



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

February 2008

Volume 17 Issue 2

Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

I hope you have been able to slip in a field trip or two while the club is waiting for warmer weather. Maybe the Washington, DC trip will suffice for a while. Speaking of Washington, we will vote for some additions to our bylaws at the February 20th meeting. These will be to appease our friends at the IRS. That's not all going on in DC. The February 2008 addition of the A.F.M.S. newsletter has a very educational article on the new bills introduced to the 110th Congress. House Bill HR554 & Senate Bill S320 are titled Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. To cut to the chase, they want to restrict our access, (yes all private individuals, like you and me,) from collecting vertebrate fossils and who knows what later on, from all Government owned lands. I was thinking that the people owned and supported these lands, and should be able to use them in a responsible manner for all to enjoy. The writers of this legislation have deemed that vertebrate fossils are very rare and should be protected. From who and for what? First of all, vertebrate fossils are not rare, every museum large or small, public and private have a collection of fossils, and there are some that have been collected and sit in storage not prepared for study or display. Does this sound rare? The U.S. alone has billions of shark's

tooth fossils and Dr. Charles Paleontologist, estimates that in just one area of the Green River Formation in southern Wyoming, there are enough fossil fish specimens to provide two for each man, woman and child on earth. Does this sound rare? I would like each of you to send a letter to your senator and congressman and let them know what an outrage it is to restrict people in the GMSL and some 400,000 like members of the A.F.M.S. all across the United States, from collecting on Government owned lands. Please take a few minutes and preserve the right for future collecting on our public owned lands. Below are names and addresses of the right people in Washington for us to contact.



Senator John Warner
225 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Senator Jim Webb
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Continued on page 11

From the First VP:

Did you know that ruby is an oxide gem with a chemical formula of Al_2O_3 . Rubies get their red colors from chromium. Rubies bring about a positive state of mind and impart energy. And now you know. Our thanks goes to Dr. Steve Lenhart and Ms. Eunice Gates for making a great presentation at the January meeting. I hope you get to visit the new Museum of The Earth Sciences at Radford University. Can anyone

ever collect enough specimens from Virginia? For February's meeting we are searching from the ends of the galaxy to my back yard to find something truly amazing. See you at the meeting.
Cheers,
Steve



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JoAnn Mason &

Tom Powers

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-**

January Meeting Minutes

Meeting: 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 16th, 2008**Attendance:** 31 members and 7 guests.**Hospitality:** Steve Boylan thanked Nell McIntyre, Ann Torning, John Haskins, Jean Midkiff and Dorothy and Bernard Rivera for the refreshments.**On Time Drawing:** Russell won the first door prize and Dee the second one.**Old Business:** John Haskins Dee Tinsley reported plans were final for the Region IV Picnic. The date is set for June 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM. Our host club will be furnishing the BBQ and the buns, as well as the paper products. All information is on the flyers, (insert in this newsletter), along with a reminder that will be sent out as the time nears. Please call Dee if you have questions. We will need volunteers for the auction, for set up and clean up. Please help us make Lynchburg shine for the Region!**First Vice President:** Steve Boylan announced that next month's program would be a "surprise".**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan reported up coming field trips as follows: JMU Saturday, 1/19; Smithsonian 2/23; Franklin NJ in April for fluorescent minerals and to Kentucky for Geodes in May. For complete details on field trips, please refer to the field trip section. He also announced that his brother who is a Master Flintknapper would be offering classes this summer for

10 people per class to learn Flint knapping. Classes will be in July or August. More details as they become available.

Treasurers Report: Franklin welcomed new members and gave a balance on hand in the treasury of \$4047.83. We also welcomed in many new members tonight and they all paid their dues to join on the spot! Welcome to our club!**Program:** Dr. Steven Lenhart from Radford University presented the program first due to the distance he has to drive and the prediction of inclement weather. Dr. Lenhart spoke on "Earth Science Education in Today's Society". After Dr. Lenhart completed his program we broke for refreshments and then began our regular meeting.**New Business:** John asked for donations for fuel, food and other expenses for the three ladies, Natalie, Siglinde and Dee who are going to Mississippi next month for the EFMLS Convention. Natalie is the Eastern Federation Bulletin Chairman and Dee is the Region IV VP and Siglinde is the Delegate from our club representing Lynchburg. John also showed and discussed the "new member applications" and the new "renewal membership applications" that Ralph Torning has created. They are now available for all to use and are also on the website.*Continued on page 11*

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!



January 2008 Program

Our first program of the year featured Dr. Steve Lenhart from the Museum of the Earth Sciences at Radford University. Dr. Lenhart brought with him his assistant, Eunice, who is the only other staff person at the museum, and a slide show to compliment his passion and knowledge about The Earth Sciences and his museum.

Dr. Lenhart has been teaching geology for 27 years, and started the museum to share his knowledge and passion with others. This past year the museum has experienced over 3500 visitors, mostly K-12 students, according to Dr. Lenhart.

Although it operates on a \$0 budget, the museum has been very fortunate in the way of donations, getting it off to a great start. Peter Viar of Roanoke donated several specimens. These donations are "Smithsonian" quality specimens, according to Lenhart, one of which is an opalized log from Virgin Valley, Nevada, appraised at \$18,000.

While there is a lot to see at this museum, there are also *touchable* exhibits. These special features include crystal specimens, petrified wood, and "Stan," a replica of the largest most complete T-Rex skull ever found. Stan measures 5 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 4 feet high!

There are many exhibits still under construction, as well as ongoing plans for future exhibits such as life size caves that children can enter and explore, and a Velociraptor statue behind a picture window.

Dr. Lenhart stated that the favorite exhibit among visitors has to be the seismograph, which sits on a Mt. Airy granite pedestal, and can pick up even the slightest vibration and display the readings on the monitors above it. He said folks always find it amazing to observe the readings of their actions.

The Museum is open by appointment for visits or educational tours, and will be open all day for Homecoming on February 2, 2008.



Above: John Haskins and Steve Boylan present Dr. Lenhart with local specimens for his museum, donated by club members.



Right: "Stan"-the T-Rex exhibit at the Museum of The Earth Sciences.



Above: Mural of the future Velociraptor exhibit; Right: other exhibits on display at the museum- and according to Dr. Lenhart he really didn't show us much- you have to visit to really see what they have!



Field Trip Report



JMU Field Trip Report

Submitted by Dave Lines

Invited to attend a special viewing of the new Mineral Museum at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club joined the Lynchburg and Roanoke clubs on Saturday morning, January 19 for our first field trip of 2008.

Despite 6 inches of snow on Thursday and the threat of more on Saturday, most of us assembled at 8:45 a.m. and went inside Memorial Hall (the former Harrisonburg High School), which houses the Geology Department. Dave and Ann Lines and Sam and Sandy Lyon arrived about 20 minutes later. When they found the rest of the Southern Maryland club in the Geology Lab, Lorna and Mel Larson, Ralph Gamba and Alex and his son Sam Schuman were already busily inspecting many "extra" mineral specimens and other items that Professor Lance Kearns had put out for "sale" in turn for our donations to benefit the Mineral Museum. Equally enthused with deciding which specimens to 'buy' were Dave Callahan, Rick Anderson, and Jerry Smith and his son Nicholas --- all from the Lynchburg club --- and Roanoke members Carole Dow, Royce Wickham (current President of the Roanoke club) and his son Chris. Since the quality of the sale items was first class, it was really easy to get caught up in the spirit of the event and buy a lot of stuff in a hurry. For example, egg-sized Herkimer diamonds were a bargain at \$6 apiece. Even though Professor Kearns didn't sell out, we all were quite satisfied with our selections.

At 9:30 a.m., Dr. Kearns invited us to walk to a different part of the building to view the Mineral Museum. As Dr. Kearns unlocked the door, he explained that security for the museum was state-of-the-art --- video surveillance, motion sensors, noise sensors, sensors that detected the sound of breaking glass, vibration sensors, et cetera. The room itself was about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide and inside --- with the beautiful glass display cabinets tastefully filled with well-lighted mineral specimens --- the museum just sparkled. The 12 large display cases (costing \$2,000 each) plus 2 'tower' cases in the center of the room and 2 smaller cabinets were all purchased with donations --- I noted an engraved brass label on one that had been donated by our former member, Fred Shafermeyer.

According to the handout, the museum displayed over 550 spectacular and rare mineral specimens; organized as a systematic collection." There were cases that displayed just special collections --- such as Minerals of Virginia, and Minerals of Elmwood, Tennessee, and a Franklin/ Sterling Hill fluorescent collection. Virginia minerals were prominently displayed throughout the museum --- and many were of world-class quality and rarity. Another case in the center of the room was devoted entirely to minerals from the northern Virginia trap rock quarries. Think green prehnite and zeolite crystals. Each specimen was large --- and each had a 'wow' factor. They looked like candy.

The cases along the sides of the room contained real treasures from around the state, the nation and the world. Minerals from classic locations as well as minerals from unusual places and crystal variations that represented several appearances of the same mineral. In a word, the museum was AWESOME.

At about 10:30 a.m., we trickled back to the Geology Lab, where some of the attendees were getting mineral specimens identified. Dr. Kearns' assistant --- herself a Geology major --- held each item up close under an electronic contraption that looked a bit like a microscope and then, almost instantly, the computer screen displayed a graph of the chemical analysis and name of the item. Oh, how I wished I had brought some of my unknowns from the Morefield! It was so fast. Really neat. Several they didn't need to analyze them by machine --- Dr. Kearns just looked at them and said they were a 'such and such'. He is good --- very good.

Articles and photographs Submitted by Dave Callahan, Field Trip Chairman, unless otherwise noted.



Above: Dr. Kearns talks to a couple of the club members.



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Our Trip to The Museum of The Earth Sciences at Radford University

Submitted by Dee Tinsley

On Saturday morning Siglinde Allbeck, Ann Blair and I set out for Radford. The sky was blue, the temperature warm and the scenery absolutely breathtaking. We enjoyed every mile. We had no trouble finding the University.

I had fixed a small box of Virginia Specimens for the Museum and a large box with some Indian artifacts from my collection, including an old Indian Grinding Stone and Tomahawk that my father, A.C. Frame found in the 1950's. I asked Dr. Lenhart to put them in the museum in memory of my father and he assured me he would. My nephew was delighted, that I chose his Alma-Mata to receive these items to remember his Grandfather.

The museum is more than worth your trip there. It is a breath of fresh air. I am delighted by the ingenuity of these folks to make their own display pieces, work so diligently for what they have and the obvious pride each student as well as Dr. Lenhart shows for the museum. It is indeed a labor of love. As for specimens, well you just have to go and see them for yourself to believe the beauty, the variety and the magnitude. I could spend an entire day just looking at them.

Now there is one very special specimen Dr. Lenhart has been able to acquire from a collector. It came from just outside the city limits of Radford and was in what is now an abandoned and forgotten mine. This is the specimen he chose to purchase using the honorarium we gave him for speaking to our club. He proudly told me it will go in a "special place" with a label that reads, "Gift of The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA". I told him our club would be very honored to know he had done that. The specimen is Iridescent Calcite from Pulaski County and is pictured to the right..

Tired, well fed, and enriched we arrived home safely and happy we had made the trip to the Grand Opening of The Museum of the Earth Sciences.



A Message from the Field Trip Chairman...

The field trip for February will be to the Smithsonian Institute Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. The complete details of the bus trip are detailed on the next page.

If I have your email address, you should have received this broadcast on Saturday January 26, 2008. If you did not receive this announcement and wish to, I will be happy to add your address to the list. It will be strictly used for club business and it is sent out as a "blind copy". That way only your address shows in the To:----- line in the header.

Be sure to check your spam folder as it may land there. If my address, dbc11@aol.com, is added to your address book your computer will be less likely to reject the broadcast as spam.

Starting with this broadcast, I have entered only the current active club members according to our 1-3-08 published roster. I will attempt to keep the broadcast list current and by working closely with Ralph Torning, the club roster keeper and Natalie Darling, the newsletter editor. There was an updated roster published February 3rd. Any new members with email addresses will be added to the next broadcast. Our goal is to have an accurate email list of all our current members. We need your help by notifying Ralph~ ruppy@verizon.net Natalie~ gmsleditor@comcast.net or myself, dbc11@aol.com when there is any change in your address or you wish to be added to the list.

When we send out a broadcast and get a return such as "box full" or "over quota" we assume that the address is correct but you just missed that mailing. When we get a return such as "unknown" or any wording that would indicate that the address was incorrect, we have no alternative but to delete your name from the list. These broadcasts will only be used for advanced field trip or event announcements and newsletter distribution. Please help us keep our roster current and our members well informed.

~Dave Callahan

Up Coming Field Trips



For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,
540-297-1853
Email dbc11@aol.com

FEBRUARY 23rd 2008

ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY, INC. FIELD TRIP THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, WASHINGTON, DC.

The Lynchburg Club has been invited to attend.
Cost \$10.00 per person for the two way Bus trip.



There will be a final sign up sheet at the Roanoke Club's February 14th meeting. The cutoff date will be at the February 20th meeting. Any unsold seats will be offered to other clubs or individuals. You MUST sign up at the meeting. Call me or e-mail me to reserve your seat. The contact information is listed above and you must prepay for this trip. Checks will be accepted at the bus if you can't make the meeting. Make the checks payable to the "Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc." I will accept cash only at the meeting. Please have the correct change.

MEETING PLACE: Wal-Mart Super center parking lot at the intersection of US 460 and Rt. 220 Alternate in Bonsack, VA. The Abbott Trailways Bus should be there by 5:30AM parked in the lower part of the lot near the Wal-Mart lawn and garden area. Look for our group and we will leave our cars in the Wal-Mart lot.

DEPARTING: The Bus will depart from Wal-Mart promptly at 6:00 AM and stragglers will be left. Be sure to have eaten breakfast before getting on the bus. We expect to arrive at the museum at 10:00 AM. There will be one rest stop on the way up if needed as time allows.

EQUIPMENT: Cameras are acceptable but tripods are not allowed.

TOURS: There will be no guided tours. You will be on your own. You may venture to other buildings and areas around Washington but it will be your responsibility to be back at the Natural History Museum to board the bus between 4:30 and 5:00PM.

HOURS: 10:00AM to 5:00 PM. Admission is free. Expect to go thru security screening so don't take things that might be confiscated as weapons.

MEALS: There is a cafe in the building open from 10 to 5. Lunches, snacks and souvenirs can be purchased here. Bag lunches are not allowed in the museum.

RESTRICTIONS: The bus is limited to 54 seats. This trip is on a first come, first served basis. Over 54 members will be placed on a waiting list. The fee will be refundable only if you notify me 24 hours in advance that you can't attend so that someone else can have your seat.

DEPARTING: The bus will depart from the main entrance at 5:00 PM sharp. It will be your responsibility to make the connection. We should arrive back at Wal-Mart between 10:30 and 11:30 PM. We will stop for the evening meal on the way home at the Old Country Buffet in Manassas. You are responsible for this cost, and anything you spend at the museum.

INFORMATION: Call or e-mail David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman, at 540-297-1853 (home), 540-874-5201 (cell) or dbc11@aol.com to sign up, cancel your reservation or if you need additional information. If I'm not there to answer the phone, let it ring and leave a message and your phone number.

March Field Trips

Plans are not finalized but we will schedule one on Saturday, March 22nd. The trip will be announced by advance e-mail broadcast, web site, March newsletter and at the March meeting.

DMC Field Trip

Saturday, 3/22/2008~ 8:00-Noon

Martin-Marietta Quarry, Woodleaf, NC

Contact: Doug Dover, 704-825-9580

ddover@carolina.rr.com Or www.amfed.org/sfms



Welcome New Members:

Nicole
Bradley
from
Raleigh, NC

Richard
Anderson
from Buena
Vista, VA

Victoria &
Roger
Spofford from
Lynchburg,
VA

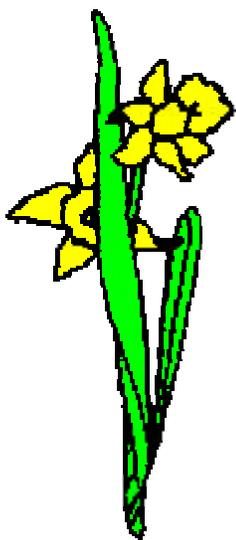
Randy
Hartberger &
Susan
Coleman from
Madison

Ed & Libby
Koepenick
from
Lynchburg,
VA

Kathryn
Kurlander
from
Lynchburg,

Kevin &
Judy
McLaren
from
Lynchburg,

Sunshine News



Dave Lipscomb wrote to share information on a fellow rockhound/geologist that some of our more seasoned members may know:

Just want to pass along some info. about Allen Penick, (retired geologist from DMMR). He went into Augusta Medical Hospital last Tuesday with swallowing problems and was dehydrated. His wife Karen said he'd be there another week and maybe two. My wife Debbie and I plan on visiting hem Thursday, take him a rock. If you are interested the hospital number is below to check for further info.
AMH - Fishersville - 540-332-4000

Allen Penick - extent ion 5505 take care, David

Also, We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Ralph and Anne Torning on the passing of Ralph's Mother. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

You might be a practicing Rockhound if...

- ?? The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- ?? The severe sunburn acquired on your last vacation was a one-inch wide strip of skin at the gap between the tail of your shirt and the top of your pants.
- ?? Someone talks about cleavage and you don't think about women.
- ?? A truck throws a rock into your windshield and you examine the rock first.

Submitted by Frank Midkiff

Schedule of Events

February 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

February 22nd-24th- Eastern Federation Convention in Jackson Mississippi. Details on page 11, or on the EFMLS website

www.amfed.org/efmls

March 1st -2nd- Gem and Mineral Show- Delaware Mineralogical Society at the Delaware Technical & community college, Newark, DE

March 8th - 9th- Annual Clifton Gem and Mineral Show Pope John Paul II Elementary School, Clifton, NJ

March 14th-16th- Uniflour Gem Mineral & Jewelry show, Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC.

March 13th-18th-Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show, Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD.

March 15th-16th- Annual Gem and Mineral Show Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, MtGaithersburg, MD
March 29th-30th- Che- Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Annual show Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire hall, 211 Herrick Av, Sayre, PA

April 26th-27th- Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Assoc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Franklin School/ Washington Ave. Franklin, NJ



Happy Valentines Day!

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 Meeting 7 PM	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 7 PM Woolley's Workshop	28	29	

pr o g r a m s

Announcement for February Meeting

Special feature on Earth Sciences, Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, and/or Paleontology.

Announcement for March Meeting

Radioactivity and Uranium. Presentation by Kenneth Conway. Ken is a member of G&MSL and works as a Senior Radiation Safety Engineer. Presentation will include an overview of radioactive decay and natural sources of radiation. Also featured is a review of the Gretna Chatham Uranium ore body.

Web Sites to Explore:

<https://php.radford.edu/~mes/index.php> Radford museum website

<http://www.nps.gov/flfo/> Photo gallery, kids page, virtual tour, and an online museum; Courtesy of the Rockhouser, Feb. 2008 edition, publication of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery Co, Maryland.

So, You Think You're Safe?

Reprinted in part from EFMLS News, Feb./March 2008; Article written by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair

When was the last time you really examined:

"Your Hard Hat?" Is it cracked? Is the liner broken or loose? Is your hard hat up to code? If your hard hat is over a certain age, it may not meet the latest government safety standards. (I bet most of us have never even considered that!)

"Your Collecting Boots?" Have you really examined them for slick or worn treads or soles? Have you examined your laces? Are they worn or frayed? Do your boots still give you foot and ankle support? (Steel-toed boots are now mandatory at some quarries.)

"Your Safety Glasses or Goggles?" Do they still fit snug enough? Is the elastic strap stretched too far? Are the lenses scratched or loose?

"Your Gloves?" Are they worn? Do they have holes in the palms or fingers?

"Your Rock (crack) Hammer?" Is the handle still intact? (If a two-piece hammer.) Is the handle grip slick or worn?

"Your Rock Chisels?" Are the tips or points worn or flat? Have the Chisel heads mushroomed?

My purpose for this article is to make you think about the common tools most of us have and use frequently in our pursuit of rocks and minerals, which for many is the reason for participating in this hobby. You can't take safety for granted. You must check your tools every time BEFORE you use them.

If you even think an item is questionable, replace it immediately. Unsafe equipment is seriously

injured or worse! Don't ever take chances with yours or someone else's safety.

Do You Still Think You're Safe?



JMU trip...continued from page 4

There were many microscopes set up in the lab for us to view mineral specimens. And we could also look at the hundreds of micromounts.

Dr. Kearns then opened one of the many gray steel cabinets in the lab and began to slide out drawers of specimens that the students used to identify minerals. It was fascinating as he went over dozens and dozens of minerals while identifying each for us.

One time during the morning, I took a moment to sit back and just watch the interaction of the people in the lab --- virtually everyone was engrossed in conversation. Many were like the two youngest boys --- Nicholas and Sam --- each from different clubs --- and they were both talking and laughing together about something, yet a couple hours before they had been

complete strangers. It was kind of neat. Making new friends is probably the most important thing that we all did.

Throughout the morning, Professor Kearns was a very approachable fellow and really tried to ensure that we all had a good time. I almost forgot to mention the delicious pastries and coffee that greeted us when we arrived --- a nice touch. If you would like to thank him, Dr. Kearns' email address is kearnsle@jmu.edu.

We all certainly enjoyed meeting other rock hounds and look forward to our next field trip together. A special Thanks to Dave Callahan of the Lynchburg Club for setting up this great trip.



Examining specimens under the microscopes is just one of the features we enjoy on this annual trip.

For anyone who wants to see more of the museum, please explore their website: <http://csm.jmu.edu/minerals/>

Rock Raiders

Visit the website below for more interesting facts about CRYSTALS.

All About Crystals

Crystals are solids that form by a regular repeated pattern of molecules connecting together. In crystals a collection of atoms called the Unit Cell is repeated in exactly the same arrangement over and over throughout the entire material.



Crystals have:

1. An orderly and symmetrical atomic structure and a definite chemical composition.
2. A definite external geometrical shape bounded by plane faces.
3. Physical (and optical) properties which vary with direction (except for the isometric minerals).

Only one mineral is allowed to grow without interference from other minerals will it form crystals. Minerals "grow" or crystallize from many types of solutions. They may precipitate from evaporation seawater, or

when lava cools. While growing, minerals may develop a distinct crystal form with smooth, flat planes called crystal faces. The geometric pattern of the crystal faces reflects the internal atomic arrangement of the crystal structure. This is one of the most important things about a mineral.

Taken from <http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/K12/crystals/crystal.html>

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.

Youth Federation Workshop Scholarships

*Reprinted from the January 2008 edition of Lodestar,
Publication of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies
From Bonita Harris, SFMS Youth Resources Chairman*

Youth scholarships? Yes! Each year the Federation generously offers scholarships to deserving junior (ages 12-18) club members of a Federation club. These scholarships are for the SFMS workshops at Wildacres or William Holland. However, few juniors apply for these scholarships. So we are asking each of the Federation clubs to encourage their junior members to apply for one of these scholarships. Emphasize that the requirements are not difficult to meet!

Requirements for Junior Scholarships for SFMS Workshops:

- 1) **President of the sponsoring adult club** submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
- 2) **Youth** submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.

- 3) After attending the workshop of choice, the **scholarship recipient** is encouraged to write a Lodestar article about the experience.
- 4) **Responsible adult** must accompany the youth to the workshop.
- 5) **Permission** must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
- 6) **Deadline** for applying for the scholarship is April 30, 2008.

Recommendations should be sent to:

Bonita L. Harris
SFMS Youth Resources
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695



Septarian Nodule –

Reprinted from *Septarian Nodule* www.toteshows.com

Utah Septarians are found near Zion National Park in Southern Utah.

They started their formation approximately 150 million years ago when the Gulf of Mexico reached what is now southern Utah.

Volcanic eruptions killed the sea life and they became trapped in the sediment and formed mud balls, the ocean receded and the balls were left to dry and crack.

The ocean returned depositing more shell life above them. As this decomposed, calcite from shells was carried down into the cracks of the mud balls, where calcite crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite was transformed into aragonite dividing the bentonite clay (shale) exteriors from the calcite centers. Because of this dividing wall (septum in Latin) the geodes are called Septarians.

Yellow centers - Calcite
Brown lines - Aragonite
Gray rock - Limestone
White or clear – Barite



January Meeting Minutes...

Continued from page 2

Ralph also donated 100 beautiful color brochures for our club to give to prospective members.

Dr. Lenhart was given an honorarium of \$100 and he immediately said he did not accept them for himself but he would be delighted to give it to the Geology Department of Radford University. John Haskins and Don McIntyre also brought in some Virginia specimens to donate to the museum, per an earlier request. Dr. Lenhart and his assistant Eunice were very pleased to receive these specimens.

Don McIntyre installed the elected officers of 2008. They are as follows:

John Haskins, President

Steve Boylan, First VP

Dave Callahan 2nd VP

Dee Tinsley Secretary

Franklin Midkiff Treas.

Natalie Darling, Editor

Members at Large:

Jo Ann Mason and Tom Powers.

The meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted:

Dee Tinsley, Secretary

Presidents Message...continued from page 1

Rep. Virgil H. Goode Jr.
 1520 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC. 20515-4605

Rep. Bob Goodlatte
 2240 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC. 20515-4606

Remember to refer to House bill HR554 and Senate bill S320 with your letters.

Think about the fossils in your own collection. You may have to prove you obtained them in a legal manner. Think about dealers across the country that sustains their business on fossil sales. Will they be at the next Gem & Mineral show? This is just the tip of the iceberg; there will be stiff fines, confiscations and maybe jail time for any infractions of this bill if passed. Now is the time to act. It won't get done if you don't do it.

I hope to see you at the February 20th meeting.

Keep Looking Down,
 John Haskins

WANTED:

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg is currently looking to purchase a LARGE DIAMOND BLADE SAW. 24" blade preferred. New or Used will be considered if the price is right. Please contact John Haskins (434) 525-8430 JMHaskins1@netzero.net with information.

If purchased, this item will be available for use by club members to cut large specimens, geodes, etc.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

?? The Executive Board met at the home of Natalie Darling on Feb. 6, 2008. John Haskins, Pres. announced that Adelaide Lee has asked the Board to consider a means of communication through a group set up on Yahoo for the club. Since the majority of us work from a group anyway, it was felt that the need for another one was not necessary.

?? One special note: the Board got to look at the specimens swapped with a club in Michigan. They are beautiful.

- ?? John Haskins read the amendments to the by-laws and it was agreed they would be presented to the general membership at the next meeting and voted on as corrected by Federation requirements.
- ?? It was announced that Uncle Billie's Day falls on June 7th this year and that the club has enough materials ready for the "one day event" and no workshops will be needed. We will assess what is left after that show and schedule workshops accordingly for the Apple Festival.
- ?? Discussion about a 24" saw was again brought up and we will look into the cost of building one vs. buying one. Natalie will place a "wanted" ad in the newsletter for one.
- ?? The TV reporter Tab O'Neal wants the club to send someone else to do another "Living in the Heart of Virginia" show. Dave Woolley expressed an interest.
- ?? Dave Callahan and Tom Powers will take care of insurance for our trailer and the contents.
- ?? The Smithsonian trip is gearing up, and Dave Callahan announced that he hopes to finalize a trip to Blue Ridge Quarry for March. Dave also stated we would most likely go to Kentucky in May and take a side trip north for some agates, and a field trip to Radford University to see the new museum is also on the agenda.
- ?? Steve Boylan read a letter from Dr. Lenhart thanking us for allowing him to come and speak to us about the museum at Radford University. He thanked us for the honorarium and told us what he used it for. (See page 5)
- ?? Ralph Torning announced who was current with dues and who was delinquent. We will look for better printing prices for the brochures that Ralph has revised and we will use black and white for now and save the color ones for special events.
- ?? Ralph Torning donated the color brochures we currently have.
- ?? Steve Boylan reported that Ken Conway will do our next program and he is a Health Physicist. The program will be on radiation.
- ?? Dave Woolley reminded everyone the show in Franklin would be April 26th and 27th. Anyone interested in going to Franklin NJ for fluorescent minerals should note these dates.
- ?? He also mentioned the International Gem & Jewelry Show is the 15th, 16th and 17th of this month in Chantilly if anyone is interested.
- ?? There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.



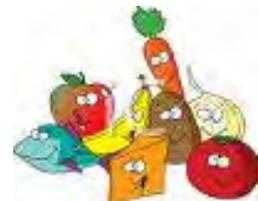
Refreshments sign up sheet for the **February 20th Meeting**. Please feel free to bring along your favorite snack to add to the food table for all to enjoy.

Soda: John Haskins (2), Tom Powers (2), Anne Torning (1)

Veggies: Tom Powers

Cheese: Anne Torning

Dessert: Anne Torning



Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

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, www.amfed.org and

www.amfed.org/efms



History of Rockhounding

Jose Santamaria



"You're darn right it's strang...
I planted garnets!"

From Rock Rattler 8/94 via Roadrunner 8/94
via The Barro Express 12/01

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

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Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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



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