



November Newsletter

11/2019

Volume 2019, Number 11

In This Issue

- President's Meanderings
- Definition
- Programs for the future
- Note from the Editor
- Field Trips
- Why I became a Rock Hound
- August meeting minutes
- Article #12 Dave Woolley

Meeting at Miller Center
301 Grove Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501
3rd Wed of the month
7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Dec. meeting will be in the Aviary again.

Workshop is the 2nd Saturday of the month.

President's Meanderings:

By Dave Woolley

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in Democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Marjorie Moore

We need to be thinking out loud and in print as to the future of the club and what might happen if we have to shut it down. I have not approached the Roanoke Club about combining resources and memberships, but I will after the November meeting, if we don't have some nominees. It would be more than a shame if December was to be our last meeting.

Soft Ball Garnets

My first VDOT boss, District Materials Engineer, Robert (Bob) Fielding, invited me for a ride one sunny afternoon. We visited an up-coming job site as an excuse to visit a dirt secondary road just east of Pamplin, Route 658 to the south of Route 460 that was being motor graded to a fresh surface. His real motive was an interest in purchasing the adjacent field for an investment. When I got out of the truck, the reason became apparent. The motor grader blade was popping up garnets, some the size of soft balls from the deeply weathered Residual Soil. The fresh-cut road surface was pock marked where the garnets were freed. I call them "soft ball garnets" because of their size and their strength. Being the iron garnet species, Almandine, rich with included magnetite, plus being weathered, they were easily broken apart. Bob's thought of opening up a gem garnet mine, or even a garnet sandpaper mine, crumbled in his hands. If the road is now paved over with asphalt, the site might be relocated by watching for red garnet sand in the ditch lines.

2019 Officers

PRESIDENT - Dave Woolley
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woolley.dave@gmail.com

First Vice President
Vacant

Second Vice President
Vacant

Secretary & Treasurer
Linda Noble
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Editor – Steve Gordon
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stevegordon@comcast.net

Members At Large -
Michael Staton &
Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach
Jennifer Staton

The Rock Cycle

The second most important concept in understanding Geology is labeled "The Rock Cycle"; it is often pictured as a circle. The Rock Cycle describes the long-term history of the earth's surface and interior. The short version says: Igneous Rock weathers to Sediments. Sediments consolidate to Sedimentary Rock. Sedimentary Rock metamorphoses to Metamorphic Rock. With enough heat and pressure, Metamorphic Rock becomes molten again to cool to a new Igneous Rock. Almost all the earth's surface has been recycled *many times*.

In the Rock Cycle containing the three rock types, Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic, there are short cuts and back steps. Sediments can erode and re-deposit. Sedimentary Rock can weather and erode creating new sediments and a new Sedimentary Rock. Metamorphic Rock can weather and erode creating sediments. Igneous Rock can metamorphose. Igneous Rock can re-melt. Do a google search to see how other authors teach the Rock Cycle. There are many interesting ways of picturing the Rock Cycle, all are useful to gain familiarity and understanding. It makes a car ride much more interesting when looking at rock outcrops. How did *that* rock form? Where did *it* originate? Where does *it* go from here?

A Thank you from Luis' family

THE PAST

"The good old days, transient
keepers of happiness,
shall come no more.
Our prime was a rumor of
fermentation, like wine in a dark
cellar.
Goodbye, goodbye, so many
goodbyes slip by, like doves
in the sky, southbound,
onward into silence."

PABLO NERUDA



Luis Alberto Gonzalez
08 April 1951 - 19 July 2019

Thank you

Dear Friends and Family,

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for celebrating Luis' life with us. Your support means more than words can possibly express. Luis will be greatly missed, but the beautiful memories we have of him will remain alive in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Lorena, Pilar, Sara, Vicente

Program for the coming months

November – Club Auction and Club Officer Nominations

December – Christmas Dinner and Secret Santa

Note from the editor

Hi All,

I have made it back home from my job in New Jersey (lower part). I have missed so much over the years with my travel for work but in most cases it has taken me to places that I would have not went to on my own. I have made friends with other rock enthusiasts and have been lucky enough to find places to go to dig for rocks in other states. But I have missed doing things with the club members back here at home. This I regret but know that I had to do what was needed to feed my family.

Now for some very strong words. We as a club have got to move on and there needs to be someone else other than the few that has ran this club for the past two decades. We need each one of you to look hard at what you can do as most of the officers are stepping down. We have for many years now said that we are looking for those that could step up but no one has. I am afraid now that those that are in office have reached their limit and will step down and if no one steps up the club will either combine with the Roanoke club or will be dissolved. So please someone step up so that the club does not disappear.

Remember to send me your “Why I became a Rock Hound” short story.

Please send me your short story stevegordon@comcast.net



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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An Official Field Trip of the Emerald City Rock and Gem Club (Greenwood, SC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the (please enter your associated club's name here)

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9:00 am to 3:00 pm EST

Amos Cunningham Farm

Due West, SC

Registration Required

Fee: \$20 per Person

TRIP: Amos Cunningham has been interested in rocks since the age of six when his father would find gems on the property. His collection has been displayed most recently at Erskine College.

COLLECTING: Green beryl, blue aquamarine, feldspar, mica, smoky quartz, pyrite, and microscopic red garnets can be found at this location.

BRING: Digging in the dirt is typical, but material has been found on the surface. Bring shovels, trowels, buckets, gloves. Weather is fickle, so be prepared for mud and wear layered clothing. Bring water.

FEE: \$20 per person.

REGISTRATION: Please contact Marf Shopmyer at marfeena@gmail.com to register, so Mr. Cunningham will have an idea of how many to expect and for directions to the property.

CHILDREN: There is no age restriction, but children should be under adult supervision at all times.

PETS: No.

FACILITIES: There is a bathroom at Mr. Cunningham's museum/shop near his house.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Mr. Cunningham will have specimens for sale for \$10 and up at the end of the day to make sure everyone gets something.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the museum/shop near Mr. Cunningham's house to sign a release form.

CONTACT: Marf Shopmyer at marfeena@gmail.com. I promise to have my phone with me on the day, but I normally don't answer calls. Cell: 864-910-5369.



Examples of beryl found at Amos Cunningham's farm.

Why I (we) became a Rockhounds

By Natalie Darling

A little more than 20 years ago, we had friends with children similar ages to our two younger children. These kids had the coolest rocks- mica, pyrite, and crystals are a few that I remember. So after inquiring about how they came to possess these natural beauties, we attended a Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society meeting. We paid our dues that night in order to attend our first field trip the following Saturday, which was to the JMU Department of Geology, with host Dr. Lance Kearns. We met so many friendly folks, and found the group to be very knowledgeable and generous with the kids- sharing specimens and information. That's it- we were hooked, and looking forward to the next field trip, and the next, and so on. Over the years we have enjoyed many friends and facets of this hobby- attending and volunteering at festivals/fundraisers; learning and teaching different lapidary skills and crafts; DMC trips; and officer positions. I also had the honor of serving as the club newsletter editor for 16 years. The kids are grown, and Warren and I are now enjoying the club a little differently. We plan to continue our membership and stay as active as possible in our rather busy retirement years!

Some of our members

Check out Bob and Mary McIntire's article in the Blue Ridge Country magazine, if clicking on the link does not work copy and paste the address.

https://blueridgecountry.com/newsstand/magazine/wire-wrapped-jewelry/?fbclid=IwAR1jK60NQpBq5Rm02xc03r0-udm8wRIuQtWdIJDUZtVmBGCieOiyZM_Nmgo

Upcoming shows/events

November 23-24—FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA: Annual show; The Northern Virginia Mineral Club; George Mason University, 4400 University Dr., Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, seniors \$4, teens (13-17) \$3, free admission for children 12 and under, scouts in uniform and GMU students; More than 20 dealers offering minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, jewelry, carvings, and meteorites, along with demonstrations, exhibits, and activities for children; contact:

Tom Taaffe; Email: rockclctr@gmail.com

***November 29 - Dec. 1 -- Salem, Virginia, 40th Annual Roanoke Valley Gem and Mineral Society Show,** Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard, Salem Virginia. Friday 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday Noon - 5:00 PM, \$5 adult ticket for all 3 days, children 14 and under free with adult. Door prizes throughout the day, mineral exhibits, fluorescent mineral exhibit and talks, club geode sale booth - (geodes sawn or cracked while you wait), lapidary and faceting demonstrations, vendors of minerals, rocks, fossils, gems, beads, jewelry, tools, findings, rock slabs, and more.

We need volunteers to help Dave Callahan set, man and tear down the Fluorescent Mineral display that we put on for the Roanoke club. You can sign up at the regular club meeting or if you are unable to attend the meeting but want to help you can call or write me Steve Gordon, stevegordon@comcast.net or 434-042-1836.

October Meeting Minutes

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg Meeting – October 16 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Attendance: 31members

Meeting called to order by Dave Woolley President

On Time Drawing Winners: Joan Moore, Sydney Tomlin, Ann Maurice, Natalie Darling, Pam Roton, Clint Ferguson, Alex Brockman, Siglinde Allbeck, Hans Schubert Nancy Linkenhoker, Eric Roton, Thom Noble, Kendra Turner.

Welcome new member Alex Brockman

50/50 Drawing – \$10 – John Haskins won \$10.

Hospitality:

James and Holly Tomlin hosted tonight's meeting, will host the November meeting.

New Business:

In preparation for upcoming election of officers for next year we need a nominating committee, please see Dave during break. We need club members to step forward and help with all positions. Thom Noble gave brief presentation of their recent trip to William Holland. He and Linda brought their class projects for show and tell.

Announcements:

Dave Callahan made announcement of an invitation from the Shenandoah Club to a fieldtrip on Saturday, October 19 to collect Unakite He gave details about this fieldtrip. He will have the signup sheets at the next club meeting for members to help at the Salem Show on November 29th, 30th and December 1st. Please send your article of "Why I Became a Rockhound" to Steve Gordon to publish in our Newsletter. It can be a short paragraph.

Workshops continue to take place on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's

Treasurer's Report- Linda Noble gave the report on current balance of \$12,141.14 Records are available at each club meeting for review by club members.

Program:

Eric Routon: Fossils: Methods of Fossilization – Eric gave a nice presentation on fossils with a video of a collecting trip he made with Pam and Gabby to a road cut in West Virginia.

Dave Woolley brought examples of fossils from his 8th grade science project.

November meeting will be nomination of club officers and our Club Auction.

Thanks to Warren Darling for bringing items for Silent Auction which earned **\$40**

Special Thanks to Nancy and Rodger Linkenhoker for help with greeting, selling the 50/50 raffle tickets and collecting sign in sheet.

Nominations for next year

President –

First Vice President –

Second Vice President –

Secretary –

Treasurer –

Membership Chairman –

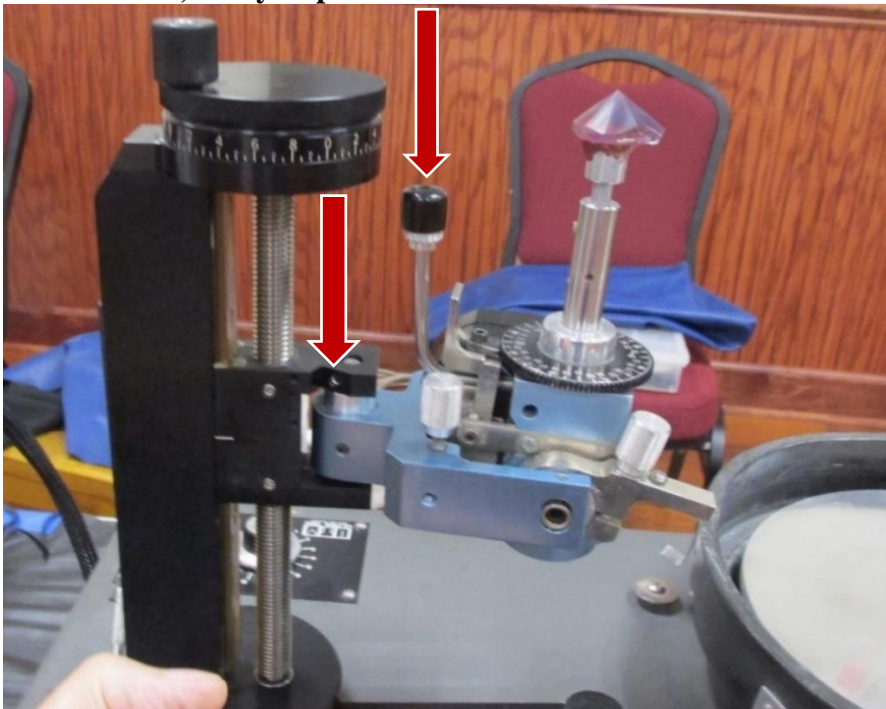
Member at Large – Eric Routon

News Letter Editor – Steve Gordon

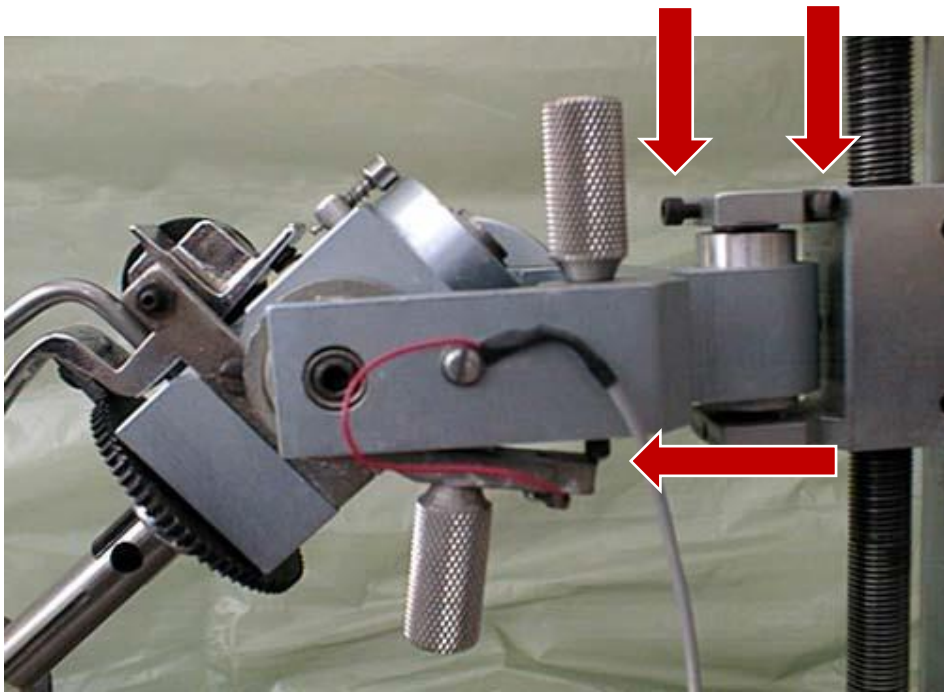
With no officers the two nominations listed do not happen.



45. "Ultratec". A Mast Type Faceting Machine. Note the rigid **None-Flexing Mast**. The Ultratec company has made 25 improvements to their faceting machine in 30 years of production. **As with other brands, many improvements can be retrofitted to earlier machines.**



46. Note one of the three-point **Mast to Spindle Alignment Adjustments** located at the top of the Pivot Bearing, left arrow. The black nob provides a standard place to hold and control the quill. Many faceters control the quill by holding the stone to the Lap rather than use the back nob which *helps to reduce* the Mast Flex problem.



47. Note: Two of the three Alignment adjusting bolts are visible in this picture. This makes alignment easy, if it is ever necessary, as the machine does not have to be turned over in the process. An exposed “on/off” switch with contacts closed is shown on this “Ultratec”. This is the easiest brand of faceting machine to temporarily install a Beale/Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator. The Protractor Lock Stop Arm is mounted on a plastic sleeve insulating it from the rest of the machine. It touches the bottom of the Fine Height Adjustment. It takes 20 seconds using alligator clips from the Ohmmeter leads. One clip is placed on the Protractor Lock Stop Arm, the other elsewhere close by on the body. ‘Try it: you will like it.’ Later, you can make robust connections such as this one pictured with soldered washer and bolted on connections.

[Other Links that you may want to check out:](#)

A Guide to Ethical and Conflict-Free Jewelry

<https://ethicaljewellery.org/introduction>.

Insurance Institute of Jewelry Appraisal

https://instituteofappraisal.com/Investigation_of_Artificial_Color_Infusion_of_Gemstones.pdf

https://instituteofappraisal.com/Exposing_the_GIA_Juggernaut.pdf

Rock collecting guide for geology beginners

<https://www.basementguides.com/rock-collecting-and-geology-basics/>

If you need to renew your club membership you can let me or Thom Noble know and we can email you the form. You can make checks out to GMSL.

Our Mailing address is:

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

PO Box 11975

Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975