



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

December 2008

Volume 17 Issue 12

President's Message:

Hello To All,

It's hard to believe we have come to the end of another year already. I guess time goes faster as you get older, I've been told. We have had a year full of field trips, workshops, and fundraiser festivals. We bought a 24" diamond wet saw and received, by donations, a large piece of cabbing equipment and mineral display cabinet for the Club to put to good use. All around it was another good year for the Club. I would like to thank all of you that participated in club activities. Some have gone above and beyond what was expected of them, I would like to thank Steve Boylan, our first Vice-President for all his efforts in supplying our meetings with programs this year. Dave Callahan, our second Vice-President, for taking us on so many great field trips, as always, and giving his time and effort in making things ready for special workshops and projects, I thank you. Thanks to Frank Midkiff our treasurer, always ready with a balanced checkbook to take care of our bills and provide us

with much needed change at festivals and keeping up with the silent auction collections at each meeting, and on and on. Thanks goes to Ralph Torning for taking over the Club Membership Roster and keeping up with our paid dues and member status. I know this has reduced Frank's workload. Ralph also designed new badges and membership forms for new members and renewals, Thank you Ralph. A big thank you to Natalie Darling, our newsletter editor, for giving us a wonderful news letter each and every month. I can't count how many awards our newsletter has won, and thanks to the encouragement of Natalie we have gotten a good number of award winning articles entered by our own club members. Natalie does a lot of work behind the scenes, as do all of our Executive Committee members, all your efforts are appreciated and make this a better club. Thanks to Dee Tinsley for a job well done as our Secretary, which I am sorry to say she is stepping down this year to give more time to being Region IV V-P for

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From the First VP:

Calcite is the mineral for December. Calcite is calcium carbonate with a chemical formula of CaCO_3 and is in the hexagonal crystal system. Calcite crystals take many forms. Calcite crystals show rhombohedron, scalenohedron, and prism forms. Aragonite is a polymorph of calcite because aragonite has the same chemical formula as calcite but a different crystal structure. Calcite is considered point group $\text{bar}3\text{m}$ whereas aragonite is considered point group mmm . Calcite connects the intellect with the emotions and creates emotional intelligence.

Our thanks go to Vic Fleet, The Dinosaur Man for his short presentation about the programs offered at The Nature Zone. His favorite dinosaur is the triceratops. It is also one of my favorites. The video was The Mountains of Europe. The pictures of the Alps and other mountains were cool, the maps were interesting, and where did all the animals come from?

Time is our most limited and valuable resource. As 2008 closes, I hope you were able to spend some time with the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg. I enjoyed your fellowship and look forward to a great New Year.

Cheers,
Steve

2007 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

(434) 525-8430

JMhaskins1@netzero.net**Steve Boylan****First Vice President**

(434) 534-6108

boylansj@yahoo.com**David Callahan****Second Vice President**

(540) 297-1853

DBCALL1@aol.com**Dee Tinsley- Secretary**

(434) 221-0864

FlyDeeTin@gmail.com**Natalie Darling - Editor**

(434) 941-1899

gmseditor@comcast.net**Frank Midkiff- Treasurer**

(434) 239-8329

midkiff@aol.com**Members At Large-**

JoAnn Mason &

Tom Powers

COMMITTEE**CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Anne Torning**News Articles-** Natalie Darling**Silent Auction-** Warren Darling**Special Events-** Dee Tinsley**Swap for Rocks-** Frank Midkiff & Warren Darling**Website-** Adelaide Lee**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** David Murphy**November Meeting Minutes****Meeting:** Wednesday,November 19th, 2008**Attendance:** 37 members and 8 guests**Hospitality:** Thanks to all who contributed to the refreshments that were enjoyed by all.**Treasures Report:** Franklin Midkiff reported a balance of \$2891.91. He has paid for the Post Office Box, and still has to pay Ralph for postage, and the website bill for this month.**On Time Drawing:** Gabriella won the agates, and Mark Goodman the Petoski Stone.**Old Business:** President John Haskins announced the sign up sheet for the Roanoke Club show was on the stage and volunteers were still needed. (Thanksgiving weekend). Also needed were ultra violet lights and fluorescent minerals to fill the display cases.

Nominating Committee chairman Don McIntyre announced slate of officers after asking for any nominations from the floor. The slate will be as follows:

President: John Haskins

First VP: Steve Boylan

Second VP: Dave Callahan

Treasurer: Franklin Midkiff

Secretary: Dorothy Rivera

Editor: Natalie Darling

Members at Large: JoAnn Mason and Tom Powers

First Vice President: Steve Boylan thanked all who brought refreshments. He asked for ideas and suggestions for programs for the coming year.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan reported on the field trips that had to be put on hold as you saw in the last Newsletter. He also announced a field trip to the Morefield Mine scheduled for Dec. 13th 2008. Please contact Dave if you wish to attend.**New Business:** There will be no workshop at Dave Woolleys for November. There was discussion on safety rules in quarries, and the board will discuss this and present a draft to the membership early in 2009.**Program:** Our program was preceded by a 10 minute presentation by Vic Fleet from the nature zone. He talked about the programs currently available at the Nature Zone. We then watched a video on Rock from the mountains of Europe. It contained beautiful scenery and good information of the geology Europe.

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



Elections of our 2009 officers will take place as the last order of business at the December 17th meeting. Members must be present to vote.

The Program for **November** was a Video on the Mountains of Europe. We enjoyed learning about the geology there while getting a birds eye view of the Alps and other mountain ranges of Europe.

The **December** Meeting will be our annual Holiday Dinner Celebration. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you wish to participate in our "Dirty Santa Game" please bring a wrapped present Presents should be hobby related, and have a value of \$10-\$15 dollars. **THE PRESENT SHOULD BE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE.** We want everyone who plays to go away with a nice gift~ **NO GAG GIFTS PLEASE.**

A letter from our outgoing secretary

THANK YOU

I want to **Thank** each and every member of the club for allowing me to serve as your Secre years. It has been an honor and a privilege.



As I look forward to other duties and traveling within Region IV and to Eastern Federation Conferences rest assured that this **club will always be represented with pride.**

To all my **fellow officers**, you are one great group to work with. We are so unique and so diversified in how we think that we make an awesome team and in the end the result is always beneficial to our club.

To our **secretary elect, Dorothy Rivera** I wish much success. I will help you all I can and I will pass on all my materials and past records to you.

I will be here to help the club in anyway I can, and I look forward to being your representative in Region IV and one of your representatives in the Federation.

Dee Tinsley, Secretary

Tee Shirt Order

There will be a sign up sheet for Club tee shirts at the December and January meetings. The minimum order is 12 shirts. For details contact Dave Callahan

Trivia Vug

From R.J. Harris, via October 08 issue of Rock Buster News, CPRMC

- * Gold Foil used for lettering and decoration is approximately 1/200,000 inch thick.
- * D-Flawless is the highest rated diamond.
- * The name rhodochrosite derives from the Greek words rhodos, meaning rose and khros meaning color and is Colorado's state mineral.
- * In ancient times sheep fleece was used to extract fold flakes from streams.
- * A 13.5-carat diamond was used for instrument viewing ports on Pioneer 2 on Venus in 1978.

Sources: 10.000trivia questions, Launch Radio, Colorado Geological Survey.



Field Trip Report

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

PAST FIELD TRIPS

We were not able to schedule any field trips in November, due to various conditions that existed in the three quarries we contacted.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

The December 13th field trip to the Morefield Mine will be Reported in the January issue.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Undetermined at this date due to the weather and unstable conditions that exist in the quarries. We will announce any trip at the meeting, on the web site and be email broadcast.



Early 2009 field trip possibilities

James Madison University Geology Department
Smithsonian Institute Museum of Natural History Bus trip
Faber Mine

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

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of Athens Rock and Gem Club - Athens, GA (HOST)

9:00 AM EST

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, South Carolina

The Athens Rock and Gem club would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel, which finally uncovered the Amethyst deposits that had eluded rockhounds for years. Most recently continued digging has unearthed dark, shiny museum quality smokey quartz as well as several new veins of the famous Diamond Hill skeletal quartz. Come join us!

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

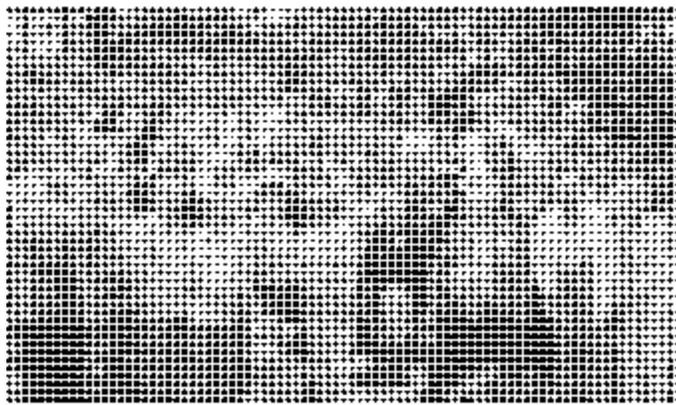
Directions: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

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Breaking News!

From Steve Weinberger and Fran Sick, EFMLS News, November 2008

What do all these people have in common?



As you can tell from their smiling faces, they've all been to an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop! Next year, one of these people could be you.

Get our your 2009 calendar and reserve the week of Friday, April 17- Thursday, April 23 for the first of our two EFMLS Wildacres Workshops!

Bruce Gaber, our speaker coordinator says that the speaker in residence for the session will be Dr. Michael Wise, a research mineralogist, curator with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where he has worked since 1998. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the mineralogy of pegmatites. He is a consulting Editor for Rocks & Minerals Magazine and an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Orleans.

Mike is an engaging speaker and will regale us with tales of adventures from mountains in Southern California to the back roads of Madagascar.

We'll have a list of classes to be offered, hopefully information about our fall session (if we receive our dates for that session from the Wildacres Foundation in time) and an application form in the December issue of EFMLS News. We can tell you, however, that we will be offering some new and different classes...so reserve that week on your schedule so you can join us at Wildacres.

(If you've been before, you know how wonderful an experience is...and if you've never been, come and find our for yourself.)



News From the American Federation

Congratulations to club members Dave Woolley and Zachary McKinney, both winners in the 2008 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest.

Dave Woolley's article: **"Petrified Wood from Franklin, NJ"** (*Gem & Mineral Journal* 4/07) won **Honorable Mention** in the Original Adult Articles Advanced category.

Zachary McKinney's submission **"Our Journey to the Worlds Best Kyanite Mine"** (*Gem & Mineral Journal* 10/07) took a **7th place** award in the Junior Article 912-17) category.

Awards are being mailed from the American federation BEAC, and will be presented at a meeting as soon as they are received. Thank you for supporting your newsletter and your club!

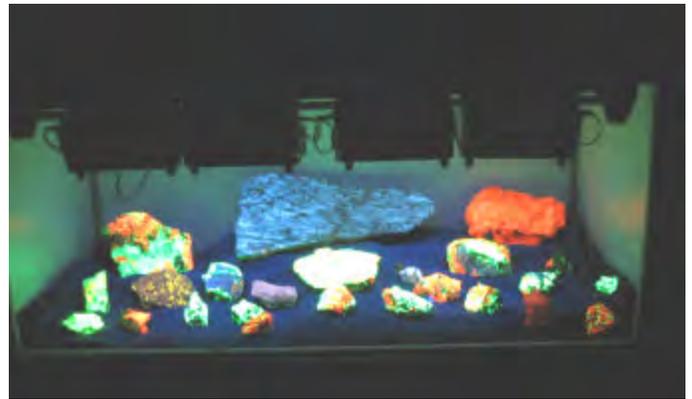


The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Wishes you and yours a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Please keep the following club members in your thoughts and prayers:

Nell McIntyre, who is recovering from a broken foot, and Franklin Midkiff who is recovering from pneumonia.

We wish you both a full and speedy recovery!



Photograph above taken by Dave Callahan, at the Roanoke Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show.

Members from the LGMS were responsible for providing the fluorescent mineral display. We arrived early on Friday morning to unpack and set up the cases and fill them with specimens, donated for use by various members.

There were hourly "shows" by club members, which always "wow" the audiences.

Thanks to all who helped out by allowing us to use your collection for the show. And a huge thank you to those who were able to help in person. Several of our usual helpers were ill and unable to be there. It was a long, hard weekend and we are very fortunate to have some very dedicated members.

Schedule of Events

December 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

Dec. 13th- GMSL field trip to Morefield Mine.

February 21-22, 2009- Annual James Campbell Memorial "Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show" sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and NY State Academy of Mineralogy. Museum of the Empire state, 4th floor, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY.

March 28-29, 2009- Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Holiday Inn at Ingleside, Holyoke, MA.

April 17th-19th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Beads Show, Charlottesville, VA. www.toteshow.com for details.

April 17th-23rd- First spring session of Wildacres. (See page 5 or visit www.AMFED.org.EFMLS for details or to download an application.

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

PROGRAM

December: Covered Dish Dinner/ Holiday Celebration

We will also have our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. (see pg. 3 for details)



There was no Executive meeting for the month of December.





Rock Raiders

Junior Activities

By Betsy Oberheim, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club by way of EFMLS News, Nov. 2008

I've found about 75-90% of the 3rd graders I've worked with are familiar with the games of "Go Fish" and the "Memory Game". Both can be played with a deck of pairs of cards (often cartoons or animals) but rocks and minerals are much more interesting and attractive. I made the cards by making 2 copies of easily recognizable rocks and minerals and added the names with the computer. Our local copy shop was quite a help and they also laminate so the cards last so much better. Of course "Go Fish" became "Go Rockhound"! I made 30 cards (15 pairs) and if 3 or 4 students play the game each gets 5 cards to begin the game. The most pairs wins and I love hearing the comments; "Do you have calcite?" "No, go rockfind- I mean rockhound!" or "Go fish "Not fish, silly, we're rockfinding!"

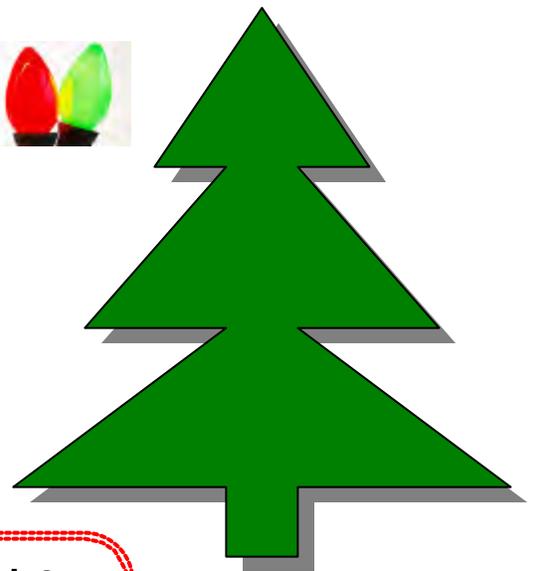
The memory game can use the same 30 cards laid face down in a neat pattern. Each student turns 2 over; if they match they take the pair and go again, if they do not they turn

them back over and the next student takes a turn. "Old Maid" or "Old Miner" would need a single extra card; maybe a cartoon of an old "49er. I bring tumbled rocks for prizes (food works great too). There must be a way to redesign poker, but I haven't gotten that far yet. Hmmm, there's diamonds, maybe crystals, geodes...

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.

Welcome New Members:



**Donna
Pritchard
from
Lynchburg,
VA**

**Frank
Burleigh
From
Lynchburg,
VA**

**Kathryn
Dudley
from
Rustburg,
VA**

**Clifford &
Rebecca
Ambers
From Monroe,
VA**

**Vic Fleet
from Goode,
VA**



Survey Form for December Newsletter

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg - The 2008.083 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 by the January meeting. Thank you for your interest.**

What is your favorite color ? _____

What is your favorite mineral or gem? _____

What minerals are in travertine ? _____

What is your favorite crystal ? _____

What rocks can you find at Mt. Athos Quarry? _____

Write one thing that happened to you on a field trip? _____

How large do you think The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg should be? What is the right number of members?

For you, what activities are absolutely essential for The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg?

If we had to cancel our next gold panning field trip to Alaska, where would you like to go?

What new fact or fiction did you learn at a meeting in 2008?

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

What events and activities have you participated in?

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)

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

Continued on next page

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

- 1) A. mineral B. rock
- 2) A. metamorphic B. igneous C. sedimentary
- 3) A. ilmentite B. garnet
- 4) A. Faber Mine B. Mt. Athos
- 5) A. North Carolina B. Virginia
- 6) A. amethyst B. beryl
- 7) A. expense B. budget
- 8) A. beatles B. stones
- 9) A. hot souse B. barbeque
- 10) A. trigonal B. cubic
- 11) A. meeting B. field trip C. workshop
- 12) A. surface of the moon B. center of the earth
- 13) A. brilliant cut B. cabochon



Please indicate areas where you have skills or interests:

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

other _____

Would you like to be included on a mailing roster to be distributed among club members? yes or no If yes list name and address:

Mail to:

**Steve Boylan, 120
Lafayette Place, Forest
VA 24551
or hand it to any officer
by the January meeting.
Thank you for your
interest.**

Presidents Message... *Continued* from page 1

the EFMLS and other personal business. Thanks to Joann Mason and Tom Powers, our members at large, for their ideas and hard work throughout the year. I hope we have inspired you to take on a club office in the future. There has also been a change in our webmaster position, thank you Adelaide Lee for your work on our website for the past few years, it's quite a job keeping info current and a fresh look to our website. This has become an important connection with the outside world.

The nominating committee has presented us with a full slate of officers to vote on at the December 17th meeting. All of our current officers will be returning next year, except our secretary, and Dorothy Rivera has stepped up to fill that office. Thanks Dorothy, and we will support you in your new endeavor.

Please remember to bring food and a gift to exchange at our December Christmas Supper Meeting. There will be a short business meeting and then we will break for what is usually a big Christmas Feast for all to enjoy. Afterwards we put all the gifts on a table and distribute them by drawing numbers, Dirty Santa style. Try to keep gifts in the realm of rock hounding. Everyone enjoys opening a new rock specimen or the like. I hope to see you all at the December 17th meeting. I hope we will have some nice Amethyst specimens to show off from our DMC trip to Jackson Cross roads amethyst mine in Tignall, GA. If any of you have a specimen you have found, this is a good time to show it off, or to get an unknown specimen identified.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

DMC Trip- Diamond Hill Mine... *Continued* from page 4

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 to Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the right (east). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

Fees: Adults = \$15/day
Children under 16 year of age = \$6/day.

Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability

Trip Chairman: Jim Maudsley
Phone: (706) 353-1792
e-mail: jamesm24@charter.net



Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah



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*)



Happy Holidays!

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

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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

