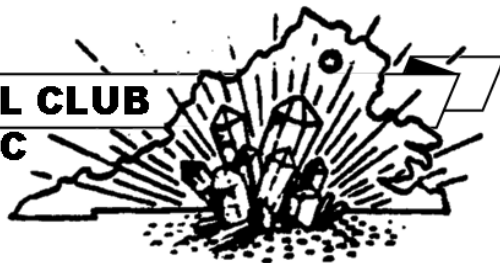




# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 52 No. 4

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

# Tucson Show

### PLEASE BRING SHOW&TELL ITEMS TO THE MEETING

Ever been to the Tucson Show (or shows, since it covers the whole city!)? Whether you have, or only dreamed of going, you will get a free trip--vicariously--while enjoying Patrick Haynes' presentation of his experiences at the 2011 Show. The Tucson Show is the largest mineral/fossil/gem show in the world. Like a theme park--it is sensory overload for the earth-science inclined. From coprolites to diamonds, from junk to single specimens selling for \$10,000s, you can find it at this show. We hope that you will join us for our April 25 meeting to learn what's new in minerals and hear about Patrick's most recent trip.

Club members and visitors are welcome to join us at the Olive Garden restaurant at 5:30 preceding the meeting. Each person will be responsible for her or his own bill. Please contact Sue Marcus at [rlhaskins @ verizon.net](mailto:rlhaskins@verizon.net) to be included in our reservation. Our meeting will still be at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, starting at 7:45pm. WHERE: Olive Garden, Bailey's Crossroads 3548 S. Jefferson Street Falls Church, VA It is across from Skyline Towers & Target on King Street.

### NVMC Schedule:

25 Apr General meeting and AUCTION of the NVMC at 7:45pm

May 23 Gen. mtg.  
June 27 Gen. mtg.

No meetings in July or August

**\*\* NOTE THIS CHANGE\*\***  
September 26+ AUCTION

October 24 Gen. Mtg.  
November 28 Gen. mtg.

December 19\*  
Holiday Meeting  
\* This is a joint meeting with MNCA

## Sterling Hill Super Diggg

By R. Winsor, Editor

**NOTE ABOUT INSURANCE**—The 2011 Sterling Hill Super Diggg is in Ogdensburg, NJ on 30 April, 9am - 11pm. This event has been designated an official club event for insurance purposes. Several club members have attended past events and enjoyed it considerably. Registration for the event is open online at the following website:

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

Registration costs \$20, and note that normally you will need to show proof of membership in an EFMLS affiliated club (such as the NVMC) to attend, otherwise

you will be forced on-site to join the Delaware Valley group (another \$15, and an extra \$5 for each extra family member). We have worked with the organizer of the Diggg, Jeff Winkler, to arrange to allow our members to just show up and give their name(s) since we normally don't issue membership credentials. So, if you are a club member intending to be at the Diggg, make sure you contact the Editor and that your membership is current - and your name will be forwarded so that you won't be forced to join the DVESS on-site.

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## March Minutes

By: Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

28 March 2011

President Barry Remer opened the meeting 8 p.m. basically to introduce that the auction should take the entire evening schedule. Rob Robinson, Matt Char-sky, and Sheryl Sims presented a lively auction of minerals to club members. The auction ended at 9:45 p.m.



## April Agenda

Introduce guests and new members

President's Award

Old Business:

Committee Reports

Secretary, minutes

Treasurer

Club Show (Jim Kostka AND Tom Taaffe) This could be acrimonious and long. ALL we want at this point is confirmation that we have a contract, preferably with the costs. Barry should remind Jim to work with Gerry Cox to survey members about what they are willing to help with and when.

New Business

Show and Tell

Door prizes

Break

Speaker, Rob Robinson, USGS

Photo from March Auction,  
courtesy Sheryl Sims

## Patrick Haynes Auto-Bio

Part-time mineral dealer since 1979.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (BS geology 1981).

Discovered 8 new mineral species: maxwellite (NM), metamunirite (CO), anorthominasragrite, orthominasragrite, bobjonesite, haynesite, blatonite and oswald-peetersite (UT).

I attempt to take photomicrographs/images of mostly self-collected mineral specimens.

Authored or coauthored several papers for *Rocks and Minerals* magazine, and have been a coauthor for some new mineral descriptions in professional journals. FYI-*Rocks and Minerals* published an article about me in a

recent issue (Sep/Oct 2010, Vol. 85, No. 5).

Frequent attendee of the annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, the largest annual mineral symposium in the USA. I have missed only 3 meetings since 1979 and have presented several papers at this symposium.

"Species collector"- having reached 2,500 species in the personal collection in 2011. A busy field collector. For 19 years I lived in Cortez, CO, which is on the edge of the Colorado Plateau, noted for its uranium and vanadium mines/minerals.

I annually attend the Tucson Gem & Mineral show, tailgating my own material and helping the Collectors Edge at the main show.

## WOMEN ROCK STARS

By Sheryl E. Sims

After receiving an invitation by Dr. Richard Tollos, Professor of Biology at George Washington University, to hear his geological field assistant give a presentation, I was so impressed by what she had to say that it inspired me to read more about women geologists. Allison Rubin is a third-year student at George Washington University and spoke brilliantly before a group of geologists, chemists, mineralogists, and every day people like me. Her intellect, poise, and presentation style led one to assume that she had always had an interest in geology and a vast amount of experience. Much to our surprise, we discovered that she had taken a class that Dr. Tollo taught and became hooked. Despite the fact that I didn't understand very much of what she said because it was clearly over my head as an amateur rock hound, many people in attendance did, and her presentation prompted lots of interesting questions. I am sure, that like the women I'm about to write about, Allison will have a bright future as a geologist.

I found the A to Z of women in geology to be quite enlightening. Many overcame great obstacles to make the contributions that they did to the world of science. I had never heard of these women, nor had I the opportunity to study about them. Hopefully, you will delight in discovering these rock stars of the geological world. I certainly did, for they deserved their rightful place in history as both women and scientists.

**Mary Anning** lived from 1799-1847. It's said that she was "the greatest fossilist the world ever knew."<sup>1</sup> Many people never knew about her contributions to paleontology. Born an English woman, she lived in a man's world, on the southern shores of Great Britain. Her father was an occasional fossil collector and the cliffs of Lyme Regis were filled with incredible fossils from the seas of the Jurassic period. After the death of Mary's father, her mother and siblings survived by using their fossil hunting skills.

A Lt. Col. Thomas Birch helped Mary's family by holding an auction to sell off his own amazing

fossil collection<sup>2</sup>. He gave the money to her family because he felt sympathetic towards their dire living situation. Mary had a good eye and became an accomplished anatomist. Taking charge of the family fossil business, Mary was credited with discovering the first specimen of Ichthyosaurus around 1809-1811<sup>3</sup>. She was only about 12 years old. Many of her fossils made their way to museums and personal collections, however, she was rarely given credit for discovering them. The scientific community had forgotten Mary and her family. People could not believe that such a young woman could come from an impoverished background, yet develop the skill and knowledge that she possessed.

**Florence Bascom**, was another amazing woman. She lived between 1862-1945 and is known as "the first woman geologist in America."<sup>4</sup> She was also the second woman in the United States to earn a Ph. D in geology from the University of Michigan (in 1888). Florence was the first woman elected to the Council of the Geological Society of Washington in 1901, and the first woman officer of the GSA. Born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, she was an expert in crystallography, mineralogy and petrography<sup>5</sup>. She credited her father for her early interest in geology. Amazingly, she was permitted to take graduate classes at Johns Hopkins University in 1889. However, she had to sit behind a screen so that she wouldn't "disrupt" mail students<sup>6</sup>. She contributed greatly to the Piedmont geology project and her work is still highly regarded to this day.



Image Courtesy Wikipedia. A sketch of "Plesiosaurus macrocephalus", found by Mary Anning.

**Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer** was a museum curator who's hard work led to the discovery of a prehistoric "fossil fish."<sup>7</sup> The fish was thought to have been extinct to over 70 million years, but was found alive in the South African sea. It was a coelacanth. Surprisingly, her real interest was with birds. She dreamed of working for a museum and at the age of 24, she did just that. She became a curator. While she never married, she lived to be 97 and was honored at a ceremony held by the South African Mint when they made a commemorative gold coelacanth coin<sup>8</sup>.

**Winifred Goldring** was recognized for

## WOMEN ROCK STARS

*continued*

her interest in fossils and rocks. She grew up in Albany, New York and worked for the state museum. Prior to that, she taught geology, geography and petrology at Wellesley. In 1939, she was appointed to the position of state paleontologist and was the first woman to hold that position<sup>9</sup>. She was also the first woman to be elected as president of the Paleontological Society and served as VP of the Geological Society of America.

**Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon** was considered to be "one of the most prolific and original Scottish women of science during the 19<sup>th</sup> century."<sup>10</sup> She worked for Karl von Zittle as a paleontologist in Munich and translated his, "History of Geology and Paleontology" in 1901. She published numerous scientific paper and worked in the area of Tyrol Dolomites<sup>11</sup>. She received numerous awards and considered her years of work as a scientist to be her happiest.

**Mary Leakey** was one of the world's most renowned experts in early human fossils. She died in 1996, in Nairobi at the age of 83. She found the 1.75-million-year old remains of homo habilis at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, and 3.6-million-year-old footprints also in Tanzania<sup>12</sup>. She was married to paleontologist Louis Leakey, whose expertise ranged from Europe to the US. Born in England and raised in France, her father was an artist who took her to see wonderful cave paintings and bone/stone tools being studied by French pre-historians at that time. At the age of 17, she began working archaeological expeditions. In 1948, Mary found the hominoid skull and facial bones<sup>13</sup>. They were perfectly preserved.



Image courtesy Wikipedia. Replica of an Australopithecus boisei skull discovered by Mary Leakey in 1959.

**Dr. Inge Lehmann** made her name by doing important work in the area of seismology<sup>14</sup>. A Danish delegate, she received numerous prestigious scientific awards and worked at the Geodetic Institute until 1953, retiring at the age of 65.

The list of accomplishments by women in the field of geology goes on and on. I'm sure that one day, many of us will recognize the names of women from our own mineral clubs and remember fondly the times when we knew them as children and watched them grow into scholars and geological leaders of our time.

### References

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## NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEARN

By Sheryl E. Sims

No sooner did I get word that my niece was expecting a baby did I launch plans for my great niece to become a rock hound! Talking it up a bit, I explained to my sister that her first grandchild would very likely become a geologist. Shooting me a serious glance, she warned me not to start with my “rock stuff!” She reminded me that I had already given the baby’s father, who loves anything Superman-related, a piece of “kryptonite” for his birthday. While I may have gone to some extreme measures to paint one of my minerals green for him, I thought it made a very thoughtful gift. My sister, fortunately, is younger than I am, therefore, I pay her no attention. My great niece will be a geologist!



kyanite with which to start her collection. I didn’t mind one bit when my expectant niece, Jasmin, had to explain to everyone why her aunt was giving her a “rock” as a baby shower gift.

The surprises didn’t end there, however. At a recent NVMC auction, I purchased a large piece of New Zealand jade. I had to fight hard and guilt my fellow club members into letting me win the bidding war. “This is for Baby Jade!” I lamented. “I’m just a poor single parent!” I continued. Not able to take much more of my whining, some poor soul yelled, “Let her have it!” – and, happily, they did! Now, the newly acquired, arrow-shaped piece of jade will accompany another equally appropriate gift to be

given at Jade’s second baby shower. By the time Jade makes her entrance into the world, she will be fully equipped with eye catching minerals and gemstones upon which to gaze and stimulate her tiny, baby brain. In fact, in her future, I see baby hard hats, tiny work gloves and sweet little steel toed boots! I’m sure that with determination and effort, I can find a pint-sized sledge hammer and chisel for her, along with a brightly colored bucket in which to put her specimens. One day, years from now, she may very well find herself headed to JMU to follow in the footsteps of, well, Dr. Lance Kearns! Baby Jade will have an innate desire to uncover Herkimer diamonds and an uncontrollable yearning to track down meteorites. She won’t understand why, but I have a feeling that you and I will!

## Membership Renewal

**By R. Winsor** This is just a reminder that club dues need to be sent to Rick Reiber, and NOT the Editor of this bulletin.

I have to date received dues for several club members, and this creates a significant delay in your membership status being recorded.

Please refer to the back page of the bulletin.

## September Auction

**By R. Winsor** In case you missed it in last month’s *The Mineral Newsletter*, our club’s after-summer auction has now been moved to September, our first meeting after the summer break.

To further help disseminate the message, each issue of the newsletter will have a message about the September auction just to hammer the message and hopefully get all the members to realize the change.

*Photos from the March Auction, courtesy Sheryl Sims*



## GEMSTONES: What's In A Name?

*By Sheryl E. Sims*

Have you ever wondered, as I have, where gemstone names come from? While doing some research on an article I wanted write about obsidian, I read that a Roman soldier named Obsius discovered a stone in Ethiopia that closely resembled obsidianus, which was a volcanic glass, and the mineral-like stone was named after him. "Interesting!" I thought. Deciding to discover where other gemstones got their names, I found the below interesting facts.

Heliotrope or bloodstone was aptly name because people applied it to their wounds to stopped the flow of blood.

Today, we have our own ideas to ward off drunkenness. However, in ancient Greece, amethysts were thought to keep one from becoming drunk.

Did you know that agates were given their name because of where they were found? They were discovered near a river called, Achates (it's now call the River Drillo, which flows in Sicily).

It's unclear where the garnet derived its name, but it's thought that it may have come from the Latin word for pomegranate. The gemstone looked liked the tiny pomegranate seeds.

From where do you think the name jade came? Did you guess correctly that it came from the Spanish term, "piedra de yjada," which means

"stone of the side?" It seems that it was used to cure kidney ailments.

If you speak Greek, you probably know that the word for dark blue is, "kyanos" or what we call "kyanite."

I bet you can't guess what the Saxon word "querkluffertz" means! It means "a cross vein ore," or "quartz."

It's easy to relate the gemstone "tigers eye" with the pattern of the marks found in a tiger's eye.

Do you know what French word means "Turkish stone?" Turquoise! It got its name because of the route that it took to Europe, which was from Persia by way of Turkey.

Unakite was named after the Unakas mountain range found in North Carolina.

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Source: [www.houseofgaea.com](http://www.houseofgaea.com)



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[HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

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## The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

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

**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.