

# GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

June 2018

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, Inc.

Volume 27-Issue No. 6

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:*

Hi All,

Well another month has past and we are coming to the end of spring and the beginning of summer. We have had a lot of rain so I hope all of you are doing well and have not floated away. We are still working hard to try and get back to where we want to be with our new leaders and I am asking that you all let us know if there is something that we need to do different or do something that will make us better. We are trying to get things planned for the rest of the year but it is slow as most of us have a job which gets in the way. That said please help us make this a club that we all can be proud of.

I have talked with many of you and I hope that we are planning to get out and help at the workshops. This work done over a few months is always better than trying to get a lot done in a month. We need to get bags packed for the sluice, items polished and

rocks set aside for the Prospector's Wheel. There is always something for even the very novice can do and while helping with the show stuff do stuff that you want to do or learn. We have many that are will to come out and help you learn to cab, facet or wire wrap. This is something that I am looking into, to see if there is enough interest to set up classes. Let me know and we can at least work on seeing if we have the people with the time to help do this.

Thanks for all of your patients and keep looking down,

Steve

**JUNE 20 MEETING: Speaker: Steve Lenhart**

**June Program: An Historical Overview of the Geology of Kentucky**

**NEXT MEETING: JULY 18, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**

**July Speaker: Tony Nikischer**

**July Program: The Characterization and Naming of New Mineral Species**

## *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.

There seems to be some inaccurate information going around about things I supposedly said about certain members when they were not present that are just not true. This has

caused individuals to feel that they have been isolated and marginalized. This is not the case. Anything I say or quote comes from credible sources who are or were directly involved with matters pertaining to club business. Nothing else.

It seems I have been added to help the Field Trip Committee to get some fieldtrips this summer. We need collecting sites to visit.

We have a full summer of programs. Steve Lenhart will be our speaker for

June. Again, he will be our speaker in September for a program that is currently being planned. August speaker and program has yet to be confirmed. There will be another dealer days in October. November will be the club auction. December will round out the year with the elections for 2019 and our holiday potluck party.

One thing is certain that is change. If you are thinking about running of office, please let us know.

Let's get ready and go collecting. David

**MAY MEETING MINUTES:**

Regular Monthly Meeting

**Meeting:** May 16, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

**Attendance:** 35 members, no Guests

Meeting called to order by Steve Gordon, President

**On Time Drawing Winners:** Roger Linkenhoker, Siglinda Allbeck, Logan Maningas, Nancy Linkenhoker

**50/50 Drawing -** Tom Davis won \$11.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**President – Steve Gordon**

**Old Business:**

Steve announced he did not leave David Ball in a good position to cover and lead the club meetings in his absence, will work through this before he has to leave again. Club members need to think about stepping up to officer roles as several will be resigning at the end of this club year.

**New Business:**

Audit in process and will be final by the June Club Meeting.

There will be a June Executive Board Meeting, date to be determined.

Apple Harvest Festival will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Amherst High School.

Need club members to step up to help this year. Lynchburg Club will host the Dixie Mineral fieldtrip on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Kyanite mine.

Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws Revisions- were signed

by all board members. Steve will file original copy and have available for anyone wishing to receive a copy. There will be other revisions discussed at upcoming meetings.

Steve ask for suggestions of how we can improve and make our club better. Please get with him or any board member if you have a future program you would like to submit for consideration. Steve has rocks to show that have stories he would like to share.

**Treasurer’s Report –** Cindy Mitchell current balance of \$10,625.42. Membership dues collected of \$103.00. Bill Livingston purchased filters for club and donated the reimbursement check back to the club.

**Field Trip Committee:**

Chairperson needed.

**Hospitality:** Dave and Noel Woolley hosted tonight’s meeting. Thom and Linda Noble will take it for June meeting.

**First VP - Editor Update-** David Ball stated this was his first attempt at arrangement of Club Show and Sell (dealer table) and was not sure of the procedure. There will be another member sale in October and advanced notice will be given at meetings and in newsletters. Suggestion welcome on how to make this a better sale.

**Program:** Club Show and Sell Tables.

**2018 OFFICERS**

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**David W. Ball**  
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**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

**Minutes submitted by Linda Noble, Secretary**

*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

Please take note that the editor's e-mail address has changed to: [gmslveditor@gmail.com](mailto:gmslveditor@gmail.com) .

All problems aside, you will be getting 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 not 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:  
July 5, 2018 12:59 pm.**

## Finance Committee Report:

David Ball, Chairman

Frank Midkiff has provide us with all the records he had in storage. Cindy Mitchell brought her records to the Executive Board meeting. Steve Gordon wanted to review her records before passing them on to me to audit. Sometime before the end of June, I will get the records from Steve so that an audit can be done. Once that has been completed, an audit report will be brought

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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).

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:

Locally and Federation

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

Details of trip will be available at the June meeting and please sign-up.

**Kentucky Geode and Trilobite Dig!  
Rock Swap and Cook Out  
July 6-7, 2018 Danville, Kentucky**

*Official Field Trip of the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA)*

This will be an after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July dig. The geode, rock swap and cook out will be at the Phil Daly property. Phil has been finding some large geodes and fossil geodes on his property. Phil will have a grill to use, bring food to cook if you like. Bring some rocks and minerals if you want to swap or trade.

Everyone must sign a release form upon arrival. This is a fee site and are as follows:

MAGMA members: \$10 dig, \$10 per bucket

Non-MAGMA: \$25 to dig, \$10 per bucket

### MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Minerals found locally and beyond

Dave Wooley had a collection of rare Greenland minerals displayed in separate room as many fluoresced.



Dave Callahan's Table had something for everyone in every price range. The second Saturday of every month Dave will be selling his collection at his workshop.



Linda Noble displayed many of her jewelry creations for sale.



William Lyons displayed many of his jewelry and jewelry box creations for sale.



Friend gathered to share stories and talk of new adventures to be planned.



Many a collector frequented Dave's table to add to their collection.



Linda's creations attracted the savvy shopper.

**NEXT DEALER DAY MEETING: October 17, 2018**

**November Meeting is Club Auction**

**December Meeting is elections and party.**

## JUNE'S BIRTHSTONE AND GEMSTONE

### Alexandrite



By David Ball

Source: Omigems.com

Alexandrite is a variety of chrysoberyl. It was discovered in Russia in 1833 and named for Tsar Alexander II. The third hardest mineral and the most expensive. It is both rare and unique among minerals. Uniqueness is largely due to its light induced color changes. The darkest is found in Zimbabwe.

The most famous and best comes from the Tokovaya River valley in the Urals. Russian alexandrite specimens are displayed in the Mineralogical Museum of the Academy of Science in Moscow. The largest alexandrite, 66 carats, was found in Sri Lanka and is on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

*Chemical Formula:*  $Al_2BeO_4$

*Crystal Habit:* Orthorhombic

*Color:* Emerald green in daylight red-violet in artificial lighting, various shades of green, violet, magenta, yellow to smoky brown depending on light source

*Lustre:* Vitreous, transparent to translucent, appears greasy on cleavage face

*Cleavage:* Incomplete or conchoidal fractures

*Streak:* Colorless

*Moh's Hardness:* 8.5

*Specific Gravity:* 3.7

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

*Characteristics:* Brittle, strong pleochroism, intergrowth common with tripling, often occurs as twins; it should resemble spinel's structure due to similar formulas but it takes on olivine's structure

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

*Major Localities:* Ural Mountains in Russia, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Zimbabwe

*Virginia Localities:* Alexandrite is not known to be found in Virginia nor is chrysoberyl.

*International Gemstones:* Unakite

*Additional June Gemstones:* Pearl and agate



Alexandrite specimen  
Source: gemsociety.org



Source: mineral.net



Alexandrite step cut cushion, 26.75 cts.

Source: Wikipedia

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**EFMLS Wildacres Workshop:** September 3-9

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

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

[http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](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, July 21, 2018 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
Buckingham VFW on Route 60 one mile south of the Courthouse on the left.

**American Lands Access Association**

<http://amlands.org/6601.html>

Defending your right to collect on public lands.

### 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.**

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P.O. Box 917, Dillwyn, VA 23936



Happy Father's Day  
Flag Day D-Day  
Summer Begins: June 21