

Presidents Message:



Hello to All,

Old Man Winter looks like he is not going away any time soon. But the GMSL is not taking it lying down. We have started out this January with a great program of Diamonds and Gold presented at the Club meeting, and followed it up with a great trip to James-Madison University Geology Lab and Mineral Museum. Personally I had Dr. Lance Kern ID two specimens that I had no idea what they were before. I'll bring them to the February meeting so all can enjoy. Speaking of the next meeting I am glad to announce that Daryl Grant will be our new adult liaison for the Rock Raiders Club. Daryl is a knowledgeable rock hound that likes to explore new areas. Daryl is also into prospecting. Daryl has made several talks to local organizations and has experience with making presentations to school age children. So be sure to bring your children or grandchildren to the February 16th Rock Raiders meeting. They will have their meeting time while the Society has the business portion of our meeting and they will join us for the refreshment break and also enjoy our

program for the month. If you have any ideas for future Rock Raiders Programs please see Daryl Grant at the meeting. Also if you have a person in mind that could give an interesting program for the Society meeting please speak to Jack Curtin our 1st Vice-President. It is not an easy job coming up with new programs for each and every meeting. Any help would be appreciated.

At the January meeting we discussed briefly the renovation to the P&R Building this year and the moving of equipment from Dave Woolley's Club workshop. The Executive Committee will meet the first of the month and try to have more details forthcoming. We will need the help of a number of members to make this a smooth transition. We are all in this together, so if you know of a potential meeting room please see me at the meeting. I hope to see you all at the February 16th meeting. Until then,

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First VP:

We see caves as structures of mystery and intrigue; places where bats litterly hang out and blind fish swim about. They make a perfect hideout. Animals use caves for various reasons; shelter from carnivorous animals, to protect their young ones, and to seek safety from natural phenomena like rain, lightning, etc. Pirates used caves as secret hiding places to stash their looted goods. The famous Tora Bora caves in Afghanistan are still

being used as hideouts today by terrorists.

Let's take full advantage of our club's next field trip to Luray and Grand Caverns by learning some basics, like How Are Limestone caves formed?

The largest and most abundant solutional caves are located in limestone, which is primarily
Continued on page 11

2011 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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Bernardino Rivera &

Tony Shields

COMMITTEE**CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips**– David Callahan**Hospitality**- Monthly Volunteers**News Articles**– Natalie Darling**Silent Auction**– Warren Darling**Swap for Rocks**–Warren Darling**Website**– Casper Voogt**Workshops**– Dave Callahan**FRA Adult Liaison**- Daryl Grant**Membership**- Ralph Torning

January Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, January 19th, 2011**Attendance:** 39 members and 3 guests**Hospitality:** Jack Curtin was the host for the January Meeting. Tony and Cindy Shields will be the hosts for February. Debbie Kennedy and Betty Harrell will be our hosts for the March meeting. Thank You to all of our volunteers.**On Time Drawing:** Tommy Conner, Elaine Blackford, Taylor Mitchell And Tom Noble.**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.**First Vice President:** Jack Curtin: announced that tonight's meeting program is a power point presentation with monologue by Ed Blackford on placer Gold & Diamond mining at the Dream Hole Mining Co in Guyana, South America. Next month program is a video.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan announced trip to JMU Geology Lab & Museum January 22nd. Bus field trip to LurayCaverns and Grand Caverns on February 19th. Contact Dave Callahan to reserve a seat on the bus.**Treasurers Report:** The checking balance is \$6,741.11**New Business:** Daryl Grant was received as our new Rock Raiders Club leader, to begin February 16th during the GMSL business meeting.

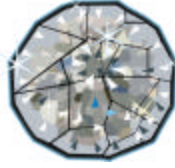
The Parks & Rec building is undergoing major renovations later in 2011. This will displace all organizations using the facility for about 18 months. The GMSL needs to find a meeting place for the duration as well as relocate the glass Mineral display case in the hall. We will be moving the equipment from Dave Woolley's home and putting it all together with the equipment at Dave Callahan's house. We are planning to offer an all day workshop during each month for all Club members. Club Workshops will be on hold until announced.

Minutes recorded by Don McIntyre, submitted by John Haskins

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

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

Programs



The program
for our
February 16th
meeting will be
a video

Special thanks to Roanoke Club member Ed Blackford for a fabulous program at our January Meeting.

Ed shared some of his experiences on Gold & Diamond mining at the Dream Hole Mining Co in Guyana, South America.

We appreciate the time and effort that goes into such a program, and encourage others to come forward with ideas or presentations that they can offer to our membership at one of our monthly meetings. Please contact Jack Curtin with your ideas, and help keep our programs enjoyable for all.

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

JUMP RINGS - December 2010

It's better to use a round jump ring on the end of a chain instead of an oval one. Oval rings will wear faster because tension on the chain concentrates wear on the smaller ends of the jump ring. Wear is distributed evenly on a round jump ring because it can rotate through the last link of the chain and the clasp. This gives the ring a longer useful life.

PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES - Nov. 2010

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces, I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters is best because it doesn't leave a sticky residue when removed.

*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/Bench_Tips/
or
[facebook.com/Bench_Tips](https://www.facebook.com/Bench_Tips)*



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

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

GMSL
2nd VP Report for the February Newsletter

January 22, 2011 Field Trip to James Madison University

We had about 35 members turnout and the weather was great. Dr. Kearns had a wonderful spread of coffee and sweet rolls waiting as well as a large selection of minerals for sale to benefit the museum.

Several people brought minerals to identify and perhaps 6 or 8 were run thru the x-ray diffraction unit. Most were easily identifiable but a few were not, possibly due to contamination of the sample. Microscopes and other specialized equipment were used for further mineral identification.

The mineral museum was opened for us and we spent a lot of time observing the world-class selection of specimens on display there. I hope that everyone had a chance to observe the brass plaque on the Virginia Mineral display cabinet in the center front of the museum. It bore the name of the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs as donors to the museum.

As always, everyone had a great time and it was a learning experience for all. We always look forward to this annual visit and an opportunity to visit one of the finest geology labs in Virginia.

February Field Trip

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

We still have many seats available for this bus trip. Remember that the Roanoke Club is paying for the bus so your only cost will be the entrance fee and your food.

You must call me, email me or sign up at the meeting to get on the seating list.

This is your last opportunity to sign-up. After the Roanoke Club meeting on February 10th the seating will be open for the Lynchburg Club.

Please read the payment procedure in the information on next page.

Up Coming Field Trips



Contact Information for Field Trips:
 David Callahan,
 Field Trip Chairman
 Home phone 540-297-1853-----
 Cell phone-----540-874-520-----
 E-mail dbc11@aol.com

February Field Trip

ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY INC.

Is proud to sponsor an Abbott Trailways Bus Field Trip
 to beautiful Shenandoah Valley to tour the famous

LURAY AND GRAND CAVERNS February 19, 2011

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. has been invited to fill any unsold seats.
 (The cost of your bus seat will be paid by RVMGS as a perk for membership. Revised 1-18-11)

The cut-off date for the Roanoke Club to sign-up and reserve a seat on the 54-seat bus is after the meeting on February 10, 2011. After that cut-off date, the reservations will be opened up for the Lynchburg Club to fill any remaining seats. The cut-off date for the Lynchburg Club is after the meeting on February 16, 2011. Any unsold seats may be offered to other clubs. You MUST call me, email me or see me at the meeting to get on the seat reservation list.

Contact information is listed below and you must pre-pay the admission fees for the trip by cash or a check for each cavern, made out to the RVMGS. If you pay by cash, please have the correct change. See the chart below to determine your payment. The RVMGS Board has determined that the total bus fee will be paid by the Club. Each member is responsible for all his or her other expenses.

Admission fee schedule (greatly reduced as a group rate, no additional discounts or tax)
 Luray Caverns-----**Adult** (13 and up)---\$15.50 each, **Youth** (12 to 6)--\$7.50 each, **Child** (5 and under)--Free
 Grand Caverns----**Adult** (13 and up)---\$13.00 each, **Youth** (12 to 6)--\$8.00 each, **Child** (5 and under)—Free

All other expenditures you make in the gift shop or for food will be your responsibility.

MEETING PLACE: Wal-Mart Supercenter parking lot at the intersection of US 460 and Rt. 220 Alternate in Bonsack, VA. At this traffic light there are signs directing you to the I-81 interchange in Cloverdale. Driving from Lynchburg, do not turn right on Rt. 220A but proceed straight thru this traffic light on US 460 W. The entrance to Wal-Mart is on the right immediately after you cross this intersection so stay in the right lane. Turn right up the hill and turn right again into the Wal-Mart parking lot. If you are traveling from Roanoke, there is a turn off just before the traffic light at this intersection. Turn left and proceed up the hill to Wal-Mart on the right. The Abbott Trailways Bus should be there by 5:30AM, parked in the lower part of the lot near the Wal-Mart lawn and garden area. Look for our group and we will leave our cars in the Wal-Mart lot. Park only in the lower end of this lot.

Up Coming Field Trips

Continued from page 5

DEPARTING: The 54 seat Bus will depart from Wal-Mart promptly at **6:00 AM and stragglers will be left.** Be sure to have eaten breakfast before getting on the bus. We expect to arrive at Luray Caverns at 8:30 AM. The bus has only a small restroom so be prepared for the 2.5-hour trip.

TOURS: Luray Caverns. The Bus will arrive at 8:30 AM and I will pay the entrance fee for the group. Stay on the Bus until told to depart for the 9:00AM group tour. We will tour as one group and everyone will receive a headset to receive information about the tour and cave features as we travel thru the cavern. We may have a guide to answer questions. The tour should last about 1 hour to 1 hour and fifteen minutes. After the tour you may also tour the Antique Car Museum and Luray Valley Museum and gift shop. There is a fast food restaurant in the building so please eat lunch here or you may bring your own lunch if you prefer. We should board the bus after eating and be prepared to depart promptly at 12:30 for the 1 hour drive to Grand Caverns.

TOURS: Grand Caverns. We will arrive in Grottoes, VA. about 1:30 and I will pay the entrance fee for the group. Stay on the Bus until told to depart for our group tour. We will divide into 3 equal groups and each group will have a guide. We will depart in groups as directed by guides. The tour will take between one hour and 1 hour and fifteen minutes. After your tour returns, feel free to visit the gift shop. When everyone has completed his or her tour, board the bus for the half hour trip to Harrisonburg where we will eat at a very nice family restaurant.

MEALS: We will eat lunch at the Luray Caverns Fast Food facilities. Bring your own bag lunch if you prefer.

For dinner we will eat at Traditions, Family style dining near Harrisonburg, VA. The meal is about \$11.00 per person. You will be responsible for your own meal

RESTRICTIONS: The bus is limited to **54 seats**. This trip is on a first come, first served basis. Over 54 members will be placed on a waiting list. The seat fee, if any, will be refundable **only** if you notify me 24 hours in advance that you can't attend so that someone else can have your seat.

DEPARTING: It will be your responsibility to make the Bus connection when departing from Luray Caverns, Grand Caverns and Traditions Restaurant. We should arrive back at Wal-Mart before 10:00 PM.

CAVERN 2011 GROUP FEE SCHEDULE

-----PLEASE NOTE-----

Each cavern admission fees must be paid in advance by cash or a check made out to RVMGS. See above for correct charges. I will collect the appropriate fees at the meeting or on the bus and pay the cavern group admission fee with the cash collected and one RVMGS Club check. When paying by cash, please have the correct change. I cannot be responsible for providing you with the correct change.

MONTHLY FIELD TRIP NOTICE

Some of our regular monthly field trips will now be scheduled on the fourth Saturday rather than always on the third Saturday as in the past. This is to allow some of our gold panning members to attend the Central Virginia Gold Prospectors meetings and go gold panning on the third Saturday.

March 26, 2011 Field Trip

I have received conformation from the landowner for a mineral collecting field trip an old rutile quarry in Nelson County.

The date will be March 26th so reserve that date if you're interested in attending.

You should find blue quartz, rutile, ilmenite and aplite feldspar. If you're lucky, you may even find some small rutile crystals. The material is really beautiful and takes a good polish. I will publish more information in the March Newsletter and by email.

DMC TRIP March 12, 2011

**An Official Field Trip of Gaston County Gem,
Mineral & Faceting Club (Gastonia,
NC) (HOST)**

**8:30AM until 12:00PM EDT
Saturday – March 12, 2011
Martin Marietta Quarry,
Kings Mountain, NC**

COLLECTING: The minerals found in this area include most of the species found in the Foote mine including the usual assemblage for a lithium pegmatite: spodumene, quartz, and feldspar. The area is known for the large number of unusual lithium, tin and beryllium minerals, especially phosphate minerals, which are found in fractures in the pegmatite. The Foote Mine has been shut down since 1992 and the mine dumps have been closed to collectors for approximately 20 years. These dump areas on the Martin Marietta property are the only material from the Foote Mine that have been "turned over" since the mines closure.

CONTACT:

Tom Taylor; Gaston CGM&FC – V.P.

704-735-9271 tom.taylor@chemetall.com

Or check out the complete field trip details on the SFMS website

THE 2011 DIGGG IS ON!!!

Registration and Trip Information at <http://www.uvwworld.org/>

April 30, 2011

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (DVESS) and the North East Field Trip Alliance (NEFTA), in cooperation with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, invite you to share an internationally famous collecting experience.

This field trip has attracted dedicated collectors from across the globe.

Be one of them this year!

It WILL be an historic and memorable event.

Up Coming Events

February 2011



Shows and Trips

February 19th- 21st Annual Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show sponsored by the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD

March 5^h-6th- 48th annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & community college, Newark, DE

March 18th-20th- Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC

March 19th-20th- 47th annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co MD.

July 9th-10th- Annual Show and AFMS/EFMS Combined Conventions sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. EFMLS Annual Meeting Friday, July 8th.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Valentines Day</i>	15	16 <i>Meeting 7PM</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

History of Rockhounding

Jose Santamaria



"You're darn right it's strang...
I planted garnets!"

From Rock Rattler 8/94 via Roadrunner 8/94
via The Burro Express 12/01

Hey Kids! My name is Daryl Grant and I'm really excited to be taking over the Rock Raiders program, and I look forward to meeting all of you. We will have fun, learn about geology, rocks, and minerals, play games, win prizes, and just have a good ol' time! I am a true "Rock Hound" and I want to get you as gung ho about rocks and minerals as I am. Anyway, I have to go break in a new rock hammer! I'll see you all at the next meeting on the 16th. Until then, keep looking down!



< Daryl Grant



Executive Meeting Minutes



The Board of Directors met on February 2, 2011. In attendance were John and Nona Haskins, Dave Callahan, Don McIntyre, Daryl Grant, Ralph Torning, Tony Shields and Brenda Glass

Business Items: Programs were discussed- February will be a video on Caves. We discussed ideas for future programs. Please offer ideas or suggestions for future programs. Contact Jack Curtin with information.

Southeast Federation Convention will be held in Augusta GA March 11-13th. If anyone is interested in attending, please check the website for complete details.

The Eastern and American Federations are having a joint convention in Syracuse, NY July 7-10th. There will be a show, exhibits, and field trips planned in addition to the convention activities. Information on the EFMLS website.

Meeting Place: Due to the scheduled renovations to the Parks & Recreation Building, we will need to find a place to meet for approximately a year and a half. Suggestions were provided and discussed, but we still need input from anyone who knows of a place that would be suitable for our regular monthly meetings. Please contact John Haskins with this information.

Our Rock case will also need to be moved and placed in a secure area. Luis Gonzalez has offered the use of space in his shop, Easter Island for a temporary relocation.

Dave Woolley has asked the club to find another home for the equipment and supplies that are at his home. We will be moving it to Dave Callahan's Home, and will need volunteers to help with the move and reorganization. Once the move has taken place we will begin **workshops** once again. We would like to take a survey to see what members are most interested in.

Daryl Grant is our new **Rock Raider** Leader. The group of young members will meet for the first half of our regular club meeting, and then return for refreshments and our regular program.

John and Natalie brought specimens and activities for Daryl to use. Daryl will submit an article each month for the newsletter. Daryl recently did a presentation on rockhounding for a group of Rotary Club Members in our area, as well as some elementary school programs.

Upcoming Club Activities/ Field Trips:

Uncle Billy's Day- June 4th

Cavern Bus Trip to Luray and Grand Caverns with the Roanoke Club. Only 19 have signed up so far, and the cut off will be the next meeting.

Field trip to a Rutile Quarry on March 26th.

Scott Durskey has made some CD's of his presentation on the Rutherford Mine and would like to know how many we need. Please let our secretary Brenda know if you would like one.

Ideas were presented on items that we can make to sell at our 2011 festivals. Dave Callahan showed us belt buckles and slab clocks.

We will be ordering a diamond saw blade for the large saw, so we can continue to produce our slabs, spheres, and bookends.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Glass, Secretary

21st Annual Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 | 10am - 5pm
(Same Day as the Gun Show)

Vendors & exhibits

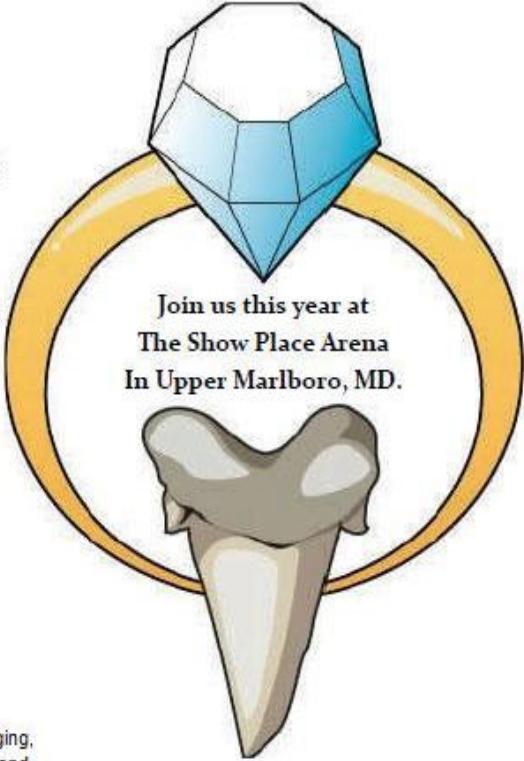
rough, polished & faceted stones

fossils, minerals & geodes

Tools & supplies

beads and findings

original jewelry designs



Join us this year at
The Show Place Arena
In Upper Marlboro, MD.

The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Ave
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Admission: \$3/person
Children 6 & under free

Demonstrations include:

Cabochon making, bead stringing,
wire wrapping, gold panning and
more.

Sponsored by:



Clearwater Nature Center

11000 Thrift Rd.
Clinton, MD 20735
301-297-4575

www.SMRMC.org



For more information or to request a vendor application,
please contact Michael Patterson at 301-297-4574



The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, staff support, etc.). TTY 301-699-2544



From The First VP: *continued from page 1*

calcite (CaCO_3), and formed by a chemical reaction or dissolution process. Limestone is quite stable in pure water. But it is soluble in water rich in carbonic acid, the same acid that is found in soda pop. Plant material and the soil at the top level of the earth's surface decays, releasing carbon dioxide. The rainwater is slightly acidic (pH~6); when it infiltrates through the soil, it reacts with the carbon dioxide (CO_2), and forms carbonic acid (H_2CO_3). This now acidic water finds its way to the underground water table, and this mixture can be referred to as ground water. The ground water percolates through tiny pores, cavities and openings in the limestone, and dissolves it ever so slowly. The erosion process continues, and cracks form in chambers of the rock. As the cracks get wider, more ground water enters and erodes the rock. The chambers get bigger with every rainfall. This process is very slow, and no one can predict the time required to form a cave. The dissolution process produces a distinctive landform known as karst, characterized by sinkholes, and underground drainage. Over time, small caves can grow to become elaborate systems of caverns containing large needlelike structures that seem to grow down from the ceiling (stalactites). And up from the floor (stalagmites). These structures are formed by the slow and steady accumulation of calcium carbonate precipitating from the chemical-rich water dripping off the stones. Sometimes, these two "dripstones" meet, creating large pillars with spectacular colors.

Know your speleothems

Ha! You thought this would be the "which one is a stalagmite?" part. Well, as long as you know that both stalagmites and stalactites are speleothems – any secondary cave decoration formed by mineral deposits – you're good to go. (BTW, stalagmite is the one on the floor, not the ceiling, because you "mite" trip over it. Other structures are known as flowstones, helictites, soda straws, and pool ridges.

Sometimes, so much solution takes place inside a cave that the caprock can no longer support the weight of the surface above. The roof caves in and a feature known as a sinkhole forms. Each year, there are news stories about people returning home from work to find a large hole in the ground where their house once stood.

Mother Nature has used limestone caves to house some of her most beautiful works throughout the ages. And it seems that each cave reveals something new to treasure. I've caved in WV, TN, and OH through the years and still am called to explore these dark, exciting, and beautiful realms. However we must limit our memories to pictures and notes because of the time it takes to produce the beautiful and exquisite formations found there. Perhaps you might wish to bring a camera to capture the grandeur of the caves you visit.

Later,

Jack Curtin

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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



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ON THE WEB: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society: www.lynchburgrockclub.org

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

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

Additional Field Trip Photo's

John Hkins