



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

November 2008

Volume 17 Issue 11

President's Message:

Hello To All,

I am happy to report that October was a very good month for the GMSL. For those of you that donated specimens to our October Auction, I thank you. And for all of you that placed bids at the auction, I thank you very much, we couldn't have done it without you.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and got a chance to add some nice specimens to their collections.

The Apple Harvest Festival at Amherst High School went off without a hitch. I would like to give a big thank you to all the members that worked so hard to make this event a success. There were a good number of people that showed up early on Saturday morning to help unload and set up the tents and displays. I am saying, this is no small task, if you have ever helped you know what I'm talking about. We got everything set up in time for the deluge of customers that seemed to keep steadily coming all day. Sunday was not as rushed as the day before but at the end of the festival Frank gave us a sales total that was very pleasing. I would like to thank everyone again that

helped in workshops, setup and working the sales tables, sluice, and geode cutter and helped take down and pack up, you just don't know what a difference you made in helping out in this event. The Rock Bookends we made with our new 24" saw sold very well. I would like to ask all of you, in the coming year when on a field trip, keep your eyes open for material that would make a nice looking pair of bookends. Raw material seems to come at a premium. We will try to have some sample bookends at the November meeting to give you an idea what to look for.

Remember we will be taking nominations for Club Officers from the floor through this month's meeting, so put on your thinking caps. I know we will have to fill the position of Club Secretary for the 2009-year. Dee Tinsley has asked we release her from the Secretary position, as she has gotten very busy with EFMLS Region IV Vice-President duties as well as other pursuits. We wish you luck in all you do.

That's all for now, I hope to see you at the November 19th meeting.

***Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins***

From the First VP:

Crocoite is the mineral for November. Crocoite is lead chromate with a compound formula of $PbCrO_4$. It is in the monoclinic crystal system. Crocoite is described as adamantine meaning brilliant or gemlike. Its crystals are bright orange-red. You can see crocoite at local gem and mineral shows and sometimes crocoite becomes available at our silent auction. Crocoite increases energy and aids in will power. Crocoite can be a big help getting things done.

Our appreciation goes to John Haskins for running a great auction. Thank you to all who donated items and thank you to all who made bids. The topic for the November meeting will be video about rocks and minerals. And after the business meeting a short presentation will be made about dinosaurs. All members are invited to bring in specimens to show and tell.

Aloha,
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

gmsleditor@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 Le**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** David
Murphy

October Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, October 15th, 2008**Attendance:** 31 members and one guest.**Hospitality:** Thank you to all who contributed to this months refreshments. They were plentiful and delicious as usual.**Treasures Report:** Franklin Midkiff reported he took \$1200.00 from our account to make change for the Apple Harvest Festival this weekend and that leaves us a balance of \$727.61. He paid \$593.00 for insurance and has to pay the \$19.00 internet bill.**On Time Drawing:** On time drawing – John Hatcher won the peacock ore and Don McIntyre won the worry stone (onyx). Don had all the youth come forward and choose a number from one to ten and John wrote a number on a sheet of paper - the one closest to the number John had written down got his worry stone.**Old Business:** None**First Vice President:** Steve Boylan apologized for not submitting a news article for the October Journal. Then he announced the program for this evening is our annual auction. He also asked for the help of everyone to plan the speakers/programs for 2009.**Second Vice President:**Dave Callahan announced the next field trip would be to Willis Mt. on the 25th of Oct. and he is still trying to confirm a trip to the Beckley WV Boxley Quarry for Nov. 22nd. If that does not pan out, he would like suggestions as to where everyone would like to go in Nov.**New Business:** – Dave Woolley, Don McIntyre and Alan Rice will be the nominating committee for the officers for 2009.

John announced we need volunteers to work the Apple Festival and that he wanted us to know Lloyd Watson's wife had been stricken with blindness in one eye. We will be sending a card to Mrs. Watson. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and the auction.

Program: Our annual auction was a great success. Thanks to all who donated specimens and other hobby related materials to auction for the club.

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



October was the month for the GMSL Annual Auction. Many specimens, jewelry, and other hobby related materials were donated by the membership to be auctioned off.

All of the items were sold, and we consider that in it self to be a great success. The funds raised will go into the club treasury, and will be used to help purchase hobby related items for member use as the need arises.

Thanks to all who donated, bid, and assisted with the physical aspects of the auction.

For **November** we will have a video on rocks and minerals, and the **December** program will be our annual covered dish holiday dinner along with election of next years officers. Hope you will join us for these last two meetings of 2008.

Apple Harvest Festival 2008

Our club once again had a booth at the Amherst County Apple Harvest Festival, and with great success. We had our geode cracker, water sluice, and various lapidary crafts created by our members. Our newest addition, rock bookends, were a big hit with the crowd. We sold most of the pairs we had made, and we will be keeping our eyes open during future field trips so we can acquire materials to fabricate more.

Thanks to all of the members who came out to show support. Many folks arrived early on Saturday to help with setup, and many stayed all day. Some dedicated folks even returned on Sunday to help out and assist with take down and packing up. We appreciate the time and efforts of all who helped out before, during and after the festival! *Photographs submitted by Dave Callahan & Don McIntyre, additional pictures on page 13 for electronic viewers.*





Field Trip Report

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

CANCELLATION NOTICE

DUE TO THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR RAIN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008, IN THE FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA AREA OUR FIELD TRIP TO THE WILLIS MOUNTAIN KYANITE MINE and EAST RIDGE MINE WAS CANCELED.

We will attempt to re-schedule the trip in the spring of 2009

In a long discussion with the quarry representative, we decided that this would be the best call to make, due to the hazardous conditions that can occur in this quarry during and after heavy rains. We are sorry for any inconvenience this might have caused.



Up Coming Field Trips

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,
540-297-1853
Email dbcall1@aol.com

REPORT ON THE BECKLEY, W.VA. FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

We were finally able to contact the Boxley quarry in Beckley West Virginia for our November plant fossil collecting field trip. Due to the recent expansion in the quarry, much of the fossil bearing shale dump area has been covered with non-fossil bearing shale. The little remaining dump area is extremely weathered and there is no collectable material. According to the management there, a collecting trip at this time would not be productive and suggests that we reschedule the trip for late 2009. At this time, if their production schedule holds up, they should be removing the lower level of fossil bearing shale.

This is a sandstone (much like quartzite) quarry. There are layers of soft worthless shale between the hard sandstone layers. Each of these layers appears to be 20 to 50 feet thick.

The quarry has removed the top layer that has no fossils. The fossils are in the lower shale and sandstone layers.

I will contact the quarry in the fall of 2009 to see when a trip can be scheduled.

POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP FOR NOVEMBER 22, 1008

We attempted to schedule a field trip to the Staunton Lime Quarry but the quarry expansion in progress has caused a lot of hazardous conditions in the collecting area. We will request another trip when these conditions improve in 2009.

Continued on next page

Up Coming Field Trips

Continued from page 4

**AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS....
I just heard from Sam at the Morefield Mine**



COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Inc.---The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc.
Saturday, December 13, 2008 10:00 AM until 4:30 PM

MOREFIELD MINE (FEE SITE)

<http://www.toteshows.com/morefield.html>

Phone 1-804-561-3399

MINE WILL CLOSE PENDING SALE

Please see me at the meeting, call or e-mail me to get on the list.

TRIP: We will be visiting the famous 70 plus year old Morefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. We will dig and collect in the old dumps, collect from newly mined material, wash our finds in the sluice line and have the rare opportunity to tour the underground mine workings. There will be picnic tables available on a first come basis. Each club should bring food and drink if we want to have a picnic lunch. We must bring our own lawn chairs and a grill. The closest fast food is McDonalds, several miles back in Amelia. This is the last day of the season and there will be several other clubs attending. It will not be open to the general public.

COLLECTING: In addition to the beautiful green amazonite, there will be white clevelandite, several types of mica, massive white topaz, garnet, beryl and others. This mine is noted for many micro minerals that most people just discard. A gold pan is a great way to separate the heavier rare minerals. Take the concentrate home in a container, dry and observe under magnification.

FEES: General admission to collecting area --- adult and senior --- \$12.00 each, ----- Children 3 and under free.
Children --- Age 4 thru grade 2 (\$7.00), Grade 3 thru 6 (\$8.00), Grade 7 thru 12 (\$10.00)
Underground --- \$20.00 each (see restrictions and limitations below)
Combination Price --- \$30.00 collecting area and underground tour.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Restrictions on digging in the dump. No picks or mallets, no breaking rocks due to the danger of injuring those nearby. Wear sturdy footwear in the mine area. Flip-flops or sandals are not allowed. There is a limit of one five-gallon bucket with each paid admission. Be sure to bring your own bucket. Additional bucket loads may be purchased for a reasonable fee. You will find a shovel, small short-handled hoe and a screwdriver handy tools for digging. Zip lock bags are handy for your small finds.

Restrictions on the underground mine tour. Must go as a group of 9 or fewer. Sign up when you pay your admission. The first group tour is about 1:00 PM. The second group will be after 3:30 PM, if needed. The tour will take between 1.5 to 2 hours. Everyone will have Hazard Training instruction and sign a release. You must wear the mine-supplied M-65 Self-Rescuer which fits a narrow-width belt. A hard hat is required, so be sure to bring your own. You must wear good strong boots with good soles for traction. Athletic or tennis shoes are not permitted. You must bring your own personal light source. You may also want to bring a camera or camcorder. They must be carried on your back or in a small shoulder bag. Both hands must be free for climbing the ladders. The trip into the mine requires climbing ladders. The main level is 45 feet below the surface and the other levels are at 32 feet and 60 feet. **It is a requirement that visitors be able and healthy enough to climb into and out of the mine under their own power.** There are platforms about every 12 feet where one can rest, but remember that physical exertion is required. The vertical ladder ways are tight and large people and backpacks may not fit. The final decision on who will be permitted to enter the mine is up to the mine owner. Children are not permitted to enter the mine, only older teenagers when accompanied by a parent. Dress according to the surface temperature. There will be some dripping water, especially on the 60-foot level so a light rain jacket may be useful. There may also be some wet floors. **No mineral collecting will be permitted underground.**

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the mine at 10:00 AM. The mine is located in Amelia County, VA. and is 90 miles from Lynchburg. From US 360 just East of the McDonalds traffic light in Amelia, turn right on Rt. 628 (look for the brown State Morefield Mine sign).

Continued on next page

Morefield Mine Trip...*Continued from page 5*

The mine entrance will be about 9/10 of a mile on the left. Follow the driveway all the way to the parking area, office and gift shop. If you want to drive as a group, we will meet at the **Jumbo Restaurant** on US 460 East just past the Lynchburg City limits in Campbell County. We will DEPART there at 8:15 AM, drive 460 thru Farmville and take Rt. 307 to US 360 and stop at the McDonalds in Amelia for a short break. The mine is only a couple of miles from there.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Home, 540-297-1853 Cell, 540 874-5201 (dbc11@aol.com)

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee An Official Field Trip of Georgia Mineral Society

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP Saturday, December 6, 2008– 9:00 AM
JACKSON'S CROSSROADS AMETHYST MINE
FEE SITE

WHERE: The Famous Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine

WHEN: 9 am, Saturday – December 6, 2008

COLLECTING: Amethyst and quartz crystals and clusters. Some in matrix. Some crystals at this site are facetable. I understand that at one point Tiffany had mined the area for gems.

FEE: The owners have reduced their normal fee and for this official field trip they are reducing it to only \$15.00 a person

DIRECTIONS: Jackson's Crossroads is South of I-85 (Take 17 S) North of I-20 (44 N), West of Washington (78 W) and East of Athens. (78 E) My last trip here I traveled East from Athens on US 78 through the town of Lexington and through Rayle. Just as you leave Rayle town limits you come to Callaway Rd. This goes north and you cannot miss it. There is a pull off at the corner and signs for the Callaway Farm on one side and the Double B Farm on the other with cows painted on them. Callaway Rd is a two-lane road as you go north. At one point it looks like the road stops at a house. I believe it continues as a one-lane road after this point. It doesn't matter as you make a right turn in front of the house. This is a continuation of the two-lane road but is Clark Station Church Road and is listed as CR106. You continue down this road for 1&2/10 miles. You come to a cemetery on the left and the Clark Station Baptist Church on the right. On the left is Hollis Norman Rd. This is a dirt road but know as CR107. Make your left on this dirt road. 500 feet down the road you come to double iron gates on the right. You pass this and go another 200 feet down the road to the entrance of the mine also on the right. It took me just over two hours to make this trip but keep in mind that I live on the East side of Atlanta.

WHAT TO BRING: We will not be allowed in the pit area but fresh material is being brought up and we will be allowed to sift through the spoil dumps and the mine operators assure me that there will be many exposed boulders and you can bring your sledges. If this is your thought bring safety glasses as well as a hard hat and boots and gloves. If you just want to look through the dumps you will need a screen or something to sift the soil and a spade or shovel. Wear layers of clothes as it may be cold in the morning but could warm up later in the day. Bring something to drink and of course something to wrap your finds in.

Children under 12 are **not permitted** at this site. Seems something happened here where they were out of sight of their parents so lack of control led to the mine owners taking control. Pets on a leash are allowed or at least until someone lets them roam free.

CONTACT:

George Libby Field Trip Chair

Phone 770-978-2117 Cell 678-910-7476

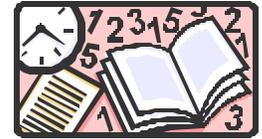
E-mail Onsiteinatlanta@yahoo.com

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

Actual specimen →
*unearthed at the Jackson
Crossroads Amethyst site.
WOW!*



Executive Meeting Minutes



Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 5th at 7PM.

- ?? Present: John & Nona Haskins, Ralph & Anne Torning, Don & Nell McIntyre, Steve Boylan, Tom Powers, Natalie Darling, Alan Rice, and Dave Woolley. We were informed that several of our board members were at home ill. We wish them each a speedy recovery.
- ?? Nominations: will be accepted from the floor through this month's meeting. See Don McIntyre, Dave Woolley, or Alan Rice.
- ?? John Haskins: Roanoke Club Show the weekend after Thanksgiving. (See flyer on page 11) They are asking for volunteers from our club to assist with security, greeting, and the fluorescent booth. Please see Dave Callahan or Don McIntyre for information.
- ?? We are still collecting specimens for the Nature Zone and Boxley Displays. If you have any VA specimens (for the nature zone) or Boxley Quarry specimens (for Boxley's display) that you can donate please bring them to a meeting.
- ?? Rock Raiders: David Murphy has not been able to meet with the Rock Raiders due to a class this semester. He should be able to resume the meetings after the first of the year.
- ?? Website: We are currently trying to gather information and resources necessary to update our website. We hope to have it current soon.
- ?? Concern has been raised over the closing of the Division of Mines and Minerals in Charlottesville. It has been suggested that we do some letter writing to preserve this resource for our area. (article below)
- ?? Steve Boylan: Program for November will be a video on Rocks and Minerals, after a ten-minute presentation on dinosaurs by a guest speaker from the Nature Zone. December will be our holiday potluck dinner.
- ?? Per Frank: treasury balance currently: \$2891.91. We did very well this year at the Apple Festival.
- ?? Ralph: Page 2 of the membership application was revisited, and it was agreed to do away with the questions. The application is now a single page of information.

Minutes composed by Natalie Darling, in absence of Secretary Dee Tinsley.

Virginia Geological Field Conference

Article submitted by LGMS member Mary DeViney

We had a very impressive and well-attended field conference last weekend in southwestern Virginia, which for me is a testament to the interest and need for geological research in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unfortunately, with Virginia's looming budget crisis the State is planning to severely cut if not eliminate the Division of Geology and Mineral Resources (DGMR). Here are some of the planned cuts:

9 (out of 21) will be laid off

1 staff member will be transferred to the Division of Oil and Gas

4 staff members will be reassigned to support the Abandoned Mine Land Project.

DGMR will be left with a staff of 4 on state-funded positions (of which 3 are currently supervisory) and will not, in any substantive way, be able to serve the Commonwealth. Details of the plan are on pages 14-15 of the Governor's budget reduction plan, available at: http://www.governor.virginia.gov/tempcontent/FinalPlan_10-8.pdf

We have an obligation to fight these cuts with vigor. DGMR has served the Commonwealth well and needs to be maintained, even through the lean times. For me it is clear that these cuts are a deliberate action to eliminate DGMR; consider the fact that within the Department of Mines, Minerals, & Energy, of which DGMR is one of six divisions, the only layoffs are being incurred by DGMR. Not only are these cuts extremely shortsighted, but inherently unfair.

Continued on page 10

Schedule of Events

November 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

Nov. 14th-16th- 7th annual Charlottesville, VA Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show.

This show has been cancelled due to National Guard activities at the armory.

Nov. 22nd & 23rd-17th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club Show site - George Mason University, Student Union Bldg II, Rte 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
<http://www.mineralclub.org/index.html>

Nov. 22nd& 23rd- 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Bead & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, West Palm Beach, FL

Nov. 28-30th~RVMGS annual Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center. (See show flyer on page 11)

Dec. 13th- GMSL field trip to Morefield Mine. This may be the last collecting opportunity at this site. See page 5 for details.

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 Meeting 7 PM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Woolleys Workshop	27 Thanks- giving	28 RGMS Show	29 RGMS Show
30 RGMS Show						

PROGRAM

November: Video on Rocks and Minerals after a 10-minute presentation on Dinosaurs.

December: Covered Dish Holiday Celebration

Happy Thanksgiving



Attention All Members:

We are currently seeking nominations for officers to serve on the board for the coming year. If you are interested, or have any suggestions please see Don McIntyre, Alan Rice, or Dave Woolley. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November 19th meeting.



Rock Raiders

Thanksgiving Word Search



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COLONY
COOK
CORN
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
HARVEST
INDIANS
PIE
PILGRIMS
PUMPKIN
SAIL
THANKS
TURKEY

F	T	U	R	K	E	Y	W	G	M
A	V	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	S
M	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	F
I	N	D	I	A	N	S	A	I	L
L	R	V	R	C	S	D	Q	E	T
Y	O	K	G	K	K	C	R	Q	I
K	C	O	L	O	N	Y	C	B	S
X	N	O	I	F	A	L	L	V	Z
S	R	C	P	J	H	I	J	P	V
N	S	U	W	F	T	S	A	E	F

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:

**Casper
Voogt
From
Sterling
VA**

**Dan Peters
from
Chesapeake
VA**



**Sunshine News
Please continue to
pray for our
members who are
struggling with
personal illnesses
or caring for
ailing family
members.**

DGMR...*continued from page 7*

What can be done about this?

The most important decision maker who is likely to consider input from DGMR customers is the Secretary of Commerce and Trade. He needs to know how people use DGMR products/services, especially if they use them to make money or protect people and property, and why DGMR is important to the Commonwealth, Company letterhead is preferable. He is-

Patrick O. Gottschalk
Secretary of Commerce and Trade
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Acting Director of the Department of Miners, Minerals and Energy is-
Berry R. Wampler, Acting Director
Department of Mines, Minerals and energy
PO Drawer 900
Gig Stone Gap, VA 24219

And a letter to the Governor can't hurt either
Governor Timothy Kaine
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd floor
1111 East Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

People should also contact their own Delegates and Senators. A VGFC yahoo listserv has been set up to facilitate discussion for those who wish:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/> search thevgfc
We need to act quickly and with forceful clarity on this matter,
Thanks,
Chuck Bailey,
President, Virginia Geological Field Conference.

Virginia is Home to Rare Granite

By Laura Moyer | The Free Lance-Star

October 25, 2008

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-va-unakitegranite1025oct25,0,6096285.story>

SYRIA, Va. - Jimmy Graves crosses a concrete bridge over the Rose River and vanishes into a patch of fall-tinged shrubs. He appears again minutes later, a stone in each hand.

The area has been pretty well picked over by rock hounds seeking chunks of [Madison County's](#) geologic pride, the dense granite called unakite.

But Graves can still spot some occasionally, and this fall day yields a few fist-size chunks and a cobble the size of a toy football. Rinsed of caked mud and dried algae, the stones show their colors: green and pink, with silvery gray flecks.

Unakite--named after the Unaka range on the [Tennessee-North Carolina](#) line where it was first identified--is a visual treat. Its color combination makes it irresistible to collectors who carve and polish it into beads, paperweights and bookends.

Hunting for it along the Rose River is a popular pastime of the tourists who visit Jimmy Graves' family business, Graves Mountain Lodge, for a meal or a weekend.

On a sunny fall afternoon, it's easy to get caught up in the search without stopping to think about the origins of these pretty stones.

But the geologically curious might delve deeper--about 10 miles deep, according to College of William & Mary geology professor Christopher "Chuck" Bailey.

That's where the unakite story began 300 million to 400 million years ago, in a pressurized layer of hot rock deep in the Earth's crust.

As plates squeezed up to form the Appalachian Mountains, Bailey says, hot chemical-laden water percolated through a hard layer of feldspar buried under miles of younger rock.

The watery brew was about 550 to 750 degrees Fahrenheit--not hot enough to melt the rock, but hot enough to alter it.

Iron and calcium changed some of the feldspar into a different rock altogether, the green stone epidote. Potassium turned adjacent patches of feldspar pink. And grayish quartz filled in the gaps.

Over the next several hundred million years, the rock on the surface eroded and moved east toward the Atlantic Ocean, helping form what's now [Virginia's](#) Coastal Plain. As layers above

it disappeared, the deep rocks that included patches of unakite became cooler and shallower. At last they were left uncovered, and they jut throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains today. Unakite can be found in spots all along the eastern Blue Ridge, Bailey says. He estimates that unakite makes up 1 percent to 5 percent of the granitic rock in Madison County. The biggest pieces Bailey has seen are 2 feet or 3 feet in diameter; most are much smaller.

But the county is mentioned in early geology journals, and the area captured rock hunters' imagination. In the 1950s, Jimmy Graves says, unscrupulous rock hunters persuaded private landowners to let them hunt for souvenir samples. Before anyone knew it they'd carried away truckloads of the stone, which they shipped to Japan for a then-considerable 50 cents a pound. There's still unakite to be found in Madison.

Continued on page 11

New Technique for Enhancing Colors in Iridescent Hematite

By David Babulski, Georgia MS, from October Tips and Trips, by way of the October 2008 issue of Hounds Howl.

While engaged in research into iridescent hematite from Graves Mountain, GA I discovered a way of enhancing the colors if iridescent hematite. When first collected the Graves Mt. Material is covered with a very thin layer of hematite dust and ground water salts which serve to dull the iridescent colors. I found that this fine layer could effectively be removed by soaking the material in dilute hydrochloric acid (HCL), rinsing the specimen in water and then soaking her specimen in a solution of 3% hydrogen peroxide. To make the dilute HCL: mix 1ml of HCL to 100 ml of water. **Warning! Always add acid to water, never water to acid! This will cause a violent chemical reaction.** Always wear rubber gloves and use eye protection whenever working with chemicals. When working with strong acids or bases, make sure you are outside or in a well-ventilated room. The 3% hydrogen peroxide solution can be obtained at any drugstore.

The procedure is to place the iridescent hematite specimen to be treated in a small plastic or glass container. Pour enough of the dilute HCL solution to cover the specimen. Gently agitate the specimen and solution for about one minute and let soak for about 30 minutes. Gently agitate again before removing the specimen from the solution. Immediately flush the specimen with water to remove all of the acid chemical solution, then soak the specimen in a bath of 3% hydrogen peroxide for about four hours. Remove the specimen and rinse to remove all of the chemical solution. Remove as much of the water as possible by blotting with a soft absorbent pad then let the specimen air-dry. For most specimens of Graves Mountain iridescent hematite the difference in color intensity after this treatment is striking. Note that this technique does not destroy the intensity of the colors. I would strongly suggest trying this technique on a small specimen first.

NOTE: good results have also been obtained by soaking the specimen in a mixture of dilute HCL and hydrogen peroxide. However because of the danger of an adverse chemical reaction this chemical mixture IS NOT recommended.

References:

http://ptcl.chem.ox.ac.uk/~html/hsci/chemicals/hydrochloric_acid.html

http://ptcl.chem.ox.ac.uk/~html/hsci/chemicals/hydrogen_peroxide_dilute.html

<http://www.patentstorm.us/patents/621429.html>

<http://www.sciencelab.com/msds.php?msdsld+9925956>

Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show

Salem Civic Center • 1001 Boulevard – Salem, VA



Friday – November 28, 2008

2:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Saturday – November 29, 2008

10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Sunday – November 30, 2008

Noon – 5:00 P.M.

Admission = \$3.00, Children under age 16 = Free

Free Identification of Stones

Geodes Cutting

Pearl Strands

Jewelry & Jewelry Supplies

Mineral Specimens

Wire Wrapping & Sculpture

Fossils

Displays by club members

LARGE FLUORESCENT MINERALS DISPLAY

HOURLY DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

GRAND PRIZE – A 14K GOLD SAPPHIRE RING

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!!!

SPONSORED BY ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society will once again be responsible for the set up and presentation of the Fluorescent Minerals Display. If you are able to participate by volunteering the use of specimens or time, please contact Dave Callahan or sign up at the club meeting. Hope to see you there!

Unakite...continued from page 10

Much of it is a protected natural resource as part of the Shenandoah National Park, and it's off-limits to even casual collectors. But rock hunters still find it along streambeds, especially after storms. In 1995 and again in '96, heavy rain-washed a slurry of mud and rock down the mountains. When the weather cleared, the rinsed-off pink & green stone could be found all along the Rose River, Graves said.

Local artisans have made some of the polished stones into necklaces and earrings that are sold at Madison County Craft Fairs.

Most people who hunt for raw unakite or buy polished pieces just appreciate its smooth feel and colors without worrying too much about how the rock got that way, Graves says.

"It's just the way Mother Nature made it."

Article submitted by Mary DeViney

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.

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The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

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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



***Additional Apple Harvest Festival Photographs-
submitted by Dave Callahan and Don McIntyre.***



Club members worked together to keep the sluice, geode cracker and crafts moving during the festival.



It was great to see several of our newest club members take part in the festivities. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this event successful.

