



THE  
NORTHERN  
VIRGINIA

MINERAL CLUB  
INC

*Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*



# The Mineral Newsletter

**Meeting: September 23    Time: 7:30–10:00 p.m.**  
**Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204**

## Club Member Auction Coming Up September 23 Meeting

*by Kathy Hrechka, Vice President*



Our September 23 club meeting will get off to a lively start with our Club Member Auction! Everyone wins when you upgrade your collection by selling some pieces—and someone else upgrades theirs by buying them.

Proceeds from the auction are deposited into the Fred 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.

Don't hesitate to bring a guest or invite nonmembers! Although only current 2013 club members are allowed to sell, the meeting and auction are open to all.

Auctioneers, accountants, and runners are volunteers—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\*\***

**Volume 54, No. 7  
September 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 September club member auction. Board members will meet on September 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 my cell at (703) 407-5393 or [ksrechka@msn.com](mailto:ksrechka@msn.com).

- 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%** 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 **\$2** on any item.
- Bids from **\$2 to \$20** increase by **\$2**; 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. ➤

## President's Thoughts

by Rick Reiber

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## Previous Meeting Minutes June 24, 2013

by Dave MacLean, Secretary

President Rick Reiber called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The minutes of the May 2013 meeting were approved as published in the June 2013 newsletter.

### Recognitions

Barry Remer was recognized for his service as past club president. Guests included Rom McCurdy, Wendy Kronenberg, Pat Julian, and Tim Ford.

The September 2013 club meeting will coincide with the fall club auction.

Several club members were recognized for articles submitted in March 2013 for a contest held by the EFMLS bulleting editors. Honorable mentions went to Kathy Hrechka, Patricia Flavin, and Joe Marty; an award went to David MacLean.

The club approved service awards of \$200 to Julia Hrechka and \$400 service to Alec Brenner. Julia will

major in English at Mount St. Mary's College, and Alec will major in geology and Earth sciences at Cal Tech.

Door prize winners included Gerry Cox, Kathy Hrechka, Julia Hrechka, John Kress, Jim Kostka, David MacLean, and Bob Simonoff.

## Upcoming Events

Summer field trips were announced:

- 1 June: National Limestone Quarry in Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA;
- 8 June: Garrisonville Quarry;
- 15 June: fossil collecting in West Virginia;
- 17 August: a geology walking tour with a geologist through Thoroughfare Gap, VA.

The annual club mineral show will be held at George Mason University on Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and on Sunday, November 24 from 10 a.m. 5 p.m. Setup will be on the evening of Friday, November 22, with takedown immediately after the show on Sunday. Volunteer signups for setup, show operations, and takedown will be on line. Show notices were passed out for members to distribute.

## Geology in the News

Pittsylvania County, VA, has the largest uranium deposit in the world. Mining the uranium is still under discussion. Since the 1980s, uranium mining has been unlawful in Virginia.

A pegmatite workshop in Maine was discussed.

## Presentation: "Photography of Minerals"

Mr. Bob Siminoff gave a presentation on mineral photography. Photographers must pay attention to such camera features as the eyepiece (what you see is what is in photo), aperture (the tradeoff is amount of light versus depth of field), shutter speed (lower speed requires less light, but the photo might be blurry), and film speed (lower speed renders more accurate colors and better depth of field, but more light is needed). Getting the best photos means optimizing these parameters.

Photos can have flaws such as whiteout due to reflection, which can be corrected by lighting from another angle. Other problems include poor depth of field (a bigger problem at higher magnification), "noise" arising

ing from long exposure times, diffraction rainbows, and lens flare from nonimage light.

Lighting is critical. Fluorescent light requires longer exposures and wider apertures. The color spectrum of the light is important. Sources include sunlight, fluorescent light, LEDs, and CFLs.

For photos of minerals requiring magnification, optimizing magnification and light and use of stacking programs are necessary.

Photography equipment includes digital cameras, lens extenders, stacking programs, etc. A lens extender causes slight blurring. Stacking programs available include Adobe, Photoshop, and Helicon.

Photos should show what the eye sees. Minerals can appear different, depending on orientation, sharpness, and color match.

The goal of photography is key, whether it is art, sales promotion, or scientific communication. Honest representation of the mineral is essential.

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## Thoroughfare Gap: Field Trip Report

by Mary Loose DeViney

A field trip took place on August 17 to Thoroughfare Gap, near Hay Market, VA. About 22 people joined in, including geology students and professors from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).

The day began at the Thoroughfare Gap Post Office, where Callan Bentley, a geology professor at NVCC, discussed the geology of the water gap through the Bull Run Mountains known as Thoroughfare Gap.

Professor Bentley noted that the gap is on the eastern fringe of the Blue Ridge Province, bordering on the Piedmont Province. Its geology was shaped by tectonic events, beginning with the breakup of Rodinia, known as the Post-Grenville Rifting, creating the Catoctin Flood basalt. After metamorphosing, the basalt became what is known today as the Catoctin greenstone.

As Rodinia broke up, the area of the gap formed the shoreline of the Iapatus Ocean, the proto-Atlantic.



*Weverton quartzite at Thoroughfare Gap.*

During the early Cambrian Period, sediments were deposited that became the Weverton and Harpers formations; we saw both on the field trip. Eventually, the Iapatus Ocean closed during the Appalachian Orogeny, forming Pangaea.

About 210 million years ago, Pangaea began to pull apart; Africa split away from America, forming the Atlantic Ocean that we know today. The rifting left the Culpeper Rift Basin, a failed rift. Deposits in the basin formed the Waterfall conglomerate, which we saw as well. You can find more information posted at <http://timecapsuleearth.wordpress.com/2012/04/20/thoroughfare-gap/>

Our final stop on the field trip was at the Chapman (Beverly) Mill, built in 1742 from Weverton quartzite. You can see flagstone features in the walls of the structure; the flat surfaces allowed the blocks to be stacked on each other. You can find more information posted at <http://chapmansmill.org/> ↗



## Mineral Display for Teachers

by Barry Remer

On August 27, NVMC members Sue Marcus and Barry Remer set up a table of rocks and minerals at the orientation meeting for Fairfax County's program to provide daycare for children before and after school.

Called SACC (School Age Child Care), the program serves county residents who need supervision for their school-age children when they are working. SACC employs 800 teachers and supervisors; the orientation meeting was held at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel in Herndon, VA.

In order to entice the teachers to learn more about minerals, we put several large and showy specimens of crystals and some Chesapeake Bay fossils on display. Each teacher who came up to the display received a mineral specimen to take home. They also received a flyer for our November NVMC Mineral Show at George Mason University. ↗



Barry Remer staffing the mineral display at the SACC orientation meeting.

## Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarships Awarded to Alec Brenner and Julia Hrechka

by Kathy Hrechka

On June 24, the Northern Virginia Mineral Club awarded scholarships named in honor of Fred Schaefermeyer to two students who show outstanding promise, Alec Brenner and Julia



Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship winners Alec Brenner and Julia Hrechka, shown with NVMC Vice President Julia Hrechka. Photo: Courtesy of Sara Brenner.

Hrechka. Each wrote a letter of gratitude, reprinted below. ↗

### Alec's Letter of Gratitude:

Fred Schaefermeyer and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club,

I am beyond thankful for your offer of a 2013–14 Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship, which I gladly accept. Such a generous award is a much-appreciated contribution to my future education and research in the geosciences.

At an early age, I got hooked on geology by hunting for crystals in my school's gravel parking lot.

Today, geology continues to appeal to my rockhounding side, as well as my academic and research interests. To be sure, I love Earth sciences not only be-



Alec Brenner, wearing the Science Olympiad Medal.

cause they are an aggregate of so many other natural sciences—physics, chemistry, biology, and astronomy, to name a few—but also because they are at the roots of so many of today's needs and scientific challenges—energy and energy independence, climate change, mineral resources, water supplies, and disaster mitigation represent just a few of the issues that sciences for their solutions. As

such, I feel especially honored and privileged to receive a scholarship to work in such an exciting and far-reaching field.

As I eagerly anticipate beginning my freshman year at the California Institute of Technology this fall, I also contemplate what your scholarship will allow me to accomplish there. I intend to earn a degree within Caltech's Geological and Planetary Sciences Department, where I will continue to pursue academics, field experience, and research to supplement my life-long fascination with the geosciences. Likely focuses for my studies include planetary and exoplanetary geophysics, paleoclimate research, and field geology.

Once again, your scholarship represents a resource of great value to my continued studies, and I cannot adequately express my gratitude for it. My deepest appreciation goes out to you!

Sincerely, Alec Brenner

*Class of 2017, California Institute of Technology  
Geological and Planetary Sciences Department*

### **Julia's Letter of Gratitude:**

Dear Fred Schaefermeyer and the Members of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club,

Thank you very much for the Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship. I appreciate it and will put it toward textbooks in college.

I'm glad I was able to help at the "kids' table" during many annual mineral club shows. I remember creating a junior exhibit during fifth grade. I also challenged myself by editing and publishing *The Mineral Newsletter* in 2012.



*Julia and Alec helping out at Kids Mini Mines at the annual NVMC Mineral Show.*



*Julia's junior exhibit while in grade 5. Photo: Courtesy of Kathy Hrechka.*

I will definitely enjoy the freedoms of going to college and cannot wait to figure out what direction my life will take me in the future. In the fall, I will be attending Mount St. Mary's University. I intend to study English and may minor in Business; but college will be the time where I figure out exactly what I want to do.

Thank you again, Julia Hrechka

*Class of 2017, Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD, English Major*

### **Fred Schaefermeyer: The Man Behind the Scholarship Fund**

*by Kathy Hrechka, Vice President*



This past summer, I had the pleasure of visiting my mineral mentor, Fred Schaefermeyer, and his companion Muriel in Denver, CO. It was nice to see Fred and reminisce about the past 20 years of enjoying geology.

Fred has been an active member of our mineral club since 1982. He retired from the Pentagon and 3M, only to enroll in various geology courses, giving him something new to do.

Fred held many mineral club offices. He was president of our club in 1988 and editor of *The Mineral Newsletter* from 1983 to 1986. He was president of the Eastern Federation in 1989–1990 after holding all



other offices at the federation. He was later elected president of the American Federation in 1994–95, again after holding each of the other offices.

Fred's competitive nature won him numerous trophies for mineral competition show cases. He created slide programs, gave lectures, and was eventually awarded the Eastern Citation Award in 1995. On behalf of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Fred was awarded the Each One Teach One Award in 1996.

After his wife Gerry passed, Fred rekindled his friendship with Muriel in Colorado, where he originally grew up. Today, he still enjoys our newsletter, which Muriel reads it to him each month. At age 94, he remains active in their church and is a member of the local mineral club in Denver.

After all Fred has taught me about the mineral world, I give him credit for my excitement about learning the periodic table, necessary for mineral identification. I can only look forward to my next visit! ➤



## **The Annual NVMC Mineral Show—Volunteers Needed!**

*Jim Kostka, Show Co-Chair*

Our annual mineral show is coming up on November 22–24. This is *your* show—we need your help!

It's easy to sign up online. Just type or copy and paste the following 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.

## 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.

However, by having a club member volunteer to be Club Quartermaster/Property Manager, we can avoid using commercial storage space and save about \$48 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.

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## 2012 EFMLS Bulletin Editor's Advisory Committee Awards

### Original/Non-Technical Articles:

- "Move Over Hope Diamond,"  
by **Dave MacLean**—EFMLS Trophy
- "Fossil Hunt, Calvert Co., MD,"  
by **Patricia Flavin**—Honorable Mention
- "Red Gold and Polished Agates: Upper Michigan's Hidden Treasures,"  
by **Wayne Sukow**—Honorable Mention



Dave MacLean, displaying EFMLS Trophy in the Original/Non-Technical Articles category.







## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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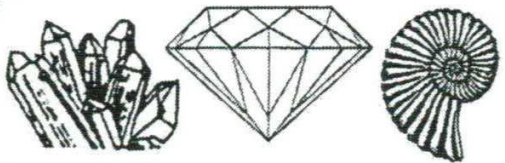
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## 22nd Annual **GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW**

Presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc.

[www.novamineralclub.org](http://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*



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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.novamineralclub>

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## 2013 Club Officers

President: Rick Reiber  
mathfun34@yahoo.com  
Vice-President: Kathy Hrechka  
kshrechka@msn.com  
Secretary: Dave MacLean  
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Treasurer: Kenny Loveless  
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All American Club: Sheryl Sims  
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Greeter/Door Prizes:  
Ty Meredith  
twhtknig@aol.com  
Refreshments: Karen Lewis

## The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your newsletter articles to:

[news.nvmc@gmail.com](mailto: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.*