

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

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

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

MARCH 2015

VOLUME 24~ ISSUE 3



Presidents Message:

Hello To All,

February was a great month for rock hounds, I could scoop up shovels full of white crystals 8-10" deep all around the house for several weeks. All jokes aside, in my memory February was the first time we canceled a meeting because of bad weather. The Executive Committee was able to have a meeting and we made plans for some exciting programs for upcoming meetings. There will be some opportunities for hands on experience with trim saws, capping machines and faceting machines as well as learning demos for fancy wire working for jewelry. Also we plan to have a signup sheet for those members that would like to buy a table space for selling some of your rock related material or nice specimens that maybe you have in over stock. More info at the March meeting.

I admit winter time with all its related problems makes it hard to have outdoor activities, so it is a good time to work on indoor projects such as faceting, capping or just

cleaning and arranging some of your finds from last year making them ready for display, sale or trade. Also now is the time to get together your tools for field trips to make sure everything is within close grasp as well as cleaning and sharpening chisels and digging tools making them ready for your next great find.

This is again the GMSL year to host the DMC field trip. We have some plans already but will need more help from the members to make it run smoothly. More details in future meetings.

We have a good speaker with some interesting material for the March 18th meeting program. I hope to see you all there, weather permitting.

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

From the First V.P.

Dave Young, owner of "Stones & Bones" and one of our own founding members will speak at our March meeting. Dave is a fellow collector and like us, is excited about rocks and minerals.

Looking to write something linking the St. Patrick's Day theme "The luck of the Irish" to rocks, I thought of all those lucky stones that many of us collected as kids. I, like all my my friends, collected lots of that white rounded

quartz and stuck the stones into my pockets considering myself that much luckier. Writing about eroded white quartz didn't seem that exciting, however. Searching the Web, I came across this information on lucky stones that was quite interesting. The article is borrowed from Wikipedia.

Article on page 14

February Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting:
CANCELLED
due to inclement
weather



Executive Committee Meeting

- March 4, 2015 7 p.m.
- Attendees: John Haskins, Nona Haskins, Thom Noble, Linda Noble, Jean Midkiff, Frank Midkiff, Dave Woolley, Noel Weller, Natalie Darling, Dave Callahan, Bernard Rivera
- It was decided that we will plan to meet again in June & September or quarterly.
- Dave Young will be the speaker for the March Meeting.
- Plans were made for the April and May meeting programs as well.
- April: Cabochon and Wire Crochet Demos
- May: Show and Sell event, where members can rent tables and sell hobby related items.
- We will try to video workshop activities in the near future. Need people to demonstrate using the equipment.
- It was decided that we will not participate in Uncle Billy's Day this year. We will focus on building our inventory for the Apple Festival in October.

- We will need to purchase polished stones for our sluice bags, and the Midkiff's will donate quartz crystals. We may also need to purchase more geodes.
- A reward system was discussed for members who participate in club events and workshops. A point system could be used and prizes awarded accordingly.
- It was suggested that we visit the Miller Park Location and make a decision if we should move back there for future meetings.
- Dave is working on 2 field trips currently for the coming months; (American Rutile and Faber Mine) and we need to start planning for hosting our DMC Trip this year in August. More to come as details unfold.
- The Morefield Mine will be open March 14 through May 30th. Call or visit the website for details.

**Minutes submitted by
Linda Noble, Secretary**

2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - John Haskins
(434) 525-8430
JMHaskins1@netzero.net

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

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

**Secretary
Linda Noble**
(434) 332-4869
linda-noble@hughes.net

Editor - Natalie Darling
(434) 941-1899
gmsleditor@gmail.com

Treasurer - Frank Midkiff
(434) 660-1565
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

There was no meeting in February due to weather conditions.

For our March meeting, David Young, Owner of Stones 'n Bones <<http://stonesnbones.net>> in Forest, VA will be giving a talk on Mining. For those who have heard this before, come get a refresher and say hi to an old friend, supporter and founding member of our club. For everyone else, you are in for a treat. Dave is a successful local business owner on the subject that we call our hobby. You won't want to miss this one ~ Hope to see you there on March 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

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/

WINDING JUMP RINGS

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.



TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2



FIELD TRIP REPORT...

Past Field Trip

Our scheduled Field Trip to the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA. on February 28th was cancelled due to the weather conditions and lack of member interest. There were only 2 from the GMSL and 7 from the RVMGS that signed up. My work schedule prevented me from attending but Royce Wickham, RVMGS president, agreed to lead the group. On Friday, all but three had cancelled so we decided to cancel the trip. We will reschedule later in the year when it is warmer and the ground is not snow covered making it impossible to search for Fairy Stones.

Contact Information for Field Trips

David Callahan,

Field Trip Chairman

Home phone: 540-297-1853

Cell Phone- 540-874-5201

E-mail dbcall1@aol.com

Up Coming Field Trips



COMBINED MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP

THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF
LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.

AND

THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM
SOCIETY, INC.

Saturday, March 28, 2015

OLD FABER MINE, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.

**Sign-up required. call me, email me or sign-up
at the meeting—parking space is limited to 12 cars.**

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: We will meet in Amherst, VA, Saturday morning, at the Hardee's Restaurant (114 Ambriar Plaza) on US 29 business no later than 8:30 A.M. We will decide if we need to carpool. We can leave cars here if needed. **We will depart from there promptly 8:45 A.M.**

From Lynchburg and Roanoke, follow US Rt. 460 east / US 29 north by-pass several miles east of Lynchburg. Take the new US Rt. 29 north by-pass across the James River and proceed north to the Amherst US 29 business exit. The Hardee's is in the Ambriar Shopping Center at this exit. Come early and have a bite to eat. We can determine if carpooling is necessary and leave any cars here. From this point, it should take about 45 minutes to arrive at the parking area along Rt. 6. Be sure that you

are fueled up and ready to leave by 8:45 A.M. If you are coming from the north, the US 29 business exit will be about 2 miles south of the US 60 exit. If you live in Lynchburg, it might be closer to just follow US 29 business thru Madison Heights to Amherst. The Hardee's will be on your left at the new US 29 bypass interchange, just before you arrive at the town of Amherst.

Dress for the weather that day and be sure to bring food, water, bug spray and warm clothing. Wear boots, gloves, long pants and safety glasses. Hard hats will not be required.

Due to the restricted parking along Route 6, we must limit attendance to 10 or 12 cars maximum. Only those that call to reserve your place or sign up at the meeting will be allowed to attend. *Continued on next page*

Up Coming Field Trips

continued from page 4

Car-pooling is recommended. We will arrive at a small parking area at the intersection of Rt. 29 North and Rt. 6 East about 9:30AM. We can leave some cars here if necessary and pick up those that will meet us here.

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

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

For additional information or to sign up for field trips, please contact Dave Callahan, Field Trip Chairman

Home phone: 540-297-1853

Cell Phone- 540-874-5201

E-mail dbcalls1@aol.com

COLLECTING: Expect to find **galena** (lead), **sphalerite** (zinc) and **fluorite** (white and purple). Other minerals that exist there are **chalcopyrite**, **pyrite**, **pyrrhotite**, **magnetite**, **quartz**, **calcite**, **cerussite**, **chalcantite**, **pyromorphite**, **kaolinite**, **azurite**, **chlorite** and **hydrozincite**. Many of these are fluorescent under ultraviolet lamp.

HISTORY: The mine was discovered in 1849, and operated off and on by the Confederates during the Civil War producing an excess 7,000 pounds of lead, but abandoned when General Sherman crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap. In 1905, it was again opened for Lead and Zinc but closed again about 1919. Several other unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mine were short-lived. The 3 shafts are now partly choked and caved and the audit reopened in 1958 is now caved. A large dump still exists and will still yield beautiful specimens after much searching and digging.

We must arrive and walk in together, but you may leave any time you want and walk out by yourself. This is a unique collecting site and we are fortunate to have it in our area and have a landowner who is willing to share it with us.

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

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DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL) HOST

An Official Field Trip of the GMSL and RVMGS

(This is a go on your own field trip but please let me know if you go)

April 18, 2015 ~ 8:45 EST (7:45 CST) - 5:00PM ~ HOGG MINE, LaGrange, GA

(continued on next page)

Up Coming Field Trips...continued from page 5

FEE SITE- \$25 per person age 16 and above.
Children under 16 dig free.

MEETING POINT: McDonalds, 2408 Whitesville Rd.
 LaGrange, GA 30240

YOU CANNOT JUST GO DIRECTLY TO THE MINE!

TOOLS to Bring: Pick, Shovel, Potato Rake, Rock Hammer, Sledge Hammer, Chisels, Rock Bars, 5 Gallon Buckets, Gloves, Safety Glasses (Extra boots / shoes are helpful if it's muddy or the weather becomes damp. There is a Port-a- Potty on site.)

COLLECTING: Beryl, Star Rose Quartz, Black Tourmaline, and Aquamarine. (Limit one 5 gallon bucket of material per person and one yard rock per dig.) This is a surface mine for the most part. However, there may be some deeper areas to explore. For safety reasons, you cannot dig outside of the designated areas.

FOOD: Food, water, and soft drinks are permitted. However, all alcohol is prohibited at the mine. Please don't show up with it. You will be asked to leave.

DIRECTIONS: From Alabama, take I-85 N to the Georgia state line. Proceed to exit 13. Turn left off the ramp - McDonalds is located a quarter mile up on the left, next to the Pilot truck stop.

From Georgia, take I-85 South to exit 13. Turn right off the ramp and McDonalds will be on the left.

DETAILS: We will be signing up on the inside of McDonalds. If you park on the drive-through or south side of the store, enter the door and turn to the right. Look for an area of tables for sign up. You will pay a fee of \$25 per person, fill out release forms, and get a safety briefing before going to the mine. Mr. Painter (mine owner) will take people down in groups beginning at 8:45 am EST. Sign up will extend through 9:15 am EST for late arrivals. He will come back to get others who aren't able to get there before 9:15 am EST. They can email him or call if they need him to come back for them.

WHERE TO STAY: Nearby La Grange, GA offers many hotel choices. There are many nearby private camp grounds as well as state owned ones since West Point Lake is nearby. Local state parks offer a full range of camping options.

HOST: MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
 Jeff Edwards, VP / Field Trip Coordinator, (334) 312-0572 thestonehunter@hotmail.com
 or email thegoldennugget@hotmail.com

For more information on HOGG MINE:
www.hoggmine.com / Chris Painter
rockdgr@yahoo.com

Mr. Painter will have a Mobile Rock Shop onsite for the regular scheduled digs where you can purchase rocks and minerals.

HERE IS THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE GLENDON QUARRY FOR THE 2015 SEASON

The Glendon Quarry is famous for its many beautiful and large pyrite crystals

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
 The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
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GLENDON QUARRY, Glendon, NC
 Standard Minerals Division/R.T. Vanderbilt Co. Inc.
 February 19, 2015

Jim,

Sorry for the late response, We are still trying to get things finalized at Glendon we are still doing some blasting and moving rock. We would rather hold off one more year to finish this up before we open again for rock digs due to safety concerns. Thanks for understanding.

Thanks,
Cody Melchin
Operations Coordinator
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC – Standard Mineral Division

Sterling Hill Super Dig

**Saturday April 25, 2015 ~ 9AM until
11PM ~ Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, NJ**
This is a Rain or Shine Event!

Here is the latest information for the Sterling Hill Dig for world class fluorescent minerals. The mines are located in Ogdensburg and Franklin, NJ. Just north of Sparta.

It is open to all members of the GMSL and RVMGS. There is usually a group going so let me know if you want to attend. You won't be sorry!!!

February 8, 2015
Greetings GlowHounds!

Superdigg is just around the corner so it is time to sign up and reserve your spot!! The groundhog went back in his burrow for some more sleep, and so did we... but now it's time to wake up all you Diggers and get you started planning for the 2015 Digg, which will occur this year on Saturday **APRIL 25th, 2015**.

First, some nice news. We've been able to get the web address SuperDig.com for our website! Easy to type, easy to remember. (the previous web addresses will still work, but we're going to use this one as the main reference from now on.) Thanks to Jason Winkler for the logo.

This is the first of many information letters you will receive as we get closer to the Digg Day -- for all the lucky ones who have given us their current email that is!! Our webmaster has just spent the day updating our email address list and he thinks he's gotten everyone who might be interested. If you know someone who is interested and did not get this mailing, have them click the link at the top of our website at <http://SuperDig.com> and they will be added for future email updates. We will also post a PDF version of each letter after sending it out.

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.SuperDig.com> Please use the PayPal option if at all possible (that takes credit cards; you don't need a PayPal account) -- paying by check takes your time and

postage, and time for our treasurer, opens more chances for loss and errors and generally is a pain for the volunteers! (We need to have at least 100 people registered for the Digg in order to run it -- early registrations help us confirm that everything is a go. We've never had to cancel for this reason; so let's be sure this year is not a first.)

Last year was simply another "smashing event" and more great news this year is -- the registration fee is still only \$21, whether you register on-line or by mail.

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! The rocks on the conveyor belt are almost gone now.

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 -- a walk through the mill and up to the TOP and then down INSIDE the conveyor housing (you see this structure in most photos of Sterling Hill) and then back past the giant bins and down to ground level again..

SAFETY NOTICE: Hard hats are mandatory for the Upper Mine Buildings tour.

In addition to the special tour of the highest part of the mill structure and a walk across (inside) the conveyor, we're again 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. There are extra Trotter Tunnel tours on the agenda this year -- be sure to check the **Schedule for the Day** on the website.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



2015

March 21-22- Annual Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co, MD. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St; Gaithersburg, MD

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	14 Callahans Workshop; Valentines Day
15	16 Presidents Day	17 	18 Meeting 7-9	19	20 First Day of Spring	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 EFMLS Convention	28 Field Trip Convention & Show
29 Convention & Show	30	31				

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Club Tee Shirt Final Notice:

The following members need to pick up the shirts you ordered at the September and October 2014 meeting. If you do not arrange with me to pick them up prior to the meeting, I will offer them to other members at the April meeting. They have been available for you to pick up since the November 2014 meeting.

GMSL members...

- Leasa T.---- 1- Medium, short sleeved, gold @\$8.00,
- 1- Large, short sleeved, heather indigo @ \$8.00
- 1- Child's medium, long sleeved, red @ \$11.00
- 1- Medium, long sleeved, Irish green @ \$11.00

Peter R.-- 1- XX large, long sleeved, ash gray @ \$13.00

Tony S.-- 1- X Large, short sleeved, orange @ \$8.00

Cindy S.- 1- X Large, lady's short sleeved, orange @ \$8.00
1- Large, lady's short sleeved, purple @ \$8.00

Gale McK.--1- Large, lady's short sleeved, royal @ \$8.00

Call me **540-297-1853** or email dbc11@aol.com
Thank you...David Callahan

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

*continued from previous
page*

April 28-29- Annual Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA

April 10-11- Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the micro mineralogists of the National Capital Area/ Springhill Suites Alexandria Marriott, 6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA

April 11-12- 42nd annual New Haven Mineral Club Show sponsored by the New Haven Mineral Club. Amity Regional Middle School, Sheffild Rd., Orange, CT

May 16-17- World of Gems & Minerals Show sponsored by the Berks mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, 312 Gernant's Church Rd., Leesport, PA

Rock Raiders

Squigly's



St. Patrick's Day Crossword

Across

1. March 17
2. What leprechauns keep in their pot
3. Leprechauns bury this
4. Good _____
5. Irishmen might smoke this
6. How many leaves a shamrock has

Down

1. St. Patrick's Day symbol
2. Home of St. Patrick
3. _____ and seek
4. Mischievous fairy
5. St. Patrick's Day colour
6. A type of hat

Basic Knapping Class with Errett Callahan 2015 Class Schedule

Errett Callahan is again offering basic knapping classes for GMSL and RVMGS Club members. The basic hands-on course will teach early, middle and late stages of producing arrow and spear points of many types and styles. You will learn some of the techniques he has developed over the past 60 plus years and be able to complete arrow points made from shards of obsidian that he will provide. He will also provide the basic tools to be used in class. You are encouraged to make your own tools based on the tools you will be using and practice at home to improve your skills and technique. As with all skills, practice develops perfection.

There is some equipment you are encouraged to bring with you to each class. These are a good pair of properly fitting leather work gloves. Obsidian is VERY SHARP.

You will need a protective pad for your lap. Errett uses a folded piece of leather, several layers thick and when folded, perhaps 12 inches square. I personally use a piece of old leatherette upholstery material about 3 feet square and folded into a pad. Really any kind of a protective pad that will fit over your leg will work. Folded cloth or a rubber kneeling pad will work. He has several pieces that you can use during the class. You should have your own for practicing at home.

Wear some old long pants like jeans and shoes that cover your feet. No open shoes.

He has some cut off wood logs to sit on so you might want to bring a cushion pad. Believe me, there is nothing hi-tech here! There is not a lot of room on the knapping concrete pad for lawn chairs but if you must sit in one; we will make room for you.

You might want to bring a camera to record some information and work he has done. Also a note pad and pencil because he has a wealth of knowledge.

He will have some of his books and literature for sale so bring your check book. He has some very interesting literature.

Don't forget to bring something to eat and drink for the hour lunch break at noon. Dress for the weather that day. We will be outside but under cover.

The classes start at 10 sharp and the instruction will end at 4 or before if necessary. We will start off with some theory and history. Then move to the knapping area for a demonstration and working at your own piece. Do not get discouraged if you have trouble making your point. Remember that he makes it look simple but has been doing it for 60 plus years. Google [Errett Callahan](#) to see his work on sites his students have put together.

His address is 2 Fredonia Ave, Lynchburg, VA. From the Lynchburg Expressway, take the Main Street exit and follow Main Street to 5th street. Continue straight to Rivermont Avenue, across the bridge for a couple of miles. You will be in the Historic part of the city (brown street signs). Keep straight on Rivermont Ave and when you come to Easton Ave on the right, Fredonia will be the next street on the right. Turn here and go all the way to the bottom of the street. It is a narrow street so be careful. At the very end, there will be a steep drive way on the right going up the hill. There will be room for all cars in the drive so we won't block the street. It is a narrow drive so be careful. Walk up the drive and there will be a walkway up to the front of the house. When backing out be VERY CAREFUL!!! Do not hit the wall or the neighbors cars parked in the cul-de-sac.

2015 CLASS SCHEDULE:

Session 1, Sunday, March 22, 2015 - 10am – 4pm

Session 2, Sunday, April 12, 2015- 10am – 4pm

Session 3, Sunday, April 26, 2015- 10am – 4pm

Session 4, Sunday, May 10, 2015- 10am – 4pm

Session 5, Sunday, May 24, 2015- 10am – 4pm

The Sunday Sessions can continue on as long as there is interest. There are other classes on other topics being offered on alternate weekend days. He will explain them to you and you might be interested in his hands-on primitive archery class. The archery class covers 20 topics and includes bow and arrow construction as well as actual shooting.

Continued on page 13

Going Once- Twice- Sold!

by Cheryl Neary, Auction Chair

reprinted from February 2015 issue of EFMLS News

Come on down or up, depending where you live, to Hickory for the Annual Auction. There are many items you will have the opportunity to bid on as we have our annual live auction.

If you want to be entertained- this is the place as well! Last year both Matt Charsky and Larry Huffman were the auctioneers- thanks to their persistence and fun-filled time, the auction was quite a success. Of course, there would not have been such a great time if you had not donated items and / or bid on them- the first steps in a successful auction!

So give them a run with your money! All proceeds fund the principal of the Eastern Foundation Fund. Raw interest generated from the fund is used to support a variety of EFMLS special programs, which you and your club benefit from!

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club 45th annual show, in conjunction with the EFMLS Annual Convention.

Show: Friday & Saturday- 9:00am-6:00PM, Sunday 10:00am-5:00PM.

Place: Hickory metro Convention Center, 1950-A 13th Avenue Dr. SE (I-40 exit 125, Hickory, NC).

Adult Admission \$5.00, good for the entire show. **12 and under FREE**

20 quality vendors will have an array of merchandise that include minerals, fossils, meteorites, finished and unfinished jewelry, beads, and more. Hourly door prizes are offered as well as demonstrations of faceting/cabbing/wire wrapping, kiddie mini-mine, & hands on exhibits for children. We will have educational talks for school groups. Be sure to visit the competitive and non-competitive exhibits, which will be on display for the public's education.

Special feature exhibit will be from the collection "Somewhere in the Rainbow" by the generosity of its owners in Arizona. The exhibit will include exceptional one-of-a-kind faceted gems and jewelry. Several North Carolina gems including emeralds and hiddenites will be available as part of this collection.

The EFMLS annual auction will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 1:30 pm at the Convention Center. You can participate at the convention by either donating an item (or more!) or bidding at the event.

Can't make it to this years' exciting event? There is still time to donate! Email me at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com> or call me at 516-449-5341 to inform me what items you will be sending and I will give you an address to ship them to.

Lastly, if you are attending the convention, and I hope you would consider attending the event- then you can personally hand me the item(s) preferably at either the Cracker Barrel Meeting or the Annual Meeting both held on Friday, the 27th.

Thank you all in advance for your participation.

If attending- Bring money- (quite a bit!) - there is a great deal of nice "stuff"!

Hope to see you in Hickory

EFMLS Convention Schedule of Activities:

Friday, March 27...field trip to Reel Amethyst mine - \$25 fee...meet in front of Hampton Inn at 8 am.

Friday, March 27... Cracker Barrel @ Hickory Metro Convention Center at 5 PM

Friday, March 27...annual business meeting @ Hickory Metro Convention Center at 7 PM

Saturday, March 28 ...Auction @ Hickory Metro Convention Center @ 1:30

Saturday, March 28...Awards Banquet @Hickory Metro Convention Center at 7 pm (Pulled pork BBQ and BBQ chicken/potato salad/baked beans/cold slaw/apple cobbler ... \$28)

Sunday, March 29...Editor's breakfast @ Hampton Inn at 8:30 am.

Safety Matters- Limiting Factors

by Ellery Borow

reprinted from March 2015 EFMLS News

Speaking of safety matters- this time of year, and really any time of year, it is wise to mind ones limits. Safety has a great deal to do with ones personal limits. I know, people are pretty much going to do what they want to do and often simply ignore limits, but limits are often related to safety concerns.

From time to time one hears of a fellow out shoveling snow and having a heart attack. A heart attack could happen any time, but when one ignores their own personal limits tends to, at times, tempt fate. If one is in a high risk group, say males of middle age and working out in the cold where the blood vessels are constricted in order to keep blood flow and warmth where it is most needed- in the core of the body- well that is a limitation factor folks should well mind.

There are numerous additional limitation factors to mind in our hobby. Sure one can walk a 1/4 mile into a quarry, but one should be mindful that one will be walking out another 1/4 mile and this time, hopefully, carrying a pack or a bucket of great, yet heavy minerals. What is your limit...walking 200 feet, 1000feet, 1/2mile,

two miles... and back? It is wise to know and mind ones own personal limits.

How does one know their limits? Truly, one would not want to set a personal limit too low since that would needlessly restrict doing things that one could indeed do. Then again, one would not want to set limits too lofty and possibly put oneself into a difficult situation.

If there are doctor imposed limits of walking distance, those indeed should be prudent to respect. However, if limits are self-imposed, such limits could be more difficult to respect the extent of the limitation. Care and common sense should be the watchword of the day.

There are numerous personal limits we work with every day. How good is one's eyesight for a person faceting a stone? One would not want to make eyesight related mistakes. How tired is one feeling? One would not want to experience a driving accident from being tired. How achy is one feeling? One would not want to be breaking a lot of rock and, due to ones feeling achy, keep missing the chisel with their hammer strikes, etc.

So, in this challenging time of year, and really every time of year, please pay attention and mind ones limits minding the small thing of a limit could be our healthy choice.

'Nuff said for now. Please be safe within limits.

Storms expose rare fossils on Pacific Coast Beaches

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_27182062/storms-exposure-rare-fossils-pacific-coast-beaches

reprinted from Rock Talk, Jan. 2015

Associated Press posted: 12/21/2014 09:48:18 AM PST

SAN FRANCISCO —The storms that struck California this month have led to the discovery of fossils on beaches and mountains along the Pacific Coast that date back anywhere from 5,000 to 10 million years, according to a news report.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported (<http://bit.ly/1vcDMYD>) the heavy rain, wind and runoff eroded coastal bluffs and mountains and exposed the fossils.

This week, marine biologist Giancarlo Thomae found a meglodon tooth on a Santa Cruz beach that could be 10 million years old. Melodeons were massive great white shark of its era.

He recently found the tooth of a bison that lived about 5,000 years ago in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The area, which received up to 25 inches of rain from the storms, is an area scientists have identified as once being the sea floor.

Other finds include the tooth of an extinct animal that was similar to a hippopotamus, teeth from an extinct species of sea lion and 20 species of ancient sharks. A National Park ranger found a tooth from a saber-toothed cat in the cliffs at Fort Funston in San Francisco. One scientist says a blend of volcanic events, sea level fluctuations and geologic uplifting could have led to the discoveries of the fossils.

"In many cases, it's likely that preserved remains like a shark tooth settled out in the ocean, or that of a mammal like the tooth of a saber-tooth settled in an ancient river valley," Tom Hesseldenz said. "It fossilized and then ended up above sea level due to sea level change and upliftings."

So What Do You Give a Rockhound Golfer for Christmas? A Wyoming Jade Putter!

By Mary Loose DeViney

For Christmas, my husband surprised me with a gift that included both of my hobbies.

Wyoming nephrite jade took millions of years of extremely high pressure and temperatures to develop the micro-crystalline molecular structure and that is what gives the putters such a unique feel.

The putters are "flat lapped" on polishing machines to produce a mirror flat face. The weight of the head, the angle of the shaft and the loft of the face are all within the "standards" of typical putter's designs approved by USGA. This is a great way to enjoy being a rockhound and a golfer.



*Welcome New Member
Tom Herndon
from Lynchburg, VA*

2015 FLINT KNAPPING

Continued from page 10

KNAPPING CLASS FEES: (Payable at each session, cash or check only please)

Mandatory attendance to each session is not required but is recommended. You will progress at your own rate based on your own speed and skill level. You will not be left behind.

Single adult: \$20.00 per session.

One couple: \$30.00 per session.

YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES at the meeting or notify me by email. Space is limited but we will try to accommodate everyone.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Thank you,

David Callahan, dbc11@aol.com,

Phone: [540-297-1853](tel:540-297-1853)



Lucky stone

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **lucky stone** is actually the unique ear bone or **otolith** of a **Freshwater Drum** (*Aplodinotus grunniens*), commonly known as the Sheephead Fish.^[1] The Sheephead's otoliths are quite large and look almost polished and ivory-like. In times past they have been worn as protective **amulets**, made into jewelry, and traded into areas far from the fish's native range (such as **Utah** and **California**). Lucky stones (otoliths) have been found at ancient archaeological sites, where they are thought to have been used as good luck charms to ward off illness.^[2]

Lucky stones wash up on beaches along the **Great Lakes**, especially **Lake Erie**. This white "stone" is desirable to collectors as the letter L and the letter J appear naturally on these "lucky stones". The J stones come from the left side of the fish and the L stones come from the right side of the Freshwater Drum.^[3]

University of Minnesota Biologist George R. Spangler gives a technical explanation of the "letters" which appear on the lucky stone. "The 'L-shaped groove' is technically known as a 'sulcus.' In the living fish, the sulcus is adjacent to a series of neuromast cells in the inner ear. Pressure exerted upon these neuromasts by movement of the otolith due to gravity or to acceleration of the fish provides information to the brain regarding the orientation of the fish's body."^[4]

Many beachcombers walk the beaches in the morning as the waves tend to wash small rocks, "beach glass" and lucky stones to the shore on a daily basis. Lucky stones are also known in other freshwater areas of North America. David Starr Jones notes that "the otoliths of the river-drum are known to Wisconsin boys as 'lucky stones' each having a rude impress of the letter L."^[4]

There is a second article, for your reading pleasure, at <http://seaglassrocks.com>. It reveals lots more about these "fishy" lucky stones.



Sunshine News



We learned that Nona had been a little under the weather, and we are happy to report she is now feeling much better. For anyone else struggling through- WELL WISHES are being sent your way...

**Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of
Montgomery County MD., Inc.
51st Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil
Show
At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds -
Maryland
March 21 & 22, 2015.**

Montgomery County Fairgrounds -
16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Sunday 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Admission is \$6.00, ages 12 and older.
Admission is Free for Children (11 and under), Free
for Scouts in Uniform.
To get a \$1 off coupon please go to the club website:
<http://www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml>
Plenty of Free parking for the show

More than 20 dealers will have gems, minerals,
fossils, meteorites and crystals for sale. Enjoy
demonstrations, over 40 exhibits, raffle, door prizes,
free workshop, free specimens for kids, and/or get
more information about specimens from your own
collection. Those under 18 can dig for free specimens
in the kid's mini-mines!

Sterling Hill Super Dig

continued from page 7

Flashlights and Hard Hats will be mandatory for the Trotter Tunnel tours.

Keep in mind also that, weather permitting, the [Ellis Observatory](#) (photo below) will be open after dark - the 20-inch telescope is amazing!!

As in past years, we hope to 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.

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." Oh, and we just found out that there will be a third weight scale at the check-out table again this year to help you get checked out and on the way home faster when things are over late that night.

If you have ANY questions not answered by info on the website, visit our FAQ ([Frequently Asked Questions](#)) page at the website. If that doesn't help, then email me at: TripMaster@SterlingHillSuperDig.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 25th. (By the way, we do not share your private info with anyone other than the registration crew).

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

REGISTER NOW while there is still space...

I look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you on Saturday at the Digg.

Your TripMaster again this year,
Jeff Winkler



The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. www.lynchburgrockclub.org



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Dreamstime.com

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GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.

WWW.LYNCHBURGROCKCLUB.ORG

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

*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!*