



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

Meeting: April 23 Time: 7:30-10 p.m.

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

Speaker: Pat Rehill

Our speaker for the meeting is our very own, Pat Rehill. Her topics are 1) Fluorescents and 2) Fossils. See her information located in this month's Bulletin. Starting this month there will be a sign-up sheet for those members who bring a fluorescent specimen or a fossil. Each person will be asked to speak briefly about their specimen. If at least 5 people bring a specimen to display there will be a drawing for a separate door prize.

More about Pat on page 3

President's Message

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club includes you! Thanks to all our members who made our auction meeting a success! There was excellent participation in selling and buying. A tip of the hard hat to our auctioneers: Frank Hisson, all the way from Harrisonburg (up and back, just to volunteer!), Mark Charsky, and Rob Robinson; and to Rick Reiber and Barry Remer for keeping the money straight. Looking back on the last auction and forward to our next one in the fall, please consider volunteering to give one of these regulars a break to enjoy the auction from the audience, so they can bid, too. The Club needs you! Specifically, we need a **Membership Coordinator** to maintain our membership list. This isn't a daily or weekly task, and may not even need monthly attention. It does require organization and coordination with our Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. We also need a **Fieldtrip Coordinator**. Ted Carver has served our Club in



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Also find information on our Club website:

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

There will be a dinner before the meeting at Rabieng Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, in Falls Church, 703-671-422.

This restaurant is around the corner from Duangrat's Restaurant on the little side street west of Duangrat's. The address is Leesburg Pike, however Rabieng's faces the side street. Parking is in front of the Restaurant. We will meet @ 6:00 P.M.

Sheryl Sims was interviewed by Betsy Oberheim (Year Book Chair) in the May issue of the EFMLS newsletter. The interview has been put on page 5 of this newsletter as well.

this role, but due to family responsibilities he does not have time to arrange field trips and coordinate trips with other local clubs. I know we have many members who are interested in collecting specimens, so we need someone to step up and volunteer to provide our members with field trip opportunities. We have many experienced members who can help support whoever accepts this position. It's your Club, if we share the work, we can all enjoy the results. Happy Collecting, Sue

Meeting Minutes March 26, 2012

By: Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President Sue Marcus opened the business meeting at 7:45 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the February newsletter. Sue proposed that Ti Meredith, Door Prize Coordinator be given \$100. from the club treasury for 2012 to purchase quality door prizes. The membership voted in favor of the \$100. proposal. Sue proposed \$400. be given to a delegate to represent the NVMC at the Eastern Federation Meeting in September in Harrisburg, PA. After discussion occurred, the membership voted in favor of the proposal. Sheryl Sims is willing to be our club delegate, though if others are interested in being appointed, they should contact sue. Sue requested a club member volunteer to provide an audit of the club's treasury. Richard G. Talaschak agreed to work with Rick Reiber, Treasurer to audit the books.

Announcements: Sue spoke about the membership list being available to club members on the club website. novamineralclub.org Casper Voogt, Webmaster is working on that feature. Casper has already created a members only section of the website, which will be used to share members information, auction information, etc.

Field Trip Report: none

Sue Marcus presented Wayne Sukow with an EFMLS award for an article he wrote last year for the newsletter. The business meeting concluded at 8 p.m. Break for Refreshments.

Program: 3/26/12 Club Auction Night.

Auctioneers included Rob Robinson, Matt Charsky, and Frank Hissong, with Rick Reiber and Barry Remer taking care of the accounting.

From EFMLS Newsletter by Carolyn Weinberger (Editor) as adapted by the Montgomery County Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society's March, 2012 newsletter, THE ROCKHOUNDER

AFMS ENDOWMENT Adapted from EFMLS Newsletter Editor Carolyn Weinberger

The 2012 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Endowment Drawing will be held in late July during the AFMS / Mid West Federation Convention. Have you obtained your tickets yet? You don't have a chance of being a prize winner if you don't.

Unlike previous years, we really are conducting two separate drawings.

The first is for lapidary equipment. Numbered as prizes 1 -4, you need to indicate which of the items you would like to receive if your ticket is selected during the drawing. Only those tickets that have one of the prizes identified will be entered in this portion of the drawing.

The second drawing is for the remaining prizes. Thus far, 10 additional prizes have been donated with more promised. If you're not interested in perhaps winning the lapidary equipment, your ticket will have a chance of winning one of these remaining prizes to be drawn at random.

You can find photographs and descriptions of each of the donated items by checking issues of the AFMS Newsletter at www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm for the last several months.

Purchasing tickets for the drawing is as simple as writing a check and mailing it. The cost remains at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Remember, the interest from all proceeds of the drawing is used for programs that ultimately benefit your club and.....you can't win without a ticket.

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment" and mailed along with a stamped, self addressed envelope to Carolyn Weinberger P. O. Box 302, Glyndon MD 21071-0302. For information or questions call (410) 833-7926 or Email: editor@amfed.org.

Pat Rehill's Biography

My Rockhound hobby started in 2009, after seeing the Travel Channel's show called "Best Places To Find Cash and Treasures". This was a comprehensive 10 part series hosted by the "spunky" Becky Worley. Many featured places were within several hours drive from Northern Virginia. Enter Tom Taffee, who I met at his Viva Vienna gem and fossil booth May 2009. I put the question to him, "are there really places nearby that you can collect at and descend into a mine"? His answer has changed my life. He urged me to join the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. I visited Morefield Mine, Amelia Va. to collect Amazonite, the very next week. I coordinated with Ted Carver and experienced my first mine tour, 65 feet underground. I got to wear all the cool safety equipment, too.

Next came Robert Windsor's suggestion in 2010-"go to the Super Dig at Sterling Hill Mine, NJ." I brought back 75 lbs of fluorescent minerals: Willamite, Franklinite, Calcite, Hydrozincite, and toured their mine. I urge you to go.

Jim Kostka introduced me to club members, John Mills and his wife, who educated me on Lake Superior Agates and gave me a cabochon lesson from his lapidary workshop. Jim also helped me collect at the Manassas Vulcan Quarry, and taught me how to clean minerals in a solution of acid.

Next came Jerry Cox and Karen, who generously mentored me at the April 2011 WildAcres workshop, for my first Cabochon class. I left there with two cabochons that I treasure, and wear often.

Sheryl Sims stirred my interest in Meteorites, after reading her article in the Northern Virginia Mineral Club Newsletter, concerning the Lorton Meteorite landing. I even went out in the January 2010 blizzard to look for meteorites in the parking lot of the impact site.

Lastly, my interest in fossil hunting came from hearing stories from fellow boaters, who found sharks teeth along the Calvert Cliffs of the Chesapeake Bay, Md. My interest was fueled by the website www.FossilGuy.com. It is a comprehensive tutorial on every fossil found on the Western Shore.

Since so many club member's hands and hearts have reached out to me down this mineralogical path, I have tried to "pay it forward" by encouraging other to collect and get *their* hands dirty. Go for it!

November 17 & 18, 2012: Fairfax, Virginia 21th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club.

www.novamineralclub.org

Show site:

George Mason University, Fairfax Virginia
Student Union Bldg II (*The Hub*)

Contact:

Jim Kostka (Operations Coordinator)
Tom Taaffe (Dealer Coordinator)

[jkostka at juno.com](mailto:jkostka@juno.com) or
[rockcllctr at aol.com](mailto:rockcllctr@aol.com)

The Matter of Minerals is a Matter for Young Minds

Sheryl E.Sims



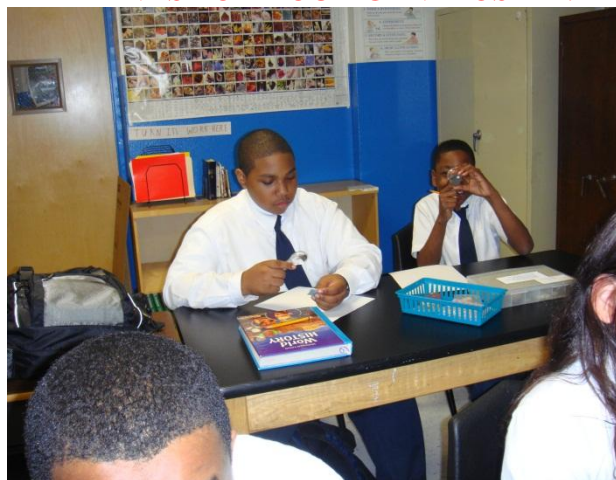
(photos by: Celeste Behrens, Science Teacher, St. Augustine Catholic School, Washington, DC)



Students study and enjoy minerals donated by the members of NVMC and MSDC.

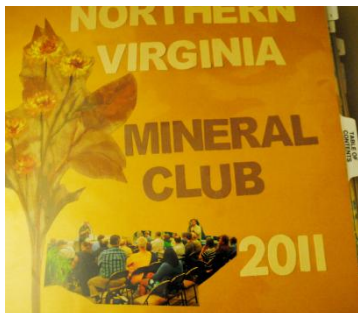


THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



MEMORIES (AND AWARDS) ARE MADE OF THIS

by Betsy Oberheim, Chair



Sheryl Sims, a member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, submitted her first club year book in this year's EFMLS competition. I was thrilled because her submission, which was both beautiful and informative. Since she did such a good job on her first attempt, I decided to interview Sheryl and let her tell you about her experience creating her club's year book.

Betsy: Again, great job, Sheryl!

Have you done any scrapbooking before?

Sheryl: Thank you so much, Betsy. Yes, I do have experience creating scrapbooks. However, I've never created any according to set guidelines. That was the real challenge for me. I have always enjoyed memorializing special events and activities via scrapbooks. Scrapbooking is a creative way to show and share information, and the variety of types of scrapbook are limitless. For example, some scrapbooks are large, others small; some are traditional, while still others may be created in the form of e-books. The important thing to me is to create, share, and store memories. In terms of our mineral clubs, it's the perfect way to record a club's activities.

Betsy: What prompted you to enter the EFMLS competition?

Sheryl: While I enjoy being a rockhound, I have no background or experience in geology or mineralogy. Along with being a rockhound, I do, however, enjoy writing, photography, and scrapbooking. Entering the EFMLS competition was a way to make use of all of my passions. As you know, lack of experience needn't keep one from joining a mineral club. It certainly didn't prevent me from joining! As a member, I made it a point to read the EFMLS newsletter on-line and to learn more about what other clubs were doing. At our meetings or through our club newsletter, I enjoyed sharing EFMLS information with my club members. When I saw your column, I was excited by the fact that it appeared to be something that I could do no matter what my background was. The competition sounded both fun and doable. I knew that

my club didn't have a year book, yet I felt that having one was a wonderful idea. I think that every club should have at least one because it has already proven to be a useful tool for our club. I brought the year book to our mineral show to our monthly meetings even though I was still in the process of completing the book. Both club members and guests enjoyed viewing the year book. It was a quick and easy way to give others a glimpse into the life of our club.

Betsy: What advice would you offer to a novice beginning a book?

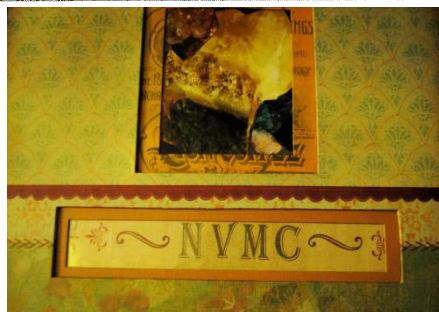
Sheryl: My advice for someone creating a club year book for the first time would be to "just do it!" It really is a lot of fun. If one collects material along the way, as you suggested in your column, it doesn't end up being such an overwhelming task by the time that the book is ready to be submitted. It's helpful to have others pitch in if you are fortunate enough to work with a committee, but if not, it only takes one person to make the difference.

Betsy: What was the most gratifying part of doing the book?

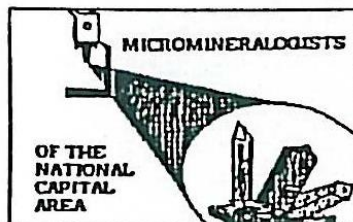
Sheryl: The most gratifying part of doing the year book was the sense of accomplishment once it was done. I was so happy that my fellow-club members liked the book and appreciated my efforts. I appreciated their help in responding to my requests for information and material. It was also great to see guests and newcomers' faces light up when they saw pictures of our field trips and mineral show. Including pictures of club members and our activities was a great way to show how our club shares information, learns from one another, and has fun while doing so. We all have different levels of experience, expertise, and interests; but collectively, we make for a great club and our year book reflects that fact.

Betsy: Do you hope to enter next year?

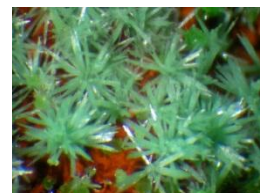
Sheryl: You'll have to stay tuned to find out the answer to "that" question, Betsy!



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER



Calling all Rock Hounds! MINERAL CLUB MEETING Micro-Mineralogy / Micromounting



Micromineralogist of the National Capital Area (MNCA)

This mineral club likes to look at small micro-minerals. Having a microscope is helpful - but you really only need a magnifying glass or hand lens / loupe to start - and your whole collection can fit under your bed !

What is Micromounting?

A Micromount is any crystals that requires some degree of magnification in order to view it properly...



MNCA Meetings 4th Wednesday of each month

7:45 pm at Long Branch Nature Center

625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA, 22204

(except July and August - and December is a joint Holiday Party)

Club sponsored Micromineralogy Symposium each Spring (this year April 27, 28 & 29th, 2012)
near BWI Airport

Article by Jim Kostka

Open House at the NVMC Members, Leslie and Dave Nanney's Azalea Garden Sunday - 29 April - 1-5 PM

Over six months ago, when the fall weather suggested this would be a great spring blooming season, we set the date for our open house. Who would know the season would begin as early as it did, or extend as nicely as it has. We are hosting an open house to share our over 2,500 azaleas. Please come by sometime over the afternoon and join us for a garden visit, and just possibly for a beer or two.

Just in case the garden isn't enough, Leslie and I have been collecting minerals for the last six years, and have a nice collection on display.

Please bring your family and see the results of over 26 years of effort.

Your GPS won't get you to our place as it has us on the wrong side of a dead end, so please follow the directions attached.

A response would be nice if you are coming but absolutely not necessary.

Dave Nanney

C - 703-624-3754





American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)

www.amfed.org

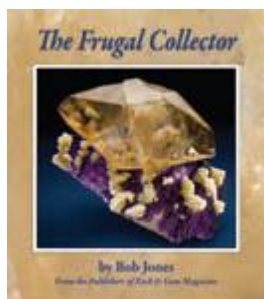
"The Frugal Collector" by Bob Jones

AFMS International Relations Chair Bob Jones is no stranger to the world of travelling and writing. As

Sr. Consulting Editor for Rock & Gem Magazine, his contributions are always eagerly awaited and often the first thing read by subscribers.

Now, he's taken some of his magazine articles, expanded them, added numerous anecdotes and photographs and produced "The Frugal Collector, Volume I", a fabulous new book. Chapters include information about a variety of minerals that most mineral lovers would want in their own collection with an eye towards keeping acquisitions affordable for all.

Bob's easy writing style, selection of photographs and comments, make this volume a "must have" for any home library. The volume is available from Rock & Gem, the official magazine of the AFMS.



AFMS/EFMLS Combined Show

A Celebration of Agates

July 26 - 29, 2012

By Sandy Fuller, Convention Chair

Agates, agates, agates! Almost every area has some type of local agate; a distinctly banded chalcedony quartz.

This July, agate enthusiasts and novices are gathering at A Celebration of Agates, an international symposium and show in Minnetonka MN. The event is being held in conjunction with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual convention.



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)

www.amfed.org/efmls

Communication and Involvement Are the Keys to Our Success!

Geology Events:

By Matt Charsky

April:

19-22: 39th Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science, Mineral Section. Radisson Inn, Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd; Rochester, NY.

27-29: Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. For registration and info contact <cscrystals2@verizon.net>

28-29: 40th Annual NJESA Gem, Mineral Show with Outdoor Swap sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society. Franklin School, Washington Ave; Franklin, NJ.

Sept. 3 – 9, 2012 Speaker – Julian Gray

Complete descriptions of all classes can be found on the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls>. Just click on the Wildacres tab. Tuition for the entire week is a mere \$350!



EFMLS Annual Convention

Theme: Crystals—"Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom"

September 14-16, 2012

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Hosted by the Central
Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.

www.rockandmineral.org



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org

2012 Club Officers

President: Sue Marcus
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Vice President: Barry Remer
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jkostka@juno.com
All American Club: Sheryl Sims
sesims4@cox.net
Greeter/Door Prizes: Ty Meredith
twhtknig@aol.com
Refreshments: Karen Lewis

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Julia Hrechka
7201 Ludwood Ct.
Alexandria VA 22306

Or via email: news.nvmc@gmail.com

Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

SEND YOUR DUES TO:

Rick Reiber
Treasurer, NVMC
PO Box 9851
Alexandria, VA 22304

OR

**Bring your dues to the
meeting**

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

Dues: Due by 1 January of each year; \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family, and \$6.00 Junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

Meetings are held 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. Phone (703) 228-6535. (No meeting in July & August.)

(* Changes announced in the newsletter.) Show schedule - Arlington county schools.