



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

July 2007

Volume 16 Issue 7

Presidents Message:

Hello to all,

Let's have a contest. First of all let me explain what we need: The GMSL is in the process of buying two vinyl banners to advertise our Geode Cracker & Gem & Mineral Sluice to be affixed to the front of our sale tents at fund raising festivals. We need to come up with some catchy phrases and artwork for these signs. That's where you come in. I know we have some very creative people in the club that can give us some great ideas for our signs. These will be permanent type signs that we will use for a long time. So I am looking forward to seeing what you can create. Bring your ideas to the July 18th meeting and we will get the ball rolling. I have gotten several price quotes for these signs and they all seem to be in the \$100.00 range for each 24" x 8' sign with graphics & mounting grommets. I have a couple of specimens for a prize you may choose from, so put on your thinking caps.

For those of you that don't know, the Club's auto-feed diamond wet saw has been installed at Dave Woolley's home for the clubs workshop use. It's a 10" saw with a cutting capacity of about 3 1/2". So bring your rocks and cut a slab. We also have a trim saw available and capping equipment for those who

want to create jewelry pieces. Not sure how to use all this stuff? No problem, there are always several people available to help out with instructions. If you are a club member come join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Info flyers for the monthly workshops are available at the club meetings.

The weekend of July 6th-8th a number of club members are taking a trip to Diamond Hill Quartz Mine near Antreville, SC. I hope we will find some good specimens we can show at collectors night meeting, or show in conjunction with Steve Boylans presentation this month on crystal forms. Nona & I will continue the next week in Franklin, NC gold panning & I hope actually digging for gems & minerals. I have sent out some E-mails trying to get info on the best sights in the Franklin area. We will report on what we find out, maybe for a future field trip.

Just an idea, I think the Club needs a large diamond wet saw, maybe 20-30" diameter blade that will enable us to cut large geodes and slabs from large specimens. Just to give you something to think about. I hope to see you at the July 18th meeting.

Keep Looking Down
John Haskins



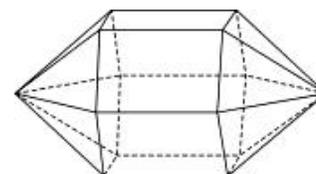
From the First VP:

Did you know that in 1774 Thomas Jefferson purchased Natural Bridge, Virginia from King George III to preserve the awe-inspiring rock bridge as a mountain retreat? Then two years later in 1776 Mr. Jefferson and others wrote the Declaration of Independence, which denounced King George III as an awful tyrant. Sometimes relations can turn bad. And now you know. Happy 4th of July!

For July's meeting, we will feature an introductory

presentation about crystallography. Space will be filled with repeating points and more paper models of crystals.

Cheers!
SteveJ



2007 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

(434) 525-8430

JMHaskins1@netzero.net**Steve Boylan****First Vice President**

(434) 534-6108

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(540) 297-1853

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JoAnn Mason &

Ralph Torning

COMMITTEE**CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Ann 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

June Meeting Minutes

Meeting: 7:00 PM, Wednesday, June 20th.**Attendance:** 22 members and 6 visitors.**Hospitality:** was provided by many members who signed up the previous month. This was very enjoyable, and thanks to all who participated.**On Time Drawing:** winners were Dee Tinsley and Fred Mason.**Old Business:** John Haskins announced that the magnetic tags would be purchased again for all who wanted them. Natalie Darling announced that the same company that made them last time would make them again for us at a cost of \$5.00 each as long as we have 20 people buying them.

John Haskins thanked everyone who helped with Mt. Athos DMC Field Trip and with Uncle Billy's Day. Both were a great success. He also stated more sluice material is needed.

There will be a field trip on July 6th, 7th, and 8th to Diamond Hill, SC. Everyone is on their own to get reservations, camping and sending in their own release form. These were handed out at the meeting to all who were interested.**First Vice President:** Steve Boylan announced our speaker

for June would do a power point presentation on Radon. For July Steve will do a program on Crystallography and in August we will have a program on meteorites.

Second Vice President:Dave Callahan announced Saturday June 23rd the club would be going on a field trip in Nelson County. We can collect rutile and blue quartz. July 21st we are tentatively scheduled for a field trip to Glasgow. If we cannot go there, we will go to another location close by, such as The Staunton Lime quarry.Dave also announced Spruce Pine is celebrating their 50th Gem & Mineral Festival.

There will be many field trips we can go on. Since this is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, there will be Chamber trips to mines and quarries, as well as some side trips our club will take. If you are interested, you need to make your own reservations and sign up for the Chamber tours you wish to take on your own. You will be responsible for all your own arrangements. The dates are August 3-5, 2007.

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!

June Meeting Program

For the June meeting, our speaker was Dale Phelps from Radon Free DP Enterprises. He spoke to the group on the subject of Radon Gas, including its origin, likelihood of home penetration, and the dangers associated with it. He went on to explain that there are several test kits on the market, which help to determine if your home needs modifications that would help reduce the radon and offer a healthier environment for you and your family. Questions were addressed, and Dale had test kits on display for the group to examine and purchase if desired. If you missed the presentation and would like more information of Radon Gas, you can contact: www.radonfree.com.

Program Presentation by Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society first VP

Steve Boylan made a presentation about "The Rocks and Minerals of Virginia and Why Virginia is a Great Place to Collect" at the June meeting of the Lynchburg Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. The meeting was held at the Elk's Lodge on Thursday, June 21, 2007. The presentation went well.

Thanks Steve, for representing our club.

Announcement for August Meeting...

Submitted by Steve Boylan

Terrestrial Connoisseur News- Presentation on Evidence of Ancient Asteroid Impact Discovered in the Precambrian Geology of Northern Minnesota and Canada.

Evidence of Ancient Asteroid impact discovered in the Precambrian Geology of Northern Minnesota and Canada. What would it be like if earth was struck by a six mile wide asteroid? Geologists recently correlated an Ancient Impact from a crater in Sudbury, Ontario that "Turned Part of Earth Inside-Out." A space rock the size of a large mountain impacted the earth 1.8 billion years ago and dredged up part of Earth's lower crust and rained down molten debris more than 600 miles away. It appears an asteroid about 6 miles (10 kilometers) wide hit the planet at more than 89,000 mph (40 kilometers per second). Geologists have discovered rock layers several hundreds of miles away in Minnesota, Michigan and Canada that show the Sudbury impact ejecta and subsequent tsunami that wiped out life and created a dead zone. Presentation will feature field trip photos and also discussion of the general geology and mineral collecting (Agates / Amethyst) in Northern Minnesota and Thunder Bay, Ontario Area.

Karl D. Everett, PE
Senior Environmental Health & Safety Manager
O-N Minerals Chemstone Operation

More on this subject at the August 15th, 2007 general meeting of
The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Welcome

New Members:

*Jerry & Nicholas
Smith from
Forest, VA*

*Susan Houston
from Bethel, NC*

*Faye & Dennis
Brannon from
Griffin, GA*

*John & Gina
Hatcher from
Evington, VA*

Field Trip Report

Article and photographs Submitted by
Dave Callahan, Field Trip Chairman; additional
photographs on page 13 for electronic viewers.

Saturday June 23rd

Combined Lynchburg & Roanoke Club Field Trip Nelson County, VA

Our first collecting trip to an old abandon quarry in Nelson County was quite an adventure. We had 32 members from the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs and a convoy of cars that was an inspiring site to any field trip leader. Only about 10 had signed up for the trip so I was extremely pleased with the turnout.

I believe that everyone had great time and were able to find some pretty yard rocks and good representative examples of rutile, Ilmenite, blue quartz and feldspar in spite of the acres of kudzu that had almost covered the site. This is a winter or early spring trip for sure and we will try to schedule another trip perhaps in the spring.



Searching for the hidden treasure



Fred & JoAnn Mason hitch a ride up on the back of the Midriff's truck



Club members sharing stories and specimens with the young mine owners.



Natalie Darling and Dave Lipscomb.

PINEY RIVER BLUE QUARTZ

Submitted by Dee Tinsley

June 23, 2007 – Field Trip to Nelson County- in search of "Piney River Blue Quartz." Several members lined the highway in caravan, gear at hand and an eagerness to explore. Upon arrival about 10:00 AM we began to hunt for rutile, blue quartz, feldspar and anything else we might find! Some folks found some "Very Big Yard Rocks" and some of us came home with a few specimens.

What a beautiful day. The sun was warm (not hot) and the wind was just right! The temperature was about 78 and you couldn't have painted it prettier. We had a great crowd and everyone had fun. We laughed and kidded each other and found "treasures". What more could you want from a field trip!

Thanks to Dave Callahan for another "successful" and fun day.



Our hosts extended a warm welcome and invitation for a return trip in the future.



Up Coming Field Trips

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

Official Club Field Trip July 21, 2007

The Lynchburg Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. & The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society
GOLD PANNING at the Cotton Patch Gold Mine
www.cottonpatchgoldmine.com
41697 Gurley Road, New London, NC
(THIS IS A FEE SITE, SEE BELOW)

TRIP: This will be an educational and fun trip to learn the art of panning for gold and the excitement of finding real gold in your pan. You get to keep all the gold you find. The mine is now open from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Group Rate: We need 10 or more members to arrive and check in together to get the group rates. If we straggle in at various times we will be charged the standard rate.

Group Rate Fees: Adults- \$8.00 for five 2-gal buckets of panning material. (Save \$1.50)

Children 12 & under- \$4.50 for three 2-gal buckets of panning material. (Save \$1.00)

Additional buckets are available at 1.50 each.

(See the prices for other options posted on the web site or at the mine.)



DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM LYNCHBURG: We will all drive to the mine on our own. The best way from Lynchburg is south on Rt. 29 to Greensboro. west on I-40 for 2.8 miles. south on I-85 for 1.5 miles to exit 122 and then south on US 220 about 24 miles to Asheboro, NC. Then west on US 64 for 0.4 miles and south on NC-49 for about 22 miles. Take state route 8 south about 7.5 miles until it ends in New London, NC. Turn left on US route 52 south for a very short distance and then left on State Route 740. Drive about one mile and then turn right on Hearne Road. Travel about 1.5 miles and turn left on Gurley Road. Go 300 yards and turn left into the first driveway to the Cotton Patch Gold Mine. There is a sign at the entrance. The distance from Lynchburg is about 168 miles so allow about 3.50 hours driving time plus any stops. Plan to arrive at the mine at 10 A.M. so we can sign in as a group of 10 or more and qualify for the special group rate. You can leave at any time.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM ROANOKE: The best way from Roanoke is south on Rt.220. About 20 miles south of the VA /NC state line turn right on route 68 for about 14 miles toward Greensboro. east on I-40 for 8 miles to exit 218 and then south on US 220 about 24 miles to Asheboro, NC. See the directions from Lynchburg for the routing from Asheboro to the mine. The distance is about 166 miles and you should allow about 3.50 hours driving time plus any stops. Plan your trip to arrive at the mine by 10 A.M. You can leave at any time

Equipment: Pans: If you don't have one they have loaners on site.

Container for gold flakes (small zip-lock bags or vials).

Container for black sand (large zip-lock-bags or containers.) We can take the black sand home to re-pan at your leisure for those missed flakes.

Eyedropper or sniffer bottle and/or tweezers to pick up gold flakes. (Fingers work well too.)

Other stuff to bring: Hat, sunglasses, bug spray, sunscreen, food and water.

Questions: Call David Callahan (540) 297-1853 or Royce Wickham (540) 427-1424

Up Coming Field Trips

Continued from page 5



**August 3 thru the 5th, 2007
Spruce Pine, North Carolina**

**OFFICIAL FIELD TRIP OF
The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.
The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.**



THE TRIP: This will be a three-day trip to the 50th Annual Spruce Pine Mineral and Gem Festival. To keep expenses at a minimum, several of us will be tent camping a Bear Den Campground, a short distance away off of the Blue Ridge Parkway at exit 324.8

GENERAL INFORMATION: Everyone will drive to Spruce Pine, NC. on your own Friday, August 3rd. If you are just interested in attending the club field trips, meet us at the Wal-Mart gas pumps no later than 8:00AM, Saturday morning August 4th in Spruce Pine, NC. Do not be late if you want to go with us to some local mines.

The distance from Lynchburg, VA to Spruce Pine, NC is about 250 miles and will take about 5 hours plus stops. The distance from Roanoke is a little less depending on the route you take.

If you have any interest in camping. I have reserved Group C campsite at Bear Den Campground Friday and Saturday nights and there is room for a few additional tents. The cost is much reduced over individual sites. Contact Royce or me for details. Since there will be some club members going down Thursday and staying at Group C campsite, you can check in anytime Friday. If you would like to go Thursday and want to camp be sure to let me know. We usually prepare a meal for the group Friday night and we all chip in to share the expenses, work, food and clean up. Please contact either Royce or I so that we will know who will be there, and what food you can bring. We have a big campfire and a lot of fun.

Friday afternoon and evening we will visit the indoor gem show and the outdoor Grassy Creek shows. There will be many vendors and you can always find reasonably priced mineral specimens, cabbing materials jewelry and other interesting items. I will also pick up the Club Geodes that I have ordered from Gem Center USA

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday morning we will meet at 8:00 AM at the Wal-Mart parking lot by the gas pumps. Wal-Mart is located off Rt. 226 in the Grassy Creek area.

We will first visit the Ray Mine in Burnsville and hopefully find some nice Beryl, Tourmaline, Apatite, Garnet, Mica and Feldspar. The land owner where we will park, charges about 2 or 3 dollars to park in his yard. Be sure to have the correct amount of currency. There is a rather steep foot trail to the mine. The walk is about 20 minutes but the potential for some nice Beryl crystals makes it worthwhile. No special equipment is required. Just wear comfortable clothes, good strong boots, water, bug spray, backpack and / or buckets, hammer, chisel and wrapping paper to protect any nice crystals you will find. I usually take a hoe to turn over rocks and scrape away the soil. If you plan to spend the day there be sure to bring food, bug spray and water. You can stay as long as you want and leave any time.

After several hours at the Ray Mine, we will visit the Sinkhole Mine in Bandana, NC. You should be able to park close to the dump. Here you will find Apatite, Mica, Feldspar, Garnet, Thulite and Smokey Quartz. If you like beautiful yard rocks, this is the place to go.

There will be Friday and Saturday night collecting on Chalk Mountain this year. The Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce sponsors these trips. And you must call them at 1-828-765-9033 to make your reservation. There is a \$15.00 fee per person. You will be collecting highly fluorescent Hyalite Opal.

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Virtual Museum of The History of Mineralogy

Great website, information submitted by Mary Loose DeViney

For those interested in the history of mineralogy / crystallography there is a new website entitled:

The Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

<http://www.mineralogy.be/index.html>

The Virtual Museum includes antiquarian books, goniometers, crystal models, antique labels, optical- and other instruments once used in mineralogy or crystallography. The objects we display are kept in different museums, institutes and private collections all over the world. The objective of the virtual museum may only be met with the help of many who are willing to share photographs and descriptions of their own treasures with others. If you are also willing to contribute, do not hesitate to contact us.

If you would like to be kept informed about the activities of the Virtual Museum, please subscribe to our e-mail newsletter (will be issued maximum 4 times a year).

<http://www.mineralogy.be/newssub.html>

The Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy is a joint initiative of Paul Tambuyser and Claude Hootelé.

Kind regards,
Paul Tambuyser
paul@minerant.org

From The Editors Desk...

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter, as well as previous editions. That is what makes it a winning publication in the Eastern, Southeast, and American Federations.

Please help make our newsletter more enjoyable by making a contribution.

Original articles by members are most sought after. You could write about a favorite mineral or gemstone, field trip, or any other aspect of the hobby that you would like to share with others.

We have many new members who would enjoy reading about what others enjoy most about our hobby.

We can also use drawings, puzzles, jokes, and information on interesting websites or book reviews.

Your contribution to this publication may also be entered into one of the Federation competitions for various awards.

This is YOUR newsletter! What would you like to be reading about?



GEMSTONE NOTES~ CORAL~ *By Lee Krenz*

Re-printed from "Gem Stones", Dorling Kindersley, New York, 1994

By way of "The Rockhound", Official Publication of the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc; September 2006

Coral is made up of the skeletal remains of marine animals called coral polyps. These tiny creatures live in colonies that form branching structures as they grow, eventually forming coral reefs and atolls. The surface of these coral branches has

a distinctive pattern formed by the original animals, either stripped or like wood grain. Most corals- red, pink, white, and blue varieties- are made of calcium carbonate. Black and golden corals are made of a horn-like substance called conchiolin. Red coral is the most valuable, and has been used in jewelry for thousands of years. Most precious coral is found in warm waters. Japanese coral is red, pink, or white. Red and pink is also found on the Mediterranean and African coasts, the Red Sea, and the waters off Malaysia and Japan. Black and golden coral is found off the coasts of the West Indies, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.





Rock Raiders

Rock Raiders Meeting Minutes

We've enjoyed this summer's meetings so far. Group membership is growing with every meeting.

In May, we learned some of the physical characteristics of the mineral Calcite. The kids each performed hardness and streak tests on their own specimen. We observed the unique rhomboid cleavage of calcite by breaking a large specimen donated to us by John Haskins. The kids discovered that calcite fluoresces, as well as effervesces!

In June, we broke apart a large piece of slate containing plant fossils, which was also given to us by John. We had fun discovering what lay between each layer of sedimentary rock. Everyone took home his or her own specimen. Natalie Darling shared with us her Virginia state fossil specimens, Jeffersonian Chesapeecten (a large fossilized scallop shell) as well as her Ichthyosaur dinosaur shoulder blade fossil. It surprised many of our members just how heavy dinosaur bone fossils are! We also examined and took home a variety of fossils including shark's teeth, bone, shells and pelecypods. Thanks to Dave Young and Dee Tinsley for getting together this contribution!

This month, we look forward to learning about chalcopyrite, as well as adding this mineral to our growing collections.

Thanks to club members for your continued interest and support!

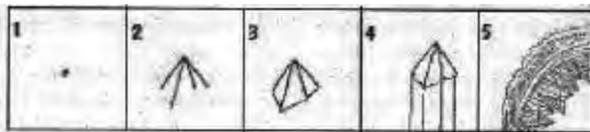
Shannon Bondurant~ Rock Raiders Adult Liaison

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.



Reminder for all Rock Raiders: Please bring your drawings, pictures or other items of interest to the meeting for consideration of inclusion in future newsletters.



To make the crystals: Step 1: start with a dot, Step 2: make several lines down from it, Step 3: connect the ends of the lines, Step 4: make parallel lines connect to each end (see diagram). I used a pack of multicolored, transparent scratchboard paper (available in any crafts store) the youth loved it and the adults were very impressed.

Illustration and instructions at left copied in part from March 2007 issue of EFMLS News, "Rocks & Minerals- Works of Art" by Betsy Oberheim



WAYNE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, Inc.



24th Annual Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Convention

14th Annual Wayne County Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show and Sale

Schedule

October 5th thru October 8th

Friday	12 pm. - 9 pm.	Exhibitor / Vendors Set-up time at St. Michael's School.
	1 pm.	Cracker Barrel Session at the Quality Inn
	7 pm.	EFMLS Annual Meeting at the Quality Inn
Saturday	8 am.	Judging of Competitive Exhibit Begins
	10 am. - 5 pm.	WCGM Show Hours at St. Micheal's school.
	2 pm.	EFMLS Annual Auction at Show location (St. Micheal's School). Please be sure to bring your "Good Stuff" for the Auction.
	6 pm. - 7 pm. →	Social Hour & Cash Bar at Quality Inn.
	7 pm.	EFMLS banquet \$35.00 (4 Entries etc.) BBQ Chicken, Butter Crumb Haddock, Ham and Roast Beef, Salads and Dessert Home made Apple & Grape Pies.
Sunday	8 am.	Editors Breakfast (Breakfast Buffet \$16) Quality Inn.
	10 am	Sunday dig to Syracuse Area for Unique Selenite Specimens
	11 am →	Antique Car Club Arrives
	10 am. - 4 pm.	WCGM Show Hours at St. Micheal's School.
Monday	8 am.	Diamond Dig at Crystal Grove. The bus will be leaving the Quality Inn. Bring your lunch and beverages for the day, tools can be rented.
	8 pm. →	Bus will return to Quality Inn from Diamond Dig.

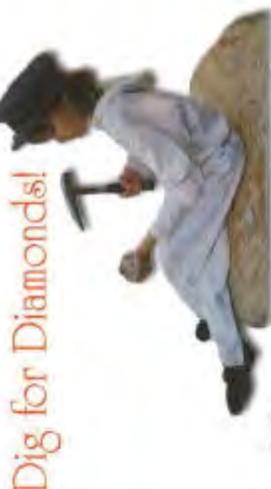
Attention members:

If you would like more information on the convention and show, you can visit the Eastern Federation web site www.amfed.org/efmls, or contact the editor, who is planning to attend.

There are many attractions in the area, as well as other collecting sites that we may gain access to if there is any interest in going. There are also two planned field trips offered by the hosts of the convention.

The Auction should prove to be a treasure finding experience, based on others that I have attended~ I can hardly wait.

Lets make a great showing from the **Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg**~ WHO WANTS TO GO???



Dig for Diamonds!

CRYSTAL GROVE DIAMOND MINE & CAMPGROUND

"Herkimer Diamonds" are world-famous quartz crystals found only in central New York State. These unusually clear, double-terminated crystals began forming hundreds of millions of years ago and are highly prized for their exceptional beauty. And the best part is, you don't have to be an expert to find one! Rent out tools or bring your own, break rock or dig in the dirt - *Hunting for Herkimer* is an enjoyable experience for all ages.

Mining Season: April through October

Camping Season: mid-April through mid-October

It's a gem of a place!



1-800-KRY-DIAM (579-3426)

5 miles north of St. Johnsville, between Rts. 5 and 29
Midway between Exits 29 and 29A of I-90

161 Co. Hwy. 114, St. Johnsville, NY 13452
www.crystalgrove.com ♦ fun@crystalgrove.com

Schedule of Events

SHOWS TO VISIT

July 25th-28th- Franklin NC Gem and Mineral Show. Community facilities Building, Highway 441 S. Contact Fred Leasner at 888-348-4224 or Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 828-524-3161 or www.franklin-chamber.com

August 3rd-5th- Annual field trip to Spruce Pine, NC. Details at the monthly meetings and in the field trip section of this newsletter as plans are finalized.

August 4th-5th Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Washington, DC. State Ridge School, 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD

August 10th-12th-Treasures of the Earth Show, Virginia Beach Convention Center; 1000 19th St. Hours: Fri. noon -6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5. Contact Barbara of Peggy @ 804-746-7663 or email bhaney8081@aol.com

Refreshments for the July 2007 Meeting

I did not get the sign up sheet this month, so you are on your own for remembering what you signed up to bring. If you don't remember just bring something for all to enjoy.

Thanks for your continued support!



July 2007

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	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Program for the July 2007

Our own first VP Steve Boylan will be speaking on crystallography.

We encourage members to also bring in their own crystals to show as examples~ lets see how many different crystal examples we can come up with.



The next executive meeting will be held on August 8th, 2007 at the Darlings Home

Meeting Minutes... *continued from page 2*

Treasurers Report: Dee Tinsley gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of Franklin Midkiff. The balance on hand is \$5422.78. We have one bill of approx. \$532.00 to pay. We received 3 new memberships tonight, and one renewal.

Dee also let everyone know that Franklin is home suffering with Vertigo. Let's all keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

New Business: Dave reminded the club of the need for more geodes, he asked that we buy another case of the 2-1/2" and another case of the 2-3/4", total cost to us about \$500.00. John Haskins so moved and Bill Tinsley seconded the motion. The club will buy them at Spruce Pine. We will also fill the need for the sluice with rough and tumbled there.

Dave suggested that we make signs, asking our "Artists" in the club to come forth with designs that advertise our sluice, and our geode cracker. We will work on this and discuss it at another meeting.

Congratulations NATALIE DARLING! Natalie won a third place award from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for creating our workshop flyer. Dave Woolley and Zachary McKinney also placed for articles submitted to our monthly newsletter. Keep those articles coming.

John especially encouraged the Rock Raiders to submit articles and drawings. There are many awards for different categories, so let's let our talents show and help our club shine through out the federations.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dee Tinsley, Secretary

Spruce Pine Field Trips... *continued from page 6*

Bring your own fluorescent light or the Chamber will have people there with lights that you can follow. I have been for the past 5 years and do not plan to go again this year but you are encouraged to go if you have never been. The Chamber also is sponsoring day trips Friday and Saturday to a couple of active feldspar mines. The fee is \$15.00 per person and departs from the Pinebridge Center at 2PM Visit www.mitchell-county.com for details. If you want to attend the Chamber sponsored trips you must make your own arrangements. Contact me for any questions you might have.

SPECIAL NOTE: IT ALWAYS rains at some point during this Gem show weekend so bring your rain gear.

Sunday morning on the way home, you might want to stop by the Thermal City Gold Mine just south of Marion, NC on Rt. 221 and do some panning.

If you want to collect Garnets at the Little Pine Mine near Mars Hill, NC on the way home, you can join us. The Little Pine is about one hour West of Spruce Pine but if you like garnets, this is the place to go. They are not gem quality but always 12 sided and some are quite large. One to two inches is the average size. Bring a shovel and bucket to dig in the dumps. This is a well-known site and if you are interested in joining us just let Royce or I know. I understand that there is now a \$10.00 fee charged per person so be sure that you have the correct amount of currency with you.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field trip Chairman, The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Inc. Phone 540-297-1853, email at dbc11@aol.com. Cell 540-874-5201 or Royce Wickham, Field trip Chairman, Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc. Phone 540-427-1424, email rklandsc@rev.net.

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

Interested in **Wildacres** or **William Holland** workshops?

Log on to the federation websites for complete details and registration forms.

**Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA
Inc Membership Application**

(All information for official club use only)

Date _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Additional Members Names:

Spouse/ Sig. _____

Other _____

Children/ _____

Ages _____

***Dues: First Person: \$15.00 per year,
Each additional family member \$3.25***

Mail To:

P.O. Box 2348

Lynchburg, VA 24501



The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

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



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





Left: the owners dogs gave the field trip attendees and their dogs a quick once over, and everyone paired off and made new friends. (Dogs included)



The young mine owner, (red shirt) was very interested in our club and the collecting possibilities. He and was also quite knowledgeable



Left- the mine owner and her son, right Natalie converses with club member Dave Lipscomb, while Warren holds Soccer, a very tired Rockhound.



Whatever was on the back of this truck had captured the interest of club members Loretta Doty and Lloyd Watson.