

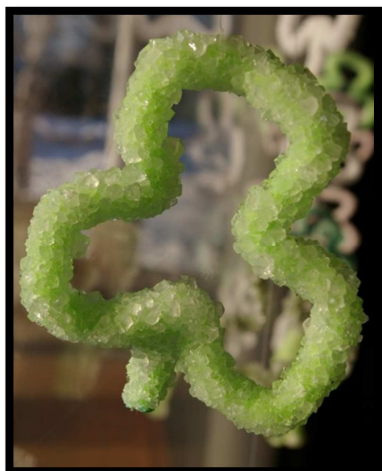


The Mineral Newsletter



Meeting: March 23 Time: 7:30–10:00 p.m.

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



**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!**



Club Member Rocks and Minerals Auction Coming Up! March 23 Program

Our March club meeting will feature our spring Club Member Auction! Proceeds from the auction go into the Fred C. Schaefermeyer Scholarship Fund, which supports students in the field of geology.

The meeting will start promptly at **7:30 p.m.** (*note: this is 15 minutes earlier than usual*). We will quickly move through the business part of the meeting so we can get to the fun!

Sellers, come early to help set up the room and your items. Bid slips, which you may copy if more are needed, are contained in this newsletter below.

*Celestine from Madagascar, at the
October 2014 club auction.*

**Volume 56, No. 3
March 2015**

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

Northern Virginia Mineral Club members,

The club board will hold a meeting before the March club member auction. Board members will meet on March 23 at 6 p.m. at the Olive Garden.

*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 Kathy at 703-407-5393 or kshrechka@msn.com.



Don't hesitate to bring a guest or invite nonmembers! Although only current 2015 club members are allowed to sell, the meeting and auction are open to all. And please consider volunteering. The auctioneers, accountants, and runners are all volunteers—so help us out here, folks!

Bring small bills, bid early and often, and help us move on to the next item. We need to be out of our meeting room by about 10 p.m.

**** Note Current Club Auction Rules ****

- Any member may offer up to 20 specimens or up to 4 flats for auction.
- Each flat is one auctionable item.
- The club gets **15 percent** of the purchase price; the remainder goes to the seller.
- Anyone may donate items to the auction to fully benefit the club (no money goes back to the donor).
- The minimum bid is **\$1** on any item. Bids above **\$20** increase by **\$5**.
- We start with a silent auction, so look carefully and start bidding. Items with multiple bids during the silent auction will be brought sooner to the vocal auction.

Winning bidders must pay for the item promptly, with cash or check. ➤

The Prez Sez

by Wayne Sukow

BALANCE is important; refer back to the January 2015 **THE PREZ SEZ** ...

Welcome to the March meeting of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club! Missing two meetings in succession is a first for me since joining the club back in 1992.



Usually, we begin our meetings recognizing guests for the evening, soliciting comments from guests, enjoying numerous door prize drawings, hearing

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committee reports ... the list goes on. We're going to balance that customary sequence by not doing any of them. We won't even approve minutes of the previous meeting unless someone requests it. Who wouldn't approve minutes from the Christmas Party? There was a lot of fun with great food and great fellowship. That's what the Prez Sez this month.

To provide balance, the business portion of the meeting has only one agenda item and it's an important one. It is to pass a 2015 budget!

The Executive Committee has spent two meetings discussing the budget and assembling it into a more transparent document. It accurately reflects our myriad club activities and supports them at a level commensurate with our yearly income, and it leaves a healthy balance. That's what the Prez Sez.

Immediately after passing the 2015 NVMC budget, I'll call for a motion to adjourn and declare a 10-minute recess. At the end of that time, we'll begin our NVMC Spring Auction. The Prez Sez ... balance a short meeting with a long auction. ➤

Previous Meeting Minutes February 23, 2015

The February club meeting was canceled due to icy conditions. Safety first! ➤



Mineral of the Month Zircon

by Sue Marcus

Editor's note: This new series is designed to appear in every future newsletter. Sue Marcus has kicked it off here, but other contributors are more than welcome, using any format they like (short or long). Photos are key!

Let's start this series towards the end of the mineral alphabet, with zircon.

Zircon, or zirconium silicate (ZrSiO_4), is found throughout the world as both a gemstone and a scientifically important mineral. References to what we now call zircon could go back as far as Theophrastus in about 300 BC.



The name “zircon,” bestowed by the German geologist Abraham Gottlob Werner in 1783, derives from Persian words for “star” and “gold” (based on one of the mineral's colors). Along with gold hues, zircon occurs in reds, yellows, browns, and black; it can also be colorless.

Zircon is relatively hard, at 7.5 on the Mohs scale. Most zircon fluoresces in shades of yellow under short-wave ultraviolet light; its fluorescence can be used as a diagnostic criterion. Zircon is usually found as tiny grains in sand or rock, although beautiful zircon crystals are prized by collectors.

Zircon is used in the ceramics, nuclear energy, and chemical processing industries. It can also be used in abrasives and metal alloys. Zircon is mined with other minerals in dark sands. You might have seen bands of these dark sands while looking for fossils along parts of the Chesapeake Bay.

Zircon is mined in Virginia and Utah from surface deposits. In Virginia, Iluka Resources mines zircon from the Brink and Concord deposits. The Brink deposit is southwest of Emporia and the Concord deposit is southeast of Lynchburg. Iluka's Old Hickory deposit was exhausted recently, as was a deposit mined in Georgia. Mining companies regularly explore for new deposits as they mine out and reclaim the old ones.

Scientists know zircon as a workhorse for geochronology—dating the ages of rocks. The mineral is very durable, resisting breakdown by erosion, so the grains



Zircon crystal. Poudrette Quarry, Mont Saint-Hilaire, La Vallée-du-Richelieu, Montérégie RCM, Quebec, Canada. Source: Mindat.

remain relatively intact as the original host rock is eroded. The grains can be transported by water or wind and then lithified into a new rock through sedimentary or metamorphic processes.

Zircon grains frequently contain tiny amounts of radioactive elements—not enough to change the mineral's chemical formula but enough to trace the history of the zircon grain. Zircons are “the most reliable



Zircon in shades of brown and black.

Source: Smithsonian National Mineral Collection.

<http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?view=grid&date.slider=&q=Mineral+zircon&sort=&start=0>



Cubic zirconia (zirconium oxide), a synthetic diamond substitute. Source: Wikipedia.

natural chronometer that we have when we want to look at the earliest part of Earth history,” according to the University of Florida’s Paul Mueller (2000). Because zircon grains are found throughout the world, these useful age indicators are sought by geochronologists more often than by mineral collectors.

What about cubic zirconia, the not-quite-diamond substitute? Most cubic zirconia is synthetic, not natural. With the chemical formula ZrO_2 , the mineral—actually called baddeleyite—can occur naturally. It was originally synthesized by Soviet scientists doing research for laser materials. Zirconium oxide is the source material for cubic zirconia, although I could not determine whether it comes from the mineral zircon. ↗

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You might be a rockhound if ...

1. You got married on a collecting trip.
2. You can carry a 50-pound bucket of rocks a mile to your car but use a shopping cart to carry a gallon of milk.
3. You have no room for a spare tire in your trunk.
4. You can’t park in your own garage.
5. You think Rocky Balboa is a collecting site.
6. Luggage handlers refuse to look at you.
7. You pick up bits of gravel in driveways.
8. You have more paperweights on your desk than papers.
9. Every Rolling Stones song reminds you of rock tumblers.
10. You have a magnifier in your pocket—always.
11. You lick rocks.

From The Conglomerate, September 2014, p. 8.

Deadline for Submissions

April 1

We need to send out our newsletter on time, so please make your submission by the 1st of the month! Late submissions will likely go into a later newsletter.



Smithsonian Geology, Gems, and Minerals Hall: New NVMC Volunteers

by Kathy Hrechka, Vice-President

Congratulations to the newest volunteers at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History! The following NVMC members just completed their training in the Geology, Gems, and Mineral (GGM) Hall: Kathy Hrechka, Lewis Holt, MinerMike Kaas, Joan Karrie, Craig Moore, and Ken Rock.

We are now ready to demonstrate our club hobby using various geology carts in the GGM Hall. Each one of us has committed to working two 4-hour shifts each month in the GGM Hall. Already volunteering have been Genny Haskins, MinerMike Kaas, Sue Marcus, and Dr. Steve Noel and his wife Marge.

Adam Blackenbicker, a mineral sciences education specialist at the museum, led the training. He invited four scientists to instruct the volunteers in their respective fields of expertise during our training sessions. Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the Mineral Collection, spoke about minerals, including the Hope Diamond. Dr. Mike Wise, a pegmatite specialist, gave us a tour of the Mineral Hall. Dr. Ben Andrews from the volcanism program gave us a tour of the rocks-and-volcanoes area in the museum. Finally, Tim McCoy, Meteorite Curator-in-Charge and Department Chair, gave us a hands-on presentation in the meteorite laboratory. ♪



Left to right: Lewis Holt, Joan Karrie, and MinerMike Kaas learn to demonstrate practical uses of minerals using the “Minerals Matter” cart. All photos: Kathy Hrechka.



Ken Rock admires the famous Elbaite Candelabra discovered by Bill Larson in the Pala district, San Diego County, CA. Ken recently met Larson at the Tucson Show—see the following article.

Craig Moore agrees that “failure is not an option” while posing in front of the NASA moon rock exhibit.



Top left: Kathy Hrechka holds a sample from the K/Paleogene (originally K/T) Boundary from New Mexico in the meteorite lab.

Top: Dr. Steve Noel and his wife Marge have been volunteering in the Paleontology Department for many years.

Left: Long-time volunteers Genny Haskins and her mom, Sue Marcus, are pros on the "Minerals Matter" cart.



News about our members ...

Our club members like to hear news about each other! Whether it's a retirement, a new home, a new addition to the family, or even just a birthday ... whether it's news about you or about someone in the club you know, let your club newsletter editor know at hutchbrown41@gmail.com, and he will make it a regular feature in our club newsletter!

Northern Virginia Mini Maker Faire

Sunday, March 15, in Reston, VA. Sponsored by NOVA Labs/Fairfax County Schools, the fair is a major STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) event for students and adults. Displays range from robots and computers to costume making and jewelry making.

Last year, we had about 70 displays and 2,000 attendees; see the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MwO33-83M>

Robert Clemenzi will provide three tales of science demos. Karen Lewis and Lois Dowell will have a display of the jewelry they have made.

Advance adult tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door. Students are \$5, \$8 at the door. Check out the Website at <http://makerfairenova.com/>

Tucson Gem & Mineral Show: Highlights

by Ken Rock

In early February, I visited the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show for some serious enjoyment of my favorite hobby, as well as a welcome change in weather. From the name, you might think the Gem & Mineral Show takes place at a single site, but the show actually happens all across town at more than 40 sites, from hotels to giant halls, sprawling roadside exhibit tents, and what many refer to as “the main event” at the Tucson Convention Center.

The volume of Earth materials that finds its way to Tucson in February is simply mind boggling. There are literally tons of fossils from Morocco, amethyst geodes from Brazil, malachite from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, pyrite from Peru, meteorites from all over the globe, and fine and not-so-fine mineral specimens from just about everywhere. You need to pick and choose how best to spend your time, because no one can see it all or take it all in.

Many jaw-dropping minerals can be seen at the Westward Look Hotel, where around 20 high-end dealers display exceptional minerals, many with exceptional price tags (just look at the tags on the rhodochrosite specimen from the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado or the lovely amethyst from Veracruz, Mexico). All of these dealers are very open to discussions, freely sharing information about minerals. In fact, I met Bill Larson of Pala International, who dug out the Candelabra tourmaline from the famous Blue Cap Pocket in 1972 at the Tourmaline Queen Mine in southern California. The Candelabra is now on dis-



play at the Geology, Gems, and Mineral Hall at the Smithsonian. Bill noted that the middle tourmaline crystal (see below) was located about 50 feet deeper in the pocket than the main part of the specimen.

Other highlights of my experience included walking through hotels looking at hundreds of mineral specimens, seeing familiar faces from previous visits, and attending evening talks by various experts, including John White, former curator for the Smithsonian's Mineral Hall. Another talk featured a video of a buyer's trip to Peshawar, Pakistan, to purchase minerals from locals (hint: good deals are not easy to find in the age of Internet and iPhones). I also ran into Jeff Post, Mike Wise, Cara, and Joe, all looking for new treasures for the Smithsonian. ➤





EFMLS News

by Hutch Brown, Editor

If you're like me, you might not pay much attention to the EFMLS newsletter when you get it. So it might be useful to summarize a few points in the February edition of *EFMLS News*. Then, if you want to know more, you can always go back and check it out at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/effeb.15web.pdf>.

Safety comes first, and the EFMLS newsletter always has a good safety column by Ellery Borow. In the February issue, Ellery stressed the importance of paying attention to expiration dates.

There is news about the Eastern Foundation Fund and the AFMS Scholarship Fund (both described in the last issue of our newsletter). There is also news about the upcoming EFMLS annual convention and show in Hickory, NC, on March 28–29, including the auction.

At the convention, changes to bylaws will be voted on, one of them controversial (see the description on the following page). EFMLS President Merrill Dickinson talks about it in the *EFMLS News*. And EFMLS Historian Andy B. Celmer continues his humorous series on the history of mineral collecting.

There is lots on Wildacres this year, including registration materials and a list of classes for the August 23–30 session, summarized below. ➤

Coming to Wildacres in August 2015 ...

Faceting (*Steve Weinberger*): Learn to cut/polish a faceted gemstone, identify well-cut stones, select rough material, and more. Bring an optivisor and/or jeweler's loupe if you have one. No experience needed. 4-day class.

Gem Identification (*B. Jay Bowman*): Learn to use various instruments to identify cut gems, including the refractometer, spectroscope, and others. Practice on a variety of stones provided. No experience needed. 4-day class.

Basic Gem Trees (*Suzie Milligan*): Replicate a tree from wire using gemstones for leaves, etc., with a stone base. Measure, cut, and twist the wire, select the base, and add polished gemstones. No experience needed. 2-day class, 1st semester only.

Advanced Gem Trees (*Suzie Milligan*): Learn to form different types of trees, such as maple, willow, and pine. Make a tree using beads (no gluing required). Prerequisite: Basic Gem Trees. 2-day class, 2nd semester only.

Intarsia (*Richard Shackleton*): Learn to frame a picture jasper. You will glue rocks together framing a centerpiece, then design pattern intarsia. You are welcome to bring your own material. Experience with grinding stones needed—you will use flat laps and genie grinding machines. 4-day class.

Polymer Clay (*Barbara McGuire*): Learn the basics, including finishing and design. With the "tricks of the trade," you can create your unique portfolio of beads, jewelry components, focal cabochons, and more. No experience needed. 4-day class.

Wildacres "Wild" (*Virginia Meador*): Explore the beauty of the Wildacres area, including its flora and hidden secrets. Good walking shoes with ankle support and rain gear are recommended. 2-day class, 1st semester only.

Roadside Geology (*Virginia Meador*): Bring your camera and join us for a roadside tour to study the geologic history of the Blue Ridge region, with an added bonus of photo ops and tips. 2-day class, 2nd semester only.

Basic Silversmithing (*Richard Meszler*): Learn the basics of working silver sheet and wire to fabricate jewelry, including annealing and bending/shaping/texturing metals as well as soldering, piercing, and polishing. No experience needed. 2-day class, 1st semester only.

Intermediate Silversmithing (*Richard Meszler*): Continue working with metals with a more complex project. Learn to make a bezel and bail, then set a cabochon to make a pendant. Basic silversmithing experience required, including soldering. 2-day class, 2nd semester only.

Soapstone Carving (*Sandy Cline*): Develop a working knowledge of the material, tools, and methods used to complete a carving. Produce a simple piece and progress to making a more advanced sculpture, developing your own personal style. No experience needed. 4-day class.



Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair; and David Rich

Editor's note: The article is adapted from A.F.M.S. Newsletter (February 2015), p. 2.



Calling all artists! As they've been doing for several years now, the Midwest Federation will hold a Youth Poster Contest in 2015 sponsored by the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio and open to kids in 1st grade through 8th grade across all seven AFMS regional federations.

This year's theme is "The Official State Gem, Mineral, Rock, or Fossil of the State You Live In." Each grade level will have a winner, with ribbons awarded to 1st through 4th place. 1st through 3rd place winners will also receive a prize.

Here are the rules:

- All entries must be presented on 12-inch by 18-inch paper.
- Name, address, age, and school grade of the participant must be on the BACK of the entry.
- Artwork can be in pen, ink, crayon, magic marker, paint, or a similar art medium.
- No three-dimensional posters will be accepted.
- A title may be on the front or back of the poster.
- List your state and why you chose the gem, mineral, rock, or fossil.
- All entries become property of the Midwest Federation and Summit Lapidary Club.

Judges will award points as follows: 30 points for originality and artwork; 25 points for design; 25 points for title; and 20 points for listing the state gem, mineral, rock, or fossil and the reason for your choice.

Posters should be sent to Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, OH 44319 and must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2015. Questions? Ask Jennifer at SLC.youth. poster.contest@gmail.com. For further contest information, go to the Midwest Federation Website at www.amfed.org/mwf/ ↗.

EFMLS Bylaws: Proposed Changes



Editor's note: The article is adapted from EFMLS News (January 2015), pp. 1–4, 6.

The EFMLS Bylaws Committee has described two proposed changes to the bylaws, to be voted on during the annual EFMLS meeting in Hickory, NC, on March 27, 2015.

One change is relatively minor. The bylaws direct the EFMLS Treasurer to "render a yearly written itemized report and present all accounts and bank records to the Federation at its annual meeting for audit." The wording would change to "... present all accounts and bank records *for audit or review following the conclusion of the fiscal year.*" The wording change would reflect the way things are actually done.

The other change would be more consequential—and controversial: to extend the term of office for the EFMLS President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President from 1 to 2 years.

President Merrill Dickinson proposed the change, arguing that it would make the President more effective because "the second tier of an office will be far easier to manage due to the experience and lessons learned in the first. ... An analysis of the terms of office ... reveals that only the President of the Federation is restricted to a one year term in office The two year term ... levels the playing field."

The Bylaws Committee disagreed, arguing that the President already gains sufficient experience to be effective. Moreover, extending terms of office to 2 years might place undue financial hardships on officers. "The main question to be asked before voting on this proposal is will enough people be willing to assume the commitment of the 8 years of service to our Federation, or will this discourage many people from taking the jobs? In speaking with a number of past presidents, their overwhelming response is that they would not have wanted to serve or commit to that many years."

Our club's delegate to this year's EFMLS meeting on March 28–29 in Hickory, NC, will have the opportunity to vote on both proposals. ↗



Fossilized Materials

by Ron Gibbs

Editor's note: The piece is adapted from Goldrush Ledger (newsletter of the Gem and Mineral Club, Charlotte, NC), January 2015, pp. 6–7.

Fossils provide a wide variety of patterns for lapidary work. But what exactly is a fossil?

Fossilized (also known as petrified) materials are formed when previous living material is replaced molecule for molecule with silica. For this process to succeed, the original material must be protected early on from oxidation and destruction by bacteria.

Typically, a deceased life form is buried under sufficient sand, soil, or even water to protect its structure until it dehydrates. After the drying-out process, the open cells in the material fill in with chalcedony, sometimes in the form of small agates (like in the dinosaur bone on the left). Once the cells have filled in, the remaining nonsilica areas define the original cell structure. This is then filled in over time with more silica.

The colors in fossilized material come from the replacement silica solution and secondary metals dissolved within. Reds, oranges, and yellows come mainly from iron, black from iron or manganese, and green from iron, copper or chromium.

The best known fossilized material is wood, and it comes in a variety of types. The interior of the wood is often

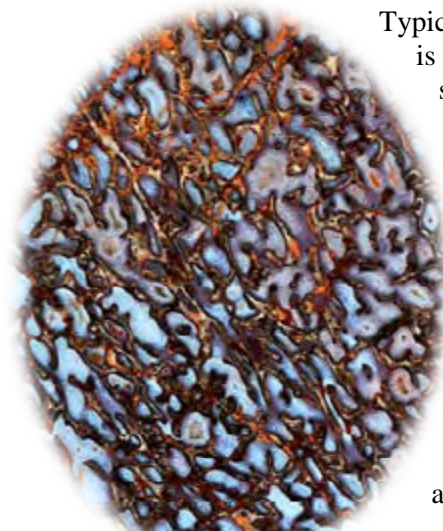


Fossilized wood, showing the grain and a knot.

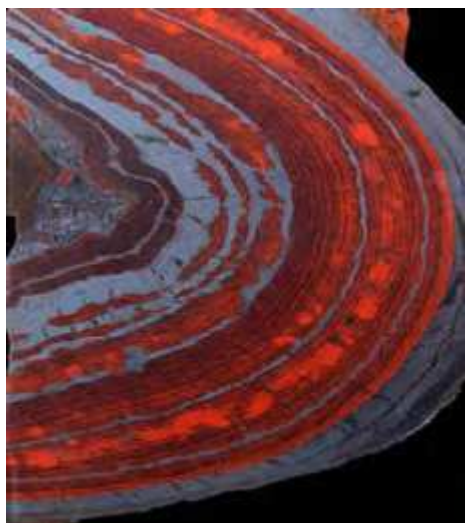
preserved, showing the ring structures as well as bark, knots, feathers, and other features. Fossilized pine cones are even known.

Some of the oldest fossilized materials on Earth, known as banded iron formations, are found on every continent. Although not true fossils, the formations were caused by ancient bacteria in the early oceans that emitted the first free oxygen. The oxygen caused hematite and magnetite to precipitate from the early seas. The process was cyclical, with alternating layers of metal oxides and red jasper precipitating from the seas. Due to the formations' extreme age—up to 2.3 billion years—many of the original layers have been folded and contorted by tectonic processes.

The bacteria that produced the banded iron formations are probably stromatolites, another fossilized material. Stromatolites grew in colonies in ancient



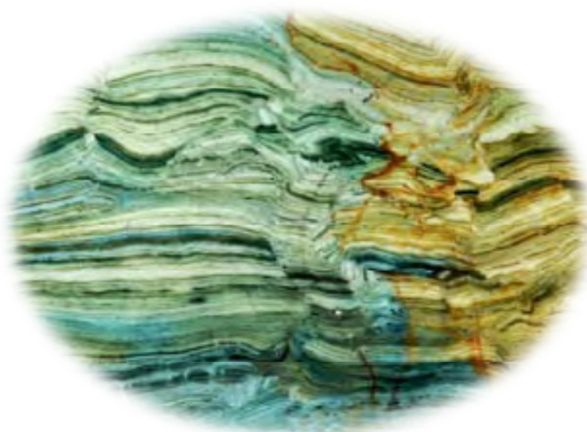
Fossilized dinosaur bone.



Banded iron formation.



Mary Ellen jasper—fossilized stromatolites.



Gary green jasper—fossilized swamp bog.

oceans, and they still exist today along the shores of Australia. Fossilized stromatolites found in Minnesota, often with strikingly different coloring, are called Mary Ellen jasper.

Another interesting fossilized material, called Gary green jasper or larsonite, is thought to be fossilized swamp bog. It is usually made up of swirling patterns and layers, often green in color. The green is from replacement minerals and not the original bog.

Fossilized dinosaur bone is popular with most lapidary artists. It is found in great abundance in Utah and Colorado. Due to poorly crafted legislation, however, it is no longer available for collection.

Fossilized ancient fern often comes from Brazil and South America. The interior detailed structure of the fern is often preserved, making really interesting patterns.

Fossilized coral can be found all over the world.

Fossilized dinosaur excrement is called coprolite. If you don't know what it is, then it's your homework assignment. Look it up on the Web! ↗.



Coprolite.



Fossilized fern stalk from Brazil.



Fossilized coral from Indonesia.



Upcoming Events (of interest in the mid-Atlantic region)

March

7–8: 52nd Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show; Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc.; Delaware Technical & Community College, 400 Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark, DE; Sat 10–6, Sun 11–5; \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children 12–16, under 12 free; <http://www.delminsociety.org>

13: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction; 2414 Westchester Avenue., Oella, MD 21043; Fri 7:30 (viewing at 7); <http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org/>

14–15: 26th Annual Clifton/North Jersey Gem & Mineral Show; North Jersey Mineralogical Society; 775 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ (just off Rt. 3/46); Sat 10–6, Sun 10–4; for more info, see www.nojms.webs.com

15: 2nd Northern Virginia Maker Faire; NOVA Labs and Fairfax County Schools; major STEM event; advance tickets \$15 adults, \$5 students—at door \$20 adults, \$8 students; Reston, VA; <http://makerfairenova.com/>

21–22: Annual show, Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.; Hamilton Heights Elementary School; 1589 Johnson Road, Chambersburg, PA; Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4; \$5, children 12 and under free with paying adult; more information from Mike Mowen, 717-264-9024, mlmo@innernet.net

21–22: 51st Annual Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Show; Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County; Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD; Sat 10–6, Sun 11–5; \$6 for 12 & older, children free, Scouts in uniform free.

28–29: 46th Annual Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Show; Athens Twp. Vol. Fire Hall, 211 Herick Ave, Sayre, PA; Sat 9–5, Sun 10–4; contact Bob McGuire uvbob@epix.net

28–29: 15th Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair 2015 Annual Show; the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society; LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (2 miles from Norristown exit, PA Turnpike); Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4; admission \$5, 11 & un-

der \$1, uniformed Scouts free; information: www.philamineralsociety.org

28–29: 65th Annual EFMLS Convention and Show, sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club; Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC.

April

10–11: Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference; Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area; Springhill Suites Alexandria Marriott, 6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA. Registration at www.dcmicrominerals.org/

11–12: The Annual New York Southern Tier Geology Club Show; Johnson City Senior Citizens Center, 30 Brocton Ave, Johnson City, NY; Sat 9–5, Sun 10–4; contact Tom Ogden, 607-967-8552, tan-djodgen@stny.rr.com

18: Annual Jewelry Gem & Mineral Show; Patuxent Lapidary Guild, Inc.; Earleigh Heights VFC on Rte 2 in Severna Park, MD; 10–5; 10 and over \$1, under 10 free.

May

15–17: InterGem Show; Dulles Convention Center; Chantilly, VA.

18–24: Wildacres; Little Switzerland, NC; \$390 plus materials fee; registration starts Jan 1; information at <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

June

6–7: GemFest 2015; Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N. Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua, NY; www.wcgmc.org

September

26–27: 59th Annual Franklin-Sterling Gem & Mineral Show; Franklin Mineral Museum; Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave, Franklin, NJ; Sat 9–5, Sun 10–4; Outdoor Swap: Sat 7:30–6, Sun 10–5; adults \$7, children 6–16 \$4; <http://spmom3.wix.com/franklin-gem-mineral>

October

23–25: AFMS Convention and Show, hosted by the Southwestern Federation; Austin, TX.



AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____

DESCRIPTION _____

FROM _____

Starting Bid amount: _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME BID

AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____

DESCRIPTION _____

FROM _____

Starting Bid amount: \$2 _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME BID

AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____

DESCRIPTION _____

FROM _____

Starting Bid amount: _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME BID

AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____

DESCRIPTION _____

FROM _____

Starting Bid amount: _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME BID



2015 Club Officers

President: Wayne Sukow

d8olite@fastmail.fm

Vice-President: Kathy Hrechka

kshrechka@msn.com

Secretary: Dave MacLean

dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com

Treasurer: Rick Reiber

mathfun34@yahoo.com

Field Trip Chair: Ted Carver

jtc carve@msn.com

Webmaster: Casper Voogt

webmaster@novamineralclub.org

Communications: Jim Kostka

jkostka@juno.com

Editor: Hutch Brown

hutchbrown41@gmail.com

Show Co-Chair: Tom Taaffe

rockcllctr@aol.com

Show Co-Chair: Jim Kostka

jkostka@juno.com

Greeter/Door Prizes: Ti Meredith

ti.meredith@aol.com

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.novamineralclub>

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, November, 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.*