



# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA

MINERAL CLUB  
INC

*Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 No. 10

DECEMBER 2008

### Potluck Holiday Gathering

The December meeting is being held at Long Branch Nature Center and starts at 7:45pm. We will have a Potluck dinner and we have invited the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA) to join us in celebrating the Holidays.

In order to coordinate the food items brought to this event, we would like to

ask that people adhere to the following guidelines: A meat and cheese tray will be brought to the meeting (Wayne Sukow is coordinating this). Side dishes should be brought by members with last names starting A through L. Desserts should be brought by members with last names starting M through Z.

Please join us for this festive occasion!

Find information also on our Club Website:  
<http://www.mineralclub.org>

#### NVMC Schedule:

**15 Dec: Club Meeting & Holiday Gathering**

**7:45pm at LBNC**

**17 Dec: Holiday dinner with Gem & Mineral Hunters at Golden Corral (I66 & bus. 28)**

**15 Jan: Board mtg (tentative)**

**26 Jan: the first 2009 NVMC meeting at LBNC**

### The 2008 NVMC Show

**By Wayne Sukow, Prez**

From Where I sit: Clearly, a very large and heart-felt THANK YOU goes to the many members of the NVMC that showed up to help make the show a success. It began with the early arrivals to get the exhibit cases and other odds 'n ends from storage, continued with prepping the tables for all the dealers, working at the various activities, which let visitors have a small and sweet taste of our hobby (kids mine, faceting, mineral identification, mineral hobby word games, fluorescence, micromounts), the admissions table, exhibiting, working a selling table (in our square of tables we had 5-local club members selling.), and the club's silent auction. It all ended with the very rapid take down of

dealers' tables, stripping the table skirting, putting away tables and chairs, and returning items to storage. I missed the pizza fest during the Friday night set up. I was off to a reception for Fairfax County volunteers at the Waterford at Fair Oaks, which while fun and good food were there I missed the friends I have at the NVMC show. While I've given no names here, I feel none are needed, which means I won't forget someone. There will be no certificates given, I believe none are needed, our memories and pictures suffice, which to quote and old tune "They can't take those away from us." Oh, I hear an echo, THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. "They can't take those away from us." Join us again next year!

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### Dinner Invitation

The Gem and Mineral Hunters have invited members of the NVMC to a dinner gathering at the Golden Corral at I66 and business 28 on Wednesday Dec 17th at 7pm. This is an informal gathering to share stories and enjoy rock-hounding company during the Holidays.

### Reminder! Renew Your Membership

It is time to renew your membership in the Northern Virginia Mineral Club if you have not already done so. Please send your membership dues to the following address:

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB  
PO BOX 9851  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304**

## December Meeting Agenda

**CHRISTMAS PARTY...NVMC & MNCA...**

**DECEMBER 15, 2008.**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA is shortened  
due to party.**

**Call to order**

**Approval of minutes of  
November '08 NVMC meeting.**

**Presentation of 2008 NVMC President's Award**

**Election of officers for 2009.  
The term of office begins with the January,  
2009 meeting on 26, 2009**

Report of Nominating Committee for '09 NVMC Officers

President.....Open

Vice President...Open

Secretary.....Kathy Hrechka

Treasurer.....Rick Reiber

Editor.....Robert Winsor

Call for nominations from the floor.

Call for motion to close nominations and proceed to election motion.

**Adjourn meeting.**

## Board Nominations

If you are interested in helping the club by serving as a Board member, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members to have yourself nominated for a Board office. Alternatively, if you know of someone that you feel would make a good candidate for a Board position, you can nominate that person also. The nominating committee includes Barry Remer, George Reimherr, Jennifer Hammond, and Robert Clemenzi. The nominating committee will report their nominees at the December 15 meeting, so time is ticking! Get your nominations submitted ASAP!

## November Meeting Minutes

**Recorded by Kathy Hrechka, Secretary**

Northern Virginia Mineral Club

Minutes of the November 24, 2008 Meeting

Vice-President, Jennifer Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

Past Presidents were recognized: Rob Robinson, and George Loud.

No new guests were present.

Committee Reports: Barry Remer spoke on behalf of the nominating committee, and reported that the positions of President and Vice-President remain vacant for next year's slate of officers. The election will take place on December 15 before our Holiday Party.

Kathy Hrechka has agreed to continue as secretary. Rick Reiber will continue as treasurer.

Old Business: None

Announcements: Tom Taaffe, Show Chairman, thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the club show. He highlighted the Brenner family in particular for helping with the show mailings. Kathy Hrechka presented the idea of purchasing club name tags for interested club members. She will contact DeCosta Trophies, Alexandria for pricing.

Tom Taaffe gave a brief explanation of our auction procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Karen Lewis, Hospitality, provided delicious pumpkin bars and refreshments during the short break.

November Club Auction: Tom Taaffe, Rob Robinson, and Mike Showmaker were the spirited auctioneers; while Barry Remer and Rick Reiber collected the monies.

10:00 p.m. nature center closed..



Jeff Searching for a Gem



## The Prez Says.... TIME FLIES!

Where did the last two years go? It seems like just last week I agreed to a two year term as NVMC president.

Where did some "more senior" members go? The vitality of the numerous new members is welcomed.

What is it that motivates members to step up and volunteer to lead NVMC activities? If I knew that I'd be the invited speaker at mineral clubs across the nation as it was I did two programs on Lake Superior Agates.

What can happen if each club member makes a New Year's Resolution to lead one or two activities in 2009? Membership would soar and it's a club you'd be proud to be a member of.

When did members decide to volun-



Copper Country Color



Tom Helping a Customer



An Exhibit at the NVMC Show 2008

"deaccession" much of my collection.

How will you share your expertise and passion for minerals and lapidary in 2009? Why not attend the EFMLS Wildacres mineral and lapidary workshops as well as volunteering to do a presentation at the club. Sign-up early and avoid the rush.



Barbara of MO and George of VA



Nature at Wildacres

teer to work at our annual show? I hear that our show chairman had some worrisome moments! Let's hear from you earlier in 2009.

When is the last time you wrote an article for the NVMC newsletter? From the BEAC awards members have received three were two or three in 2008. We need more. We have a great editor who would welcome your articles.

How often did you go to the 4 Mill's Collection sales? There were plenty of good buys and some members were there 4 times! I had the fun of facilitating the sales on behalf on NVMC. In doing that I learned that it was time for me to



Raven and VP Jenn

for a mineral club is such a delight that I just might...just might....and good night."

Wayne Sukow, Prez.



David and a Customer



## NVMC 2008 Mineral Show

By Tom Taaffe

Pictures courtesy Jim Kostka, Kathy Hrechka, Tom Taaffe and Sheryl Sims

Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show was held this past Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. It was co-sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU manifested in the person of Dr. Julia Nord Cooper. The show site again this year was the ballroom at GMU's Student Union II.



Our 2008 show was made up of 25 dealers, mostly familiar long time participants. This year, the ballroom seemed particularly lively and diverse, thanks in part to the addition of first time dealers: Greg Graupp (Graupp Lapidary), Yinan Wang (Devonian Depot), Barbara & Kathryn Wells and fresh offerings from our own Wayne Sukow as well as Jenn Hammond & Raven (The Silver Phoenix). All in all, there was a wide abundance of minerals, fossils and unique lapidary and jewelry creations for all in attendance to admire and enjoy.



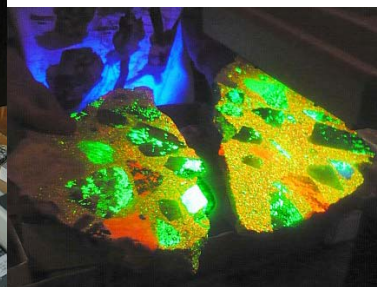
I think it's safe to say, our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show was a fine success. Attendance was very good, enthusiasm was rampant and satisfaction was high. Show attendees found countless treasures to take home, dealers and collectors hobnobbed and old friends in the hobby were glad to reconnect. Sunday's Silent Auction was so popular bidders nearly overwhelmed the stage. The Kid's Activities and Minimates provided plenty of starter \*seed\* for numerous future collections.

I would encourage anyone who enjoyed this year's Mineral Show to PLEASE VOLUNTEER EARLY next year so as to better help out with the numerous show tasks.



So, who contributed to this year's show?

I would like to start by thanking **Alec, Autumn and Sara Bren-**



**ner** for coming to my house in late October to stick labels and stamps on the 1260 show postcards we sent to previous show attendees. That's a lot of peeling and sticking! Their cheerful help made an onerous task go quickly. They were among the first to volunteer to help.

At the October meeting, a few people started to write their name on the volunteer sign-up sheet that had been published in the newsletter. Whew! I had been starting to sweat. Additionally, a handful of people contacted me in early November and my stress level went down.



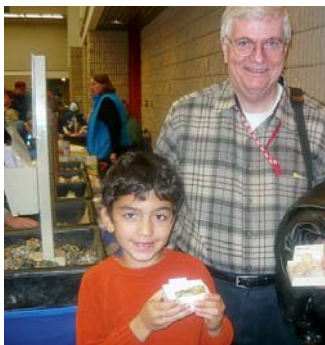
On Friday, the day before the show, **Wayne Sukow, Jim Kostka and Ned Slagle** met at the club's storage unit at 3 P M and brought to GMU the exhibit cases and a host of other necessary club materials. **Wayne** and



## NVMC 2008 Mineral Show (cont)

**Barbara Skye** promptly tackled the task of building exhibit cases and setting up the club's exhibit area. They did a nice job.

Upon arrival, we were glad to find that the staff at SUB II (Luis and Saul) had provided more than enough tables for our needs. **Jim Kostka**, **Mike Shoemaker** and I meticulously fine-tuned the 70+ tables in the ballroom to best accommodate our dealer spaces, maximize aisle width and improve foot traffic at the show. Everything fit, but just barely.



The next to arrive were **Richard Palaschak** and his son **Rich** and they pitched in wherever help was needed.

In the meanwhile, **Dr Julia Nord Cooper** endured a VERY brisk golf cart ride around GMU's campus placing all the campus directional signs so that show goers could easily find their way to mineral show parking in GMU's Lot A. Julia must have done a great job, since we had a good crowd both days of the show and people said the signs helped them find their way.

The next wave of Friday helpers appeared soon after. **Diane** and **Jeff Nesmeyer** arrived to help with table coverings and securing electrical cords etc. **Diane** also was exhibiting her wonderful Garnet collection. **Kathy Hrechka** arrived to set up her Diamond exhibit and to help further prepare the room. **Julia** reappeared, this time followed by her student volunteers: **Kristen Ewer**, **Andrea Lisi** & **Ken Guerrant**. They all helped with arranging table coverings and by carefully taping down electrical cords.

**Jim Kostka**, **Mike Shoemaker** & I set up the Kid's Activity

Tables and we all admired **Jim's Garnet mini-mine**, new this year.

Thanks again to whomever, over the summer, anonymously donated several large bins of kid's minerals including some very nice Arizona petrified wood.

**John Wells** brought drinks to Friday night set-up and willingly took over the rest of the food detail, ordering pizza for the starving when the time was right. **Jeff Guerber** came to set up his Meteorite Exhibit; **Dave Hennessey** was a useful sounding board for my final dealer placements. **Barry Remer** came in time to help and **Robert Clemenzi** brought us **Joe Murter's** \*World Famous\* Miniature Rock Shop and later Robert also brought the "Touch Minerals" for display.

Everyone was surprised as to how rapidly the ballroom was made ready this year. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we finished Friday night set-up chores well ahead of schedule!



Saturday morning, dealers starting loading in at 7 AM. There were no significant issues and dealers carefully arranged their displays and proudly put out their beautiful merchandise. The transformation was complete, the ballroom was ready.

**Tom Tucker** rounded out the exhibit area with his Micromounts and he and **Kathy Hrechka** manned the Micromounter's table. **Dick**



## NVMC 2008 Mineral Show (cont)

**Davies** demonstrated gem faceting again this year and he shared his table space with **Jim Kostka's Atomic Minerals**.

We still had to scramble for people to man their stations at the start of the show and we were for a time awkwardly shorthanded. We need to do better next year. We always need a minimum of 2 people at the admission table and 2



people (at the very least) at the Kid's Activity tables. We also need plenty of people to spell them and share the duties.

**Ned Slagle** and **Gerry Cox** took initial watch Saturday with the Kid's tables. **Alec Brenner** arrived promptly at 11AM. He and **Peggy Peters** took over as the kid's tables started to get busy. **Alec** worked the kid's area most all of Saturday. He was joined by **Charlie Stone** who did about 4 hrs kid's table duty himself. **David MacLean**, as always, put in lots of time with the kids. **Julia Hrechka** once again helped with the Kid's tables too.

**Rick Reiber, Barbara Skye** held down the admissions table on and off. They got help from **George Reimherr** who shopped a bit with the dealers before assuming this duty.

**Sheryl Sims** helped early on with the Door prize drawings and high energy **Jim Kostka** provided all purpose trouble-shooting as did **Rob Robinson**.

Saturday, our GMU volunteer shuttle drivers were: **Gordon Nord, Heather Scheer, Randy McBride & Rebecca Stone**.

Sunday, our GMU volunteer shuttle drivers were: **Jonathan Mellis, Jim Adams, Andrea Lisi, Justin Olsen & Dr Julia Nord Cooper**.

Thanks very much to all our GMU volunteer shuttle drivers and especially to **Julia** who recruited them. They were absolutely essential to the smooth running of our show.

One of Sunday's highlights was the Silent Auction. It was well organized by **Rob Robinson, Jeff Nesmeyer** and **Jeff Guerber**. Auction items were fairly diverse, late bidding was surprisingly enthusiastic and the Silent Auction was a big success.

Gratefully, Sunday's core show volunteers kept things running smoothly. **Rick Reiber, Diane Nesmeyer & George Reimherr** generously put in substantial time. **Alec Brenner**





## NVMC 2008 Mineral Show (cont)



and **Charlie Stone** again took shifts at the kid's tables. **David MacLean** also got in on kid's table action. **Jim Kostka** helpfully filled in wherever needed.

For Sunday night breakdown, I don't know everyone who helped but those that I do know of include: **Jim Kostka**, **Holt Apgar**, **David MacLean**, **Wayne Sukow**, **Jeff Guerber** & **Jeff Cessna**.

The club is grateful for all the volunteers who generously donated their time and enthusiastic energy. They are the primary reason for the 2008 show's success. We sincerely apologize if we inadvertently omitted the name of any of volunteers.





## Visiting Vulcan Manassas Quarry

By Sheryl E. Sims

**U**pon visiting the Vulcan Manassas Quarry, located at 8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109, on November 1, my daughter, Amber, and I were prepared to make some great mineral finds. We were accompanied by our friend, and new member, Susan Campbell, and were excited to visit the quarry for the first time. We never mind the early starts because having an opportunity to see the clouds lift, and the sun rise, over the quarry walls is always an amazing sight.

The field trip was organized by members of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club ("SMRMC"). They were nice enough to allow us to join them. Little



did I know, this field trip allowed me the chance to serve as the field trip leader for the first time. Happily, we all survived with no physical or emotional scars.

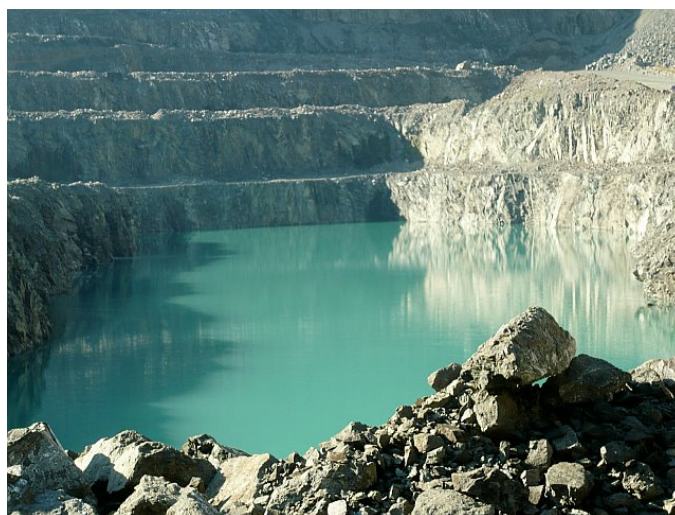
Dave Lines, President of SMRMC, provided the following quarry description:

Hints: Manassas Quarry is a trap rock quarry -- large square, deep hole in the ground with multiple levels. The predominate rock is dark gray diabase which is mined for crushed rock for road construction. Prehnite is the main thing we will try to find. Hint: look for a white or light green streak of color in the gray rock and examine carefully. Breaking that rock open may reveal a pocket of light green prehnite. Prehnite is not abundant here, so it has been a hit or miss thing.... Hint:

Carefully search and investigate anything that is different. Vehicles: We will be allowed to drive our vehicles into the quarry. The roads are generally good--wide and relatively smooth--but sometimes with water standing in pools on the lowest level. If it is wet and muddy, consider carpooling with someone who has a truck or SUV.

We were advised of the following minerals to collect: Prehnite, byssolite, pyrite, pectolite, apophyllite, other zeolites.

As has been the case with each quarry that we've visited so far, we found lots of calcite. We also found



some pyrite, talc, mica, and serpentine. I was fortunate enough to find a piece of "fools gold" in a wall of gray rock. One of the members found and gave me a piece of steel-gate. Before leaving the quarry, several mysterious stone sculptures appeared around the quarry. They were similar to the one that appeared in our last newsletter. Funny—they always appear where Harry and Tina League (SMRMC) are searching! We're looking forward to seeing what else turns up at our next field trip. We hope to see you there!





## Tool of the Month

The tool for this month is perfect for those cold winter months. It's a great time of year for sharing....sharing minerals and sharing our finds. It's a great time to take a closer look at the finds for the year, whether those finds came from a local quarry, a long-drive summer vacation, a mineral show, or one of the beloved NVMC auctions. This month's tool is the loupe.

Not just any loupe, though. The one worth carrying around is an ancient optical design that is tried and true: the Hastings triplet. This is a loupe consisting of three lenses that are cemented together to create what looks like one lens. The triplet lens is mounted typically into a housing that protects the lens, and the lens can be rotated out of the housing when it is being used, creating also a handle by which to hold the lens.



It is a good idea to get something to hold your lens while you are searching your stash for other minerals

to look at. Most people use a lanyard for this, which allows the loupe to be carried around the neck.

There are important matters to consider with a loupe if you are buying your first:

1. The greater the magnification, the more detail you see, but the less area you can see.
2. Use the loupe as close to your eye as possible to see the greatest field of view. Removing eye-glasses can help.
3. Coated lenses help reduce glints off the lens surfaces. This is handy for some instances, but generally not considered critical due to the nature of most viewing (the need to hold it close to the eye means there are fewer chances for bright glints disrupting your view).

My recommendation is to start with an inexpensive 10x loupe and get a lanyard to go with it. A good example is the BeLOMO 10x loupe. It will set you back \$30, but is worth every penny.

Robert Winsor

## Schedule

Upcoming Events to plan for:

15 Dec. NVMC annual Holiday meeting in coordination with the MNCA

17 Dec. Dinner with the Gem and Mineral Hunters at Golden Corral, 7pm (I66 and bus. 28)

15 Jan Board meeting (tentative)

26 Jan. NVMC meeting at 7:45pm at LBNC

## Go Emerald

**Electronic Newsletter:** You can save some paper by electing to have the electronic-only newsletter. Just send email to the editor to have your newsletter delivered by email only. It saves money, you get the newsletter sooner, and it is in full color. Send email to [photech@comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net)

## The Board of Directors

Do you have a question for one of our Board members? To the right you can find email addresses and phone numbers for club officers.

Also, if you would like to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, please contact Wayne Sukow and let him know ahead of time. All club members are welcome at Board meetings!

Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at Wayne's home in Fairfax. Please contact Wayne for directions.

President: Wayne Sukow  
[d8olite@fastmail.fm](mailto:d8olite@fastmail.fm) (703) 280-8108

Vice President: Jenn Hammond (703-585-3046)  
[cherryflamez@yahoo.com](mailto:cherryflamez@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Kathy Hrechka  
[kshrechka@msn.com](mailto:kshrechka@msn.com) (703) 765-3187

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[HTTP:\\www.mineralclub.org](http://www.mineralclub.org)

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## The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

**Purpose:** To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts and related sciences. The society is a member of Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS)

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls> and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

<http://www.amfed.org>.

**Dues:** Due by 1 January of each year; \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family, and \$6.00 Junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

**Meetings** are held at 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except

May and December\*) at [Long Branch Nature Center](#), 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204. Phone (703) 228-6535. (No meeting in July & August.)

(\*Changes announced in the newsletter.) Snow schedule - Arlington county schools.

**Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.**

**TIME TO RENEW!**

**Renew your membership in the Northern Virginia Mineral Club!**

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Robert Winsor  
35740 Roundleaf Ct.  
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: [photech @ comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net)