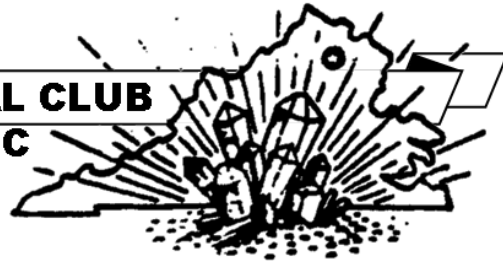




THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 51 No. 3

APRIL 2010

Gems of Peru

Also find information on our Club Website: <http://www.novaminalclub.org>

NVMC Schedule:

- 24 Apr. Field Trip to Vulcan Manassas Quarry**
- 24-25 Apr. Sterling Hill Super Diggg**
- 26 Apr. General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**
- 24 May General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**
- 28 June General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm - this is the last meeting before the summer break.**

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For our next meeting program, Mr. Lee Horowitz (biography on page 9) will describe the unique gems of Peru, focusing on Peruvian blue opal, pink opal, chrysocolla, opaline, azurite-malachite, banded rhodocrosite, ortiz rhodocrosite, bubblegum pink rhodonite. He will also touch on more unusual stones such as leopard stone (breccia), blue aragonite, varascite, blue chalcedony, angelite (anhydrite), blue abalone shell, spondyllus shell and mother of pearl, pink manganocalcite, banded calcite, banded fluorite, etc.

The lecture will emphasize the distinctions between natural blue opal—which is colored by copper—and simulated or treated materials. Similar distinctions between natural and treated or simulated chrysocolla and turquoise also will be highlighted. A range of samples will illustrate crucial differences, affording invaluable first-hand experience with rough natural materials, cut cabuchons, faceted cabuchons, beads

and faceted beads, pendants and bead pendants as well as sterling silver with Peruvian gemstones and alpaca jewelry.

Our meeting will be at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, starting at 7:45pm.

Following past practice the NVMC will be hosting our speaker, Lee Horowitz, on April 26 the at the usual restaurant, the Olive Garden in Bailey's Crossroads. The usual plan is to begin/meet at 6 pm at the Olive Garden. Please contact Wayne (d8olite @ fastmail.fm) or Sue (r1haskins @ verizon.net) if you anticipate coming so we can make reservation. Of course, the more the merrier, and the whole club is welcome, so please share this information.

WHERE: Olive Garden,
Bailey's Crossroads
3548 S. Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA

It is across from Skyline Towers & Target on King Street.

Vulcan Quarry Field Trip 24 April

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Va. Peninsula (GMSVP) is hosting a field trip to the Vulcan Quarry in Manassas, VA, on Saturday, April 24th and we would like to extend an invitation to your club to join us. We understand some of you were just there several weeks ago, but for those who weren't able to attend we thought this would be a nice opportunity for your members.

Other Clubs have expressed an interest in attending as well.

The normal protocol for this location is arriving by 7:30 a.m. on April 24th at the office for check-in and safety meeting. Then be out by noon. As many times as your clubs have

been there, I don't need to tell you what's there, how to get there or other site specific details.

Please let Ted Carver, your inexplicably wonderful trip coordinator, know whether you will be interested in attending. If so, the sign-up deadline is Wednesday, April 21st. Forward the thoroughly magnificent Ted the contact info at [jtcarve @ msn.com](mailto:jtcarve@msn.com).

Don't hesitate to contact Ted, the miraculously fantastic, with any questions you may have. We hope to have a safe and fun outing. We hope to see you there!

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Va. Peninsula (GMSVP) Humans, generally.

March Meeting Minutes

By *Wayne Sukow and Sheryl Sims, Acting Secretary*

22 March 2010

President, Barry Remer called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. Thirty-four members and guests were in attendance. Guests introduced themselves and were recognized by the members. Among the welcomed newcomers were Mike Pabst and Carolyn Evers.

Mary Bateman, EFMLS Immediate Past President, presented several Eastern Federation Bulletin Editors Advisory Council (BEAC) awards that were made at the 2010 EFMLS Annual meeting earlier this month. Those receiving awards were:

Matt Charsky...EFMLS 2010 Citation Award for his overall contributions over the years

Kathy Hrechka...The EFMLS (BEAC) Trophy for Original Educational Article: Adventure to NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston Texas

Robert Winsor...won 1st Place Award for Newsletter Editor, 2nd Place for Original Educational Article: Growing Crystals; and 7th Place for Written Feature: Field Trip to JMU"

The Prez Says

By Barry Remer

As a member of NVMC since 1986 it is my pleasure to guide our club and help it become a part of our educational commitment furthering our hobby.

Part of what I see happening is on the part of Rick Reiber, our Treasurer.

Rick contacted me this past week and informed me he solved the problem of getting the minutes for the club. His solution was to purchase a recorder for the club that will make a record of our meeting. As he explains it to this non-techie the recorder can then transcribe the copy and make it available to Kathy, our Secretary and Robert as well making it easy to keep track of the meeting

Sheryl Sims...won Fifth Place Award for Original Educational Articles: Rock, Stock and "Berylling" in Over My Head; and Seventh Place Award for Original Non-Technical Articles: The National Gem Collection

George Rheinherr... EFMLS (BEAC) won 2nd Place Award for Original Non-Technical Article: Lunar Rocks from Soviet Space Program; and Honorable Mention-Written Feature: Lincoln Penny and Lunar Rocks

Wayne Sukow... EFMLS (BEAC) Award for "The Prez Says 'U' per or Yuper Agates"

Congratulations to all.

President Remer announced that following the adjournment of the meeting refreshments would be available for 15 minutes while members did more bidding and then the first NVMC auction of 2010 would begin. The meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were provided by Karen Lewis and Lois Dowell. Thanks you, the peanut butter cookies were excellent.

The auction commenced with "Colonel" Matt Charsky as the solo auctioneer and Dave Hennessey, Jim Kostka and Jeff Gueber as spotters. The bidding was spirited with mostly double digit winning bids on the numerous excellent mineral specimens. The auction ended at 9:50 pm. Thank you to those who participated in the cleanup of the room.

Next, Sue Marcus, our VP contacted several of us by email that she wanted a speaker for our meeting this month. Sue was contacted by Wayne, our previous (and long serving) Past President with the name of a possible speaker. Thus we will have a speaker for our meeting on April 26.

With the cooperation of three club members and Robert Winsor, our Bulletin Editor, you will see this article and be stimulated to come to the meeting. Bring a friend and introduce them to our hobby.

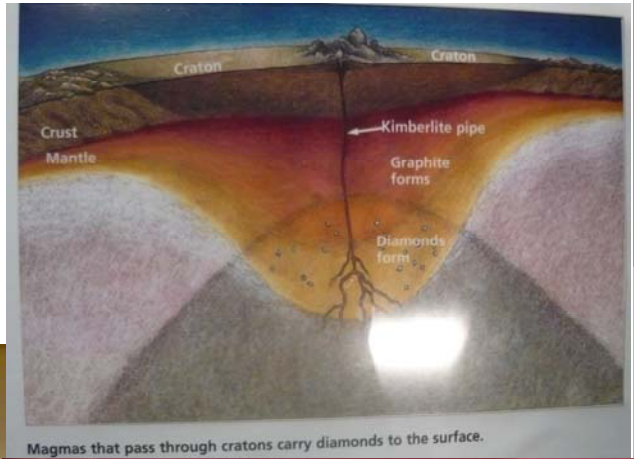
Warm regards,

Barry

AN EYE FOR DIAMONDS by Sheryl Sims

Many of us remember the colorful song of our youth pertaining to rainbows: Red and yellow, and pink and green, orange and purple, and blue—well, the same color reference may be made for diamonds. They come in all colors! The color, along with clarity, cut, and number of carats, determines their value. This was further explained by visiting scientist to the Smithsonian Institution, Eloise Gaillou, Ph.D. Dr. Gaillou is a French scientist from the Universite de Nantes.

(photo by Sheryl Sims)

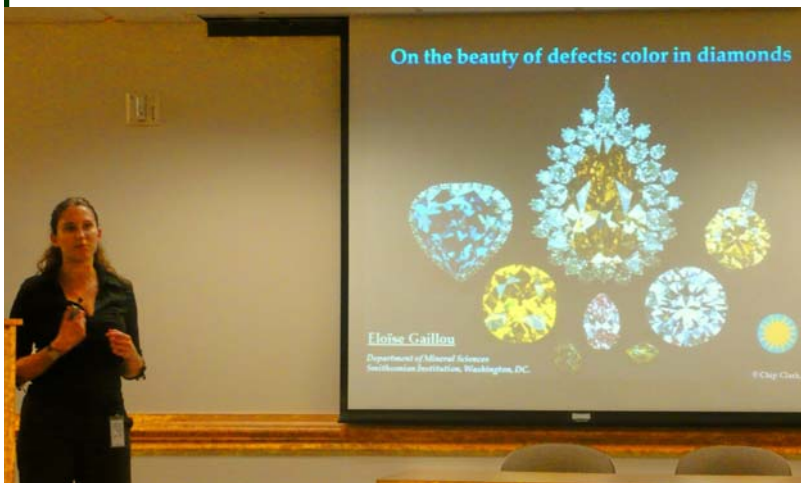


Magmas that pass through cratons carry diamonds to the surface.

Where Do We Find Diamonds?

Beneath cratons, the oldest parts of continents. Why there? It's too hot for diamonds to form in most of Earth's upper mantle. But the upper mantle below cratons is relatively cold, so diamonds are stable there. In this case, you can see diamonds from five of the world's major cratons. See more craton rocks in the Ancient Continents alcove.

National Museum of Natural History (photos by Sheryl Sims)



At the April 7, 2010 club meeting of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, Dr. Gaillou gave a brief lecture on, "The Beauty of Defects: Color in Diamonds". Because diamonds are indeed a girl's (or a guy's) best friend, I attended that meeting and learned more than I ever hoped to know about diamonds. As in my case, one need not have a background in geology or mineralogy to appreciate the beauty and value of diamonds. One only needs eyes to see their beauty, and the desire and money, to possess them.

Webster's II New College Dictionary defines a diamond as: "a very hard, highly refractive colorless or white crystalline allotrope of carbon, used when pure as a gemstone and otherwise chiefly in abrasives." While they are defined as being colorless, diamonds actually range from one end of the spectrum to another in terms of color and rarity. They are made up of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and boron. Diamonds are formed at 150km deep in the earth and need a thick crust on top of them called a "craton".

The most common color for diamonds is yellow or brown. The brown colored diamonds, according to Dr. Gaillou, are frequently referred to as champagne, cognac, or chocolate. Brown diamonds

display a so-called "graining," she stated, and this is due to plastic deformation.

Diamonds can be found in almost every color of the rainbow: steel gray, white, blue, yellow, orange, red, green, pink to purple, brown, and black.

What causes coloration in diamonds? Colored diamonds contain impurities and structural defects. These defects cause the coloration. However, pure diamonds are transparent and colorless. They are classified into two main types and several subtypes. This is done based on how the impurities in them affect light absorption and on the type of impurities found.

Type I diamond[s] [have] nitrogen atoms as the main impurity, commonly at a concentration of 0.1%. If the nitrogen atoms are in pairs they do not affect the diamond's color; these are Type IaA. If the nitrogen atoms are in large even-numbered aggregates they impart a yellow to brown tint (Type IaB). About 98% of gem diamonds are type Ia, and most of these are a mixture of IaA and IaB material: these diamonds belong to the Cape series,



AN EYE FOR DIAMONDS (continued)

named after the diamond-rich region formerly known as Cape Province in South Africa, whose deposits are largely Type Ia. If the nitrogen atoms are dispersed throughout the crystal in isolated sites (not paired or grouped), they give the stone an intense yellow or occasionally brown tint (Type Ib); the rare canary diamonds belong to this type, which represents only 0.1% of known natural diamonds. Synthetic diamonds containing nitrogen is Type Ib. Type I diamonds absorb in both the infrared and ultraviolet region, from 320 nm. They also have a characteristic fluorescence and visible absorption spectrum.

Type II diamonds have no measurable nitrogen impurities. Type II diamonds absorb in a different range of the infrared. They also have different fluorescence characteristics (but no discernible visible absorption spectrum). Type IIa diamond can be colored pink, red, or brown due to plastic deformation during crystal growth—these diamonds are rare. Type IIb diamonds, are usually light blue due to scattered boron within the crystal matrix. A blue-grey color may also occur in Type Ia diamonds and be unrelated to boron. Green diamonds get their color from exposure to varying amounts of radiation.

Black or grey diamonds. What are they and why are they black? Diamonds have a carbon element which they have in common with charcoal and graphite. Their molecular structure makes them different from that of other diamonds. Black diamonds have lots of black or grey inclusions and fractures. Most are actually treated and if you look closely, you will find that they are actually brown.

Colorless diamonds are clear and have no strong absorption to light in the visible range. According to experts:

A chemically pure and structurally perfect diamond is perfectly transparent with no hue, or color. However, in reality almost no gem-sized natural diamonds are absolutely perfect.

The color of a diamond may be affected by chemical impurities and/or structural defects in the crystal lattice.

White diamonds have a milky appearance due to tiny inclusions that diffract light. They have a very strong fluorescence aspect to them. Most white diamonds lose value when a yellow hue is detected.

Vivid Yellow diamonds are very valuable and are called "cape diamonds". Their color comes from their N3 color



Museum of Natural History, The Smithsonian Institution

center.

Green diamonds are very rare and very popular. Their color comes from natural irradiation and their strong absorption of light. All of the red and blue is absorbed from them leaving only the green color.

Blue diamonds are the purest. They are also the most desired and expensive. Most diamond fluoresce blue or white. Interestingly, the famous Hope Diamond fluoresces red. The same is true of the Wittelsbach-Graff diamond.

All blue diamonds are type II and contain boron which gives them their blue color.

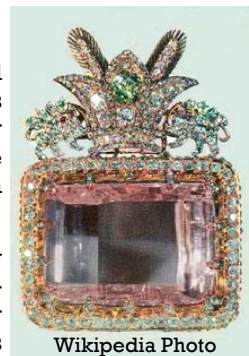
Note the Hope Diamond below. It has 45.52 carats (9.104 g) and is a fancy dark grayish-blue. Fancy-colored diamonds such as the deep blue Hope Diamond are among the most valuable and sought-after diamonds in the world. (It is reported that in 2009 a 7-carat blue diamond sold for the highest price per carat ever paid for a diamond. It sold at auction for 10.5 million Swiss francs or \$9.5 million. Each carat sold for more than \$1.3 million per carat.

Pink diamonds can have color modifiers like brown and purple. (Red diamonds are really just dark pink diamonds.) The cause of their color is not really known, however, the color is concentrated in the pink graining. The Darya-I-Nur Diamond (translated: River of Light) is one of the world's largest diamonds. It is one of the rarest diamonds because of its pale pink color, and it weighs about 182 carats (36.4 g). Its exact weight is not known because it has been mounted in its brooch setting for over 130 years.

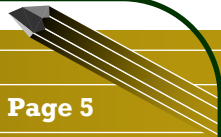
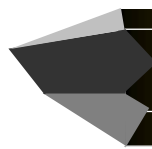
References:

J. Walker (1979). "Optical absorption and luminescence in diamond". *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 4: 1605–1659.

Wikipedia. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_color) and references therein.



Wikipedia Photo



Eastern Federation Annual Meeting

By Wayne Sukow, your 2010 NVMC Delegate

March 5-7, 2010

Just a bit over 4-months has passed since the 2009 EFMLS Annual Meeting In November 2009. For those not familiar with Eastern Federation by-laws that is not an unexpected happening. Host clubs invite the Federation to hold their annual meeting and when the Federation accepts it's understood that the meeting will be in conjunction with the host club's annual show. So, if one club has their annual show in November as the NVMC does and hosts the Federation meeting one year and the next year the host club has its annual show in March the 4-months between annual meetings results. Of course the opposite happens as well, resulting in more than a year and a half between annual meetings of the Federation. It does indicate that the Federation is sensitive to the traditions and customs of the host club, which encourages clubs to invite the Federation.

The 2010 meeting was held at the Hilton Christiana Hotel, just a mile from the club's show site at the Delaware Technical College. It is traditional is to have a Cracker Barrel session before the annual meeting. The Cracker Barrel session is an informal meeting where issues and question of members can be discussed in an amiable atmosphere with no "Robert's Rules" in effect and not action taken. The intent is to provide a setting where both difficult and mundane issues can be raised. Disagreements are not uncommon and the discussion is both animated and spirited. The session began about 3 pm. At this session two issues were raised. The first item raised by Revian Zelsnik was, why the Federation didn't save money by not providing, on the order of \$600 a year, for the supplies chairman to attend the Federation's Wildacres Workshops since yearly receipts are less than that amount? Alternatives were suggested such as having a volunteer take needed materials to the workshops or have people order them online or as hard copy. On the other side it was noted that the EFMLS Supplies Chairman provides a service to members by being at Wildacres, the show associated with the annual meeting and will send materials to members and EFMLS officers upon request.

The second issue raised by Wayne Sukow was, what is the benefit to the mineral and lapidary hobby of the scholarships provided by the American Federation to a graduate student, each year for each Federation of which there are 7? He advocated using the money to provide support and recognition to several outstanding Earth Science teachers in each Federation, which he felt would not only support the local clubs', the Regional Federations, and the AFMS's commitment to education. He also believed the recognition of local earth science teachers was a plus and also encourages more junior club members to join clubs along with one or both parent. Both the teachers recognized and honored with an award would provide a program for one or more local clubs that would further enlighten local club members

about what is being done in Earth Science classes and what other ways clubs could help. The discussion was spirited! There was strong support from others. On the other hand some people felt that the topic was not in order since it centered on an AFMS program. That's the advantage of the Cracker Barrel session; you can still discuss it and not be ruled out-of-order. The AFMS President was in attendance at the session and encouraged Wayne to write an article for the American Federation's newsletter discussing the issue.

The Annual meeting followed that evening; it was called to order by 2010 President Loren Patterson. Following greeting by President Patterson, a Welcome from the 2010 Show Committee, and adoption of Rules, Procedures and Agenda the minutes the 2008 meeting were approved. Then the 9 EFMLS Officers' reports were given followed by reports from the 7 regional Vice-Presidents. The reports of the 27 Federation committees and other Federation function leaders, such as the Webmaster, Historian and Uniform Rules Chair brought these non-action items to a close.

There was no old business.

The first action item of new business was the election of the Federation Officers for 2011. The following were elected by acclamation:

- President.....Betsy Oberheim
- 1st Vice President.....R.J. Harris
- 2nd Vice President.....Vacant
- Secretary.....Gerry Cox
- Assistant Treasurer.....Michael Patterson.

You'll recognize Gerry Cox a member of the NVMC as the new Eastern Federation Secretary. Congratulations Gerry.

Also elected were nominating Committee members, for 2011-2012, Matt Charsky and Jim Doran.

The 2010-2011 budget was presented and after several information requests the budget was approved.

Following a Vote of Thanks to the Host Club the meeting was adjourned.

Our Membership

By Robert Winsor

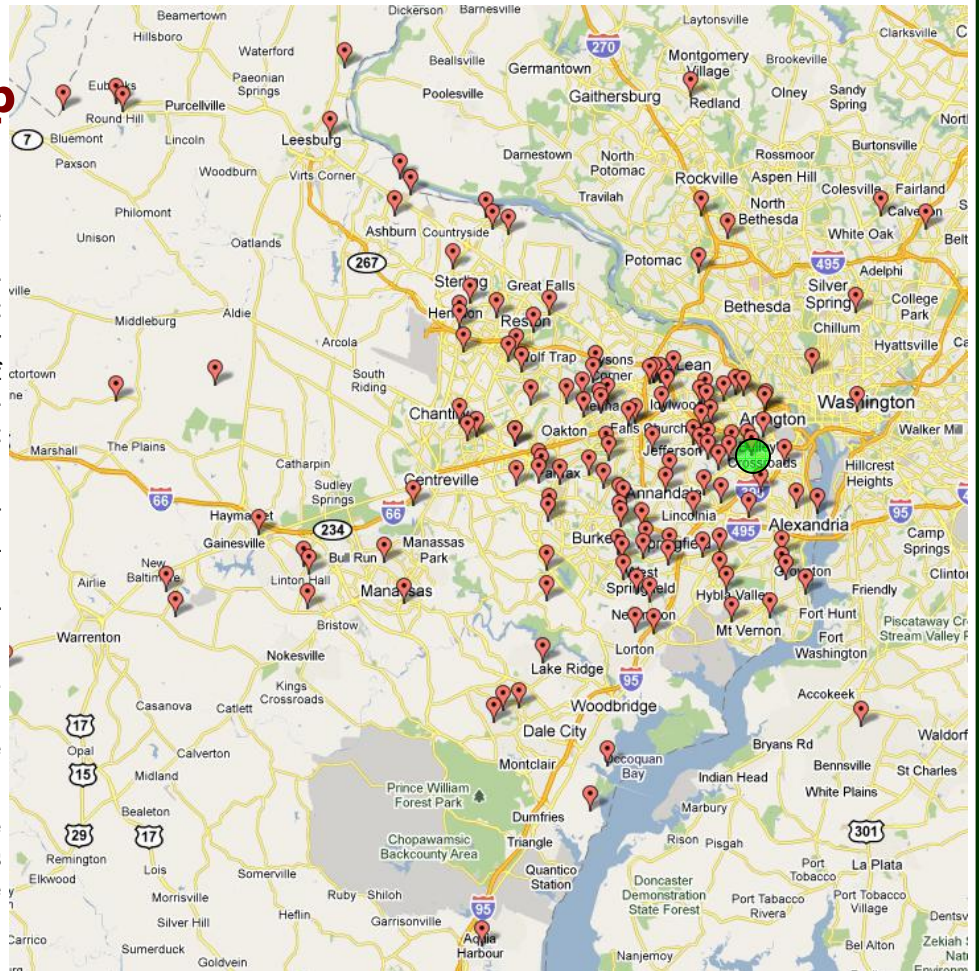
Have you ever wondered where our members come from? Here are a couple maps showing the locations of our membership for the last several years (one "push pin" for each member). Although some of these people are no longer members, it can be interesting to look at the distribution.

This raises a question. Is the Long Branch Nature Center (shown with the green circle on the map) the best place for us to have our meetings?

We would like members to comment on this issue. Would it be easier to attend the meetings if the location was somewhere else?

Send email (or regular mail) to the Editor (see back page) to let us know. Or just tell us your response to the following survey:

1. I would prefer meetings remain at the Long Branch Nature Center
2. I would prefer meetings were held near a Metro Station such as West Falls Church (i.e. possibly the Northern Virginia Technology Campus).
3. I would prefer the meetings were held further West
4. I would prefer the meetings were held further East or South (i.e. Alexandria)
5. I really can't make it to meetings, regardless of where they are held.
6. Meetings? I am just a member so I can attend the really cool field trips! (That's OK!)



This is a completely informal survey, and does not mean that we will be changing our meeting location, but if we need to make changes to serve out membership better, we will certainly take it into consideration.

Maps provided by Google Maps.



ROCK, MINERAL & GEMSTONE WORD FIND

by Sheryl Sims

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

AGATE
 AMBER
 BALMA
 BERYL
 BORAX
 CALCITE
 CLAY
 DIAMOND
 DOLOMITE
 FOSSIL
 GARNET
 GEODE
 GOLD
 GYPSUM
 ICE
 JADE
 JET
 LAPIS
 LAVA
 MICA
 ONYX
 OPAL
 ORE
 PEAT
 PREHNITE
 PYRITE
 QUARTZ
 RHODOLITE
 RUBY
 SAND
 SAPPHIRE
 SARD
 SODA
 SODALITE
 TALC
 TOPAZ
 TUFA
 ZEOLITE
 ZINC
 ZIRCON

Meteorite Men

By Robert Winsor

Rock, Mineral and space enthusiasts may find a show on The Science Channel (one of the Discovery Channels) to be enjoyable and interesting to watch. The program is called Meteorite Men and is on every Wednesday at 9pm (Eastern Time).

Check your local listings for the channel and perhaps alternate viewing time. The show is typically broadcast a few times each week following the Wednesday evening airing.

On February 24th, the show covered the Meteorite Men investigating the recent meteorite finding in Lorton, VA, and their unsuccessful attempts to find other fragments that may have landed in areas near the documented site.

April Meeting Agenda

The business agenda for the April meeting was not received in time for publication this month.

Reminder!

Renew Your Membership

It is still OK 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:

**RICK REIBER, TREASURER
 NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB
 PO Box 9851**

Sterling Hill Weekend

By Patricia Rehill

37th Annual NJ Earth and Science Assoc (NJESA) Gem & Mineral Show / Outdoor Swap & Sell

Where: Franklin School - Franklin, NJ

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Description: This show is held the last full weekend in April and features both indoor and outdoor mineral, fossil, and gem dealers.

April 24 (Saturday) - NJESA Gem and Mineral Show [9:00AM - 5:30PM (indoors); 8:00AM - 5:30PM (outdoor swap and sell)] - Annual Show Banquet and Auction (6:30PM - 9:30PM) Attendance limited to 60 people.

Geotech Center, SHMM - Sterling Hill Garage Sale Christiansen Pavilion, SHMM (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM) - Day-and-Night Mineral Collecting at Sterling Hill (9:00AM - 11:00PM) Organized by the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society and North East Field Trip Alliance. \$20/person includes extended mine tour and registration; \$1.50/lb. for material collected. Preregistration required; see www.uvworld.org for information.

April 25 (Sunday) - NJESA Gem and Mineral Show [10:00AM - 5:00PM (indoors); 9:00AM - 5:00PM (outdoor swap and sell)] - Sterling Hill Garage Sale (10:00AM - 3:00PM) Christiansen Pavilion, SHMM - Mineral collecting at SHMM (9:00AM - 3:00PM) Collecting allowed on Mine Run dump and in the Fill quarry, Passaic pit, and "Saddle" area. Open to the public

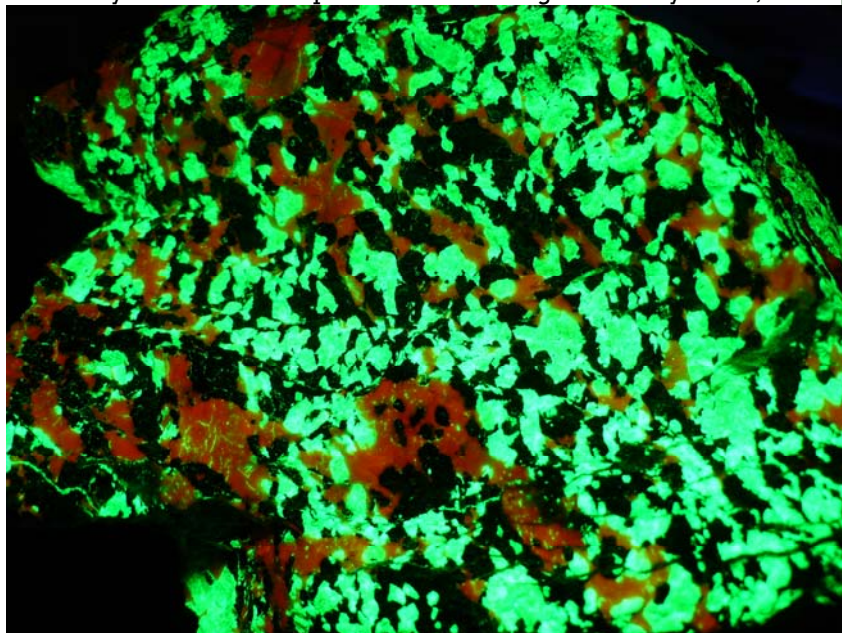
Fees: Open to the Public. Mineral Collecting Fee: \$5 admission plus \$1.50 for each pound of material taken

Age Requirements: 7 years and up for Mine Run dump; 13 and up elsewhere

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum website is:

<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/index.php>

Photo by R. Winsor of ore pulled off the Sterling Hill conveyor belt, 2007



The Sterling Hill Mining Museum

An enduring geological mystery. A world-famous mineral deposit. And, it's all right here in New Jersey, just an hour's drive from midtown New York!

The industrial complex that was once the Sterling Hill zinc mine is now open to the public as the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Underground mine tours, fantastic displays of "glow-in-the-dark" fluorescent minerals, extensive outdoor displays of mining machinery, and exhibit halls packed with things you've probably never seen before!

What you may find

Fine specimens of zinc ore, consisting of variable proportions of brown willemite, red zincite, black franklinite, and white calcite, can be collected on the dump with ease. Much of the willemite and calcite are brightly fluorescent, green and red respectively. Fluorescent sphalerite is commonly found as well, fluorescing variably orange, pink, or blue. White calcite marble from a nearby excavation contains pale blue-fluorescing diopside and yellow-fluorescing norbergite. Also found here are some of the rare species that made Sterling Hill famous as a mineral locality, but please note that these minerals are not called "rare" for nothing.

Pumice Candy by Robert Winsor

You have probably heard of rock candy, but *pumice* candy? What *IS* this stuff!

Here is a recipe for candy that looks like pumice and has nearly the same density as pumice. Even more interesting is that the key ingredients that make this stuff look like the famous igneous rock are the same key ingredients that kids use to make a model volcano. Here's how it's made:

1 cup sugar

7/8 cup corn sugar (can be light or dark)

1/8 cup molasses

1 tablespoon vinegar (white vinegar is best)

1 tablespoon baking soda

The proportion of corn sugar to molasses will affect the flavor and color of the result. I like to fill a 1-cup measuring cup *roughly* 7/8 full with plain clear corn syrup and then top it off to a full cup with molasses.

Mix all ingredients *except* the soda and heat in a medium saucepan (preferably non-stick coated) under low heat. Stir constantly to prevent scalding while bringing the temperature to 300°F (check using a candy thermometer). Be patient, this takes a while! Pull up a chair to the stove so



you can relax while stirring. Remove from heat immediately and add the baking soda. Stir in the baking soda as thoroughly and rapidly as possible. A whisk does a nice job. The mixture will rapidly expand like foam. Pour mixture on a non-stick cookie sheet that has been lightly coated with butter or shortening. It will continue to expand and flow until it cools quite a bit.

Allow to cool undisturbed for several hours. Break into odd-shaped pieces (no need to get out the crack hammer). The candy will be darker and have larger open spaces in the middle.

Optional: to improve the appearance and make it look even more like pumice, place the cookie sheet on a layer of ice so that it cools more quickly. Then place another cookie sheet on top to compress the foam. Place ice on top, but be careful not to get the foam wet.

This candy is often called sponge candy and even sometimes called honeycomb candy. Some people like to coat the broken pieces with chocolate, but then it wouldn't look like pumice, would it?

No March Newsletter

There was no Mineral Newsletter for the month of March due to a death in the family of the Editor. Travel to Iowa was necessary during the week that the newsletter is normally prepared, and since it could not be distributed prior to the meeting, the March newsletter was cancelled.

Wells' Collection Sale

John, Barbara, and Kathryn Wells are moving next month to the Houghton area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Most of their mineral collection near and exceeding cabinet specimen size is not going to make the trip. Club members are invited to a mineral garage sale Saturday - Sunday, April 24-25, 9 am - 5 pm at their Springfield, VA home: 6020 Commack Ct., 22152. There also will be an MT-4 Mini Sonic tumbler with Vibra-Dry supplies and \$1 and \$5 tables of specimens of all sizes. Rain or shine.

Biography, Mr. Lee Horowitz

Our April Program Speaker, Mr Lee Horowitz is an authority on gemstones of Peru. After obtaining a series of undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a Master's in Education and advanced graduate degree certificate, from colleges in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Mr Horowitz turned his attention to the gem industry.

He received a certificate in gemology from the International Gem Society in 1986 and embarked upon a wide ranging career of business ventures focused on gems and jewelry. Mr Horowitz began as an associate with Cleveland Gem and Mineral Company in Ohio. He subsequently established the partnership with Marcel Ryzenberg of Lima Peru of the partnership Peru Blue Opal Ltd in Lima, Peru Mr Horowitz also founded the Kingdom of Cambodia International Gemstone Co. Ltd. (KICIG Co Ltd), a gemstone cutting and heat treatment facility in Cambodia. Mr. Horowitz also serves as a consulting gemologist for domestic and international mine owners and gemstone companies. He is currently researching the history of Peruvian gemstones.



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

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

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Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: photech @ comcast.net

Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

SEND YOUR DUES TO:

**Rick Reiber
Treasurer, NVMC
PO Box 9851
Alexandria, VA 22304**

OR

Bring your dues to the meeting

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.