



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

July 2008

Volume 17 Issue 7

Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

You may have seen it on the Channel 7 news Monday June 30th. The VA Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA confirmed the discovery of a huge 2-ton fossil Stromatolite in the Boxley Blue Ridge Quarry. Back in mid May Richard Benjamin, a heavy equipment operator for Boxley, unearthed a large turtle shaped object some 5 feet across and a foot and a half thick. He said in all his years there he had never seen such a dome shaped blue limestone rock. He called his supervisor, Wayland Bond to identify his find. But they had to resort to Tom Roller, geologist for Boxley, to identify it as a 500 Million year old Stromatolite Fossil. A Stromatolite was an algae type plant that grew in layers in tidal ocean water areas. Parts and pieces of these are found the world over but this one was a complete head, the first like it to be found in VA, and one of the largest complete heads in the world. It caused quite a stir and caught the attention of everyone in the Geology and Paleontology business. The fossil will find its new home at the VA Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA, where it will be on display in a few months. I'm sure there will be a lot of preparation to display a 2-ton fossil.

The Lynchburg and Roanoke clubs took a field trip to the same Boxley Quarry on Saturday June 28th. It had to be the best collecting day there since I joined the club. A G.M.S.L. member Mary Loose DeViney made a great find when she dug up a 150 lb complete Stromatolite fossil. I have to say that Mary was not the only person there excited over the find. A few minutes later she helped Nona & I find a Stromatolite specimen of our own, a little smaller just over 100 lbs., which we have already added to our fossil garden. If anyone knows a good preservative to coat it with please let me know. There were also several

gigantic Stromatolites discovered in a solid wall several lifts from the bottom. Boxley is trying to retrieve these for preservation. I saw a number of collectors with some very nice calcite crystals with nice large blue fluorite crystals and some with blue and yellow calcite on the same specimens. Zack McKinney also found several fish fossils but they were imbedded in the solid walls of the quarry and couldn't be removed without destroying them. Better luck next time Zack. Royce Wickham, president of the Roanoke club found a huge boulder with one large face that was covered with nice dogtooth calcite crystals. The location made it hard to collect any large plates of the crystals, but we got some nice specimens. I think everyone found some nice additions to their collections, and were glad they came and braved the heat. It was all worth it.

I hope to see you at the July 16th meeting.

**Keep Looking
Down,
John Haskins**



John with the Giant Stromatolite at Blue Ridge Quarry

From the First VP:

I have been thinking a lot lately about Willis Mountain Kyanite and Appomattox Lime Quarry Marble and Morefield Mine Amazonite. Doesn't leave much time to write a good article. I hope your summer is going well.

Cheers,
Steve

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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, June 18th
Attendance: 21 members and 1 guest

Hospitality: Refreshments were provided by: Nell McIntyre, Anne Torning, Dorothy & Bernard Rivera, Jerry & Nicholas Smith, Debra John & Jo Ann Mason, Jean & Frank Midkiff & John & Nona Haskins.

Treasures Report: Frank Midkiff Reported we purchased a 24-inch saw for \$2008.00 and the expense for getting it back was \$422. 00. He paid web site & newsletter expenses. We now have a balance of \$1449.44. Frank thanked those who helped out at Uncle Billy's Day in his place.

On Time Drawing: Nona won wire wrap topaz by Dave Woolley. Dave Vannaman won cinnamon garnet from N.H. Lloyd Watson won gypsum from Colorado.

Old Business: Club President, John Haskins, announced a change in tonight's program. Natalie, Dee, & Siglinde, will present their program on their trip to Mississippi in July & tonight's program will be on Mine & Quarry safety by Dave Callahan.

John announced Uncle Billy's Day brought in \$345.00. We feel the price increase along with the hot

weather contributed to the low sales.

We need new ideas for the Apple Harvest Festival. What can we do with stone? Please let us hear your thoughts. We will need to schedule a workshop to work on our products before the festival.

First Vice President: Steve Boylan was absent, no report.

Second Vice President: Dave Callahan reported the Region IV picnic info. & sign up sheet is on stage.

June 28th: field trip to Blue Ridge Quarry. July 19th: Hope to work out a trip to Radford Museum.

August 1-2-3 will be Spruce Pine N.C. We will need to place an order for polished stones for the sluice. We need to decide how much material we will need

Won't need to order geodes.

New Business: Callahan showed slides of our new saw. He & John both agreed it was a good buy for our club. We will need a workshop to clean it and get it running. Dave then presented the program on mine safety. It was a very informative program.

Meeting ended.

Submitted by,
Jo Ann Mason

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

The program for the **June 18th** meeting featured Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society 2nd VP/ Field Trip Chairman Dave Callahan. Dave spoke to the members on Mine and Quarry Safety and proper care and use of collecting gear. The **July 16th** meeting program will feature a show and tell on the recent adventures of 3 members who attended the Eastern Federation Convention in Jackson, MS

Dave Callahan



Region IV Annual Picnic & Swap

Article by Dee Tinsley, Photographs by Dave Callahan, Don McIntyre, Dee Tinsley & Natalie Darling

Additional photos on pg. 13 for electronic viewers.



Dee Tinsley, Region IV VP

Hello Everyone~ I am so happy to report to you the successful day we had at Lake Anna! We had 42 people in attendance!

The Richmond VA club, ODS of Virginia Beach, Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society, Southern Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Lynchburg were all well represented. We even had a "surprise" visit from Mr. Homer Barr of San Diego California. He read about our picnic and was in the area so he came and asked if he could participate. We were delighted he did and he even donated to our auction! What a special treat.

We had a wonderful meal of BBQ and baked beans, salads, coleslaw, potato salad, fruit, many great desserts and chips with dip! Thanks to all of you who took your time and despite the gas prices came to make our Region IV Picnic a success!

We raised \$198.35 from our auction that will go toward the funding of our next picnic!

If you have not participated in one of these picnics due to the distance, know that we are working on finding a more centralized location for next year. We are also considering the possibility of having two picnics. PLEASE SEND ME ANY AND ALL OF YOUR WISHES AND SUGGESTIONS – REMEMBER: THIS IS "YOUR" PICNIC AND WE WANT YOU TO VOICE YOUR OPINION!

I am going to send out a separate email giving all the names of all the folks who attended so that each club can recognize them for participating, however it will be next week before I can get that out to you.

A special "THANK YOU" goes out to Mary Bateman, 1st Vice President and President Elect of the Eastern Federation for coming and donating to our picnic and auction!

We really appreciate you Mary! I also want to give a special "THANK YOU" to our own Natalie Darling, Eastern Federation BEAC, who catered the BBQ and took care of the food for me. I am also grateful to Dave Lines of the Southern Maryland, Richmond and Lynchburg Clubs for taking care of the auction for me. THEY ALL DID A WONDERFUL JOB!

Please don't forget to send me your needs, your wants, and your suggestions.

Your voice is essential!

Many Thanks to all,

Dee Tinsley

EFMLS Region IV Vice President

Mary Bateman



Dave Lines auctions off a beautiful gem tree, donated by Nell McIntyre of the Lynchburg club

Field Trip Report

Field Trip Report submitted by Dave Callahan,
Photographs by Dave Callahan, John Haskins, Mary
DeViney, Elisa Bowen & Zachary McKinney.
Additional photos on page 14 for electronic viewers.

BOXLEY MATERIALS BLUE RIDGE QUARRY. Blue Ridge. Virginia SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008 ~ 7:45am until 12 noon

This was the first field trip we had scheduled to Boxley's Blue Ridge Quarry in about two years. Many changes have been made and most noticeable was the quarry expansion and new shop with lunchroom facilities. The grounds were immaculate and everything was neat and tidy.



There were 26 members from the Lynchburg and Roanoke clubs in attendance. We assembled in the lunchroom at 7:45 for an informational and safety meeting by Scott Wilson. We viewed a Hazard Training DVD and signed the Hazard Training form. Scott warned us to be on the lookout for rattlesnakes as several are found each year. We were escorted into the shop area where we had a chance to examine the very large 2000-pound recently uncovered Stromatolite fossil fungus.

By the end of the day, some alert members had discovered several more of these very large fossils imbedded in the quarry wall. After we left, Scott had them extracted from the wall for preservation. The original find will go to the Museum in Martinsville, VA. Hopefully these others will find their way to other Virginia Museums.

By noon, several members located and collected smaller 75 to 100 pound versions of these monsters. Several other members spent the majority of the morning, pounding, hammering, chiseling, and trying to extract a beautiful cluster of calcite crystals from a very large vug. Steve Gordon made the initial discovery and wore himself out before he was able to free the top section. This vug or cavity was perhaps eighteen inches wide and ten inches deep in the middle of a four-foot diameter boulder. After a couple of hours, we had removed enough rock around the vug where we could remove the remaining crystal plate in several large sections. These were divided among those that stuck around and helped swing the 12-pound sledge.

In addition to the very nice calcite in several crystal forms, there was a lot of purple fluorite and some blue crystals that may be celestite.

It was a great trip with many beautiful, unusual crystal and fossil finds. The Blue Ridge Quarry now ranks close to the top of our list of prime collecting sites in our area.

A big thank you goes out to Cline, Wayland, Scott and other Boxley management and employees that made this trip possible



Quarry overlook and view



← Working to uncover this Crystal vug. ↑



Above: giant stromatolite. Left: John & Nona with a take home size stromatolite specimen.

Up Coming Field Trips



Sign up is required for all field trips! Contact Dave Callahan.

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

OFFICIAL COMBINED MINERAL and FOSSIL MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Inc.

The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008 ~ 10AM to 1PM

Museum of the Earth Sciences

Department of Geology and the College of Science and Technology

Radford University, Radford, VA

Website <http://www.radford.edu/mes>

THE TRIP: Dr. Stephen Lenhart, Executive Director of the Museum of the Earth Sciences will open the Museum for our viewing pleasure this Saturday. He will try to have his mineralogist and petrologist there for mineral and rock identification. He may also have some surplus material to sell to benefit the Museum. Just in case, bring some rocks and minerals to identify, cash and your checkbook. If you have a really nice Virginia specimen that you would like to donate to the museum, I'm sure that Dr. Lenhart would gladly accept it. You may leave at any time for your trip back home.

DRIVING AND ARRIVAL TIME: Drive to Radford on your own. Plan your departure time so that you arrive at the Museum between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. From Lynchburg allow about 2 hours. (Rt. 460W to Rt. 220N alt. in Bonsack to I-81S and exit 109 in Radford) From Roanoke allow about 1 hour. (I-81S to exit 109 in Radford) According to the map and information on their web site, the Museum is located on the first floor, room 143 of Curie Hall; Curie Hall is located immediately east of the McConnell Library. From their map, it looks like when you leave I-81 at exit 109 you turn right on State Rt. 177. Continue on Rt. 177 or Tyler Avenue until you come to Muse Hall at US Rt. 11 (Main Street). Turn Right on Main Street and go to the first traffic light. Turn right into the parking lot behind Curie Hall. We will meet Dr. Lenhart in the Museum, room 143.

AGE LIMIT: There is no age limit, but children must be supervised at all times.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman, The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Va. Inc. and The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc. Phone 540-297-1853, e-mail dbc11@aol.com

OFFICIAL MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP AND GEM SHOW

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

OUR FORTH ANNUAL SPRUCE PINE, NC. WEEKEND ~ AUGUST 1st thru 3rd, 2008

THE TRIP: This will be a three-day trip to the 51st Annual Spruce Pine Mineral and Gem Festival. To keep expenses at a minimum, several of us will be tent camping at the Bear Den Campground, a short distance away off of the Blue Ridge Parkway at exit 324.8. If you have any interest in camping, I have reserved Group C campsite at Bear Den Campground Friday and Saturday nights and there is room for about 8 tents. The cost is much reduced, as we will divide the cost among all the campers. Contact me for details. We usually prepare a meal for the group Friday night and we all chip in to share the expenses, work, food and clean up. Please contact me so that I will know who will be there, & what food you can bring. I'll tell you what we will need. We have a big campfire so bring some firewood, marshmallows, tall tales and we will have a lot of fun. Friday afternoon and evening you can visit the indoor gem show in Pinebridge Center and the outdoor Grassy Creek shows. There will be many vendors and you can always find reasonably priced mineral specimens, cabinet materials jewelry and other interesting items. We will also pick up the Roanoke Club's geodes that have been ordered from Gem Center USA.

Continued on next page

Up Coming Field Trips

GENERAL INFORMATION: Everyone will drive to Spruce Pine, NC. on your own Friday, August 3rd. If you are just interested in attending the club field trips, meet us at the Wal-Mart gas pumps no later than 8:00AM. Saturday morning, August 2nd, in Spruce Pine, NC. Do not be late if you want to go with us to some local mines. The distance from Lynchburg, VA, to Spruce Pine, NC, is about 250 miles and will take about 5 hours plus stops. The distance from Roanoke is a little less depending on the route you take.

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

We will first visit the Ray Mine in Burnsville and hopefully find some nice Beryl, Tourmaline, Apatite, Garnet, Mica and Feldspar. The land owner where we will park and charges about 2 or 3 dollars to park in his yard. Be sure to have the correct amount of currency. There is a rather steep foot trail to the mine. The walk is about 20 minutes, but the potential for some nice Beryl crystals makes it worthwhile. No special equipment is required. Just wear comfortable clothes, comfortable hat, good strong boots, snacks, water, bug spray, backpack and / or buckets, hammer, chisel, safety glasses, and wrapping paper to protect any nice crystals you will find. I usually take a hoe to turn over rocks and scrape away the soil. If you dig in the dirt, a hoe and small shovel will come in handy. You may also choose to screen for Beryl crystals and fragments in the creek. If you do, bring a ¼" mesh screen and a small trowel. If you plan to spend the day there be sure to bring food, bug spray and water. You can stay as long as you want and leave any time.

After several hours at the Ray Mine, we will stop by a fast food in Burnsville and then visit the Sinkhole Mine in Bandana, NC. You should be able to park close to the dump. Here you will find Apatite, Mica, Feldspar, Garnet, Thulite and Smokey Quartz. If you like beautiful yard rocks, this is the place to go. The same tools you used at the Ray Mine can be used here.

SPECIAL NOTE: It **ALWAYS** rains at some point during this Gem show weekend so bring your rain gear. Sunday morning on the way home, you might want to stop by the Thermal City Gold Mine just south of Marion, NC, on Rt. 221 and do some gold panning. There will be some vendors still set up at Grassy Creek so you might find some great mineral and fossil specials.

FRIDAY SUPPER, 6pm: Ed and John will be preparing one of their Award Winning Hickory Smoked Pork BBQ meals served in Dutch ovens. There will be a choice of three sauces, Tomato, Vinegar or Mustard based. They will also prepare Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Potato Chips and BBQ Beans. For dessert, Carole will prepare something delicious and luxurious, so we will just have to wait and see what that will be.

As we have done in the past, and in all fairness to the members who spend a lot of money, time and effort preparing this traditional group supper, there will be a nominal charge for the meal. Depending on how many will be there; we estimate the cost to be around \$5 to \$7 per person. Any leftovers will be available Saturday

Here is a list of other food and supplies that others could volunteer to provide. Be sure to let me know what you will bring to the Friday night meal. Soft drinks, iced tea, lemonade, coffee, hot tea, bottled water, throw-away table cloths (about 4 picnic tables) salt, pepper, bread or rolls, marshmallows, kindling and firewood for our bonfire, lawn chairs and anything else you can think of. This meal will be open to all club members, even if you are not camping with us. We will prepare food for about 20 people, so if you're staying in a



"Remember, we agreed. I'd carry the canned goods in
if you'd carry the rocks out."

by Ebners from Dust & Grit 2/00
via Golden Spike News 3/00

motel or other campsite please stop by. Be sure to let me know so that we can plan for you and give you directions to the site. We hope to see you there. As always, we have a lot of fun and fellowship.

Continued on page 11



News from the American Federation



Does the AFMS Need the A.L.A.A.?

By Dr. Robert Carlson, President, ALAA; reprinted from July 2008 issue of AFMS News

No, if we don't care about our rights to collect on Public Lands!

The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) was designed to be the lobbying arm of the AFMS. It was established to protect our collecting rights on Public Lands. The ALAA has been declining as an effective organization over the past several years. Bob Cranston and Jon Spunaugle nurtured the organization for a long time. When they could no longer carry the ball for us, the shop became rudderless.

I am now your new President. I plan to revive the ALAA or be present at its funeral! As one of the founders of the ALAA, I have a vested interest in making it succeed. I do not have all of the answers, but membership and communication are the keys. We belong to a larger organization: Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC). They do the research that Bob and Jon did on our behalf. They provide us with alerts on legislation (both national and local) that could curtail our access. They provide us with the information.

MY VISION

What we need now is an active communications network among ALAA members across the nation to get the BC information to all ALA members and their gem and mineral clubs- the local clubs that may be affected. The ALAA members and their clubs can then mobilize members to attend legislative hearings and do whatever seems appropriate via personal appearances, newsletters, newspapers, etc., to stop the legislation in its tracks.

The Proposed Process:

Alerts from the BRC should come in to three AKAA members who then e-mail it to all ALAA members. Why 3 hubs? So that if one is out of town, and one has computer trouble, there is still an open channel, which can be important when time is of the essence for some alerts. Any volunteers for the top three channels? —(If all three channels are operating, members will receive duplicate messages, but better than a lost alert.)

A word of caution: The BRC is funded by the makers of ATV's and snowmobiles and such. Hence, to the environmentalists out there, keeping the roads open means keeping them open for these who don't stay on the roads, who make noise and tear up the turf. We don't get environmentalist support. Somewhere along the line there may have to be categories of openness, as collectors are seen as relatively benign, in general, even by the environmentalists. (The above comments are based on some interesting conversations at the ALAA booth and at breakfast in Tucson!)

SO Help! We need three members who have e-mail and fire-in-the-belly to catch and send on the information from the BRC, with words to inspire the recipients to take timely action. We also need AKAA recipients who will thereupon take action.

Are you there?? If no, AKAA quietly passes into oblivion and the roads close to dedicated collectors of nature's treasures, closing one by one. The ALAA is currently on life support and we need your assistance. For mere information, you can visit the ALAA website at < <http://www.gamineral.org/alaa.htm> >

Schedule of Events

July 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

July 18th-20th- Treasures of the Earth Gem Show, Boone, NC. Friday & Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5. \$2.00 admission. www.toteshows.com for more info.

July 19th-20th- 20th annual Gem and Mineral Show- Gem City Rock and Mineral Club, JMC Ice Arena, Erie, PA.

July 24th-27th- Franklin NC Gemboree. Details on page 9 of May 2008 Journal. Or contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 828-524-3161 or toll free at 800-336-7829



July 26th- Lynchburg and Roanoke Field Trip, to Radford University Museum of the Earth Sciences. (See page 5)

August 1-3rd- Spruce Pine, NC. Annual Field Trip (pg. 5&6)
August 2nd-3rd-59th annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem, Mineral, & Lapidary Society of DC- Stone Ridge School, Bethesda, MD

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

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

		Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3		5
		8	9	10		11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Meeting 7 PM				
		Woolley's Workshop				Museum field trip
27	28	29	30	31	Spruce Pine Field Trip>>>>	

July PROGRAM

July: We will hear from Natalie, Dee, and Siglinde, who attended this year's Eastern Federation Convention in Mississippi and made a stop in Arkansas to collect quartz crystals on the way home. This "Show and Tell" is sure to please!



There was no executive meeting held in the month of June.

From the Desk of Ralph Torning...

Looking for GMSL member **Bruce Hunter**

To complete the address info in our roster for GMSL member Bruce Hunter, who joined the club last April. we need to make contact with him. Bruce, if you read this, please contact Ralph Torning via e-mail ruppy@verizon.net. Anyone who knows Bruce, please ask him to contact Ralph ASAP!

Refreshment Sign-up sheet for the July meeting:

Soda: Luis Gonzales, John Haskins, Anne & Ralph Torning, one unnamed,

Meats: Anne & Ralph Torning

Cheese: Kim Neczyporuk

Bread: Anne & Ralph Torning

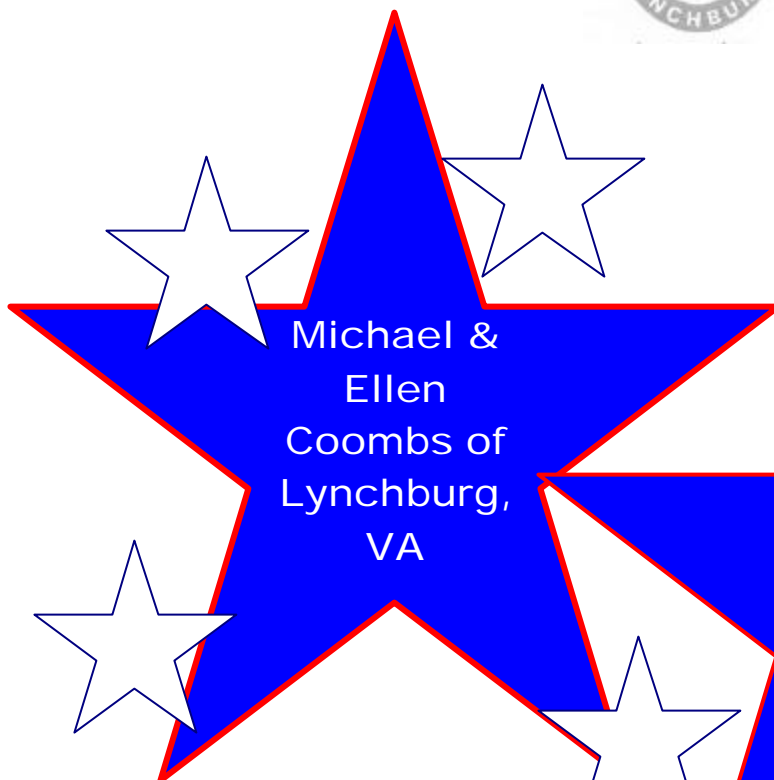
Fruit: Natalie Darling



WANTED:

Reasonably priced used faceting machine. Please contact GMSL member Dave Hardin, @ 434-237-0222 or email him at hardin292@aol.com

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Rock Raiders

Another Dinosaur Discovered This Summer!

Photos and Article by Bob Simon; Reprinted from *The Collecting Bag*~ July 2008

This summer's digging season opened with torrential rains, snow, high winds, cold temperatures and generally miserable weather. Fortunately the bad weather cleared out in a week and dig operations began at our dinosaur site on the Red Canyon Ranch.

Last fall, many tons of rock and dirt were removed and the hill overlooking our quarry was pushed back over 30 feet and 30 feet down into the earth. Even before reaching our main dinosaur bone-bearing zone, we encountered some scattered bones including a large plant-eater shoulder blade, a number of vertebrae and some chevrons. This was an interesting discovery as I knew these must be from the same partial dinosaur we excavated in 2000 on the other side of the Left hill (before we removed the hill). These bones and their orientation gave confirmation to the theory that our main bone bed must be within an oxbow bend in a meandering river and this oxbow, over time, was cut off, leaving a marshy island on which the carcasses of dinosaurs were deposited and covered with no scavenging from meat-eating dinosaurs. With the overlying bones removed, we proceeded to remove the remaining 6 feet of rock overburden with our trackhoe and bulldozer. We were hoping to find the remainder of the *Diplodocus* we began excavating last summer and thought we had found it when we nicked a few bones in a line where the *Diplodocus* should be found. After a day of delineating this bone discovery' two things became obvious. First, the bones were not from the *Diplodocus* and, second, I had actually found and excavated 3 vertebrae from this new dinosaur last summer without knowing it. Apparently, we have a triple-junction' where 3 dinosaur tails were overlying one another. Two weeks later,

we have uncovered at least 80% of this new dinosaur and probably will have more including the skull (or portions of it) when it is fully uncovered, documented and excavated. Although we do not know the exact species at this time, it appears to be a juvenile *Apatosaurus*. The identification is based on the found teeth, some key bone elements and the length of the neck and tail. Three paleontologists have seen the dinosaur and the identification is still problematic. Nonetheless, it is a very rare, semi-articulated juvenile specimen and will be of significant importance to our understanding of juvenile dinosaur bone growth and structure.



Dinosaur after two weeks of work. Photo by Bob Simon

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.

Up Coming Field Trips *Continued from page 6*

INFORMATION UPDATE: The Mitchell County web site has not been updated, so I do not know at this time if there will be any Chamber sponsored field trips. We will visit the Ray Mine and Sinkhole Mine on Saturday as planned.

As of this date, we have 19 signed up for the weekend. Of those, 9 (6 tents) have signed up for the group C campsite at Bear Den Campground and 6 will camp in other areas near site C. That leaves 4 who will stay in area motels. With that said, we still have room for no more than two tents in our group site. The site cost is \$144 and that will be divided among the tents.

When you arrive Friday, stop by the office and tell them that you are staying in group site C. They will direct you to the area. When you select the area in the site where you would like to pitch your tent, remember that there will be between 6 and 8 total tents there, so be considerate and don't hog all the area.

If you're interested in tent camping with us, let me know at once. When we fill up the group site, there will be other near-by individual tent sites and cabins.

A letter from a very happy field trip attendee...

I am sure you have heard about the incredible field trip to Boxley Blue Ridge on Saturday. The club members were able to see, touch and photograph the large rare stromatolite. (See newspaper article below) As we began to rock hunt, they showed us where it was found, and I found two (2) stromatolites! They range from approximately 150 to 175 pounds, and the quarry allowed me to keep them. One I gave to our President of the club and his wife (John and Nona Haskins) and the other which took me 90 minutes to dig out with a rounded top, I will keep. John helped me take mine to the car, so I felt it only right to give the other to him and Nona.

I have attached the photos. What an incredible find of a lifetime, not just one but two. The last photo (on pg. 14) is of 2 many-tons stromatolites still in the wall, estimating 10 feet across but folded rather than a rounded top.

Mary Loose DeViney

Newspaper article from *martinsvillemedia.com*, submitted by Mary Loose DeViney



Mary with one of her fabulous finds.

Rare Stromatolite Discovered at Boxley Blue Ridge Quarry

Thursday, 26 June 2008 15:03 Bill Wyatt

Virginia Museum of Natural History Scientists confirmed that an approximately 500 million-year-old stromatolite was recently discovered at the Boxley Blue Ridge Quarry. These rare fossils are among the earliest evidence for living things.

The stromatolite will be on display at the Boxley Blue Ridge Quarry on Monday, June 30 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Scientists from the Virginia Museum of Natural History and Boxley will be available to answer questions about the fossil and plans for its future.



Although fragments and sections of stromatolites are fairly common, it is very rare for a whole stromatolite "head" to be collected intact. This specimen is the first-ever intact stromatolite head found in Virginia, and is one of the largest complete "heads" in the world. Stromatolites are among the earliest known life forms, and are important in helping scientists understand more about environments that existed in the past.

Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation
Newsletter, and the

AFMS Newsletters are available for all members
to read on line at the Federation Websites:

www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org and
www.amfed.org/efms

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)

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Minerals, editor Zachary McKinney*)



The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

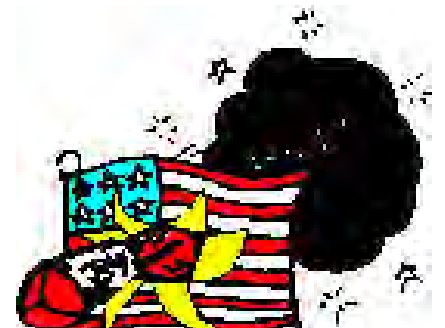
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Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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
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Mineral Society
of Lynchburg,
VA INC



Happy Independence Day!

Additional Photographs for electronic viewers. Thank you for helping to save trees and postage costs!

Region IV Picnic



The world-renowned Region IV treasure box, where one person's junk is another's treasure!



Nona Haskins



Cleo Darling



Mary Bateman



JUN 21 2008

JoAnn & Fred Mason, Bill Tinsley



JUN 21 2008



Tailgate swapping with Andy Deitz



Rudy Bland- Mineral Mouse editor; a fabulous hobby related e- newsletter. Email: rudybland@worldnet.att.net



2 happy swappers-Natalie & Dave swap whale vertebra for Diamond Hill Quartz

**BOXLEY MATERIALS BLUE RIDGE QUARRY, Blue Ridge, Virginia
SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008**



Above- stromatolite specimen in the quarry wall. Above that is one that Mary DeViney was able to extract from the wall.



Left: Zachary McKinney stands beside the giant specimen that was donated to the VA Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA.



← Fish fossil in the wall at Blue Ridge Quarry, found by Zachary McKinney.