



A non-profit organization whose goal is to foster the knowledge and appreciation of general geology, minerals, fossils, archaeology, and lapidary arts. An affiliate of the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

APRIL 2022

An Award-Winning Publication

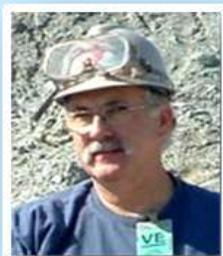
VOLUME 62 ISSUE 4

April Meetings Info

The Board Meeting will be held on **April 12 at 6:30 pm, before the Membership Meeting.**

The Membership Meeting will be held in person on **Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 pm.**

Masks are optional if you're vaccinated.



The President's Message - by Lynn Taylor

The sun is shining!

Our program this month should be interesting! Four speakers will be set up at tables, with demonstrations or exhibits to view. We've decided to hold the Board meeting immediately before the Membership meeting, to try and have more Board members able to attend.

I want to thank member Chuck Stilson for his presentation in March. Great programs like this have inspired me to invite other clubs to our meetings. Share the wealth!

Pamm Bryant and Valerie Johnson are giving another class in wire weaving. Sign up early – these classes fill fast. We have information on a couple more upcoming shows on the last page of this newsletter, as well as a flyer for the MAGMA gem show in June. More to come!

Get out and enjoy the fantastic weather on these nice days, but also be aware of the forecast. We've had some serious storms lately, and I'd hate for anyone to run into trouble while out collecting.

Keep an eye on the ground, and the other on the sky - Lynn

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Calendar of Events – April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
1	2					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board + Member Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March Membership Meeting Minutes

For the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

March 15, 2022

The March meeting was opened by President Lynn Taylor by welcoming all in attendance to the 2022 season of the RGMS. Lynn welcomed the following guests to our meeting and asked that each one would tell the group their main interest:

Pat	geology	Jenny	collector
Danny Morris	collector	Brian	collector
Tara	collector	Rick Stone	collector
Lauren & Afton	geology	Brian & Mary	
Christopher	collector	McGurk	collectors

Treasury: Dave Hutchison announced that the treasury was OK and that all current bills have been paid.

Membership: Richard Starr announced that he was pleased to see the turnout for this meeting. He also noted that he is working toward reopening the lapidary shop sometime this spring.

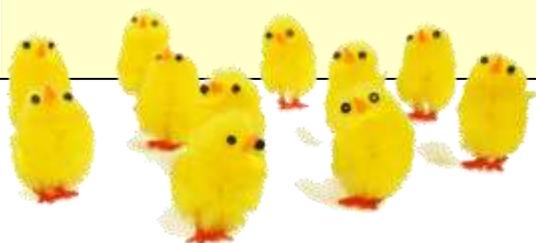
Programs: Pamm Bryant announced the speakers for the following 3 months. The March topic will be about safety when rockhounding in mines and the speaker will be Chuck Stilson. The April topic will be about prepping and displaying items that have been found. The speaker/demonstrators will be Dave Hutchison on fossils, Lynn Taylor on fossil hunting, Andy Dietz on packaging and display and Pamm Bryant on micromounting. The May topic will be about fossil lycopods presented by Dave Hutchison.

Wildacres: Pamm also announced the spring Wildacres session will be from May 16th to the 22nd and the speaker for the session would be Natalie Brand.

Activities: Andy Dietz announced that the club would once again be represented at the Treasures of the Earth show at the RIR Complex. The dates for the show are March 18th – 20th. We will need help with set up on the 17th and take down on the 20th. Club members are needed to man the exhibits and be ambassadors for the club. Admission to this event is free to club members. Andy also noted that we will need brochures, swap notices and membership applications for the show.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 at which time Pamm introduced our Chuck Stilson who spoke about mine safety for collectors.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Toth, Recording Secretary



March Board Meeting Notes

For the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

March 22, 2022

The March 2022 ZOOM Meeting of the RGMS Board was hosted by Webmaster Jim Campbell and opened by President Lynn Taylor at 6:35 p. m. Additional attendees were Pamm Bryant, Andy Dietz, Jim Campbell, Dave Hutchison, Bob Simon, Richard Starr, Carl Miller, and Frank Toth.

President Lynn Taylor noted that this month's presentation on mine safety by Chuck Stilson was excellent. Lynn also said he was going to invite other clubs to our meetings.

Andy Dietz noted that things were okay to go for the Treasures of the Earth show. He noted that Eddie Patton will bring applications and flyers. Lynn asked about the brochures that we used to have to hand out and it seems that they need to be updated and will not be available for the show. We will have a table reserved for the Mini Miners. Jim Campbell advised that he would help with transporting cases and equipment to Andy's warehouse on Sunday. Bob Simon said he will be there to set up and take down the TOTE displays.

Pamm Bryant announced the topics and speakers for April and May. The April presentation deals with fossils, fossil hunting, specimen packaging and display and micro mounting. This will be a speaker/demonstrator type session around the tables at the fellowship hall. The speaker demonstrators will be Dave Hutchison on fossils, Lynn Taylor on fossil collecting, Andy Dietz on packaging and display and Pamm Bryant on micro mounting. The May speaker will be Dave Hutchison on fossil lycopods.

Dave Hutchison announced that the treasury was in good shape with funds in excess of \$14,000. He also noted that about 1/3 of the membership has not paid dues for 2022. Dave also reminded the board that the church has Vacation Bible School during June and the fellowship hall would not be available for use by the club. Usually, we would go to the Lara Robbins Gallery at the University of Richmond however, they have not opened facilities on the campus as of this writing due to Covid restrictions.

Pamm and Valerie Johnson will conduct a class in bead weaving in March (full already) and a class in April in cabochon wrapping.

Jim Campbell said he was contacted about used lapidary equipment by Mr. David Westfall. Contact Jim if you are interested and he will give you the information.

New Business

Lynn started off by stating that he would like to see interested club members attend board meetings as much as possible. To that end, he said he would like to have these meetings on the same day as the regular membership meeting and we would have the April Board meeting at the fellowship hall starting at 6:30 p.m. before the Membership meeting at 7:30.

Lynn also noted that the storage cabinet has a mold growth and is in need of a good cleaning. The projector needs to be inspected to see that it is clean. Lynn also noted that we need a table to set it on when we make presentations.

Lynn wants to start the silent auctions up again at the club meetings and would like to see us have gifts for the guests of the evening.

Jim said that he would like to see us have a new member orientation. Dave also recognized new members being overwhelmed by old club members who "know it all" but don't seem to want to share. Richard suggested that we establish a mentor or big brother system to help new members learn what the club is about and how we go about doing our activities.

There was no further business and the President adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Toth, Recording Secretary

Easter Eye Candy

A Fabergé egg is a jeweled egg created by the jewelry firm House of Fabergé. Possibly as many as 69 were created, of which 57 survive today. Virtually all were manufactured under the supervision of Peter Carl Fabergé between 1885 and 1917. The most famous are his 52 "Imperial" eggs, 46 of which survive, made for the Russian Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II as Easter gifts for their wives and mothers.

Info from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faberg%C3%A9_egg



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RGMS April Meeting
 April 12, 2022 • 7:00 pm

Join us for a uniquely planned evening. A topic to meet every taste and introduce you to new ideas.

Four Speakers, Four Programs, One Meeting



LYNN TAYLOR

Lynn will discuss how to find sharks' teeth and other items of interest on the beach. He will describe what to look for while you walk along the shore.



DAVE HUTCHINSON

Dave will tell us what is involved in preparing fossils - the tools and techniques of the process.



ANDY DIETZ

Andy will show us how to prepare minerals for sale or display. He will cover different ways to package your minerals to sell. Andy will also show us ways to label and display your personal collection at home.



PAMM BRYANT

Pamm will discuss how to prepare micromounts and thumbnails.

Masks are optional,
 if vaccinated

RGMS Membership Information

Dues for 2022 can be paid at the April Membership Meeting or mailed in (due in January)

2022 CLUB DUES

Adult	\$12
Family	\$18
<i>(includes children under 18)</i>	
Junior (14-17)	\$5
Mini Miner	\$3
<i>(under 14 with adult sponsor)</i>	

Send your Dues to:

RGMS
1622 Rocky Ford Road
Powhatan, VA 23139

WILDACRES
 Spring Session
 May 16-22, 2022

www.efmls.org

- The Speaker-In-Residence will be Dr. Nathalie Brandes
- Classes – Whether looking to learn a new aspect of the hobby or just wanting to improve your knowledge and skills in an area you already know, with eight (8) classes to choose from, there is sure to be a class for anyone. Class schedule on the website.
- Registration – Download forms from the website. Note that single rooms will be available for an additional fee.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, concerns, etc., you can contact:
 Steve Weinberger, *Chairman of the Wildacres Committee* (cscrystals2@gmail.com)
 Suzie Milligan – *regarding registration* (smilligan@stny.rr.com or 607-687-5108)
 Mark Kucera – *for info on classes and instructors* (mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com or 914-423-8360)

Class Schedule, and Registration forms are available on the EFMLS website.
Note: if old info appears on website, clear your browsing history.

Jewelry Bench Tips

courtesy of
Brad Smith



Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books: [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots.

Toothpicks are also handy for holding a small, faceted stone while setting it. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.



COLORING EPOXY

There are two ways to add color when you are using epoxies. The first is to add a powdered material like colored chalk, charcoal, or powdered colors from an art supply store. One that I particularly like is a set of pastel glitter powders. A second way is to add a liquid pigment like nail polish, model airplane paint, or tinting pigments from a marine supplies store.

In preparing epoxy for use, the important things are to use exactly equal parts of the two components and to thoroughly mix them together. Coloring material can be added at any time. If I'm making just a small amount, I squeeze out equal sized droplets onto a piece of scrap paper or aluminum foil and mix thoroughly with a toothpick.

To mix larger amounts of epoxy, I use a gram scale to weigh the first component. Then I zero the scale and weigh out the same amount of the second component, add coloring if needed, and mix.

If you are using 5-minute epoxy, the mixing needs to move quickly. But I like to work carefully when adding color. So I squeeze out equal sized droplets side by side on the scrap paper. Then I work with just one of the droplets to add the colors. The 5-minute clock only starts when you mix in the second droplet.

Wire Weaving Jewelry Class



A Wire Weaving Jewelry Class will be held
April 23 at 1:00 pm.

Our project will be one of the forged wire earrings
(as pictured at left).

To sign up, email Valerie at:
moonlightgems@gmail.com

Put "jewelry class" in the subject line.

Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig - May 20 - 22, 2022 – Lincolnton, Georgia
(Please note date change)

No reservations needed. Current covid safety precautions must be observed. Masks must be worn when at food and vending booths. Social distancing must be adhered to. If something changes, it will be posted on the website.

The mountain will be open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a contribution/donation to help with the cost of providing porta johns and golf carts. The dig will end and everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day.

There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. If you would like to setup a booth, contact Jr. at 706-401-3173. Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase on the mountain all three days.

This is a MAGMA event – see the MAGMA/Jacquot & Son Mining website for other information and updates:
www.americanrockhound.com

See also the attached flyer for their June 17-19 show that will be held in a new location this year.

Other Shows Happening

April 22, 2022 – 10 am – 4 pm - 31st Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show - Howard County Fairgrounds 2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, MD. Free Admission Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough and Cut Gemstones Silent Auctions, Door Prizes, Free Minerals for Kids Howard County Fairgrounds.

April 30 – May 1, 2022 – Sat 10-5 | Sun 10-4 - Berks Mineralogical Society Presents the 53rd annual “World of Gems & Minerals” – The Pavilion at Leesport Farmers Market next to the Banquet Hall 312 Gernant’s Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533. Admission Donation \$4

Note: *Due to time constraints, the postally mailed copy of The Collecting Bag will be printed in black and white until further notice.*



The Collecting Bag

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**DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT ISSUE:
APRIL 22**

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Ridge Baptist Church, 1515 Eastridge Rd, Henrico, VA 23229
Bulletin articles and items may be reprinted provided that credit is given to the author and the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society.

