

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

May 2018

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

Volume 27-Issue No. 5

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:*

Hi All,

Well as most of you know I am back in town for a while. I hope that you have been taking advantage of the nice weather and getting outside if not to rock collecting for other reasons. In my time away I was only able to visit a couple of rock stores and did score some items I thought was nice in my opinion.

This month's program is the club sale meeting and I am not sure if I will have anything there to sale but I may bring some of my newly acquired items for you all to look at. Just understand that not all rocks are pretty to all but it maybe the location that they were found in that makes them unique. A rock that you found may not be pretty to someone else because they were not there when you found it so the story to go along with the rock is what makes it yours. So I challenge each of you to bring a rock that you found but also be ready to tell the story behind it. Your experience is unique to you and to listen to you tell it helps us to get to know you better.

By the time that you are reading this we as the executive board have meet and have discussed many of the concerns that has happened while I have been away. I have heard from many of you over the past couple of months and I brought these

concerns up at the board meeting. Only time will tell if we have started to fix some of these problems so please bear with me as we will have to let the things that we put in place will pan out or not. We will keep a closer eye on them in the near future and try not to let them get out of hand again.

I say this each month but we all have to pitch in and help get items ready for the events that we have coming up this fall. There is something for everyone to be able to help with and as you are helping out you can work on something for you. The workshops are a good place to learn new rock related task and also be around others that like the same thing as you do. You may even find something that you like doing better than what you already know how to do. We have inventory of unused equipment to get it ready for club purchase, inventory on what we need to buy to fill the sluice bags, rocks to be polished and many other rock related jobs to do. Please plan to come out to the workshop days (will have dates at the club meeting) and help us get ready for the Fall.

Until next time, Keep Looking Down,  
Steve

**MAY 16 MEETING: DEALER DAYS – Buy or Sell  
Starts 7:00 pm – Ends 8:45 pm  
Dealer Table \$10 – First Come/E-mail**

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 20, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**

## FROM THE VP:

Howdy Fellow Rockhounds:

Welcome all visitors, newcomers, friends and curiosity seekers to our fascinating world of earthly treasures. These are the natural resources that make our modern society to prosper and thrive.

As Vice President, I conducted the meeting while Steve is away. There was a difference of style in how the meeting was conducted. It was my misunderstanding that while Steve was away there should be no need for an Executive Board meeting. I felt you needed to be advised on issues concerning the business of

the club. Apparently, this was not taken well by some members. Therefore, accept my apology if this detracted from your enjoyment of the club meetings. It won't happen again.

I joined for fieldtrips and interesting programs as did many of you. So, you can look forward to both this summer. I want to express my thanks to the Nobles, Dave Callahan, and Dave Wooley for their help while Steve Gordon was away.

Table Prices for Dealer Days are \$10 per table first come or preorder by e-mail to editor.

Let's get ready and go collecting. David

## APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

### Regular Monthly Meeting

**Meeting:** April 18, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

**Attendance:** 29 members, no Guests

Meeting called to order by David Ball, First VP

**Approval of the Agenda-** motion carried

**Treasurer's Report-** Cindy Mitchell not present- Thom Noble reported for her-current balance of \$10,522.42 David moved treasurer's report be filed for audit.

### **Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws**

**Revisions-** Copy given to secretary who will copy all board members and file.

**Finance Committee:** David Ball, Chair

### **Audit and Budget, Inventory, EFMLS, 501C3**

David will work with Frank Midkiff and Natalie Darling to obtain income statements and bank records to establish budgets. Further discussion will continue on advantage of

## 2018 OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT:**

**Steve Gordon**  
434-929-1524  
stevegordon@comcast.net

### **First Vice President:**

**David W. Ball**  
434-983-9595  
777dwb@gmail.com

### **Secretary:**

**Linda Noble**  
434-332-4869  
Linda-noble@hughes.net

### **Treasurer:**

**Cindy Mitchell**  
434-283-3884  
mitchell99@embarqmail.com

### **Members At Large:**

Natalie Darling  
Michael Maningas

### **Editor:**

**David W. Ball**  
434-983-9595  
gmslveditor@gmail.com

## COMMITTEE

### CHAIRPERSONS:

**Field Trips:** TBD

**Workshops:** Dave Callahan

**Membership:** Thom Noble

**Hospitality:** Monthly Volunteers

**Website:** Casper Voogt

**Finance:** David Ball

**Librarian:** David Woolley

**Silent Auction:** Warren Darling

**News Articles:** David Ball

**FRA Adult Liaison:** Michael Maningas

501C3 tax code status and tabled discussion for next board and club meetings.

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

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

David Ball, Editor

Natalie Darling was recognized at the AFMS/EFMLS Annual Meeting's Editor Awards in April as a member of the Decade Club.

Hopefully, all technical issues have been resolved. The e-mail address has changed so make note of this. All problems aside, you should expect to get all of your newsletters.

It is not the job of editor to write all the copy that fills the pages. While I may do some writing, writers are needed to write articles and contribute to this your publication.

For your convenience, I have an e-mail address exclusively for the newsletter, notices and general communication with you the members. I am note the only point of contact, just one of several with the Board.

Deadline for all newsletter submission will be due by fifth of each month so that it can be mailed prior to that month's meeting.

Contact me at: [gmslveditor@gmail.com](mailto:gmslveditor@gmail.com)

**Deadline for next newsletter submissions is:  
June 5, 2018 12:59 pm.**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

David Ball, Chairman

The funding priorities were discussed and will be presented at the meeting. This year, we plan to do only one show. It will be the Apple Festival. Volunteers will be needed at the workshop to make items for the show.

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Sometime before the June meeting, I will meet with Cindy, our Treasurer, to review the finances so that an audit can be done. As I have some experience with audits, I will be using auditing standards of practice. Once that has been completed, an audit report will be brought to the Executive Board for review, then to the membership for acceptance.

After the audit is done, I will be able to draft a budget for approval. Working with the Treasurer, we will have financial statements to provide a level of transparency as required according to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

## APRIL MINUTES CONTINUED:

**Dave Callahan:**

Need club members help with Inventory of everything that belongs to the club; this will help determine liquidation of some of our inventory to offer in club auctions. The trailer will need to be inventoried as well. Please plan to attend club workshops.

**Field Trip Committee: open nominations**

David has no further report on the fieldtrip to Pamplin site. He does not feel the club should pay for members to attend this pay fee site. He will talking to Steve Gordon about this. David has contacted Kyanite

Mine and scheduled a fieldtrip on September 29, 2018. Mike's assistant will do a presentation of their laboratory onsite after the fieldtrip. Steve Lenhart invited all to attend fieldtrip to Summerset KY to collect fossils and geodes. This will be a 3 day trip with multiple places to collect on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Hospitality:** Pam and Gabby Routon hosted tonight's meeting. No Volunteer for May meeting.

**Membership Committee:** Thom Noble, Chair- gave report on club membership which is currently 196 down from 231 in May, 2017. Please advocate for our club.

**Editor Update-** David Ball will continue to work on a fix for the club newsletter which may involve purchase of software as stated in Society Bylaws. He expressed the importance of receiving a template of the previous newsletters.

**Old Business:**

Club will participate in the Apple Harvest Festival in October. There will be a fluorescent mineral display at the Salem show in November.

**Announcements**

Lynchburg Parks and Recreation: Summer Youth Program – David would like club to consider having the Boy Scouts come to a club meeting

**On Time Drawing Winners:** Thom Noble, Tony Shields, Dave Woolley, Ann Parker, Siglinda Allbeck, Steve Lenhart, Logan Maningas, Michael Maningas and Noel Woolley.

**50/50 Drawing -** No drawing.

**Program:** None

**Minutes submitted by Linda Noble, Secretary**

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**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:**

Locally and Federation

**Kyanite Mine, Willis Mountain, Buckingham, VA      Saturday, September 29, 2018**

Details of trip will come out in June.

**Summerset, Kentucky      3 day fieldtrip**

This can be done as a self-directed trip at any time. Fossils and geode found in and around an old meteor impact site. Details will be e-mailed to members.

**Pamplin Pay Collecting Site**

As of this date the site is no longer available for collecting.

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**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Locally and beyond

**The Beale/Wooley Depth of Cut Indicator**

By Dave Wooley

Gift of the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Virginia to the United States Faceters Guild. In honor of Marcus Beale and Dave Wooley, who brought inexpensive rapid precision faceting to Amateur and Professional Faceters worldwide with the introduction of the Analogue Ohmmeter as a Depth of Cut Indicator, opening the gate for electronic enhancement in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This example of a MDR Faceting Machine was installed by Bill Albee of Lynchburg. This is the plaque that will be installed on the MDR Faceting Machine that the GMSL gave to the United States Faceters Guild, East Coast Collection of Historic Faceting Machines.

## MAY'S BIRTHSTONE AND GEMSTONE

### Emerald

By David Ball



Source: Wikipedia

Emerald is the most valuable of the mineral gemstone known as beryl. The green is the result of trace amounts of chromium and sometimes rare amounts of vanadium. Its color can be deep and almost hypnotic. The ancient Egyptians mined emeralds. Cleopatra had her likeness carved into one. Romans, Arabs and Turks hunted Egypt for them. Ancient Peruvians worshipped huge emeralds. European royalty valued it highly.

Recently, a major find of emerald was discovered in an old mining site in the chromium-rich mountains of western North Carolina. Hot beryllium-rich hydrothermal pegmatite solutions interacted with chromium-rich rock to form emeralds.

Researchers studying emeralds can identify its place of origin by the color and trace mineral content. Columbian emeralds are known for the trace amounts of vanadium. While emeralds from Afghanistan are known for their uniquely dark green coloration.

Aside from gemstones, beryl is the primary source of metallic beryllium. Beryllium accounts only for about 5% of the actual beryl crystal.

*Chemical Formula:*  $\text{Al}_2\text{Be}_3[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$

*Crystal Habit:* Hexagonal prisms and pyramidal

*Color:* Dark green to green

*Lustre:* Vitreous, transparent to opaque

*Cleavage:* Uneven or conchoidal fractures

*Streak:* White

*Moh's Hardness:* 7.5-8

*Specific Gravity:* 2.36-2.91

*Soluble In:* Hydrofluoric Acid slightly; perchloric-nitric/4 acid solution is used to detect beryllium

*Characteristics:* Brittle or fragile, clear to cloudy or discolored from a variety of impurities; may appear to be banded from variations in crystal growth layers and occasional occurs as twins, can be solitary in matrix or grouped in clusters; gemstone are graded A, AA, AAA

*Environments:* Global occurrence associated with pegmatites and coarse-grained granites, especially mica schist

*Major Localities:* Columbia, Brazil, Ural Mountains in Russia, Afghanistan, India and North Carolina

*Virginia Localities:* Emerald is not known to be found in Virginia.



Emerald in matrix Source: Wikipedia




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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**EFMLS Wildacres Workshops** – May 21-27

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm>

**ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal**

[www.icmj.com](http://www.icmj.com) or 831-479-1500

**Central Virginia Gold Prospectors**

Saturday, May 19, 2018 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Buckingham VFW on Route 60 one mile south of the Courthouse on the left.



**Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.**

The purpose of GMSL 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 Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

[www.lynchburgrockclub.org](http://www.lynchburgrockclub.org)

**Meeting Location and Directions:**

Fairview Center, 3621 Campbell Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501  
 From Route 29 Expressway or Route 460, take the Campbell Avenue exit. Follow Campbell Avenue to 3621, which is across from a Citco Station. There is a fence around the building, parking lot beside the building and parking on both side streets with an extra parking lot in the back by tennis courts. We will be looking for you to attend our meetings.

**If the Lynchburg Public Schools are closed or have early dismissal for inclement weather, our meeting will be cancelled.**

P.O. Box 917, Dillwyn, VA 23936



Happy Mother's Day  
 Armed Forces Day  
 Memorial Day