



August Newsletter

8/2020

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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.

Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

My rocks are Gneiss, don't take them for Granite.....

Hello all, I would like to start off by saying that I miss everyone's face. I am in hopes that we can get back to some normalcy soon. With that said I would like to see some of you for our monthly zoom meeting this month on the 19th at 7pm. The topic of this zoom meeting will be a show and tell of member collections and general discussion of private collecting during quarantine. Details will be sent through a follow up email on how to set up Zoom and how to attend the meeting. We will be working on guest speakers for our Zoom meetings depending on turnout and interest for future meetings.

We have decided that because of the difficulties due to Covid-19, we will be waving club dues for the year of 2021. This means that if you are in current good standing with the club at the end of 2020 you will not have to pay dues until 2022. New members will still have to pay regular membership fees in 2021. We appreciate every one of you and value your membership and dedication to the hobby.

Club workshops are back in swing, and we are currently working on some items to bring our inventory back up for shows and festivals. We have a few new items we are working on, however we would love to get some new ideas for items to craft. So, if you would like to suggest anything please let us know. Thom Noble is teaching his cabbing techniques to 1-2 people a workshop when available. Please email the club if you are interested, or sign up through our Facebook page.

We are constantly looking for activities for us to do as a club that follow the safety guidelines put in place. If any of you have any ideas you would like to share, please feel free to message us, we would love your input.

Your fellow Rockhound,
James Tomlin

2020 Officers

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Members At Large -

Michael Staton &

Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach

Jennifer Staton

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.

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

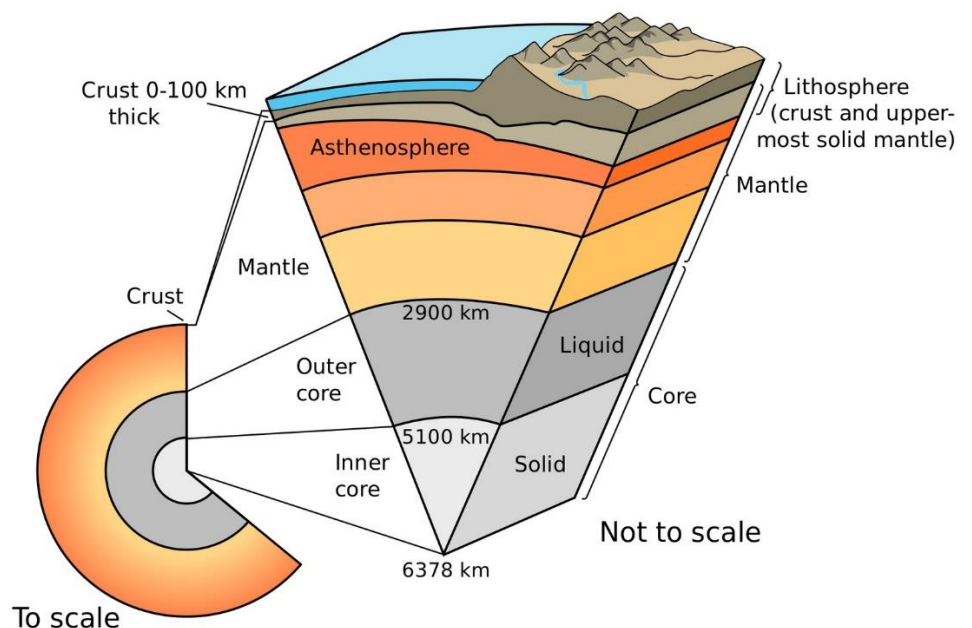
Last Updated: 13th Dec 2017

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)

Element or Compound

So In Sum . . .

A mineral is a chemical element or compound that:

1. has a more-or-less constant composition -- with allowance for substitutions in specific crystallographic sites in continuous series.
2. is usually a solid with an ordered three dimensional array of ions and molecules in its crystal structure. --
-- A few exceptions are approved for well characterized amorphous substances. The only liquid approved as a mineral is mercury.
3. is formed by natural geologic processes and without human or other biologic intervention. -- Exceptions are made for organic materials that have been changed and crystallized by geologic processes.
4. is not a mixture of two or more blended substances.

And most importantly, has been exhaustively studied and characterized by mineralogists, declared unique in its composition and structure, and the original specimen(s) that was studied deposited for preservation in a professionally curated museum.

Next month I will start how to identify a rock (hopefully we can do this at the club meeting in the future again).

Program for the coming months

We are working on the Zoom meetings trying to see what it will take to get the time limit increased and learning how to use the other features to enhance the program. We will let everyone know when we get all of this tied down. We have the sign in information now but will send it out on Monday of the week of the meeting. This month it is 8/19/2020 starting at 7:00.

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

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

Well another month has past and we are still in this lock down. We did have an executive meeting via Zoom and did try and come up with things that we can do for the club in these times. A lot of good ideas were discussed and we should be getting close to making things available in the coming months. If you have any ideas please bring them to our attention and we can include them in our discussions.

I have been tied up in a home project for the past 5 weeks and that project is complete and now I can get back to things that are in my hobby line. I bought some glass pieces from a store in Pigeon Forge and these pieces were from old dish makers like the Fenton Company in West

Virginia now out of business. I am anxious to cut some of this as it is very cool looking and some even glow under black light. Hopefully we will be able to meet at least in an open setting and try to get back to some normalcy.

We as the executive board understand that rock hounding is a hobby that needs interaction with others to transfer the knowledge and enthusiasm. You can learn from a book but to collect and find that piece locks in that knowledge. So please keep your enthusiasm and soon we can get back together and have the fun that we all crave.

I plan to make some changes in the newsletter in the coming months. If you have some ideas let me know. I plan to make it longer for those that get it by e-mail and have added pages but with the cost of mailing we need to keep the page count down for the mailed version.

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

Why I (we) became a Rock-hound

By Zachary McKinney

Need a story.

Field Trips

None at this time

August Executive Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday July 30, 2020 @ 7:00pm

Members in attendance:

James Tomlin, Holly Tomlin, Steve Gordon, Michael Staton, Debbie Wade and Brandon Coles

Members Not Present:

Joan Moore, Brian White and Eric Routon

The Executive Board

-discussed ways to do the silent auction virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. All members decided it would be best to implement the silent auction into the Clubs Facebook group.

-discussed ways to have something for the club to do during the pandemic. Several ideas were discussed and we hope to have something soon

-voted unanimously to extend current members fees through 2021. This applies to members who have paid their club fees in 2020. Renewing memberships will not be owed until January 1, 2022. New members for 2021 does not apply.

-voted unanimously to collaborate with the Friends of Mineralogy Virginia. We will have additions to our emailed newsletters to include information provided by FMVA. They will give us access to possible speakers for our club zoom meetings.

-voted unanimously to keep up with monthly club zoom meetings until we can safely meet as normal. These meetings will be on our regular club day and time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Why did the geologist take his girlfriend to the quarry?

It's very simple, he wanted to get a little boulder.

Callahan's Lapidary Workshop Surprise

by Dave Woolley

You never know what you will find at David Callahan's, Saturday Lapidary Workshops. I spotted this boulder in his yard: "Graphic Granite" from Brazil. It is a *fragment* of Microcline Feldspar crystal that has Quartz crystals that grew in competition for the available Silicon when it crystallized. On two opposite cleavage surfaces, the end views of the broken skeletal Quartz crystals resemble hieroglyphics, hence the term, graphic. "Graphic Granite" is a good descriptive term, but it a misnomer as this is not Granite. By the large size of this crystal fragment, this sample is a *piece* from a Granite Pegmatite; other minerals would include Plagioclase and Mica. The side view is turned 90 degrees: on these cleavage surfaces, the sides of several Quartz crystals are highlighted by Hematite stain. I am looking forward to seeing a 6inch sphere from this piece, David, or keep it as a museum piece! Similar "Graphic Granite" has been found in a cream-colored Microcline in the Pegmatite at Pittsylvania Wayside Picknick Ground, off of Business Route 29 near Hurt, Virginia.



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/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:

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