

Gem & mineral journal

*The Official Monthly Publication of the
Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.*

NOVEMBER 2011 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 11

President's Message:

Hello To All,

So far this year, the GMSL has done very well with fund raising. To give credit where credit is due, a big thank you to all that have donated their time and talent at Club workshops and to all that have volunteered to work at our Festivals. Also, what a great job the volunteers did for the Club at our October Auction meeting, everything ran very smoothly. I would also like to thank all of you that bid for and bought specimens at the Auction. I believe it was the best ever. I am very proud to see volunteers step up and deliver for the Club no matter what the project. We are very fortunate to have people that will unselfishly give of their time,

talent and treasure and do such a professional job to further our Rock Club. That is what makes our Club so great, and also attracts new members. It's good to know that people want to join in on what you are doing with your hobby.

Speaking of joining in, the Salem Gem & Mineral Show is coming up on November 25-27th. Again this year the GMSL will display fluorescent minerals as part of the show and we will need volunteers each day to help: setup on Friday the 25th and meet and greet the public through Sunday the 27th and take down and pack up the displays that evening. It is a great opportunity to learn about fluorescent

Continued on page 15

From The First VP:

Our November program will again highlight Dr. Stephen W. Lenhart, Ph.D, CPG, and professor of Geology at Radford University. He has agreed to speak to us on basic mineralogy with an emphasis on the zeolite group. This will get us prepared for the field trip to the Manassas, VA quarry that Dave Callahan has lined up for the club the following Saturday. Dr. Lenhart, who also serves as Curator of Radford's Museum of Earth Sciences, would like to expand his museum's collection of Virginia rocks and minerals. So please bring some nice specimens to the meeting to donate to the museum.

*Happy hunting,
Jack Curtin*



2011 ELECTED OFFICERS

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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- Daryl Grant

Membership- Ralph Torning

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

October Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday October 19th, 2011

Attendance: 38

Hospitality: Thank you to Bernadette Ellis for hosting the refreshment table at the October meeting. For November our hosts will be Linda and Thom Noble.

On Time Drawing: There was no on time drawing this month due to our planned auction.

Old Business: The nominating committee is still seeking nominations for officers for 2012. Nominations will close at the meeting in November and installation of officers will be done at the December meeting.

First VP: Tonight's program will be our annual auction.

Second VP: Field Trips & Activities: The 9/24: Willis Mtn trip was attended by approximately 100. 11/5: DMC Trip to Graves Mountain; 11/25-27: Gem & Mineral Show at the Salem Civic Center sponsored by the Roanoke Mineral and Gem Society. Our club will host the Fluorescent Mineral Display. We will need volunteers for set up, take down, and to help host throughout the show. We are also still looking for fluorescent specimens and super bright lights

that we can borrow for the display. Please bring them to the November meeting or contact Dave Callahan with questions. If you are loaning us any material please make sure it is clearly labeled so it can be returned. T-shirt orders were completed and shirts should be available at the November meeting.

Did you know that your hard hat has an expiration date on it? Please check, and if yours is expired, please replace it. This being monitored by the Federal government when visiting quarries.

The Roanoke Astronomy club is getting a bus trip together to visit the Air and Space museum in DC on 12/17. If you are interested see Dave Callahan.

New Business: Thanks to everyone who volunteered, placed bids, and purchased items making this our most successful auction to date.

Treasurers Report: Balance at this time is \$7,774.55. Last months silent auction raised \$314.00, and the Apple Festival raised \$1,987.00. Thanks to all who participated.

**Minutes Submitted by
Brenda Glass, Secretary**

*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!*

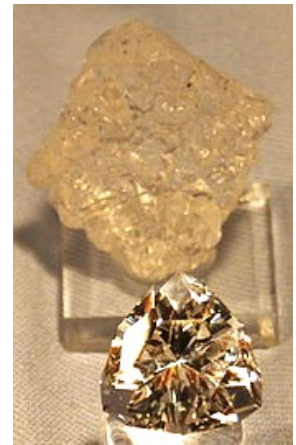
Programs



The program for our **October meeting** was our annual auction. Items auctioned included many specimens acquired earlier this year from the purchase of a very nice private collection. Thanks to all who helped out and came out to support this annual fundraiser.

For the **November meeting**, we will again welcome Dr. Steve Lenhart, From Radford University. This time Dr. Lenhart will speak on basic mineralogy, with an emphasis on Zeolites. We hope you will be able to join us and welcome Dr. Lenhart once again.

So how many different zeolites are there? Where are they found? What are minerals from the zeolite group used for? Are there any “Zeolite gemstones?” Come to the November meeting where you can learn the answers to some of these questions, and I am sure much much more!



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff blade or a grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small areas of your waxes.



RING SIZE VARIATIONS

The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you're using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same.

Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.



FILED TRIP REPORT

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

Upcoming Field Trip

We have been invited by the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club to join them, along with several other area clubs, on a mineral collecting field trip to the Manassas VA Vulcan Quarry, on November 19, 2011. Be sure to check the weather in Manassas before you go and make your own decision about attending.

This will be a "go on your own" field trip but please sign-up at the November meeting, call me at 540-297-1853 or email me at dbcall1@aol.com if you intend to go. I will need to notify the So. MD Club with the number of attendees.

Please also call me if you decide NOT to attend after signing up. I will notify the Club of your cancellation.

Mineral Collecting Field Trip

Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club (Host Club)

**This is an official field trip for The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
And The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.**

Vulcan Manassas Quarry on Saturday November 19, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. - noon

Meeting Time --- **Meet at the Quarry Office parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (no later!!)** for Safety Briefing and signing waiver forms

Location --- Vulcan Materials at the Manassas Quarry, Manassas, VA (8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109)

Directions --- (1) From D.C. and Maryland area, take Washington Beltway (I-495) to I-66 (west) to Manassas Exit 44. Go south on Rt 234 (Bypass) for 3.3 miles. Turn Left on Wellington Rd. (at light) --- go ½ mile and turn left on Vulcan Road. Cross railroad tracks and take immediate right into office parking lot.

Directions from Lynchburg and Roanoke: (Be sure to take a VA map and know where you are going. Don't trust only the GPS)

Drive US 29 north to Warrenton, VA.

Continue on US 29 north to Gainesville VA. and enter I-66 east.

Continue about 2 miles on I-66 and take the VA 234 bypass South (Exit 44)

From this point, follow the directions below **(To Vulcan)**

Directions (to Vulcan):

From Interstate 66 & Virginia 234 (bypass, not business. The bypass is 3 to 4 miles west of the business exits.)

1. Head west on Exit 44 0.9 mi
2. Merge onto Prince William Pkwy/VA-234 S 2.7 mi
3. Turn left at Wellington Rd 0.5 mi
4. Turn left at Vulcan Ln.

The destination will be on the right 0.1 mi 8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109

Continued on next page

Field Trip Report...continued from page 4

Safety --- Vulcan requires steel-toed boots, hardhat, safety glasses, long pants and heavy gloves. Stay clear of all high walls.

Note to Experienced members --- please keep a watch on all of us and say something to those who may not recognize danger before they get into trouble.

What to Collect --- Prehnite, datolite, byssolite, pyrite, pectolite, apophyllite, and other zeolites. Good micros.

Equipment/ clothing --- Full safety gear --- steel toed shoes/boots, safety glasses, hardhat, work gloves --- rock hammer, 3 - 4 pound crack hammer, chisels, 5 gal. bucket, old newspaper for wrapping specimens, small pry bar. Optional -- large sledge hammer, long pry bar, extra buckets. Your best tools are sharp eyes. Clothing depends on the weather --- coveralls recommended. Rain poncho nice to have.

Quarry Description / Hints --- Manassas Quarry is a trap rock quarry -- large square, deep hole in the ground with multiple levels. The predominate rock is dark gray diabase which is mined for crushed rock for road construction. Prehnite is the main thing we will try to find --- **Hint:** look for a white or light green streak of color in the gray rock and examine carefully. Breaking that rock open may reveal a pocket of light green prehnite. Prehnite is not abundant here, so it has been a hit or miss thing. On the other hand, we have always (Lord willin') found some nice specimens of something to make the trip worth-while. **Hint** ---Carefully search and *investigate anything that is different.*

Misc. --- Drinking water, rain gear or sunscreen, snacks, "Thank" the quarry rep.

Sign-up List --- Sign up at the November club meeting or call me at 540-297-1853 or email me at dbcall1@aol.com. Do not just show up at the quarry.

December Field Trip

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee - Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Va. Inc. and
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.

This is a "go on your own" trip for the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs.

Open for active members only

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday December 10, 2011

Stone Bluff near Girard GA

"Savannah River Agate"

Continued on next page

Field Trip Report...*continued from page 5*

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 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 or jamesm24@charter.net.

CLUB T-SHIRTS are scheduled to be picked up on November 9th, and Dave Callahan is planning on having them at the November 16th club meeting. Please bring a check or sufficient cash to pay for your order. The prices should be about the same as previous orders.



Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead, and Jewelry Show and Sale

Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society

SALEM CIVIC CENTER - 1001 Boulevard, Salem VA

SHOW HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

November 25, 2011 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

(Club fluorescent booth set up starts at 8:00AM, public arrives at 2:00PM)

November 26, 2011 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

November 27, 2011 Noon to 5:00 PM

(Club fluorescent booth take down and pack up starts at 5:00PM until done)

The Lynchburg Club will be presenting a large fluorescent mineral display. We need our members to loan us any fluorescent minerals in their collection to display at the event. We have 6 large display cabinets to fill so we need lots of pretty fluorescent minerals, any size but the larger the better.

We would like to borrow your short wave Super Bright lamp with 120 volt adapter for one of our cabinets. Be sure to mark anything you bring with your name. Use adhesive tape stuck to the bottom of the rock and write your name with a black marker.

Please bring your rocks and / or lamp to the November 16th meeting. If you can't make the meeting, then contact me to arrange a pick up.

We need folks to help us set up Friday morning at the Salem Civic Center. Be there between 8 and 9AM if you can help us set up. You can also bring your rocks at this time.

We will need volunteers to assist us with the public during the display open hours for all three days. The fluorescent display is open for about 15 to 20 minutes every hour on the half hour. The open time depends on the crowd. This is also an opportunity to introduce our club to prospective members. Come and enjoy the show, help your club, wear your club shirt and support this worthy effort. The club receives a very nice fee for providing this feature for the event.

If you have loaned rocks or a lamp, it would be great if you could be there Sunday at 5PM to help us pack up and claim your material.

Thank you for your participation in this club event. We always have a great time and you will have a good opportunity to buy a lot of beautiful jewelry, rocks and minerals for your collection or Christmas gifts.

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 CLUB MEETING 7PM	17	18	19 FIELD TRIP
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving 	25 RGMS SHOW	26 RGMS SHOW
27 RGMS SHOW	28	29	30	Dec. Newsletter Articles Due		

SAVE THE DATE ~ Wednesday December 21, 2010



Annual Holiday Covered Dish Dinner and Election of officers for 2012- Wednesday December 21st, 2011 at our regular meeting place and time. This is always a special time to socialize with other club members and friends and enjoy the best refreshments of the year!



We will also have a “rock exchange” game, details to follow in next months newsletter. Hope you can join us!

Up Coming Events

November 12th- 9-3- 20th annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap. Free Admission, Rain or shine, open to all children and adults. Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Rd., Richmond, VA. For more information contact Murray Rosenberg, 804-740-0019 or email rgms_info@yahoo.com

November 12th & 13th- 20th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Northern VA Mineral Club; Student Union II Bldg., George Mason University, Braddock Rd & Rte. 123, Fairfax, VA. www.novamineralclub.org

November 12th & 13th- Bead Bazaar, hosted by the Bead Society of Greater Washington; Beads & Findings, demonstrations, books. Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Ave, Gathersburg, MD. Admission \$7.00.

November 19th- Field Trip to Manassas Quarry; see page 4 for details.

November 19th-20th- 45th Annual Gem, Mineral Jewelry, Bead and Fossil show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. Americraft Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL.

Novemberr 19th & 20th- Gem Miner's Holiday- "The Mid-Atlantic's Best Show"- Lebanon Expo Center, Route 72, Lebanon, PA. Info at www.gem-show.com

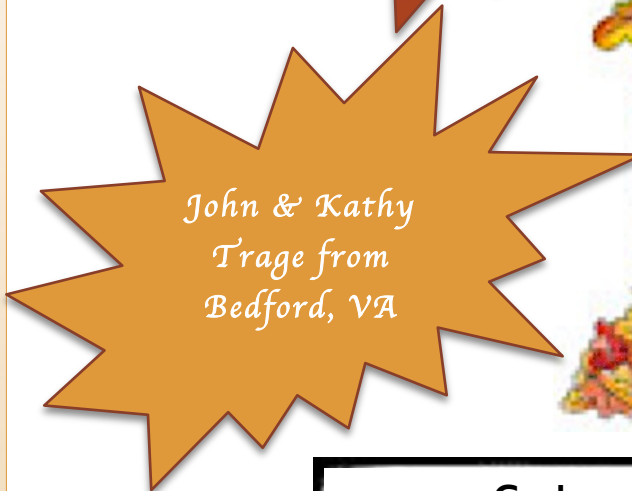
November 25th-27th- Gem and Mineral Show at the Salem Civic Center, sponsored by the Roanoke Mineral and Gem club. The GMSL will host the fluorescent mineral display which will offer hourly shows throughout the show operating hours.

December 21st- 7-9 - PM- Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Holiday Dinner and election of officers. Please join us for an evening of great food and company as we celebrate another successful year for our club.

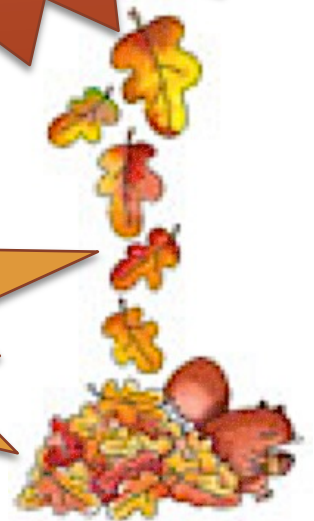
Welcome New Members



*Cindy
Connor from
Bedford, VA*



*John & Kathy
Trage from
Bedford, VA*



Cartoon submitted by GMSL club member Dave Woolley

Fundamentals of Lapidary Part 6

Faceting

By Donald Clark CSM Submitted by Jack Curtin

Polishing

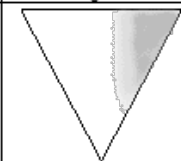
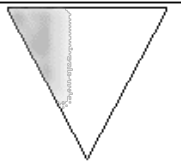
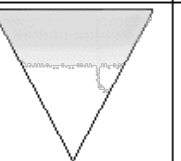
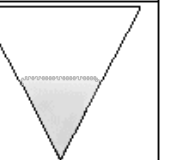
Before polishing, remove the prepolishing lap; thoroughly clean your hands, the gem, (especially the area it attaches to the dop,) and the machine. Again, contamination is a serious problem, but one that is easily avoided.

Now put your polishing lap on the machine. The techniques for preparing the laps vary with the materials used. However, once set up, the process remains essentially the same. (See the article ["Polishing Laps and Techniques"](#) in our archives.)

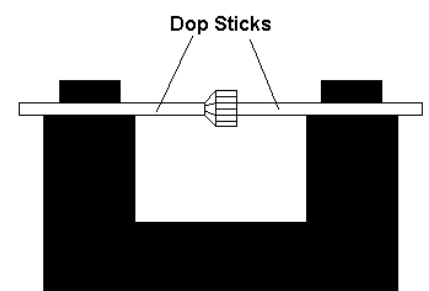
You finished the prepolish step with the break facets. Since your angle is already set for them, it makes sense to polish them first. Set your index to 2. Adjust the height so your facet just barely touches the lap on the center line. Turn on the water, (if used,) and set the speed to slow.

Introduce your facet to the lap very gently and polish it for about three seconds. Now, pick up the stone and inspect your polish. It may be incomplete, which simply requires a few more seconds on the lap. However, you may find that the polish is not completely covering the facet. In that case, you will have to make some subtle adjustments to get a perfect alignment. The cheater control adjusts the alignment from side to side. The angle controls the facets up and down alignment.

There is a simple rule to making these adjustments. When you lift a stone to inspect it, make your adjustment to the direction opposite of where it needs polishing. To test your alignment, paint the facet with a felt tip marker. Give it a second to dry and then rub the facet on your polishing lap. If the ink is removed across the entire facet, your adjustment is correct. If not, make the necessary correction.

Problem	No polish to right.	No polish to left.	No polish to top.	No polish to bottom.
				
Solution	Turn cheater to left.	Turn cheater to right.	Adjust angle down.	Adjust angle up.

When you have your facet properly aligned, repeat the polishing process. Check your progress every three to five seconds. You can over cut small facets in the polishing stage, so be conservative and do not hurry. Repeat this process on the other break facets. After your break facets are polished, move on to the pavilion mains. The procedures remain the same, but they will take a little longer to polish. Make your inspections every five to ten seconds. To polish the girdle facets, set your machine to 92 or 93 degrees. This purposely sets the machine so only the edge polishes. There is no need to polish the entire surface, as most of it will be cut away in the next step. When polishing, inspect the facets every couple seconds. They are tiny and polish rapidly.



Transfer Stand

Continued on next page

Faceting...continued from page 10

Cutting the Crown, Initial Steps

The procedures for cutting the crown are nearly identical to cutting the pavilion. However, there are two additional steps. Before cutting the crown, the gem needs to be turned over, to be dopped on the other side. Every faceting machine comes with a transfer fixture, so this can be done accurately. See our article on ["Dopping Techniques"](#) and your machine instructions for details.

Place the new dop in the machine. If you do not have a keyed dop system, set the index to 2 and leave the angle at 90 degrees. Lower the head until you can lay a girdle facet flat on the polishing lap. Now tighten the dop.

Set the index to 96 and look at your stone. It is properly oriented if the peaks of the main facets are aligned straight up and down. If they are slightly cantered, set the index to 2 and place the stone on the lap again. Loosen the dop and rotate the stone to one of the adjoining facets. Tighten the dop again. There are only two ways of orienting the stone, so it has to be correct after this adjustment.

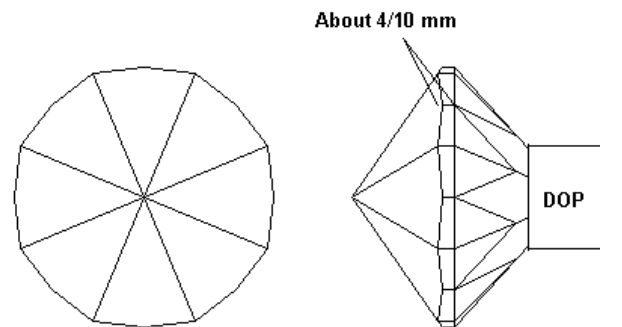
Cutting the Crown Main Facets

Place the coarse lap on the machine and set the angle to 35 degrees. Set the index to 96 and adjust the height so the stone barely touches the lap.

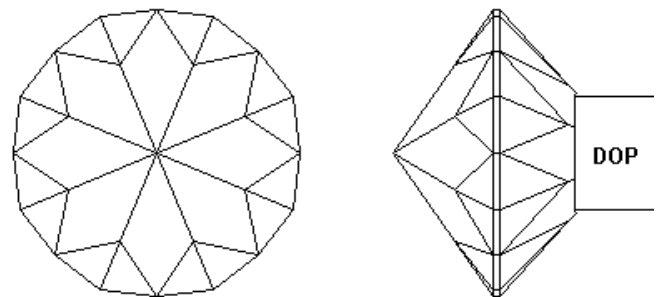
This facet determines the thickness of the girdle. When the gem is finished, the girdle should be about 3% to 4% of the diameter of the gem. For example, if your stone measures 6 mm in diameter, the girdle should be between .18mm and .24 mm, or roughly 2/10 mm. After cutting this facet, you are going to have to prepolish and then polish it. Both of these steps will remove more material. For this stage, you want to stop cutting about twice the size of your finished facet, or about 4/10 mm.

Cut this facet and then lower the height. Keep adjusting the depth setting until you reach the proper depth. Then cut the remainder of the crown main facets.

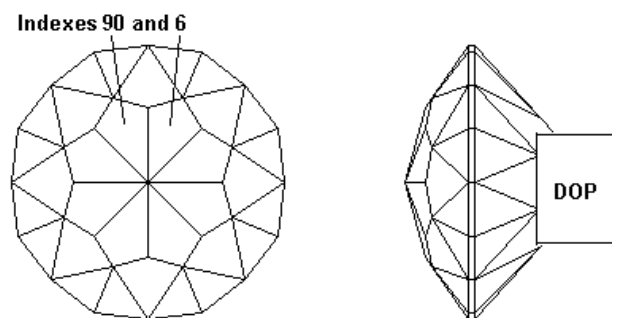
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Crown Main Facets



Crown Break Facets



Star Facets Added

Faceting...continued from page 11

Prepolishing

Clean the gem and the machine and put the prepolishing lap on the spindle. The angle is already set for the mains, so simply set the index to 96 and adjust the height so the gem barely touches the lap. Prepolish the first facet and inspect it to make sure you have removed all the coarse scratches.

Now look at your girdle thickness. It has changed from the first cutting and will change very little when polished. Is it pretty close to the thickness you want? If not, you can cut it a little deeper. If you are not certain, then simply stop. It is better to have a girdle that is a bit too thick than too thin. (Thin girdles are prone to break when a goldsmith tightens the prongs against it.)

When the mains are prepolished, set the angle to 37.5 degrees and the index to 94. Lower the head until the stone barely touches the lap. Cut the first two break facets at indexes 94 and 2. Lower the head as needed until the break facets create a level girdle and come together in the center. Then cut the remainder of the sequence, checking your progress regularly.

With the prepolish lap still in place, set the angle to 16 degrees and then adjust your height setting until the stone barely touches the lap. Cut the first two star facets at index setting 90 and 6. Adjust your height setting until they almost touch the top of the break facets. (They will enlarge slightly when polished, so leave a wee bit of room.) Then cut the remainder of the star facets to that depth.

Polishing

Now it is time to polish the crown facets. Clean the machine thoroughly and place a polishing lap on the spindle. The angle is set for the star facets, so polish them first. Polish the main facets next and finish with your break facets. You may find that your points do not come together as accurately as the diagrams. You can make fine adjustments with the polishing lap, but do not worry about it. This is your first faceted gem and your priorities are learning the sequence. Your technique will improve with experience.

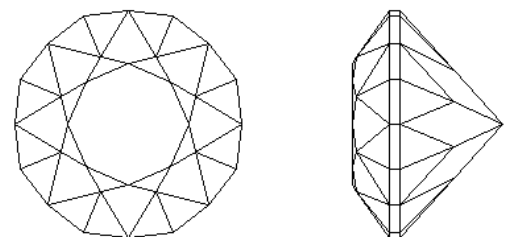
Table

The final step is to cut the table. For this, you need to use the table adapter that came with your faceting machine. Set the angle to 45 degrees and place the table adapter where the dop usually goes. The dop goes in the table adapter, which holds the gem perpendicular to the lap.

Put a coarse to medium cutting lap in the machine, depending on how much material you need to remove. Set the height to make a small cut. Gradually lower the height setting, cutting a progressively larger table. As the table grows, you may find that it is not level, that it is not approaching the top of the main facets equally. The procedure for aligning the table is much like aligning for polishing.

If it needs to cut more towards the top, lower the angle a bit; if it needs to go to the right, turn the cheater control to the left; etc. This is simple, always adjust the to the opposite side. The more accurate your machine is, the less likely you will have to make any adjustments.

Cut the table until it nearly touches the juncture of the break and main facets. Switch to the prepolish lap and bring it in just as close as you can. Finish by polishing the table.



Finished Gem

Continued on page 14

Rock Tumbling Hobby Site TOP TIPS

Reprinted from *Tips and Trips*, GA Mineral Society newsletter, Sept. 2011; Courtesy of <http://rocktumblinghobby.com/tips/tips.html>

As with any hobby of complexity, there are always a few tips to help you get a better result. Some are a little tongue in cheek- others are to be taken seriously. You may be able to spot which is which!

1. Add a tablespoon of sugar to the final polish stage for that extra gleam to your finished stones.
2. Do not under fill a barrel with water, you will end up with such a thick slurry that the stones will stick together as the waste in the barrel gets denser and denser.
3. Dip your stones in super glue and allow to set solid before starting out- this will fill any cracks or crevices and help prevent grits from passing onto the next phase.
4. Make a note of each tumble you do- how long each phase took, what rock type was involved etc. Experiment with the amount of grit you use at each phase and take note of the results. This can save a lot of time in the future. Why not try recording your efforts with something like a spy watch.

5. Add some washing powder to the final polish phase; this helps the polish to glide more smoothly over the surface of the stones.
6. A syringe is useful for oiling the brushes on the tumbler- you can avoid applying too much and having oil splash all over the place when you restart.
7. To prevent the stones from slipping during phase 2 and 3, stick small pieces of tough rubber to the inside of the barrel, this helps to trip them as they turn and prevents flats from forming.
8. Begin your tumble with rocks as near to round as possible, this is difficult to achieve but reduces the amount of wastage as you try to get that last long piece into shape!
9. If you are tumbling more than one barrel, make a note of the date of each newly charged barrel, they quickly become out of step with each other and you need to know how many days have passed at each phase for each barrel.
10. For softer rocks, check on them on a daily basis, as they can quickly disintegrate into mud- especially during the 80 grit phase.

Pitfalls of Rock Tumbling

Reprinted from Sept. 2011 *Tips and Trips*, via Breccia 11/09; Calgary Lap Journal 3/08; Mountain Gem 6/11; www.rocktumblinghobby.com

1. Never pour the waste product from your barrels down the sink- it sets rock hard even under water and will rapidly cause a blockage in your pipework. Find somewhere else to pour it- on the garden or I prefer to use a large outdoor water barrel- pouring the water out and then taking the slurry to the tip from time to time.
2. Never use a barrel that has had grit in it for the final phase- always ensure that you have one barrel especially designated for this purpose only.
3. Never leave your barrels for more than 2 days without checking them- always keep an eye on

them so that in the event of a problem- such as a lid popping off- you can be around to sort it out quickly.

4. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for oiling the bearings on your tumbler, do not ignore this or you will quickly find yourself with a seized up bearing- remember these machines need to run 24/7 without a rest.
5. Always use separate spoons/sieves/barrels for each type of grit. You must always avoid cross contamination of grits.
6. Always protect your machines from damp air conditioners and wet surfaces for obvious safety reasons.
7. Always pay close attention to the washing stages- there is no point in attempting to polish stones if cross-barrel contamination is occurring- they will simply never shine.

A Special Opportunity!

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair
EFMLS Wildacres Scholarship

Reprinted from EFMLS News, November 2011

Please share this important information with all of your club members:

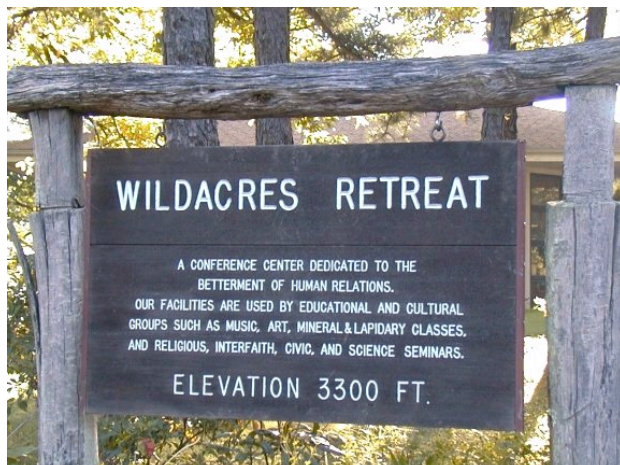
In 2012 we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres Retreat. In recognition of this special event we will be offering two scholarships to attend our sessions. One will be awarded for the spring and one for the fall session.

Criteria for consideration will include active membership in an EFMLS member club, completion of an application form, and never having previously been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. In addition to some basic information (name, address etc.), the application will ask all candidates to submit a brief essay telling why they would like to receive the scholarship.

Once all applications for the scholarship have been received and selection made, all candidates will be notified as to whether they have or have not been selected. Applications will be printed in the December Newsletter once the dates of our sessions become available.

We're excited to be able to offer the opportunity for two new people to attend one of our fabulous workshops tuition free. If you've never experienced an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, now's the time to find out what you've been missing!

Please do consider applying and planning on joining us "on the mountain" at one or both of our workshops in 2012.



Faceting...continued from page 12

Now, do you think you could do that? Of course you can! There are several steps to put 57 facets on a gem, but none of them are difficult. You will find that your first stone is the hardest, because you have to learn all the new controls and procedures. It will take you six to eight hours. With practice, the time will come down to an hour or two. Once you are familiar with your faceting machine, you can move on to other shapes. Soon you will be faceting like a professional. In fact, your gems will be better cut than the majority of stones you see in the jewelry

stores. Those are cut with methods that give emphasis to speed rather than accuracy. You can do better work than most full time lapidaries! Your gems will have higher value because of the precise cutting and you can take pride in work well done.



President's Message:

Continued from pg. 1

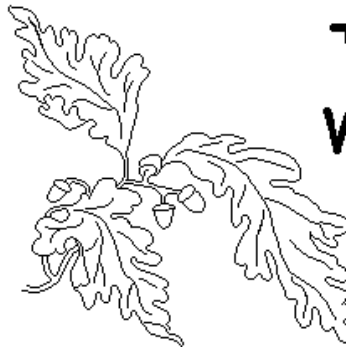
minerals as well as have the time to explore the many mineral and rock related dealer displays on the main show floor. We have always had a great time at this Show and we invite you to join in the fun. There will be a sign up sheet at the November 16th Society meeting.

As Winter approaches the outdoor Club workshop area will have to be mostly shutdown due to the freezing effects on the coolant water for the grinders. I was thinking it would be nice to have a Genie type cabbng machine to use indoors this winter for those that want to make cabs for belt buckles and wire wrapping. Just a thought since the club now has enough funds to think about buying a piece of equipment like this. If you know of anything the Club could use to expand on our workshop equipment, please bring it up at the meeting. I hope to see you at the November 16th meeting.

Keep Looking Down,

John Haskins

Just for fun...



Thanksgiving Word Search

3



S M K E Y L E Z I A M C N N
 P U M P K I N G G K A O G Z
 M C M R G L G M C O L O N Y
 O M O C R H L F F T T K I X
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 A S E C O R N M A E A D I I
 J E E I P A D E E V G W G L
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- AMERICA
- COLONY
- COOK
- CORN
- ENGLAND
- FALL
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- FREEDOM
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- INDIANS
- MAIZE
- MAYFLOWER
- PIE
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PUMPKIN
- SAIL
- SETTLERS
- SICKNESS
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- THANKSGIVING
- TURKEY
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Websites to visit: Reprinted in part from *The ROCKHOUNDER*, Nov. 2011

<http://geology.com/articles/herkimer-diamonds.shtml> - Herkimer diamond website with information and illustrations on these double terminated quartz crystals from Herkimer NY.

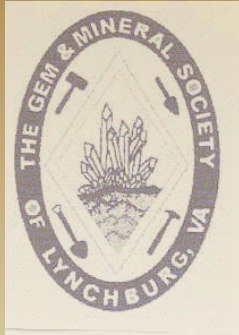
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/science/05dig.html?pagewanted=all>

This link will take you to a NY Times article about an excavation in Colorado, which yielded mammoth, mastodon, ground sloth, bison, camel and horse fossils.

www.tafoni.com/ Learn about fantastic rock weathering patterns from chemical, biological and physical decay. Photo gallery with 110 + pictures from CA and other World Wide locations.

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.
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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



**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!**



ON THE WEB: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society: 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, www.amfed.org and www.amfed.org/efmls