



January Newsletter

1/2020

Volume 2020, Number 1

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

Wintery weather meetings schedule is if the Lynchburg schools are down for weather then the meeting is cancelled

Workshop is the 2nd Saturday of the month.

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

Hello All,

First, What an awesome society we are in!

I have been appointed to the task of being our club's next President. Being fairly new to the club I have a lot to learn so please be patient as I fumble around for a moment and find my footing. I do promise to put my best foot forward and to make sure that I keep things moving as smoothly as possible. I would like to create more momentum as we all come up with some new ideas and reinforce some old ones as well. I have a love for this hobby and I hope it reflects my time spent with you all as well.

A tidbit about me, I am a retired USAF veteran, I used to be a crew chief on the F-15 fighter jet. I have been fortunate to now follow my passion as an artist. I have always had a talent for creating works of art through various mediums such as sculpting, drawing, and painting. I enjoy collecting, and admiring rocks and minerals as they are intriguing and beautiful. I started this journey with the GMSL because of my youngest daughter's love of the hobby, and I got hooked. I just can't get enough, when it comes to learning about the world we live in and all of its splendors.

I look forward to this adventure, getting to know each of you better, sharing experiences with everyone and growing our passion for rocks and minerals.

Your fellow Rockhound,
James Tomlin

PS: We will have a drawing in March for a Scholarship up to \$500 for anyone that attends a class at William Holland, Wild Acres or any classes at either of the two Federations Eastern Federation or South Eastern Federation. If interested talk to a board member.

New Club email - lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

James Tomlin

(434)258-2886

tomlin.jamesm@yahoo.com

First Vice President

Brian White

(434)661-8929

bricin11@yahoo.com

Second Vice President

Brandon Coles

Secretary – Holly Tomlin

Fireeyez1981@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joan Moore

jmoore64@msn.com

Membership – Debbie Wade

debbie5227@yahoo.com

Editor – Steve Gordon

(434) 942-1836

stevegordon@comcast.net

Members At Large -

Michael Staton &

Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach

Jennifer Staton

Newsletter Editor pick

In the coming months I will start with the makeup of the earth. I am using Mindat.org as my source.

The Most Common Minerals on the Earth

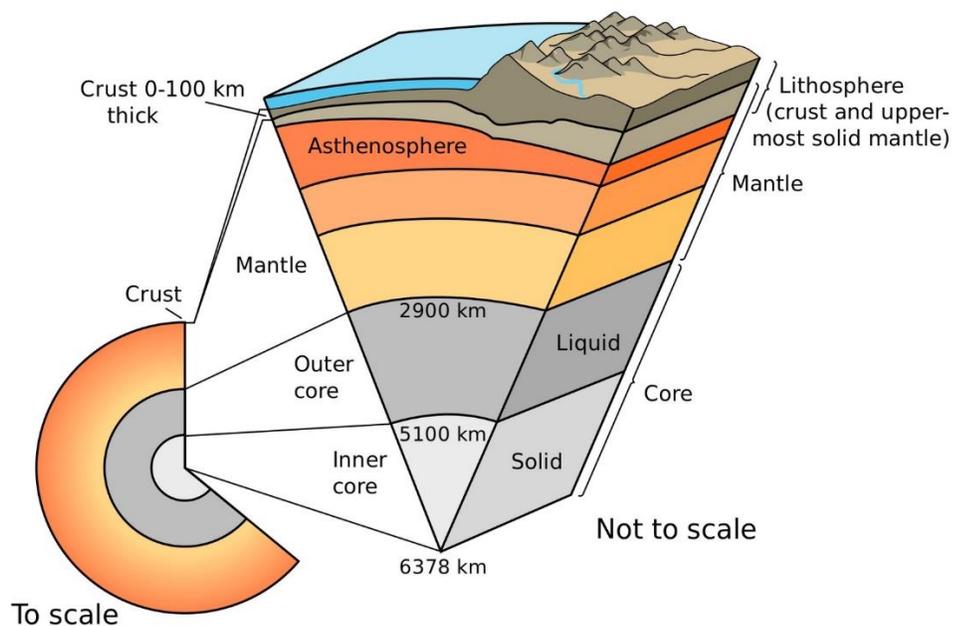
Last Updated: 13th Dec 2017

By Jolyon Ralph

There are currently nearly 5000 minerals known to science, but only a few dozen are common enough to be found widespread throughout the Earth's crust. This article will explain a little bit about some of the most common minerals on the Earth and where they come from.

Inside the Earth

When we talk about the minerals found on the Earth we are talking about those that are found in the Earth's crust, the only part of the Earth really open for us to explore. The crust is a thin layer (up to 100km thick) under which lies the mantle and the upper (liquid) and lower (solid) core.



The Elements

All minerals are made up of a mixture of the 90 naturally occurring elements, and it comes as no surprise that the most common minerals are those that contain the most abundant elements in the Earth's crust.

Abundance of elements in the crust

Element	Symbol	Abundance (%)
Oxygen	O	46
Silicon	Si	27.7
Aluminum	Al	8.2
Iron	Fe	4.1
Calcium	Ca	3.6
Sodium	Na	2.8
Potassium	K	2.5
Magnesium	Mg	2.0
Titanium	Ti	0.4
Hydrogen	H	0.1
Phosphorous	P	0.1
Manganese	Mn	0.1

Program for the coming months

January – Thomas Hale with the mineral project

February – Thom Noble

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

Happy 2020 as we have entered into another decade. I hope you got everything that you needed From Santa (you noticed I said needed and not wanted). Since I do not know if you were bad or good I still hope you had a great Christmas and a good New Year's Day. I wish you many good rock-hounding days and hope you find that special rock. We have a new line up for officers this year so please be kind and give them some time to find their way of doing things.

Remember to send me your "Why I became a Rockhound" short story.
My email is stevegordon@comcast.net

Education –

WILDACRES

– Registration Begins January 1

Imagine yourself spending a week away from the hustle and bustle of life, the noise of car and truck horns, blaring radios, stories of crime blaring at you from the local news, and the pressures of everyday life. We have a wonderful opportunity to get away from all of the above and immerse yourself in relaxing, learning a new skill or two, and learning new things from a guest speaker.

Imagine – a week away in the mountains of North Carolina attending one or both of the 2020 EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres Retreat. Wildacres is a fantastic haven located on Pompey's Knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville. The property consists of over 1,000 acres, much of which is truly kept "wild." Think rocking chairs, comfortable nights, starry skies, and great conversation!

The facility features two large lodges with private, motel style bedrooms (each with private bath), well equipped lapidary and jewelry studios and other classroom spaces, an auditorium, hiking trails, dining room and fantastic views of Mt. Mitchell and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. Owned by a private foundation that allows non-profit groups such as ours to come for a few days for workshops that encourage the betterment of mankind. We've been privileged to be allowed to use the facility for the past 47 years. Think of Wildacres as summer camp, but without the tents.

Imagine - a week immersed in our hobby, getting to know others who share that hobby—whether you're interested in jewelry, lapidary or minerals. Each session consists of time for participants to take one or two classes (one 4-day class or two 2-day classes), hear excellent talks from our guest speaker --

Bob Jones for our Spring Session.

Bob Jones is a renowned author, speaker, prolific writer for Rock and Gem Magazine. He always enthralles audiences with his knowledge and effervescence presentations to audiences.

Join a field trip, explore the area, and participate in a variety of other activities. Our instructors, all volunteers are outstanding and bring with them a wealth of knowledge about their subject, lots of teaching experience and above all, patience!

Imagine – a week of no cooking, housekeeping, or errand running! The food is well-prepared, abundant and accommodating to special dietary needs. Meals are served family style in the very pleasant dining hall.

Dates for 2020 are May 18 – 24 and August 24 – 30. Fall classes will be announced later.

Feel free to make copies for your club members! Tuition for each session this year will be \$435 per person which includes your room and board for the week and gratuity for the Wildacres Retreat staff. You will be asked to pay your instructor(s) a materials fee, but that depends on what class or classes you select. Materials fees will be announced closer to the workshop session since costs, especially which of metals, do tend to change. Since some classes fill quickly, we ask that you include 4 options per "semester". More information about the EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres can be found on our website; <https://efmls.org/wildacres-classes>. Do register, but not before January 1, 2020.

In a nutshell, an EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres should be on your bucket list of places to experience. We hope to see you there in 2020!

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
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An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST)

Saturday, February 29, 2020
Gravel Pit / Coal Mine
Brookwood, AL
Meet at 8:00 AM Central
Collect from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
RSVP if planning to attend

TRIP: This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field.

COLLECTING: Material at Brookwood is primarily water smoothed pebbles of mixed size from teeny to baking potato size. We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz pebbles shaped like a double-sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. Lots of great tumbling material but some is suitable for cutting.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets or bags for specimens, hammer, screwdriver (or something similar to pry the rock out of the surface). No real digging involved although people bring shovels to put many rocks into their buckets. **Limit two 5 gallon buckets.** Wear appropriate dress, hat, good gloves, and sunscreen.

CHILDREN: Kids are allowed with adult supervision. This trip is not recommended for children under 5 years old.

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There will be a port-a-potty available.

TERRAIN & ACCESSIBILITY: It is fairly level with some hills if you choose to climb. It should not be a problem for people with mobility issues. People can park right at the areas they want to collect.

REQUIREMENTS: All tools, equipment, and ponds are strictly off limits. The AFMS/SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed (click [here](#) to read them). The property owner has been generous to let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

WAIVER FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE YOU DIG!!!

Please check in at the club table when you arrive at the site and before you leave so we can keep count of who is there. We do not want anyone to get locked in the gate!!

EVERYONE MUST BE OUT OF THE SITE BY 3:00

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

McDonald's
22183 Highway 216
McCalla, AL 35171

We will be meeting at McDonald's at exit 100 off of I-20/I-59 South (heading from Birmingham towards Tuscaloosa). It is inside the Love's Truck Stop and can be seen while at the off ramp on the right side.

You will turn right onto Hwy. 216 and the Love's Truck Stop will be on your immediate left.

Please be there between **8 - 8:30 a.m. Central**. We plan to pull out at 8:30 am so you need to get there to sign the waiver and attendance sheet. (So if you fall in a hole we know who to look for!!)

RSVP: Please let us know if you are planning on attending. This is a large site but we cannot manage more than about 75 visitors.

CONTACT: Lou Ann Newell newell.louann@gmail.com 205-482-3234.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME AT THE NUMBER ABOVE!

Why I (we) became a Rock-hound

A couple of Limericks by John Livingston

Rock-Hound

I picked up a rock from the ground
Then showed my mom what I had found
One, then another
Soon there was clutter
And that's how I became a "rock- hound"

Fluorescent Rocks

They glow under light of UV,
But how can that possibly be?
The power they store,
For a moment or more,
Becomes light that plainly we see.

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-udm8wRIuQtWdIJDUZtVmBGCieOiyZM_Nmgo

December Meeting Minutes

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg

Meeting – December 18, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Attendance: 36 members

Meeting called to order by Dave Woolley President

On Time Drawing Winners: Eric Routon, Susan Brogan, Kate Staton, Debbie Wade, Joan Moore, James Tomlin, Steve Gordon, Jennifer Staton, Holly Tomlin, Michael Staton, Mary McIntire, Siglinde Allbeck, Thom Noble, Gabby Routon, Deborah Tyler, Natalie Darling, Pam Routon, John Haskins, Rodger Linkenhoker, Nona Haskins, Kim Blair, Nancy Linkenhoker

50/50 Drawing – \$9 – Deborah Tyler

Hospitality:

James and Holly Tomlin hosted tonight's meeting, will host the January meeting.

New Business:

New Officers will be sworn in at the January 2020 meeting:

President – James Tomlin

First VP – Brian White

Second VP – Brandon Coles

Treasurer – Joan Moore

Secretary – Holly Tomlin

Membership Chairperson – Debbie Wade

Newsletter Editor – Steve Gordon

Member at Large – Eric Routon & Michael Staton

Announcements:

Workshops continue to take place on the second Saturday of each month at Dave Callahan's.

Treasurer's Report- current balance of \$11,580.89

Records are available at each club meeting for review by club members.

Program:

Christmas Dinner and Dirty Santa

Special Thanks to Lydia Kalyna for her help with greeting, selling the 50/50 raffle tickets and collecting sign in sheet.





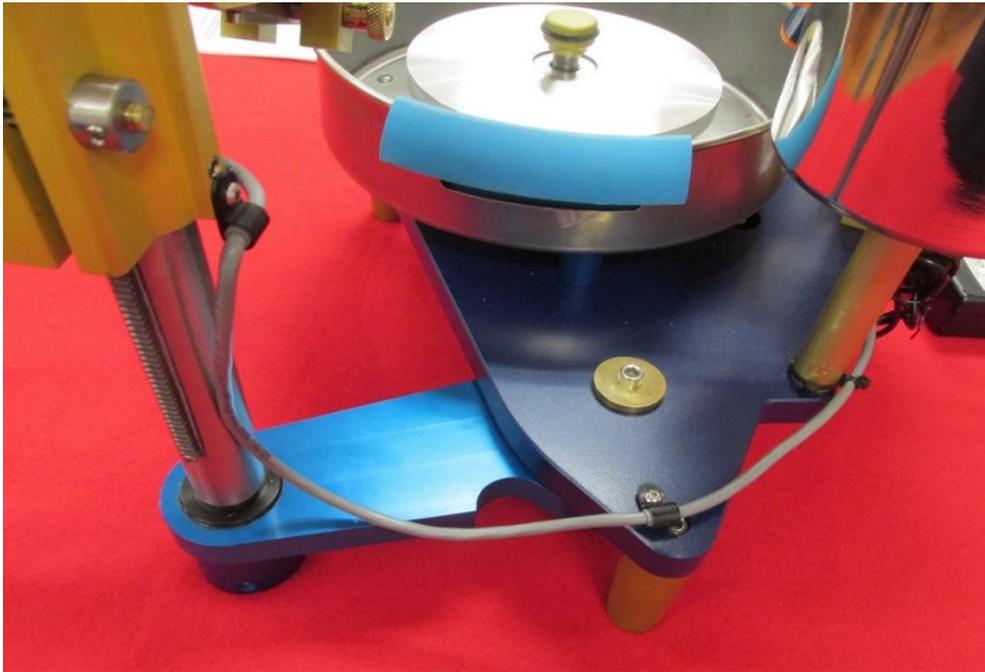
51. “Jersey Instrument”. A Mast Type Faceting Machine. One of the newest, very robust faceting machines; the design originated in Australia. Note the **Direction of Rotation Control** and the variable **Speed Control**, features found on most electric powered faceting machines. Some gems have “grain” that makes polishing certain facets difficult. Changing the direction of rotation during the polishing of a facet sometimes diminishes the problem.



52. “Hall”. An early Laurie Hall Mast Type Faceting Machine from Australia with **No Slide Base**. A second arm allows faceting in the “working area” of the Lap as the Height is changed. (See #26.) Hall made a number of improvements to faceting machines and a number of unique well-liked machine designs although reportedly, he never cut a gem.



53. "Omni-E" by Jersey Instruments. A Mast Type Faceting Machine with No Slide Base. This is the second faceting machine by Jersey Instruments. Jersey Instruments purchased the design from Laurie Hall and made modifications.



54. "Omni-E" no-slide-base detail. Jersey Instruments is in the final testing stages of their third faceting machine.

[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

Rock collecting guide for geology beginners

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

Facebook Link for the club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432839874271992/?ref=share>

If you need to renew your club membership you can let me or Debbie Wade 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.

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Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975

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