

Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

July was a busy month with field trips and workshops. There was a good turnout for the sorting of rocks and minerals at Dave Callahan's house on July 18th, where we have categorized and crated some 2,000 pounds of material for future club use. Some of the nicer specimens were boxed up for the Club's silent auction, and some for the yearly club auction. We set aside some of the larger pieces to use for making spheres and bookends to sell at the Apple Harvest Festival in October. We need to get busy sawing and grinding on the spheres so there will be a good selection to choose from. The 10" saw has been returned to Dave Woolley's along with a good assortment of slabbing material to be used at the monthly workshops. You need to come to Dave's and see the variety we have there for members to buy and saw their own slabs. If you are not sure how to do this there will be plenty of help for cutting and making your own cabochons on the lapidary equipment. So come on out and join the fun. Some of the picture type agate will display well as sun catchers.

There was a workshop at Dave Callahan's on Saturday July the 25th. Dave, John Hatcher, Nona and I helped clean out the 24" saw of it's thick slurry of rock dust and mineral oil in the sump and are straining out the oil through vacuum cleaner bags to recoup all the clean oil that is available. The saw should be ready for use the second weekend of



August. We also cut more squares for sawing and grinding into spheres. This is a time consuming process but the reward of making a beautiful rock sphere makes it all worth the effort.

We all had a good time at the monthly workshop on July 22nd at Dave Woolley's house. Several of us cut some slabs from the new material and made cabs, there was a group of members that helped make Rock Pets as a new item to sell at festivals. Most of these rocks were cut pieces from making spheres and bookends that they turned into caterpillars, spiders, crabs, trilobites and some alien looking creatures by using paint for eyes and pipe cleaners for legs and antennas glued together very skillfully. Dave Callahan discovered this idea and I made some rough prototypes, but JoAnn Mason applied her artistic skill and has developed many new styles and color combinations for our new Rock Pet project. We will need to have another workshop for these in August so come on out and join in the fun. Maybe you can invent another creature to add to the list.

This week I was contacted by Sherry Foutz of Boxley's Blue Ridge Quarry Support Center. She is upgrading their website and saw our articles in the Club's July 2008 news letter about Stromatolite Fossils. *Continued on page 11*

From the First VP:

2009 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**Dorothy Rivera- Secretary**

(434) 237-0673

dlrivera55@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-** Warren Darling**Website-** Alan Rice**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** David Murphy**Membership-** Ralph Torning

July Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, July 15th, 2009 at 7:00 PM**Attendance:** 33 members and 3 guests**Hospitality:** Thank you to all members for bringing in food to share.**On Time Drawing:** Natalie Darling, Levi Roland and Ian Brown were winners. Don McIntyre brought in specimens for the children in attendance. Thank you so much Don. The children were thrilled.**Old Business:** John Haskins announced there was no old business.**First Vice President:** Not in attendance. John Haskins announced that our speaker tonight would be Vic Fleet "The Dinosaur Man."**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan has one brown T-shirt for sale- if interested see Dave. Field trips as follows August 8th: DMC trip to Thermal City Gold Mine 9am til? Faber Mine 8/19; Willis Mountain 9/19; annual Kentucky Geode Trip to Danville, Kentucky 10/1-4.**Treasures Report:** Dave Woolley reported for Franklin Midkiff: balance \$2835.98**Program:** Tonight's Program: Vic Fleet, The "Dinosaur Man" from the Nature Zone gave an interesting explanation of how different species got their names and category placements.**New Business:** New project for club: Bugs and spiders to make and sell. This looks like fun and the instructions are available.

Workshop Saturday 7/18 at Dave Callahan's. We have crates of specimens that we purchased that need to be gone through. 9am til?

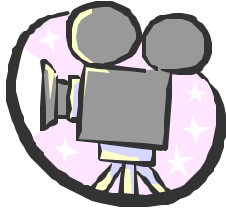
Items will be sorted for silent auction specimens, material for spheres and bookends, and material for lapidary workshops that will be available for members to purchase if they wish. Smaller pieces will be good for making our "critters."

**Minutes submitted by
Dorothy Rivera, 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



Our July program featured Club member Vic Fleet, also known as the Dinosaur Man. Vic explained many details about the identification of dinosaur species.

For the August program there will be a DVD or video- subject still undecided upon at the time of this printing. Come out and join us for "Movie Night" on one of our favorite subjects.

September Program: Club Member Mary Lose DeViney will speak on Stromatolites.

Carolina Gem & Mineral Rock Swap

Sponsored By: Western Piedmont
Mineral & Gem Society

Taylorsville Lions Club Fairgrounds

Taylorsville, NC

FREE ADMISSION!

October 16 and 17, 2009

9 AM until 5 PM

October 18, 2009

12 Noon until 5 PM



Dealer setup: October 15, 2009 between
10 AM and 5 PM

Dealers Contact: (800) 589-4619 or
WPMGS-Rocks@charter.net

44th ANNUAL

GEM MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

<http://www.rockandmineral.org>

SEPTEMBER 12 and 13, 2009

SAT. 10 am – 6 pm SUN. 10 am – 5 pm

(New Location)

ZEMBO SHRINE

THIRD AND DIVISION STREETS, HARRISBURG, PA

**Vendors of Jewelry, Beads,
Gemstones, Minerals and Fossils**

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FREE PRIZES EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

ADMISSION \$5.00

\$1.00 discount on each of two adult admissions with flier
Maximum Value \$2.00

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER AND SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE WITH ADULT

Field Trip Report

PAST COMBINED FIELD TRIPS



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

There were no past field trip reports since the last newsletter, and we are gearing up for our big Spruce Pine Weekend. Details and photographs will be in the next month's newsletter.



Upcoming Field Trips

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

**Sign-up required for all field trips. Call, email, or see me at the club meeting.
Do NOT just show up at the quarry or collecting site!**

August 8, 2009

DMC field trip for SFMS clubs only

This is a "go on your own" field trip

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society, INC and The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, INC.

COLLECTING: Gold

The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society would like to extend an invitation to fellow DMC clubs to join us in panning for gold at a genuine placer mining site in Rutherford County, NC. Thermal City Gold Mine consists of a one-mile section of the Second Broad River and about 80 acres of Placer Gravel Deposits, having one of the seven veins from the mountain supplying it. Panning material is brought from the river by backhoe for you to pan. The gravel is not "enhanced or enriched". The gold found here is in its natural state—right where nature deposited it. Gold is found as flakes and maybe small nuggets. Ample shade, parking, and instruction in panning are always available when needed.

FEE AREA Fee \$5 to pan all day, \$40 for front-end load

Children: Welcome with Adult Supervision

Pets: Pets allowed on leash

BRING: Shovels and pans are furnished or you can bring your own. Other equipment is for rent/purchase.

For additional information on the site, including details about a 'front-end load' or overnight stay, contact the mine at: phone: 828-286-3016, Website: <http://www.thermalcitygoldmine.com/>

Continued on next page

Upcoming Field Trips

Continued from page 4

HISTORY: This is an unsalted site and many people have had success finding gold here. The mine's aim is to provide an authentic experience. This mine is located on the actual site of the earliest placers of Rutherford County. It opened in 1830 and has produced gold ever since then.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Camping facilities with full hook-ups to primitive are available on a first come basis. Call 828-286-3016 for rates. No drugs, alcohol, or firearms are allowed. The grounds are almost level and a short distance from panning to camping and restrooms.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the site. From Asheville take I-40 east to exit #85 (Marion/Rutherfordton); proceed south on US-221 for about 8 1/2 miles to the Rutherford County line; the entrance to the mine is on the left (look for signs along the way). Travel time should be about one hour from Asheville.

CONTACT: Tim Barton at 828 885-8248

"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!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:

To collect field trip information from its member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Earth first... we'll collect on the other planets later.

August 22, 2009

Faber Mine

This trip is full. All available slots are Taken.

September 19, 2009

Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine

Space is available. Sign up now to Reserve your slot.

A broadcast will be sent by mid August with all the details.

October 1 thru 4, 2009

4th Annual Kentucky Geode Adventure

Danville Kentucky general area.

THIS TRIP IS FOR ROANOKE AND LYNCHBURG CULB MEMBERS ONLY.

All available slots are taken. To be placed on the waiting list contact Dave Callahan.

SFMS Field trip

October 10, 2009

This is a "go on your own" field trip as it is open to members of the SFMS and EFMLS associated clubs only.

Nantahala Talc and Limestone Quarry

Hewitt, North Carolina

Saturday, October 10, 2009

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WHERE: Nantahala Talc and Limestone Quarry, Hewitt, North Carolina (in the beautiful Nantahala gorge).

WHAT: Banded pink, gray and yellow marble, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, travertine and talc.

WHEN: October 10, 2009

COLLECTING HOURS: Participants **must** arrive at 9:00 A.M. to check-in, sign a release form, and receive a brief safety briefing. The dig will last until 5:00 P.M. There is no fee for this dig.

Continued on page 11

Diamond Hill Mine, South Carolina

The link for this story was submitted via email by mine owner Chester Karwoski. The article reprinted below and another article from a local museum (<http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/071509/oco463691285.shtml>) were originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Wednesday, July 15, 2009. Special thanks to Chet and his wife Gail, for allowing our club members to collect at the Diamond Hill Mine in the past, and also for remembering us and sending the link for the articles.

In the spring of 2008, Chester Karwoski and 11 other rock hounds all gathered at a remote place in upstate South Carolina called Diamond Hill to dig for crystals. They had done this many times before, but on this day they found a virtual treasure.

Unearthed from the grayish clay was a solid cluster of amethyst crystals so impressive that it now is on permanent public display at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.



On a recent hot June afternoon, David Smith, who actually went down into a trench and carefully removed the crystal cluster from its earthen tomb, was visiting at Karwoski's home in Watkinsville to recall that moment a year ago.

"How long did it take to expose it to the point of taking it out?" asked Karwoski, seated with his fellow mineral hunter at the dining room table. "I don't know," Smith said as he mulled the question. "Probably half a day."

When the amethyst - weighing 118 pounds - was removed and cleaned, it revealed large crystals of brilliant light to dark purple. The normal order of business for those engaged in a groupwide search for minerals is to divide the bounty they find during a dig. But this chunk of amethyst was extremely unusual, and nothing like it had been found in the mine.

"We all agreed that it was so good that it would be a shame for one of us to keep it at home ... and we decided it would be better in a museum where it could be appreciated," said Karwoski, a retired professor at the University of Georgia. He and his wife, Gail, own the mine he calls the Diamond Hill Quartz Prospect in Abbeville County, S.C.

The State Museum has the crystal - the largest amethyst ever found in the state - prominently displayed in its natural-history section. Amethyst is South Carolina's official state gem.

"People are not used to seeing something that big straight out of nature," said Tut Underwood, the museum's public relations specialist.

"I know of one guy who has an amethyst that weighs more than this cluster, but it's more smoky than amethyst," Karwoski said. "This weighs only about 120 pounds, but some of the crystals are roughly 14 inches long and are pure amethyst. It's the largest cluster of large crystals which are pure - and that statement may apply to all of North America."

Karwoski said quartz crystals and amethyst have been found on the Diamond Hill land for more than a century. "People have found quartz crystals there probably at least a hundred years, and I can speculate that people a hundred years ago would find quartz crystals and say something like, 'It looks like a diamond.' And maybe at one time there was a little hill there," he said of his theory on how the land acquired the name Diamond Hill.

Then about 50 years ago, people began looking more seriously for crystals at the site and found large quartz crystals along with amethyst, known for its various shades of purple.

About 25-30 years ago, George Browning of Anderson, S.C., purchased the mine and brought in heavy equipment to open up the land for crystal hunting, according to Karwoski. The mine soon earned a reputation among mineral hunters throughout the Southeast as a good place to find crystals, including smoky quartz. When Brown aged, he sold the mine to a friend of Karwoski, who later sold it to Karwoski.

While the entire property covers 13 acres, the site where the crystals are mined is less than two. "About 30 years ago, some amethyst crystals were found near the town of Due West (S.C.), and they are some of the finest specimens in the world," Karwoski said, adding that some of these are in the Smithsonian Museum. Due West is also in Abbeville County.

Continued on page 10

Schedule of Events...

August 2009

SHOWS & TRIPS

August 7th-9th-18th- annual North Georgia Gem and Mineral Show. Northwest GA Trade and convention center, in Dalton, GA. www.toteshows.com for information.

August 8th- DMC Field Trip to Thermal City Gold Mine in Union Mills, NC. Open to club members only- no guests. Details on the web at <http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm> or call Tim Barton 828-885-8248

September 11th - 13th- Winston-Salem, NC Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate 9, in the Coliseum Annex Bldg. Information: mariona1@yadtel.net

October 2nd - 4th- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Bead show in Harrisonburg, VA. For details visit www.toteshows.com

October 16th - 18th- Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention in Bristol Connecticut. The Bristol Club will host the convention, along with a gem and mineral show, and perhaps a field trip or information on area collecting sites. For more information visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/conv2008.htm> and click on the EFMLS convention link.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Field Trip
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Meeting 7:00 PM	20	21	22 Field Trip
23	24	25	26 Woolley's Workshop 7:00 PM	27	28	29
30	31					

PROGRAMS

August will be a video- Surprise topic.

September- Club member Mary Lose DeViney will deliver an educational program on stromatolites. For a special sampling on local stromatolites, visit http://www.boxley.com/news_pdfs/GMSL-Journal-Jul-08.pdf

The Hats are in- so if you ordered one please pick it up at the club meeting. \$12.00 each, please have correct change of a check made out to the club.



Late Breaking Field Trip Announcement

Official Northern Virginia Mineral Club Collecting Trip Announcement- Our club has been invited to attend. Contact Dave Callahan if you have any questions or to sign up.

Montpelier Feldspar Mine, Montpelier, VA
Saturday, August 29, 2009 - 9 am until 1 pm
Combined field trip for the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs
Sign-up required...call me...e-mail me...or see me at the meeting

Announcing a mineral collecting trip to the U.S. Silica Montpelier Feldspar Mine in Montpelier, VA. Here's a look at what has been found at this mine:

Actinolite, **Albite (var: Andesine)**, Albite-Anorthite Series, **Amphibole Group (var: Uralite)**, **Anatase**, **Anthophyllite**, Apatite, **Biotite**, Garnet Group, **Goethite**, Hornblende, **Illite**, **Ilmenite**, **Kaolinite**, **Microcline**, **Muscovite**, **Prehnite**, **Pyrite**, Pyroxene Group, **Quartz (var: Blue Quartz)**, **Rutile**, **Sericite**, **Spessartine**, **Titanite**, **Zircon**

Not only that, but they got Gold and Jewels and Chonklit Cake!* So, what are you waiting for? An invitation? Ahem!

Check it out at: <http://www.mindat.org/loc-11147.html>

Disclaimer: 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. Particularly the gold and jewels. Also, a lot depends on your luck. Talismans recommended.

Here's the address:
17359 Taylors Creek Road/UPS-Route 677
Montpelier, VA 23192

Standard full dress safety precautions apply. Here's what you'll NEED:

- 1: Steel Toed Boots - generally not fashionable unless in the 5 inch stiletto heel version.
- 2: Safety Goggles - polarized lenses are a good idea. If they cost more than \$15, you're just showing off.
- 3: Heavy Work Gloves - Dandy for keeping you digits intact.
- 4: Safety Helmets - A MUST, though color is optional.
- 5: Young Folks - Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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.

*They've got gold and jewels in VERY small, sub-microscopic amounts and the cake is stale.



Rock Raiders

SAFETY FIRST – AND LAST

by Jim Doran, EFMLS Safety Chair

With field trip season upon us, it's a good idea for all of us to review the proper and safe use of hammers. Bill Klose, in his March 2000 EFMLS News article really hit the nail squarely on the head. What Bill wrote in 2000 is still very much valid today.

Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type and construction, and include rock hammers, bricklayer's or mason's hammers, blacksmith's or sledge hammers, machinist's peen hammers, jeweler's hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's and welder's hammer's, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber, and tinner's. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rockhounds "favorite weapon" will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

1. Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.
2. Always wear eye protection.
3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the surface being

struck.

4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammers face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.

5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.

6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.

7. Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer-redressing is not recommended.

8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.

Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water to protect the metals tempering.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches, and hardened nails. Never use common

nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for this use.



Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches and riveting, straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmith's or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape.

When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards if the situation warrants it.

When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber.

So get out there and hammer up a storm – safely.

Article reprinted from EFMLS News, Volume 46, Number 8; June/July 2009



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.

Diamond Hill Mine

Continued from page 6

Both Karwoski and Smith, who lives in Bowersville, are members of the Athens Rock & Gem Club. The two met at a dig for amethyst at a location in Wilkes County.

Smith, a retired aquatics biologist for the Environmental Protection Agency, moved to Athens in 1966. The Aubrey, Texas, native then moved in 2004 to Bowersville, where he has developed his own rock garden.

Karwoski, who was born in Plymouth, PA, and grew up in Connecticut, moved to Georgia in 1974. His wife, Gail, is an author of books for young readers, including one called "Julie the Rockhound," inspired by her husband's hobby.

People of different backgrounds are drawn to rock hunting. Karwoski even has turned it into a business called Oconee Minerals. He often is seen manning a booth at festivals throughout the area.

But it was in the spring of 2008 that Karwoski and his friends made their biggest find. A backhoe was working in a trench as the dozen rock hunters scoured the site for crystals. "My recollection," Karwoski said, "is there was a hole 6 to 7 feet deep. Suddenly the scoop (on the backhoe) went into the dirt and we heard a loud clunk. At that point, we told him not to do anything further. He moved the bucket out, and David went down into the trench." Smith said the backhoe had uncovered a vein of amethyst. As he carefully removed the clay from around the stone, he could tell it was big. But he was surprised at the size of what he uncovered, and so was everyone else.

"I cleaned it the best I could, then I lifted it out," Smith said. It took hours to remove the cluster from the ground because too much haste could damage the stone. "If one point is chipped, it damages its value and the interest in it considerably," Karwoski said. "When we say value, we mean not only monetary value, but also aesthetic value." Smith said digging for amethyst is unpredictable. "It's not like there is one vein that goes on and on with any regularity that we can predict," he said. "There's a little vein here, a pocket here or a crystal here, and each will have its own type of crystals."

And while Diamond Hill has contributed a prized stone for the state of South Carolina, it's unknown if a future digger will brush away the earth to expose another rare stone.

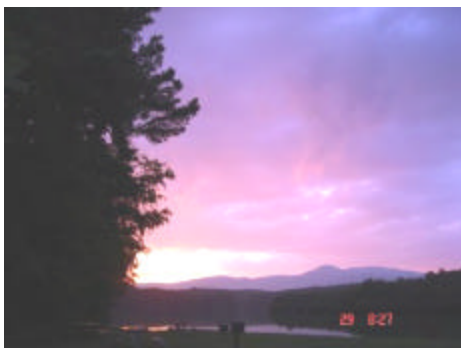
"I'm skeptical of finding anything else (as good)," Karwoski said.

But Smith looked across the table at the retired professor with a look that seemed to say, "Maybe there is."

Diamond Hill is open twice a year, and mostly rock and gem clubs schedule times to dig in the mine. For more information, contact Chester Karwoski at gailkarwoski@hotmail.com.



Chester Karwoski, left, and David Smith stand before a chunk of skeletal quartz that was dug from Diamond Hill, the mine Karwoski owns. The quartz crystal are white or milky, but they are covered with orange iron oxide and black manganese oxide. Karwoski has placed numerous pieces of skeletal quartz in his yard.



Speedy Recovery wishes are extended this month to former Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society President Steve Gordon, who recently underwent heart surgery. Please keep Steve, and his family in your prayers.

If you know of any other sunshine news, please send it to the editor so we may wish them well too.

Presidents Message ...continued from page 1

They wanted to add more info about these fossils found in their Quarry on the website and asked if they could use our articles. I was very flattered and hope to see the resulting write-up some time in August 2009. Their website is Boxley.com. Check it out; you may see your picture there.

At the time of this writing we are getting prepared to go on the yearly Spruce Pines rock show and dig. I hope we will have some good stories and specimens to show on our return. I hope to see you at the August 19th meeting.

**Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins**

October 24, 2009

Hold this date for a very exciting field trip. Plans are being finalized at this time. Two trip possibilities so stay tuned for details as they develop.

Field Trip Report...continued from page 5

If **children** come, they **MUST** be in CLOSE proximity to their parent(s) at all times. All young people under 18 must be with an adult/parent at all times. This is a working quarry with high unstable walls so **everyone must stay away from the walls.**

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Hard hats and safety glasses are required. It is also recommended that you wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and appropriate outer clothing. Collecting is possible rain or shine.

WHAT TO BRING: Buckets and containers, rock and crack hammers, picks, sledge hammers, and flat and pointed chisels. We will drive into the large quarry and park on a mid-level bench. Bring a lunch and water and be prepared to do your "duty" in the woods, as there are no nearby facilities. It will be possible to drive about ¼ mile to the quarry office for "relief", if necessary.

WHERE TO STAY: Towns within 30 miles from the meeting spot with motels, campgrounds and other facilities: Andrews; Bryson City; Cherokee; Robbinsville; and Murphy.

DIRECTIONS: We will meet at **9:00 AM** at a Roadside Park/Rest Area on US-74 at Hewitt, North Carolina and proceed as a group to the nearby quarry.

From the West: From the intersection of US-19 business and US-74E at Andrews, NC, drive approximately 12 miles east on US-74E to the roadside park/rest area on the left-hand (north) side of highway (just past the bridge over the Nantahala River).

From the East: From the intersection of US-19business and US-74W at Bryson City, NC, drive approximately 17.5 miles west on US-74W to the roadside park on the right-hand (north) side of the highway (just before the bridge over the Nantahala River).

FOR ONLINE INFORMATION AND PICTURES OF THE QUARRY:

<http://www.mcrocks.com/page11.html>

<http://www.mcrocks.com/FTR-A/FieldTripReportMikeStreeterOctober%2025,%202003.html>

<http://www.mcrocks.com/FTR-A/FieldTripReportEverettHarrington-October2003.html>

<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr/StreeterNantahalaNovember05.html>

<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr06-2/Streeter11-4-06.html>

<http://www.mcrocks.com/ftr07-2/StreeterNantahala11-10-07.html>



CONTACT INFORMATION: Mike Streeter – Email: mcstreeter@charter.net Phone: (828)667-8290

Editor's note- even if you are not planning on attending the field trip, you may really enjoy visiting some of the above websites.

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletters are available for all members to read on line at the Federation Websites:

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

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

(Available only via email)

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

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

