

"God Bless
America"



THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 2
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Visit us on the web at <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

Meeting Place and Time

DATE: *Thursday, March 15, 2012* **TIME :** *6:00PM*

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

PROGRAM: Getting Started in Lapidary

Local lapidary expert, Travis Burdick will talk to the group about what it takes to convert your rough field collected material into something beautiful. Lapidary is a hobby that is enjoyed by people of all ages and circumstances. Unlike most hobbies, what you produce is actually worth more than the labor you put into it. Travis will discuss tools and techniques needed to get started in this fun hobby. If you have been wondering what to make with all those treasures you have been collecting then you won't want to miss this program.



VERMONT MINES and MINERAL LOCALITIES

by PHILIP MORRILL
and ROBERT G. CHAFFEE



MONTSHIRE MUSEUM
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Vermont Mines & Mineral Localities Book Available

Mitchell Dondero of Dondero's Rock Shop in North Conway, New Hampshire has donated 4 copies of the 54 page 1964 pamphlet titled Vermont Mines and Mineral Localities to the club. The book is published by the Montshire Museum in Hanover, NH. They are available on a first come first served basis for \$10 each. Mr. Dondero has requested that proceeds be used for children's programs.

Display your mineral collection at the 2012 Gem Show

At our February meeting it was decided that club members would display some of their favorite pieces from their mineral collection at the gem show in September. There are four five foot three inch tall cases available, one of which will be used exclusively by children from the club. These lit cases have four shelves total so display space is limited. Please contact Larry at 413-663-8430 if you would like to have a shelf to display some choice pieces from your collection.

We also discussed setting up a separate display for fluorescent minerals. If you are handy and have the time please consider lending a hand to craft a darkened display case for these minerals.



Sample display case presentation.

Danby Marble Quarry Field Trip Report

Twenty club members met on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at Bob Gasperetti's custom furniture studio in Danby. After coffee and bagels we formed a caravan and drove up the mountain where we were treated to a tour of the giant underground marble quarry owned by Vermont quarries. This historic quarry has been in operation for over 100 years and is all that remains of the many quarries that once operated in Vermont's marble valley. Once we entered the mine we walked through an underground wonderland. Thirty foot high ceilings and massive roof pillars carved out of the mountain, underground streams, lit views in the distance of men working to extract the marble. As we walked along we had an opportunity to see the various stages of operation from the slow process of cutting the marble out of the mountain to the production area that creates the finished product.

The grading, slabbing and finishing line at the quarry represents a \$2 million dollar investment that has insured the future availability of Vermont's Danby marbles. Formerly, stone produced at the quarry was shipped in blocks to Italy for fabrication, but it can now be processed on site for better selection, lower cost and quicker scheduling. Danby Quarry is the biggest underground marble quarry in the world, over a mile long with a footprint of twenty five acres and reaching six levels deep.

After the tour we were allowed to pick through the throw-away piles to bring home anything we could carry away. I just wish I were a bit stronger to carry up some particularly choice marble pieces. Special thanks to Bob and Cheryl Gasperetti for setting up this wonderful event.



Large marble blocks stored outside waiting for finishing.



Saw slowly cuts through a twenty foot tall slab.



The 80 gang saw cuts through marble like a bread slicer.

New York Museum Field Trip Report

On Saturday, February 25, 2012 several club members attended the 19th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show at the New York State Museum. People were packed into the show area shoulder to shoulder having fun viewing thousands of mineral, jewelry and fossil specimens on what was otherwise a cold grey snowy day.

At 2 p.m. Mike Hawkins the Geology Collections Manager at the museum gave a talk down in the mineral gallery on the minerals of New York exhibit. The collection is truly spectacular and represents over 150 years of private mineral collecting from the state's mines, quarries, road construction and outcrops. Mike pointed out that if only a handful of really nice mineral specimens made it to the museum each year you could see how quickly they would accumulate an amazing collection.



Mike Hawkins talking minerals.



The Rock Food Table.



Calcite French Fries



Pepperoni Pizza-Garnets in Granite

Mark Your Calendar for These Special Programs

March 15th – 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 19th – **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 17th – **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 Beauregard Mine in Alstead, NH. Visit Wayne's website here for more details

<http://www.idigrocks.com/index.php?page=about>

Upcoming local show dates

March 24-25 Holyoke, MA: Western Mass Mineral, Jewelry & fossil Show; Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Holyoke Hotel & Conference Center, I-91 Exit 15; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children 12 and under free.

April 28-29 Franklin, NJ: 40th annual show and swap; New Jersey Earth Science Association, Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, Sterling Hill Mining Museum; Franklin Schooll, 50 Washington Ave.; Sat. 9-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 14 and under free.

June 9 Kent, CT: 10th annual show; Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, Danbury Mineralogical Society; Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science; Connecticut Antique Machinery Association campus, Rte. 7, 1 mile north of Kent; Sat. 9-4; free admission; sale and trade, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, museum exhibits; contact John Pawloski, (860) 927-0050; Web site: www.ctamachinery.com

June 23 & 24 Gilsum, NH: 48th annual Gilsum Rock Swap; Gilsum Elementary School and Town Recreation Fields, 640 Route 10. Gilsum is 8 miles Northeast of Keene, NH.; Buy, swap or sell with 60 different dealers; Sat. 8 – 6, Sun. 8-4. www.gilsum.org

Native American Legends Series

The Buffalo Stone

A Blackfoot Legend

One time long, long ago, before we had horses, the buffalo suddenly disappeared. All the hunters killed elk, deer, and smaller game animals along the river bottoms then. When all of them were either killed or driven away, the people began to starve. They were camped in a circle near a buffalo drive.

Among them was a very, very poor old woman, the second wife of her husband. Her buffalo robe was old and full of holes; her moccasins were old and were torn to shreds by the rocks she walked over.

While gathering wood for the fire one day, she thought she heard someone singing a song. The song seemed quite close, but when she looked around, she saw no one. Following the sound and looking closely, she found a small rock that was singing, "Take me! I am of great power. Take me! I am of great power."

When the woman picked up the rock, it told her what to do and taught her a special song. She told her husband her experience and then said, "Call all the men together and ask them to sing this song that will call the buffalo back."

"Are you sure?" asked her husband.

"Yes, I am sure. First get me a small piece of the back of a buffalo from the Bear-Medicine man."

Then she told her husband how to arrange the inside of the lodge in a kind of square box with some sagebrush and buffalo chips. "Now tell the men to come and ask them for the four rattles they use."

It is a custom for the first wife to sit close to her husband in their lodge. But this time, the husband told the second wife to put on the first wife's dress and sit beside him.

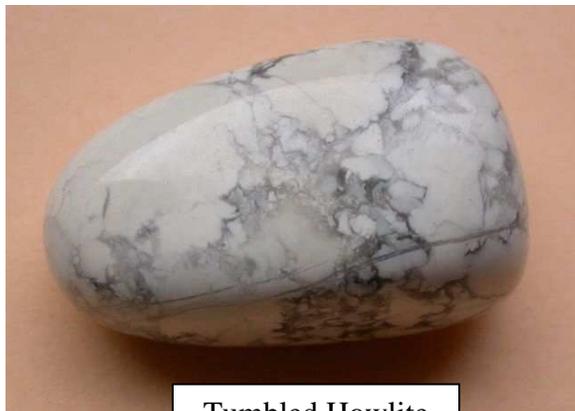
After all the men were seated in the lodge, the buffalo stone began to sing, "The buffalo will all drift back. The buffalo will all drift back."

Then the woman said to one of the younger men, "Go beyond the drive and put up a lot of buffalo chips in line. Then all of you are to wave at the chips with a buffalo robe, four times, while you shout like you were singing. The fourth time that you shout, all the chips will turn into buffalo and will go over the cliff."

The men followed her directions, and the woman led the singing in the lodge. She knew just what the young man was doing all the time, and she knew that a cow-buffalo would take the lead. While the woman was singing a song about the leader that would take her followers over the cliff, all the buffalo went over the drive and were killed.

Then the woman sang a different song; "I have made more than a hundred buffalo fall over the cliff, and the man above hears me."

Ever since then, the people took good care of a buffalo stone and prayed to it, for they knew that it had much power.



Tumbled Howlite

The buffalo rock, as called by the Blackfoot Indians, was usually a fossil shell of some kind, picked up on the prairie. Whoever found one was considered fortunate, for it was thought to give a person great power over buffalo. In some stories it is a piece of white turquoise called sacred buffalo stone which is white with black and/or brown matrix and many experts say it is technically not turquoise. This is because turquoise, by definition, contains copper (it is a copper aluminum phosphate), which is what gives turquoise its characteristic blue color (presence of iron will shift the color toward green). Although Sacred Buffalo Stone resembles turquoise in hardness and will polish to a high shine like turquoise, it has no copper, thus no blue color. Howlite

(White Buffalo) is a softer more porous black and white stone that is commonly passed off as Sacred Buffalo Stone. Howlite is also dyed to resemble blue or green turquoise.

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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

"Have nothing in your houses
that you do not know to be useful
or believe to be beautiful."

William Morris

The Crystal Healing Corner

By Darlene Bruzzi



February-Meteorite

Meteorites are material that are extraterrestrial in origin and have made it to the surface of the Earth without burning up in our atmosphere. The three types of meteorites that are the most beneficial to metaphysical work are; Nickle-Iron Meteorites, Chondrites and Pallasites. Because they are objects that fell from the sky meteorites have a very long history of being used or revered as sacred stones. The most notable sacred stone is the fabled "KABBA ", a black meteorite that is so sacred, it is in a shrine in the most holy Muslim site in Mecca and is said to be a gift from God.

Each type of meteorite is made up of different material and therefore has different properties. The Nickle-Iron Meteorite is completely metallic and has a beautiful cross-hatched pattern of lines when it is sliced called Widmanstatten figures. This type can be sliced, etched or carved, some into beautiful figures, or melted to make objects such as swords in ancient times. The fabled Excaliber sword of King Arthur legend is said to have been made from a Nickle-Iron Meteorite. This meteorite is made from the same material that forms our planets core, therefore some scientist believe that they may have come from the cores of destroyed planets or from planet-forming bodies called planetesimals.

NICKLE-IRON METEORITES work well with the Root Chakra { 1st }, Solar Plexus { 3rd }, Third Eye Chakra { 6th } and the Crown Chakra { 7th }. The Root Chakra and meteorite activate the Kundalini energy that is in all of us located along our spine, and bring it into full activation. They assist in inner visions, and bring about great spiritual awakenings whether *you* believe your ready or not, bringing about great changes quickly. People react differently to their energy. Where one person may feel nothing at all because their vibratory rate is too low to resonate with the stone, another may feel somewhat over-stimulated and want only to be away from it, because their emotional body is not strong enough to tolerate the potential transformations these stones offer. Other people are readily prepared to take on the cosmic leap the stones engender and for them a great journey begins. Because of the Third Eye and Crown Chakra activation, these stones are a catalyst for inner visions and spiritual awakenings. And because they also work with the Root Chakra activating the Kundalini energies, they also provide a grounding effect so as to be able to handle all the stones have to offer. By activating the Solar Plexus Chakra, these meteorites provide the appropriate action/will to be able to fully use and honor the gifts of awakening and transformation, that might otherwise be lost by inaction.

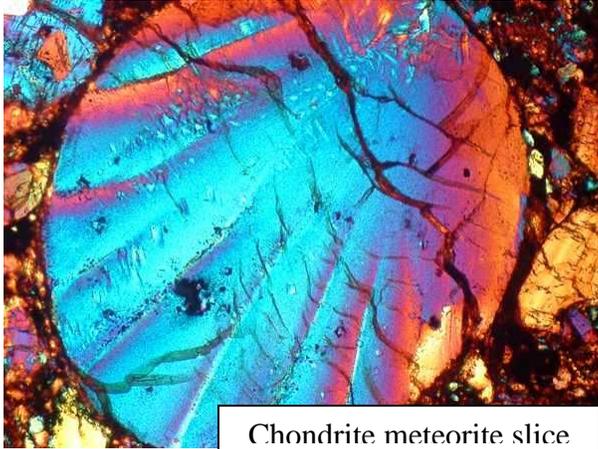
Nickle-Iron Meteorites work well with Moldavite which will echo and magnify the transformational energies as well as cosmic connections. Lybian Gold Tektite, also from the heavens, can increase the Third Chakra with the energies of action and manifestation. Tibetan Tektites , also from the heavens, enhances the Kundalini activation. Nickle-Iron Meteorites also help those who are in a hurry for spiritual growth and focus more on the outcome than the process, by giving them the gift of patience. The stone also helps bring emotional balance to those who tend to ' fly off the handle'. Physically, these stones strengthen the blood and tissues; build physical stamina and strength; are great in aiding the healing process; great for premature infants; and helps to stabilize someone who is in a prolonged or difficult illness by offering strength and hope in their long road to recovery.



Libyan Gold Tektite

AFFIRMATION: My unwavering commitment to spiritual growth fuels the fire of my inner awakening.

Chondrite meteorites work well with the Third Eye { 6th }, Crown { 7th } and Soul Star { 8th } Chakras. Being a silica-rich stone from space, it is most attuned to the frequency of inter-dimensional communication and with ET's. Because of its silica based makeup, Chondrites are programmable similar to quartz crystals. They can be programmed to align with specific functions such as opening one's telepathic channel, or 'traveling' interdimensionally to other stars and planets. They can also store information especially esoteric knowledge relating to the 'ladder of consciousness' upon which varying levels of high-frequency energies are exchanged. During meditation with one of these stones you may discover it has already been programmed with such information and this will give you the benefit of a ready made 'space vehicle for the mind'. If not, you can always program it yourself and use your imagination to take you anywhere and open any door you wish to, simply by focused attention.



Chondrite meteorite slice

Chondrites contain the spiritual records of our solar system and as such they have the records of all the entities who have inhabited all the other planets. Although life on those planets is totally unfit for our lifeforms, there have been other etheric lifeforms on them. Those persons who travel to planets such as Mercury, Saturn and Mars, etc, find that consciousness has always existed on these planets. In fact each planet has its own type of consciousness that amazingly coincides with our astrological traits we have assigned to these planets.

Chondrites work well with Herderite and Brookite for expanding one's awareness beyond the physical body. Danburite and Petalite help with inter-dimensional communication and awareness of the angelic realm. Amethyst,

Sugilite and Moldavite are best to use if you feel the need for protection against negative ET's or other entities, and for grounding use Hematite. Chondrites have a stabilizing effect on the emotional body, and on the physical body they help with bone degeneration and strengthening the blood and circulatory system.

AFFIRMATION: I attune myself to the energies and memories of the planets and thereby I increase my inner vision.

Pallasite meteorites work well with the Heart { 4th } Chakra and the Third Eye { 6th } Chakras. They are made up of Nickel-Iron with lattice windows of Olivine. It has an other-worldly yet familiar look to it, and its energies are just as unique. This stone from space activates the loving energies of the Heart Chakra along with visions of the Third Eye Chakra. Pallasite opens the emotional gateway to the heart along with expanded awareness and the inner eye of wonder, so one can experience the connection between self and the cosmos.

When meditating with Pallasite, one is in perfect union with the cosmic OVERMIND/ALL THAT IS, making it possible to access all knowledge so that when a question is asked, the answer is instantly known. It is also through this heart connection that one is able to be in union with the GREAT CENTRAL SUN. A feeling of overflowing radiance of golden Light and Love, tells one they have made the connection with the GREAT CENTRAL SUN. When this experience happens in unison, the sense is that of one's body extending throughout the entire Universe and in a sense, is the Universe.

Pallasite also helps one to not fear expanding their consciousness out beyond the body, allowing them to feel free to fly out into the astral planes and other higher realms. It can also help those who are afraid of flying in a conventional plane and those who suffer from agoraphobia. It helps them realize that if *you* are the universe, then where are you *not* at home? Pallasite assists in manifesting prosperity and abundance in material life.

Pallasite Meteorite works especially well with Phenacite and Herkimer Diamonds for enhancing visions during meditations. To open the heart combine Pallasite with ZDiopase, Morganite, Emerald, and /or Kunzite. Hematite, Black Tourmaline and Smoky Quartz are used for grounding. Pallasite also works on the physical level by assisting those with irregular heartbeats, heart disease, or are recovering from a heart attack; is a strong blood purifier; assists the body in getting rid of bacterial and viral invaders; and is very good at countering anemia.

AFFIRMATION: I open myself to union with the cosmic Overmind and the Great Central Sun, and I know myself to be at one with ALL-THAT-IS.

Source: The Book of Stones, Who They Are and What They Teach, by Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian , p. 257-
