



# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA

MINERAL CLUB  
INC

*Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 52 No. 9

NOVEMBER 2011

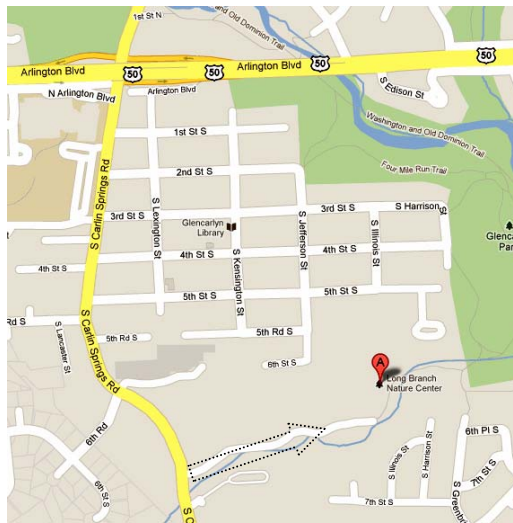
### Show and Tell

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

Is this Newsletter Deja-Vu? No, but due to a last-minute change in program for last month's meeting, our Show and Tell meeting was moved to this month....SO The program for our November meeting is our long-standing tradition for us to spend one of our meetings after the summer break to share stories of our adventures over the summer. Stories about digging. Stories about travelling. Stories about what was left behind for the benefit of others. So the meeting this month will be our time to spend sharing our stories and specimens with others. Please bring specimens and stories to share with the club during our meeting Monday the 28th at 7:45 pm at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA. Guests are always welcome! Sue Marcus apologizes for any confusion concerning the program last month and hopes that you enjoyed Jessica Simonoff's fascinating presentation at our

October meeting. If you brought specimens and stories for show and tell in October and were preempted, Sue says. "Come on back, y'all!"

*Map of our meeting location courtesy Google maps*



#### NVMC Schedule:

**November 28 Gen. mtg.  
(NO AUCTION) at Long  
Branch Nature Center**

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

**23 January Gen. mtg.  
27 February Gen. mtg.**

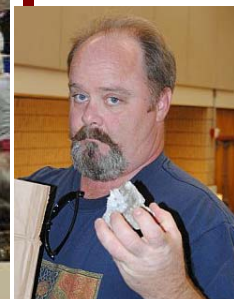
**28 March Gen. mtg. and  
AUCTION at Long Branch  
Nature Center**

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#### Our November Show

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club had its annual show the weekend of the 12th-13th. It was well attended. Photos below and additional photos on page 7 provided by Sheryl Sims.



## October Minutes

NVMC Meeting Minutes October 24, 2011

**By Kathy Hrechka, Secretary**

President Barry Remer opened the meeting at 8 p.m. He welcomed guest, Peggy Flaxman who is the State Director of the Virginia Science Olympiad. She promoted and solicited club members to get involved with the rocks and minerals section at an upcoming tournament. Interested persons may contact her at [peggyflaxman@virginiaso.com](mailto:peggyflaxman@virginiaso.com).

Program: Student Jessica Simonoff presented her discovery of "Skeletal Galena Crystals from Madan, Bulgaria - Natural or Fake" She also provided complimentary copies of a quarterly magazine which she edits entitled, Quarterly (the [vug.com](http://vug.com)) Magazine. Vol. 4 no. 2.

The business meeting resumed after Jessica's presentation.

Announcements: Pat Haynes mentioned that he was leaving our area in the near future. He will also be attending the New Mexico Symposium. Barry Remer

promoted the Birthstone Commemorative Mineral Stamp sign-up, sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Club members were encouraged to sign a petition in favor of new birthstone designed postal stamps.

Old Business: NVMC Show Co-chair, Jim Kostka solicited club members to sign up to volunteer for our annual show at GMU on November 12-13. Jim thanked Alec and Sara Brenner for preparing postcard mailings. Ann Seigel reported that she submitted articles to local newspapers. Jim requested club members to donate rocks for kid donations at the "Kids Mini Mines", door prizes, and the silent auction. Exhibit cases are reserved for Lois Dowell and Karen Lewis, Jeff Gruber, and Diane Nesmeyer. Jim packaged flyers for club members to distribute for advertising of our show.

The business meeting concluded by 8:30 p.m.



**Photos from the October meeting courtesy Sheryl Sims.** (L) Lois Dowell looks through the club yearbook, (M) mineral stamps, (R) Amber Wihshi shows rings made by Lois Dowell.





## Vice Prez Says

Thanks to Jim Kostka and Tom Taafe for a resoundingly successful Northern Virginia Mineral Club show! Turnout was high--we don't have a final count, though dealers had people 3-deep at their tables on Saturday and steady traffic on Sunday. The silent auction boosted the club's financial resources, too, due to the diligence of Rob Robinson and Jim who organized it. Set up and take down went well, despite a small hiccup on tables on Friday. The Club is grateful to the many volunteers who loaned a hand, shoulder, and muscle to get the work done. We couldn't hold the show without the support from all who volunteered to help with the ticket sales, mini-mine and touch-rock tables, door prizes, and the demonstrators who "occupied" our show to educate the public about the many facets of our hobby. Whether you helped for a hour or for all 3 days, the Club appreciates your investment of time and energy. And to those who spent money, especially on the silent auction, we appreciate your money, too! Special thanks are due to Julia Nord and the Geology students of George Mason University who helped with set up/take down, managed the parking shuttle, and sold delicious goodies. They, too a integral parts of our successful show.

- Sue Marcus

## Community Service

By Robert Winsor

There are some people that like to give back to the community, but unfortunately most people see community service as something that is more like work, rather than play. However, it can be quite fun if you choose to perform community service in the right manner. Confucious said "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." This does not just apply to your day job. It also applies to community service. There are many members of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club that have embraced this by serving the community through educational outreach of their wonderful hobby of understanding and collecting rock, mineral and/or fossil specimens.

If you are a member that really enjoys rocks and minerals and if you don't mind teaching, don't hesitate to take the time to contact a local elementary, middle or high

## Helpful Club Officers

**NOTE:** There was an error in the last newsletter for the email address and phone number for our Treasurer, Rick Reiber. Please use the email address listed below and delete his old email address from your address book.

Do you have a question about the club? Contacting one of the following can help:

**Club President: Barry Remer**

**bsbremer @ comcast.net**

**Vice President - Sue Marcus**

**rlhaskins @ verizon.net**

**Secretary: Kathy Hrechka**

**kshrechka @ msn.com (703) 765-3187**

**Treasurer: Rick Reiber**

**mathfun34 @ yahoo.com (NEW!!)**

**Show chairman - Tom Taafe**

**rockcllctr @ aol.com**

school and offer to bring part of your collection into their classrooms and teach a class or two (or three, or four) about your hobby. This is hands-on science that far too few of our kids get exposed to. And most teachers would be delighted to have an expert on the topic of rocks, minerals, or fossils in their classroom to cover the material in a hands-on manner with the pupils.

Let's not forget that such community service is also very self-serving - it can be downright fun to see kids react to what they are being taught and shown. The fascination in their faces, the questions that show sincere interest, and the satisfaction of knowing that you contributed to the growth of science can be immensely rewarding.

So please, don't hesitate to contact your local school and offer to present your hobby in the classroom. You will be appreciated for it!

## October Program

### - The Editor

There were quite a few very good comments about Jessica Siminoff's presentation, "Hollow Galena: Fake or Natural". So, if you were not able to attend, you missed a good one!

Due to late receipt, this program was not covered in the October newsletter, but rather the description was emailed shortly before the meeting. Here is the information about Jessica's presentation:

*"Jessica Simonoff started mineral collecting when she was 8 years old. She loves to field collect, go to mineral shows, micromount symposiums and the Rochester Mineralogical-Symposium. At her first Tucson show, she was introduced to Mike Wise from the Smithsonian. He invited her to his lab for a tour of the facilities and in a subsequent visit he assigned her to do a paragenetic sequence chart for a Polish pegmatite specimen he had acquired. She has been an assistant editor for The Nug magazine for 2 years and an operator in the Mindat chat room for 2 years. She won a first place award for an educational mineral case at the Gaithersburg Mineral Show. Her first published paper, "Skeletal Galena Crystals from Madan Bulgaria – Natural or Fake?", co-authored by Dr. Lance Kearns of James Madison University, won the Best Article of the Year in Mineral News. She presented this paper in April 2011 at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium and It is this research you will hear about tonight."*

Pictures from the meeting are shown here.

**Photos courtesy Sheryl E. Sims.**





## Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial National Park Service, U.S Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

By: Kathy Hrechka

Photos by Sheryl Sims and Kathy Hrechka

A thirty foot high, granite memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was built on the National Mall, situated adjacent to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and in a direct line between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. It was dedicated on October 16, 2011 to preserve the memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968): visionary, faith leader and public intellectual advocate for social justice.

In 1984, King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, proposed building a national memorial to Dr. King. Fund-raising efforts by the Memorial Foundation for the project estimated a cost of \$120 million. The memorial would feature a 30-foot-high granite statue of the slain leader (called the "Stone of Hope") and two other pieces of stone that symbolize the "mountain of despair." Visitors will pass through the "mountains" on the way to "hope." Quotes include "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope," from his August 28, 1963, speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

Congress passed Joint Resolutions in 1996 authorizing the fraternity to establish a Memorial honoring Dr. King to be built in Washington, D.C. The ceremonial groundbreaking took place on November 13, 2006, for the Memorial to be completed in 2011.

Master Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin, age 57 and the Dingli Stone Carving Company carved the impressive statue out of 159 pieces of pink Chinese granite. Foundation officials requested a pink-hued granite was needed to fit into the National Mall color palette to compliment the cherry blossoms. The locality of the granite is Quanzhou City, China. Mr. Lei, who has in the past carved two statues of Moa Tse-tung, carried out almost all of the work in Changsha, China.

Mr. Lei was commissioned for the project in 2006, after the memorial's fund-raisers observed him at work at a

stone carver's symposium in Minnesota. Amid the criticism, the architects in charge of the project said that they had visited Mr. Lei's studio in Changsha, in Hunan province to find he had already carved several versions of the work. More than 150 granite blocks, weighing some 1,600 tons,

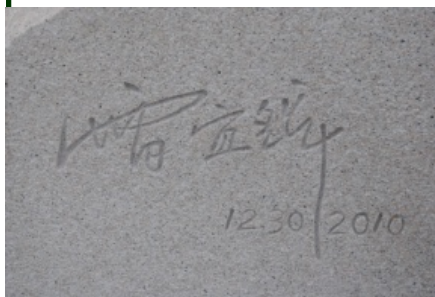


were then shipped from Xiamen, China to the port of Baltimore, and reassembled by a team of 100 workmen, including ten Chinese stone masons brought over specifically for the project.

Since August, about 1,500,000 persons have visited this memorial and most of them give praise to the sculptor Lei Yixin from Changsha, China. He spent four years carving this masterful work of art. Mr. Lei was invited White House, and welcomed "Art is

without borders".

Author's note: After visiting the memorial, I wanted to learn about the locality of the granite. My internet searches were unsuccessful, so I emailed a couple of granite quarries in China. I compared my photo of the granite to their selection of granites. I found a match at ZONGYI STONE DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD. Elaine <elaine@mail.zongyi.cn> from China verified my granite match and included a photo of the First Family touring the memorial. What was the chance of that? My neighbor, who is a graphic designer was hired by the MLK Foundation to design memorial plaques which included a piece of the rock. He promised to give our geology club members samples of granite from the memorial.



## Bishop Ireton Earth Science Class Studies New Mineral Collection and Study Boxes

Story and Photos By Kathy Hrechka

Students in Mrs. Milette's Earth Science courses learned first-hand about rocks and minerals, thanks to donations by Jim Kostka and Patrick Haynes, who are members of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. Mrs. Kathy Hrechka was a guest speaker in the class teaching about the new mineral collection and 12 identical study boxes.

*Mrs. Milette in the Library*



## Bench Tips

### DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough.

You can do this either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling one hole correctly, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

### CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's always difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it.

And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult this is. The problem is easily solved by screwing a nut onto the bolt before cutting it.

So here's how I do it. Screw a nut onto the bolt, grip the bolt by the piece to be sawed off, saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt. Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt straightens out any damage to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece you're throwing away.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)

Or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)



## Photos from the NVMC show, courtesy Sheryl Sims





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

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## The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Robert Winsor  
35740 Roundleaf Ct.  
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: [news.nvmc @ gmail.com](mailto:news.nvmc@gmail.com)

**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.