

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

*This month's issue produced in Doha, Qatar  
with special photos from Doha and Dubai, UAE*

Volume 19 Issue 4  
April 2010

## Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

You can tell when the weather is getting warmer by the number of field trips listed in our Club News Letter. Quite an impressive list for the next few months. These trips don't just happen, it takes a lot of work and planning, I hope you can take advantage and go to some of these collecting sites. Speaking of sites, I mentioned last month about checking out a site that showed some pegmatite material in the area. I looked at the creek crossing in Prince Edward County but have some bad news, there was no sign of a rock outcropping in the area and the creek is silted in as well as having deep water so I didn't find any signs of a place to collect there. Better luck next time.

We need to start planning some Club workshops for the purpose of making items to sell at the upcoming festivals this year. We will

need to have several Saturday workshops in April and May to get ready for The Uncle Billy's Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully we will have enough bookends, spheres, gem trees and jewelry made up to take us through the Apple Harvest Festival in Amherst in October of this year. Time flies and these dates will be here before you know it. We also need to fill several hundred bags with gems & minerals for our popular sluice. There will be more info on these dates at the April meeting. We did announce at the March meeting there will be a workshop at Dave Callahan's home on April 17th and a finish up, I hope, with a workshop on May 8th, I hope we can have many volunteers on these dates, it sure makes the work go faster.

*Continued on page 11*

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## From the First VP:

Those planning to do some fluorescent rockhounding next month, may benefit from some information on fluorescent rocks and minerals and about the two major collecting sites in northwestern New Jersey. Fluorescent rocks and minerals are peculiar because they are miraculously transformed into works of art due to their reaction to ultraviolet

light waves. This light excites the electrons within these rocks and minerals to produce very stunning orange, red, yellow, white, green, and violet colors.

Many of these rocks are also phosphorescent meaning that they will continue to fluoresce for minutes after the ultra violet light source has been removed.

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**2010 ELECTED OFFICERS****John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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JoAnn Mason &amp;

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**COMMITTEE CHAIR****PERSONS:****Field Trips**- David Callahan**Hospitality**- monthly**News Articles**- Natalie Darling**Silent Auction**- Warren Darling**Swap for Rocks**- Warren Darling**Website**- Casper Voogt**Workshops**- Dave Woolley**Membership**- Ralph Torning

## March Meeting

**Meeting:** Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**Attendance:** 37 members and 2 guests**Hospitality:** Thanks to Tom Davis and Tommy Conner for volunteering to host this evening. Bruce & Hunter Bunnell will be in charge of Hospitality for April and Natalie Darling will be hosting for May**On Time Drawing:** Jean Midkiff, Kren Levitt and Hunter Bunnell were all lucky winners.**Old Business:** Dave Callahan still has a few turntables that have not been picked up. If you ordered and have not yet received yours please contact Dave Callahan.**First Vice President:** Jack Curtin spoke on the Field trip to Diamond Hill mine in SC (see page ). He introduced the speaker for tonight's program, Gary Danzer and Roger Griesinger who spoke on Fluorescent Minerals, Franklin NJ and the mines at Franklin and Sterling Hill NJ. The April meeting program will be on Mineral Identification. Feel free to bring along any specimens you would like to try to identify.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan: upcoming fieldtrips: April 3- National Limestone Quarry, Middleburg, PA; April 17- DMC Trip to Hogg Mine, LaGrange, GA; April 20-25, Kentucky Mountain Festival, agate hunt and Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club Show; April 23-24- Annual Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig; April 24- Sterling Hill NJ fluorescent Mineral Field Trip, May 8- DMC trip to the Thermal City Gold Mine in Union Mills, NC; Smithsonian bus trip May 15<sup>th</sup>; see field trip section for more details.**Treasures Report:** Franklin Midkiff: Checking account balance is \$3746.96.**New Business:** Uncle Billy's Day is near and we need to have some workshops to get our supplies in order, as well as making more spheres and bookends. Two workshops will be held at Dave Callahan's- April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Donations are being accepted for the endowment of a mineral cabinet at JMU- for more information contact Dave Callahan.

**Minutes submitted by**  
*Brenda Glass, 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

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, at our regular club meeting we enjoyed a presentation on Fluorescent Minerals, with a focus on the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mines in Franklin, NJ.

Gary Danzer and Roger Griesinger (both club members) traveled from North Carolina to wow us with their specimens and knowledge on the subject.

This was very timely, as the annual spring Franklin/Sterling Hill open house is quickly approaching. Visit [www.uvwworld.org](http://www.uvwworld.org) for details and photographs.

**Mineral Identification** will be the topic of our **April Club Meeting**, Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

Club members will share their knowledge on the subject by demonstrating how to perform a streak test, hardness testing, and using characteristics to help determine or rule out mineral presence.

Feel free to bring along a specimen that you would like identified- perhaps we can offer some suggestions or help you identify your find.



## A NOTE FROM LLOYD WATSON...

Ha! A club for very active members. If I get any less active you can all enjoy the wake. I hope you will take some inactive members.

Just staying awake is what I consider being active. Lucy and I have finally reached 87. Never dreamed on "inactive" being one of my adjectives but here we are.

It doesn't even creep up on you. You just wake up one morning and there it is. It took 5 TIA's and 2 full blown strokes. Then in September Lucy had a stroke.

We still support the club and all its goals. We've made good friends, learned a little and had fun. Can't ask for more than that.

The biggest problem I've met is sliding out of the seat when we go to meetings. Was that the intended design of those seats? Hope to slide around in them for some time to come even though I have become an anchor instead of a rower.

Yours Truly,  
Lloyd

*Every sailing ship needs a couple of good strong anchors.*



# Field Trip Report



## Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, SC

March 13, 2010

Submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jack Curtin

The weather was dreadful Friday, March 12th, the day before the field trip to South Carolina's famed Diamond Hill prospect. It was rainy, grey, and just miserable which probably discouraged many of our club members from making the long trip down there. But, Saturday was bright and shiny. Bernard Rivera and I were very grateful, because it was still raining late the night before.

The four digging areas were still wet and the red slippery clay causing many of the rockhounds to don their high boots. I was fortunate to find some nice rocks with Limonite and black (manganese dioxide coated) crystals among the milky quartz.

Bernard brought back the trophies, however. After an hour or more of heavy shoveling, he found not one, but three beautiful clusters of smokey quartz. Amethyst crystals were laced among the smokey quartz crystals. If you didn't get a chance to see these clusters at our last meeting, a picture is attached.



*Siglinde, Natalie & Shannon at Dubai Creek Additional photos on page 13 for electronic viewers.*

## Greetings from the Middle East~

Here are several photos from our "field trip" to the middle east. Natalie Darling and Siglinde Allbeck are attempting to collect memories, jewels, precious metals, and maybe even a raw specimen or two while visiting club member Shannon Darling in Doha, Qatar. The three enjoyed several days touring Dubai, visiting the infamous "gold souq's", and certainly added to their collection of gold, silver, and other treasures. We will have many additional photographs, stories and treasures for show and tell on our return.





# Up Coming Field Trips

## Up Coming Field Trips

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan, 540-297-1853  
Email [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)

### The Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine, Kentucky

April 20 thru 25, 2010

The Mountain Mushroom Festival, Kentucky agate hunt and the Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club Show will be held on April 20th thru the 25<sup>th</sup> in Irvine Kentucky. Several of our members will attend and if you would like additional information, please contact me at [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com) or 540-297-1853.

The Kentucky agate hunt will be on Tuesday April 20, Wednesday, April 21 and Thursday, April 22. Reservations and a fee are charged for each days collecting. A different site will be covered each day. In the past, there has been a lot of walking and fording of streams so come prepared. Small low-slung cars just will not make it on some of the back roads. We will be collecting in the creeks and rivers on mostly private land. Waders and rubber boots are recommended.

The Mountain Mushroom Festival will be on Thursday April 22 thru the weekend. The Bluegrass Show will be Friday, April 23 thru the weekend. Dee Tinsley will have a booth at the show.

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### Sterling Hill, NJ Fluorescent Mineral Field Trip~April 24, 2010

*This is the latest information from Jeff Winkler, Tripmaster. If you plan to attend, please make your own reservations.*

February 21, 2010  
Greetings GlowHounds!

Things are shaping up well again this year for our annual event. REGISTRATION IS OPEN now -- you can click through from our website at <http://www.UVworld.org> Please use the Pay Pal option if at all possible (that takes credit cards; you don't need a pay pal account) -- paying by check takes your time and time for the treasurer, opens more chances for loss and errors, and generally is a pain for volunteers!

I've been up to Sterling Hill several times over the winter to check on things. The folks up there are very excited about April 24th - last year was again a simply "smashing event" and the great news this year is -- The registration fee is still only \$20, the same as it has been for many years.

We will have a full repeat of all the exciting special events we did last year, and once again those who attend will have their chance to "pick a piece of history" by selecting their choice of a piece of ore that still sits on the mill's conveyor belt from the day the Sterling Hill Mine was shut down - Good Friday, March 28th 1986. Every year, the choice gets smaller since nothing gets added to the belt!

*Continued on next page*

## Upcoming Field Trips...Continued from page 5

The "upper mill" area is still not open to normal tours or even any access to the public, so our guests at the Sterling Hill Digg have a very unique privilege extended to them on this one day of the year.

In addition to the special tour of the highest part of the mill structure and a walk across (inside) the conveyor you see way up in the air in all the photos of the site, we're also planning to have an extended "blackout tour" of the lower part - the mine itself. Maybe we will even be able to go back into two or three tunnels, in the dark with only your black lights on - time permitting. And again this year, a very special feature has been added -- an animated blast display. Wait until you see this! and hear it!! the kids will love it.

Keep in mind also that, weather permitting, the Ellis Observatory will be open after dark - the 20-inch telescope is amazing!!

As in past years, we will have many useful door prizes donated by our supporters (see their links on the main webpage, and check out their websites) including special prizes just for our young diggers. We are waiting to hear from several of our sponsors, so more details will be coming later.

Prior to our special weekend, the day's schedule will be posted on our website and probably sent out by email to those on the list. We're still working out the details of all the exciting adventures for the day.

**April 17, 2010~DMC Field Trip  
Hogg Mine in LaGrange, GA**

FEE SITE- Adults \$17.00  
(Regular price is \$35.00)

This mine is known for star rose quartz,  
tourmaline and aquamarine beryl.

Once again... I'm so excited this year, I just have to say it again: There's an unbelievable amount of stuff on site to be collected this year... it's a "collector's paradise." (You can get a list of all the rare minerals KNOWN to be in the mine area by clicking the link on our web page). And remember, there is no other place on Earth where some of the Sterling Hill minerals can be found; and we're the only dig at Sterling Hill where you can do a "night dig" plus see the "rainbow wall" of fluorescent rocks, lit by large UV lamps. So if you have to, take a nap in the afternoon so you can be "bright and bushytailed" in the evening.

If you have ANY questions not answered by info on the website, email me at:  
[TripMaster@Uvworld.org](mailto:TripMaster@Uvworld.org)

and be sure to include your telephone number - I have "unlimited calling" and will be glad to call you back. I enjoy very much talking with our collectors, and I want to be sure you have the best possible experience with us at Sterling Hill on April 24th. (By the way, we do not share your private info with anyone other than the registration crew).

Remember to check the website at  
<http://www.UVworld.org> now and then for new and updated info.

Your Trip Master again this year,

Jeff Winkler

*Upcoming field trips continued on page 10*

**April 23-25, 2010~  
8:00 AM to 6:00PM daily  
Graves Mountain Annual Rock Swap & Dig  
Near Washington, GA**  
This mine is world famous for its rutile.  
Contact Dave Callahan for details

*I found this article in a newspaper in London, England and thought about all of our clubs and federations battling the fossil collecting laws that have come up in our country, and the domino effect that such restrictions cause.*

### **Bring back the joy of collecting by Richard Gray, Science Correspondent**

*Reprinted from the Sunday Telegraph, March 30, 2010*

Children are being denied the chance to learn one of the key "foundation Stones" of science because laws that prevent them from collecting wild flowers, insects and fossils, according to Sir David Attenborough.

The natural history broadcaster and naturalist fears that children are no longer learning about how to identify and classify species due to restrictions on removing things from the countryside.

Laws brought in to protect endangered species also had the effect of stopping children from collecting common flowers and insects, he said.

Fossil hunting is now restricted in many parts of the country, with special permission required from landowners to remove fossils from their property. Sir David said this was stifling the inquiring minds of children.

His comments come after the National Trust obtained an injunction against fossil hunters to prevent them from digging into rock faces along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset.

Sir David was speaking at the launch of the Society of Biology, a new organization set up to promote the biological sciences.

"Children become interested in natural history because they are natural collectors," he said. "It's a pity that it is not possible to allow them to go out and collect any more. Not to be able to collect a wild flower or fossils is sad."

"It is a great loss to our children that they are prevented legally from collecting animals." He said that allowing children to collect and classify insects, animals and other objects they found around them helped them to learn the skills needed for taxonomy, the science of classifying species.

Asked about the decline in the public's ability to identify species, he said: "Taxonomy is the foundation stone of the biological sciences. I learned about taxonomy because, like my fellow colleagues, I was allowed to collect. I collected fossils as a child. I was able to compare ammonites to see what was different and I learned to identify their characteristics."

"Collecting and identifying is a basic instinct in children. The desire to collect and classify is deep inside all of us. It is very sad but, unfortunately necessary, that legislation should have been passed so it is now illegal to collect birds' eggs. It is illegal to collect butterflies. There are restrictions on collecting fossils. I hope we might be able to shift legislation in a more intelligent and generalized way that will not be so specific."

Collecting was once a hugely popular activity, reaching its peak during the Victorian era when it was considered a hobby for intellectuals. It continued to be a favorite pastime until midway through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

It also became a profitable business as collectors paid large sums to have rare specimens sent to them from far flung regions. However, concern about the pressure being put on species by the collecting craze led to laws being passed to restrict the trade of endangered creatures.

Other legislation prevents rare wild flowers from being picked if they are listed on protected lists while picking non-protected wild flowers is also restricted because it requires the permission of the landowner.

*Continued on page 10*

# Up Coming Events

# April 2010

## Shows and Trips

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**- Smithsonian Museum field trip. Annual Roanoke Club bus trip. Contact Dave Callahan for information.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**- Graves Mountain Spring rock swap and dig, near Washington, GA. <http://www.gaminal.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**- 47th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show sponsored by the Blue Grass Gem & Mineral Club. Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine, KY.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>& 25<sup>th</sup>**- 38th annual New Jersey Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show (with outdoor swap). Co-sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, New Jersey Earth Science Association and Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Franklin, NJ.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Jewelry, Fossil and Bead show Martinsville, VA. Visit [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**May 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**- Treasures of the Earth Gem, Jewelry, Fossil and Bead show Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. Visit [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**September 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>**- Fall Session of Eastern Federation Wildacres Lapidary workshops. Please visit the efmls website [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls) for complete details and application.

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 Meeting 7PM	22	23 Field Trip	24 Field Trip
25 Field Trip	26	27	28 Woolley's Worksho P	29	30	

# Places to visit

## Natural Bridge VA

20 stories of solid rock carved by nature create this world wonder. There is a gift shop, caverns, an authentic monacan village and trails for the nature lover.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact natural bridge park [www.naturalbridgeva.com/](http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/) 800-533-1410, you can email or use our [online request form](#).





## Executive Committee Meeting

### Minutes April 7, 2010

Present: John Haskins, Jack Curtin, Dave Callahan, Frank Midkiff, JoAnn Mason, Dave Woolley, Nona Haskins, Nell and Don McIntyre  
 Business: Our club has received a copy of the book *Understanding and Finding agates* by Karen Brzys, as a door prize drawing. Members will have the opportunity to purchase a copy if interested. The club library is currently split between Dave Woolley's and Frank Midkiff's homes. We will work on compiling a list of materials available for loan so members can check out books or other publications.

Jack will not be at the May meeting. Mineral Identification will be the program for April, and Dave will work on a program possibility for May. Currently we are planning on attending Uncle Billy's Day as vendors again this year. We are still researching the possibility of the Railroad Festival in Appomattox. More to come as information is available.

We will have workshops at Dave Callahan's on April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> to prepare, and are in need of rough specimens (surplus from field trips) to add to our sluice bags. Any help will be appreciated- as many hands make the job lighter.

Dave reported the following upcoming field trips:

4/17- Shenandoah Club Trip

5/15- Smithsonian Bus Trip

5/29- Nelson County

5/1- Morefield Mine will be open to the public; they are open now by reservation only. They will again be closed for the summer- so perhaps we will have a May or June trip there.

Frank is investigation tax exempt status for our club.

One of our members, James Duros, is selling some of his collections of rocks and coins. Anyone interested can contact him via email.

**Submitted by Brenda Glass, Secretary**

## Geology Concepts Part III

*Dave Woolley, Geologist*

**Chemical weathering** Water flows over impermeable rock, through permeable rock, and along discontinuities in rock where minerals deteriorate by chemical weathering: particular minerals are attacked by the addition or removal of elements by hydration, oxidation, and/or dissolution. Chemical weathering progressively weakens, creating zones of weathered rock, decomposed rock, and finally, residual soil. Calcite is the first common mineral to succumb to chemical weathering: the feldspars then the micas are the last. Quartz resists weathering. Certain dunites, hornblendites, sandstones, and other rock species rapidly change from rock to sand as the matrix or *contacts* between crystals deteriorate. Certain shales weather to expanding clay within hours or days of disruption or exposure; pyritic rock and pyritic marine-soils release sulfuric acid. Acid released from one mineral attacks others. Cavities form in limestone, dolostone, and marble, plus rocks containing water soluble minerals such as halite, creating *karst topography*. **Weathered rock** is rock that has undergone slight chemical weathering, not just surface staining.

**Decomposed rock** is rock that has undergone considerable chemical change. **Residual soil** is the material remaining as acids *sequentially* reduce susceptible minerals.

Percolating water internally leaches clay particles downward from the surface "A" soil horizon to filter-out in the "B" horizon as **hardpan**, while colloids and dissolved minerals continue to move towards the oceans. The "C" soil horizon contains weathering rock fragments. The "A" horizon is often rich in organic material, while all horizons in humid regions typically have organic activity: roots often extend tens of feet deep into discontinuities within rock, searching for water and mineral nutrients.

**Bring back the joy of collecting...***continued from page 7*

Similar laws govern the collection of fossils, insects and other animals. Codes of conduct drawn up by entomologists' state that insects should not be killed unless they are being collected as scientific specimens

Amateur entomologists echoed Sir David's concerns last night. Dr. David Lonsdale, the conservation director of the Amateur Entomologists' Society, said: " I think that the legislation is having an indirect negative effect, which goes far beyond its direct effect. This is because the idea of collecting being illegal, even in limited circumstances, creates a situation in which many adults feel, incorrectly, that they must tell children that it's wrong to collect anything from the wild.

A spokesman for Defra said the legislation was not intended to stop children from exploring or learning about the natural world.

"It is important to protect plants, birds and animals from damage and disruption and to help preserve an important part of our heritage so that we can enjoy the benefits for years to come," she said "The legislation does not prevent children and adults from exploring and learning about the natural world and we encourage them to enjoy the beauty of the countryside."

**Special Thank You**  
to our March  
Program presenter  
**Gary Danzer**, who  
sent us a box of  
fluorescent mineral  
specimens, which  
will be available for  
silent auction to  
help raise money for  
future club  
projects.

**Upcoming Field Trips...***Continued from page 6*

**May 8, 2010- all day**  
DMC Field Trip  
**Thermal City Gold Mine,**  
Union Mills, NC

FEE SITE\_ \$5.00 to pan all day, or \$40.00 for a loader bucket. This mine is on a one mile section of the Second Broad River in a placer gravel deposit. Visit the SFMS website or contact Dave Callahan for information.

**May 15**

**Smithsonian Bus Trip (Rescheduled)**

If you are interested in reserving a seat or not sure if you are on the list, please contact Dave Callahan.

**Club member David Lipscomb has sent us the following information:**

**Va-Rock Shop** Opened at  
Albemarle Professional Court  
233 Hydraulic Ridge Road, Suite 203  
Charlottesville, VA  
across from Albemarle High School  
Hydraulic Rd. & Whitewood Rd.  
Map

<[http://www.varockhound.com/events/Charlottesville\\_shop.shtml](http://www.varockhound.com/events/Charlottesville_shop.shtml)>\*

- \* April - Fri. 9th 10:00am to 5:00pm
- \* April - Sat. 10th 10:00am to 5:00pm
- \* April - Sun. 11th 12:00am to 5:00pm
- \* April - Wed. 14th 10:00am to 5:00pm

## *Presidents Message:*

*continued from page 1*

On a lighter note, the weather has started to warm up and field trips are close at hand, do you have your tools and gear in good shape? Remember to look at the overall condition of your tools, like chisels, they really take a beating. To work properly they need to be sharpened at a 45 degree angle and also check the other end for any mushroom effect. the top should be flat with a slightly beveled edge to prevent metal chips from flying off when struck. Check hammers for cracks and checks and also the handles to make sure they are not cracked or loose in the head. Wooden handles should be examined on all your striking and digging tools to make sure you won't pick up a nice splinter in your hand. So get your buckets and bags, safety glasses, hard hats and steel toe boots together and join us on our next field trip. It's a lot of good hunting out there. I hope to see you at the April 21st meeting.

Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins

## *From the First VP:* continued from page 1

Some minerals which do not normally fluoresce will sometimes do so because of an activating agent. For example, most forms of calcite do not fluoresce. Yet, if a small amount of manganese is present, it acts as an activator and causes the calcite to fluoresce red. The brilliance of the fluorescence varies with the amount of manganese present. Uranium salts in various rocks and minerals are also activators and cause a green fluorescence.

A mineral may be listed as fluorescent, but the fluorescence may result from a coating of a fluorescent substance. Thus, minerals may be fluorescent from one locality and not from another due to the lack or presence of an activator or a fluorescent coating. Calcite, which fluoresces orange-red, and Willemite, a zinc ore which fluoresces a bright yellowish-green are the most common minerals found at the Franklin and Sterling Hill Mine sites.

As Herb Yeates relates, 340 minerals have been found at these sites and 80 of them fluoresce. I've learned a lot from Mr. Yeates' website <http://franklin-sterlinghill.com/franklinminerals/index.shtml> and highly recommend it if you want to learn more about these fantastic rocks and minerals.

We'll learn some of the basics of rock and mineral identification at our next club meeting April 21 st. Porcelain tiles will be used as scratch plates, glass panes, steel nails, copper pennies, and our fingernails will be used to measure Mohs hardness and vinegar or dilute hydrochloric acid will be employed to differentiate calcite and limestone from other rocks. These are our

primary tools, but we'll learn many more tips to rock and mineral identification. Dave Woolley has generously volunteered to help with this program. Dave has written many papers on this subject and we will use much of his material. Please bring at least two rocks or minerals to identify that night. Luster, cleavage planes, and grain size will also be discussed.

Happy hunting,  
Jack Curtin

## The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 [www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://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

<http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/> Natural Bridge, VA.

<http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm> Information on the upcoming Graves Mountain Rock swap and dig, as well as photographs from prior collecting trips and contact information.

<http://campaignfortexas.utexas.edu/2010/03/vargas-collection/?AddInterest=1282> Link submitted by club member Mary Lose DeViny- an informative resource of 6300 mineral specimens on a searchable website.

Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

[www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://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](http://www.amfed.org/sfms), [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and

[www.amfed.org/efms](http://www.amfed.org/efms)

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**Additional Photo's from the Middle East Field Trip**



The Doha Corniche (1), Souq Waqif (2&3). The Souq consists of many outdoor/indoor shops and restaurants where you can find just about anything and barter with the locals for the best price on their wares.



Because of the desert heat, the shops and souqs are closed from 1-4PM, but come alive after sunset and remain open until at least 11:00 PM, later on the weekend.



Outside of the local mall- (4); camels grazing by the inland sea (5-7)-Purchasing hand made accessories from the locals (8) at the souq.



While in Dubai, we visited the worlds tallest tower, (1) took a cruise on the Dubai Creek in a dhow (2) and visited the beautiful beaches of Jumeirah. (3)

