



January Newsletter

1/2021

Volume 2021, 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.

Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

"What did the Jedi say to the Geologist? May the Quartz be with you."

I wanted to start this year off with something positive and that is with all of our hard work last year, we are ready for some upcoming shows. We have had quite a few of our members helping at workshops and putting in many other weekends in efforts of preparations for our clubs future. I would also like to give recognition and thanks to Dave Woolley, who has kept our newsletters full with fun articles and his valued Knowledge. Most of us have kept in touch through digital means and this has kept us all going. Whether it is to see each other through zoom meetings, a phone call, facebook or emails, we have in some way kept the spirit of the club alive and well.

We will not have a Zoom meeting this month as I am still searching for a lineup of speakers for the first part of the year. If you would like to be a speaker please let me know as I would gladly like to give you th opportunity to do so. I am still waiting on Parks and Rec to get back with me on when we may safely return to our meeting place. It may still be awhile before we can have physical meetings again so please be patient. We will be coming up with some activities for our club this year even if it may have to be virtual events. I would love to hear or read about some of your stories about adventures you may have gone on recently or maybe a great story about your favorite rock find.

Stay safe and be kind!

Your Fellow Rockhound,
James Tomlin

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

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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

Some Pictures of the year 2020



Natalie & Warren Darling were pleasantly surprised to be collecting the VA state fossil- and Warren found this large whale vertebrae just before they left. They were visiting friends in Williamsburg, Va.



Picture after it was cleaned and the banana is just for size comparison.

Program for this month

At The time of writing the newsletter I have nothing for the meeting time.

I sent out an invitation for a zoom meeting about a site in Mass. that was going to be held 12/10/2020. I have no others as of this time.

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

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

A New Year is here and I hope and pray that it is not like last year. I am looking forward to getting out and collecting with anyone. I am hoping that this year the officers can work with a more normal year and get things back on track. There were a lot of good ideas that came up at the Executive meetings that we held and I am looking forward to trying some of them.

I still am fighting how to make the newsletter better and have a meeting with all of the other editors of the Eastern Federation Editors to see if they can spark me. I would love to give the newsletter a new look and a more inspirational motivation for all who read it.

I would love some pictures from any of you and about anything to put in the newsletter. That would give me a visual inspiration and maybe bring joy to others that have not seen you this year.

That is all for now, Happy New Year.

Steve

Remember to send me your "Why I became a Rockhound" short story. Also photos of things you done this past year and bench tips that you have found helpful.

My email is stevegordon@comcast.net

Note from the Membership Chair-person

Debbie Wade

REMINDER: Membership Chair at - debbie5227@yahoo.com

Field Trips

Later, still waiting for the world to return to normal.

No December Executive Meeting

Memories

A day at Willis Mountain: (my truck (full size) beside one of the large earth movers.



A panoramic view from up on top



Tips

10X Loupe for Gemologists and Jewelers



The hand loupe is often called the gemologist's best friend. It's the most-used instrument in gemology because it's simple, inexpensive, and small enough to tuck into your back pocket.

Even beginners can learn how to inspect gemstones with a hand-held loupe.

In this article, we take a deeper dive into one of the most useful gemology tools, a 10X loupe, and break down exactly how it can help you inspect and evaluate gems.

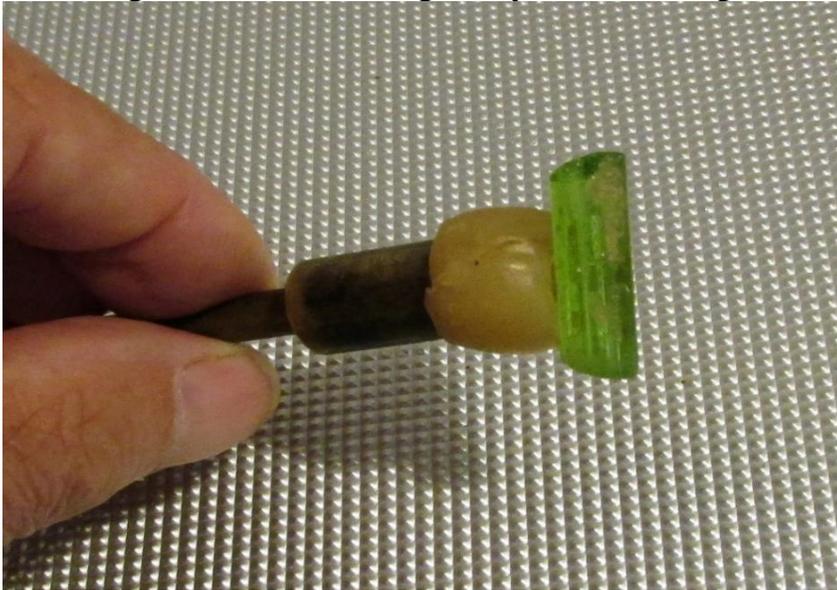
For full story copy and paste in address line on your search page.

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/10x-loupe-the-gemologists-best-friend/?affid=gemident&sid=2>

Article for this month: You too can be a part of Faceting History

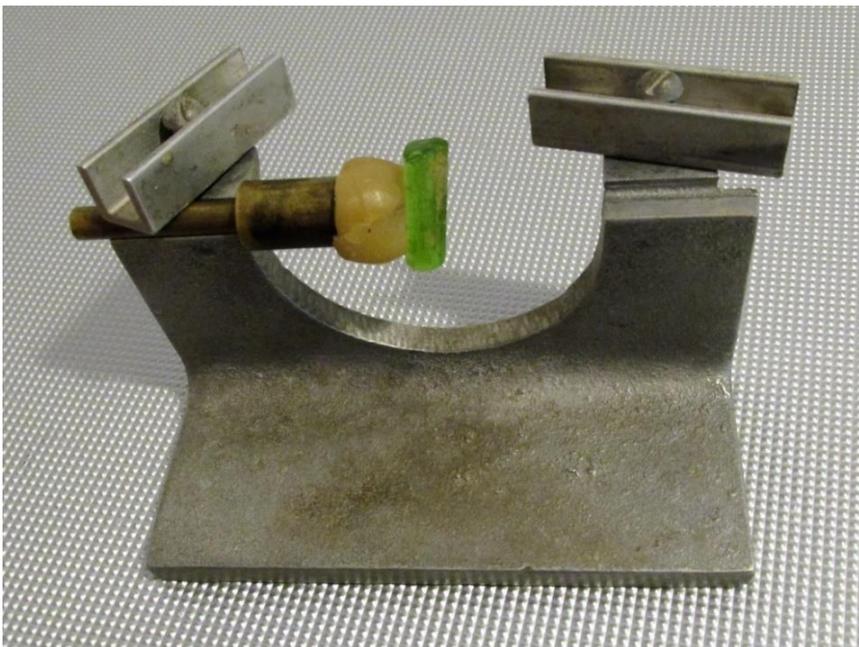
By Dave Woolley

And that is how it goes with faceting: anyone can improve the process!

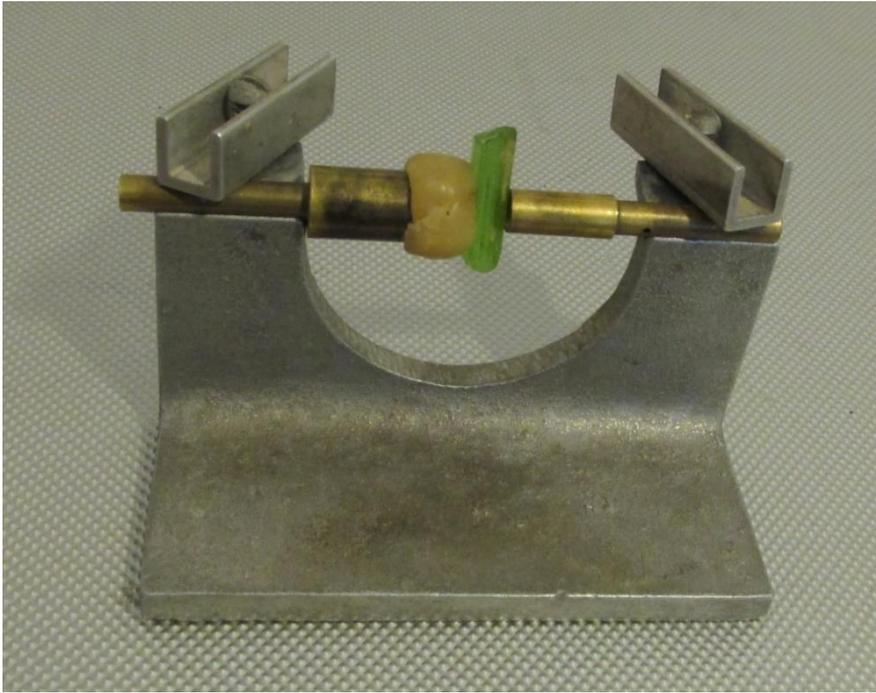


Beale's Bees Wax.

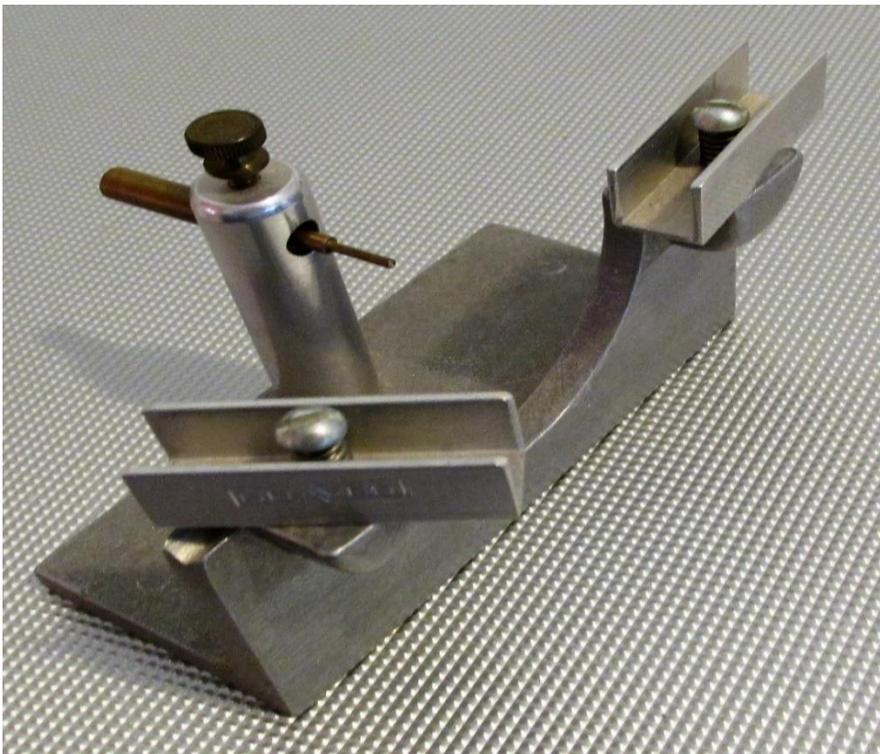
Marcus Beale shared one of his ideas that I published in "Scratches from the Master Lap". He may or may not have been the first to think of it, but it works. Bees Wax is a low temperature wax that allows easy movement of the softened wax to *center* a stone to get the maximum yield for a gem. This technique is especially useful with expensive pieces of rough and smaller stones.



Pictured is a Graves Transfer Block.



The transfer can be completed using a glue or Epoxy, but with *no heat*: that would cause the Bee's Wax and the stone to shift.



The Graves *improved* Transfer Block with a *centering* Guide Pin.



Tom Mitchell's *high temperature* Silicone Putty

Now the stone can be moved, centered, and attached with a *high temperature* Dop Wax instead of Super Glue or Epoxy. Tom is the president of the United States Faceters Guild.



John Hamer's Mag Dop

The "MagDop" manufactured by Marsh Howard. The stone can now be centered by moving a special Iron Dop across the face of a magnet, rather than shifting the Silicon Putty.

What will you contribute to Faceting?

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

International Gem Society

<https://www.gemsociety.org/reference-library/>

Mineral Cleaning for Amateurs

John's website is full of information that all mineral collectors will find useful and interesting.

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/>

Morefield Mine Tour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5aQp57HMso>

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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