



The Mineral Newsletter

Meeting: October 28 Time: 7:45–9:00 p.m.

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

Club Member Geology Show and Tell October 28 Meeting

Club members, please bring an interesting rock or mineral to display. Perhaps you have a collecting adventure you'd like to share.

This meeting is designed for members to form fellowship with like-minded rockhounds. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided. Remember to wear your name tags, if you have them.

Originally, we had tentatively scheduled Dr. Michael Wise from the Natural History Museum to speak on pegmatites at our October club meeting. Unfortunately, he has posted a notice that the Smithsonian is closed due to the federal government shutdown and that he will be out of the office and unable to respond to e-mails or phone calls until further notice. ↗



What is this mineral?

*Hutch Brown, the newsletter editor,
inherited it from his parents, who kept few records of the
minerals they had—and he has no background in mineralogy.
Help him out at the next club meeting!*

**Volume 54, No. 8
October 2013**

You can explore our club website:

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

Northern Virginia Mineral Club board members,

The club board will hold a meeting before the October club member auction. Board members will meet on October 28 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 my cell at (703) 407-5393 or kshrechka@msn.com.

President's Thoughts

by Rick Reiber

Our club auction at the September meeting was a big success, raising \$195 for the Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship Fund. A special thanks to Matt Charsky, Ty Meredith, Sheryl Sims, and Tom



Taaffe, along with our regulars Barry Riemer and Kenny Loveless, for stepping up to help out with the auction.

Club members are welcome to attend the board meeting on October 28 at the Olive Garden (see details above). It's a friendly group, and you may want to consider being a part of it in 2014.

Our club meeting on October 28 is an opportunity to show off your finds and tell us about your geology activities over the past year. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an evening socializing with other people who share your interests. ↗

The Annual NVMC Mineral Show—Volunteers Needed!

Jim Kostka, Show Co-Chair

Our annual mineral show is coming up on November 22–24, again at George Mason University. This is *your* show—we need your help!

It's easy to sign up online. Just type or copy and paste the following volunteer spot link into your browser: <http://vols.pt/fmg5iM>. Then enter your e-mail address twice.

You'll see a range of activities you can sign up for. Just click on whatever appeals to you. Even if you can't participate this year, just click "No, thanks." Maybe next year!

Just to let you know, there are four white display cases available for allotment. When they are all taken, that's it. If you have a great display case available, please let Jim Kostka know.

Your rocks are needed for the show! Please give generously! This is a great time to clean out your garage and basement and donate to the club!

In particular, we need moderately sized specimens suitable for the kids' tables, door prizes, and the silent auction.

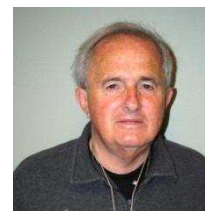
- Kids Mini Mines—the size of a quarter to a half-dollar is best. Detailed information on the specimen is not necessary.
- Door prizes—pretty specimens are best, but relatively small (under 4 inches). Labels are desirable but not required.

- Silent auction—labeled and well-identified specimens are best. Again, the specimens should be moderately small.

If you have something to contribute to the cause, bring it to the show—or contact Tom Taaffe, Jim Kostka, or Rob Robinson. ↗

Previous Meeting Minutes September 23, 2013

by Dave MacLean, Secretary



President Rick Reiber called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. The minutes of the June 2013 meeting were approved as published in the September 2013 Mineral Newsletter.

The treasurer reported that after the bills were paid, NVMC has almost \$24,000. The balance in the Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship Fund is \$21.

Past presidents Wayne Sukow and Barry Riemer were recognized, as were guests Conrad Smith and family, Earl Smith, Sr., Joseph Poranski, and Bob and Caroline Cook.

There were no committee or officers' reports and no new business. The next club meeting was set for Monday, October 28, at 7:45 p.m.

Members were reminded of the NVMC mineral show coming up at George Mason University on November 23–24. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 23, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 24. Setup is planned for the late afternoon and evening of Friday, November 22. Takedown is immediately after the show on Sunday, November 24. Volunteer signups for setup, show operations, and takedown are online. Members received show notices for distribution.

Wayne Sukow received an award for his article on copper in agates from Houghton and Keweenaw Counties in Upper Michigan.

It was noted that a club member from the District of Columbia needs a ride to NVMC meetings.

The meeting adjourned, and the fall NVMC auction followed.

↗

NVMC Member Auction September 2013

Thanks to Sheryl Sims for photographing the event!
Here are just some of her photos.



Those #^&* Rocks!

Editor's note: The piece is adapted from "Beautiful Mineral Stories: Stories of Rockhounds—Tales of Bravery, Delight, and Foolishness," a Website maintained by John Nash of Edina, MN, who posts submissions at <http://beautifulminerals.com/Stories.html>.

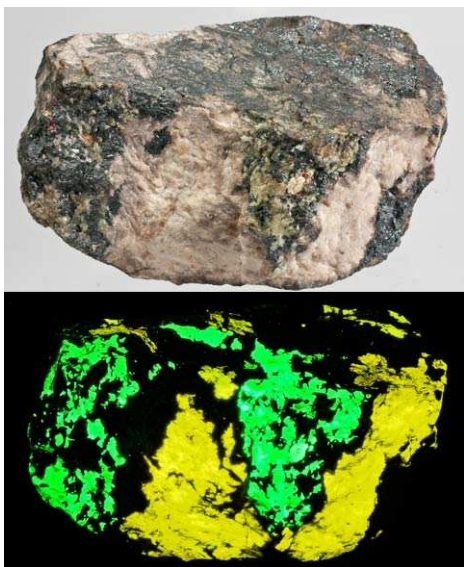
Do you have a story to share? Send it to the newsletter editor at hutchbrown41@gmail.com, and it will appear—anonously, if you choose—in the next issue!

I once found 30 to 40 old mine run specimens from Franklin, NJ, on the side of a drugstore parking lot in Union, NJ, quite far from Franklin!

I was 16 at the time and had a job sweeping the parking lot. I piled the specimens in my car, and I still have them, great esperite, barite, phosphorescent willemite, etc.

I found out some time later that a big rock collector lived in the neighborhood. I got to see his collection, which truly was huge. On my way out, I happened to see his wife in the side yard. I commented that her husband and she certainly had an incredible mineral collection!

His wife stormed and scowled (the collector wasn't around, having stayed in the house) and told me she got so disgusted with how he'd filled the house and garage up with the DAMN ROCKS that she'd started throwing them over the fence—into the drugstore parking lot!



Esperite from New Jersey.

In order to help the couple avoid further marital strife (one can only imagine what revelation of the woman's activities would have done to the man's heart as well as his marriage), I kept my mouth shut about my new Franklin collection! ➤

The 2013 AFMS Meeting

by Matt Charsky



I had the pleasure of attending the 66th Annual American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Convention on September 18–22 in Jacksonville, FL. The host club, the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (JGMS), held its 25th Annual Show and Sale, with the theme "Heavens and Earth."

Members of JGMS were wonderful AFMS hosts, supplying home-baked goodies and complimentary beverages at all meetings. Convention meetings, the Awards Banquet, and the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast were held at the Jacksonville Marriott; the show set up at the Morocco Temple.

The mineral show had educational exhibits and speakers from all over the country, a real-life NASA moon rock, lectures on near-Earth bodies and meteorites, and continuous lapidary and jewelry demonstrations. The weather canceled the setup of telescopes for star gazing and a picnic on the beach, but the cookout was still great. The field trip was to a local beach for collecting sharks' teeth; organizers promoted the event by saying that the only way you don't find sharks' teeth is not getting out of the car.

It's always interesting to see dealers from other parts of the country. Florida was well represented with fossils and opalized shells. There were also plenty of mineral and jewelry booths, with over 40 dealers.

At the Awards Banquet, I had the privilege of accepting the position as AFMS First Vice-President beginning on November 1. If you have any questions about the AFMS, just let me know. The outgoing President is Don Monroe from the Southeast Federation and the incoming President is Richard Jaeger from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

Since the AFMS scholarship program began, it has benefited 589 students attending 133 universities and colleges. The total funds paid out now totals over \$1.6 million! This year, AFMS made \$44,000 in

payment of \$4,000 each to 11 students selected by each participating regional federation.

The NVMC had an entry in the AFMS Bulletin Contest, and Dave MacLean received an Honorable Mention for his article “Move Over Hope Diamond.” Dave’s article was previously a trophy winner in the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies’ Bulletin Editors’ Contest. Congratulations, Dave!

The 2014 AFMS Convention is scheduled to be held in Tulsa, OK, on July 9–13. We will know more details about the convention as the date draws closer. I will be available at the club’s October meeting to answer any questions.

Thanks to NVMC for allowing me to represent the club at the AFMS annual meeting and the Editors’ and Webmaster Breakfast—and keep those award-winning articles coming! ➤



Dave MacLean displaying his award in the AFMS Bulletin Contest for his article “Move Over Hope Diamond.”

The 2013 EFMLS Convention

by Barry Riemer



The Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) consists of clubs primarily along the East Coast. This year’s convention was sponsored by the Island Rock Hounds and Suffolk Gem and Mineral Clubs. It was held in Hauppauge, Long Island, NY, at the Sheraton Long Island. The convention ran from May 31 through June 2.

The convention started with a Cracker Barrel, an informal time when the clubs’ attendees get a chance to talk and casually bring up any issues about the federation and how it works. Suggestions included:

- club officers having a written set of goals;
- getting club members better acquainted with what the federation has to offer;
- sending the EFMLS newsletter to e-mail editors;
- club bulletin editors dedicating part of their newsletters to American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS) and EFMLS news; and
- using Facebook to send federation and other club news.

The next meeting, on Friday evening, was devoted to federation business. The regional vice-presidents gave oral or written reports to club representatives, including federation budgets and other matters.

On Saturday morning, the clubs sponsoring the event opened their show in the Sheraton’s ballroom and two smaller rooms. The show focused on gems, minerals, fossils, and beads. Some of the club displays were on marine fossils, mostly from the southern side of the island, which faces the Atlantic Ocean. The northern section faces Long Island Sound and is more pebbly, probably due to the last glacial movement.

There were 34 dealers at the show and 14 special groups. The latter were from the local rock clubs and the New York Mineralogical Society, which is the oldest club in the federation. There was a large focus on club educational exhibits, including a mineral Olympiad (mineral identification) and a water table where children could sift through some minerals. The federation also sold raffle tickets to benefit the Eastern Foundation Fund. The interest from this fund is used to provide scholarships to two graduate students

in the EFMLS area. Several other local clubs sold raffle tickets, too.

During the show, there were four lectures. On Saturday, June 1, the lectures were titled “Rock, Sand and Ice: 450 Million Years of Geologic History on Long Island” and “Jurassic Central Park: Dinosaurs in the History of New York.” Two more lectures followed on Sunday: “Properties of Minerals” and “Common Fossils of New York State.”

On Saturday evening, there was an EFMLS Awards Banquet. Lots of awards were made to local clubs for participating in the show. Some clubs were awarded a dollar-for-dollar match for providing money for the Eastern Foundation Fund.

In addition, the awardees of the scholarship were present, and each presented short slide programs. Joe Tamborski’s presentation was titled “Groundwater Discharge in Suffolk County, N.Y.,” Gloria Gil’s was on circular patterns formed from meteorite dust across the mid-Atlantic. The awards were presented by Dr. Gilbert Hansen of SUNY Stonybrook. ↗

I Have a Dream, Too!

by Sheryl Sims

As we all know, Martin Luther King had a dream; and Capt. Nelson dreamed of Jeannie (with the light brown hair).

Well, I have a dream, too! My dream is that every club in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) sends at least one person to their regional or national AFMS meeting. Wouldn’t that be great?

Our clubs are all different. It’s wonderful that each has its own distinct personality and culture. While some are strictly interested in learning about minerals, others possess a hefty interest in field trips. Still other clubs have a passion for nurturing young rockhounds, and others express their interests more along the lapidary lines.

It’s all good! Although our clubs may incline one way or another, we all belong to the AFMS. Whether we live in the north, south, east, or west, we fall under the same mineralogical society umbrella. As a result, we should not hesitate to show our support for our regional federations.



As a member of a couple of east coast mineral clubs, I belong to the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMLS). Despite the fact that I have no background in the fields of geology or mineralogy, I dreamed of attending a federation conference, and I got the chance to attend my first EFMLS conference last year.

What a wonderful experience! I had the opportunity to meet almost all of the federation officers, which was a delight. I’d seen their pictures in the federation newsletter and read articles concerning various mineralogical and federation concerns. Attending the conference was the icing on the cake!

In addition, I had a chance to meet and connect with other club members from all over the region. Besides participating in the federation business meeting, attending the bulletin editors’ breakfast, going on special field trips, and enjoying a fabulous mineral show, I made lasting friendships.

As a result of my new connections, I enjoy exchanging newsletter bulletins/articles and other items with members of other clubs. I’ve also been exposed to professionals and even nonprofessionals with expertise in the mineral and geology world, opportunities I would never have had had I not joined a mineral club and attended a federation conference. It didn’t matter that I was a novice. People were friendly, welcoming, and ready to share their knowledge and experiences.

Not all clubs realize the importance of sending representatives to federation conferences, but some go so far as to support their participation financially. That is how I was able to attend, and it was a fantastic sign of club support for both me and EFMLS.

No matter how you get there, I guarantee that if you attend a federation meeting you will feel a greater connection with other clubs and have an increased desire to support the federation. A little support from us would go such a long way toward meeting federation goals. Sadly, many clubs miss out on the opportunity.

Federation conference participation is also a way for us to thank those who have so graciously and unselfishly served as officers for the work that they do on our behalf. A lot of time and effort go into serving as an officer. The same is true of those who organize conferences and related activities.

Please make it a goal this year to send one or two of your club members to your federation's conference. It will make the articles you read and the topics you hear discussed at your club meetings so much more meaningful. Believe me, it will be an experience that you will neither forget nor regret!

Share the dream and make it happen! ➤

Fluorescent Mineral Display at James Madison University

by Mary Loose Deviney

Editor's note: The article is adapted from UV Waves (newsletter of The Fluorescent Mineral Society), July–August 2013, pp. 5–6.

Each year, Dr. Lance Kearns at James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg, VA, opens his geology lab to gem and mineral societies to view mineral specimens, both theirs and the lab's, with microscopes, ramen spectroscopes, x-ray diffractometers, ultraviolet lamps, and other equipment. I usually go to the lab and use the equipment to identify an unknown mineral or watch as discoveries are made of new minerals in specific locales. The difference this year was my specific interest in the ultraviolet lamps on the mineral case containing the fluorescent minerals.

This year, I spent my time in the fluorescent mineral drawers looking at specimens, much as I had watched geologist Dave Woolley look at them for years. But this year, the same rocks seemed special; as a board member of the Fluorescent Mineral Society, the fluorescent minerals have piqued my interest even more.

JMU has a Mineral Museum that houses minerals from across the state and around the world. Virginia does have some minerals that fluoresce, but its geology is not really known for its fluorescent minerals. Hopefully, this will change as we begin to spotlight fluorescent Virginia minerals.

For years, Lance has taken up a "collection" for his planned mineral museum. A 30-year passion to open a mineral museum came to fruition for Lance in 2005. Each year, there is something new to see. The museum's home is in a secure room provided by the university. The minerals and cases have been made a reality due to gifts from gem and mineral societies

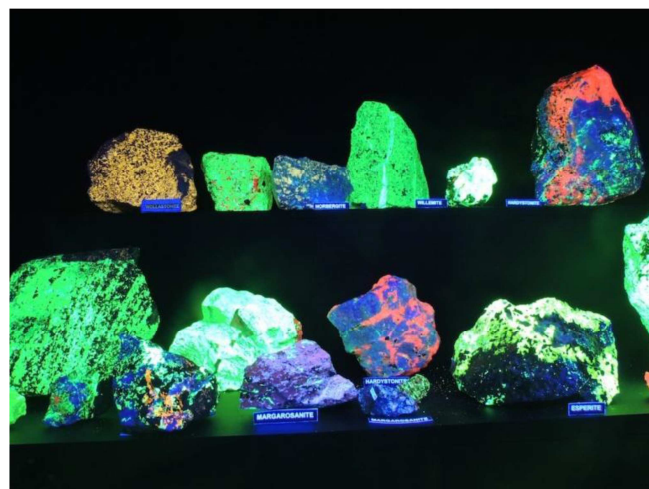


and from individuals who believed in his passion for rocks and minerals.

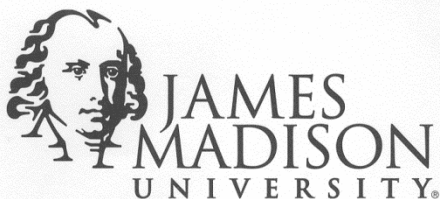
The museum has a Systematic Collection arranged by chemistry and structure, a Locality Collection from Elmwood, TN, and Virginia, and a Fluorescent Mineral Display from Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. The room is about 600 square feet in size, with 16 display cases.

For those in our hobby, one of the most exciting displays is in the ultraviolet display room, with minerals from Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. Although the minerals are constantly under ultraviolet lights, there is also a white light to give an idea of what a mineral normally looks like. I invite all Glow-Enthusiasts to the JMU Mineral Museum to see the collection and view the beautifully glowing minerals.

The museum is located at 395 S. High Street, Harrisonburg, VA, on the campus of JMU's Geology and Environmental Science Department in Memorial Hall, near entrance E (on the Grace Street side of the building). The museum is open to the public from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Fluorescent minerals on display at JMU.



No. Virginia Mineral Club
P.O. Box 10085
Manassas, VA. 20108

May 1, 2013

Dear Club Members;

I am writing to thank you for the \$400.00 donation to support our mineralogy program and mineralogical field trips for our students. We have just returned from a glacial geology field trip to the Niagara Falls region and a 4 day mineral symposium at Rochester, New York. At the symposium we attended long lectures and short technical lectures, examined the many cases in the "display room", and spent many hours on the dealer floor looking at and learning about minerals.

I was able to use the money you donated to buy several good quality study specimens to be used in the mineral lab. They were:

- Stilbite – India
- Aquamarine XI. – Pakistan
- Zincite/Franklinite – Franklin, New Jersey
- Hemimorphite – Mexico
- Pyrrhotite – Russia

With the money left over, I bought the students their lunch one day.

Again, my sincere thanks for your support of our program and our geology students.

Dr. Lance E. Kearns
Professor of Geology

Eosphorite

by Bob Farrar

Editor's note: The Maryland Geological Society has a "mineral of the month," and for September 2013 it was eosphorite. This description is adapted from the society's newsletter, Rostrum, September 2013, p. 3.

Eosphorite is not a particularly common mineral, nor is it of much economic or gemological importance. However, it is an interesting mineral that deserves the attention of collectors.

Eosphorite, a member of the phosphate group, is a phosphate of iron, manganese, and aluminum with the formula $(\text{Mn, Fe})\text{Al}(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. The manganese predominates over iron; when iron predominates, the mineral is childrenite.

Eosphorite crystallizes in the orthorhombic system. Crystals are usually small but on rare occasions can be several inches long. They are typically flattened and rectangular in shape and are commonly found as subparallel bundles or spherical masses of radiating needles.

Eosphorite is usually brown or orangish brown, but it can be pink, yellow, black, or colorless. Other physical properties include a hardness of 5, a specific gravity of 3.1, and front pinacoid cleavage.

The appearance and color of eosphorite usually distinguish it from other minerals in pegmatites, where it typically occurs. Eosphorite is a secondary mineral in phosphate-rich granitic pegmatites. It typically forms in the later stages of pegmatite development through the alteration of primary phosphate minerals. Accordingly, eosphorite crystals are often found on top of other crystals in pegmatite cavities.

Eosphorite is perhaps best developed in the pegmatites of Brazil, where it is found in numerous localities in Minas Gerais. The João Modesto Mine has yielded exceptional crystals up to 19 cm in size, and the Poço D'Anta Mine near Itinga has recently produced numerous specimens. Crystals ranging from 2 to 3 cm in size have been found at Parelhas, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte. Beyond Brazil, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan have noteworthy localities.

In the United States, the most important localities of eosphorite are in New England. Its type locality is Branchville, CT, but it is best developed in Maine, particularly in the pegmatites of Plumbago Mountain,



Eosphorite from Mendes Pimentel, Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil. (Photo: Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com—CC-BY-SA-3.0.)

near Newry. Other New England localities include Rumford, ME, and the Palermo Mine in North Groton, NH. A well-known locality outside of New England is the Foote Mine, at Kings Mountain, NC.

Eosphorite may not be as familiar to collectors as other minerals, but it is worth learning more about. It can sometimes be cut into gemstones, mostly for collectors of unusual gems—not for the commercial market.

Although not especially abundant, eosphorite is common enough that modest specimens can be had for a reasonable price. It makes an interesting addition to any mineral collection. ↗

An Armchair Visit to the “World’s Oldest Mine”—or Is It?

by Andy Thompson

Editor's note: The article is adapted from The Mineral Minutes (newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia), October 2013, pp. 3–5.

Here's a question for mineral experts and amateurs with a special interest in mining. Where is the world's oldest mine and what resource did people discover there?

Mineral collectors and armchair anthropologists can readily imagine that early humans would risk digging underground for whatever resources that met their needs. But what would those needs be? Flint for making hunting implements and tools? Metals that could hold a sharp edge? Salt for flavoring and preserving food?

An Austrian Salt Mine

Having no expertise in the history of mining, I wondered whether two claims I'd heard had any validity. Some friends had returned from an 8-day cruise on the Danube River, traveling from Budapest, Hungary, to Passau, Germany.

The Danube, Europe's second longest river (after the Volga in Russia), originates in the Black Forest of Germany and flows southeast through four European capitals (Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, and Belgrade) before finally emptying into the Black Sea in Romania.

On their trip, my friends visited the town of Salzburg, Austria, a 2-hour bus ride south of the Danube. They saw the house of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, walked the enchanted streets, and heard the local lore.

Their tour guide told them about the regional importance of salt mining, which gave the city and its river their names (Salzburg and Salzach, each derived from the German word *Salz*, or salt). The tiny lakeside town of Hallstatt, according to local lore, has the oldest mine in the world—or perhaps just the oldest salt mine, dating to about 5,500 BC.

I decided to investigate these claims.

Salt in the European Heartland

For thousands of years, the practical value of salt for preserving meat and fish made it a highly sought-after resource available primarily to royalty, rich households, and armies on the move. Salt was even used as a form of currency. The English language bears witness to the connection between salt and money: for example, “salary” refers to compensation for labor. Salt's importance for food, linguists tell us, was the origin of the word “salad,” and a valuable worker is “worth his salt” (a phrase originally used in connection with buying slaves).

The geology of the Austrian salt mines is interesting. About 40 million years ago, much of Europe was at the bottom of an inland saltwater sea. By about 5 mil-

lion years ago, the African continent's collision with the Eurasian plate had lifted the submerged part of Europe above water. The earlier sea bottom became part of the central European landscape and its various mountain chains, making salt depositions in the ancient sea available for mining.

As a result, a stretch of land near Salzburg, known for its recreational lakes and mountains, is called *Salzkammergut*, which literally means “salt chamber estate” or “property” or perhaps “resource.” The name reflects the financial wealth that the salt mines provided to the Habsburg Monarchy from the 13th to the 18th centuries.

In modern times, as salt has become more plentiful, its cost has gone down. The discovery of additional mines, the rise of inexpensive transportation systems, the development of evaporation pond recovery processes, and the advent of modern refrigeration all contributed.



Hallstatt, Austria (above), in the heart of Austria's salt mining country; entrance to the Hallstatt mine (below).

Africa's Claim to Fame

So is the Hallstatt mine in Austria really the oldest mine in the world? The oldest documented mine, whether for salt or anything else, seems to be the Lion Cave in the southern African nation of Swaziland. Radiocarbon dating of tools found in the mine indicate that the site was in use 43,000 years ago to mine iron-rich hematite for its red ochre.

The geologists exploring the cave named it after one of their favorite brands of beer, Lion ale. Their sober conclusion, however, was that this hematite mine was not developed to obtain iron for tool making. Its particular form of hematite, called specularite, has a silvery appearance because it includes tiny flakes of mica. It also has a greasy feel, making it perfect for body painting for ceremonial rituals of life and burials.

Anthropologists tell us that painting the body with the blood of a hunting kill celebrated life. Early humans painted themselves with red ochre as a way of empowering themselves with the “blood of the Earth.” For millennia, specularite was sought as a prized cosmetic. Some Aboriginal peoples of Australia still use red ochre for ceremonial coloring of body and hair.

Although the Lion Cave in Africa seems to be the oldest and best documented mine, research continues.



Hematite bearing red ochre, mined for millennia for ceremonial use (bright points are light reflections).

Archeologists have found mines in Hungary, not far from the Danube River, where Neanderthals mined chert for flint tools and weapons about 30,000 years ago. But it makes sense that the oldest mines would have been on the continent where humans are thought to have originated, namely Africa.

Oldest Salt Mine in the World?

So is the Hallstatt mine in Austria the oldest *salt* mine in the world?

Researchers today continue to discover ancient mines and adjust their dates of origin. At this point, historians and archeologists award the “oldest salt mine” honor to the Duzdagi salt mine in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is a small nation on the Caspian Sea, bordering on Iran to the south. A joint French/Azerbaijani archeological team has spent over 10 years documenting the Duzdagi mine's use as far back as



Duzdagi salt mine site in Azerbaijan (above) and ancient tools discovered there (below).

the 4th millennium BC, several thousand years before the Hallstatt mine. (Austrian lore and pride notwithstanding, the Hallstatt site is apparently not as old as sometimes claimed.)

In the Duzdagi salt mine, the researchers recovered pottery dating from the 2nd millennium BC, along with hard-rock dolerite and basalt hammers that were much older.

You can find more information at the following Web-sites:

- http://www.academia.edu/3202010/Archaeological_investigations_on_the_salt_mine_of_Duzdagi_Nakhchivan_Azerbaijan
- <http://www.s8int.com/sophis20.html>
- <http://www.monacorarecoins.com/rare-coin-articles/mining-history-lion-cave/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hematite.jpg> ➤

Call for Club Quartermaster—Club Storage/Club Property

by Jim Kostka, Show Co-Chair

By condensing the amount of club property, we have gone from the need for a 10-foot storage unit to needing just a 5-foot storage unit, saving about \$48 per month.

However, by having a club member volunteer to be Club Quartermaster/Property Manager, we can avoid using commercial storage space and save about \$64 per month. As Club Quartermaster, you would provide space in your home, basement, garage, or backyard shed. You could even furnish space in your backyard for a club-purchased shed.

However, you must live relatively close to the site of our annual NVMC Mineral Show, the George Mason University campus. Although not a requirement, it would be ideal if you live no less than 10 miles away. ➤

Upcoming Mineral Shows in the Mid-Atlantic Region

October

19–20 October

40th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale, organized by Kanawha Rock and Gem Club

South Charleston, WV

South Charleston Community Center (Jefferson Road)

26 October

South Penn Rock Swap, organized by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club and the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club

Arendtsville, PA (near Gettysburg, PA)

South Mountain Fairgrounds (1.5 miles west of Arendtsville on Route 234)

GPS address: 615 Narrows Road, Biglerville, Pennsylvania

26 October

Ultraviolation: 24th Annual Fluorescent-only Mineral Show/Swap/Sale (“If your rocks don’t glow, you’re at the wrong show”), organized by the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County

Fairless Hills, PA

First United Methodist Church (840 Trenton Road)

November

2–3 November

Exton, PA –
44th Annual Gemarama 2013: “Shades of Red,” sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society

Exton, PA

The School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30,
1/2 mile west of Frazer Rte. 30, exit off Rte. 202

9 November

The 22nd Annual Richmond Gem and Mineral Society Rock Sale and Swap

Richmond, VA

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (setup at 7 a.m.)

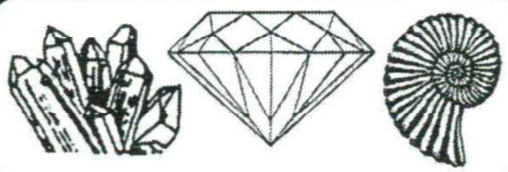
Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Road

23–24 November

22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, organized by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club
Fairfax, VA
The HUB Ballroom, George Mason University
4400 University Drive, Parking Lot A

29 November to December 1

34th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Salem, VA
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd.
Admission \$4.50, good for all 3 days
Children under 16 admitted FREE!



22nd Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

Presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc.

www.novamineralclub.org

Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: **November 23 & 24, 2013**

Place: **The Hub Ballroom (Student Union II Building)
George Mason University Campus
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA**

Hours: **Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm**

Admission: **Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3
Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,
and GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE.**

\$1 OFF

**1 Adult admission
with this card**

**Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes. Mini-mines for
children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.
Over 20 Dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals and Gems for sale.**

*Use Parking lot A, enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane.
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle to Mineral Show*



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.novamineralclub>

2013 Club Officers

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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.*