



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

August 2008

Volume 17 Issue 8

President's Message:

Hello To All,

I have some good news to report, Dave Young has donated a glass front, lighted mineral display cabinet to the GMSL. Many thanks Dave! We were planning on placing it beside the existing cabinet in the hall across from the auditorium but due to plans for remodeling the Parks & Recreation Building we were asked to delay adding anything that would have to be moved out of the way of construction. The cabinet had to be moved right away from Stones & Bones, so I called Dave Woolley for any storage ideas. He quickly went to the Nature Zone, a division of Parks & Rec. and they said they would be happy to take it in on a long-term loan basis if the club would provide specimens to fill the display. Since we had already promised a mineral display to them it was a good fit. More about collecting minerals for the cabinet at the August meeting.

There was a great turnout for the Woolley workshop on Wednesday July 23rd. This is not official but I believe there were twelve people in attendance. Dave has started a teaching series on gem identification and crystal forms as well as most of the tools that gemologists use in identifying gemstones. Such as refractometers, polariscopes and dichroscopes. It sounds pretty deep but Dave has devoted a lot of time

writing a short novel on "Essential Crystallography, the Refractometer, and Mineral Identification" and is using this as a guide in his classes. Come on out, you may learn something new about another phase of rock hounding.

Dave Callahan & Natalie Darling are picking out some minerals at the Spruce Pines G&M Show the first weekend of August to be used in filling bags for our sluice. We will need to plan a couple of workshops to prepare for the Amherst Apple Harvest Festival in October. We will need one Saturday to help Dave Callahan run wiring to the saw and to clean and assemble the same. We will need another Saturday to fill G&M bags for the sluice and also make a few book ends from travertine and soapstone. So don't be shy, when you see a signup sheet just write your name in, we need all the help we can get.

Our own Steve Boylan will be presenting the program for the August meeting and he also said that September's meeting program would be collector's night. So start putting together your specimens to show off in September. I hope to see you all at the August 20th meeting.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First VP:

Staurolite is the mineral for August. Staurolite is a basic silicate of iron and aluminum with a chemical formula of $\text{Fe}_2\text{Al}_9\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$. It is in the monoclinic crystal system. Staurolite crystals are often found as twinned crystals in the shape of a cross. Staurolite enhances and strengthens and is exceptionally useful in relieving stress.

Our appreciation goes to Natalie and Dee for

their presentation at the July Meeting. Some of our best and most interesting presentations are when club member share their own experiences. I hope you will consider sharing your experiences with the club.

The topic for the August meeting will be crystallography. All members are invited to bring in crystals for show and tell.

Aloha,
Steve

2007 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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JoAnn Mason &

Tom Powers

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

June Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, July 16th, 2008 @ 7:00 PM**Attendance:** 35**Hospitality:** Thanks were given to all who provided refreshments and signed the roster.**Treasures Report:** Frank Midkiff Reported a balance on hand of \$1352.03. He paid the Internet bill and given \$100 donation to the Parks & Recreation Building for allowing us to continue to meet there. This was the clubs first donation to them in some years.**On Time Drawing:** Nona Haskins and Lucille Watson were the lucky winners.**Old Business:** John shared information and pictures of the recent huge stromatolite find at the Boxley Blue Ridge Quarry.**First Vice President:** Tom Powers gave the program report in the absence of Steve Boylan. August will be crystallography, September collector's night, October the auction, November to be filled in and December will be our potluck dinner.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan reported the following field trips: July 26th Radford University Museum of Earth Sciences and possibly VT Museum. August 1-3 Spruce Pine. There will be field trips and the 51st annual show. August 23rd - Barger Quarry plans are in the works for trips to Willis Mt., Mt. Athos and Faber Lead Mine.**New Business:** Dave Young donated a Golden Beryl Crystal for our display in the cases at the

Parks & Recreation building.

Dave Woolley -shared a photo he took of the Largest Emerald ever found in North America. Fred Walker owned Hiddenite mine in NC at the time.

John ask for a count of the bags left for the buckets from Uncle Billy's day so we can determine what is needed for the Apple Festival.

We hope to have the new 24" saw up and running and ready for use at the Apple Festival.

John Haskins had a couple of rocks that he had asked Dave Woolley to identify, but before he would do so, he asked everyone to try to identify it. No one did, so he identified it as BASALT that had been tightly compressed. Dave also showed plates of quartz crystals found on a farm in Pittsylvania. He had been taking them to the dump!

Program: The program was presented by Natalie Darling & Dee Tinsley who showed a slide presentation of their trip with Siglinde to Mississippi and Arkansas in February. Samples were provided for all to see of the jasper and pudding stone from The Crater of Diamonds, and quartz crystal plates from the Jim Coleman Quartz Crystal mine in Arkansas.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted
Dee Tinsley, Secretary*

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



July: The program featured a slide show and specimen display by Dee Tinsley and Natalie Darling. The specimens and photographs were from their trip to Mississippi and Arkansas with club member Siglinde Allbeck.

August: This month's program will be on crystallography. All are encouraged to bring in crystals for show and tell.

IMPORTANT FIELD TRIP EXPLANATION~ PLEASE READ!!!

It has been brought to my attention, from several Quarries that we have visited, that some members have made a request to go on a field trip on their own. **That is not how field trips work.** Our field trip chairman, Dave Callahan contacts these places ahead of time to schedule a club sanctioned field trip. Then and only then, after we get permission to visit the facility, our liability insurance goes into force during the time we are on the premises, and this only takes care of any damages that are caused by the actions of a club member. We also have to sign waivers that release the property owners of any liability in the event of accident or injury. **If in the future you want to contact a quarry or mine on your own please do not use the Gem & Mineral Society's name.** If you have any questions about this please contact me at home or at a meeting.

Thanks For Your Cooperation & Understanding,
John Haskins, President
Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg

From the Southeast Federation of mineralogical societies The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554

H.R. 554 . Referral to the Committees on Agriculture and the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than September 12, 2008.

STILL TIME TO CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND TELL THEM THAT THIS IS A "BAD" BILL.

Below are several articles about the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554. There is also a link to the actual text of the bill that is currently before the US House of Representatives. If this legislation passes, it will only be a matter of time before invertebrate and plant fossil collecting will be as extinct as the dinosaur fossils, which we are no longer allowed to collect. What we have to do is to make sure that our legislators know that this bill, as written, is bad and that provisions for the amateur fossil collector's needs are preserved and protected just as much as the fossil remains we are trying to collect. Each and every one of us needs to write or call our state committee members who are reviewing

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Field Trip Report

Field Trip Report and photographs submitted by
Dave Callahan, field trip chairman.

Additional photos on page 13 for electronic viewers.

Museum of the Earth Sciences at Radford University Saturday, July 26, 2008 from 10am to 1pm



Dr. Steve Lenhart, curator of the Museum of the Earth Sciences (L).

There were 15 members from Lynchburg and Roanoke that explored this fine little Museum tucked away in a beautifully converted classroom in Curie Hall. It's interesting to see the wide variety of minerals, rocks, fossils and scientific instruments so tastefully displayed.

We really appreciate Dr. Lenhart and Professor Parvinder Sethi for opening the facility for us and identifying the minerals we brought for identification and no, we didn't stump them.

This Museum is not open to the general public at this time but Dr. Stephen Lenhart, Executive Director of the Museum will be happy to show you around if you call him first and make arrangements. It will be time well spent. Dr. Lenhart's can be contacted at slenhart@radford.edu.



Left: a beautiful opalized log from Virgin Valley, NV, donated by Ed Blackford of the Roanoke club.

Right: Royce Wickam touches the T-Rex skull.



The Spruce Pine, NC. Field Trip Report August 1-3, 2008

This was our fourth field trip to this beautiful little mineral rich town nestled in the mountains of northwestern North Carolina. Even though the gas prices were still extremely high, we had no less than 24 in attendance to our campground, cookout and field trips. I know there were at least 6 more that only attended the show or were sellers. That's a total of 30 and I believe that that tops all our previous records.

It was hot, humid, cool and rainy or a combination of all of these at some point during the weekend. Everyone mostly did their own thing and went their own way except for the 21 that joined us for the Friday night campground Road Kill BBQ cookout prepared by Ed Blackford and John Pennington. There was plenty of food, drinks, cookies and fellowship around a roaring campfire for all to enjoy.



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Up Coming Field Trips



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

OFFICIAL COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. &
The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.

C. W. BARGER & SON QUARRY, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008 ~ 9:00 AM UNTIL 1:00 PM

Sign-up for this trip is required, as names must be sent to Mr. Barger prior to our visit. Call me, email me or sign up at the meeting.

ASSEMBLY TIME: Drive to the quarry on your own. From Lynchburg it is about 65 miles, so allow at least 1.5 hours driving time. From Roanoke it's about 55 miles, so allow about 1 hour driving time.

QUARRY LOCATION: The quarry is located on US Route 60 in Lexington, VA. From Exit 188 on I-81 drive west on US Route 60 toward the town of Lexington. You will see the quarry on the left just prior to the traffic light on US Route 11. There is a fast food there on the left. If you miss the quarry entrance, make a U-turn and the quarry will be on the right just past the fast food. Assemble at the locked gate near the scale house. Do not enter the quarry until we all have assembled and received the safety briefing and signed the release.

AGE LIMIT: This trip is open to those 18 or older.

EQUIPMENT: Standard quarry gear is required. This includes hardhat, safety glasses and steel-toed boots. Be sure to wear long pants, bring gloves and sunscreen. Bring your collecting gear, bags or buckets and paper to wrap those fine calcite and fluorite crystals. Bring snacks and plenty of water to drink. We will NOT be able to drive into the quarry, so a wagon or cart might be useful.

COLLECTING: Calcite, massive and crystals; purple Fluorite in small crystals and Pyrite, massive and several very unusual crystal forms. Some are reported to be pyrite replacements of nautiloid shells (Orthoceras).

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman, phone 540-297-1853 and email dbc11@aol.com

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Details and sites are being finalized at this time but reserve these dates. Announcements will be made by e-mail broadcast, Journal and at the meeting.

September 20, 2008

October 18, 2008

November 22, 2008

December 20, 2008



Field Trip possibilities

(I would like your feedback)

Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine. (combined trip with several area clubs)

Boxley's Mt. Athos Quarry (an all time favorite)

Faber Lead Mine (for galena, sphalerite and fluorite)

Boxley's Beckley W.Va. Quarry (plant fossils)

A blast from the past... do you recognize the person in the photo below with Siglinde? If so, why not drop him an email and invite him to re-join our club! (Photo taken at Little Switzerland, NC; 8/08)



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.
(Franklin, NC) (HOST)

10 a.m. until 6 p.m. – Saturday, September 27, 2008
(Rain date will be Sunday, September 28, 2008)

BUCK CREEK AREA OF CHUNKY GAL MOUNTAIN RANGE
NO FEE AREA

Where: Buck Creek Prospect Field and Creek in Clay County, NC

When: 10 a.m. at the Westgate Plaza, K-Mart and Ingles Shopping lot, to car pool to dig site.

Collecting: Various minerals, corundum (sapphire/ruby), sillimanite, rutile, kyanite, mica, garnet, moonstone, soapstone, and best of all new friends

Fee: No Fee Area

What to bring: Food and water, bucket, knee boots, or old shoes; water is about 10 inches deep, gloves are suggested, one shovel for every three people, screens and other tools you would use to dig into the ground and sift material at the creek, ¼ mesh screen works best, a wide mouth bottle for your finds. Some corundum pieces can be as big as golf balls. Please do not use glass containers. You will have to walk about ¼ mile into creek collecting area from where you park. Bring food and water with you. There are no places to purchase food or drink near the mining collecting areas and no bathrooms. Remember that snakes may be present this time of year. Also suggested is a change of clothes, shoes and boots, since you will be working in dirt and in and near water. This is Forest Service land so you must fill all holes when done, pick up all trash and debris and carry out with you when you leave.

You will have to sign an entrance form, which will free the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society of any mining liability as you normally do at most other mining sites.

Directions: From Hwy 64 and 441 intersections at the Franklin Westgate Plaza (K-Mart)... From the Westgate Plaza, Franklin, NC, K-Mart and Ingles Shopping lot, take US 64 West 16.3 miles to Buck Creek Road. Turn right. Watch for the DMC signs. Go 2.0 miles north on the Buck Creek Road. Park out of the road!!! Walk about ¼ mile to the west along the path to the mine dump. Please carpool if possible. The mine dump is on National Forest Land.

Note: Park well off the road to leave room for private individuals who live beyond parking areas. There will be signs posted for turn off and parking areas will be marked with "DMC."

For more information contact: Tom or Linda Sterrett, lstterrett@rosecreekmine.com or Rose Creek Mine at 828-349-3774.

Welcome New Members

Edna
Angus of
Lynchburg

Jim Clapper
of Lynch
Station

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes:



Meeting: Wednesday, 8/13, 7:00 PM
@ the home of JoAnn Mason.

Old Business:

- ?? John Haskins announced that Dave Young has given the club a display case. It has been moved to Discovery Zone for a display there.
- ?? The Parks and Recreation will put a link to our website on their newly created website.
- ?? Dee Tinsley has expressed a desire for someone else to take over the duties of secretary next year. Discussion on a replacement resulted in some names to be asked before nomination time. The Board will also ask for volunteers at our meeting.

First VP:

- ?? Steve Boylan announced programs for the remainder of the year:

August: Crystallography
September: Collectors night
October: Auction (See information on changes below)
November: OPEN (any volunteers)?
December: Pot Luck Dinner

**** Auction**** This year the Board decided to ask each member attending (or not) to donate one specimen. These will be put on a table and a "silent auction" will be held to purchase them. This takes the burden of collecting, storing, and hauling everyone's yard sale items to and from the facility. Anything that is NOT a specimen will not be sold.**

Second VP:

- ?? Dave Callahan reported that he purchased the following for the club at Spruce Pine:
10 lbs (2 bags) of orange calcite, 10 of blue and green and 10 lbs of fluorite, Selenite, and pyrite. He also purchased 4 lbs of tumbled stones and @ \$5.00 per bag. This material will be used in our sluice at the Apple Festival and at the next Uncle Billy's' day.
- ?? Field Trips as follows:
Barger Quarry 8/23
Willis Mtn. Or Mt. Athos on 9/20.
Thanksgiving Weekend is the Roanoke Club show, and volunteers are needed for the fluorescent display that our club will present.

Secretary:

- ?? Dee Tinsley will contact Glad to see if they will give us another case of quart size ziplock bags.
- ?? Dee thanked the club for all the participation in

the Federation's Endowment fund raffle. A record amount of the tickets were sold and there were more donated prizes this year than ever before.

Editor:

- ?? Natalie Darling was not present due to an illness in her family. We wish her daughter a speedy recovery.

Members at Large:

- ?? Jo Ann Mason will try to get the announcement that we will be at the Apple Festival in the following: Lynchburg Living and Smith Mountain Laker magazines. She is also going to contact Adelaide Lee to put it on our website and she will see if the Parks and Recreation Department to will put it on their website.

New Business:

- ?? The Board decided a workshop to complete the renovations on our new saw and to pack the bags for the Sluice would be held on Sept. 6th from 9AM until we are through. The rain date will be Sept. 13th.
- ?? The Shenandoah Gem & Mineral Society of Waynesboro will have their show at Kate Collins School on October 4th and 5th.
- ?? Dave Woolley suggested we begin a "mineral of the month" type of program. Volunteers (members) would choose a mineral to look up and learn about. That person at the next meeting would give a 10-minute talk and everyone could learn from it. He also said he will be offering Faceting classes on Monday evenings at his residence. If you are interested you must sign up. He also stated he would be conducting the workshops on essential crystallography and mineral identification on a different night than the regular workshop night.
- ?? Ralph Torning gave out samples of the new combined "membership cards/name tags". The tags have been ordered from the Federation Membership Chair and new name tags/membership cards will be made up for everyone.
- ?? Don McIntyre announced that Dave Callahan had a wonderful BBQ and picnic for all the folks attending the Spruce Pine event.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were enjoyed.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dee Tinsley, Secretary

Schedule of Events August 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

Sept. 13th-14th- 43rd annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show; Central PA Rock and Mineral Club; Eagle View Middle School, Mechanicsburg, PA

Sept. 26th-28th- American Federation 2008 National Gem, Jewelry, and Fossil Show, Humble TX.

www.amfed.org/show2008 for details

Oct. 18th & 19th- 56th annual Gem show; Bristol Gem and Mineral Club, Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT.

Oct. 18th & 19th- 34th annual Gem and Mineral Show; Kanawa Rock & Gem Club. South Charleston Community Center, South Charleston WV.

Oct. 24th-26th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show; Harrisonburg, VA. Rockingham County Fairgrounds Community Exhibits Building. Visit www.toteshows.com for details.

Oct. 31st-Nov 2nd- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show; Martinsville, VA. National Guard Armory. Visit www.toteshows.com for details.

Nov. 14th-16th- 7th annual Charlottesville, VA Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show; Charlottesville National Guard Armory, 1640 Avon St. Extension, C'ville, VA. Visit www.toteshows.com for details.

Nov. 28-30th- RVMGS annual Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Meeting 7PM	21	22	23 Field Trip
24	25	26	27 Woolley's Workshop	28	29	30
31						

PROGRAMS

August: Crystallography with Steve Boylan

September: Collectors Night- bring in your favorite specimens and join the competition for this fun show and tell.

October: GMSL Annual Auction

Refreshment Sign-up sheet for the August meeting:

Soda: Left-over from last meeting (2), John Hardin (2)

Ziti: Loretta Doty

Dessert: Anne Torning (Jell-O)

Please feel free to add your contribution to our refreshments.



What is a Rockhound?

*Taken in part from The Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies
by way of the American Federation Website; www.scfms.net*

Have you ever, while out on a walk or a hike, picked up an interesting or colorful rock and wondered why it looks different from all the others you see? Or have you chanced upon a fossilized rock and thought it would be nice to know what kind of animal or plant left its mark there? Perhaps you have come across a crevice or a hole in a rock containing natural mineral crystals and wondered what they were and how they got there? Or maybe you have asked yourself about the origin of a beautiful piece of stone or gem jewelry? If you have ever questioned any of these things, then there is probably a "rockhound" buried inside you.

A "rockhound" is someone who gets past the "wondering" stage and decides to actively collect, catalog and study mineral and /or fossil specimens. There is nothing that will quite match the feeling of that first "real find" and it will certainly whet the appetite to pursue the hobby further. Those of us who are already collectors recommend it highly as a wonderful activity for both young and old; in fact, it can provide a real common interest for the whole family.

What equipment is needed?

Well since we cannot yet order spare parts for our bodies, as we can for our cars, safety equipment is the first requisite before going field collecting. Steel toe safety boots, a hard hat, good safety goggles, sturdy gloves, and long sleeve shirt and pants, and a first aid kit should all be part of your inventory.



Getting Started

New collectors may feel at a loss of how to "get into" the hobby. Joining a club is the first step in the right direction. This will provide you with information on upcoming field trips, workshops, and other club sponsored, hobby related activities that you will be allowed to participate in once you are a member. By attending meetings or other club venues, you will soon learn from the experiences and passion of others who share your interest in the earth sciences.

There are also many Internet sites to explore that can be directed toward your current interest and branch out as far as you would like to go. (How did we ever survive before the World Wide Web...?)

Lapidary Arts

After learning to appreciate the beauty of natural mineral specimens, many collectors develop an interest in the lapidary arts, the creation of jewelry and art items from natural materials. Some of these crafts offered at our regular monthly workshops are:

Cutting, shaping, polishing & setting rock and mineral specimens

Faceting of gemstones

Jewelry making

Larger crafts such as rock candle, bookends, gem trees

An extensive library on hobby related subjects

Microscopy

Specialized "classes" and instruction

There are multiple club members who are available to instruct and assist the new comers develop their interest in these hands on lapidary activities.

Websites of interest: <www.lynchburgrockclub.org> <www.amfed.org/sfms> <www.amfed.org> and <www.amfed.org/efmls>





ROCKHOUND BADGE



SUNSHINE BADGE

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.

FAMILY FREE FUN WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday

**AUGUST
16 & 17**

**MUSEUMS IN
CENTER IN THE SQUARE
ARE FREE
ALL WEEKEND**

Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

ZIGGY'S ENTERTAINMENT
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

FANTASY FACE PAINTING BY SALLY EDELMAN

In celebration of our silver anniversary we're offering this festive weekend packed full of family entertainment for free!

- inflatable jumpers
- face painting
 - clowns
 - food

ROCK RAIDERS

Attention Rock Raiders:

This is your page! What would you like to see here? Please submit your articles, photographs, drawings, and puzzles~ anything you would like to share with others in your club. Also remember that any submissions will be considered for regional and national competition where you could gain recognition and win certificates and even trophies for your contributions.

You can email your submissions to gmsleditor@comcast.net, or give them to me (or any officer) at a regular meeting. Lets have some fun with our Rock Raider Page!

Field Trip Report

Continued from page 4



Saturday morning, 15 of us ventured to the Ray Mine to find some of that elusive Beryl. Some was found but due to some heavy collecting in the past by others it was hard to find a spot that had not already been thoroughly searched. Most did find some nice Tourmaline, Garnet, Feldspar and Mica. We were there only until noon and that is not enough time to do any serious digging. After a cool down and lunch at a Burnsville fast food, we headed off to the Sinkhole Mine for some Apatite, Garnet, Thulite, Feldspar, Quartz and Mica.

As always, this was a very enjoyable weekend and something I look forward to each year. I hope that everyone had fun and learned a lot. I know that we made some new friends and had an enjoyable time together. If you would like to join us next year, keep the first weekend in August open and you will be welcome to join us.



Southeast Federation News...continued from page 3

this bill to voice our ideas, concerns and opinions.

Please read, be informed and take action. Take action as individuals or formulate a club response, but act very soon or it may be too late to have any affect on the outcome of this legislation.

HR554 <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.554>

July 26, 2008 - by John M. Wright, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chairman:

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, was resurrected again earlier this year and approved by the Agriculture and Judiciary committees. This bill is on a "fast track" for passage and will most likely be voted on by the House of Representatives shortly after their return from summer recess, which means September or October unless there is some unforeseen delay. It appears that a compromise has also been reached for Senate approval. Two other legislative items of concern this year that are currently being considered by the House of Representatives are HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System and HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas. If passed, these bills will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system, which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. The BLM lands that are designated as Wilderness Areas would for all practical purposes be "off limits" for most any type of recreational activity.

Agriculture committee members from the Southeast:

[Collin C. Peterson, MN, Chairman](#)

? [Mike McIntyre, NC](#)

? [Bob Etheridge, NC](#)

? [David Scott, GA](#)

? [Jim Marshall, GA](#)

? [John Barrow, GA](#)

? [Tim Mahoney, FL](#)

? [Travis W. Childers, MS](#)

Republican~Minority

[Bob Goodlatte, VA, Ranking Minority Member](#)

? [Terry Everett, AL](#)

? [Robin Hayes, NC](#)

? [Mike Rogers, AL](#)

? [Charles W. Boustany, Jr., LA](#)

? [Virginia Foxx, NC](#)

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/efmls

Hobby Related Newsletters are available free of
charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great
sources of information and worth checking out.

(Available only via email)

rudybland@worldnet.att.net (*Mineral Mouse, editor
Rudy Bland*)

rockhound_zack@yahoo.com (*Zack's Rocks and
Minerals, editor Zachary McKinney*)



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



