



# May Newsletter

5/2020

Volume 2020, Number 5

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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

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

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

**2020 Officers**

**PRESIDENT**

## President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." – Joshua J. Marine

I am hoping this reaches you in good spirits during these troubling days. I know there aren't many things to do right now, but I know some of you are busy with those put-off projects now coming together. Our community is a great one to behold for sure. With social media some are staying connected through emails, Facebook, and zoom. Others have spent some time driving by, staying in the vehicle and showing support for events or just a care visit. I have enjoyed many phone calls with some of you even if it had no other purpose than to hear our voices. I believe our community will come out of this stronger and in deeper appreciation for what we have and can accomplish.

Some business that will be postponed till next year will be the drawing for the scholarship. Most of the facilities have shut down due to the virus for the remainder of the season. We will let everyone know when that will be rescheduled. Fall events are still planned however we will still be at the mercy at how this all plays out. The club auction will be planned for a future date once we reconvene at the regular club meetings.

We have a few ways to stay in touch currently via the internet. The friends of mineralogy have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday's at 7pm. Dave Wooley has graciously said he will host and present a program for our club on zoom as well. I hope to see you all on when the times come.

Your fellow Rockhound,  
James Tomlin

## **GMSL CLUB EQUIPMENT AUCTION**

We are still working on the auction and as soon as we feel safe in gathering the equipment pictures and the equipment we will make this happen.

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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 beginning of this article is the same as it describes what we are talking about.

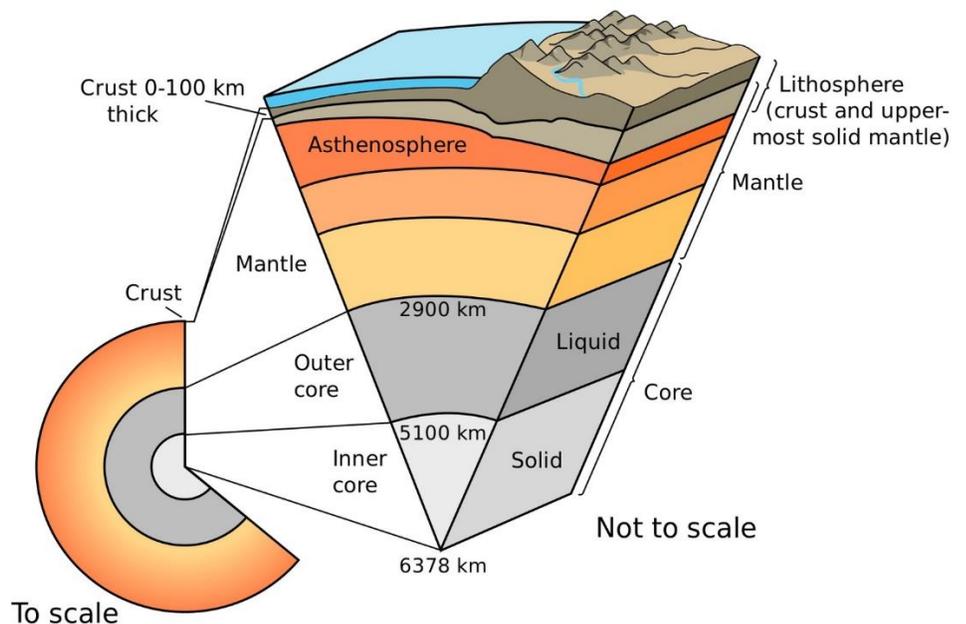
## The Most Common Minerals on the Earth

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.



# What is a mineral?

By Donald Peck (further edits by other mindat.org members)

There are several ways to define what a mineral is depending on how formal you want to be. A completely informal but practical definition:

A mineral is a chemical element or compound that:

1. has a more-or-less constant composition.
2. is usually a solid with an ordered three dimensional array of ions and molecules in its crystal structure.
3. is formed by natural geologic processes and without human or other biologic intervention.
4. is not a mixture of two or more blended substances.

## Four of the Most Common Minerals on the Surface of the Earth



1. Quartz



2. Calcite



3. Labradorite



4. Biotite

The formal and authoritative definition of a mineral is made by the Commission on New Minerals, Names and Classification (CNMNC), a working body of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). The CNMNC is *THE* authority on the definition, approval, name, and classification of a mineral, old or new. Both the IMA and CNMNC are comprised of professional mineralogists appointed by the professional mineralogical societies of nations of the world.

Minerals and their names that were reported in the literature and generally accepted by professional scientists before 1959 were accepted by the CNMNC, without review or change. In other words, in 1959, the CNMNC "Grandfathered" all well-accepted and well-described minerals as of that date. From 1959 onward all new minerals had to be approved by the Commission.

In order to clarify procedures and language, in 1995 Ernest H. Nickel, writing for the CNMNC, defined a mineral as:

**"In general terms, a mineral is an element or a chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes."**

Of course the definition is not that simple. Dr. Nickel went on to explain what the Commission meant by each of the words.

To be continued next month.

## Program for the coming months

There will be a zoom meeting for those that have a computer and video capabilities. More info on how and when before Wednesday night 5/20/2020.

Will update to the three month ahead once we get a good handle on things.

## Note from the Editor

Hi All,

Well since the last newsletter I was sent back to Florida for another job. This time just below Miami. That job lasted until late April and I have now gotten back to work here in Lynchburg. The virus has thrown a big monkey wrench into everyone's plan and we will have to roll with the flow until things get back to somewhat normal. I hope this finds all of you safe and doing well during this time but if you need help please do not hesitate to call me.

Remember to send me your "Why I became a Rockhound" short story.  
My email is [stevegordon@comcast.net](mailto:stevegordon@comcast.net)

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

By Zachary McKinney

Rockhounding—the term that unites everyone in this community. We all have a story to share on how we became rockhounds. My story starts when I was a child and would spend Friday's with my grandparents.

They lived on a large farm in rural Southside Virginia—which was covered in rocks and minerals! My interest started as I would explore the fields and woods with them. I was curious as to what "those white rocks were." I asked questions and because of my parents support, I quickly started learning what those "white rocks" were. Those minerals were quartz—one of the most abundant minerals on the Earth! As I would explore more I would find other types, such as smokey quarts, calcite, mica, pyrite, gold, etc. I remember receiving my first Rock and Mineral field-guide—I still have that book to this day!

As I became more and more interested in Rockhounding, I learned about the Lynchburg Gem & Minerals society. I joined as a member and quickly became even more interested. Being a member allowed me the opportunity to go places and explore things that I had never seen or been to before. I often tell people about the stories and memories that my time as a member.

During my teenage years, I would volunteer to show my collection to locals at the library, state park, etc. When in college I even used it as an example for a class project!

Between work and volunteering with the Civil Air Patrol, my time no longer allows for as much rockhounding as I would prefer, but I am often reminded about how much of an impact rocks and minerals have in our world. Today, I own my own IT business, [zacmckinney.com](http://zacmckinney.com), and with every piece of hardware I touch, I think about how this wouldn't be possible without people who found a use for rocks other than just stepping on them. I often find myself picking up unique looking specimens as I travel.

I would like to thank everyone at the Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society who helped me grow my hobby, allow me to go to places such as underground at the Morefield Gem Mine, various Boxley quarries, etc.

Keep looking down as you never know what you may find!

~ Zack

## 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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## DMC Field Trip Scheduling During COVID-19

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COVID-19 restrictions and concerns have led to DMC field trip cancellations and will most likely continue to cause cancellations. Normally, when a hosting club cancels their trip, they must reschedule as soon as they can, and DMC membership renewal is calculated based on the original hosting month.

With so many cancellations this year and potentially more, it is becoming increasingly difficult to reschedule, so I have decided to move the entire schedule forward by a year.

The March, April, and June trips that had to be cancelled this year are rescheduled to the same months in 2021, but renewal will be based on the 2021 hosting month, not the original 2020 hosting month.

Clubs scheduled to host for the remainder of this year, from July through December, have the option to preemptively reschedule to 2021 with renewal based on 2021 and not 2020.

For clubs who complete their trips in 2020, renewal will be based on 2021, not 2020.

All trips originally scheduled for 2021 are moved to 2022, 2022 to 2023, and 2023 to 2024.

The new schedule is posted on the SFMS website

here: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dixie-proposed-ft.htm>

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**Postponed until next year**  
**Most have cancelled their Programs for this year**

**ANNUAL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP**

To enter the drawing you must attend the meeting held on March 18th to get your ticket. The drawing will take place at the meeting.

Eligibility will be as follows:

The "Society" will hold an annual scholarship drawing for up to, but not to exceed, five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for one voting member to attend an Executive Board approved class.

Approved classes:

- William Holland School of Lapidary
- Wild Acres
- Any class pre-approved by the Executive Board

The award will be used toward class tuition. Additional expenses to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board, not to exceed \$500.00 total. Only one award will be issued per year. The scholarship will only be issued as a reimbursement; no monies will be given up front.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be:

- An active member of the GMSL for at least one year
- Must do a fifteen minute presentation on what they learned at one of the club's regular meetings prior to December 31st of that year
- You cannot have won in the previous year

To collect the scholarship monies the applicant must:

- Attend an approved qualifying class
- Provide proof of a paid receipt
- Complete their obligation of a presentation

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**No April Executive or Club Meeting Minutes**

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Life is like a grinding wheel.  
Whether it grinds you down,  
or polishes you up is your decision.

Cavett Robert

## Article for this month Faceting by Dave Woolley

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### Re “Scratches from the Master Lap #5”

Attaching a Mylar Polishing Lap to a Master Lap, or underlying Plastic Support Lap. Drip a few drops of water on a slowly rotating Master Lap. Place and secure a Mylar Polishing Disk above. (I use a few more drips than is illustrated. With enough water dripped to the Master Lap, the entire Mylar will turn a darker color when this process is completed.)



With a very slow turning Lap speed, use your finger like a snow plow to move a tidal wave of dripping water from the center to the perimeter of the lap. Mild pressure distributes the contact water underneath making a meniscus-like attraction adhering the Mylar Disk to the Master Lap. This method also floats and removes any dust or dirt that may have found its way to the top of the Mylar Polishing Disk. Your finger is very sensitive. Your finger will feel any stuck imperfection like an imbedded particle of grit that you might want to remove or avoid.

### 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/>

Facebook Link for the club

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

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**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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