



March Newsletter

03/2024

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In This Issue

- President's Meanderings
- Programs for the future
- Note from the Editor
- Youth Program Update
- Note from Membership Chairperson
- Meeting minutes
- Field Trips
- Interesting Article
Every Rock Tells a Story
- Other Links
- Membership Application

Meeting at the
715 Moose Lodge Hall
2307 Lakeside Dr.
Lynchburg, VA 24501
3rd Tuesday of the month
7:00 pm until 9:00 pm.

Wintery weather meetings
schedule follows Lynchburg
schools, if they are closed
for weather then the
meeting is canceled.

Workshop is on the 2nd
Saturday of the month,

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are well and thriving. We have so many great opportunities coming our way and I am very excited. We are gaining access to a mine that I have never had the privilege to attend, Blue Ridge quarry is going to be an adventure for sure. We are going to be pretty full on field trips this year with one each month.

Please make sure you are currently up to date on your membership so you are covered under club insurance.

Take care and I will see you all soon,

Your Fellow Rockhound
James Tomlin
President GMSL

Programs for the Future:

March: Explanation of the tests used in the February meeting.

April : Will be a meet and teach. John Willson from Boxley will be speaking about the Blue Ridge Quarry.

contact the club president
for location details.

2024 Officers

PRESIDENT

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

First Vice President

Steve Gordon

Second Vice President

James Tomlin

Secretary – Holly Tomlin

Fireeyez1981@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joan Moore

jmoore64@msn.com

Membership – Thom Noble

(Carl Pilat, in training)
thom-noble@hughes.net

Editor – Sena Magill

(434) 760-2143
senamagill@gmail.com

Members At Large -

Ben Thompson
Kyrina Johnson
Youth Outreach

Note from the Editor:

Hello All,

Spring has sprung and while March is a tempestuous month the warmer temperatures are beginning to break through and the outdoors beckons. Take some time to check your gear, shake out the spiders and old dried mud, put some crocs in the trunk in case you come across a cool stream. Just remember while the days can be warm, running water takes a few more months to be tolerable. Good luck out there and hope find some treasures. If you have any questions or suggestions for the newsletter please feel free to contact me at Senamagill@gmail.com.

Have a great day,
Sena

Note from the Member at Large Youth Programming:

There are no new updates from the member at large youth programming. However as a reminder Kyrina could use assistance in the coming year with educational and youth focused programming. Please get in touch with Kyrina if you would like to take part in getting the next generation of rockhounds engaged.

up and coming rockhounds at the February meeting.



GSML Membership Report

Hi Folks,

I apologize for missing last month's membership report deadline. We have been pretty tied up with medical appointments and procedures the last four months. Hopefully that is behind us now.

We are in the middle of the membership renewal process. Currently of the 128 memberships on the roster, only 69 have renewed for 2024. If you have not renewed your membership, please try to get that taken care of before the end of March.

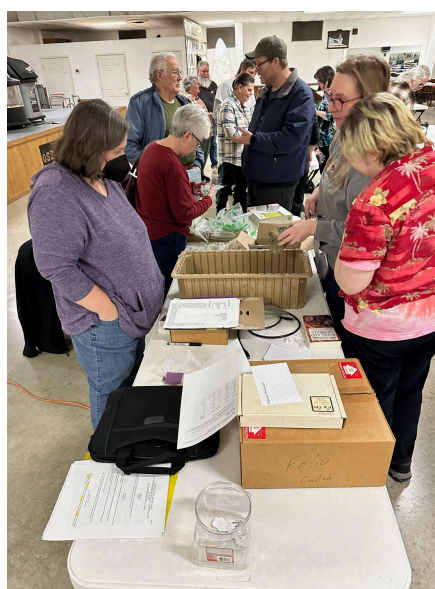
At the end of March, any memberships not renewed will be deleted from the roster. If you don't want to miss out on the activities, please, get your paperwork and payments in to me as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Thom Noble
Membership Chair

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

- * receive our monthly newsletters
- * attend our monthly meetings
- * participate in members-only GSML field trips 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.

February meeting- What's that rock?



GSML Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024

Attendance: 48 Members and 8 Guests

Meeting Called to Order By: James Tomlin

On Time Drawing Winners: Rodger Linkenhoker, Danny Redford, David Brogan, Jeff Franklin, Mason Edmiston and Sarah Hanrahan.

50/50 Winner: David Brogan won \$5.50 and donated \$3.50 back to the club.

Old Business: The Christmas party was wonderful and fun time for the end of the year.

We have a couple new board members and couple that have switched positions so please be patient while we adjust to our rolls. I need someone to train with me and shadow me for the year to become President next year as this is my last year as President as stated in our bylaws.

New Business: our annual trip to Willis Mountain was discussed. Sign up sheets for this trip will be at meetings 2 months prior to the trip. Anyone that attends must go through our club per our liability insurance and to have coverage on all that attend. DO NOT Contact Will Mountain yourself for any reason. This was a big issue last year and CANNOT happen again. It is a child friendly field trip as all are unless otherwise stated.

I have spoken with Boxley and we will be going to Blue Ridge for a field trip. More information will given out as soon as I have it.

Field trips are first come first serve with board members and volunteers being first in line. Most field trips have a specific limit on how many can attend so if you'd like to be first in line it's a good incentive to become a board member and/or volunteer.

Trips will never be posted in the newsletter and are not to be broadcasted to anyone outside the club as it causes issues with non members trying to attend and we cannot cover them on insurance unless they're a member.

Dave Callahan will be giving his annual safety brief soon.

Program: Steve Gordon held a Rock Identification Workshop.

GSML Club & Affiliated Clubs Field Trips

Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Field Trips

Due to the need to make sure only members who are in good standing with club dues are attending field trips details will not be in the newsletter. Please check your email as trips are in the works already.

April Trip to American Rutile details will be in club member emails.

South Eastern Federation Field Trips (Dixie Mineral)

NOTE: DMC field trips will continue to be planned and scheduled, but may be canceled 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**

March. DMC is through Georgia Mineral Society, Norcross, GA

April: DMC is through Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club trip to Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine. Please be sure to register through the email you received as this trip has limited capacity.

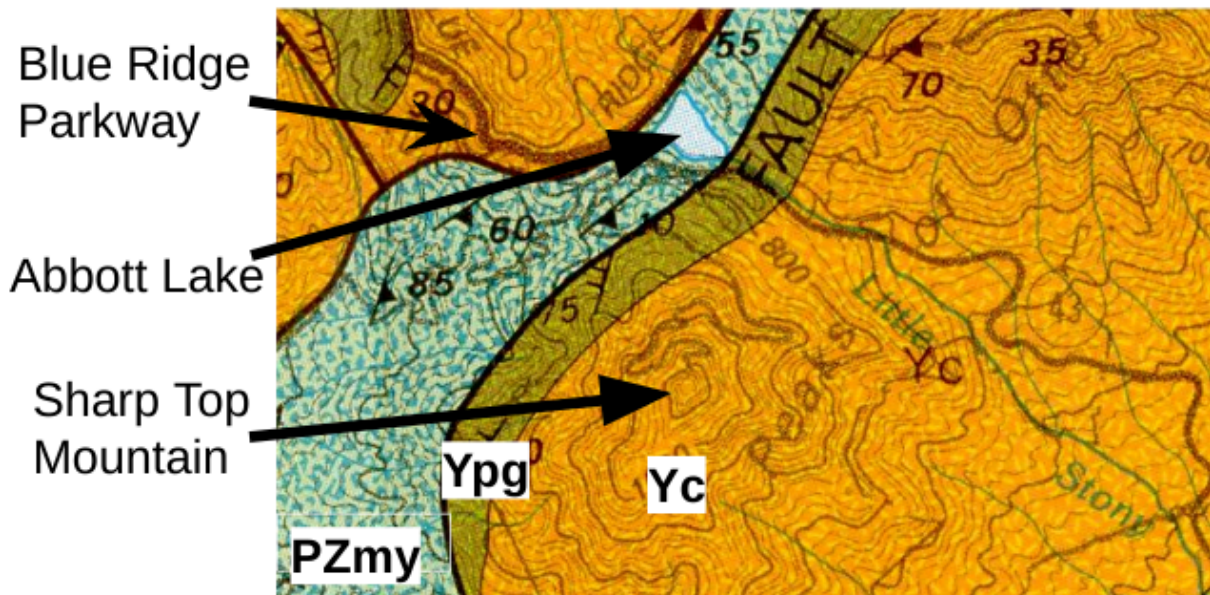
If you did not get the email let me know and I will send it to you.

Every Rock Tells a Tectonic Story- Peaks of Otter

By: SJBoylan

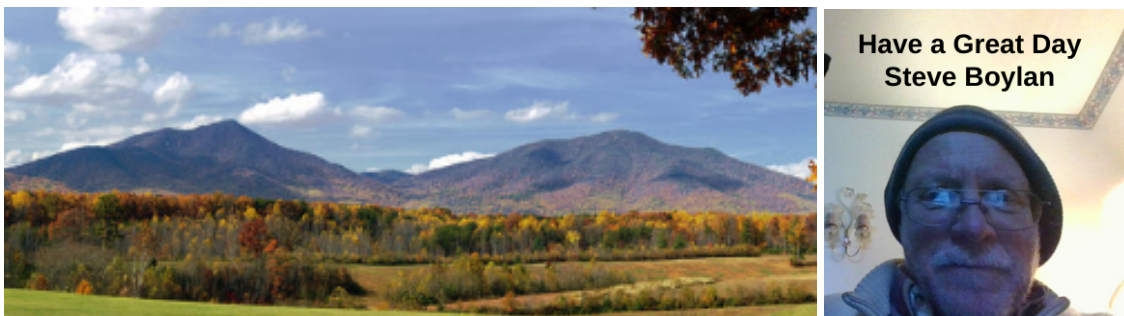
The Peaks of Otter is a familiar geological feature of central Virginia. The Peaks of Otter is the three mountains of Sharp Top, Flat Top and Harkening Hill. The Peaks of Otter is at Milepost 85.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. In Publication 148, Geologic Map of the Roanoke 1997, W. S. Henika shows the Peaks of Otter. Figure One shows an enlarged view of a section of the Geologic Map featuring Sharp Top Mountain. There is a trail to the top of Sharp Top.

Figure One - Geological Map featuring Sharp Top Mountain



The letters PZmy, Ypg and Yc on the map designate rock formations. PZmy is a formation of mylonite gneiss. Ypg is a formation of layered gneiss and granulite. Yc is a formation of charnockite. So as you walk up the trail to the summit of Sharp Top Mountain, you are walking on mylonite gneiss, then gneiss and granulite and finally charnockite at the top. Figure Two shows pictures of Sharp Top Mountain and Flat Top Mountain from the internet. You can see a lot of things from the internet.

Figure Two - Sharp Top Mountain and Flat Top Mountain



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

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/>

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 \(mindat.org\)](#)

What to do with my Rocks now

Micromounts

<http://cholla.mmt.org/minerals/micromounts/intro.html>

<https://www.rockngem.com/the-rockhounds-display-dilemma/>

If you need to renew your club membership you can let Thom Noble know and he can email you the form. You can make checks out to GMSL or pay online (links at bottom of web site <https://www.lynchburgrockclub.org>).

Our Mailing address is:

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC.
PO Box 11975
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975
lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com**

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.