



"God Bless
America"



THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 3
June 2011

Visit us on the web at <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

Meeting Place and Time

DATE: *The club does not hold meetings during the summer.*

Field Trips

William Wise Fluorite mine in Westmoreland, NH this Saturday, July 2nd

Once again we are planning a trip to an historic fluorite mine operated by our long time member Tom Kustra. Depending on the size of the group we may stop first to collect at another site as yet to be announced. Please call me at 413-446-1893 or send me an email at lmichon@rcn.com for more details.

3.86 Carat Diamond Unearthed at Park

If you are planning a treasure hunting vacation this summer you just might want to stop for a visit at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. Here is a story I came across by Brian Braiker that should be of interest to our members.

Most people are happy to return from a day at the park with a tan, maybe a few pinecones. How much nicer, though, to make the return trip with a [giant diamond in your pocket](#).

A regular visitor to the [Crater of Diamonds State Park](#) in Murfreesboro, Ark., did just that the first week in April: sifting through the park dirt, he unearthed a 3.86-carat jewel.

"It's the largest diamond in just about a year," said park guide and educator Waymon Cox. "'Diamond in the rough' is a bit of a misnomer. We have many beautiful rough diamonds that can be used in jewelry."

The [Crater of Diamonds](#) is the only one of its kind in the country, said Cox: a 37.5 acre state park on the site of an ancient volcanic pipe that, 95 million years ago, brought thousands of diamonds and semi-precious stones to the Earth's surface. The park is open to the public -- anyone can go home substantially wealthier than when they arrived.

The local man who found the diamond this week has chosen to remain anonymous, but Cox characterized his find as having the "potential to be substantially more valuable" than a 2-carat diamond found three years ago. That diamond was cut and appraised for \$22,000.

The new diamond is about the size of a piece of candy corn and has been dubbed "The Heart of Arkansas" for its heart shape.

The largest diamond ever found in the park -- or, for that matter, in the entire country -- was a whopping 40.23 carats. It was named "[The Uncle Sam](#)" after the commercial miner who dug it up in 1924. It was cut down to a 12.5 carat emerald-shaped stone and valued at more than half a million dollars.

Another park find, the "[Strawn-Wagner diamond](#)", has been certified as the world's only perfect diamond by the American Gem Society. It was unearthed in 1990.

Cox told ABC News that after every well publicized find, like the Heart of Arkansas, park attendance -- which hovers between 100,000 and 120,000 annually -- will spike for a while. The park will usually yield five to seven large diamonds in any given year.

"We've found numerous diamonds here," said the park's gift shop manager, Debbie Wright. "You just come on down."



The "Heart of Arkansas."

President:

Larry Michon
P.O. Box 297
North Adams, MA 01247 413-663-8430
Email: lmichon@rcn.com

Vice-President:

Treasurer:
Darlene Bruzzi
P.O. Box 1122
Hinsdale, MA 01235 413-665-2193
Email: darbruzzi@gmail.com

Secretary:

Phillip Yerke
54 3rd Street, Apt. 1B
Waterford, NY 12188 518-237-1887
Email: philharmonica@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Programs:

Annual Show Committee:
Cheryl Gasperetti and Larry Michon

Field Trips:

Bob Michaels,
Chairman 413-664-0750
email: percibul@aol.com

Streakplate Editor:

Larry Michon, 413-663-8430
lmichon@rcn.com

"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

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

By Phil Yerke

As we begin our field trip season together, I would like to remind folks of what we can all do to assure we have a good time together without any major mishaps. These are a few guidelines that I use when collecting.

Go as a group, or at least with one other person.

Bring safety glasses, sturdy shoes, and gloves. (Tinted Safety Glasses work good for me)

Always bring a first aid kit, even if you keep it in your vehicle.

Bring plenty of water (these rocks won't jump in your pocket, you will have to work for them, and you will get thirsty)

Sunscreen and a hat (too much sun, your all done!)

Be mindful of others around you. If you feel like really wacking a rock, maybe make others aware of your plans.

Stay away from outcroppings, or ledges that could collapse.

Never chip away at anything OVER head (sounds silly right?)

If you up over others, be careful not to drop anything or cause a bunch of rocks to fall on others.

Remove everything you brought into the mining area (if you lost your hammer or chisel find it, these things can ruin mining equipment)

If your leaving the group for the day, tell someone so we know everyone is out.

When in doubt ask for help. Many of our members have been doing this a long time.

Crystal Healing Corner

By Darlene Bruzzi

~ MAY ~

Fluorite-The gemstone for Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb19) leads them to higher levels of understanding, strengthens the intellectual apprehension of the truth and the grasp of comic ideas. For Pisces (Feb 20-Mar20) Fluorite enlarges understanding and helps them grasp complex truths. When Pisces comes to a dead-end, fluorite can restore his sense of proportion and give her an overview of the situation. For Scorpio (Oct 24- Nov 22) Fluorite promotes intellectual development, harmonizes the positive and negative aspects of the intellect: helps Scorpio's to use their intellectual gifts, endurance and willpower for the good of others and saves them from over-weening egotism.

Because Fluorite comes in many different colors, the chakra associated with it depends on the color of the crystal.

RAINBOW FLUORITE: crystals work well with the 3rd eye or Brow Chakra, heart, throat and crown chakras. Good for cleansing the mind to deal with complex issues. Good for the eyes, ears, nose and throat. Helps protect against disease and maintain health.

BLUE FLUORITE: Throat chakra: good for speech, nose, tearducts, inner ear and throat issues.

GREEN FLUORITE: Heart chakra; clears negativity from a room, good for the health of the stomach, intestines, colon, heat. Helps colitis, heartburn, nausea and sore throat. Good for cleansing the chakras, helps mild emotional upsets.

PURPLE FLUORITE: Crown chakra; communication (spiritual or physical), good for bones, teeth, bone marrow. Helps most disease on a deeper level.

YELLOW FLUORITE: Crown chakra; good for eyes, the aura, links physical with spiritual experiences.

Fluorite is a calcium fluoride crystal, hardness of 4 and forms cubic or octahedral patterns, found often in hydrothermal veins. Fluorite also has the property of fluorescence with vivid colors under ultraviolet. Generally, fluorite acts as a psychic vacuum cleaner, clearing away negativity, confusion, cluttered thoughts, energy blocks and astral “hangers on” who create mischief in one’s environment. Fluorite helps one choose which energies and people to allow into one’s environment. If you work with a Tarot deck, the Swords card is like the Fluorite crystal in that both are associated with mental clarity, cutting through mind clutter to be able to make clear headed decisions quickly.

Spiritually: Fluorite brings thoughts and energies into focus, attunes one to higher guidance during meditation, tending to enrich meditations with visions and insight. It also strengthens one’s capacity for psychic information from energy fields and interpreting the message; helps calm over-excitement and stress.

Emotionally: remedies confusion, vacillation, instability, dishonesty, and disorders that arise from incoherent thought patterns. Also helps to overcome fear of the future, aids in sorting out thoughts in an emotional situation.

Physically: balances brain chemistry, enhances learning and memorizing abilities, stimulates the brain. Fluorite assists in cases of dizziness or vertigo by balancing one physically, strengthens bones and teeth.

AFFIRMATION; My mind and heart are awake, alert, clear and active, working in unison to make the optimal choices for my life purpose.

POSTER CONTEST

Submitted by: Betty Kelley

It’s official, we have the clubs approval for “The Alice Stevens Poster Contest” to design the 8.5x11 poster advertising our yearly show for 2012.

The contest is open to every member, including children. Your design may be made by hand, paste up, or on a computer. Information which should be included in your design is:

1. 49th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show
2. Date ___ Saturday hours ___ Sunday hours ___
3. American Legion Post #90, Rt 7, Pownal, VT
4. Sponsored by the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club, North Adams, MA

Entries must be received by September 15, 2011. Send your designs to me at:

Betty Kelley
P.O. Box 54
North Adams, MA 01247

Each and every entry will be judged by club members attending our October 2011 meeting.

Your reward will be the knowledge that your design will be seen by many people in many places as a representation of our club and its yearly show. The contest winner will also receive a \$25 Visa gift card which has been donated to the club for this contest. Now is the time to get busy with your artwork and poster making skills, it is your moment to shine. If this is a success it will be a yearly contest, so if you're not a winner this year, you can compete again next year.

VISIT A SHOW THIS SUMMER

July 9-10 ERMLS/AFMS Convention and Show hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. Held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. AFMS meetings: July 7-8 EFMLS meeting: July 8. There will be about 50 retailers and 11 wholesale dealers in the July 9-10 show and 70-80 exhibits. One featured exhibit is a 12' running length of cases from the Lillian Turner Estate. Lillian was the key person responsible for the first U.S. Postal mineral stamps. From her collection will be some stunning rutilated crystals, some as large as 200 carats, and some wonderful replicas of noted diamonds.

July 9-10 The Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association would like to invite you to attend the 50th Annual 2011 Western Maine Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show to be held on the weekend of July 9-10, 2011 at Telstar Regional High School in Bethel, Maine. www.oxfordcountymineralandgemassociation.blogspot.com

July 16-17 Annual show sponsored by the Saco Valley Gem & Mineral club. Conway Middle School Gymnasium, Conway, NH.

July 30-31 32nd Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Tuttle Middle School, So. Burlington, VT.

August 27-28 48th Annual Gem & Mineral Festival sponsored by the Capital Mineral Club. Everett Arena, Concord, NH.