

Willis Mountain Field Trip
By Joe Davis



On September 29, 2018, the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg Virginia hosted a field trip to the Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine in Dillwyn Virginia. Six members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club joined members from clubs from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania collecting kyanite, quartz, and iridescent hematite.



After a short safety meeting we headed to the mine. We were limited to collecting in a small area because the mine was in full operation, but there was

plenty to choose from. The white kyanite blades were plentiful. The iridescent hematite had beautiful greens, blues and purples. We even found some blades of blue kyanite. The weather was wonderful and the panoramic view from the mountaintop was incredible.

At home I checked my finds with a short wave UV lamp. The kyanite and the quartz that contained kyanite, fluoresce a light blue.

