



# Gem & Mineral Journal



The Official Publication of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

November 2007

Volume 16 Issue 12

## President's Message:

Hello To All,

It's hard to believe but we have come to the end of another very busy year for the GMSL. I would like to begin by thanking all of you that have given of your time and talents to make this a successful 2007 for our club. If it were not for the dedication and hard work by a number of members, we would not have a growing list of members, two new portable frame tents, and a new trailer to handle all our goodies for festivals. We are also very proud of our new sluice and advertisement signs for the sluice and geode cracker. I feel the club has grown this year by the way the members have stepped up, like Ralph Torning taking on keeping the membership spreadsheet up to date as well as taking a lot of time to give us new info-flyers, membership forms and renewal forms to keep up with ever changing member information. He will also be helping Adelaide with some of the website info. We are fortunate to have Tom Powers stepping up and filling the position of member at large, as Ralph will be busy behind the scenes. Congratulations again to two of our members that have moved up the ladder in the EFMLS, Natalie Darling as the new Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chairperson, and Dee Tinsley for her new position as Region IV vice-president for the EFMLS. I have a feeling these ladies will need some help in the coming months and I

hope you will be willing to step up and give a hand if asked.

On a different note, I see we may have the same officers, save one, on the Executive Committee for 2008. We have a great team that I know will do a good job in the coming year, but if you see we need to change our ways on any level, please let us know as we don't want to become set in our ways of doing things if there can be some improvement.

Now about the December meeting, remember this is our month to have the Clubs Christmas Dinner, if you didn't sign up to bring a food item and would like to, just bring along your favorite dish to the meeting and we will add it to the sumptuous feast. Also, if you would like to participate in the gift exchange, we will be doing it a little different this year. All the gifts will be collected, a number will be put on the gift and the same amount of numbers will be placed in a hat. The number you draw will be the gift that you receive and it can't be taken away like the Dirty Santa we have played in past years. Sounds like fun, so if you would like to play just bring a wrapped gift, of about \$15.00 value, maybe something rock related and join in the fun.

*Continued on page 7*

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## From the First VP:

Did you know that a diamond is made of carbon and held together by covalent bonds? Covalent bonds are formed by shared electrons. At room temperature, graphite is the more stable form of carbon, so a diamond should slowly transform into

graphite at room temperature. And now you know.

December's meeting is our Christmas meeting. This is a great time to get together for fellowship.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year, Steve

**2007 ELECTED OFFICERS****John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

(434) 525-8430

[JMHaskins1@netzero.net](mailto:JMHaskins1@netzero.net)**Steve Boylan****First Vice President**

(434) 534-6108

[boylansj@yahoo.com](mailto:boylansj@yahoo.com)**David Callahan****Second Vice President**

(540) 297-1853

[DBCALL1@aol.com](mailto:DBCALL1@aol.com)**Dee Tinsley- Secretary**

(434) 221-0864

[FlyDeeTin@gmail.com](mailto:FlyDeeTin@gmail.com)**Natalie Darling - Editor**

(434) 941-1899

[gmseditor@comcast.net](mailto:gmseditor@comcast.net)**Frank Midkiff- Treasurer**

(434) 239-8329

[midkiff@aol.com](mailto:midkiff@aol.com)**Members At Large-**JoAnn Mason &  
Ralph Torning**COMMITTEE****CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Anne Torning**News Articles-** Natalie Darling**Silent Auction-** Warren Darling**Special Events-** Dee Tinsley**Swap for Rocks-** Frank Midkiff &  
Warren Darling**Website-** Adelaide Lee**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** Shannon  
Bondurant

## November Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Wednesday,  
November 21<sup>st</sup>**Attendance:** 32**Hospitality:** Steve Boylan  
thanked JoAnn Mason, Lynn  
Powers and Nell McIntyre for the  
refreshments.**On Time Drawing:** There was  
no on time drawing this month  
due to the auction.**Treasurers Report:** Franklin  
Midkiff reported \$3343.94 in the  
Treasury, with \$114.21 of that  
belonging to the RR.  
Insurance and PO Box expenses  
have been paid.**Old Business:** Promptly at 7 PM  
John Haskins welcomed all  
members and guests.He announced that we would  
NOT have the dirty Santa  
anymore, we would bring a  
specimen or hobby related gift if  
we wished to exchange gifts.  
There is no obligation. The gifts  
will be numbered and we will  
draw numbers and you will  
receive the matching numbered  
gift.We are currently working on a  
rock swap with Michigan and  
Rhode Island. We need  
specimens to swap. Please bring  
your surplus items to the  
meeting so we can prepare our  
swaps.Don McIntyre, Chairman of the  
Nominating Committee statedthe slate of officers currently  
serving was voted on by the  
committee to remain in office.

They are:

John Haskins – President

Steve Boylan 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Dave Callahan 2ndVP

Dee Tinsley Secretary

Franklin Midkiff Treasurer

JoAnn Mason and Tom

Powers– Member at Lodge

Ralph Torning asked to be

relieved as he is taking over  
part of Franklin Midkiff's duties.

There were no nominations

from the floor. The

nominations will be voted on at  
the December meeting.New officers will be installed in  
January.Dave Callahan was presented a  
plaque and a certificate for his  
wonderful idea and design of  
the gem sluice. Congratulations  
Dave on a Job well done!December is our annual  
potluck dinner. Please bring a  
dish to share.*Continued on page 7*

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.**  
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,  
From 7:00pm– 9:00pm  
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building  
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501  
Public is invited, Please join us!

# Roanoke Gem Show 2007



*Shannon & Natalie Darling, Nona and John Haskins, and Franklin Midkiff and Ralph Torning were on hand early Friday morning for the set up of our fluorescent display.*

*Nell & Don McIntyre & John Haskins rest and review notes between shows.*



*Article submitted by Dave Callahan, photographs by John Haskins, Dave Callahan, and Don McIntyre*

*Fluorescent minerals from the collections of Dave Woolley, Bernard Rivera, Franklin Midkiff, Dave Callahan, and Kyle Darling*

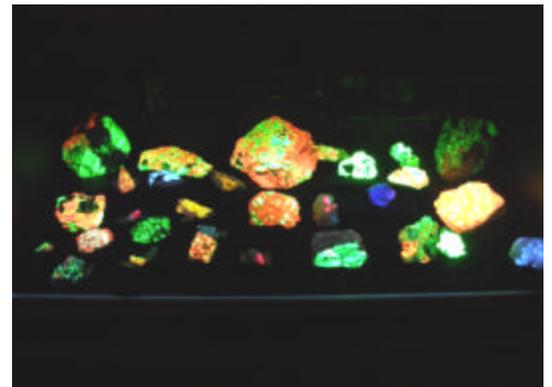
*Below: Fluorescent mineral display under UV light*

The 28th Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show was a tremendous success. It was well attended and I believe that most of the dealers were satisfied with the sales. It was good to see some old friends and make new ones.

This was the Lynchburg Gem & Minerals second year for the hosting the Fluorescent Mineral Display on the lower level. Several of us set up Friday morning and everything went smoothly. Natalie used her artistic talent to arrange the displays in an appealing manner. We were all set up and ready for the public well before the 2PM opening time.

John, Frank, Don and I, took turns explaining the displays and giving a little background on fluorescent minerals and collecting locations in general. At times, when the crowds were large, several of us pitched in to explain in a little more detail the specific questions that were asked. There was a lot of interest by the general public and many were unaware of this beautiful side of the mineral kingdom.

A big thank you to all those that helped in the set up, manning the displays and clean up. We had a great time and look forward to this wonderful opportunity again in 2008.



*Right: Lloyd Watson at the famous geode booth, below Nona Haskins and Royce Wickam converse with the show chairman Larry White.*



*Right: Dave Callahan's copper minerals display; above that is an overview of the show floor.*



# Schedule of Events

## December 2007

### SHOWS & TRIPS

**Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**- 7:00 pm- GMSL annual Holiday Pot Luck dinner and gift exchange. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in a gift exchange. Gift should be hobby related, and valued between \$10 and 15 dollars.

**Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>- 9:00am-noon-** GMSL Field trip to JMU. Complete details will be available in the January Newsletter, at the club meeting, and via email broadcast.

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**- Forest Public Library- 7:00 PM; Meteorite Program presented to the Blue Ridge Astronomy Club by member and meteorite collector Dave Vanaman. Open to the public.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<b>Meeting 7 PM</b>				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		<b>Merry Christmas</b>				
30	31	<b>Happy New Year!</b>				

### Do you have a new e-mail address?

If so, please share your new e-mail address with the club to allow us to send newsletters and special notices to you at the lowest cost. We do NOT share your e-mail address with any outsiders.

Should you have a new e-mail service or if you are not sure that we have your current one, simply send a brief message to [lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com](mailto:lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com). Please give your full name so that we can verify & correct your member record.

## December 19th, 2007

**Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Holiday Social.** Join us for our year-end meeting, and bring along your favorite dish to share. There will be a gift exchange for anyone wishing to participate. Just bring a wrapped, hobby related gift valued between 10-15 dollars. All gifts will be numbered and each person who brings a gift will select a #, and will get the gift that corresponds with their selection.

We will also hold our elections for 2008. Members must be present to vote. Hope to see you there!

## ***With Sympathy...***

*The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marcus Beale. Marcus was a charter member of the Society, and co-developer of the Beale Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator.*



### **Marcus Beale**

*By Dave Woolley*

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Marcus Beale. Marcus is a charter member of the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society, a contributor to its Journal, and a member well known in the Roanoke Mineral and Gem Society.

In the early '90s he and his second wife Marie moved their retirement business, The Amherst County Gem Shop, into the Lynchburg Farmers Market. For years customers became friends at the Shop until illness forced them to close.

Many will remember their introduction of a new type of gem, a tough waste-material-quartzite partially saturated with near invisible silica called "Andamooka Opal". Marcus' work with the importer perfected a treatment that turns the tan base color to black which exposes flashes of color, thus allowing many to inexpensively enjoy fine Australian opal for the first time. Great beauty, plus hardness and durability are the unusual characteristics of this rare opal.

Fondly remembered too is his pronouncement of the jewelry term, bezel, about which he had read. Marcus was self-taught in the rock and gem business and pronounced the word "beezel" as in bee since he had not previously heard the word pronounced. Many of his customers and friends still pronounce the term very distinctly and incorrectly.

Marcus is appreciated by gem cutters for his contribution to the science of faceting. His Ohmmeter approach for better hand control, which was purposely not patented to afford greater usage, has allowed a multitude of amateur and professional gem cutters worldwide to achieve a degree of perfection that previously was rarely obtained. Many added the device to their own machines. Manufacturers of faceting equipment today acknowledge his contribution to their equipment with his name. Faceters around the world through the United States Faceter Guild placed flowers and an acknowledgement honoring his accomplishment by his casket. Marcus is survived by one son, Marcus Beale, II, seven stepchildren, twenty-four grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren.

Marcus and I first met at Central Virginia Community College in the early '70s where we studied parapsychology. With his background in electronics, one of his contributions was the replication of a contact photography device invented in Russia known as a Kirlian Camera. This electronic/chemical camera photographs the complete outline of a leaf even after part of the leaf has been torn away. One of the concepts suggested in class was: what comes around goes around.

Years later at the Farmers Market, we renewed our friendship when he and I discovered that we had had another interest in common, rocks and gems. With the rebirth of the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society, the editor of the Journal asked for articles from members. Prompted, I began to write a series of monthly articles about faceting titled, "Scratches from the Master Lap" which documented discoveries from my learning curve. Marcus field-tested faceting suggestions before publication. Soon, Marcus and I began tweaking our faceting machines for better production, which culminated in the development of the Ohmmeter application. Marcus made the breakthrough discovery and I developed cutting techniques and published the idea worldwide on the Internet through the early "Faceters Digest" chat room.

The rest is history. I will miss Marcus but I will feel his presence when I facet or when ever I appreciate a store-bought gem that I know by the quality of the cutting was inspired by, if not actually cut with, a Beale/Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator.



# Rock Raiders

## kids korner!

Submitted by Dee Tinsley

**Kids Korner is designed for Kids  
By a Kid at Heart!**

What are some of the minerals you can find in the lamp in your bedroom?

Lamps have **copper** wire  
Lamp filament is **wolframite**  
The bulb is made of **quartz**.

**See if you can think of three things in your bathroom that are minerals? We will cover them next time. Check your toothpaste, fillings, sunscreen and your bathtub!**



### JUMBLED WORDS

CAIM

NAALEG

TERULI

TTIMAEEH

PERPOC

RIVELS

Answers on page 12

### Mission Statement

Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide nonprofit program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts education through structured activities that are engaging and challenging and by which kids- and the adults who mentor them- learn while having fun.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW WITH THE PROPER MINERAL

- 1- I brushed my teeth today with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2- I turned on the \_\_\_\_\_ in my lamp today.
- 3- I put \_\_\_\_\_ all over me in the sunscreen.
- 4- What minerals have \_\_\_\_\_ in them?
- 5- Some teeth have \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ fillings.
- 6- Some bathtubs are made from \_\_\_\_\_ porcelain.

An article about SILVER!

Taken from [www.ivyhall.districty6.k12.il.us/4th/KKHP/rocksandminerals/rocks.html](http://www.ivyhall.districty6.k12.il.us/4th/KKHP/rocksandminerals/rocks.html)

### Silver

Silver is another of man's favorite minerals. People have considered it valuable for thousands of years because it is very similar to gold. Although its color is different, it is a beautiful shiny metal that has many uses and is hard to find. There is a lot more silver on earth and it's easier to find, so people won't pay as much for it as they do for gold.

Silver is a fairly soft metal that is easily shaped, or malleable. It is a heavy gray white mineral with a high metallic luster. People have been using silver to make coins, jewelry and many other ornaments for thousands of years.



**Did you know that just like Plants, you need minerals to grow?  
Do you know what minerals you have in your body?**

## President's Message: Cont. from pg. 1

There will be door prizes; a silent auction and the ugly rock contest so I hope you will join us. Nona and I have just returned from the DMC trip in Antreville S.C. and will have pictures and some specimens to show. That could be a field trip in 2008. If you have pictures and specimens from your favorite trip in 2007 bring them along so we all can share the experience. I hope to see you at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Until then, Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## News from The Eastern Federation

Our esteemed EFMLS President Ellery Borow has appointed Mary Fraser as our new AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year chairperson. She's a member of the Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society.

It's not too late to send in the name and brief write-up for your 2007 Club Rockhound of the Year recognition. Just send Mary the name of the person (or couple) along with a brief (50 word maximum) write up telling why this person or couple is so valuable to your club. Also be sure to indicate the name of your club! There's a limit of one entry per club per year and the deadline for getting all submissions for 2007 in to Mary by the end of this month.

Beginning January 1, Mary will accept honorees for the year 2008.

The AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year is a great way for you to brag about the person or couple who have made significant contributions to your club and to say "thank you" to them with the recognition. All submissions will be printed in a future EFMLS and AFMS Newsletter.

Send your honoree information to:

Mary Fraser  
32 Payson Rd  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
207-781-4553

<[rfraser@maine.rr.com](mailto:rfraser@maine.rr.com)>

## Meeting Minutes. from pg 2

**Second Vice President:** Dave reported no field trips planned, as it is the holidays and due to the conditions of freezing and thawing in the winter months in quarries. Dave also reported that we would be providing the fluorescent mineral display at the Roanoke Show over Thanksgiving weekend. Volunteers were sought to help out with the show.

**New Business:** We have a NEW PO Box, our new address is P O Box 11975 and it is at Odd Fellows Road Post Office.

**The meeting adjourned for the Auction, which raised \$474.00 for the club treasury. Thanks to all who donated, came out, and bought items to help support our club.**

**Hobby Related Newsletters** are available free of charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great sources of information and worth checking out. (Available only via email)

[rudybland@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rudybland@worldnet.att.net) (*Mineral Mouse, editor Rudy Bland*)

[rockhound\\_zack@yahoo.com](mailto:rockhound_zack@yahoo.com) (*Zack's Rocks and Minerals, editor Zachary McKinney*)

## General Mineral Miner Certification

For those interested in earning the General Mineral Miner Certification, There are four training sessions coming up in VA that you can attend.  
November 29, 2007 in Charlottesville  
February 13, 2008 in Thornburg  
May 13, 2008 in Manassas  
And sometime in June 2008 in Charlottesville  
Training lasts about 7 hours and certification will allow access to more mines in VA. Contact Jeffrey Stewart at 434-951-6315

Thanks to Mary DeViny for forwarding this information.

**Websites to visit:** Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

[www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

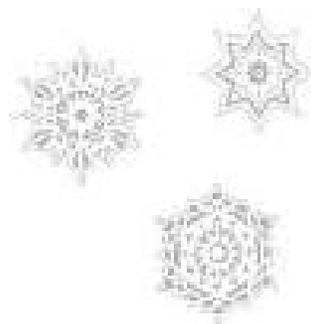
The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation  
Newsletter, and the

AFMS Newsletters are available for all members  
to read on line at the Federation Websites:

[www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms), [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and  
[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

ANSWERS to jumbled words on page 10:

MICA, GALENA, RUTILE, HEMATITE,  
COPPER, SILVER



## The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

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Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



# Happy Holidays!