



THE
NORTH VIRGINIA
MINERAL CLUB
INC

Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



The Mineral Newsletter

Meeting: June 24 Time: 7:45–9:00 p.m.

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204

Mineral Photography: Tips and Techniques June 24 Meeting

by Kathy Hrechka, Vice President

Mr. Bob Simonoff, computer programmer at JDA, will present mineral photography tips and techniques gleaned from his experience.

The presentation will include discussion of photomicrography (the photography of microminerals), macrophotography, and photography of museum specimens. Bob will show what can go wrong and how to prevent problems. There will be lots of mineral photos, both good and bad!

Bob has been interested in minerals for about 7 years. He got interested through his daughter Jessica. Over the last several years, he has been photographing her collection, both hand samples and micromounts, and posting the pictures to mindat, Instagram, streamzoo, Flickr, and Facebook. ➤



Bob Simonoff with camera.

Photo of the Month

*The Mineral Mite, February 2013
Wayne Sukow, copper replacement
agates*

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You can explore our club website:
<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>

Northern Virginia Mineral Club members,

Please join our June 24 speaker, Mr. Bob Simonoff, for dinner at the Olive Garden at 6 p.m.

*Olive Garden, Baileys Cross Roads (across
from Skyline Towers), 3548 South Jefferson
St. (intersecting Leesburg Pike),
Falls Church, VA
Phone: (703) 671-7507*

Reservations are under Kathy Hrechka, Vice President, NVMC. Please RSVP to my cell at (703) 407-5393 or ksrechka@msn.com.



President's Thoughts

by Rick Reiber

Come and enjoy a presentation on mineral photography at our June 24 meeting so that you can take great pictures of your own collection, like those that we get in the newsletter every month.



Maybe your favorite specimen could be in the newsletter! This may be your only chance to publish a picture of a "rock star."

This is our last meeting before the summer break and our last opportunity to socialize with other rock hounds until fall. Have a great summer! ➤

Previous Meeting Minutes May 20, 2013

by Doug Brooks (ably filling in for Secretary Dave MacLean)

President Rick Rieber called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. He asked new members and guests to introduce themselves, and some did, including Sheryl Shroder and Dave Creede.

Jim Kostka reviewed upcoming field trips, including on June 1 to Vulcan Quarry; June 8 to a micromount club meeting in Gainesville, VA; June 15 to collect fossils; and August 17 for a guided tour in Thoroughfare Gap (the information will be forthcoming).

The minutes of the May meeting were approved by acclamation.

Vice President Kathy Hrechka introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Richard Huffine, who recently left the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Libraries Program after a distinguished 15-year career to take a position in the private sector.

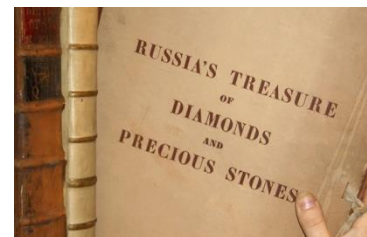
Mr. Huffine reviewed the founding of USGS in 1879. He described the many resources and reference materials available through the USGS Libraries Program, including the interlibrary loan arrangement with various university, college, and public libraries in northern Virginia.



Richard Huffine delivering an address in April 2011.

The USGS Library, located at 12201 Sunrise Parkway in Reston, VA, is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily. It is the largest Earth science library in the world. The collection includes many rare original books about geoscience, some dating to the 1500s. It is also dedicated to space geology of other planets.

Mr. Huffine presented a fascinating picture collection of Russia's Treasure of Diamonds and Precious Stones, including 100 black-and-white photos, many of the Russian crown jewels.



He also discussed the exploration of the American West, especially the contributions of Wesley Powell and six other major efforts to study the West, including the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Pacific Railway Survey, and surveys by the U.S. War Department and Department of the Interior. The Library has an incomparable Atlas of the Grand Canyon, one of the most complete surveys of the canyon ever undertaken.



Sheet detail of the Grand Canyon, replete with visitors (bottom center), in the 1882 Atlas of the Grand Canyon, illustrated by Thomas Moran and William Henry Holmes.

Following the presentation, Ti conducted door prize drawings with 12 separate winners.

In the business portion of the meeting, old business included a general overview of the club's upcoming gem and mineral show in November. New business included a reminder about a gem and mineral show in Towson, MD.

There was a discussion about purchasing banners identifying the Northern Virginia Mineral Club for display during mineral shows and other appropriate venues. A motion to spend up to \$300 on the banners was seconded, then unanimously passed.

Jim Kostka, reporting on the storage of club equipment for gem and mineral shows, suggested alternatives to save club funds. Kathy Hrechka noted that many commercial dealers who participate in the show are also club members. She suggested perhaps increasing the rental cost of tables. Sue Haskins suggested cleaning out any "junk"—getting rid of unused or wornout equipment. Kenny Loveless moved that he and Jim, on their own authority, downsize the storage space to the \$62 level.

In the news, geology groups are condemning the Italian government for bringing charges against geologists for failing to predict an earthquake. In 2012, six geologists were convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to prison. The charges were in connection with a 2009 earthquake that did major damage to several villages and caused significant loss of life.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. ➤

Diabase Dikes: A Rock Formation in Maine

by Hutch Brown, editor (proofread by Alex Brown)



I recently traveled to the Schoodic Peninsula on the central Maine coast on a business trip for the U.S. Forest Service. It's a beautiful location in Acadia National Park, about an hour and a half southeast of Bangor, ME.

Acadia National Park is known for its striking wave-battered shoreline scenery—not to mention its rich fish and wildlife resources and its thriving lobster fishery.



Schoodic Peninsula, Maine.

While on the shore looking for eider ducks (which I found) and maybe a stray puffin from offshore breeding grounds (which I did not), I was struck by the formation of the shore rocks.

Even my untrained eye could tell that it was mainly a pinkish granite (although ice age glaciers had brought in an admixture of erratic white granite boulders and rocks).



The pink granite substrate was cut by dikes of a dark gray rock that looked to me like some of the older lava rock I'd seen in Hawaii. The dikes varied from a few inches wide to more than 20 feet across.

And this is what I really like about geology: It explains how what we see got that way.

About 370 million years ago, a microcontinent (or volcanic island arc) called Avalon (or Avalonia) collided with the Laurasian landmass, which included what is now North America (fig. 1A–B). Magma rose underneath what is now Schoodic Peninsula, forming

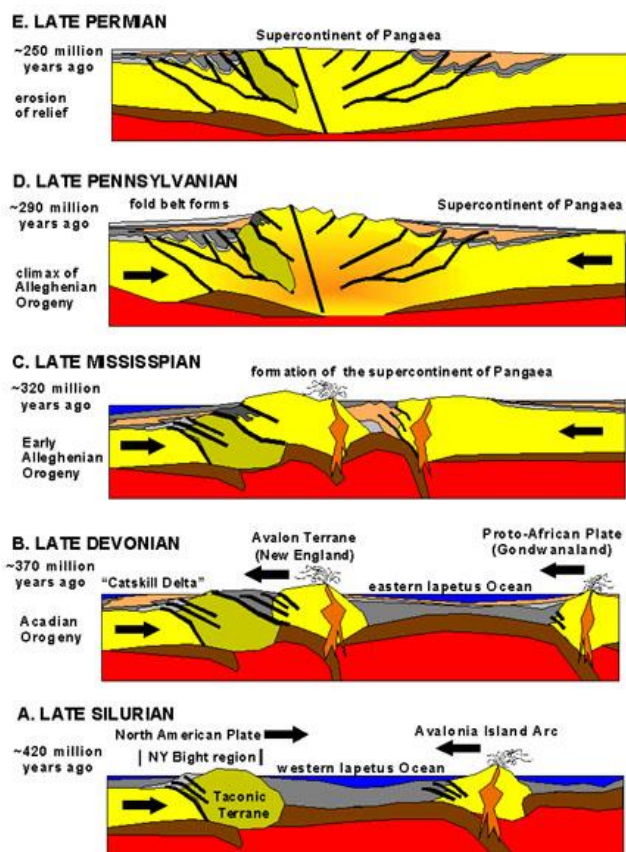


Figure 1—Orogenic (mountain-building) events, including the events that created the rock types found today on Schoodic Peninsula in Maine. Note Avalon in A and B.

a mountain range (the Acadian Mountains) that has long since eroded away.

The magma cooled underground to form pink granite. As it cooled, cracks and fissures formed.

A later surge of magma, perhaps associated with the Alleghenian Orogeny beginning about 320 million years ago (forming the Appalachian Mountains, fig. 1C–D), filled in the cracks and fissures. Trapped between relatively cool rocks, the magma cooled more rapidly than the original granite-forming magma during the Acadian Orogeny, resulting in a finer grained igneous rock called diabase, similar to basalt.

Over time, the overlying rock wore away, exposing the igneous features underneath. Both the diabase and the granite are tough, but the diabase fissures have weathered more quickly than the surrounding granite substrate, forming spectacular channels and striking wave patterns.



Two types of bedrock on the Schoodic Peninsula in Maine: granite (left) and diabase (right).

The wave shows can be riveting—part of what attracts so many people to Acadia National Park each year. More than in many places, you can also see a story of geology inscribed in the landscape. ↗



Eroded diabase dike at Schoodic Point, forming a narrow channel in the granite bedrock.

“Girl Scouts Rock” at the Geology Fossil Festival

by Kathy Hrechka (geology posters courtesy of Jim Kostka)

Northern Virginia Mineral Club member Marge Noel created a Geology Fossil Festival for local Girl Scouts. Held on June 1 in Woodbridge, VA, the festival was sponsored by the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital.



Marge and Steve Noel displaying their fossils.

The Girl Scout leaders of Troop 3261, Marge Noel and Amy Bovee, facilitated the day, along with their girls. Six demonstrators promoted Earth science; each received an assortment of Girl Scout cookies in appreciation for their volunteerism. The 65 girls in attendance included Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Teens. Every one of them rocked!

The girls earned patches at the following stations:



Paleontology—David Bohaska, whale specialist from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, demonstrated paleontology with Bob Purdy, a retired paleontologist and shark specialist. Marge and Steve Noel, fossil hobbyists, shared their extensive collection, which included a crinoid from China.



Bob Purdy



Ed Finck displaying megalodon sharks' teeth.



Scuba Fossils—Ed Finck, a scuba specialist at the Woodbridge Dive Center, shared his self-collected treasures, including fossil megalodon sharks' teeth from various dive expeditions. Ed demonstrated PADI hand signals for underwater communication, which he used while diving for sharks' teeth in rivers across coastal North Carolina.



Geology—Kathy Hrechka displayed various minerals, including mineral home products, the three rock types, and the periodic table of elements in photo format. Her assistant was Michael Bovee, who has taken an online course in geology and was father of one of the Girl Scouts. Kathy represented the Northern Virginia Mineral Club as well as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History as a volunteer.



Girl Scouts enjoying the geology exhibit.



David Bohaska, whale specialist, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.



Sedimentary/metamorphic/igneous rock station.



Girl Scouts exploring rocks and minerals.



Volunteer demonstrator Kathy Hrechka displaying her gift of Girl Scout cookies.

Geology Events



AFMS/ Southeastern Federation Show September 20–22, 2013 Jacksonville, FL



You are invited Thursday night to Hanna Park at the beach. There will be star gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy Society members and telescopes (Saturn will be spectacular!) and a cookout provided by the host society, JGMS. Other events include:

- SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting: Friday 7 p.m.
- SFMS Annual Meeting: Saturday 9 a.m.
- ALAA Meeting: Saturday 2:30 p.m.
- Awards Banquet: Saturday 6 p.m.
- Editors and Webmasters Breakfast: Sunday 9 a.m.
- 40+ retail dealers, fantastic exhibits, and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock; hear lectures on near-Earth bodies and meteorites; enjoy demonstrations and workshops. There are hourly door prizes, silent auctions, and more.

All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at the: Marriott, 4670 Salisbury Road Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786. Mention AFMS meeting for \$82 room rate. Offer expires August 5, 2013. This rate is good from September 15 to September 25.

NVMC Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show November 23–24; Fairfax, VA

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club and the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at George Mason University are pleased to announce the 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show in November 2013.

Where: The Hub (former Student Union Building II) at George Mason University. The campus is located at the intersection of Rte. 123 and Braddock Road in Fairfax, VA.

Hours: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Features:

- 20-plus dealers selling minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, jewelry, carvings, meteorites, and more.
- Demonstrations, exhibits, and door prizes.
- Kids' activities, including Kids' Minimates and a Fossil Dig.
- Silent auction on Sunday afternoon.

For an overview of the NVMC mineral show, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq-EsM1w74A>

Admission: Adults \$5, seniors \$3, teens (13–17) \$3; free—children (12 and under), Scouts in uniform, GMU students with valid ID.

Parking: Campus parking lot A. Enter lot A from Nottaway River Lane off Braddock Road; a courtesy shuttle will provide rides from lot A to the show. (For handicap parking, follow our van back from lot A.)

Campus map: <http://eagle.gmu.edu/map/fairfax.php>

Contacts:

- Jim Kostka (Operations Coordinator)
jkostka@juno.com
- Tom Taaffe (Dealer Coordinator)
rockcllctr@aol.com

Other Events

September 2–8: EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres. Speaker pending. Register early. Tuition is \$380 per person. Go to <http://www.amfed.org/efmls> and click on the Wildacres tab.

Every first Saturday: Basic lapidary/cabachon classes at the Clearwater Nature Center, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD. Sponsored by the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club. 2013 class dates: July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7. Cost: \$30 for Prince George's County residents; \$36 for nonresidents. To register, contact the Clearwater Nature Center at 301-297-4575.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.novamineralclub>

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 Refreshments: Karen Lewis

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your newsletter articles to:

news.nvmc@gmail.com

Visitors are always welcome at our club meetings!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

SEND YOUR DUES TO:

Kenny Loveless, Treasurer, NVMC
 PO Box 10085, Manassas, VA 20108

OR

Bring your dues to the next meeting.

Purpose: To promote and encourage interest in and learning about geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts, and related sciences. The club is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS, <http://www.amfed.org/efmls>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS—at <http://www.amfed.org>).

Dues: Due by January 1 of each year; \$15 individual, \$20 family, \$6 junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

Meetings: 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. (No meeting in July or August.)

**Changes are announced in the newsletter; we follow the snow schedule of Arlington County schools.*