatments are done on rough crystals rather than faceted gemstones due to the “fail rate” of the treatment. The cookers don’t want to incur the cost of cutting gemstones that will not treat properly. Plus, a larger treated crystal will allow for a larger cut gemstone that can remove the areas that don’t treat well and expose the treatment. As a result, the vast majority of treatments we find are done on rough crystals, as was the case with these zoisite.

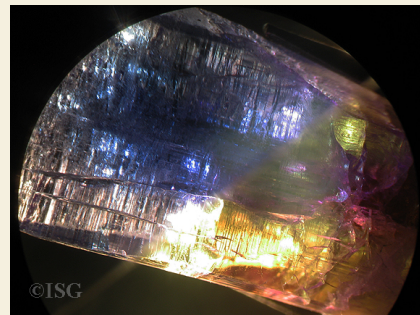
Our first look was with a suspect tanzanite crystal using a Chelsea filter. Having founded the Caribbean Gemological Institute during the Caribbean jewelry tanzanite craze, I have had the opportunity to see thousands of tanzanites both rough and faceted using a variety of instruments. Immediately below you see a tanzanite crystal through a Chelsea filter that is very unusual. The purple color is concentrated around the fissures of the stone, with a very strong yellow reaction that is itself very unusual for tanzanite.



When the stone was rotated the situation became more pronounced. There appears to be a hole in the purple color showing the background yellow. The

smaller image (above right) is a close up of this showing what appears to be a hole in the pinkish purple material showing yellow color through it. Clearly indicative of some type of material inside this crystal, and not of natural origin when viewed through the Chelsea filter.

The final test that exposed the condition of this tanzanite crystal was quite unexpected and profound. This crystal, viewed through a London Dichroscope below, clearly demonstrated that something very strange has taken place with this crystal. This image clearly exhibits four separate colors coming from this tanzanite crystal, with the blue and purple coming from the fractures and fissures, and the crystal itself offering a colorless and strong yellow reaction. One direction of viewing through a London Dichroscope, but producing four distinct colors. We believe that 2 of the colors are optical reactions from the gemstone, and 2 are due to optical reactions of the treatment material.



Conclusion:

Based on our finding of the faceted tanzanite with iridescent material with optical properties that are obviously artificial, and the image of a tanzanite crystal showing four colors in a dichroscope, we have to conclude that something artificial is being done to zoisite to create a tanzanite appearing result. Precisely what is being done, we do not know. That it is being done, we believe there is little question left on that issue.

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Rock Raiders

Fluorescence

by Erica Nathan, reprinted from AFMS Newsletter November 2012

What is Fluorescence?

Fluorescence occurs when energy from electromagnetic spectrum (which includes radio, microwave, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, x-ray, and gamma rays) cause an item to luminesce. In other words, fluorescence occurs when an object is hit by radiation and it lights up. This occurs with different types of radiation but most commonly with UV radiation. On a molecular level, we see just how this works. Photons (which are tiny light particles) hit the atoms of our object. The atoms speed up as they gain more energy and luminesce.

What is phosphorescence?

Phosphorescence is what powers glow in the dark stuff. It occurs when the object is hit by radiation and retains the energy. This radiation can be any type in the electromagnetic spectrum, but UV and visible are most common for this phenomenon. Molecularly, this is a pretty amazing process. The photons hit the atoms of our object causing them to speed up and luminesce. Once the photons are no longer hitting the object, its atoms maintain the energy and continue to luminesce.

What are the different types of UV lights?

UV lights are classified by the wavelength of the light which they emit. The most common type of UV light is long wave.

How do you find fluorescent minerals?

There are two main ways to search for fluorescent minerals. The first involves going to a location rich in fluorescent minerals and testing them under UV. The other option is to take a handheld UV light into the field at night and look for what rocks fluoresce.



B- Brown T- Tan R- Red
G- Green Y- Yellow W- White
O- Orange L- Light Blue

Tanzanite Trepidation

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The images speak for themselves. What is most remarkable about this find is that the cookers have stepped up their game. They are not simply infusing colors, they have elevated their ability to actually infuse material with specific optical properties.

To the cookers responsible: You folks are brilliant! We need more tanzanite on the market, both natural and treated. But we need your treated material to be properly disclosed because failure to do so is destroying the entire tanzanite market for everyone. Disclose your treatments! Otherwise you will eventually cause great damage to the market for tanzanite just as you did for Ruby, Paraiba Tourmaline and Oregon Sunstone.

The ISG will not stand down in our efforts to expose the selling of undisclosed treated gemstones.

That is our word to consumers, the cookers and to the industry.

Robert James

President, International School of Gemology
Join us for the finest education in gemology at the most affordable tuition rates: **Visit the ISG.**

To find a tanzanite dealer you can trust, click on one of the World Gem Society dealer links below, or click on this logo to visit the website:

<http://www.schoolofgemology.com/ISGCommunity/content.php?310-ISG-Tanzanite-Trepidation>

Crystal Tips

*by Joe Polityka reprinted from
PESA Rock News November 2012*

The extinct mineral collection that “was” at The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

In October of 2011 I wrote an article for Mindat on the extinct mineral collection formerly owned by the Philadelphia Academy. I decided to do the article after I found old photography taken in 1980 at The Academy. Robert Middleton was part-time curator of the collection who left after his two year tenure expired. After Bob left, the minerals went into storage, suffered from neglect and were sold to a consortium of dealers for several millions of dollars. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania suite of minerals ended up at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, while much of the outstanding Franklin, New Jersey area specimens returned to the museums in Franklin-Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Other suites of specimens were repatriated to museums in Europe. If you would like to learn more about the collection please go to this link:

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/1334/photos+of+the+extinct+Philadelphia+Academy+Mineral+Collection+circa+1980> I apologize for the quality of the photos but they were taken on a Kodak Instamatic camera and had to be scanned into my photo file. Enjoy!

According to Wikipedia, the TuTona Mine (Great Lion) or Western Deep No.3 Shaft, is a gold mine in Carletonville, South Africa. At 3.9 Kilometers or 2.4 miles it is currently the world's deepest mining operation. It normally takes miners over an hour to reach the working face at which temperatures reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. During the descent to the working face the shaft elevator reaches speeds of 35 mile per hour. The microscopic gold is disseminated in a narrow quartz sea. The mine has been featured on National Geographic Channel's program “Mega Structures”

**Piney River Quarry Field Trip
October 27, 2012**



Above: Club president John Haskins; Right: 1st VP Jack Curtin and below is 2nd VP/ field trip coordinator David Callahan. Again, thank you to Linda Noble for taking pictures for our newsletter.



Presidents Message...continued from page 1
and some colorful slabs for future cabochons.

As I am writing this on Monday the 29th, I never thought that there would be a "Blizzard Warning" for Nelson County today, after the nice Saturday we spent collecting specimens. I hope everyone comes out on the other side of Hurricane Sandy in good shape. Yes, tonight Nona & her family are riding out the storm on a cruise ship anchored in the Chesapeake Bay. We may get some good stories out of this.

I hope everyone can come to the Salem Gem & Mineral Show at the Salem Civic Center on November 23-25th for our annual Fluorescent Mineral display as part of the Show. Dave Callahan will furnish all the details, but you need to come and see the 24 feet of mineral cabinets filled with beautiful Fluorescent minerals from all around the world. When the white lights are turned off and the short and long wave ultra-violet lights bring to life all the rainbow of colors in the Minerals it is hard to describe the breath taking beauty of hundreds of glowing mineral specimens. We will need several volunteers to setup and show this display, there will be a signup sheet at the November 21st meeting. I hope to see you there. Until then,

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First VP: continued from page 1

sealers aren't used on stone however. Unlike topical sealers, there is no need to strip the old impregnating sealer before reapplying new material, most of them aren't affected by ultraviolet light, and high quality sealers do not require frequent applications. I learned

that one can choose from water based and solvent based impregnating sealers. Solvent based sealers are absorbed more deeply into the stone, but they say deeper isn't always better. These sealers have very bad odors and are more challenging to apply. Solvent carried impregnators are excellent water repellents. Water base sealers don't absorb as deeply as do the solvent based sealers, but this is good. It means that the sealer is sitting just below the surface of your stone stopping the liquid from absorbing in. These sealers are easier to apply, safer to handle, and better for the environment than the solvent based sealers. The water based sealers are excellent oil repellents too. At this stage of my investigation, I finally realized that the kind of sealers I was checking out were used to reduce the natural absorbency of a stone and I really wanted a non-discoloring, weather resistant coating that would give me that spectacular wet-water look. It should also protect the surfaces of my rock from moisture, mildew, and mold.

At this point I began a Google search on Wet-look sealers and learned that impregnating sealers are generally recommended for outdoor use with or without a top coat of a topical sealer. One has to thoroughly clean the stone surfaces using a pressure washer or perhaps a chemical treatment if that won't disintegrate the rock. Once the stone is thoroughly clean and dry, you apply the sealer with a brush in thin even coats being careful to avoid puddling. Apply multiple coats to ensure a solid barrier. At this point I've resolved to try Sharon's SCI sealer, some mineral oil, Matte Finish Seal Color Enhancer (available at Home Depot) and a clear urethane spray. I'll be sure to properly label each site and see what happens. Any input members might have in this area will be greatly appreciated!

Happy Hunting,

Jack Curtin

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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.



Reminder...

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Lynchburg Parks and Recreation

Fairview Center

3621 Campbell Ave.

Lynchburg, VA

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Morefield Mine Update



The Morefield Mine is open only on November 3rd, 17th, 24th and December 1st and 8th.
Go to their web site for additional details. There is no assurance that they will be open in 2013.



Go now while you have the chance. It is a great place to take the kids.

www.toteshows.com/morefield.html



Mine owners Sam and Sharon Dunaway standing in the shaft showing the beautiful green amazonite wall on Sharon's right. →

