

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2012 VOLUME 21~ ISSUE 10

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

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

Presidents Message

Hello To All,

It's that time again, Apple Harvest Festival at Amherst County High School, Saturday & Sunday October 20-21st. We will arrive around 7:00 AM on Saturday and will need lots of help setting up our sales booth. We will need 10 or more volunteers to work the booth both days. On Sunday we can start resetting our goods around 11:00 AM as the gates open for business at 12:00 noon. We can pack up and leave around 5:00 PM. There will be a signup sheet for volunteers at our October 17th meeting.

At the last couple of Club workshops we packed over 400 Gem & Mineral bags for our sluice, We hope this will last us through Uncle Billy's Day Festival next June. At the Sept 30 workshop we



placed two new to us tables to hold saws and oil dry containers with a lower shelf for temporary storage of unfinished bookends etc. There were slabs cut for cabochons and new bookends cut and finished. The new diamond coated belts worked well on our new belt sander. The next few weekends we will be finishing up the Rock Candles to sell at the Apple Festival. If you would like to help call Dave Callahan for times. The next teaching workshop will be announced at our October meeting, which the program will be a hands on demonstrations of Cabochon making, Sphere making, wire wrapping and Gem faceting. I hope everyone can attend and participate.

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From the First VP:

Our October program will feature things that we might chose to do at our workshops and will include introductions to cabbing, wire wrapping, making bookends, belt buckles, and spheres. There will be a display on the fine art of faceting as well. Presenters will be stationed at tables illustrating each skill to explain that skill and the equipment that is involved.

Following is an original article by Jack Curtin, about some of the issues we rockhounds may regularly face.

So you've been collecting rocks and minerals for some time now and they are piling up all over the place. Some are still sitting outside the front door. Others

are stashed along one side of the garage and then there's that "rock garden" out in the woods. Perhaps your van is being used as a temporary storehouse for those you most recently collected months ago now. My wife keeps putting my rocks outdoors near the trash can threatening to throw them out if I don't "Do something" with them! It's so much fun going on field trips and digging those jewels out of the ground and adding them to our collections. Haven't you trekked a quarter of a mile or more with your back pack filled with 20 to 40 pounds of treasured finds or hand carried that must- have yard rock back to your vehicle? But when you get them home you're faced with cleaning, labeling, and categorizing them. The cleaning part is joyful because you get to see what it is that you

Continued on page 11

September Meeting Minutes

Meeting- Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Attendance- 30 members & 1 guest

Host- Thank you Jean and Franklin Midkiff & Noel Weller for hosting the refreshments for the meeting. For the October meeting, our host will be Sandy Speck.

On Time Drawing- Winners were: Cindy Shields, Nona Haskins, Bill Livingston, Greg Lester, Don McIntyre, & Bernard Rivera.

Old Business- John Haskins: Our meeting location will be changed beginning with the October meeting. We will be meeting at The Fairview Recreation Center, 2136 Campbell Ave. Lynchburg, VA. The annual auction will be postponed until spring.

Our annual fundraiser at the Apple Festival in Amherst will be October 20-21, 2012 at Amherst County H.S.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: Program for this meeting- Mark Tinsley, Associate Professor at CVCC will be presenting. Dave Woolley brought in a specimen of Wollastonite to show. Next month we will have various technique demonstrations that you can use to enhance your collecting and lapidary experience.

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: 9/22- DMC trip to Savannah River in GA; Also Willis Mtn. Field Trip; 10-13- DMC Trip to Kentucky Gold Mine; 10/27- Boxley Piney River field trip; 10/5-10/7- Graves Mountain GA annual Fall Open House; Morefield Mine will be open on Saturdays in October through November 3. The Salem Show will be held Thanksgiving weekend. Two tables are available at a cost of \$100 each (8ft. tables) See Dave C. if interested.

Name tags- \$8.00 each for 2 lines of \$9.50 for 3 lines, magnetic or pin on style. If interested in ordering there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

Treasurers Report- Franklin Midkiff: Balance at this time is \$8,467.17.

New Business- Tony Shields and Linda Noble are nominees for Secretary. Tony is currently a Member-at-Large.

In addition to our program we had specimens available for purchase from Dave Callahan and our silent auction..

Minutes submitted by:

Brenda Glass, Secretary

2012 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - John Haskins
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Brenda Glass

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Treasurer - Frank Midkiff

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Members At Large-

Bernardino Rivera &

Tony Shields

COMMITTEE

CHAIR PERSONS:

Field Trips- David Callahan

Hospitality- Monthly Volunteers

News Articles- Natalie Darling

Silent Auction- Warren Darling

Swap for Rocks- Warren Darling

Website- Casper Voogt

Workshops- Dave Callahan

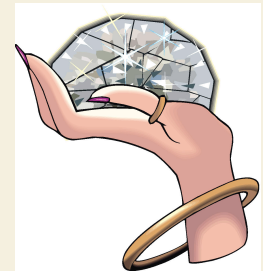
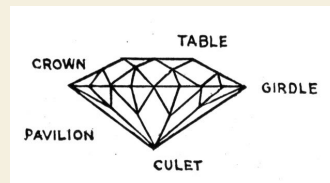
FRA Adult Liaison- Jon Glass

Membership- Thom Noble

PROGRAMS

October Program: Get ready to learn more about what you can do with your rocks- Members will demonstrate cabochon making, faceting, wire wrapping and sphere making, This opens the door to additional interests within our hobby, so come on out to our new meeting location. You may find a new interest or learn something you didn't already know. Hope to see you on Oct. 17th at our new meeting location.

For our September program Mark Tinsley, Geology professor at CVCC presented "A Scientist's Scientist: A brief examination of the life and work of William Hyde Wollaston." Thank you Jack for your dedication to furnishing our monthly programs, and Thank You Professor Tinsley for your presentation!



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)

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic, copper or brass.

The brass template let's me quickly trace the design of these ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet, and

the nickel template makes it easy to drill the pin inlay pattern into the ironwood.

After finding a poor selection of stock templates for ovals at my local art store, I was pleased with the wide selection on Cool Tools at <http://www.cooltools.us/> If you order, be sure to look for the 10% off code each month on their Home page.

Kingsley North also has some nice templates at <http://www.kingsleynorth.com/>

Continued on page 15

FIELD TRIP REPORT...

**KYANITE MINING CORP.-- ANNUAL FIELD TRIP
WILLIS MOUNTAIN PLANT NEAR DILLWYN, VA
SEPTEMBER 22, 2012 -- 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

The weather was beautiful and the rock collectors were plentiful for the annual Kyanite Mining Corporation's field trip. Since collecting at this very large active commercial quarry is a once a year event, all the area Gem and Mineral Clubs were invited. There were a total of 115 that signed up for the event but I know that we had some no-shows at the last minute. Still, it was a tremendous turn out and from all reports everyone had a safe and productive trip.

The following clubs were represented along with a group of about 10 Maryland College Geology students and professors that were invited by the quarry management.

Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg - 30
Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society- 9
Richmond Gem and Mineral Society -12
Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society - 17
Gem and Mineral Society of the VA Peninsula - 16
Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club -11
Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County Maryland- 3
Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Society - 17

We would like to thank Mike Morris from Kyanite Mining's management team who was our host for the day and thru his special efforts, allowed this field trip to occur. We would also like to thank all the field trip

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

leaders and memers from the various clubs that made this a safe event and hopefully we will be able to hold another trip in the fall of 2013.



Photographs from the Kyanite Mining field trip, submitted by Dave Callahan. Additional photo's on page 7. Thanks Dave!

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

There is a Dixie Mineral Council field trip on October 13, 2012 to Taylorsville, Dentucky for Ordovician rocks and fossils. If anyone is interested in attending on your own, please contact me for additional information, as this trip is prior to our October meeting.



COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

**THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF
LYNCHBURG, VA. INC.
and
THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL
AND GEM SOCIETY INC.**

Saturday, October 27, 2012

**Boxley Aggregates, Piney River Quarry
739 Warrick Barn Road, Arrington, VA.
8:30AM to 12 NOON**

[Sign-up is required, call me, email me or
sign-up at the meeting](#)

Collecting- According to the mindat.org website, the following minerals are listed from Minerals of VA, 1990 edition. Some on this list have not ben found on our past field trips. (A* indicates those known finds on past field trips.)

Anatase: A greenish-brown replacement of ilmenite.
Ilmenite- Black metallic or highly weathered masses(*)
Kaolinite: White powdery masses from the alteration of feldspar(*)
Rutile: Reddish-brown metallic to highly weathered masses(*)
Tacharanite: White, dull to pearly. Occurs with the weathered anatase, rutile and ilmenite.
Zoisite var: Thulite: Veins of pink thulite occur in the feldspar(*)
Additional minerals: Pyrrhotite; (has been verified)(*)
silvery metallic when fresh but weathers to a dark

rusty color when exposed to the weather. Pyrite: small crystals and masses(*)

The main rock mined here is called APLITE. It is very hard, light-colored, and fine-grained and consists primarily of sodic plagioclase feldspar and quartz in the groundmass and, in some cases orthoclase feldspar phenocrysts. Like pegmatites, aplite dikes may represent a residual fraction on silica-rich magma after most of the magma has crystallized.

Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip, and that some of the occurrences are very small.

Meeting location: We will meet in Amherst, VA Saturday morning at the Hardee's Restaurant on US 29 business no later than 7:45 AM. We will depart from there promptly at 8:00AM and drive to the quarry in a group. From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US RTE 460 east/ US 29North by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north bypass across the James River and proceed north to Amherst US 29 Business exit. The Hardee's is in the Ambriar Shopping Center at this exit. Come early and have a bite to eat. From this point, it should take about 20 minutes to arrive at the quarry. Be sure that you are fueled up and ready to leave by 8:00 AM. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles *south of the US 60 exit.*

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The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

September 14, 2012

Dear Fellow Members,

We have received a special offer from Rock & Gem Magazine. By being a member of a rock club we are all eligible for special subscription rates of \$22.95 for one year, at a savings of \$5.00 and \$38.95 for two years, at a savings of \$11.00 from the regular price. In addition, they will donate back to the club \$6.00 for every one year and \$12.00 for every two year subscription. Please take a look at the attached letter and subscription form from the magazine outlining the offer

For those who do not currently subscribe and are not familiar with it, it's a great magazine with articles on collecting, collecting sites, lapidary arts, new discoveries, a listing of gem and mineral shows through out the country and more. If you decide to subscribe, check the "New Subscriber" box.

For those who do have a subscription, check the "Renewal" box and write your subscription number below the "Renewal" box next to "Sub. #". The magazine will add the time that you chose to your existing subscription.

The magazine requests that we compile all of the subscription orders and send them in one envelope. This will make it easier for them to get the donation to our club. Please fill out the form and mail it back to me by October 17, 2012 at:

GMSL
PO Box 11975
Lynchburg, VA, 24506-1975

This is the date of the October meeting so if you would prefer, you can bring your form with you and give it to me there. The payment is to be by check, money order or credit card. If you write a check or buy a money order make it out to "Rock & Gem Magazine". Please paperclip the check or money order to your form. If you use your credit card, I am the only one who will handle the paper work and I'm too nervous to steal so the information will be held in confidence. In fact, I will not even look at the information.

It's a heck of a savings for you and a great benefit for the club so please take advantage of the offer.

Thanks,

Thom Noble
GMSL Membership Chair

If interested please use the order form on the next page, or refer to Thom's email of Sept. 14, 2012.

Rock & Gem

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Make check or money order payable to Rock and Gem, and return to Thom Noble No Later than the October 17, 2012 Club meeting.

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*Kyanite Mining
Field Trip
photographs,
submitted by
Dave Callahan.*

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2012

October 19-21- SFMS Annual Meeting- Details begin on page 9 of the August issue or the SFMS website <www.amfed.org/sfms

Oct. 20-21- Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, So. Charleston Community Center, So. Charleston, WV.


Oct. 20-21- Rochester Gem, Mineral Jewelry and Fossil Show. Monroe County Fair & Expo Center; Henrietta, NY

Oct. 26-28- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA. www.toteshows.com for details.

Nov. 3-4- Friends of Mineralogy 2012 Fall Symposium. Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster PA. Details on the web at www.mineralfest.com

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.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 DMC Trip
14	15	16	17 Meeting 7:00 PM	18	19	20 <i>Show-WV</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Field Trip
28 <i>Show Harrisonburg, VA</i>	29	30	31 Happy Halloween			

IMPORTANT ~ NEW MEETING LOCATION

We will be moving our meeting location beginning with the October 17, 2012 meeting. Meetings will continue at this location until further notice.

According to Parks and Recreation officials, the projected renovations are expected to last about 18 months- we'll keep you posted.

OCTOBER 17, 2012 MEETING ~ 7:00PM

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!

Sodalite- Na₈ (Al Si O₄)₆ Cl₂**By Tom Prachar,***reprinted from PESA News, April 2012*

Sodalite is a relatively rare rock-forming mineral usually associated with epheline, cancrinite, and other less common feldspars. The most popular variety for specimen collectors and lapidarians is the beautiful massive blue variety from Brazil or the Bancroft, Ontario, Canada region. The historic Princess Sodalite Mine, presently owned by Andy Christie, is located near Bancroft and has long been a popular source for this attractive colorful variety of soadlite. As is the case with many famous localities, Bancroft sodalite is becoming harder to collect or obtain. This is due to many of the former sites either becoming exhausted or inaccessible to the collector. Most of the massive blue sodalite seen at many of today's shows and shops comes from Brazil. Brazilian sodalite is of great quality for lapidarians as well as specimen collectors and is generally available at a reasonable price.

Besides the popular massive blue variety, sodalite can occur as white, gray, or green. If not blue, a test for

chlorine is necessary to distinguish it from other closely related minerals. Blue sodalite can be distinguished from lazurite by its different occurrence and absence of associated pyrite. The white-gray variety occurs in the Mount St. Hilaire area an offers an attractive fluorescence (short wave). Recent localities such as British Columbia, Namibia, Greenland, and the Kola Peninsula of Russia have offered interesting and unusual color varieties of the mineral. New finds of Russian and Greenland sodalite have also produced the rare variety hackmantite to rival the hackmanite of the Davis Quarry near Bancroft, Ontario.

DIAGNOSTIC PROPERTIES:

Color- Usually blue, less commonly white, gray, or green

Luster- vitreous

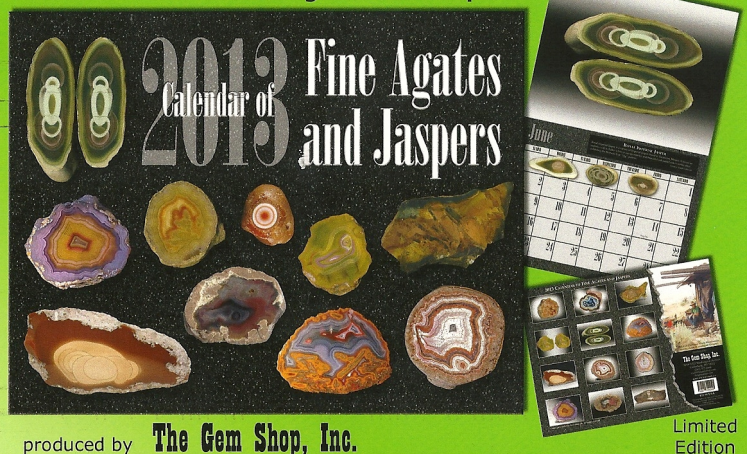
Crystal System: Isometric (crystals are rare, usually dodecahedrons

Hardness: 5.5 to 6.0 (Moh's Scale)

Cleavage: Poor

Specific Gravity: 2.15 to 2.3

Streak: White

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Weird Geology

Mica from Heaven: minerals falling from the sky

From time to time, unusual objects including fish, frogs, birds, seeds, and nuts, have been reported to fall in swarms from the sky. But on July 17th, 1806, mica fell from the sky at Pimlico, England. After a storm in the middle of the day, the streets of the town were found to be covered with mica. One two-inch-square sample from that fall was originally labeled "talc" but was later identified as being mica.

On October 9th, 1939, coal fell from the sky on Springfield, Missouri, during a hailstorm. After the storm one part of town was peppered with small chips of coal about one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch across. Hailstones with black interiors were reported: when these hailstones melted, they left behind a small piece of coal.

Other unusual hailstones have been observed. In one fall reported in 1872, each hailstone had a small crystal of "sulphide of iron" (pyrite) at its center. Also in 1872, in Switzerland, was a fall of "hailstones" that turned out to be mainly composed of imperfect cubic crystals of salt (halite).

These unusual mineral falls may be bizarre and hard to believe, but they have a reasonable explanation. Windstorms might sweep over piles of coal, crusts of salt in the desert, or a surface occurrence of mica or pyrite where the crystals are weathering out of rocks. The wind may pick up small mobile fragments, then winnow them according to size, shape, or density. Thus, flakes of a single mineral might be separated in the air from dirt, leaves, twigs or other detritus. A local downburst of wind might then deposit the mineral flakes concentrated in a relatively small area. If the sorted fragments were carried high enough, they could be sucked up into a thunderstorm, becoming nuclei for hailstones. Likewise, strong windstorms might carry fragments great distances. It is possible, for instance, that the halite "hail"stones that fell in Switzerland originated in the deserts of North Africa.

Ref.: *Handbook of Unusual Natural Phenomena* by William R. Corliss, (Arlington House, New York, 1986) p. 268-279.

Mineral Etymologies

Etymology is the study of word origins. From where do some common minerals' names come?

Amethyst: Ancient Greeks believed that the wearer of a wine-colored (i.e. clear purple) stone could drink wine without fear of becoming drunk. They named this purple charm stone, *amethystos*, meaning "not drunken" from *methy* meaning wine, plus *a-*, the prefix for a negative. Today, this ancient belief lives on in the preference some men have for *amethyst* jewelry.

Quarry: *Quarry* meaning something chased does not have the same root as term used to designate an open pit mine. The mining term *quarry* comes from the Latin word *quadratus*, or square. Early stone quarries were operated mainly for the production of square stone blocks for construction of buildings.

Ultramarine (Lapis Lazuli): Ultramarine is a deep blue pigment originally obtained from *lapis lazuli*. The name *lapis lazuli*, meaning "azure stone," is derived from the Arabic *lazward*, "azure," and the Latin, *lapis*, or "stone." *Lapis lazuli* was rare and quite valuable in ancient times. It was imported into the Mediterranean world from "over the sea" – probably from Persia or beyond. The term for the pigment, *azurum ultramarinum*, meaning "azure (blue) from over the sea" was rendered into English as *ultramarine* ("over the sea").

Ref.: *Thereby Hangs a Tale: Stories of Curious Word Origins*, by Charles Earle Funk (Harper & Row, New York, 1950).

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA.. **Popular Mineralogy** provides technical answers to your general mineral questions. If you have a question you'd like to have answered, please send email to sicree@verizon.net

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Welcome to our Newest Member:

John
Gosslee,
from
Lynchburg,
VA

From the First VP...continued from page 1

actually got on that last outing. It's the identification, labeling, and categorizing parts that are tough. Hey, am I alone on this or do you all have similar challenges? That identification, labeling and categorizing is too much like work, right? A major portion of the problem is how to identify and classify the rocks I've collected, bought, or swapped.

Should they be classified according to color, like a lot of kids do, or by some other means? You might alphabetize them or arrange them by their Mohs harnesses. The most common methodology would be to use the three generally accepted rock types, Sedimentary, Igneous, and Metamorphic, but what's wrong with categorizing by chemical type keeping all the silicates together and all the sulfates together and so on? Some folks might prefer to use texture or specific gravity or maybe the state or country the samples came from. It can get pretty complicated real fast. What about the appearance of the specimen? Is it glassy or rough, dull or luminous, vitreous, or fibrous? If one decides to use the general rock type as the primary category, how does one subcategorize them? Suppose you chose to categorize your sandstone specimen collected from the Grand Canyon as a sedimentary rock, what might you chose to use as the secondary factor? Perhaps color or streak test; maybe the appearance might be used. Would you chose a tertiary classification? What if your rock is an igneous specimen? Would you use particle size as the secondary consideration or maybe color? Suppose the rock is in the metamorphic category, should you use texture as the secondary consideration or perhaps foliation is a better choice for this rock type. Doesn't it get to be quite challenging to set up a system? Maybe you had a system set up and used it for years, but found some shortcomings in that methodology and later set up another system altogether.. It seems that after one collects their rocks and minerals they should

use a well-understood methodology to identify and store them. After doing some research on this topic, I believe that the following system will meet most of our needs and clean up at least some of those unsightly rock dumps.

First

Determine the major rock type Sedimentary, Igneous, or Metamorphic.

Second

Then use the following subcategories

If Sedimentary rock - chose hardness as the secondary classification and grain size as the tertiary

If Igneous rock - chose grain size as the secondary classification and color as tertiary

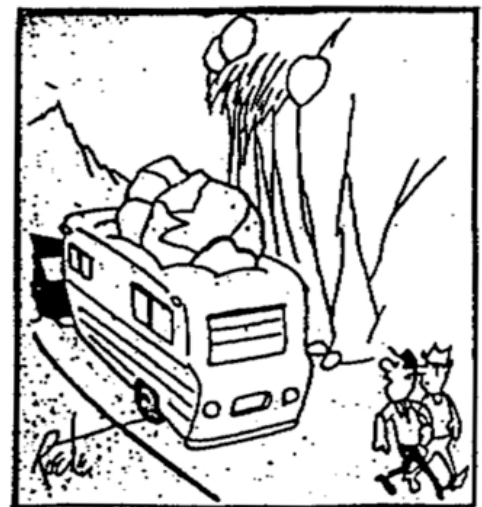
If Metamorphic - chose foliation as the secondary classification and grain size as tertiary

Now just where will we store all these gems? What size containers shall we use? How accessible will they be? Should they be displayed?

Rock hounds do not have time to die, there's just soooo much to do!

Happy hunting,

Jack Curtin



"Rockhounds, I'd assume."

From *Sooner Rockologist* 11/96
via *T-Town Rockhound* 2/98 & others

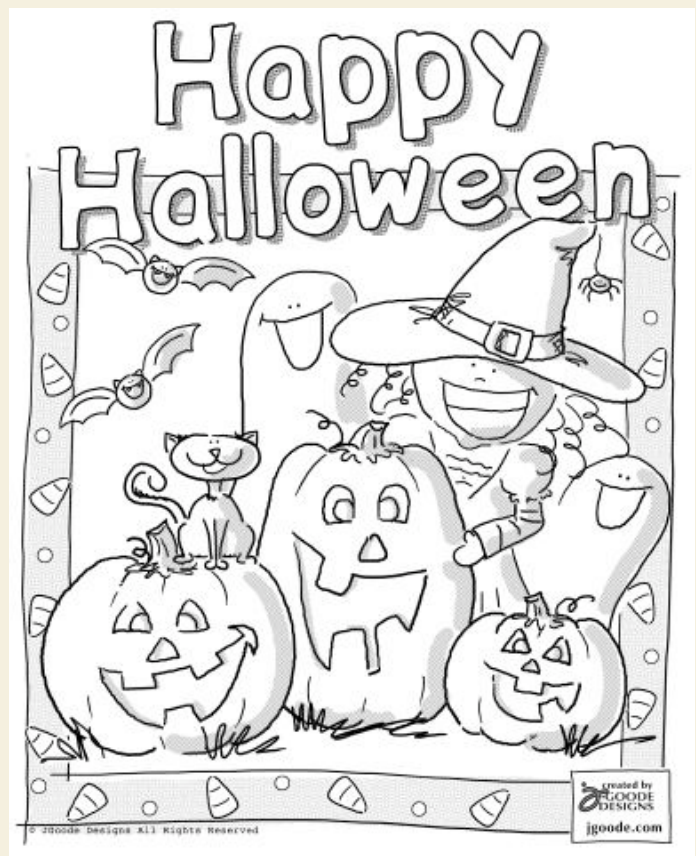
Rock Raiders

**Having Fun: Junior Activities
Hands-On Activities from Ring of Fire**
By Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Program Chair
Reprinted from October 2012 AFMS Newsletter

At Last year's Mother Lode Mineral society Show in Turlock, CA (a must attend event for anyone anywhere near central California in mid March!) I made my way straight to the Rocks in a Hard-place booth since they always have a great range of educationally oriented materials for the earth sciences (see www.rocksinahardplace.com). Per usual, I wasn't disappointed and came away with nice specimens and educational rock kits. One item really caught my eye this time: a book rack containing a number of spiral bound paperbacks accompanied by CD's. They were part of the "Myrna Martin" series, and I walked away with books and CDs for: Myrna Martin's Minerals Hands on-Science; Myrna Martin's Rock Cycle Hands on-Science; and Myrna Martin's Dinosaurs Hands-on Activities.

"Who is Myrna Martin?" I wondered, so I went to her website: www.ringoffirescience.com Inspired by eruption of Mount Saint Helens 90 miles from her Oregon home, she crafted a set of lesson plans on volcanoes. By 1998, those lesson plans had evolved into a home-based business she runs with husband Tom and son Brett: Ring of Fire Science Company LLC. Prior to that, Myrna had taught school for over 35 years, so she knew what she was doing when she began developing activity-based earth-science education books. She's done her job so well, she was named the 2007 professional of the Year for Science Textbook Publishing by Cambridge Who's Who. She is now an author science consultant and workshop speaker particularly for homeschooling conventions. Ring of Fire offers over 30 books (available in print or on CD's), as well as 7 educational sets of rocks and

DVD'S containing video lessons by the author. Resources are geared to three levels: PreK-2nd grade, 3rd-6th grade, and middle-high school. Topics include dinosaurs, earthquakes, volcanoes, the rock cycle, mineral identification, the three rock types, and more. The books are beautifully designed and illustrated, with easy -to-follow instructions for each activity along with "Teacher's Notes" that fill you in on lesson objectives, how the activity fulfills National Science Education Standards, and vocabulary with definitions. There are also quizzes with answer keys and bibliographies for further reading. I encourage you to check out this wealth of resources for the juniors in your society- for learning, and for having fun!



UP COMING FIELD TRIPS

Continued from page 5

If you live in Lynchburg, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business thru Madison Heights to Amherst. The Hardee's will be on your left at the new US 29 bypass interchange, just before you arrive at the town of Amherst.

Assembly Time: 8:30 to 8:45 AM At the quarry scale house/office. You will need sufficient time to read the required Boxley Hazzard Training information, fill out and sign the Hazzard Training Certificate and sign the required Boxley release form. There will also be a brief review of the safety regulations. Everyone must be present for this presentation. If you are late, you will not be permitted to enter the quarry. We all will enter the quarry as a group about 9:00 AM. All safety rules will be strictly enforced or you will be escorted our to the quarry and barred from future field trips.

Equipment: The Boxley Quarries are very safety-conscious. Standard quarry gear is required. Hard hats, steel toe boots or other substantial stomp-proof boots and safety glasses. Good protective clothing and gloves should be worn. It could be very cold, wet, or hot in the quarry, so dress according to the weather forecast that morning. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. Bring your own collecting equipment such as rock hammers, chisels, buckets and newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry. Bring rain gear in case of bad weather. **HARD HAT NOTICE: CHECK THE MANUFACTURE DATE, LEFT SIDE, UNDER THE BRIM IN THE SMALL CIRCLE ON EITHER SIED OF THE ARROW.** If you see a 1 on either side it was made in 2011, a 0/7 is 2007. If it's older than 5 years, it should be replaced. New rule enforcement. You should comply now and not be rejected later.

Age Limit: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parent's responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all safety requirements. The same dress requirements apply.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call me to confirm the trip. Contact information at the top of page 4.

Morefield Mine Reminder



Morefield Gem Mine

Morefield Gem Mine

Contact: Sam or Sharon Dunaway

Phone Home Office: (804) 561-0344

Fax: (804) 561-4799 Mine: (804) 561-3399

Teachers Only: (434) 294-3426

Address: 13400 Butlers Road - Amelia, Virginia 23002

Website: www.MorefieldGemMine.com

*Season schedule on next page
you can also call or visit the website above
for complete details and information
about the mine.*

A Thousand and One Times

By *Ellery Borow*, EFMLS Safety Chair;
reprinted from October 2012 EFMLS News

How many times you have heard the refrain, "Oh, no need to worry, I've done this a thousand times"? I hear comments similar to that quite often, especially with regard to matters of safety. What the comment generally means is that the person making the statement thinks they can get away with some activity or another that needs more safety measures applied than they are willing to use. Having done something a thousand times is no guarantee that the thousand and first time will be just like all the others.

A short time ago, a friend of mine fell while refilling a bird feeder. This feeder had been refilled often, certainly not a thousand times before, but still, many times. One would think that refilling a feeder would be a fairly routine thing. Generally it is, however, no two refillings are exactly alike, indeed, can never be exactly alike. This time, sometime went wrong with the refilling, a fall occurred and an injury incurred.

It is easy to become complacent with the activities one does frequently. It is easy to have one's mind wander during often repeated motions. During times that one performs a task frequently it's common that one's actions become automatic...monitored only on some subconscious level and not receiving benefit from full attention by the awake brain. It is in those moments when accidents often happen. Oh, I have cracked open a thousand geodes, I have cut and polished a thousand cabochons, I have soldered a thousand joints, I have acid cleaned a thousand specimens. Can't you just feel the potential for accidents with statements such as those?

The human brain is a rather complicated organ. It has, however, a remarkable capacity to find ways of simplifying the tasks we perform on a day to day basis. In that process of simplifying some task or other, things that are deemed non-essential are often omitted. Unfortunately sometimes the safety

MOREFIELD MINE

Season Schedule

2012 Fall Schedule

Saturdays open to the public

No reservation needed for Saturdays

Saturday hours = 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM October 06,
2012 + October 13, 2012 + October 20, 2012 +
October 27, 2012

November 03, 2012

November 10, 2012 = Closed

November 17, 2012 + November 24, 2012

December 01, 2012 + December 08, 2012 = (Last
Saturday.

NO GROUP DISCOUNTS

INDIVIDUAL FEES ONLY

component of a task is deemed to be non-essential by the sub-conscious brain. What is a person to do? It really is quite difficult to focus one's attention on repetitive tasks. While it may indeed be difficult to focus, focus one must. Or, if unable to focus continually, at least make safety a part of one's sub-conscious brain activity. In other words, make safety automatic. Make safety automatic by practicing it with every task prone to accidents. One cannot dwell on safety with each and every task in our busy lives, but one can at least be on the watch for un-safe conditions or situations. Please be and stay alert, especially with all potentially hazardous situations such as refilling bird feeders, or capping, or faceting, or cracking geodes, or- well, any and every potentially accident prone situation, no matter how many times it has been performed.

Oh, the bird feeder refilling incident resulted in a broken bone. The birds were no doubt happy with the refilled feeder, but a broken bone was a fairly high price to pay for happy birds. Anyone concerned about angry birds here?

Stay well and be safe- your safety matters.

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

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks (*photo lower right of the page*) can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort. A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.

In addition, here's an interesting web site that might be of interest to your readers.

FAKES & FRAUDS

Unfortunately, there's a growing amount of deception and outright fraud these days at gem and mineral shows and in some of the online venues that sell these items. Often "genuine turquoise beads" turn out to be dyed magnesite, and I've been told that the majority of colored stones being sold typically have had some "enhancement" done to them.

If you're interested in what kind of fakes and frauds have been uncovered, there's a well-done page at <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.htm>

Presidents Message...continued from page 1

As a reminder our October 17th meeting will be at our new meeting location of the Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Departments, Fairview Center at 3621 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, Va. 24501.

I hope to see you all there, Until then,

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins



Announcing...

"Bench Tips for Better Jewelry Making"

A new book for beginning and intermediate jewelers by Bradford Smith. It contains 101 useful Bench Tips to help improve skills and increase quality at the bench.

The 96 page book is filled with close-up photos to explain the techniques and makes a great gift for the holidays - Just \$16.95
For more details, see:

<http://CreateSpace.com/3976439> or
<http://Amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>



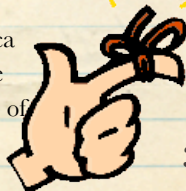
Natalie Darling, Editor
211 Chesterfield Rd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502



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



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official Future Rockhounds of America association of the The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.



Reminder...

NEW MEETING LOCATION Beginning with our

OCTOBER 17th 2012 MEETING

**Lynchburg Parks and Recreation
Fairview Center**

3621 Campbell Ave. Lynchburg, VA

Directions on page 8



21st Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

Presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc.

www.novamineralclub.org

Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: November 17 & 18, 2012

Place: Student Union II Building (The Hub)
George Mason University Campus
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA

Hours: Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Admission: Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3
Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,
and GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE.

\$1 OFF
1 Adult admission
with this card

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*