17th Annual Mineral Show

Once again, our Mineral Show will be held on the George Mason University Campus. Tom Taaffe is organizing the event and needs your help! Please see inside this issue for places and times when you can help, and let Tom know when and where you can be there to provide assistance. Even if you can only help for a couple hours, the help is much appreciated and makes the show run more smoothly. This show is our club’s main source of income (your annual dues is actually insufficient to cover the club’s expenses), and allows us to do things that are otherwise not possible. Plus, it’s a great time to get to know other club members that you may not otherwise get to spend time with. And, while you’re there, don’t forget to take some extra time to enjoy the show!

October Program
Flourescents

Many people associate things that either glow in the dark or fluoresce with Halloween. Therefore, what could be a better program for the month of October than the topic of Fluorescent Minerals? David Hennessey and Robert Winsor are both members of the club with a strong affinity for Fluorescent minerals, and they will be showing the many different colors that can be seen within the world of minerals that have been illuminated with Ultraviolet light. They will cover the differences in types of Ultraviolet light, the types of light fixtures, and other related equipment you may want for collecting or viewing fluorescent minerals.

There will be a selection of fluorescent minerals that will be shown, including many found at the famous Zinc mines in New Jersey as well as common minerals such as calcite, opal, and fluorite. Perhaps most interesting will be the minerals found at local quarries and mines that are fluorescent.

If you enjoy fluorescent minerals but do not have a lamp for viewing them, join us for an opportunity to view minerals up close under the UV light.

Feel free to bring your own minerals that are fluorescent!

Join us on the 27th of October at the Long Branch Nature Center for a truly unique experience with fluorescent minerals!

NVMC Schedule:
Club meeting 27 Oct 7:45pm at LBNC
26 Oct. Field Trip Hunting Hill Quarry
13 Nov. NVMC Board Mtg
22-23 Nov. NVMC Mineral Show, George Mason University, Student Union
24 Nov. NVMC meeting at the LBNC, 7:45pm
11 Dec. NVMC Board Mtg
15 Dec. NVMC annual Holiday meeting

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The Prez Says

Rock hounds enjoy more than rocks and minerals. Fall is a time to look around and ahead to enjoy the beauty nature provides in rocks and our environment. It’s a time to anticipate changes in the NVMC such as new club officers for the coming year. It’s a time to look forward to another successful NVMC show on November 22 & 23.

Fall is also a time for NVMC members: to look at the many opportunities to participate, to make the NVMC 2008 Show run smoothly, to recruit and welcome new members, to share their mineral and lapidary expertise before, during, and after meetings, and to step up to leadership positions as club officers.

Help our 2008 Show Chairman, Tom Taaffe, by signing up early to work at the show. Help our nominating committee, chaired by our VP, Jenn Hammond, by suggesting a member, including yourself, who is willing to assume a leadership position in 2009. Finally, help your current NVMC president by telling him what’s worked in 2008 and what needs improving.

Wayne Sukow, Prez.
September Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Tom Taffe and David Henessey

The Treasurer reported that the current balance is $6,546.75.

Wayne Sukow reported that the annual Xmas party would be held on Monday, December 15, jointly with the National Capital Area Micromounter's club. There will be a new company for EFMLS insurance. The current policy lapses on October 31, therefore the federation needs to pay the insurance bill with the new carrier immediately so there is no coverage gap.

The nominating committee for 2009 officers will be Jenn Hammond, Robert Clemenzi, George Reimherr, and Barry Reamer. The Secretary and Treasurer have indicated they are willing to continue with their positions in 2009, so the committee will focus on securing nominees for President and Vice President. The committee will report at the October meeting. Nominations will be made at the November meeting. Election of officers will be held at the December meeting.

The NVMC website can be found at www.mineralclub.org

Robert Winsor talked about etching calcite w/ Hydrochloric acid to reveal hidden Clinozoisite. He also mentioned fluorescents found at SuperDig.

Jenn & Raven brought a variety of specimens for identification, discussion and display acquired from the Robert Mills Estate held this summer.

George Reimher (spelling?) talked about the big West Springfield, Mass held in August, the biggest mineral show held on the east coast. He also showed 2 prehnites from the O & G (?) in Conn.

Karen & Lois brought unique and appealing jewelry that they had made over 7-8 yrs at Wild Acres.

David Maclean told of traveling to Idaho and Colorado this summer and also of his experience digging, recovering and cleaning dinosaur fossils (Morrison Formation) near Thermopolous (spelling?) near Hot Springs, WY.

Tom Taaffe and family toured the working Phoenix Gold mine in Idaho Springs, Colorado and also described several of the old time techniques that the miners use to recover the gold.

Dave Henessey showed us beautiful Garnets and Sphene from the Rockville quarry.

Holt talked about the Poland Mining Camp in Maine and how good collecting can be after fresh blasting. Wayne talked about Lake Superior agates etc
The Trip to New England, and to the West Springfield Show, 2008

By George Reimherr

Editor’s Note: This is the last section of the article submitted by George last month that was in the September issue but inadvertently cut from the newsletter. The last paragraph from last month is included for clarity.

Gail Spann, who gave the third lecture, along with husband James Spann, were the winners of the 2008 Desautels Award at the Tucson show (see Mineral Record photo, May-June 2008 issue, page 245). Their mineral collection will be featured at next year’s West Springfield show, August 7-9 2009. Bob Jones, who gave the first lecture, was scheduled to give two more talks, probably with color slides, at this year’s show. Their titles were “Minerals of Afghanistan and Pakistan” and “California Gold.”

A detailed write-up of last year’s West Springfield show (2007) appeared in the Mineralogical Record magazine for November-December 2007, pp 478-482. The article by Joe Polityka describes some of the noteworthy mineral specimens that he saw while visiting various dealer booths. A similar article will probably appear in a future issue of the Mineralogical Record describing the 2008 show.

Field Trip Opportunity
Rockville, MD
Hunting Hill Quarry

26 October, 2008

This quarry contains garnets, calcite (some fluorescent) clinzoisite, etc. This quarry has always been a favorite as it contains a variety of minerals that peak the interest of collectors.

13900 Piney Meetinghouse Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Meet in parking lot on right side at 8:30. We will go into the quarry no later than 9:00AM. Weather permitting. $5.00 will be collected for the quarry manager. These are hard rock quarries and you will need hard hat, safety goggles, work gloves, steel toed boots (recommended), rock hammer, rock chisels, Flats, buckets or egg cartons and paper to wrap specimens. Don’t forget water, snacks and sunscreen. We have some extra gear to loan out please let me know what you need in advance. Please let me know if you need a ride or can offer a ride. Please include in your confirmation your home number in case there is a last minute weather cancellation.

Send confirmation to Michael Ciletti
optimizelife.michael@gmail.com
215-266-3232

It’s ALL IN MY MINE

By Sheryl E. Sims

My dear friend, Georgia, lives in Lynchburg, Virginia. She is a gem of a person. In a conversation we had last year, it was she who came up with the idea to do something that my daughter, Amber, and I had never done before—mining! Georgia told us that there was a good possibility that we’d find all types of semi-precious stones. The experience, she said, would be both fun and unforgettable. She was right!

Wondering just what mining would entail, Amber and I drove down to Lynchburg, where we visited Georgia. The next day, after careful planning and familiarizing ourselves with the look of gemstones in their raw form, we engaged in lots of conversations about some of our favorite things: rubies, emeralds, and sapphires. We knew that finding diamonds probably wasn’t an option, but discovering emeralds sounded likely. Therefore, we couldn’t wait to head to “Emerald Village.” The mining village is located near “Little Switzerland,” which is located outside of Ashland, NC, just off the Blue Ridge Mountain Parkway.

As we drove up, up, and, still further up into the heavens, we began to dream. We dreamed of finding gemstones of every shape and color! Red, yellow, black, and white, any of these pretty rocks would be precious in our sight, along with a few blue, green, and brown ones thrown in for good measure. Just as visions of lollipops dance in heads of children, visions of jewelry danced in ours. I dreamed of ruby and emerald rings, amethyst and garnet earrings, surrounded by opal and topaz pendants. This was a dream from which I didn’t want to awaken. Georgia continued to drive, and we wound our way up the mountain even further. After more scary peeps over the side of the mountain than I care to remember, we arrived at the entrance of the “Emerald Mine.” We had some options to take and decisions to make. Did we want to “pan” for gemstones or did we want to get a pick-axe, shovel, and bucket and “dig” them the old fashion way? I’ll let you guess which option we chose. To give you a hint, one look at us with our made-up faces, polished finger nails, and clean attire, and the mining employee said, “Uh, you’re not dressed for digging!” This was my lucky day! Smiling, I nodded agreeably. What she was offering in the direction of a pick-axe looked like hard work to me. “Where are the
flumes?” I asked, as if I knew what I was talking about. If, like me, you are unfamiliar with mining terminology, a flume is a chute or channel which has a steam of water gently flowing through it. The water cleans the rocks and separates it from the grit. It’s the same idea as sifting for gold in a stream, but better, because, under this sheltered area, we found relief from the noon-day sun.

Pointing in the opposite direction, we were directed down a nearby hill. After we each received a gallon bucket of rocks along with a shovel, we found a place to begin sifting. Scooping up shovels of grit, dirt, and various types of minerals and rocks, we poured the mixture into a box with a screened bottom. Then, we began to shake and pick through the remaining rocks in search of a big find. “Hope diamond! Hope diamond!” I chanted over and over, silently. While I didn’t find any diamonds, I did find some of the other gemstones that I had hoped to find.

Water and grit were just-a-flyin’ as we worked the flume feverously. We were really enjoying ourselves. Amber and I hounded our poor friend, Georgia, with the same question every few minutes or so. “Is this something?” “Yes.” “What about this?” “Uh-huh.” “How about this—is this something?” She was very patient with us since she knew that we were first-time miners. When we showed her rocks that were really “just” rocks, she sweetly asked, “Well, do you like it?” We knew that that meant to throw it away, so we did.

Finally, after making our prized selections, we headed to the sorting table. There, we separated our stones by type. Next, we let the “experts” evaluate our rocks. We held our breaths, hoping for something “good!” “Hmmm!” our rock expert said. “These are emeralds, and this is a garnet. This is a topaz, and these are amethysts. What you have sorted through my rocks, I noticed a dull rock in the back corner of my tray. I asked what it was. “Oh!” he said. “I almost overlooked that one!” It was a star ruby! He nudged the other rock expert and said, “Hey! Look at this!” “Yippee!” I squealed. Next to my ruby was a star sapphire! I was ecstatic and could have done a victory dance, but chose not to do so. After my initial outburst, I decided to spare Amber further embarrassment. She was glaring at me like pre-teens often do, willing me to control myself and to be quiet. I pretended not to notice. Happily, as the rock expert continued to look over our rocks, we were all able to find some really nice gemstones. This phase of our mining experience was especially interesting because it was at this point that we were told whether or not the clarity, quality and sizes of our stones were good enough to be made into jewelry. Jewelry! Now, we’re talking!

The following selections were made. Amber’s blue and purple fluorite was to be made into a ring. Georgia’s ruby would also be made into a ring. My star ruby and star sapphire would be made into rings with a matching pair of earrings. Yes, becoming one with nature really paid off! The remaining “good” stones can be made into jewelry at a later time. In eight weeks, we will receive the finished product! After comparing my mining experience with typical mall shopping, I must say—shopping for jewelry is fun. Yet, finding one’s own stones, choosing the shape in which it’s to be cut as well, as the setting in which it’s to be mounted is even better. In fact, when it comes right down to it, I guess you could say that mining is not just fun, it rocks!
17th Annual Gem Mineral & Fossil Show

November 22 - 23, 2008
sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club
Show site - George Mason University
Student Union Bldg II
Rte 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA
Hours: Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Over 20 Dealers selling Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Gems, Jewelry, Meteorites & more!
Demonstrations, Exhibits, Door Prizes
Kid's Activities including Mini-mines & Fossil Dig.
Silent Auction on Sunday afternoon.
Adults $4, Seniors (65+) $3, Teens (13-17) $3, Children (12 & under) FREE, Scouts in uniform FREE.
Follow directional signs to designated Mineral Show parking on GMU campus.
Contact: Tom Taaffe, rockcllctr @ aol.com
Website: http://www.mineralclub.org/

A current list of our 2008 Show Dealers:

Arrowwood Minerals - Richard Ertel – Spotsylvania, VA
John Ertman – Gems & Minerals – Rockville, MD
Robert Farrar – Minerals & Fossils - Bowie, MD
Geo-Fare - Peter Eldridge - Damascus, MD
Geosol Imports – Rob Evans – Dillsburg, PA
Stephen Hall - Reston, VA
Hartstein Fossils – Gene Hartstein – Newark, DE
Dave Hennessey – Minerals - Woodbridge, VA
Frank Hissong – Minerals - Harrisburg, VA
KBT Minerals & Fossils - Tom Taaffe - Vienna, VA
David Liscomb – Faber, VA
George Loud – Minerals – Alexandria, VA

Bill Mattison – Fluorescents – Gaithersburg, MD
The Mineral House - Tom & Pam Kottyan - Bucyrus, Ohio
Mineral Society of DC – Andy Thompson
Fred Parker – Minerals – Frederick, MD
The Prospector Shop - Marianne & Bill Cannon – Acme, PA
Barry Remer – Minerals - Reston, VA
Michael Shoemaker – Minerals – Manassas, VA
Williams Minerals - Keith Williams – Rio, WV
Victorian Gems – Mike Shore – Chapel Hill, NC
Raven Belfer & Jenn Hammond
Wayne Sukow - Fairfax, VA
Our 17th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil show is fast approaching on Nov 22,23 at GMU.

Please consider volunteering to help make this year's show as enjoyable and successful as last year's. Take a look at the volunteer categories below. Please email or call to let us know as to where you might be able to help out.

All-purpose volunteers who will help wherever they are needed most are also greatly appreciated.

Just let us know what times you will be at the show and available to help out.

Contact Tom Taaffe at rockcllctr@aol.com or phone 703-281-3767

Thanks to all who helped last year and we hope to see you again!

**FRIDAY afternoon/evening Nov 21**— Volunteers are required to help transport needed show items (signs, equipment, exhibit cases etc) from our nearby storage unit and bring the items to GMU Student Union II.

Set-up help is needed at SUB II: 4:30-6 PM Set up and arrange tables, 6 - 9 PM affix table coverings, set up display cases, set up kid's area, place and tape down electrical cords, check lighting etc.

Friday set-up hours generally last from 6PM - 9PM or so and we hope numerous volunteers will be able to come during that interval.

Note: The club usually orders pizza at about 7:30 for the volunteers.

**Saturday Nov 22 & Sunday Nov 23** - help is needed for the following:

**Shuttle** - Volunteers take shifts driving the GMU minivan from Student Union Bldg entrance to the GMU parking, picking up and dropping off passengers every 10-15 minutes or as needed. Shuttle van runs throughout the day from about 9 AM til 6 PM. Volunteers typically sign on for an hour or two of service.

**Entrance / Tickets / Door prizes** - Club volunteers greet show visitors, take admission fees, tell them about our club, have visitors fill out door prize slips etc. Admissions are taken from 10 AM til approx 5:30 PM on SAT and from 10 AM - to approx 3:30 PM on Sunday.

**Kids Mini Mines** Volunteers assist young mineral collectors with quizzes and encourage other learning activities and also help identify the free specimens that the kids select from our Mini-mines. The Kid's Activity tables can get very busy and can use several volunteers at any given time. And it's lots of fun!

**Security** - Club members/Volunteers are needed to walk the floor during show hours keeping an watchful eye on our exhibits and crowded dealer areas. We will have a security guard overnight on Saturday night.

**Exhibits/Displays** - Volunteers are needed to carefully assemble approximately 4-6 exhibit cases Friday night.

If a member is interested in exhibiting at our 17th Annual Show, the most straightforward way to is to let Tom Taaffe know of your interest and then be at GMU on Friday night to actually assemble your case. If you cannot build your own case on Friday night, but you still would like to exhibit, let us know and perhaps we can get someone to build it for you.

**Silent Auction** The silent auction takes place on the stage from 2-3 PM on Sunday. At least 2-3 volunteers are typically needed to set-up and manage this auction. One of these volunteers should be in charge of soliciting, gathering, organizing and labeling the auction items. Auction items need to be laid out neatly with bid slips between 1PM and 2 PM on Sunday. Auction volunteers then get to oversee the enthusiastic and competitive bidding between 2 - 3 PM. Winning bidders are called to the stage from 3-3:30 to pay for and collect their items.

**Sunday evening** – approximately 4 PM - 6 PM - Take Down. Volunteers are needed to help take down rental tables, disassemble display cases, Collect table covers, electrical cords and misc show materials. Most importantly, volunteers are needed to take show items belonging to the club safely back to the storage facility.
Anouncing The 17th Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral Society...

2008 Fall Rock Swap

>>>>>>>>>> Free Admission <<<<<<<<<<

Visitors (adults or children, from novice to expert) are always welcome, and may swap or purchase from among the various mineral, gem, fossil, shell, and lapidary specimens.

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Hours: Opens at 9:00 am until 3:00 pm
(The Rock Swap is indoors - so come rain or shine)

Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall
1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA
(adjacent to the Church in a one story building with parking)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT (either):
Murray Rosenberg, Swap Chairman, 804-740-0019 or
Carl Miller, Club President, 804-310-8762

DIRECTIONS: The swap is at the same location as it has been since 1998, an easy to get to, centralized location in Henrico County, near the Regency Square Mall and Douglas S. Freeman High School. Maps available upon request.

North or South of Richmond, Virginia
Use I-95 to Exit 79 to I-64 West (this is just north of Richmond City). Leave I-64 at Exit 181A (South) on Parham Road. Proceed south on Parham Road for about 1.5 miles and turn left onto East Ridge Road. (A right turn at this same intersection takes you onto Quioccasin Road and leads to the Regency Square Mall). The Ridge Baptist Church and Meeting Hall are about 400 feet on the right across the street from the new Kroger’s Market. Meeting Hall is at the rear of the parking lot on the west side of the church. There is ample parking in front of the Meeting Hall.

East or West of Richmond, Virginia: Use I-64 and follow the directions above.

Obituary
Nancy Wiser, former club Prez and life member

NANCY WISER, a Life Member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, died on October 7, 2008 at the age of 80, after a long illness in an Annandale, Va. nursing home. An active member of the mineral club, Nancy served as its President, vice- President for two years each and as the club’s newsletter editor for over 15 years. She received numerous awards and recognition for her editing skills and dedicated service from both the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies. Nancy and her husband Milt frequently opened their home for club meetings and for scheduled classes in mineralogy. Her burial will be at the Quantico National Cemetery, US Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia.

At our October meeting, one of our Agenda topics will be regarding a memorial for Nancy.
Tool of the Month

The tool for this month is appropriate for not only the casual field tripper, but also virtually anyone that works with rocks and minerals. The tool is a common set of safety eyewear.

This was chosen for the tool of the month due to this month’s meeting program being about Fluorescent minerals, for this is one area of eye safety that safety glasses offer, and most people don’t realize it.

Most safety glasses are made of a very strong type of plastic called polycarbonate. It is a plastic that is inexpensive to mold so you can find polycarbonate safety glasses in many different sizes and shapes.

Polycarbonate has a unique characteristic in that it absorbs ultraviolet radiation. In fact, many optometrists recommend polycarbonate lenses due to this fact - it is a method of achieving UV absorption without needing a special coating. It absorbs short wave, mid wave, and most of the long wave UV spectrum. So, polycarbonate safety glasses also make excellent safety eyewear if you are worried about looking at lighting fixtures that indicate you shouldn’t look at them due to UV radiation. Wearing polycarbonate safety glasses protects your eyes, and allows you to actually look directly into a UV light source.

Just note that some polycarbonate lenses are actually slightly fluorescent, so your lenses may actually glow somewhat, especially under shortwave UV (sometimes abbreviated SWUV). This can be disconcerting unless you understand that it is actually a safe thing that is happening. Although, it does impede your ability to see through them while they are being illuminated with such light!

Schedule

Upcoming Events to plan for:
- 26 Oct. Hunting Hill Quarry field trip
- 27 Oct. NVMC meeting at 7:45 at LBNC
- 13 Nov. NVMC Board Mtg
- 22-23 Nov. NVMC Mineral Show, George Mason University, Student Union
- 24 Nov. NVMC meeting at 7:45pm at LBNC
- 11 Dec. NVMC Board Mtg
- 15 Dec. NVMC annual Holiday meeting

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

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

President: Wayne Sukow
d8olite@fastmail.fm (703) 280-8108
Vice President: Jenn Hammond (703-585-3046)
cherryflamez@yahoo.com
Secretary: Kathy Hrechka
kshrechka@msn.com (703) 765-3187
Treasurer: Rick Reiber
rickgr3@comcast.net (703) 578-4224
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 Mineralological 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.**

**ATTENTION**
Please send articles to the newsletter editor! The deadline for submission is 10 days prior to the club meeting.

You can send your Newsletter articles to:
Robert Winsor
35740 Roundleaf Ct.
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: photech @ comcast.net