



Presidents Message:

Hello to All,

I'm sorry to have missed the February Society meeting, but I was glad to hear that the Club voted to buy a supply of belt buckles to mount hand made Cabochons in as well as clock faces and hands that will be mounted in the rock slab of your choice. These will be good projects for Club members as well as new items for sale at Festivals. I hope everyone that would like to will come to the future workshops and create something of lasting beauty.

If you would like to learn more about what to do with your rock finds you are invited to register for the Spring session at Wild Acres April the 11-17th. The EFMLS sponsors two one week long workshops in the spring and fall each year. The Little Switzerland area of North Carolina is a beautiful place to spend a week learning a craft that will last a life time. The fee is \$350.00 for the week per person. This includes everything including lodging, meals and most supplies. See me at the meeting for details if you are interested.

I have been talking to several members about field trips and how hard it is to get into local rock

Quarries. Several people have taken up the idea of self guided collecting trips to joining Gold Panning Groups to fill in some of these weekends. Let's put our heads together and see if we can come up with some more places to collect specimens, whether it is minerals, fossils or maybe some gold.

The AFMS/EFMLS Annual Convention is July 6-10th in Syracuse, NY. They will have Conventions, Gem & Mineral Shows and yes several field trips will be available. You must register soon if you would like to participate, please see me at the March meeting for details if you would like to be a part of a great week in New York.

I hope as the weather warms up we can get out there and do some collecting. Also keep the upcoming workshops in mind, more details at the next meeting. I hope to see you all there at the March 16th meeting. Until then,

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First VP:

Many thanks to Siglinde Allbeck for her suggestion that I contact the League of Individuals for the Environment (LIFE) to see if they would give us a talk on uranium mining in Virginia. They will present a talk at our March meeting. The following article provides a short history of uranium mining.

Uranium minerals were noticed by miners for quite a while prior to the discovery of uranium in

1789. The uranium mineral, pitchblende, also known as uraninite, was reported from the Erzgebirge Ore Mountains, Saxony, as early as 1565. Other early reports of pitchblende date from 1727 in Joachimsthal, a town in the Czech Republic, and 1763 in the Black Forest in southwestern Germany.

In the early 19th century, uranium ore was recovered as a byproduct of mining in Saxony, Bohemia, and Cornwall. **Continued on page 11**

2011 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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Bernardino Rivera &

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**COMMITTEE
CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips**– David Callahan**Hospitality**- Monthly Volunteers**News Articles**– Natalie Darling**Silent Auction**– Warren Darling**Swap for Rocks**–Warren Darling**Website**– Casper Voogt**Workshops**– Dave Callahan**FRA Adult Liaison**- Daryl Grant**Membership**- Ralph Torning

February Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, February 16th, 2011**Attendance:** 39 members and 6 guests**Hospitality:** This month our hosts were Tony and Cindy Shields. Next month our refreshment table will be hosted by Debra Kennedy & Betty Harrell.**On Time Drawing:** Ron Wooters, John Sprouse, Bill Livingston, Mark Goodman, Jean Midkiff, & Tony Shields. Thanks to Dave Woolley for donating drawing prizes.**Old Business:** Jack Curtin has spoken with officials from the Parks and Recreation Dept., and It looks like we will not need to be concerned with relocating our meetings at this time. The general consensus is that the construction project has not even been approved or budgeted yet, and it will be at least a year or year and a half before it could become an issue.

We will, however still need to move our equipment currently in Dave Woolley's basement to Dave Callahan's. This move is scheduled to take place the third

weekend in March. Many hands will make lighter work for all involved. Please consider donating a bit of your time for this project. Contact John Haskins or Dave Callahan for times and arrangements. Bus trip to Luray and Grand Caverns has been cancelled due to the lack of interest.

First Vice President: Jack Curtin: program for this evening is a video on caves. He informed us that John missed the meeting tonight due to illness. We wish him a speedy recovery.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan: Informed the membership of a gold prospecting meeting in Dillwyn this Saturday. Up coming trips: 3/12 DMC trip to Kings Mtn. In NC; 3/26 Rutile Quarry in Nelson County; April will be some field trips to KY; 4/30 DMC trip to Burke Co, Georgia for Savannah River Agate. Also possible for a Glendon, NC pyrite collecting trip in April. 4/30-5/1 Annual Fluorescent Mineral trip to Franklin, NJ.*Continued on page 10*

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!*

Programs



For the February meeting we enjoyed a video on the exploration of caves, and their inhabitants.

Our program for the March 16th meeting will feature a speaker from LIFE- League of Individuals for the Environment. He will be speaking to us about Uranium mining. This has become somewhat of a hot topic in our area of late with the proposal of a new uranium mining operation in the Altavista area.

Please join us and let's extend a warm welcome to our guest.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

EMERY BOARDS

The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local dug store.

DENTAL FLOSS

When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle.

To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench_Tips/
or
facebook.com/Bench_Tips*



Field Trip Report

*Field Trip Report submitted by
Dave Callahan,
Field trip chairman.*

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

February Field Trip

The February 19, 2011 field trip to the Luray and Grand Caverns was canceled by the Roanoke Board of Directors after their February 10, 2011 meeting due to the insufficient number of members interested in attending. The bus had 54 seats and less than half that number signed up, so we decided to cancel the trip rather than go with less than half seats filled. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you and your family.



Up Coming Field Trips

Combined Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs and special invited guests.
Mineral Collecting Field Trip

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Sign-up required. Call me, email me or sign up at the meeting.

We may need to carpool and or limit the size of the group due to the private nature of this site and respect for the landowners living there.

We will explore an old rutile quarry in Nelson County and will be able to collect some massive rutile, ilmenite, feldspar and blue quartz. Some beautiful small rutile crystals have been found here before. This material is hard and will make beautiful specimens and will take a good polish. In addition to personal specimen collecting, please help the Lynchburg Club in its quest to collect hard solid material to make bookends, rock candles and spheres for sale at our two fund raising events.

We will meet in Amherst, VA, Saturday morning, at the Hardees Restaurant on US 29 businesses no later than 8:30 A.M. We will decide if we need to carpool and I will distribute maps. We will depart from there promptly 9:00A.M. From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US Rt. 460 east / US 29 north by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north by-pass across the James River and proceed north to the Amherst US 29 business exit. The Hardies is in the Ambriar Shopping Center at this exit. Come early and have a bite to eat. We can determine if carpooling is necessary and leave any

Up Coming Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Contact Information for Field Trips:

David Callahan.

Field Trip Chairman

Home phone 540-297-1853-----

Cell phone-----540-874-520-----

E-mail dbc11@aol.com

cars here. From this point, it should take about 30 minutes to arrive at the quarry. Be sure that you are fueled up and ready to leave by 9:00 A.M. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles south of the US 60 exit. If you live in Lynchburg, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business thru Madison Heights to Amherst. The Hardees will be on your left at the new US 29 bypass interchange, just before you arrive at the town of Amherst.

If you will be driving in from the north, let me know and I will send you an alternate meeting spot.

Dress for the weather that day and be sure to bring food, water and warm clothing. Wear boots, gloves, long pants and safety glasses. Hard hats will not be required.

Bring a hoe or something to turn rocks and watch where you put your hands. There may be a surprise waiting underneath. Hopefully the kudzu has not over grown everything this early in the year. Bring a hammer and chisel to break rocks, buckets and newspaper to wrap any delicate specimens you might find. Digging tools and a sledge may come in handy. We can drive into the quarry if it is dry. A low-slung car or 2-wheel drive may bottom out and get stuck. We will make that decision when we observe the situation that morning. It may be wet and will be slick and muddy if there has been a recent rain. There is no age limit but children must be supervised. There are NO restroom facilities at this site.

More information will be available at our next meeting as well as samples of what you can expect to find.

We must arrive together but you will be free to leave at any time.

SAFETY NOTE...DO NOT CLIMB UP OR DOWN THE QUARRY WALL. THIS IS UNSTABLE, UNSAFE AND THE QUARRY IS FULL OF WATER. DO NOT WANDER OFF BY YOURSELF. TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU. STAY IN SIGHT OF OTHERS. THE SITE IS OVERGROWN AND YOU WOULD BE HARD TO LOCATE IF YOU NEEDED HELP. IF YOU LEAVE EARLY, LET YOUR LEADER OR A CLUB OFFICER KNOW.

April field trips

There will be several field trip opportunities available in April but nothing has been finalized at this time.

Late breaking April DMC Field Trip announcement on following page. Please note that this was sent out as an email broadcast by the SFMS, and our club Field Trip Chairman. If you missed your opportunity, you are probably not on the email list.

All club members are encouraged to provide an active (regularly checked) email for purposes such as this notification.

Up Coming Field Trips

Continued from page 5

GLENDON QUARRY
Standard Minerals/R.T. Vanderbilt Co.
Saturday, April 23, 2011
8AM till 3PM sharp!

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: After you have supplied all of the required information in an email back to the SFMS Field Trip Committee [email address below], the Committee will assign a registration number(s) and resend your email back to you as your admission ticket to this field trip. Each registration number is assigned to only one collector. If your form has two or more registration numbers, then that is the number of individuals allowed in to the field trip on that registration form. Also, R.T. Vanderbilt Co. will require everyone to fill-in and sign a company liability release form before entry.

ONCE THE 120th REGISTRATION NUMBER IS ASSIGNED, THIS FIELD TRIP WILL BE CLOSED.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR ACCEPTED REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARRY.

We must be out to the quarry by 3pm SHARP. Plan your digging and packing accordingly!

IF YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU CAN NOT MAKE THIS FIELD TRIP, PLEASE SEND US A CANCELLATION EMAIL SO THAT WE MAY GIVE SOMEONE ELSE YOUR SPOT(S)!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

This field trip is open to members of SFMS affiliated clubs which have paid third party liability insurance through the SFMS/EFMLS or other insurers. A link to the current list of paid clubs can be found on the SFMS website at the "What's New" webpage.

Only list related family members, couples, and significant others - all non-related individuals must submit a separate form.

NO children under the age of 12! Please list the ages of all individuals who are under the age of 18.

Registration:

NAME(S): Last name, First name

Address/ City/State:

Phone:

Email Address:

SMFS Affiliated Club:

(Only SFMS clubs who are in good standing will be allowed to attend.)

Please answer ALL of the above items or your registration will be returned.

Send your registration back to
sfms@amfed.org

Careful! It's Contagious!

*By Michele Yamanaka, former Midwest Federation Jr. Activities Chair,
Reprinted, in part, from EFMLS News, March 2011*

Transmission: Rockhounditis can be caught all year around, but it is more noticeable in warm weather. It can be transmitted via people, sunshine, museums, rock piles, and many other ways.

Incubation Period: Variable. Genetic? Probably not part of any chromosome, but susceptibility or tendency seems to run in families.

Duration: Once caught, it usually is permanent, However, if caught when young; it may enter a period of remission and become re-activated later in life.

Symptoms: Has trouble sleeping before a field trip; keeps eyes on the ground, parks car in driveway because garage is full of rocks; gets up at preposterous hours to drive in ridiculous weather just to dig around in dirt or mud; may return from a vacation with suitcases full of rocks; accumulates boxes of rocks, minerals or fossils in the basement, under couches and beds, in closets and generally any formerly empty space; and, most importantly, is always giving specimens away to any willing soul.

CASE HISTORIES

1. Older brother gives younger brother a favorite rock because he has entered rockhounditis remission. Younger brother checks book out of library to see what the rock is and decides It's "cool"
2. Son shows parents some multicolored petrified wood and an amethyst geode. Because they are pretty, parents enjoy them. Then son asks them to look for petrified wood for him on parent's trip. Parents look for petrified wood and are amazed at the variety. Parents bring back rocks to give him, keeping the best for themselves. Parents thereafter search out rocks without being asked.
3. Unsuspecting girl walks along river by school. She sees something shining in the sunshine in the river rock dumped to control erosion. She finds glassy crystals that remind her of jewels. She takes them to her science teacher, who points her to the library and a mineral book. She discovers a whole world or crystals and begins walking the river frequently to look for more.
4. Teacher takes class on field trip to the state museum. Boy takes good look at a piece of granite and sees for the first time how it is made of many different minerals. He decides he should look at other rocks and discover what he has been missing.
5. Old neighborhood rockhound keeps pile of interesting fossils and rocks on his porch. Neighborhood girl comes by just to see what's new. The old rockhound love to tell her about each one. She is amazed at how different each is from the others. He invites her and other neighborhood kids on a collecting trip and she finds her own really neat fossils. Girl decides she wants to be like him and tell people about fossils and rocks.

A final note: Rockhounditis is extremely contagious and knows no age limitations. However, getting a good case usually requires being near a rockhound who is so excited about rocks that he/she can't help showing, speaking about and sharing rocks with others. The love of rocks is contagious. Be willing to share it!

Up Coming Events

March 2011

Shows and Trips

March 18th-20th- Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC

March 19th-20th- 47th annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co MD.

March 26th-27th- 42nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

April 30th-May 1st- 39th Annual Gem, Mineral Fossil and Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society in conjunction with the NJ Earth Sciences Assoc. and Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Franklin, NJ.

May 27th-29th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show at the Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. www.toteshows.com for information.

July 1st-3rd- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show at Augusta Expo Land, Fishersville, VA. www.toteshows.com for information.

July 9th-10th- Annual Show and AFMS/EFMS Combined Conventions sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, July 8th. See page 9 for show details.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Meeting 7PM</i>	17	18	19 <i>Moving Day</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

THE 2011 DIGGG IS ON!!!

**Registration and Trip Information at
<http://www.uvworld.org/>**

April 30, 2011

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) and the North East Field Trip Alliance (NEFTA), in cooperation with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, invite you to share an internationally famous collecting experience.

This field trip has attracted dedicated collectors from across the globe.

Be one of them this year!
It WILL be a historic and memorable event.

News from the Eastern Federation

From EFMLS News-- March, 2011

AFMLS/ EFMLS Annual Convention July 6-10, 2011

**"Gems Along the Erie Canal"
Syracuse, New York**

This year our Host will be the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. They will be holding their 45th annual Gem and Mineral Show and the AFMS and EFMS convention.

The Show will be held at the Americraft Center of Progress Building at the New York State Fairgrounds, 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13209.

The show dates are Saturday, July 9th from 10AM to 6PM, and Sunday July 10, from 10AM to 4PM. The show has 60 retail and wholesale dealers (with more still being added), featuring gems, jewelry, fossils, and crystals. There will also be hands-on educational exhibits and demonstrations, hourly door prizes, children's activities, lectures and workshops, a restaurant in the building and free parking. In an adjacent building there will be a Psychic Fair and Holistic Expo.

<http://metaphysicaltimes.com/homepage.html>

The Syracuse club will also be hosting field trips on Monday and Tuesday (July 11th and 12th). This a great opportunity to take advantage to collecting at one of the famous Herkimer Diamond Mines (Mon) or perhaps one of the area's fabulous fossil collecting sites.

There is much to see and do in the area. If you are interested and would like complete weekend details, hotel information, etc., you can visit the EFMS website and click on the EFMLS convention link.

2011 Wildacres Registration

is upon us.

***Spring Session is April 11-17, and the
Fall session will be September 5-11***

The cost is \$350. For the week, and includes lodging, meals, and 4 days of classes. There is no better opportunity to fine tune your skills within our hobby, or learn a new one.

For a list of class offerings, and additional information on Wildacres, please visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/> and click on the Wildacres link.

"Imagine being able to spend a week totally immersed in the joys of our hobby - no interruptions from television, news, traffic, or worries. The setting is an idyllic mountain top retreat where you are well fed and cared for and you can take classes in many aspects of the hobby - lapidary, jewelry making, mineralogy, etc."



**There is such a place and it's
called Wildacres.**

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>

Welcome New Members

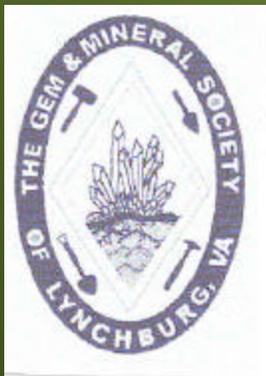
Julie & Jay Cooper
from Forest VA

Tom Davis from Forest VA

Gregory Scott from
Stuarts Draft VA

Bob & Cathy Monroe,
from Lynchburg VA

Charles Rayburn Jr.
from Lynchburg VA



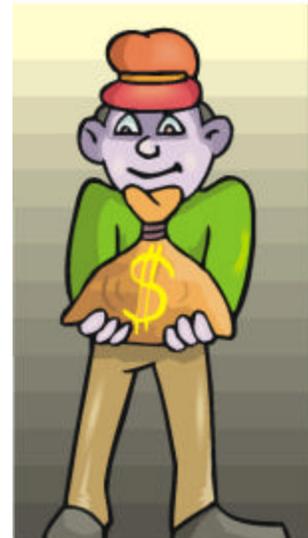
February Meeting Minutes *continued from page 2*

Treasurers Report: Treasury balance at this time is \$6720.48

New Business: Supplies will be ordered by Dave Callahan for us to begin constructing different items to be sold at our fundraisers. Among the new items we will try are belt buckles and clocks. We will continue to make bookends, spheres, & gem trees. Workshop dates to be announced at a later time.

Our silent auction table was enhanced with additional specimens being sold by Dave Woolley. He was to donate 20% of his sales to the club treasury.

**Minutes submitted by
Brenda Glass, Secretary**



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

From the First VP: *continued from page 1*

The first deliberate mining of radioactive ores took place in Joachimsthal, a silver-mining city in what is now the Czech Republic. Marie Curie used pitchblende ore from Joachimsthal to isolate the element radium, a decay product of uranium; her death was from aplastic anemia, almost certainly due to exposure to radioactivity. Until World War II uranium mining was done primarily for the radium content. Sources for radium, contained in the uranium ore, were sought for use as luminous paint for watch dials and other instruments, as well as for health-related applications, some of which in retrospect might have been harmful. The byproduct uranium was used mostly as a yellow pigment.

In the United States, the first radium/uranium ore was discovered in 1871 in gold mines near Central City, Colorado. This district produced about 50 tons of high grade ore between 1871 and 1895. However, most American uranium ore before World War II came from vanadium deposits on the Colorado Plateau of Utah and Colorado.

In Cornwall, the South Terras Mine near St. Stephen opened for uranium production in 1873, and produced about 175 tons of ore before 1900. Other early uranium mining occurred in Autunois in France's Massif Central, Oberpfalz in Bavaria, and Billingen in Sweden.

The Shinkolobwe deposit in Katanga, Belgian Congo now Shaba Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was discovered in 1913, and exploited by the Union Minière du Haut Katanga. Other important early deposits include Port Radium, near Great Bear Lake, Canada discovered in 1931, along with Beira Province, Portugal; Tyuya Muyun, Uzbekistan, and Radium Hill, Australia.

Because of the need for the uranium for bomb research during World War II, the Manhattan Project used a variety of sources for the element. The Manhattan Project initially purchased uranium ore from the Belgian Congo, through the Union Minière du Haut Katanga. Later the project

contracted with vanadium mining companies in the American Southwest. Purchases were also made from the Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited company in Canada. This company had large stocks of uranium as waste from its radium refining activities.

American uranium ores mined in Colorado were mixed ores of vanadium and uranium, but because of wartime secrecy, the Manhattan Project would publicly admit only to purchasing the vanadium, and did not pay the uranium miners for the uranium content. In a much later lawsuit, many miners were able to reclaim lost profits from the U.S. government. American ores had much lower uranium concentrations than the ore from the Belgian Congo, but they were pursued vigorously to ensure nuclear self-sufficiency.

Similar efforts were undertaken in the Soviet Union, which did not have native stocks of uranium when it started developing its own atomic weapons program.

Intensive exploration for uranium started after the end of World War II as a result of the military and civilian demand for uranium. There were three separate periods of uranium exploration or "booms." These were from 1956 to 1960, 1967 to 1971, and from 1976 to 1982.

In the 20th century the United States was the world's largest uranium producer. Grants Uranium District in northwestern New Mexico was the largest United States uranium producer. The Gas Hills Uranium District was the second largest uranium producer. The famous Lucky Mc Mine is located in the Gas Hills near Riverton, Wyoming. Canada has since surpassed the United States as the cumulative largest producer in the world.

Like one uranium-238 nucleus said to the other,
"Gotta split!"

Jack Curtin

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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



Welcome Spring



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ON THE WEB: 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