

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

JANUARY 2014

VOLUME 23~ ISSUE 1

Happy New Year!

Presidents Message

Hello To All,

Another year has come and gone, but we went out in style with the Club Christmas Party. I can't remember when we had such a variety of activities at a meeting. I feel there was something of interest for everyone. I think almost everyone received a door prize or a nice Dirty Santa gift, well done everyone.

The voting results brought back almost all of the board members and I would like to thank them all for a great job in 2013, and look forward to even bigger and better in 2014.

I guess by now you have realized that the office of Secretary was omitted on the ballot, but Linda Noble was on the original list submitted by the nominating committee running unopposed. At the January meeting we will have a voice vote to elect her to this much needed office. Linda has done a great job for us and wish her the best in the coming year.

In the last issue of "Rock & Gem" magazine there were plans for making jewelry boxes from rock slabs. As you know the Club has on hand a very good supply of slabs of every description. We are planning to add this as a sale item for festivals. Anyone interested can come to a monthly workshop and make one of their own design and also help make some for the Club. Every new item we have introduced at festivals has done well, I don't think the jewelry boxes will be an exception. So come on out to the second Saturday of the month workshop and join in the fun. We will also need several members to learn to operate the 24" slab saw. Almost everything we make like bookends, candles, clocks etc. start with the large saws. I won't be able to spend as many hours at the saw as I have in the past years, so any help will be greatly appreciated.

I hope to see you all at the January 15th Society meeting.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

Presidents Message

Happy, happy New Year everyone! May 2014 bring you health, wisdom, happiness, and great rock and mineral finds. I began to write a list of ten New Years resolutions for rock hounds and later came across a very pertinent article that seemed fitting as a chief resolution for all of us this year. Hope that you agree. Wouldn't it be super great to have your rocks and minerals organized so that you would know what each specimen was, where you stored it, and where you found (bought) it?

Ray Hill of Great South Gems and Minerals, Inc. wrote an article giving advice on how to organize a rock and mineral collection April 15, 2008. Organizing my collection will be a major priority for me this year: I'm taking Ray's guidelines to heart. Perhaps you may want to make organizing your collection one of your resolutions for the year ahead.

Article begins on page 15.



December Meeting Minutes

Meeting-Wed. Dec. 18, 2013

Attendance- 41 Members

Host- Deborah Tyler was the host for this meeting.

On Time Drawing-Winners were: Jean Midkiff, Thom Noble, Ian Brown, Bill Speck, Steve Gordon, Deborah Tyler, Natalie Darling, Sandy Speck, Bill Brown, Diane Capobianco, Dave Woolley, Brenda Finch, Cindy Douglas, Erin Soward, Denise Ehlers, Dr. Steve Lenhart, Mary McIntire, Noel Weller, Judy Wick, Don McIntyre, John Ehlers, Cindy Mitchell, Dee Tinsley, Linda Noble, Jessie Dudley, Pam Klein, Dave Callahan, Bob McIntire, and Bill Douglas.

Abby Allbeck won the 50/50 drawing.

Old Business- John Haskins: None.

First V.P.- Jack Curtin: No announcements.

Second V.P.- Dave Callahan: Field Trips: Dave asked for anyone interested to sign up for the upcoming field trip to James Madison University on February 15, 2014

Treasurers Report- Balance at this time \$7,731.98

New Business: John gave the welcome and blessing and ask all to turn in voting ballots to Thom Noble. Ballots were tallied by Don McIntyre, Noel Weller and Thom Noble.

Thom Noble read the results, which were:

President – John Haskins

First Vice-President – Jack Curtin

Second Vice-President – Dave Callahan

Treasurer – Frank Midkiff

Editor -Natalie Darling

Members At Large – Bernardino Rivera and Dave Woolley

Inadvertently excluded from the ballot was Secretary: Linda Noble, who is running unopposed. We will have a vote of acclamation at our January meeting to officially elect Linda to this position. We apologize to Linda for this oversight.

Program: Annual Club Covered Dish Dinner and Dirty Santa Gift Exchange.

Minutes submitted by

Linda Noble, Secretary.

2013 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - John Haskins
(434) 525-8430

JMHaskinsI@netzero.net

First Vice President

Jack Curtin

(434) 384 -6249

jacwcurtin@gmail.com

Second Vice President

David Callahan

(540) 297-1853

DBCALLI@aol.com

Secretary

Linda Noble

(434) 332-4869

linda-noble@hughes.net

Editor - Natalie Darling

(434) 941-1899

gmsleditor@gmail.com

Treasurer - Frank Midkiff

(434) 660-1565

midkiff@aol.com

Members At Large-

Bernardino Rivera &

Dave Woolley

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

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench_Tips/
 or facebook.com/Bench_Tips

For our **December** Meeting we enjoyed our end of year celebration with our annual covered dish dinner, fried chicken, and the ever famous Dirty Santa Rock Swap. Thanks to everyone who came out to join in the fun. If you missed it I hope you can join us next year- or sooner at one of our regular monthly club meetings.

January Program: "Organizing Your Collection." Come and learn how other members organize their collection; or do you have any organizing advice that you could share with the rest of us? We will discuss different methods and materials that can be used. Feel free to bring photos or ideas to share!

February Program: Meteorites with Dave Vanaman.

MOBILE STAND

A handy mobile stand for your flexshaft can be made easily and quickly from the base of an old swivel office chair. You can find these chairs being thrown out at office buildings and schools. I just ask the custodian in my building to set one aside for me.

To separate the chair from the wheeled base, simply remove the spring clip from the center bottom. I use a small screwdriver or a pair of pliers.

To make the stand, you'll need two pieces of threaded galvanized steel pipe and a pipe fitting from a hardware store. The first length of pipe is 3/4 inch diameter to fit the hole in most chair bases. The second piece is a length of less expensive 1/2 inch pipe. Total length of the two pipes should be five feet. I used a two foot length of 3/4 pipe and a three foot length of 1/2 pipe. They are joined together by a pipe fitting called a 3/4 to 1/2 reducing coupler.

LOCAL METALS SOURCE

Local sheet metal shops typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminum sheet that they save for recycling. Shops will usually let you go through the barrels to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be just a little more than the wholesale per-pound scrap value.

I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog.

There's no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community.

Do remember to bring your thickness gauge and work gloves if you try this.



FIELD TRIP REPORT...

UP COMING

2nd VP Report

FIELD TRIPS...

Contact
Information
for Field Trips
David Callahan,
Field Trip Chairman
Home phone: 540-297-1853
Cell Phone- 540-874-5201
E-mail dbcall1@aol.com

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of
Lynchburg, VA. Inc. (GMSL)
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

Virginia Museum of Natural History---Martinsville, VA. (FEE, \$3 to \$5) 10AM until Noon
Fairy Stone State Park collecting area--Patrick County, VA. (FREE) 1PM until you want to leave

Saturday, January 18th, 2014 (weather permitting...you decide)
Arrival time 9:30 to 10AM at the museum

There is no limit or age requirement but sign-up is required. Call, e-mail or sign-up at the meeting.

Trip Overview: This is a drive on your own trip or you can arrange your own car pool. We will NOT try to drive as a group so plan your own route and we will meet at the museum.

We will first visit the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville to view their many interesting mineral, fossil and other exhibits. They open at 9 AM so we should all plan to arrive between 9 and 10AM at the museum. Go to their web site for additional information and their fee schedule. www.vmnh.net

You can stay there as long as you want but if you want to collect some fairy stones, we will plan to depart from the museum at 12 noon. We will assemble in the parking lot. It might be handy to bring your own lunch or try to find a local

restaurant. It will be impractical for us to drive as a group so I will have a map available on a suggested route from the museum to the fairy stone collecting site which is NOT in the park.

Location & suggested driving directions to the Museum: See their website for other driving directions. www.vmnh.net

The museum is located on Rt. 58 business at 21 Starling Ave in Martinsville between the YMCA and First Baptist Church. Free parking is available at the museum.

fairy-stone crosses >>
www.rei.org/minerals/images/fairy-stone-cross.jpg
continued on next page



UP COMING



FIELD TRIPS...

continued from page 4

From Roanoke: Take US Route 220 South into Henry County and take 220 business into Martinsville. Turn left onto Church Street, and then follows Church Street to Starling Ave. Turn right onto Starling Ave and the museum is on the left between the YMCA and First Baptist Church. (Estimated driving time from Roanoke is about 50 miles so allow at least 1 hour)

From Lynchburg: Take US Route 29 South to Chatham. Take Va. Route 57 West to Martinsville where it will join US Route 58 Bus West. Follow US Route 58 Business signs through the city. Turn left at Starling Ave. The Museum is on the left between the YMCA and First Baptist Church. (Estimated driving time from the airport in Lynchburg is about 76 miles so allow at least 1 hour and 45 minutes from there.)

Collecting: Stauroilite Crystals, also called Fairy Stones: There is NO collecting in the Fairy Stone State Park. We will be in the authorized collecting area outside the park.

Location & suggested driving directions to the collecting area: The driving time from the museum to the collecting area is about 18 miles and you should allow about 35 minutes.

The collecting area is on VA Rt. 57 West of Martinsville and Bassett just over the Henry County line in Patrick County behind the old Haynes 57 store. I believe that the store is now closed but it is maybe ¼ mile or less past the county line on the right. Look for the small county line sign about 5 miles west of Bassett. There is a parking area and fairy stone collecting rules sign to the left of the store. Read the sign and follow the regulations. Failure to

do so can cause this free collecting site to be closed. They allow no digging, so only surface collecting is allowed.

You will be able to find many poorly formed crystals but persistent searching, off the beaten paths, under trees, bushes and leaves should reward you with nicely formed single and 60 degree highly collectable twin crystals. The 90 degree much sought after natural twins or crosses are extremely rare in this location. Most of these you see on the market are “manufactured”. I saw the powdering and molding process some years ago. You may stay here as long as you want or leave at any time. Be sure to not leave any trash. There should be trash barrels in the parking area.

Collecting equipment: You should have a small bucket, bag or baggies to keep your finds.

Gloves will be handy and knee pads are handy as the best way to search is on your knees.

A small stick is handy for brushing away the leaves.

No digging tools are allowed so don't bring any! Park rangers do patrol here.

Bring snacks and water.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and collecting. Hard hats are not required.

There are NO facilities here so be prepared.

Children and pets are allowed but they must be supervised and always under your control.

Contact Information: *David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman for GMSL and RVMGS (see page 4 for complete contact information)*

Upcoming Field Trips continued on page 6

UP COMING



FIELD TRIPS...

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation -
Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)



An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS
(This is a go on your own Field Trip. Please let me know if
you need additional information or will be attending)

9:00 AM TO 5:00PM

Saturday, January 18, 2014 ~ Stoney Bluff near Girard, GA
“Savannah River Agate”

Where: Stoney Bluff outside of Girard, GA
Assembly Time: 9:00 am. at the vacant lot just south of the Post Office in Girard, GA

Stoney Bluff is located about 30 miles south of Augusta, Ga and just east of the small town of Girard. We will assemble in Girard at 9 am in the vacant lot just south of the Post Office (do not park in the Post Office parking lot). The collecting site is only a few miles away at the end of Stoney Bluff Rd. Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather.

Collecting: Beautiful “Savannah River Agate” fossils and micro minerals. This material is actually a conglomeration of agate, jasper, chert, and opalite all mixed together to form a layered specimen that will tumble or cab into beautiful display pieces. This rock occurs as black and brown mottled agate and in a large range of pastel colors from greens to yellows to violets. The fossils you may find are from

30-35 million years old Oligocene age deposits. The micro minerals are located in vugs of the agate/chert rock.

Tools: light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves are recommended. If you plan to look for micro-minerals by busting the larger agate/chert specimens, you will also need some chisels and a sledge. More importantly you **NEED** eye protection (face shield would be best) and long heavy pants as this agate can act like shrapnel when cracked with a rock hammer or sledge! Directions: from I-20 in Augusta, GA.

From I-20 in Augusta get onto I-520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) and head toward the south end of the expressway. When you reach Exit 9 (Mike Padgett Hwy), exit and head south (most likely Hwy 56 at that point) approx. 15 mi. to McBean, GA. Just

continued on page 7

UP COMING



FIELD TRIPS...

continued from page 6

beyond McBean turn left onto Hwy 23 and follow it SE about 14 mi. to Girard, Ga.

Directions from I-16 just west of Savannah, GA:

Exit I-16 at US301/US25 (Exit #116) and head north approx. 10 mi to Statesboro, GA. Continue north on US 301 from Statesboro approx 20 mi to Sylvania, Ga. Continue north on US301 from Sylvania about 5 miles to junction with Hwy 24. Turn left onto Hwy 24 and drive 14 mi to Sardis, GA. In Sardis pick up Hwy 23 and drive 6 miles to Girard, GA.

Field Trip Leader: Contact: Jim Maudsley [706-353-1792](tel:706-353-1792) or jamesm24@charter.net DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS

(This is a go on your own Field Trip. Please let me know if you need additional information or will be attending)9:00

9:00 AM CST, Saturday, February 15, 2014

Gravel Pit/Coal Mine, Brookwood, Al.

MEETING PLACE: At the site; 33° 15'31.77" N 87°22'10.30" W

DIRECTIONS: From Birmingham, AL. Get onto I-20 / I-59 and go south to the Brookwood Exit (Exit 86) Exit and turn right onto Tuscaloosa County Hwy. 59. Go north until you come to Hwy. 216. Turn left onto Hwy. 216 and go approximately 2 ½ miles. After crossing the railroad tracks (via a concrete bridge), turn onto the first paved road to the right. The site entrance is past sign in, sign a release and sign out.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets, hammer, appropriate dress, and good gloves.

NOTES: We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz

pebbles shaped like a double sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field. All equipment, materials and ponds are strictly off limits. The SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed. The property owner has been generous to let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

continued on next page 18

Upcoming Events

January 2014

January 25-26, 2014- Panama City Florida- 23rd annual show; Panama City Gem & Mineral Society; Central Panhandle Fairgrounds. Contact Steven Shipton, 850-867-0586; email shipton3@comcast.net for info.

Feb. 1-15, 2014- Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ; <http://www.the-vug.com>

March 1-2- Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show; Delaware Technical & Community College, 400 Stanton-Christina Rd.; Newark, DE. (exit 4B off I-95)

March 7-9- Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 broad St.; Augusta GA

March 8-9- annual Lapidary & Mineral Show sponsored by the Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central Conn. Maloney High School, Grand St. Meriden, CT.

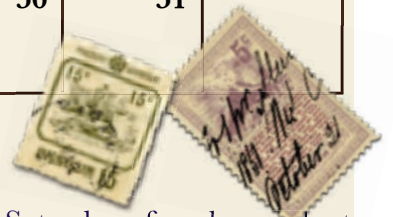
March 15-16- Annual Gem, Mineral Fossil show Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, Building 6; 16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg, MD.

March 22-23- Che Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Show, Athens twp.. Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

March 28-29- Annual Unifour Gem, Mineral Bead Fossil & Jewelry show sponsored by Catawba Valley
continued on back cover

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Meeting 7PM	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS



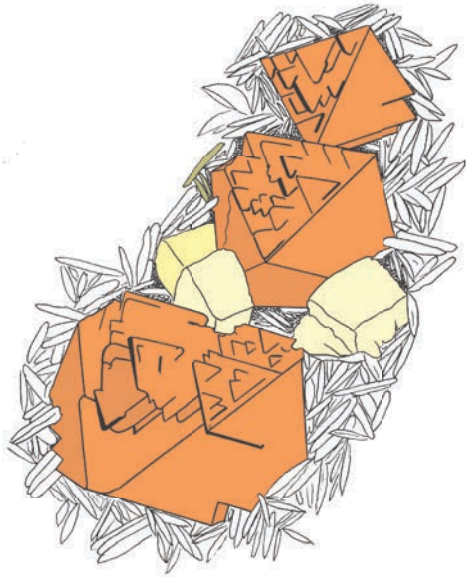
Workshops will be held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's. Start time is 9:00 AM, but come anytime and stay as long as you'd like. There is a store/deli about a mile down the road if you want to break for lunch and return.

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

The World of Minerals & Crystals

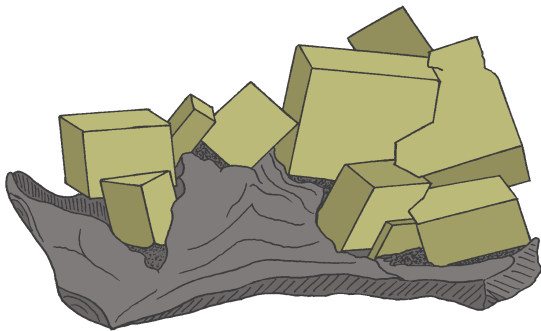


Scheelite, an ore of tungsten

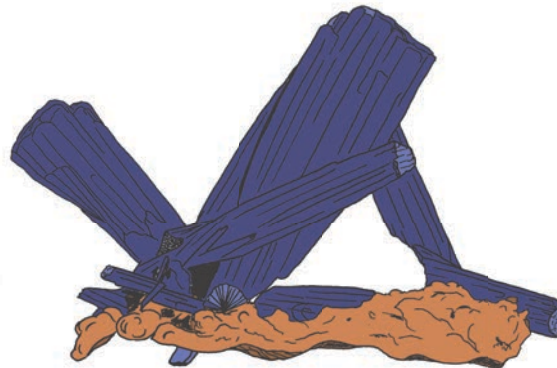


Natural gold

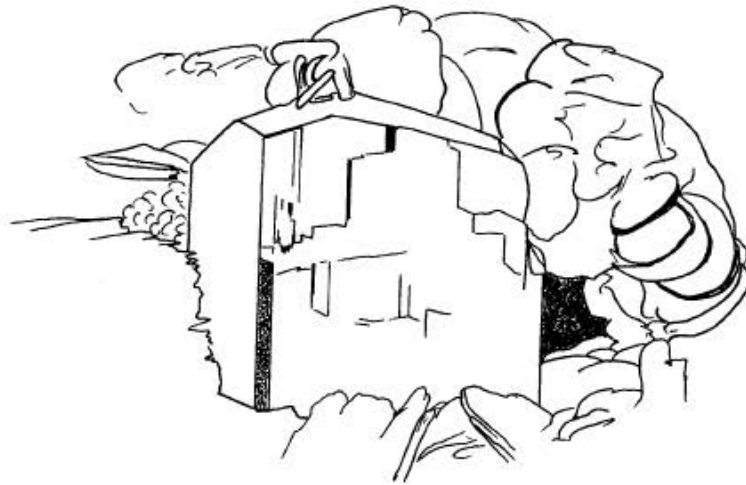
Their Properties, Forms and Uses



Pyrite cubes, an ore of iron and sulfur



Azurite, an ore of copper



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Permission to reprint up to 500 copies of this publication has been granted to the GMSL with our purchase of 50 booklets titled "Minerals of the USA." Our Journal will include a 4 page monthly insert until we complete the publication.

A is FOR . . .

. . . AGATE

Agate is a variety of the mineral *quartz*. It's beautiful colors and patterns make agate a favorite of collectors. Color each band a different color (red, white, blue, black, orange, brown, gray.)

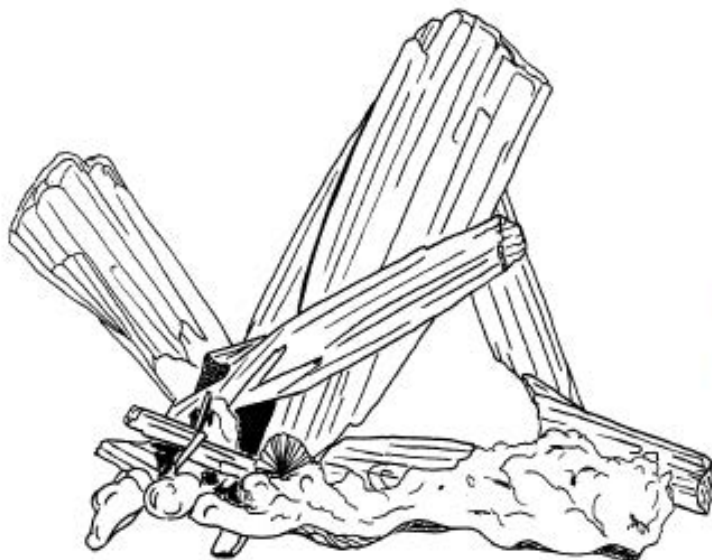
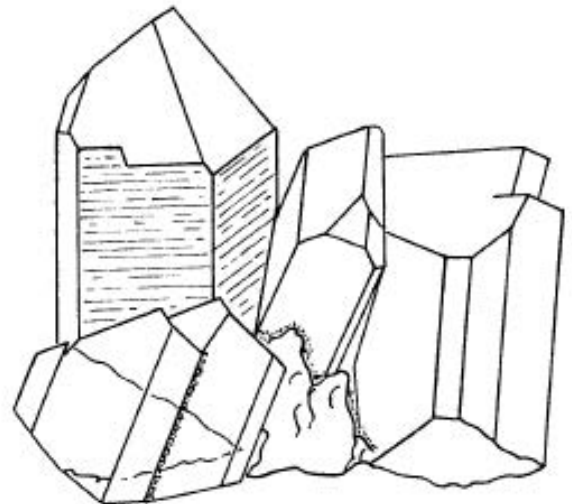


An agate slice from Brazil.

. . . Amazonite

Amazonite is a variety of the mineral called *feldspar*. It is green and is polished to make jewelry.

Three green amazonite crystals with a large, black smoky quartz crystal in the back. From Colorado.



. . . AZURITE

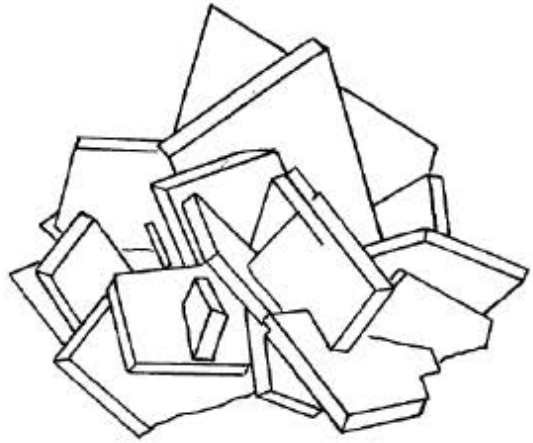
Azurite is a beautiful blue mineral. Its name comes from the word *azure* which means *blue*.

Dark blue azurite crystals from Tsumeb, South West Africa.

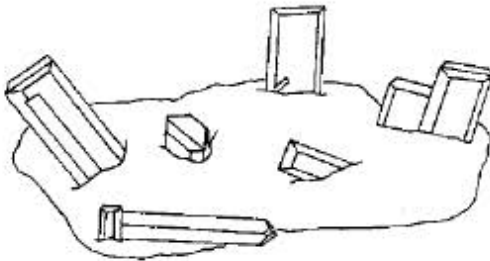
B is FOR . . .

. . . Barite

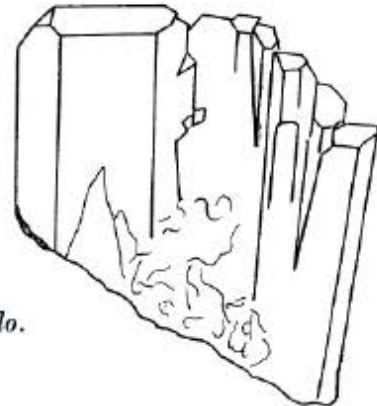
Barite is a very heavy mineral. This makes it useful in drilling for oil. Its name means *heavy*. Barite can be white, brown, yellow and red.



Yellow barite from Nevada.

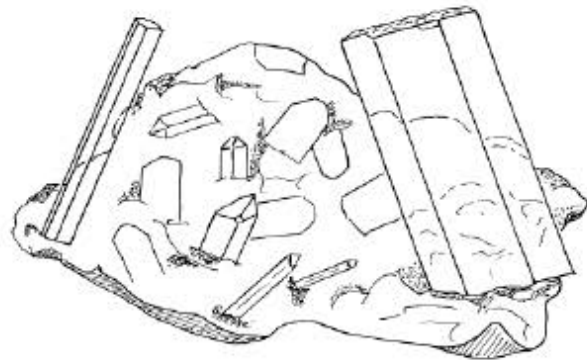


Gray-blue barite crystals from Colorado.

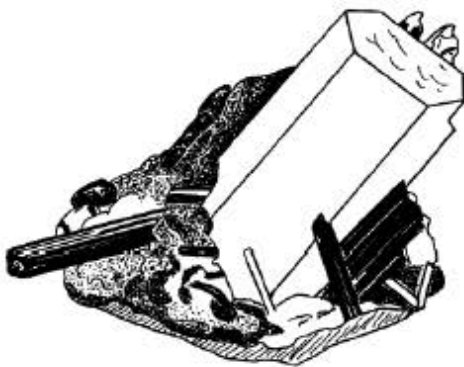


. . . BERYL

Beryl is found in many colors. Each color variety has a different name. Here are two:



*Two yellow **heliodor** crystals with quartz crystals from Russia.*



*◀ Light blue **aquamarine** with black **tourmaline** from Namibia, Africa.*

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg 2013 Holiday Celebration
Covered Dish Dinner and Dirty Santa Rock Swap.
Photography by Natalie Darling, Diane Capobianco, and Dee Tinsley**



Above: Group Photo. Below: our impressive covered dish dinner buffet; Thanks to all who came out and contributed. Below right: 50/50 drawing winner Abby Allbeck, granddaughter of Siglinde Allbeck.



See next page for pictures from our Dirty Santa gift exchange. I believe we had about 14 players, and a great time was had by all.





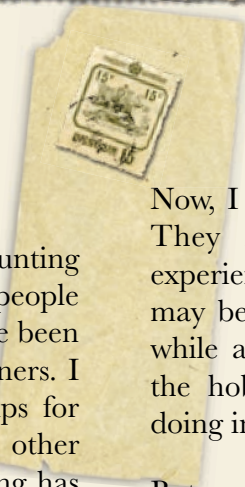
It's Not a Collection Until It is Organized!

by Ray Hill 2008-04-15

I have had the privilege of going out rock hunting with many folks in recent years. Some of the people that went with me are knowledgeable and have been at it for a long time and a few are just beginners. I personally have been going on collecting trips for about twenty years now. I can think of no other hobby I'd rather be involved in. Rock collecting has brought me many hours of enjoyment and has put me in contact with some really great people over the years.

I think one thing about this hobby that all of us enjoy is being able to share, or show off our collections to others. I know I do. It brings me great pleasure when someone comes into my office and comments on all the pretty rocks on display. After all, being able to brag a little about what you have done is icing on the cake, so to speak. It certainly makes the effort worthwhile.

And, one thing that amazes me is the fact that there are many "collectors" that like going on the field trips and getting buckets of rocks, then bring them home and do nothing with them. The material ends up sitting in boxes or buckets in the basement or garage for ever and ever. They have not taken the time to get the material they have found organized in any manner. I've been to another rock collector's house and when I asked to see their collection they would take me out to the back yard and show me the rocks laying around the flower beds or maybe show me buckets of material, with spider webs and dust covering the tops, out in the garage. I think to myself, "This isn't much of a collection!" It is just a bunch of rocks. There's no organization to it.



Now, I know that rock hounds are a varied bunch. They have different backgrounds, educations, experiences, incomes, etc. I understand. One person may be into tumbling or cutting stones for jewelry while another is thrilled about a different facet of the hobby (Pun intended!) like fossils, meteorites, doing inlay work or whatever.

But one thing I don't understand is the collector not having some kind of organization for the material they collect. It may be that some folks are not interested in showing off their finds, or don't know how to organize the material they've collected. It's my humble opinion that you don't have a collection in the true sense of the word unless you have your material organized where you know what you have and where it came from. And, by the way, not having your rocks organized, identified with name and location, greatly reduces its value.

In the past 20 years I have had a number of people contact me and say they have a rock collection that was collected by their father, aunt, uncle, or whatever, and wanted to know if I would look at it and give them an idea as to the worth of the material and to see if maybe I would like to purchase the material. When they brought the material over, I didn't think much of it because of the condition it was in. There would be no labels on any of the material and they would not know where the material came from. "It's just some rocks Dad collected" they would say. You can take common road gravel, put it in a small box with an attractive description label giving the name of the rock, where it came from, maybe the type rock (Igneous, Sedimentary, Metamorphic), the hardness of the rock, and maybe the date it was found, and low-and-behold, it now has a value.

continued on next page

It's Not a Collection Until It is Organized!

continued from page 15

It's no longer just common road gravel! It is now a cataloged specimen in a collection. The rock now has "character"! It is now an identified, marked, labeled specimen, with value.

Recently, one of my Rock Buddies and I went over to a site within a couple of miles of my home where workers were doing some heavy grading of a large lot that was going to be a Super Wal-Mart. It was late in the evening and none of the workers were around so we looked through the material they were bringing out of the ground with their heavy equipment. We found large quantities of a metamorphic rock, biotite mica schist. See Biotite Mica Schist. We both loaded up as much of this material as we could tote away that evening. The next day, I got outside on my rock bench with this material and a hammer and chisel. I put together three flats of this material in three different sizes. I put the specimens into the fold-up boxes and typed nice description labels for them. My daughter photographed the material and we put it up on our site. This was last summer. To date, we have sold about three hundred dollars worth of this mica. We were able to do this because we made nice size mineral specimens out of the large chunks, put the pieces into small display boxes, put description cards with each specimen and turned the material into good collectable specimens. Just a pile of rocks by themselves do not make collectible specimens.

Let me tell you what I do with my rocks, especially those I personally collect. Like many others, I will gather up as much material as I find when I'm on a field trip. Some of the material contains good looking pieces and other pieces are not so good. I think we all do this. When I get back home I take all of the material that I have collected and clean it,

usually outside on my rock bench using the water hose. Then I will lay them out on a board to dry. Once the rocks have been cleaned and dried, I look through them to see what I have. At this point I pick out the really good looking specimens that I want to put on display inside in my rock cabinets. I put each one in a collection cabinets. I place the balance of the material on my "Rock Wall". See my article about Get rid of those buckets.

I place the cleaned pieces on my rock wall in groups so I will know what an item is and where it is from. Nearly every rockhound that comes here spends time out there walking up and down my rock wall admiring the specimens.

See my Collection Cabinet. Every specimen I have in my personal collection has been identified with description labels that give the name, location, date acquired, mineral group, and how I obtained it. If I purchased the specimen, I put the price that I paid for it on the label. Should something happen to me, those that look at my rock collection will have this information without having to "dig" for it. This adds value to any type collection. rocks, pipes, razors, sea shells, fishing lures, etc. It's not a collection until it is organized. What if someone showed you a cigar-box full of mixed type lures..without any information as to what they were, how old they were, where they were from? You wouldn't think much of that box of stuff would you? Well, that's because there is no organization to it. **GET YOUR ROCKS ORGANIZED INTO A COLLECTION:** As an absolute minimum you should write down the name of your rock specimens and where they came from.

I use slide-out drawer collection cabinets for my smaller specimens. I put the stones in one of those white fold-up boxes, the right size for that specimen and then place a typed label in the box. I glue the label to the back inside wall of the box, that way it can never get misplaced. *continued on next page*

It's Not a Collection Until It is Organized!

continued from page 16

When I am showing the specimens, or am studying specimens in my collection I always pick up the fold-up box with the specimen in it so as not to handle the specimen itself. In recent years since my collection has grown I have drawers for a group of specimens. I have two drawers that hold my collection of calcite specimens. It's amazing how many different colors and crystal shapes that calcite takes. I have calcite specimens from all over the world; many different colors and crystal formations. I have two drawers dedicated to my quartz crystal collection, representing many different types and locations: smoky quartz, tabby quartz crystals, rutilated quartz crystals, quartz crystals with water bubbles, skeletal crystals, phantom crystals, etc.

I know what every specimen is, where it came from, when I got it, how much I paid for it if I purchased it, who gave it to me if it was a gift. You can also catalog your collection by assigning a number to each specimen and maintaining a journal with the information for each specimen. This is a lot of work and takes dedication. I don't have the dedication to go that far. But I am convinced that if you are going to be a rock collector, you need to develop a workable system for keeping your specimens identified and basic information about each specimen. It doesn't have to be an elaborate system, just something to keep track of what you have. That's important. If you haven't started keeping some type information on your rocks specimens, I suggest you start now.

To start, get a bunch of the white fold-up boxes to put your specimens in. They come in many different sizes. Place each piece in a separate box to protect it

from banging against other specimens. Either write out or type a label that will fit into the box. Glue the label to the inside. You can now place your identified specimens in a display case, a cabinet drawer, or even a shoe box. You can also place your specimens in the fold-up boxes in cardboard drink flats that you can get at any convenience store. They are free. Then you can stack them, one atop another in a safe place.

So, stop making excuses. Get your pretty rocks organized. Make labels for them. Store them in a suitable place. After awhile, you will be able to look at your many treasures, properly identified with basic information and admire with pride, the collection and the work you've done to create it.

Note: Only rock clubs have permission to print this article but must give credit to the author, Ray Hill, and Great South Gems & Minerals, Inc.

GREAT SOUTH GEMS AND MINERALS, INC.

**38 Bond Drive , Ellenwood, Georgia 30294
USA**

For everyone else, please email us for permission. www.greatsouth.net

Hope that helps you! Happy hunting,

Jack Curtin



UP COMING

FIELD TRIPS...

continued from page 6

CONTACT: REGGIE and BUNNY
 BOLTON reggie@newenvirons.net 205-870-7721
 or 205-410-9455

Please let us know if you are planning on attending.
 This is a large site but we can not manage more
 than about 75 visitors.

33° 15' 31.77" N 87° 22' 10.30" W elevation 483
 ft.

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: [http://
 www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)

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

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of
 the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.

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"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

OFFICIAL COMBINED GMSL and RVMGS FIELD TRIP
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 9AM until NOON

(weather permitting)

**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, Harrisonburg, Virginia
 GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT and MINERAL MUSEUM**

Sign-up required...call me, e-mail me or see me at the meeting

We will all provide our own transportation and
 park in the JMU parking lot in the front of the new
 facility, Memorial Hall (The old High School). Plan
 to arrive between 8:45 to 9AM. See the directions
 below and walk directly to the Geology Lab. If you
 need transportation or any other information, please
 call or email me for assistance. This is Dr. Kearns
 only available date. If the weather is bad, use your
 own best judgement before driving.

JMU has a fully equipped geology lab with state
 of the art equipment. Dr. Kearns is well known in
 his profession and has generously allowed us to visit
 his lab, museum and dedicate this Saturday
 morning to our clubs.

If you have any minerals that you need to
 identify, bring them along. We should have time to
 run five or six specimens thru the x-ray diffraction
 equipment. There will be microscopes available and

other equipment for testing and viewing. Dr. Kearns
 also has a large fluorescent mineral collection for
 our viewing pleasure. Dr. Kearns may have some
 surplus mineral books, specimens, miniatures and
 micros for sale to benefit the museum, be sure to
 bring cash or your checkbook. This material will be
 first class and all the proceeds go toward future
 museum purchases. The museum will be open for
 our viewing pleasure.

**NORTH BOUND ON I-81 DRIVING
 DIRECTIONS TO JMU HARRISONBURG,
 VA.**

* I-81 to Harrisonburg, VA. (About 2.5 hours
 driving time from Lynchburg and 1.5 from
 Roanoke).

* Exit 245 (Turn left on Port Republic Road)

* Proceed to S. Main Street (Rt. 11) and turn right
 at the light.

continued on page 19

UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...

continued from page 18

- * Proceed over the bridge to the traffic light on South High Street (RT. 42).
- * Memorial Hall (the old Harrisonburg High School) is directly in front of you. Go straight into the parking lot on your left. Try to arrive between 8:45 and 9:00 AM.
- * To enter the Geology Department, walk around the building to the left (Grace Street Side)
- * When you enter the building, go down the flight of stairs on your left. Enter the double doors and you are in the Geology Department. Walk around

to your left and follow the hall. The mineralogy lab will be open on your right.

- * The new Mineral Museum will be open so be sure to spend some time here. As you enter the building, turn right and walk to the end of the hall. The Museum is on your right. Notice the brass plaque on the Virginia mineral collection cabinet.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Inc. & The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.
 David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman- E-mail dbc11@aol.com -Home phone [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853)
 Cell phone-[540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201)

Herbivores

Find and circle all of the herbivores that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| BEAVERS | GOPHERS |
| BISON | HORSES |
| BUFFALO | KOALAS |
| COWS | MOOSE |
| DEER | PORCUPINES |
| DONKEYS | RABBITS |
| ELEPHANTS | RHINOCEROS |
| GIRAFFES | SHEEP |
| GOATS | SQUIRRELS |

<http://www.puzzles.ca/wordsearch.html>

S	Y	E	K	N	O	D	D	S	P	B	O	R
G	O	G	S	W	O	C	E	R	U	S	P	E
B	I	S	O	N	C	F	R	F	A	O	S	S
B	H	S	S	P	F	S	F	E	R	B	A	T
E	R	I	L	A	H	A	A	C	E	R	R	N
A	O	S	R	E	L	E	U	L	S	D	B	A
V	E	I	H	O	R	P	R	E	A	G	E	H
E	G	S	R	E	I	R	S	S	P	O	Z	P
R	A	R	O	N	E	R	I	E	E	A	K	E
S	O	A	E	O	O	P	A	U	E	T	S	L
H	S	S	B	H	M	A	O	R	Q	S	R	E
O	L	W	R	A	B	B	I	T	S	S	S	E
L	S	O	R	E	C	O	N	I	H	R	V	S

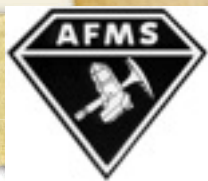
Natalie Darling, Editor
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The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA is to promote education in The Earth Sciences, including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology,



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



Upcoming Shows

continued from page 8

Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, I-40, Exit 125, Hickory, NC



March 29-30- Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair and EFMLS Annual Convention. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting PA. **EFMLS Annual Meeting: Friday, March 28.**



April 11-13, 2014- NYNJ Mineral and Fossil Show - 300+ dealers. <http://www.the-vug.com>



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!