



THE COLLECTING BAG

RICHMOND GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



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.

JUNE 2022

An Award-Winning Publication

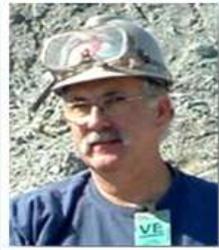
VOLUME 62

ISSUE 6

June Meetings Info

The Board Meeting will be held on **June 14 at 6:30 pm, before the Membership Meeting.**

The Membership Meeting will be held in person on **Tuesday, June 14 at 7:00 pm.**



The President's Message

- by Lynn Taylor

That Summer Feeling

Many thanks to Dave Hutchinson for his presentation on fossil lycopods last month. Thomas Hale will be our speaker this month, presenting his program on the Northern VA Trap Rock Quarries publication. We'll be holding the Board meeting immediately before the

Membership meeting again this month, and going forward.

Results of the Lapidary survey have been provided to the Board, so look for info to be forthcoming.

We have worked out a plan for the **July meeting**. We'll be delaying the meeting for a week, and holding it on **July 19** instead, but in the usual location. Sorry for any inconvenience, but we have to work with the church's calendar.

Pamm and Valerie will be holding another wire-wrapping class on June 25 at 9:00 am. See page 7 of this newsletter.

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

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Calendar of Events – June 2022

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

May Membership Meeting Minutes

For the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

May 10, 2022

The May 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:

Guest	Interest	Source
Jim Finn	Lapidary	Online
Fred	Collecting	Online
Allen Townsend	Lapidary	TOTE Show / RIR

Programs: Pamm Bryant announced that the program speakers for June and July are open; the August topic will be Rudy Bland, the September topic will be by Julia Paine; the Annual Auction is in October; November is open and the December meeting will be elections of 2023 officers and the Christmas Party.

Treasurer: Dave Hutchison noted that we have in excess of \$14,000 in the treasury. He also noted that the **July meeting will be on the third Tuesday of July** at the RBC Fellowship Hall. This change is due to the Church's annual Vacation Bible School.

Andy Dietz announced that the Club will participate in the Fall Treasures of the Earth show in mid-September. He also stated that the Annual Swap and Sale will be held on the 2nd Saturday of November. He advised members that tables were going fast as there was a heavy interest from vendors. Table rates have changes as follows: 6-foot table will be \$20.00 and 8-foot tables will be \$25.00.

Activities: Pamm and Valerie have a class planned for wire wrapping of cabochons on May 28th. Contact them for more information.

No Club field trips are planned at this time.

Carl Miller announced that the Rochester Symposium will be "live" in 2022.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 at which time Pamm introduced our own Dave Hutchison who spoke on Fossil Lycopods.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Toth, Recording Secretary



Skolithos Trace Fossils

The oldest common fossils in Virginia, these are traces of the tubes inhabited by primitive worms living along a Paleozoic shoreline.

Source:

<https://www.energy.virginia.gov/geology/fossils.shtml>

May Board Meeting Notes

For the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

May 10, 2022

The May 2022 RGMS Board meeting was opened by President Lynn Taylor at 6:35 p. m. in the Ridge Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Additional attendees were Pamm Bryant, Andy Dietz, Jim Campbell, Dave Hutchison, Bob Simon, Kathy Paine and Frank and Debra Toth.

Pamm advised that she did not have a speaker lined up for the June or July meeting at this time and as such, she will provide a program for June. The August speaker will be Rudy Bland; the September speaker will be Julia Paine. The annual auction will take up the October time slot. The Wildacres Fall Session will be from September 5th thru 11th.

Andy stated that the club has accepted the invitation and will participate in the Treasures of the Earth Show in September. Andy has sent out the invitation to vendors for the November Swap and Sale. He noted that the table prices have changed due to a change in vendor and will be as follows: 6-foot tables will be \$20.00 each and 8-foot tables will be \$25.00. He advised that he is trying to limit tables to one (1) per vendor due to heavy interest in this event.

Treasurer Dave Hutchison stated that we have money coming in and none going out. As requested by the Board, Dave contacted Ridge Baptist Church to see if the 3rd Tuesday of the month would be available as we are not allowed use of the Fellowship Hall dues to VBS. The Hall is available and Dave has reserved it for our meetings. This will be July 19th. He also asked about vendors or club members erecting "jump ups" outside during the Swap and Sale and was advised that it would be OK in the parking lot but NOT IN THE GRASS.

Results of the Lapidary Survey were not completed as of this date.

Kathy Paine announced that the Mini Miners were going to the ore pile at Pamm Bryant's home and to Cold Harbor Battlefield to relic hunt on private property in the coming months. Kathy also noted that Julia Paine has done an internet search to find places like quarries to rock hunt. It was noted by some of the board members that many of the internet sites are either closed or will no longer allow collecting on their sites.

Dave Hutchison is doing the presentation this evening. Jim Campbell asked if he could get speaker and presentation information ASAP so he could post it on the media sites.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Toth, Recording Secretary

July Meeting

July Meeting will be held the THIRD Tuesday of July (July 19) at the Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall (usual place).

Thank you!



Zuni Fetishes

By Diane Moxley

I have always loved rocks and collecting them, but about 25 years ago, I discovered Zuni fetishes.

While on a trip to the Four Corners area (NM, AZ, UT, CO) of the Desert Southwest, I learned about these beautiful stone carvings. Although also carved by many indigenous Pueblo tribes, the Zuni Native Americans from Zuni, NM, are still considered the premier carvers for these amazing works of art.



While originally first carved for the purpose of benefiting the holder with the believed spiritual properties contained within a piece, nowadays many non-Native people also collect Zuni fetishes for the

amazing workmanship and beauty in them. As the “outside” collectors’ appreciation of these works has grown in number, so has the number of Zuni carvers and types of materials used.

Originally owned, or carried on one’s person, fetishes were believed to bring the internalized properties, according to Zuni belief, of the particular animal in hand to the benefit of the person who had it. A mountain lion, for example, was used to enhance one’s protection and success during a hunt. Bears were revered for their ability to aid in healing from illness. Eagles helped to carry prayers to the heavens where they were better heard.



The original Zuni fetishes were mostly simplistic in style, material and detail since they were not considered works of art.

They were mostly functional. However, as popularity grew for them from non-Native people, these miniature carvings have evolved into exquisite works of art suitable for any collector. Many people now collect for specific carvers, or for specific animals, or for the type of material used in the piece. I do a little of all of this, but do have specific carvers who I think are amazing for different aspects in their work. I can often spot their work since it is so distinctive.



So why not consider expanding your “rock” collection to include something a little different? There is a whole array of amazing fetishes out there in just about any kind of stone you might want. But be aware, the truly, highly regarded fetishes are carved only by Zuni carvers. Most pieces are marked with the carver’s signature or initials, and the word Zuni or the letter “Z”, on the bottom. Buy from a reputable source so you know you are buying the “real McCoy”. As popularity increases, so do copy cats.



Thank you, Diane, for another great article!

Readers, if you’d like to see your own article featured, please consider sending to

TheCollectingBag@yahoo.com



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRAP ROCK QUARRIES

Join us this month as Thomas Hale speaks about the upcoming *Northern Virginia Trap Rock Quarries* publication written and published by Friends Of Mineralogy Virginia and Diamond Dan Publications.



The Trap Rock Quarries were a famous collection of quarries highly sought after by collectors from the 1950s to early 2000s. These quarries hosted world class specimens of prehnite and apophyllite, with over 75 individual mineral species noted. Unfortunately, over the years, the quarries have closed to collectors, but their specimens live on within collections across the world.

RGMS Membership Meeting • June 14, 2022 • 7:00 pm • Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall

This publication will be the first book with color plates ever created on Virginia’s mineralogy and geology and will be a much needed update since the 1990 Minerals of Virginia book by R.V. Dietrich. The presentation will give an overview of the layout of the book and what it seeks to accomplish, including partnership with industry groups to promote the use of aggregates in society.

Thomas will also provide several updates to the Virginia Mineral Project and Friends of Mineralogy Virginia, including ways the Richmond Club can engage and benefit from these state projects. **There will be a ton of great photographs from the publication.**

Speaker Bio: Thomas Hale is a recent masters graduate of George Washington University in the Elliott School of International Affairs with a degree in Security Policy Studies, specializing in energy security and critical mineral supply chains.

Mr. Hale is also a student at the University of Delaware and University of Queensland in the Minerals, Materials, and Society M.A. certificate program. He is the current president of the new Friends of Mineralogy Virginia Chapter, director of the Virginia Mineral Project, co-host of “A Rock & A Hard Place Podcast” with Mineral Choices, and an Energy Security Fellow at Securing America’s Future Energy (SAFE) in Washington D.C.

<p>RGMS Membership Information</p>	<p>Dues for 2022 can be paid at the Membership Meeting or mailed (due in January)</p>	2022 CLUB DUES		<p>Mail your Dues to: RGMS 1622 Rocky Ford Road Powhatan, VA 23139</p>
		<p>Adult..... \$12</p> <p>Family..... \$18 <i>(includes children under 18)</i></p> <p>Junior (14-17)..... \$5</p> <p>Mini Miner \$3 <i>(under 14 with adult sponsor)</i></p>		

Jewelry Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith



DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's always a burr produced on the underside of the metal. We all have our ways of removing them - typically by filing or sanding the area smooth. But doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.



A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vice.

CLEANING STEEL SHOT

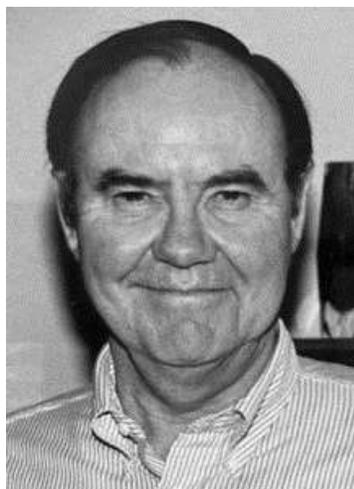
Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.

While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.



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



Mr. Edward Covington Rhea, a longtime Richmond resident, bade farewell to this life on May 17, 2022, in Richmond.

In his 81 years he was a scientist and a sailor, an amateur geologist, and an avid photographer, as well as a beloved family member and friend.

During retirement, Ed's passion for geology led to his active participation in the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society and attending the Society's Rock Swap each November, where Ed and his grandsons could examine fascinating rock specimens from around the world, became an annual tradition.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?

I am on the lookout for **original articles**, written by members, **photos**, or **original artworks** by members to include in our newsletter. Items submitted may be entered into the EFMLS Annual Bulletin Editor's Contest.

Mini Miners are strongly encouraged to participate!

Send your original works to: thecollectingbag@yahoo.com

Wire Weaving Jewelry Class

Treasures made by the May 28 class: *Wrapped Cabochon*



A Wire Weaving Jewelry Class will be held
June 25 at 9:00 am.

Our project will be a
Donut Pendant

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

Put "jewelry class" in the
subject line.

Upcoming Shows

June 25, 2022 –10am – 5pm - Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show – Gilsum, NH — Gilsum Elementary School & Community Center 640 Route 10, Gilsum, NH.

June 30, 2022 –10am – 5pm - 41st Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show– Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont.

The **Wildacres Fall session will be September 5 – 11, 2022**. The Speaker-in-Residence will be Mary Ehlers, a jewelry artist, goldsmith, and jewelry designer recognized for her custom jewelry. She is sure to be a great addition to our Wildacres Fall experience. She will be accompanied with her husband, Stephen Toth. Classes (see pages 13-16) include Cabochons, Chainmaille, Flint Knapping, Loop N Loop, Soapstone Carving and Viking Knit/Wire Works. See the EFMLS website: www.efmls.org

The **2022 EFMLS Annual Convention will be September 23-24, 2022** sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Harrisburg, PA. There is a fieldtrip to National Limestone, Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry on Sunday at 10:00 am. There is no fee to attend but you must be registered for the convention. According to Mindat.org, this quarry is famous for the abundance of calcite crystals, both clear and orange in color, and tank-colored dogtooth calcites—many of them are highly fluorescent. For registration form or more info, please contact Barbara Hadley (thecollectingbag@yahoo.com) or check the EFMLS website: www.efmls.org

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

Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

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Deadline for the
next issue:
June 24



Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Ridge Baptist Church, 1515 Eastridge Rd, Henrico, VA 23229
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