



June Newsletter

6/2021

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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! I am pleased that we are returning to normal operations this month. Meetings will resume with being able to have refreshments and there are no restrictions on masks for those vaccinated. You are still required to wear masks if not vaccinated (State Regulations). We should be back in the main building for the meeting. If for some unforeseen reason we cannot, we will fall back to the Aviary. I am looking forward to seeing some more faces as we progress.

I am so excited to announce that we are going to host a multi Club Show and Sell on July 10th. I hope we have a good showing so that we may continue and grow this venture. We all need to work together in our community as with our neighbors and I hope this will do just that. We as a club have taken a big hit over the course of the pandemic and this is a great opportunity to help boost our morale. I can't wait to see all the wonderful specimens and lapidary works of art at the tables.

We are planning on attending one festival and one show this year in the fall. This is all still going to be in the balance as restrictions may be implemented by how COVID-19 goes. With that said, we NEED volunteers in order to make it all happen. This can be in any capacity you can and or willing to do. It's hard on the same people who volunteer for this stuff all the time and the club needs these shows in order to grow in membership as well as making new partnerships in the community.

Your Fellow Rockhound,
James

Meeting held in person in the Community Room at the Parks and Recreation building near Miller Park. Time is 7:00 on Wednesday June 16th. Masks for those not vaccinated and Social Distancing will be in place. Hand Sanitizer will be available.

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

James Tomlin

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First Vice President

Steve Boylan

Second Vice President

Secretary – Holly Tomlin

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Members At Large -

Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach



Editor's Pick

Here are some pictures from our trip out in Washington State. The first picture is Grand Coulee Dam in Upper Washington State



This picture is the northern part of Yellowstone where the snow was still very deep and people were still snowmobiling.



One of our encounters with the wild life in and around Yellowstone. We spent 7 days touring around Yellowstone and saw Bald Eagle, Bison, Deer, Mule Deer, Elk, Bear, Pronghorn and many types of other birds.

Program for this month



Speaker Bio:

Thomas Hale is a Virginia native that has been collecting minerals for the past seven years. Over that time, his fascination with minerals and their stories led him to pursue a state-wide undertaking known as the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP). The VMP is a research initiative focused on producing educational videos, community programs, and documents for the Virginia mineral community. At the end of 2019, Thomas traveled to every mineral society in the state, promoting his work. He began a virtual lecture series at the onset of the pandemic and provided community educational events when all other mineral societies in the state had stopped operating. To get clubs back together, he developed a Zoom document to assist clubs with getting members on Zoom and rebuilding the mineral community through a new platform. Despite the pandemic, he brought a team of collectors across the state to develop a new 501c3 chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. Friends of Mineralogy Virginia was developed through the success of the VMP and provides state-wide and regional team of engaged rockhounds dedicated to working with the community to provide educational resources and state assistance to schools, clubs, museums, and individual collectors.

Virginia Mineral Project Update

The Virginia Mineral Project was set to go full force during early 2020, but COVID-19 and changes in the Virginia mineral community shifted the goals and objective of the initiative. Thomas will be sharing crucial updates and news regarding the VMP and its future mission going into 2021 and beyond. He will also share his work that was completed over 2020 and the accomplishment of creating the new Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter. This presentation will have a ton of new Virginia mineral photographs taken over the last year, including news and information about mineral collecting in the post-COVID world. If you want to learn about Virginia minerals and rockhounding news, then make sure you join us for this presentation!

First Vice President

First Vice President Message

Virginia is a great state for collecting minerals. For the June meeting we have invited Thomas Hale. Thomas is leading the Virginia Mineral Project to highlight mineral collecting in Virginia. Please join us to give Thomas a big welcome.

Cheers
Steve Boylan
FVP G&MSL

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

I have been away for a couple of months but will be here for the June meeting. So I will look forward to seeing all of you.

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,

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

Hi GMSL,

I am hoping one of you would be willing to take over being Membership Chairperson from me. Primary duties include the following:

- Getting mail from PO Box at Odd Fellows Rd
- Inputting new members on Excel spreadsheet and keeping it maintained
- Mailing new members badges, welcome letters and such
- Checking Facebook to approve qualifying membership requests and Instant Message others with a "please join us" script
- Forwarding any membership payments to the Treasurer
- Keeping Steve and Dave apprised of new members for workshops and newsletter
- Attend Board Meetings

I would gladly sit down with you at my home and show you what I do and pass on all of the equipment and supplies I have here for the club. Of course, I still want to be an active member, just not Membership Chairperson.

Thank you,

Debbie Wade

debbie5227@yahoo.com

Club Show

July 10th Show and Sell Information

Please make all checks out to **GMSL** and send them to PO Box 11975 Lynchburg, VA 24506-1975. Please add Show and Sell to the memo portion. Vendors must have payment sent in by July 1st. Non-refundable unless the event is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Tables are \$30 for one table or \$50 for 2 tables. More tables will be available to those who choose for \$20 each table after. Tables are 6ft long. Tables will be assigned by event staff with some consideration.

The building will open up for vendors at 9am the day of the event for setup and then doors will open for sales at 10pm. The event is over at 5pm and vendors must be broken down by 7pm

Limited amount of outlets will be available during the event but not guaranteed at every spot. If you have a need for power please request it specifically.



GMSL Show and Sell

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg would like to invite you to our Inaugural Show and Sell.



When: **July 10, 2021
10 am - 5 pm**

Where: **Moose Lodge 715 Banquet Hall
2307 Lakeside Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24501**

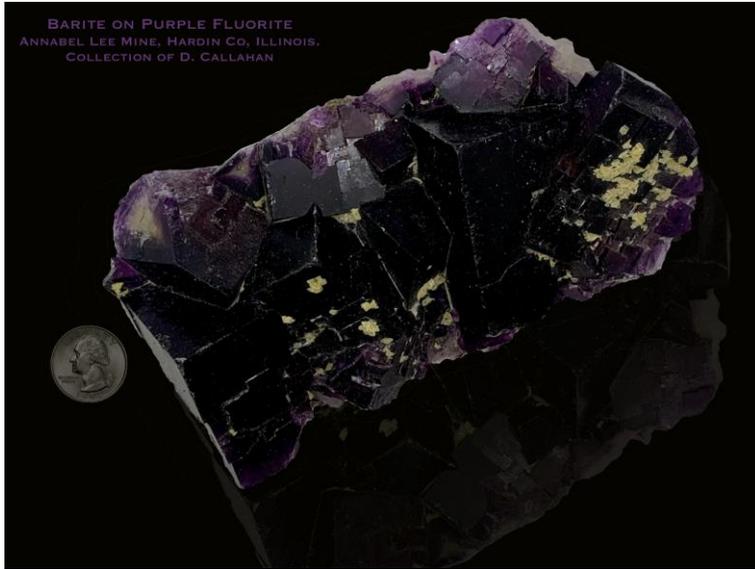
Open to all surrounding Clubs, entry is free!! Tables for club sellers are \$30 each or 2 for \$50
Must purchase tables by July 1st
Please email lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com for more info

Food will be available on site through Hot Diggity Dogs

Pickers Wheel

Baffled Specimens

There will be a Raffle for a Fluorite and Barite specimen donated by Dave Callahan.



Below is a picture of the inside area where the show will take place.



Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday June 2, 2021 @ 7:00

Members in Attendance:

James Tomlin, Holly Tomlin, Debbie Wade, Steve Boylan, Eric Routon, Thom Noble and Linda Noble

Members Not Present:

Steve Gordon, Joan Moore

The Executive Board

-Discussed our upcoming July Show and Sell and agreed to the following details

- Date of Show and Sell will be Saturday July 10, 2021
- Location will be at Moose Lodge #715 on Lakeside Dr. Lynchburg
- Time will be from 10:00am until 5:00pm
- The cost of using the Moose Lodge is free, but we will be donating \$10 from each table sold to the Moose for allowing us to use their space.
- We will be required to do our own clean up and leave it as it was when we arrived. Will need volunteers to help with this.
- We will be inviting the Roanoke, Richmond and Shenandoah clubs.
- We will be talking to a food truck about setting up. Initial talk has taken place with “Hot Diggity Dog”
- We will be selling tables for \$30 for 1 or \$50 for 2. They must sign up and pay for their table by July 1, 2021. To sign up they will email our club and mail payment to our clubs PO Box with “show table” in the memo.
- We hope to do a Raffle for a Specimen during the event. Will look into this and discuss further details as it gets closer.
- The event will be a club member’s only event. Each person attending will need to show proof of membership at the door with either a club badge, an eastern federation card or club t-shirt.
- We will be using the picker’s wheel and Eric Routon has volunteered to run it.
- We will have sign-up sheets at our June meeting for those wanting to volunteer, purchase a table or attend the event so we can get a head count from our club.
- We will have hand sanitizer at the door and all good will need to be consumed outside.

-Discussed the possibility of doing the Apple Harvest Festival this fall. Will be looking into this further.

-Discussed the possibility of doing the Garlic Festival in fall 2022. Will discuss this more as it gets closer.

-It’s a no go on placing the club display in the parks and rec building. Will try to check with local colleges.

-The Facebook group is for active club members that are up to date on their club dues and permanent club members. Any nine members have been booted and given the opportunity to join. Some have joined.

-Speakers for meetings need to be kept to Gems, Minerals or Fossils or in some way pertain to those topics. If there is an option for a speaker outside of these topics we will ask the club as a whole to vote on whether they'd like to have that speaker.

-Steve Boylan is working on getting speakers for June, July, August and September.

-If a board member does not pay their dues after an initial renewal letter and a reminder 1 month later they will be automatically removed from the board 1 month after the reminder letter was sent and a replacement will be found.

-We need to get in touch with Warren Darling to get the items for our on time drawing and silent auction.

-We need to start talking to Mike Morris in July about the possibility of a Willis Mountain trip this fall.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:17pm

Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 @ 7:00

Attendance: 22 members

Meeting called to order by James Tomlin

*** Per Governor mandates- if you are fully vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask during club meetings, but may do so if you wish**

***We will be reimplementing refreshments at our June meeting and resuming normal club activities and meetings.**

John Haskins won \$6.50 in the 50/50 drawing

Old Business: none

New Business:

James Tomlin: We are working on putting together a club picnic/Rock swap in July. More information will be available soon

Steve Boylan: It would be great if we could put together some some small displays for local libraries

James Tomlin: We are working on getting the club display back into parks and rec and have a permanent display.

Scott Duresky gave a short presentation on Rutherford Mines specimens. He will be giving a large presentation in October for us, which will be the final installment of several years of research .

Steve Boylan gave a presentation on calcite which included a few fun hands on experiments

Recent activity and update to the USFG Museum



I am happy to announce that the USFG Faceting Museum is growing! Thanks to the generous contribution from one of its members, Mr. Dave Woolley, who donated a "Graves Mark 4" faceting machine complete with one of his and teammate Marcus Beale's innovations – The Beale/Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator.

This machine is currently on display in the USFG portion of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society Museum. With minimal clean-up and a new drive belt, I am happy to report it is now "Operational". The JGMS Faceting staff is currently copying the process to produce our own version of this indicator for use on our Graves Faceting machines.

The original Faceting machine was purchased by Dave Woolley in Spruce Pine North Carolina in the early eighties for \$250.00. It was used not only to develop the Beale/Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator but Dave Woolley and Marcus Beale, among others, developed many "Back Yard Mechanic" methods of taking care of maintenance issues on Graves's equipment. Their "fixes" were intentionally not patented and many can be found today in "*Scratches from the Master Lap*" currently published in the USFG on-line web site. Everyone with a Graves faceting machine should download and read these maintenance enhancements.

The temporary home for the USFG museum is located in a space provided by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society in the JGMS Museum area at its Jacksonville Florida clubhouse. Items in the USFG museum space have been donated to the USFG and have become property of the

USFG. Current plans anticipate a continued effort to develop and improve these beginnings into a well-established "Museum of Faceting History" at some point, will hopefully become an addition to the "Smithsonian" Museum.

The USFG museum currently contains a few rare and unique faceting machines such as

- The first "Exakta" faceting machine,
- Three early prototypes of "Ultra-Tec faceting Heads",
- An early "Lee" faceting machine,
- One of only a dozen "Golden Beauty" faceting machines manufactured in Jacksonville and,
- The latest addition, a Graves Mark 4 faceting machine with an original Beale/Woolley Depth of Cut Indicator.

In addition to the faceting machines the museum houses:

- numerous books on early faceting designs, and
- some faceted stones that were entered in early international competition.

As a USFG committee, our goal is to acquire and document as many of the historically notable and/or unique tools that early faceters used to develop and improve our craft. We would like to expand the current list of "artifacts" but, in order to do this, we really need your help. Your museum committee would like to obtain:

- Any early products produced by vendors or individuals,
- Early photographs of "artifacts",
- Unique products that helped in the faceting process, such as Laps, Polishes, etc
- Minutes from early meetings (especially competition discussions), and
- Stories about faceting topics.

Without our conservation efforts, there is a high probability that most of these "artifacts" will either be discarded or disassembled for parts.

If you have looked at the USFG budget for the coming year, you will note that there are NO funds allocated for either

1. acquiring privately owned equipment or,
2. obtaining additional display materials.

But all is not lost, as our members have proven to be truly generous when it comes to supporting our Guild. It also helps that the USFG is a 501-C3 corporation and as such contributions to the organization are deductible on income tax (at least in the US).

Please review your closet full of oldies-but-goodies to see if there is anything that you would like to donate to add to the growth of your museum.

Bill Poland

Poland@comcast.net or 904-262-2672

[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>

Impromptu lecture on crystallography:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCrOm2CQnPCLV8FtSKWHuJCw>

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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