



Gem & Mineral Journal



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

September 2008

Volume 17 Issue 9

President's Message:

Hello To All,

Summer is almost gone and looks like we are well into hurricane season. We have two good collecting trips planned for September and October to local quarries; maybe we will dodge the rain.

If all went well there was a workshop at Dave Callahan's on Sept. the 6th to prepare for the Apple Harvest Festival at Amherst County High School October 18-19th. I picked up a few thick pieces of soapstone to try our hand at making bookends to sell at the festival. It's a new item for us so we will have only a few to try the waters. I think we have saturated the market with rock candles. If anyone has a good idea for new items we can make to sell please let us know. There will be a signup sheet at the Sept. & Oct. meetings for anyone that will help at the festival. We will set up early Saturday morning the 18th and will need a number of people to help with the tents, tables, sluice and geode cracker. We will also work the booth Sunday the 19th and take down and pack up after closing time. Last year was very successful owing to the hard work of over twenty

people that pitched in and helped both days. It was a real example of club spirit. I hope you can help this year.

Remember September's meeting program will be collector's night. Bring in and display some of the specimens you have and show off the ones you are most proud of finding. We also like a good story to go with the specimens. So don't miss this meeting, it is a good education on what members are finding on field trips, and some may be giving away samples.

Nominations for a slate of club officers will be coming up in the next few months, so start thinking of who you would like to see lead our club in 2009. We have a good number of new members that I know have talents we are not yet aware of, so if you think you would be interested in working in a leadership capacity for the club, talk to one of our officers to find out more. Hope to see you at the September 17th meeting.

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

From the First VP:

For September our featured mineral is beach sand. I brought back a plastic bottle of beach sand from a recent trip to Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. It looks like a lot of clear white particles mixed with a lesser amount of dark particles and shell pieces. Assume the white particles are hard quartz particles. I can't imagine that the shell pieces stand much of a chance against the harder quartz particles as they are swirled together in the waves.

The September meeting is collector's night. We are asking everyone to bring in at least one rock or

mineral or gem tree or fossil or cut stone to share at the meeting. Tables will be provided to place your displays on. This is also a great meeting to see many different minerals.

Our thanks goes to Dave Woolley for the timed ten-minute talk on carbon minerals at the August meeting. Well-done Dave! As a new meeting feature, we are inviting all club members to participate by making a short ten-minute presentation about a rock or mineral at the end of

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2007 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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JoAnn Mason &

Tom Powers

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

August Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, August 20th, 7:00 PM**Attendance:** 27 members and 2 guests**Hospitality:** Steve Boylan thanked Dorothy & Bernard, Nell McIntyre and Ann Torning for the great refreshments.**Treasures Report:** Frank Midkiff Reported he had paid for new belts for the machines at Woolley's, stones, and the internet bill. The treasury currently has a balance of \$1416.69.**On Time Drawing:** Neil (granddaughter) of Dorothy and Bernard Rivera won the Staurolite and Fred Mason won the pyrite crystals.**Old Business:** Dave Young of Stones and Bones gave the club a display cabinet and since the Parks and Recreation Dept is anticipating major renovations it was moved to the Nature Zone. Dave Young will start putting some minerals in it. They had requested we do a "Virginia Mineral" display.**President:** John Haskins announced there was a sign up sheet for anyone wishing to order shirts with the club logo on it. After enough sign up the shirts will be ordered. The cost range is between \$7.00 and \$9.00 each depending on size.John also announced that he has the fliers on the Shenandoah Gem & Mineral Club's show in Waynesboro October 4th & 5th if anyone is interested.

He also announced that he had

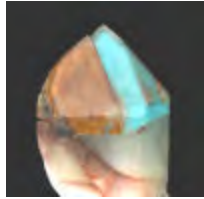
received a letter stating that Dee Tinsley had been re-elected as Region IV VP for the next two-year term.

First Vice President: Steve Boylan updated our program list: Collector's night will be in **Sept.** Bring your "prized" specimens and let all the other members enjoy seeing your finds. Silent Auction (fund raiser for the club) will be in **October.** Everyone who is a member is asked to donate a specimen. All proceeds go in the club treasury for our costs, educational speakers, and other expenses.**November** – is open – if anyone wishes to do a program, please notify Steve Boylan.**December – Our Christmas meeting and dinner. Everyone brings a dish!****Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan gave the following field trip plans: August 23rd Barger Quarry; Sept. 20th Mt. Athos Quarry; October Farber Lead Mine – Albemarle Co.November – Boxley Quarry in Beckley WVA for plant fossils
Nov – Roanoke Show – Salem Civic Center.**Sept. 6th** will be our **workshop** to load the bags for the water sluice for the Apple Festival. Please come to Dave Callahan's and help us load up for the festival. We have a wonderful time there and get lots done.*Continued on page 13*

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography

*The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,
From 7:00pm– 9:00pm
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501
Public is invited, Please join us!*

Programs



Our August program featured our own 1st VP, Steve Boylan, who spoke to the membership on Crystallography. Thank You Steve for sharing your knowledge and model building skills with us!

Announcement for September Meeting

Collectors Night - What great and wonderful minerals and rocks did you find this year? We all want to know. With all the great field trips and workshops, I know you have some fantastic specimens and stories to tell. Bring it all to Collector's Night 2008. Even if you only can bring one rock.

Announcement for October Meeting

Auction - Start saving those auction items. We just can't wait any longer to have the auction, so the annual auction has been pushed forward to October. Bring those auction items in.

Announcement for November Meeting

Open presentation about minerals and rocks or local interests.

Announcement for December Meeting

Christmas banquet planning in progress.

Be "Patient" --- or "A Patient"

Submitted by Dave Lines

Dave Lines

It was about 1:30 a.m. when the Doctor finally came in to look at my smashed finger. It had been almost five hours since I had checked in --- after all --- it was Saturday night and things were pretty hectic in the Emergency Room.

"What happened?" the pleasant young doctor asked.

"Well ... I guess I was in too much of a hurry. We were on a field trip to collect rocks and minerals in a rock quarry and I decided to turn over a 300-pound rock to get some nice crystals. I could have used my six foot steel pry bar to turn the rock over, but it seemed like a waste of time to walk the 50 yards to get it. So I just rolled the big rock over with my hands. I was wearing the right safety stuff --- steel toed shoes, long jeans and heavy work gloves --- but it rolled right onto my finger! It really hurt, but I didn't make a big deal. I took my glove off and my finger was bleeding, so I wrapped it up with several Band-Aids and put my glove back on. No one knew that I was hurt --- in fact, I used a big sledgehammer to get out some more crystals.

About 8 hours later after the drive home, my wife took one look at my swollen, blue-black finger and sent me straight to the Emergency Room."



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Field Trip Report

Field Trip Report and photographs submitted by Dave Callahan, field trip chairman. For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan, 540-297-1853 ~ Email dcall1@aol.com

Barger's Quarry, Lexington, VA. August 23, 2008 ~ 9:00AM until 1:00PM

What a beautiful day and a tremendous turnout we had. There were 34 members from the Lynchburg, Roanoke and Southern Maryland clubs. All that signed up, showed up and the five that couldn't make the trip notified me.

There had been a lot of expansion work done in the quarry since our last trip two years ago and the new workings are out of the calcite zone. That's good for the quarry but not good for collectors. There were areas that had lots of calcite seams and some were able to find some small but nice crystals. Very little pyrite was found but I did see some very nice pieces. We also found a lot of small but nice fluorite in one area and most people were able to get some examples.

Just as we were leaving and after most of the crowd had departed, we discovered a large face in the rear of the quarry. This face was covered with small calcite and fluorite crystals. They were difficult to remove, as it was a large, flat surface. Oh well, someone will have a pretty driveway.

This quarry has great possibilities and I look forward to a follow up trip early next year.



Up Coming Field Trips

Sign-up is required for all field trips. You must call me, email me or sign-up at the meeting if you plan to attend.

Saturday, September 20, 2008 ~ 8AM to 12 NOON Boxley Aggregates Mt. Athos Quarry, Lynchburg, VA

Sign-up is required, call me, email me or sign-up at the meeting

COLLECTING: Some of the minerals we have collected in the past 10 years are white and pink Calcite, pink Marble, Feldspar, Quartz, Ilmenite, Epidote, Pyrite, Actinolite, Chlorite, Muscovite, Magnetite, Hematite, Limonite, Rutile, Manganite, Cuprite, Chalcovrite, Bornite, Malachite, Sphene, Apatite and Stilbite. Also reported to occur are Byssolite, Tremolite, Chrysocolla, Heulandite and Azurite.

Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and that some of the occurrences are very small.

GATHERING TIME: 7:30 to 7:45 AM EST. At the Quarry. You will need sufficient time to read the required Boxley Hazard Training information, fill out and sign the Hazard Training Certificate and sign the required Boxley release form. There will also be a brief review of the safety regulations. This must be completed before we enter the quarry about 8:00 AM.

LOCATION: From Lynchburg, take US 460 East bypass to the US 460 / 501 Campbell Avenue interchange on the east side of Lynchburg. From this interchange, continue on US 460 East and drive about 3.5 miles to the Mt Athos Road interchange. Exit here and go about 3/10 mile, turning right on Rt. 609 Stage Road.

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Up Coming Field Trips... Continued from page 4

Continue on Stage Road 9/10 mile and at the top of a hill, Stage Road veers off to the left. Continue on Stage Road 4/10 mile to the bottom of the hill and the Boxley Quarries will be on your right. Park in the parking lot of the big new cinder block office on the left. Do not block the road.

If you will be driving from Roanoke or points to the West of Lynchburg and would like to follow us, meet me at the Sheetz Gas Station parking lot in New London at the intersection of US 460 and Route 811. There is an Exxon Convenience Store on the opposite corner. **I will DEPART PROMPTLY at 7:00AM**

EQUIPMENT: The Boxley Quarries are very safety-conscious. Standard quarry gear is required. Hard hats, steel-toe boots or other substantial boots and safety glasses. Good protective clothing and gloves should be worn. It could be very cold or wet in the quarry so dress according to the weather forecast that morning. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. Bring your own collecting equipment such as hammers, chisels, buckets and newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry. Bring rain gear in case of bad weather.

AGE LIMIT: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parent's responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all the safety requirements. The same dress requirements apply.

Pets will be allowed only if they are under total control and will not be allowed to roam free.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call me to confirm the trip.

Saturday, September 27, 2008 FABER LEAD MINE, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: I will meet the group from Roanoke at the Sheets Station Rt. 460 and 811 in New London and depart promptly at 8:00 AM. We can leave some cars in the Food Lion parking lot across the street if necessary. I will lead the group to the Madison Heights meeting spot, and we will **DEPART** as a group from the Sonic Drive-In lot in Madison Heights across from Auto Zone and above Wal-Mart (3.9 miles north on US 29 from the center of the James River Bridge) promptly at 8:45 AM, Saturday morning.

Due to the restricted parking along Route 6, we must limit attendance to 10 cars maximum. Only those that call to reserve your place or sign up at the meeting will be allowed to attend. Car-pooling is recommended. We will arrive at a small parking area at the intersection of Rt. 29 North and Rt. 6 East about 9:15AM. We can leave some cars here if necessary and pick up those that will meet us here.

THE TRIP: I have received permission from the landowner and he has some rules that must be obeyed. **NO SMOKING** (extremely dry and a high fire hazard could exist). Keep away from the 3 open shafts and collect only geologic specimens, not historic pieces, and leave **NO TRASH**. This is a beautiful, classic and historic site and the owner has graciously allowed us to collect there.

The mine is about 1.5 miles (a good 45 minute walk) along a mostly level, rutted dirt road. Recent logging in the area has made the road rough and possibly muddy in places. Since we must walk in and out, and lead is very heavy, you might want to bring a wagon, hand truck or at the least a good back pack. Good walking shoes are a must and be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks. You'll also need safety glasses, hammers, chisel, a tool to scratch thru the dirt and overburden and turn over rocks, buckets or bags with newspaper to wrap your delicate specimens.

COLLECTING: Expect to find Galena (Lead), Sphalerite (Zinc) and Fluorite (white and purple). Other minerals that exist there are Chalcovrite, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite, Magnetite, Quartz, Calcite, Cerussite, Chalcantite, Pyromorphite, Kaolinite, Azurite, Chlorite and Hydrozincite. Many of these are fluorescent under ultraviolet lamp.

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Fossil Hunting in The Charleston, SC Area

Submitted by John Haskins

Vacation and fossil hunting, what a great combination. Nona and I just returned from vacation in Charleston, SC with a good assortment of fossils from the area.

Before our trip we called Marty Kersey, the President of the Low Country Gem & Mineral Society in Charleston, SC and asked if he could put us on some places to fossil hunt. He did better than that; Marty led us to a creek in Summerville, SC just west of Charleston. Using some of his strainers, we sifted sand from side creek banks as well as sand and gravel in the bigger creek. After three hours of hunting in the hot weather we came out with a good assortment of fossil shark teeth, mostly of the small variety, some clam shell casts and some nice bone fossils. The tide was starting back in and Marty was having brake trouble with his truck so we called it a day and followed him home.



Nona Haskins & Marty Kersey

This part is not rock or fossil related but the next day our group took a trip to Wadmalaw Island to the Charleston Tea Plantation. America's only commercial tea farm. As you enter the grounds you pass by acres and acres of tea bushes and see a large combine like vehicle shaving off the tender top leaves to be used in the finished product. We took a video tour through the factory and were amazed at the machinery used in processing tea. At the end of the production line were four-foot square bags filled with tea ready to be put into jars, tins and tea bags. We were told that green tea, oolong tea and black tea are all processed from the same leaves, what makes the different teas is the amount of time spent in the oxidation process. It was a real education. We did get to sample some ice tea-and yes, bought several boxes for home use. If you are ever in the area I recommend taking the tour.



^ Ashley River Collecting Site Charleston, SC Right- "One mad crab in a net."



The next day Marty called and was at the hospital with his wife. He couldn't join us for the days trip but gave us directions how to get there and where and what to look for. This collecting site was on the South bank of the Ashley River below the route 17 Cosgrove Bridge. Make sure you go at low tide. The exposed riverbank was covered with bone fossils, clamshell casts, shark teeth and some small blue gray rocks that fluoresce a bright orange under UV light. Haven't identified them yet but will consult with our own expert Dave Woolley. We met two members of the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society farther up the bank, Jess & Abby Gates, and they said they made several trips a year to this site and have found some really nice specimens. Good news, Marty joined us later that afternoon with his wife safely back home. He is a real die hard rock hound.

In the middle of all this activity a group from the South Carolina Aquarium showed up in a large van and came out with two large seines and proceeded to the river. I asked if they were after specimens or fish food and they answered, FOOD. I guess it takes a lot for so many large fish. It was very interesting watching them and seeing what they came out with. After filling their coolers with some nice size Sea Trout, Spots and Blue Fish among others, they left to feed their specimens.

I would like to thank Marty again for being a good host, and say it was nice to meet members from other clubs. We will mark these places on the map for future hunting. I have pictures attached showing most of our experience. I hope you will enjoy them as much as we enjoyed taking them.

Keep Looking Down, ~ John Haskins



Abby Gates, Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Carbonate Minerals and Rocks including Calc-Silicate, Skarn, and Carbonatite

By Dave Woolley, August 20, 2008

Carbonate rocks are made of **carbonate minerals**, the most common being limestone and marble composed mostly of the mineral Calcite, CaCO_3 . One carbon plus three oxygen atoms make up the carbonate radical that combines with certain metallic elements like calcium. The other hexagonal [trigonal], carbonate minerals, with rhombohedral cleavage, are Magnesite, MgCO_3 ; Otavite, CdCO_3 ; Siderite, FeCO_3 ; Smithsonite, ZnCO_3 ; Soda Ash, NaCO_3 ; Sphaerocobaltite, CoCO_3 and Rhodochrosite, MnCO_3 . Partial substitutions occur like Manganoan Calcite $(\text{CaMn})\text{CO}_3$, all the way to the two metal, double carbonate minerals like Kutnahorite, $\text{CaMn}(\text{CO}_3)_2$; Ankerite, $\text{CaFe}(\text{CO}_3)_2$; and Dolomite, $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$. Related orthorhombic crystal system minerals are Aragonite, *also* CaCO_3 ; Cerussite, PbCO_3 ; Strontianite, SrCO_3 ; and Witherite, BaCO_3 , plus the two metal, double carbonate minerals, Shortite, $\text{Na}_2\text{Ca}_2(\text{CO}_3)_2$ and Alstonite, $\text{CaBa}(\text{CO}_3)_2$. Barytocalcite, *also* $\text{CaBa}(\text{CO}_3)_2$, is a monoclinic mineral. Fairchildite, $\text{K}_2\text{Ca}_2(\text{CO}_3)_2$ is a hexagonal mineral.

CO_2 is a common gas in the atmosphere and not surprisingly, CO_2 is also dissolved in sea water.

As clear, cold, deep ocean water is forced upwards and warmed, especially in the tropics, CO_2 is forced out of solution where it easily combines with oxygen and calcium, also dissolved in sea water.

For example, calcium carbonate clay directly precipitates off the Florida Keys where it collects as a mud sediment: some of Virginia's Great Valley, uniform gray **limestones** are mostly from chemically precipitated, then tropical, carbonate-clay mud. Life early on discovered that aragonite and calcite protective coverings and structural elements could easily be constructed by plants and animals. Their remains commonly deposit in great numbers. Such accumulations cemented together make other Great Valley fossiliferous limestones mostly of stromatolites, shells, corals, crinoids, and the like, plus possible continental sand and clay sediments. **Dolostone** is composed of the mineral, dolomite: limestone alters to dolostone with the addition of magnesium, such as from hydrothermal solutions associated with ore emplacement, or from water squeezed from adjacent clay sediments forming shale.

Underground heat and pressure metamorphose limestone and dolostone into **marble**: Virginia's Piedmont, Arch Marble Formation is composed of marine calcareous clay interlayered with continental clay sediments which are metamorphosed into mica, feldspar, and quartz layers. The pink calcite, dolomitic marble of the Piedmont Mount Athos Form metamorphosed dolostone. Similar **calc-silicates** are altered at higher temperatures from impure sediments; they have new silicate minerals like diopside, grossular garnet, and tremolite. Most interesting are the *igneous textured* marbles, such as the white Franklin Marble (N. J.) that have high temperature minerals like humite, hornblende-edenite, spinel, a corundum, plus the similar coarse-crystalline Vietnamese marble with humite, hornblende-pargasite, spinel, and corundum the elements of each of these minerals started out in sediments. I propose a rethinking of the use of the term *metamorphic rock* for these high temp rocks. I believe they should be recognized as *igneous rock*; completely melted and recrystallized along with the creation of the new high-temperature minerals from the other earlier sediments. Richer than the calc-silicates is **skarn** a carbonate rock metamorphosed or melted adjacent to a molten intrusion, with its unique suite of minerals like cassiterite, titanite, and scheelite, from elements absorbed from the magma. As further evidence I offer the following: the igneous, **carbonatites**, (some are thought to have been of sedimentary origin). Carbonatites have more than 50% sodium, calcium and other carbonate minerals often with hornblende or pyroxene, plus possible apatite, wollastonite, perovskite, monazite, and etc. which may be rich in Rare Earth Elements (REE). About three hundred thirty carbonatite bodies and extinct volcanoes have been found to date with only one active volcano: the 6,000 feet tall, Oldoinyo Lengai, which is located in the Great Rift Valley of Africa. The base of the volcano is a fine grained nepheline syenite. At the top, erupting carbonatite lava is so cool that its dull red glow can be seen only at night. By daylight the lava looks like a very watery, melted chocolate. Cooled and crystallized, the sodium carbonate and other minerals are black. Within days or after a rain, the carbonate mineral hydrates and becomes a white dusty powder. The dust plateau at the peak of the volcano is constantly changing after each eruption and the weathering. Carbonatite rocks often are associated with alkali igneous rocks like syenite, which too may have high REE values. These magmas may have differentiated as two immiscible liquids like oil and water; each following its own destiny after splitting from a common igneous source. Magnet Cove, Arkansas has a carbonatite body associated with syenite. A few carbonatites are mined for their REE content, such as at Araxa in Brazil, the Niobec Mine in Quebec, Canada, and at Apatity in the Kola Peninsula, Russia.



The Rock King and I

Submitted by LGMS club member Kathy McGlothlin-Copyright 2002 ©

I wake up to the sound of digging. Someone is in the yard. I reach over to nudge my husband and find his side of the bed empty. I now know who is digging in the yard.

I get out of my warm bed and as I start toward the bathroom, I hear a triumphant cry from outside. "He did it," I say to myself. "He finally did it."

For 13 years, I have lived with the Rock King, and during that time I watched a relatively mundane back yard transformed into a sanctuary of rock gardens, rock walls, and rocks that are simply lying about serving no obvious purpose. The Rock King's hobby started out as a harmless means of trying to put to good use the many rocks he dug out of the ground as he landscaped the yard. The hobby soon grew into an obsession to determine how many different ways he can use a rock. The Rock King uses his rocks for stepping, sitting, walking, holding back the tide of erosion, corralling my many flowers, and even three huge rocks to help the garden hose glide safely around the mint.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining about the Rock King's obsession with rocks but, every time I go to the garden, it seems the rocks have multiplied.

"Why did you put this rock here?" I asked the Rock King.

"I thought the place needed a little something," he replies, "and besides, I think it's a pretty rock."

I stare at the rock and wonder how a rock can be pretty, and as I try to find some merit that will endear me to this new addition to our rock family, I pull up my mental diagram of my bulbs to determine if the rock was perhaps sitting on top of one. I decide my bulb is safe for now, and move on not wanting to think about having to care for yet another rock.

The Rock King adopts rocks. He cannot bear to discard a rock after rescuing it from its dark and icy hole in the ground. He will carefully rinse it clean of dirt and place it in a nice sunny location with no chance of it falling back into a hole again.

I sometimes think he hides most of them from me fearing that I will gather them up, and throw them into the gully with absolutely no feelings of remorse. I once located several large adoptees in a flowerbed while adding compost. I removed the dirt and lying there peacefully hidden, with a daffodil growing beside it, was a large flat rock. By the time I finished revamping my beds, I had at two wheelbarrow loads of rock, which by the way, I promptly threw in the gully with absolutely no feelings of remorse!

I now know why archeologists find little piles of rocks all over the planet; a princess married a Rock King, and the piles of rocks are left over from his landscaping around the castle.

Sometimes I wonder if there might be some kind of spiritual connection between a man and his rock. History is filled with rock accounts to back up my theory for example, when man finally went to the moon, what did he bring back? Rocks!

Man is even manufacturing rocks. That's right, man is producing objects that look exactly like the rocks in my back yard, and he's actually selling them for a hefty price - ever try to buy a man made rock?

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Rock King...continued from page 8

At the very least due to the Rock King's obsession, I can brag about having *genuine nature-made rocks* in my backyard.

When you think about it, man's fascination with rocks go way back to the caveman trying to figure out what to do with all the rocks he cleaned out of his cave, which by the way, is a huge hollow rock. Those caveman activities led to the present day rock garden. Man has come a long way baby. And wasn't the first thing the pilgrims set foot on in America a rock? Man loved this rock so much that he gave it a name-Plymouth Rock; then he named his car after it.

Another man-and-rock bonding ritual is kissing the Blarney Stone. Man thinks it brings him good luck; actually, it just makes him taste like concrete to the lassies.

Australia, who was determined not to be left out of the rock-worshipping scene, presented their rock to the world and proclaimed it bigger than anyone else's rock! The Rock King wants to visit Australia to see their rock. I asked him if he didn't think he had enough rocks to look at. He informed me that Ayers Rock is the biggest rock on Earth. I told him I was not going to Australia to look at a rock.

Sometimes I think the Rock King must consider really big rocks some sort of male challenge, a kind of proving ground for masculine accomplishment. Just look at Stonehenge; I'll bet that Rock King married a princess and she got a house made of rocks!

My Rock King decided to challenge a boulder in our yard. Years ago, he discovered a small portion of the rock sticking out of the ground in our yard. He was determined to rescue it from its dark and icy hole. I suggested we plant a cactus beside it. Nevertheless, he began digging around the rock and the more he dug the bigger the rock became. The Rock King finally realized that he was not going to get it out of the ground in a few days time, so along with Mother Nature, he has been slowly uncovering The Queen Rock for 3 years. Moreover, all these years he has planned for The Queen Rock. Digging it out of the ground and planning for The Queen Rock has been a hobby for the Rock King. Sort of like toy train enthusiasts planning for where the next tunnel will go in the railroad set, except the Rock King plans for ways to showcase his rocks. Well, who am I to begrudge the Rock King his hobby? At least the cost of the Rock King's hobby is rock bottom! I will admit, however, that I am forever grateful that man has not yet built a home display case big enough to hold The Queen Rock, and there is no way he can mount it on the wall!

The Rock King is yelling for me to come outside. I saunter onto the lawn and out to The Queen Rock. The Rock King is standing there with a look of utter ecstasy on his face, and beside him is The Queen Rock naked of earth and as big as a Volkswagen beetle. I try to envision The Queen Rock sitting in the middle of the yard, but all I can see is its huge hulk shading my roses. I decide to move my roses and plant trees around the rock. In the meantime, I smile at the Rock King and praise his strength in conquering The Queen Rock.

SPECIAL THANKS to all who took the time and responded to my plea for original articles for the newsletter. The response was great, as you can see throughout this issue. Anyone still working on an article or submission, please follow through and let's finish out 2008 with some of our most well rounded issues yet! Hobby related reports, stories, educational articles, photographs, drawings, poems, & puzzles are all welcome.

Schedule of Events

September 2008

SHOWS & TRIPS

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

www.amfed.org/show2008 for details

Oct. 4th – 5th- Shenandoah Gem and Mineral Club show at Kate Collins School in Waynesboro. Sat. 9-5; Sun 11-5; admission \$1.00, under 6 free. Free parking, food available.

Oct. 15th- Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Annual Auction. 7:00-9:00 PM, 301 Grove St, Lynchburg, VA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROGRAMS

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

October: GMSL Annual Auction

There was no
Executive
Committee Meeting
in September.



Federation News:

American Federation Convention Sept. 24-28
For more information, visit www.amfed.org

AFMS American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.,
and Houston Gem & Mineral Society present

**2008 Houston National Gem,
Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show**



HOUSTON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Three days of fun
For the whole family!

WHEN:
September 26-28, 2008
Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Kids' Day)
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

TICKETS:
Adults: \$5
Students, Teachers, Seniors: \$3
Children under 12: FREE
Tickets good FOR ALL THREE DAYS
FREE PARKING

September 26-28, 2008

- 1 Shop at more than 40 gem, jewelry, mineral, lapidary, and fossil dealers.
- 2 Join in continuous children's activities, including the "Dino Dig" and Scout Merit Badges.
- 3 See jewelry-making and gemstone-cutting demonstrations and educational displays, including a fluorescent rock room.
- 4 Bring your gemstones, rocks, minerals, and fossils for FREE expert identification.

LOCATION:
Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Parkway
Humble, TX 77336



For more information, visit the HGMS Web site at www.hgms.org or contact Show Chairman Scott Singleton at 713-664-0033 or at show@hgmss.org. Address inquired to HGMS: 10805 Brooklet, Houston, TX 77099

Convention Sept 24-28, 2008 Show Sept 26-28, 2008

Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Parkway
Humble, TX 77338
(281) 446-4140

Host Hotel

Comfort Suites Suites Kingdom

22223 Hwy 59 North
Humble, TX 77339-2845
(281)359-4448 Voice
(281) 359-9990 Fax

(Make reservations by 9/17/2008 to assure HGMS rate)

Hosted by

Houston Gem & Mineral Society

10805 Brooklet
Houston, TX 77099
(281) 530-0942

**DMC Program of the SFMS
Field Trip Committee**
An Official Field Trip of the Gem and Mineral
Society of Franklin, NC, Inc. (Franklin,
NC) (HOST) (Open to any member of an
associated club- no guests allowed.)

10 a.m. until 6 p.m. - Sat., Sept. 27, 2008
(Rain date will be Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008)

BUCK CREEK AREA OF CHUNKY GAL MOUNTAIN RANGE NO FEE AREA

Buck Creek Prospect Field and Creek in Clay
County, NC- Meet at 10:00 AM at the Westgate
Plaza, K-Mart and Ingles Shopping lot, to car pool to
dig site.

Collecting: Various minerals, corundum
(sapphire/ruby), sillimanite, rutile, kyanite, mica,
garnet, moonstone, soapstone, and best of all new
friends. **For more information contact:** Tom or
Linda Sterrett, lstterrett@rosecreekmine.com or
Rose Creek Mine at 828-349-3774.

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm,
Friday, October 3, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday,
October 4, 2008

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday,
October 5, 2008

Complete
information and
photographs
available at:

<http://www.gaminal.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip
Committee**
An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem
and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS.) HOST

8:30 AM CST

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Bayou Pierre River near Utica, Mississippi

Contact Janie Hand, 601-825-3989, or
RockNGranny49@aol.com



Nine-Year-Old Finds Diamond in Arkansas

Reprinted from Sept 2008 issue of PESA Rock News

On July 12th, a nine-year-old boy arrived at the Crater with his family. Seven minutes later, he picked up a shiny rock and showed it to his mother. "Is this a diamond?" he asked. "No," she replied because it was really too big and they'd only been there a few minutes. They held onto the shiny pebble for three hours and had it setting on a bucket with other rocks at the wash pavilion.

Finally, the young boy's aunt said, "You ought to take that to the Diamond Discover Center and have it checked to see if it is a diamond." He did, and it was. It was a brown diamond that weighed 2.75 carats, and they'd just left it laying around for 3 hours while they searched for diamonds.

Funny but true. A nine-year-old boy did better in seven minutes at the Crater than I have done in 30 years of searching. That is the amazing thing about that place. You never know when or where a big diamond will turn up or who will find it. *Photos from www.DiamondsInAR.com visit the website for related stories and information on the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, AR*



**ROCK
RAIDERS**

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 and Steve
Waterman of
Boons Mill, VA

Richard and
Cynthia Lane of
Lynchburg, VA

William and Ian
Brown of
Evington, VA

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

We are currently seeking specimen donations for our annual auction.

Search your garage, basement, buckets, and bags for that special donation and bring it to the Meeting on September 17th or at the latest on October 15th. These prized specimens will be auctioned off and the highest bidder will take home a new treasure.

Auction will be held on Wednesday, October 15th, during our regular monthly meeting. Bring your family or friends. Beautiful specimens will be up for bids, and a good time is sure to be had by all who attend.

First VP Report...

Continued from page 1
the business meeting. So don't be shy just jump right up there and tell us about something. Public speaking is really not that scary.

And also, thank you for taking the time to listen to my presentation about crystallography. I had fun giving the presentation and I will speak for food, good food.

*Aloha,
Steve*

Meeting Minutes...continued from page 2

New Business: The Executive Board had decided to add a 10 min. program of mineral identification immediately after the meeting. The membership is invited to sign up to participate. You don't have to be an expert, you just need to research one mineral and talk about it for 10 minutes. This is a great way for everyone to learn. Tonight Dave Woolley will give a talk on carbonate minerals and carbonate rocks. Next month it will be by a member on a special "amethyst crystal".

There being no further business Dave Woolley did his 10-minute talk. It was very informative and he had beautiful examples of all the minerals and rocks to show us. Thanks to Dave for the "first" presentation!

Program: Our own first vice president Steve Boylan was our program speaker for this month's meeting. "Crystallography" was the topic, and we want to thank Steve for sharing his knowledge and model building skills with the membership.

*Respectfully submitted
Dee Tinsley, Secretary*

Be "Patient" --- or "A Patient" ... continued from page 3

"When was your last tetanus immunization?" he questioned.

"About 10 years ago," I replied --- knowing that the nurse would soon be giving me another shot.

Doc then said, "I will check your x-rays and if nothing is broken, we will dress your finger and get you out of here. We will also give you an antibiotic, because we can't take chances with infection." I recalled that infection in bones could be deadly.

Later, some good news from the doctor --- no broken bones. But my earlier decision to not get the pry bar had been a costly mistake --- 5 hours at the Emergency Room, another hour at the drugstore, more hours of follow-up at my regular doctor and the orthopedic doctor --- not to mention pain, money and the inconvenience of having my hand in a bandage. Lesson learned --- be patient and take the extra time and effort to get and use the proper tools.

Faber Lead Mine field trip...continued from pg. 5

HISTORY: The mine was discovered in 1849, and operated off and on by the Confederates during the Civil War producing an excess 7,000 pounds of lead, but abandoned when General Sherman crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap. In 1905, it was again opened for Lead and Zinc but closed again about 1919. Several other unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mine were short-lived. The 3 shafts are now partly choked and caved and the audit reopened in 1958 is now caved. A large dump still exists and will still yield beautiful specimens after much searching and digging. We must arrive and walk in together, but you may leave any time you want and walk out by yourself. This is a unique collecting site and we are fortunate to have it in our area and have a landowner who is willing to share it with us.

OCTOBER 25th, 2008 FIELD TRIP Details Next Month

THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF
LYNCHBURG, VA, INC. and
THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM
SOCIETY, INC.
SEVERAL OTHER AREA CLUBS WILL ALSO BE
ATTENDING

KYANITE MINING CORP.

NEAR DILLWIN, VA.

WILLIS MOUNTAIN KYANITE MINE and
EAST RIDGE MINE

OCTOBER 25, 2008 ~ 8:00AM to 12 NOON

Sign-up is required, call me, email me or sign-up at
the meeting

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)

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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



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of Lynchburg,
VA INC

