

"God Bless  
America"



## THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB  
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1  
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Visit us on the web at <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

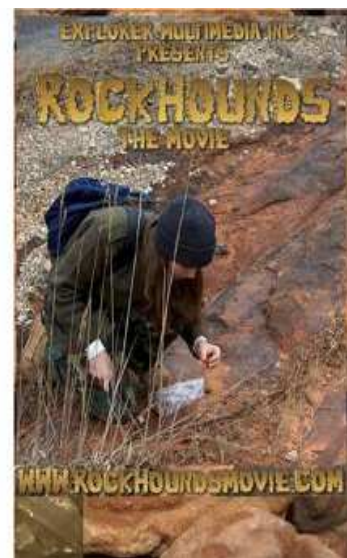
### Meeting Place and Time

**DATE:** *Thursday, February 16, 2012*      **TIME :**      *6:00PM*

**LOCATION:**      **North Adams Public Library**  
74 Church Street, North Adams, MA

**PROGRAM:**      **We will view the film "Rockhounds the Movie"**

The Movie is an educational and exciting documentary film that explores the science, fun and adventure of the hobby of gem & mineral collecting. Featuring TV geologist Devin Dennie, the film visits the "World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig," tags along with "Dinosaur George" Blasing on a fossil hunt, explores the unusual barite rose rocks of Oklahoma and stops by the Houston Gem & Mineral Show to check out the amazing "Rock Food Table."



### Election Results

At our December Christmas party meeting at the Coyote Flaco restaurant in Williamstown elections of officers was held. Re-elected for 2012 were Larry Michon as President and Darlene Bruzzi as Treasurer. The offices of secretary and vice president remain unfilled.



## *Location Change Announced for 2012 Gem Show*



The **49<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show** slated for September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Eagles Hall on Route 8 in North Adams. The new space is slightly larger, includes a room to present educational programs and is ideally located on a busy main road just north of Walmart. It is hoped that the new location will result in increased show attendance.

## *Field Trip to Danby, VT Marble Quarry February 18, 2012*

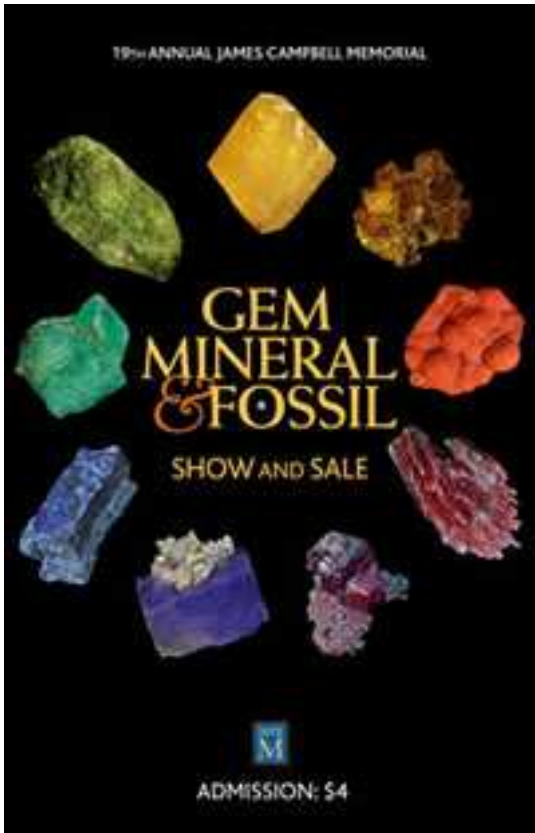


Bob Gasperetti has arranged a very special field trip to the historic Danby Marble quarry located on the flank of Dorset Mountain just north of Manchester, VT. In use for over 100 years, the mine extends underground for over 1 ½ miles and is the largest underground marble quarry in the world. The Danby Marble Quarry is famous for producing exquisite marbles with exceptional performance and durability. Recognized as the most prestigious white marble in North America, Danby Marbles are featured on many historic landmarks including the Lincoln Memorial, US Senate Building and many other federal and state buildings.

Space is limited to the first 20 members to sign up on a first come first served basis. Contact Larry immediately if you wish to join us at [lmichon@rcn.com](mailto:lmichon@rcn.com) or 413-663-8430.



## *Group trip to New York Museum Gem Show Set*



On Saturday, February 25, 2012 the Club will attend the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at the New York State Museum. The show is held on the fourth floor terrace at the museum from 10am to 5pm. The admission fee to the show is \$4.00 and admission to the museum exhibit is free. For more information visit them on the web at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/minerals/>

At 2 p.m. the museum will offer group tours of the mineral gallery. The minerals of New York exhibit should be of great interest to our members. This spectacular exhibit located within Adirondack Wilderness Hall showcases a fraction of the State Museum's enormous mineral collection. Specimens on view represent over 150 years of private mineral collecting and from the public from the state's mines, quarries, road construction and outcrops.

An excerpt from the Museum website states: "The New York State Museum is proud to present Minerals of New York. After many years of planning, this new mineral gallery in Adirondack Hall is open to the public. Mineral collectors, families, and those with an eye for beauty will enjoy this spectacular exhibit.

The expanded and renovated display features mineral treasures from all over New York State, many newly acquired and others long

hidden in storage. See the surprising variety of minerals that are found in New York State. Experience their beauty first hand. See gems and the raw minerals from which they came."

## *Mark Your Calendar for These Special Programs*

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Local lapidary artist **Travis Burdick**, owner of the Rock & Crystal Emporium, will speak to the group about getting started working with all those treasures you've been collecting. Travis is an expert in cutting and polishing cabochons. Cutting cabochons is probably the most common form of gem cutting. Cabs are gems with a flat bottom and a curved or domed top. If you can envision an opal or a piece of tiger's eye, you are looking at a cab.

Cabs have distinct resale value, based on the material they are cut from, and their cutting can be profitable. This makes for an excellent, indoor hobby. It is especially enjoyable if you are cutting materials you have found yourself.

Cabochon cutting is a step up in complexity from tumbling and it requires a greater investment in tools. If you have the skills you can make your own equipment, which keeps the cost down. If you are buying new tools, the prices range from a couple hundred dollars to over \$1,000 for top quality. It only takes a little practice to become proficient and is something almost everyone can learn to do well. A word of warning though, cabbing can be highly addictive!

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Darlene Bruzzi** will present a program titled "**Healing with Crystals**". Darlene has spoken to the club on this very popular topic before. According to Wikipedia Crystal healing is a pseudoscientific alternative medicine technique that employs stones and crystals as healing tools.

The practitioner places crystals on different parts of the body, often corresponding to [chakras](#), or places crystals around the body in an attempt to construct an "energy grid", which is purported to surround the client with healing energy.

When the stones are placed in the area of the chakras, the color of the stones may correspond to the color which is associated with the corresponding chakra. Going from the tail bone to the top of the head, the colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Stones may also be used at the feet in an attempt at grounding the individual, or held in the hands. Practitioners may also use tools such as crystal wands, which are placed near the receiver's body, or near a certain 'blocked' chakra, or use to perform psychic surgery, normally conducted with laser quartz wands.

**May 17<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Corwin**, an experienced miner and avid mineral collector will give a talk about his mining experiences in New England and New York. Wayne has worked at the Treasure Mountain Diamond Mine in Little Falls, NY has been on hand when large pockets were opened up at the Wise Fluorite Mine in Westmoreland, NH and is currently a member of Toveco, which operates the Tripp Mine, Clark Mine, and Beaugard Mine in Alstead, NH. Visit Wayne's website here for more details <http://www.idigrocks.com/index.php?page=about>

### *Native American Legends Series*

This is the first in a new Streakplate series detailing Native American Legends involving stones, minerals and crystals.

## *Apache Tear Drop*

### *An Apache / Jicarilla Legend*

Apache Tear Drop is a form of black obsidian. It is a calming translucent stone, found in Arizona and other parts of the U.S. It is composed of feldspar, hornblende, biotite and quartz. It was formed by rhythmic crystallization that produces a separation of light and dark materials into spherical shapes, and is a form of volcanic glass.

There is a haunting legend about the Apache Tear Drop. After the Pinal Apaches had made several raids on a settlement in Arizona, the military regulars and some volunteers trailed the tracks of the stolen cattle and waited for dawn to attack the Apaches.

The Apaches, confident in the safety of their location, were completely surprised and out-numbered in the attack. Nearly 50 of the band of 75 Apaches were killed in the first volley of shots. The rest of the tribe retreated to the cliff's edge and chose death by leaping over the edge rather than die at the hands of the white men.

For years afterward those who ventured up the treacherous face of Big Picacho in Arizona found skeletons, or could see the bleached bones wedged in the crevices of the side of the cliff.



Apache Leap-Big Picacho Mountain

The Apache Women and the lovers of those who had died gathered a short distance from the base of the cliff where the sands were white, and for a moon they wept for their dead. They mourned greatly, for they realized

that not only had their 75 brave Apache warriors died, but with them had died the great fighting spirit of the Pinal Apaches.

Their sadness was so great, and their burden of sorrow so sincere that the Great Father imbedded into black stones the tears of the Apache Women who mourned their dead. These black obsidian stones, when held to the light, reveal the translucent tear of the Apache.

The stones are said to bring good luck to those possessing them. It is said that whoever owns an Apache Tear Drop will never have to cry again, for the Apache Women have shed their tears in place of yours.



Apache Tear Drops

The Apache tear drops are also said to balance the emotional nature and protect one from being taken advantage of. It can be carried as an amulet to stimulate success in business endeavors. It is also used to produce clear vision and to increase psychic powers.

Black obsidian is a powerful Meditation stone. The purpose of this gemstone is to bring to light that which is hidden from the conscious mind. It dissolves suppressed negative patterns and purifies them. It can create a somewhat radical behavior change as new positive attitudes replace old, negative, egocentric patterns.

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**Annual Show Committee:**  
*Cheryl Gasperetti and Larry Michon*

**Field Trips:**

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“The Club” was founded in 1959. The purpose of the club is to develop and educate students, the community, and our members in the field of mineralogy, including the formation of rocks and minerals, the collection of minerals, their identification and display, and in the lapidary art of cutting, polishing and faceting; and to serve the educational needs of the communities in which club members live.

...from the Constitution of The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club

## **The Crystal Healing Corner**

*By Darlene Bruzzi*



### **January-Moldavite**

Here we are beginning a new year already, and a very special year it is. The Mayan Long-Count Calendar ends on Dec. 21, 2012 signaling a new long-count calendar to begin. Contrary to some beliefs, the world is not going to end on Dec. 21, but a new calendar starts, and spiritualists believe it will usher in a new way of thinking and living for everyone as we expand our spiritual consciousness and become much more benevolent to each other, the animal kingdom and the planet. A very important stone for this work is Moldavite, which is why I chose it for the first article this year. According to "The Sedona Journal of Emergence", { Dec. 2011 issue, P. 97, article "Awaken to your Galactic Heritage" by Christine Bearse }, there are 3 major stones to support us in weathering through the changes coming in the next couple of years. They are, Moldavite, Hematite, and Meteorite. Next month I will do Meteorite.

Moldavite was formed 14.8 million years ago when a large meteorite crashed in what is now the Bohemian plateau of the Czech Republic. It is a member of the Tektite group and is a glassy mixture of silicon dioxide and aluminum oxide and other metal oxides with a hardness of 5.5 to 6.0. Most specimens are a deep forest green, some even pale green with a lacy, frilly look. Some rare gem-grade specimens are a little darker than emeralds.

Moldavites healing properties include transformational; rapid spiritual growth, chakra activation, cleansing, protection, increase in synchronicities. It works on ALL CHAKRAS but is especially allied with the HEART { 4th } CHAKRA and THIRD EYE { 6th } CHAKRA. In most people who work with Moldavite the effect seems to be to open them up to spiritual awareness; the spiritual properties of crystals and minerals, and personal spiritual destiny.

Although scientist are not sure if Moldavite is an earthly rock that was melted by the meteorite crash and transformed or is material from space that is extraterrestrial in origin and is possibly volcanic obsidian type material or is a blending of the two. In any case Moldavite did indeed fall from the sky because of the aerodynamic shapes of some of the pieces indicating molten liquid falling to earth and cooling in the process, forming some beautifully shaped crystals. The tremendous power of its formation, { the blast was estimated at 6 trillion megatons, far more than all the atom bombs on earth }, was enough to disturb the rotating currents of the liquid iron core of our planet. This in turn caused a reversal of Earth's magnetic poles.

Moldavite has been associated with spirituality since neolithic times, possibly earlier, and is still in use today. Moldavite was carved into talismans, arrowheads, and cutting tools, More recently however, it has been seen as a relic of the Holy Grail. Some legends say the Grail was not a cup but a green stone that fell from the sky, they called it an "emerald". Other legends say the Grail cup was carved from the "Emerald". Ancient people called all clear, green stones Emeralds, but Moldavite is the only one that 'fell from the sky.' The energetic effects of Moldavite parallel those also attributed to the Grail stone. The Czech's believe Moldavite brings harmony to marriages and was a traditional betrothal gift for many centuries. The Stone of the Grail was said to do the same thing.

In modern times Moldavite is highly prized for metaphysical use. The effects range from mild to nearly overwhelming; from physical cleansings to spiritual break-throughs. When held for the first time most people report a feeling of warm energy in the hands, gradually extending to the entire body. In some people there is an opening of the Heart Chakra. The report is that of a strange, but not painful, sensation in the chest, an upwelling of emotion and a flushing of the face. This 'flushing' has happened often enough to have earned the name, "the Moldavite flush". Since it is quite a powerful stone it is recommended to build up your tolerance by wearing or working with it slowly, building up your time gradually until you feel comfortable.

In some cases the Third Eye opening causes dizziness/light-headedness and sometimes the sensation of being lifted out of one's body. Some people, who are Starborns, find that Moldavite relaxes them, giving them a feeling of a 'little piece of home'.

Since Moldavite works with all chakras, it works mainly by clearing blockages and wounds. Open chakras can elicit more synchronistic events with greater significance; dreaming can become more vivid and meaningful; better connections to spirit guides; deeper and more powerful meditations; emotional/spiritual/physical healings; changes in jobs or relationships. Moldavite is the catalyst that propels one to their highest destiny. This is also what the fabled Stone of The Grail is said to do.

Moldavite, taped to the forehead, has a powerful effect on meditation and dream-work by vividly increasing one's visions. It increases sensitivity to guidance so one's ability to interpret dreams and other messages from the higher realms are heightened. Moldavite also aids in self-healing, clearing blockages and opening meridians, energizing interconnections between all aspects of one's etheric, astral, causal and physical bodies.

Worn as jewelry it has the effect of keeping one's energy in one's own energetic field. Watch for more synchronicity. It may take a few days to get accustomed to the powerful energy of Moldavite. It also offers spiritual protection by keeping negative energies/entities at bay, and by helping to disconnect from unhealthy attachments but at the same time to magnetize one to people or situations which are a benefit to evolutionary progress. Moldavite can be cut and faceted which will increase its properties. The most beneficial shapes are pyramids, Platonic Solids, spheres and star-tetrahedrons. The most powerful gem cuts are round brilliant, radiant octagon, trilliant and oval. Round Moldavite beads are gentle and powerful because like spheres they allow the energy to evenly disperse. It is an ideal stone for making into energy tools. It can be glued or attached to other stones to magnify both their energies. It is added to wands, headbands, grids and all sorts of devices to intensify their effects.

Moldavite works well with all types of quartz, Amethyst, Rose Quartz, Citrine, Sugilite, Charolite, Lapis, Larimar, Rhodochrosite, Aquamarine, Heliodor, Pietersite, Smokey Quartz, Selenite. For healing it works well with Seraphinite; for enhanced visions use with Herkimer Diamonds. Genuine Diamonds in both crystal or gem form, work with Moldavite to intensify transformation. Libyan Gold Tektite increases Moldavites effect on the Third Chakra focusing on personal power and will.

Moldavite is one of the SYNERGY TWELVE STONES along with Danburite, Tanzanite, Azeztulite, Phenacite, Herderite, Tibetan Tektite, Satyaloka Quartz, Petalite, Brookite, Natrolite and Scolecite. These twelve stones together comprise the most powerful combination yet discovered for enhancement of the etheric pattern of the perfected self. Moldavite will also work very nicely with each stone on its own. If your looking for that one special stone, Moldavite would most likely be your best ally.

SOURCE: The Book of Stones; Who They Are and What They Teach; by Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian, p. 261-263

p.s.----For a much more in depth information about the Holy Grail connection to Moldavite see p. 263-266. He also gives a great meditation, but both articles are too involved to go into here, but still make fascinating reading. This truly is an amazing stone, and if you are lucky enough to find a real piece of Moldavite it is worth getting as it also makes a pretty nice display specimen.

