

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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Publication of the Gem &  
Mineral Society of  
Lynchburg, VA, Inc

[WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG)

## Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

What a great auction at the November GMSL meeting. We picked out a lot of different specimens in hopes of having something for everyone to bid on. It was a great success because of all the members and visitors that came out and participated. A big thank you to all. I hope everyone got a nice specimen to add to their collection. It may be a long time, if ever, we are able to have such nice pieces as the Burmese Jade, beautiful Agates, and nice pieces of Turquoise just to name a few of the most popular specimens. We will keep our eyes open for collections for sale in the future.

Now that we are in the grips of cold weather we will have to turn our attention to indoor activities for the most part. Remember the Club reserves the second Saturday of each month for a workshop. Come on out and saw, cab and facet in the comfort of wood stove heat, its great on a cold winter day. With all the rocks and equipment the Club has to offer you are only limited by your imagination. I am looking forward to the December 17<sup>th</sup> GMSL Christmas Dinner meeting. We ask that everyone bring in their favorite dish to share on the buffet table. The Club

will supply the delicious fried chicken so we are counting on everyone else to bring in vegetables, pasta salads, potato salads etc, and please don't forget some sweet desserts. We also have a Dirty Santa gift exchange. All you need to do to participate is bring in a wrapped gift of about \$15.00 value that is hobby related. All gifts will be placed on a table and each person will draw a number, which will be the order for opening the gifts. Number one will choose a package and open it. Number two will then open a gift and if the previously opened gift is more to their liking they can make a trade, and so on until all gifts have been opened. Its not unheard of gifts being traded after the fact. We do have a lot of fun, I hope you will bring in a gift and join us.

There will be a voice acclamation vote for election of officers for 2015, who will be installed at our January meeting. That's all for now, I hope to see you all there.

**Keep Looking Down,  
John Haskins**

## From the First V.P.

Our Christmas meeting is always exciting with many surprises in store for all who attend. Many of the surprises are linked to our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. To participate, please bring a mineral / rock associated gift valued at around \$15. In the past, some folks have brought rock specimens, rock-hound tools, educational material, etc. (**No gag-gifts please**). It's loads of fun and a great follow-up to our festive Christmas dinner.

Although a dish is not required, please consider bringing one of your favorites to share and celebrate with us. The club will provide the always super delicious fried chicken.

Somehow the unakite we collected on the club's last field trip reminded me of Christmas, probably because of the bright orange feldspar (almost red in some cases) and the green epidote. The following article from [bjordangemstones.blogspot.com](http://bjordangemstones.blogspot.com) tells us more about Virginia's state stone.

*Article begins on page 10*



## November Meeting Minutes

**Meeting-**Wed.November 19, 2014

**Attendance-** 34 members

**Host-** Deborah Tyler was the host for tonight's meeting, and Jack Curtin will host the December meeting.

**On Time Drawing-** No on time drawing this month. Dave Callahan won the 50/50 drawing.

**Old Business-** John Haskins: None.

**First V.P.-** Jack Curtin: Jack Curtin is asking for a co-chair and/or help with getting programs set up for next year. If you know of a speaker, or a video that you think club would be interested in, please let Jack know.

**Second V.P.-** Dave Callahan: Field Trips: Morefield Mine will be open until Dec. 7, 2014. Please consider visiting the mine- our support will help keep the mine open in the future. 11/22: Unakite collecting field trip on private site; 11/28-30: Roanoke Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center. Volunteers needed for our fluorescent booth; 12/6-7: DMC field trip to a fossil site in Tennessee; 1/24/2015: Field trip to JMU Geology lab.

**Treasurers Report-** Balance at this time \$7,615.32

**New Business:** Nominating Committee- Noel Weller reported email was sent to the population of the club for nominations for board positions and there were none. The current officers have agreed to continue their

positions. Opened the floor for nomination, there were none.

**Program:** Club Auction. Next month will be our Club Christmas Dinner- Everyone please bring your favorite covered dish to share. Anyone wanting to play dirty Santa (gift exchange) is encouraged to bring a rock or hobby related item **wrapped** - valued around \$10-\$15.

T-shirt orders are in, please contact Dave Callahan and pick up your order promptly. month

**Minutes submitted by**  
**Linda Noble, Secretary.**

*This issue of the Gem and Mineral Journal has been produced in Istanbul, Turkey and Nuremberg, Germany.*

**Thank You to everyone who got their articles in early!**



*Beautiful rock formations like this were enjoyed on a leisurely drive outside of Nuremberg.*

### 2014 ELECTED OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT - John Haskins**  
(434) 525-8430  
[JMHaskins1@netzero.net](mailto:JMHaskins1@netzero.net)

**First Vice President**  
**Jack Curtin**  
(434) 384 -6249  
[jacwcurtin@gmail.com](mailto:jacwcurtin@gmail.com)

**Second Vice President**  
**David Callahan**  
(540) 297-1853  
[DBCALL1@aol.com](mailto:DBCALL1@aol.com)

**Secretary**  
**Linda Noble**  
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**Editor - Natalie Darling**  
(434) 941-1899  
[gmsleditor@gmail.com](mailto:gmsleditor@gmail.com)

**Treasurer - Frank Midkiff**  
(434) 660-1565  
[midkiffsm1@gmail.com](mailto:midkiffsm1@gmail.com)

**Members At Large-**  
Bernardino Rivera &  
Dave Woolley

### 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-** OPEN  
**Membership-** Thom Noble



## PROGRAMS

For our November Program, we enjoyed our annual club auction. Those in attendance had the opportunity to bid on beautiful specimens to add to their collections. There were 60 items in all, and all proceeds benefit the club treasury.

The December meeting will be our annual Holiday Dinner and Dirty Santa gift exchange. We hope you can join us. Please refer to Presidents article on page 1 for "dirty santa" explanation.

### Bench Tips by Brad Smith

"Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon"

[www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

### TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the color will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it.

~That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

~Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.

~Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the frame.

~Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.

~Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper. Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.

~Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.

~Turn the camera's flash off.

~Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.

~Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.

~Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, lightbulb, fluorescent, etc).

~Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections.

~Take the shot!

Continued on page 14

## FIELD TRIP REPORT..

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report  
*Past Field Trip Report*

**Saturday, November 22, 2014**  
**Private Unakite collecting site**  
**Rockbridge County Virginia**

**Contact**  
**Information**  
**for Field Trips**  
**David Callahan,**  
**Field Trip Chairman**  
**Home phone: 540-297-1853**  
**Cell Phone- 540-874-5201**  
**E-mail [dbc11@aol.com](mailto:dbc11@aol.com)**

Saturday turned out to be the best weather day we had all week. It was a bit chilly starting off but by noon things warmed up. The sky was clear and the abundant sunshine sure felt good.

We had 19 people attending and everyone had a great time. Gary has a beautiful farm and was a gracious host. We were able to collect some very beautiful un-weathered unakite and it will be very useful for future lapidary projects and personal collections.

After several hours of collecting on the farm, several of us continued on to a site on the South River where the *Scolithus* was plentiful. According to the Geology of Virginia by Dietrich, *Scolithus* tubes, which are common in some of the lower Cambrian sandstone beds (quartzite) along the western Blue Ridge



of Virginia and may represent ancient worm borings.

They do make an interesting fossil addition to our collections. The white to cream colored quartzite provides a nice background to the pencil sized black manganese stained parallel round tubes traces. Some of the quartzite is very hard and will take a nice polish. Some interesting patterns can be achieved by sawing the tube traces at different angles thus producing round, oval or straight black lines.

Everyone had a great time and we look forward to another visit in the spring when things warm up a bit.

*Article by Dave Callahan; Photographs submitted by Linda Noble.*

## UP COMING FIELD TRIPS...



**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society (Knoxville, TN) (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS**  
**This is a go-on-your-own field trip**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

Tour of Gray Fossil Site, Gray Tennessee  
 and a visit to Bristol Caverns

**Sunday, December 7th, 2014**

Douglas Lake to collect  
 Double Terminated Quartz Crystals

My plan is to host a two day field trip. The first day, Saturday, December 6th is not a collecting day, but should be interesting to those that would be interested in learning about the geology of the Gray Fossil Site and walking through one of the local caves in the area. The second day, Sunday, December 7th will be to collect double terminated quartz crystals, and possibly graptolite fossils if there is an interest.

### **First Day: Saturday 12/6/14 - 11:00 AM**

Our plans are to tour the Gray Fossil Site in Gray Tennessee. Dr. Michael Whitelaw has agreed to give us a "Behind the scene" tour of the Gray Fossil Museum. We will see what is involved in the preservation of the fossils that are being studied from the Gray Site as well as take a look at the actual diggings. The digging season is over for the year, however Mike will explain to us the geology of the site as well as the fossils that have been collected since its discovery. The tour of the gray site will take approximately two hours, we will take break for lunch around 1:00 pm and for those interested, we will go to Bristol Caverns to see some interesting cave formations.

**Meeting time:** 11:00 am Eastern Standard Time, Saturday 12/6/14

**Location:** Gray Fossil Museum, Gray Tennessee

**Directions:** From Knoxville, TN to Gray Fossil Site in Gray, TN. Take I-40 towards Asheville, NC, Then Take exit 421 exiting Left onto I-81 North and go towards Bristol, Ky. Take Exit 57A and merge onto I-26E/ Hwy 23 and go about 13 miles. Turn right on Exit 13 towards Bobby Hicks Hwy/State Route 75. Take the left fork towards Sulphur Springs. Turn left Suncrest Drive. The Gray Fossil Museum will be on your left. We will meet in the parking lot at 11:00 am Eastern Time. Address: 1212 Suncrest Drive. Gray, TN 37615. Phone: 423-439-3659.

Bristol Caverns. Saturday 12/6/14 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

**Directions:** From the Gray Fossil Site to Bristol Caverns. Take State Route 75 North towards Bristol, TN 15 miles, turn right on State Route 394 and go approximately 12 miles, 394 turns into State Route 435 after you go under Hyw 421. Go about 2.5 miles on state route 435 to Bristol Caverns. Address: 1157 Bristol Caverns Hwy, Bristol, TN 37620. Phone: 423-878-2011.

**Travel time from Gray Fossil Site:** 40 minutes.

After the tour at the Gray Fossil Site, we will brake for lunch and drive over to Bristol Caverns. This is a commercial cave, so there is a charge to go through it. For those interested in seeing the cave, we will meet at the cave at 3:00 pm. It is a 40 minute drive from the Gray Fossil Site to Bristol Caverns. There are several restaurants along the way that you can stop and get something to eat.

### **Second Day: Sunday 12/7/14 - 10:00 AM**

**Collecting:** Double Terminated Quartz Crystals

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 AM, Sunday 12/7/14.

**Meeting Location:** Parking lot at boat launch on the South Side of Douglas Dam.

**Directions:** From Knoxville, TN, Take I-40 East towards Asheville, NC. Take Exit 407 and turn right towards Sevierville, on HWY 66. Go about two miles and turn left on State route 139 (Douglas Dam Road). There will be an Exxon Gas Station on the corner. Stay on State Route 139 about 2 miles then turn right on State route 338 (Douglas Dam Road, Old state Hwy 66). Go about 1.5 miles on State route 338 then turn left on to Boat Launch Rd. There will be a gas station on the corner (The Dam Sore). Stay on Boat Launch Road until you come to the end. Meet in the large parking lot near the boat launch closest to the south side of the Dam.

**What to bring:** for the quartz crystals: Boots or a change of shoes. The area is normally very muddy this time of year. Bring a change of clothes also. You will need some small plastic bags or a container to put the crystals in.

**What to bring:** for the Graptolite fossils. Standard rock hound tools [hammer, chisels, goggles, wrapping materials, buckets]

**Contact:** Daniel Miller for additional information Daniel. [miller@jtekt.com](mailto:miller@jtekt.com) [423-273-0487](tel:423-273-0487)

## Flint Knapping Workshop

article submitted by Linda Noble

A group consisting of Dave Woolley, Noel Weller, Cindy Mitchell, Taylor Mitchell, Thom Noble, Linda Noble, Tom Davis, Pam Klein, and Dave Callahan went to Errett Callahan's for a series of lessons on Flint Knapping. I'm sure the group would agree the classes were time well spent and a rewarding experience.

**Errett Callahan**, as well as being a gracious host, has a Master of Arts degree, a PhD degree and Honorary Doctorate in archeology/anthropology.

In 1987, he began his Cliffside Workshops as a means to impart the knowledge he has learned throughout the years about flint knapping and primitive technology to students and enthusiasts from around the world.

Errett teaches the workshops at his home, hosting five to ten students at a time. The workshops mainly cover flint knapping techniques, though he will cover any

number of topics associated with the primitive technologies he is well versed in, if the students are interested. If you would be interested in taking a class please contact Dave Callahan for further information.



## Reminder to all...

Our annual Holiday Dinner and Dirty Santa gift exchange will be held at the December 17th 2014 GMSL meeting.

The club will be providing delicious fried chicken, and we ask that you bring your favorite side dish, bread, or desert to share.

After dinner, we will play our version of "Dirty Santa" ~ rock swap style. This is an OPTIONAL activity, and not recommended for most children. Anyone wishing to play should bring a HOBBY RELATED, wrapped gift, with a value of \$10-\$15. Each player will draw a number, and we open in numerical order, starting with #1. After opening the gift you selected, you may keep it or chose to swap with anyone else who has already opened a gift. We do have a lot of fun with this, but we have to emphasize that it may be difficult for young children to fully understand that someone else can (and will) take their gift- especially if it's "a good one."

As the last order of business, we will hold our annual elections, for the 2015 GMSL officers. All current officers are running unopposed, so there is no need for a ballot. Please come out and show your support while enjoying our end of year Holiday Celebration!

## Kicking Off the 2015

### AFMS Endowment Drawing

by Regina Kapta, AFMS Chair

reprinted from Nov. 2014 AFMS Newsletter

The 2014 Endowment Fund Drawing took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and all the prizes should have been delivered by now. We had some very nice donations for prizes, and a lot of people stepped up and bought tickets to support the AFMS Endowment Fund. Thank you for your support. And thank you to those who picked up prizes to deliver at the banquet in Tulsa. That helped save the cost of mailing the items.

So, here we go on the 2015 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. I have four prizes so far, with hopefully many more to come. The same representatives are selling tickets and soliciting donations in each federation as last year (see list below), plus, a couple of other people are selling tickets to cover other parts of their federations. It was such fun to meet several of the representatives in Tulsa to put faces with the names I'd dealt with last year. Now I know who I am e-mailing when I send out messages about the endowment fund. They all have tickets to sell, so please support the fund again this year. Tickets remain at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The 2015 drawing will take place shortly before the awards banquet in Austin, Texas on October 24, 2015.

In the meantime, the donations will be shown on the AFMS Website, <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)> as well as in the AFMS Newsletter.

Prize #1: Copper pieces, mine tag, and stock certificate donated by Pam Hecht. Estimated value is \$65. MWF (Photo of similar donation in 2014, which will soon be updated to the actual items being donated this year.

Prize #2: Howelite and Onyx agate necklace and earrings. Donated by Sharon Rogow, crafted by Betsy Oberheim. Estimated value is \$75. CFMS

Prize #3: A large Agatized coral head donated by the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society. It was from an old collection of Withlacoochedd River coral donated by a member who passed some years ago. The value is estimated to be at least \$100. SFMS (This one is larger than the one given last year.)

Prize #4: Phareodus encaustic (fossil fish) from the Eocene Period, Green River formation, Kemmerer, Wyoming. This was donated by J.C. and Donna Moore with an approximate value of \$65. MWF.

Prize donations should be related to our hobby such as a specimen, a lapidary item, handcrafted jewelry, or other item. We ask for items that have an estimated value of at least \$50. And, items that aren't too heavy would be really nice. I hate to have to spend a lot of money mailing prizes after the convention. That eats into the profits from selling tickets. To see examples of prizes that have been donated in the past, go to <[www.amfed.org/endow2013.html](http://www.amfed.org/endow2013.html)>.

Anyone who has an item to donate can mail it to me at:  
Donna Moore,  
25325 N. State Route 97  
Cuba, IL 61427

Or you may contact the sales representative from your federation. Questions can be directed to my e-mail at [mwfsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com) or my phone 309-231-2116.

To find a representative selling tickets, or view the most recent photographs of donated prizes, please visit the American Federation Website: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



Upcoming Events

December 2014

**TEE SHIRT REMINDER  
PLEASE PICK UP YOUR SHIRTS  
and HATS AT THE  
DECEMBER MEETING  
THANK YOU**

**March 7-8-** 52nd annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, 400 Stanton-Christina Rd; Newark, DE

**March 28-29-** 65th annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Hickory Metroplex, Hickory, NC EFMLS Annual Meeting on Friday, March 27.

**March 28-29-** 46th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Show hosted by the Che- Hanna Rock & Mineral Club; Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave, Sayre, PA

**March 28-** 5th Annual SEMMC Auction sponsored by the Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club. Mitchell Memorial Club, 29 Elm St; Middleboro, MA

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Callahans Workshop
14	15	16 Happy Hanukkah	17 Meeting 7-9PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 Happy New Year!			

**ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS**

Workshops will be held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's. Start time is 9:00 AM, but come anytime and stay as long as you'd like. There is a store/deli about a mile down the road if you want to break for lunch and return.

The workshops will be open format, and the purpose will be for club members to learn how to use the lapidary equipment to turn rough specimens into finished lapidary pieces for their own personal use. Experienced members will be available to help teach and assist.

We have a great set up with several sets of wheels for cabbing, faceting machines, saws, and much much more. From time to time there may be special class offerings, so be sure to let us know what you are interested in.

**Workshops are open to club members only, and due to liability we can not allow guests or non-members at our club workshops.** Remember, membership is just \$15.00 per year for the first family member and \$3.00 for each additional family member.



## Safety Matters- Stop!

by Ellery Borrow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Reprinted from EFMLS News, Nov. 2014

Yes- Stop...Look...Listen and be safe. One often hears that there is no such thing as an accident. I however, do subscribe to the notion that there are accidents, that there are things we have no control over.

One may have an automobile with which one has followed every recommended maintenance schedule, had regular service of its many parts and pieces, and secures second opinions on any matter that is of concern, and yet still have a problem with occasional breakdowns at the most inconvenient times. Thus, problems and accidents still occur- even with the most thoughtful and pro-active attention to maintenance and service schedules. That said, I still have to believe that by reading the manual, following the guidelines, paying attention to what one is doing, and minding ones common sense, one can prevent the vast majority of those inconvenient things we call accidents.

Being human beings, we sometimes get into a groove, a rut, a certain way of doing things. In fact, we do some things so often we hardly pay attention to what we are doing. How many times have you swung a rock hammer, lit a jewelers torch, touched stone to a grinding wheel? Do you think of all the many associated safety concerns with each of those actions? I'm guessing probably not just because we do those activities (and so very many other routine tasks) so often that our brains just sort of go on automatic during the activity. After all, we have done those things hundreds of times, maybe thousands of times- and all without incident or accident.

Well yes, routine tasks are indeed routine, but let me assure you that no two activities or actions, no matter how similar they may appear, are, or can never be, completely and exactly the same. In those small dissimilarities from one torch lighting to the next, from one hammer swing to the next, from one touch of a stone to the wheel to the next, the safety gremlins lurk and with the slightest of opportunities invite those pesky little accidents into our lives.

Yes, stopping, looking, listening and all those many other precautions required to be safe take time away from the activities we enjoy, but so do trips to get a

bandage, finding the antibiotic ointment, or dare I say, trips to the hospital.

Stopping, looking and listening with each activity we do is what we already do on some basic subconscious level with our attention. Things we perceive as higher risk get more of our attention. The problem is that even those low risk repetitious, monotonous, boring tasks, can pose risks and as such deserve our full attention. Now how does one keep ones full attention tuned in to the task at hand for safety's sake? Some suggestions:

1. Keep in mind every activity is a new and different one, even for tasks as simple as the strike of a rock hammer.
2. Every activity is a chance to practice your technique.
3. Every activity offers the opportunity to see it in a new light.
4. Every activity presents a chance to learn.
5. Every activity is new and fertile ground to be creative.
6. Every activity has the potential to be boring, but deserves to receive your full attention especially when safety is of concern.

Yes, Stop, Look, and listen. In fact, feel free to employ all of your senses, even ones that one may not think appropriate. I've been known to prevent disaster by sensing vibration from an unbalanced silicon grinding wheel and shutting down the machine before an accident occurs. Yes, use all our senses, even the most common one- that of common sense. You're safety matters and that is no accident.



## *From the First V.P.*

*continued from page 1*

### **Unakite is a Stone of Vision**

First discovered in the United States in the Unakas mountains of North Carolina, Unakite is an altered granite composed of pink orthoclase feldspar, green epidote, and generally colorless quartz. It exists in various shades of green and pink and is usually mottled in appearance. Good quality unakite is considered a semiprecious stone, will take a good polish and is often used in jewelry and other lapidary work such as eggs, spheres and other carvings like animals. It is also referred to as epidotized granite. In some of the Blue Ridge occurrences an epidotized auger gneiss is present exhibiting foliation structures.

Unakite can be found as pebbles and cobbles from glacial drift in the beach rock on the shores of Lake Superior. It occurs in Virginia where it is found in the river valleys after having been washed down from the Blue Ridge Mountains. Unakite is not limited to the United States, but has also been reported from South Africa, Sierra Leone, Brazil, and China. Some material labeled unakite lacks the feldspar and is more properly epidosite.

Unakite...or epidote with feldspar as it is also known, consists of a combination of deformed red jasper and green epidote solidly bound together, thus creating the beautiful pistachio and pink coloring. The splashes of soft peach against a fresh green colored background makes Unakite a much beloved and magical gemstone.

Unakite is an altered form of granite, composed of pink orthoclase Feldspar, green Epidote and Clear Quartz.

Unakite is a stone of vision. It balances emotions with spirituality. Unakite provides grounding when needed. It facilitates rebirthing, gently releasing conditions that inhibit spiritual and psychological growth.

Unakite supports convalescence and recovery from major illnesses. It reads the reproductive system and stimulates healthy pregnancies while facilitating the health of the unborn. Unakite enhances weight gain, where required and aids the growth of skin tissue and hair.

The stone takes its name from the Greek word episodes, meaning "growth together", and it is these materials bound together that conveys the meaning that what comes together, belongs together. Carrying the gemstone as a companion stone will help you to maintain a balance between your spiritual and physical lives. allowing them to join forces in assisting you to create the life you need.

Unakite is excellent at removing obstacles to your personal growth. Whether it is an issue from childhood or last month's divorce that is draining your energy and holding you back. Meditations with this gemstone will aid in releasing pain and anger that you are having trouble letting go of.

You may use unakite to build your self-confidence, as it strengthens your courage, assisting you in taking control of the aspects of your life that you can yield power over. Giving you confidence to transform anger and fear into positive constructive energies. Like love and compassion for yourself. Healers believe that Unakite has the ability to unleash buried emotional pain and to also aid in the body's healing process.

Since many illnesses begin as an unhealed trauma to our psyche, letting go of emotions you're clutching to aids the body's tissue in relaxing on a cellular level. This promotes healthier organs, muscles and soft tissue.

Unakite is recommended for a safe pregnancy (as is Moonstone)

*continued on page 14*

## The 2014 Fluorescent Mineral Show

By Thom Noble

This past Thanksgiving weekend our club staged the fluorescent mineral show at the Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society's Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. We contract with the Roanoke club every year on this weekend to put on this display at their show, and we are paid \$300 for our efforts. It is a lot of work to put this show on but the real reason we do this is not for the money but to help promote interest in geology, rocks and minerals. We open the display to the public every hour on the half hour during the show's operating times. This adds up to eighteen display showings over the three days with approximately 600 to 700 people coming through our display, many who have never seen anything like this before. Quite a few of those expressed interest in going to New Jersey to the Super Dig at Franklin New Jersey's Sterling Hill Mine to collect fluorescent minerals. I passed out several membership applications to people that were from Lynchburg area and directed many others to the Roanoke club's geode booth for an application for their club if they were from the Roanoke area.

This year, thanks to club funding, we were able to increase the number of shortwave UV lighting fixtures by a third. Each of the five display cases with the shortwave



UV fixtures had three fixtures and the one long-wave case had five fixtures. The display really popped with the added light and the dark spots that had haunted us in the past were nonexistent. In the past with only two lights per case we had to arrange the minerals more to the center of the case to catch the available light. Now with three fixtures per case we can utilize the entire space to display more specimens. The display really makes an impression now as a result. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dave Callahan for donating his time to build the five new UV lights and to modify the ten existing UV lights so that they would all fit in the display cases.

We had a photographer from the Roanoke Times Newspaper come to the show on Friday. He took pictures of the displays and gathered some information from us about the fluorescent minerals. The pictures and an article were featured on the front page of the Saturday edition of the newspaper. Also in the same edition there was a picture of a couple of very photogenic shoppers who turned out to be our own Jean and Noel. On Saturday afternoon, WSLS News came by and did an interview with Roanoke's club president Royce Wickham. In the interview, Royce gave us credit for doing the fluorescent display so we definitely spread the news about fluorescent minerals this past week end.

*Continued on next page*



## The 2014 Fluorescent Mineral Show

Continued from page 11

Thanks to Dave Callahan, Frank Midkiff, Jean Midkiff, Linwood Hoffman, Katie Hoffman, Tom Davis, Bernard Rivera, Steve Gordon, Bill Livingston, Dave Woolley, Noel Weller, John Haskins, Nona Haskins, Jack Curtin, Sharon Curtin, Judy Elder, Linda Noble and Thom Noble for donating their time and efforts to make the show a success.

Photographs from the Roanoke Times via: [http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/salem/salem-s-gem-and-mineral-show-displays-earth-s-treasures/article\\_78ace442-46f3-5fd4-9d11-97c9b098e199.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/salem/salem-s-gem-and-mineral-show-displays-earth-s-treasures/article_78ace442-46f3-5fd4-9d11-97c9b098e199.html)

### 10,535 Pages Condensed to 4 Sentences

From the Internet via Bob Hughes,  
Re-printed from Dec. 2014 issue of SCRIBE

As humorous as this may sound...every last word of it is absolutely TRUE.

Here are the 10,535 pages of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obama Care) condensed to 4 sentences.

1. In order to insure the uninsured, we first have to un-insure the insured.
2. Next, we require the newly uninsured to be re-insured.
3. To re-insure the newly uninsured, they are required to pay extra charges to be re-insured.
4. The extra charges are required so that the original insured, who became uninsured, and then became re-insured, can pay enough extra so that the original uninsured can be insured, which will be for of charge to them.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is called redistribution of wealth... or, by its more common name, SOCIALISM.

## What Kind of Rockhound are You?

Reprinted from Sept. 2014 Rock Writings

**The Fortune Hunter-** This rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

**The Optimist-** Called the Happy Hunter- this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, as a gem or fare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

**The Road Runner-** No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule- never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him pat of their finds.

**The Smasher and Basher-** this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.



## FLAKED OUT

An introduction to flint-knapping

**By Bob Miller a.k.a. White Arrow**

*Member of the Deming (New Mexico) Gem & Mineral Society-*

Somewhere lost in the sands of antiquity, the first flint tool lies buried and forgotten. My guess is that it sleeps somewhere east of Eden in Mesopotamia, likely fashioned by the hands of Adam. Of course, I don't really know and neither does any other living human. The bond between mankind and flint are very old and deep indeed. Likely, it is some vestige of this friendship that reappears today as the urge to rock-hound.

Flint-knapping (from the German "Knappen" meaning to nibble) is doubtless one of the most basic and ancient of industries. Without the very sharp and durable edges produced by fracturing flint even the working of wood becomes next to impossible. If you doubt this, go into the woods without knife, ax, or saw and try to fell a useable sapling. Catching a cooperative beaver is about your only option here. Along with fire, flint was survival for millennia, and many of those fires were kindled using a flint spark.

In everyone's genealogy there were flint-knappers. It may be many generations ago for some or only a few as in this writer's own Cherokee and Choctaw ancestors. Their skills were undoubtedly adequate or we would not be here today.

Until the recent development of fused diamond plating on a tungsten matrix blade, obsidian (as in "Apache Tears") produced the sharpest known edges, far superior even to the best surgical steel scalpels. Obsidian fractures at the molecular level producing edges that may be only a molecule or two thick. The Maya Indians of southern Mexico were in fact successful performing brain surgery (trepanning) centuries before Columbus landed, using obsidian tools.

The Knap-ability of flint owes to its krypto-crystalline structure (it's crystals are microscopic or nonexistent). It

is much like glass, being about 95% quartz (silicon). When struck a sharp blow with a hard object it will fracture into a "Hertzian cone" (conchoidally). Perhaps the easiest illustration of this phenomenon is to shoot a piece of thick glass with a B-B-gun. The characteristic product of this collision is a smoothly-rippled Hertzian cone. This is the basis of flint working by percussion.

Flint-knapping is the art of vectoring blows from a "billet" to remove flakes from the core in a manner predictable enough to eventually shape a blade. This process is called "core reduction." Once a blow is stuck in cannot be recalled. For better or worse, the record of that blow is "written in stone."

Knapping is a lot like playing billiards. Due to inconsistency of defects (inclusions) in the flint in can more resemble playing pool on a wavy table with a tree limb and glasses. There are times I feel that I am actually matching wits with a piece of flint, as in three-dimensional chess! Many Indians believed that everything, even inanimate objects like rocks had a spirit and were somehow "alive." Perhaps they were right.

There is, of course, a lot more to knapping, like pressure flaking, heat-treating flint to improve its "lithic" qualities, "hands on" experiencing of just how sharp flint really is, weeping over the halves of an exceptional, almost complete blade, and of course losing one's mind.

One thing is certain, if you pursue knapping with any degree of persistence, you will recognize that its ancient practitioners were not a bunch of dumb savages banging rocks together. Instead, that is what we modern hobbyists are! They did it to survive— we do it...For fun????!!!

**WOW!****Spectacular Speakers, Wonderful Classes**

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair  
Reprinted from Dec. 2014 Issue of EFMLS News

I'm excited to announce that the speakers for our 2015 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres have been confirmed. Bob Jones, Sr. Editor for Rock & Gem Magazine will be with us in spring. Denise Nelson, jewelry appraiser and designer will be our fall speaker.

Dates for spring are Monday, May 18 to Sunday, May 24. We're awaiting notification from the Blumenthal Foundation about our fall session dates and will publish them in the next newsletter and on the EFMLS Wildacres website as soon as available.

More good news! The fee for our 2015 sessions will remain the same as last year — \$390 per person. This includes room and board, gratuity for the Wildacres staff, six talks by our outstanding speaker-in-residence and registration in classes- What a deal!

✱Imagine – a week in the mountains of North Carolina away from the hustle, bustle and noise of our normal lives.

- ✱Imagine – a week immersed in our hobby – whether you're interested in jewelry, lapidary or minerals.
- ✱Imagine – a week of no cooking, housekeeping, errand running, blaring radio or TV.
- ✱Imagine – six fabulous talks given by either Bob Jones (spring) or Denise Nelson (fall).
- ✱And imagine – a fun filled week that includes an auction, field trip, a day set aside for you to explore the area (Asheville is but an hour away) and much, much more!

A complete list of our spring classes can be found on page 7 and a registration form on page 8 of the December issue of EFMLS News. Let's keep the fall session momentum going (we had a waiting list!), and fill all of our available spaces. The experience of an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop is one you won't want to miss.

More information about our Workshops can be found on our web page ([efmls.wildacres.org/](http://efmls.wildacres.org/)). More information about the Wildacres Retreat facility can be found at [www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org).

**From the First V.P.**

*continued from page 10*

and the healthy growth of the infant while in its mother's womb. The gemstone may also be helpful achieving targeted weight gain to specific areas of the body.

Wouldn't unakite, tumbled or polished make the perfect christmas gift?

Merry Christmas to all!  
Jack Curtin

**Bench Tips by Brad Smith**

*Continued from page 3*

**GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

It's often difficult to find a nice gift for a friend who makes jewelry. The Bench Tips book has earned over 25 Five Star reviews, was ranked Number One in Amazon's Top 100 list for Jewelry, and named by Amazon as one of the Best Books in 2014. Get a copy at [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)



## AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind-fences, signs, or buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material- matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

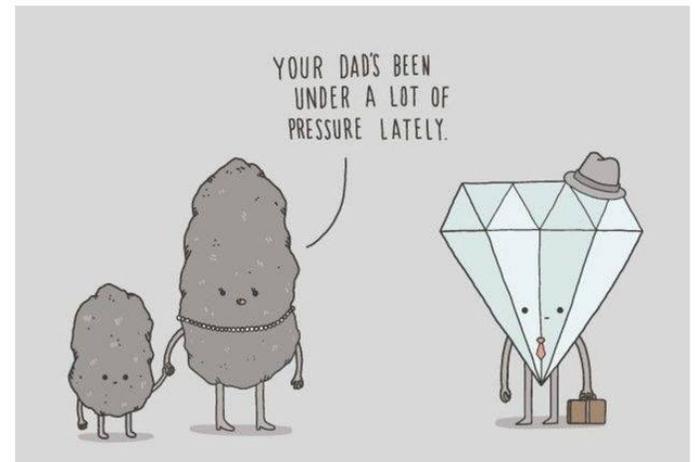
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

### I can tell.



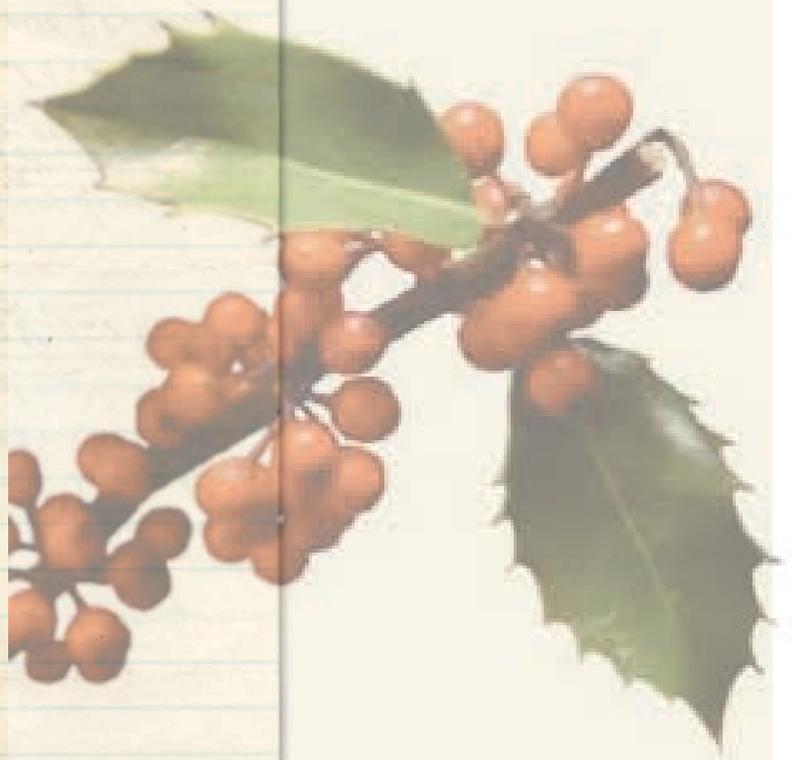
Natalie Darling, Editor  
211 Chesterfield Rd.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502



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



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official Future Rockhounds of America association of the The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.



**MEETING LOCATION**

Lynchburg Parks and Recreation  
Fairview Center  
3621 Campbell Ave.  
Lynchburg, VA

**DIRECTIONS:** *Fairview Center; 3621 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-847-1751~ From Route 29 expressway or Route 460, take the Campbell Avenue Exit. Follow Campbell Ave. to 3621, which is across the street from a **Citgo Gas Station**. There is a fence around the building and parking on both streets running along the sides of the property as well as a lot in the back. We will be looking for you!*