

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB

SPECIAL REPORT - OCTOBER 2012

EFMLS ANNUAL MEETING

September 14-16, 2012

By Sheryl E. Sims

(Photos unless otherwise indicated, by S. Sims)

NVMC Delegates: Rick Rieber & Sheryl Sims

As the club's delegates, I wanted to report back on the events of last week's EFMLS convention. I hope that you enjoy this report and will make plans to attend next year's convention. The Central PA Rock & Mineral Club did an excellent job hosting the event. Not only was everyone welcoming and friendly, but it was a great opportunity to meet our federation officers as well as rockhounds from all over! EFMLS officers mentioned wanting increased



participation and communication from federation clubs. Please read the federation newsletters, continue to make nominations for awards and competitions, and support the federation financially. Our EFMLS and AFMS officers are working hard for us. They want us to increase youth membership and educational articles/activities.

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies ("EFMLS") held its 47th Annual Mineral and Jewelry Show, and EFMLS convention on September 14-16, 2012, in Harrisburg, PA (Radisson Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, PA). Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc., (David Brandon, President), clubs from all over the eastern federation gathered for a most enjoyable long-weekend.

Those wanting to participate set up their displays on Friday at the Zembo Shrine. In the meantime, others boarded a chartered bus and headed to Elizabethtown, College, Elizabethtown, PA. Members had been invited to attend the Frank Masters' reception, hosted by the college. Mr. Masters generously donated a world-class mineral collection to the geology department. As the president of a small, beautiful, college, the president and staff were ecstatic to be the recipients of such a remarkable gift.





Frank Masters, Donor

EFMLS President R.J. Harris addressed the group as did Mr. Masters. Viewing the collection was one of the highlights of the trip.

Afterwards, attendees headed back to the hotel to prepare for the EFMLS Annual meeting. During the meeting, various committee chairs gave their reports and high praise was given for participating in Wildacres workshops. The new EFMLS board was elected.



The evening proved to be the perfect time to meet and greet people that most only know from reading the EFMLS newsletter or by visiting the EFMLS website.

As pointed out by AFMS 2nd VP, Matt Charsky, the east coast mineral clubs are a part of a much larger group. We are under the umbrella of the eastern federation. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is comprised of seven organizations:

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 EFMLS - Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies
 MWF - Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and

Geological Societies

NFMS - Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 RMFMS - Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 SCFMS - South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
 SFMS - Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

It's important for clubs to support the EFMLS, which supports the AFMS. Money we contribute to the various funds goes to support programs and provide scholarships to students studying/working in the field of geology. All of these points were highlighted during the annual meeting.

Following the meeting, we gathered in EFMLS President, R.J. Harris' suite for refreshments and a relaxing time to socialize with other EFMLS members. We had a great time!

On Saturday, Sept. 15, final exhibit preparations took place at the Zembo Shrine, followed by a wonderful mineral show and EFMLS Endowment Fund auction. This year's show theme was, "*Crystals: Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*". Activities included the EFMLS Endowment Fund Auction, displays, rock wheel, silent auction, mini mine, Scouts, Jeri Jones Lectures, rocks, gems, fossils, and free posters.

Later that evening, we attended the EFMLS Awards Banquet. We participated in a social hour and enjoyed a delicious dinner of salmon, beef, chicken, and veggies. Some EFMLS club member winners who you may know are:

- **Barbara Sky:** won a trophy for her pyrite display. All specimens in her display were under one inch in size, which the thumb nail category, <bskysky@aol.com>.
- **Bob Davidson:** won the EFMLS web site competition and ranked 6th for the AFMS Web Site Contest (SMRMC). EFMLS has 17 entries!
- **Cynthia Payne:** was named MSDC Rockhound of the year.
- **Erich Grundel:** won ninth place for an original educational article and ninth place for a non-technical article.
- **Joe Murter:** was named one of the *AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year* for the Eastern Federation (by the NVMC).
- **Kathy Hrechka:** won honorable mention, along with her children, Julia and Michael for their article in *The Mineral Mite*. Kathy also won an honorable mention certificate for her Fred Schaefermeyer article.
- **Mary Bateman:** received a certificate of appreciation for serving as a BEAC judge.

- **Matt Charsky:** received a certificate of appreciation for serving as a BEAC judge.
- **Patrick Haynes:** won first place for an original education article.
- **Sheryl Sims:** won a silver medal in the *AFMS All American Club Award* – “Year Book” competition (NVMC); second and seventh place for original educational articles in the EFMLS bulletin contest; and eighth place in the AFMS bulletin contest.

Awards were presented by Barbara Sky: Competitive Exhibits; Hazel Remaley, Each One Teach One; Reivan Zeleznik, AFMS Scholarship Award; Betsy Oberheim, All American Award; Ellery Borow, club Rockhound of the Year; Fran Sick; Easter Foundation Fund; R.J. Harris & David Brandon, CPRM Special Club Awards.

The guest speaker for the evening was Robert Beard, Senior Contributing Editor, “Rock & Gem” magazine.

Following the award ceremony and dinner, attendees retreated to their rooms to prepare for the Editors and Webmasters Breakfast on Sunday 16th. After a breakfast buffet, awards were presented.

Following the breakfast, some participants headed for a field trip to Mount Pleasant Mills Quarry in search of wavelite, calcite, fluorite, and gastropods. The field trip leader was R.J. Harris. Others returned for another fun day at the mineral show or prepared to return home.



(photo: Central PA Rock & Mineral Club Newsletter, Bev Eisenacher)



R.J. Harris, 2012 EFMLS President & Gerry Cox, EFMLS Secretary





Frank Masters and Elizabethtown College President, Carl J. Strikwerda, Ph.D.



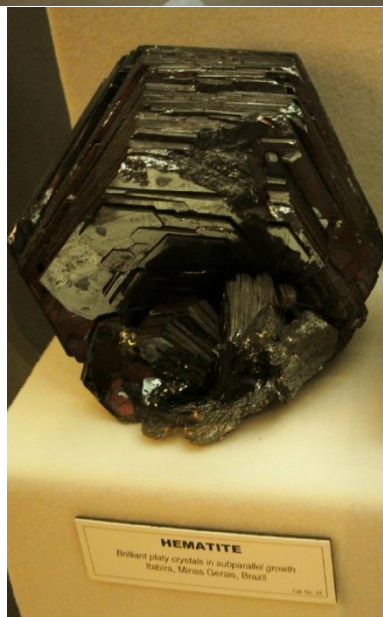
THE MINERAL FLUORITE

Fluorite, chemically calcium fluoride (CaF_2), is a very common mineral in the rocks which comprise the surface of the earth. It is also one of Frank and Elizabeth's favorite minerals, which is why there are so many examples in the collection. It occurs in a great variety of geological environments from granites and gneisses to sedimentary rocks, especially limestone, and it is frequently seen in a great variety of ore deposits as an accessory mineral.

Fluorite crystallizes in the isometric system so its crystals typically are seen as cubes and octahedrons. Fluorite may be found in virtually every conceivable color and degree of transparency. It possesses the property of breaking (cleaving) in four directions, all along perfectly smooth planes, and is commonly internally cleaved into the shape of octahedrons, as seen here.

The name fluorite comes from the Latin to flow, in allusion to its low melting point.

OCTAHEDRAL CLEAVAGES





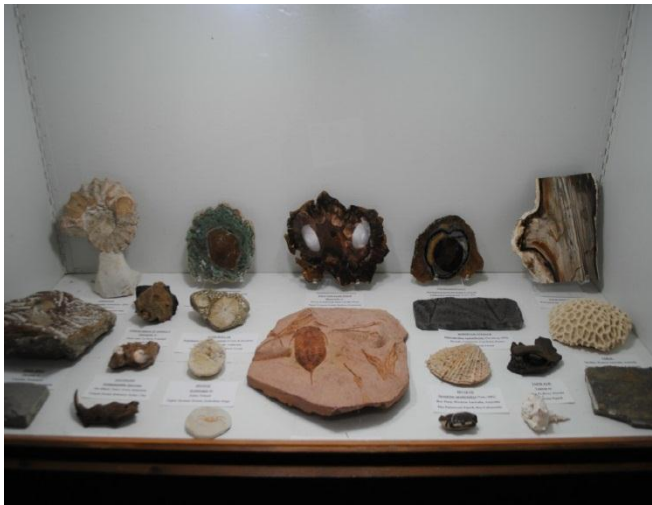
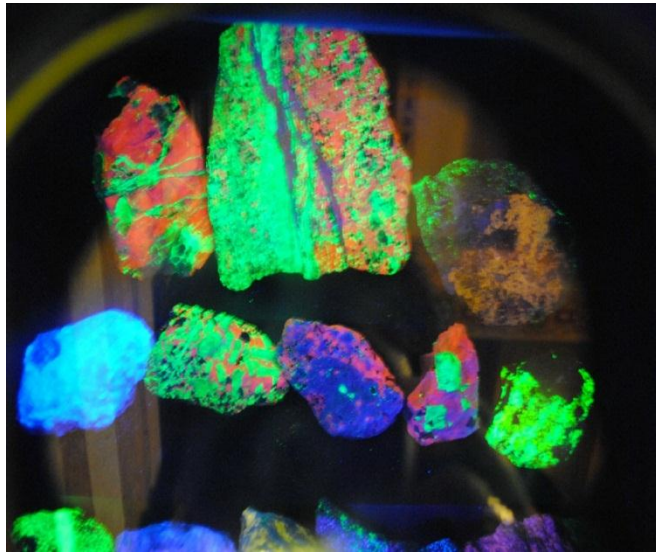
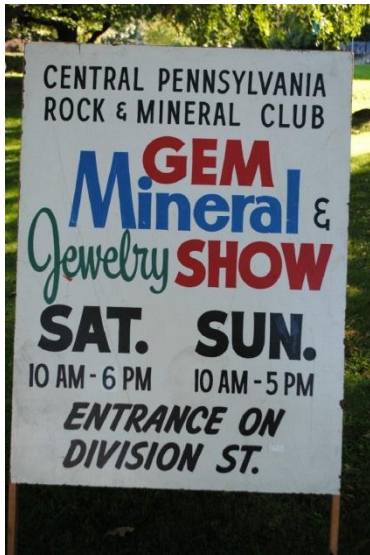
SOME MINERALS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania has been and still is a very rich state in terms of mineral specimen production. Most of these have been by-products of mines and quarries operated for ore, construction rock or limestone for agricultural purposes. By far the vast majority of the more interesting minerals have come from the central and southeastern parts of the state. Seen here are some very good examples of what the state has produced. The coal mines that are so extensive in the northeastern and southwestern parts of the state are relatively barren in terms of producing interesting minerals. Many, however, are well-known for the fern fossils that are found in them.





Ann & Don Monroe, AFMS President







Betsy Oberheim, All American Awards – Year Book, Chair & Awards Banquet



S.C.R.I.B.E. Editor, Dan Imel



Ann Benson & Lorraine Campbell from Delaware Valley Earth Science Society (New Jersey club)



David Brandon,
Central PA Club President
and his club generously provided
free posters for all take and share
with clubs and schools! (photo
from Central PA Rock & Mineral
Club Newsletter, 9-18-12.)



EFMLS Bulletin Editors Breakfast



Left: 2012-2013 EFMLS President, Don Monroe and his wife, Ann.



Bev Eisenacher, BEAC Awards Chair & Carolyn Weinberger, EFMLS Editor

Current EFMLS Officers:

President, R. J. Harris
1st Vice President, Cheryl Neary
2nd Vice President, Hazel Remaley
Secretary, Gerry Cox
Treasurer, Lou Budell
Asst. Treasurer, Michael Patterson
Editor, Carolyn Weinberger