



# THE VIRGINIA PEN



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA



APRIL 2014

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### **Special Points of Interest:**

#### **Treasures of the Earth Show**

- Virginia Beach Convention Center
- April 25—27
- Volunteers Needed

#### **May Picnic**

- Saturday, May 17
- Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Courtyard Shelters 1, 2, and 3
- 10 AM—4 PM
- Food, Training & Friends
- Help Needed

#### **Aurora Fossil Festival**

- May 23—25

#### **June Field Trip**

- Vulcans Materials Dale Quarry
- Saturday, June 7
- 9 AM—1 PM
- POC: Al DeHart



Fellow Rockhounds,

Welcome to the new President's Corner feature of the GMSVP's Virginia Pen Newsletter. The GMSVP has gotten off to a great start in 2014. We have had several great programs so far including Gary's video on the Earth's Geology, Mike Griffith's collecting adventure in California and Ellie Pitts' program on her yellow opal mining in Idaho. Second VP, Barbara Priest, is working on a presentation on uranium mining in Virginia by Dr. James Kaste of the

W&M Geology Department for June or July. We are always looking for exciting programs for the Club meetings. If you know of an interesting speaker, please let Barbara know. Also, we are always interested in Club members giving a presentation on a mining adventure or demonstrating a skill.

The Club's Annual Auction at the April meeting was a resounding success. We auctioned off 70 items for almost \$1000 that will help support the Club's programs and activities. If you missed something at the auction, we are planning to continue it with a silent auction at the Club's picnic on May 17th.

Speaking of the Club's picnic, please see the article in this edition of the Virginia Pen. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the Club's saws, Genies and other equipment to work on your own projects. If you are not familiar with the equipment, not to worry, any of the more experienced Club members will be happy to show you the ropes. All you have to do is ask. If you have been around awhile, it is also a great time to get a few slabs carved off that beautiful piece of rough that has been gracing your backyard rock garden for years. Please come out and enjoy some good food and great fellowship.

Al Dehart, our dedicated Field Trip Coordinator, has been hard at work. He organized our Winter Field Trip to the Laura Robbins Gallery at the University of Richmond and the Stone Goddess Rock Shop that was very well attended. He also has another field trip planned to the Vulcan Materials Quarry in Chester, VA in search of the elusive beryl on June 7th. Sign up as soon as you can. Space is limited.

The Virginia Beach Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) show on April 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> is coming up soon. This is the Club's biggest revenue generator which helps keep us well fed and happy. We need a little help from everyone in the Club to make this happen from set up on Thursday afternoon, the 24th, to take down on Sunday, the 27th. An added bonus for Club members is that all of the Club's equipment will be set up for members to demonstrate their skills or work on their own jewelry projects. Please come out and give us a hand. Call or e-mail Robert Mazzrillo, our TOTE Show Coordinator, with questions or to let him know when you can help out.

(Continued on Pg 4)

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Facebook: [https://](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP/275041405841489)

[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP/275041405841489)

[GMSVP/275041405841489](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-of-the-Virginia-Peninsula-GMSVP/275041405841489)

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# SafetyMatters – WEAR THE MASK FOR THE TASK

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Source: EFMLS News Volume 51, Number 4, February 2014



Perhaps you have heard the expression: “Wear the right mask for the task at hand.” Then again perhaps you may not have heard of it seeing’s how I just made it up. Because it rhymes, it may be more memorable as a safety message. Catch phrases are handy for making a safety guideline a rememberable guideline. What the expression “wear the right mask for the task” is meant to convey is the message that for many rockhounds, silver and goldsmiths, lapidary tasks and so on, wearing a specific for the task mask may be advisable.

Rockhound tasks often involve being in an area of dry, wind-blown dust. For such situations a simple, properly fitted, dust mask would be suitable for protecting the lungs from air-born dust.

Silver and gold smithing operations may also involve dry dust such as when using rouge or polishing powder to finish a piece of work. Smithing tasks may also involve fumes from soldering and pickling operations. A dry dust type of mask would not offer suitable protection to the lungs from the detrimental effect of soldering fumes. Masks providing protection from harmful fumes would be a more appropriate choice. Even under the best of circumstances where a suitable ventilation system is being used during soldering operations, wearing a mask for protection from vapors may be advisable.

Lapidary tasks, on the other hand, usually involve the need for lung protection from the presence of wet dust. Wet dust requires a different type of mask – one that catches the dust but does not block the flow of air to the lungs. A standard dry dust mask would rapidly clog and be rendered useless when used in a wet dust environment. Another common material used in lapidary tasks is the mixing and application of epoxy resins. Epoxies, as I’m sure you have noted from reading the safety labels, emit volatiles that are harmful if inhaled. Labels on epoxies usually stress using the product in a well-ventilated area. If the usage is in an area not all that well ventilated, a mask suitable for epoxy vapors may be used.

Were one to look in any reasonably complete safety equipment catalog, one would find a bewildering array of safety masks made by numerous vendors and suitable for every imaginable task. No brief safety article can mention all the various products available for rockhound, smithing and lapidary tasks but catalog sales representatives could easily offer mask guidance for your particular needs. Even in modestly equipped hardware and building supply stores one may be able to find masks suitable to the task at hand.

The takeaway message in all this discussion is that your lungs are important and need to be protected. There are numerous safety masks which can offer that protection. The trick is to choose the mask which fits the task. Actually, a similar statement may be made for many rock hound tasks—use the right hammer and chisel, select the right safety goggles, wear the right footwear, choose the right gloves, and so on. Being safe involves making good choices.



# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GMSVA, AFMS AND EFMLS

Source: GMSVA, AFS, and EFMLS websites

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVA) is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and its Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS) regional organization. As a member, our club has access to the resources provided by the organizations.

GMSVA facilitates the exchange of information and general cooperation between its members by promoting the study of lapidary techniques, mineralogy, paleontology, and allied fields of Earth sciences; provides the community with a knowledge of the hobby through lectures, demonstrations, and exhibitions; and provides a setting to enjoy good fellowship. GMSVA programs provide educational and recreational opportunities for our members through meetings, field trips, exhibitions, and projects.

AFMS is a non-profit educational federation of seven similar regional organizations of gem, mineral and lapidary societies. The organization was founded in 1947. AFMS (1) promotes popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects; (2) sponsors and provides means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; and (3) sponsors and encourages the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and, through such means, strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

EFMLS was organized in 1950 to bring about a closer association of clubs and societies devoted to the study of the earth sciences and the practice of the lapidary arts and related crafts in the eastern portion of the United States. Beginning with three "founding" clubs and seven "charter" clubs, the EFMLS has now grown to approximately 110 affiliated clubs and societies with a combined membership of well over 10,000 individuals. The EFMLS joined the AFMS in 1952.



## TOTE SHOW—VA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

**TOTE SHOW**  
**APRIL 25—27, 2014**  
**VAB CONVENTION CENTER**

**FRIDAY: 11 AM - 6 PM**  
**SATURDAY: 10 AM - 6 PM**  
**SUNDAY: 11 AM - 5 PM**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**  
**CONTACT ROBERT MAZZRILLO AT 757-465-5599**



## NEW GMSVA MEMBERS

*Welcome new rock hounds!*

- ◆ March 2014
  - Mary Jane King

**GMSVA PICNIC**  
**SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK**  
**MAY 17TH 10 AM—4 PM**

## PICNIC—May 17, 2014

(Article reprinted from March Newsletter as a reminder)



GMSVP's 1<sup>st</sup> picnic is coming, Saturday, May 17, 2014. It will be at Sandy Bottom Nature Park's Courtyard Shelters 1, 2, and 3. These are near the Hampton Roads Center Parkway entrance to the park. The trailer and equipment should arrive about 9 AM, and we need help to set up the site. Once the equipment is set up and passes a safety check, members may start using it. All equipment is available for use from 10 AM through 4 PM. At 4 PM we need member help to clean the equipment and reload the trailer, takes about an hour.



The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments (i.e., ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickle relish, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes), soft drinks, and tableware. Members are asked to bring side, deserts, and anything else they would like to share. Food will be available from 11:30 AM through 3 PM. Come anytime and there should be something to munch on.

Members may use the equipment on-their-own or get instruction, if they don't know how to operate a specific machine. Don't be afraid to ask for help. There are members willing to help you. We all had to learn at some time in the past. Please be courteous and allow others who are waiting for a machine to use it too. As a guide, if no one is waiting, continue. Otherwise, if after 30 minutes and someone is waiting, finish that project and let the waiting party use the machine.



**If you plan to attend, please call Gary Bergtholdt, 757-851-9620, by Wednesday, May 14, 2014, with the number of attendees.**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)

Finally, Barbara and I were contacted by Life Member Gerald Losser of Gloucester. He was interested in donating his collection rocks, minerals, fossils and jewelry to the GMSVP. Barbara and I had a very interesting visit with him at his home. He spent a number of years mining in Ontario, Canada as well as travels all over the US. He sent us away with a down payment on his donation including: nickel ore from Ontario, some beautiful purple garnets in quartz matrix also from Canada and many tumbled stones including chert from the ballast of English ships found on the beach at Gloucester Point. I will display these items at the picnic. We also plan to invite Gerald to join us for the picnic. Hopefully, he can make it.

I think that is it for now. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at all of our upcoming events.

Rock on—Walter



## GMSVP APRIL 3, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The April GMSVP General meeting was held at the Sandy Bottom Nature Reserve.

The meeting was called to order by the Walter Priest, GMSVA President.

- The normal agenda was set aside to allow more time for the auction.
- Our Newsletter Editor, Dan Fontaine, requested Newsletter input from club members. Dan is looking for articles and pictures related to member gem and mineral-related activities that may be of interest to our members. (See related article below on the Editors' Contest.)
- The Picnic is being held on May 17th in the picnic area, Shelters 1, 2, and 3.
- Al DeHart announced a field trip to Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry in Chester, VA, on June 7th. This trip is restricted to 20 GMSVA members.
- The Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) show is on April 25-27 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Set up is on Thursday at 2 PM. Volunteers are needed to support our booth and activity at the TOTE show.



The annual Aurora Fossil Festival on May 23—25 features fine art, crafts, jewelry, clothing, accessories, pottery, photography, and specialty foods. Have a great time searching for, looking at, and learning about fossils. Plan to collect your own fossils. The museum contains some very interesting new displays. Bring a garden trowel or sifter and plastic bags, spend the day collecting, and take home a piece of the past. Members are encouraged to attend! <http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>



### EDITORS' CONTEST



*Submit your inputs to the GMSVA Editor to include in future newsletters!*

EFMLS holds an annual Bulletin Editors Contest. Judges comments are meant to improve the quality of the publication, thus resulting in better communications and a sharing of information, throughout the Federation. GMSVA has until December 2014 to develop and submit their entry....if we want to pursue an award for our club!

*GMSVA can provide an entry any of the following categories:*

- Category S: Small Bulletins (6 to 11 pages)

- Category N: New Editors
- Category OE: Original Educational/Technical Articles
- Category ON: Original Non-Technical Articles
- Category P: Original Poems
- Category FW: Written Features
- Category FD: Drawn Features
- Category J: Junior Articles Special Publications

***Support our initiative to have our club recognized. Submit your input to the editor to include in the next newsletter!!!!***

## ANNUAL AUCTION



The April 3rd monthly meeting featured our annual fund raising auction. About 70 gems and minerals drew wide interest and active bidding by our adult and pebble pup members. Once again, the auction successfully met our fund raising goals, with about \$1000 being generated to support our club activities. Walter Priest, our club president, served as auctioneer.

## AUSTRALIAN MINERAL WORD FIND

Source: Diamond Dan Publications, Mini Miners Monthly, Vol 3, No. 9, Spring 2009

The word find contains minerals found in Australia. The names run left to right, right to left, up, down, and diagonally.

Words to find in this word search puzzle are:  
 Agate, Barite, Calcite, Cerussite, Copper,  
 Crocoite, Dravite, Dyscrasite, Galena, Gold  
 (x2), Gypsum, Hematite, Heulandite,  
 Kangaroo Lead, Magnetite, Malachite,  
 Mimetite, Opal, Prehnite, Pyrite, Quartz,  
 Rhodonite, Ruby, Silver, and Stellerite.

D	R	A	V	I	T	E	T	I	H	C	A	L	A	M
D	Y	S	C	R	A	S	I	T	E	P	R	M	G	I
Q	S	M	E	C	A	L	C	I	T	E	A	O	A	M
U	E	I	T	R	H	O	D	O	N	I	T	E	T	E
D	W	K	I	O	G	P	R	A	Y	G	C	N	E	T
C	A	E	R	C	Y	A	S	D	F	O	O	D	Q	I
E	Y	E	E	O	P	L	L	M	C	L	P	A	U	T
R	E	V	L	I	S	O	W	E	P	D	P	P	A	E
U	T	R	L	T	U	M	A	R	N	I	E	S	R	L
S	I	P	E	E	M	Y	E	N	B	A	R	I	T	E
S	T	Y	T	B	Y	H	O	N	E	Y	S	U	Z	I
I	A	R	S	U	N	R	H	A	N	N	A	H	B	F
T	M	I	W	I	A	O	O	R	A	G	N	A	K	Y
E	E	T	T	A	M	A	G	N	E	T	I	T	E	A
O	H	E	U	L	A	N	D	I	T	E	G	O	L	D

# Beryl

Source: Diamond Dan Publications, Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 3 No. 4, April 2009

Chemical Formula:  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Hardness: 7.5 - 8

Specific Gravity: 2.65 - 2.8

Cleavage: Imperfect in one direction

Fracture: Conchoidal (shell-like)

Luster: Glassy (Vitreous)

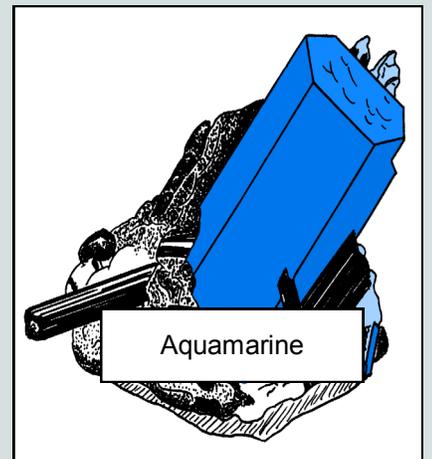
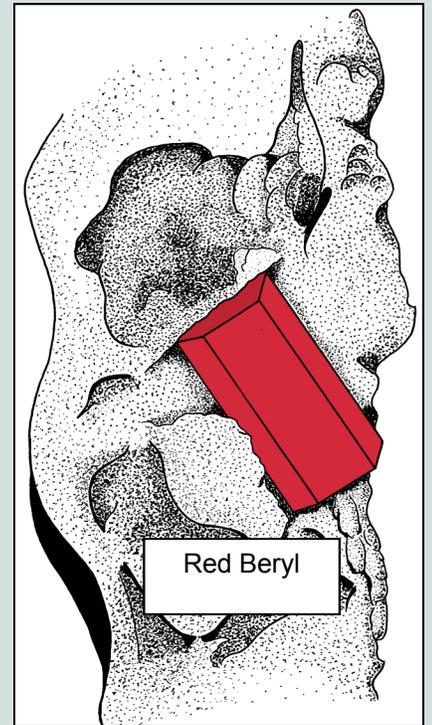
Color: Colorless, blue, green, red, light yellow, pink, white.

Streak: None

Uses: Gemstones

Interesting Facts: Beryl is the main source of the very important element beryllium. Beryllium is a very light, very strong metal. When it is mixed with other light metals, like aluminum, the mixture (called an alloy) is very strong. Aluminum-beryl alloys are used to make airplanes. Beryllium is also important in the nuclear industry.

- Green beryl is called emerald. The name was created from the Greek word smaragdus which literally means a light green, precious stone. This name was originally given to any light green stone. Today it refers to the dark green variety of beryl only. The color is from trace amounts of chromium and vanadium in the crystal. The emerald sits on a matrix of mica and calcite. It was discovered in an opening that the miners named Aladdin's Cave. The "cave" was 12-feet long and 5-feet wide. It contained quartz, calcite, pyrite, muscovite, emerald, and many other minerals. It was discovered near Hiddenite, Alexander County, North Carolina. Emeralds are one of the most valuable gemstones. In fact, deep green, high quality emeralds are more valuable than diamonds! Emeralds are commonly created in laboratories. Only expert gemologists can tell the difference between natural emeralds and one created in a lab.
- Yellow beryl is called heliodor. It was named after the Greek words helios meaning sun and doron meaning gift in reference to the beautiful sun-yellow color of some specimens. This name was given in 1910. The color comes from extremely small amounts (called trace amounts) of iron and uranium trapped in the crystal.
- Blue beryl is called aquamarine. This name came from the Latin phrase aqua marina meaning sea water, which is a description of the beautiful, light blue color of gem aquamarine crystals. Aquamarine gets its lovely color from trace amounts of iron trapped in the crystal. To the right is a single aquamarine with a group of smoky quartz crystals.
- Pink beryl is called morganite. It was named after the famous American financier and mineral collector, John Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913). It is also called rose beryl.



## FALL FUN AT WILDACRES

Source: EFMLS News, Volume 51, Number 6, April, 2014

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

Wildacres in the fall...Cool breezes after a long, hot summer; days spent enjoying our hobby without the interruptions of radio, television, traffic and work; being served delicious meals without having to cook them; learning new skills from wonderful instructors; and gaining new knowledge from our interesting speaker.

And all of this for a very reasonable cost of \$390 per person for the week (class supplies are extra). What more could anyone ask for?

For over forty years EFMLS has enjoyed the Wildacres facility to conduct its educational retreats. People have come back year after year to participate in this excellent opportunity to immerse themselves in our all-encompassing program. Not only do registrants gain knowledge and new skills, but many have developed life-long friendships with other participants.



Speakers over the years have run the gamut of mineralogists, geologists, jewelry experts, and world travelers. This fall we are pleased to have Justin Zzyzx, well known mineral collector and editor as our Speaker-in-Residence. Justin, who will be accompanied by his wife Brandy, will present six talks to us during the week, live on campus, and participate in all our activities.

If you've not yet registered, why not do so? The earlier you send in, the better your chance of getting your preferred choice of classes. The dates are September 1 – 7.

We still have openings available at this time, but do what a very wise person once said to me: "Handle a piece of paper once – then it's not forgotten." Simple advice, but how many of us put things off until it's too late.

Hoping to see you on the mountain in September. You'll be delighted that you did.

Wildacres Fall Classes: September 1 – 7, 2014. Speaker in Residence: Justin Zzyzx

Cabochons – Basic: Instructor, Al DeMilo. Hands-on instruction will be given to show how to transform a rough piece into a shiny, well-formed cabochon. The use of a trim saw as well as techniques to grind, sand and polish the stone into a standard size and shape will be covered. Slabs will be provided, but you may use your own with instructor's approval. Students should bring safety glasses and an apron. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered first semester.



Cabochons – Intermediate: Instructor, Al DeMilo. This course is an extension of already learned skills. It will focus on the crafting of cabochons of difficult shapes and sizes. Much one-to-one attention will be given. Slabs will be provided, but you may use your own with instructor's approval. 2-day class offered second semester. Pre-requisite: Students must know how to use the trim saw, dop a stone and use a grinding, sanding and polishing machine.

Geology I: Instructor, Rob Robinson. A basic introduction to rocks and minerals and the study of the earth. The class will include a discussion and class activity about how geologists interpret rocks to tell geologic history related to their formation, deformation and sequence and timing of events. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to local rock exposures to illustrate local rock types, the deformation types, and how a geologist maps and interprets structures (only limited walking is required.) Please bring a loupe or other magnification, hiking boots or sturdy shoes and outdoor clothes for the half-day field trips. Geologic hammer and safety glass are also desirable. (Do not bring a nail hammer – they are unsafe to hit rocks.) 2-day class offered first semester. No prior experience needed.

Geology II: Instructor, Rob Robinson. An overview of plate tectonics, geologic history, and the geology of the Blue Ridge region and its minerals. We will discuss the geologic environments hosting mineral and gem collecting sites. Come prepared to identify some of your favorite collecting localities to be part of this exercise. Weather permitting there will be a field trip to (Continued on next page)

the Blue Ridge Museum sowing local rocks and geologic history and another to see local geology. (A one-mile walk over gentle trails is required for the geology trip.) Some knowledge of basic geology preferred. Please refer to Geology I for suggested tools, clothing and magnification. 2-day class offered second semester.

Glass Engraving & Etching: Instructor, B. Jay Bowman. Students will learn the difference between engraving and etching. They will learn how to engrave using both hand and power tools. They will learn to etch using acid and sand techniques with both commercial and self-made patterns. 2-day class offered both semesters. No prior experience necessary.

Faceting: Instructor, Steve Weinberger. Students will learn to cut and polish a 57 facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones, select rough material and see whether or not they enjoy this fascinating aspect of the hobby. Students are asked to bring an optivisor and/or jeweler's loupe if they have one. No prior experience necessary. 4-day class.

Lost Wax Casting: Instructor, Fred Sias. This is not a wax design course although you may have an opportunity to create an original wax ring model. Students will learn the basic techniques for lost-wax jewelry casting. Using commercial wax models, students will learn proper methods for repairing wax models, attaching sprues, investing, burnout, casting and final finishing of jewelry. 4-day class. No prior experience required.

Silversmithing – Session I: Instructor, Pat Baker. Students will learn to make a textured sterling silver ring (band) and a textured sterling silver pendant with a pearl in the center. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered first semester.

Silversmithing - Session II: Instructor, Pat Baker. Students will learn to make a forged, twisted bar and loop sterling silver chain and have the option of a ring, pendant or brooch with a set stone as their second project. No experience required, although those with soldering experience can make more advanced projects. 2-day class offered second semester.

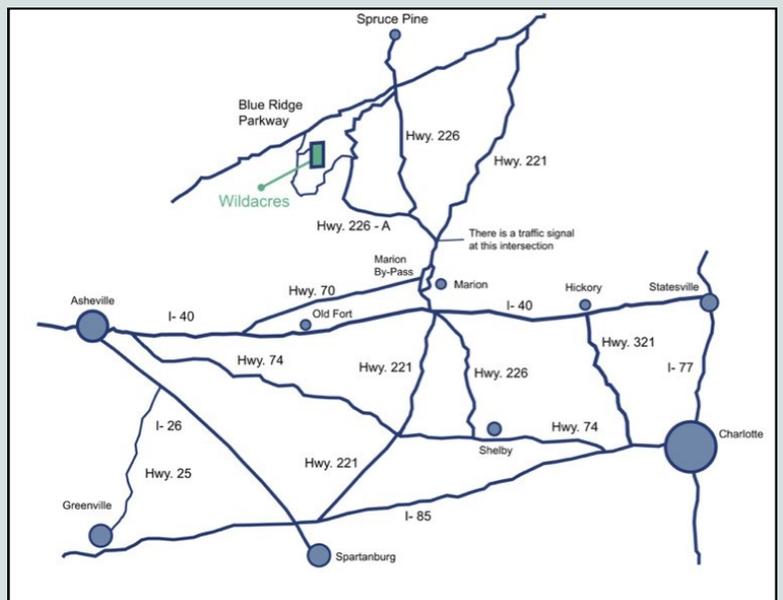
Soapstone Carving: Instructor, Sandy Cline. This class will provide a general introduction to the carving of soapstone. You will develop a working knowledge of the material, tools, safe handling issues and the methods used to complete a carving. You will produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture of your choice. The development of your own personal style will be encouraged. No prior experience needed. 2-day class offered both semesters.

Wire-wrapped Jewelry – Basic: Instructor, Jan Stephens. Students will learn the fundamentals of wire art jewelry. Students will create bracelets, rings and pendants of wire and incorporate natural stones, beads, and / or faceted gems into various simple, yet elegant designs. No prior experience necessary. 2-day class offered first semester.

### High-Level Schedule:

- Day 1, Orientation
- Day 2, Semester 1
- Day 3, Semester 1
- Day 4, Activities Day
- Day 5, Semester 2
- Day 6, Semester 2
- Day 7, Breakfast then leave the mountain

**For additional information and registration, see:**  
<http://efmls-wildacres.org/>



# Official Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula (GMSVP) Club Field Trip

Al DeHart, GMSVP Field Trip Leader

Home Phone No. 757-877-3844, Cell Phone No. 757-254-3844, E-mail Address: dehartalbert@cox.net

This is an official field trip for The Gem & Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula, Inc. (20 slots allotted)

## **Mineral Collecting Field Trip to Vulcan Materials Dale Quarry**

11520 Iron Bridge Road  
Chester, VA 23831

**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**9 AM until 1 PM**

**SIGN-UP REQUIRED...CONTACT AL DEHART**

NOTE: All field trip participants must be 18 years of age or older and 2014 GMSVP Club members in good standing and covered by Club Liability Insurance. NO GUESTS ARE ALLOWED.

Minerals have been found here in the past include: Almandine Garnets, Beryl, Apatite, Magnetite, Microcline, Molybdenite, Muscovite and, Zircon. Check it out at: <http://www.mindat.org/loc-10492.html>

ATTENTION: All vehicles will require a set of wheel chocks as required by MSHA.

This Quarry is a working industrial facility and regulated by MSHA. All attendees must follow all MSHA safety regulations. Failure to do so will result in that person being ejected from the Quarry and suspended from future field trips. Additionally safety infractions jeopardize our Club's future access to this facility as well as all other Vulcan Material sites. Safety Equipment below is required.

Standard full dress safety precautions apply. Here's the Safety Equipment you will NEED:

1. Steel Toed Boots – A MUST
2. Safety Glasses or Goggles – A MUST
3. Safety Helmets - A MUST, though color is optional. Remember that the helmets must be less than five years old at this mine. Be sure to check the mark on the brim. No helmet means no admittance.
4. Heavy Work Gloves – Optional but a good idea
5. Knee Pads – Optional but a good idea.

Other items recommended are as follows:

1. Collecting bags, buckets, rock hammer, pry bar, chisels, pick, shovel, and wrapping paper.
2. Drinking Water, snacks, lunch items

Driving Directions from Tidewater Area:

Plan your drive time to arrive at the Quarry between 8:30 and 8:45 AM Saturday morning. We will assemble at the Quarry office for our safety briefing.

Route to avoid tolls is below. Route variations are plenty. Choose the one right for you.

- I-64 West to Exit 200 I-295 South towards Rocky Mt NC
- From I-295 South, take Exit 15 for Rt. 10 West Iron Bridge Road
- Proceed on Rt. 10 Iron Bridge Road thru to small town of Chester
- Proceed past Chester and look for the Dale Quarry sign on the left side of the road. You will have to go a little past and make a U turn at the next medium and drive back to the Quarry entrance on the right hand side of the road.
- CAUTION: Please be careful. There is a landfill on this same road. A lot of truck traffic entering and exiting!
- Drive into the facility past the weigh station. Turn right into the parking lot where the Quarry office is on the right hand side.

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call Al DeHart to confirm the trip.