

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

Volume 19 Issue 11  
November 2010

## Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

October was a month to remember. The Apple Harvest Festival, Oct 15-16<sup>th</sup>, was a great sales success. On Saturday we had the best sales day ever. We had twenty-five pair of bookends to sell and thought these would carry us through the Roanoke Valley Gem & Mineral Show in November. Much to our delight we sold all but three pair the first day. I guess its back to the diamond saw.

We had our annual auction on October the 20<sup>th</sup>, I don't have the exact sales figures but we sold all but a very few items.

The following weekend the Club hosted our D.M.C. field trip to Kyanite Mining Corp in Buckingham Co., VA. I believe this was the largest



trip we have had to date. Some 130 rock hounds participated and yes we served lunch to all that wanted it. All of these events were made possible and went off smoothly due to the hard work and planning by many Club members. I can't list them all here, I may miss someone, so I would like to thank all that helped out and again I say we couldn't have done it without you. You know who you are. We are not finished quite yet with the activities this year. On November 26-28<sup>th</sup> the GMSL will play a bigger part in the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show than in past years. We will set up and show the famous Fluorescent Mineral display and also we will have a sales booth on the main show floor. We plan to run our Gem & Mineral Sluice, and have sales tables with our Rock Spheres, Bookends,

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## From the First VP:

Are you all getting your collections together for our November meeting? Many may ask, "What shall I bring to the meeting?" Well, just about anything related to rock, fossil, gem, and mineral collecting. Some may opt to bring jewelry that they fashioned from faceted gemstones or cabochons ground and polished to fine luster. You might bring faceted stones to demonstrate your expertise in that area. How about gem trees or wire wrapped stones? Bookends, polished "eggs," or finely sliced agate might be submitted for display. The possibilities are endless; how about bringing rocks that most typify each state or those collected where you have lived?

On a recent family reunion in West Virginia we found strata of coal in Hawk's Nest State Park and lots of shale and sandstone that characterize that area. Do you have a crystal collection? Bring it! Do you have personal favorites that you are especially proud of? They certainly will be very much appreciated by all of us. You'll want to label these so that everyone will know exactly what they are and where they were found. I'm thinking of bringing rocks that I've found while digging in my front yard where I'm planting some junipers. Do you have some interesting rocks that you

*Continued on page 11*

**2010 ELECTED OFFICERS****John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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[JMHaskins1@netzero.net](mailto:JMHaskins1@netzero.net)**First Vice President****Jack Curtin**

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[midkiff@aol.com](mailto:midkiff@aol.com)**Members At Large-**

JoAnn Mason &amp;

Tom Powers

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

## October Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010**Attendance:** 34 members and 4 guests**Hospitality:** Tony and Cindy Shields are the hosts for this evening Natalie Darling will be the host for November and we will have barbecue & cole slaw. Please bring a side dish or desert to compliment our main course.**Drawing for Appreciation****Gift** for those who worked at the Apple Festival- winners were: Hunter Bunnell, Tom Powers, Bernard Rivera (won twice), Bill Brown, Tony Shields, Nona Haskins, Lynn Powers, Jon Glass**Old Business:** John Haskins:

Apple Festival was very successful. We sold 22 bookends; leaving us with 3 sets. Total sales were \$1,705. Live Auction tonight;

Saturday workshops at David Callahan's on 11/6 and 11/13 to get ready for the upcoming events. Nominations for next year – we will begin the slate and then bring back for discussion and vote next month

President – John Haskins

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Jack Curtin2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Dave Callahan

Secretary – Brenda Glass

Treasurer – Frank Midkiff  
Newsletter – Natalie Darling  
Members-At-Large –Tom Powers, Bernard Rivera,  
Tony Shields, JoAnn Mason**First Vice President:** Jack Curtin: The November program will be a Collector's night. Bring in your specimens to identify or to show off.**Second Vice President:** Field trips/ Activities: Dixie Mineral Field Trip on 10/23/10;

Moorefield Mine 10/30/10;

VT Open House on 10/30/10;

Roanoke Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center on 11/26-

11/28; Get tickets for the show for free admission and a chance to win a drawing

T-Shirts are here- please pick up your order at the meeting or call Dave C.

**Treasurers Report:** Franklin Midkiff: checking account balance \$4,918.82**New Business:** Please sign up to help out at the Roanoke Show. All helpers gain free admission, and the experience is priceless!**Minutes submitted by**  
**Brenda Glass, Secretary**

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography

*The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.  
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,  
From 7:00pm– 9:00pm  
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building  
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501  
Public is invited, Please join us!*

# Programs

The program for the October meeting was our annual auction, featuring specimens from far and wide. There was a nice variety of material to bid on, and a few surprises like a rockhounds collecting bucket filled with tools and supplies-just in time for our DMC collecting trip. Thanks to everyone who donated or came out to bid and enjoy this fun filled evening.

## Collectors Night

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 will be our next meeting and we are asking each person to bring in something to show and tell about. This is a very informal meeting and you can bring in a whole collection or just a piece or two- because we all enjoy seeing what others have and treasure. Self-collected, traded, or purchased- bring it in!

### STIFFENING EARRING POSTS

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. Easiest way to harden it is to grip the end of the post with your flat-jaw pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work-hardens the wire and at the same time tests your soldered joint.

### PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces, I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters is best because it doesn't leave a sticky residue when removed.

I've enjoyed making jewelry in gold and silver for about 15 years now and have been teaching classes at my local rock club, CulverCityRocks.org, and for the Los Angeles and Santa Monica adult school systems. People seem to like the shortcuts that improve quality and save time, so I've started writing up all these bench tips and thought it would be nice to share them with jewelry folks in other clubs. Note that these are short tips and not full articles. I'll plan to send along a new one each month.  
Regards,

- Brad Smith [brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com)

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at  
[Groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://Groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)  
Or  
[Facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)*

# Field Trip Report



**REMEMBER-** sign up is required for all club field trips. Call, email, or see me at the meeting to get on the list.

*Field Trip Report submitted by  
Dave Callahan,  
Field trip chairman.*

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan, 540-297-1853  
Email [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

There will be no field trips for November due to the cold weather, restricted quarry admission, workshops and preparation for the big Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show, November 26, 27 and 28.

## October field trip report

Our much anticipated field trip to Kyanite Mining's Willis Mountain and East Ridge mines near Dillwyn, VA. on Saturday, October 23, 2010 was a huge success. Kyanite Mining's Annual Open House, our SFMS Dixie Mineral Council's field trip hosting, many other Virginia and Maryland Clubs attending accounted for the extremely large crowd.

My best count by those that signed the sign-in sheet was 125. I either misplaced a sheet or some failed to sign in because I know there were people I recognized and could not find their name on the sheet. We counted 70 cars in the parking lot. Now that's a crowd by any stretch of the imagination.

After a brief 8:45 AM welcome and safety talk, we loaded up and convoyed a couple of miles to the East Ridge site. The weather was a little nippy in the morning but warmed up quickly. The day was clear and beautiful. Perfect for a field trip.

At 11:45 we assembled for the short drive back to the Gieseke assembly area and then the short drive to the top of Willis Mountain for lunch provided by the Lynchburg Club. There was plenty of food, fellowship and the view from the top was awesome.

There were no major safety issues and I hope that everyone was pleased with their finds. I saw some really awesome kyanite crystal specimens collected along with fuchsite, apatite, trolleite and iridescent goethite.

A big thank you goes out to Mike Morris and the management of Kyanite Mining Corporation for all their preparation for this trip and allowing us the privilege of mineral collecting on their property.

We hope that they will have another Open House in the fall of 2011 and we will be invited to attend.



*Kyanite Mining Photographs, Submitted by Dave Callahan, Dave Lines and Mary Lose DiViney*





## Geology Concepts Part VII

Dave Woolley, Geologist

Rock is categorized by *origin* into one of three rock types: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic. Many rock species names have been proposed based on the *origin*, *particle sizes*, and *component minerals* for the seemingly endless number of variations. The best rock *species* classifications are based on an understanding of the composition and history for the source magma of igneous rock. Sediments, sedimentary rock, and metamorphic rock are directly linked by subsequent geologic events to igneous rock. The most useful symbols for portraying earth materials in bore-hole logs, picture soil or rock type while indicating particle size, two of the three attributes used for identification. The component minerals are described in the log descriptions and/or in geologic reports. See: "Geology Symbols" end paper. [Obsolete: now see "Distinguishing the Known from the Unknown by Line Type and Symbol."]

**Igneous Rock** crystallizes from super heated and pressurized mineral rich water, hot gases, and magma from extreme metamorphic as well as deeper sources. *Hydrothermal* or hot-water deposited "milky quartz" veins are common. Sulfur crystallizes from escaping hot gases near volcanoes. *Intrusive igneous rock* crystallizes underground; granite is a common example. *Extrusive igneous rock* is frozen above the ground from lava, which is magma that flows on the surface of the earth. Fossils rarely survive igneous conditions. For example, tree casts are sometimes found in cooled lava. Igneous rock is divided into two groups based on the chemistry of the source magma: basaltic (similar to basalt) and granitic (similar to granite). The eight common elements of igneous rock, Mg, Fe, Ca, Na, K, Si, Al, and O dominate 99% of the earth's surface. Seven easily identified mineral groups comprise most of the rocks of the planet:  
olivine, amphibole, pyroxene, feldspar, mica, quartz, and the carbonates.

Basaltic rock: **Ultramafic rock** contains heavy, dark colored magnesium and iron silicate minerals, (Mg, Fe)<sub>2</sub> [SiO]<sub>4</sub>, of the olivine group, and are associated with rare elements like nickel, platinum, and chromium. **Mafic rock** is rich in magnesium and iron silicates, the olivines, with increasing calcium and sodium silicate minerals: the plagioclase feldspars and the pyroxenes or the amphiboles. The term 'mafic' is a descriptive shorthand term for magnesium and ferric (iron). Mafic or basaltic composition magma originates in and under the plates of the ocean basins. In older literature mafic rock is called "basic rock".

Granitic rock: **Intermediate rock** and **felsic rock** are each richer in quartz, SiO<sub>2</sub>, and the light colored calcium, sodium (plagioclase), and potassium (orthoclase), aluminum-silicate feldspars, with magnesium and iron minerals diminished from the amounts found in mafic rock. Intermediate composition magma forms at the interaction of plates and continents. Felsic composition magma originates within the continents. 'Felsic' is shorthand for feldspar and silica. In older literature felsic rock is called "acidic rock". **Alkali rock** (not the sedimentary rock limestone) is also diminished in magnesium and iron, reduced in quartz and calcium, and is associated with sodium and potassium aluminum-silicate poor minerals plus rare light elements like beryllium, lithium, and cesium. 'Alkali' is shorthand for rock where the silica-poor feldspathoid minerals like sodalite and nepheline fill the niche of the "missing" silica-rich potassium and sodium feldspars found in felsic rock. Alkali rock is the end-product of many of the geologic processes on planet earth.

# Up Coming Events

# November 2010

## Shows and Trips

### Happy Thanksgiving

**November 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>** annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern VA Mineral Club- co-sponsored by GMU's Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences. George Mason University Student Union Bldg II, Rte 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4. Website: [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

**November 26 thru 28** Roanoke Valley Gem and Mineral Show- Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. Friday 2-7; Saturday 10-6; Sunday noon to 5. The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society will be actively participating and we will need the help of many members. Please come out and show your club support.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**- 7:00PM – GMSL annual holiday dinner meeting. We will enjoy a covered dish dinner, and those who wish can participate in our Dirty Santa gift exchange. Mark your calendar now; we look forward to sharing this end of year meeting with you!

Elections for next year's officers will also be held at the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. You must be present to vote.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Meeting 7PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Gem Show Salem Civic Center	27 Gem Show Salem Civic Center
28 Gem Show Salem Civic Center	29	30				

### TEE SHIRTS

If you ordered a tee shirt, please bring the correct cash or check made out to GMSL to the meeting.

These are the people that have not picked up their shirts.

Mitchell...\$50.00

McIntire...\$16.00

Muller...\$17.00



31st Annual  
**Roanoke Valley Mineral  
 & Gem Show**  
 Salem Civic Center • 1001 Boulevard – Salem, VA





**Friday – November 26, 2010**  
 2:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**Saturday – November 27, 2010**  
 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
**Sunday – November 28, 2010**  
 Noon – 5:00 P.M.

**Admission = \$3.00, Children under age 16 = Free**

Free Identification of Stones	Geodes Cutting
Pearl Strands	Jewelry & Jewelry Supplies
Mineral Specimens	Wire Wrapping & Sculpture
Fossils	Displays by club members

**LARGE FLUORESCENT MINERALS DISPLAY**  
 HOURLY DOOR PRIZE DRAWING  
**GRAND PRIZE – A 14K GOLD SAPPHIRE RING**  
 YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!!!  
 SPONSORED BY ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY  
 CLUB MEETINGS – 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH – LECTURE HALL IN  
 SCIENCE MUSEUM OF WESTERN VIRGINIA – CENTER IN THE SQUARE – ROANOKE, VA



This show is a great opportunity for our club to show off our sluice and fluorescent display to other rock and mineral enthusiasts. We will have our sluice set up and again be responsible for the fluorescent mineral display. We will need many volunteers over the three days of the show. Please consider coming to help- a little or a lot, all help is needed and appreciated.

### DMC FIELD TRIP For December

**An Official Field Trip of The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club (Winston-Salem, NC) (HOST)**

**9:00 am -12:00, Saturday, December 11, 2010**

**Site Name:** Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

**City and State:** Morganton, NC

**County within State:** Burke County

**Children:** Over 12 years old can attend if supervised closely by parent or guardian. Must wear appropriate safety gear. No Pets

**Contact numbers:** Contact Jim Stroud, if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip.

**Phone:** 336-744-2940

**e-mail address:** [stroudj@vmcmail.com](mailto:stroudj@vmcmail.com)

**mail address** PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

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## Executive Committee Meeting November 3, 2010

**Present:** John/Nona Haskins, Dave Callahan, Dave Woolley, Don McIntyre, Frank/ Jean Midkiff, Brenda Glass

### **Business Items:**

Speaker fee should be offered to the members that participated in presenting programs this year.

Do we need to pay Virginia Sales Tax?

It is documented that for 3 or more events, you need to pay sales tax.

Since we are non-profit, we are not sure if we need to do this.

Don McIntyre will check some resources to clarify this

We also need to check our 501c3 status. Dave Woolley will ask Tony Faller if he remembers.

November meeting is Collector's Night, so members should bring in specimens to show or have identified.

Salem Gem Show will be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Helped is needed for all three days; especially, with setup on Friday morning and take down on Sunday afternoon.

Sheets are needed to cover the tables and lamps for the displays. Other items needed are power strips, duct tape, and extension cords. Dave Callahan will purchase these tomorrow.

December Holiday Dinner will be discussed at the meeting to see what the members would like to do.

Slate of Officers will be voted on at the November meeting.

***Submitted by  
Brenda Glass, Secretary***

### **DMC TRIP** *Continued from pg. 9*

**COLLECTING:** This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. The majority of these minerals are found in the pegmatite zones. Garnets are almandine variety and have been found up to silver dollar size. However, the majority of them are 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter imbedded in the pegmatite.

### **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

**Where we will meet:** We will meet at the quarry at **8:45 am** and be allowed to collect until just before 12:00.

**Directions to our meeting place:** From Interstate 40, take Highway 1E North at exit 105. At the fourth traffic light, turn right on Fleming Drive. Continue to end of road at Route 64/70 (dead end at Bi-Lo Food Store). Turn left on Route 64/70, travel under the railroad bridge. Immediately after crossing under bridge, at the Viscotec plant, turn right on Kirksey Drive. Make another right on Quarry Road. Quarry entrance is 1/4 mile off Quarry Road.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** This is an operating mine. All persons attending the fieldtrip will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement, take 15 minute hazardous training, and wear the required safety gear at all times. This includes a hard hat, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots. **We will meet at the quarry office at 8:45 a.m., sign releases, receive instructions on boundaries and safety, and be lead into the collecting area. We must leave the quarry by 12 noon!** In addition, all persons are asked to stay away from the quarry walls. There is plenty of material loose on the quarry floor. **VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE QUARRY ON THIS TRIP and parked until leaving.**

## Presidents Message: *continued from page 1*

Candles, Gem Trees, Rock Pets and an assortment of mineral specimens Etc. The Club is looking for a good number of volunteers that can help out sometime during the three-day show. This may be the only year we have a chance to have a booth on the main floor, as spaces are usually very limited. We would like to have a good effort in making a great showing for our Club. There will be a volunteer signup sheet at the November meeting for those of you that haven't had an opportunity to get your name on the list. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Remember that December is the month to vote for new Club officers and the November meeting will be the last chance to nominate someone for a position. So put on your thinking caps and put some names out there to vote on. Speaking of the December meeting we will have our usual potluck Christmas Dinner. Also we normally have a gift exchange we call Dirty Santa, it's a lot of fun and we will have more info at the November meeting. I hope to see you all at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## Welcome New Members

Leigh  
Droege  
of Lynch  
Station,  
VA

Rob  
Wooters  
Lynchburg  
VA

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

haven't been able to identify? Why not bring them for our experts to ponder? How about a collage of pictures taken during the club's or your personal digs? That would be most interesting. Let your creativity run wild and surprise us!! But, please no potentially dangerous demos, like dropping a piece of potassium in water like someone did in our elementary science class and blew up the sink and much of the plumbing!! Yes, potassium is a metal/mineral and quite explosive when put in water. Looking forward to seeing your stuff. Rockhounds go all over to find interesting specimens and for many reasons, which reminds me of a joke.

Why did the rockhound take his girlfriend to the quarry?

He wanted to get a little boulder.

Silly? My sediments exactly.

### Sunshine News



Please keep Lucille and Lloyd Watson in your thoughts and prayers as Lucille continues to recover from recent surgery. She is still in the hospital at the time of this printing.

## The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



# Happy Thanksgiving

Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

[www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletters are available for all members to read on line at the Federation Websites: [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms), [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

**Hobby Related Newsletters** are available free of charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great sources of information and worth checking out.

(Available only via email)

[rudybland@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rudybland@worldnet.att.net) (*Mineral Mouse*, editor Rudy Bland)

