



# December Newsletter

12/2019

Volume 2019, Number 12

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**Meeting at Miller Center**  
301 Grove Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24501  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month  
7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

**Dec. meeting will be in the Aviary again. And there will be meetings in January and February just follow the school schedule. If no school in Lynchburg then no club meeting.**

**Workshop is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.**

## President's Meanderings:

By Dave Woolley

### For the Want of a Hot Dog

Howard Freeland, fellow VDOT Geologist, and I occasionally had the good fortune of tracking down a new mineral site. One site, in Prince Edward County, was located on the left side of the road just east of Sandy River, up the hill just north of Route 460. Here, the land owner was stripping the deeply weather residual soil derived from the Felsic Gneiss bedrock, sifting out the rock fragments to sell the Quartz sand to VDOT. So much sand was released from weathered bedrock in the area, it choked up and gave the local river its name. The discarded rock in the sifting screen included occasional fist sized amethyst and smoky quartz crystals. On his way home from my office on a Friday afternoon, Howard stopped for a 'look see'. He called me to tell me he had discovered a newly exposed vein of crystals. "Be there first thing in the morning", he advised me. I was there the second thing in the morning because I just had to stop at Moore's Country Store, for a "world famous hot dog" breakfast. Someone else was packing a dozen or so fist sized amethyst crystals when I arrived at the site.

At a nearby ditch line between the East and West bound lanes of Route 460, to the east of Sandy River but just before the railroad bridge in what is now a clump of small trees, one museum quality cluster of Amethysts crystals was recovered. And no more. My test borings for the railroad bridge foundations produced no trace of Amethyst. Further to the east along Saylor's Creek, north of Route 307 parallel to Route 615 just before the Saylor's Creek Battle Field Historic Site, I used to find scattered Amethyst fragments in the gravel bars. Since then, poor farming techniques have filled the creek bed with silt. I did not even realize I was on protected historic land until I turned around at the historic site to return home. I could have spent the night in jail; who would have believed I was not looking for Civil War artifacts?

**Remember that the meeting is in the Aviary for the month of December.**

## 2019 Officers

**PRESIDENT - Dave Woolley**  
(434)  
[woolley.dave@gmail.com](mailto:woolley.dave@gmail.com)

**First Vice President**  
Vacant

**Second Vice President**  
Vacant

**Secretary & Treasurer**  
**Linda Noble**  
(434) 332-4869  
[linda-noble@hughes.net](mailto:linda-noble@hughes.net)

**Editor – Steve Gordon**  
(434) 942-1836  
[stevegordon@comcast.net](mailto:stevegordon@comcast.net)

**Members At Large -**  
**Michael Staton &**  
**Eric Routon**

**Youth Out Reach**  
**Jennifer Staton**

## Newsletter Editor Mineral pick

Copied from Star City Gem and Mineral Journey



Right - "Great complete 14 mm Diopside crystal on white calcite from type locality Altyn Tube Mine, Near Karaganda Kyrgyz Steppe, Kazakhstan Dims: 20 \* 16 \* 13 mm" phantomminerals on Etsy.com (\$79)

Our mineral specimen for this month is this spray of diopside crystals from Kimbedi, Pool Region of the Republic of Congo (3.7 x 3.1 x 2.6 cm) offered for sale by mineralauctions.com (their photo). No, we didn't just have diopside a few months ago as our star mineral. That was diopside -- green and gemmy, yes, but a different chemical composition and yes, it's difficult to remember which is which, at least for your editor. Diopside ( $\text{Cu}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) gets its rich green color from the copper in its formula, whereas chrome diopside ( $\text{MgCaSi}_2\text{O}_6$ ) is green from traces of chromium when present. Diopside is softer, hardness 5 to diopside's 5.5 to 6.5 but both have two cleavage planes. Diopside has a trigonal crystal structure - six sided crystals terminating in rhombohedra. Diopside has a monoclinic crystal structure.

references - [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diopside](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diopside) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diopside](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diopside) continued pg. 4

Diopside is very fragile and not the best choice for jewelry, but of course it is used anyway. Crystals are wire wrapped as are drusy pieces of the mineral and cabs are made from more solid or included pieces. "Diopside is a secondary mineral in the oxidized zones of copper deposits"\* as you might expect, it can be found in several locations in Arizona, but also in PA, NJ and WI. The bulk of the bigger beautiful crystals come from Kazakhstan, the Republic of the Congo and Namibia, but there are other sources. If you happen to find some green crystals in an old copper mine area check for hardness of 5, green streak, transparent or translucent green color, an association with other copper minerals, or in quartz. More Pics on down in the letter.

\*reference and quote - [mindat.org](http://mindat.org) article "Diopside"

## Program for the coming months

December – Christmas Dinner and Secret Santa. Meat (Chicken) will be provided and we ask that members bring a side dish or dessert. If you want to participate in the Secret Santa bring a rock related gift good or not so good and play in the game. If you do not wish to play then mingle during that time. **This meeting will be held at the Aviary instead of the community room.**

We have decided to re-instate the meetings for January and February and will work around the weather.

**January** – Program (Still to be decided but will most likely be an inside club program)

**February** – Program (to be determined but have options)

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## Note from the editor

Hi All,

Well, another year is almost gone and Christmas is just around the corner. I want to thank all of those that has helped over this past year and I hope that next year will be even better. I also want to say thank you to those who have stepped up to help run the club next year. I was afraid that the club was going to fold and we would lose what has been built here over the past years.

I wish all of you a very Merry **Christmas** and a Happy New Year.

Remember to send me your “Why I became a Rock Hound” short story.

Please send me your short story [stevegordon@comcast.net](mailto:stevegordon@comcast.net)

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**Education** – I will attempted to give you some options over the next couple of newsletters. I will start with **William Holland** schedule this month and what I have is work in progress but wanted to get it out to let you know. Next Month **Wild Acres**.

### SFMS Week at William Holland

Class list for 2020 June workshop at William Holland school of Lapidary Arts Young Harris Georgia. I am very excited for next year not only will we be enjoying lapidary classes we will all be getting together for the 2nd meeting for the Southeast Federation for 2020. I expect a big turnout for a week of lapidary classes and end the week with an informative SFMS meeting. I hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity for a week long class in the lapidary arts followed by a SFMS meeting. I look forward to seeing you On June 7 2020 for a week of fun.....

Please don't miss out on getting together with rockhounds from all over the Southeast coming together at one place to share our love for the Lapidary Arts..... Education and Interclub Connections and Club Development, Programs, Youth Support are 5 of the 10 point benefits of the SFMS that can be achieved by attending this and other workshops. All you have to do is attend a workshop and meet people from other clubs, enjoy and learn in your class, then return home to your club and share your experience with adults and youth alike. You along could be responsible for many others attending a Southeast Federation Workshop and continuing the lapidary arts for the Southeast Federation.

Please attend a workshop [sfmsworkshop.org](http://sfmsworkshop.org)

Pass on what you learn at a SFMS Workshop.....

Cabochons - Buddy Shotts  
Seed Beeding on Broken China - Jerri Heer  
Fly Trying - Jeff Herr  
Loop-n-Loop chain - Chuck Bruce  
Electro-etech - Micah Kirby  
Flame Painting - Jane Pace  
Fire Agate Carving - Cheryl Kasper  
Casting - Bill Harr  
Spoon Jewelry 1 and 2 - Jan and Keith Stephens  
Silver 1 - Patti Appleby  
Intarsia - Bill Boggs  
Wire 1 - Gene Sheridan  
Silver 2 - Dale Koebnick  
Faceting - Linda Searcy

[sfmsworkshops.org](http://sfmsworkshops.org) for info on 2020 classes, any maybe a few more will be added, I have had some requests.

Thank you to:

Lisa Roberts William Holland Director SFMS Week [antleycreations@yahoo.com](mailto:antleycreations@yahoo.com)

Thank you to:

Cindy Reed Registrar [2020sfms.wh@gmail.com](mailto:2020sfms.wh@gmail.com)

## Field Trips



### Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, (Tampa, FL) (HOST)

**Saturday, January 11, 2020**  
**Vulcan Limestone Mine**  
**16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, FL**  
**Meet no later than 8:45 AM Eastern Time**  
**Collecting 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Eastern Time**

**TRIP:** This quarry has abundant Oligocene marine fossils as well as interesting rocks and minerals.

**COLLECTING:** Echinoids (fossil sand dollars and urchins), druzy calcite crystals, and chert for cabbing. There are shark teeth but seldom found.

**BRING:** This is surface hunting, so digging tools are not necessary, other than a screw driver or butter knife to pry fossils from dirt. A rock hammer is helpful at times if you want a piece of chert. We park at the hunting site, so you can leave your lunch, drinks and cooler in the car. Sun screen might be handy. Bring drinks and snacks as we stay until 12:00 noon and/or 2:00 PM.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Sturdy closed shoes or sneakers, no sandals or open toed shoes. Jeans or long pants are preferred to protect your knees and long sleeve shirt or sun screen. If it is a bright day, a hat or ball cap would be useful.

**FEE:** No Fee.

**REGISTRATION:** No registration required.

**CHILDREN:** Children are allowed but must be under adult supervision at all times.

**PETS:** No pets allowed.

**FACILITIES:** The one thing they do not have is a restroom, stop at the gas station in Brooksville before you arrive.

## **ACCOMODATIONS:**

### **At I-75 exit (#301) to Brooksville-(20 miles to Vulcan)**

Days Inn

Hampton Inn

### **Brooksville east of town (12 miles to Vulcan)**

Budget Inn

### **Brooksville west of town (15 miles to Vulcan)**

Holiday Inn Express

### **Weeki Wachee (22 miles to Vulcan)**

Quality Inn

Best Western

### **Crystal River, north side of town (23 miles to Vulcan)**

Days Inn

Econo Lodge

Quality Inn

## **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

The meeting time will be **8:45 AM** as we go into the mine in convoy at 9:00 AM. The gates are locked behind us so don't be late. If you are unavoidably detained, call Fred Hendershot (813-892-5864).

Take I-75 to exit #301, Brooksville, Florida.

Go ten miles into Brooksville and follow Rt. 98. It will turn north in town and go another ten miles north. The Vulcan/Cemex signs are on the left (the Cemex sign is larger and easy to spot).

Park in the large field and sign the Vulcan liability waiver.

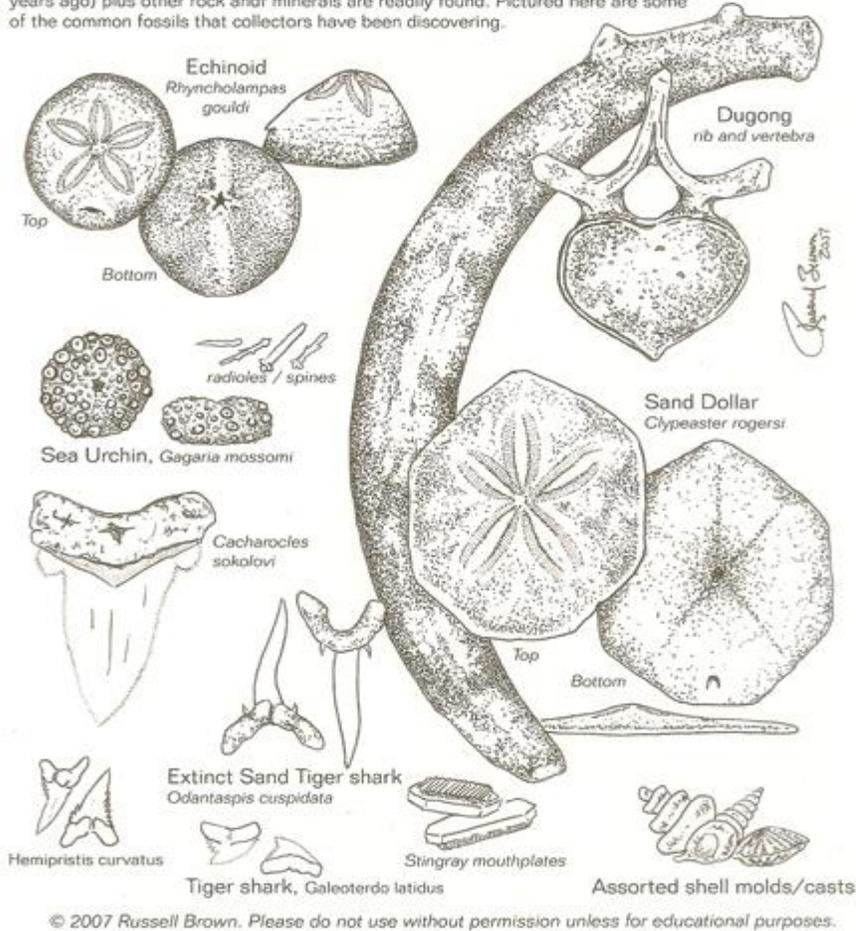
For Google Maps and GPS units, the address is 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34613.



# Vulcan

Materials Company

Vulcan Materials Company is North America's leading producer of construction aggregates - primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel. During the quarrying process at the Brooksville site, fossils from the Oligocene (24.5 to 37.5 million years ago) plus other rock and minerals are readily found. Pictured here are some of the common fossils that collectors have been discovering.



## Why I (we) became a Rock-hound

No one submitted a letter

### Some of our members

Check out Bob and Mary McIntire's article in the Blue Ridge Country magazine, if clicking on the link does not work copy and paste the address.

[https://blueridgecountry.com/newsstand/magazine/wire-wrapped-jewelry/?fbclid=IwAR1jK60NQpBq5Rm02xc03r0-udm8wRIuQtWdIJDZtVmBGCieOiyZM\\_Nmgo](https://blueridgecountry.com/newsstand/magazine/wire-wrapped-jewelry/?fbclid=IwAR1jK60NQpBq5Rm02xc03r0-udm8wRIuQtWdIJDZtVmBGCieOiyZM_Nmgo)

# November Meeting Minutes

## Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg

**Meeting – November 20, 2019 @ 7:00 PM**

Attendance: 38 members

Meeting called to order by Dave Woolley, President

**On Time Drawing Winners:** Mary McIntyre, David Young, Brandon Coles, Nancy Gripp (guest) Lydia Kalyna, Eric Routon, Steve Boylan, Maddi Williams, Jordan (Routon's guest) , Gabby Routon, Sydney Tomlin, Kate Staton, Thom Noble, David Brogan, Bernard Rivera, Kim Blair.

**50/50 Drawing – \$9** – Mary McIntire won \$9 in tonight's drawing.

**Treasurer's Report-** Linda Noble gave the report on current balance of \$11,580.89. Records are available at each club meeting for review by club members

### Hospitality:

Holly and James Tomlin hosted tonight's meeting and they will host the December meeting.

### Announcements:

Dave Woolley announced we would be accepting nomination of club officers from the floor and ask each Officer to give a brief description of their job duties. He ask club members to decide if club would remain and stated it would only happen if someone is willing to take the duties of the outgoing officer positions.

December meeting will be the club Christmas Dinner and Dirty Santa held at the Aviary (round building). Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite Covered Dish to share. Club will provide the meat. Those wishing to play Dirty Santa game are ask to bring something rock related (wrapped gift) to exchange.

Dave Callahan talked about the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Roanoke Valley Gem & Mineral Show and ask for help with the Lynchburg sponsored Florescent Mineral Display. Need volunteers to help transport display cases, minerals, and help with set up and take down .Signup sheet for those wishing to help with the florescent display show which takes place every half hour. Friday 2-7 pm, Saturday 10am- 6 pm and Sunday 12 noon- 5 pm.

**Program:** Club Auction which earned the club **\$484.**

Special Thanks to Steve Boylan, Thom Noble, Steve Gordon and Michael Staton for helping with the club auction tonight.

Thanks to Rodger and Nancy Linkenhoker with their help with greeting, collecting sign in sheet and selling the 50/50 raffle tickets.

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## Nominations for next year 2020

**President – James Tomlin**

**First Vice President –**

**Second Vice President – We have someone for Field trips**

**Secretary – Holly Tomlin**

**Treasurer – Joan Moore**

**Membership Chairman – Debbie Wade**

**Member at Large – Eric Routon & Michael Staton**

**News Letter Editor – Steve Gordon**

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## More Diopside pics:



“Diopside crystals with Malachite from  
Congo - 44mm x 38mm x 21mm” \$460  
Structure Minerals on Etsy.com





48. A **Digital Electronic Protractor** installed on an “Ultra Tec”, much easier to read and probably more accurate than *any* conventional Protractor. It reads rounded to hundredths of a degree to *reproduce a previously cut Coarse Ground Facet* for Fine Grinding or Polishing. Gem Design recipes call for a particular Angle often to a tenth of a degree; Meet Point Faceting often undershoots or overshoots the called-for-Angle by minute fractions of a degree. By recording the *cut* Angle to a minute fraction of a degree, Fine Grinding and Polishing is faster with less hunting to find a previously cut facet. Note that the rounded off accuracy of the last digit is always suspect with digital electronic devices.



49. “XS 3”. Jonathan Rolfe, a.k.a. ‘Gearloose’, Mast Type Faceting Head with an Electronic Digital Protractor. It is made from made from non-flexing Titanium to “eliminate” Mast Flex. Rolfe published build-it-yourself instructions in Lapidary Journal before he made 78 copies for the Graves Company sold as the “Graves Mark V XL”.



50. Jonathan Rolfe made one of the three most important advancements to faceting near the end of the last Century with his lead-free “Batt Lap” a Tin/Antimony alloy lap that allows easy polishing of *optically flat* facets, “as fast as a batt out of Hell”. Traditional Lead laps “flow” or distort under a facet causing slight rounding of facets. Gearloose has made so many contributions to faceting that he has his own Patent Lawyer and over 30 Patents. Ceramic polishing laps are also used to finish optically flat facets. The break-in process causes some faceters to make Frisbees out of Ceramic laps: love them or hate them.

### [Other Links that you may want to check out:](#)

#### **A Guide to Ethical and Conflict-Free Jewelry**

<https://ethicaljewellery.org/introduction>.

#### **Insurance Institute of Jewelry Appraisal**

[https://instituteofappraisal.com/Investigation\\_of\\_Artificial\\_Color\\_Infusion\\_of\\_Gemstones.pdf](https://instituteofappraisal.com/Investigation_of_Artificial_Color_Infusion_of_Gemstones.pdf)

[https://instituteofappraisal.com/Exposing\\_the\\_GIA\\_Juggernaut.pdf](https://instituteofappraisal.com/Exposing_the_GIA_Juggernaut.pdf)

Rock collecting guide for geology beginners

<https://www.basementguides.com/rock-collecting-and-geology-basics/>

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**If you need to renew your club membership you can let me or Thom Noble know and we can email you the form. You can make checks out to GMSL.**

**Our Mailing address is:**

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC.**

**PO Box 11975**

**Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975**