

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

July 2018

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

Volume 27~Issue No. 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

[May be found on page 11]

FROM THE VP:

[May be found on page 9]

JULY'S PROGRAM:

Guest Speaker: Tony Nikischer

Title: The Characterization and Naming of New Mineral Species

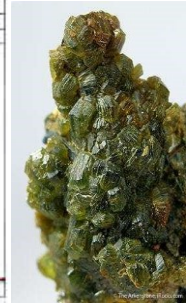
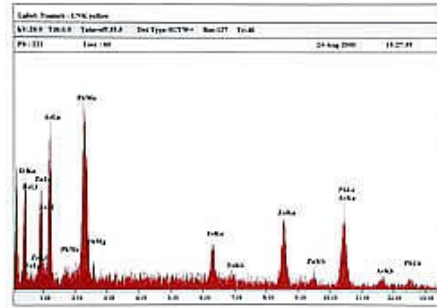
Abstract: The number of new minerals described each year has exploded, with more than 5400 accepted species today. The early chaotic history of mineral naming was tamed with the formation of the International Mineralogical Association in 1958. Who discovers new minerals, as well as what is required for a new mineral submission has become exceedingly complex. Some examples of mineral naming with odd twists are discussed and illustrated, and even the mineral named for a cat is illustrated!

Speaker: Tony Nikischer is President of Excalibur Mineral Corporation, a dealers in rare minerals for researchers, museums and private collectors. A large warehouse and showroom is in Charlottesville, VA.



He is also founder and Chairman of the Board of The Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, an IRS-approved 501(c)3 tax exempt foundation dedicated to descriptive mineralogy, mineral

preservation and education. The Institute is the owner of the popular website Mindat.org, its primary outreach vehicle.



Tony is also publisher of the monthly magazine "Mineral News". He is a (retired) Director of the Friends of Mineralogy, a life member of Mineralogical Society of America, and member of the Mineralogical Association of Canada, and The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain.



He was the recipient of the 2011 Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education Award, and the ugly green mineral Nikischerite was named in his honor in 2003. He has discovered and co-authored the description and publication of a number of new mineral species.

JULY 18 MEETING: Speaker: Tony Nikischer

July Program: The Characterization and Naming of New Mineral Species

NEXT MEETING: August 15, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

August Speaker: TBA

August Program: TBA

September Speaker: Steve Lenhart

September Program: TBA

NEXT DEALER DAY MEETING: October 17, 2018

November Meeting is Club Auction

December Meeting is elections and party.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES:

Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting: June 20, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Attendance: 27 members, no Guests

Meeting called to order by David Ball, First Vice President

Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Mitchell current balance of \$10,756.42. Membership dues collected of \$131.00.

Committee Reports:

Finance Report: Executive Board meeting was held on June 13th. Boxes from Frank Midkiff were reviewed and given to David Ball to sort. Books will be given to Dave Woolley for club library. Steve will review records and pass them on to David. He will have results of Audit by the July club Meeting.

Field Trip Committee: David is in process of trying to arrange fieldtrip to Boxley Quarry in Buckingham. DMC Huntsville, AL fee collecting fieldtrip. Reminder about Kyanite Mine. Ideas for collecting sites welcome.

Hospitality: Thom and Linda Noble hosted tonight's meeting. Jesse and Don Dudley will host the July meeting.

Workshops: Workshops are held the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's. Club members are welcome to come out and learn to cut cabochon, facet or possibly

learn to wire wrap or make gem trees. Dave Woolley asks for members to make use of those willing to teach. Anyone interested please contact one of the board members.

Inventory of trailer was completed by Dave Callahan, Cindy Mitchell, Thom and Linda Noble. Help will be needed to pack slice bags for the upcoming October and November events.

Editor Update – Please make note of the new e-mail address: gmslveditor@gmail.com. Articles are welcome and needed.

Old Business:

None mentioned.

New Business: Dave Wooley mentioned a few items for Steve Gordon.

Apple Harvest Festival will be held on October 20th and 21st at Amherst High School. We will be exhibiting fluorescent minerals at Salem show again.

On Time Drawing Winners: Logan Maningas, Dave Callahan, Abby Allbeck, Siglinda Allbeck, Bill Livingston, Roger Linkenhoker, David Ball, Lydia Kalyna.

50/50 Drawing – None

Program: Steve Lenhart gave a nice presentation on the Geology and Collecting Sites in Kentucky.

Minutes submitted by Linda Noble, Secretary

2018 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Steve Gordon
434-929-1524
stevegordon@comcast.net

First Vice President:
David W. Ball
434-983-9595
777dwb@gmail.com

Secretary:
Linda Noble
434-332-4869
Linda-noble@hughes.net

Treasurer:
Cindy Mitchell
434-283-3884
mitchell99@embarqmail.com

Members At Large:
Natalie Darling
Unfilled

Editor:
David W. Ball
434-983-9595
gmslveditor@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Field Trips: TBD
Workshops: Dave Callahan
Membership: Thom Noble
Hospitality: Monthly Volunteers
Website: Casper Voogt
Finance: David Ball
Librarian: David Woolley
Silent Auction: Warren Darling
News Articles: David Ball
FRA Adult Liaison: TBD

*The Official Monthly
Publication of the Gem & Mineral
Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.
www.lynchburgrockclub.org*

EDITOR'S NOTES:

David Ball, Editor

Please take note that the editor's e-mail address has changed to: gmslveditor@gmail.com

All problems aside, you will be getting all of your newsletters.

It is not the job of editor to write all the copy that fills the pages. While I may do some writing, writers are needed to write articles and contribute to this your publication.

For your convenience, I have an e-mail address exclusively for the newsletter, notices and general communication with you the members. I am not the only point of contact, just one of several with the Board.

Deadline for all newsletter submission will be due by fifth of each month so that it can be mailed prior to that month's meeting.

Contact me at: gmslveditor@gmail.com

**Deadline for next newsletter submissions is:
August 5, 2018 12:59 pm.**

Finance Committee Report:

David Ball, Chairman

I received the financial records for auditing at the July Executive Board meeting. Sometime before the August Executive Board meeting, an audit will be done. Once that has been completed, an audit report will be brought to the Executive Board for review and approval, then reported to the membership.

CONTENTS THIS EDITION:

President's Message	Page 11
First VP's Message	Page 9
June Meeting Minutes	Page 2
Editor's Notes	Page 3
Finance Committee Report	Page 3
Upcoming Field Trips	Page 3
June Meeting Highlights	Page 4
Gemstone/Birthstone of Month	Page 10
Upcoming Events	Page 10

After the audit is done, I will be able to draft a budget for approval. Working with the Treasurer, we will have financial statements to provide a level of transparency as required according to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:

Locally and Federation

Kyanite Mine, Willis Mountain, Buckingham, VA Saturday, September 29, 2018

Details of fieldtrip are available at the meeting and please sign-up. [See page 5]

[Disclaimer: There was never any intent to promote or endorse the group known as MAGMA in the June newsletter.]

Workshops Committee Report:

David Callahan, Chairman

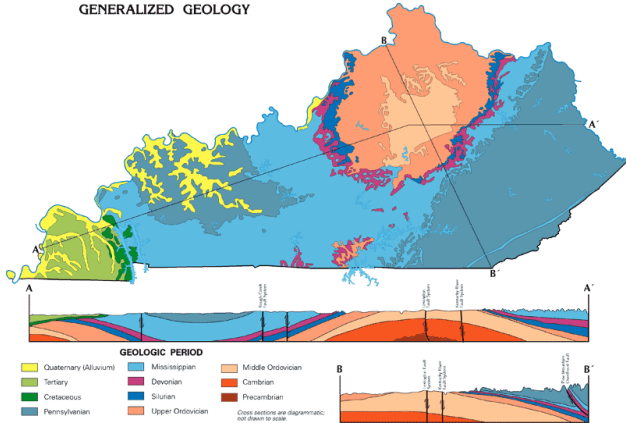
There will be a workshop every second Saturday each month. Help is needed to make items to sell at the Apple Festival in October. The main point of the workshop is for you to learn how to work with the material you collect to make things you can keep or give to others. Thom Noble is available by appointment to teach you cabbing and other skill sets. Dave Woolley will teach you faceting. The workshop is located at Dave Callahan's, 1337 Thornbird Place, Huddleston, VA. Workshop hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

A Historical Overview of the Geology of Kentucky
 From Lecture and Notes of Steve Lenhart, PhD

The rocks of Kentucky formed adjacent to, and were influenced by, the successive formation of three distinct North American east coast mountain ranges. Today's Appalachian Mountains are the erosional remnants of the third, and last, of those mountain ranges.

GENERALIZED GEOLOGY



This curious geologic structure, along with many similar structures elsewhere in the world, were long- called “cryptovolcanic structures”, as they were assumed to have been formed by some unknown, subsurface, volcanic process, until the 1960’s when USGS geologists discover evidence that showed conclusively that the Middlesboro structure was caused by a meteorite, or comet, impact from above and not a volcanic disturbance from below. These types of structures are now referred to as “astroblemes” or “impact structures”.

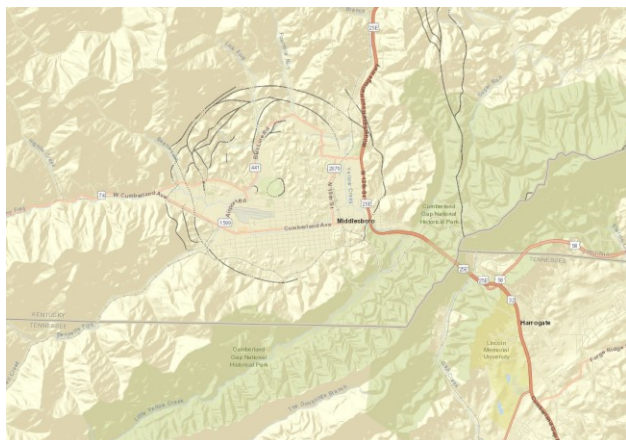


Figure 2b. Shaded relief map of the Middlesboro valley showing circular faults surrounding the flat valley. What do these faults suggest?

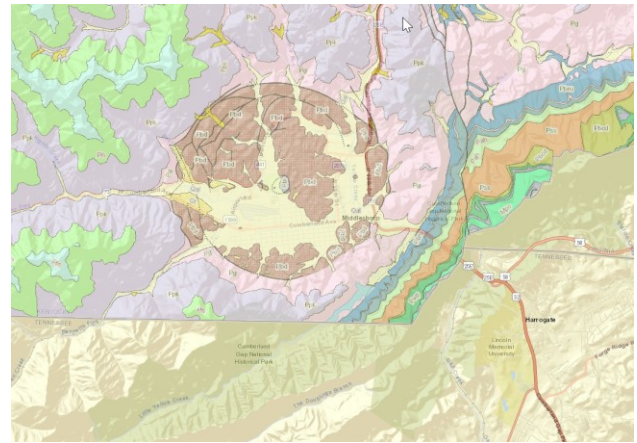


Figure 2c. Shaded relief map of the Middlesboro valley overlain by a geologic map showing the circular faults surrounding the valley and the distribution and ages (indicated by colors) of the sedimentary rocks that underlie the region.

Note that the valley’s rocks, shown here in grey, do not align, or match up, with the rocks of the rugged mountains surrounding the valley, and that the circular faults clearly border the valley’s rocks.

So, what “conclusive evidence” proved that the Middlesboro structure is an impact structure? There are two aspects of this structure that proves its origin. First of all, when meteorites crash into the Earth, they explode, due to the tremendous release of energy, creating a crater, and sending a compressional shock wave through the Earth’s rocks directly under the impact site. This event creates two features within the rocks being impacted; 1) shatter cones, and 2) “shocked quartz”.

Shatter cones are rock shattering pattern of micro-fractures naturally formed only during impact events, and they are found in abundance in the rocks of the Middlesboro valley.



Figure 4a. Shatter cones from an impact structure. Figure 4b. Shatter cones from an impact structure.

Shocked quartz is a form of quartz that has a microscopic structure that is different from normal quartz. Under intense pressure (but limited temperature), the crystalline structure of quartz will be deformed along planes inside the crystal. These planes show up as lines under a microscope, which are called shock lamellae.

The rocks underlying the Middlesboro impact structure possess "shocked" quartz.

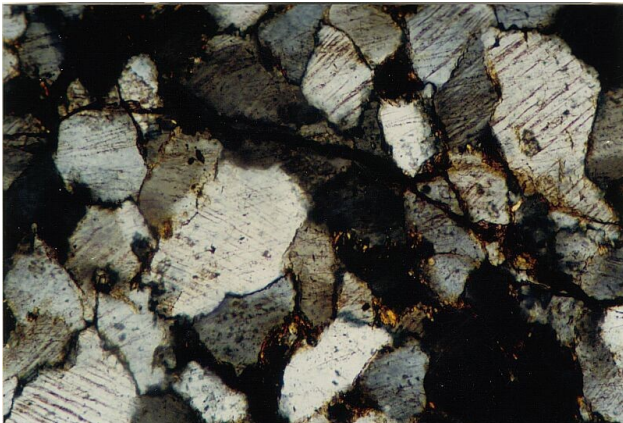


Figure 5. Microphotograph of "shocked quartz" grains. Small parallel lines that intersect other parallel lines criss-cross the face of quartz grains. These intersecting lines give the impression of fractures in the quartz crystals.

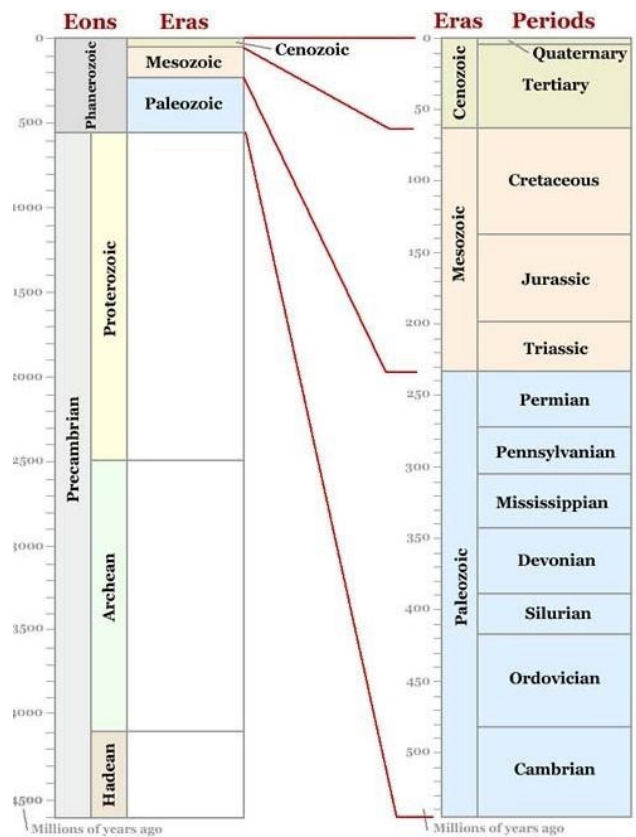
Now, knowing all this about the location of the City of Middlesboro, KY and the geology of the valley, Middlesboro is located at **ground zero** of an ancient meteor or comet impact event! It is no longer a bowl-shaped crater around the town because the crater has long since eroded away. The town is sitting on what was bedrock below the crater that was greatly affected by the impact but was way below the crater. The Earth's surface has been eroded down to a much lower elevation than it was when the meteor hit!

Today's "sub-crater" is nearly 4 miles wide and its age is estimated to be less than 300 million years (Permian). The impactor is estimated to have been over 300 feet in diameter and the impact point was at least one-half mile above the present-day Earth's surface. Middlesboro is the only place in the world where coal is mined inside an astrobleme. Special mining techniques must be used in the complicated strata of this crater.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

Every place on Earth has a geologic history; it has "come to be" the way we see it today, and what we see today is the result of numerous and various processes in operation for amounts of time inconceivable to the human mind. Since those processes never end and time never ends, what we are seeing is merely the "present state" of a given place on Earth. Changes continue, and will continue, for longer than we can imagine. 8

On our trip today, we will be looking at "the present state" of rocks that were formed from seafloor mud deposited on the bottom of an ancient, shallow tropical ocean that covered this part of North America about 450 MY (that's Million Years) ago. Geologists have named this span of geologic time the Ordovician Period. So, how long ago was 450,000,000 years ago? A 45-year old person would have to re-live that lifetime 10 million times to experience, and therefore to fully comprehend, that much time. The following diagram is a generalized time scale applied to Earth history. It reflects how geologists divide up the great expanses of geologic time called eons, eras, periods, etc.



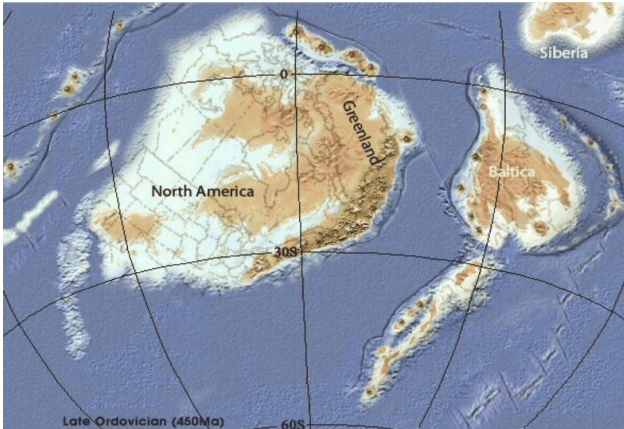
What was Earth like 450 MY ago during the Ordovician Period? The Earth was already over 4 BY (that's Billion Years) old. We find such ancient fossils as corals, clams, bryozoans, crinoids, cephalopods and trilobites from rocks of Ordovician age here, but not necessarily all at the same location.

All animal life was restricted to water in the Ordovician Period. Land areas were barren of animals and with, perhaps, only algae and primitive plants growing in and along waterways.

That means that these rocks precede the “age of dinosaurs”. Indeed, the age of dinosaurs was from about 230 MY to about 63 MY ago: the Mesozoic Era. Find the Mesozoic Era on the time scale above and compare its position to the Ordovician Period.

450 MY ago, the locations and configuration of Earth’s modern continents would have been unrecognizable using modern maps. Following is a map that shows what this part of the world looked like 450 MY ago. Outlines of the modern states are superimposed over the continent to give you an idea of the North America of 450 MY ago. Notice that North America was south of the Equator and “turned on its side”. Notice that there were no west-coast states and no southeastern coastal states.

Notice a mountain range along the southeastern edge of the Ordovician continent. These are not the Appalachian Mountains of today! This is a much earlier mountain range, called the Taconic Mountains, that formed in Late Ordovician time and was eroded down long before the Appalachian Mountains formed about 250 MY ago.

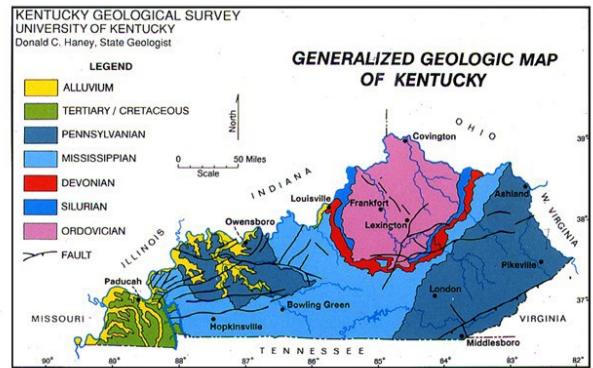


Notice that Greenland was part of North America, and that two large islands loomed off the east coast: Siberia and Baltica. This period of time precedes the formation of the supercontinent called Pangea when all the Earth’s land masses were joined into one large continent about 250 MY ago.

Notice that much of the North American continent was covered by a large shallow tropical sea. The rocks we will examine today formed from the bottom sediments of that sea and they contain the remains and traces of the life forms

that lived in that sea. The water was sunlit and warm; the perfect paradise for the sea critters of the time.

Ordovician Period	444 MY	Ashlock Fm. Drakes Fm. (Bardstown Member) "Honey-comb" coral heads; misc. marine fossils
	Upper	
	-461 MY	Clays Ferry Fm. { Marine fossils including bryozoans, brachiopods, clams, snails, cephalopods, crinoids, trilobites, etc.
	Middle	Tyrone Limestone Camp Nelson Limestone
	472 MY	
	Lower	
	488 MY	



Geologic Map of Kentucky showing the Cincinnati Arch and Jessamine Dome.

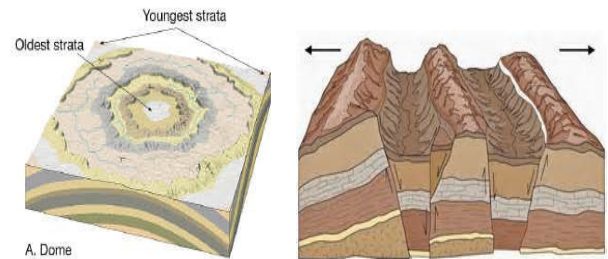
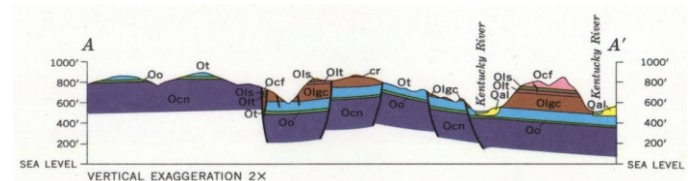


Diagram of Dome Structure Showing Surface “Bullseye” Erosional Pattern



**OFFICIAL COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELDTRIP
THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA INC. (HOST)**

An official DMC Fieldtrip of the GMSL
KYANITE MINING CORP. DILLWYN, VA. – ANNUAL FIELDTRIP
WILLIS MOUNTAIN KYANITE MINE

If the mine is working, we may have to limit our collecting areas

Saturday, September 29, 2018

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sign-up is required, call me, email me or sign-up at the meeting. If you cancel, notify me to be taken off the list as space may be limited due to the expanded list of clubs now participating in this annual event.

All club field trip leaders send me a list of your total collectors so that I can compile a list and forward to the mine management by 9-24-18. There is a limit of 150 collectors from all clubs for this event so there should be room for everyone who wants to attend.

SAFETY: Everyone must arrive at the office parking lot **no later than 8:30AM** to sign the release form and hear the required safety briefing. *Each Club field trip leader, or their appointed replacement, will act as safety observer while in the mine and will be expected to be on the lookout for and correct all safety infractions from any collector from any club.* Keep in mind that this site is one of the very few that are still open for collecting. **Not obeying all the safety rules will cause this site to be closed to all future collecting.**

DRIVING FROM THE ROANOKE AND LYNCHBURG AREA: From Roanoke, follow US 460 East to Lynchburg, to the Sheets Station on US 460 and Rt. 811 in New London. Continue on the US 460 East by-pass around Lynchburg thru Appomattox and take Rt. 24 North to its end at US 60, Mt. Rush. Continue on US 60 East to Sprouses Corner. Turn right on US 15 South and drive 4 miles to Willis Mt. Plant Road. Turn left and stop at the stone mine office. Park out of the way as not to block traffic. Do not park along Rt. 15. Allow 1 1/4 minimum hour driving time from New London west of Lynchburg to the mine office.

GENERAL LOCATION and ASSEMBLY TIME: Everyone will meet at the mine office for sign-in and safety instruction so be there **no later than 8:30am**. The mine is located north of Farmville, Va. on Rt. 15 North, James Madison Highway. Proceed from US 460 North on Rt. 15 for a little over 12 miles to Willis Mt. Plant Rd. The stone mine office is on the right. If you approach from Rt. 60 at Sprouses Corner, then go south on Rt. 15 for 4 miles to Willis Mt. Plant Rd. and the office will be on your left. Wait in the parking lot and do not block traffic. Many trucks may be using the road. While you're waiting, be sure to enjoy the beautiful blue kyanite bolder in the front yard from the old closed Baker Mountain. Barricades will block you from driving in restricted areas. Access to plant operations is prohibited.

COLLECTING: Willis Mountain is what's known as a monadnock. The kyanite exposure resisted weathering and, as the surrounding area was eroded and weathered away, the mountain outcrop was left standing. This is very much like the famous Graves Mountain kyanite mine in Georgia. The center of the mountain has been mostly mined away. We should be able to find plenty of white kyanite blades in the massive kyanite quartzite; pyrite; quartz; hematite with some iridescence, red mica, green mica, apatite and possibly some blue kyanite and pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz here have a beautiful light blue fluorescence and the apatite is yellow so bring your short wave lamp and blackout cloth.

EQUIPMENT: The standard quarry safety gear required is a hard hats with a mfg. date of 5 years or less (everyone must have an approved hard hat, no bicycle helmets. Small heads can wear a ball cap under the hard hat), safety glasses, respiratory protection from rock dust you may encounter, a pair of wheel chocks (either purchased, homemade or even a rock is acceptable). Every time you leave the car, turn off the engine, put in park and apply the hand brake and wheel chocks. **ONLY STEEL OR MSHA (Federal Mine Safety and Health Act) APPROVED REINFORCED FIBERGLASS TOED BOOTS WILL BE ALLOWED, THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** No low quarters or sneakers even if they have steel or composite toes. If you do not have all the required safety equipment, you will not be allowed to enter the quarry. Also required are long pants, gloves, hammer and chisels, wrapping paper, buckets, water as it is very important to stay hydrated as it may be very hot. *If you have any medical condition that would put you in any danger, do not attempt this trip. For your own safety, let your field trip leader or collecting buddy know if you have any medical condition that could be a problem for you.* Be prepared for windy, hot or wet weather. We will be on the mountain top and it's always windy. We can drive to the designated collecting area, so hand trucks should not be needed. Bring a camera, as the view is awesome.

AFTER THE DIG SOCIAL: This year, the pavilion beside the office will be available immediately after the dig ends at 1PM to relax, cool off eat your lunch. This will also be a social get together so that we can have a chance to become better acquainted with the members of our rock club neighbors and to provide some time to relax before their long ride home.

You might want to bring your own lawn chair. There may also be other groups there as invited guests of Kyanite Mining. There might be a brief program on the mine and lab tour.

AGE LIMIT: There is no age limit, but no toddlers please. All children must be signed for, closely supervised by an adult and never left un-attended. They must also have all the required safety equipment. No Exceptions!!! If parents have any questions about what is acceptable for your child, please call me and we will discuss it.

WEATHER: The trip will be canceled for safety concerns in case of hard rain or a thunderstorm. Call to confirm if there is any question.

CONTACT: David Ball, Home 434-983-9595 or Cell 703-256-0097 Field Trip Chairman for the Lynchburg Club, email: gmslveditor@gmail.com website: www.LynchburgRockClub.org



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
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the (enter your associated club's name here!)

Saturday, August 4, 2018

Starting 9 AM until closing 4 PM Eastern Time

3 sites on Chunky Gal Mountain

Between Hayesville and Franklin, NC

Limit by area-first come first served per site

Registration required on site

Fee: None

TRIP: Chunky Gal Mountain was named from a Cherokee legend about a chubby maid who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Her parents attempted to snuff the romance, but the young woman was determined to follow her heart, finding her way across the mountain's slope to be with her beloved. This area offers a world-class deposit of olivine in the Buck Creek area, which accounts for the presence of rubies, garnets, sapphires and other gem stones. Here at Corundum Knob (Chunky Gal) is a public rock-hunting area, which is supervised by the Tusquee Ranger District and with this trip, **all forest service rules will apply.**

COLLECTING: There will be 3 sites for collecting: Buck Creek, Chunky Gal mine, and Herbert Corundum Mine, with guides/monitors posted at all areas. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by the Franklin Club members so please cooperate with them.

Everyone must register at the main tent near the base of Chunky Gal Mountain on hwy 64, sign a waiver of liability, receive a list of all forest rules, and receive a map for all areas of interest. As parking is limited in some areas, you may be asked to wait or work another area until room is available. If you can't walk unassisted, this will limit the areas where you may safely collect. **Your safety is our priority.**

3 COLLECTING AREAS: Degrees of difficulty for each area assigned.

Moderate 1) Buck Creek is known for its small gemmy almandine garnets. In and around the creek quartz and chert are available as well as blue corundum dump piles and a ruby area.

Hard 2) Chunky Gal Mine, on the top of the mountain, has smaragdite with ruby confirmed with a long wave UV lite, some bronze sapphire and some blue corundum can be found there as well.

Hard-Demanding 3) Herbert Corundum Mine has hexagonal corundum crystals, mostly white and blue, in the creek. A 2 mile hike, round trip, is required to collect in this area. Tiffany's first mined rubies/sapphires at this location for gem/abrasive quality minerals in the early 1900's. An old vertical mine is there and several horizontal tunnels to see but **not to explore!**

BRING:

1) Buck Creek we suggest: 1/8" sifting screen, hand shovel, and rubber boots/wading shoes. Lunch, water, towel, and UV lite. Caution: water is swift and up to 2-3 ft. deep in places. Snakes have been spotted.

2) Chunky Gal Mine: rock hammer, short rock pick, short handled sledge hammer, hand shovel, and hiking boots. Lunch, water, and a UV lite. Caution: Snakes and wild animals. 150 ft. hill climb required at steep angle to the top.

3) Herbert Corundum Mine we suggest 1/4' sifting screen, hand shovel, rock hammer, short rock pick, hiking and rubber boots. Lunch, water, and UV lite. Caution: Creek water can be swift and 1-2 ft. deep in places. You will need to traverse a muddy area approximately 50 ft. long and a couple creeks to get to the site. Total hike is 2 miles round trip.

Very Important – Please read carefully: According to National Forest rules, “materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. You cannot remove mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools.”

REQUIREMENTS: The ability to walk unassisted, cross and work in cold streams with swift currents up to 2-3 ft. deep, steep hill climbs, avoid snakes and wild animals, and hike up to 2 miles round trip. No bathrooms. No convenience stores. There is limited to non-existent cell phone coverage throughout the collecting areas. Forest Service rules and restrictions for Gold Panning and Rock Hounding apply and may be found at: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144. As always the AFMS Code of Ethics applies (<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>). Your safety is our business. Poison ivy and ticks are especially abundant this year. Sun screen and rain gear as needed.

FEE: None.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: At the bottom of Chunky Gal Mountain there will be a registration tent at the intersection of Hwy 64 and forest road #6236. Registration begins at 9 AM Eastern for all areas. No early reservations accepted. Once an area is full it will be closed until parking spots become available. No exceptions.

CHILDREN (NO): Unless they are over 12 years of age and under adult supervision at all times. Unsupervised children and their adults will be removed as necessary for your safety.

PETS (NO): This is a wild area and interactions with wild animals pose a safety risk for your pet and all participants.

TOOLS: Bring all the tools you have: pick, shovel, screen, rock hammer, hand sledge, rock chisel, bucket, hand cart, etc. It would be a good idea to bring an extra change of clothes.

FACILITIES CLOSEST: Hayesville, NC is 9 miles west on Hwy 64 and Franklin, NC is 25 miles east on Hwy 64. You can locate food, drinks, and a toilet there. If you wish to stay overnight, Franklin has several great locations to choose from. The chamber of commerce in Franklin can help you out.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will provide bottled water and a snack until source is exhausted. Club members will be monitoring all activities, in all areas, to help you out. Please ask them if you need assistance. Friday and Saturday our museum will be open: [25 Phillips St, Franklin, NC](http://www.fgmm.org) from 12 PM until 4PM free of charge www.fgmm.org or call them 828-369-7831 if you get lost on August 4 for directional help.

CONTACT: Marsha Harmon, marsha.harmon@frontier.com, 828-369-7262 prior to August 4th and Lake Holland 828-371-2812 on August 4 only. The mountain often has a lack of cell signal in spots. Please work through this problem as best you can or map out ahead for this location.

FROM THE VP:

Howdy Fellow Rockhounds:

Welcome all visitors, newcomers, friends and curiosity seekers to our fascinating world of earthly treasures. These are the natural resources that make our modern society to prosper and thrive.

There would be less conflicts in the club if members addressed their concerns and comments directly with members they disagree with instead of going behind their back talking about them to other

members. I was always told if you didn't have anything nice to say about someone then say nothing.

Are we divided? Maybe, there are some differing viewpoints but not enough to split the club apart.

Of note from the Executive Board meeting, our contract with Lynchburg Parks and Recreation is due to renew. They would like to move us to a different location.

Fieldtrips would be open to Roanoke club but I would like us to be able to attend theirs. The Board was split

on speaker pay for members because of scholarships. I do not think members should get paid to do a program for us.

We have a full summer of programs. Steve Lenhart again in September for a program that is currently being planned. August speaker and program has yet to be confirmed.

Are you interested in holding office? Please let us know. All seats are open.

Let's get ready and go collecting.

David

JULY'S BIRTHSTONE AND GEMSTONE

RUBY



Source: Wikipedia

By David Ball

Rubies are one of the variations of the mineral known as corundum which is an aluminum oxide. Because of corundum's unique structure and elements composition, it is the second hardest mineral on the Mohs Scale of Hardness. While corundum is widely used as an abrasive, the ruby is by far the most valuable of the corundum family of gemstones. A ruby's passionate red color is due to the presence of chromium and iron impurities.

The name ruby is derived from the Latin word for red, 'rubrum'. African rubies are typically found in zoisite and make a colorful combination. In scriptural context, it is likened to a carbuncle or ember. Pleochroism accounts for the variation in colors due to differing amounts of light absorption or fluorescence. Rubies with purplish coloration, dark or light, are typically referred to as purple or pink sapphires respectively. Star rubies and sapphires exhibit a distinctive six-point star pattern which is a result of fine rutile crystal inside the gemstone.

The Shah of Iran had one of the largest private collections of rubies. The first synthetic rubies were made over a 100 years ago in France. Non-gem quality rubies make excellent abrasives.

Chemical Formula: Al₂O₃

Crystal Habit: Trigonal

Color: Magenta to crimson red

Lustre: Adamantine, vitreous, brilliant to glassy, transparent to translucent

Cleavage: None, conchoidal fractures

Streak: White

Moh's Hardness: 9.0

Specific Gravity: 4.0 [3.9 – 4.1]

Soluble In: Insoluble

Characteristics: Infusible, low fracture rating – between talc and quartz, except where twins merge, the presence of rutile inclusions creates the six-pointed star

Environments: Metamorphism of aluminum ores, aluminum rich silica poor igneous rocks and sedimentary placers

Major Localities: India, North Carolina, Southern to Southeast Asia, Russia, Australia and Norway

Virginia Localities: Found in 3 counties: Buckingham, Charlotte and Prince Edward as corundum (unspecified), some reports claim ruby grains are in the sands of Assateague Island, offshore cores taken from Maryland to North Carolina and in the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay are reported to contain corundum (unspecified).

International Gemstones: Amber



Source: NaturalRuby



Source: Wikipedia

UPCOMING EVENTS:

EFMLS Wildacres Workshops: August 20-26;

September 3-9; 17-23

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm>

ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal

www.icmj.com or 831-479-1500

Central Virginia Gold Prospectors

Saturday, July 21, 2018 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Buckingham VFW on Route 60 one mile south of the Courthouse on the left.

American Lands Access Association

<http://amlands.org/6601.html>

Defending your right to collect on public lands.

Hi All,

Well, we are in the middle of the heat wave as I am writing this so I hope all of you are being safe and keeping that water close by. Here in Virginia we are blessed with the humidity (hard to believe) but out west where the heat is a dry heat you do not sweat. That means you do not have a telling sign that you are dehydrated. Here we sweat and when we stop sweating we are being told by our body that we need to get out of the heat and get some liquid into our body. Make sure if you are out that you take in water throughout your outside stay. Don't wait to be told because you are then putting a lot of stress on your body. Also once you have had a heat related incident you are more prone from that point on. Stay cool and do your outside chores, rock collecting or other duties in the early morning or later in the evening. Stay safe.

On a business note, I have reviewed the statements and audit paper work and will get that to David as he is the financial chairman. We should have this ready for anyone to review by the club meeting. We have been working at getting programs lined up for months in advance so that all can see what is coming up and can make plans. Summer is a time of vacations and we all have things around the house to get done and time is something that we have to use wisely. I was not at the last meeting because work sent me out to train some of our employees and I ask Dave Woolley to fill in to try and take some of the stress off of David and also to give you all another face to look at other than an executive.

I asked David to convey my thoughts about a couple of things and just wanted to let all of you know that we are a club but we can only be as efficient as a whole. We as officers have things that we would like to see done but we need your input to know what things we as a club need to pursue. In other words if we need to set up a wire wrapping class we need to be told. If we need a cabbing class we need to be told. The equipment that the club has is available to everyone and all you have to do is ask and we can work something out to meet your needs. We have people that are willing to show you just about anything that you can imagine that you would like to try and do, but we are not mind readers and need input. That said I will try and have a poll ready so that we can pass out the cards and get an idea of things that the club would like to see happen. But it

is just as easy for you to ask one of the board members and we can try to make it happen. Please do not talk among yourselves and just get frustrated that the club is not doing what you want to see, ask. We are all busy with our on life and it is easy to just sit back and hope things will go our way but we all know that it does not happen that way very often. Open communication is the best way for our club to not just survive but to excel as a club.

Lastly, if you know of a program or have heard of a speaker that you would like the club to check into please let us know and we will check into the availability of get that program or speaker to our club.

Keep looking down,
Steve

Member Obituary:

John DeViney died on Father's Day of Esophageal Cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary Loose DeViney. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary as she mourns the loss of her dear husband.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

July 25-29—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA:
Annual show; Bellpoint Promotions, Echo Valley Showplace; 6456 Sylva Rd (across from GLW); Wed. 9-6, Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat.

9-6; Free Admission; Wholesale & retail dealers from all over the world selling minerals, fossils, gems, rough rock & beads.; open to the public; across the street from GLW show

*Sunday hours 9am-5pm ;

Contact: Damian Belgali, (678)-852-8273;

E-mail: mbellpoint@gmail.com;

Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

July28-August5 - SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA:

Annual show; Parkway Fire and Rescue, Parkway Fire and Rescue show grounds; 136 Majestic View; Daily 10-6; Free Admission; 34th annual gem and mineral show put on by the Parkway Fire and Rescue to raise funds for new equipment. Worldwide vendors with gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, lapidary equipment and much more.

Contact: Donna Collis, 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, (828)-765-5519;

E-mail: collisdonna@yahoo.com;

Web site: <http://www.grassycreekgemshow.org>

Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

The purpose of GMSL 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 Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

Meeting Location and Directions:

Fairview Center, 3621 Campbell Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
From Route 29 Expressway or Route 460, take the Campbell Avenue exit. Follow Campbell Avenue to 3621, which is across from a Citco Station. There is a fence around the building, parking lot beside the building and parking on both side streets with an extra parking lot in the back by tennis courts. We will be looking for you to attend our meetings.

If the Lynchburg Public Schools are closed or have early dismissal for inclement weather, our meeting will be cancelled.



Happy Independence Day

St. Swithin's Day

Dog Days of Summer Begins: July 3