



March Newsletter

3/2020

Volume 2020, Number 3

In This Issue

- President's Meanderings
- Editor's pick
- Programs for the future
- Note from the Editor
- Education
- Field Trips
- Why I became a Rockhound
- Some of our members in the news
- December meeting minutes
- Article #14 Dave Woolley

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

Wintery weather meetings schedule is if the Lynchburg schools are down for weather then the meeting is cancelled

Workshop is the 2nd Saturday of the month.

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

Hello Everyone,

I would like to take some time to thank the family of Stanley Feldman who passed away in 2013 at the age of 84. Our club recently acquired some equipment from Stanley's collection that was in his workspace, frozen in time. I felt a connection as I looked around at some of the equipment and materials. He was a fellow rock hound and it showed by the specimens he and his children collected together over the years. Some of the projects were finished and others were still works in progress, but all were a look into Stanley's love of the hobby. I enjoy the fact that a piece of Stanley will live on throughout our works as we utilize the equipment he used. I believe every rock tells a story and we are the curators of our specimens for such a short time, then they move on. What a wonderful hobby and passion we all have to share, with stories and moments that bring us all together. I hope that all we collect and create will live on forever for others to enjoy for years to come.

Your fellow Rockhound,
James Tomlin

GMSL CLUB EQUIPMENT AUCTION

The GMSL will be holding a silent auction online for unused club equipment. Some examples of equipment to be auctioned off, but not limited to are cabbing machines, faceting machines, and rock tumblers. To view these items starting April 1st go to <https://www.lynchburgrockclub.org/> and view the items listed in the gallery. Send an email with the item number and your bid to GMSL.auction@yahoo.com. The bidding will close on April 15th. Those that have won the bid on each of the items will be notified by April 17th. Items must be paid for and picked up by April 26th or they will go to the next bidder. Please make checks out to GMSL and cash is always welcomed. All sales are final and all items are sold as is. Pick up location will be in Lynchburg VA and the address will be in the winning bid email. If you have any questions or concerns please contact lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com.

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

James Tomlin
(434)258-2886
tomlin.jamesm@yahoo.com

First Vice President

Brian White
(434)661-8929
bricin11@yahoo.com

Second Vice President

Brandon Coles

Secretary – Holly Tomlin

Fireeyez1981@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joan Moore

jmoore64@msn.com

Membership – Debbie Wade

debbie5227@yahoo.com

Editor – Steve Gordon

(434) 942-1836
stevegordon@comcast.net

Members At Large - Michael Staton & Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach Jennifer Staton

Newsletter Editor pick

In the coming months I will start with the makeup of the earth. I am using Mindat.org as my source. The beginning of this article is the same as it describes what we are talking about.

The Most Common Minerals on the Earth

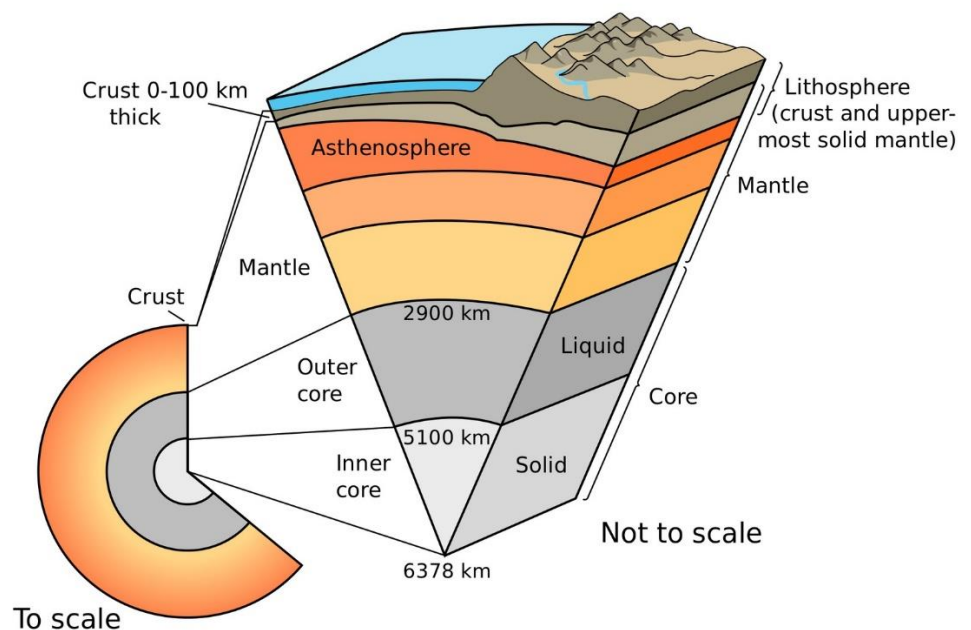
Last Updated: 13th Dec 2017

By Jolyon Ralph

There are currently nearly 5000 minerals known to science, but only a few dozen are common enough to be found widespread throughout the Earth's crust. This article will explain a little bit about some of the most common minerals on the Earth and where they come from.

Inside the Earth

When we talk about the minerals found on the Earth we are talking about those that are found in the Earth's crust, the only part of the Earth really open for us to explore. The crust is a thin layer (up to 100km thick) under which lies the mantle and the upper (liquid) and lower (solid) core.



The Minerals

Below the crust

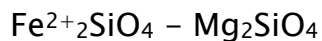
The mantle is around 2,900km thick, or about 46% of the Earth's radius, but represents 87% of the total volume of the Earth.

Although the mantle is only 5km below the surface at the crust's thinnest point the challenges in drilling through the crust to reach the mantle are immense (not least because the crust is only this thin in the deepest parts of the ocean.)

But we can deduce a lot about the minerals that make up the mantle from examining fragments of these mantle rocks that are brought up from very deep by volcanoes and from the careful study of seismic data which allows us to understand some of the structure of rocks buried beneath the crust. Computer models can also predict the temperature, pressure and chemistry at various depths in the Earth and from this we can deduce the types of minerals likely to be present.

Here are some of the other major minerals that are thought to make up the mantle:

Fayalite–Forsterite Series



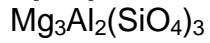
Spinel



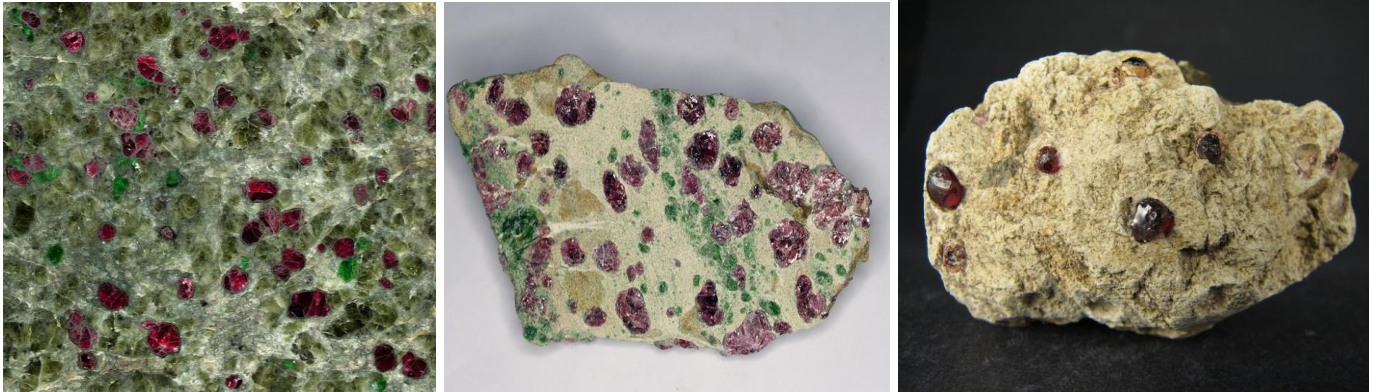
Plagioclase feldspar is the primary aluminous mineral found in the upper mantle above 30km, but between 30 and 60km this is substituted for spinel.



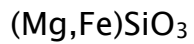
Pyrope



Below 60km, the aluminous phase in the mantle is pyrope, a member of the garnet group of minerals.



Bridgmanite



But the most common mineral in the earth as a whole is a high-pressure form of olivine called bridgmanite - formed with a distinct structure and not found at all in the Earth's crust. It's formed below 660km deep in the mantle so is found too deep to be transported back up to the surface in volcanic activity. However, samples of this mineral have been found in meteorites.



Program for the coming months

March - Dave Young – Fossils and Virginia collecting

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

I am still out of town and they done away with my day off so if the newsletter has errors please forgive me as I did not have time to send it to be checked. I should be back for next month but who knows. I was unwilling on my day off to travel and pay \$30 to dig so I did not get to dig anywhere while in Florida. I hope you have done better. Get out there!!

Remember to send me your "Why I became a Rockhound" short story.
My email is stevegordon@comcast.net

Why I (we) became a Rock-hound

By Debbie Wade

I have always had an appreciation for the wonders of nature. My childhood shoe box of treasures usually contained a rock or two that I thought was pretty. I enjoyed finding four-leaf clovers and can appreciate a tree with character. A good portion of my weekly allowances went towards the purchase of craft supplies. Sometimes, I made things with rocks. Fast forward to now, and my granddaughter was showing some interest in rocks also. That was why I came to the first GMSL meeting to check it out, and now myself and family are members. I love finding rocks that I consider pretty, and the fun is in the hunt; I look forward to nearby rockhounding. I am fascinated by making cabochons so far at the workshop (I've made two so far.) I want to learn how to "slab and cab," and make items for the club to sell.....please teach me :)

Field Trips



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (Charlotte, NC) (HOST)

Saturday, April 18, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Johnson Creek Farm

Due West, SC

Limit 60 People

Registration Required

Fee: \$25 per person

TRIP: The Johnson Creek Farm is a relatively new site in western South Carolina, not far from Diamond Hill. The site is known for amethyst, epidote, smoky quartz, beryl, and aquamarine.

COLLECTING: There are different areas in which to dig. There is one area that has epidote. Another pit has smoky quartz and amethyst, and there is an area that contains beryl. You can dig in the pit where the veins are exposed or go through the tailing piles left from the excavator.

BRING: Bring your usual digging tools, shovel, and buckets. A hand shovel or handheld garden rake is useful to move material. Ground is red clay soil with crumbly pegmatite formations containing feldspar and quartz. The pits are usually pretty dry unless there has been a heavy rain. You should probably wear rubber boots or sturdy shoes to climb down in the pits. Bring food and plenty of water to drink; there are no stores nearby. The site is an open field with no trees so sunscreen and a hat might be useful!

REQUIREMENTS: Participants must be members of clubs affiliated with DMC and must show their club membership card during check in. [Acceptable proof of membership also includes club name tag, membership dues payment receipt, or current newsletter with valid address label -- DMC Coordinator] No children under 5 years of age, and no dogs or pets.

TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: Parking is available onsite. Once you sign in at the gate, you will be directed to the parking areas. You can also park on Crawford Road which is

adjacent to the property. Onsite parking area is one-tenth of a mile of unpaved road, some areas are bumpy.

The terrain is pretty even and flat, but some of the sites require a little walking to get from one to the other. Pit walls and dump piles can be somewhat steep.

FEE: Fee is \$25.00 per person with an option to camp out at the facility on Friday night with an additional fee of \$25.00 (see Camping details below). Registration and payment **MUST** be made in advance, see below.

REGISTRATION: Registration and payment must be made in advance through PayPal using Jason Ashley's PayPal email account: jasona@wctel.net or call him at 864-378-1908 to send a check. Details for registering:

1. Sign up through PayPal as "friends and family" at jasona@wctel.net.
2. You must list the date of the dig you are attending in PayPal notes.
3. You must put the names of all attendees you are paying for in PayPal notes.
4. Once you have signed up correctly digs will be rain or shine and there are no refunds nor are funds transferable to another dig date.

CAMPING: Camping onsite is permitted for an additional fee of \$25 per person. You must register in advance to camp. There are no hookups onsite, but a Porta Potty will be available. The gate will be open and check in for camping will be at 3:00 p.m. Friday. Campers please note: Absolutely no digging is allowed for people that camp on Friday night or you will be asked to leave. Everyone must report to the signup table in the morning before digging. Digging starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, after a brief safety talk.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children 5 years and older are allowed, but there is a \$25.00 fee. Children must be supervised by an adult.

PETS (No): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There will be a Porta Potty there by 5:00 Friday evening and all day Saturday. There is also running water. Bring your own food and drinks as there are none on site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The nearest lodging would be in Greenwood, SC. The Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn and Suites, Fairfield Inn and Suites and Red Roof Inn. Anderson, SC is nearby.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: The dig site is located at 439 Crawford Rd, Due West, SC. You will see a table set up outside in front of the gate by the road.

Jason Ashley will have a list of names of who has paid. Everyone must be a member of a club associated with DMC for insurance reasons. Everyone must check in and sign a waiver before entering the property. A brief safety talk will be held at 9AM at the signup desk.

CONTACTS: Jason Ashley 864-378-1908, or Mary Fisher, Field Trip Chairman of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club, cell phone 704-564-1594.



Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next coming months 2020

May - Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS)

June - Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club (Gastonia, NC)

July - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC)

August - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL)

ANNUAL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

To enter the drawing you must attend the meeting held on March 18th to get your ticket. The drawing will take place at the meeting.

Eligibility will be as follows:

The "Society" will hold an annual scholarship drawing for up to, but not to exceed, five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for one voting member to attend an Executive Board approved class.

Approved classes:

- William Holland School of Lapidary
- Wild Acres
- Any class pre-approved by the Executive Board

The award will be used toward class tuition. Additional expenses to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board, not to exceed \$500.00 total. Only one award will be issued per year. The scholarship will only be issued as a reimbursement; no monies will be given up front.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be:

- An active member of the GMSL for at least one year
- Must do a fifteen minute presentation on what they learned at one of the club's regular meetings prior to December 31st of that year
- You cannot have won in the previous year

To collect the scholarship monies the applicant must:

- Attend an approved qualifying class
 - Provide proof of a paid receipt
 - Complete their obligation of a presentation
-

February Executive Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday March 3, 2020 @ 6:30pm

Members in attendance:

James Tomlin, Holly Tomlin, Brian White, Joan Moore, Brandon Coles, and Debbie Wade

Members Not Present:

Steve Gordon, Michael Staton, and Eric Routon

The Executive Board

- updated the by-laws and wording. All present members agreed to all changes made.
- Added Scholarship details to the by-laws
- Joan is paying the insurance bill for the contents of the trailer to Erie Insurance for \$75
- Voted unanimously to cancel the insurance on the trailer itself due to depreciation of the value of the trailer. The cost of the insurance far exceeds the value of the trailer.
- discussed a possible JMU field trip.
- Discussed and voted unanimously on incorporating a volunteer incentive. Volunteers will get a raffle ticket each time they volunteer, to go into a drawing at the end of the year December meeting. Winner will receive a specimen of value selected by the board.
- discussed and voted unanimously that members may sell items during regular club meetings for a fee of \$5, and must be pre-approved by the executive board. They must contact a board member for approval and the board must vote. This vote can be done through email. They may sell prior to the start of the meeting and during break time only.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Did not have the February Regular meeting minutes at time of the writing of the Newsletter.

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Re “Scratches from the Master Lap”

Disclosure: I cannot recommend this technique: try it at your own risk!

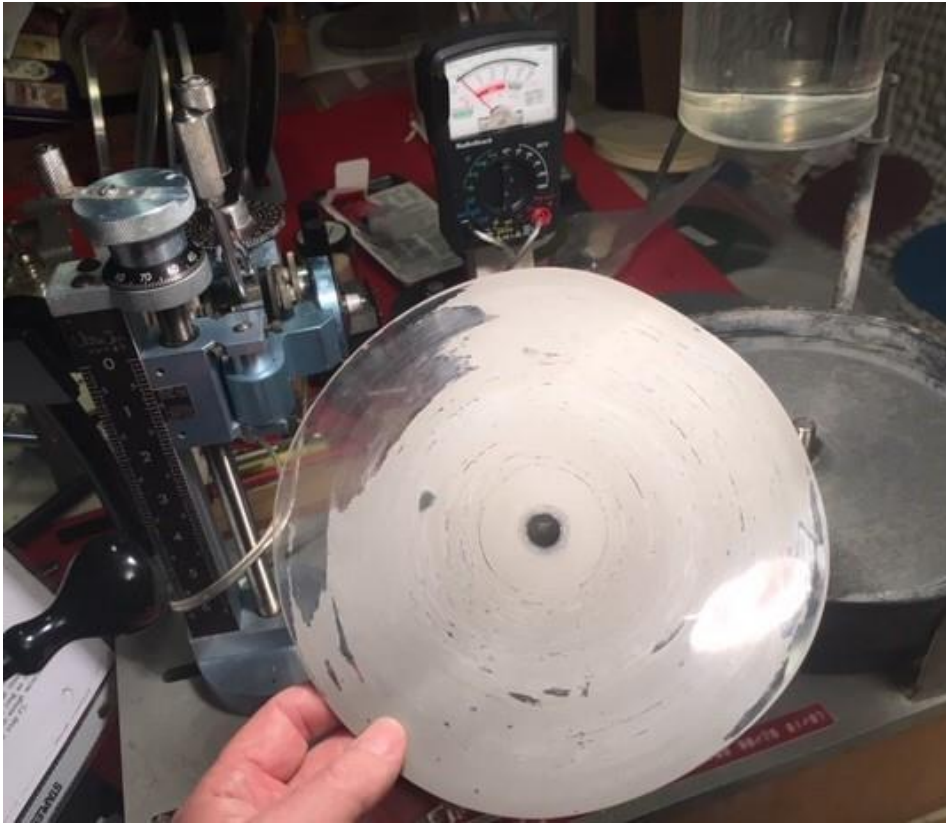
My last article for the Scratches series returned to my old problem of scratches and slows speed polishing. If you talk to old time faceters, they always describe their preferred methods and techniques of polishing. Rarely, they even agree with each other. . . ! They pretty much will tell you if something does not work for you, change what you are doing. That usually means go grab a different polishing compound or polishing lap, and there are many choices.

I started faceting with a used Graves Mark IV. Naturally, I got a Graves catalogue to see what it had that I might need to purchase. On the back page of the catalogue was a list of Henry Graves' suggested angles to cut various gemstones, without any technical explanations. He also recommended various polish compounds and laps for the different gem species. Simplicity itself. Highly recommend. No big technical books or understand necessary for beginning faceters or old timers: Henry wanted his customers to have easy successes. A final note, easily over looked, was at the bottom of the page: Diamond are cut using diamond abrasives using a very high-speed lap rotation: *“Diamond polish will polish any gem”*.

I was having problems polishing a Peridot gem and had gone through my repertoire of laps and polishes ending up with my previously described worn out 50,000 Diamond/Mylar polishing disk. I even up the lap speed to maximum; something I had never tried before. Slightly out of sight on my Ultra Tec machine, I failed to notice that my drip tank had run out of water. I did hear a strange new sound as the lap dried out and I quickly lifted the stone. Wow, a perfectly polished facet instead of the disaster I anticipated!

When necessary, I now turn off the water drip and move the stone from near the center of the lap towards the perimeter. I follow the fringe of the drying out on the lap. This technique has worked on every stone I have since cut. I think as the plastic abrasive binder begins to soften, surface diamonds are free to begin moving and rotating exposing sharper corners rather than the worn tops of the particles. At high rotational speed the facets seem to float over the bare patches of Mylar. Using this technique, facets polish very fast *with no scratches*. I can even use that high-speed polishing to *finish cutting* my meet points where facets did not quite line up from my fine grinding lap.

Pictured is my “new” first choice polishing lap: 50,000 grit size, diamond Mylar polishing disk. Last month's article described how I “ruined” this disk, wearing off patches of polish, by hitting the raised dings and corrosion patches underneath from my old aluminum Master Lap. I am further ‘running this disk’ as more polishing compound occasionally wears off. I'm going to continue polishing on this disk until there are no polishing successes left. My new \$15 Diamond/Mylar disk is waiting in the box.



[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/>

Facebook Link for the club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432839874271992/?ref=share>

If you need to renew your club membership you can let me or Debbie Wade 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

lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com