

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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

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

FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 26~ ISSUE 2

## Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

This article marks the last in my current term as President of the GMSL.

It's been a long run for me since 2006. I have really enjoyed it and would like to thank the Officers, that have put up with me so long, and for the great job they have done in leading this Club through it's most prosperous years. You may not realize it but in the last decade the Club has added to their inventory a nice trailer, Gem & Mineral Sluice, Geode Cracker, pop up tents, sound system, projector, several really nice specimens for our mineral cabinet from a long list of acquired mineral collections from around Virginia, and many pieces of equipment have been added to our workshop. The list includes but not limited to Diamond blade rock saws, sphere machines, capping machines, faceting machines, metal working rollers, rock carving foredoms, rock tumblers, horizontal laps, vibrating flat lap machines and

a sundry of tools and accessories. We can thank Dave Callahan and others for setting up and maintaining all of this so the Club can have a great workshop experience. I hope you all will take advantage of these wonderful resources at future workshops.

The February meeting will be the time to vote for the Officers that will lead the Club into the future. I feel we have a good list of candidates that have proved their leadership qualities and support for the Club through the past years. I hope you will come out and support them with your vote.

One more thought. The GMSL will, I think, have its last trip as an invited Club to the James Madison University Geology Department and Mineral Museum on February 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will take advantage of this as it is a good learning experience and the best field trip to be had in the winter time. I hope to see you all at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## Sample Ballot for 2017 GMSL Elections

\_\_\_\_ President - Steve Gordon

\_\_\_\_ 1st VP- Natalie Darling

\_\_\_\_ 2nd VP- Dave Callahan

\_\_\_\_ Secretary- Linda Noble

\_\_\_\_ Editor- Warren Darling

THIS IS A SAMPLE ONLY. ACTUAL BALLOTS FOR VOTING WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING. IN ORDER TO VOTE YOU MUST BE PRESENT, AND BE A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY ADULT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING. Please feel free to contact any officer or our Membership Chairman Thom Noble if you have any questions. THANK YOU.

### Treasurer- Select only 1:

\_\_\_\_ Jack Curtin

\_\_\_\_ Cindy Mitchell

### Member At Large Please Select 2:

\_\_\_\_ Eric Routon

\_\_\_\_ Loretta Doty

\_\_\_\_ Johnny Knight

 *January Board Meeting Minutes*

**Meeting:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 @ 7:0PM

**Hospitality:** Thom and Linda Noble Hosted tonight meeting. Greg and Sharon Lester will host the February Meeting.

**On Time Drawing Winners:**  
Steve Gordon, Stan Butterfield, Nona Haskins, Allen Hartman, Robert Thomas, Natalie Darling, Terri Allen, Donna Spencer, Cindy Mitchell, John Smith, Brenda Finch, Whitney Fulton.

Johnny Knight won the 50/50 drawing.

**President - John Haskins  
New Business –**

From the Executive Committee Meeting held January 11, 2017 the Group reviewed and discussed the replacement of Club Officers

Natalie introduced all the candidates for election at the February 2017 meeting as follows:

- Steve Gordon - Club President
- Natalie Darling - First Vice President
- Dave Callahan - Second Vice President
- Jack Curtin and Cindy Mitchell are on the ballot for Treasurer
- Warren Darling - Editor
- Linda Noble - Secretary
- Eric Routon, Johnnie Knight and Loretta Doty are on the ballot for the two Member at Large positions.
- Thom Noble will continue as membership chairman for 2017.

**First V.P. Jack Curtin –**  
Announced our program tonight will be a Video – Gems and Minerals.

**Second V.P. – Dave Callahan:**  
Announced Upcoming fieldtrips: February 18<sup>th</sup> will be a fieldtrip to JMU and since Dr. Lance Kerns is retiring everyone is encouraged to sign up and go as this might be the last opportunity we will have.

**Treasurers Report – Frank Midkiff**  
Gave treasury report current balance \$6,872.88

**Program – Video**

Warren Darling - provided items for the Silent Auction tonight.

**Minutes submitted by  
Linda Noble, Secretary**

**Welcome New Members:**

Stan Butterfield  
from Farmville. VA

Denna Sencer  
from Evington, VA

Eric Stickle  
from Lynchburg, VA

Bob Thompson  
from Bedford, VA

**2016 ELECTED OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT - John Haskins**  
(434) 525-8430  
[JMHaskins1@netzero.net](mailto:JMHaskins1@netzero.net)

**First Vice President  
Jack Curtin**  
(434) 384 -6249  
[jacwcurtin@gmail.com](mailto:jacwcurtin@gmail.com)

**Second Vice President  
David Callahan**  
(540) 297-1853  
[DBCALL1@aol.com](mailto:DBCALL1@aol.com)

**Secretary  
Linda Noble**  
(434) 332-4869  
[linda-noble@hughes.net](mailto:linda-noble@hughes.net)

**Editor - Natalie Darling**  
(434) 941-1899  
[gmsleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gmsleditor@gmail.com)

**Treasurer - Frank Midkiff**  
(434) 660-1565  
[midkiffsm1@gmail.com](mailto:midkiffsm1@gmail.com)

**Members At Large-**  
Bernardino Rivera &  
Eric Routon

**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

### Bench Tips By Brad Smith

See all Brad's jewelry books at  
 Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

[www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

#### ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

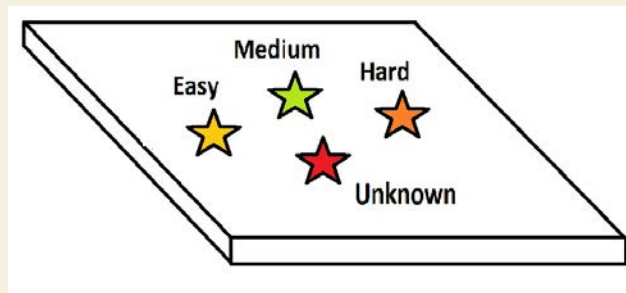
The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.



#### IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forget and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknown with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



# FIELD TRIP REPORT...

## Up Coming Field Trips

**OFFICIAL COMBINED GMSL and RVMGS FIELD TRIP  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017 (weather  
permitting, use your own judgement) 9AM-NOON  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY,  
Harrisonburg, Virginia  
GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT and MINERAL MUSEUM**

*This will be our final field trip to JMU since Dr.  
Kearns will be retiring.  
Sign-up is 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 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 e-mail me for assistance. This is Dr. Kearns only available date. If the weather is bad, use your own best judgment 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. Dr. Kearns will be retiring later this year and the geology lab and museum are scheduled to be moved back to Miller Hall on campus. These trips will likely not continued by his replacement so it is important to visit these facilities now.

If you have any minerals that you want 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.

**Driving directions to JMU in Harrisonburg, VA.  
from I-81 north bound**

for Field Trips  
David Callahan,  
Field Trip Chairman  
Home phone: 540-297-1853  
Cell Phone- 540-874-5201  
E-mail [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

\* I-81 to Harrisonburg, VA. (About 2.5 hours driving time from Lynchburg and 1.5 from Roanoke).  
(One good way from Lynchburg is Rt. 29N, Rt. 6W, Rt. 151N, Rt. 250W, I-64W, I-81N)

\* Exit 245 (Turn left on Port Republic Road)

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

\* Proceed northward on South Main Street to the third traffic light and turn left on to Cantrell Ave.

\* 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 Mineral Museum will be open so we will 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. Bring your camera, the minerals and displays are world class.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Inc.(GMSL) and The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. (RVMGS)

David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman.....E-mail [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

Home phone [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853) Cell phone [540-874-5201](tel:540-874-5201)  
(Day of trip only please)

## Up Coming Field Trips

### COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG  
& THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM  
SOCIETY, INC.

Saturday, March 25, 2017  
OLD FABER MINE, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.

Sign-up required, call me, email me or sign-up at the meeting—parking space is limited to 12 cars.

**MEETING TIME AND PLACE:** We will meet in Amherst, VA, Saturday morning, at the Hardee's Restaurant (114 Ambriar Plaza) on US 29 business no later than 8:30 A.M. We will decide if we need to carpool. We can leave cars here if needed. **We will depart from there promptly 8:45 A.M.**

From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US Rt. 460 east / US 29 north by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north by-pass across the James River and proceed north to the 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. We can determine if carpooling is necessary and leave any cars here. From this point, it should take about 45 minutes to arrive at the parking area along Rt. 6. Be sure that you are fueled up and ready to leave by 8:45 A.M. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles south of the US 60 exit. If you live in Madison Heights, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business 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.

Dress for the weather that day and be sure to bring food, water, bug spray and warm clothing. Wear boots, gloves, long pants and safety glasses. Hard hats will not be required.

Due to the restricted parking along Route 6, we must limit attendance to 10 or 12 cars maximum. Only those that call to reserve your place or sign up at the meeting will be allowed to attend. Car-pooling is recommended. We will arrive at a small parking area at the intersection of Rt. 29 North and Rt. 6 East about 9:30AM. We can leave some cars here if necessary and pick up those that will meet us here.

**THE TRIP:** I have received special permission from the landowner and he has some rules that must be obeyed. NO SMOKING (extremely dry and a high fire hazard could exist). Keep away from the 3 open shafts and collect only geologic specimens, not historic pieces, and leave NO TRASH. This is a beautiful, classic and historic site and the owner is graciously allowing us to collect here on this day. There are NO facilities at this site or in the immediate area. If you have any physical or medical limitations, this is probably a trip you should not attend. Cell phone service is spotty at best and medical help is hours away.

The mine is about 1.5 miles (a good 45 minute walk) along a gated, mostly level, rutted dirt road. Past logging in the area has made the road rough and possibly muddy in places. Since we must walk in and out, and galena is very heavy, you might want to bring a wagon, hand truck or at the least a good back pack. Good walking shoes are a must and be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. You'll also need safety glasses, hammers, chisel, and a tool to scratch thru the dirt, overburden and turn over rocks, buckets or bags with newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens. Be watchful where you put your hands and feet as copper heads and rattle snakes are in the area.

**COLLECTING:** Expect to find **galena** (lead), **sphalerite** (zinc) and **fluorite** (white and purple). Other minerals that exist there are **chalcopryrite**, **pyrite**, **pyrrhotite**, **magnetite**, **quartz**, **calcite**, **cerussite**, **chalcantite**, **pyromorphite**, **kaolinite**, **azurite**, **chlorite** and **hydrozincite**. Many of these are fluorescent under ultraviolet lamp.

**HISTORY:** The mine was discovered in 1849, and operated off and on by the Confederates during the Civil War producing an excess 7,000 pounds of lead, but abandoned when General Sherman crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap. In 1905, it was again opened for lead and zinc but closed about 1919. Several other unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mine were short-lived. The 3 shafts are now fully choked, caved and the audit reopened in 1958 is now caved. A dirt, leaf and forest clutter covered dump still exists and will still yield beautiful specimens after much searching and digging.

We must arrive and walk in together, but you may leave any time you want and walk out by yourself. This is a unique collecting site and we are fortunate to have it in our area. The landowner is willing to share it with us only because we always obtain permission, stay safe, obey his rules and never destroy or trash his property. This is the only reason we are allowed access to his land.



## Dixie Mineral Council

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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**An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**  
**Gravel Pit / Coal Mine**  
**Brookwood, AL**  
**Meet at 8:00 AM Central**  
**Collect from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Complete information can be found in the January 2017 issue of the Gem and Mineral Journal. Contact information below if you would like more information.

**CONTACT:** Lou Ann Newell [newell.louann@gmail.com](mailto:newell.louann@gmail.com) [205-482-3234](tel:205-482-3234).

**An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Florence, MS) (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS**

Saturday, March 25, 2017  
 Hammett Gravel Pit  
 Redwood, Mississippi  
 Depart meeting site at 8:15 Central Time in caravan  
 Collect approximately 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Registration Required by March 22  
**TRIP:** This is an active gravel pit producing sand and gravel for industries. The site has igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. The hunt site includes "oversize" rocks culled from commercial gravel. Citronelle gravel is mined from a layer 40 feet below Ice Age loess soil. The abundance of agate, coral and other fossils made this site a favorite last year.  
**COLLECTING:** Expect to find agates, coral and other fossils, geodes, chunks of petrified wood and Sioux quartzite. A few unusual finds included a magnificent Petoskey stone and a piece of St. Francois Mountain rhyolite.  
**BRING:** We'll hunt around and on tall piles of gravel. Bring a bucket, bag or backpack for collecting as you climb on the gravel piles. A walking staff is helpful but not necessary. Wear close-toed shoes to protect feet. If you need ankle support, wear hiking boots. An extra pair of

"muck" boots might be helpful if there is mud. Wear clothes that you won't be afraid to get dirty and bring a change of clothes. Weather may be cold and/or windy. Bring a coat and dress in layers. Expect cold mornings and warm afternoons. If you have allergies or require medication, please bring your medication. Bring water, snacks and drinks. Pack a lunch if you expect to stay until 2 p.m. Bring gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a chair.

**REQUIREMENTS:** The collecting area will be limited to specific gravel piles that will be announced on site. Participants must stay off equipment, away from slopes adjacent to ponds, out of ponds and away from loess walls.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** We will not park close to the hunt piles. Unless you are very selective, you will make multiple trips to your auto to deposit your finds to avoid potential injury. Footing on the gravel piles can be tricky. People who have stability issues should stay at the bottom of the gravel piles. It will still be good hunting. Walking and digging on steep slopes can lead to slides. Be aware that gravel slides are possible. Care must be taken when around the ponds. Stay away from the edge of rock piles against the ponds. This is a remote area and there will be little or no cell phone reception.

*Continued on next page*



Continued from page 6

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 22. Please let us know if you will attend and the best way to contact you. In case of bad weather or weather damage to the site, we might have to cancel. Spring in Mississippi can bring heavy rain, sleet, or snow as well as crisp, breezy or wonderfully warm weather. Contact: Rosina Echols: [601-825-5752](tel:601-825-5752) or [rosinae@bellsouth.net](mailto:rosinae@bellsouth.net).

**CHILDREN:** Children are allowed - minimum age 8 years. Adult supervision is required at all times. Children may not throw rocks or run at the site, especially on the gravel piles. Care should be taken when around the ponds. No climbing on equipment is allowed.

**PETS:** No pets are allowed.

**FACILITIES:** No stores or facilities are close to the collecting site. A portable toilet will be on the site. At the meeting place before the convoy goes to the site, there will be drinks, snacks, some prepared breakfast/lunch food items, and restrooms.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The meeting place is nearly midway between Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. Hotels and restaurants are available in both locations. If you would prefer to stay in the Jackson area, there are a variety of hotels and restaurants available at Exit 48 (Pearl). The Pearl location is a nice area. Vicksburg is a historical area with casinos.

Attendees are invited to attend the MGMS monthly program meeting on Friday, March 24. Our meetings are held at the MGMS Lapidary School, 176 Tazan Avenue, Florence. (Pearl is approximately 10 miles from the MGMS Lapidary School.) MGMS monthly program meetings start at 7:30 p.m.; gathering begins around 7:00. Although the address is Florence, the School is located in a residential area just south of Richland. Detailed directions to the MGMS Lapidary School can be found on the MGMS website - [www.missgems.org](http://www.missgems.org).

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. Central Time at the Chevron Truck Stop on the south side of I-20 at Exit 27 (Bolton exit). This is west of Jackson and Clinton / east of Vicksburg. Please sign in when you arrive. Prior to departure, there will be a short discussion of the plans for the day. We will leave the truck stop at 8:15 a.m. We

will drive approximately 10 minutes west on I-20, then travel on gravel roads to the hunt site for about 30 minutes. If you have trouble, call Trip Leader David Kraft, [601-613-7360](tel:601-613-7360).

**CONTACT:**

Registration Contact: Rosina Echols — [601-825-5752](tel:601-825-5752) or [rosinae@bellsouth.net](mailto:rosinae@bellsouth.net)

Trip Leader: David Kraft – [601-613-7360](tel:601-613-7360) or [david@truckservicesms.com](mailto:david@truckservicesms.com)

**SUPER DIG.com**

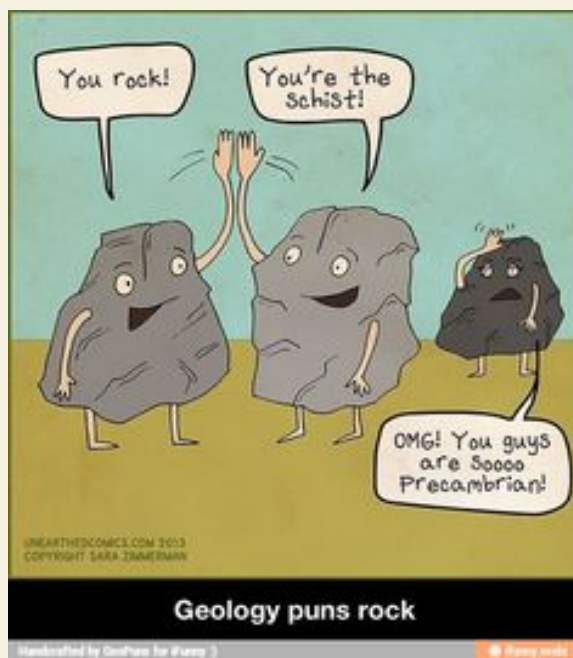
Tripmaster Letter # 1

Just a quick note to let all of you know that the 2017 SuperDig IS ON for Saturday, April 29th.

Some major changes this year, which we will tell you about in future Tripmaster Letters.

For now, Save the Date !!

*Editors Note: Super Dig is the big Fluorescent Mineral Collecting Field Trip(s) held annually in the Franklin NJ area. Check out the website above for further information. We will try to keep up with the publications and add them to our monthly newsletters.*



# GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.

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

GMSL 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.

## February 2017

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4-5-** 54th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Organized by: Delaware Mineralogical Society  
Theme: Quartz, Of Course!  
Arsht Hall, University of Delaware.  
2700 Pennsylvania Ave, Wilmington.

**March 10-12-** 29th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil show Organized by Aiken & Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St, Augusta.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Workshop
12 Lincolns Birthday	13	14 	15 Meeting 7PM	16	17	18 DMC Trip
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				