

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

Official Monthly  
Publication of the Gem &  
Mineral Society of  
Lynchburg, VA, Inc  
[www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

NOVEMBER 2017

VOLUME 26~ ISSUE 11

## *President's Message:*

Hi All,

Well, while I am writing this I am still out of town but will make it back for the November meeting. I have been kept updated on all the work that has been going on and want to Thank all that participated in the work and the events. We are still only half way as we still have the Salem show so please keep up the good work and let's finish strong. I hope to be home for a few months before I have to leave again so I expect to be getting everything set for next year. Once we get past the Salem show (weekend after Thanksgiving) we should slow down for the Christmas holidays.

Switching thoughts, I hope we have people getting involved deeper with the club. We need people to help lead this club from now to the future. Once I get back we will be working on our by-laws to help define the jobs



better and their durations. We need new blood to help with this so if you have not been asked to serve in a board position please ask someone on the nominating committee (which will be listed in the newsletter) or one of this year's officers. As we have seen in recent months we need to get others involved to give those in office a break.

That is all that I have as I am writing this early morning after a 12 hour night shift.

Keep Looking Down,  
Steve

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## *From The First VP:*

Elections for our 2018 GMSL officers will be held as the last order of business at our December meeting, as per our current GMSL By-Laws. Our nominating committee members are Bob and Mary McIntire and Bernard Rivera. I know they have been working hard on recruiting and encouraging "new blood," and I would like to do so as well.

There has been interest in several officer positions, and these folks will be officially nominated at the November meeting. Nominations are still open, and YOU are encouraged to step up and offer your input as to the direction the club will be heading in the future.

For our November meeting program we will hear the conclusion of Dave Woolley's program on Faceting History, as well as a "Super Silent Auction." This silent

auction will be held in the same fashion as our usual one, but we will plan to have about 20-25 items to bid on, with additional slab material and larger than the norm specimens. Dave has agreed to keep his program time short enough to allow extra bidding time on the auction items. I will try to provide an itemized list of the items for your convenience.

This will round out our year as far as programs go- as our December meeting will be our annual holiday dinner and Dirty Santa rock swap game. I hope you will be able to join us for these last two club meetings for 2017.

Thats it for this month,  
Natalie



## October Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017  
@ 7:00 PM

**Attendance:** 35 members

**Hospitality:** Jean and Frank Midkiff were hosts for tonight's meeting, Jennifer Staton will host November meeting.

**On Time Drawing:** John Haskins, Nona Haskins, Thom Noble, Kate Staton, Reese Williams, Bernard Rivera, Frank Midkiff, and Dave Woolley.

**50/50 Drawing-** Harlan Austin won \$12.

**President** -Steve Gordon- not present- Natalie Darling presided over this meeting.

**First V.P.** – Natalie Darling  
Old Business:

Bill Livingston will be in charge of setting up and taking down the sluice Saturday and Sunday at the Apple Harvest Festival. Jack Curtin will be chair person on Saturday to help with festival and Natalie Darling will be chair person on Sunday. Please see signup sheets for times to help at this event.

Dave Callahan will be the chair person for the fluorescent mineral display at the Salem Show in November. Looking for chair person to oversee the sluice operation. Logan Maningas was presented a check for his presentation at last month's meeting on his adventure in Guatemala.

**New Business:** Natalie will forward email she received from the Boy Scouts about helping the council with a meeting for their leaders. to potentially interested members. Volunteers for this years nominating committee are: Bob and Mary McIntire and Bernard Rivera.

**Second V.P.** – Dave Callahan: October 28<sup>th</sup> - Fieldtrip to Boxley Quarry in Piney River 25-30 people allowed and sign up is required.

**Treasurers Report** –Cindy Mitchell Sales from club membership brought in \$69, 50/50 \$18 with expenses paid to newspaper, labels and William Holland brings the current balance is \$7,189.00

**Tonight's program:** Thom Noble gave a nice presentation on William Holland Lapidary Workshops.

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



### 2017 ELECTED OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT - Steve Gordon**  
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**First Vice President**  
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[natalie@sterlingflame.com](mailto:natalie@sterlingflame.com)

**Second Vice President**  
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[mitchell99@embarqmail.com](mailto:mitchell99@embarqmail.com)

**Members At Large-**  
Johnny Knight  
Eric Routon

### COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS:

**Field Trips**– David Callahan  
**Hospitality**- Monthly Volunteers  
**News Articles**– Natalie Darling  
**Silent Auction**– Warren Darling  
**Website**– Casper Voogt  
**Workshops**– Dave Callahan  
**FRA Adult Liaison**- OPEN  
**Membership**- Thom Noble  
**Finance Committee**- Natalie Darling

## PROGRAMS

Thank You to Thom Noble for presenting the October program on the William Holland Lapidary Arts School. For our November 15, 2017 meeting we will have the conclusion of Dave Woolley's "You too can be a part of Faceting History." along with a "Super Silent Auction." I hope you can join us.

## Amherst Apple Harvest Festival 2017

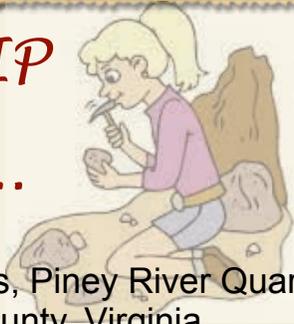
Saturday October 21st  
9AM-5PM

Sunday October 22nd  
12PM-5PM

*Photographs submitted by Linda Noble and Natalie Darling.  
Additional photos on page 11.*



# FIELD TRIP REPORT...



Boxley Aggregates, Piney River Quarry  
Nelson 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)



It was a bit brisk on this beautiful Saturday morning as we gathered around the quarry office awaiting the 8:45am hazard training and safety briefing by the Quarry Superintendent, Spencer Young. Boxley has produced an excellent 10 minute training film covering all the safety requirements and hazards individualized for each of their facilities. It is very important that we all follow, to the letter, every rule and requirement set forth if we want to be invited back for future field trips. Spencer also requested that we limit the size of the groups to no more than 20. This is the maximum size group he feels comfortable with so we will abide by his wishes on all future trips to the Piney River Quarry. Oh yes, we were invited back for future trips thanks to all our

members behavior.

Our group on this trip was only 14 due to several cancellations. This suggests to me that we should have a waiting list in addition to the sign-up list so everyone will be given the opportunity to attend.

We found a lot of pyrite, pyrrhotite, blue quartz and garnet this trip. There were several unidentified minerals collected as well as plenty of beautiful rocks with interesting color combinations suitable for yard rocks and raw materials to create our craft projects. I think everyone was well satisfied and we all look forward to possibly a couple of return trips in 2018.  
*(Pictures submitted by Linda Noble)*





## Up Coming Field Trips



**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Emerald City Rock and Gem Club**  
**(Greenwood, SC (HOST))**  
**An official Field Trip of the Gem and Mineral Society of**  
**Lynchburg, VA Inc.**

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017**  
**9:00am to 2:00 PM EST**  
**Diamond Hill Mine**  
**Antreville, Abbeville County, SC**  
**Fee (See Below)**

**Trip:** This is a very popular site that has had the spoil heaps turned over regularly this fall. In our travels around the country we've run into people from all over who love coming here. Recently people had been finding aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix. We often don't know what we've found until we get it home and clean it up.

**Collecting:** Quartz crystals, (milky, skeletal, smoky and some amethyst- rare.) Beryl/Aquamarine- rare. Garnet and epidote finds have also been reported.

**Bring:** Digging tools, buckets, work gloves, and don't forget weather protection gear, water and snacks. It can be muddy, depending on the weather.

**Requirements:** Participants can take away as much as can fit in their car. Recently, there have been some problems with people digging outside the confines of the mine area, specifically into the county road easement. Participants are asked to stay on the mine side of the log. The mounds of dirt are fairly tall, so stout shoes are recommended. A wide path to the back area of the mine has been created making that an easier walk. Hand tools only.

**Fee: \$20 per adult 18 and up, cash only (checks accepted only from a club account). Teens and seniors \$10.00. Children 12 and under \$5.**

**Children:** Yes, this is a great place for children.

**Pets:** Yes, Diamond Hill Mine is pet friendly.

**Facilities:** There are picnic tables and a port potty, but no running water. If you want to clean your finds before taking them home, bring some water and a scrub brush.

**Directions and where to meet:**  
 Meet at 50-99 Diamond Mine Rd.

**From I-85-** Take exit 19A for US 76E/Carolina 28E toward Anderson. Turn right onto Hwy 28S E. Turn right on SC 284 S. Turn right on Suber and right on Diamond Mine Road. About 40 minutes from I-85.



Above: Typical Diamond Hill Mine Smokey/ milky Quartz Specimen.

## Volunteering is great for everyone!

By Club Member Mary McIntire

My husband Bob and I decided a few months ago to volunteer for the Apple Harvest Festival Oct 21 to give back to our club. We have been members since 2008 when we moved from Richmond Area to Buena Vista, then to Stuarts Draft, VA. The first member I met: I just happened to sit down next to Don McIntyre and he asked my name, I told him Mary McIntire and he said welcome to our club Cus...He sure did make me feel welcome.

We are members with the Richmond Virginia Gem and Mineral Club, Shenandoah and Connecticut Valley Gem and Mineral in Massachusetts (Bob's dad was president of that club in 1975), also. We wanted to meet people who are also interested in rocks and minerals which we also love.

We had inherited a collection of rocks from Bob's mom and dad and found someone that taught Bob, our son Evan and myself how to wire wrap and make jewelry. The problem was that we had no idea what the rocks were. Through the clubs and going to William Holland Lapidary School of Art's we learned Cutting and polishing and had lots of help over the years with identifying our rocks that we make jewelry out of.

We love going on the many field trips and looking and collecting rocks and meeting people from all over that also have a passion for rocks. We have enjoyed all the friendships we have made and continue to meet very interesting people along the way.

On Oct 21 Bob and I volunteered from noon – take down at the Apple Harvest Show, but we actually started helping on our way. We had stopped at a Subway when a family came in and wanted to know where the High School was for the Apple Harvest Festival and we gave directions etc. Bob and I enjoyed helping to sell the many items club members made from gem trees, clocks, bookends, and purchased carved animals on rock slices. We enjoyed talking with folks and telling them about membership in our club. The best part was getting to know the other member's that also volunteered to help out. Tom and his wife were helping with the sluice along with Dave and many other's filling buckets with sand and rocks, taking

money etc. We learned so much about other member's who we didn't know before.

When Natalie asked if anyone would like to do the event for Blue Ridge Mountains Council of Boy Scouts of America Nov.4. 2017 Bob and I decided to set up with our local rocks, gems and our jewelry made from Virginia stones along with membership applications. I printed other club information to share with the many leaders at the event. We had time to speak also with the other people whom displayed: birding information, Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia Tech Diary, Caving opportunities in the cavern's in Virginia, Bee keeping information, etc. We wanted to say about 12 other groups were there and we enjoyed taking the time to see what they had to offer also. We had a great time and met even more people.

Bob and I were asked a few weeks back to volunteer for the Nominating Committee for officers, and so we decided why not. We believe there are some really interesting people in our club that could do an awesome job in a position to help our club grow. So please step up and volunteer to help others and truly get to know the many different talented people we have in our club.

If you love rocks and are passionate about them, and it is something that would inspire you, please consider filling a position in our club and grow it and learn more along with the rest of us. There are dozens of reasons to volunteer and have some fun with all of us.



## Larimar - Jewel of the Caribbean

*Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows*  
[www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

Larimar is an extremely rare precious stone that has only been found at a single location on the planet: on the island of Hispanola in a mountainous, relatively inaccessible region of the Dominican Republic overlooking the Caribbean Sea. This gemstone was first discovered in 1974 by an American Peace Corp worker and a Dominican geologist, although the inhabitants and their ancestors at the location were long aware of the stone. They had once traveled upstream until they came up against a rock formation that seemed to be the source of this blue precious stone, and subsequently gathered the stones on the beach for decades.

The name "Larimar" was given to the stone by the Dominican geologist, Miguel Mendez, combining his daughter's name LARISSA and MAR the Spanish word for sea. The stone is also called the Atlantis Stone, since a wise prophet once claimed that the Dominican Republic was part of the lost continent of Atlantis, a connection that has been affirmed by various spiritual and metaphysical authorities.

Until now this valuable new discovery remained available only to those who visited the Caribbean. Presently, increased interest and scarcity have made this gem very desirable and extremely valuable!

A museum, The Larimar Museum, is located in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Mineralogical Characteristics. Larimar has been tentatively identified as pectolite ( $\text{NaCa}_2[\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8\text{OH}]$ ), but doubt remains among several mineralogists about this determination. Since the material is of volcanic origin, and it is often a replacement



mineral, great variability exists in its composition. Undoubtedly there is some pectolite, but chemical analysis indicates minimal amounts of sodium. Some needle growth within the blue areas

has high aluminum content, which is suggestive of natrolite.

Much of the material is calcium silicate with occasional native copper flecks. Recent finds include "scenic" pieces with red plumes (iron) on a blue background and white "clouds". Other samples contain pieces resembling thomsonites, some talc and several micro-minerals.

The deposit where it is found is clearly volcanic, and gas pockets are filled with various minerals, with Larimar being most abundant filler. It exists in several shades of blue and green, from translucent to dark.

Much of the highest-quality Larimar appears to fill pockets created by the volatilization of trees burned by volcanic activity. Naturally, this was a variable process, and some trees were more rapidly and completely burned than others. As a result, there are some pieces of carbon, some with partial larimar replacement, and some with no indication of their organic origin.



Like diamond and emerald only 3% of all the stones mined are of gem quality. Hardness varies, but most material is from 5 to 7 on the Mohs' scale. The diamond is 10, 10 being the hardest. The color sometimes produces reticulate patterns of blue and white and there is often a pronounced silky area. Its beautiful blue and green comes from traces of copper.

# November 2017

**November 18-19-** 26th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. NEW LOCATION: George Mason University Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, Braddock Rd & Rte 123; Fairfax, VA. Contact: [www.novaminalclub.org](http://www.novaminalclub.org)

**Nov. 18-19-** 42nd Annual Jewelry, Gem Fossil & Mineral Show sponsored by the Worcester Mineral Club. Worcester Mass. National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St. Worcester, MS. Info Dave at [thestonemanswife@gmail.com](mailto:thestonemanswife@gmail.com)

**November 24-26-** Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Gem Show and Sale. Also featuring the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society World Class Fluorescent Mineral Display. Details and sign up sheet for helpers at the November Club meeting. Hours: Friday 2-7, Saturday 10-6; Sunday 12-5.

**Nov. 25-26-** Rock and mineral Weekend sponsored by the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Morris Museum, 6 Normany Heights Rd. Morristown, NJ Info [kfrancis@morrismuseum.org](mailto:kfrancis@morrismuseum.org)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24 SHOW	25 SHOW
26 SHOW	27	28	29	30		

### REMINDER...

**Club workshops are held on the second Saturday of each month** at Dave Callahan's home. Workshops are open to members only, and all members are encouraged to attend when possible.

There will be some discussion at this month's meeting about possibly offering other days for the workshops also.

This is a great learning & fellowship opportunity, as well as a way to contribute to your club. You can "learn" while helping to fabricate items for sale at our fall festival, then use the equipment available to complete your own personal pieces.

Please consider coming out, regardless of your level of experience. All help is needed and appreciated!





# Happy Turkey Day!

- Apple
- Blessings
- Cornucopia
- Cranberry Sauce
- Family
- Feather
- Give Thanks
- Gobble
- Greatful
- November
- Pumpkin
- Scarecrow
- Thanksgiving
- Tradition
- Turkey



B P N W E S S L S Z V R M B J  
 C I O V Y G C G W G N F P K C  
 L T I D U N R T C H R A B H O  
 L K T G O I A X S G P U X H R  
 D N I N U S N L J I X I L G N  
 B T D I V S B U R V H Y S F U  
 S R A V S E E F R E Q L C E C  
 P E R I P L R E L T X I A A O  
 B B T G U B R T B H Q M R T P  
 U M U S M W Y A Z A C A E H I  
 W E R K P A S R A N B F C E A  
 L V K N K P A G O K O D R R D  
 B O E A I P U U X S D L O O A  
 Q N Y H N L C M X X Y T W E T  
 S U J T E E E E L B B O G L E

Chicken Scratch NY

## Sunshine News

Please keep founding club member Luis Gonzalez in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his battle with stomach cancer. He will be having a total gastrectomy (stomach removal) on Thursday, Nov. 8. He will be an inpatient at UVA for about a week to ten days, after which he has been told he will require about 6 weeks of home recovery.

*If you know of any "sunshine" news, please email the editor. Thank You*

## Safety Matters- Kid Safety

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter, November 2017.

Most likely everyone knows about a field trip, mine master, dig leader. But, what about a field trip follower? You know -follower, the last one in line, the person who helps the stragglers and others not so quick to get to the mine.

The story: Some few folks know I am a hiker and a person who can run up a mountain and take nary a deep breath. A group was going up a local mountain and, probably because of my hiking background, invited me along. This was a mixed group of various ages and abilities, with few having hiking experience. As I'd been up the mountain many a time, I was sort of the guide/ leader of the excursion.

While still in the parking lot at the base of several of the young bucks and bucketts decided to go on up ahead. I had no difficulty or concerns about that because the trail was very well marked, and next to impossible to go astray. This was a church group mind you.

So, I appointed myself the field trip follower. Much of the group had gone on ahead and I sort of stayed with the last fellow in line. I did not let on that I was going slow simply to match his pace. He looked enthused about the hike but I had some reservations about his abilities.

The climb was modestly steep along several stretches of the trail. Perhaps 1/2 way up, with the others well ahead of us, the fellow again stopped to rest. He casually mentioned that he had forgotten to bring his heart meds. That was the first moment in the hike when I thought I was going to be the one to need heart meds for myself. Instead of slapping my forehead and enquiring of the fellow, "What were you thinking?" I kept my poker face, kept calm, and tried to maintain my composure. I assured him that I too liked frequent rest stops. I posed the question of turning back and his comment was as expected, he was going on, no matter what. Hmmmm, well, that was the second time I thought I might need heart meds.

Okay, all right, we pressed on. We 'aided' one another with frequent stops for rest and conversation. I found many reasons to stop, talk and admire the beauty of the trail and undergrowth. Perhaps 3/4 of the way up some of the young bucks and bucketts passed us as they headed down. The fellow and I did make it to the top, enjoyed the view, and soon headed back down - all the while taking almost as many rest breaks as we did on the way up.

Returning to the parking lot to join the picnic, things appeared to return to normal...ish. I'm not sure my heart had relaxed yet.

That trip occurred years ago, in the pre-cellphone era. From that day onward I often became the self-appointed follower. A self appointed follower when hiking, field tripping, jogging, ice climbing, biking, kayaking, cross-country skiing—whatever.

Does your club's field trip, mine master, dig leader also have a follower? Might be something to consider. Sometimes at the top of a mountain or mine folks are so busy they may not take note that a person did not show up. Even in this day and age, in the wild and woolies of the mountains, cellphones can be problematic. Besides, someone might be hurt enough so as to be unable to use one to call for help.

There are a great many ways of keeping members safe, please consider taking advantage of all of them. Even being a follower is good. Your safety matters.



# Amherst Apple Harvest Festival 2017

Saturday October 21st 9AM-5PM  
Sunday October 22nd 12PM-5PM

Photographs submitted by Linda Noble and Natalie Darling. Continued from page 3



# GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA, INC.

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

Warren Darling, Editor  
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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!*