



# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA

MINERAL CLUB  
INC



*Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom*



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

**Meeting: March 26 Time: 7:30-10 p.m.**

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

### **Program:**

#### **Spring Club Mineral Auction**

The meeting will start promptly at 7:45 and typically we move through the business fast so that there is time for the auction. Please come early if you wish to sell items and setup early enough to have your items laid out on the table with bid slips prepared (see page 5). If you just want to buy stuff, please bring cash as this makes the transactions easier - and please bring a variety of bills. Items of higher cost can be paid with check. We look forward to seeing you at Long Branch Nature Center on the 26th! Don't hesitate to bring a guest or invite non-members. The meeting and auction is open to all (but only members can sell).

*Bid slips on page 5.*

**Volume 53 No. 3**

**March 2012**

Also find information on our Club website:

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

#### ***Did You Know?***

*By Sheryl Sims*

*Matt Charsky has been elected to the position of AFMS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. He will officially begin serving his term at the Midwest Federation's AFMS conference, which will be held in Minnetonka, MN, July 26-29. Congratulations Matt!*



### **President's Message:**

**By Sue Marcus**

The AUCTION is a featured part of our Club's traditions. For people new to our hobby, it's a chance to purchase specimens at excellent prices. For more experienced collectors, it's a chance to sell some older specimens and acquire new ones. I encourage everyone to come, participate, and have fun. If you have specimens to donate to the Club, for the auction or for door prizes, they are always welcome. Let's try to bring the highest quality materials we can, to get the adrenaline flowing and bring in the bucks!



If you are interested in coming earlier on March 26 (auction day), some of us will be cleaning and sorting the Club storage closet at 4pm at the Nature Center. Please contact Barry Remer or me ([r1haskins@verizon.net](mailto:r1haskins@verizon.net) or 703-502-9844) so we know how many sorters to expect. In other news, I hope members were able to join our field trip to the Manassas quarry. The Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County kindly invited us to join them on this adventure. For the fossil-inclined, Pat Rehill continues to lead her wonderful trips collecting along the Bay. Maybe someone has a boat and could offer members special off-shore access to some sites? Happy collecting, whether fossils or minerals, through self-collecting or silver pick (money)!

## Minutes

**Meeting Date: February 27, 2012**

**Meeting Place: Long Branch Nature Center**

**Pre-meeting Dinner: Duangrat Thai Restaurant**



**Interim Secretary: Sheryl Sims**

*The NVMC meeting began at 7:45 p.m.*

**Agenda: Club President, Sue Marcus presided.**

**Recognized the following guests:**

-John Steel, Matt Steel (son), and Miles Dyaico (family friend)

-Jesse Bynoe

-Hutch Brown, Alex Brown (son) Nikki Brown (daughter)

-Kate Walker and Tony Reinhart

-Returning guest, Judy Dixon was also in attendance.

Club President, Sue Marcus, welcomed speaker, Steve Peters, and his wife, Sharon and thanked them for coming.

**Treasurer's Report:**

No report. (Treasurer not in attendance.)

**Secretary's Report:**

No report. (Secretary not in attendance.)

Club President, Sue Marcus, proposed that we adopt the previous minutes as recorded in the newsletter. Passed as read.

**Field Trip Reports:**

Ti Meredith attended and gave an extensive report on the JMU field trip and visit with Dr. Lance Kearns. She passed around pictures of the day's events. Everyone enjoyed their time at JMU, especially seeing the mineral

museum and specimens/display cases donated by club members. The following mineral clubs were present: NVMC, MSDC, Micromounters, and the Richmond club.

Pat Rehill led a group on a fossil field trip. Everyone had a great time finding sharks teeth and enjoying the warmer weather. Another field trip is in the works.

**Future Field Trip:** Discussion was held regarding the Delaware Mineral Society's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show on March 3-4, 2012.

**Year Book Report:**

Sheryl Sims reported that she completed the work on the club year book and sent it to the EFMLS for judging. It was subsequently advanced to the AFMS to be judged in the national competition. She stated that Betsy Oberheim was pleased with the year book and reported that it was the first time that a year book had been submitted by a club in the Eastern Federation.

**New Business:**

Club President, Sue Marcus, asked members to consider the significant cost of mailing the newsletter. She asked people to consider emailing all copies or coming up with a two-tier membership fee system that covers mailing costs for those wishing to receive their by mail. Discussion was held about the lack of earth science projects at local science fairs and why this may be occurring. It was suggested that it may be due to the observational process and the time it takes to do projects involving the same.

**NVMC/GMU Gem and Mineral Show:** Jim Kostka stated that this year's show will be held at GMU on November 17-18. The cost will be 50% off the invoice as was the case last year. (The show is co-sponsored by the GMU's Geology Department). Jim also stated that he is still looking into possibly having the show at Wakefield Recreational Center in the future.

*(Minutes continued on page 3)*

## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

*(Minutes continued)*

Dave MacLean, President, Micromounters announced that the Atlantic Micromounters Conference will be held at the MHA Conference Center in Elkridge, MD on April 27-29, 2012. The cost is \$30.

Logan Babcock, VP, Micromounters, asked that members let him know if they have program ideas for the Micromounters. Their next meeting is March 28.

### **Door Prizes:**

Ti Meredith raffled off door prizes and the lucky winners were: Alex Brown, Karen Lewis and Ruth Goen. Congratulations!

### **Presentation:**

Club VP, Barry Remer, introduced speaker, Steve Peters, Research Geologist for the USGS. Steve specializes in the economic side of minerals. He gave a very interesting presentation on "Afghanistan: Gold Rush in a War Zone." Steve discussed the uniquely difficult and dangerous process of extracting minerals from a war zone and the use of aero magnetic data.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.*



**Trip to Flag Ponds Nature Center in Calvert County, MD Led by Pat Rehill**



**February Meeting**







<http://www.forbes.com/sites/anthonydemarco/2012/02/21/rare-12-carat-argyle-pink-diamond-unearthed-in-australia/>

## In The Pink!

*By Sheryl E. Sims*

On February 24, WUSA-9 News reported that a 12.76 carat diamond was found at the Argyle diamond mine in the East Kimberley, Western Australia. Reportedly, this is the largest pink diamond ever to have been found at the Australian mine. The argyle mine is one of the world's large pink diamond producers. More than 90 percent of pink diamonds come from there.

The Argyle Pink Jubilee is the name by which the pink diamond is called. The diamond was named by Rio Tinto, the owner of the famed mine.

The Pink Jubilee diamond is said to be light pink in color and is said to be very similar to a pink diamond owned by Queen Elizabeth. Her diamond is called The Williamson Pink diamond. It was given to her as a wedding gift and placed in a brooch for her Coronation.<sup>1</sup>



[http://www.argylediamonds.com.au/open\\_pit\\_mining.html](http://www.argylediamonds.com.au/open_pit_mining.html)

Josephine Johnson, Argyle Pink Diamonds manager, was quoted as saying:

"A diamond of this caliber is unprecedented—it has taken 26 years of Argyle production to unearth this stone and we may never see one like this again."<sup>2</sup>

I always did like the color Pink!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/sites/anthonydemarco/2012/02/21/rare-12-carat-argyle-pink-diamond-unearthed-in-australia/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

*Bid Slips - Please print and bring one for each item you wish to auction.*

### AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_  
DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE of FIND \_\_\_\_\_  
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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## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

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American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



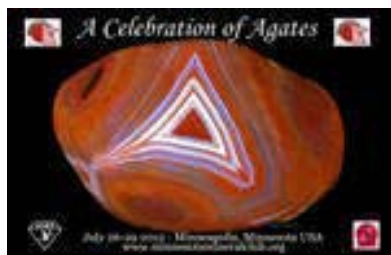
Eastern Federation  
Mineralogical and  
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)

[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

### 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.

Register by April 1 for the early bird discount. Meet some of the collectors profiled in Agates II by Johann Zenz. Speaker Dr. Jens Götze keeps abreast with the latest research and is considered the world's foremost authority on agate formation and genesis. Meanwhile, his personal collection of worldwide agates continues to grow.

Event registration forms and hospitality information are available online at [minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.htm](http://minnesotamineralclub.org/2012show.htm). Inquiries can be submitted through the website or sent to [2012agates@gmail.com](mailto:2012agates@gmail.com). Want to talk to a live person? Call Sandy at

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](mailto: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.

### Wildacres Workshop April 10 – 15, 2012.

#### Speaker in Residence - Jeff Scovil

**Sept. 3 – 9, 2012 Speaker – Julian Gray**

Complete descriptions of all classes can be found on the EFMLS website

[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls).

Just click on the Wildacres

tab. Tuition for the entire

week is a mere \$350! This

includes lodging in

comfortable motel style rooms with private

bath, all meals, and instruction in the class or

classes you are assigned to.





## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

### NOTICE

**Membership Update:** Please communicate with our club treasurer if you have any changes in the last year with your address, phone, or email.

Rick Reiber [Mathfun34@yahoo.com](mailto:Mathfun34@yahoo.com)

Dear All - Please help me! I visited St. Augustine's Catholic School several times this month and while in the 8th grade classroom, realized that they were learning about minerals. They had some charts, but only one very poorly-filled mineral box. It hardly had any minerals in it at all. I would love to donate several boxes to them from our club. If you are willing, will you bring some minerals, bagged and labeled to our next meeting? I will buy the boxes and make the labels for the lids.

Thanks so much!  
Sheryl Sims



GLMSMC  
Montgomery County Show  
Gaithersburg, MD





PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

## 2012 Club Officers

President: Sue Marcus  
[rlhaskins@verizon.net](mailto:rlhaskins@verizon.net)  
 Vice President: Barry Remer  
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 Field Trip Chair: Ted Carver  
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 All American Club: Sheryl Sims  
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 Greeter/Door Prizes: Ty Meredith  
[twhtknig@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.) Snow schedule - Arlington county schools.