



# Gem & Mineral Journal



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

October 2007

Volume 16 Issue 10

## Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

What a busy time of year. The Club is getting prepared for the Apple Harvest Festival on October 20-21<sup>st</sup> at Amherst County High School. This is a two-day event & we will need all the volunteers we can muster for hauling equipment, setting up tents & displays, the sluice & filling the Gem & Mineral buckets. If you are not comfortable selling items to the public we will still have lots to do in the roll of support people. There will be a signup sheet at the October Club Meeting for those willing to help out with our last festival of 2007.

October is the month to appoint a nominating committee to gather names for Club officers for 2008. I hope to have a committee together by the Oct meeting. If you or someone you know would like to serve as an officer next year please let me or any of the other members of the Executive Committee know and we will add the names to the list of

nominees. Don't be afraid to step up, it's a great way to really get involved in all the functions of our club. Names will be accepted for nominations thru the November meeting and voting will be the last order of business at the December meeting.

At the September meeting the Club decided to launch a search for a large diameter Diamond Wet Saw to be used for cutting large geodes and for slabbing larger than normal rock & mineral specimens. The Executive committee will be gathering info on price & availability, if anyone has a good lead on such an item please give me a call.

I have already received a few good donations of items for our Auction at the November meeting. Please remember to take a look at your specimen inventory & bring in anything that would be of interest for the auction. In past years we have also gotten some great items that were not rock related. So be creative, any donation will be appreciated.

*Continued on page 13*

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## From the First VP:

Ilmenite is the mineral for October. Ilmenite is iron titanium oxide and has a chemical formula of  $FeTiO_3$ . Which shows it has 31.55-weight percent titanium.

Septembers meeting featured a video showing the life of a dinosaur. I hope you enjoyed this feature. The second half of the video may show what happened to the bones of the dinosaur.

October's meeting will be collector's night. This is a great time to show off your collection. Also the program planning for 2008 starts in October. Hard to believe that 2007 is almost over. Let the executive committee know of any suggestions you have for programs. The best programs always come from the

members. On a similar note, the 2007 member survey should come out in October. We are here to serve the membership. Your member survey provides great feedback in how the Society is doing. So please take the time to send in your comments. Thank you.

Hurry! Get your ugly rock in the reformatted Ugly Rock Contest. For a limited time the entry fee has been waved. Entries are now free! And votes are free. The winner and his or her rock will be featured prominently in the next issue of this journal. What could be better than

Cheers

Happy  
Halloween



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

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

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JoAnn Mason &amp;

Ralph Torning

**COMMITTEE****CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Anne Torning**News Articles-** Natalie Darling**Silent Auction-** Warren Darling**Special Events-** Dee Tinsley**Swap for Rocks-** Frank Midkiff & Warren Darling**Website-** Adelaide Lee**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** Shannon Bondurant

## September Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 19th**Attendance:** 34 members and 2 guests.**Hospitality:** was provided by members who signed up at the last meeting. Thanks to all who participated.**On Time Drawing:** Dan Burns and Dave Hardin.**Old Business:** John Haskins announced that at the last meeting Bill Gilbert has explained he couldn't fulfill his term as Region IV Vice President and Dee Tinsley stepped up and volunteered to fill out his term. The Board nominated Dee and we will wait for the Region to notify us when to vote.

Natalie Darling and John told us about ordering more T-Shirts. We hope to have the order prior to the October meeting.

**First Vice President:** Steve Boylan thanked Ann Torning and all others who brought the refreshments for tonight's meeting.Steve also announced this meetings program would be on Dinosaurs and the **October** meeting is Collectors night. "Collectors night" is where you bring several things from your collection to show everyone. Please make sure your items are labeled properly and are displayed with your name on the paper.**November** is our Auction and we need you to bring all items to the meeting for the auction. Please donate anything you wish to part with that is still in good condition.**December** will be the Christmas meeting.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan announced the field trip for Sat. Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> to Willis Mountain. All information about the trip was in the last newsletter. Oct. 13, 2007 will be the trip to JMU to see their new Mineral Museum.

November is the Roanoke Club's show in Salem at the Civic Center. We will need many volunteers to help with the "geode cracker" and the fluorescent booth.

In Dave Woolley's absence, please let Steve Gordon or Franklin Midkiff know if you can help.

**Treasurer:** Franklin Midkiff reported a balance on hand of \$4557.57, which includes the Rock Raiders money. He also welcomed two new members.**New Business:** John asked the membership to vote on whether the club wished to purchase a larger saw. Dave Woolley moved that we look into purchasing a new or used diamond saw and Bill Tinsley seconded the motion.*Continued on page 13*

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!**

## September Program Review

*Submitted by Dee Tinsley*

The program was a video on the "Big AL" A dinosaur whose life was tracked from the time he hatched, through the end of his life. As a young adult, (estimated at about 6 years old) he fell ill from lack of food and water due to the drought and infection from injuries sustained while hunting. He died sadly in a dry creek bed. He did not have a long life.

I think Taylor Tinsley summed it up for all of us at the end; he looked up at me and said "Poor AL"! I think we all felt that way!

## October Program

**Fossils**

Gem and Mineral Show, Rock Swap and Collectors Night

**Lapidary**

**Crystals**

Meteorites

# Collectors Night

**Jewelry**

**Minerals**

Do you have a rock you need identified? Have you been working on a gem or wire wrapping at the workshop? Does your collection look good? Do you have a meteorite or arrowhead or cabochon that looks good? How about a new wire wrapping or cut stone? Well bring it to the October meeting.

Announcing the third annual Gem and Mineral Show, Rock Swap and Collectors Night at the October meeting. Open to all club members and guests. Show your collection or just one rock. Either way bring something to show.

Distinguished, prestigious and/or notorious panel of judges to present awards by categories. No reservations, no entry fees. We will cheerfully set up the tables for your display.

Special request for jewelry and handcrafted items. Also rocks and minerals collected at recent field trips.

# Apple Harvest Festival

**October 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00-5:00, and October 21<sup>st</sup>, from 12:00-5:00 PM**

Amherst High School, 139 Lancer Lane, Amherst, VA

This is a family event featuring the finest apples from local orchards. There is a large craft show, food vendors, & bake sale. Admission is free, so come on out and enjoy this fall festival.

We will need many hands for the setup of our booth and sluice, (beginning at 7:00am on Saturday), manning our sluice and sales booth both Saturday and Sunday, and to assist with taking down our display at the close of the show on Sunday.

There will be a sign up sheet at the club meeting. Please consider helping out even if only for an hour or two. This is a two-day event and will require many man hours. The more folks we have helping the easier it will be for everyone involved. This is our last fundraiser for this year, so lets have a great turn out and show your club support!

**Directions:** Route 29 north from Lynchburg; take the first Amherst exit on to 29 businesses. You will see a Hardees Restaurant on the left. Go about 1 mile to Lancer Lane on the Right. The event is well marked with signs and parking assistance. Our space will be located outside within the fenced area of the parking lot. Hope to see you there!



# Field Trip Report

Articles and photographs Submitted by  
Dave Callahan, Field Trip Chairman

## KYANITE MINING CORP. WILLIS MOUNTAIN KYANITE MINE Combined Lynchburg/ Roanoke Club Field Trip

SEPTEMBER 22, 2007 9 AM TO 1 PM



Fall field trips are always nice because the weather is usually clear, cool and dry. This Saturday was no exception. Our trip was combined with the Roanoke Club and several members of the Richmond Club combined their trip with ours. The result was a tremendous turnout with 22 from Lynchburg, 4 from Roanoke and 6 from Richmond.

After a brief safety orientation by Mike Morris, he described the processes and products produced at this facility including the beautiful new kitchen counter top material. He also showed us a plaster cast that he made on the mine property of a large black bear paw print. Our president, John Haskins has actually seen this black bear and took a picture of him as he was making a hasty retreat. That would be the bear, not John or at least that's the way he tells the story.

We convoyed via the mine road to the nearby East Ridge mine site for our initial collecting. After a couple of hours we all moved to the Willis Mountain mine site to finish out the day. It is here on the mountaintop that the large blocks of Kyanite are carefully quarried and cable sawn to square up the edges. They try to rough cut the large blocks so that 4 ft X 8 ft X 1 inch slabs can be sawn and polished in their European facility.

Everyone had a wonderful time and then about half of us had a great buffet at a nearby family restaurant. We all went home with pleasant memories and a full stomach. What more could you ask for?



^ Bernard Rivera, Jack Curtin, Dorothy Rivera



Zack and Sheryl McKinney ^



SEP 22, 2007



SEP 22, 2007

◀ Our Host, club member  
Mike Morris.

Additional field trip photos on page  
15 for electronic viewers.



## Up Coming Field Trips

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,  
540-297-1853  
Email [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

### October 13, 2007

James Madison University Mineral Museum (details in last months newsletter.)

### October 20, 2007 - 8AM to Noon; Glendon, NC.

Collect pyrite in cubes and matrix along with fluorite and other micro minerals.

If you want to go and need additional information please let me know.

This date will conflict with our scheduled participation in the Amherst Fall Apple Festival event so it will not be a club field trip.

Hello to all!

My name is Anne Torning and my husband and I have been members of GMSL for several years. A few months ago I volunteered to take over the role of "hospitality person" from Nell McIntyre, who had been doing a wonderful job in that role for several years.

After gaining a bit of experience over the past few meetings with setting up the snack table and making sure that the food and drink donations keep coming, I thought it would be a good idea to use the newsletter to make a few points about the "snack time" during the meetings.

First, I would like to remind everyone that all foods and drinks you see on the "hospitality" table are donated by members. While I always make a "donation" to the snack supplies myself, there are many other members who regularly make donations as well. We certainly depend on these generous donations for our "snack time" during the monthly meetings.

If you attend the meetings regularly you know that the amount and type of food and drink available at snack time varies from one meeting to the next. Sometimes it varies substantially. Complicating the issue of having the right amount of snacks and drinks available is, of course, the fluctuating number of meeting attendees. We never know when we will have a large turnout of adults and/or children. Thankfully, for the past few meetings, we had enough food and drink to take care of increased attendance. A special thanks to all "snack donors"!

I think it is time to "officially" recognize all the folks that make food or drink donations; therefore, I will have a "donors" sign-up sheet at each of the meetings. This donor sign-up sheet is different from the other sheet that we use to sign up members to make food or drink donations for the next meeting. The new "donor appreciation" sign-up sheet is intended to allow members that contribute to the snack table to sign their name. I have asked Steve Boylan (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) to read the names of the donors and thank them on behalf of the Club as part of his usual report to the attending members. We should give credit where the credit is due, at every meeting!

Please consider making a contribution to the hospitality table. Sign up for bringing food or drink to the next meeting. Or don't sign up, but bring something anyway. However, signing the sheet for "next" meeting gives me some clue in advance how much snack food we can expect to have available. Keep the goodies coming!

Anne



Promised food for the **October 17<sup>th</sup>** Meeting:

#### Soda:

L.Gonzales (1)  
N.Patterson (2)  
J. Haskins (2)

#### Veggies:

T. Powers

#### Fruit:

T. Powers

#### Meats:

A. Torning (*Cold Cut Platter*)

#### Cheese:

J. Midkiff (*Cheese Roll*)

#### Bread:

A. Torning

#### Chips:

S. Boylan  
A. Torning

#### Deserts:

Name not listed, will bring brownies

#### Cake/ Cookies:

N. McIntyre

Thank you for your continued support!



### Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board met Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 at 7PM at the home of Natalie Darling. In absence of secretary Dee Tinsley, notes were taken and minutes composed by Natalie Darling.

- ?? Shannon Bondurant has informed us that she will not be conducting any more Rock Raider meetings this year.
- ?? Plans were finalized for ordering our new banners, using the votes received at

The September meeting. We hope to have them ready for use for the Apple Harvest Festival October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

- ?? A proposal was made for the purchase of an enclosed trailer, to use for storage and transport of our club materials. John presented pictures and prices from several local distributors. Motion was carried by all in attendance.
- ?? Clarification of the bi-laws concerning family memberships was discussed and will be presented to the membership for approval.
- ?? Ralph Torning has begun work on the club roster, and will update regularly. Copies were handed out to those who would need this information for club purposes. To date we have 87 individual and 87 family memberships.
- ?? Anne Torning suggested that we recognize each person who contributes to the refreshments, and it was decided that Steve Boylan will make this part of his regular presentation at the monthly business meeting.
- ?? Nominating committee was discussed and will consist of Don McIntyre, Dave Woolley, and Steve Gordon. Please give these members your suggestions for nominations of officer candidates for the coming year.
- ?? We will be helping the Roanoke Club with their fall show over the Thanksgiving Weekend, and Dave Callahan, Frank Midkiff and Steve Gordon will be in charge of the fluorescent booth.
- ?? Dave offered once again for anyone wishing to purchase a beautiful agate calendar for 2008. There is a website where purchases can be made if anyone is interested: <thegemshop.com>
- ?? We are finalizing preparations for the Apple Harvest Festival on October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. We will begin set up at 7:00 am on Saturday, and will need all the help we can get for this two-day event. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting.

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# Welcome New Members

*Cindy, Dan,  
and Connor  
Burns*

*Shirley  
Pettigrew*

*Carolyn  
Green*

*Lisa Murrell*



## The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg - The 2007 Member Survey

The purpose of this survey is to provide feedback as to how The Gem & Mineral Society is doing. Please answer the following questions and return survey to an officer or mail to Steve Boylan, 120 Lafayette Place, Forest VA 24551 prior to the November meeting. Thank you for your interest.

What is your favorite color? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite mineral or gem? \_\_\_\_\_

What minerals are in greenstone? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite crystal? \_\_\_\_\_

What rocks can you find at Spruce Pines? \_\_\_\_\_

Which field trips have you enjoyed the most?

Can you name any new locations we could go to for a field trip \_\_\_\_\_?

Which meeting programs did you enjoy the most?

Can you name any new topics we could present at the meetings?

Would you be interested in making a presentation at a meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any suggestions for future activities?

Do you have any suggestions for the newsletters?

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter?      yes      not at this time

Have you participated with the Rock Raiders? What was your experience?

What do you like best about our website?

What events and activities have you participated in?

Have you served as an officer of the society? Yes or no

Would you consider serving as an officer for the society? Yes or not at this time

On a scale of one to ten, what number would you give The Gem & Mineral Society for 2006? \_\_\_\_\_

(One is unsatisfied, ten is very satisfied)

*Continued on next page*

Age circle one: less than 14    14 to 18    19 to 21    22 to 30    31 to 40    41 to 50  
51 to 60    61+

For each of the following alternatives, circle one of the alternatives:

- 1)    A. rock            B. mineral
- 2)    A. igneous        B. metamorphic        C. sedimentary
- 3)    A. ilmentite      B. garnet
- 4)    A. Spruce Pines        B. Mt. Athos
- 5)    A. Roanoke        B. Lynchburg
- 6)    A. coffee          B. tea
- 7)    A. email          B. telephone call
- 8)    A. wire wrapping      B. gem tree
- 9)    A. cupcake        B. barbeque
- 10)    A. triclinic        B. hexagonal
- 11)    A. meeting        B. field trip        C. workshop
- 12)    A. hematite        B. meteorite
- 13)    A. brilliant cut    B. cabochon

Would you like to be listed on a mailing list to be distributed among club members only?  
YES or NO (circle one)

If yes, please include your name and mailing address:

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Please indicate areas where you have skills or interests:

cabochons [ ]	lapidary [ ]	gem trees[ ]
wire wrapping[ ]	geology[ ]	jewelry[ ]
paleontology[ ]	chemistry[ ]	project management[ ]
story telling[ ]	writing[ ]	mining [ ]
computer skills[ ]	sales[ ]	internet skills [ ]
advertising [ ]	public speaking[ ]	

other \_\_\_\_\_



You may return your survey at a club meeting, workshop, or event, or mail to: Steve Boylan, 120 Lafayette Place, Forest VA 24551 prior to the November meeting. Thank you for your interest.

## Rockhounding Concerns

By Clyf Bourne, EFMLS Conservation and legislation Chair

Re-printed from October 2007 issue of Hounds Howl, by way September 2007 EFMLS news.

Somewhere there should be a list of poisonous minerals we should be aware of. Gordon Brown, a professor at Stanford university [gordon@pangea.stanford.edu](mailto:gordon@pangea.stanford.edu) made a list of 10 poisonous minerals. He states: #10, cinnabar (mercury); #9 galena (lead), #8 pyrite (sulfide), #7 fluorite (fluorine) and #6 quartz, (in particulate form can cause silicosis). Also #6 chrysotile (known as white asbestos, can cause lung disease); #5 K-feldspar (source of uranium); #4 phenocite (beryllium dust is highly poisonous); #3 erionite (may induce mesotheliomas); #2 hydroxyapatite (can lead to heard valve and arterial deposits); #1 crocidolite (blue asbestos is responsible for lung diseases.)

We must not forget tiger's eye and malachite (both bad asbestos danger). Masks should always be worn when working with the above, or in fact, with any dust producing materials, in order to protect ones health.

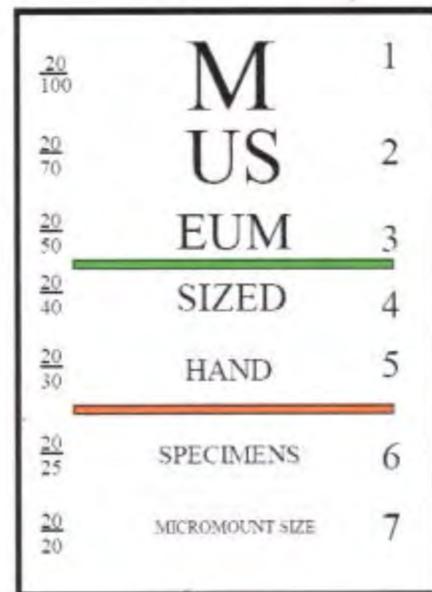
Source: Brown, Gordon,

[www.emsi.stanford.edu/doc/mostDangerousMinerals.doc](http://www.emsi.stanford.edu/doc/mostDangerousMinerals.doc)

## Mineral Collectors Eye Chart

By Wendell Mohr

Reprinted from Hound's Howl, October 2007.



## Sunshine News



I am not aware of anyone who is ill or recovering from illness at the time of this printing. If you know of anyone needing a little sunshine or well wishes, please let the editor know.

### From the First VP: UGLY ROCK CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Lynchburg - The winner for the September Ugly Rock Contest is Bill with his rock from Little Mary's Creek (up from Vesuvius at RT 56 crossing). Bill's rock won by an overwhelming vote.

## A Note From John Haskins...

Hello to all,

Dee has allowed me to announce to you all that she has been contacted by the EFMLS & has been elected as Region IV Vice President to serve out the remaining term of Bill Gilbert. Congratulations Dee, I know you will make us proud.

On a different note, our Club is very fortunate to have not one but two most capable ladies that have attained a position in the EFMLS. I feel it speaks well of our club as a whole to be represented this way. I hope the Club will stand behind and offer assistance and encouragement to Natalie & Dee. Congratulations to you both, I hope you won't give us too much homework. (Ha-Ha) I hope to see you at the meeting on the 17th.

Thanks

John Haskins



# Rock Raiders

## Our Journey to the Worlds Best Kyanite Mine

*Article and photographs submitted by Zachary McKinney*

On Saturday, September 22, 2007, my Mom and I went with the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society and the Roanoke Valley Gem and Mineral Society to the Kyanite Mining Corporation East Ridge Plant, and Willis Mountain Mine located in Buckingham County, VA just off Rt. 15 between Farmville and Dillwyn. I had always wanted to go here since I was little, so this was a very special trip for me.

We got up at 6:00 AM ET and were ready to leave for the mine at 6:30 AM. We stopped at Farmville, VA at McDonald's and ate breakfast and then continued on our journey to the meeting place at the Kyanite Mining Corporation's office located about 5 miles from Dillwyn, VA.

When we arrived several of the other club members were already there. After awhile more members arrived and when everyone was there the person that worked for the mining company gave the standard safety talk, and then we signed the release forms. Next he told us about kyanite and the history of the company and the sites we were going to visit.

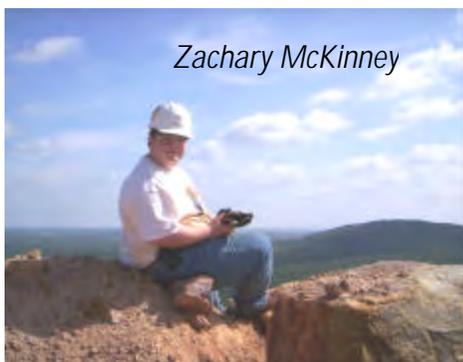
Kyanite comes from the Greek Kyanos, meaning "dark blue". It was originally spelled cyanite. It is an aluminum silicate mineral with the chemical formula of  $Al_2SiO_5$ . It has a hardness lengthwise of 4 – 5 and crosswise 6 – 7. It can be six different colors, blue, white, colorless, gray, green, and nearly black. It has a colorless streak and perfect cleavage lengthwise and good in a second direction. It has a specific gravity of 3.5 – 3.7. Its fracture is splintery. It is also transparent to translucent. It is found in aluminum rich metamorphic pegmatite and or sedimentary rock.

Kyanite is used primarily in refractory and ceramic products, including porcelain plumbing fixtures and dinnerware. It is also used in electrical insulators and abrasives. He said an interesting property of kyanite is that it undergoes an irreversible expansion when fired at high temperature.

He said that the company started in the 1920's and was still owned and operated by the same family. He also said that the sites we were going to visit were not the original mine, but a mine in Prince Edward County about 30 miles away called Baker Mountain Mine. The darker blue kyanite was found there. Baker Mountain Mine closed in 2000 and all the mining operations are now conducted at the two sites we were about to visit. He also said that this was the best kyanite mine in the world and the only one of any significant value. He told us to

### 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.



Zachary McKinney

beware of the bears that are on the mountain. He showed us a bear track he had made a cast of. He also said that there were Bald Eagles on the property and that the owners tried hard to help protect the wildlife that lived there. After he finished talking we all headed back to our vehicles to go to the first mine. The morning was very foggy, so the

*Continued on page 13, with additional photos on page 16*



Kyanite Mining Plant



## The Micromount Corner CACOXENITE

Re-printed from Oct. 2007 Tips and Trips, Atlanta GA Mineral Society

This month we will investigate one of the prettier "flowers" of the mineral kingdom, the mineral Cacoxenite.

Chemically, Cacoxenite is a hydrated iron, aluminum, phosphate hydroxide. Although it crystallizes in the hexagonal class, you will usually find Cacoxenite manifest as spherical radial aggregates of acicular prismatic crystals radiating from a central point. It may also occur in acicular bundles, tufted aggregates or as cement between mineral grains and as a vein filling mineral.

Usually yellow or yellow-brown in color, Cacoxenite has earned the nickname "frozen sunshine". Usually found in the oxidized zone of iron deposits, Cacoxenite is considered a mineral of secondary origin. In this regard, associated minerals are: Limonite, Dufrenite, Rockbridgeite, Beraunite, Strengite, Wavellite and Magnetite. Although found all over the world, the type locality is the Hrbek Mine, St. Benigna, Central Bohemia in the Czech Republic. The mineral derives its name from the Greek kakos meaning "wrong" and xenos, meaning guest. The "bad guest" name is in reference to the high prosperous content of Cacoxenite which tended to make cast iron smelted from ore containing Cacoxenite somewhat brittle. The mineral is very soft, with a hardness of only 3 – 3 ½ so great care must be taken when handling specimens.

Although it is considered relatively rare as a mineral species, specimens are readily available from mineral dealers for a reasonable cost. Georgia has some famous mineral localities for Cacoxenite: The Catersville District in Bartow County, Girard District in Burke County, Graves Mountain in Lincoln County and Indian Mountain in Polk County. Shown below are some photomicrographs of Cacoxenite from Indian Mountain, Polk County, Georgia.

Until next month, may all your skies be blue and all your vugs be crystal filled.

Dave Babulski  
Chair Micromount Section

Photo at right of  
cacoxenite from  
mindat.org



## Delightful Sugilite

by Margaret Dodd Ritter, Aiken GMFS

Whether you believe that Sugilite has metaphysical properties or think it is just another purple stone, you may be amazed at some of the information about it.

The form which is so sought after today comes from 3,200 feet below surface level and has been mined only in the Kuruman Manganese Field in South Africa. The stone was actually first discovered in Japan by Ken-ichi Sugi (hence its name) in 1944, found only in the form of pink crystals. It was a small find and soon forgotten.

However in 1979, a gem grade was found in the Wessel Mine in South Africa. Because this location is virtually the single source and the mining technology is very expensive, it should come as no surprise that Wessel, a large manganese producer, has a monopoly on it. Sugilite intergrows with manganese and is generally found in isolated pockets. Small quantities have also been reported in Canada, Italy, Australia and India.

It is chemically a fairly complicated stone:  
 $\text{KNa}_2(\text{Fe}^{++}, \text{Mn}^{++}, \text{Al})_2\text{Li}_3\text{Si}_{12}\text{O}_{30}$ . Associated Minerals include pectolite (including Larimar), poudretteite and polyolithionite.

You may wonder why, other than its scarcity and newness, is Sugilite currently so desirable? One very good reason is that it is an attractive stone. It is found pink to purple, but more typically as a deep lavender and less commonly a reddish violet and/or bluish purple. Some pieces exhibit banding, mottling and/or pleasing patterns due to the presence of a mixture of these hues. Some pieces appear bluish purple in daylight and reddish purple under incandescent light. Recently, stones have appeared with green banding amidst the other colors. It has a hardness of 5.5 to 6.5. There are no known common treatments.

Today in 2007, Sugilite can be found in all types of jewelry and inlays and is often set with lapis lazuli and rhodochrosite. It is rarely seen faceted because the clear variety is extremely difficult to find. Some beautiful carvings and fine spheres are available from dealers - internet as well as retail.

You may have seen Sugilite and not known it, since it is sometimes promoted by a variety of other names: *Cybeline, Royal Lavulite, Manganean Sugilite, Purple Turquoise, Royal Azel and Wesselsite*. Stones it could be confused with include purple or lavender jadeite, charoite, methystine chalcedony, charoite amethyst, dyed jadeite and quartz. To be safe, just ask for "Potassium Sodium Lithium Iron Manganese Aluminum Silicate."

There are many esoteric characteristics attributed to this stone, such as healing abilities, stress reduction, removal of resentments, etc. Whether you believe this or not, Sugilite is nevertheless a delightful and desirable addition to anyone's collection or jewelry box. Internet References: [www.webmineral.com](http://www.webmineral.com); [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org); [www.galleries.com/minerals/silicate/sugilite/sugilite.htm](http://www.galleries.com/minerals/silicate/sugilite/sugilite.htm) [www.cst.cmich.edu/users/dietr1rv/sugilite.htm](http://www.cst.cmich.edu/users/dietr1rv/sugilite.htm) (R. V. Dietrich);



Re-printed from  
October 2007  
Hound's Howl

Photo from:  
<http://webmineral.com/data/Sugilite.shtml>

# Schedule of Events

## SHOWS & TRIPS

**Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> - LGMS Fundraiser:**  
Apple Harvest Festival, Amherst High School, Amherst VA. Details on pg. 3 or contact any officer.

**Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> - Treasures of the Earth Gem Show, Harrisonburg, VA.** Details at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> - Gemarama 2007.** Tuscarora Lapidary Society, West Chester, PA. Details at [www.lapidary.org](http://www.lapidary.org) or in last months newsletter.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> - Treasures of the Earth Gem Show, Charlottesville, VA.** Details at [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 9-3 - Richmond Gem and Mineral Society Annual Rock Swap.** Details in last month's newsletter, or contact Jim Doran, 804-288-8092 or Mary Rosenberg 804-740-0019

**November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7-9 pm - Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Annual Auction.** Items auctioned off to highest bidder. Past events have included mineral specimens, hobby related items, cakes, home canned goods, vegetables, bric-a-brac, crafts, furniture, electronics, etc, etc, etc...

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> - Roanoke Mineral and Gem Society Annual Gem and Mineral Show.** Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. More information in next month's newsletter.

## October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	JMU13 Field Trip
14	15	16	17 Meeting 7 PM	18	19	20 Apple Festival
21 Apple Festival	22	23	24 Woolleys Workshop	25	26	27 Gem Show, >>>> Harrisonburg, VA
28 Gem Show	29	30				

## PROGRAMS

Collector's Night - Prepare to show off your collection of crafts, jewelry, rocks and minerals. Awards will be voted on. All members are invited to bring their displays. Even just one piece or sample would be great. Tables will be provided. This is always a great time to see what everyone has collected or made.



### November 21<sup>st</sup> 2007 Meeting

Annual Auction and House Clean-up - The auction is a great time to get that special gift or something unusual at a competitive price. Accepting donations of useable and valuable items for our November Auction. Your items do not have to be hobby related. Bring items to the meeting or contact one of the officers. Thank you.

### Presidents Message...cont. from pg. 1

Do we have any Scrap-bookers out there that would like to take on the honor of being our Club Historian? There are a lot of documents and pictures out there just waiting to be organized in a book, to preserve the past and make a record for the future. Our club is very active and a record of accomplishments should be recorded and displayed. We can also enter our scrapbook in regional and national competition. I hope you will give this serious consideration.

I hope to see you on future field trips and at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

**Kyanite Mine...**continued from page 10  
person from the mine thought we should go to the East Ridge Plant first. We collected some really nice specimens. I collected a huge piece of kyanite and I also found a piece of hematite which has different colors in it. I found this specimen in a large rock and I had to break it off so I could bring it back home. After collecting about two hours in the East Ridge Plant we headed to the nearby Willis Mountain Mine.

The fog had lifted by now, the sun was out and for the last day of summer it was really hot. At the top of the mountain, the vistas were beautiful. You could see for miles and miles. After taking some pictures we started collecting. I found some nice specimens of kyanite, red mica, pyrite, and quartz.

After staying here about two hours it was time for us to leave. We headed home hot, tired, and worn out with a large load of specimens to add to my growing collection.

We had a wonderful trip to the worlds best kyanite mine.

Zachary McKinney, Age 17

Please take a moment to visit Zack's extraordinary website at the link below.

<http://www.meckcom.net/~claudio/>

email: [rockhound\\_zack@yahoo.com](mailto:rockhound_zack@yahoo.com)

### September Meeting Minutes: cont. from pg 2

John stated in our last newsletter there was a request for a historian. We are to still looking for a volunteer to put together a history of the club. All the photos, etc we currently have will be given to the person who takes on the task.

We need a committee of three for Nominations for November. Steve Gordon and Dave Woolley were asked to participate, but one more is needed. If you would like to be a part of the nominating committee, please let John, Dave or Steve know.

Diane Capobianco donated another large stack of cards to our club to be sent to members as needed. Diane we "Thank you" for your continued support.

We sent a get-well card to Marcus Beale who is in Fairmont Crossing. Anyone wishing to send a card to him can send it to:

Marcus Beale  
Fairmont Crossing  
173 Brockman Park Drive  
Amherst VA 24521



John reminded all club members: PLEASE DO NOT WEAR PERFUME, COLOGNE OR ANY OTHER FRAGRANCE TO THE MEEINGS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

The reason for this is the number of people we have who ARE ALLERGIC TO THEM. Thank you in advance for your courtesy to others in this matter.

The silent auction and the ugly rock contest were also held.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Dee Tinsley, Secretary*

# Annual Auction

*The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc  
invites you to attend this annual fundraiser:*

**Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 7:00 PM**

immediately following a very short business meeting.

**Place:** Lynchburg Department of Parks and Recreation Auditorium. 301 Grove St, Lynchburg, VA 24501

Members, please gather your unwanted items now, specimens, nic-nacs, collectables, jams, cakes, whatever you can spare and bring them to a meeting so we will all have plenty to bid on. Bring your family and friends to the auction~ you never know what may be up for bids!!!

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

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

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation  
Newsletter, and the  
AFMS Newsletters are available for all members  
to read on line at the Federation Websites:  
[www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms), [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and  
[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

**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 (must reside  
at the same address) \$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](http://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





Kyanite Mining Trip Sept 22, 2007  
Photographs submitted by field trip chairman Dave Callahan.

*Kyanite Mining Photographs submitted by Zachary McKinney*

