



# June Newsletter

6/2023

Volume 2023, Number 6

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Meeting at the  
715 Moose Lodge Hall  
2307 Lakeside Dr.  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday  
of the month.

## President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

Hello Everyone,

Another friendly reminder, next month our club show is on the 7th-8th of July and we need volunteers. We will need help setting up the tables for the show and the sluice on Thursday the 6th. No experience is required and we love for new members to get involved. Each day you volunteer will be an extra entry into our yearly scholarship to your choice of William Holland or Wild Acres lapidary school. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting or speak with one of the board members to find out more.

Your Fellow Rockhound,  
James Tomlin

## Programs for 2023

### June's Program will be:

Jennifer Wills Director of The University of Lynchburg's [Claytor Nature Center](#):

Wills holds an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Louisville, a law degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law, and a master's degree in natural resources, with a focus in leadership for global sustainability, from Virginia Tech.

She spent 16 years as an attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, taught in the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability at Virginia Tech, and formed a nature-based professional leadership coaching and consulting business.

Most recently, she was the chair of the board of directors at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah in Lynchburg, Virginia, and program manager at the Central Virginia Land Conservancy.

## 2023 Officers

### PRESIDENT

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

First Vice President  
Vacant

Second Vice President  
Vacant

Secretary – Holly Tomlin  
Fireeyez1981@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joan Moore  
jmoore64@msn.com

Membership – Thom Noble  
thom-noble@hughes.net

Editor – Steve Gordon  
(434) 942-1836  
stevegordon@comcast.net

Members At Large -  
Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach

## Note from the Editor

Hello All,

I am looking forward to the trip to Kentucky with Steve Lenhart June 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. It should be a great trip for fossils and geodes but also a good time to spend time with other rock hounds. I hope to see you at the meeting.

I would love some pictures from any of you and about anything to put in the newsletter. I am giving out of my own pictures so please send me some of yours. Or give me something else to put in the place. That would give me some other inspiration and maybe bring joy to others also.

That is all for now,  
Steve

## Field Trips

### Club Field Trips

June 17th  
is required)

KY (This is a 3 day trip, 2 nights) (sign-up

July 15th  
meeting)

Beckley WV (plant fossil) (sign-up at the

Others are still coming in

### South Eastern Federation Field Trips (Dixie Mineral)

**NOTE:** DMC field trips will continue to be planned and scheduled, but may be cancelled or rescheduled pending COVID-19 status. If there are any changes to a trip, all contacts listed for DMC member clubs will be notified via email as soon as possible. The DMC trip schedule page on the SFMS website (<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program/dmc-field-trip-schedule>) will also be updated with the current status of trips. **Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator**

**June field trip is set for June 24th**

**July field trip is set for July 22nd**

If you did not get the email let me know and I will send it to you.

MAY 2023 JOINT CLUB FIELD TRIP



PHOTOS: JAMES TOMLIN AND DAVID KINGERY



## MT. ATHOS QUARRY FIELD TRIP

By: James Tomlin

Our start to a beautiful day began eight in the morning at Mt Athos quarry. Waiting for us to arrive was Jack McCarthy the Area Manager for Boxley Materials. Jack is a pleasure to talk to and is an all around great guy. With everyone there on site, we began our safety brief for the dig. We spoke of the high walls, berms and various hazards to look out for including some potential wildlife like danger noodles AKA (snakes). After we gathered everyone and buddied up for carpooling we started into the mouth of the quarry.

### The bounty found in the mountain

The quarry was active that day so we had to stay clear of all of the equipment and follow Jack down the side that was out of the way. It was quite a scene as we drove down with all of the cars in line and the view around us was prodigious. As we reached the collection site located near the bottom of the quarry we got the view of the host material. Mt Athos quarry is absolutely wonderful and plentiful in a variety of minerals. That day did not disappoint, we collected so many minerals that the quarries bounty provides. Some of us found Titanite/sphene which every collector prizes from this location. Other finds included ilmenite veining, chalcopryite, epidote, actinolite, pink feldspar and so many other interesting specimens. Everyone found something that day and I don't believe anyone was disappointed with their findings.

### We came as a club and left friends

At the end of the day so many of us got to know each other, we all formed bonds and new friendships. I am proud of all who went as they conducted themselves very well with no incidents in the quarry. I am very grateful that we have this opportunity to collect at this site and I look forward to visiting there again. Thank you to all who attended and I look forward to seeing those who couldn't make it on the next trip.



## Membership Report

We are now at 91 individual and family memberships comprised of a total of 168 members. Back a number of years ago we used to recognize the new members in the newsletter when they joined the club. For some reason, we drifted away from doing this. The members of the board discussed this and have decided to reinstate this starting with this month.

I would like to welcome new member **Nancy Huprich**, please wish her welcome when you see her. I would also like to welcome new members **Sierra and Kenneth Eden**, please welcome them when you see them.

For those who joined us this year, I will try and go back through my records to identify who you are. I will get you recognized in the upcoming newsletters. If I overlook you, please let me know so that I can give you the recognition that you deserve.

Here are a few things that being a member gives you:

- \* receive our monthly newsletters
- \* attend our monthly meetings
- \* participate in members-only GMSL fieldtrips to quarries, mines, & events related to gems & minerals
- \* Purchase club t-shirts or hoodies
- \* Discounts with several "rock" stores and vendors for current members with badges
- \* attend our club member's only workshop each month
- \* A chance to win a \$500 annual scholarship

Thanks,  
Thom Noble  
Membership Chair

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## Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023 @ 7:00

**Attendance:** 30 Members 1 Guest

**Meeting Called to Order By:** James Tomlin

**On Time Drawing Winners:** John Haskins, Carl Pilat, Nona Haskins, Estelle Brinius, Jean Franks and Caroline Wright

**50/50 Winner:** Robert Sargent won \$4.00 and donated it back to the club

**Old Business:** Trip to Mill Pointe, West VA went really well. We found a lot of nice flint, white and red jasper and great ancient sea coral. If you get the opportunity to go next year you should definitely do it. It was a lot of fun.

**New Business:** We have our Mt. Athos trip this Saturday. If you are already signed up, you're good to go. We had to stop taking signups as we met the amount of people allowed in the quarry. If you're wanting to go but hadn't signed up I can let you know if anyone cancels. We will hopefully be having another Mt. Athos trip in October for anyone unable to attend this time.

We have our trip to Somerset, Kentucky coming up on June 6-8th. You can collect fossils and geodes as big as cantaloupes. Sign up with Steve Lenhart and he will email you an information packet.

Thank you to Dale & Jackie Weizender for bringing food to our workshops for everyone to enjoy.

We are going to start production at our workshops to build up inventory for the Salem show in November.

We need Volunteers for our July show. Signup sheet will be available at our June meeting. Each day you volunteer you earn an entry into our scholarship drawing in December.

Next month our program will be the Claytor Nature Center. We also hope to have a field trip to the nature center at some point.

**Program:** Club Show & Sell

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**Executive Board Meeting**  
**No May Executive Board meeting**

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**Every Rock Tells a Story**

Pedlar Formation  
SJ Boylan

In Bulletin 74, by author Brown, year 1958, the quadrangle map identifies the Pedlar formation as granodiorite, hypersthene and blue quartz. The following is from the internet and other sources.

The Pedlar formation is named after the Pedlar River in Amherst County, Virginia.

Granodiorite is a plutonic igneous rock, formed directly from molten rock cooled slowly. Granodiorite has an intermediate in composition between diorite and granite. It has a higher quartz content than diorite, and a higher mafic mineral content than granite. Mafic minerals have a higher amount magnesium and iron,

The name hypersthene has apparently been replaced by the name orthopyroxene. Orthopyroxene is a mineral found in igneous rocks and metamorphic rocks. The chemical formula for orthopyroxene is  $(Mg,Fe)SiO_3$ .

The figures show granodiorite and hypersthene pictures from the internet.

Try these questions. What is the Pedlar formation named after? Pedlar River. What type of rock is granodiorite? Plutonic igneous. What is the chemical formula for orthopyroxene?  $(Mg,Fe)SiO_3$ .



## **Other Links that you may want to check out:**

### **Stories from the Earth.**

I thought this collection might be of interest to you because of its connection to geology.  
<https://petroglyphics.art/revealing-the-stories-in-rocks/>

### **Mineral Cleaning for Amateurs**

John's website is full of information that all mineral collectors will find useful and interesting.  
<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/>

### **Morefield Mine Tour:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5aQp57HMso>

### **Impromptu lecture on crystallography:**

The crystallography talk can be found in the You Tube videos at [https://youtu.be/sTtxMrh9\\_QI](https://youtu.be/sTtxMrh9_QI), or copy and paste in your browser: Crystallography by Dave Woolley.

### **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/Investigation_of_Artificial_Color_Infusion_of_Gemstones.pdf)  
[https://instituteofappraisal.com/Exposing\\_the\\_GIA\\_Juggernaut.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>

### **Link to Mindat web page for Willis Mountain**

[Willis Mountain Mine, Sprouses Corner, Farmville Mining District, Buckingham Co., Virginia, USA \(mindat.org\)](http://mindat.org)

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**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  
[lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com](mailto:lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com)**

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

PO Box 11975, Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975

Membership Application



This form is also downloadable from our website [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

I/We wish to apply for membership in The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc. ("GMSL") and agree to abide by the Society's By-laws.

New membership Renewal

New Membership  Renewal

If Renewal: Please check box above if any contact information has changed

Please PRINT all information and write names as you would like them to be shown on your membership badge.

Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. / Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ [Primary voting Membership]

Spouse / Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ [Additional voting Membership]

Street Address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ #2 ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

We will email you our monthly GMSL Newsletters & Field Trip notices (we will not share your information with outsiders)

Minor Dependents: \_\_\_\_\_ (Secondary Memberships, non-voting)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fees: \_\_\_\_\_ Covers through December 31st this year

SINGLE: 1 adult, 18 years & over \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

FAMILY: Up to 2 adults and minor dependents \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by check preferred! Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc." or "GMSL" and mail completed application form and dues to: GMSL PO Box 11975, Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975, (or bring membership application & dues to our monthly meeting). Note: There is a limit of 2 primary "voting" memberships per family. All membership dues must be renewed between January 1st thru 15th annually to continue with GMSL. If you pay dues by check, allow us 2 – 4 weeks to cash your check, however, your new membership badge(s) should arrive by mail within 2 weeks of paying.