

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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

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



## Presidents Message

Hello To All,

I just received word from Frank Midkiff that the Apple Harvest Festival sales were a great success this year. We owe it all to the hard work and dedication of long time members as well as new that helped to make this another banner year for the GMSL. I would like to thank everyone that contributed their time and talent to the effort and also to Natalie Darling, Nona Haskins and Cindy Mitchell for creating three new items to sell at festivals. The refrigerator magnets, Rock Concerts and rock night lights were all a hit.

Remember the Club will have another opportunity to sell their hand made items at the Jefferson Choral Bazaar at the #715 Moose Lodge on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, I hope you can join us. We will still have a signup sheet for volunteers at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Speaking of which, we are excited about the **Club auction at the November meeting**. There will be Silver & Turquoise jewelry, all shapes, sizes &

colors of petrified wood & really nice specimens of minerals & crystals to add to your collection. I would like to see everyone participate in this once a year special auction and support your Gem & Mineral Society.

We have a lot of fluorescent minerals to sell as well, but due to time constraints and the nature of the minerals, they will be for sale in a dark room at our December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will be a great opportunity to see Fluorescent minerals as they appear in Ultra-Violet light. To whet your appetite for Fluorescent minerals, you must make the trip to the Roanoke Valley Gem & Mineral Show on November 29-30 & December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Salem Civic Center. The GMSL will again this year have on display in U-V lighted cabinets hundreds of spectacular fluorescent minerals from all over the world. This is a must see show, and there will be a signup sheet for volunteers at our November meeting. It takes a good number of people to make this show a success, I hope we can count on you this year. It's also *continued on page 15*

## From the First V.P.

This month's meeting features our annual club auction. So come to the meeting with plenty of moola to get those prized minerals and rocks that will surely tantalize your rock hounding appetites.

I was among the eighteen enthusiastic rock hounds that met at the Vulcan Manassas Aggregate Quarry in Manassas, VA Saturday morning the 2nd of November. The place is gigantic, fully half a mile across and 550 feet deep. The base rock there is dolerite, a dark grey diabase. After some searching, I

found some tiny orange-brown crystals in small vugs in the dolerite. Questioning some of the "pros" from the Northern Virginia Mineral Club who hosted the event and had been there before about the identity of these crystals, I was given a couple of opinions about what they might be. Some said Stilbite, some said Stellerite. I have done some web searching and feel that my findings must be stilbite. Thought that some might be interested in distinguishing one from the other so *continued on page 14*



## October Meeting Minutes

**Meeting-**Wed.October 16, 2013

**Attendance-** 33 members and 4 guests

**Host-** Greg and Sharon Lester were hosts for tonight, and Pam Klien will be the host for the November meeting. *Please remember to bring something to contribute to our refreshments. If everyone brings a little something to share we will all eat well!*

**On Time Drawing-** Winners were: Nona Haskins, Jean Midkiff, Debra Tyler, James Matick, Nathan Lester, Frank Midkiff, Steve Lenhart, Thom Noble, Jack Curtin, and Cindy Mitchell. Dave Callahan won the 50/50 drawing.

**Old Business-** John Haskins: Reminder to all who are willing to volunteer to work at the Apple Harvest Festival and the November Jefferson Choir Society Bazaar to sign up for a time you can help.

Anyone interested in running for an office for the club please see Siglinde Allbeck. Nominations will close in November with election to be held in December.

Thom Noble read the guidelines he created for the Welcome Committee and anyone interested

in being a part of the committee please see him during break or after tonight's meeting.

**First V.P.-** Jack Curtin: Tonights program will be by Ed Blackburn on his work in Guyana mining for gold and diamonds.

**Second V.P.-** Dave Callahan: Field Trips: 11/2: Vulcan Quarry with NOVA club; 11/16: Graves Mtn. GA; 11/16: Enterprise Mine with GMSL; 11/9-12/1: Roanoke Club show @Salem Civic Center; Please sign up if you can help out. Dave also has T-shirts that need to be paid for and picked up.

**Treasurers Report-** Balance at this time \$4401.82

**New Business:** John was contacted by Brad Barron who lives in Alton, VA. He is looking for someone interested in cutting and making some jewelry for him (sapphire) see John for phone number.

**Program:** Thanks to Ed Blackburn for an interesting, educational program on gold and diamond mining in Guyana.

Minutes submitted by

**Linda Noble, Secretary.**

### 2013 ELECTED OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT - John Haskins**

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**First Vice President**

**Jack Curtin**

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**Editor - Natalie Darling**

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**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

Special Thanks to Ed Blackburn, Roanoke club member, for his presentation on his work mining for gold and diamonds in Guyana. Ed also promised to donate one the diamonds from the mine to our club auction, which will be held **November 20, 2012** at the regular club meeting. Please join us for **our Annual Auction! There will be many special specimens and jewelry on the block.** Plan now to attend - don't miss this opportunity to enhance your collection while supporting your club.

### 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)



### MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a

piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.



*Continued on page 15*



## FIELD TRIP REPORT..

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report

Hello Folks,

Here is the information for another field trip to the Enterprise Manganese Mines in Appomattox County.

We are actually guests of the Maryland Club who set up this trip.

The land owners wanted to keep the total people down to about 20, thus

there will be about 12 slots open for us. If more slots open up I will contact those on the reserve list so it is important to sign up early if you want to attend. If there is sufficient interest, I will set up another trip in the near future.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your cooperation,  
David Callahan, Field Trip Leader for the GMSL and RVMGS [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

#### Contact

#### Information for Field Trips

**David Callahan,**

**Field Trip Chairman**

**Home phone: 540-297-1853**

**Cell Phone- 540-874-5201**

**E-mail [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)**

we

### COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

~~~~~(REVISED 11-3-13)~~~~~

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc  
The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.  
And Several other members from Northern VA and  
Maryland clubs will join us.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2013**

**10AM to 3PM**

**THE ENTERPRISE MANGANESE MINES  
Near Beckham, Appomattox, County, VA**

**Sign-up required and we are limited to no more than 12 members. All over that will be put on a reserve list in case of cancelations. DO NOT DELAY IF YOU WANT TO GO ON THIS TRIP---call me---email me or sign-up at the meeting**

**MEETING PLACE & TIME:** We will meet at Templeton's Market and Shell Station, 4928 Richmond Highway, Lynchburg, VA. That is on US 440 East, very near the eastern Lynchburg City limits. This will be before you come to the US 29 North bypass exit. From Roanoke, drive to Lynchburg on US

460E. Continue on around the city like you are going to Appomattox. Templeton's is a couple of miles past the US 501 South interchange.

We will all assemble beside the market toward the rear and behind the gas pumps. Please do not block the pumps or store access. This is a good place to gas up and grab a bite to eat. **We will DEPART FROM HERE PROMPTLY AT 9:30 AM.** So be on time or be left behind.

**THE TRIP:** We will be collecting manganese minerals at the old Enterprise Mines located on the property of the Rockcliffe Farm Retreat, 816 Walker's Ford Road, Concord, VA ( check this out on Google Maps ) Go by the direction below. **DO NOT FOLLOW YOUR GPS!** It will take you to the wrong location.

The Enterprise Mines are a group of 5 mines located on a line about two miles long. We have permission to collect in the Nutall #2 and perhaps the Nutall #3. The Nutall #1 and #4 are at opposite ends of the trend. The Button mine is on another property across the highway.

*Continued on next page*

## FIELD TRIP REPORT... *continued from page 4*

**COLLECTING:** The nodular manganese ores and brown manganiferous chert were found associated with quartzite in the Beckham and Gowans Hill area on the Nutall and Button estates. Records indicate that little serious mining was conducted prior to 1953.

[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org) and Minerals of Virginia, lists the major manganese ores as cryptomelane, (brown, greyish-white with an earthy luster and 5 to 6.5 hardness) a hard compact, finely crystalline magnesium oxide. Much of the psilomelane reported here may be cryptomelane, indistinguishable except by lab tests.

Also manganite (black to dark gray, metallic, 4 hardness, dark brown to black streak and heavy). You may find some small beautiful crystals.

Search the dump piles in the woods and surrounding area for nice botryoidal specimens of the manganese ores and nice small quartz crystals in the quartzsite. Also observe but do not touch the old mining equipment still in the area. Be well aware of where you put your hands and feet. There will be poison ivy and possibly other critters you may encounter.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Lynchburg, Roanoke, etc. (from the west)

- Get on 460, in Lynchburg heading east, towards Appomattox.

Meet at Templeton's Market and Shell Station (see directions above)

We will leave as a group at 9:30AM, following these directions below. If you come from other areas, go to [www.rockcliffefarm.com](http://www.rockcliffefarm.com) and download directions. We will gather at the farm entrance on Rt. 623 around 10AM. Do not park on Rt. 623 but inside the property along the driveway. Do not block the drive or any other cars.

### Directions from Templeton's Market :

Exit at Mt. Athos Road, just after Moore's Country Store, a few miles east of Lynchburg.

Go .4 mi. on Mt. Athos Road, then Right on SR 609, Stage Road.

Go 3.3 mi. on Stage Road, then Left on SR 611, Paradise Hill Road.

Go 6.6 mi. on Paradise Hill Road, going past Herndon's Store (on left), then bear Left on SR 667, Tin Top Road.

Go .9 mi. on Tin Top Road, then Right at stop sign onto SR 605, Beckham Road.

Go 1.6 mi. on Beckham Road, then Left on SR 623, Walkers Ford Road

### ONCE ON WALKERS FORD ROAD

**Go 3/4 mile, then Right at the "Rockcliffe Farm" sign, 816 Walker's Ford Road,**

Park after you get inside driveway, not on Rt 623. For additional space go left UP the hill. LOTS of parking at the top of the hill.

We will all gather at the farm entrance off Rt. 623 when we arrive about 10 AM. Do not park on Rt. 623 but inside the property along the driveway. Do not block the drive or any other cars.

A Club member will direct the parking and determine which vehicles will be used to transport people up and down the hill. As soon as we arrive, I will drive down to the mine to determine the road conditions. Wait for me to return before we drive down as a group.

The road to the mine may very well be muddy and we have been requested to leave all but maybe six 4

*Continued on next page*

## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...

*Continued from page 5*

wheel drive trucks or SUV to drive down and transport the people down and back that choose not to walk. It in maybe a 1/2 mile walk to the mining area with no really good place to turn around. We must not cause damage to the road and the hill going up to the mine area can be quite slick and rutted.

**TOOLS & EQUIPMENT:** No hard hat will be required but good boots will be needed because of the terrain. Bring buckets and or collecting bags. Manganese is heavy so come prepared. A hoe or something to turn rocks and scratch thru the leaf matter on the spoil piles will be helpful. Hammers and a chisel will be needed to break open the larger pieces. Being a loop to observe the many small crystals in the manganite and quartzsite. Bring lots of water, snacks and bug spray. There are no facilities in the area so come prepared. You can depart at any time you like, just be sure to let me know if you leave early. Please leave no trash, do not under cut trees or their roots. Fill in any holes you dig. Please respect the property and keep it cleaner than we find it.

**OTHER THINGS OF INTEREST:** Be sure to check out the Retreat's web site [www.rockcliffefarm.com](http://www.rockcliffefarm.com). They offer a great variety of activities such as Lodging, fishing, canoeing, hiking and nature walks and much more. They have been very gracious to share this part of their property with our group on this day.

If you are interested in any of the activities offered here, please contact Joan or Hugh directly thru their web site to arrange your own visit.



**NO DMC FIELD TRIP FOR DECEMBER 2013**

## Welcome New Members:

Whitney  
O'Brien from  
Appomattox, VA

Linwood  
Hoffman from  
Bedford, VA

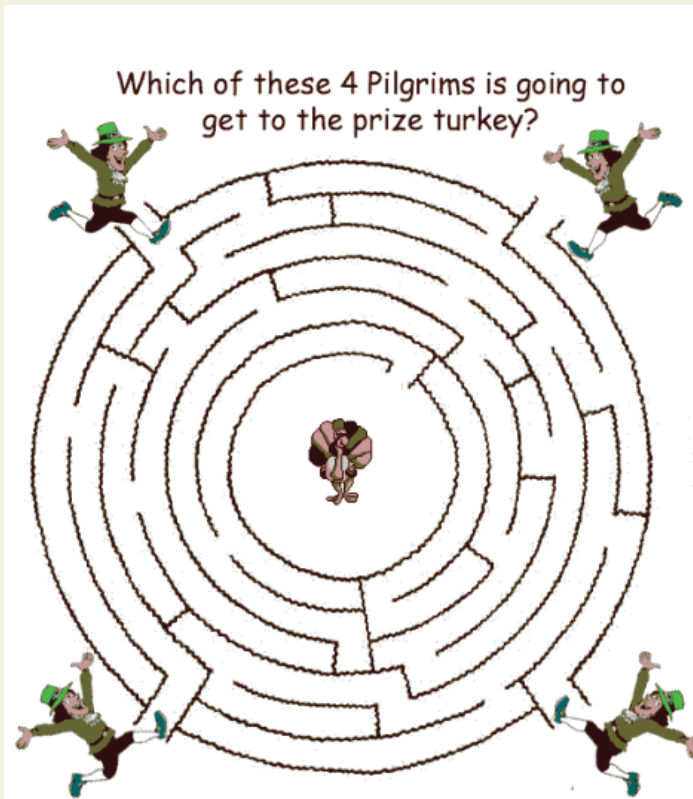
James Hall from  
Linden, VA

Tricia Rucker  
from Forest, VA

Joseph  
Bustamante  
from  
Alexandria VA

Jennifer  
Golston from  
Bedford, VA

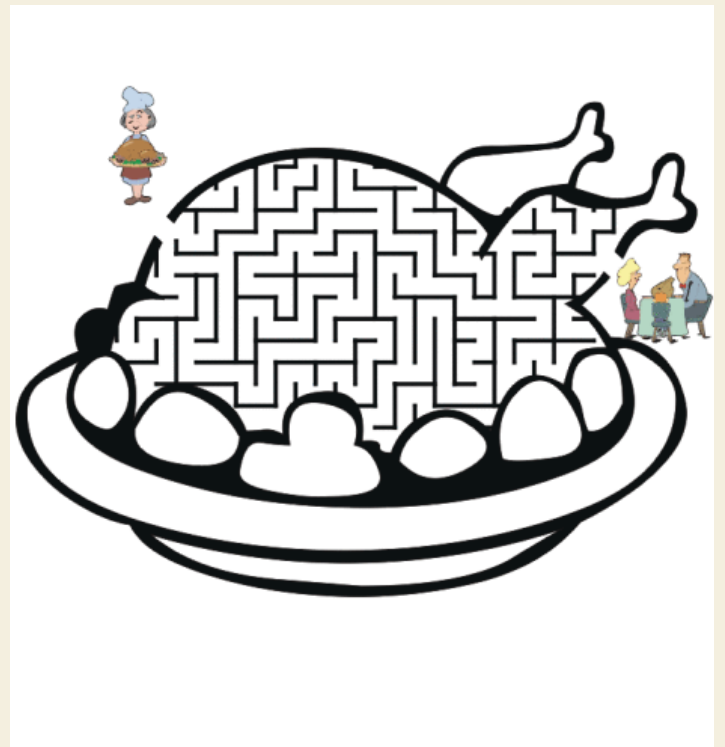
## Rock Raiders



**Hematite** by Bob Farrar,  
*reprinted from Nov. 2013 Rostrum*

Hematite is the most important ore of iron, and so is of tremendous economic importance. As such, hematite may seem like a rather mundane mineral, but it is also an interesting mineral for collectors, and is sometimes used in lapidary work.

Hematite consists of ferric oxide,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . It crystallizes in the hexagonal system, but good crystals are relatively uncommon. Hematite varies in color from red to black, but the streak is typically red. The red color of the streak is the root of its name, which



comes from the Greek haimatitis, meaning “blood red”. Hematite also varies greatly in hardness, from soft, earth material with a hardness of about 1, to compact material with a hardness of 6.5. It is a fairly heavy mineral, with a specific gravity of 4.9 to 5.3. The red streak of hematite is its most important distinguishing characteristic. Streak distinguishes hematite from limonite and ilmenite, and a lack of magnetism distinguishes it from magnetite. Crystallized hematite commonly known as “specular hematite” is fairly distinctive in appearance, commonly forming flat, hexagonal plates. Soft, red material is known as ochre, and has been used as a pigment since prehistoric times. *Continued on pg. 13*

*Upcoming Events*

November 2013

**Nov. 23-24-** Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the NOVA Mineral Club, George Mason University, [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org) for more info.

**Nov. 16th-** GMSL Field Trip to the Enterprise Mine. See page 4 for details or contact Dave Callahan.

**Nov. 20-** 7:00-9:00PM- **GMSL Annual Auction-** The auction will follow a short business meeting. Many excellent specimens and beautiful Native American Jewelry to be sold.

**Nov. 23-** The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg will have a booth to sell our lapidary arts and crafts at the Jefferson Choral Society Holiday Bazaar, Moose Lodge 715, 2307 Lakeside Dr, Lynchburg, VA. Free Admission.

**Nov. 22-24-** 28th annual Cobb County Gem and Mineral Show at Cobb Civic Center, Marietta, GA. [www.gamineral.org](http://www.gamineral.org) for details.

**Nov.29-Dec 1-** 34th Annual Roanoke Gem and Mineral Show at Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153. Admission \$4.50 for adults (good all 3 days) Children under 16 admitted free.

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED                                  | THURS                                                                                 | FRI                   | SAT                   |
|-----|-----|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|     |     |      |                                      |                                                                                       | 1                     | 2                     |
| 3   | 4   | 5    | 6                                    | 7                                                                                     | 8                     | 9                     |
| 10  | 11  | 12   | 13                                   | 14                                                                                    | 15                    | 16<br>Field Trip      |
| 17  | 18  | 19   | 20<br>Meeting/<br>Auction<br>7:00 PM | 21                                                                                    | 22                    | 23<br>Craft<br>Show   |
| 24  | 25  | 26   | 27                                   |  | 29<br>Roanoke<br>Show | 30<br>Roanoke<br>Show |

**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.





Photographs from the GMSL booth at the  
2013 Apple Festival in Amherst, VA

Thanks to all who came out and participated!



Don't miss your chance to be a part of the fun...  
**Join us on 11/23/2013 at the Moose Lodge** on Lakeside Dr. in Lynchburg. We will have a display and be selling our lapidary crafts.



*Above right: Rock clocks and book ends, always a hit with the crowds. directly above, Rock Magnets, a new addition to our offerings. Left and right: another happy customer at the sluice.*



*Photo's submitted by Linda Noble and Natalie Darling*

## The Manual

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

from *EFMLS News*, Oct.-Nov. 2013, reprinted from *Rock Buster News*, Nov. 2013

Seems as though there are safety instruction manuals for everything now-a-days. Safety goggles, rock picks, hardhats, and lapidary equipment of all sorts have their manuals or instructions. With our litigious society, companies are bound by their insurers and volumes of government regulations to insure your safety. Their manuals are there, in part, for your protection and safety. The instructions in most manuals ask the user something to the effect of "Please read and follow these instructions." Those instructions are there for a reason!

Just the other day I assembled a tiny portable charcoal grill. The grill had all of four assemblable parts. I read all three pages of assembly instructions (except for those in French, German and Portuguese languages), twice! Yes, even with this simple assembly, I read the directions. The directions were so simple I could have assembled the grill with one screwdriver tied behind my back. Even though simple, I still read the directions.

Our EFMLS and AFMS both abide by a set of safety instructions- you may know them as the "Code of Ethics." I hope you keep a set of the Code with you. They appear in the September and October AFMS Newsletters which can be downloaded from the AFMS website ([www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)) if you don't have them.

The "Code's" safety aspects are summarized below:

1. "I will respect both private and public property..." This is for your safety as well as ethical.
2. "I will keep informed on all laws..." Also for your protection. knowledge is indeed power.

3. "I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines..." Very much a safety issue as well.
4. "I will use no firearms or blasting..." No more need be said about this safety issue.
5. "I will cause no willful damage..." Again a safety issue, for you and the property owner.
6. "I will leave all gates as found." Safety for your fellow creatures!
7. "I will build fires only in designated areas..." Smokey the Bear will, I'm sure, thank you or your safety.
8. "I will discard no burning material..." Ditto
9. "I will fill all excavation holes..." Could this be any more clearly a safety issue?
10. "I will not contaminate..." Safety, Safety, Safety!!!
11. "I will cause no willful damage to collecting material..." While perhaps not specifically a safety matter, this is the right and ethical thing to do.
12. "I will practice conservation..." Perhaps an indirect reference to the safety/protection of our hobby?
13. "I will support the rockhound project HELP (Help Eliminate Litter Please)..." Most certainly a safety issue as well.
14. "I will cooperate with field trip leaders..." Our field trip leaders are there in part to keep us safe.
15. "I will report to my club or federation officers... deposit of petrified wood or..." similar to no. 12.
16. "I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources." Again similar to No. 12.
17. "I will observe "The Golden Rule"... No doubt about it, this is another matter which involves safety.

While these seventeen items are the AFMS Code of Ethics, they also serve as part of our safety guidelines as well.

Please be ethical, please be safe. It is in the hobby's instruction manual- and you do read instruction and safety manuals don't you?

**The Following Articles were reprinted from Chips and Deposits, Nov. 2013** *related websites added by the editor for additional information.*

### **Large Piece of Chelyabinsk Meteor Recovered**

Russian scientists have recovered a 1,256 pound chunk of the Chelyabinsk Meteor from the bottom of Lake Chebarkul south of the city. The meteor, which blazed across the sky last February, exploded in the atmosphere injuring more than one thousand people. The shock wave from the explosion at approximately 76,000 feet in altitude shattered windows and damaged buildings in Chelyabinsk some 25 miles to the north as well as in five other cities around the blast.

The meteor is estimated to have been a small asteroid with a mass of about 11,000 tons and a diameter of perhaps sixty feet. The blast is estimated to have been equal to 20 atomic bombs of the size that was dropped on Hiroshima.

The largest pieces of the meteor fell through the ice on lake Chebarkul and, given the well documented trajectory of entry, restricted the search area. There may be other large pieces yet to be found.

For further reading and video clips of the recovery visit the website below:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/16/chelyabinsk-meteor-russians-lake>



### **118 Carat Diamond Sells for \$30.6 Million**

Two anonymous bidders recently vied to own an egg sized diamond at a Sotheby's auction in Hong

Kong. Bids were placed by telephone. The flawless 118 carat white gem was mined and cut two years ago from a 299 carat rough stone. It was mined in Africa in 2011, but the locality has not been revealed. Although hefty, the knockdown price of \$30.6 million is far below the \$46 million paid in 2010 for a fancy intense pink diamond weighing in at 24.6 carats.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/10/07/white-diamond-sells-for-record-30-plus-million-dollars/2940307/>



### **Have You Checked Your Fossils Lately?** by Joan Hoeckele

Since we are having a showcase on fossils at our Trailside Show, I thought this might be interesting information that I saw in an article from the associated press-Washington.

A valuable fossil was sitting in someone's basement for 25 to 30 years with other rocks. Researchers found a tiny female fossilized mosquito in a paper thin piece of shale from an ancient lake bed in Montana. What the study of the National Academy of Science reported was a first of an intact fossil containing blood! They used two different types of light-refracting X-rays that determine what chemicals are present. It was determined that the mosquito's belly was full of iron, a major feature of blood that gets oxygen to the rest of the body. They also found evidence of porphyrins which are bound to iron in blood. An expert of North Carolina State University said while the study is exciting, it is preliminary and feels that this study did not prove that it was blood by ruling out all other possibilities. I guess this just proves that mosquito's were biting back "then", 46 million years ago, and are still going at it strong today!

The South Carolina State Museum  
301 Gervais St. Columbia, SC

# TUTANKHAMUN RETURN OF THE KING

124 Replicas of the Pharaoh's Legendary Treasures

Now Open for a Limited Engagement



Now open at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, Tutankhamun:

Return of the King, is an exciting blockbuster exhibit exploring ancient Egyptian history.

Experience the life and death of one of history's most legendary kings through 124 replicas of King Tut's sacred and personal possessions. Then follow the story of archaeologist Howard Carter, who discovered the nearly intact treasure filled tomb in 1922.

Fascinating for the whole family, this exhibit will amaze and inspire the young and old.

Presented by the South Carolina State Museum in association with the International Museum Institute of New York.

## 5 Things You Might Not Know About King Tut...

reprinted from <http://blog.scmuseum.org/2013/06/5-things-you-probably-dont-know-about-king-tut/>

1. King Tut's father was revolutionary.
2. King Tut's Step Mother was also his Mother-in Law.
3. Tutankhamun was only around 9 or 10 years old when he became king.
4. King Tut was an avid hunter.
5. King Tut may have been killed by a hippopotamus.

To read the elaborations of the five facts above, visit the website (also listed above). or even better, plan a trip to Columbia, SC and visit the exhibit at the State Museum.

Directions, prices, and general information about all the museum has to offer at <http://www.museum.state.sc.us>

**Hematite...***continued from page 7*

Hematite occurs in a variety of environments. Vast sedimentary deposits are thought to have been formed billions of years ago when the Earth's atmosphere first became rich in oxygen. The availability of oxygen caused the iron to "rust" out of the ocean. These and metamorphic formations derived from them are major sources of iron ore. Major iron ore localities include the Lake Superior region of the US, Brazil, Venezuela, China, and Liberia.

While iron ore is of great economic importance, it is usually not of much interest to mineral collectors. However, hematite also occurs in many more interesting forms. Among the most famous are clusters of thin hexagonal crystals up to 10cm across from alpine cleft formations in Switzerland. These and similar specimens from other localities are known as "iron roses". Well crystallized specimens are found in the iron ore producing districts near Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Also in Brazil, hematite crystals from the base on which needles of rutile grow and become embedded in rutilated quartz. Knobby masses of hematite known as "kidney ore" are found in England as well as Brazil. Hematite with an attractive iridescent tarnish is found at Graves Mountain, Georgia. Other worldwide and US localities are too numerous to mention. Locally, hematite is found in a number of sites, including Harve de Grace in Harford Co., Mineral Hill in Carroll Co., and the Ben Murphy Mine in Howard Co.

Hematite that is used in lapidary work is generally the harder, more compact material. When polished, it is a metallic steel gray. It is used to make cabochons,

carvings, and especially beads. Another form of hematite that is sometimes polished is known as "bonded ironstone", found in upper Michigan and Australia. It consists of alternating layers of black hematite and red chert, and makes pretty decorative objects.

Hematite is thus a mineral of great economic importance, but is also of interest to collectors and cutters. The vast majority of pieces are not particularly desirable as mineral specimens, but the rarer crystallized forms are highly sought after and can be quite expensive. However, more modest but still interesting specimens are abundant enough that just about anyone can add them to their collection.



***Hematite (blood ore) from Michigan***  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hematite>

## From the First V.P.

*continued from page 1*

I've attached the following article from the Rockhounder, the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County Maryland's newsletter.

### THE ROCKHOUNDER Page 10 July/August 2010

#### STILBITE or STELLERITE?:

By George Reimherr

This question came up regarding recent finds from Society field trips to the Vulcan Materials quarry, Manassas VA, in the spring of 2010. There were two general types of specimens found.

Type 1 consisted of brownish-yellow groups of individual crystals. Type 2 consisted of brownish-orange rounded clumps or hemispheres, often with smooth, shiny surfaces. The type 2 specimens rather


looked like those found at the Luck Stone quarry, Centreville VA, collected as far back as 1981. The Centreville specimens were labeled "stilbite" and were sold as such.

After receiving permission from the Geology Dept. at James Madison University, Eric Thompsen and the author submitted samples of both types of specimens from the Manassas quarry for analysis. An EDS analysis was performed. The result: type 1 - the lighter color, brownish-yellow single crystals had sodium - analyzed as stilbite. The type 2 - the smooth, shiny rounded clumps and hemispheres had no sodium - came out to be stellerite. Some specimens may have had both stilbite and stellerite.

The specimens given away at the Society meeting on May 10, 2010 were mostly, if not all, type 2 specimens, hence stellerite.

Let's return to the story of the Centreville VA "stilbites. In 1999, Richmond VA collector Rudy Bland noticed that the Centreville hemisphere

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## 22nd Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

Presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc. [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)  
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

|            |                                                                                                                               |                                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Date:      | November 23 & 24, 2013                                                                                                        |                                                       |
| Place:     | The Hub Ballroom (Student Union II Building)<br>George Mason University Campus<br>Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA       | <b>\$1 OFF</b><br>1 Adult admission<br>with this card |
| Hours:     | Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm                                                                                            |                                                       |
| Admission: | Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3<br>Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,<br>and GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE. |                                                       |

Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes. Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.  
Over 20 Dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals and Gems for sale.

Use Parking lot A, enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane.  
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle to Mineral Show



## Presidents Message...

*continued from page 1*

a great opportunity see all the great items the dozens of dealers have to offer, from specimens to finished jewelry. We always have a good time at this event, it's not only fun but educational as well.

That's all for now, I hope to see you and your friends at the November 20<sup>th</sup> Auction meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## From the First V.P.

*continued from page 14*

"stilbites" resembled specimens coming from Asia, but which were labeled "stellerite." (The author has a thumbnail size stellerite from Kazakhstan, purchased in 1994, which resembles the Manassas type 2 specimens.) So Rudy submitted 4 "stilbite" specimens from the Centreville quarry, to the Geology Dept. at JMU for analysis. All four specimens tested as "stellerite." The result was written up in a brief paper at JMU, but was not widely disseminated.

At the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History minerals exhibit, one may see, up on the wall opposite the little theater with its repeating motion picture about plate tectonics, a large specimen with beautiful orange hemispheres, from the Centreville VA quarry. The specimen - possibly found in the early 1980's - is labeled "stilbite"...but...might it really be stellerite?

Perhaps we'll never know. Should anyone have further info on the subject, please fill me in.

Happy Hunting,

Jack Curtin

## BENCH TIPS HOLIDAY SPECIAL

*continued from page 3*

If you find these monthly tips useful, then think how nice it'd be to have the full bench tips reference guide for your shop or as a present for a jewelry friend. Between now and Thanksgiving I'm offering a Holiday Special that includes a free bonus pack of jewelry articles with every copy purchased.

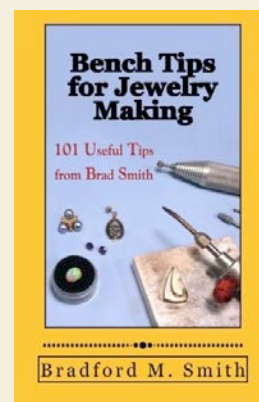
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" contains 101 of the most popular and useful bench tips organized into ten main problem areas. It's filled with close-up photos and has a detailed index to help find the solution you need by key word.

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The articles include:

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4. Depletion Gilding - An easy way to avoid tarnish on your pieces
5. Setting Up A Home Shop - Tool tips and safety considerations
6. Building a Jewelry Web Site - Develop a plan to save money



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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**

***DIRECTIONS: Fairview Center; 3621 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-847-1751~ 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!***